

Volunteer Role Description for York Minster Bell Ringer

Purpose of the role:

The Chapter of York intends to foster a culture where people of all ages and abilities are encouraged to develop their ringing skills and contribute to the life of the cathedral. Creating an environment where the next generation can learn and practise is paramount to the ongoing success of the bell ringing tradition and an ambition it is right the Minster champions. The purpose of the York Minster volunteer Bell Ringer role is to be part of such a team who deliver high quality bell ringing for Sunday and special services for the Chapter of York, and to support Chapter in fulfilling its mission in helping everyone to discover God's love.

Volunteer Supervision:

Responsible to	Head of Bell Tower
Canon with Responsibility	Canon Precentor, Canon Peter Moger
Additional support	HR & Volunteering Manager, Susan Mason

Location:

The Ringing Chamber, South West Tower, York Minster

Key tasks/activities:

- Be part of a diverse and inclusive team that provides bell ringing of a high standard for Sundays and for special services for the Chapter of York.
- In addition, Bell Ringers provide ringing for weddings for which payment will be made.
- Bell Ringers may also choose to take part in quarter peal and peal attempts.
- Adhere to Chapter of York policies, procedures and guidance in relation to bell ringing, particularly including Health and Safety, safeguarding and security.
- York Minster will occasionally welcome visiting bell ringers or bands, to practice nights or to ring for services or peals. Volunteer Bell Ringers may be asked to act as Chapter's designated person responsible for welcoming and accompanying such visitors to ensure theirs, others and the bells safety.
- Be willing to develop, learn new skills and techniques and to share your skills and knowledge with others.
- Build effective relationships with all the team, the Head of Bell Tower and other Minster staff and volunteers, taking opportunities to understand the 'bigger picture' and our part in it.
- Attend mandatory training when asked, for example, Safeguarding.
- All volunteers in the group may be asked to assist with training a young person under 18 at regular practice and ringing, or may be called upon to supervise them as they move between the bell tower and other parts of the Minster. All volunteer Bell Ringers are therefore required by the Chapter of York to undertake a DBS Disclosure.

Skills and attributes sought:

- An empathy with the Mission of York Minster and the aims of the Chapter of York,
- Good experience and knowledge of theoretical and practical aspects of change ringing and good practice techniques, or the willingness and ability to acquire and develop good experience and knowledge of the practical skills of change ringing.
- Willingness to engage in a band where teaching others to ring is important.
- Willingness to abide by and advocate for the governance of Chapter in this role at all times.
- Willingness to adopt a safeguarding approach to the role, being prepared to challenge behaviour that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- A friendly, positive, inclusive and relaxed disposition, ready to welcome all, understanding of others needs and concerns and the willingness to carry out the role for the benefit of the team.
- Willingness and openness to embrace change in order to contribute to Chapter's aim to foster a culture where people of all ages and abilities are encouraged to develop their ringing skills and contribute to the life of the cathedral
- Good level of fitness – the Ringing Chamber is up 99 stairs.
- Good co-ordination and mobility.
- Good hearing and sense of rhythm.
- Reliability and punctuality

Training provision:

- General induction and Health and Safety induction.
- Role specific induction.
- Safeguarding induction.
- Introduction to wider Minster and your place within in it.

Commitment involved:

- Attend to ring bells before Sunday or special services per year, negotiable at the discretion of the Head of Bell Tower.
- Attend ringing practice.
- Commitment to the dedication and practice needed to ring to the 'Minster Standard' on a set of bells recognised as one of the most challenging but rewarding in the country.

Health & Safety

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, whilst at work, you must take reasonable care for your own health & safety and that of any other person who may be affected by your acts or omissions. In addition, you must co-operate with the Organisation on health & safety and not interfere with, or misuse, anything provided for your health, safety or welfare.

Safeguarding

All staff and volunteers are expected to demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding the welfare of all children and adults who may be vulnerable, who are involved with and/or visit the Minster. This will include adherence to policies and procedures, following good practice in relation to their own behaviour and conduct and undertaking any safeguarding duties commensurate with their specific role.