

Saint Mark's Restoration

Plans

- * Augment the bells to 8, rehang lower in a metal frame and, if necessary, lightly tune.
- * Restore and convert the gallery into a ringing room - also to be used by the church.
- * Install variable sound control.

Problems

- * The cost is high, about 80K.
- * There is a credibility gap as the idea has been around for a long time.
- * St. Marks is not situated in one of the most affluent parts of Cheltenham.

Hopeful Signs

- * There is a keen local band that had already raised £16,500 by November 5th, 2005.
- * The new vicar and the churchwardens are enthusiastic.
- * The area is becoming more important as GCHQ is now all on that side of Cheltenham.

Solutions

- * If all ringers gave their wedding earnings that would raise over £7,000 per year.
- * We are planning a sponsored ¼ peal day next October.
- * Individual ringers can make gift aided donations.

Facts

- * The Cheltenham Branch has not undertaken a major project in living memory.
- * The bells we ring are there because of the generosity of previous generations.

Reasons for supporting bell projects

- * To call the faithful to worship.
- * To enable ourselves and others to participate in a fascinating pastime.
- * Because bell ringing is part of our heritage.

Please send your donations to Owen Barraclough, Robin Hollow, Church Road, Cheltenham, GL51 7AN. Cheques to "St. Mark's Bell Fund". Gift aid forms available from <http://stmarkschelt.zapto.org/giftaid.pdf>. Tower website <http://stmarkschelt.zapto.org/>.

Could those people who would be willing to ring for more weddings please let me know by the end of the year and I will forward their names to the tower secretaries.

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