

More about the bells and some of the ringers

Alastair Stracey

In March we asked for your help to preserve the bells of All Saints. Although there is still a long way to go I am pleased to report that we have so far raised over £5,000 in donations and grants from other bellringing organisations. Many thanks to all who have donated so far.

Later this year the Hertford Choral Society will mark their 80th Anniversary with a concert at All Saints and have asked for the bells to be rung beforehand. As a part of their preparation for that event they recently joined us on practice night to take some photographs. Since we are usually hidden away, I thought it might be interesting to share some of these photographs with readers.



The first is of Chris Hayter, who has been ringing at All Saints since he was at school in Hertford and is now approaching his 80th birthday. Chris was originally taught to ring by John Kemp. In the photograph ringing with Chris are Heather Lever from Ware, Andrew Case and Davy King (both Hertford ringers) while Nick Hoyle and David Kemp look on.

The second photograph features Ashley Monck, a regular visitor from Great Amwell. Ashley is 18 and is seen ringing the tenor (largest) bell, weighing over 25 cwt.

Until recently, Ashley was a member of "Young@Herts", a group of ringers from



Hertfordshire, all aged under 18 who have enjoyed success competing in the annual National Youth Contest, sponsored by the *Ringing World* (the bellringers' weekly magazine). This year's contest will see 24 teams of ringers, all aged under 18, competing against each other in Liverpool on Saturday 6 July.

Why are we fundraising?



Our bells were installed in 1907 and are in need of major maintenance, for which a sum of £25,000 has to be raised.

How can I help?

Please consider helping us and give your donation to Colin Bird, Treasurer at All Saints church. Individual donations can be gift-aided – forms and envelopes are available.

If you or someone you know has a special occasion – perhaps a wedding anniversary, birthday or other celebration, we would be pleased to arrange some special ringing for you in return for a donation to the fund.

Can I get more information?

Any questions can be addressed to the Ringing Master, Alastair Stracey at alastair.stracey@ntlworld.com or to the Secretary Andrew Case at afcase@gmail.com, or perhaps even visit us at our practice night (1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday from 7.45 pm).