



Worcester Cathedral

Guild of Bellringers

Risk assessment and method statement

Task: lifting the new bell to the cathedral belfry.

Start date: (to be confirmed)

Method:

The bell will be lifted using a manually operated chain block and tackle.

The block and tackle will be secured to the bellframe.

The lifting equipment has been tested.

The block and tackle will be operated by the Service Department team, supervised by Steve Smith.

All five trapdoors will be open until the bell is in the Teaching Centre.

When the bell is in the Teaching Centre the main trapdoors to the cathedral floor will be closed.

The block and tackle is then re-rigged to lift the bell into the belfry.

Trapdoors are closed behind the bell as it ascends the tower.

The bell will rest on the belfry floor underneath its pit in the bellframe.

The block and tackle are derigged.

The bell is then installed by John Slater who will supervise the process.

White's of Appleton will inspect the finished work.

Hazards	Risks	Control Measures
Rigging the chain block and tackle.	Falling through open trapdoors.	The lifting gear is rigged in the belfry before any trapdoors are opened.

	Objects falling through open trapdoors.	<p>The first chain is then carefully dropped through each trapdoor until it reaches the Teaching Centre floor.</p> <p>The block and tackle is then connected to the chain. The trapdoor in the Teaching Centre is then opened.</p> <p>No loose items near the open trapdoors. Great care taken rigging the lifting gear.</p>
Open trapdoor to tower crossing floor	<p>People falling through trapdoor.</p> <p>Objects falling through the trapdoor to the cathedral floor.</p>	<p>Area around the trapdoor in Teaching Centre is controlled and cordoned off. Service team use safety harnesses linked to the safety wire in the Teaching Centre.</p> <p>No loose items near the open trapdoors. The tower crossing is cordoned off and stewards control the area. Members of the public are not allowed in the tower crossing area.</p>
Lifting the bell	<p>Falling through trapdoors.</p> <p>Trapped feet or fingers when decoupling the bell from the block and tackle.</p>	<p>Service team use safety harnesses. Work in teams of at least two.</p> <p>Great care when moving the bell. Steel capped shoes and heavy-duty gloves.</p>
Injuries	Cuts, bruises, trapped fingers,	<p>Correct clothing to be worn at all times.</p> <p>Portable First Aid boxes and First Aiders will be present.</p>
Bellhanging	Lone working	Kept to a minimum. Named bellhangers covered by the Cathedral's EIG insurance policy: John Slater, William Regan and Mark Regan

	<p>Lifting bell and fittings</p> <p>Work injuries</p>	<p>John and Mark are experienced bellhangers. William has started an apprenticeship at White's Bellhangers.</p> <p>Block, tackle and slings are all tested.</p> <p>The bell is kept away from trapdoors.</p> <p>Care taken with all tools and gear.</p> <p>Mobile phones used at all times.</p> <p>Cathedral vergers know when work is taking place in the belfry.</p> <p>The fire book is always used.</p>
Poor lighting	Bad eyes, head aches	There is good lighting in the belfry and additional directional lighting will be used.
Electricity	Electrocution	Each portable appliance is PAT tested.
Noise	Loss of hearing	<p>Ear defenders are supplied and worn when needed. (eg when test ringing the bell).</p> <p>The clock chimes are turned off during bellhanging.</p>
Injuries	Cuts, knocks, bruising etc.	<p>Protective gear to be worn at all times, this includes goggles/glasses, ear defenders, and steel toe capped shoes and face masks.</p> <p>Correct clothing to be worn at all times.</p> <p>Portable First Aid kit is available in the belfry</p>
Members of public	Injuries to members of public	Members of public are not allowed in the belfry. Nominated visitors will be looked after by the bellhangers.

Mark Regan
 Ringing Master, Worcester Cathedral
 18 January 2018