

How can I find out more?

We are looking for new people to join our team.
Ringers come from all walks of life:

Young and old Boys and girls
Men and Women Short and tall

You don't have to be:

big and strong be a regular church-goer
be musical buy any expensive equipment

- Contact your local church and speak to the Tower Captain.
- Join us on a practice night which take place on Thursday Evenings
7.15pm - 9.00pm - Beginners*
7.45pm - 9.00pm - Learners
8.00pm - 9.00pm - Full Ringers
* Please check before coming.

If you are interested in the idea of becoming a bellringer, then why not come along and have a go?

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The Parish Church of
St Edward the Confessor,
Market Place, Romford

BELLRINGING



Become a bellringer

When are bells rung?

- For church services
- for weddings
- for special occasions
- for ringers' practice and pleasure

What's in it for me?

A hobby which involves:

- being part of a team
- providing a service for the church
- a good social life
- continually learning something new

How long does it take to learn?

Initial teaching takes place on a one to one basis and most beginners will be ready to ring with a band in a few weeks or months. The basic skill lies in being able to control a bell that rotates full circle using a rope attached to its wheel.

There is always something new to learn and ringers progress at their own pace, depending on the time and effort they devote to increasing their and practical experience.

History

St Edward's Church has a peal of eight bells in its tower surmounted by a spire 162ft. The original church built in 1410 and the existing tenor bell dates from this period, being ascribed to the London Founder Robert Burford.

There were six bells and a Sanctus bell in 1552, when the inventories of church goods were made in the sixth year of the reign of King Edward VI. At that time the tenor bell was used as an hour bell for the clock, as it is today some 500 years later.

The current bells today show that recasting took place in 1636 by Miles Graye II and in 1704 by John Waylett (shown on front cover)

The second bell has John Darbie of Ipswich's lettering but as Darbie was not known to have cast bells before 1657, and this bell is dated 1651, it may be by a predecessor of Darbie. It seems likely that Romford had a peal of eight from this time and if so was one of the earliest eight bell towers in the country.

The present treble bell by Lester and Pack of Whitechapel foundry is dated 1756. The fifth bell was recast in 1850 by Charles and George Mears at the time the present church was built.

The bells were hung in 1877 and again in 1922 when John Warner and Co. of Cripplegate installed the present frame work.

In 2007 a Restoration Appeal took place, the bells and their fittings were removed from the tower for essential work. The bells were cleaned and the fittings replaced.

Change Ringing

For centuries church bells have been chimed from below by means of ropes attached to simple levers fixed to the headstocks from which the bells were hung. The replacement of levers by full wheels, which began in sixteenth-century England gave the ringers better control of their bells, allowing sets of bells (*rings*) to be rung in systematically changing patterns.



Change ringing evolved in England in the early part of the 17th century. It is probable that if a ringer from that time could visit one of our towers today he would have little difficulty in recognising much of our ringing.

Today there are more than 40,000 ringers in the UK. They are young and old, men and women, short and tall, girls and boys, non-musical and musical, churchgoers and non-churchgoers. They come from all walks of life, but they share a fascinating hobby and a commitment to their team.