

## The Bells of St. Mary's



There have been Bells at St Mary's Willingdon since 1618 when the first bell was installed. By 1732 there were 5 bells and in 1938 the treble bell was added giving a peal of 6. The last time any major work was carried out on the bells was in 1933. The bells now need a thorough overhaul which requires them being removed from the tower to a bell foundry where the necessary work will be carried out. This will be

costly; therefore money raised at the Flower Festival will go towards this venture.

My name is Charles Percy and I am a long standing ringer here in Willingdon having learnt to ring as a young child, aged 9, along with my 2 older sisters and other young people. My parents were keen ringers, my mother being the first lady ringer in Eastbourne. They were keen members of the Sussex Association of Change Ringers in the 1960s and 70s. As children, my sisters and I spent many holidays ringing at different churches and some cathedrals; 5 ringers were very welcome in church belfries.

Learning to handle and ring bells takes a few months, similar to learning how to drive. If you are interested in learning come and see us at the festival or on a Thursday evening between 7.30pm and 8.30pm when we practise ringing for the Sunday services.



Do look at the church website

[www.stmaryswillingdon.org](http://www.stmaryswillingdon.org) click on

Church Activities then choose Bell Ringing. Here you can find the full history of our bells and information about the ringers and what we do.

I can be contacted on Tel: 07751435741.

