

LILLINGTON BELL RESTORATION PROJECT

Before 1927 Lillington had a ring of three bells – one cast around 1480 when the tower itself was new, and two more cast in 1625 and 1675. Then in 1927, five more bells were added in memory of Mary Bidmead Stratton by her father, and hung in a new frame, making a ring of eight.

sancta katerina ora pro nobis

(Holy Catherine pray for us)

is the inscription on our oldest bell, number six. Devotion to Saint Catherine of Alexandria was very great in the Middle Ages, and one hundred and seventy medieval bells in England still bear her name.

The seventh bell is inscribed:

CVM.SONO.SI.NON.VIS-VENIRE NVNQVAM.AD.PRECES-CVPIES.IRE-1625
(Come when I call or it will show, to prayers you never wish to go)

And the largest bell, the Tenor, weighing just over 9 cwt, is inscribed:

HENREY BAGLEY MADE MEE – 1675
(which needs no translation)

After eighty years use, all the ringing fittings were worn, and several of the bells were odd struck, making them difficult to ring well. In 2005 the ringers began a project to re-hang the bells, which is now complete.

We would like to thank the many supporters of the project – the Heritage Lottery Fund, Waste Recycling Environmental, the Coventry Diocesan Guild of Ringers, The Central Council of Church Bellringers, the Council for the Care of Churches, the Sharpe Trust and many individual donors; and, of course, our special thanks are due to the bellhangers – Nicholson Engineering of Bridport.

Our **Church Clock**, which had not run since December, 2005, has also been skilfully renovated by the Cumbria Clock Company of Penrith, thanks to many donations and a grant from Leamington Town Council. The four dials have been repainted and gilded, and the transmission, clock mechanism and auto-winders have been cleaned and repaired. At the same time, the clock mechanism has been re-located within the ringing chamber, so as to un-block the south window.

The Parish Church Of Saint Mary Magdalene Lillington

Parish Communion for Pentecost

&

Re-dedication of the Ring of Eight Bells

Sunday 27th May, 2007

Celebrated by

**The Rt Revd Colin Bennetts
Bishop of Coventry**

The service follows the order in the white booklet to p4

Sermon

Preached by Rt Revd Colin Bennetts, Bishop of Coventry

Rededication of the Bells

Introduction

This morning we re-dedicate Lillington's ring of eight bells to the service of Christ's Church. The work of re-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.

So let us confirm our faith, which these bells are made to serve.

Affirmation

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in Him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in Him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God, and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in Him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Bishop comes to the tower arch, the congregation turning towards him.

Dedication

The Bishop addresses the Churchwardens and Bellringers

We thank God for the skill and generosity of all who have helped to restore these bells. We now offer them to Him for the service of His Church.

On behalf of the parish of Lillington, 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 Bishop and 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 for the first time on a Sunday since February 11th.

As the Bishop returns to the nave, a Hymn is sung.

Hymn

Angel Voices ever singing (NEH 336)

Prayers

Led by Jose Harrison

The service continues with the Peace, white booklet p8.