

North Curry Appeal of Bells

Register of supporters

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Between 2019 and 2023 the people and organisations listed here raised over £150,000 to renew the bells and bell frame in the church of St Peter & St Paul, North Curry, Somerset.

The result would be a significant achievement at any time: during Covid-19 and the economic turmoil that followed, it has been quite remarkable.

Individuals have variously made contributions of money, time, energy and skills – sometimes all of those.

Organisations have contributed grants and supplied goods and services to support the appeal.

From the start, this has been acknowledged as a project of the village, not only of the church. Some 300 people are known to have donated cash; many more have attended events, bid in the online auction or slipped an anonymous gift into donation boxes.

The Parochial Church Council and the project team are deeply grateful to all of these supporters, who are listed in the pages that follow (or who wished to remain anonymous).

If your name has been missed from this register, we apologise. Please contact the churchwardens, and we will amend the register.

North Curry Appeal of Bells

The project

The eight bells weighed just over four tons. The 19th-century wooden frame that held them had worked loose, weakened by 200 years of alterations, repairs, woodworm and simple old age. It moved when all the bells were rung. Change-ringing had to cease in 2021.

What is more, the original four bells, dating from 1811, were wearing out and at risk of cracking. The full ring of eight bells, including those cast in 1894 and 1953, had never been tuned as an harmonious set; and in fact it was physically impossible to re-tune some of them.

A new steel frame now spreads the weight of the bells more evenly and reduces wear on the structure of the tower. To instal it, all eight bells had to removed. This was a chance to re-cast them and tune them properly.

The eight 'new' bells weigh at least a ton less than before. This allows older ringers to carry on for longer. Youngsters can also ring the lighter bells with ease as they are trained to follow in the tradition of English change-ringing.

The metal of the old bells was melted down and used in the recasting. Recycling it is not only environmentally friendly: the bells had been recast in this way at least once before. Their history lives on in the new bells.

After a detailed competitive tendering process, John Taylor & Co. (the Loughborough Bell Foundry) was appointed to carry out the work. Other towers were visited to see and hear the work of the different bidders. As a result, Taylors was asked to copy the dimensions (a 'Gillett & Johnston profile') of the ring at Moretonhampstead. This profile is said to give bells a particularly clear and melodious sound – as has been confirmed with the new bells at North Curry.

The old bells were taken away, following a farewell service in the church, in October 2022 and the new ones installed in March-April 2023. Both occasions were covered by regional TV and radio.

On 30 April 2023 the new bells were dedicated in a service led by the Bishop of Bath & Wells, Rt Revd Michael Beasley.

On 6 May 2023 a full peal (three hours plus) was rung by experienced visiting ringers as part of the national ring to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. And on the same day the local ringers rang the bells for a village wedding: the first time in three years this had been possible.

In July 2023 the Parochial Church Council stood down the Appeal of Bells Committee. The Appeal had raised more funds than were needed to replace the bells and frame. As had been promised to donors, the surplus funds were ring-fenced 'to support bellringing and promote it within the local community; to train new bellringers; and to maintain and improve the bells over the years'.

North Curry Appeal of Bells

The old bells

Bell	Date	Pitch	Weight ¹	Diameter ²	Inscription
1 Treble	1894	F	5-3-10	29.75"	Mears & Stainbank Whitechapel Foundry London Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals William Edmund Buller, M.A., Vicar, gave me. AD1894
2	1894	E	6-1-13	30.88"	Mears & Stainbank Whitechapel Foundry London Praise him upon the loud cymbals William Edmund Buller, M.A., Vicar, gave me. AD1894
3	1953	D	6-1-10	31.88"	T Mears of London fecit 1811 E[Crown]R; Recast 1953; Mears Crest London
4	1953	C	7-3-20	33.75"	T Mears of London fecit 1811 E[Crown]R; Recast 1953; Mears Crest London
5	1811	Bb	9-1-4	37.63"	T Mears of London fecit 1811
6	1811	A	11-3-9	40.50"	T Mears of London fecit 1811
7	1811	G	13-3-2	42.75"	T Mears of London fecit 1811
8 Tenor	1811	F	16-3-24	47.50"	Six Bells were Cast AD 1811 R.M. Whatley, W. House Churchwardens : T Mears fecit May all whom I shall summon to the grave, the blessing of a well-spent life receive

