

Parish Church of St Milburga, Stoke St Milborough

Festival Service and Dedication of the Bells
By
The Bishop of Hereford



6.30pm 15th June 2022

Hymn: Tune: Hyfrydol

1. We who ring the bells of churches
Pealing out their tunes of praise,
Gather now to ring the changes
As our hearts and minds we raise.
'Come and worship', bells are ringing,
Join us in our hymns of love,
Share with us our joyful singing
From the earth to heav'n above.

2. As the bells are heard by people
And they listen to their call
Ringing out from tower and steeple
May they know God loves them all.
So in every generation
In town street and country lane
Bells ring over all the nation
And their voices never wane.

3. Tell the praise of him who calls us
To proclaim the good news now
Of our Saviour Lord Christ Jesus,
All the world before him bow:
Ring the tale of sins forgiven
Strength renewed and hope restored.
As the bells on earth, with heaven
Praise and glorify our Lord !

Today we dedicate the new ring of eight bells to the service of Christ's Church. The work of hanging the bells is now complete. That work is a sign of faith in the future, which springs from faith in the present. The sound of the bells is a call to prayer and worship; and it carries a message of hope from the Church to the parish, in the faith of Jesus Christ. We rejoice to hear their clear voices!

Opening Prayers

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

R: Amen

Our help is in the name of the Lord

R: Who has made heaven and earth

Let us pray:

O God, who decreed through blessed Moses, your servant and lawgiver, that silver trumpets should be made and be sounded at the time of sacrifice, in order to remind the people by their clear tones to prepare for your worship and to assemble for its celebration.

Grant, we pray, that these bells, destined for your holy Church, may be hallowed by the Holy Spirit through our lowly ministry, so that when they are tolled and rung the faithful may be invited to the house of God and to the everlasting recompense prepared for them in Heaven.

Through Jesus Christ Our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit

One God for ever and ever

Amen

First Reading: Psalm 150

Anthem: He came singing love: Colin Gibson arranged by Geoffrey Weaver

Second Reading: Ring out, wild bells from In Memoriam by Alfred Lord Tennyson

Hymn: Tune: Woodlands

Peter R Baelz (1923-2001)

1. Let bells peal forth the universal fame,
Creator Lord, of Thy mysterious name;
Conscience within, the boundless heavens above,
Disclose to faith the hidden name of Love.

3. Spirit divine, recast our faulty ways,
Make them ring true and echo to Thy praise;
Through every change of circumstance and choice
May we confess Thee with a single voice.

2. Loudly proclaim with each insistent chime
How Thine eternity redeems our time;
Past sins forgiv'n, and future hopes restored,
Reveal Thy presence with us, gracious Lord.

4. Call us to worship, call us to obey,
Call us to pilgrimage along life's way;
Rouse us from sleep; renewed in mind and heart,
Call us to love Thee, Lord, since Love Thou art.

Third Reading: Extract from Nine Tailors by Dorothy L Sayers 1934

Hymn: Tune: Pastor Pastorum

1. Holy Father! Bless them,
These our peal of bells,
Sanctify the message
Their sweet music tells.

2. Holy Saviour! Bless them,
So their call may ring
In men's hearts and, hearing,
Souls to Thee may bring.

3. Holy Spirit! Bless them,
Bid them speak of Thee,
Of God's love unending,
In their melody.

4. Grant the blessed tidings
They for ever tell,
May with glad thanksgiving
Heaven's great anthem swell.

The Bishop, preceded by the Churchwardens, will proceed to the West and bless and dedicate the bells.

Let us pray.

O Christ, the almighty ruler, as you once calmed the storm at sea when awakened in the boat from the sleep of your human nature, so now come with your benign help to the needs of your people, and pour out on these bells of St. Milburga the dew of the Holy Spirit.

Whenever they ring may the enemy of the good take flight, the Christian people hear the call to faith, the empire of Satan be terrified, your people be strengthened as they are called together in the Lord, and may the Holy Spirit be with them as He delighted to be with David when he played his harp.

When the peal of these bells resound in the clouds may a legion of angels stand watch over the assembly of your Church, the first-fruits of the faithful, and afford your everabiding protection to them in body and spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

The Bishop addresses the Churchwardens and Bellringers

We thank God for the skill and generosity of all who have helped to procure these bells.

We now offer them to Him for the service of His Church.

On behalf of the parish of Stoke St Milborough, we commit these bells to your care and use. Will you offer your service in calling the faithful to worship, and in making a joyful sound to the Lord, with reverence for this house of prayer and to the glory of God?

*Wardens and Ringers: **We will.***

The Bellringers go to the ringing chamber.

The bells are dedicated by the Bishop:

In the faith of Jesus Christ, we dedicate these bells.
May they proclaim Christ's message of love and salvation to this parish; may they warn the heedless, comfort the sorrowing and call all willing hearts to prayer and praise.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Bells are rung!

The Address the Lord Bishop of Hereford

Hymn: Tune: Belfry Praise Henry Charles Wilder 1904

1. 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.

2. 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

3. 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.

4. 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.

Fourth Reading: 1 Corinthians 13

Prayers (concluding with the Lord's Prayer)

**Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who 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

Hymn: Tune: Laudate Dominum C H Parry

1. Ring forth holy bells,
Ring forth from your tower
With music that tells
Of Christ's saving power;
Ring forth in the hearing
Of old men and young,
And greet the God-fearing
With each iron tongue.

2. Loud, loud be your praise,
That all men may hear
The anthem ye raise
Resounding and clear;
Proclaim Christ is risen,
Exalted and crowned,
Hath open'd death's prison
And set free the bound.

3. O praise ye the Lord!
Thanksgiving and song
To him be outpoured
All ages along:
For love in creation, for heaven
restored,
For grace of salvation,
O praise ye the Lord!
Amen, amen!

Blessing and Dismissal

Organ Voluntary

The inscriptions on the new eight bells follow a theme to commemorate the centenary of Armistice day by using eight selected lines from 'Ring out, wild bells' being part of Tennyson's 'In Memoriam'.

All the bells are marked "St. MILBURGA'S MMXVIII" and with the goose, the symbol of the Saint.

Treble - Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky

Second - Ring out the old, ring in the new

Third - Ring in redress to all mankind

Fourth - Ring in the love of truth and right

Fifth - Ring in the common love of good

Sixth - Ring out the thousand wars of old

Seventh - Ring in the thousand years of peace

Tenor - Ring in the Christ that is to be. 1914-1918 1939-1945

Acknowledgements

The Rector, Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council record our grateful thanks to all benefactors who have made possible the provision of new bells for this church, amongst whom we note:

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