

Wedding Bells!

*Although everyone has **heard** of wedding bells, few Americans have actually **heard them ring** in the traditional English way. Couples who marry at the Church of the Advent, however, have the rare opportunity of having one of the most impressive peals of bells in the country rung for their wedding.*

Our eight bells – the great tenor weighing more than 2100 pounds – were cast in London in 1900. The bells are rung together by members of the Guild who have, after years of training and practice, each developed the skill necessary to control their timing to within a small fraction of a second. For weddings, the bells are sounded in descending order – the familiar triumphant sound that thrills all listeners – and then moved by the ringers, one handling each bell, into a precisely timed sequence of changes, creating the marvelous pealing that is famous around the English-speaking world.

The members of the Advent Guild of Bellringers – who come to the tower from as far away as Providence and Marblehead and have rung in Boston and many other towers around the world for as long as 25 years – are pleased to ring before or after a wedding, or both, depending on the particular musical requirements of the ceremony.

The fee for the Guild to ring for a wedding is \$250 for six ringers or \$300 for eight ringers. This fee is used in large part to maintain and support change ringing in Boston, with the balance helping to defray the transportation costs of those who ring for the ceremony.

To arrange for the ringing of the tower bells, contact Dianne S.P. Cermak, the Guild Representative, at least six weeks in advance of the ceremony at 781-455-6334 or dspe@comcast.net.