

The Kildwick Bells

Kildwick has a ring of eight Taylor's bells, tenor 15cwt. They were cast in 1914 and installed just before the war. Originally on plain bearings (there's still an oil can, stashed in an alcove in the bell chamber!) they were refurbished in the 1960's and put onto roller bearings and Hastings stays.

They are rung from the ground floor - and the clock chamber ceiling is a long way up! There is a set of rope guides but they still allow a poorly handled rope to swing quite a way. We are one of the six towers still with a complete set of Yorkshire ends. Some sallies (and tail ends) are thicker than ideal for a Yorkshire tail end - and the distance between sallie and tail end is a bit random. The treble rope is drawn sideways through the clock chamber and it is this that makes this bell a bit flightily to ring. A guide pipe has been installed which has improved things a bit.

There's a visitor's book and a piggy bank on the table. Please feel free to use both! If you ring a quarter, we'd appreciate a record in the visitor book.

Access to the tower is through the big West door. The flagged pathway can be very slippery when wet. There are two clock hammer wires to be secured before ringing. (Ours is a venerable "Cryer" clock, dating from the early 1800's. It is still hand wound three times a week.

The White Lion is Ringer Friendly but, after a recent change of landlord, does not yet offer food. If you have time, look at the bridge you drove over. Half of it (the western half) is a medaeval pack horse bridge. This, with the companion bridge built alongside, carried all of the traffic on the main road till the new bridge was built in the 1980's. There's a stile by the roundabout.

There is good parking in the church grounds - but accessed through a Grade 2 listed wrought iron gate. You'll get a car in there with no problem. A minibus might well not fit. There is plenty of parking to be found, down on the Old Skipton Road.

Whoever is expecting to meet you, a fall-back may be Gill or Theresa. Both ringers, they live just outside the gates at 5 and 7 Kirkgate. They have a key: 01535 636553 for Gill.

If they aren't available, try Churchwarden Lesley Hudson. Her mother is housebound, so there should be someone to answer - but don't disturb them unnecessarily. Her phone number is 01535 523291

Your main point of contact should always be Chris Wright, with whom the buck should normally stop! Contact me on 01535 634526 or 07971 670730 My email is chris@woodchipcomputers.co.uk and postal address is 15, Walker Close, Glusburn, Keighley BD20 8PW. If I am home, it'll take me 15 minutes to get to you!

