

Recommencing Bellringing for Church services at Hoskins Uniting Church, Lithgow

The Lithgow Bellringers submit the following Management Plan to the Lithgow Uniting Church for consideration to be able to recommence limited ringing on the resumption of in-church services. Please note that this is to enable 6 bells to be rung for in-church services, not any other occasion, including practice night, training, visitors, weddings or funerals. It is only intended to be in place as long as current Covid19 restrictions are in place, and will be reviewed when restrictions change, at the bellringers or the Church request, and anyway in one month's time,

Wellbeing of Bellringers and Church visitors

1. Bells are only to be rung for in-church services, no practices, training, or visitors
2. Ringing for each occasion to be prearranged and approved with the Minister
3. Max 6 ringers to attend (note min of 5 are required to ring the bells in rounds)
4. Local Lithgow ringing band ringers only, no visiting ringers, observers or learners.
5. The names of the ringers attending on the day to be prearranged by Tower Captain, or her nominee.
6. No ringers with any symptoms of cough, cold, fever or other illness symptoms, or 'at risk' conditions to attend
7. Ringers who consider themselves to be 'at risk' due to age or medical condition to remove themselves from availability and not to attend Church
8. Ringers who may have been in contact with active or suspected case, to remove themselves from availability and not to attend Church.
9. Ringers to ensure the barrier (notice board) is up in the foyer, at least 2m from the nearest bell, to restrict unauthorised access to the ringing area
10. Ringers to follow directions of Minister and Church Officials as requested
11. A notice asking people to stay behind the barricade to be placed on noticeboard
12. All Lithgow bellringers to be provided a copy of this document, which they have been consulted about

Physical Distancing

1. All ringers are to remain outside the church until ringing is due to start, unless they are the attending the service
2. The selection of bells to be rung on the day is to ensure the maximum space between ringers
3. Duration of service ringing to be no more than 15 minutes
4. Ringers to maintain as much distance as possible between them at all times
5. Each ringer to ring their own bell down, one at a time, at completion of ringing. Other ringers to stay 1.5m away from the ringer and each other.
6. No physical contact between ringers, or with church attendees
7. If ringing a bell with less than 1.5m from another bell, ringers to face away from others as much as possible.
8. Face masks may be worn by ringers
9. No talking during ringing
10. Minimise use of conducting calls during ringing
11. When waiting to ring and at completion of ringing, ringers to maintain 1.5m distance
12. Avoid accessing the Parish Hall unless to use toilets.

Hygiene and cleaning

1. All ringers to sanitise hands on each entry to the church, prior to commencing ringing, and immediately after ringing.
2. Ringers advised to wash hands and face prior to and after attending church.
3. Ringers to only ring one bell during the session and not rotate between bells, and ring their own bell up if bells are not already up.
4. If a ringer needs to cough or sneeze they should set their bell and leave the ringing area, coughing into sleeve or tissue. Then wash or sanitise hands and face before returning to ringing area.
5. Surfaces in ringing area to be wiped down prior to ringing, using gloves and disposable wipes.
6. Ringers to consider risks of travelling to ringing together, assess risks and manage appropriately.
7. Ringers to bring their own drinking water and not share cups or use the Parish Hall facilities (other than toilets)

Record Keeping

1. Names, addresses and contact details of ringers for the session are to be emailed to the Church by the Tower Captain or her delegate, prior to Sunday ringing.
2. Ringers to Register at the Church on entry, or by email or as per church requirements
3. Those with mobile phones should have the Corona tracing app on it.
4. Tower Captain to maintain records of names of ringers, date and duration of ringing for 1 month.
5. Tower Captain to provide any other relevant information required by the Church

Lithgow Bellringers

5 June 2020