

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Hawkesbury



Photograph, Peter Helme

*The Blessing of a
New Set of Eight Bells*

Reverend Richard Thomson

22nd May 2021

5.00pm

*The Congregation of St. Mary's Church,
Hawkesbury are hugely appreciative
of the support given by
John and Stephanie Appleby and their
family, without whose help
this project could not have been undertaken*

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*Blessing of the Ring of Eight Bells at St. Mary's Church,
Hawkesbury*

Priest in Charge: Reverend Richard Thomson
Church Wardens: Linda Fairney
Air Marshal Sir Ian Macfadyen KCVO
Tower Captain: Colin Dixon
Thurifer: Simon Davison
Crucifer: Cecile Gillard
Choir: Choir of St. Mary's Church, Hawkesbury -
Director of Music, Benjamin Humphries
Organist: Jack Capener
Additional Prayers Reverend Pauline Setterfield
Reader: William Fairney

Bells Named by:

<i>Treble</i>	<i>Mary</i>	Michael Webb
<i>Two</i>	<i>Matthew</i>	Air Marshal Sir Ian Macfadyen
<i>Three</i>	<i>Mark</i>	Colin Dixon
<i>Four</i>	<i>Luke</i>	Sheila Oprzanski
<i>Five</i>	<i>John</i>	Ann Frost
<i>Six</i>	<i>James</i>	Maria Patrick
<i>Seven</i>	<i>Arild</i>	Helen Webb
<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Wulfstan</i>	John Appleby

Music before the service - Jack Capener (Organist)

The Introit by the choir

Cantate Domino by Giuseppe Ottavio Pittoni (1657 - 1743)

The processional Party moves to the Chancel

The First Hymn - Choir only

*Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one,
Holy Sion's help forever,
and her confidence alone.*

*All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation,
pours perpetual melody,
God the One in Three adoring,
in glad hymns eternally.*

*To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of hosts, to-day;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy people as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.*

*Here vouchsafe to all thy servants,
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.*

*Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.*

Urbs beata Jerusalem (Latin before 9th century)

translated John Mason Neal (1818 - 1866)

Welcome by the Vicar - Reverend Richard Thomson.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

Who has made heaven and earth

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Let us pray:

O God, through your servant Moses, you ordered that trumpets should be made, so that at the hour of sacrifice they could be sounded and that the people, hearing them, could prepare themselves to worship you and assemble for the celebration.

Grant that these bells, made for your holy church, may be blessed and that by their ringing your people may be summoned to worship and to their reward on high.

When we hear them, may our love for you grow in our hearts and may the forces of darkness be driven away.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has conquered death and now lives and reigns in glory with his Father and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever

Amen.

The Processional Party moves to the bells to join with the Bell Donors and the Tower Captain.

The priest sprinkles the bells with Holy Water and they are censed. - He dedicates each bell in turn using the words:

What name does this bell bear?

Response by an appointed congregation member:

This bell is named

The priest makes the sign of the cross in oil on the bell

Lord, by this sign may this bell be hallowed and consecrated. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We dedicate it in honour of Saint Peace be with you.

The bell is struck and a candle is lit

The same process is followed for all eight Bells

The Processional Party then moves to the bell ropes.

Priest - Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, these ropes will toll the bells which we have dedicated to You. Those who ring the bells call the faithful to service and remind your people of Your omnipotent presence in their community.

Without these ropes the bells have no voice; with them the hands of the ringers bring the sweet sound of Your presence to be heard by all.

May these ropes of many threads be like Your church; each one, like us, insufficient alone, but bound together made strong in faith and in service. May these ropes connect us to your Spirit in the same way they connect the bell to those that ring them.

May their vertical attribute remind us of the need to look ever heavenward and direct our prayers to You.

Amen.

