

# RISK ASSESSMENT BELLRINGERS BADSEY CHURCH

Date of assessment  
11/9/2023

Assessed by: Stefanie Whittle (Secretary of Badsey Bell Ringers)

## SUMMARY COMMENTS CONCERNING THE RISK ASSESSMENT [if any].

Whilst not being a significant concern, the wooden steps leading into the bell ringing chamber are very small, and the bottom few steps are starting to wear and become quite slippery. This could lead to potential accidents, so perhaps some rubber step edging could be put in place to prevent this from happening.

Identify significant hazards	Persons affected	Type of harm	Existing Control	Additional Controls required to reduce risk
List of significant hazards <i>(Something with the potential to cause harm)</i>	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing Control <i>(Actions already taken to control risk)</i>	Additional Controls <i>(Required actions to reduce risk)</i>
Tower access by tight spiral staircase to three floors, with rope handrail.	Bell ringers, and any visitors	Fall from height, trip and fall	The access is locked except during bell ringing and access required to clock or bells.	No admission to tower whilst bells are being rung. Rubber tread could be put on the tower stairs to reduce the risk of slips/falls
<b>Ringin Room</b>				
Getting Caught up in moving ropes	Non ringers and visitors whilst not ringing	Potentially serious injuries, from rope burns to broken bones	All those not ringing to be instructed not to touch ropes prior to entry. Remove loose clothing such as ties and scarves prior to ringing. Learners to be closely supervised by competent instructor	Should there be a large number of people in the ringing chamber, we would request that people take it in turns to wait downstairs in the church to minimise the risk of getting caught up in any ropes.
Ropes breaking near sally and flailing around	All personnel in the area	Potentially serious injuries from rope burns to broken bones	Ropes are checked on a monthly basis as part of regular maintenance	A competent and experienced bell ringer to be present at all practice nights and service ringing to assist should this occur.

Stay breaking or similar mechanical failure	Ringers	Potentially serious injuries by being lifted off feet.	Ringers properly trained to avoid “over pulling” Bell Ringers ensure maintenance of equipment.	Learners are properly supervised and fully competent in their control before being allowed to handle bells on their own.
Bells	All personnel in the area	Potentially serious injuries from rope burns to broken bones	Bells are kept in lowered position except when raised in readiness for a special occasion such as wedding	Access tower locked till access required by ringers for the occasion who are made aware bells are up by displayed sign.
Power Cuts	Ringers	Loss of control of ropes, possible injury	Emergency lighting installed in ringing chamber. Torch kept in cupboard.	Everybody to be competent in their bell control so that bells could be stopped safely if power cut should occur. Emergency lighting checked on a regular basis.
Portable electric equipment	All Personnel	Trip hazard from trailing leads	All leads to be kept tucked neatly on floor. PAT testing done annually.	
<b>Belfry Maintenance</b>	Tower Captain and nominated persons	Falling from frame whilst carrying out maintenance or muffling bells	Ensure that those carrying out task are fit enough to carry out task. Use crawling boards where appropriate. Two adults to be present at all times with means or raising alarm if there is an accident	
Lone working	All Personnel	Risk of serious injury/failure to raise the alarm for assistance	Lone working is not permitted under any circumstance, whether raising or lowering bells or carrying out any form of maintenance	Two people always present should access/maintenance be required for the bells
Clock Room	All Personnel	Potentially serious injuries from ropes	No access to this room whilst bells are in use	