

**A service of
dedication and
thanksgiving for the
bells of St Peter and
St Paul, North Curry**

30th April 2023

The Bells of North Curry

For a long time the bells of North Curry have been silent. Other than for the tolling of two Royal funerals, they have not sounded since a year before the pandemic. The frame was unsafe and ringing would have caused serious damage to the building, and possibly to the people inside.

Church bells are there to call people to prayer and to announce events, moments in history, both near and far, and not being able to ring our bells has been a time of sadness. There has always been hope, however.

After a period of fundraising which in itself brought people together through the many events and activities organised by many across the village, £150,000 was raised to replace the old frame and recast the old bells into these new ones.

During October last year we bid the old bells goodbye as they were taken to Loughborough to be recast by Taylor's.

Now they have returned and we are deeply thankful. They will now once again sound out across the village and fields, a sound that will

be heard for many years, centuries even.

We thank all who have worked to bring this moment to pass:

The foundry, of course, but also the planning committee and working party who have overseen this process: Geoffrey Dart, who has chaired the group so admirably and with such commitment, Martin Horrox who has overseen the fund raising with great skill, David Akerman, Mary Piers and Helen Griffiths who have acted eloquently and confidently on behalf of the PCC, Steve Jackson who has brought his excellent project management skills to the work, Paul Scott who has managed the donations so graciously.

There are many, many others who have contributed time and (of course) money to Appeal of Bells. This time of worship is for everyone, named and unnamed. We say thank you to all, and most of all we give thanks to God for gathering us in this church at this time, to celebrate the work and to rededicate the materials that have been shaped into eight new bells.



Today we welcome Rt Revd Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells to lead us in this time of celebration.

As we do so, it is vital to remember: these bells are our bells, the village's, the church's, the parish's, the people's. For all these people, and for all who have participated in any way, we give thanks.

As time unfolds before us we will continue to show our thanks for these new bells. Those who have contributed in so many ways will

be recorded in this church so their offerings can be noted for eternity. While this service marks the return and resounding of the old bells in new form, the work is not yet finished. There will be public displays of the work that has been done and the ringers will once more share their skills with others who wish to become ringers for the future.

And so... Ring out you bells, across the valleys and streams, call the faithful to this place to pray, to give thanks and to rejoice.

Bell

Inscription

1

When I do ring, God's praises sing
When I do toll, pray heart and soul



2

Rev. Dr. Simon Bale: Vicar
Mary Piers, David Akerman: Churchwardens



3

In memory of Preb. H.W.H. Knapman (1907-2004)
Of the Diocese of Bath and Wells



4 Lord let North Curry flourish through the preaching of thy
word and the praising of thy name
Given by the Akerman Family 2022



5 To honour the Platinum Jubilee of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
This bell has been donated by the
Parish Council of North Curry



6 This bell was recast in 2022
A gift from Brian (and the Late Audrey) Moore
of Wisteria House, Greenway
Let the bells ring out for generations
Calling all to hear the word of the Lord



7 In loving memory of Mr Standfast
(M.A.L. Griffiths)
1946-2019



8 I to the Church the living call
and to the grave do summon all
The Parochial Church Council had all
eight bells recast in 2022



Prayer for the Athelney Benefice

Almighty God, who made all things and sustains all things, we come together remembering the past and full of hope for the future.

We thank you for the part you call us to play in our Benefice's continuing story.

Lord, bind us more closely together and unite us in the work of your kingdom in our communities. Help us to draw on the gifts and talents in our midst and to use them in your service.

May we be a welcoming and loving community, united in worshipping you and open to your guiding Spirit.

Holy Spirit guide us and fill us with vision and energy; make us faithful in prayer and worship, that we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow.

We ask these things in the name of your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen



A service of dedication and thanksgiving

Gathering

Please stand at the entry of the Bishop and the Altar Party

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO BISHOP MICHAEL

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have gathered on this joyful occasion in the presence of Almighty God to offer our worship, thanksgiving and prayers, to offer the eight bells now hanging in this church for use in God's service and to pray that, like these bells, our lives may ring out clearly the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We come especially to thank God for the special place which bells have in the life of our church and community. They call us to worship and mark great events in the life of our community and nation. We come to give thanks for the vision of those who have led this project, for the generosity of those who have given time, money and other talents to make this work possible, for the companionship of working towards a common goal, for the craftsmanship and skill involved in the casting, tuning and the hanging of the bells and for the enthusiasm of those who ring and teach the art of ringing.

