



Campsea Ashe Church Bells Project Newsletter

No 9
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We're nearly there!

After two years of planning and fund-raising we are delighted to announce that the Bells Restoration Project will be completed by the end of 2010, months ahead of schedule. Almost all the funding is in place (but not quite!) and the new ringing gallery is almost finished and ready for use.

Progress report

So much has happened in the last few months that it is difficult to know where to start. Firstly we received a major boost to our fund-raising when our application to the *Your Heritage Lottery Fund* was accepted. The Lottery fund will be giving us an award of up to £44000. Other grant bodies have also been very generous and very many individuals have made large and small donations and we value and appreciate every one of them. However, we still need to raise a further £5000 - £10000, depending on the final cost of the construction work, so we continue to welcome donations of any size.

Construction work

If you have visited the Church recently you will know that the tower area has been a building site and W C Reade's of Aldeburgh have been constructing our new Ringing Gallery, which will also be used as a room for small groups to meet. They have done a superb job and we are delighted

with the quality of the work. Hopefully the protective screen will soon be removed and visitors will be able to see the gallery in all its glory.

In addition, we have now formally appointed Nicholson's Engineering to be the bellhangers and in April (20th to 22nd) they will be visiting the Church to remove our bells for restoration and then returning them in October. Please come and see the bells when they are removed, this will be a unique occasion. Andrew Nicholson has an excellent reputation for such work. He has visited the Church on several occasions to ensure all goes smoothly. (See www.nicholsonbellhangers.com).

The new bells will be cast at Whitechapel Bell Foundry and we have already been in touch with them to discuss our requirements. The new bells will be cast sometime over the summer. See www.whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk for more information about the company which is believed to be the oldest manufacturing company in Britain.

www.campseaashechurch.org.uk

Events

**20th to 22nd April
Removal of Bells**

Please take the opportunity to see the bells once they have been removed, this won't happen again for hundreds of years!

**Sunday 2nd May
Faure's Requim and Vivaldi's Gloria from
Scratch**

Following the highly successful Messiah from Scratch events this event will be equally exciting. Rehearsal in the afternoon and performance in the evening. Details from Glenys Fear 01728 747177

**Saturday 17th July 2010
St Martin's Singers**

will give a concert of music and readings in the Church. We are delighted that this renowned Choir will be visiting the Church and we know this will be a most enjoyable summer evening of entertainment

**Saturday 24th July
Memories of Campsea Ashe**

An opportunity for you to look at the archive materials available about the village and for you to tell us about your memories

Your chance to ring a bell!

Have you ever wondered what it is like to ring a bell in a Church? Now is your chance. The four bells at St John the Baptist Church will be removed at the end of April and we are delighted to invite anyone interested to visit the tower and to ring a bell before then. The oldest bell was cast in 1601 and it is a real joy to know that you have rung a bell that others have been ringing for over 400 years.

If you would like to have a go at handling a bell, don't worry, you won't be left alone! With the guidance of our expert Tower Captain, Glenys Fear, anyone over the age of 10 years can have a go. Just turn up on **Saturday 13th or 27th March from 9.00 to 10.30 am** and you will receive a warm welcome. We promise we won't pressurise you into becoming a permanent bell ringer!

Contact Glenys Fear 01728 747177

Worship at St John the Baptist Church

You will always receive a warm welcome at your Church and you are invited to join in worship:

March

14th at 8.00 am

28th Palm Sunday

*A very special Palm Sunday Service when **Rt Rev Bishop Nigel Stock, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich** will be attending and a procession through the village from the Dog and Duck will be led by a donkey.*

Wednesday 31st at 10.00 am Holy Week Service

April

2nd at 8.00 am Pascal Candle and Holy Communion

11th at 10.00 am

25th at 6.30 pm