The ropes are sprinkled with Holy Water and are censed

The procession returns to the Chancel

The Second Hymn - Choir Only

*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.*

*Loudly proclaim with each insistent chime
How thine eternity redeems our time;
Past sins forgiven, and future hopes restored,
Reveal thy presence with us, gracious Lord.*

*Spirit divine, re-cast 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.*

*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.*

Peter Baelz (1923-2000) Tune Woodlands

Reading - William Fairney

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky
The flying cloud, the frosty light
The year is dying in the night
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new
Ring, happy bells, across the snow
The year is going, let him go
Ring out the false, ring in the true*

*Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more
Ring out the feud of rich and poor
Ring in redress to all mankind*

*Ring out a slowly dying cause
And ancient forms of party strife
Ring in the nobler modes of life
With sweeter manners, purer laws*

*Ring out the want, the care the sin
The faithless coldness of the times
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood
The civic slander and the spite
Ring in the love of truth and right
Ring in the common love of good*

*Ring out old shapes of foul disease
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold
Ring out the thousand wars of old
Ring in the thousand years of peace*

*Ring in the valiant man and free
The larger heart, the kindlier hand
Ring out the darkness of the land
Ring in the Christ that is to be*

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Prayers

Thanks and praise to you, Jesus Christ, Lord of all, given the name above every other name. Jesus, Lord of all:

We worship and adore you.

King of righteousness, King of peace, enthroned at the right hand of Majesty on high; Jesus, Lord of all:

We worship and adore you.

Great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us; Jesus, Lord of all:

We worship and adore you.

Pioneer of our salvation, you bring us to glory through your death and resurrection; Jesus, Lord of all:

We worship and adore you.

Every knee bows to you;

Every tongue confesses:

You are the Lord,

To the glory of God the Father.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

May God the Father, Judge all merciful, make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power reveal among us the promise of his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love.

Amen.

Final Hymn - Choir only

*Angel voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel - harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.*

*Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
yea, we can.*

*Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.*

*In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.*

*Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity.
of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.*

Blessing by the Vicar:

*Go forth into the world in peace;
Be of good courage,
Hold fast that which is good,
Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted,
Support the weak,

Help the afflicted,
Honour all people
Love and serve the Lord,
Rejoicing in the power of the Spirit,
And the blessing of God the Father, Son, and the Holy
Spirit
Be upon you and remain with you always.*

*Choir only - Threefold Amen - taken from Great King of Gods
Orlando Gibbons (1583 - 1625)*

*Organ - Jack Capener (Organist)
Carillon Entrée (Op 30 No 4)
Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)*

There will be a retiring collection

The St. Mary's Bell Tower

St. Mary's Church has always had bells to call the faithful to services and to signal both happy and sad occasions. The bell frame, which remains in the Tower, dates from the 14th century and is one of the best preserved in the country.



It was originally built for five bells but four of them were removed in the 14th or 15th centuries. The bells were most likely sold by the Botelier (or Butler) family who occupied Hawkesbury Manor (opposite the Church) following the Reformation. The Butlers raised the roof of the Nave and added additional, higher windows, so would have had need of money.

From the shape of the beams making up the bell frame it is believed that there were four bells on the south side of the tower and a very large tenor bell on the north side of the tower. The Tenor bell is considered to have been between a ton and three tons in weight, which made it

one of the largest in the country at the time.

It would have been a very loud and imposing sound.

We do know that bell ringing, at the time of the Butlers, would have been a cacophony. That is because the bells were rung randomly. This insomnolent sound may well have contributed to the demise of Hawkesbury's first bells.

The much more melodic sound of Change Ringing did not start until the early 17th century when bell ringers discovered that by swinging a bell through 360 degrees on a wheel, they could control the time between strikes of the clapper and permit successive bells to strike in tune as a musical instrument. This is impossible with a bell hung for chiming.

The Tower now contains only one bell which was rehung by the Whitechapel Foundry in 1975 and was converted from wheel operation to chiming at the same time. The bell is 36"/301/2" and weighs 9cwt. It is tuned to 'A' natural with an Iroko headstock - the original headstock is preserved along with a 14th century bell clapper.

The Bell has the inscription - Sancta Maria 

There is a ringing floor and a bell floor in the Tower, with the bell floor being just below the bell frame and the bell ringing floor being just below that.

A new bell ringing chamber was added in late 2020, just above the Vestry at the base of the Tower, as the primary ringing floor for the new set of bells.

The medieval bell frame together with the old bell ringing floor are both listed and will remain in situ.

The New Hawkesbury Bells

The new bells for St. Mary's Church, Hawkesbury is a new ring of eight bells. They were cast by Emanuele Allenconi of Milan and were tuned and engineered by Matthew Higby Engineering.



