

## One of St. Andrew's bells, hung for English full-circle ringing



### Stay

To prevent over-rotation & to allow bell to "set" at rest, mouth upwards.  
(Stay engages with the "slider" under the bell)

### Wheel

Grooved wheel that rotates just over 360 degrees in alternate directions for each swing, wrapping the rope around it.

### Rope

Emerges onto the wheel groove at the "garter hole" here.  
Excess rope is lashed to the spokes.

### Headstock

To suspend the bell

### Bearing

To allow rotation

### Bell frame

St Andrew's has a historic oak frame

Bell shown in "down" position – the slider is just visible under the bell, but the pulley and clapper cannot be seen in this view

## CAMPAOLOGIST CHRONICLES



The Parish Church has an up and coming band of ringers. Not only do they ring the bells for Sunday services and Tuesday practice night's, but they also help with the ringing the church bells at Albury and Little Hadham. There aren't as many ringers about as there once were.

Bell ringing is something for both young and old. It helps keep you both physically and mentally fit. It is a quite a commitment, week in week out ringing for both Sunday services and practice nights, as well as the occasional wedding and christening. Many of you will remember Charlie Jordan, he was taught to ring when he was 12 years old and was still ringing at 80.

The bells at Much Hadham are hung for full circle ringing. This is where a wheel and rope are attached to the side each bell and the bell is swung back and forth on a headstock by a bell ringer through a little more than 360 degrees to get bell over the balance point for setting in a safe position of rest. Learning to ring is a bit like learning to ride bike. Letting go of the rope at the right time so you don't go up in the air, helps!

The ringing that takes place in known as 'change ringing' with both call changes and method ringing being rung. Due to the full circle ringing each bell can be carefully controlled to 'strike' with its clapper once every change. The simplest change is called 'Rounds' where the bells are in the order of 12345678, bells can be called to move one place at a time to reach tuneful changes such as 'Queens' 13572468 or 'Whittington's' 12753468 "turn again Whittington" as Dick did all those years ago on his way to London.

Many of you will know the formal name for bell ringing is campanology, but did you know that church bellringing is quite particularly English. To quote some statistics there are 6699 rings of bells in England listed on the internet in 'Doves Guide', but only 227 in Wales, 24 in Scotland and 196 in the rest of the world of which 61 are in Australia and 48 in the USA.

By the way the some of you will no doubt have seen the episode of Midsummer Murders titled "Ring Out Your Dead" which is based around a fictitious Bell Ringing Competition where three of the central six bell ringers get murdered under mysterious circumstances so the "home team" are to enter with just three of them ringing two bells each. Well it is possible to double hand full in full circle ringing but the Much Hadham ringers only ring one bell each in their striking competitions!