

The Ringing World

August 11, 1989

The weekly journal for church bell ringers

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Work completed at Teynham

Over the past few years the bells at St. Mary the Virgin, Teynham had become increasingly dangerous to ring and a survey indicated that a great deal of work was necessary to rectify the situation. Initial estimates were in the region of £12,000 (later to rise to £15,000) and in January 1986 an Appeal Fund was launched. After three years £10,000 had been raised and Whitechapel was instructed to start the work.

Bryan Tumber, assisted by a colleague from Faversham dismantled all the fittings and opened up the two lower hatchways so the bells could be lowered. Members of the congregation received a considerable surprise to be able to look right up to the floor of the belfry!

The following Saturday, kindly helped by five members of the Kent County Association, part of the frame was removed to enable the third hatchway to be opened and by the evening the six bells were safely loaded on a lorry loaned by Court-green Ltd. and transported to the Foundry on the following Tuesday. Work was considerably helped by the loan of a fork lift truck from Mr. French, a local farmer.

Foundry work was completed on June 23rd and the bells were collected that same afternoon although a "blow-out" of one of the lorry's tyres delayed their return and they had to be stored temporarily in another farmer, Mr. Wood's, store until the Monday.

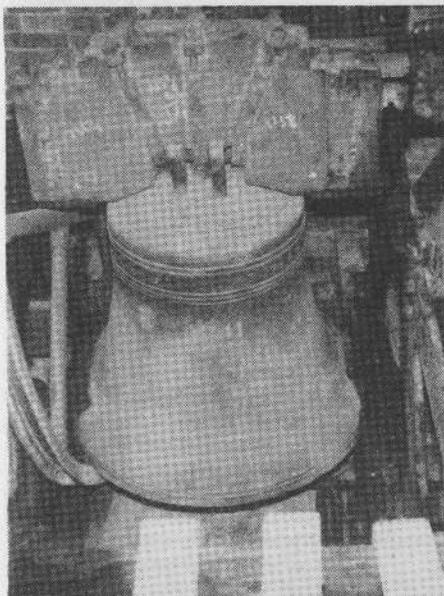
Rehanging under the expert supervision of Phil Jakeman took about eight days and the first practice ring took place on Tuesday 4th July. The restoration has been a great success and the local ringers are greatly appreciative of the excellent work carried out by Phil Jakeman and of course the Whitechapel Foundry.

The rededication service, with open ringing, is planned for Sunday 3rd September at 3.30 p.m. and there is of course still the small matter of raising the remaining four and a half thousand pounds!

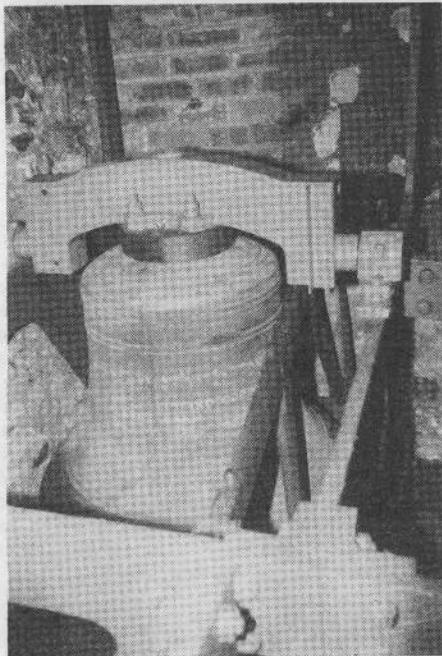
BRYAN TUMBER.

Details of the bells

Treble	F	4-3-9
	1743 Robert Catlin	
2nd	D sharp	5-0-1
	1743 Mears & Stainbank	
	Recast 1924	
3rd	C sharp	5-2-10
	1743 Robert Catlin	
4th	C	6-0-21
	1743 Robert Catlin	
	cast and hung us all	
5th	A sharp	6-3-13
	1743 Robert Catlin	
	Recast Mears and Stainbank	
	James Edward Corbould Vicar	
	Robert Lake William Roper Dixon	
	Church Wardens	
Tenor	G sharp	10-3-7
	Robert Catlin	
	The Revd Mr John Swinton Vicar	
	Isac Kemp Richard Habbard	
	Church Wardens	



Teynham - the old tenor.



Teynham - the refurbished fifth.

Yorkshire Royal in relay

Readers who ring methods on handbells may be interested in our school mini-marathon relay ring held on 20th July.

Two teams of ten practised a lead of Yorkshire Surprise Royal many times until they could ring it well without many method mistakes. Then they practised the hand over for lead ends:

i.e. Five in team A handed over to two in team B; seven in team A handed over to three in team B and so on. The idea was for the bells to ring a plain course of Yorkshire Royal.

After about eight attempts with as many disappointments team A rolled into rounds with cheers and rapturous applause from both teams, not a peal or a quarter but quite an achievement for ten and eleven year olds.

The teams

Class 5 (11 year olds): Suzanne Mehew Treble, Jane Coldham 2, Darran Stanley 3, Peter (the boss) Wakefield 4, Helen Dennis 5, Anna Strutt 6, Caroline Smith 7, Rachel Smith 8, Joanne Sharples 9, Julie Barney Tenor.

Class 4 (10 year olds): Jaine Baggott Treble, Martin Johnson 2, Victoria Pearson 3, Alison Smith 4, Jason Houghton 5, Tom Skipp 6, Stuart Barney 7, Helen Bell 8, Sarah Richardson 9, Lisa Budworth Tenor.

The handbells are an old Taylor set in G rescued from the Vicarage a few years ago.

The interest began about three years ago when something a little different was needed for the Spalding Schools' Music Festival. At that function we rang a bob course of Plain Bob Major.

Last year the team succeeded in ringing plain courses of Double Norwich, Stedman Triples, Cambridge Minor and Lincolnshire Surprise Major.

This year's group became so proficient they could move leads of just about anything up to Bristol Max, sandwiched between Gainsborough, Plain and Little. More than one lead of Surprise seemed an impossibility with too many disappointments until the idea of a relay came into being.

Next year? Who knows. We have enough interest for two teams of twelve so perhaps

PETER WAKEFIELD.

Headteacher,

Gosberton County Primary School.

PEALS

How many in the tower? When was the first? Where can we find details? . . .

Canon Felstead will be pleased to provide information. Write to him at: 29 Damask Way, Warminster, Wilts BA12 9PX.

Please enclose an s.a.e. for his reply

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