Above all we give thanks that by God's grace we have been called into the body of Christ and ask him to bless all the worship, witness and service we offer, that his name may be glorified and his kingdom advanced in this world.



Hymn: Let all the world in every corner sing

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
 "My God and King!"
 The heav'ns are not too high,
 God's praise may thither fly;
 the earth is not too low,
 God's praises there may grow.
 Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
 "My God and King!"

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
 "My God and King!"
 The church with psalms must shout:
 no door can keep them out.
 But, more than all, the heart
 must bear the longest part.
 Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
 "My God and King!"

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
 and also with you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

We say together

Almighty God,
 to whom all hearts are open,
 all desires known,
 and from whom no secrets are hidden:
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
 by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 that we may perfectly love you,
 and worthily magnify your holy name;
 through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.



PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

We sit or kneel

The Bishop:

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

**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.**

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Bishop:

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest,
 and peace to his people on earth.
 Lord God, heavenly King,
 almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
 Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

THE COLLECT**The Bishop:**

○ Lord, from whom all good things come:
 grant to us your humble servants,
 that by your holy inspiration
 we may be thankful for our new bells,
 that we may rejoice in their sound
 as they gather us to pray
 through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

READINGS

We stand to recite the psalm.

NB: odd verses by The Vicar, even verses by the congregation.

PSALM 150

¹Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!

²Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

³Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!

⁴Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!

⁵Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!
Praise the Lord!

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen**

We sit

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-26

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the



hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Hymn: Tell out, my soul

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name, the Lord, the mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore!**



GOSPEL READING

We remain standing

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

JOHN 10:1-10

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE REDEDICATION OF THE BELLS

The Vicar gives thanks for the work of the Bells Committee, for the project team, for Taylor's of Loughborough and many others.

Simon Adams of Taylor's Bell Foundry hands a bell rope to the Lay Chairman of the PCC saying:



Receive this rope as a symbol of the bells and fittings safely installed in this church. Our work has been well done, and may they be well used by the ringers of this parish.

Mary Piers, Lay Chairman of the PCC

Bishop, we ask you to re-dedicate our bells.

The Bishop:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we offer to you all the work that has been undertaken to restore these bells. Bless, Sanctify and Hallow all that has been done in this tower. Bless with your grace and skill all who ring here, and grant that the message of the bells may lift the hearts of all who hear them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Bishop:

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be called by the sound of these bells to this House of prayer may enter into your gates with thanksgiving and into your courts with praise, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

The Lay Chairman of the PCC passes the bell rope to the Bishop:

The Bishop, receiving the bell rope, says:

In the faith of Jesus Christ, I do solemnly set apart and dedicate these bells to the Glory of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Bishop then hands the bell rope to the Vicar saying:

Receive these bells that have been set apart from all profane uses, as a sacred trust committed to you as the appointed Minister of Christ in this church; remember that they have been set apart to ring out to the glory of God, and therefore take care that they be ever used in God's service and for his glory.



The Vicar replies:

I will, the Lord being my helper

The Vicar then hands the bell rope to Darren Woodyer, Captain of the Bell Tower**The Bishop turning to the Captain of the Bell Ringers, says:**

Will you see that these bells are carefully maintained, and that they are used as aids to the worship of Almighty God, for the good of His Church and for the properly authorised training of Ringers?

The Captain of the Bell Ringers replies:

I will, the Lord being my helper.

The Bishop:

Let us pray

Almighty God, be pleased to accept this offering at our hands, bless, sanctify and hallow these bells and grant that they may call your people to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

All ringers stand as all present say together The Ringers Prayer:

Gracious Lord, source of all skill and beauty, who has entrusted to us the ringing of your bells, give to us the needful skill and grace for the faithful performing of our art, that the sound of the bells may awaken in the hearts of all who hear them the desire to worship thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A SHORT ADDRESS BY THE BISHOP

There may be a short period of silence

THE CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,



who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

This responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
 hear our prayer.

