



St. Peter's
F I L T O N

Bell Ringing / Church Tower

Health and Safety Policy

Issue 2

Prepared (date)	June 2018
Adopted (date)	
Date to be reviewed	
Signed, PCC Chairman	



Bell Ringing / Church Tower Health and Safety Policy

The Tower Captain, elected annually at the Bell Ringers' AGM, shall be responsible for Health and Safety in the tower. The Tower Captain shall also be responsible for providing advice and guidance to the Rector and/or Church Wardens on specialist activities related to bell ringing at the time they conduct their annual Health and Safety Audit.

The Tower Risk Assessment includes all precautions to be taken to mitigate risks specified. All ringers must be aware of this document and comply with its requirements. They must also be aware of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers guidance on Health and Safety.

Permission must be obtained from the parent/guardian of any young person before they ring or learn to ring in the tower. If the parent or guardian is not present when the young person is in the tower then the Tower Captain and at least one other person with a DBS certificate, in line with St Peter's Safeguarding Policy, must be present.

Any requests made to St Peter's Church, for visiting bands to ring the bells, be that a peal, quarter peal, or ringing of any type or length, must be approved in writing by the Tower Captain. In order for permission to be granted, a list of names and ages must be given in advance to the Tower Captain or a representative thereof, nominated on his/her behalf. Such groups will be asked to sign a form stating that they have their own safeguarding policy in place.

Where a young person* from St Peter's is invited to ring with an external band at St Peter's Church, again a full list of names and ages of individuals in the band must be given in advance, and permission sought from the Tower Captain or a representative thereof. Where permission is granted, an individual with a full DBS check from St Peter's Church must be present on site, with the young person* from St Peter's Church at all times. Such groups will be asked to sign a form stating that they have their own safeguarding policy in place.

When carrying out specific maintenance in the bell chamber, the Tower Captain will be responsible to ensure:

- All labour will be from the Filton band who are familiar with the bell chamber
- All labour will declare themselves fit and able to carry out specific tasks
- An appropriate person carries out any training that is required for a specific task
- No 'slinging' of heavy items will be carried out by labour
- At no time will labour use power tools
- No person will enter the bell chamber unaccompanied
- The base of the access ladder will be secured when in use
- Labour will ensure that they do not stand directly below the access hatch to the bell chamber while work is being carried out in the bell chamber
- The main door to the tower will be secured to ensure that only key holders or those accompanying key holders can enter while work is being carried out

* For the purposes of this document, Young Person includes persons up to the age of 18 as defined in law, for ecclesiastical safeguarding purposes.