

# All Saints Wokingham Bellringers

## External sound management

The purpose of the bells is to be heard in public, as the voice of the Church, and as part of our cultural heritage.

The sound of the bells close to the church is quite loud, so the tradition of regular public ringing must be balanced by sensitivity to its impact on the Church's neighbours. All Saints tower is fitted with sound control shutters that can be closed to make the external sound very quiet – quieter than noisy traffic – and opened for all public ringing.

This document describes the pattern of regular ringing at All Saints, both public (with sound control shutters open) and private (with sound control shutters closed). It includes the policy for when the sound control is used.

### Regular public ringing (shutters open)

Ringling for services normally starts between 30 and 40 minutes before the service, and ends just before. Service ringing normally consists of several performances 5 - 10 minutes long, with gaps between. Occasionally the ringing time is extended to include a quarter peal, which is a continuous performance lasting 45 – 50 minutes.

\* = typical times, may vary from year to year.

Occasion	Ringling	Service time	Typical ringing time
Every Sunday & Christmas Day	Normal ringling	09.30	08.50 – 09.30
Every Sunday except August	Normal ringling, or ...	18.30	17.50 – 18.30
Church festivals and some other Sundays, typically twice a month	... Quarter peal	18.30	17.30 – 18.30
Easter Day & Christmas Day	Normal ringling	08.00	07.30 – 08.00
Christmas Eve – Crib service usually two	Normal ringling	*14.00, 15.30	*13.20 – 14.00, 15.00 – 15.30
Christmas Eve – Carol service	Normal ringling	*18.30	*18.00 – 18.30
Christmas Eve – 'Midnight' service	Normal ringling	*23.15	*22.45 – 23.15
Weekday service – Several through the year**	Normal ringling	*19.45	*19.05 – 19.45

\*\* Typical midweek services are Epiphany (6 Jan), Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day (Thursday), All Saints Day (1 Nov), and maybe others. Dates of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday & Ascension Day are defined relative to Easter, and vary from year to year

Ringling for weddings is typically 20 minutes after the wedding service. Wedding times vary. Most are on Saturday afternoons, but some are on weekdays. Most are in the summer, but they can be at any time of year. The number of weddings varies, but may be up to 20 per year.

### Special public ringing (shutters open)

Bells are occasionally rung at other times, for example to mark special events. Typically these are longer performances for example: a quarter peal (approx. ¾ hour), a peal (approx. 3 hours) or a date touch (approx. 1¼ hours). At New Year, there may be ringling for about 10 minutes shortly before and again just after midnight. The following limits are normally imposed:

- Peals are only rung with shutters open during the daytime.
- Evening performances rung with shutters open end before 9pm (other than those listed above).

During public peals or other long performances, a notice is posted outside the church saying what is being rung, and how long it is likely to last.

### Private ringling (shutters closed)

Private ringling may take place at many different times, and for many different purposes (practices, training events, etc.). The only regular private ringling is the weekly practice most Monday evenings, nominally between 19.30 and 21.30, but occasionally extending beyond. Other private ringling including occasional practices, is much less predictable, but normally included in the tower diary on the website (see below).

### Information on ringling times

The tower diary at: <http://allsaintswokinghambells.org.uk/> gives details of regular and special ringling.