

# All Saints Bellringers need your help

to preserve a part of Hertford's living heritage  
and to maintain one of England's most iconic sounds.

## Why?

Our bells at All Saints are becoming increasingly difficult to ring and are in need of major maintenance, for which a sum of £25,000 has to be raised.

## What has happened?

Bells have hung in the tower of All Saints church for many years, the first recorded ringing being on 17 December 1724 when a peal of Grandsire Triples, 5,040 changes in approximately three hours was rung. At that time there were 8 bells in the tower, with an increase to 10 bells in 1770.

When the church was burned down in 1895, the bells were sold for scrap to help fund the re-building programme. The new bells were cast by Mears and Stainbank at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in 1907 as the gift of Mr T J Sworder, Mr W F Andrews and Mrs A Thornton. They were first rung for the wedding of Miss Mary Evans and Mr Brettle Jollands on 17 April 1907.

## When are the bells rung?

Since 1907 the bells have rung out regularly for Sunday services, to celebrate marriages and for funerals. They have also rung to mark national occasions such as coronations and the death of monarchs, on Remembrance Sunday and to mark the start of the London Olympic Games.

Local occasions are not neglected with ringing annually to mark the election of a new mayor of Hertford and more recently Richard Hale School's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ringing has also marked personal celebrations such as births, significant birthdays or wedding anniversaries.

## What needs to be done?

As with any device with moving parts, regular maintenance is required. Most of this can and has been carried out by the ringers at their own expense. Unfortunately we have now come to a stage where the bells are becoming increasingly difficult to

ring and the ringers cannot carry out the major maintenance now needed. We are also looking to improve some of the sound quality in the ringing chamber

While some of the moving parts were renewed about 60 years ago, others are still original and now need replacement so that a major service is needed.

## How can I help?

Please consider helping us and give your donation to Colin Bird, Treasurer at All Saints church. Individual donations can be gift-aided – forms and envelopes are available.

We are not asking you to do all the work. If you or someone you know has a special occasion – perhaps a wedding anniversary, birthday or other celebration, we would be pleased to arrange some special ringing for you in return for a donation to the fund.

## Can I get more information?

Any questions can be addressed to the Ringing Master, Alastair Stracey at [alastair.stracey@ntlworld.com](mailto:alastair.stracey@ntlworld.com) or to the Secretary Andrew Case at [afc@case@gmail.com](mailto:afc@case@gmail.com), or perhaps even visit us at our practice night (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 7.45 pm).

