

THE CARLISLE DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Patron: The Lord Bishop of Carlisle

9th November 2018

GUILD TRAINING DAY – 2nd FEBRUARY 2019

Building on the success of the last few Guild Training Days, work has begun on the 2019 event. The venue will be in the Whitehaven area with the base at Hensingham. We again plan to limit learners to preferably 4 in each group, and certainly no more than 6 people. Please book early to get a place in the group you want, and also to help with planning, which is a massive task!!!

In 2019, we will again be using various pubs for lunches – last year's got good feedback so will be used again if convenient. There was still too much food for the bring and share tea brought and left last year, although not as much as in previous years, and it always sad to throw so much lovely food away, so please could you only bring the equivalent of the volume you could eat yourself, or maybe just a little more!! Remember, everyone will have had a pub lunch! And we should try for a mixture of sweet and savoury – not all sweet things!

One thing we won't be changing is the need for people to register at the beginning of the day. Every year something unexpected happens at the last minute and we have to make some minor adjustments on the morning. This would be impossible if people were already at the towers and, for those from the Eastern Branch, it does help to be able to car share with a local. But we will be more flexible about getting groups away to the furthest towers as soon as possible. Please try to get there promptly.

Groups will be created when we see who wants to attend and what they need to progress with and which towers are available, but basically we are looking to plan round skill development rather than methods.

Additionally, we are again asking for a course fee this year. We had not been making donations to towers for use of their bells, ropes, heating and lighting, which seems very unfair, as they do not benefit on the whole from our use of them. Collections have been made previously for the use of the hall. We are going to ask adult learning ringers to pay £10 each and children £5 each, and all to make donations for the tea/coffee/milk/juice etc. We hope this is acceptable.

The skills

Banding may be like this:

- 1) For very new ringers: changing place - speed, bell control and striking - working on changing speed at the correct strokes both to move a place and to stay in the new place. This is not about understanding how call changes work but is about making each change cleanly. We have lots of fun exercises to make this interesting. People in this group will be at rounds and call changes stage in their own tower.
- 2) Hunting skills: from very early on, using small numbers of bells, to hunting to methods, without using numbers. This is aimed at using speeds and rope order awareness to help gain ropesight. Again, we have exercises that will help you start to see the ropes rather than learning numbers. This group relates to the plain hunting groups of previous years, but with a different focus.
- 3) Various methods on the treble where learning numbers will not help.

All groups will be aiming for good striking!

Programme for the Day

The same programme as last year will be used. A copy of the programme will be sent out when the locations are known. Expect to be at Hensingham church by 9:30am. After the last ringing we will meet there again for tea and to review the day.

What to do next?

LEARNERS - To make sure you get a place please reply using the online form in this email. There is space to tell us what you are doing at the moment and how well. We know you will probably have progressed by Feb and will be prepared to work with you at whatever level you are. Groups will be finalised nearer the time.

ALL PARENTS OF UNDER 18s, whether learner or helper. We will need you to return the permission form that will be sent to you nearer the time. Without the form your child will not be allowed to take part.

Please ensure you make your own travel arrangements for your child and enter these on the form.

We will ensure that there are adults with full DBS clearance in every location.

HELPERS. We can't stress this enough - we need more people to come along and help. The more people who come forward the more groups we can have and the more opportunities the learners will have to ring – and the less tiring it is for the helpers! If you can't do a full day, either morning or afternoon would help share the burden! Please commit to this as early as you can. It gets very worrying at the last minute when we haven't enough! Please use the online form to enter your details, car, DBS etc.

ALL

Putting the groups together with the most appropriate towers is complicated and always takes longer than we expect and we need to get this sorted by mid January so that we can send out training materials. So the **Closing Date is December 20th**. If you are unable to use the form, your tower captain or another friend can do it for you. If you are really stuck, contact Chris de Cordova. You will get an automatic email acknowledgement if it is recorded.

It would also help in your reply if you could give us additional information that would be useful when allocating people to groups. Things we are thinking about are whether someone needs a ground floor ring or easy accessibility, if it be better for the learner to be with someone from their own tower (or NOT with someone from their own tower) or anything else which ensures that everyone gets the best out of the day.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Please can you pass this on to anyone not on email.

Regards

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On Behalf of Ed Matthews, Duncan Walker and Pat Evans (Guild Education Committee)