

Let the bells peal forth

DOZENS of people attended a special service at All Saint's Church in Nunney to celebrate the re-dedication of its restored and augmented bells.

Two extra bells have been added to complete a ring of eight – a new steel frame installed in 1920 was designed to carry eight bells, but for unknown reasons, only six were hung.

A £35,000 fundraising campaign began in 2018 to add the final two bells and to carry out other work in the tower to fit the extra ropes. The original plan was to complete the work by 2020 but Covid intervened.

The work – which took about six months to complete – was overseen by bellhanger Matthew Higby, of Chilcompton. Matthew said: "The story behind the bells here is unusual because no-one knows why the last two were never added, but it is not that rare to augment bells."

Each bell has been given a name, ranging from the treble, named Holy Elizabeth, in honour of the late queen, to the tenor, named Holy Wareham, in honour of two former tower captains.



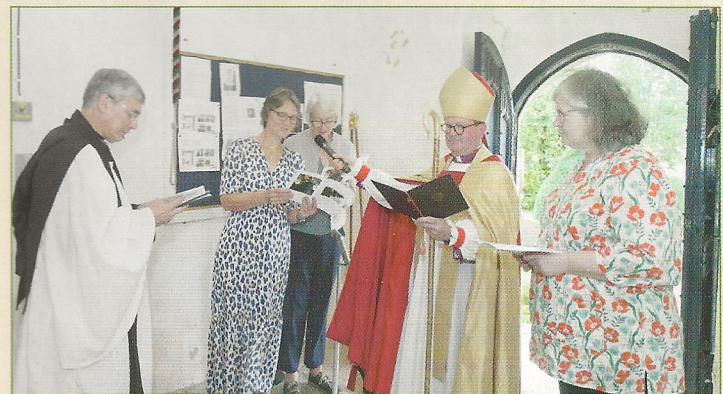
The Postlebury Ringers in the ringing chamber at the first trial peal of the bells with the Rev Anthony Dickson (far left) and Matthew Higby (standing third from left)



The bells ring out for the first time – the additional bells originally came from Kent and Liverpool



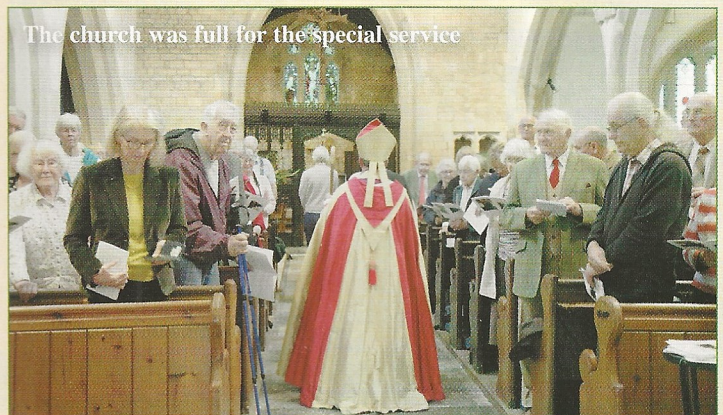
The service was led by the Rt. Rev. Christopher Foster, former Bishop of Portsmouth, pictured with churchwardens Caroline Pomeroy and Jennifer Brook and the Rev Anthony Dickson



The dedication of the bells – the original plan in 1920 was for eight bells



Charlie with one of the newly-restored church bells on show



The church was full for the special service