

Order of Service for

*The Rededication of the bells and
commissioning of the bellringers*

St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Thursday 14th October 2021

Before the service:

Poem: *New Year's Day Church Bells* by Malcolm Guite

Introit: *Let the bells ring out* (Simon Peberdy, local musician and bellringer)

Welcome

Hymn (Processional) *We have a gospel to proclaim*

Introduction and Bidding Prayer

Brothers and Sisters, as we come together to praise God for our augmented ring of ten bells, let us pray.

Loving Father,
we praise you for your goodness
in making the beauty of this world
and for calling us to be your people.

We thank you for all the gifts you give to your Church to enable us to proclaim your love to the world.

Today we thank you for what John Masefield called 'the magical great musical voice' of these bells which have called people to worship for over three hundred years.

We praise you for the insights of those who developed the technology and methodology of ringing, and for all those who practise it today. Especially we thank you for the ringers of this district, for their time and dedication, for their gifts and enthusiasm.

We praise you for the skills of craftsmen and women;

For those who over the centuries built, decorated and maintained this church and tower;

For builders, decorators, electricians and carpenters who have worked on this project to repair and protect the tower, to improve safety and access, and to make it ready for this restored and augmented ring of bells;

For those who, today and in every age, have used their best knowledge of current technology to cast and tune and hang these bells.

We give thanks for the generosity of those who have made the project possible by their gifts of time, money and talents.

As we recall that bells have rung out over Ledbury for centuries, calling people to worship we also recognise that these bells express the joys and sorrows of the whole community, ringing out at times of celebration and times of sadness, both personal and national. So we pray that the sound of these bells may bring comfort to the sad, deepen the joy of those who are happy, encourage the faithful, and announce your welcome to those who seek.

Amen

Penitence

Jesus said, 'Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled.'

As sisters and brothers in God's family,
we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

May your loving mercy come to us, O Lord,
and your salvation according to your word:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Your word is a lantern to our feet and a light to our path:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

O let your mercy come to us that we may live,
for your law is our delight:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Praise

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving, and be glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,
is now and shall be for ever.**

Amen.

Word

Reading: 1 Chronicles 29: 9-14

Hymn: *Tell out my soul*

Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Hymn: *Through all the Changing Scenes of Life*

During the last verse of the Hymn, the Bishop, the Rector, the Churchwardens, the Tower Captain and Ledbury ringers move to the front of the nave for the act of dedication.

Dedication ceremony

The Tower Captain hands a bell rope to the Rector, who addresses the Bishop:

The Rector: Bishop Richard, please receive this rope as a symbol of the restored and new bells hanging in the tower, which we ask you to dedicate to the Glory of God.

The Bishop: Let us pray. Almighty God, we offer to you all the work that has been undertaken to restore & augment these bells, and to repair the tower inside and out. We ask for your blessing on all that has been done, and dedicate it to your glory. Sanctify, we pray, the bells, that they may carry the message of your love to the whole of Ledbury. Bless with your grace all those who ring here, so that they and those who hear the bells rung may lift their hearts in praise to Jesus Christ Our Lord.

In the name of God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Bishop addresses the Ledbury bellringers.

The Bishop: Bellringers of Ledbury, will you dedicate your energy and skills that you may always ring to the glory of God?

The bellringers: **With the help of God, we will.**

The Bishop invites all other bellringers in the congregation to stand:

The Bishop: Those of you who ring bells in other churches in this district and beyond, will you, too, dedicate your energy and skills that you may always ring to the glory of God?

The bellringers: **With the help of God, we will.**

The Bishop asks the whole congregation to stand.

The Bishop: People of God, will you dedicate yourselves to the glory of God, so that your whole lives ring out to His praise?

With the help of God, we will.

The Bishop invites the congregation to be seated.

Address

Anthem: *O Thou, the central orb* (Charles Wood)

Intercessions

Blessed are you, eternal God,

to be praised and glorified for ever.

Hear us as we pray for your Church:

make us all one, that the world may believe.

Grant that we may truly and humbly serve you:

that the love of Christ may be shared with all.

Inspire and lead those who hold authority
in the nations of the world:

guide them in the ways of justice and peace.

Make us alive to the needs of our community:

help us to share each other's joys and burdens.

Look with kindness on our homes and families:

grant that your love may grow in our hearts.

Deepen our compassion for all who suffer from sickness,
grief or trouble:

in your presence may they find their strength.

We remember those who have died:

Father, into your hands we commend them.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered
your eternal glory:

bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Hymn: Praise my soul the King of Heaven

Blessing & Dismissal

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty:
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
Alleluia. Amen.

After the Service:

*There will be a retiring collection shared between the Ledbury Bells Project Education Programme
and the work of St Michael's Church.*