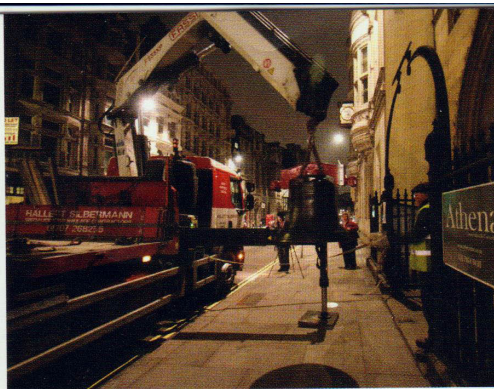
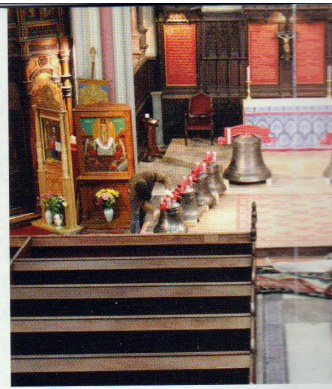




At the foundry



Nighttime arrival



Awaiting cons

GRETHE HAUGE

JUBILEE BELLS FOR ST I

St James Garlickhythe is not the only church in the City of London to have new bells for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Guild Church of St Dunstan in the West had ten new bells delivered in the darkness of night, the only time that a lorry could park outside and hoist the heavy bells into the church.

The Solemn Consecration of the Ten Bells took place on Wednesday 14 March at 6 o'clock. The ten bells were lined up in front of the altar festooned with flowers. The church was full to capacity and included visiting clergy, the head of the Romanian Church in London, the head of the British Orthodox Church, and some of our Watchers. The wonderful sound of the organ rang out, and the choir in residence, called *Chantage*, sang beautifully.

The splendid ceremony of the Solemn Consecration of Bells is hundreds of years old

The Guild Vicar, The Revd William Gulliford, welcomed the congregation. The consecration itself was conducted by the Bishop of London. The ceremony is hundreds of years old and goes as follows: first the washing of the bells, where the Bishop sprinkled them with holy water. Then came the anointing of the bells. Each bell was named. The Bishop moved from bell to bell asking its name, which was given by the sponsor who had stepped forward. Bishop Richard then made a cross on the front of the bell with the oil of catechumens. Each bell was named after a saint with some connection to the church, the parish or London, so we got St Richard, St George, St Alban, St Peter, St Edward, St Mary, St Mellitus (first post-Augustan Bishop of London), St Paul, St Thomas, and the tenor was named St Dunstan after the church's dedication.

After the anointing came the baptism. The Bishop returned to each bell in turn, making the cross with

the oil of chrism on the rear of each bell while saying a prayer. Finally came the censing of the bells, where blessed incense was placed both outside and inside each bell.

At the end of this splendid ceremony *The Festal Te Deum* was sung by the choir. This was a new piece of music commissioned by St Dunstan in the West for the occasion, and composed by Stuart Murray Turnbull, composer in residence. The music was full of vigour, making good use of the powerful organ, and I sensed some Eastern atmosphere in the music, perhaps bearing in mind that the Romanian Church is so involved with this Guild Church.

After the service there was a splendid reception at Hoare's Bank across the road. Hoare's Bank was founded in 1672 and has always been closely associated with St Dunstan in the West. There was a chance to wander through the wonderful rooms, studying the history of the bank, talking to people from all walks of life, while enjoying a glass of champagne and delicious canapés.

We were told during the evening that William Gulliford will be leaving St Dunstan on 19 May, when there will be a farewell service, preceded by a quarter peal. And he leaves before the first full peal of the bells, for her Majesty the Queen on Tuesday 5 June. He will be sorely missed.

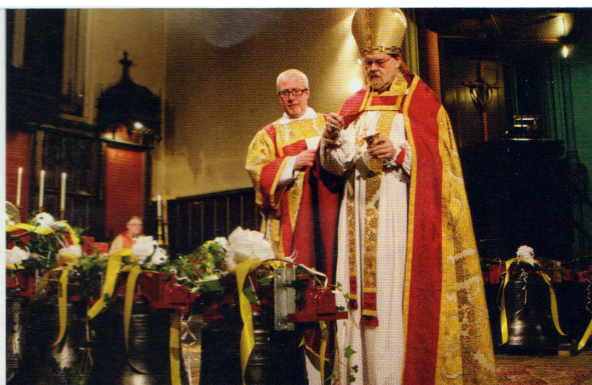
Through
the ceiling



CAMERAMAN DVNSTANI APPELLOR PRO PACI ET SALVATATE ELIZABETHAE CANO
Photographs by Dickon Love. Photographs of the Bishop washing and anointing by Clare Dyer



g consecration



Washing



Anointing

T DUNSTAN IN THE WEST JUDY STEPHENSON

The Latin inscription below contains a clever cipher. Add up all the letters that also represent Roman numbers to find it. So ends the order of service for the Solemn Consecration of the new ring of ten bells for the Guild Church of St Dunstan in the West. I got into a tangle with the Roman numerals in church and I did the sum L times and I cannot help but feel my sum was the wrong answer. And I was put right by no less an authority on Roman numerals than Dickon Love.

But to return to the service: the Bishop of London explained that there was, after the Reformation, no new form of baptism for bells. It was a service with a fair bit of Latin. Considering that Wren built St Paul's Cathedral as the first cathedral in this country which did not start off as Roman Catholic, and considering how many bells had to be consecrated after the

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang a touch of *Grandsire Caters* on hand bells. Why are bell ringers always 'youths'?

The evening began with the Guild Vicar The Revd William Gulliford declaring himself to have been in a quandary when he heard the beautifully rehearsed choir sing Psalm 150, with its many *alleluia* and *laudate* (proscribed during Lent). The penance should have been our climbing the stairs on our knees to the reception afterwards at Hoare's Bank. But the health and safety officer forbade that (*alleluia!*). He also joked that the evening's baptism was in double figures, still a far cry from the Romanian Orthodox who use St Dunstan in the West as their UK headquarters, and who baptised over 700 flesh and blood babies last year.

CAMPANA DVNSTANI APPELLOR PRO PACE ET SALVTATE ELIZABETHAE CANO

Great Fire of 1666, a fire which the inscription on the Monument maintains was started by a Popish plot: I find this amazing. The consecration of bells, he told us, was the naming of bells, and so a service of baptism (or more properly chrysmation). Each of the ten bells was sprinkled with holy water. During the censing the

The Bishop emphasised the Englishness of change ringing: how it began in the C17 around the time of Hoare's Bank foundation. He praised Hoare's generosity at a time when it is fashionable to decry bankers. In the 'dim religious gloom' he rejoiced in the brightness of the bells and delighted in Buckingham Palace's enthusiasm for these bells: each one stamped with the Royal arms 1952 EiiR 2012. Depending on the size of the bell, different stamps have to be used. But I was interested to learn from the foundry that the same stamps were being used on appropriate bells at St James Garlickhythe, amongst others.

St Dunstan, incidentally, is the patron saint of metal workers and bell founders. The tenor bell bears his name, the Latin inscription is above.

These new bells will first ring out a full peal on 5 June as the Queen passes in her carriage on the way to St Paul's, by which time William Gulliford will be vicar of St Mark's, Regent's Park.



Into the
belfry