

# Parents' Guide to Bell Ringing



## What is bell ringing?

You've probably heard bells ringing, but not many people have been inside a bell tower.

A tower usually has between 6 and 12 bells. Each is attached to a wheel that has a rope that one ringer controls.

## Who does it?

Ringers are people of all ages and backgrounds. It's a hobby that is enjoyed by people from 8 to 80 years old and older.

You don't need any special skills to be a ringer.

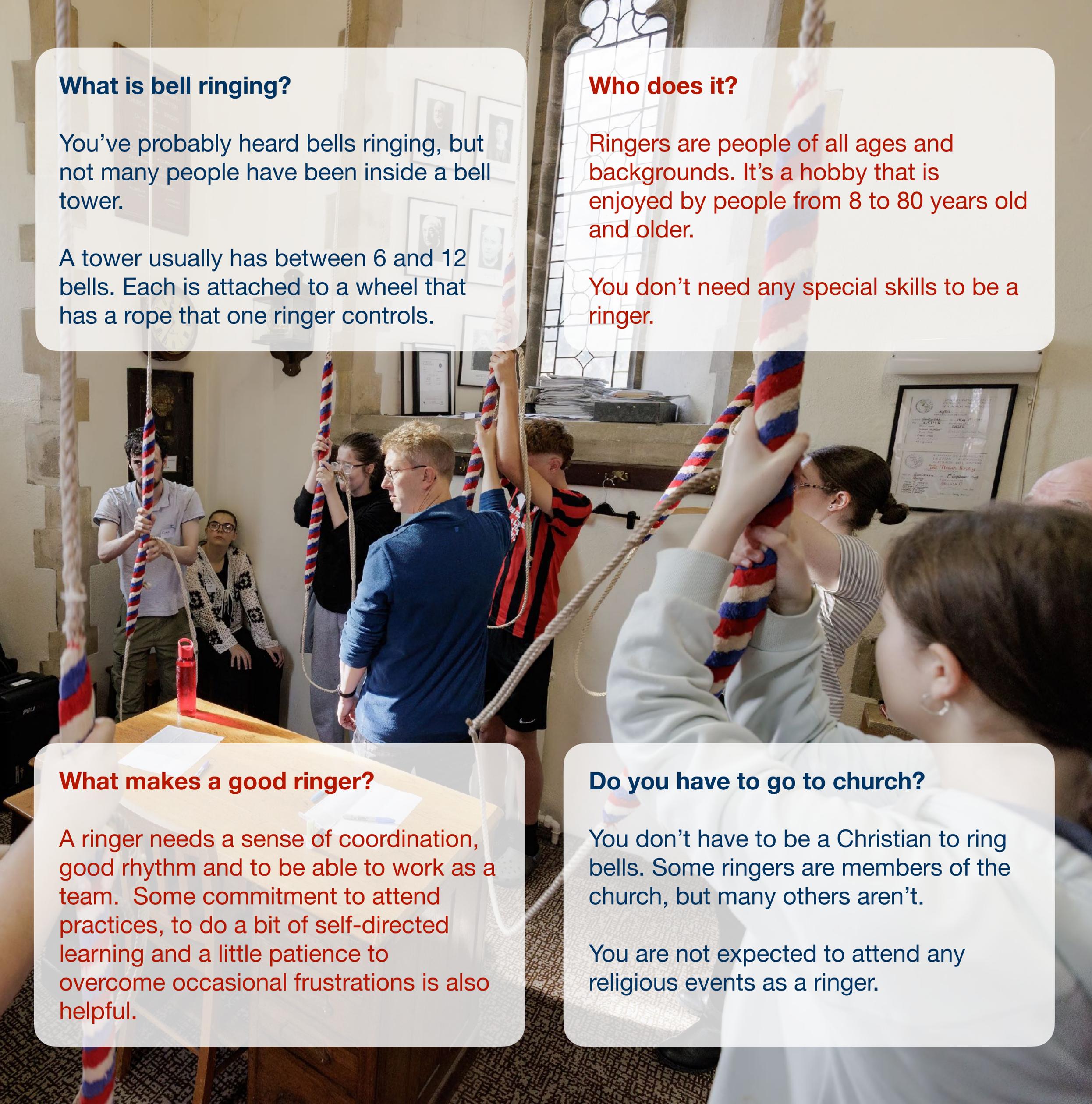
## What makes a good ringer?

