

The bells of Edgbaston need your help!

Support the project directly by donating, helping with fundraising activities, or promoting it to others!

*Please see our website for more information
about the project and how to support it:*

edgbastonbells.org



Edgbaston Bells

RESTORATION APPEAL



Eight bells cast in 1927. Help us prepare them for their centenary in 2027 *and the century beyond.*

The Project

PAST

The tower houses a ring of eight bells ranging from the Treble (4cwt/200kg) to the Tenor (10cwt/500kg). All eight were cast by John Taylor & Co in 1927 and are rated amongst the finest peals of their weight. They have been lathe-tuned to an exceptionally high standard and are in excellent voice.

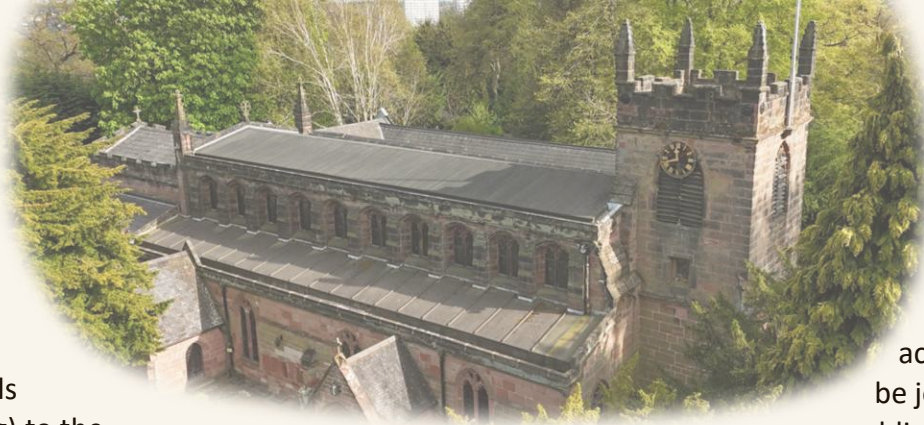
PRESENT

After nearly a century of service, the fittings around the bells are tired. Over the last two years we have been completing smaller necessary maintenance, including replacing parts of the clappers and fixing broken lighting in the belfry. These smaller and more urgent works, totalling approximately £2000, have allowed us to assess the scale of this larger project required to put the bells back in excellent condition for the next century.

FUTURE

A thorough inspection of the bells by professional bellhangers revealed early stages of rust on the bell frame, the bearings that the bells rotate on deteriorating inside, as well as the belfry floor being significantly damaged with missing and cracked boards. Alongside a few smaller improvements these form this larger project, totalling approximately £45,000 to protect the bells for the next century. Left unaddressed, the frame and bearings will deteriorate rapidly – silencing the bells within 5-10 years and multiplying the repair bill.

Full details of the works are available on our website – see rear cover.



Why it Matters

Bells have rung out from St Bartholomew's across Edgbaston since the 15th century. Bells can be joyous, celebrating events in our community, like weddings, and Christmas, as well as significant national celebrations, like coronations, and jubilees. Bells can also be solemn though – the bells at Edgbaston are rung to remember the passing of loved ones after funerals, for Remembrance, and at times of national mourning.



BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITIES
SOCIETY OF CHANGE RINGERS

St Bartholomew's is unique in having its bells rung and maintained by a university student society for the last 60 years. This does mean unfortunately that none of the ringers are here for more than 3 years; however, this has allowed hundreds of young people to be able to enjoy and benefit from Edgbaston bells.

To support Edgbaston's bells is to invest not only in eight pieces of bronze, but in the next generation of ringers who will keep the art alive.

Edgbaston has played a huge role in teaching the ringers of the future, who can now be found leading towers across the country. 20 new ringers have been recruited and taught at Edgbaston in just the past two years.

Those of us here now will not personally benefit from this project, but for us, and generations before us, St Bartholomew's has given us so much: a lifelong hobby, friendships, and even marriages! The greatest gift we can give is to allow future generations to experience the same.

