

Balsham bell ringing FAQs

- **Do I need to be fit & strong?**
 - No, with skill the heaviest bell here can be rung with a little finger.
- **Is there an upper or lower age limit?**
 - No, just a lower size limit, which is generally around 10 years old.
- **Do I need to be musical?**
 - A sense of rhythm certainly helps, but that's about all
- **Do I need to go to Church?**
 - You will be more than welcome at the services for which you ring, but attendance is in no way compulsory.
- **How much time will it take?**
 - Tuesday night practice is 2 hours, Sunday service ringing is $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. Initially, to learn to handle a bell, individual "tied" lessons will be as often as possible, by mutual arrangement. If you get really hooked, you'll be able to go to other practices (elsewhere) every night of the week!
- **Is it dangerous?**
 - Bells can be dangerous. So can cars and bicycles. You will be taught how to handle a bell safely from the outset.
- **Does it cost anything?**
 - A contribution of 30p is expected on practice nights, & there's an annual subscription to the Balsham Holy Trinity Ringing Guild of £3 (£1-50 for under 16s). But, when you're good enough to ring for weddings you can recoup some of that! Learning to handle a bell is free.
- **What do I get out of it?**
 - A lifelong & absorbing hobby, which can be enjoyed at any level, & which gives you a passport to a group of friends anywhere where they ring bells in the English fashion, not only in England, but from Sydney to Washington, & also in Italy, where they do something similar.