

## CHURCH BELLS

The bell ringing chamber is reached by a clockwise stone spiral staircase of 41 steps. From here the ringers can sound out a peal from the fine and rare set of **ten bells** which are hung in the tower above.

**Their timeline simply is:**

**1846:** Only 3 bells were placed in the original tower.

**1873:** Peal of bells was increased from 3 to 8. (3 paid by the Earl; 2 paid by public subscription).

**1920:** By the mid 1920s, the bells were described as “*a mixed lot, not very well in tune*”.

**1935:** Bells were recast and remodelled. Two further bells (treble bells) were added. Plus, an ‘**Ellacombe Chiming System**’.

(N.B. Influence of Canon Renshaw in 1935).



[left, Ellacombe apparatus for 6 bells]

The **Ellacombe apparatus** is a mechanism devised for performing change ringing on church bells by striking stationary bells with hammers. It can be operated by one person and is often used to celebrate special occasions, such as hymns at weddings or carols at Christmas. The system was devised in 1821 by the Reverend Henry Thomas **Ellacombe** of Gloucestershire, who could not tolerate the behaviour of his ringers which he described as ‘unruly.’ The apparatus requires considerable strength and expertise

### WEIGHTS

	Cwt	qtr	lbs	Tuning	Diameter
Treble	4	3	17	F	27"
2	4	3	26	E	28"
3	5	0	1	D	29"
4	5	0	24	C#	30"
5	6	2	0	B	32½"
6	7	3	19	A	35"
7	10	0	10	G	38½"
8	12	2	13	F#	41"
9	16	3	24	E	45½"
Tenor	24	0	7	D	51¼" [20cwt. = 1 ton]

Tuned to the The KEY of E.

Most of the bells have engravings and dedications on them:-

‘Given in memory of Soldiers of the King, Doctors and Nurses at the Worsley Hall Red Cross Hospital during the Great War 1914 - 1918’

‘In memory of Mrs Ellen Cherry. The gift of her children. 1935’

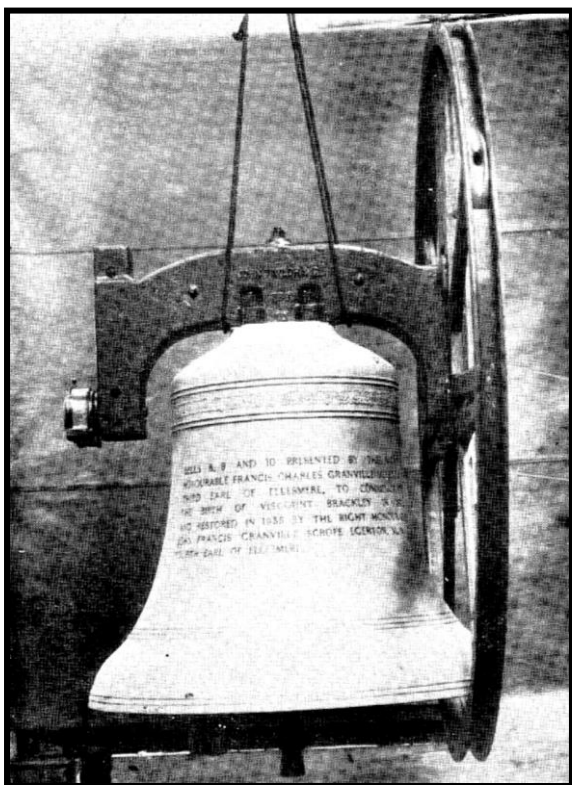
‘The gift of Mr. and Mrs. T. Gerard. 1935. In memory of their two sons.’

‘Sic Donec. K.H. June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1905.’

‘Restored by the Worsley Band of Ringers. 1935.’ (F .H. Derbyshire, W. Jones, F. Grundy, J.H. Ridyard, W. Grundy, K. Welsby, C. Ridyard, R. Jones, R. Aldred, T. Aldred, E. Yates, G. Aldred.)

‘Given by Miss Elizabeth and Miss Bella Sumner. The constant friends of Worsley Church.’

‘Restored in memory of Constantine Charles Henry Phipps, third Marquis of Normanby. Vicar of Worsley 1872 - 1890.



The TENOR Bell (24cwt.)

The inscription reads:

‘Bells 8, 9 and 10 presented by the Right Honourable Francis Charles Granville Egerton 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Ellesmere. To commemorate the birth of Viscount Brackley in 1872 and restored in 1935 by the Right Honourable John Francis Granville Scrope Egerton, M.V.O., 4th Earl of Ellesmere.’

There are 10 bells in the tower at St. Mark’s – a fact which is shared with Westminster Abbey and the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris.

On Sunday 15 December 1935, the B.B.C. introduced a series of radio programmes entitled *'The Ringing Isle.'* The first of these programmes featured the recently installed peal of 10 bells from St. Mark's Church. The peal at St. Mark's is special because there are not many sets of 10 bells across the country. The accompanying photo to the programme showed Canon Isaac Renshaw inspecting the bells.



**5.30 'The Ringing Isle'**  
 The Bells and Chimes of Worsley Parish Church after their recasting and remodelling

When Handel came to England in the early eighteenth century, he found the practice of bell-ringing so popular that he called the country the 'Ringing Isle', and he has been credited with the statement that the bell is our national heritage. Today there are in the country at least 80,000 bells, mostly hung for change-ringing in peals of five, six, eight, ten, or twelve bells.

**THE SONG OF THE BELLS**  
 This afternoon at 5.30 the bells of Worsley Parish Church will ring in a series of programmes featuring the bells of Northern churches. This picture shows the Vicar in the belfry of his church. (Northern Programme).

Handel called Britain **'the ringing isle'** because when he came to live here, he heard bells ringing everywhere: great bells in towers, and handbells in some of the first houses he visited. The sound of people ringing the changes is a peculiarly British sound of celebration, and it is the sound of communal music-making.



The sound is instantly recognisable and loved across these islands. The distant sound of church bells ringing in the distance on a warm summer's evening is a thing of beauty to enjoy. For centuries, church bells have sounded - calling people to worship, in celebration of special occasions, in remembrance and to mark special events.

The scientific and musical study of bells and ringing is known as **Campanology**. It is usually used in reference to relatively large bells, often hung in a separate tower. The most famous **Campanile** is that of St. Mark's in Venice.