

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Application for Grant for Voluntary Organisations

Please note that this application will not be considered unless it is accompanied by a copy of the latest set of annual accounts showing the organisations income, expenditure and level of balances.

If the organisation does not prepare annual accounts, copies of the bank statements covering the previous six months must be enclosed.

1.	Name of Organisation	Melbourn Bell Repair Appeal (via All Saints' PCC)
2.	Name, Address, and Status of Contact	Ian Cowley [REDACTED]
3.	Telephone Number of Contact	[REDACTED]
4.	Is the organisation a Registered Charity?	Yes, PCC is
5.	Amount of grant requested	£1,000
6.	For what purpose of project is the grant requested.	Repair of 2 bells in the Melbourn bell tower
7.	What will be the total cost of the above project?	£8494
8.	If the total cost of the project is more than the grant, how will the residue be financed?	£1956 work given in kind ~£1000 from charity cycle ride £1000 from Supporters of All Saints £202 from charity raffle £70 from bucket whip-round ~£1000 from donors ~£1000 from Ely Diocesan Association bell fund grant Residue to be raised, with further offers of support from Bellringers and SOAS

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Doc. No.4.03
Version 6
Review Date: Feb 2022

		SOAS have offered a loan to cover the costs until funds are fully raised.
9.	Have you applied for grant for the same project to another organisation?	Yes, see above. Also applying to Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust for a grant
10.	Are 3 rd parties necessary to deliver your project? If yes, please list them.	Only the bellhangers who have quoted for the work
11.	Who will benefit from the project?	Bellringers, churchgoers, wider village
12.	Approximately how many of those who will benefit are parishioners?	Virtually all. Approx 10 regular bellringers come from other parishes, but the enjoyment of the bells will benefit the entire village.

You may use a separate sheet of paper to submit any other information which you feel will support this application, please keep this information to 1 page.

Have you previously received a grant from MPC? No

If yes, please give date.

If yes and within the previous 12 months, please confirm that the grant has been spent and provide a brief report.

Signed.....Ian Cowley.....Date...29/04/2024...

3rd parties

I/we have been fully consulted about the role attributed to us in this proposal and agree to carry it out.

Name:

Organisation:

Name:

Organisation

Supporting information

Bellringing is a historic and curiously English activity – of around 6000 church towers with ringable bells in the world, 99% are in the UK and 95% are in England. Bellringing is an enjoyable and sociable pastime that is open to anyone over the age of 8 years old regardless of gender, faith, race or nationality, and all are welcome to start learning the art of bellringing. Bellringing is now largely a secular pastime, with fewer ringers than ever being affiliated to the C of E.

Bellringers have been celebrating, mourning and announcing public events for hundreds of years. Recent events in Melbourn have included the coronation of King Charles III (including the Melbourn street party), the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the death of the Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh and the installation of the new Vicar. Additionally bells are rung for weddings, funerals and Sunday church services. The bells are also available for visiting bands to attempt quarter peals and full peals (continuous ringing of 45 minutes or 3 hours respectively).

The oldest bells in the Melbourn bell tower date to the 17th century and have been augmented over the years to the current ring of 8 bells. The most recent additions were in 1987. Sadly the fittings for these bells were not installed correctly and in February 2023 a large crack appeared in the fitting of one, rendering it unringable since. The second bell is also deemed to be unsafe for the same fault. These bells require new fittings to become ringable once more. The two bells in question were not installed by the Church, nor with money raised by the Church or parishioners. They were donated as a memorial to a local man, and paid for by his parents. They were installed, without cost, by the local Tower Captain and engineer, John Gipson. The man's sister has made a significant contribution of £817 to the current appeal to help fix her brother's bells.

Bellringing as a pastime, and the upkeep of the bells themselves, do not really fall under the remit of the Church authorities anymore. The Church has asked the bellringers themselves to spearhead a fundraising campaign for the bell repairs, hence this grant application. Funds have been secure from a variety of sources, but we are still several thousand pounds short of our target.

It is intended that the new fittings will be installed by the Diocesan team of volunteers- all who are experienced in this type of work. This is an equivalent of a £2k donation in kind.

We hope that this repair is something that the Parish Council would be able to consider supporting. Meldreth Parish gave financial support to the refurbishment of the Meldreth Bells in 2015. That the bells were rung for the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and again for the Coronation of King Charles III underlines their importance for the whole village and the nation.

As this is a one-off fundraising request, we have no bank account or statement of previous financial activity to provide.

Work has started with a loan from SOAS to cover the shortfall in fundraising. The bells are currently at the bellhangers having the new headstocks manufactured