**St ETHELDREDA’s TOWER ACCESS & RINGING CHAMBER**

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

**Name of Organisation: St Etheldreda’s Bellringers Date: May 2019**

**Assessment undertaken by: Rob Goss. The reference used was the Ecclesiastical web site**

[**http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters/churchguidance/churchhealthandsafety/index.aspx**](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters/churchguidance/churchhealthandsafety/index.aspx)

**Area Assessed: West Entrance to Church, Spiral Staircase, Ringing Chamber.**

**RISK DETAILS**

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| **HAZARDS/RISKS/Persons Affected** | **Existing Controls** | | **Likelihood**  **(L)** | **Severity**  **(S)** | | **Risk Rating**  **(L x S)** | **Additional Controls** |
| **Entrance through small door (set in large west door of church). Risk of tripping over threshold step and/or banging head on door frame. Black flower display stands can sometimes clutter the area. Need new place for storage of these items?** | **None**  **Warning Notice Required?**  **New Zigzag tape required for steps!** | | **2** | **1** | | **2** | **Any Warning Notice would need to be on outside of Tower Door – this may not be acceptable to the church? Could place warning notice on inside of door.** |
| **Entrance to Tower Staircase and access up the 12-15 steps to Ringing Chamber. Risk of banging head and tripping up or down worn stone spiral staircase.** | **There is a rope on the staircase to hold onto.** | | **1** | **1** | | **1** | **‘Uneven steps’ notice prepared. New large diameter stair rope fitted 09/May/2019.** |
| **Pulling a rope too hard and getting lifted off your feet – or the rope caught round the arm.** | **Warning Sign ‘Do Not Touch Ropes’ in place whenever bells are ‘up’.** | | **1** | **2** | | **2** | **Experienced ringers available to give training and instructions.** |
| **Breaking a stay. This can happen if bell is pulled too hard.** | **None. Novice ringer not permitted to handle a bell without supervision.** | | **1** | **2** | | **2** | **If the rope is pulled excessively hard – the wooden (ash) stay will break and the rope (sally) will continue to rise. The instruction in this case is to ‘let go’ and stand away from the rope.** |
| **Rope burn due to rope sliding though fingers** | **None** | | **1** | **1** | | **1** | **Experienced ringers available to give instruction** |
| **Letting go of tail end of rope during ringing.** | **None. Novice ringer not permitted to handle a bell without supervision.** | | **1** | **2** | | **2** | **All bellringers are trained not to let go unless otherwise advised. Experienced ringer always nearby to take rope off novice ringer if required.** |
| **Rope not pulled hard enough and bell starts to ring ‘down’ causing the rope to be out of control.** | **None. Novice ringer not permitted to raise or lower a bell without supervision** | | **1** | **2** | | **2** | **When the new higher level floor has been fitted, the bells should be easier to control and additional training will be given to any ringers who require confidence in raising or lowering a bell safely.** |
| **Falling over the Balustrade** | **A curtain and wooden barrier & balustrade in place** | | **1** | **2** | | **2** | **Barrier strengthened June 2016.**  **Warning Notice in place.** |
| **Access to Ringing Chamber by Non- Ringers** | **Tower door always kept locked. Notice in place ‘DO NOT TOUCH THE ROPES’. Ropes pulled up clear of floor on a ‘spider’. Limited number of keyholders.** | | **1** | **2** | | **2** | **Currently four keys exist (to the best of my knowledge). One retained by Tower Captain, one by Vice-Captain, one kept as spare in Ringing Chamber and one kept by Church.** |
| **Likelihood** | | **Severity** | | | **Risk Rating** | | |
| **1 = Low (seldom)** | | **1= Low (minor cuts and bruises)** | | | **1-2 = low priority** | | |
| **2= Medium (frequently)** | | **2= Medium (Serious Injury or incapacitated for 3 days or more)** | | | **3-4 = medium priority** | | |
| **3= High (certain or near certain)** | | **3= High (fatality or a number or person seriously injured)** | | | **6-9 = high priority** | | |