

Harleston Sends Peace Message to United Nations

Simultaneously with the ringing of the United Nations' Peace Bell in New York (9.00 – 9.30am USA time), bells will peal at

St John's Church in Harleston between 2.00 and 2.30pm

(BST) on Friday 15th September

as a forerunner to the UN's International Day of Peace (21 September).

The chimes will bid Robin Twigge from Harleston and District Rotary Club "bon voyage" as he carries wingtips clipped from each of the 1,000 origami crane peace messages on display in the church to the

Peace Bell outside the United Nations building in New York. He will then take them on to "Ground Zero" – the memorial at the site of the "Twin Towers" – before returning the wing tips to Harleston for a ceremony to mark Peace Day on 21 September.



"Taking the wing tips to such symbolic places in New York is a small but powerful way to unite our community's hopes and wishes for local harmony and international peace with peoples across the globe", said Mrs Pat Webb, President of Harleston and District Rotary Club.

The Peace Bell, cast from coins sent by children from all over the world, was donated by Japan to the United Nations in 1954.

The wing tips, clipped from peace messages contributed by our schoolchildren, the elderly, and all ages in between, will be carried in a single white paper origami crane. It's "flight" to New York will be the first stage of a long journey (ultimate destination the Memorial Peace Park at Hiroshima, Japan) for the wingtips of the 1,000 cranes which have been on display in the nave of St John's throughout the summer holidays and has been a community-wide project.

The peace initiative is run jointly by the Rotary Club of Harleston and District and Harleston's Future. Anyone wishing to attend Harleston's informal ceremony will be most welcome – 15 September: 2.00pm at St John's Church, Broad Street. For further information call 07597 920806.

