

**All Saints Benhilton Society of Change Ringers, 1886-1994**

These records were deposited on 24 March 1999 by the Society and consist of the earliest minute books, reports, accounts, registers, papers concerning the restoration of the bells and general correspondence. Although the first minute book dates from September 1896, an earlier photograph of ringers is dated July 1886. The church itself was consecrated in 1866 at which time Thomas Alcock (Lord of the Manor of Sutton) presented the church with the tenor bell. In 1877 the seventh bell was installed and in the following three years the sixth, fifth and fourth bells were added. The third was added in 1882. Active fundraising both locally and elsewhere in Surrey raised enough money for the second and most of the treble. The whole ring was completed in 1893. The first peal of the bells was rung in 1895.

One of the major achievements of the Society was the restoration of the bells during the period 1970-1972 when unable to raise sufficient funds the Society undertook to "do-it-themselves". The ringers undertook the lowering of the old bells; making the concrete foundation; erecting a new steel frame; assisting the founders with rehangng the recast bells, replacing two timber floors and refitting the chiming apparatus.

See also the following archive references: 3744 and 3810

**Recommended reading:**

*Our Parish of All Saints, Benhilton 1863-1933* by AMR, 1933

*History of the Church and Parish of All Saints Benhilton* by Donovan, [1962/63]

*The Ringing World* (Official journal of the The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers), Vol. LXVI, No. 3071, March 6, 1970

## All Saints Benhilton Society of Change Ringers, 1886-1994

| Reference   | Description  | Dates                  |
|-------------|--|------------------------|
| <b>63/1</b> | <b>Minutes, agendas, reports</b>   |                        |
| 63/1/1      | Minute book  | 28 Sep 1896-2 Feb 1966 |
| 63/1/2      | AGM agendas and captain's reports  | 1973-1989              |
| 63/1/3      | Secretary's reports  | 1963-1969              |
| 63/1/4      | Misc reports inc: Bellringers reports 1967, 1969, 1982 and Registrar's report c1972  | 1967-1982              |
| <b>63/2</b> | <b>Accounts</b>  |                        |
| 63/2/1      | Annual accounts and balance sheets (typescript)                                      | 1954-1990              |
| 63/2/2      | Correspondence   | 1958-1990 (gaps)       |
| <b>63/3</b> | <b>Registers</b>   |                        |
| 63/3/1      | Register of Sunday ringing. Includes some Monday and Wedding ringing                 | 1962-1972              |
| 63/3/2      | Register of Sunday and Tuesday ringing   | 1973-1981              |
| 63/3/3      | Register of visiting ringers   | 1930-1970              |
| <b>63/4</b> | <b>Rules</b>   |                        |
| 63/4/1      | Benhilton Society of Change Ringers, rules   | [1896]                 |
| 63/4/2      | Benhilton Society of Change Ringers, rules   | 30 March 1935          |
| <b>63/5</b> | <b>Photograph of the Change Ringers in front of All Saints Benhilton Church</b>      | 10 July 1886           |
| <b>63/6</b> | <b>Maintenance and Restoration of the Bells</b>                                      |                        |
| 63/6/1      | Correspondence with the Whitechapel Bell Foundry Ltd, 34 Whitechapel Road, London E1 | 1969-1972              |

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|             |   |             |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| 63/6/2      | <p>In envelope from Whitechapel Bell Foundry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- blueprint of the auto-wind layout for Benhilton by Gillett &amp; Johnston (Croydon) Ltd, drawing no. GH857-1</li> <li>- blueprint of sections showing bell frame details. Scale: ½"=1', 15 May 1970.</li> <li>- 2 copies of blueprint showing steel foundation details, 18 May 1970, no scale.</li> <li>- blueprint showing bell frame details, 15 May 1970, scale ½"=1'.</li> <li>- copy of details of concrete beam framing, bell dead weights, bell design loading, fittings, cast iron frames and load distribution drawn up by K G Smith, C. Eng, 3 Garden Close, Banstead, Surrey, [c 1970]</li> <li>- three miscellaneous drawings with no date, originator or scale indicated</li> </ul> | 1970        |
| 63/6/3      | <p>Correspondence between the Society and E Dent &amp; Co Ltd of Pall Mall, London SW1 regarding the overhaul of the movement and conversion to auto-winding of the striking turret clock</p>   | 1969-1972   |
| 63/6/4      | <p>Papers concerning the Society's own work towards the restoration including accounts</p>  | 1970-1971   |
| 63/6/5      | <p>Fundraising papers and minutes of the Restoration Appeals Committee including a photograph of the sponsored 10 mile walk (1970)</p>  | 1968-1971   |
| 63/6/6      | <p>Completion of work: Thanksgiving service; celebration dinner menu; commemorative board and draft article for <i>The Ringing World</i> about the work</p>   | 1970-1972   |
| 63/6/7      | <p>Handbells: correspondence regarding the purchase and upkeep of the handbells</p>   | 1976-1977   |
| <b>63/7</b> | <b>Special Ringings</b>   |             |
| 63/7/1      | <p>Correspondence with Southwark Diocese regarding the Society ringing at Southwark Cathedral</p>   | 1967-1984   |
| 63/7/2      | <p>Correspondence and programme for the Society's contribution to the Queen's Jubilee celebration</p>   | 1977        |
| 63/7/3      | <p>Letter from Buckingham Palace on behalf of the Duke and Duchess of York thanking the Society for their message of congratulations on the birth of their daughter</p>   | 16 Aug 1988 |

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|              |   |             |
|--------------|---|-------------|
| 63/7/4       | Correspondence regarding a sponsored peal for The Church of England Children's Society  | 1981        |
| <br>         |   |             |
| <b>63/8</b>  | <b>Outings and activities</b>   |             |
| 63/8/1       | Details of outings to ring at other churches  | 1964-1994   |
| <br>         |   |             |
| <b>63/9</b>  | <b>Correspondence</b>   |             |
| 63/9/1       | Correspondence file believed to belong to Mr E Gosden (captain of the bellringers). It was found in the belfry, 31 Dec 1969 and includes correspondence regarding the restoration of the bells, newspaper cuttings regarding parents' protests at the noise of the bells, a report on the bells by Edwin H Lewis, 16 Jul 1947 and newspaper cuttings about the special peal on the birth of Prince Charles. | 1943-1959   |
| <br>         |   |             |
| 63/9/2       | Letter from Ecclesiastical Insurance Office Ltd re: bellringers Insurance policy  | 18 Feb 1948 |
| <br>         |   |             |
| 63/9/3       | Correspondence with H Turnbull & Co Ltd of Banstead, Surrey regarding a social evening  | 1976-1977   |
| <br>         |   |             |
| 63/9/4       | Miscellaneous correspondence including draft articles for <i>The Messenger</i> (parish magazine) and <i>The Ringing World</i> and papers relating to fundraising activities   | 1964-1990   |
| <br>         |   |             |
| <b>63/10</b> | <b>Surrey Associations</b>  |             |
| 63/10/1      | Surrey Association of Church Bell Ringers (founded 21 May 1880) Report and Accounts (1971); Surrey Association of Change Ringers form of service for use at association meetings (n.d.) and correspondence (1971-73)  | 1971-1973   |
| <br>         |   |             |
| 63/10/2      | Surveys: local results and a copy of 1988 survey carried out by Central Council of Church Bell Ringers; 1990 Surrey survey analysis   | 1988-1990   |