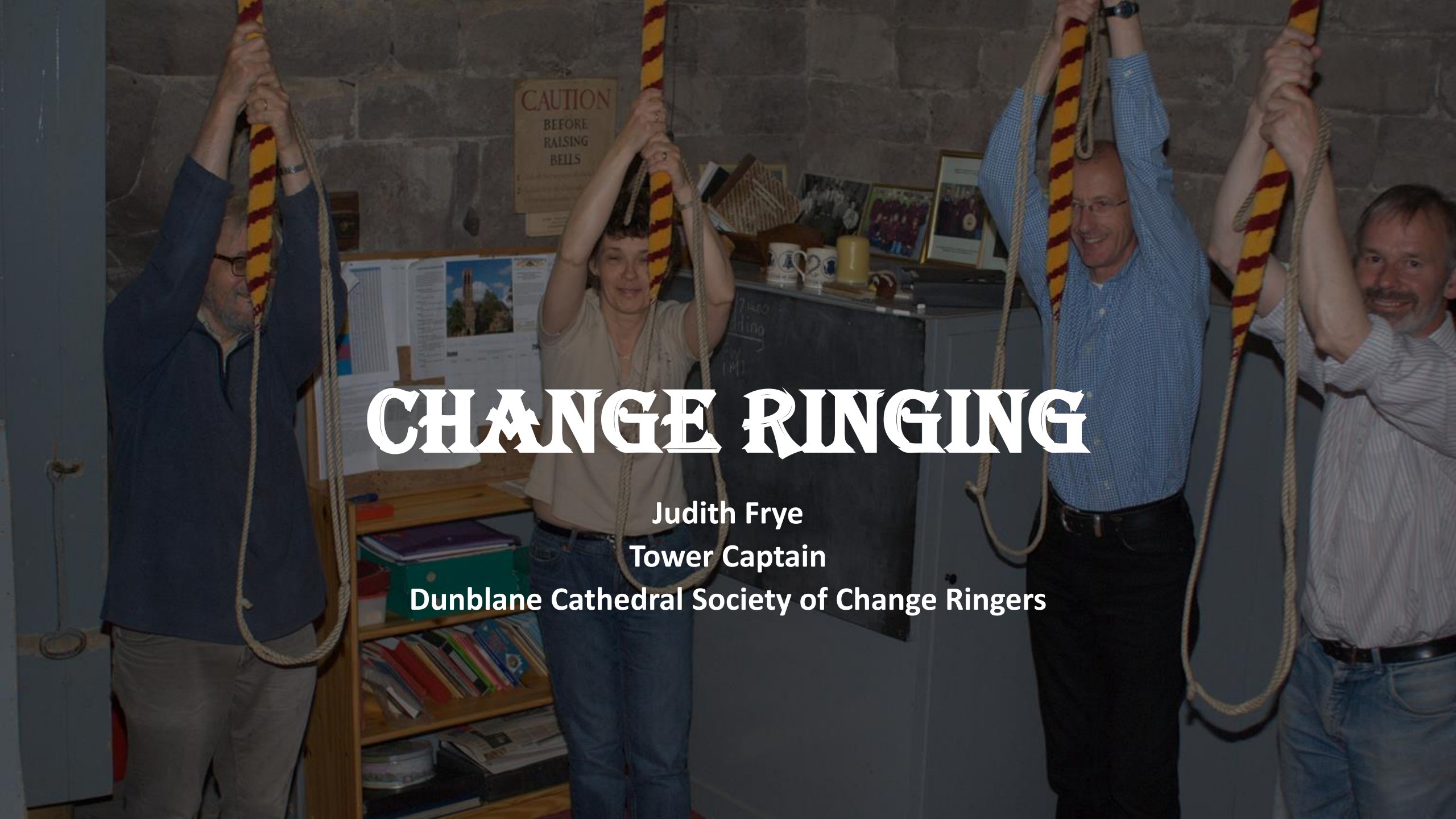


A photograph of four people (three men and one woman) standing in a room with stone walls, pulling on thick ropes with yellow and red diagonal stripes. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The ropes are attached to a mechanism above them. In the background, there is a wooden shelf with books, a chalkboard, and a sign that reads "CAUTION BEFORE RAISING BELLS".

CHANGE RINGING

Judith Frye
Tower Captain

Dunblane Cathedral Society of Change Ringers

Change Ringing

- What is change ringing?
- How a church bell rings
- How change ringing developed
- How change ringing works
- Change ringing on handbells
- Some simple changes
- How the experts do it





What is change ringing?

