

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF TRING PARISH CHURCH BELLRINGERS SOCIETY

- 1.The Society shall be called the **TRING PARISH CHURCH BELLRINGERS SOCIETY**.
- 2.Its object shall be to ring the bells of Tring Parish Church for Divine Service on Sundays and on other special occasions, and by regular practice to keep the standard of such ringing as high as possible.
- 3.The Rector of the Parish shall be ex-officio President, and the election of Members, use of the Bells, and all other matters concerning the Society shall be subject to his approval.
- 4.There shall be an Annual General Meeting, chaired by the President, at which shall be elected a Ringing Master, a Steeple-keeper, a Secretary and a Treasurer. These shall form the Committee and carry on the ordinary business of the Society which shall be reported to the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.The **Ringing Master** shall be responsible for all matters concerning the ringing of the bells, and shall arrange for the attendance of a competent band on any special occasion. A **Deputy Ringing Master** may be elected at an Annual General Meeting who shall take on these duties in the absence of the Ringing Master.
- 6.The **Steeple-keeper** shall keep the Ringing room and Bell-chamber in a clean and orderly condition, see that the ropes, frame and fittings of the bells are in good repair and well adjusted and the bearings well oiled, and report any defects to the Rector and Committee. Also, when required to muffle the clappers and subsequently remove the muffles. An **Assistant Steeple-Keeper** may be elected at an Annual General Meeting to assist in these duties.
- 7.The **Secretary** shall keep a list of all Members of the Society, and a record of their attendances; keep the Minutes of all meetings of the Society in a book provided for the purpose, and deal with all correspondence.
- 8.The **Treasurer** shall be responsible for all money received, which shall be expended under the direction of the Committee.
9. Any ringer who can competently handle a bell in rounds and agrees to abide by these rules may apply for **Full** membership of the Society. **Probationary** members shall consist of those undergoing instruction in the handling of a bell. The Society may elect suitable persons to be **Honorary** Members.
- 10.Honorary and probationary members may attend all activities of the Society including the Annual General Meeting at which they may speak but may not take part in the election of the officers of the Society.

11. Every full member of the Society shall pay an annual subscription into the funds of the Society. Subscriptions shall be paid within one month after the date of the Annual General Meeting. Probationary members shall pay no subscription. No payment shall be made for any ringing at Tring Parish Church except on special occasions such as weddings. The membership subscription, payment to ringers on special occasions and the charge for such special ringing shall be as set out in the schedule of fees attached to these rules. The level of these fees and the date from which they should be operable shall be decided at each Annual General Meeting.
12. Every Member shall at all times comport themselves in the Belfry with the reverence due to the House of God. All Full Members shall be expected to attend at the times appointed for service ringing and at practice as regularly and punctually as possible, and in case of inability to be present on a Sunday or any special occasion to notify the Ringing Master beforehand.
13. The Society shall be deemed to be associated with and share the aims of Tring District Church Council. If the Society becomes defunct, any funds in its accounts shall be transferred to Tring District Church Council.
14. The Society shall be affiliated to the Hertfordshire County Association of Change Ringers.
15. Any of the above rules may be brought up for amendment or revision at an Annual General Meeting, provided that notice is given in writing to the Secretary and is displayed in the belfry at least 7 days beforehand.

Adopted on 19 January 1992