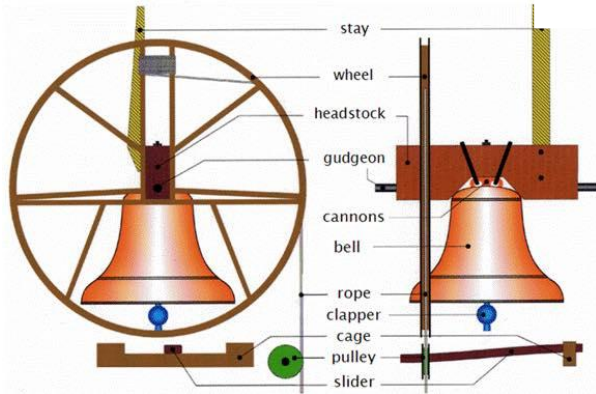


## Challenges for Young People?

Learning can be tailored for Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, and Scout movement challenge badges, etc.

## What do I see when I look at the bell?

Names used for different parts of the bell mechanism:



## What is a bell made of?

Bells are cast from a special alloy of bronze (typically 80% copper and 20% tin) to strengthen two otherwise soft metals. The alloy has excellent resonant qualities.

## What notes do the bells ring?

The 8 bells at St Annes are tuned to an octave in F# (F#, E#, D#, C#, B, A#, G#, F#)

## Is it an expensive hobby?

No, it is FREE! Donations are always welcome of course and there is a collection jar in the tower.

Membership of Lancashire Association of Change Ringers is encouraged (but not mandatory) once a ringer reaches service ringing standard, which costs a small amount annually. Ringing excursions/outings will cost a few pounds too.

## Will I be made welcome?

There are about 40,000 ringers in over 6,000 towers all over the UK and abroad who warmly welcome ringers who visit their tower. Drop in on holiday or

business trip, or when you go to college/university or start a new job.

A big part of what we enjoy about ringing are the friendships made and going for outings, meals, quizzes and lots of other stuff outside of ringing.

## I heard about the simulator, how does it work?

St Annes has a bell simulator system. We can use it two ways. Firstly we have a training bell called "Edwin". When you ring Edwin the computer simulates the sound of the ringing of the other bells and also shows the ringers on the computer screen. This is used to help you improve your striking and to learn methods. We can also use the simulator with the real bells. The bells are rung as normal except the clapper is fixed to prevent it striking the bell (so it is quiet outside the church). Sensors on the bell wheels and frame send signals to a computer which then plays the sound via speakers in the ringing room. It is not a substitute for ringing the bells out loud, but we can use it for teaching bell handling and having extra practices and training courses to speed up learning without disturbing residents nearby.

## Curious to learn more?

To arrange a taster session please contact St. Anne's tower captain **Stuart Newton**:

Phone: **01253 725958**

Email: [thenewtons75@aol.com](mailto:thenewtons75@aol.com)

or come along to our Friday practice night at 7.30pm.

**St. Anne's Parish Church, St Annes Road East,  
Lytham St. Annes, Lancs. FY8 3BB.**

[www.stannesparishchurch.org](http://www.stannesparishchurch.org)



**StAnnesOnSeaParishChurch**



## St. Anne's Parish Church



## Interested in Bell Ringing?

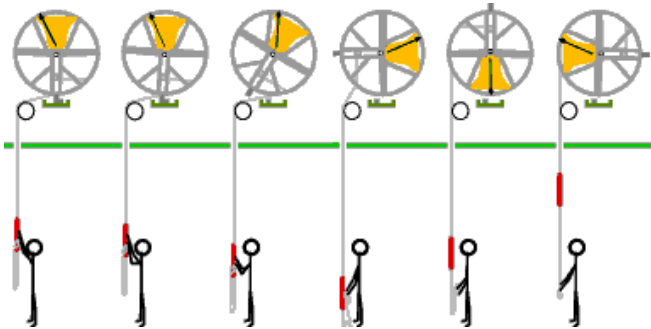
**Here are some of the best reasons to ring bells:**

- Make friends and enjoy a warm welcome when visiting bell towers everywhere.
- Free to learn and ring each week.
- Open to all... any age over 10, and no need to be religious, strong, or musical.
- Enjoyable and satisfying – master the skills needed to ring well, as part of a great team.
- Social activities – outings, quizzes, etc.
- Skill for Duke of Edinburgh Award and the Scout movement badge/awards.
- Helps to make a couple's wedding day special.
- Discover historic parts of churches that other people don't often get to see.

