

All Saints Parish Church Kingston upon Thames



A Service of Choral Evensong
with a
Dedication of the New Carillon
and a
Celebration of the 50th Anniversary
of the
Augmentation of the Bells
from ten to twelve
23rd April 2023

In 2023, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the augmentation of the bells from ten to twelve. We have also had a new electronic chiming carillon device installed.

The earliest records of bells in Kingston are in the 16th century; then in 1681 a new frame was installed and the ring was increased from six to eight bells. This is around the time that change ringing was becoming an established art, and we can speculate that change ringing started in Kingston at this time too. In 1748 these bells were recast and increased to 10. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there was considerable rivalry between towers, and the fact that Kingston had a ring of 10 bells by the mid-eighteenth century suggests that the town and church had considerable importance.

Over the years the bells became difficult to ring, although they were held in considerable affection by some of the ringers, not least because of the unusual anti-clockwise rope circle. In 1973 the wooden frame, which housed the bells, was replaced by a new metal one, and the bells were augmented from 10 to 12, this time with a conventional clockwise rope circle.

The old carillon dates from 1923 and has given solid service for the last 98 years. In recent years the carillon barrel and associated mechanisms have reached the end of their operating life and were judged to be beyond repair. A new electronic chiming mechanism has been installed by Nicholsons Engineering Ltd. The new carillon will play the same tunes, strike the hour and have a minute bell facility.

We are delighted that Andrew Nicholson of Nicholsons and Alan Hughes, lately of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, are able to be with us today.

The service tonight follows the order for Evensong as given in the Book of Common Prayer, the ancient prayer book of the Church of England. Parts of it are sung by the Choir, giving the congregation the chance to think about the words that they sing and to reflect on God's presence in our lives.

All stand as the Choir and Minister enter.

Hymn

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**But the pains that he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

Words: Lyra Davidica (1708).

Tune 'Easter Hymn', adapted from a melody in Lyra Davidica.

Bidding Prayer

The Minister says:

Brothers and sisters, we meet here to commit to God the work that these bells, augmented to twelve fifty years ago, and the newly-installed chiming mechanism to be dedicated today, shall do in the years to come, to ask God's blessing on all who shall ring them, and to ask that all who hear them shall lift up their hearts to God.

Let us thank God for the craftsmen who during the centuries have cast and hung bells in this and other towers throughout the land, for the ringers who in times past have rung these bells and for those who ring them now and will do so in the future. Let us pray also for the ringers throughout this land and overseas, that through their art we may in faith be one for ever more.

Let us pray that the message of the bells may shout out for rejoicing, bring joy to the sad, penitence to sinners, and encouragement to the faithful and all who seek the truth. In the song of these bells may we find peace in our souls.

And may all the bells at All Saints announce loudly to our town the presence of a lively church at its heart and the presence of God in our midst.

These prayers and praises we humbly offer up to God in the words which Christ taught us, saying:

**Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

Responses

Sung by the Choir to a setting by Rose.

Minister O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Minister O God, make speed to save us.

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

All stand.

Minister Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;

Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Minister Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's Name be praised.

Psalm 150

All sit for the psalm, sung by the Choir to the setting by Stanford.

Please stand for the 'Glory be ... ' at the end of the psalm.

O praise God in his holiness:

praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him in his noble acts:

praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him in the sound of the trumpet:

praise him upon the lute and harp.

Praise him in the cymbals and dances:

praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals:

praise him upon the loud cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath:

praise the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Read by David Robinson.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

(Isaiah 6: 1–8)

Magnificat

All stand as the Choir sings the Magnificat to the setting by Stanford in A.

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
 and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
 the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
 all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
 and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
 throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm :
 he hath scattered the proud
 in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
 and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
 and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy
 hath holpen his servant Israel :
 as he promised to our forefathers,
 Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
 and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
 world without end, Amen.

All sit.

New Testament Reading

Read by Kate Corney.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(Romans 12: 9–21)

Nunc Dimittis

All stand as the Choir sings the Nunc Dimittis to the setting by Stanford in A.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end, Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

All say together:

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Responses

Sung by the Choir to the setting by Rose.

Minister The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Minister Let us pray.