¹ Cwt-qtr-lb

² Inches

North Curry Appeal of Bells

The new bells

Bell	Pitch	Weight ¹	Diameter ²	Inscription
1 Treble	F	4-0-25	26.00"	When I do ring God's praises sing When I do toll pray heart and soul
2	E	4-1-9	27.00"	Rev Dr Simon Bale Vicar David Akerman } Churchwardens Mary Piers }
3	D	4-2-3	28.25"	In memory of Preb. H.W.H. Knapman (1907-2004) of the Diocese of Bath and Wells
4	C	5-2-0	30.50"	Lord let North Curry flourish through the preaching of Thy word and the praising of Thy name Given by the Akerman family 2022
5	Bb	6-3-8	33.38"	To honour the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II this bell has been donated by the Parish Council of North Curry
6	A	8-0-0	35.38"	This bell was recast in 2022 A gift from Brian (and the late Audrey) Moore of Wisteria House, Greenway Let the bells ring out for generations Calling all to hear the word of the Lord
7	G	10-1-14	39.00"	In loving memory of Mr Standfast (M.A.L. Griffiths) 1946-2019
8 Tenor	F	14-3-10	44.13"	I to the church the living call and to the grave do summon all The Parochial Church Council had all eight bells recast in 2022

¹ Cwt-qtr-lb

² Inches

All bells record 'Recast 2022' and have the badge of John Taylor & Co.

Seven bells bear the royal cypher of HM King Charles III. Bell 5 has the cypher of the late Queen Elizabeth II, to mark her Jubilee and as a reminder that two of the old bells were recast in her coronation year.

North Curry Appeal of Bells

The Appeal of Bells Committee of the Parochial Church Council

David Akerman	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Revd Dr Simon Bale ¹	<i>Vicar</i>
Geoffrey Dart	<i>Chair</i>
Helen Griffiths	<i>PCC Secretary</i>
Martin Horrox	
Mary Piers	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Sarah Stroud	
Darren Woodyer ²	<i>Tower captain</i>

Members of the day-to-day management group

David Akerman
Geoffrey Dart
Martin Horrox
Steve Jackson

Standing group of volunteers

Julian Comrie	Tony Ross
Alexandra Dart	Paul Scott ³
Rowena Jackson	Colin Trim
Penny Ross	Morag Woudhuysen

¹ *From February 2021*

² *To January 2021*

³ *Tower Captain Emeritus*

John Taylor & Co.
Loughborough Bell Foundry

Our thanks go to all at the foundry who
contributed to this project. In particular:

Simon Adams
Commercial Director

Andrew Mills
Bellhanging and Site Works Director

Michael Semken
who undertook the bellframe and bell profile designs

Antony Stone
who cast the bells

Girhidar Vadukhar
who tuned the bells

Kit Bardsley
who removed the old bells and hung the new bells

and the numerous others who assisted with the site works

North Curry Appeal of Bells

Sponsors

The following have sponsored a bell:

The Akerman family

Helen Griffiths

Brian & Audrey Moore

Frances Machen and the Knapman family

The Parish Council of North Curry

The Parochial Church Council of North Curry

Grant-awarding bodies

Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers

Garfield Weston Foundation

John & Diana Kemp-Welch Charitable Trust

Somerset Churches Trust

The Sharpe Trust

Groups

North Curry Bellringers

North Curry Community Coffee Shop volunteers

North Curry Quilters

North Curry Church Choir

North Curry Playing Fields

North Curry Appeal of Bells

The Register

If donors requested that a specific message be included in this Register, it is recorded below; otherwise only the donors' names are listed.

Several donors contributed online via JustGiving. The website did not record their full names or their addresses, so they are listed here exactly as they listed themselves online.

A number of gifts were made in memory of

Alan Billinghamurst

David Evans

Tony Stodgell

Anonymous

In loving memory of Alan J Billinghamurst

Anonymous

In memory of Ken Hutchings

Anonymous

In loving memory of Amelia - forever adored (2000-2017)

Sally Abbot

Andrew Akerman

David & Gillian Akerman

Rowena Alsey

AmicusLaw Solicitors

April Anderson

Maggie Anderson

Hugh Andrews & Judith Sergeant

Ashgate Dog Grooming

John & Jane Attwood

In memory of Alan Billingham

Des and Anne Bacon

Jennifer Bagley

Zoe Bainbridge

Missing the sound of bells!

