

Church bellringing is one of those quintessentially British sounds that we often take for granted. The unique English style of ringing evolved over 400 years ago, and has become part of our heritage

All Saints church has a fine ring of eight bells hung for traditional English style change ringing, and an active band of ringers who carry on the tradition, ringing for services, special events and weddings.

The oldest bells at All Saints have been here for over 300 years. Just imagine how many brides and grooms have walked out into the sunlight after their wedding service, and heard their joyous sound ringing out over the churchyard and the town.



All Saints' oldest bell, cast in 1703, waiting to be lifted up the tower after restoration in 2004. It weighs just over $\frac{3}{4}$ ton, and is nearly 4 feet (1.2m) diameter.

Summary of services offered

Please note – Charges vary from time to time. The Parish secretary will advise you of current charges.

Normal ringing after your wedding.

Charge £ . . .

Quarter peal rung after your wedding (subject to availability) including supply of commemorative quarter peal cards.

Charge £ . . .

Quarter peal rung at any other time, including supply of commemorative quarter peal cards.

Charge £ . . .

Any experienced ringers among your guests are welcome to join in some of the ringing

No charge

Your guests are able to see your wedding ringing in action (pre-arranged)

No charge

An opportunity for you to visit the tower to see the bells, and the views from the roof, before your wedding day (pre-arranged)

No charge

Contact details

If you have any queries about bells for your wedding, the ringers can be contacted at:

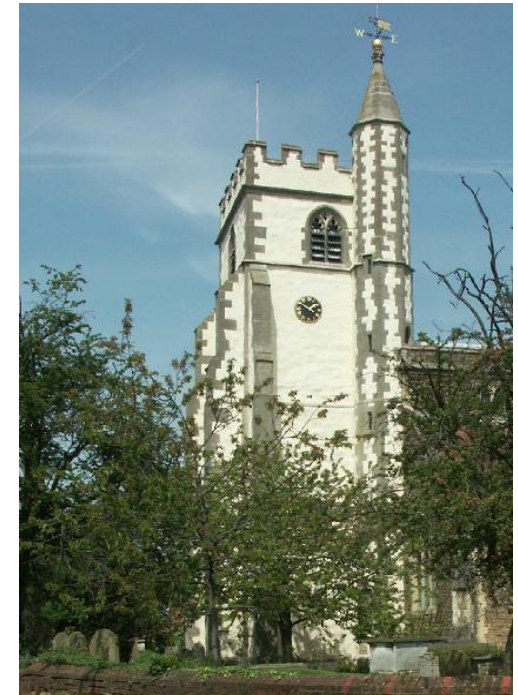
secretary@allsaintswokinghambells.org.uk

Further information

If you would like to find out more about bells, ringing and ringers in Wokingham, please feel free to visit the tower website:

www.allsaintswokinghambells.org.uk/

All Saints Wokingham



Bells for your wedding

The timeless sound of English church bells provides the perfect backdrop for your wedding.

What better sound could announce for all to hear that you are now husband and wife, as you celebrate with your family and friends after the service.

Wedding ringing

At All Saints, we ring immediately after the wedding service.

We time the start so that you leave the main body of the church to the sound of the organ, and by the time you have passed through the porch, you hear the bells as you emerge into the churchyard (and we hope into the sunshine).

We normally ring for about twenty minutes, which is roughly the time that most wedding parties spend taking pictures in the churchyard. The ringing is more or less continuous, though we might pause briefly part way through to re-arrange the band and ring something different.

Midweek weddings

Most weddings are on Saturdays, but we increasingly receive requests to ring for midweek weddings. Most of the ringers are employed, so it is harder to get together a band of ringers. Normally we can do so (with ringers who are retired or in jobs with some flexibility).

If you have a midweek wedding, we will make every effort to get a full band. We usually can, but there is a small chance we might not be able to ring all eight bells. Even six bells is a glorious sound to accompany your wedding.

Special ringing

We often commemorate a notable event by ringing a special performance called a 'quarter peal'¹, which takes about 50 minutes (and requires more skill than routine wedding ringing).

If you ask us to ring a quarter peal for your wedding, you will receive a commemorative card that records the details of the performance (see example opposite). All quarter peals are also published in 'The Ringing World'².

We may be able to extend the ringing after your wedding into a quarter peal (depending on whether there is another wedding immediately afterwards, and on the availability of suitably experienced ringers). Otherwise, we can ring it on a suitable date shortly afterwards (like the example shown below).

If you would like us to ring a quarter peal for your wedding, please contact us to discuss the details.

Other offers

If you or any of your guests would like to see your wedding ringing in action, we can arrange this (at no extra charge) if it is arranged beforehand.

If there are any experienced ringers among your guests, they are welcome to come up and join in with the ringing for a short time. Some ringers come up on their own initiative, but many might not know whether they would be welcome. At All Saints, they are very welcome.

If at a convenient time before (or after) your wedding, you would like to visit the tower to see the bells, and the spectacular views from the roof, we can normally arrange this for you.



The bells mouth up, ready for ringing



Some of the ringers at All Saints



The tower seen from the churchyard

All Saints, Wokingham, Berkshire			
<i>On Sunday 17th June 2007 in 45 minutes.</i>			
A Quarter Peal of 1260 changes of Grandsire Triples			
Emily J Mellor	Treble	Richard H Johnston	5
Barbara G Smith	2	Nigel AL Mellor	6
Julie B Goodchild	3	John A Harrison	7
Jonathan P Goodchild	4	Stephen R Smith	Tenor
Conducted by Nigel AL Mellor			
Rung to celebrate the marriage of Alison Fox and Chris Brook on 9th June.			

Typical quarter peal card (The actual size is A6, ie 50% larger than shown here.)

1 A whole peal takes about 3 hours, and is much less common.

2 www.ringingworld.co.uk