

# Bells

(their maintenance, inspection and repair)

Guidelines on the Inspection, Maintenance and Repair of Bells and Bell Frames



## Bells Hung for Full Circle Ringing

Many of the towers with bells hung for full circle ringing belong to either the Carlisle Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (<http://www.carlisle-dgcbr.org.uk>) or, in the south of the county, to the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers (<http://www.lacr.org.uk>) which in turn are affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (<http://www.cccbr.org.uk>). The CCCBR can offer advice on all matters from structural concerns to fund raising. There is a weekly newspaper *The Ringing World* (<http://www.ringingworld.co.uk>) published for the CCCBR.

## Service Bells

Most churches have single or occasionally two or more service bells which are hung for swing chiming. They are often hung in an external bell cote and are open to the weather.

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## Maintenance and Inspection

Bells and bell frames are a most valuable fitting in many churches and require regular inspection and maintenance which should be carried out by the Tower Keeper with assistance from the other ringers or by another competent person.

Advice on the routine maintenance and inspection of bells hung for full circle ringing is contained in three separate handbooks produced by the CCCBR:

- a. Maintenance Handbook
- b. A Schedule of Regular Maintenance
- c. The Towers and Bells Handbook

The handbooks are published by the CCCBR and are a part of an extensive list of publications from this body. The Carlisle Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers maintains stocks of these books and offers them for sale at all Guild meetings.

If the work required is thought to be beyond the scope of the Tower Keeper or other competent person, advice can be sought from the DAC Bell Advisor who may be contacted through Church House, West Walls, Carlisle, CA38UE, Telephone: 01228 815403 or e-mail: [property@carlisediocese.org.uk](mailto:property@carlisediocese.org.uk).

## Professional Work

Minor maintenance work may be carried out locally with the assistance of the DAC Bell Advisor but more extensive work, perhaps requiring the removal of the bell, will require the assistance of a professional bellhanger. A list of such bellhangers is appended. An inspection and report will be required and an estimate should be provided of the cost of the work recommended in the report. Two or three such estimates should be obtained if the value of the work justifies this.

The reports and comments should then be submitted to the DAC. The DAC Bell Advisor will present his comments to the DAC and not direct to the Parish. The professional reports may suggest that local labour ('a competent person') can assist the bellhanger, so reducing the cost. The Bell Advisor can be approached to provide the volunteer labour.

The following details are correct as at 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013

## Grants

Grants to aid major work on bells, their fittings and frames, can be obtained from several sources, some of which are as follows:

### Heritage Lottery Fund

HLF North West

Carver's Warehouse

77 Dale Street

Manchester

M1 2HG

Web: <http://www.hlf.org.uk/inyourarea/NorthWest>

Telephone: 0161 200 8470

e-mail: [NorthWest@hlf.org.uk](mailto:NorthWest@hlf.org.uk)

**CCCB** which can offer advice on fund raising activities, finding charitable trusts offering funding for bell restoration and administering bell restoration funds.

Web: <http://www.cccb.org.uk> > Committees > Bell restoration

Telephone: given through e-mail

e-mail: [brcsecretary@ccb.org.uk](mailto:brcsecretary@ccb.org.uk)

**DAC Bell Advisor** who can offer information about charitable trusts that have recently given grants to bell restoration projects in the Diocese. Please contact through Church House.

## Bellfounders/hangers

### 1. John Taylor & Co

The Bellfoundry  
Freehold Street  
Loughborough  
Leics.  
LE11 1AR

Web: <http://www.taylorbells.co.uk>  
Telephone: 01509 212 241  
e-mail: [office@taylorbells.co.uk](mailto:office@taylorbells.co.uk)

### 2. Whitechapel Bell Foundry

32/34 Whitechapel Road  
London  
E1 1DY

Web: <http://www.whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk>  
Telephone: 020 7247 2599  
e-mail: [bells@whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk](mailto:bells@whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk)

## Bellhangers

### 1. Pembletons Bellhangers and Engineers

43 Mansfield Road  
Glapwell  
Chesterfield  
Derbys.  
S44 5QA

Web: <http://www.pembletonsbellhangersandengineers.com>  
Telephone: 01623 810 640  
e-mail: [pembletonbellhangers@hotmail.com](mailto:pembletonbellhangers@hotmail.com)

### 2. Nicholson Engineering Ltd

Church Bell Works  
St. Swithin's Road  
Bridport  
Dorset  
DT6 5DW

Web: <http://www.nicholsonbellhangers.com/>  
Telephone: 01308 422 264  
e-mail: [info@nicholsonbellhangers.com](mailto:info@nicholsonbellhangers.com)

### **3. Whites of Appleton Ltd**

Church Bellhangers

Appleton

Abingdon

Oxon

OX13 5JJ

Web: <http://www.whitesbellhangers.co.uk>

Telephone: 01865 862 549

e-mail: [bells@whitesbellhangers.co.uk](mailto:bells@whitesbellhangers.co.uk)

### **4. Matthew Higby & Company Ltd**

Unit 16

Charmborough Farm

Holcombe

Bath

Somerset

BA3 5FX

Web: <http://www.bellhangers.com>

Telephone: 01761 233 757

e-mail: [matthewhigby@gmail.com](mailto:matthewhigby@gmail.com)

### **5. Robert Parker, Church Bellhanger**

Unit 7

Potters Yard

Railway Street

Taunton

Somerset

TA2 6HD

Telephone: 01823 330 019

## **Muffles**

### **1. Big Wilf's Bell Muffles**

Web: <http://www.bigwilf.plus.com>

Telephone: 020 8761 2368

e-mail: [wilfred@bigwilf.plus.com](mailto:wilfred@bigwilf.plus.com)

## Ropes

### 1. Ellis Ropes Ltd

Bars Hill  
Costock  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE12 6XY  
Web: <http://www.ellisandpritchards.co.uk>  
Telephone: 01509 852 178  
E-mail: [ellispritchardropes@gmail.com](mailto:ellispritchardropes@gmail.com)

### 2. John Taylor & Co

As above

### 3. Mendip Ropes

Unit 16  
Charmborough Farm  
Charlton Road  
Holcombe  
Radstock  
BA3 5EX  
Web: <http://www.mendipropes.co.uk>  
Telephone: 07528 158 334  
e-mail: [mendipropes@gmail.com](mailto:mendipropes@gmail.com)

### 4. Avon Ropes

Web: <http://www.avonropes.co.uk>  
Telephone: 07946 605 963  
e-mail: telephone only

### 5. Peter Minchin Ropes

Rhea House  
Bishops Frome  
Worcester  
WR6 5BQ  
Web: <https://www.facebook.com/PeterMinchinBellRopes>  
Telephone: 01885 490 673  
e-mail: telephone only

### 6. Malcolm Brown Bellropes

Web: <http://www.malcolmbrownbellropes.co.uk>  
Telephone: 01285 720 757  
e-mail: [malcolm@malcolmbrownbellropes.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@malcolmbrownbellropes.co.uk)

## Weld Repair of Bells

### 1. Soundweld

25 Park Road

Cheveley

Newmarket

Suffolk

CB8 9DF

Web: <http://www.soundweld.co.uk>

Telephone: 01638 731 133

e-mail: [enquiries@soundweld.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@soundweld.co.uk)