

## WEDDING BELLS



Congratulations on your forthcoming wedding! The following notes are intended as advice if you wish to have the bells rung for your special service.

Change ringing, where the bells turn full-circle and are rung to sets of mathematical patterns, is a truly English art which first appeared in its present form in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Bells in other countries are generally either swung from side to side in a haphazard fashion or are fixed mouth-downwards and hit with a chiming hammer of some sort.

With the modern pressures of life, recruiting people to learn to ring is often very difficult and churches rarely have enough ringers to ring all the bells at all the times when they should be rung. This Parish is no exception: we routinely have to ask ringers from churches up to 20 miles away to ring for special occasions. Although modern bell fittings require little maintenance, there is a certain amount of wear and tear on ropes and other moving parts which requires some work and expense to keep them in full working order. For these reasons it is necessary for us to charge a fee for ringing for weddings. The current charges here are £150 if you wish to have ringing at the end of the service, or £200 if you wish to have ringing before and after the service.

If you would like bells for your wedding, to avoid disappointment it is vital that you let us know as soon as possible, and no later than when you book the church, please. It is rarely possible to arrange for ringers to attend at short notice, especially between Easter and the autumn, when many other churches are booking ringers for weddings. On the day, we ask that you do not delay your arrival at the church by more than 5 minutes from the agreed time, to prevent us from having to carry on ringing for an unknown extended period. Ringers often have a number of weddings to ring for at several different churches on the same afternoon and a late start may mean that ringing at the end of the service may have to be curtailed.

Finally, if you are interested in finding out more about bells and bellringing, or you would like a trip up the tower to see the bells, or even have a go, please don't hesitate to contact me.

John Hall.

Tel: 01440 730475, Mobile: 07767 323914. Email: [jhall.mbotools@gmail.com](mailto:jhall.mbotools@gmail.com).