Manchester Cathedral presents: 'A Chime for Manchester'

Manchester Cathedral is launching A Chime for Manchester to mark the centenary of its bells and to develop on them for the future.

The Cathedral's bells have accompanied soldiers to war, rung for the passing of Queens and the making of Kings, celebrated the city's sporting victories, and tolled for every life lost in the Arena terrorist attack.

The present bells have served the life of the city for a century. To celebrate this special anniversary, and to enhance the bells for their second century, the Cathedral is announcing the launch of a new fundraising project.

Called A Chime for Manchester, the £600,000 project will see the complete refurbishment of the bell tower, the addition of three bells to fulfil their potential, and the composition of a unique clock chime for Manchester inspired by the city's rich musical legacy.

A Chime for Manchester will be publicly launched at a special fundraising event held on the 100th anniversary of the bells' dedication, marking a century since they were recast and rehung.

The project will invite local musicians and composers to write a new chime for the bells of Manchester that will be heard every time the clock strikes. Look out for details of the competition on the Cathedral web site.

Furthermore, the annual Poetry Competition with bells as its theme will be launching. Details for this will also be on the Cathedral web site.

Be a part of
A Chime for Manchester

Please complete the donation form below, or contact Anthony O'Connor and find out how to join in the campaign

I am / We are pleased to make a gift to the Manchester Cathedral Development Trust. This gift may be in addition to my/our regular giving to the Manchester Cathedral Development Trust.

Title ..... Forename(s) .....

Surname ..... Address .....

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Telephone ..... Mobile .....

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Pledge/Contribution

I/We will pledge/contribute £..... per Month Year

for ..... Months Years

I/we have completed a Bankers Order and/or have enclosed a cheque for £..... made payable to Manchester Cathedral Development Trust

I confirm that I am a UK tax payer *giftaid it*

Signature(s) ..... Date .....

Please return this form to: Anthony O'Connor, Commercial Director, Manchester Cathedral

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Victoria Street, Manchester, M3 1SX
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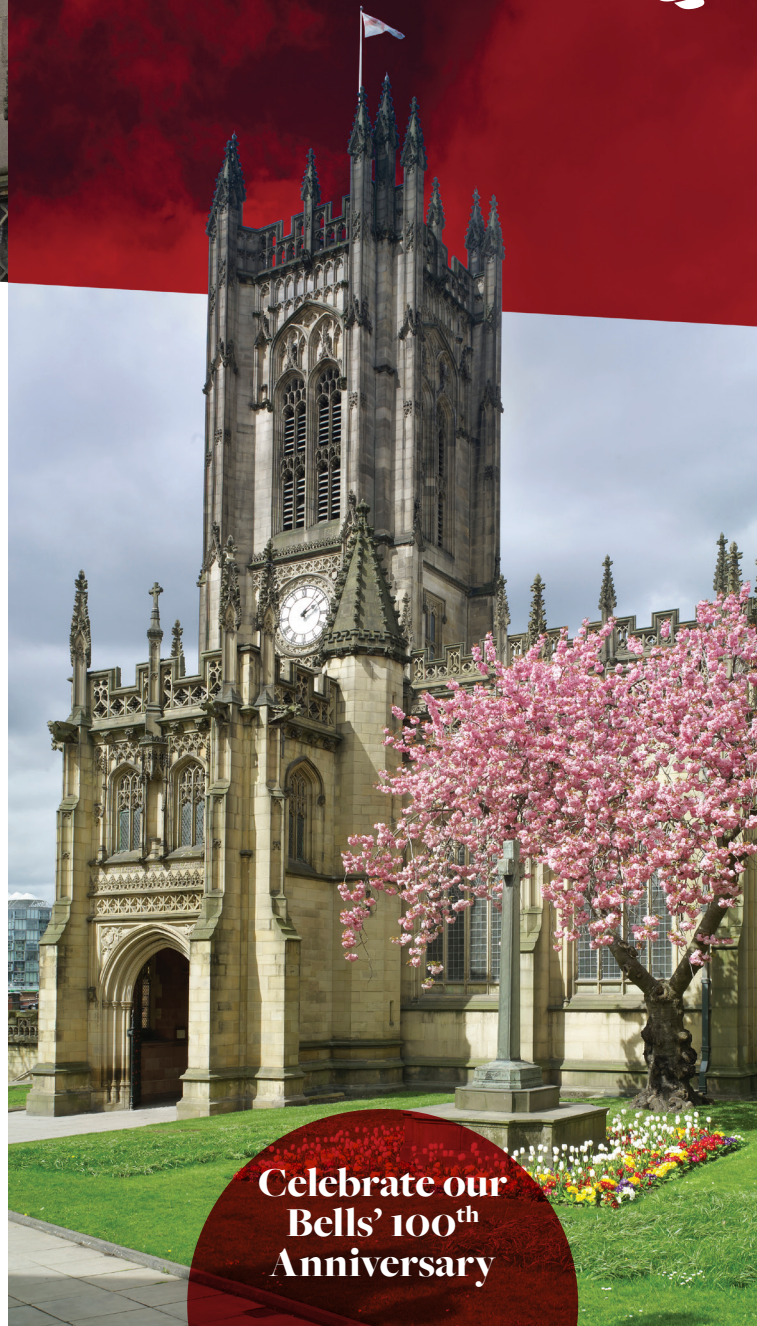
A CHIME FOR MANCHESTER



Celebrate our Bells' 100th Anniversary

Our bells have always marked the passing of time in this city and in this nation. They regularly call people to prayer, they act as the only public warning system in the city, and they ring out in times of dread and in times of joy.

They desperately need refurbishing and I welcome the initiative being taken to allow this important work to take place.

Our new campaign, A Chime for Manchester, is a unique opportunity for us is to do just that, and to create a resplendent sound for the bells of Manchester Cathedral that will be heard every time the bells chime and become synonymous with the sound of the city.

This is our legacy, and we invite people to be part of it.

The Very Reverend Rogers Govender MBE
Dean of Manchester

Our 10 bells are located in the West Tower. They were cast in 1925 by Gillett & Johnston of Croydon.

The lightest bell, the treble, weighs 5cwt (approx. 286kg) and the heaviest, the 'tenor', weighs 27cwt (approx. 1,412kg), about the same weight as a family car.

The bells are rung in the traditional English full-circle style, each bell is rung by an individual ringer located in the ringing chamber lower in the West Tower.

Music for the Future

'This city is alive with music, it has a unique musical legacy,' said The Reverend Canon Dr Ian Jorysz, Canon Precentor at Manchester Cathedral.

'It is a city that is home to three orchestras; the Hallé, the Manchester Camerata, and the Royal Northern College of Music.'

'Big Ben has the Westminster Chime which is reputedly based on Handel's Messiah, and we want to compose our own Manchester Chime, unique to the tower and unique to this city' he said.

A Chime for Manchester project will see the cathedral's ten bells renewed and restored, the installation of three new bells that will bring the tower up to a standard to enable the bell-ringers to maximise the beauty of their sound, and the construction of a new, stronger bell frame for the tower.

But at the heart of the restoration project, is the ambitious plan to compose the Manchester Chime – a distinctive sequence for the bells of Manchester Cathedral that will play every quarter to mark the passage of time, in addition to striking the hour.