

The Royal Jubilee Bells go to St James Garlickhythe

The moment the Jubilee bank holiday weekend was over, the tower was lifted back off the boat and the bells were dismantled shortly after that. They went back to Whitechapel where they were cleaned up and on Friday, 15th June, were delivered to the church of St James Garlickhythe in the City of London ready for dedication on the Sunday. Two months earlier, work had started on Hawksmoor's tower which included building a new ringing room some four feet above the floor of the first floor chamber. Garlickhythe already had three bells, one of which is second hand from the church of St Michael's Queenhithe, acquired when that church was pulled down in 1875. Two of them are hung dead and the largest (which is only a matter of 6 cwt) is hung for swinging as well as sounding the hour. The most straightforward solution was to put the new ring of eight in the room under this existing belfry. This reduction of disruption would make getting planning permission easier and there were obvious cost incentives. It also meant that the trap door in the existing belfry floor could be opened and closed to vary the volume of the bells outside.

For the last six years or so, the tower at St James' has been the resting place for a remarkably well preserved deceased gentleman who was discovered in the vaults of the church in 1855. Nobody knows his true identity, although his ear is pierced and it is postulated that he might have been an Italian sailor working on the garlick hythe. Forensic analysis shows that he died between 1641 and 1801 and was in his late 40s. For many years this mummy, who has been given the affectionate name of "Jimmy Garlick", was either on display or stored in a cupboard, however more recently he was removed from view and given a smart carved timber coffin in the tower. Jimmy was quite happy keeping the builders company as the new belfry was built, but by the time the bells arrived, it was clear that he needed a new and final resting place. Therefore on Monday, 25th June, with all the reverence and dignity you would expect, Jimmy was lowered back down the tower and he and his coffin were placed in a room under the church. The Parish Priest, Revd Guy Treweek, said a few words of committal and the lid was closed. His resting place will be made final when his coffin is bricked in later in the year.

DICKON R. LOVE



The treble arrives at St James Garlickhythe (Photo: Dickon Love)



The bells being dedicated by Rt Revd John Waine, who is offered bellropes by Dickon Love and Mark White (Photo: John Sutton)



Details of the bells

Quarter	Year	Diameter	Weight	Foundry
Quarter 1	1-1-25	19 ³ / ₈ "	A	1686 William & Philip Wightman
Quarter 2	2-0-17	22"	G flat	1682 James Bartlett
Hour bell	6-1-14	32"	D flat	1700 Philip Wightman

Bell	Weight	Diameter	Note	Cast	Founder
1	3-0-21	23 ³ / ₈ "	G sharp	2012	Whitechapel
2	3-1-8	24 ¹ / ₄ "	F double sharp	2012	Whitechapel
3	3-2-2	25 ³ / ₈ "	E sharp	2012	Whitechapel
4	4-0-11	27 ¹ / ₄ "	D sharp	2012	Whitechapel
5	4-2-11	29 ¹ / ₄ "	C sharp	2012	Whitechapel
6	5-1-22	30 ¹ / ₄ "	B sharp	2012	Whitechapel
7	7-0-12	33 ¹ / ₄ "	A sharp	2012	Whitechapel
8	9-1-25	37"	G sharp	2012	Whitechapel

Inscriptions on the bells

1.	NICOLE MARIE KASSIMIOTIS	HENRY
		
	A PRICELESS AND ANGELIC TREASURE, HAPPY MEMORIES OF THE PAST, JOYFUL MOMENTS OF THE PRESENT, AND THE HOPE AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.	ANDREW PARMLEY MASTER MUSICIAN
		20  12 WHITECHAPEL
2.	KATHERINE TONY F. R. STOCKWELL	WILLIAM
		
	MASTER JOINER CEILER 1990/1991 PARISH CLERK HOLY TRINITY THE LESS	DICKON LOVE PUT US HERE
		20  12 WHITECHAPEL
3.	CRACE	EDWARD
	FORTITER GIVEN BY JOANNA WARRANT PARISHIONER AND FREEMAN OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF PAINTER-STAINERS AND FREEMAN OF THE CITY OF LONDON	
		FRANCIS BARBER & GEOFFREY BROWN CHURCHWARDENS
		20  12 WHITECHAPEL
4.	CHARLES VERDEN BETTINSON	ANDREW
		
