

Welcome to the tower and bells of St Mary's, Battle

We have a fairly big band, occasionally reaching 18-20 on a practice night, although 10-12 is more likely. We have a number of learner ringers, from those learning to handle a bell to those learning complicated methods.

The ringers are mostly locally trained, by our exceptional tower captain - although there are still a number of ringers who have been poached from other nearby towers.

We can usually ring 8 on a Sunday and for times when the church requires ringing.

Where possible, ALL our ringers get selected to ring for 'events' - Sundays, weddings, 1/4s etc... - that's everyone from the real beginner to the more established.

Ringling times:

Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.30

Sundays 10.30 – 11.00

5th Sunday 9.30 – 10.00

Contact:

Tower Secretary

Simon Lawrence 01424

Tower Captain

Alan Turner 01424 870770

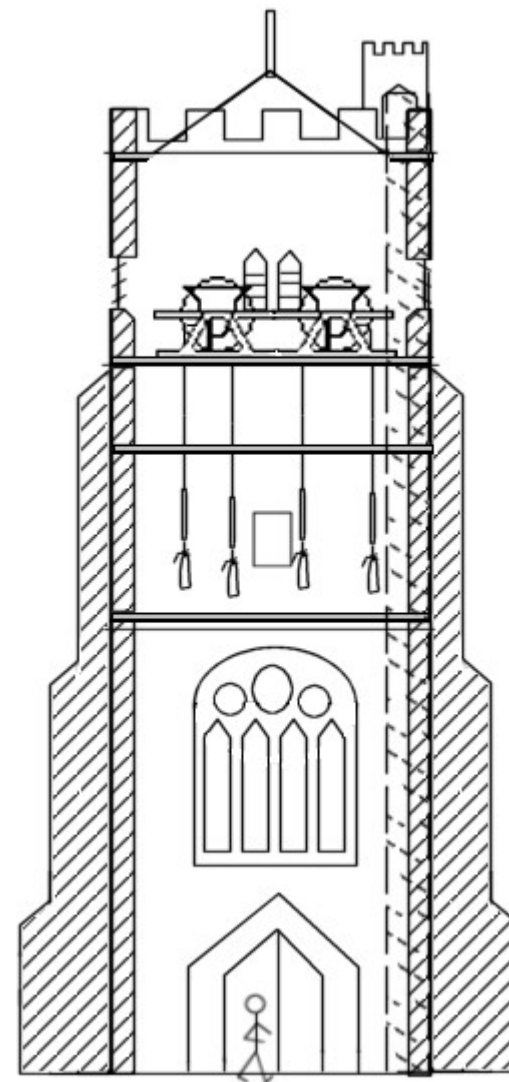
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St Mary's, Battle Tower and Bells



Climbing the tower

Enter via the north door

The north door opens you to the whole church. To the right are the clockwise steps to the roof. Behind you to your right is the rope for the Sanctus bell.

There are a total of X steps to the top:

5X steps to the ringing room

The first place you'll come to – where the bells are rung. There are 8 ropes for 8 bells. On the left wall as you enter is the clock mechanism and pendulum case. On the walls there are method (tune) lines, last century photographs and 'Peal Boards'.

There is a layer of soundproofing between the ringing room and bell chamber.

7X steps to the bell chamber

The bells are hung (swing) in a wooden frame. Bells are hung in different directions to prevent the tower swaying (which it does a little anyway).

At the top

The top of the tower offers views over the whole of Battle. Also look over the Abbey grounds to Beachy Head and over open countryside for miles to the North, East and South.

The bells

Inscriptions...

Bell	Weight (cwt-qtr-lbs)	Note	Year
1	5-2-5	E flat	1867
2	6-0-24	D	1815
3	6-1-18	C	1874
4	7-2-18	B flat	1803
5	9-1-17	A flat	1803
6	10-3-18	G	1869
7	14-2-0	F	1890
8	21-3-8	E flat	1825

Total: 79-1-24 (4,037kg)

Note

1cwt = 112 lbs = 4 qtr = 50.8kg

1qtr = 28 lbs = 12.7kg

20cwt = 1ton = 1000kg

1 imperial ton = 1 metric tonne(approx)

QUICK guide to ringing

There are 2 strokes to ringing – hand and back. The bells ring 'full circle', so on each stroke the bells rotate 360° from 'mouth up'. This allows for the timing of the strike (sound) to be very accurate, but only once every couple of seconds.



To make 'tunes', ringing involves changes, where every bell strikes in an order, before striking again.

A change: 3 2 1 6 5 4 (1 is the smallest bell to 6 the biggest).

A method consists of a number of changes, where bells can swap with adjacent bells. For example, above, the 2 and 1 are adjacent, so the next change can be:

3 1 2 6 5 4.

If you can manage the stairs, are male or female, keen to commit to an ever learning hobby and did or didn't understand this page, then come and visit us on a practice night (Tuesday 7.30 – 9.30), to learn more and have a go.