

The Benefice of Great Gransden, Abbotsley, Little Gransden and Waresley

Tower Bell Ringing Health & Safety and Safeguarding Policy (Gt Gransden)

The safety of local and visiting bell ringers, and the protection of the bells, clock and other fixtures and fittings in the upper floors of the tower is paramount. In the interest of health, safety and safeguarding we have adopted the following policy for managing activities in the church tower:

- Bell ringing leaders and trainers are authorised by the parochial church councils (PCC) to carry out their work.
- The Tower Captain, deputy and trainers shall be DBS checked by the PCC and be given appropriate safeguarding training.
- Leaders are made aware of best practice with regard to the taking and use of photographs which include children and are given a copy of the Photograph Policy and Social Media Policy.
- All bell ringing shall be supervised by an appointed leader.
- Only people authorised to visit the tower are allowed to enter the spiral staircase and any rooms above the ground floor.
- Local bell ringers and visitors are made aware of any relevant safety hazards.
- Adequate training is given to local ringers in aspects of:
 - Safety in the church tower
 - The ringing of church bells
 - Tower maintenance (where appropriate)
- All visiting bands of bell ringers are met by an appointed leader(s) and accompanied in the ringing room for the duration of their visit (unless they are ringing a peal or quarter peal, when this is impractical).
- The appointed leader shall ensure that all visitors leave the tower safely and shall lock and secure the tower.
- In accordance with Benefice and Diocesan safeguarding guidelines:
 - Appropriate written consent shall be obtained from parents/guardians of children under the age of 18 to take part in regular bell ringing activities in the benefice churches, and in the presence of the authorised leaders at other churches or places where bell ringing takes place. (The PCC will provide these forms)
 - Children under the age of 18 are supervised appropriately by authorised leaders during all bell ringing sessions.
 - A register of attendance is maintained of local bell ringers and the number of visitors attending all bell ringing sessions.
- The Tower Captain, deputy and trainers act in accordance with the PCC's Photograph Policy and Social Media Policy with regard to the use of Zoom and other social platforms as part of bell ringing activities when not meeting on church premises.

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Phillip George
Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Sheila George
Tower Captain – Great Gransden
13th January 2020