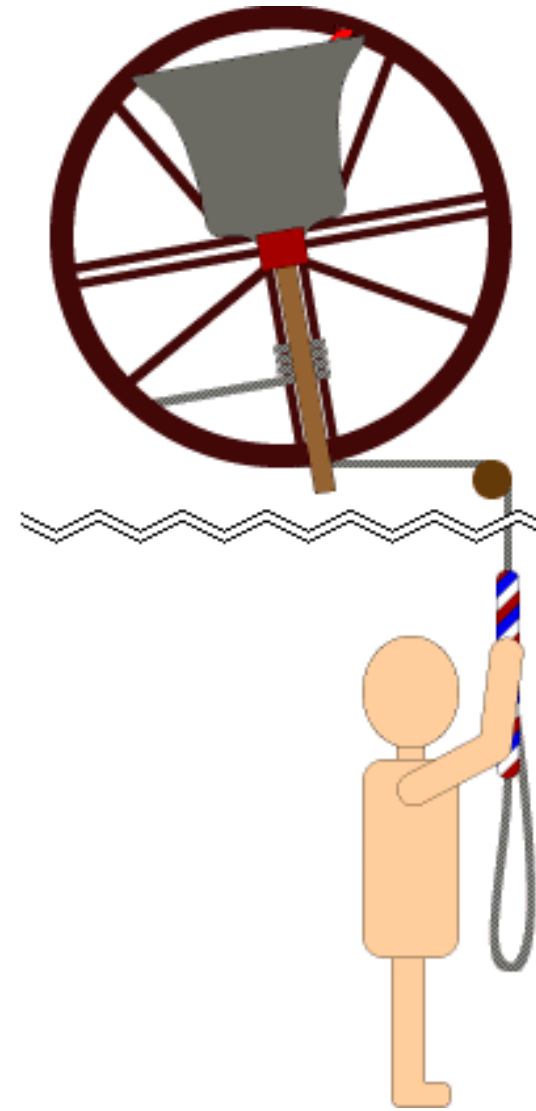
- Ringing on church bells - specifically bells hung for full-circle ringing
- Developed in England in the 16th and 17th century
- You will recognise the sound of a descending scale
- A ring of change ringing bells is usually 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 or 16 bells
- Change ringers don't ring tunes – they ring methods
- They don't use music – they memorise the methods



