

Worcester Cathedral

Guild of  Bellringers

Guidelines for ringing at Worcester Cathedral under the restrictions due to Covid-19.

These proposals follow a risk assessment on site by Mark Regan, David Jenkins and Bernard Taylor on July 2nd 2020. They put into practice the guidelines laid down by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR), that have been approved by the Church of England and the House of Bishops, and are in line with the procedures adopted in other towers. The requirements that are met are:

- a) Limit the amount of ringing in a session to no more than 15 minutes, and leave 72 hours before the next session.
- b) Restrict the number of ringers (just enough to ring) and ensure that they will not need assistance.
- c) Make sure bells can be rung which are 2 metres apart.
- d) Maintain good ventilation – air changes are important in reducing the risk of virus transmission.
- e) Anyone who has possible Covid-related symptoms will not enter the Cathedral.

General observations: Worcester Cathedral has 16 ringing bells that are rung from a very large ringing room situated halfway up the tower. Access is by a door in the North transept that leads to a broad spiral staircase. A maintenance survey has been carried out. The bells to be used have been rung up and left up in order to maximise the ringing time available.

General rules

- 1) Until further notice, the only ringing will be for church services.
- 2) In order to keep the 2 metre rule only bells 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be rung.
- 3) Only 8 ringers will be present at any session.
- 4) The ringing room door and windows will be kept open throughout the ringing time.
- 5) All those ringing will be competent ringers, none of them needing assistance in bell handling.

- 6) Each member of the band will be given the CCCBR advice for individual ringers regarding returning to ringing.
- 7) The ringers for each event will be named in advance.
- 8) Any ringer scheduled to ring but then develops any of a persistent cough, fever, loss of taste or smell must notify the Ringing Master immediately and not ring until the self-isolation period is over. A ringer who develops such symptoms while in the Cathedral must leave the Cathedral immediately. The Ringing Master or his deputy must then notify a member of the Cathedral staff straightaway.
- 9) Each ringer will sign in on arrival at (and again on exit from) the Cathedral to confirm they are free of Covid symptoms.
- 10) Each ringer will be asked to bring their own hand gel and to use it before climbing the stairs and on entering the ringing room.
- 11) One designated individual will be responsible for unlocking and opening the doors, turning on the lights and removing the ropes from the spider, and for the reverse procedure at the end of ringing.
- 12) The ringers will be asked to leave plenty of time and space between each other on the stairs.
- 13) Each ringer will ring the same bell throughout the session (unless two or more are from the same household).
- 14) Ringers will wear masks.
- 15) After ringing each ringer will be use their hand gel before leaving the ringing room and on leaving the building.
- 16) The designated individual will make sure that everything in the ringing room is safe and will turn off lights and lock up.
- 17) All ringers who intend to ring at Worcester Cathedral should sign a copy of the Worcester Cathedral "Working Practices Guidance Document in Response to Covid-19. This will be kept with the WCGoB Secretary.