



GUIDELINES FOR SAFE RINGING

INSURANCE

Under Civil Law, individuals have a duty of care while performing any activities that could foreseeably harm others. If anything goes wrong, it is possible for a claim to be made for damages under Civil Law. For such a claim to succeed, the claimant must show that the defendant breached the duty of reasonable care.

The Guild holds public and product liability insurance with Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc, policy no. 07/CBP/9100712, which indemnifies officers and members for any legal liability to pay damages up to £2,000,000 for any accidental injury to any person and accidental damage to any material property. Insurers will not refuse to pay a claim if there was a breach of instructions.

The Guild does not hold any personal accident insurance.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 applies only to organisations which are employers and to people who are employed. The Guild is not an employer and has no employees. Requirements under the act, such as the production of risk assessments, are thus not mandatory. However the Guild recognises that it is good practice to demonstrate a duty of care by providing advice and training for its activities.

Samples of **risk assessments** for ringing situations are provided on the Guild's website.

It is recommended that **first aid kits** be available whenever ringing or bell maintenance is being undertaken.

It is recommended that the best **postcode and road name** is displayed for use in the event of a 999 call out to guide emergency services to the appropriate door.

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Diocese of Peterborough is implementing 'The Church of England Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment' throughout the diocese. Each Parochial Church Council has to implement these procedures, including appointing tower captains and other volunteers. All towers with bells in the diocese, including those under the protection of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), will be covered. Local bands should familiarise themselves with the host tower requirements.

Through the Diocese, the PCC is responsible for obtaining free, DBS (Disclosing and Barring Service) check certificates for those carrying out face to face training of juniors and transporting juniors as a formal arrangement. A certificate can be used by ringers throughout the Diocese of Peterborough, not only in the initiating parish.

Everyone holding a DBS certificate should undertake safeguarding training and renew every three years. Procedures for this are being set up by the Diocese.

The Guild recommends these **minimum** guidelines at any ringing event:

- Children should be accompanied to Guild and Branch ringing events by DBS checked members of their local team or their parents.
- An attendance list is kept at ringing events.
- Two members are present, at least one will have a current DBS.
- Touching should only be that appropriate for teaching and in an emergency.
- If any ringers have concerns regarding safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults, they need to report it to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, who will deal appropriately with any reports concerning ringers and will communicate with any parishes on a need to know basis.
- If there is concern of immediate danger to a child or vulnerable adult, telephone 999 (Police)

A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 or over, who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

A child is anyone who is under the age of 18.

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