



Westley Award for Church Bell Maintenance & Improvement 2026

Introduction

Towers and bells in good condition will make the environment for ringing more pleasant, easier for ringers to develop their skills and, in particular help new recruits.

Are you relatively new to finding your way around bell installations? Perhaps you are gaining experience in what to check upstairs in a tower, what may be unusual and interesting, or in poor condition and likely to cause ringers difficulties while ringing? Hopefully, you are starting to make some improvements and sharing your experiences with others.

The Ringing 2030 Environments Workgroup of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers is launching the 2026 award for people who have recently become involved in belfry maintenance and improvement, developing their own skills and helping others to do so. The award will be presented at the CCCBR AGM in Rugby in September 2026.

The Award

The award will be made to the individual who has become involved in maintaining and improving the condition of tower bell installations and the environment for ringing, over the last 7 years. The judges will give credit to those who demonstrate commitment to developing and using their own skills and developing such skills in others. In addition to work in towers, activities may have involved, for example, planning or managing bell related projects, preparing videos, giving demonstrations, or preparing and presenting advice about bell installations, etc.

Applications

We will welcome all applications; female applicants and younger people are particularly encouraged to apply, as are those from outside England. Applicants from previous years who did not win the Award, may enter again. Applications may be made for yourself or for someone else. People who are or have been employed by a professional bell foundry, bell hanger or similar organisation are NOT eligible for an award.

The closing date for applications will be noon Sunday 31st May 2026.

The application form, can be found here: [Westley Award Application Form 2026](#)

Please return completed applications to: westley26@cccbbr.org.uk

Applications will be reviewed during June and the winner announced in July.

Judging

The judging panel will be drawn from members of the CCCBR Ringing 2030 Environments Workgroup, independent members and previous winners or runners up.

Please note that the judges may wish to contact applicants to ask for clarification of points in an application. The judges' decisions will be final.

The judging criteria will be:

- Benefits of the work undertaken by the applicant.
- Applicant's approach to learning about tower bell maintenance and improvement.
- Applicant's support for others not previously involved in maintenance and improvement.
- Scale and scope of activities undertaken in the last 7 years – with approximate dates of key involvement. (The number and cost of projects are not primary criteria).

Prize

Westley Group will award the winner £100 and a certificate. The judges may also commend other applicants and present a certificate to them.

Questions

If you have any questions about the award, please contact mark.ogden@cccbr.org.uk