

Email from Susan Reid (Tower Captain, St Helen, Abingdon; Chair Oxon. Ringing School) to Oxon Ringing School leads.

Hi all

Since I became PCC treasurer of a parish with three churches in it, I have produced a new fees list every year showing all three churches and their fees. I increase all the prices in line with inflation every year as part of the budget setting process. The fees list includes a list for prospective marriage couples, one for Funeral Directors, and one for those who wish to hire a church or a hall for a meeting or party. They include statutory fees per C of E rules as well as local fees, including wedding and funeral bell ringing. Nick, if you'd like a copy, I'd be happy to share it, but I suspect you must have something similar for Dorchester already.

A few years ago, when we were paying our ringers £13, we heard that wedding ringers in Oxford received £20 each, including the extra ringer who went up that morning and raised all the bells ready for the wedding. It made us decide to raise our fees by more than inflation every year to make us more comparable with Oxford.

We ring eight bells for weddings at St Helen (10 bells) and six bells for weddings at St Nicolas (6). Our current fees are £201 and £152 for weddings and £36 for tolling one bell for a funeral. We pay the ringers each £21 to ring for either a wedding or a funeral. Normally we only ring after a wedding or before a funeral. If anyone asks us to ring both before and after a wedding, we charge 50% more and pay the ringers 50% more.

Now that tolling a bell is on the funeral fees list, we are ringing (tolling) for far more funerals than before the Parish Fees Lists were issued. But there are far fewer weddings now.

Out of interest, I hear that the Oxford Society is now paying wedding ringers £25 each...

Best wishes

Susan