

Risk assessment



Activity / Event name: Entry and use of the tower for ringing of bells and maintenance Location: St Mary's Church DE13 0BL Date of risk assessment: March 2024 Review Date: 21 March 2025			Assessor Name: Charles Pidsley Signed: H&S Officer Name: Pauk Ward Signed:		
Activity	Who might be harmed?	What are the hazards?	Level of risk / hazards Use Matrix grid attached	What do you need to do to control this risk?	Action by who? Action by when?
Access to tower from ground level	Any person accessing tower	Narrow steep spiral steps	Risk of stumbling and falls leading to injury.	Access unaccompanied only in exceptional circumstances.	Ongoing
		Poor lighting	Risk of stumbling and falls leading to injury.	Lighting needs to be improved with further movement sensitive battery powered lights especially near access to ringing chamber.	Completed 8/12/23 Lighting checked regularly and recharged as needed.
		Lack of hand rails	Risk of stumbling and falls leading to injury.	Those supervising access to the ringing chamber need to assess fitness of any visitors. Restrict access to bell ringers under supervision of captain. Church Wardens only for maintenance and to accompany any contractor.	Church Warden. Bell Captain.

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				Hand rails would add risk of their own due to narrowing of stairwell.	
Access to Belfry from Ringing Chamber.	Any persons involved in maintenance of tower top or the bells. Contractors or inspectors.	Access is via very steep metal rung ladder with heavy trap door at the top which needs to be raised.	Risk of fall causing injury or death.	Investigate and contract in next 6 months for installation of a safety ladder and counterbalanced trap door.	ONGOING at this present time. Church Warden.
Ringing of bells	Separate Risk assessment required by Bell Captain. The Bells have been examined by David Jacks committee member of Staffordshire association of bellringers. He has reported that the bells are fit to be rung as of 28 th February 2024. He recommends next inspection 5years hence.				Bell Captain.
Use of electric bar heater.	All persons using bell tower.	Electric bar heater	Risk of fire if left on or becomes faulty.	PAT tested on a regular basis. Consider possible removal.	Church Warden.
Cleaning and maintenance of belfry both internally and externally.	Church Warden and others involved in maintenance	Working at heights	Risk of falls causing injury or death.	No lone working and any contractor to form own risk assessment in light of this document.	Church Warden.
Cleaning and maintenance of ringing room.	Regular ringing team. Churchwarden or named person.	Possibility of getting tangled in ringing ropes.	It is possible if person in ringing chamber unused to working in that environment.	Ensure all ropes are safely secured on raised rotunda prior to starting cleaning.	Bell captain to always ensure ropes are safely stored away prior to leaving ringing chamber