

...generationGold...



12th December 2016 All Saints' Chilton with St Matthew's Harwell

Welcome and notices

Our theme today is 'bells'. You may like to start to think about the many different times and places when you have heard the church bells.

The bells bring people to worship God. Perhaps the nostalgia often evoked in people when they hear the ringing of church bells reflects the yearning that is in us all for a strong, warm relationship with God, even if we sometimes do not recognise it as such.

Opening Prayer

We are thankful Lord, that for centuries, church bells have played a significant role in our public worship. Whether in the rural village church or at the centre of a busy market place, church bells call people and remind us all of the Glory of God.

Amen

Unchanging God, who livest

enthroned in realms on high,
to men the power thou givest
thy name to magnify.

We raise the bells for ringing
with ready mind and will,
and come before thee, bringing
our hearts, our strength, our skill.

We call, from tower and steeple,
upon the day of days,
all faithful Christian people
to worship, prayer, and praise;
we ring with joyous gladness
when man and wife are blessed;
we peal in muffled sadness
for loved ones laid to rest.

By union free and willing
the work of God is done;
our Master's prayer fulfilling,
we would in him be one:
one, as the Church our mother
would have her children stand,
befriending one another,
a strong and steadfast band.

Our lives, like bells, while changing,
an ordered course pursue;
through joys and sorrows ranging,
may all those lives ring true.
May we, through Christ forgiven,
our faults and failures past,
attain our place in heaven,
called home to rest at last.

Prayers

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:
'You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.'
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of
God through Jesus the Saviour of the
world.

**All: Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
We confess that we have sinned
In thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole
heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as
ourselves.
In your mercy
Forgive what we have been,
Help us to amend what we are,
And direct what we shall be;
That we may do justly,
Love mercy, and walk humbly with you our
God. Amen**

Wantage Bells by Sir John Betjeman

I saw three ships come sailing in

On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning

The virgin Mary and Christ was there
On Christmas Day, On Christmas Day
The virgin Mary and Christ was there
On Christmas Day in the morning

And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day in the morning

And all the angels in heaven shall sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
And all the angels in heaven shall sing
On Christmas Day in the morning

Then let us all rejoice amen
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
Then let us all rejoice amen
On Christmas Day in the morning

Bible Reading: Psalm 150

Ring the Bells: Song by Kate

Welcome to North Moreton
Handbell Ringers

Sermon by Pam

Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells: with Kate

The bells ring out at Christmas time

Their message loud and clear;
Our hearts are stirred as on the air
The joyful sound we hear.

Chorus:

*Sweet chiming Christmas bells
Sweet chiming Christmas bells,
They cheer us on our heav'nward way,
Sweet chiming bells.
They cheer us on our heav'nward way,
Sweet chiming bells.*

Thanks be to God since all may learn
The bells' exultant theme:
The babe of Bethlehem was born
This lost world to redeem.

Chorus

Glad message of the Christmas bells
Of God whose name is love!
Oh, may this music all our days
Our hope and comfort prove.

Chorus

Closing Prayers

We give thanks for all those people who give up their time to ring bells. We thank you that the bells remind us of your love and the prayers and church services in our community. As the bells ring out this Christmas time may they draw people to you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord we bring before you the times when the bells have been tolled in times of sadness, when they signify the death of a loved one and sometimes the age they were when they died. We pray for all those who are bereaved at this time.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord we think of the 'chiming bell' often used to mark baptism, confirmation and ordination. We pray for all those who are now reminded of these special times. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

As we think of the church bells pealing, we give thanks for the happy times that they remind us of.

For celebrations, for weddings, for Christmas services and this year for the 'peeling' bells to celebrate our Queen's 90th Birthday.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

As we are reminded of the traditional 'ding dong' of the bell we pray that our lives may ring true to you, our Saviour.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We say together The Lord's Prayer.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen**

Spend a few moments reflecting on the sound of our church bells and give thanks.

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

In heav'n the bells are ringing
Ding, dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

E'en so here below, below
Let steeple bells be swungen
And i-o, i-o, i-o
By priest and people sungen!

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

Pray ye dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers
May ye beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

The Blessing:

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
always.

Amen

Please stay for Tea, Christmas Cake and Mince Pies

Please stay after the service for tea and cake if you can.
You are welcome to take this service sheet home with you.

You are welcome to join us on Saturday, 24th December at 3.30pm
for our nativity service at St Matthew's Harwell.

Our next Generation Gold services will be held on
Monday 13th March, 2.30pm, All Saints' Chilton
Thursday 15th June, 2.30pm, St Matthew's Harwell



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