

Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry

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Hiring the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry

Charges 2022

Hire Charges:

- a) Within the Lichfield Diocese £25 per day
- b) Outside the Lichfield Diocese £100 per day (1st day) & £50 per day (2nd and subsequent days)
- c) Weddings by arrangement

Transport Charges: We have a towing vehicle and the erector will tow the mobile belfry to your event. The charges for the round trip will be a minimum charge of £75 covering the first 50 miles, plus 75p a mile thereafter. If the hirer collects and tows the trailer to the event the charge will be £25, to cover the erector's travel costs. The belfry is stored near Crewe.

For bookings longer than one day, the hirer is asked to provide accommodation at no cost to the erector. If the erector has to return home for any reason during a booking using the towing minibus, a charge of 35p per mile will be made to the hirer.

The mobile belfry is insured, including public liability cover.

To book the Belfry contact Elizabeth Patterson for a booking form, details above.

Other Information

These notes are an attempt to answer some frequently asked questions.

- 1) The purpose of the belfry is for the promotion of bell ringing to the general public, with a view to bringing new recruits to ringing.
- 2) The belfry is assembled on a trailer with side-flaps which are lowered to form a platform. A tent covers the whole assembly. The belfry is mobile in the sense that it can be transported from place to place and set up as a static display. It cannot be used as a carnival float, for example. An experienced person appointed by the trustees is required to supervise the assembly. A team of 4 to 5 people recruited locally will be needed to assist with the assembly. Typically assembly takes about 2½ hours. Similar requirements apply to dismantling, which typically takes 1½ hours.
- 3) The belfry will require a space of at least 30 feet square. The site needs to be level (i.e. not sloping) and hard standing is preferable. Gateway to the site needs to be 8 to 9 feet wide.
- 4) For storage it requires a building 18 ft long with a doorway at least 7 ft 6 ins wide and 6 ft high. It requires secure storage if it is with you overnight packed down. If erected it needs to be attended at all times or be on a secure site.
- 5) It will be necessary to recruit ringers from the locality to run the belfry. For a half-day event a minimum of seven ringers is desirable (six to ring the bells and one to chat to the public). For longer events you may need several relays of ringers.
- 6) If you are not a ringer yourself **it is important that you have discussions with local ringers and ensure their committed support** before hiring the belfry.

Ringers (even very experienced ones) who have not had previous experience on very light rings may find the technique tricky at first, but most people can adjust with a little tuition.