Joe and Carol Baker

Martin Baldock

Revd Dr Simon Bale

Luke Cecil Barkhuis

Josette Barnes

George Barton

Marcella Baxter

The Bells

In memory of Alan

Joslyn Benson

Iñigo Mikeleiz Berrade

Sheila Berry

Celebrating the life of Alan Billinghamurst

Berrys Coaches

Don and Sue Bethune

In memory of Alan Billinghamurst, he was a good friend

Jane Bevans

Ashley Bilbrough

Sheila & Alan Billinghamurst

Tessa, Pascal, & Alasdair Hatat-Billinghurst

In loving memory of Alan Billinghamurst

David Birch

Clive Arthur Blofield

Bluebirds Theatre Company:
Amy Hardwick & Sasha Herriman

Karen Boddy

N J & D E Bonham

Peter Bormans

Edna Bowey

Bow House Physiotherapy Practice

Eddie & Janet Bradbury

Mr & Mrs P A Brennan

*'The Christmas bells from hill to hill
answer each other in the mist.'* (Alfred the Great)

Mr & Mrs Tony P Brooker

Liz Brown and Matthew Sharratt

Sheila Brown

Glenise Bunn

D R Burrows

Dave Burt

Anna Bushell

Malcolm & Brenda Butson

In memory of David Evans

Sue Cable

Fiona Cairns

Kay Cairns

Dr & Mrs Stuart Cairns

Michèle Carter

Merle Cartwright

Frances Case

David Caudwell

Chalmers & Co, Chartered Accountants,
Langport & Crewkerne

John Clarke

Elizabeth Clay

Natalie Clayton

David & Jill Coates

Coates English Willow Centre

Brian & Denise Coles, Matthew Burrows & Linda Coles

In memory Anthony Stodgell

D M Coles JP

Shawnie Coller

Joy and Ted Collins

Sharon Colwell

Julian & Helen Comrie

P Conridge

Cosy Club

Janet Croud

*In memory of David Evans
who saved my life after a cliff fall. Forever grateful.*

Jean & Christopher Cunnell

Mark Curtis Computers

*In fond memory of Pat & Roger Curtis
from their grandchildren*

Ben, David, Fiona, James, Lisa, Martin

Rose Danby

Janet Dare

Geoffrey and Alexandra Dart

Kathy Davidson

Mark Davies

Paul and Laurina Deacon

Mike Dennis

Dennis Publishing

Des & Anne

Long may they ring out over North Curry

John de Winton

Angela Dix

Brian Dix

Barbara and Malcolm Drakeford

Geoffrey & Lesley Durrant

B H Dyer

Rob Ellis

Leila Winslade Evenden

Sarah & Michael Evers

Exeter Chiefs

Farthings Hotel

M Finch

Warren Fitch

Flying Start Children's Riding Centre

David & Sarah Franks

*The bells bring so much pleasure to the village,
hopefully this will continue for years to come*

The Garden Salon

The Garden Studio

Kate Gardner

Janet George

*In memory of a lifelong friend and of years of fun
and laughter*

The George Inn

Keith & Liz Gibbs

Peter & Sally Gibson

John & Roslin Greenwood

Ben Griffiths

In memory of Dad

Helen Griffiths and family

Mr Standfast – in memory of Michael Griffiths 1946-2019

Joan Gubbin

Pat Guernsey

In memory of Tim Guernsey

Wayne Hahn

Mike Hansford

Diocesan Bells Advisor

Michael Hayden

In honor of Alexandra and Geoffrey Dart

Helen & Sam

In loving memory of Alan xx

Alison Hembrow

Liz Hembrow

Fran Hemmings

Judith & David Hincks

Bob Hitchings

S Holmes

L Honeywill

Martin Horrox

Fenella Humphreys

Mike Hutchings

In memory of Ken Hutchings

I & M Motors

Richard & Wendy Jackson

Rowena Jackson

Steve Jackson

Brian Jeanes

Tom & Heather Jeanes

Jenks & Son Valeting

George & Teresa Jones

Prof Michael Joy

Sandra Joyce

Karen Keech

Sally Keele

*In memory of Tony Brooker, for many years churchwarden
at St Peter & St Paul, and also a very loyal bellringer*

David & Sherry Keith-Welsh

Kev Window Cleaning

D P Keyzar

Gerry & Cherry Kitton

Happy memories of Alan Billingham

Miles Knapman

Nick Knapman

Knapman family

*In memory of Preb. HWH Knapman (1907-2004) of the
Diocese of Bath and Wells. He promoted campanology
and encouraged the training of young ringers.*

Charlie Knight

P Knight

Richard Knight

Jane Lakelin

Richard Lander

Layz Ricks

Jeanne Leader (North Curry Quilters)

Jackie Leggat

Leslie & Wendy (grandchildren)

*In loving memory of Charles Francis Rowsell (1894-1973),
Ringer and Captain 1940-50's
and his wife Bertha (1897-1983), residents of Greenway*

Charles & Penny Liddiard

*We had a wonderful time in North Curry and enjoyed the
bellringing talk on Friday. Our thanks to Philippa and Colin xx*

Nina & Stephen Locke

Logic Heating & Cooling

Liz MacFarlan

Frances Machen

The Madhouse, Taunton

Michael Marchant & Caitlin Marchant (née Smith)

Margaret Marinkovic

Kate Martin

John Mason

The Matthews family

Looking forward to hearing the bells ring again!

