



Ringers' prayers

Inviting prayer before ringing can be a bit daunting because it has fallen out of common practice despite the aims and intentions of our ringing societies, guilds and associations.

One easy way to introduce it is to say, clearly, as ringing is about to start: 'It is our custom here to pray before we ring. May we keep a moment of quiet'. Then read one of the Bible verses and pray one of the prayers overleaf, or a prayer of your own.

I believe you will find it widely appreciated, or at least respected. It may even catch on.....

A SMALL SELECTION OF BIBLE VERSES

- Psalm 86:12 I will praise you O Lord my God with all my heart, and I will glorify your name for ever.
- Psalm 96:3 Declare his glory among the nations, and his wonders among all people.
- Psalm 98:6-7 Make melody to the Lord with the sounds of praise; with trumpets and with horns cry out in triumph before the Lord the King.
- Ephesians 4:11-12 It was Christ who 'gave gifts'. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ.
- Philippians 3:14-15 Do everything without complaining or grumbling, so that you may be innocent and pure as God's perfect children who live in a world of corrupt and sinful people. You must shine among them like stars as you offer the message of life.
- Revelation 5:13 To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour, glory and might for ever and ever!
- Psalm 105:4 Seek the Lord and his strength; O seek his face continually.
(Especially for bells which don't go so well?!)
- Isaiah 35:3-4 Give strength to hands that are tired and to knees that tremble with weakness. Tell everyone who is discouraged: be strong and do not fear.
(Nervous learners and long climbs?!)

From an ancient inscription in Dunster ringing chamber:

'Who ringes his bell let him looke well - to hedde and honde and herte: ye hedde for wytte, ye honde for werke, ye herte for worshyppe'

A SELECTION OF PRAYERS

General – before worship or practice

Bless us we pray, heavenly Father, as we ring these bells. May we who ring, as well as those who hear, be called to worship you in Spirit and in truth; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: be present with us now as we seek through this ringing to draw your people to praise you; and remind those who hear the bells of their need of you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, as we gather to ring these bells please be with all who will hear them. May this reminder of your presence bring comfort to those who are sad, lonely or housebound; and challenge to those who are indifferent to your love and promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty God, you have called us to be bellringers in your Church: make us united and faithful in your service, so that our ringing of the bells may be done to your glory and for the benefit of all your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dear Lord, thank you that you know all about us – whatever state of mind we come in now. Help us as we ring to set our hearts on you, that we may let you bring whatever we need in the way of forgiveness, comfort, hope, order, or freedom from anxiety; so that our ringing may be the best we can achieve; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Especially before practice

Heavenly Father, thank you for this opportunity to come together as your people and to do something which we enjoy. May our words, thoughts and actions be worthy of your service; and help us to be conscious of your presence with us now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dear Lord, we ask for your presence with us now. Please help those who teach and those who learn; keep us safe and grant us a joyful fellowship in your name. **Amen.**

Especially for visiting bands or teams you let in to the tower

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the fellowship which ringers can share and the hospitality we enjoy in each other's towers. Please bless now these ringers and their friends and families. May their enjoyment reflect your amazing love for us all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

On a ringing outing – E.g. at the first tower

Almighty God we thank you for our fellowship in your name. We pray that our time together and our ringing may be enjoyable for each one and honouring of your name; and that your blessing will rest on each of the churches we visit, and their ringers. For Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Ringling for a wedding

Bless, O Lord, the couple for whom we now ring in their life together. May these bells remind them of the joy and wonder of being one with you and with each other, and give them joy; for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

*May the Lord bless richly all our service in his name.
Revd Tim Jones (Vicar)*

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