

# The Bells at St Mary's

St Mary's has six wonderful bells that sound terrific!

Every Saturday morning a group of enthusiastic beginners under the watchful eye of Tower Captain Albert Driver meet to practice and have fun. Albert is a highly experienced and respected bell ringer and frankly what he doesn't know - well need we say more? He is also tactful and patient which is just as well. Although we've made great strides in recent months, as Albert often says 'the first 25 years are the worst!'



If you would like to have a go you would be most welcome. Refreshments are often kindly provided by Briony and Chris Davies and can include delicious home-made biscuits - a fitting reward for work done and extra energy for the next ring!

For those interested in the history, just over a hundred years ago the bells hadn't been rung for several years and were in urgent need of refurbishment. The rector, who was a keen bell ringer, started organising fundraising events and a new frame that is still going strong today, was installed in 1906.

The baby bell or treble was cast by Taylor of Loughborough in 1850 and the second by Bowell of Ipswich in 1911. The third, fourth and fifth are rare examples of the work of John Goldsmith of Redgrave cast in 1712. The biggest bell or tenor weighs 10.5cwt was cast by Thomas Newman of Norwich in 1741 and makes a fantastic bonging sound!

A few months ago an anonymous individual kindly donated six new bell ropes that look and feel absolutely fantastic. Some of us suspected Albert's involvement, but he denied all knowledge!

So if you would like to ring, please come along or call Colin on 01379 890098.

The Rickinghall Ringers

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