

THE HISTORY OF ST GILES' BELLS

There may have been three or four bells in the tower about 1736–1740, but very little information is available concerning those hung prior to 1842, when five of the present eight bells were installed. They bear the following inscriptions:



- Nº 8 'Jehova Jireh. John Taylor Bellfounder 1842' which is the heaviest. It is the Passing Bell, and the one on which the clock strikes.
- Nº 7 'John Taylor (Pilgrim) Bellfounder 1842'
- Nº 6 'Y
J : TD Founder
18 OR 42'
- Nº 5 '+ Deo et Ecclesiae+' on one side, and
'John Taylor Fecit 1842' on the other side.
- Nº 4 'F Apthorpe – Vicar
W Smithson – Curate
W Withers T Rawding C W
(Churchwardens)
J Selby – Parish Clerk 1842'
- Nº 3 'Post Bellum Africanum Pax 1900
James Farmer MA Vicar
W D Warwick)
W Knight) Wardens'

This bell was presented by the Revd J Farmer, Vicar 1892-1902 at the conclusion of the Boer War. This was the small treble bell which was mounted on a separate frame above the main frame, and which became unsafe in 1931, when the bell was removed for twenty years. All the bells had been re-hung in 1909.

In 1951 the six bells were cleaned and re-tuned at John Taylor's foundry, Loughborough, and re-fitted on a new ball-bearing bell frame. A new Ringing Chamber was constructed between the Tower Vestry on the ground floor, and the clock chamber, from where the bells were previously rung.

The peal of six bells was increased to eight in 1962; the two new bells being at the treble end of the scale, and the existing bells were re-tuned to the new scale.

The details of the new bells are as follows:

- Nº 2 'John Taylor and Co Founders, Loughborough.
Presented by Thomas Johnson in memory of his wife Florence Amy 1962'
- Nº 1 'John Taylor and Co Founders, Loughborough
Geoffrey W J Springett – Vicar
Thomas H Manning)
Harold Robinson)
Churchwardens 1962'

If you would like to find out more or see us in action, please talk to John Dodd (Tower Captain) 01636 679000 or email jmdodd1957@gmail.com

or come along one Monday evening from 7pm when we practise.

BELL RINGING

ST GILES Balderton



MONDAY NIGHT IS
PRACTICE NIGHT
FROM 7.00 PM

COME & HAVE A GO

We are a friendly team

with ages ranging from 12 to 80+ so it really can be done by anyone with appropriate training.

You do not need any particular strength or prior knowledge, just a sense of commitment, a desire to learn something new and a love of working with others in a fun way.

Our present team consists of people at different stages of experience and there is always something new to learn and develop. The start of your journey to learn can be rather slow and it may seem you are not getting anywhere fast, but it is important to understand how to handle a bell correctly and safely and so to perfect each stage before moving on.

Once you can ring a bell on your own, you learn to ring rounds with the rest of the team, that is each following each other in turn, in our case with eight bells,

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8.

Different churches have different number of bells, ranging from 3 to 16, though most where ringing takes place

will have 6 or 8, with some 10 or 12. Then there are many different skills and methods (patterns) to learn to keep you interested and to challenge you, though it is up to individuals to decide how advanced they want to proceed; it is possible to enjoy and stay at a basic level of ringing if you prefer.

We ring for the two services on each Sunday (9.30am Eucharist and 6.00pm Evensong) to let people know there will be an act of worship taking place. It is a great way of linking the community with the life of the church and reminding them of God.

We also ring for special times in the church's and our secular year, for example Christmas, Easter, Remembrance Day, New Year and occasions like weddings and national

events and anniversaries (e.g. 100 years of the end of WW1).

It is inspiring to think that we are continuing an activity that has been around for hundreds of years. Once you can ring you will find you will be welcome at any church with bells and one of the attractions of this hobby is going to visit other towers to try different bells, it is amazing how they differ! We often organise outings to various parts of the country and have social gatherings as well.

If you would like to find out more or would just like to see us in action, please talk to John Dodd (Tower Captain) 01636 67900 or email jimdodd1957@gmail.com or simply come along one Monday evening from 7.00 pm when we practise.



Above: Beryl, John, Emma and Tyler. Four generations from one family who rang in a quarter peal for Remembrance last year

Below: Complete team who rang that quarter, including Mark Westmoreland who was one of the Ringers Remembered recruits, who also rang his first quarter alongside Tyler with his first.

