

PEARLIES AND BOW BELLS

London's pearly kings and queens come to the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow to give their support to the Lord Mayor's appeal for funds to get Bow Bells ringing again. It's the start of a "Cookways to the Rescue" week, which the pearly royal families will spend touring West End hotels and restaurants with collecting boxes. 'Ere, will you take Park Lane, Mate?

The Rector, the Rev. Hugh Evan Hopkins, leads the way into the church for a special service to launch the week. One of the churchwardens of St. Mary-le-Bow is the Lord Mayor, Alderman Cuthbert Ackroyd, who arrives to take part in the service. The church was badly damaged in the blitz, and the raid which brought Bow Bells crashing down left little but the tower standing; only a tiny chapel is in use at present.

The Lord Mayor reads the lesson - the parable of the Good Samaritan. £150,000 is needed to restore the church; four of the ancient bells have been recast, to be heard again once the tower is strengthened. With the pearlies' help, Bow Bells may soon be once again the voice of London.