

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

- Registered Charity No. 270036

A suggested Press Release for ringing to mark the Queen's Jubilee - if appropriate please include details of any significant local ringing arrangements.

A Ringing Endorsement

'Look to, Treble's going - Treble's gone!' – a swish of ropes and a rattle of pulleys follows this command and the sound of the bells bursts forth, initially in descending cadence then in a regular changing order. Some experienced and highly skilled bands will ring a full peal (typically on eight bells this will take approximately three hours and consist of at least 5000 different sequences) while others will choose to ring for perhaps 30 - 40 minutes. All however will want to produce the best possible sound to mark a special weekend of celebration.

It is a well established tradition that church bells are rung to mark significant state occasions and bell ringers across the country are busy making plans to add their own particular sound to the celebrations of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, founded in 1891, is the representative body for all who ring bells in the English tradition with rope and wheel. Although the Central Council is just over 100 years old, many of its constituent societies are much older, the oldest being formed in 1637 during the reign of Charles 1. The Council is encouraging its members to arrange special ringing at some time over the first weekend in June: it is expected that the bells will be rung to coincide with local celebrations, special Church services and also before and after the National Service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday 4th June.

There are over 40,000 active ringers in the United Kingdom and more than 5250 churches with five or more bells hung in the uniquely English style which enables the traditional art of change-ringing to be practised. This tradition stretches back several hundred years and many of the methods (tunes) rung in June 2002 will be the same as those heard in centuries past.

More information can be found on the Central Council's website

www.cccbr.org.uk

or from Janet Edwards (*details withheld*).

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PRAG & ICT

17 April, 2002