



The original peal of eight was installed to chime in 1889. These eight bells were cast without suspension loops, but with flat tops and bolted to the bell frame.

THEN & NOW

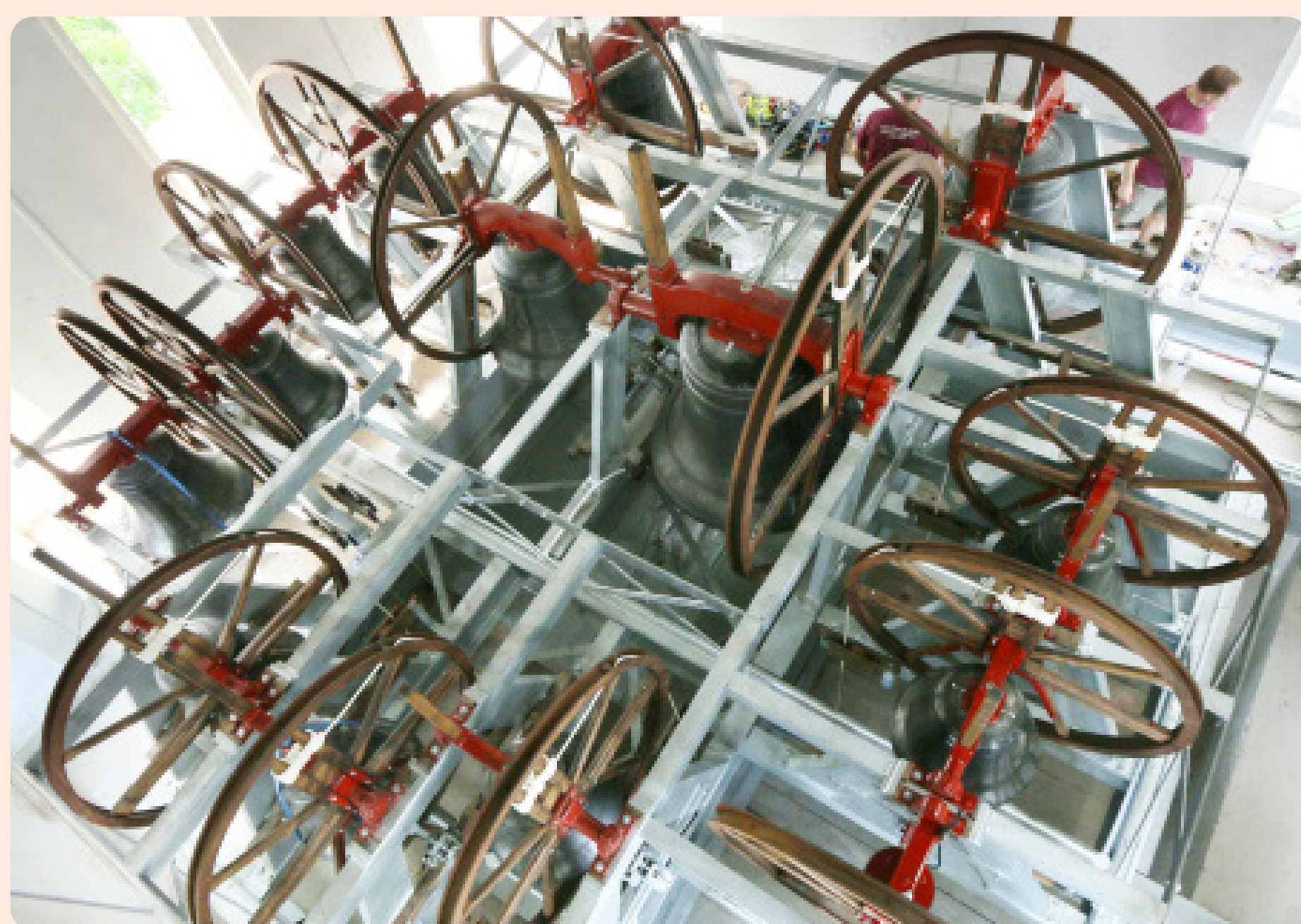
CHIMING VS CHANGE RINGING



The bells were permanently fixed with a rope attached to the internal clapper. Each bell chimed when the corresponding rope was pulled, and when the clapper struck the sound bow.



The Ellacombe apparatus held the ropes and enabled a person to pull them in a sequence to ring the bells.



In 2019, the eight bells were restored and converted for change-ringing. Together with 5 new bells, they were hung in a new galvanised steel bell frame designed to accommodate them, in the belfry



The bells are now rung in the ringing chamber by a team of ringers standing in a circle. Following a command from the bell conductor, ropes are pulled in a predetermined sequence.

