



Bell Ringing Times Policy

All Saints' Church, Walsoken

Please refer to Document S&S_Doc_001 for all Safeguarding and Social requirements.

Specific Policy

This Safeguarding & Social (S&S) sub-policy controls when there is bell ringing at church.

The times when bells are normally rung 'open' (the bells sound outside) for divine worship or for practice purposes have been agreed with the parish priest (or church wardens) and publicised on church noticeboards and on local social media.

Reference Documents

The Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993

Procedure

Agreed Ringing Times

- 1) Practice nights. These start at 7pm but not continuing after 8:45pm
- 2) Divine Service. Ringing for divine service is usually between 30 and 45 minutes in length and does not start before 10am. There are church service exceptions for special occasions, e.g. Remembrance Sunday.

Agreed Ringing Times Exemptions

There are a few exceptions to normal ringing hours or times. The duration of ringing must be agreed in advance with the parish priest (or church wardens) and publicised. Exceptions are:

- 1) Midnight Mass.
- 2) New Year's Eve. "Ringing in the New Year" breaks the 8:45pm rule but is a long-established tradition.
- 3) State or Civic occasions: The suitability and duration of ringing on such occasions must be decided by the parish priest and/or the PCC.
- 4) Ringing for weddings and funerals. On these occasions the request for ringing must be made to the parish priest by the families concerned.
- 5) Requests from visiting bell ringers: Requests to hold these must be made to the parish priest (or church wardens) who gives permission for the duration and times of the ringing. These take several forms:
 - a. Bellringers on an organised tour, usually visiting several churches and ringing for up to 1 hour at each tower.
 - b. Bellringers wanting to ring a ¼ peal (45 minutes ringing).
 - c. Bell ringers wanting to ring a full peal (between 2¾ and 3½ hours ringing).

Requests to ring these may be made by visiting teams and/or the local ringers. In these instances where requests are made by the Tower Captain, they must be referred to the parish priest (or church wardens) in the first instance. Permission to ring is given by the parish priest (or church wardens).

Annual Allowances to Ring

The All Saints' (Walsoken) PCC have a clear policy on how many occasions bells are allowed to ring in one year and how these are apportioned between visiting and local ringers. For this policy weddings and funerals are classed as divine services.

In addition to routine practices and divine services:

- 1) Only one additional 'open' ring per month is allowed by visiting ringers, as well as,
- 2) Only one additional 'open' ring per month allowed for state or civic occasions (Typically, coronations, conflict anniversaries, state funerals etc.)
- 3) There can only be two full peals per year. Full peals will be at least 3 months apart.

There will be no additional ringing before 10am. All ringing will stop by 8:45pm. Advance publicity will be given on church noticeboards and in social media for full peals and ¼ peals.

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Simulated Ringing

At other times the computer simulator will be used (closed ringing) such that there is consideration for our near neighbours

Forms

None

Diagrams

None

Appendices

None

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