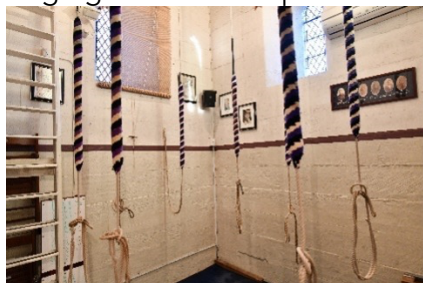


Calling all destined bell ringers; St Mark's wants you!

The St Mark's Society of Change Ringers is expanding, and we want to hear from you! Bell ringing does not require musical ability, nor a great deal of strength so come as you are. We have regular practice sessions and resources to help you learn a new skill and a fabulous team of dedicated teachers and experienced ringers to help you along the way. Get in touch with us today to learn more at our email address: bellringers@stmarksdp.org

Each week, a small but committed group of quiet people come together at St Mark's Anglican Church in Darling Point to make a big sound. These are the members of St Mark's Darling Point Change Ringers, ringing bells high up in the church tower, to mark worship services, celebrate community weddings and herald other local and royal occasions. They are part of a wider community of change ringers in Sydney's church towers, joining together to learn, to challenge themselves and to celebrate a tradition lasting thousands of years.

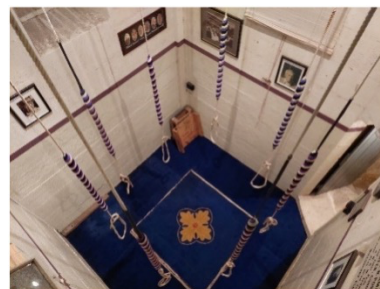
One might think, given its size and pitch, a bell would be impossible to control. But bell ringing does not require musical ability nor a great deal of strength. And for those more



familiar to the practices of campanology, mathematical ability is not a pre-requisite either. Come as you are! Various organisations, such as the Australian and New Zealand Association of Bellringers (ANZAB), provide formal resources for new learners. But for most beginners, it's simply spending time getting the feel of the motions with supervision from our dedicated teachers and experienced ringers.

Michael, a now regular member of the St Mark's Bell Ringer's, provides some insight into his first steps in becoming a bell ringer: "Getting started was easy as I had a great teacher...who would give me one on one lessons on a weekly basis. There is also a weekly group practice...with six or more ringers for when you have developed more control of your bell." Gaining individual confidence of the bell typically takes a couple of weeks, confidence in a group setting likely to be a few months and from there, the learning is endless. Our most experienced ringers still learn and try new things from the long list of historical "methods" and tunes.

The local band regularly meets on a Monday evening for practice, which has been instrumental in establishing a current band of six regular ringers in addition to any visitors who join from other towers around Sydney (or elsewhere). This practice session is suited for beginners, first learning the basic two-step movements, and then introducing ringers to ringing 6-8 bells in rounds (ringing the bells in order of weight and tone down the scale). Once comfortable, we work on changing the order of the bells one step at a time known as "calls" or "call changes". The next step is then to learn "methods" where each ringer memorises how the order continuously changes each step, of which there are literally hundreds to learn.



If you are interested in getting involved, want to learn more, or maybe just see some bells in action then St Mark's is calling for you! We are looking to expand our group and to hold new learners' sessions (interest permitting). We currently have established weekly practice sessions on Monday evening and Friday daytime, however, given the number of towers

around Sydney and wider Australia, we can assist you with getting in touch with a tower most convenient for you. We'd love to hear from you, so please get in touch through our email address: bellringers@stmarksdp.org or browse the resources below.

See you in the tower!