

CAMPAOLOGIST CHRONICLES



This a tremendous history of the bells in St Andrew's Parish Church. The oldest dates from the time of Queen Elizabeth, in 1595 for bells 5 and 6, 1654 for the 4th, 1738 for the 3rd and 7th and 1759 for the 10¾cwt tenor. In all the bells weigh 43cwt, just over 2 tons.

Following the village's centuries old tradition of ringing church bells, the current band of ringers has been making steady progress. Unfortunately, over the years the bells have become increasingly difficult to ring, which makes teaching new recruits difficult and produces poor quality ringing. As with all mechanical devices, bells require periodic maintenance, and it is usual for bells and their fittings to require major attention every 50 years or so. The last major work to St Andrew's bells was carried out seventy years ago in 1947, so now is the time for the current generation to take action, so that the bells can be enjoyed by future generations.

Recent inspections from three bell hanging firms have highlighted the poor installation and condition of the fittings, most of which date from the 19th century and appear not to have been renewed back in 1947, during the period of austerity after the war when funds would have been scarce. At that time the eight-bell frame was installed and the two treble bells, as part of a war memorial. Significantly this was the last timber frame to be supplied by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Sadly, the foundry, the oldest in the world and Britain's oldest manufacturing company, which made Big Ben and Liberty Bell, closed earlier this year.

The good news is that the PCC has given approval to rehang and refurbish the ring of eight bells in our historic twelfth century church.

It is intended that works will be carried out by Whites of Appleton in the summer so that the refurbished bells will be ready to be rung for the 100-year Anniversary of the Armistice on Sunday 11 November 2018, when it is hoped that many of the countries' church bells will ring out in memory of the fallen.

The St Andrew's bell ringers ring from 8.45am for the 9.15am Service on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays and practice on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 7.45pm to 9.00pm. Please feel free to come along and see what we do. If you would like any further information please call Nick Hughes on 01279 843 820 or Rev Steve Bate on 01279 842 609.

Quasi

St. Andrew's Bell Restoration Project

The total estimated cost of the project is in the region of £65,000 plus VAT. There is the opportunity for benefactors to donate to the general fundraising or sponsor components of the rehung bells as follows:

A new headstock - £1,000 plus cost of inscription

A new wheel - £1,200

A new rope - £250

Donations can be made to Much Hadham PCC, (Registered Charity no. 1152748) and will be very gratefully received.

Cheques (made payable to Much Hadham PCC) can be sent to The Parish Office, The Rectory, High Trees, Station Road, Much Hadham, SG10 6AX

Or you can donate via bank transfer to the following bank account:

Barclays Bank, Bishops Stortford Branch, Sort code 20-36-98,

A/c no. 20000078 A/c name: Much Hadham PCC

Please use the reference 'Bells'.

Alternatively, you can give online via JustGiving, www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nick-hughes24

If you are a UK tax payer your donation can be boosted by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. A Gift Aid form is attached.



The treble bell cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in 1949 and hung as a memorial to those who fell in World War II. It is inscribed:

THE WORLD WAR 1939 - 1945
I RING BECAUSE OF THOSE WHO GAVE
THEIR LIVES. THIS PLACE. YOUR LIVES. TO SAVE

Gift Aid declaration – for past, present and future donations to

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW’S MUCH HADHAM AND ST THOMAS’ PERRY GREEN – Registered Charity No. 1152748

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ _____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to: **THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW’S MUCH HADHAM AND ST THOMAS’ PERRY GREEN – REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1152748**

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Donor’s details

Title..... First name or

Initial(s).....

Surname.....

.....

Full Home

address.....

.....

Post Code.....

Date:.....

Signature.....

....

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Instructions

Please complete the form above, date and sign it and then either:

- Give it to the PCC Treasurer, Lesley Titcomb, in church.
- Post it, to the Parish Office, The Rectory – Hightrees, Station Road, Much Hadham, SG10 6AX or put it through the Rectory letterbox in an envelope addressed to the Parish Office.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO ‘MUCH HADHAM PCC’.

Please note that the personal information on this form will be treated in accordance with the principles set out in the Data Protection Act 1998 and will only be used for church administration and contacting you to keep you informed about church activities. It will not be made available to any third party without your consent