



# **St. Mary's, Holme-next-the-Sea Society of Bell Ringers**

## **Constitution**

### 1. Name

The Society shall be known as “St. Mary’s, Holme-Next-the-Sea Society of Bell Ringers”.

### 2. Aims

The aims of the Society shall be:

- a) To glorify God by the ringing of bells.
- b) To ensure that the bells of St. Mary’s, Holme-Next-The-Sea are rung for all major services.
- c) To advance the quality of ringing at St. Mary’s, Holme-Next-The-Sea.

### 3. Affiliation

The Society shall be affiliated to the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers and shall support the aims of the Association.

### 4. Officers

The officers of the Society shall be:

- a) Tower Captain
- b) Deputy Tower Captain
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer
- e) Tower Keeper
- f) PCC Representative

## 5. General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held each year on the first Monday of February and shall be chaired by the Rector of St. Mary's, Holme-Next-The-Sea or his/her nominee.

All officers shall retire at each AGM. They shall be eligible for re-election immediately.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called upon 14 days notice being given to all members:

- a) by the officers of the Society, or
- b) by request of a simple majority of the members.

Casual vacancies among the officers shall be filled by calling an EGM.

## 6. Membership

New members of the Society shall be elected by a simple majority vote at an AGM or EGM. Between such meetings the officers shall be empowered to grant membership to ringers who are eligible, subject to ratification at the next AGM.

Members shall pay an annual subscription of £10 which will become due on the date of the AGM. The amount shall be reviewed at each AGM.

## 7. Termination

Membership of the Society shall terminate:

- a) Upon a member giving written notice to that effect to the Secretary/Treasurer, or
- b) Upon failure to pay the annual subscription, or
- c) If, at an AGM or EGM a two thirds majority of the members shall vote that a ringer's membership should be terminated because of inappropriate conduct as determined by those members at the AGM or EGM.

## 8. Finance

The Society shall hold and manage its own funds. These shall be owned jointly by the members and shall not be part of church funds.

The Officers shall be empowered to open and maintain a bank or building society account, The signatures of the Treasurer and Secretary together will be required as authority for withdrawal.

The Officers shall be empowered at their discretion to subsidise (up to 100%) the annual Society subscription of particular ringers. This shall in no way affect the beneficiary's eligibility for membership of the Society.

The Financial Year shall end on 31<sup>st</sup> December each year. A statement of account shall be presented to the ensuing AGM.

The charge for ringing the bells for weddings will be £15 per rope. A fee of £10 will be paid to each ringer and £5 per rope will be paid into the Bell Repair Fund. If there should be more than one ringer per rope (i.e. ringers are changed) then the ringer's fee of £10 shall be divided equally between the ringers sharing the rope. Any ringer may give up the £10 fee to the Bell Repair Fund.

No charge will be made for ringing for funerals or special occasions.

#### 9. Rule changes

The constitution shall only be changed by vote at an AGM or EGM, and shall require a two thirds majority of the members present.

#### 10. Duties and Conduct

Membership of the Society shall imply an obligation to make every reasonable effort to attend for:

- a) Sunday service ringing,
- b) Practices,
- c) Weddings and special functions when called upon to do so.

All members shall conduct themselves appropriately while in the ringing chamber

All members shall ensure that they are familiar with the safety requirements in St. Mary's Tower.

#### Document History

<i>First Draft</i>	<i>10-11-2002</i>	
<i>Draft accepted</i>	<i>16-11-2002</i>	
<i>Amended</i>	<i>03-03-2003</i>	<i>Section 8. Finance. Add last two paragraphs regarding ringing charges. Amended at the AGM 2003.</i>
<i>Amended</i>	<i>02-04-2004</i>	<i>Section 7. Clause c) added. Amended at the AGM 2004.</i>
<i>Amended</i>	<i>31-10-2006</i>	<i>Section 8. Charge for Wedding bells raised. Amended at a Tuesday practice EGM.</i>

