



## KELTEK TRUST

## Conservation by Re-use

Helping churches acquire surplus and/or  
redundant bells to be hung  
for English-style full-circle bell-ringing.

### KELTEK TRUST – Projects in Wiltshire

Place	Dedication	
Alderton	St Giles	Location/supply of a bell.
Bradford on Avon	Holy Trinity	Location/supply of a bell.
Calne	St Mary the Virgin	Sponsorship of a new bell.
Collingbourne Kingston	St Mary	Location/supply of a bell.
Highworth	St Michael	Replacement 7 <sup>th</sup> bell.
Hilmarton	St Lawrence	Replacement 2 <sup>nd</sup> bell.
Imber	St Giles	Location/supply of five bells.
Langley Burrell	St Peter	Location/supply of a bell.
Little Bedwyn	St Michael	Location/supply of a bell.
Littleton Drew	All Saints	Location/supply of three bells.
South Wraxall	St James	Financial support for restoration.
Stratford sub Castle	St Lawrence	Relocation of a surplus bell.
Tollard Royal	St Peter ad Vincula	Relocation of surplus bells.
Wilton	St Mary & St Nicholas	Relocation of a surplus ring of bells.

Updated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022



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### Alderton, Wiltshire, St Giles



An application to the *Ringing in the Millennium* scheme for the restoration of the unringable ring of five bells was successful and as the project neared completion an opportunity arose to augment the bells to a ring of six by adding a surplus bell from Sheldwich, Kent.

The scheme completed the bells rang out on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 1998 to open the village fete.



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### Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, Holy Trinity



The ring of bells at Holy Trinity were re-hung as part of the Ringing in the Millennium project and the opportunity was taken to install a bell from the redundant church of St Lawrence, Woolverton, Somerset as a service bell.



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Calne, Wiltshire, St Mary the Virgin



The ring of bells at St Mary's church has been re-hung in a new bell-frame lower in the tower and augmented to ten. We sponsored a bell cast to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The project was completed during April 2023.





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Collingbourne Kingston, Wiltshire, St Mary



During 2005 the 2<sup>nd</sup> bell of the 19 cwt ring of six was found to be cracked. It had already been recommended that the bell be replaced as it was undersized and under-weight. The 7<sup>th</sup> bell from the pre-2005 ring at Kettering, Northamptonshire was a perfect fit and has been installed without re-tuning.



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### Highworth, Wiltshire, St Michael



The cracked 7<sup>th</sup> bell was weld repaired in 1994. Sadly in 2011 the Henry Bagley bell cracked once again. It has been replaced with a modern Taylor bell that the Trust acquired from St Aidan, Speke, Merseyside. The work was completed during December 2012.



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### Hilmarton, Wiltshire, St Lawrence



This difficult to handle ring of six have been re-hung in a new frame and the poor-sounding second bell has been replaced by a bell from the redundant church of Little Carlton, Lincolnshire.

Youtube video of the bells ringing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMmPeNEb2uY>





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### Imber, Wiltshire, St Giles



On 30<sup>th</sup> August 2010 bells rang out at Imber church for the first time in over 70 years. Imber village was evacuated during WW2 to be used as a military training ground. The five bells were removed, the old 3<sup>rd</sup> bell transferred to Edington. The remaining bells were scrapped and the proceeds from the sale of metal used towards the costs of augmenting Edington to a ring of ten bells.





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The church is now vested in the Churches Conservation Trust and an exciting scheme to re-instate bells in the original five-bell frame has come to fruition. It was decided to minimise the dynamic forces of moving bells by installing a lighter ring. The original tenor weight was 8cwt 0 qtr 9lbs and the new tenor bell weighs just over 2.5cwt. It was planned to only install five bells but an acquisition by the Trust of a small Taylor bell from an antique shop in Kent earlier in the year resulted in a ring of six being installed. During 2020 the Keltek Trust donated a modern True Harmonic cast bell to replace the pre-True Harmonic tenor bell.