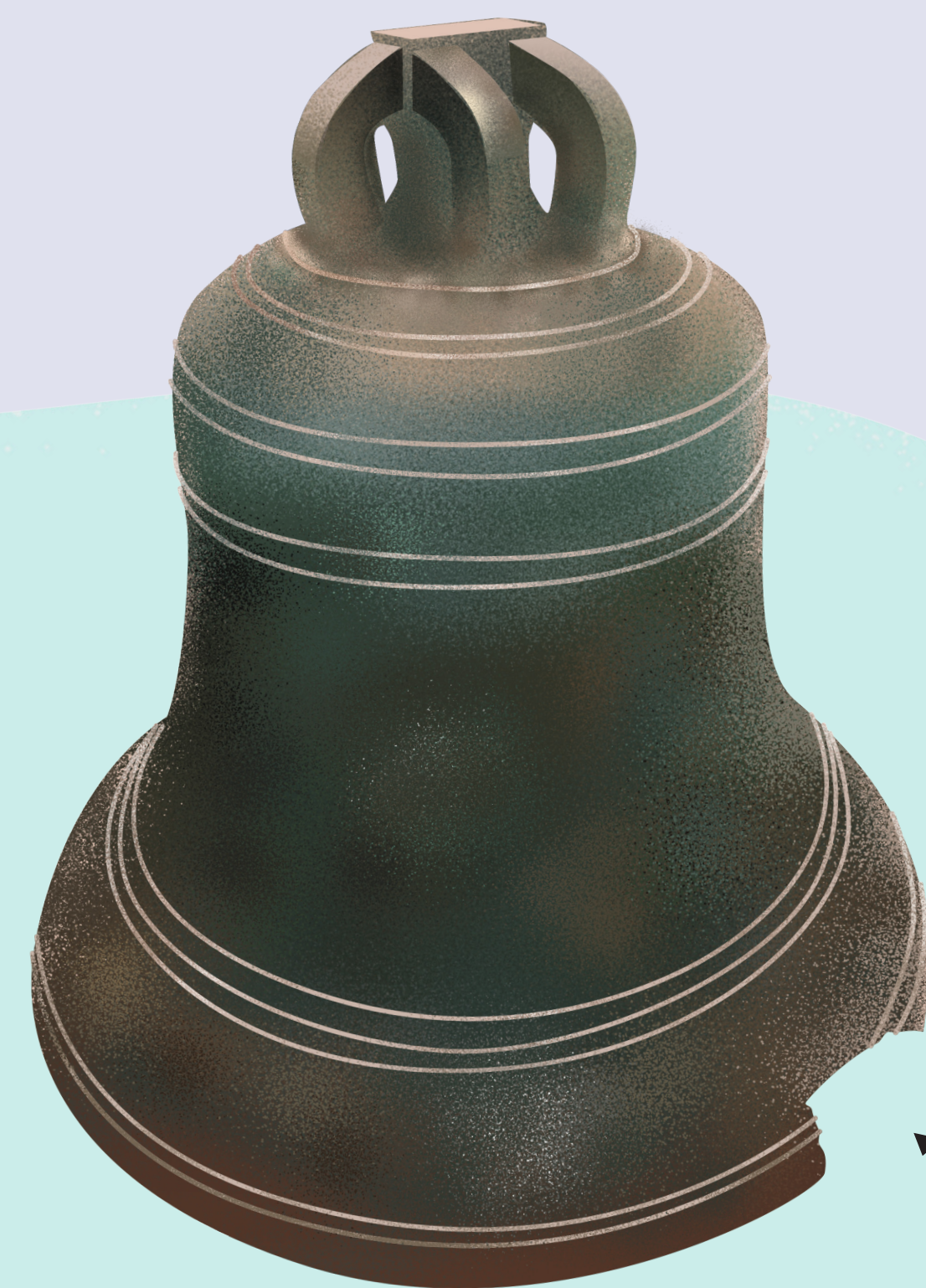


The bells are rung by swinging them through an arc of up to 360 degrees. Change-ringing results in a more beautiful and majestic sound of bells.

the story of the Bells

Bells have been part of St Andrew's Cathedral since 1843 when Mrs Maria Revere Balestier, wife of the first American Consul to Singapore, presented the Revere Bell to the first St Andrew's Church. The Revere Bell is the only bell cast by the Revere Copper Company that is outside the United States. It was then used as a curfew bell to remind residents to stay vigilant after dark.

