

## ST MAGNUS RINGS OUT

On 26 October St Magnus the Martyr was once again the scene of great jubilation as the new peal of twelve bells, consecrated in solemn ceremony by the Bishop when they arrived in March, were dedicated in the context of a full High Mass. Not only that; the opportunity was taken to license Fr Reji Raj-Singh as a new Assistant Priest for the Parish, and to bless a set



of twelve handbells presented to the church as a gift by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry where the new peal had been cast. In addition a memorial board (left) recording a peal in 1762, restored in a magnificent gold frame by a private donor, was brought forward and blessed. In the course of the service former Masters of the Ancient Society of College Youths performed a course of *Stedman Cinques* on the handbells.

In his address the Archdeacon of London observed that the church was 'full to the gunwhales' and indeed it was a case of standing room only. He went on to compliment Fr Philip Warner on the service and emphasised the importance of the richness this way of doing things added to the Anglican Church. Recalling the lines written by John Betjeman which celebrated the diversity of worship in the Anglican Church which was so quintessentially English, represented by the notion of being summoned by bells, he said that the new peal would declare the past, present and future part played by the church in the City.

The Tower Keeper addressed the congregation on the importance of the new peal, thanking all those who had made it possible.

At the conclusion of the service refreshments were provided whilst four societies of bell-ringers rang peals in turn. The Ancient Society of College Youths, who will now be responsible for looking after the bells, rang *Bristol Surprise Maximus*; The Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers rang *Grandsire Cinques*; the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang *Erin Cinques* and The Southwark Cathedral Society rang *Stedman Cinques*.

*Melvyn Jeremiah*

## CITY BELLS

*Michael, Mary, Dunstan, Cedd  
Solemn service Bishop led  
Blessing bells – to peal again  
In a setting – new domain.*

*Thus on Easter's Holy Day  
Worshippers bow down and pray  
From the belfry – joyous ring  
Come lift our hearts – hosannas sing.*

*Within St Magnus – built by Wren  
People gather – as and when  
To hear delightful treble sounds  
Before the daily office rounds.*

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