Youtube video of the bells ringing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNDJhIvcrY0>



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## Langley Burrell, Wiltshire, St Peter



St Peter's has had a ring of four bells for over four hundred years. The current bells date from 1607 to 1628 and were probably cast by Roger Purdie of Bristol. The inscription on the tenor is:

ALLELVYA COME AT MYCALL 1607

A week after the dedication of the new ring at Stratford sub Castle, Wiltshire we visited Langley Burrell to record and tonally analyse the bells. The analysis suggested the ex-Stratford-sub-Castle bell would be suitable as the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the proposed augmentation to six. This bell together with a newly cast bell have been hung in the treble-pit of the existing wooden four-bell frame. The pre-augmentation 2<sup>nd</sup> has been hung above the other bells and its pit taken by the pre-augmentation treble bell. The work was completed on 1st March 2000. The scheme is a significant milestone for the Trust because it is the first scheme to be completed which incorporates a bell acquired by our *Bell Rescue Fund*.

Youtube video of the bells ringing.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGEYCh\\_Ksw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGEYCh_Ksw)





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## Little Bedwyn, Wiltshire, St Michael



The ring of four bells has been restored and augmented to five with the addition of the former third bell from Allesley, West Midlands donated by the Keltek Trust. The work to remove and replace the wooden bellframe with a new metal frame and hang the bells with new fittings was completed in May 2014. The bells were slightly retuned and are a great improvement.

Youtube video of the bells ringing.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZ\\_ld8xDdcE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZ_ld8xDdcE)





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Littleton Drew, Wiltshire, All Saints



The unringable ring of three bells has been restored and augmented to six. The three treble bells include an ex-Trinity House buoy bell and two bells from the redundant church of St Mary, Low Harrogate.

Youtube video of the bells ringing.

<https://youtu.be/tj2DC9sQ5ow>



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South Wraxall, Wiltshire, St James



The derelict ring of six bells has been restored back to full working order. The Keltek Trust financially supported this project and the work was completed in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Youtube video of the bells ringing.

<https://youtu.be/sqP6cmBtgUk>





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### Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, St Lawrence



Up until 1998 St Lawrence possessed only two bells: the treble cast in 1594 by John Wallis of Salisbury and the tenor cast in 1767 by Robert Wells of Aldbourne. Aided by partnership funding from the *Ringling in the Millennium* scheme a ring of six bells was installed comprising of five newly cast bells and the John Wallis bell. The new ring was dedicated on 11th October 1998.

The Trust acquired the surplus Robert Wells bell using its Bell Rescue Fund and it is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the augmented ring at Langley Burrell, Wiltshire.





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### Tollard Royal, Wiltshire, St Peter ad Vincula



Until 1999 the church possessed a ring of five bells hung anti-clockwise in a two-tier timber frame. The poor condition of the installation being such that the bells had been unringable for many years. The old 3<sup>rd</sup> was a medieval C14 bell from the Salisbury foundry. It has been retained as a service bell; also retained is the tonally poor W. Tosier bell, currently situated on the floor of the church. With financial assistance from the *Ringling in the Millennium* scheme, a new ring of six bells was installed and dedicated on 5th December 1999. The weight of the tenor is now 7-0-14 and its note is Bb.

One of the most unusual enquiries the Trust has had for bells was from the Royal Opera House. They needed two bells quickly and of specific notes for an opera production in Vienna. Their requirements could be met by the old 2<sup>nd</sup> and tenor bells at Tollard Royal. A site visit was organised to the church, where the bells still hung and a deal was struck. The bells were removed, slightly re-tuned and shipped to Vienna within a few weeks of the initial enquiry. The remaining surplus bell has been hung for ringing at Northington, Hampshire.



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### Wilton, Wiltshire, St Mary & St Nicholas



A newly cast ring of bells was installed at Wilton to commemorate the new Millennium. The Trust acquired the pre-millennium ring and they are now the back six of the octave at Lismore, NSW, Australia.