

## **Bellringers Report for 2025**

The joint band of bellringers which rings at both All Saints and St Andrew's churches has been struggling a bit with low numbers for some time. Because of this it was not possible to ring at All Saints on every Sunday in 2025, but we did ring on as many Sundays as we could and, also, we rang on the first, third, and fifth Tuesdays, again when we had enough ringers.

We also rang after four weddings, rather more than we have seen in recent years.

As usual on Remembrance Sunday we rang the bells half muffled before the service in Parliament Square, stopped ringing during the service, and then rang again as the procession made its way to All Saints.

We are very lucky that two of our regular visitors who ring with us are Andrew and Emily Mills who live in Welwyn Garden City. After the ringing, Andrew, who is a bellhanger with Taylors Bellfoundry in Loughborough, said he wanted to check one of the bells which he thought was making an odd noise. It was Andrew who did the refurbishment work on our bells a few years ago so he knows the bells well. When he brought the key back to me later he broke the bad news that pigeons had broken through the bird protection over one set of louvres in the bell chamber and were roosting on a beam above the bells making rather a mess all over the bells. Andrew managed to block up the hole in the netting so that no more birds could get in.

When we went up to look it became clear that the clean-up was not going to be something we could manage ourselves and neither was it particularly sensible to continue ringing. Janet Bird came to the rescue and very kindly arranged for a professional cleaning company to come and thoroughly clean the belfry. We took the opportunity, whilst the bells were out of action, to send most of our ropes to Bristol for new tail ends to be spliced into the sallies (the colourful woolly bit of the rope).

We hope you were pleased to hear the bells back in action just before Easter.

Andrew Case

Tower Captain

April 2026