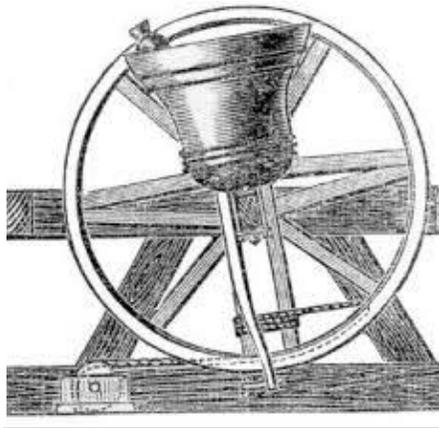


Church Bell Ringing

Bells have been the voice of the Church almost since the beginning of Christianity. The method of ringing as you hear it now has been practised for nearly 400 years. The sounds you hear coming from Churches and Cathedrals may be coming from tiny bells weighing around 50kg up to huge bells of several tonnes.

In the 17th Century a method of turning the bell full circle using a wheel and rope was designed which allowed the bells to be rung in changing orders, not just a fixed pattern. From this the British art of change ringing developed.



Bells at Hull Minster

The tower you see now at Hull Minster was built in the mid 16th century. Bells hung for change ringing were first installed in 1648, so in ringing at Hull Minster we are carrying on a 350+ year old tradition in the city.

Who Rings the Bells at Hull Minster?

The band of ringers at Hull Minster includes, women, men, young and old, boys and girls.

We are always on the lookout for new members to join the band and.....

...**you** could be just the person we are looking for!

When do we ring the bells?

- Sunday Services
- Special celebrations, e.g. Easter, Christmas, New Year
- Celebrating Weddings
- Commemoration of anniversaries
- Civic occasions

What is change ringing?

When the bells are rung down the musical scale (from high to low notes) they are ringing rounds.

In call changes a conductor instructs bells to change place in pairs to alter the order in which they are ringing.

Method ringing involves the bells ringing in a different place (or order) at each stroke in a continually changing pattern that is learned. There are many different ringing methods, from the simple to the complex. Some of the methods are centuries old and have peculiar names such as, Grandsire, Plain Hunt and Stedman.

Why would I want to learn to ring bells?

Bell ringing is a uniquely British art and there are many reasons why people join a band of bell ringers.

Some learn to ring to be of service to the church, to enjoy companionship and team spirit, to benefit from a useful form of exercise (not too strenuous,) or to have a new physical and intellectual challenge with an ongoing sense of achievement.

Would I be any good as a bell ringer?

Strength: if you can push a child on a swing.

Co-ordination: if you can swim, ride a bike or drive a car.

Time: if you could spend just a couple of hours on one weekday evening and some time before a service on Sunday each week, then you have what it takes to learn to ring and become a member of the band.

When is the right time to learn?

It is never too late to learn. Although lots of people learn as teenagers and it is often a family activity, the ringers at Hull Minster have a friend in his nineties who learned to ring bells following his retirement and still occasionally joins us.

But be warned:

Bell ringing can become addictive.

Would you like to give it a try?

If you think you would like to know more about ringing at Hull Minster you would be very welcome to come and visit us. You could see inside the tower, talk to the ringers, watch some ringing and maybe even have a go!

We practice on most Monday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.00pm and ring before the Sunday 10.30am service.

You can contact the Ringing Master, Robin Alden on:
07941847137

or email: bells@hullminster.org

To find out more about Hull Minster visit:

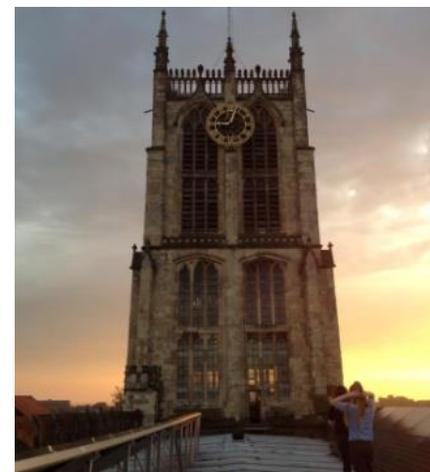
www.hullminster.org

To find out about the bells and see photographs taken inside the belfry visit:

towerandbells.hullminster.org

HULL  MINSTER

Bell Ringing



at Hull Minster