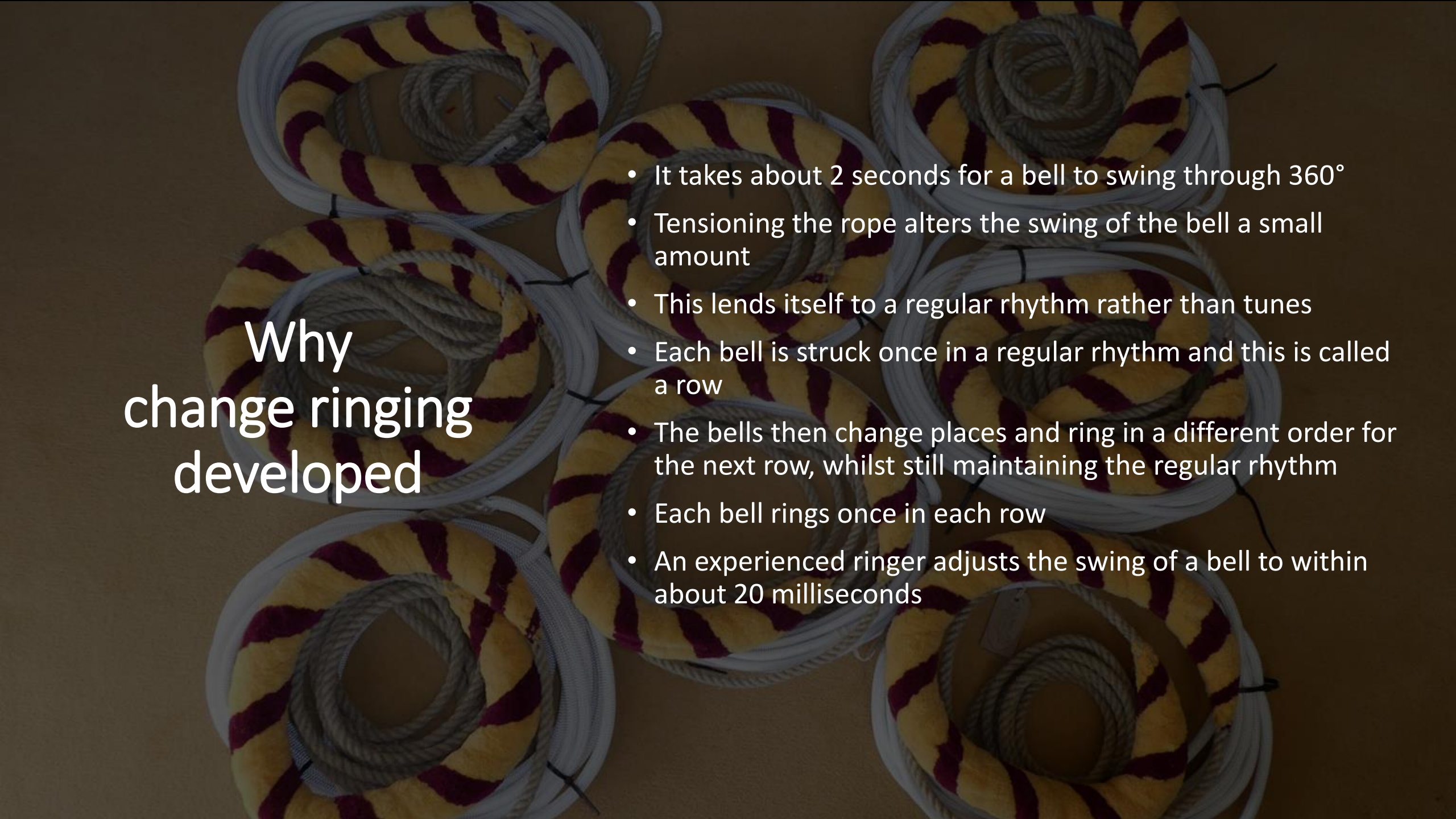
A bell hung for full-circle ringing

- The bell is mounted in a metal frame
- The bell sits mouth upwards
- This bell's clapper is painted red
- The wooden wheel is attached to the bell
- A rope runs round the perimeter of the wheel
- When the rope is pulled, the bell swings through 360°
- This bell weighs 9cwt (464 kg)

How a church bell rings







Why change ringing developed

- It takes about 2 seconds for a bell to swing through 360°
- Tensioning the rope alters the swing of the bell a small amount
- This lends itself to a regular rhythm rather than tunes
- Each bell is struck once in a regular rhythm and this is called a row
- The bells then change places and ring in a different order for the next row, whilst still maintaining the regular rhythm
- Each bell rings once in each row
- An experienced ringer adjusts the swing of a bell to within about 20 milliseconds



