

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Bellringers of St Mary's sound the alarm for climate change**

As world leaders meet for a make-or-break summit on climate change, the bellringers of St. Mary's, Saffron Walden are 'sounding the alarm'. The World Council of Churches is asking churches across the globe to sound the gongs, bells, drums or conch shells which call their people to prayer. By ringing a touch of up to 350 changes St Mary's ringers will join colleagues world-wide to symbolise the decision the summit must take.

The length of the 'touch' refers to 350 parts per million, the safe upper limit for CO2 in our atmosphere according to many scientists. Now the concentration has risen to 390 ppm, risking irreversible impacts such as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet and major methane releases from increased permafrost melt.

Roger Collins Secretary of the St Mary's society explains, 'Bells have been used throughout history to sound the alarm. In 1940, the nation's bells fell silent, only to ring again in the event of invasion. Today climate change is the biggest threat we face.

'World leaders simply can't put off the tough decisions they need to take any longer. Church leaders are urging them to hear that message. We're doing our bit to make sure they hear it loud and clear.'

St Mary's ring will take place at 3.30pm on Sunday 13th December immediately preceding the Christingle service at 4.00pm. This marks the height of the talks at United Nations climate negotiations in Copenhagen.

### **Notes**

1. For further information, contact Roger Collins tel: 01799 521991
2. Representatives of the press wishing to take photographs or audio recording of the bellringing are welcome. Please make contact beforehand so that arrangements made for access to the belfry.
3. Britain's distinctive contribution to the worldwide ringing of bells is being planned by Operation Noah: [www.operationnoah.org](http://www.operationnoah.org)