How to donate

To give you some idea of what your donation could buy:
Dedication (subject to approval) to an individual, family or organisation, one of 3 new bells, each increasing in size - £10,000, £12,500 or £15,000.
Re-tuning 7 bells - £5,500
Headstock - £1,000 (inscription at additional cost, subject to approval)
Wheel - £1,200
Rope - £250
New metal frame - £17,000
New bell chamber floor - £11,200
Sound control (new floor and louvres) - £12,600
All donations will be recorded and retained in the church archives.

We will, of course, be pleased to accept any donation that you wish to make, online, by cheque or standing order. Every penny helps!
If you are a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid declaration form, as the appeal will receive an additional 25p for every £1 you donate. Forms are available online or from the Parish office and should be returned with your cheque or standing order mandate marking your envelope 'Bells Appeal'.

Bank transfer
Donate online to 20-36-98 13838609 reference Bells Appeal

Online
Please visit St. Michael's website for a link to the Just Giving page

Cheque/Standing Order
Please make payable to St. Michael's Bells Appeal and return to the Parish office marking your envelope 'Bells Appeal'

Contact

Appeal Co-ordinator: Dick Prime
Email: bells@saintmichaelweb.org.uk
Website: https://saintmichaelweb.org.uk/
St. Michael's Church, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford Herts, CM23 2ND
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD (ST. MICHAEL) Registered Charity No. 1130646

St. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

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St. Michael's Church Bell Restoration Appeal

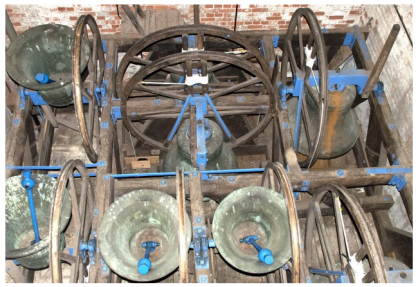
An appeal to raise £275,000 to refurbish the historic bells at St. Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford, to help safeguard a long tradition of church bells ringing out to call worshippers to church for future generations.

The Appeal

The red brick tower and slender steeple of St Michael's Church are a familiar sight to the people of Bishop's Stortford. There have been bells in the tower since the early 1400s, when we know there were five until a sixth was added in 1671. The present ring of ten bells was installed in 1820 in an existing 1713 wooden frame after the tower and spire were rebuilt in 1819. Since then, the only other work on the bells consisted of re-tuning in 1928. Now, nearly 200 years since the last major work, the bells are in urgent need of refurbishment. Cracking in the tower has been caused by the two largest bells being hung against the weaker west wall and swinging in a north/south direction, resulting in increasing stress to the building and making the bells difficult to ring. Surveys and reports have been obtained from three recognised bellhangers. Of these, Nicholson Engineering Ltd was deemed the most suitable to our requirements.

The Proposal

We need to raise £275,000. The three smallest bells are beyond re-tuning and will be replaced with three new bells, the other bells will be retuned. A new steel bell frame will be provided and positioned lower in the tower to improve stability and a new floor installed below. The bells will be reoriented with the 17cwt tenor bell being moved to the centre of the frame. The old bell frame will be retained for posterity at a higher level and used to support a second new floor installed above the bells to form a sound chamber. The floor will incorporate a pivoted opening door to provide a measure of sound control. In addition, the existing pole ladders that rise from the ringing chamber to the roof will be replaced with more modern and safer ship's ladders for safer access.



Bell in the up position, ready to be rung

Bell in the down position