

# The Old Steeple, Dundee

## Instructions for Visiting Ringers

The Old Steeple (also known as St Mary's Tower) is owned and maintained by Dundee City Council, and managed by Leisure and Culture Dundee (LACD). Recent changes have meant we now need to have a cap on numbers in the ringing room at any one time, the maximum number being ten. For visiting bands one of the ten people must be a member of the regular band, and one member of the regular band must remain downstairs in the entrance area also.

All visiting ringers must now sign a 'Volunteer Bellringing' agreement to ensure they are covered by LACD insurance, in case of any incidents. Please contact us for a copy of the agreement – contact details on the website.

There has been the occasional complaint from local residents or businesses and we are anxious to minimise inconvenience to the local population, most of whom are very much in favour of hearing the bells rung. Over the years the bells have become a well-known feature of Dundee; we have had more comments of appreciation than complaints and we would like to keep it that way.

To this end, please help us by following the few straightforward rules that have been set in liaison with the City Council.

1. Ringing during business hours is limited to one hour maximum. If your band arrives late then it is generally OK to run over the arranged finish time by a little, but no more than 15 minutes. We advertise ringing sessions in advance and changing the time can lead to awkwardness and embarrassment.
2. Evening ringing should finish by 21:00. If you are ringing a peal and it is not going to finish by 21:00, then it is OK to overrun by a few minutes, but no more than 15 minutes.

### Lights

Use the supplied key on the switch *nearest the door*. Do **not** touch the switch marked in red – this controls the emergency lights and disables the main ones.

### Chimes

Currently disabled. No action needed.

### Ropes

It is fine to adjust the ropes and to leave them as they are when you finish unless you have adjusted them for an extremely tall or short ringer. The ropes lengthen and shorten with the weather and we regularly have to alter them, so there is no need to try to put them back the way they were.

When you finish, please hang the ropes up on the spider by the topmost tuck, allowing about two feet of tail end to hang down. The tenor needs to be hooked a little further down. This is to ensure the ropes are out of easy reach of visitors. The bells **MUST ALWAYS** be left down when the ringing room is unoccupied.

### Heaters

There are two stand-alone heaters. Please remember to turn these off when you leave.

Please enjoy your ring here and let us know of any problems you encountered.

*Stephen Elwell-Sutton*  
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