

# The Ministry of Bell Ringing

## A. Rationale:

- ◇ *St Hilda's is a church that is committed to Worshipping God, Growing in Christ and Sharing the love of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, as we look to the Lord's return. All of our activities are directed towards that mission.*
- ◇ *Bell ringing for centuries in Christendom has been used to call God's people to worship and the establishment of this ministry at St Hilda's is designed to encourage God's people to worship God, as well as to reach out to our community so that all may know the love of Jesus.*
- ◇ *The following protocols in the organisation and running of this ministry are designed to achieve the above purposes, hence while we enjoy and participate in bell ringing as an art form, we must never lose sight of our primary mission. That is why prayer and the ministry of the word of God will always form part of our bell ringing outreach.*

## B. Structures:

- ◇ *The Bell Ringing Ministry will sit under the oversight of the Outreach team's portfolio.*
- ◇ *The Bell Captain(s) will oversee the ministry as a whole; and in developing the ministry report to the Senior Minister as well as the Parish Council via the Outreach team.*
- ◇ *Local bell ringers will be drawn from both the congregations of St Hilda's as well as interested community members.*
- ◇ *Visiting bell ringers are also welcome to share in bell ringing opportunities or to make use of the tower from time to time in consultation with the Bell Captain(s) who will run the ministry in accordance with the approved City Council development application and under the direction of the Senior Minister and Parish Council guidelines.*

## C. Requirements of Bell Ringers:

- ◇ *Members of the bell ringing teams will not necessarily have to be members of St Hilda's. Church attendance is not obligatory but is encouraged.*
- ◇ *It is necessary that the Bell Captain(s) be regular members of St Hilda's and committed Christians.*
- ◇ *Bell Captain(s) and bell ringers will need to do the following:*
  - *Agree to support the rationale of the ministry.*
  - *As much as possible seek to be on time and regularly at any practices or training events.*
  - *Participate where possible in all aspects of the ministry.*
- ◇ *Visiting bell ringers are requested to recognise and respect the culture of St Hilda's bell ringing as a ministry of the church and a witness to the love of Jesus for our world.*

## D. Matters of principle:

- ◇ *Because this is a ministry of the church, meetings of the bell ringers will always include prayer that God may work through this ministry for his glory. Prayer for one another is also encouraged.*
- ◇ *Bell ringers will seek in their practices to be supportive and encouraging of other members, to enable a culture of caring that befits the witness of our church family.*
- ◇ *It is encouraged that where possible during practices, a short devotional time is set aside to remind bell ringers of the reason we exist and the larger purpose God has called us to. A regular and appropriate bible reading and discussion of these matters will ensure we don't lose sight of the reason we exist.*
- ◇ *This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the ministry is effective and continues to serve the needs of the church and community.*

## E. Commitment;

- ◇ *I have read the above and would like to be involved in the bell ringing ministry of St Hilda's.*