

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 inscribed to an individual, family or organisation, subject to approval

Wheel - £1,200

Rope - £250

New metal frame - £17,000

New bell chamber floor - £14,000

Sound control acoustic shutters- £15,000

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 St Michaels PCC 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. Michaels PCC Bells Appeal' and return to the Parish office marking your envelope 'Bells Appeal'

Contact

Appeal Co-ordinator

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
Bell
Restoration
Appeal

An appeal to raise £370,000 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 the 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 and rehung in a new frame due to cracking in the tower, which has occurred because the two largest bells are hung against the weaker west wall and swing in a north/south direction, resulting in increasing stress to the building and making the bells difficult to ring.

The Proposal

We need to raise £370,000 plus VAT. The three smallest bells are beyond re-tuning, so need to be replaced with three new bells. The remaining seven will be retuned then re-hung in a new cast iron frame positioned lower in the tower to improve stability and a new floor will be installed. The bells will be reoriented with the 17cwt tenor bell being moved to the centre of the frame. The ring of ten bells will be augmented to twelve. There will be six new bells, the front five bells plus the addition of a sharp second bell to give a light ring of eight.

Acoustic Roller Shutters on the inside face of each of the four louvres will provide a measure of sound control in this town centre church, to be used for long periods of ringing, but not affecting ringing for services. In addition, the existing timber and metal access ladders that rise from the ringing chamber to the roof will be replaced with more modern and safer ship's ladder installations to provide much easier access. A walkway with handrails will be installed on the old bell frame and act as a viewing platform.



Bell in the up position, ready to be rung

Bell in the down position

