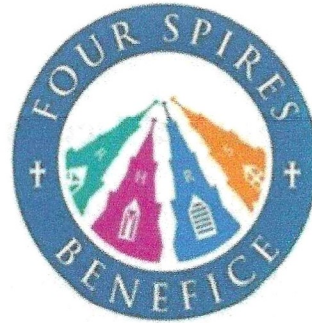




Bell Ringing Policy

Parish Church of St Laurence, Raunds.

1. Purpose of this Policy

This policy sets out the principles and practical arrangements for bell ringing within the parish church. It ensures that ringing is conducted:

- In accordance with **Canon Law**,
- With respect for local residents,
- In support of the church's mission and worship,
- Safely and responsibly by authorised ringers.

2. Ecclesiastical and Legal Framework

- **Canon F8** requires every church to have at least one bell to call people to worship.
- The **incumbent** and **churchwardens** hold ultimate responsibility for the use of the bells.
- Bell ringing must not cause **unreasonable disturbance** under common law or the **Environmental Protection Act 1990**.
- The PCC supports responsible ringing and ensures that practices follow recognised national norms.

3. Normal Ringing Times

To balance tradition with community wellbeing, the parish adopts the widely accepted national norms:

3.1 Routine Ringing Window

Bell ringing may take place between:

- **9:30 and 20:45** (Monday–Saturday)
- **9:30 and 20:00** (Sunday, except for service ringing)

3.2 Practice Nights

- One weekly practice session may be held, typically Tuesday **16:00–18:00**.
- Any change to practice night or extended practice must be approved by the incumbent or churchwardens.

3.3 Service Ringing

- Bells may be rung **30–45 minutes before a scheduled act of worship**.
- Morning ringing will not begin before **9:30**.

4. Special Occasions

The following are recognised exceptions to normal ringing times:

- **Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve)** – ringing after 20:45 permitted.
- **New Year's Eve** – ringing at midnight is traditional and permitted.
- **Weddings** – ringing arranged with clergy; normally short celebratory ringing.
- **Funerals** – tolling or short ringing as agreed with clergy.
- **Civic or national events** – times set by incumbent or PCC (e.g., royal occasions, national commemorations).

Any extraordinary ringing outside normal hours must be authorised by the incumbent or churchwardens.

5. Communication with the Community

To maintain good relationships with neighbours:

- Practice times and special ringing will be **publicised** on the church noticeboard, website, or social media.
- Significant changes to ringing patterns will be communicated in advance.
- Concerns raised by residents will be listened to respectfully and reviewed by the PCC.

6. Access and Supervision

- Only **authorised ringers** may ring the bells.
- Visiting ringers must be supervised by the Tower Captain or an appointed deputy.
- The ringing chamber and tower must remain secure at all times.
- Young ringers must be supervised in accordance with the church's **Safeguarding Policy**.

7. Safety

The PCC commits to maintaining a safe ringing environment:

- Annual inspection of bells, fittings, and frame by a competent person.
- Immediate reporting of defects to the churchwardens.
- Compliance with tower safety guidance from the **Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR)**.
- No ringing during storms, structural concerns, or other unsafe conditions.

8. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed:

- Every **three years**, or

- Whenever significant changes occur in ringing practice, tower condition, or community feedback.

9. Approval

This Bell Ringing Policy was adopted by the Parochial Church Council on: 2/10/26 [Insert Date]

Signed: Incumbent: [Signature] (Rector)

Churchwardens: [Signature] [Signature]

Tower Captain: [Signature]