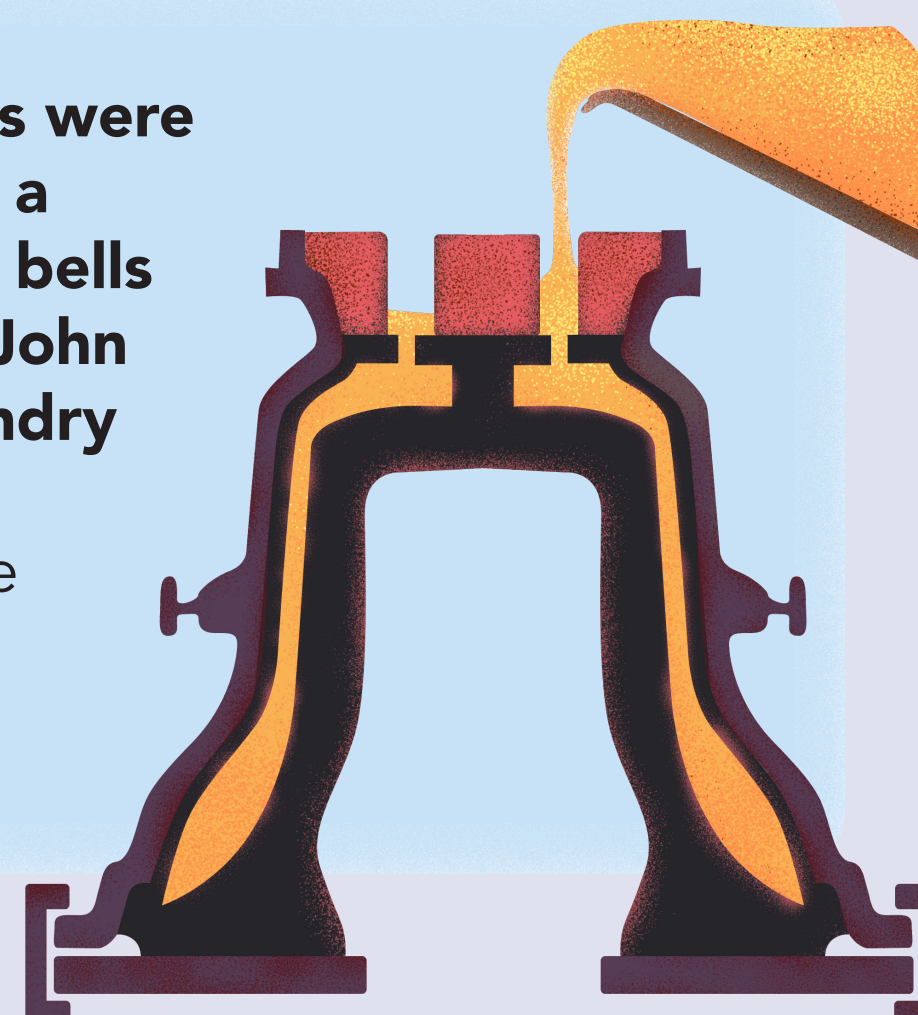
In 1889, the family of Captain J. S. H. Fraser presented a peal of eight bells to the current St Andrew's Cathedral to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the founding of Singapore. These eight bronze bells were each named after an apostle of Christ. They were cast at the John Taylor & Co. Foundry in Loughborough, England. When the peal of eight was restored in 2018, new bells were added to convert it into a change-ringing peal of 12. Here are some interesting facts about the bells of St Andrew's Cathedral.



- 1** The Revere Bell is on display at the National Museum of Singapore. A piece of metal at its lip has been dislodged; the bell is damaged beyond repair.

- 2** Since 1889, the peal of eight has been rung every Sunday as a call to worship. This ritual continued even during World War II when Services were held at the Cathedral. The bells were silent for only two days in 1936 when they were turned so that the clappers could strike new spots to prevent wear and tear. Bells can last for 500 years if they are regularly maintained.

- 4** In 2018, new bells were added to make it a peal of 12. These bells were cast at the John Taylor & Co. Foundry in Loughborough England, the same bell foundry that cast the bells of St Paul's Cathedral in London.



