



The bells of All Saints' Church Lightwater were rededicated at its Harvest Festival services on October 2013 after being restored using a substantial legacy from two parishioners.

Originally installed in the 1980s, the electronic mechanism of the six church bells had suffered from the weather and had not been rung for the previous two years.

Thanks to a legacy left by parishioners Frank and Hazel Stilwell, all that changed. Vicar the Revd Mark Wallace said: we had a quote for the repairs, which, along with the scaffolding amounted to almost £9,000 which we didn't feel could be a fundraising priority.

“As we celebrated Harvest, it was great to share the fruit of Frank and Hazel’s labours, and reflect on the difference that being part of God’s people in Lightwater made to them.”

Frank and Hazels legacy rings true



“I’m delighted that we were able to use a legacy to do the work, rather than appealing to hard-pressed local people. Since the bells were repaired, so many people have said how wonderful it is to hear them being rung again.” Revd Mark Wallace

Hazel’s brother, Jeffrey Gardiner, said “My sister Hazel and her dear husband Frank loved living in Lightwater. Most of all they loved All Saints’ and its congregation.

“It was always full of generous and loving friends and priests. Their family was also always cherished and welcomed at their church, so what could be more fitting that Hazel and Frank’s bequest being used to make a joyful sound as the newly-restored bells ring out their greetings and remind

us of two sorely missed benefactors.”

Article Credit: Diocese of Guildford 2014

Related

St Michael’s, Alphington

In 2010, Jack and Babs Bearne left a gift in their Will to St Michael's Church, Alphington, in the Diocese of Exeter. Their generosity has had a transformational impact on the life of the church.

Tricia’s Legacy to St Peter’s Church, Portishead

By leaving a gift in her Will to St Peter’s, Tricia wants to ensure that future generations will also hear about Christ and receive his blessings. Such generosity is a wonderful commitment to the work of God in a parish.

Christ Church, Guildford

A ground-breaking, multi-functional three metre wide ‘invisible’ screen has been installed at Christ Church Guildford following a legacy left by a member of the congregation.

St Margaret's, Ormesby

A joint legacy of £32,000 from Laurie and Margaret Edwards to St Margaret's in Ormesby led to a full refurbishment of the church including new lighting.

Source URL: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/lasting-gift-your-church/amazing-gift-case-studies/all-saints-lightwater>