How change ringing works

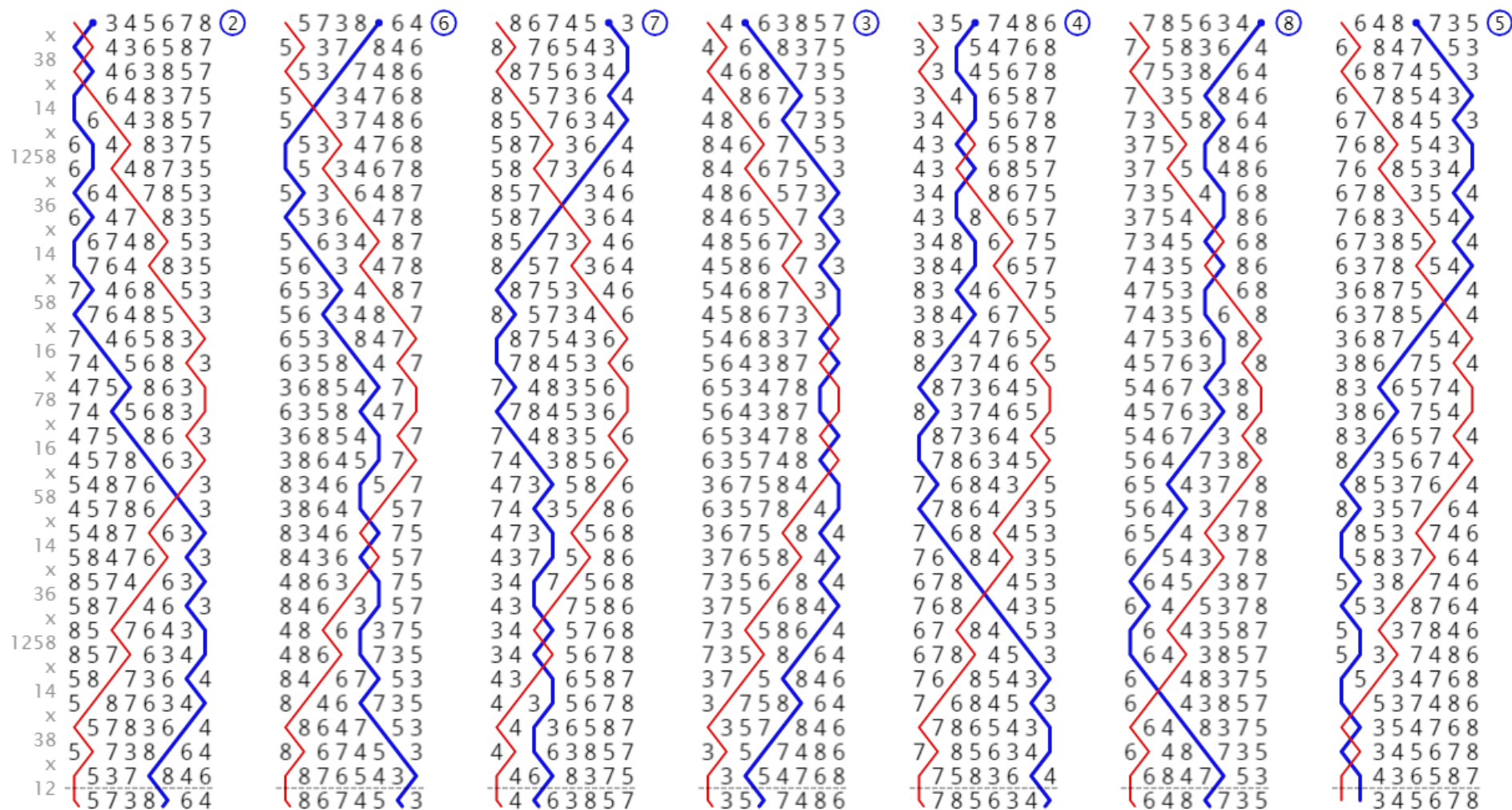
- Ringing begins and ends with a descending scale – *Rounds*
- The natural swing of the bell means that at one stroke there is a slight pause
- The rhythm of rounds is therefore a seventeen beat rhythm:
- 1234567812345678_1234567812345678_123 etc.
- The pause is called a handstroke gap and is about the same length as a bell striking
- Because the swing of a bell can only be altered a little, a bell may only move one place at a time
- This means that bells swap places
- No row is repeated



Ringing Changes - Plain Hunt

X	123456	123456	123456
16	214365	214365	214365
X	241635	241635	241635
16	426153	426153	426153
X	462513	462513	462513
16	645231	645231	645231
X	654321	654321	654321
16	563412	563412	563412
X	536142	536142	536142
16	351624	351624	351624
X	315264	315264	315264
16	132546	132546	132546
	123456	123456	123456

Cambridge Surprise Major



Change ringing on handbells

- Very similar, except that:
 - In a tower, each ringer rings one bell
 - On handbells, each ringer has two bells
- Handstroke gap is retained
- No damping!
- There are two strokes, one up and one down
- Bells start in the down position
- Handbell hold is different to how we do it
- The up stroke requires a flick to make the clapper strike
- The down stroke is easier because gravity helps the clapper to strike





Learning the Ropes

HANDBELLS

Correct ringing position

Some simple changes on handbells

- There are simple adaptations of this for handbell teams
- There are some well-known rows that sound good
- Rather than doing change ringing, you can:
 - Ring rounds
 - Then change to a different row for a while
 - Change to another row
 - Eventually go back to rounds
- Listen to some examples





A chance to practise

- HRGB National Rally, Stirling, 14th to 16th April 2023
- Change ringing workshop
 - An opportunity to practise the change ringing handbell technique
 - Ring rounds and changes
 - Points to consider if you try to do this with your team
 - Possibly a demonstration of change ringing on handbells

A group of people, mostly women in colorful blouses, are standing in a grassy field. In the foreground, two large, polished brass instruments, likely euphoniums or baritone horns, are lying on the grass. A tuba is also visible in the center. The background shows a stone building with arched windows. The text "How the experts do it" is overlaid in white.

How the experts do it