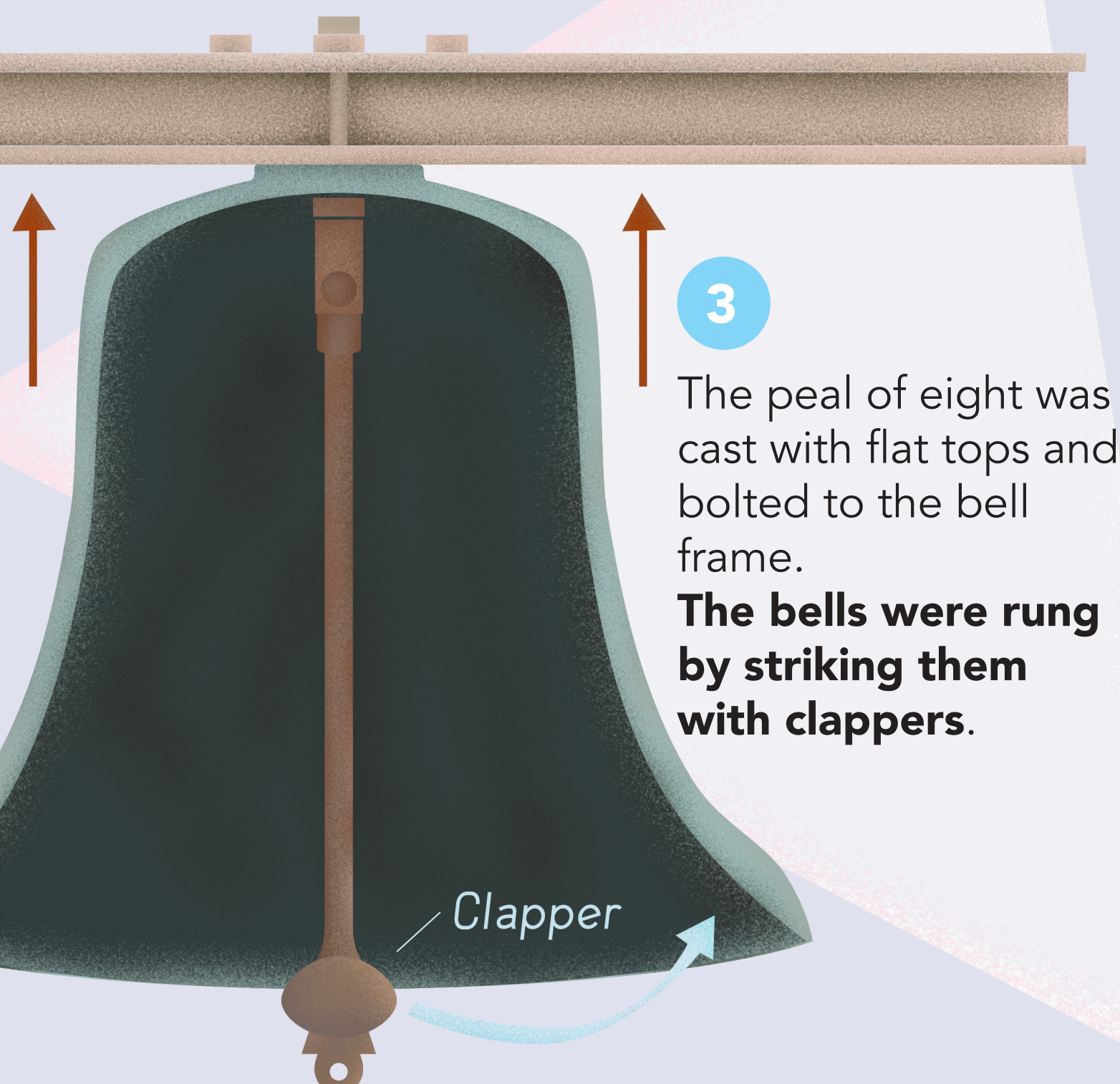
- 5** The peal of 12 was commissioned for the worship of God on 11 August 2019 by the Rt Revd Low Jee King.

- 6** This peal was installed as change-ringing bells where they are rung not by striking them but by swinging them through an arc of up to 360 degrees to produce a complex cascade of sounds.



- 7** Change-ringing is the art of ringing a set of tuned bells to produce precise variations in their successive striking sequences, known as changes. Bell ringers have to apply their memory to these sequences.

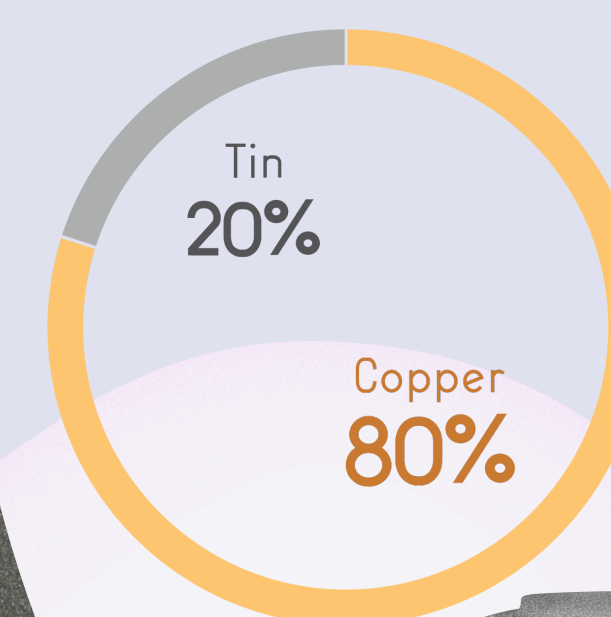
- 8** Change-ringing is a tradition of the English church; it is believed to have originated in the mid-17th Century. Bells in Anglican churches are typically rung this way.



