Diocesan Requirements for a Safer Church as applied to Bellringers

1. All Tower Captains, Leaders, Trainers and anyone involved in teaching or instructing will require to be DBS checked via the Parish or Benefice Safeguarding Officer. This includes everyone that may teach even infrequently.

2. All Tower Captains should be safely recruited by the PCC.

3. At least one person present at every practice or ringing session must have a current DBS Certificate. It is recommended that more than one person in the band is DBS checked in order to meet this requirement.

4. Any under 18 year olds should be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or a nominated adult who is DBS checked and suitably trained. An Emergency Contact must be provided.

5. All Bellringers are required to complete the Basic Safeguarding Awareness Course. Ideally, they should also complete the Foundation Safeguarding Course.

6. All Tower Captains and others in a position of leadership or training are required to complete the Leadership Training Pathway.

7. Any 'unattached ringers' are asked to administratively attach themselves to a Parish for the purposes of their training record and, if required, their DBS.

8. A register will be kept in all towers to record all those present in the ringing chamber or belfry for whatever reason. As a minimum the register should record the date and names of those present. Visitors will not be left alone without supervision at any time, unless they are a visiting band complying with paragraph 9.

9. Visiting bands are required to register in the tower record book and to have signed and dated the PDG Safeguarding Requirements for Visiting Bellringers. In particular that there is one DBS checked person present at all times. The DBS checked people should record their status in the Visitors book and under which Diocese the DBS check was carried out.

10. Any ringer with a history of sexual offending, or an arrest for offences against children or vulnerable adults is required to refer themselves to the Diocese Safeguarding Team for risk assessment and a possible Safety Plan.

John Beresford
PDG Safeguarding Officer

Victoria Kellett
Diocesan Safeguarding Officer