

## Ringling during Covid-19

Some of you will have heard the church bells ringing over Christmas and for Sunday services, when they take place and may be wondering how we are able to do this within the current guidelines. The tower at Clifton has 4 floors. On the ground floor is the choir vestry. Above that is the ringing room that can be seen from the church. On the next floor is the clock room where the carillon and clock mechanism live and the top floor are the bells.

To ring the bells, the ropes need to pass from the bells through the clock room to the ringing room. When the initial restrictions came in, meaning that only 2 households could meet indoors we changed the ropes on some of the bells so that we could ring them from the clock room. However, this meant that we were trying to ring together without any visual aids – a bit like a choir where some of the singers are upstairs and some downstairs. So, using a small video camera and a screen, ringers in the ringing room can see those in the clock room and communication is generally by hand signals. We have also put tell tales on the ropes of the bells being rung from the ringing room as a guide to those in the clock room.



Tell tales on the ropes  
in the clock room

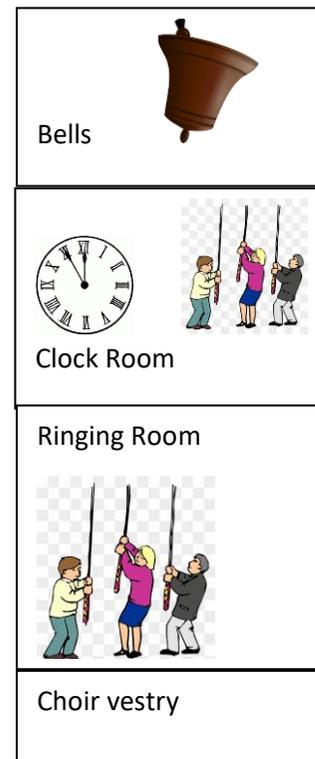


Christmas band,  
2 upstairs and 3 downstairs

Current restrictions mean that there is no internal mixing of households so we are limited to one household per room. Over Christmas we were able to ring 5 bells with Frank and myself in the clock room and Russell, Terry and Nick Brown in the ringing room as a household bubble.

We will continue to ring as much as we can within the guidelines but look forward to being able to ring all the bells and welcome the rest of our local ringers (and any interested learners) back in the tower.

Philippa Whittington  
Tower Captain



Basic tower diagram