George Mayor

Peter & Sally Mcguire

Don and Sandra Mead Hoyle

Because history is important

Andrew & Susan Meehan

Pat Mennim

Chris Michell

We'll keep the bells ringing over North Curry

Mr Miles, Taunton

Guy Miller

Sarah Minty

Elaine Moll

Brian & Audrey Moore

*Let the bells ring out for generations,
calling all to hear the word of the Lord*

Sue Morkane

Lindsey Musgrave

Mr & Mrs S Nester

Nigel & Liz

Noah's Ark Zoo Farm

North Curry Coffee Shop

North Curry Stores & Post Office

Andy & Michele Olie

In loving memory of Alan

On the Rivet Cycles

Richard J Page

Miss Nicole S Palmer

Ann Parker

*On behalf of the bellringers of St Mary Magdalene,
Offley, Herts*

Mary Parker

So wonderful to hear the bells ring again

William Parsons

Paul and Daren Window Cleaning

P K Pearce

Pegasus Pest Control

Bernard Perry

*In memory of the Perry family and their extended families
who originated from North Curry and the surrounding areas.
God Bless.*

Jan Perry

*It is so important to continue the history of the sound of the
bells ringing from the Cathedral of the Moors in North Curry*

Alan Philps

Mary Piers

Anne C Pike

Jane & Christopher Pine

Phyllis Pine

J D Pither

Joh Popham

A E Preece

In memory of Alan Billinghamurst

Noel & Alison Prosser

Alan & Ellen Reid

In appreciation of our lifelong friends Paul & Jenny Scott

George and Sue Rhone from Barefoot Pizza

Elizabeth Ridpath

The Rising Sun, Knapp

Ralph Roberts

Lockyers Field

Tony & Penny Ross

Eric Rowe

In memory of Merryl Rowe

G R Rowson

Joan Ryan

Patrick, Katie, Sophie & William Ryan

*Keep up the good work. We can't wait to hear
the wonderful bells sound again!*

Sandpits

Jenny Satchwell

Jennifer Scott

Paul Scott

Scuba Blue

Shepherd's Hut at Nythe Farm

Terry & Ruth Sidley

Gill Slattery

Nick & Gill Slocombe

In loving memory of Alan

Elsa Myrvang Small

Chris & Marie-Christine Smith

Jean Smith

Tim Smith

Somerset County Cricket Club

Somerset Tandem Hire

Richard & Christine Soulsby

Olivia Spall

Joyce Stagg

*Bells ringing for morning service at time of birth – 10th
October 1920. Celebration of 100th birthday despite Covid*

Deborah Stanley

Geoff Starkey

It'll be nice to hear ringing practice again!

Trevor & Jean Steer

Mary Stewart-Wilson

How wonderful to think the that the BELLS of our Cathedral of the Moors will continue to bless the surrounding community

St Giles Animal Centre

Tina Stodgell

*Donations in loving memories of her late husband Tony,
11th July 1945 - 9th August 2022*

Jonathan Stokes

Stoke St Gregory Tennis Club

Stoke Wood Alpacas

Martina Stone

Phil Stone

Robert & Alison Stone

Sarah Stroud, Sam & Harry

Mary Swatton

Mr & Mrs R A Sykes

The Tank Museum

Ken Tate

Mary Tate

Taunton Chiropractic Clinic

Taunton Solicitors

Liz Tennant

In memory of R Davis

Brian E Thomas

Thomas family

In memory of Alan Billinghamurst

William & Di Tilley

Timeless Images Photos

Julia Tourville

Andrew Trewhella

Colin Trim

Rosemary Tuhey

Turney family

Cake sales from the Turney family, Doolittles Campsite

Revd John Tyler

Caroline Vaughan

Rosemary Venner

It will be nice to hear the bells peal out again over the moor

Pat Vian

Mrs M A Vile and family

David and Denise Walker

Pam & Tim Walker

Marjorie Wall

In loving memory of my dear friend Alan, you will be missed by so many, we remember so many happy times together

Alan Wellwood

In loving memory of Tony Stodgell, a great plantsman and always so generous with advice and cuttings

Audrey West

West Country Firewood

Stephen & Helen Whittle

In memory of our wonderful friend of so many years, Alan Billingham. May he be remembered whenever the bells ring out.

Anne Williams

John Williams

Julia Williamson

Darren Woodyer

Julie Woolfenden

In loving memory of my husband David and the lovely memories of living in North Curry for 24 years

Morag Woudhuysen