

DEDICATION AT ST. CLEMENT DANES

An interesting ceremony took place at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12th when a new tenor bell (21½cwt.) for the ring of ten at St. Clement Danes, The Strand, London, was dedicated and named. The previous tenor which, with the other bells, was recast by Mears and Stainbank in 1955 was damaged when a chiming hammer was loosened and fouled the lip. It was thought that the damage was not serious but later cracks in the crown developed and it was decided to replace the bell.

In order that the famous ring should continue to sound forth, a new bell was cast with all the original wording included; the damaged bell was lowered on Monday and the new one put in place under the tower ready for the dedication on Tuesday.

The majority of the 50 or so who were present at the service were RAF personnel including many guest Chaplains, and members of the regular congregation among whom were Sir John Grandy, Sir Neil Cameron and Sir John Gingell. The Resident Chaplain (Rev. D. H. G. Clark, R.A.F.) spoke the introductory words and led the versicles and The Lord's Prayer and then invited the Chaplain-in-Chief (The Ven. J. H. Wilson) to dedicate the new bell.

The Chaplain-in-Chief prayed:

Accept O Lord the offering of this Bell resulting from the gifts of many, and the craftsmanship of men's minds and hands. May this bell ever ring out to proclaim Thy glory and to remind Thy people of their need of Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Viscount Ward of Whitley and the Chaplain-in-Chief (Ven. J. H. Wilson)

I Dedicate this Bell to the glory of God, for use in this Church of St. Clement Danes. In the name of God the Father who loves us; In the name of God the Son who has Redeemed us; and in the name of God the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us. Amen.

The Chaplain-in-Chief then requested the Viscount Ward of Whitley, thus:

Sir, on behalf of the Royal Air Force, I request you in your capacity as a Trustee of this Church, to name this Bell.

Viscount Ward replied:

I name this Great Tenor Bell "Boom" in memory of Viscount Lord Trenchard, Founder of the Royal Air Force.

He then struck the first note on the new bell with a silver-headed hammer and after the hum had died away, the Chaplain-in-Chief said the final prayer...

Almighty God, by whose providence the duties of mankind are variously ordered, grant to all who serve in the Royal Air Force, such a measure of Thy grace, that they seeking Thy glory, the honour of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, and the good of all mankind, may put to good account the gifts which Thou hast bestowed upon them: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

... and he then gave the Blessing.

Many of those present watched as the bell was hoisted into the bell chamber by Philip Jakeman and his assistant.

It was an interesting occasion.

THE BELLS OF ST. CLEMENT DANES

In the year the Armada sailed against England (1588) a bell was cast for St. Clement Danes. This Sanctus Bell still survives and is tolled daily, before each Service, summoning people to the worship of Almighty God.

In 1693 William and Philip Wightman cast a ring of bells for the Church, all of which were irreparably damaged when the Church was destroyed by fire bombs in 1941. When the Royal Air Force rebuilt St. Clement Danes as its Central Church, the Whitechapel Bell Foundry recast the original ring of eight bells, increasing the number to 11, and they were first used at the opening of the restored Church in 1958.

In accordance with ancient custom the bells were blessed before being rehung in January 1957. Again according to custom, each bell was given a name, and the Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Dermot Boyle named the largest bell "Boom", the nickname by which Lord Trenchard was affectionately known throughout the Royal Air Force.

Once again the craftsmen of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry have made this bell, using skills and techniques which have been in use for centuries.

The inscription on the new bell reads:

LAUS DEO

William Davis Edward Clarke Churchwarden 1693
Made by William and Philip Wightman
Recast by Mears and Stainbank 1955

SOUTHOVER—continued

produced a band of youngsters, several taking part in Caters for service ringing. The social side has been advanced with handbell ringing and other Association activities.

DETAILS OF THE BELLS

Treble	4-2-04 1791 Hz.	25½"
	Mears & Stainbank Founders London	
	O praise God in His Holiness	
	Praise Him in the firmament of His power	
	The gift of John Thornton Rickman	
	A.D. 1905.	
2nd	5-0-02 1536 Hz.	27"
	Mears & Stainbank Founders London	
	Praise Him upon the well tuned cymbals	
	Praise Him upon the loud cymbals	
	The gift of	
	John Thornton Rickman	
	A.D. 1905.	
3rd	5-2-23 1358 Hz.	29½"
	Thomas Mears founder London	
	The gift of Henry Verrall 1839.	

4th	5-2-15 1288 Hz.	29¼"
	Thomas Mears founder London	
	The gift of the good people 1839.	
5th	6-1-06 1133 Hz.	31½"
	Thomas Mears founder London	
	The gift of the good people 1839.	
6th	7-1-23 1022 Hz.	33½"
	Thomas Mears founder London	
	the gift of the Verrall family 1839.	
7th	8-0-25 918 Hz.	35½"
	Thomas Mears founder London	
	John Verrall, Gabriel Egles Churchwardens 1839.	
8th	9-2-07 868 Hz.	38"
	Thomas Mears founder London	
	The Revd. John Scobell Rector 1839	
9th	11-0-07 743 Hz.	40¼"
	Thomas Mears founder London	
	The gift of Wm. Verrall Esq ^r in memory of his father	
	1839	
Tenor	17-1-20 670Hz. = E + .27 semitone	46¼"
	Thomas Mears founder London	
	The gift of William Verrall Esq ^r Lord of the Manor	
	1839.	



SOUTHOVER RINGERS

Photographs by Tom Reeves

Back (l to r): Brenda Sherrard, Arthur Snell, Anna Sherrard, Tom Reeves; middle: Jane Markby, Hazel Craven, Margaret Thorpe, Bert French, Noel Deam (captain), Margaret Wilkins (secretary), Molly Elphick, Mavis Elphick, Christine Hebborn, Peter Sherrard; front: Jessica Kennett, Susan Markby, John Kennett (churchwarden), Peter Markby (rector), George Elphick (churchwarden and steeplekeeper), Lisa Wilkins, Maria Hoad. Absent: David Bridger and Fred Fuller.

Lincoln D.G. AT SPALDING

On 19th January the Elloe Deaneries Branch held their AGM at Spalding Parish Church. Members were joined by visitors, including the Guild Master and Secretary, and a pleasant afternoon's ringing was followed by a service, conducted by the Branch President (Canon D. G. Jakeman) who also presided over the meeting.

Several new members were elected, including ringers from Holbeach, Long Sutton and Deeping St. Nicholas. We were told that the new bands at Pinchbeck and Deeping St. Nicholas are ringing for services, and it is hoped that St. Paul's, Fulney, will soon have a band for the first time in several years.

Mr. Denis Frith, Guild secretary, entreated us to enter a band in the Guild Striking Competition, as this has been impossible for the past two years. Mr. Geoffrey Spencer undertook to do his best to arrange a Branch competition, the winners of which will go on to compete in the Guild competition in September.

Another request came from Canon Jakeman, who passed on to us an appeal from a priest in the West Indies for the donation of a bell for his church.

Ringing after the meeting continued until 9 p.m. S. E. T.