- 3** The peal of eight was cast with flat tops and bolted to the bell frame. The bells were rung by striking them with clappers.

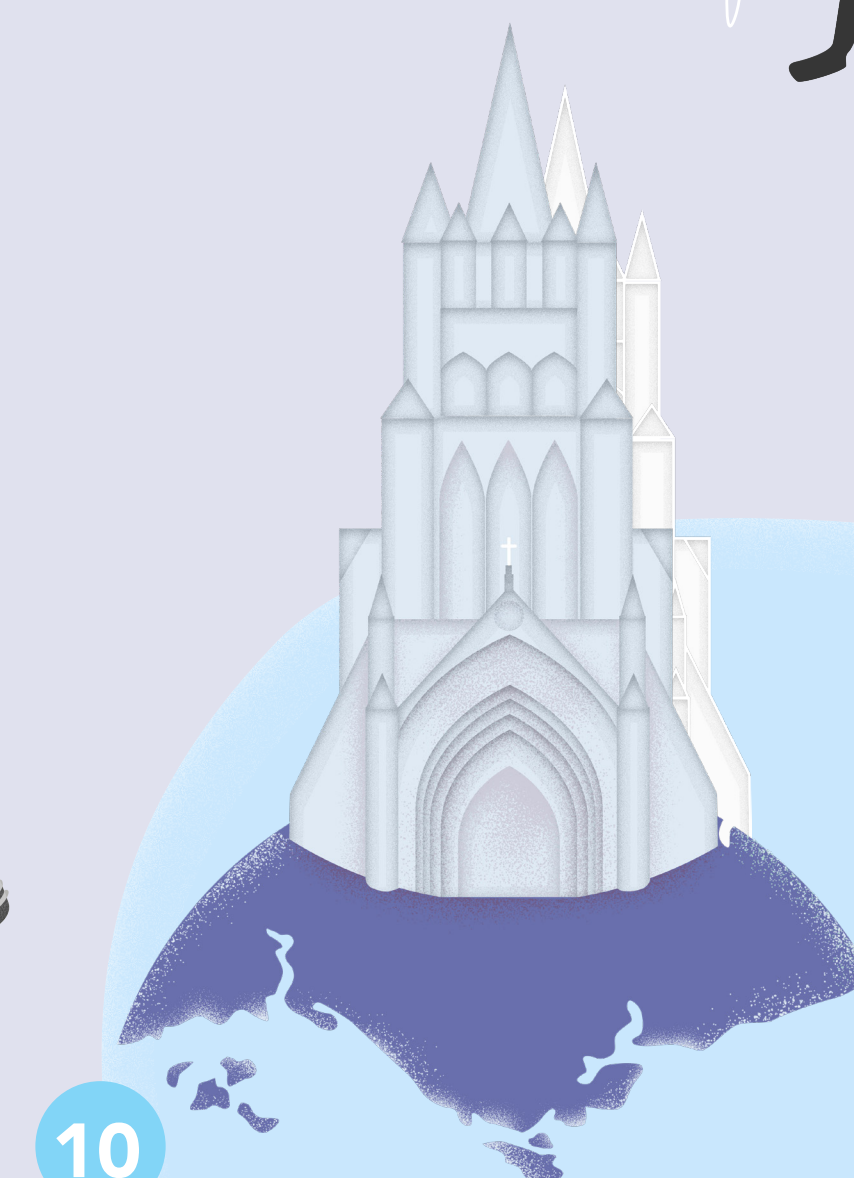


Andrew bell - 1297 kg



Simon bell - 198.5 kg

- 9** The largest bell in the Cathedral bell tower is named Andrew, and the smallest is Simon. The names of the other bells are Peter, Thomas, Bartholomew, Paul, John, Philip, James, Matthew, James the Less, Thaddeus and Matthias. These bronze bells comprise approximately 80% copper and 20% tin.



- 10** There are more than 6,000 bell towers with change-ringing peals and 40,000 bell ringers in the world today. The bell tower of St Andrew's Cathedral is the first of its kind in Singapore and South-east Asia.