**Read on to find out more.....**

## Do you just pull on a rope?

A bell can be 'chimed' by pulling the rope when the bell hangs down, but ringing this way is very limited. So instead we ring the bells from a position with the bell mouth facing upwards, and ringer uses rope and wheel to rotate the bell by 360°. The clapper strikes the bell at the end of the rotation a couple of seconds after the ringer pulls the rope. The bell is out of sight, and the ringer must keep the rope taut, and 'sense' when the bell reaches the top of the swing.



While balanced upside-down the ringer can wait or pull rope earlier to fine-tune when their bell rings next time. English style church bell ringing is characteristic by the way the bells are rung in orderly sequences, and is achieved by this simple design and technique which has remained largely unchanged for over 400 years.

Almost anyone can learn the essential skills to do this with step-by-step tuition and practice. Once mastered, there is so much more to learn – to ring together as a team, and to keep you interested and entertained for a lifetime!

## What sort of person goes bell ringing?

Bell ringing may not sound like a mainstream hobby, but ordinary people like you and me enjoy the combination of learning skills with friends, just like

many other hobbies. Bell ringing is an inclusive hobby/activity for people from all walks of life; any age, any faith/religion or none. Our youngest ringer at St Annes at the moment is 10 and our oldest in their 70s, with everything in between!

**Note:** Under 18s will need permission to ring from their parent or guardian.

## How long does it take to learn to ring?

It varies – some people are quicker to learn than other people. The basic bell-handling technique is taught with 1-to-1 tuition in small steps, and can take anything from 5 to 40 hours to learn, spread over several weeks. Our tutors teach you at your own pace and they are very patient, friendly and encouraging.



**Learning the Ropes**

We follow the "Learning the Ropes" scheme which takes you step by step through 5 levels to learn all the key skills needed for change ringing. See [www.learningtheropes.org](http://www.learningtheropes.org) for more information. In bell ringing there is always something new and exciting to learn and improve on, which is part of the challenge and sense of achievement!

## Do you need to be musical?

No. Ringing has its own unique musicality, following rules and patterns rather than a 'tune' as most people know it.

## Do you need to be religious?

No, everyone is welcome irrespective of faith (or none). We are all encouraged to ring for Church services, weddings, and other special occasions. Most ringers are happy to do so in return for the use of the bells and the enjoyment we get from ringing them.

## How big are church bells?

Church bells weigh anything from under 50kg to the largest change ringing bell in the world at Liverpool Cathedral that can be rung by one person and weighs over 4 tonnes. Our heaviest bell is 834kg (the weight of a small car!) and is over 1m wide. Our bells were cast in 1890 by John Taylor & Co.

## Do ringers need to be fit and strong?

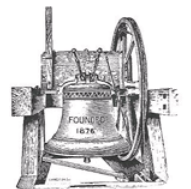
No, despite their heavy weight, most people of average build and fitness (age 10 upwards) will be physically capable of ringing church bells. Heavier bells can need a bit more strength, but good technique is much more important. You can ring and control a bell many times your own weight. Most first-time bell-ringers comment on how they expected to have to pull harder on the rope. You do however need to be fit enough to climb the 38 steps of the spiral stone staircase to reach the ringing room!

## Can ringing be dangerous?

Ringling a church bell is quite safe when rung properly. There are some hazards just like operating any other heavy equipment. This is why each person is carefully trained how to ring bells safely under the close supervision of an experience ringer. There are very few accidents, and bell ringing has a much better safety record than many other active pursuits or activities in daily life.

 Association of  
Ringing  
Teachers

ART Accredited Teachers  
[www.ringingteachers.org](http://www.ringingteachers.org)



Lancashire Association  
of Change Ringers  
[www.lacr.uk](http://www.lacr.uk)