



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH

BELL RINGERS

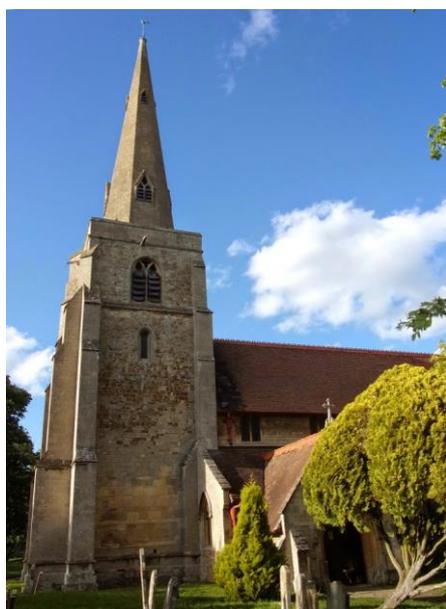
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RINGING CENTRES COMMITTEE

Training Times 11

Ringling Centres News

Welcome to Stretham! *By Les Boyce*



The Stretham Ringing Education Centre (REC) opened in August 2015 to serve the training needs of Ely Diocesan Association, particularly in the Ely District. It is based in St James' Stretham and uses the easy-going 9 ½ cwt ring of 6 there. The Centre makes use of the good facilities in the church and these include a meeting room, kitchen and toilet. The belfry itself is equipped with a simulator on all 6 bells, two PCs which can work the simulators independently with wireless headphones, a projector and screen, Abel, Virtual Belfry and Beltower software and a range of teaching resources.

Activities at Stretham REC include a regular Saturday District 5&6- bell practice, young ringers' events, courses under the ART Training Scheme, and workshops on the use of simulators, Stedman and conducting, together with many individual and group visits. This year a 10-week summer ringing course is being offered which takes early ringers through ART's "Learning the Ropes" scheme from Level 1

(Bellhandling) into Level 3 (Plain Hunt and elementary method ringing). The availability of the centre 12-hours a day and 7-days a week is being promoted for individual and small group practice.

The Stretham REC is well integrated with the local Ely Diocesan Association. The Association's Education Officer serves as Chair of the Centre's Management Committee and the Centre features prominently on the Association's website. You can find out more about the Stretham REC by visiting: <https://sites.google.com/site/elydabells/strethamrec>.

The setting up of the REC at Stretham is a welcome development for a part of the country with few active ringing centres and the Ringing Centres Committee was pleased to be able to grant Council recognition to Stretham and get them "on the map".

Who runs my Ringing Centre?

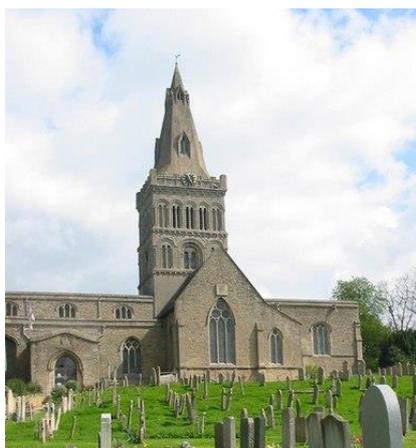
The Committee has recently been made aware of problems of organization and governance at a couple of ringing centres. Problems can often arise over the relationship between the ringing centre and the clergy, the PCC and Churchwardens or the local band of ringers. Control of finances often bring latent problems to the surface. Responsibilities and roles can sometimes be unclear.

In many situations goodwill on all sides is making the arrangements for running the ringing centre work. But such arrangements can fall apart when personnel change.

We suggest that all centres reflect on their current arrangements and try to ensure that agreed protocols are in place with the host church, its officials, local ringers and, if appropriate, the local association.

David Teall has recently been appointed Head Tutor of Castor Ringing School and went through this process of reflection. He has kindly agreed to share the model which he has developed. The Terms of Reference for the centre are available at: <http://www.petbells.org.uk/ringing-school>

Castor Ringing School *By David Teall*



I began by contacting a cross section of Ringing Schools/Centres listed on the Central Council website and asking to have sight of their 'constitutions'. There would appear to be two distinct ways in which Ringing Schools/Centres can be set up with a number of variations thereon:

1. The Ringing School/Centre is run by an autonomous independent body external to the church. Sometimes this body is a registered charity, sometimes it is a rather less formal group of ringers and occasionally it is the local Branch. In all cases the body has its own constitution (to constitute it as a body) and must have its own Insurance as it is not covered by that of the church. As far as the church is concerned, it is an external body making use of church premises with the permission of the PCC. This is similar to, say, the Boy Scouts using the Church Hall for their meetings, a common situation in which the Scouts Association are responsible for Child Protection, Health and Safety and Insurance. It is not a model that I would advocate.

2. The Ringing School/Centre is run as a Church Activity under the direction of the Incumbent and PCC in the same way as the Tower Band and Choir. There are two distinct variations of this model:

a) The Tower Band run the Ringing School/Centre themselves. This is the simplest model, but it is not applicable to Castor.

b) The Ringing School/Centre is run by a separate group of ringers in cooperation with and parallel to the Sunday Service Band.

It seems to me that 2b most closely matches what happens at Castor and I based the Terms of Reference on this.

The first thing to note is that it is not a constitution. The PCC is the relevant 'body corporate' in law and, as I understand it, the correct way for it to specify

how a Church Activity should be run is for it to issue 'Terms of Reference'. In drawing up the Terms of Reference I have combined my experience of sitting on three PCCs with my knowledge of the Ringing School to produce what I hope will be acceptable to everyone concerned.

The preamble sets out the reasons for the PCC to be running a Ringing School and includes the necessary clauses to ensure that it satisfies the requirements of Central Council (it must be, as we always have been, for the wider area, not just the local church).

The three Officers take on responsibility for the three most important things the PCC will wish to cover: Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection, Health and Safety and setting a high standard. I have included a clause to say these posts can be combined if necessary though I think separating them out has merit.

Keeping in touch with Centres

A request will shortly be sent out to C. C.-Recognised Centres to complete the annual report form on activities in 2016-17 and for updates to their entry in the Directory of Ringing Centres.

This year's survey asks some additional questions to update the information on facilities and policies.

Centre contacts will be asked to return the report forms by 30th June.

The Committee – who we are and what we do

Committee Contact: Maureen Frost

Members: Phil Bailey, Les Boyce (to May 17), Barrie Dove, Maureen Frost, Paul Marshall, Norman Mattingley,

The Committee maintains a directory of Ringing Centres on the Central Council website and collates annual reports from recognised centres to inform its work and share good practice. Advice and help is offered to new and existing centres and training groups.

Anyone interested in assisting in the work of the Committee is invited to contact Maureen Frost (alamo_frost@btinternet.com).

The Committee's remit includes a brief to support all groups which offer training to ringers outside their own tower, including youth groups. We would like to hear from any such groups wanting help or support—please email the Committee Contact.

Comments and Contributions for future editions of "Training Times" are very welcome. Please e-mail Maureen Frost.