	qui sera sera	VALERIE CROSS & GORDON HAINES CHURCHWARDENS
		20  12 WHITECHAPEL

5.		ANNE
		
	ST JAMES GARLICKHYTHE	THE REVD GUY TREWEEK PRIEST IN CHARGE
		20  12 WHITECHAPEL
6.		CHARLES
	PRESENTED BY THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GLASS-SELLERS AND LOOKING GLASS MAKERS OF LONDON	
		LYNETTE STONE & WILLIAM FRASER CHURCHWARDENS
		20  12 WHITECHAPEL
	discordia frangimvr	
7.		PHILIP
	PRESENTED BY THE DYERS' COMPANY	
		WE RANG ON THE RIVER THAMES FOR THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II
	da gloriam deo	20  12 WHITECHAPEL
8.		ELIZABETH II R
	PRESENTED BY THE VINTNERS' COMPANY	
		THE ROYAL JUBILEE BELLS RING TODAY TO THE GLORY OF GOD
	vinum exhilarat animum	20  12 WHITECHAPEL



A view of the bells from the gallery – taken before the service of dedication (Photo: John Sutton)

Jubilee Pageant post script:

For me, the past few months have been some of the most momentous of my life. To see my 30th bell cast for the City of London; new rings arranged in the churches at St Dunstan's and St James', the excitement of hearing both ring for the first time and realising how good they are; the intense time preparing for the Pageant, combining work with the organising committee, co-operating with the media and even meeting Royalty, the various test rings and the great occasion of the parade itself, all in a weekend which culminated in calling the first peal on London's newest ten. Yet in amongst all of this I was delighted to celebrate my Civil Partnership with a service at St Magnus the Martyr and share this with our many friends, both in England and then in Poland. 2012 will be truly unforgettable.

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Stephen Penney writes:

It was peculiar to say the least to be at the centre of such a momentous and historic occasion while being tucked away at the bottom of a barge unable to see much of what was going on! But the chance to prominently demonstrate what is usually such a hidden, visually at least, art is not something that comes along very often, and it was a privilege to be able to do so while overcoming some unique challenges.

Fr David Gibbons writes:

The tryout the Saturday before was quite one of the most terrifying experiences of my life! Climbing aboard the barge – up and down ladders, scrambling along a narrow ledge - with the icy Thames beneath, was bad enough. Fortunately no one fell in and needed to test the life jackets. Then when we started to ring the bells: the barge moving whenever another vessel passed, and the wind blowing the ropes; and all the while not knowing if this mad scheme would actually work or if we would, bells and bellringers, topple over into the river. In the event the bells were not easy to ring, but manageable, and the Pageant itself was an historic if surreal occasion.

John Barrowman writes:

I had an absolutely glorious day. Being part of one of the biggest events in the history of the UK, an event that will never happen again in our lifetime, is one of the highlights of anything I have ever done. It was so special to know that the entire nation was watching. As we were the first boat, we could look back see the Queen's barge and all the rest of the boats behind us. It was so overwhelming and seeing everyone cheering on the sides and the banks of the Thames (and there were millions of people out) made me very emotional. While everyone else had stopped at Tower Bridge, we decided to ring all the way back to the O2 (where we docked) as there were people by the river all the way down. I was drenched, I was soaked and I was freezing cold, but I loved every minute of it.

All Saints Royal Jubilee celebration of Royal photographs and flowers



The Bishop of Newcastle and the Rector immediately after they had all been presented to Her Grace before the bells were raised (l-r): Bishop Martin of Newcastle, Andrew Cairns (Conductor), Chris Teasdale, Helen Mayfield, Gillian Wheeler, the Duchess of Northumberland, Peter K. D. Dawson, Barbara Davies, Kevin Maughan, Colin Wheeler and Revd Michael Boag, Rector of Upper Coquetdale

Last October when Revd Michael Boag came to the Coquet Valley as Rector of the Parish of Upper Coquetdale he "encouraged" plans for a Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen. He came to our Parish from Windsor Castle where he spent eight years as Succentor and Dean's Vicar at St George's Chapel.

Sponsors from around and outside our valley supported the four-day Jubilee Flower Festival incorporating a display of Royal photographs from the Rector's own unique collection. In all, forty separate floral displays were on show with

even more photographs. The Church Marquee pitched alongside the church served light lunches etc. for visitors.

The Festival began with a visit from the Duchess of Northumberland. All was ready by early afternoon on Friday, 1st June and the Festival was then open between 10am and 6pm each day until Tuesday evening, June 5th. The aim was to bring people together in church so no entry charge was made, but donations were welcomed.

The Duchess arrived soon after three o'clock and spoke to local children and their parents



The redundant Thomlinson bell used for the Ringers floral display with the Cathedral, borrowed bell model and three photographs kindly loaned by Whitechapel Bell Foundry