



Bellringing Policy

Adopted by St Peter's Church Leadership Team: 11/7/2019

In general St Peter's Church welcomes the use of its tower bells both to call the congregation to worship and as part of a wider mission to encourage the ringing of church bells. We therefore support the use of the tower by visiting teams of ringers and for striking competitions and events organised by the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers.

However in order to be a good neighbour, we are conscious of our duty not to disturb the peace of the surrounding area unduly.

To promote a reasonable balance between these two conflicting aims:

1. We reserve the right to ring the bells for all church services, eg regular Sunday services, other religious festivals, weddings, funerals etc whenever they take place, and for specific commemorative purposes (eg new year, historic anniversaries).
2. We also reserve the right to a regular period of ringing practice on Tuesday evenings, of no longer than 2 hours 15 minutes. This will start no earlier than 7pm and end no later than 9.30pm.
3. Except as allowed for in points 1 and 2 above, the bells will never be rung later than 9pm.
4. Except as allowed for in points 1 and 2 above, ringing will be limited to a maximum of three occasions per calendar month.
5. Further to point 4, in recognition of the fact that the summer months are a popular time for weddings, we will endeavour to limit still further the number of other ringing events during this period dependent on the number of times the bells are to be rung for weddings.
6. For church services the ringing period will not exceed 50 minutes and will usually be no longer than 30 minutes. For other occasions it will usually not exceed 1 hour 30 minutes and will be no longer than 3 hours of continuous ringing (the approximate duration of a 'full peal').
7. The total time during which bells are rung on any day will not exceed 4 hours.
8. There will be a maximum of 1 full peal per month and 6 full peals per year.
9. All occasions when bells may be rung will be advertised in advance in the church's calendar, which is publicly accessible on the parish website.
10. All ringing other than at services and normal practice times will require agreement in advance from the churchwardens and Rector.