

From: Roy Moody <roymullinsmoody@gmail.com>
Sent: 09 January 2026 17:42
To: DAC <dac@bathwells.anglican.org>
Subject: Re: Grab Rope in Bell tower - Butleigh: St Leonard (601124): Application returned to DAC for review ref 2022-078048

Thank you.

The inside outer wall of the tower is not circular which makes the bracket solution best; the alternative of single rope hanging centrally was discussed as being a less solution. As to the fixing method at each point we have simply taken the advice of experienced provider. As the distance between each bracket is decided by the rectangular shape of the tower excessive looping of the rope will not be an issue, I believe.

I hope this answers your questions.

Roy

On Fri, 9 Jan 2026 at 13:24, DAC <dac@bathwells.anglican.org> wrote:

Dear Roy,

I hope all is well with you.

I have sought advice on behalf of the PCC from the Diocesan Church Buildings Adviser Mark Lidster for the planned Rope in the tower. Mark has given some helpful feedback and asked for some clarifications from the PCC.

I will copy them below – you may wish to discuss with the contractor and let us know if you want to make any changes to the proposal. Would they wish to change to the suggested rope spiralling down around the central newel mouldings rather than attached to the outer wall? Let me know PCC responses when you have time..... The principal of a rope assist within the stair turret is supported yet there are some questions to resolve before this is awarded a licence.

CBA Mark Lidster 9.01.2026:

The information provided is a good illustration of what the church are intending to deliver and is supported in principal as has occurred within many of our church towers. The usual request is to use one bracket at the top of the tower- a robust plate and eye- to

enable a rope to be attached-this would then spiral downwards around the **newel moulding of the stair treads**-without any bracketry or sharp element that could snag a finger or injure a hand in the event of a slip.

- *The use of an adhesive to fix the clamps into the masonry is supported yet the description on the detail letter indicates that this material may be used to secure the plate also-which is **not advisable as it will introduce a permanence that is unnecessary**.*
- *The spiral stair turrets of our churches are simple and served the church well through history -some have had a rope assist for many years-some are installing them and with sound reason such as this church. **A simple approach that embraces the continuous uninterrupted rope, without any intermediate brackets or stays is the preferred route to ensure that this new thing -albeit installed for safety- does not become a hazard when used.***
- *Stainless fixings into masonry- perfect.*
- *Will the rope droop between the brackets once exposed to the myriad temperature and moisture fluctuations?*

Kind Regards

Joanne

Joanne Finneran

DAC Officer

Diocese of Bath and Wells