

For whom the bell tolls

By Bill Pugh



I love to be in the city when the bells of St Paul's are ringing. Such clear and joyous sounds.

Straight away you are uplifted by notes of praise, summoning you to worship.

Much practice and dedication is involved for the team of bell ringers.

A new vicar came to our little country town and he was young, keen and enthusiastic.

The church bell had been silent for a long time and, enthusiastically, he began ringing it on Sundays and Wednesdays and for special occasions.

The congregation and the town loved it, everyone except the holiday guests at

the motel next door to the church, as the loud ringing at 8am on Sundays ruined their peace and sleep-in and they made a fuss.

Finally there was a compromise. The vicar shortened the 8am ringing to a couple of notes to welcome the worshippers and allow the guests to sleep on.

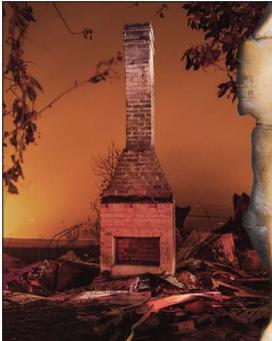
Many forget the purpose of Sunday. Sport takes over, cinemas are open and the shops have sales. But the ringing bells call us to worship.

Music is special to the praise of God. Bells join with the music of Psalm 150 for worship.

Reflection:

*Praise the Lord, praise him with trumpet sound;
Praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance,
Praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with clanging cymbals;
Praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!*

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