



## The Project

After a silence of over 100 years the joyful sound of bells will ring out once more from one of Worcester's ancient parish churches. This exciting scheme to install a new ring of bells is linked with a teaching ministry for city schools.

£150,000 has been raised to restore the old bells at Old St Martin's and install a new ring of ten bells. The faculty application has been approved by the Chancellor of the Diocese and work is now underway.

## A message from the Very Reverend Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester and the Appeal's Patron.

"I am delighted to act as Patron of the Appeal to raise the funds necessary to install a new peal of bell at Old St Martin's in Worcester.

"Bellringing is a great English phenomenon and it is a matter of rejoicing that it is presently undergoing something of a renaissance. New bells at Old St Martin's will ensure that Worcester remains at the forefront of this renaissance. The fact the new bells will be light and easy to ring will make them ideal for teaching the art of bellringing to a new generation.

"I commend this exciting and imaginative new initiative to you most warmly"

The latest Project News can be seen on our website at:  
[www.oldstmartinsbells.co.uk](http://www.oldstmartinsbells.co.uk)



## Old St. Martin's

St Martin's is one of Worcester's ancient parish churches. It was enlarged and rebuilt between 1767 and 1780. The body of the church and the lower parts of the tower, incorporating some medieval masonry, were completed by October 1772 when the opening took place. The top two stages of the tower were added in 1780. This was a reflection of the prosperity of the city at the time and the desire for churches in the prevailing classical style of architecture of the day. Then, as now, Worcester's towers and steeples were an important feature of the landscape of the city.

## Why New Bells?

The tower already contains six bells, five of which pre-date the Georgian building which was completed in 1772. These bells hang in a frame and fittings which are contemporary with the tower. They are, however, no longer useable as the bells do not have a sweet or tuneable tone.

Ringling the bells in the existing frame would be structurally dangerous as the bells hang high in the tower. Taking the bells out of the frame would destroy the integrity of the eighteenth-century installation.

Because the frame and fittings are contemporary with the tower they are of significant heritage interest. Any scheme to get the bells ringing in the existing frame and fittings, without retaining and better hanging, would be too expensive. The bells would sound poor and would be difficult to ring.

Fortunately there is plenty of room in the tower and the ten new bells will hang in a new frame with modern fittings. The bells will be relatively light and will not damage the tower structure when they are ringing.



## Partners

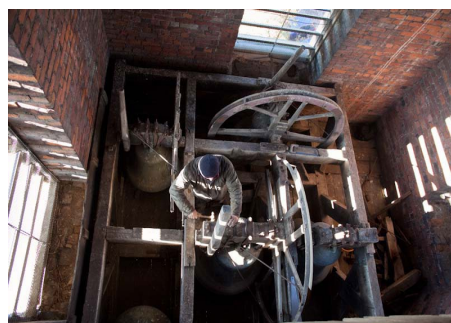
The scheme is focused on working with local schools to teach bellringing, thereby attracting teachers and pupils into the building.

The Cathedral Teaching Centre is already working with Christopher Whitehead High School, Bishop Perowne College, the Kings School and Red Hill Primary School. The new bells will also be suitable for teaching older primary school pupils. Old St Martin's bells will become the ringing nursery for young ringing talent in Worcestershire and the bells will be freely available to visitors.

The new bells will have a bright, modern sound and be very easy to ring. The scheme is linked with the Cathedral's teaching initiative which has already proved successful.

We are grateful for the strong support that the project has received from our partners within the local community:

- The Parochial Church Council of Old St Martin's
- Worcester Diocesan Advisory Committee
- Worcester City Council
- Worcestershire County Council
- Worcester Cathedral Guild of Bellringers
- Christopher Whitehead School
- The Kings School
- Bishop Perowne Church of England College
- Red Hill Primary School
- Worcester City
- The University of Worcester
- The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
- Worcester Cathedral







