

Holy Trinity Church: The Bells and Bell Ringing

There have been bells hung for ringing at Holy Trinity since before the Reformation. Parish records show that on numerous occasions, from the seventeenth until well into the nineteenth century, bells were rung for ordinary services week by week and for 'Rejoicing Days'. Such days included State Commemorations and other special occasions when the parish provided ringers with pay and light refreshments such as 'bread and beere' or 'liquor'. Yearly Commemorations included Gunpowder Treason Day, the Royal Birthday and Coronation Day. Royal Births, Marriages and Deaths, days when the Bishop 'came to confirme' or when the Assizes were in session were also celebrated.

The number of bells was increased from 4 to 6 in 1689. Sadly, decay and neglect of the fabric of the church resulted in the collapse of the steeple, through the roof of the nave, on St. George's Day 23 April 1740. Three whole bells and pieces of the remainder were stored. Two complete bells served in the rebuilt church 23 years later when the present church was consecrated in 1763.

On 16 January 1769, Alderman Peter Flutter made a formal proposition to the PCC: "To recast the bells, augmenting them to 8, and stock them at his expense. The parishioners were, at their expense, to convey the bells to Bull's Wharf, London, bring back the new peal and hang them in a proper manner". The parishioners "agreed thankfully to accept" this proposal. George Batchelor (later ringer of the 5) and William Taylor contracted to hang the bells for £85. The bells were cast by Lester, Pack and Chapman, and were first rung on 10 May 1769, with the first peal being scored on 29 May 1769. Very few peals were rung in the 18th and 19th centuries at Holy Trinity. However, that was to change when Ben Chorley introduced change ringing in 1899. In that year the Holy Trinity Society of Change Ringers was formed under the conductorship of Charles Willshire. 371 peals had been rung by May 1993.

The octave sounded forth its praises with little disturbance until 1912 when John Taylor & Co. recast the treble, 4, 7, and tenor and rehung the whole ring on plain bearings in a new iron frame. During 1985 the bells were rehung on ball bearings.

Particulars of the bells:

No.	Diameter		Note	Weight		
	ft	ins		cwts	qrs	lbs
1	2	7	D	7	1	24
2	2	8 5/8	C sharp	7	1	0
3l	2	10 1/2	B	8	0	5
4	3	0 1/4	A	8	3	19
5	3	3 1/8	G	9	3	16
6	3	5 7/8	F sharp	12	2	21
7	3	9 3/8	E	16	2	6
8	4	3 1/4	D	23	3	8

Guildford Chimes

Composed by George Wilkins and set up in the Tower in 1843.

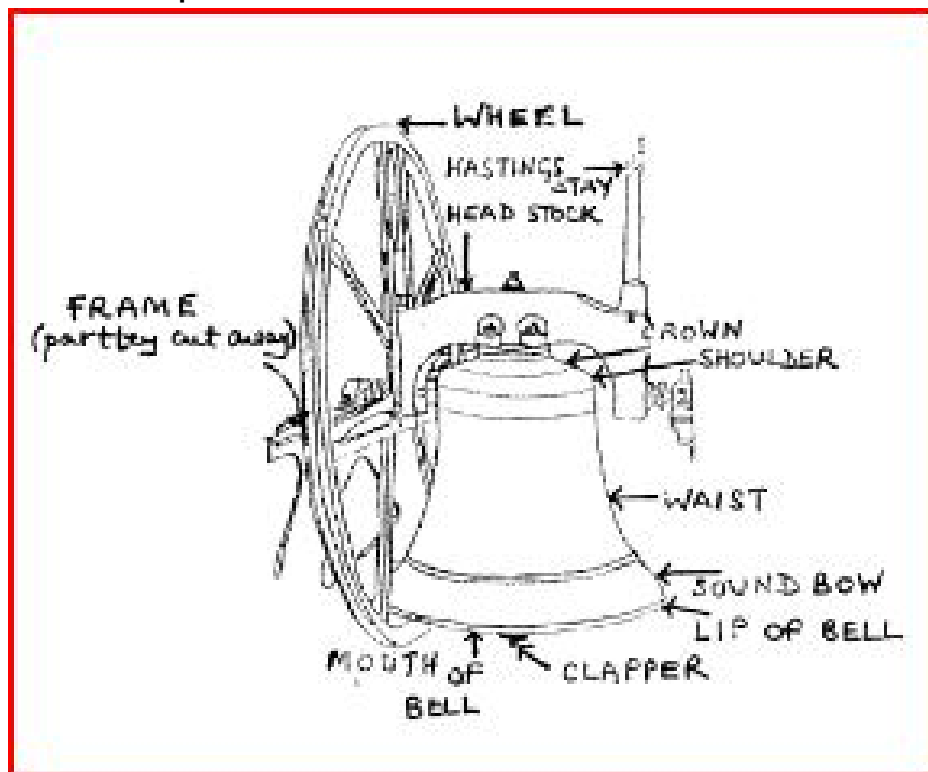
¼ hour 1634

¾ hour 1436574635421

½ hour 641275346

Hour 846123465374654123468124374

A Bell and its parts



Bell metal is an alloy of about 77% copper and 23% tin. The bells are cast and then tuned. As the bell itself gives off several notes, it must be in tune with itself as well as other bells in the ring.

Ringling

Bells may be sounded in four ways:

- The bell is stationary and is hit by a hammer – *chiming*
- The bell is stationary and the clapper is pulled to hit the sound bow – *clocking*
- The bell is swung until the clapper hits the sound bow - *swing chiming*
- The bell is swung by manipulation of a rope and wheel through 360 degrees – *ringing*

Full-circle-ringing is the traditional English bell-ringing style. First the bell must be 'rung up'.

Starting from chiming, the angle of the swing is gradually increased until the bell is swinging through 360 degrees. The bell can then be set on the balance with the mouth uppermost. From here, with a little practice, it is possible to swing the bell alternately round one way and then the other, controlling the speed of the ringing and the striking needed for the English style of 'change ringing'.

Change Ringing

Change ringing was developed in the seventeenth century when full circle ringing came into being. Bells are first rung down the scale i.e. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8. This is known as rounds. In change ringing the sequence of the bells changes every time they are pulled off. There are some basic rules:

- a. No sequence is repeated
- b. No bell may move more than one place in the sequence in any change

There are thousands of 'methods' of producing changes within these rules.

Changes produced by different numbers of bells at a rate of 24 changes per minute.

No. Bells	Name	No. Of changes	Time to ring
4	Minimus	24	1 minute
5	Doubles	120	5 minutes
6	Minor	720	30 minutes
7	Triples	5040	3 hrs 30 mins
8	Major	40320	1 day 4 hrs
9	Caters	362880	10 days 12 hrs
10	Royal	3628800	105 days
11	Cinques	39916800	3 yrs 60 days
12	Maximus	479001600	37 yrs 355 days
16		20922789888000	1216020 yrs 260 days

New ringers are welcome, aged 11 – 70 and reasonably fit!

For further information contact the Parish Office through the website or on 01483 567716

Plain Bob Doubles

12345
21435
24153
42513
 45231
 54321
 53412
 35142
 31524
 13254
 13524
 31254
 32145
23415
24351
 42531
 45213
 54123
 51432
 15342
 15432
 51342
 53124
 35214
 32541
23451
24315
 42135
 41253
 14523
 14253
 41523
 45132
 54312
 53421
 35241
 32514
23154
 31245
 12435
 12345