

# The Maplestead Mini-Ring

This portable ring of bells was made in 1997 by Matthew Higby, of Chilcompton Somerset, with the assistance of Kate Walker and Bob Parker.

The 8 bells hang in pairs in wooden frames, all mounted on top of a 4-legged fabricated steel tower.

The fittings consist of fabricated steel headstocks, counterbalanced clappers, wooden wheels and miniature bellropes with terylene top ends just like many church tower bell installations.

The bells were cast over-thick using modified handbell moulds by Matthew Higby and the late Richard Bowditch.

Bell	Date Cast	Weight
1 (Treble)	1995	3.208kg (7lb 1oz)
2	1996	3.208kg (7lb 1oz)
3	1995	3.150kg (6lb 15oz)
4	1995	3.576kg (7lb 14oz)
5	1995	3.349kg (7lb 6oz)
6	1995	3.859kg (8lb 8oz)
7	1997	4.399kg (9lb 11oz)
8 (Tenor)	1997	3.916kg (8lb 10oz) Key F# (727Hz)

Having travelled widely in the UK with Matthew, they were used for several years by ringers near St. Benoit, Normandy, France and Halstead.

This Mini-Ring was based at Great Maplestead Essex from 2003 till 2010, then Deeping St James near Peterborough till 2013, Welford in Northamptonshire till 2018, and is now based at Market Harborough, Leicestershire.