# New Bells for Old St Martin's

## The Old Bells

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter (inches)	Weight
1.	Thomas Rutland, 1700	28"	45 cwt
2.	Thomas Mears, 1833	30"	5-15 cwt
3.	John Mitchell of Lichfield, c.1320 or Unknown Donor, c.1500	30 1/2"	5 1/2 cwt
4.	Hugh Watts, 1838	33 1/2"	7 1/2 cwt
5.	Hugh Watts, 1838	35 1/2"	8 cwt
6.	Hugh Watts, 1845	42"	11 cwt
7.	Sanctus Unknown Worcester Donor, 1621	18"	

### The bells have the following inscriptions:

1. GOD PROSPER ALL OUR BENEFACTORS (vine border) 1700 (vine border) (cutting into the leadings) (unknown donor) (VIN BEND CHURCH CROSSLING vine border)
2. Thomas Mears of London Founder 1833 Wm Christopher Barden / John Goodman) Church Wardens
3. + (flour-de-lis) SANCTE (flour-de-lis) MARTINE (flour-de-lis) HORA (flour-de-lis) PRO (flour-de-lis) NOBIS (flour-de-lis)
4. (unknown border all round) / (Bayer shield) DURANTIA (border) DONNA (border) W (border) HONOREM (border) DEI (border) 1838 (border) / (unknown border all round)
5. 1688 (vine border all round) / (Bayer shield) THE (mark) GIFT (mark) OF ROBERT (mark) DUNANT (mark) FOR (mark) THE (mark) HONOUR (mark) OF GOD (mark) / (unknown border all round) On vine (vine vine)
6. (unknown border all round) / + DEI (border) GLORIAM (border) ET (border) GRATIAS (border) SINGULI (border) SIMILEY (border) 1621 (border) (unknown border all round)
7. Sanctus. + THE GIFT OF RICHARD DUNANT 1621

# New Bells for Old St Martin's

## Donors

We are indebted to the following organisations and individuals for their generosity:

- The Heritage Lottery Fund
- The Foundation for Sports and the Arts
- The Randall Trust
- Bernard Taylor
- Ursula Anderson and Gerhard Harburg
- The Seven Wives Environmental Fund
- The 1970s Carls Chronicle Trust
- The Randall Trust
- The Edward Gellary Trust
- The Worcester and Dudley Churches Trust
- The Stanley Foundation
- The Worthingful Company of Minors
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- The Worcester and Districts Change Ringing Association
- The City of Worcester
- The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths
- The Gellary Trust
- The Central Council of Church Buildings
- The Stanley Guild
- The family of the late Jean Summerhughes
- The family of the late Bishop Philip Goodrich
- A number of personal individual donations

### The new bells will be inscribed as follows:

**Triller:**  
The City of Worcester gave me

**Second:**  
St Martin's gave me  
Paul and Gillian Westcott gave me

**Third:**  
In memory of Bishop Philip Goodrich  
"Ring out wild bells"

**Fourth:**  
Ursula Anderson and Gerhard Harburg gave me

**Fifth:**  
Edward and Elizabeth Pratt and family in honorifying

**Sixth:**  
Bernard Taylor gave me

**Seventh:**  
The Foundation for Sports and the Arts gave me

**Eighth:**  
The Randall Trust and the Worcester Family gave me

**Ninth:**  
In memory of Jean Summerhughes

**Ten:**  
The Worcester and Districts Change Ringing Association Bell Repair Fund gave me



# New Bells for Old St Martin's

## The Plan

The original bells, frame and fittings of Old St Martin's will be covered by specialist Church bell engineers and rehanging stationary in their existing fittings with new clock hammers.

This will prevent further deterioration but also allow the sound of these bells to be heard for the first time in 100 years. The clock drives will allow the original and new service bells using a modern timing system supplied by the Cornhill Clock Company.

A new ring of ten bells, cast by Taylor's of Loughborough will be hung in a new frame below the original bells in a new intermediate chamber.

The tower staircase will be made safe for access and a new lighting system will be installed to enable the bells to become an accessible archaeological exhibit.

### Our thanks go to our suppliers:

- John Taylor Bell Foundry
- Cornhill Clock Company
- Stannard Taylor
- NDS Engineering
- Handford Galvanizers
- CityService
- Peter New Crane Services

