

PRESS NOTES

On Thursday, January 24th a small but historic ceremony will take place in the forecourt of Saint Clement Danes which is to become the Church of the Royal Air Force.

The recasting of the Bells has now been completed. At 12 o'clock noon the Chaplain-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force, Canon A.S. Giles, will hold a short dedication and naming ceremony, after which the Bells will be moved to their rightful home in the Belfry.

Present at the ceremony will be the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Dermot Boyle, and members of the Air Council, together with many who have been engaged upon its restoration.

The Bells will be decorated with Oranges and Lemons and greenery. Responsible for this will be Miss Dinah Wilson the 80 year old flower girl, whose stand is at the corner of Norfolk Street. By long tradition St. Clement Danes has been the church of London "flower girls".

After the dedication service, the ancient custom of naming the Bells will be carried out. The first Bell to be named will be the great Tenor Bell. This will be done by Air Chief Marshal Sir Dermot Boyle on behalf of the Royal Air Force.

Attached at Appendix "A" are the names of those who have been invited to name each bell. After the naming ceremony the chief caster, Mr. A. A. Hughes, will step forward and play the traditional "Oranges and Lemons" tune on the Bells.

There are 11 Bells and the Sanctus Bell in place of the previous 10 Bells and Sanctus Bell. This is because the original Bells did not give a true rendering of "Oranges and Lemons."

Present also at the ceremony will be 20 children from the school of St. Clement Danes and after the ceremony the Chaplain-in-Chief and the Chief of the Air Staff will distribute oranges and lemons to the children, thus restoring the traditional custom.

All the fruit is the gift of the Long Acre firm which in the past always presented the Oranges and Lemons at the traditional children's services.

Ten of the Bells have been inscribed with Latin Quotations (Attached at Appendix "B"). No 5 needs a little explanation. Sir Christopher Wren was Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford and the motto is designedly something of a riddle. The eleventh Bell will bear an inscription in English, referring to the generous bequest of Mrs. Pennington-Bickford, widow of the last Rector.

THE BELLS OF ST. CLEMENT DANES
THE NAMING CEREMONY

1. At the dedication service of the bells on January 24th at 12 noon we shall observe the ancient custom of naming each bell.

2. The eleven bells will be named by representatives both of the Royal Air Force and of the ancient parish of St. Clement Danes in the following order:-

(i) The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Dermot Boyle, on behalf of the Royal Air Force, who will name his bell "Boom" in honour of the late Lord Trenchard, whose nickname was "Boom" because of his deep voice.

(ii) ~~The Permanent Under Secretary of State for Air, on behalf of the~~ *Minister of the Civil Service, who will name his bell "Fiducial" to suggest the relationship between the Civil Service and the Royal Air Force.*

(iii) Air Vice-Marshal Sir Cecil Bouchier, Director of the St. Clement Danes (R.A.F.) Appeal Fund, on behalf of the contributors to the Restoration Fund, who will name his bell "Boy" the nickname by which he is known in the R.A.F.

(iv) Canon A.C. Giles, Chaplain in Chief of the Royal Air Force on behalf of those who will serve this church. He will name his bell "Dan" after the first Chaplain in Chief of the Royal Air Force.

(v) E.J. Lizars Esq., on behalf of the ancient parish of St. Clement Danes, who will name his bell "William".

(vi) T. McBride Esq., on behalf of the old parish societies, who will name his bell "Samuel".

(vii) A representative of a Trust which has subscribed generously towards the restoration of the bells, who will name the bell "Henry".

(viii) W.A.S. Lloyd Esq., the Architect for the reconstruction, who will name his bell "Antony".

(ix) Mr. McIntosh, a representative of the men engaged on the reconstruction work, who will name his bell "Tom".

(x) E.A. Barnett Esq., the Belfry Master of the reconstructed church of St. Clement Danes, who will name his bell "Dunstan".

(xi) A.A. Hughes Esq., on behalf of the bell casters, who will name his bell "Fabian".

THE BELLS OF ST. CLEMENT DANES
LATIN INSCRIPTION ON THE BELLS

1. "Olim de coelis ruina, hodie in coelis laetitia".
("Once from the Heavens came ruin, today in the Heavens there is a peal of joy").
2. "Locis aeriis me reddidit aeronautica classis Reginae".
("Her Majesty's Air Force have restored me to my airy heights").
3. "Quibus Deus victoriam dedit, illi vocem mihi reddiderunt".
("Those to whom the Lord gave the victory have given me back my voice").
4. "Cantate Domino canticum novum" (Ps. 96.1). (Vulgate).
("Sing unto the Lord a new song").
5. "Ecce aedificatio astrologi ab aeronautis restituta".
("Behold the Church of an Astronomer rebuilt by airmen").
6. "Laus Deo".
("Praise be to God").
7. "Gratias ago perpessus ardua astris".
("I have outlived my troubles and give thanks to the stars").
8. "Mortem vitam expertus invicem recordor".
("I sound now for life, and now for death, having suffered both").
9. "Praeterita triumphy redivivus clade".
("The disasters of war are over; I live again, and peal for joy").
10. "Donum victoris cano laudem Dei".
either: ("The victor's gift, I sing the praise of God").
or: ("I sing the victor's praise (whose victory was God's gift)").