The Final Bell Details

The bell engineer made the decision to tune this set of bells to a slightly sharper pitch standard than a previous set of 8 bells they had tuned. Therefore, this set of bells now sound closer to G than to F#.

The nominal frequency of the tenor is 775Hz.

The bell weights and sizes are shown below:

Bell	Weight (cwt-qtr-lb)	Diameter (Inches)	Note	Date	Designer/tuner/Founder	Name
Treble	3-1-21	24.21	G	2020	Matthew Higby & Co Emanuele Allanconi	Mary
2	3-2-4	24.96	F#	2020	Matthew Higby & Co Emanuele Allanconi	Matthew
3	3-3-2	26.38	E	2020	Matthew Higby & Co Emanuele Allanconi	Mark
4	4-0-26	27.87	D	2020	Matthew Higby & Co Emanuele Allanconi	Luke
5	5-1-18	30.47	C	2020	Matthew Higby & Co Emanuele Allanconi	John
6	6-1-19	32.4	B	2020	Matthew Higby & Co Emanuele Allanconi	James
7	8-2-5	35.87	A	2020	Matthew Higby & Co Emanuele Allanconi	Arild
Tenor	11-3-23	40.25	G	2020	Matthew Higby & Co Emanuele Allanconi	Wulfstan

The inscriptions on each of the bells are shown on the following pages:

Treble Bell

THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF CHILDREN

MICHAEL WEBB 1947 -

M 1971 SUSAN GEORGE 1947 -

HELEN WEBB 1974 -

RACHAEL WEBB 1976 -

SIMON WEBB 1978 -

MARY

(No Image)

2nd Bell

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

THE REVEREND RICHARD THOMSON

MRS LINDA FAIRNEY

AIR MARSHAL SIR IAN MACFADYEN



3rd Bell

*THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY
HAWKESBURY*

*PURCHASED BY SUBSCRIPTION AND
DEDICATED TO THE FRIENDS*



4th Bell

SONS AND DAUGHTERS

SHEILA APPLEBY 1931 -

M. JOSEPH OPRZANSKI

THOMAS APPLEBY 1934 - 2009

M. MARGARET PAINTIN

TERENCE APPLEBY 1936 - 1996

M. BETTY WALKER



5th Bell

SONS AND DAUGHTERS

BILL APPLEBY 1925 - 2019

BETTY APPLEBY 1926 - 2009

M. MAURICE LOVELL

JOHN APPLEBY 1929 -

M. STEPHANIE SUTTON



6th Bell

SONS AND DAUGHTERS

RONALD APPLEBY 1920 - 2016

M. ROSA SARI

LEONARD APPLEBY 1921 - 1991

M. DAPHNE WEBB

MARY APPLEBY 1923 - 2016

M. LEN WEBB

CLARA SHANNON 1917 - 2007

M. DICK KNOX



7th Bell

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS

JOHN APPLEBY 1877 - 1953

OLIVE SHANNON 1894 - 1991

Nee MARDON

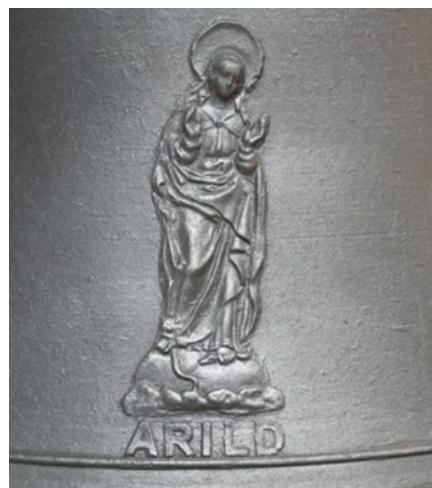
PATRICK SHANNON 1886 - 1917

M. OLIVE MARDON

ARTHUR SUTTON 1915 - 2010

RITA SUTTON 1913 - 2008

Nee BENNETT



Tenor Bell

*THANK YOU LORD FOR OUR LONG
AND HAPPY LIVES*

JOHN APPLEBY 1929 -

M. STEPHANIE SUTTON 1939 -