And at the end

Merciful Father,
 accept these prayers
 for the sake of your Son,
 our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

THE PEACE

The Bishop Says:

‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name,’
 says the Lord, ‘there am I in the midst of them.’
 The peace of the Lord be always with you
 and also with you.



Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Hymn: New songs of celebration render

New songs of celebration render
 To God who has great wonders done;
 Love sits enthroned in ageless splendour;
 Come and adore the Mighty One.
 God has made known the great salvation
 Which all the saints with joy confess.
 God has revealed to ev'ry nation
 Truth and unending righteousness.

Joyfully, heartily resounding,
 Let ev'ry instrument and voice
 Peal out the praise of grace abounding,
 Calling the whole world to rejoice.
 Trumpets and organs, set in motion
 Such sounds as make the heavens ring;
 All things that live in earth and ocean,
 Sound forth the song, your praises bring.

Rivers and seas and torrents roaring,
 Honor the Lord with wild acclaim;
 Mountains and stones, look up adoring,
 And find a voice to praise God's name.
 Righteous, commanding, ever glorious,
 Praises be sung that never cease;
 Just is our God, whose truth victorious
 Establishes the world in peace.



PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

The president takes the bread and wine.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of truth,

for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.

Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.

You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we hear your bells ring out across these fields and homes,
may they echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,**



heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
 enthroned in splendour and light,
 yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
 you reveal the power of your love
 made perfect in our human weakness.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity,
 Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
 loving us to the end,
 he gave himself to death for us;
 dying for his own,
 he set us free from the bonds of sin,
 that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
 he took bread and gave you thanks;
 he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

In the same way, after supper
 he took the cup and gave you thanks;
 he gave it to them, saying:
 Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant
 which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
 we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
 we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high



and we long for his coming in glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
 Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
 be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
 form us into the likeness of Christ
 and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Look with favour on your people
 and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
 Bless the earth,
 heal the sick,
 let the oppressed go free
 and fill your Church with power from on high.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
 to feast with Saint Peter and Saint Paul and all your saints
 at the table in your kingdom,
 where the new creation is brought to perfection
 in Jesus Christ our Lord;
 by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
 for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come;
 thy will be done;
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.**



And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation;
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power and the glory,
 for ever and ever.
 Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
 Though we are many, we are one body,
 because we all share in one bread.

Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 grant us peace.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

The president says one of these invitations to communion

God's holy gifts
 for God's holy people.
 Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

Most merciful Lord,
 your love compels us to come in.
 Our hands were unclean,
 our hearts were unprepared;



we were not fit
 even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
 But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
 and share your bread with sinners.
 So cleanse and feed us
 with the precious body and blood of your Son,
 that he may live in us and we in him;
 and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
 may sit and eat in your kingdom.
 Amen.

The president and people receive communion.

Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies

Amen.

Hymn (during the distribution): The Lord's my shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.
 He makes me down to lie
 in pastures green; he leadeth me
 the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again
 and me to walk doth make
 within the paths of righteousness,
 e'en for his own name's sake;

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
 yet will I fear no ill;
 for thou art with me, and thy rod
 and staff me comfort still;

My table thou hast furnished
 in presence of my foes;
 my head thou dost with oil anoint,
 and my cup overflows.



**Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be;**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, lover of all,
in this sacrament
we are one family in Christ your Son,
one in the sharing of his body and blood
and one in the communion of his Spirit:
help us to grow in love for one another
and come to the full maturity of the Body of Christ.
We make our prayer through your Son our Saviour.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**



Hymn: Ding dong! Merrily on high

**Ding dong, merrily on high!
In heav'n the bells are ringing;
ding dong, verily the sky
is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!**

**E'en so here below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!**

**Pray ye dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
may ye beautifully rhyme
your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!**

BLESSING

May God the Father sound for you
the great bells of joy for all creation.

Amen

May God the Son ring in your hearts
his message of salvation and hope

Amen

May God the Holy Spirit chime for you
the songs of freedom for the whole world

Amen



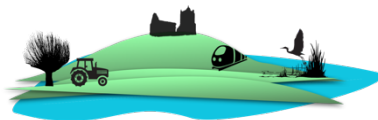
And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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