

## **SAFETY NOTES FOR WORKING ON BELLS**

The following advisory notes outline the safety considerations when working in the tower and further safety measures may be necessary according to circumstances.

1. Never work alone, there should always be a minimum of two persons present.
2. Guard against unauthorised access to the ringing room when working in the bell chamber.
3. Bells should be in the down position and chiming hammers off to prevent bells sounding when in the bell chamber (see note 8).
4. When changing ropes etc, necessitating one person in the ringing room and one in the bell chamber, establish a good means of communication.
5. Wear suitable footwear to prevent slips and as appropriate gloves and/or safety goggles.
6. Take particular care ascending ladders and stepping and working near hatch openings.
7. When standing and moving about on frames take extra care and use available hand holds.
8. If it is necessary to raise a bell and have its movement observed in order to check satisfactory operation or after repairs, the following should be done:
  - (i) unless checking work on a clapper, tie clapper to prevent sounding;
  - (ii) if necessary to have a clapper sounding, ear defenders should be worn whilst in the bell chamber;
  - (iii) if one person is ringing and one (in bell chamber) observing it is essential that clear communication is given as to when it is safe for the bell to be rung.
  - (iv) NEVER GO INTO THE PIT OF A RAISED BELL**
9. After completion of work make sure that all tools and equipment are removed to normal storage points clear of bell mechanism.
10. Ensure bells are in the safe down position and that access to bell chamber, ringing room and tower are locked.
11. If it is necessary to leave a bell without a stay whilst repair or replacement is effected, a prominent notice should be left in the ringing room, and immobilise the rope controlling the bell.