



Do something

A group of bell ringers is known as a band.



DID YOU KNOW?

The UK's largest church bell is called Great Paul and it's in St Paul's Cathedral, London.

Test your musical and coordination skills by having a go at...

Bell ringing



Have you been inside or near a church and heard the bells ringing out loudly? Church bell ringing began in the UK hundreds of years ago. Whether it's for a Sunday service, a wedding, a special occasion or in remembrance of a person or event, it's a memorable sound.

To make sure that the bells can be heard across a large area, they are fixed high in the part of a church's tower or steeple known as a belfry. Each of the heavy metal bells is rung by pulling on a long rope beneath it. Pulling the rope tilts the bell so that it chimes. A group of bell ringers, known as a band, stand in a circle with each person behind one of the ropes.

The bells are numbered and ringing each one in sequence is called a "round". The bells can also be rung in sequences called "rows" and altered to make particular patterns called "changes".

Sometimes one of the ringers acts as

a conductor and calls out changes to the sequence in which the bells should be rung. A band can be made up of young and old bell ringers and can include experienced ringers and people who are new to it.

Simon Linford works with a band of young bell ringers in Birmingham, England, called the Brumdingers. "Lots of places have special groups for young bell ringers who learn and ring together," he says. "One great aspect is that young bell ringers learn the skill very quickly and can soon be better than their teachers."

If you want to give it a go, try asking your local church if you can get involved and watch the bell ringing take place. Go to bellringing.org for information on groups and contacts that are nearest to you. If you can't take part in bell ringing at the moment because of lockdown rules, you can still enjoy it by watching this video tinyurl.com/TWJ-bellringing



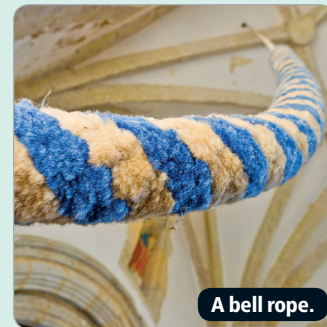
The Brumdingers group in Birmingham.

HOW, WHAT, WHERE?



Are the ropes heavy?

No. Even though bells are heavy and can weigh more than a tonne, bell ringing focuses on timing and pulling the rope correctly, not on how strong you are. Young people can be involved as long as they have supervision and teaching.



A bell rope.

What about social distancing and lockdown?

Thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, bell ringers may need to keep at least two metres apart. This can be done by having fewer people ringing at one time. Current lockdown rules might restrict you from taking part at all in your area right now. Check with an adult first.

"THERE WAS NO STOPPING ME"



Name: Max

"I started bell ringing just before my fifth birthday and I really enjoy it. Some people thought I might be too young to start

but at a national youth competition I found someone who started ringing aged six, so after that there was no stopping me. My older sister, Lex, also started it after I had been ringing for about a year."



Max