A ringer needs a sense of coordination, good rhythm and to be able to work as a team. Some commitment to attend practices, to do a bit of self-directed learning and a little patience to overcome occasional frustrations is also helpful.

## Do you have to go to church?

You don't have to be a Christian to ring bells. Some ringers are members of the church, but many others aren't.

You are not expected to attend any religious events as a ringer.



## How long does learning take?

It takes about 20 hours to learn the physical skill of ringing a bell.

After learning the physical skill and getting “the bug”, there is a lifetime ahead ringing the different patterns that make the distinctive bell ringing sound.

## Do I need to accompany my child?

No, parents do not need to accompany their child, but they are very welcome to come along and even have a go.

Ringing is a community which spans the generations. Many towers have several generations of a family ringing.

## What does it cost?

Bell ringing is a very, very cheap hobby as it's all volunteer led. Ringers even get paid a small amount sometimes!

You don't need any equipment, just wear clothes that allow you to lift your arms above your head easily.



## What skills will bell ringing develop?

Ringling has a lot of transferable skills that look good on job and UCAS applications.

Ringling develops teamwork, coordination, leadership, concentration, listening, and even analytical skills.

## Does it count towards DofE awards?

Ringling can count towards the skill section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

As a skill with many levels you can progress your ringling from Bronze through to Silver and Gold awards.

## What else do ringers do?

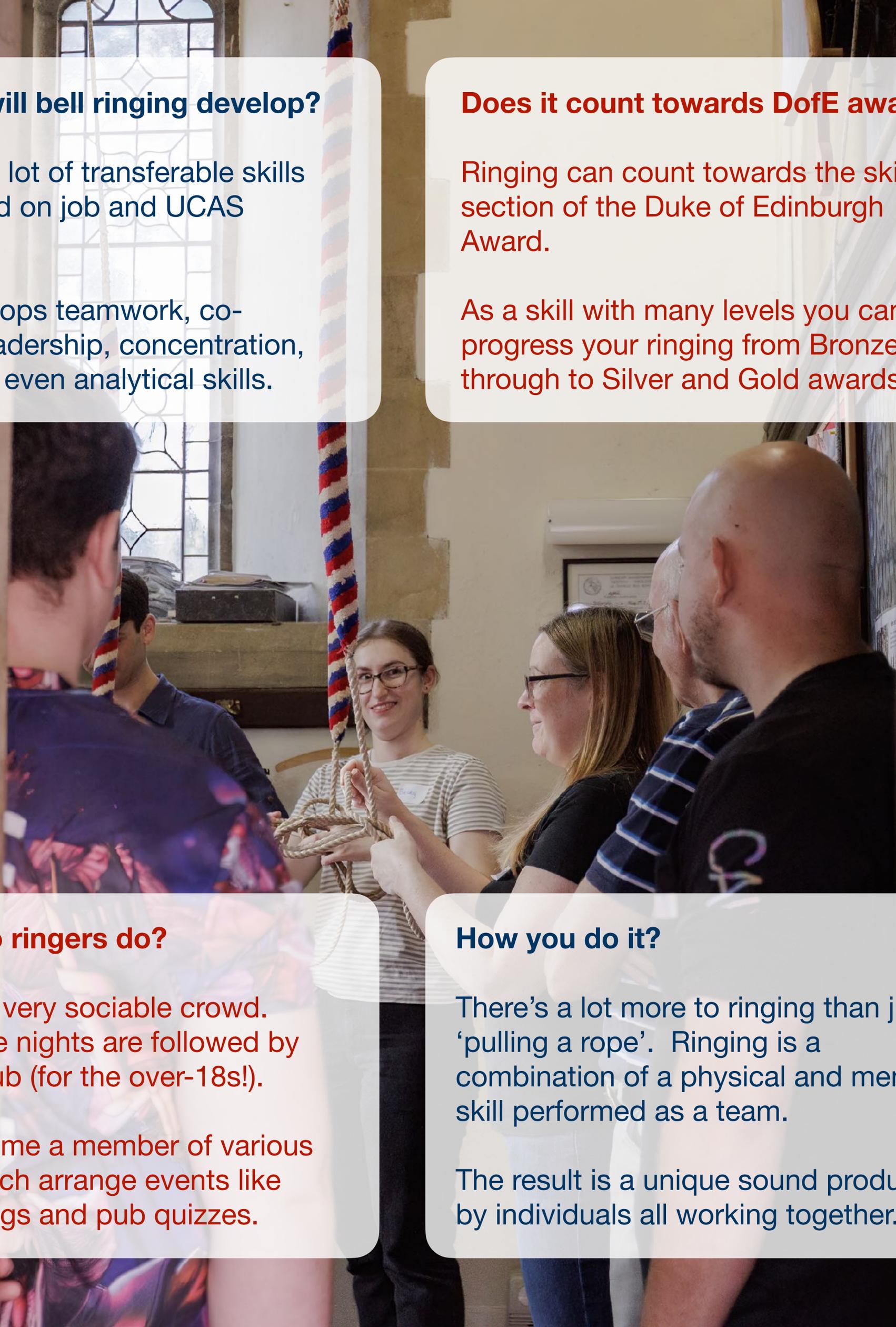
Ringers are a very sociable crowd. Many practice nights are followed by trips to the pub (for the over-18s!).

