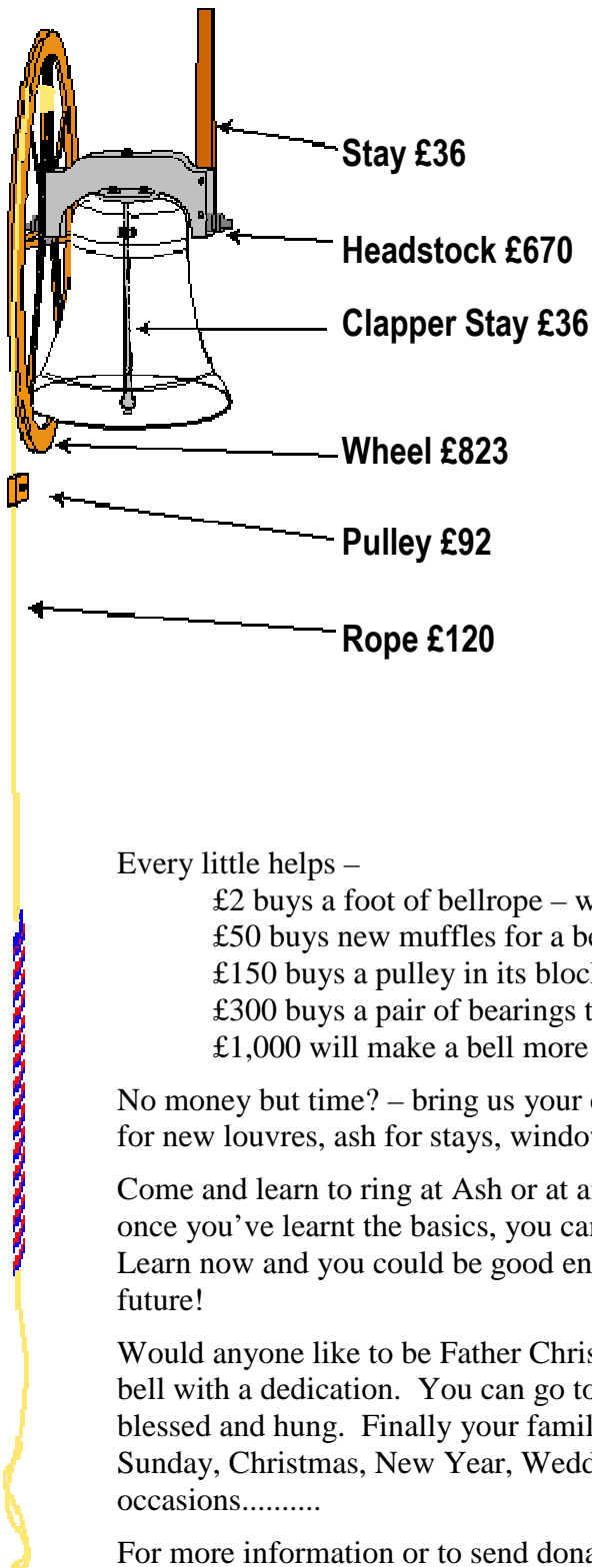


## Ash is Appealing



Listen. Close your eyes.

What sound sums up England for you? Concorde overhead? Intercity train horns? Police sirens? or Big Ben? St Paul's Bells? Westminster Abbey Bells?

It is one of our long held traditions to celebrate with bells – be it grand state occasions, Christmas or family weddings. We'd like to keep these traditions alive. These great lumps of cast metal in enormous wooden frames look and sound invincible, eternal. However if they are to continue to sound they need maintenance. Our fixtures and fittings need replacing, most have been in the tower at Ash for at least 100 years and even in churches 'rust doth corrupt'.

To properly sort out our six bells at St Peter and St Paul's Ash will cost about £36,000. We need a benefactor or several. If you commemorate families' important moments (a long tradition with bells) then we'll record your name in the tower and your refurbished bell could well ring out over the Kent countryside for another 300 years. Not got £5,000 in a spare pocket?

Every little helps –

£2 buys a foot of bellrope – we need 60 plus feet per bell.

£50 buys new muffles for a bell.

£150 buys a pulley in its block to ease the pulling of 9½ cwt of bell.

£300 buys a pair of bearings to help the bell swing more easily.

£1,000 will make a bell more tuneful.

No money but time? – bring us your expertise, we'll need transport, leather for baldricks, oak for new louvres, ash for stays, windows glazed and funds raised.

Come and learn to ring at Ash or at any tower in the district, we're all short of ringers and once you've learnt the basics, you can progress to bigger bells, more complicated bell music. Learn now and you could be good enough to be invited to ring for state occasions in the future!

Would anyone like to be Father Christmas? £6,000 and you can have your name cast in a new bell with a dedication. You can go to the foundry and watch it being cast, see it tuned, blessed and hung. Finally your family could hear it ring out for twelve generations. Every Sunday, Christmas, New Year, Weddings, Coronations, Royal Births, The Olympics, great occasions.....

For more information or to send donations contact Ian Paddy via the web team.

Or find us at Ash Tower on Saturday and Sunday; just follow the sound of the Bells.

### Question

For what sport do you need a team of 6, 8, or 12?

### Answer

Bell ringing.

What do you mean it's not a sport? – it's called 'The Exercise' for a good reason!