All sit.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Choir sings the Lord's Prayer.

Minister O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Minister O Lord, save the King.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Minister Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

Minister O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Collects

Minister Almighty God, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life: Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choir Amen.

Minster O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Choir Amen.

Minster Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Choir Amen.

Anthem

The Bell Anthem

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say rejoice.
Let your moderation be known unto all men.
 The Lord is at hand.
Be careful for nothing;
 but in every thing by prayer and supplication
 with thanksgiving,
 let your requests be made known unto God.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
 shall keep your hearts and minds
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Words: Philippians 4: 4–7.

Music: Henry Purcell (1659-1695).

Sermon

The Venerable John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth.

Hymn

All stand.

**Unchanging God, who livest
Enthroned in realms on high,
To men the power thou givest
Thy name to magnify.
We raise the bells for ringing
With ready mind and will,
And come before thee, bringing
Our hearts, our strength, our skill.**

**We call, from tower and steeple,
Upon the day of days,
All faithful Christian people
To worship, prayer and praise;
We ring with joyous gladness
When man and wife are blessed;
We peal in muffled sadness
For loved ones laid to rest.**

**By union free and willing
The work of God is done;
Our Master's prayer fulfilling,
We would in him be one:
One, as the Church our Mother
Would have her children stand,
Befriending one another,
A strong and steadfast band.**

**Our lives, like bells, while changing,
An ordered course pursue;
Through joys and sorrows ranging,
May all those lives ring true.
May we, through Christ forgiven,
Our faults and failures past,
Attain our place in heaven,
Called home to rest at last.**

Words: Henry Charles Wilder (1860–1948).

Tune 'Belfry Praise', by John H Matthews.

Explanation of Work to the Bells

Paul Flavell – Tower Captain

Dedication

Almighty God, we offer to thee all the work that was undertaken fifty years ago to augment these bells to twelve and recently to install a new electronic chiming mechanism to sound certain hymn tunes and to strike the hour. Bless, sanctify and hallow all that has been done in this tower. Bless with thy grace and skill all who ring here and grant that the message of the bells may lift the hearts of all who hear them, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be called by the sound
of these bells to this House of Prayer may enter into thy
Gates with thanksgiving and into Thy Courts with praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Prayers

Led by the Bellringers.

Hymn

*All stand for the final hymn, during which a collection is taken.
Remain standing for the Blessing.*

**O worship the King
All glorious above;
O gratefully sing
His power and his love:
Our Shield and Defender,
The Ancient of days,
Pavilioned in splendour,
And girded with praise.**

**O tell of his might,
O sing of his grace,
Whose robe is the light,
Whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath
The deep thunder-clouds form,
And dark is his path
On the wings of the storm.**

**This earth, with its store
Of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power
Hath founded of old:
Hath stablished it fast
By a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast,
Like a mantle, the sea.**

**O measureless Might,
Ineffable Love,
While angels delight
To hymn thee above,
Thy humbler creation,
Though feeble their lays,
With true adoration
Shall sing to thy praise.**

Words: Robert Grant (1779–1838), based on Psalm 104.

Tune: 'Hanover' by William Croft (1678–1727).

Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Organ Voluntary

‘Carillon de Westminster’, by Louis Vierne (1870–1937)



We have 12 glorious bells at All Saints, and a regular band who ring for Sunday service at 8:30 and for Evensong at 17:00. We practise on Wednesdays at 19:45–21:30.

Our band is made up of very experienced ringers, new learners and some complete beginners who signed up to Ring for the King. We also ring for weddings and occasional memorial services and for special events like the Queen's Jubilee in 2022 and then the sad occasion of her death, and we will be ringing on Coronation Day for King Charles III (Saturday 6th May 2023).

Learning to ring church bells is a structured process that takes a number of sessions for you to be competent at 'handling' a bell. Ringing is suitable for anyone from the age of around 12 and over. We would very much like to see you in the tower to give it a go – if you have the energy to climb the tower stairs, and the coordination to catch a ball, you can learn to ring.

Find out more about bellringing and the Kingston bell ringers on our website: www.kingstonbells.org.uk

We also have an active Instagram account: @kingstonbellringers