You can become a member of various societies, which arrange events like dinners, outings and pub quizzes.

## How you do it?

There's a lot more to ringling than just 'pulling a rope'. Ringling is a combination of a physical and mental skill performed as a team.

The result is a unique sound produced by individuals all working together.





## Do ringers need to be musical?

No! While ringing, ringers are thinking in terms of patterns and sequences, in much the same way that you would if you were dancing.

## What is the time commitment?

Most ringers attend a practice one evening per week and are encouraged to help with ringing for Sunday church services when they are available. They also have the opportunity to ring together in other towers and socialise more widely.

## What is the challenge?

Ringling provides a lifetime of learning and opportunities worldwide.

Ringers enjoy setting themselves challenges, like learning new methods, going to new places, and ringing for up to three hours in one go.

## Where can ringers ring?

Ringers are also part of a much wider community that spans regional and national borders. A ringer walking into any tower in the world where English style ringing is performed is treated as a friend and invariably invited to join in the ringing.

### **Are ringers exceptionally strong?**

Watch a skilful ringer and you will see a smooth, almost effortless performance. Bell control is all about feel and timing, not brute force, as gravity does most of the work as the bell spins. Good ringing is all about perfecting technique, not strength.

### **Is it dangerous?**

All activities have a risk, but generally bell ringing is not at all dangerous.

Feet remain firmly on the floor and there is no swinging around like you see on TV sometimes.

### **Can ringing harm your hearing?**

No, the sound of bells is thrown upwards out of the tower, and sound control keeps the decibel level down in ringing rooms so that ringers can still talk to each other when ringing.

### **What about safeguarding?**

In line with other organisations that teach or coach children, ringing leaders in each tower will have been DBS checked and received safeguarding training.



To find out more about ringing opportunities in South Wales please contact:  
**[master@llanmon.org.uk](mailto:master@llanmon.org.uk)**

More information about learning to ring can be found at:  
**<https://bellringing.org/discover-bellringing/>**

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