

Learn to ring church bells with the Troyte Ringing Centre

(Bampton & Huntsham, Devon)

Reg. Charity No. 1179374



Why ring?

How do I learn?

What does it cost?

How much time does it take?

We are recruiting new ringers now, so why not give it a try? Find out more with this leaflet.

What is bell ringing about? Why do people ring?

Bell ringing is:

- An ancient English tradition
- The sound that draws people to church
- A way to celebrate and to commemorate
- A hobby and healthy exercise
- A great mental workout
- A way to meet new friends
- An opportunity to visit amazing places
- The largest, loudest and heaviest musical instruments in the world

and above all, it makes a glorious sound!

Who can ring?

Bell ringing is a hobby for people of all ages and all faiths.

People start ringing church bells as early as 8 years old and continue for as long as they are able. Many ringers continue well into their 80's.

Some of our ringers started when they were teenagers, some took up ringing when their children started and some at a later stage in life.

You don't need to be strong although some strength is required to ring heavier bells. You don't need to be musical to be a bell ringer - bell ringers do not read conventional musical notation. The different "tunes" are created by changing the order of the bells, either by a conductor calling instructions or by the ringers remembering a pattern called a "method".

There is no requirement to attend Church services, but some ringers are practising Christians and do join in with the worship.

Why people ring:

"When I'm ringing, I forget all the tensions and frustrations of the day. Even better: I couldn't wish for a nicer group of friends!"

"Being able to count is all the maths you'll need and you can become a very good ringer without knowing anything about music."

"One of the delights of ringing is the endless opportunity to learn new things."

"I learnt to ring over forty years ago and I still get the same buzz that I did when I first started."

How do I learn?

At the TRC we offer a free trial of three lessons for you to get an idea of what's involved and help you decide if ringing is for you.

Once you commit to learning we give individual tuition at mutually convenient times, and we use a scheme called "Learning the Ropes" which helps you make progress in small steps. You can join a national LtR website for extra support and to receive certificates of achievement.

It takes 4-10 sessions to master the rudiments of handling the bell and further sessions to get used to ringing in time with other ringers. Like playing a musical instrument, a lifetime can be spent learning all the music (methods) afterwards.

What skills make a good bell ringer?

- Good hand to eye coordination
- Good hearing
- A sense of rhythm
- Alertness and awareness
- Willingness to learn and do a little homework

How much time must I give it?

Like sport, music and other activities, what you get out of ringing partly depends on what you put in. A minimum commitment is usually two sessions a week, both while learning and once you ring as part of a tower



Learning to handle a bell – Individual Tuition

band. Once you are safe to ring unaided, there is normally an evening practice and a Sunday performance each week.

How much does it cost to learn and to continue ringing?

Bell ringing is not an expensive hobby – the equipment is mostly provided for you by the Church! We do charge £15 for each of the first two levels of tuition in the LtR scheme, but this largely covers the learning materials you will be given.

After that you can pay modest subscriptions to be a member of local and national ringing organisations. It's also customary to give a donation when visiting other towers and to help raise funds for the upkeep of the bells. We are privileged to use magnificent buildings and bells, so we freely give our services to the Church community by ringing prior to services, for weddings, and on other occasions when asked.

Interested in joining us?

There is lot more we can tell you about bell ringing – the social side, outings, visiting other towers across the U.K. and even overseas. If you are interested, please talk to one of the TRC ringers at an event or get in touch with either:

Sheila Scofield
sheila@troyteringingcentre.org.uk

01884 256819



Les Boyce
les@troyteringingcentre.org.uk

01884 256819



About the Troyte Ringing Centre

The Centre is based in St Michael's church Bampton and All Saints church Huntsham, but we also work with the ringers in other local churches.



Bampton:
6 bells
Tenor: 15 cwt

Normal ringing times:
Practice – Thursday, 7 30 – 9 00pm
Service ringing – Sunday, 10 15 – 11 00am



Huntsham:
8 bells
Tenor: 8 cwt

Normal ringing times:
Practice – Monday by arrangement
Service ringing – 4th Sunday, 8 45 – 9 30am

The Troyte Ringing Centre is named after Col. Charles Troyte, former squire of Huntsham Court, who developed ringing at Huntsham in the second half of the 19th century and wrote the first textbook on bell ringing for beginners.

The Centre won the Founders' Prize for the Best Ringing Centre in 2007, is a registered charity and is recognized as an ART Teaching Hub by the Association of Ringing Teachers. Courses and extended practices are held for ringers from other towers and longer performances, peals and quarter peals, are rung at Huntsham where a sound control system reduces the disturbance to neighbours.

Find out more about the TRC at: <https://troyteringingcentre.org.uk/>

Find out more about the world of bell ringing at: www.bellringing.org