

Donating to the Ring of Bells Project

Thank you for considering donating to this exciting project. If you are considering sponsoring a bell, please speak to one of the committee members or get in touch via the Parish Office.

Donations can be made via bank transfer:

Account name: St Gabriel's PCC

Bank: TSB

Sort code: 30-91-50

Account number: 00569227

Reference "Bells [your surname]"

Or we can accept cash/cheques (made payable to St Gabriel's PCC) at the Parish Office. If you are a UK taxpayer, you are able to increase the value of your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate. By completing a gift aid form, available from one of the committee members or the Parish Office, St Gabriel's will be able to reclaim gift aid on your donation.

Alternatively, scan the QR code below to donate online:



(Please note that the Stewardship platform charges a processing fee of 3% on donations or 3.5% on gift aided donations. This fee is deducted from the amount you donate. If you are donating a larger amount or would like your whole donation to go to the project, please use one of the previous methods.)

Contact information:

St Gabriel's Parish Office

2 St Gabriel's Avenue

NE6 5QN

Email: stgabriel.heaton@gmail.com

Tel: 0191 265 5843

Vicar: Rev. Canon Jonathan Lawson

Email: vicarofheaton@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jonathan Richards

Email: treasurerstgabs@gmail.com

Website: stgabrielschurch.co.uk

Facebook:

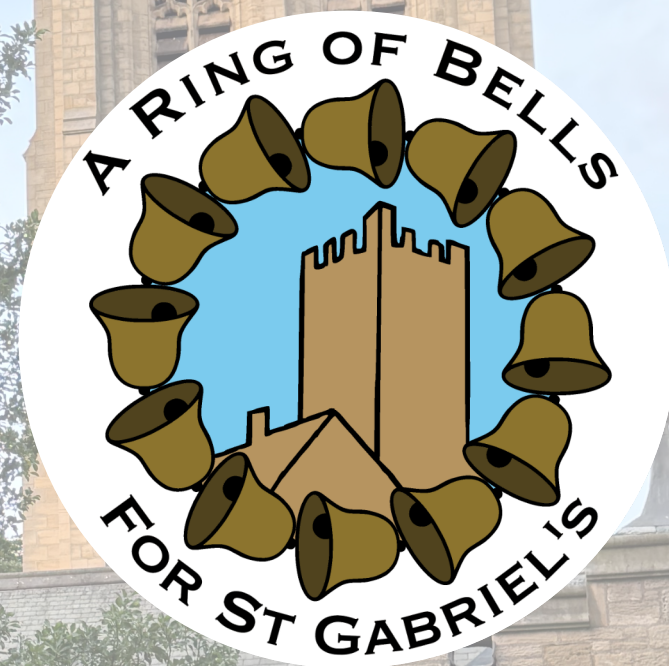
[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/StGabrielsChurchHeaton)

StGabrielsChurchHeaton

Inside photos:

- 1) The bell chamber in St Gabriel's tower
- 2) The bells from Wales (in need of cleaning!)
- 3) A sample bell inscription

Credit: Anne Pickering, Clive Maddison, Jim Crowther



Our Appeal For a Peel

What we have done so far

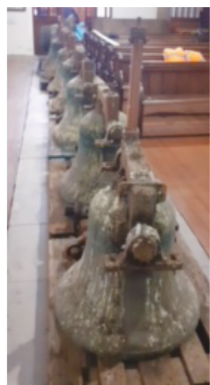
We were approached by Jim Crowther, a retired North East businessman and enthusiast for promoting bell ringing, and offered 8 disused bells for our church tower. He suggested that 4 more bells be cast to make a ring of 12. Originally constructed in 1899, there are clear indications from the architecture that our tower was built for this purpose. Jim has already run several successful projects, relocating bells and teaching people to ring.

Jim spoke to the congregation at our annual meeting and following lengthy discussions by the Parochial Church Council (PCC), we voted to proceed with the project, subject to a faculty (Church of England planning permission) and fundraising.



A survey of our church tower was completed and the structural engineer reported that it was in very good condition and certainly strong enough to hold 12 bells.

Visits have taken place by our church architect and by Whites of Appleton, a renowned specialist bell hanging company, to survey the tower and produce an estimate for the necessary work. This includes the removal of the bells from a church in Wales, cleaning, restoration, retuning and balancing; casting four additional bells; constructing a bell frame and fittings; transporting all the bells from their base in Oxfordshire to St Gabriel's; hoisting the bells into place in the tower; installing the bells; installing an effective sound control system to reduce the volume of the bells for practice sessions.



Some additional building work on the tower louvres and improved lighting, glazing, panelling, ventilation, and

heating in the tower ringing room would be needed, as well as scaffolding for the installation of the bells.

The basic cost for this work as at January 2026 is £370,000 including VAT and contingency. We have accepted the offer of bell metal from a church in Darlington, which has helped to reduce the cost.

We have formed a bell committee to lead this project forwards. We have visited churches including St. Michael's, Alnwick, where a similar project has recently been successfully completed, distributed leaflets around the 7,000 homes in our Parish, organised a Parish Meeting and begun work on clearing the three levels in the tower.

Fundraising

The funding for this project is substantial and must be raised without calling on church funds. We aim to raise £150,000 through bell sponsorships, with the 12 bells being priced at £12,500 each. To that end we are looking for 12 donors - individuals, families, or organisations - to sponsor a bell. Already, three donors have generously pledged this amount.

Additionally, we would like to have a congregation bell, and a Friends of St Gabriel's Bell for which over £8,000 has already been raised.

Bell sponsors alone won't cover the cost of the whole project and we would therefore be hugely grateful for any donation large or small. These donations will form the bedrock of this fundraising campaign and will be permanently recorded in a book in Church. We are researching possible grant-making organisation and trusts to which we will also apply for funding. The bell sponsorships and donations are vital to the success of these bids as grant-making bodies generally require you to have some funding in place before they will pledge their support.

Why become a bell sponsor?

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to leave a unique legacy. This could be in memory of a loved one or a few family members. It could be in thanksgiving for a long life well lived, a new baby in the family, a success, achievement or commemoration. Perhaps as a celebration of a marriage, a partnership or special anniversary. A company or a club might decide to create this



permanent memorial. Every bell will be engraved with the name(s) of the donor(s) & will be heard ringing across the local area for centuries to come.

What will be achieved

- The tower of St Gabriel's will have a ring of twelve bells for the first time in its history and fulfil the purpose for which it was built.
- The calming, melodic sound of church bells will be heard in Heaton, connecting present generations to centuries of history.
- St Gabriel's will join a group of only sixteen churches in the Tyne and Wear area with functioning bells. It will be the only church in the area with a ring of twelve bells for full circle ringing.
- People of all ages will be taught to ring at St Gabriel's, further strengthening its reputation as a growing centre for music education in the community.
- The art of change ringing will have a new home, so continuing this ancient tradition.
- The bells will ring for the main service on Sunday and to mark important religious and state occasions. They will also be made available for ringing at weddings.
- People of all faiths and none will continue to be welcomed into St Gabriel's and a ringing team will attract new members into the church community.
- A new, close knit community of bell ringers will be established and will pass on their skills to future generations, building its own history.
- This 'new' project will quickly become an established part of the church and the community, and the bells will be heard and celebrated for many years to come.
- Donors will have a permanent memorial of their contribution within the church and their bells will ensure their memory rings out for future generations.