

The Episcopal Parish of St. Clement – Honolulu and St. Clement’s School

Procedure for Ringing the Church Bell

General Guidance

The church bell is designed to ring through controlled motion and natural swing — not by forceful pulling on the rope. Proper ringing preserves the bell, wheel, headstock, and belfry structure.

Proper Ringing Technique

1. Hold the rope firmly but gently.
2. Guide the rope smoothly and allow the bell’s natural motion to produce the sound.
3. Allow the wheel and rope to return naturally between strokes.
4. Use rhythm and control rather than strength.

Do Not

- Yank or jerk the rope downward
- Use excessive force
- Pull continuously without allowing the bell to settle naturally
- Twist or side-load the rope

Improper ringing can rotate the wheel out of alignment and place unnecessary strain on the bell assembly and belfry.

Safety

If the bell feels resistant, unbalanced, or unusual in operation, stop immediately and notify the Rector, Sexton, or property steward.

Only instructed or supervised individuals should ring the bell. Proper operation helps preserve both the safety of ringers and the longevity of the bell system.

