

I wish to make a donation towards the refurbishment of the bells at **St Mary the Virgin, Twyford** and enclose a cheque (made payable to St Mary's PCC)/cash.

**Name**.....

**Phone**.....

**Email**.....

**Address**.....

.....

.....

**Date**.....

Please Return to:

Mrs Juliet Hawkes, Church Warden,  
38 Marston Gate,

Winchester, SO23 7DS

For further information:

Email [julietahawkes@aol.com](mailto:julietahawkes@aol.com)

If you wish to make a BACS transfer please use St Mary's PCC Account:

**Sort Code** 55-81-26

**Account No** 73311324

and put '**Bells**' in your reference with your name.

**Please note**

In the event that an excess is raised that cannot be spent on the bells, or it proves impossible to complete this project, your donation will be used for another project associated with the fabric of the church.



To pay for all this we need in the region of £20,000 and are thus asking for donations.

We hope you value our bells and want to continue to hear them ringing across the valley as they have done for so many generations: calling the parishioners to worship, celebrating weddings, tolling for funerals, ringing in the New Year, announcing occasions of import.

If you can support us,  
please fill in the form adjacent.

JH 25.1.17

# St Mary the Virgin

Twyford, Hants SO21 1NT



## *Appeal for a Peal*



The eight bells of St. Mary's, Twyford, hang in the loft above the ringing chamber. The heaviest bell in our tower – the tenor – is 11 cwt. (over half a ton) and the lightest – the treble – is 4 cwt. Before the Victorian restoration of the church there were six bells, cast at the Whitechapel Foundry by Lester and Pack in 1766. These six are still there, though they have all been recast at some time, except for the original number 3

(now 5). In 1899 the two lighter bells, made in Loughborough, were added to make a peal of eight. The bells are marked with their makers' names, and the 7 has a further inscription:

*Ye ringers all that prize  
your health and happiness  
Be sober wise  
and you'll the same possess.*

As part of the recent quinquennial inspection several bell-hanging firms reported that a fair amount of work has to be done to maintain the bells in ringing condition. The bell-frame needs painting and the treble and the 5 need turning. This is because over the years the clapper wears away a dent into edge of the bell so the bell is at risk of cracking: 'turning' the bell presents a clean face to the clapper. The clappers themselves should be replaced to correct the 'odd-struckness' of the bells (which makes ringing them like



playing a piano where each note plays after a different delay).

On bells 3 and 5 remnants of iron staples cast into the crown ought to be removed before they rust and crack those bells. The main bearings and pulley blocks for the ropes should be refurbished or replaced and the headstocks to which the bells are bolted may need replacing, along with the bolts themselves.