

To celebrate its 150th anniversary St Stephen's Barbourne is to have a new ring of eight bells.

What can I do?

All donations will be gratefully acknowledged and will contribute to the project. We will keep you informed about the project's progress.

For further details

Visit our website for more information, or contact

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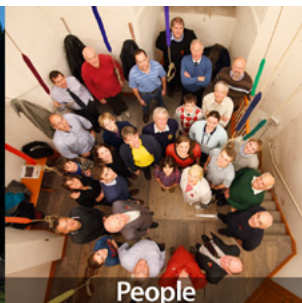
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Church



People



Heritage



Education

New Bells for St Stephen's Barbourne



"From the moment we first heard we might be getting a ring of bells there has been a real buzz of excitement at St Stephen's.

This year is our 150th anniversary, celebrating 150 years of praising God and serving our community, and looking forward to the next 150 and beyond. The bells will enable us to make our presence known even more than it is now, and, more importantly, will help draw people into the life of the church so we can reach out more

effectively to the world around us."

Reverend Dr Stuart Currie

www.barbournebells.co.uk

To celebrate its 150th anniversary St Stephen's Barbourne is to have a ring of eight bells. The scheme is linked with Worcester Cathedral's teaching initiative for bellringing and local schools.

Why new bells?

Built by Frederick Preedy in 1862, the tower was designed for a ring of bells. However, only one bell was installed and is used as a clock chime.

An exciting opportunity arose late in 2011, when the ring of eight bells from St Nicholas Halewood became available. Unfortunately Halewood's tower was declared unsafe. Working with the Keltex Trust, Bernard Taylor – a bellringer at Worcester Cathedral, generously bought the bells and gave them as a gift to start the project.

Halewood's bells were cast in 1929 at Taylor's Bellfoundry in Loughborough. They are a beautifully toned peal of bells and the largest weighs 10 cwt.

The bells' bright musical sound will be heard in Barbourne and will call people to church and proclaim the presence of the church in the local community.



A message from the Right Reverend Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester

"Bell ringing is a quintessentially English tradition which affirms the importance of a sense of place to human experience. It also reminds us of the central importance of the Christian faith and churches to our communities. I am delighted that there has been something of a renaissance of

this great tradition in recent years and even more delighted that Worcester is at the centre of it. This exciting project is further evidence of that fact."

New clock chimes!

We will be launching a competition for Worcester school children to compose the new clock chimes for St Stephen's!

This means special clock hammers will be fitted to the bells by the Cumbria Clock Company, who also cares for Big Ben. Lord Faulkner will judge the competition. The winner will visit Big Ben and the famous bells of St Mary le Bow Cheapside in the City of London.

What happens next?

This scheme is being considered by the Diocesan Advisory Committee for recommendation for a Faculty (legal permission).

We are in consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the Church Buildings Council, English Heritage and the Victorian Society, all of whom have offered their support.

What needs to be done in the tower?

The bells will be hung in a new bell frame in the middle of the tower. The engineering design is being done by Bell Johnson Ltd, a specialist firm who have worked on bell projects at Great St Mary's Cambridge and Malvern Priory.

The bell frame will be made locally by NDS Engineering at Clifton on Teme and the building works by Probert's, a Worcester-based firm who specialise in church work.

The bellhanging team will comprise some of Worcester Cathedral's bellringers, led by John Slater – who had a long career as a bell tuner and bell hanger at London's Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

Who will ring the bells?

The project is part of the innovative and internationally recognised teaching initiative of the Worcester Cathedral bellringers.

Bellringing is a combination of mathematics, music, sport and teamwork. Worcester has become a recognised centre of excellence for teaching bellringing using traditional and modern techniques.

Working with local schools, Barbourne's new bells will form part of a network of Worcester towers who teach bellringing. This new light peal of eight bells will be easy to ring and ideally suited for teaching.



"As Patron of the New Bells for St Stephen's Barbourne, I offer my warmest congratulations to everyone who has worked so hard to bring the bells back to this beautiful church.

Worcester leads the world in church bell-ringing, and it is one of very few cities where it is possible for would-be campanologists to learn these important and popular skills. Well done, St Stephen's! Ring out, wild bells!"

Lord Faulkner of Worcester

How much will it cost?

The total cost of the project is £90,000 and £50,000 has been given or promised, so we need £40,000 to cover all our costs.

Having paid for the Halewood bells, we need to pay for the engineering design, the new bellframe and the associated building work in the tower, the new clock chimes, power supply, new lighting and the bellhanging.