

Duke of Edinburgh _ Gold Standard

CHURCH BELL RINGING

What is it?

Church bell ringing is an important part of our cultural heritage. The traditions originated in England, but are now carried on in many parts of the world. It produces a sound, which is much enjoyed by many people and spreads awareness of Christianity. It is also a wonderful hobby providing both physical and mental activity, within the framework of an active social structure, which is enjoyed by both young and old from all walks of life.

Safety Message

Participants must not touch bell-ropes until they have adequate skill to know that it is safe to do so. They should never enter a bell chamber unaccompanied.

Ideas /Aims

Participants must attend regularly at one particular tower for Sunday Service ringing (providing they have reached a suitable standard) and for practice night during the stipulated period. If practices are not held, or are held irregularly, at the participant's home tower, attendance at another tower may be accepted in lieu. Participants should also attend events run by the local County or Diocesan Association if appropriate.

The following are ten sample targets. Assessors may prefer to devise their own, which should be similar, but appropriate to the participant and the period of time to be taken. One target from each subject area (Ringing, Maintenance and Theory) should be set.

Ringing targets:

It is important that for Ringing targets a high standard of striking and freedom from trips should be achieved. The 'for a Call Change tower' sections refer to bands who ring call changes to the high standard as practised in Devon and Cornwall.

- Be able to (a) raise and lower a bell unaided and (b) ring rounds and call changes accurately.
- Be able to (a) raise and lower a bell in peal and (b) either ring inside to a touch of Plain Bob and a touch of Grandsire, or (for a Call Change tower) ring an inside bell to an acceptable competition standard. A minimum of 60 changes should be called, and (c) conduct a touch of 120 or more changes containing a minimum of three calls, or (for a Call Change tower) conduct Sixty on Thirds without the use of a crib.
- Be able to lead up and down in peal and either ring/call a (quarter) peal and be able to (a) ring inside to a course of a Surprise Major method, and (b) ring inside to a touch of Grandsire Caters, or (for a Call Change tower) be able to call the Queen's Peal on Eight.

Maintenance targets:

- Splice a bell rope neatly (long and short splices).

- Replace a bell rope.
- Explain the maintenance required by the bells in your own tower and help carry it out.

Theory targets:

- Explain to a non-ringer the parts of a bell and how it is rung, using a model or a detailed picture.
- Explain to a learner, who can ring rounds, how to ring call changes according to the system used in the learner's tower.
- Either write out all the changes of touches of two methods, on squared paper, bell by bell, or (for a Call Change tower) explain to someone, who can ring call changes, how to call Sixty on Thirds.
- Write out a method from its place notation.

Review / Assessment

The Assessor must be an officer (preferably a Ringing Master or Education Officer) of the local County or Diocesan Association, who is not a member of the participant's own band. The Assessor should agree appropriate targets with the participant at the beginning of the period and monitor progress thereafter.

Evidence of individual progress, sustained interest and commitment of time should be shown throughout.

Governing Body/Organisation

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers