TELEPHONE Nº
01-247 2599



W. A. HUGHES
DOUGLAS HUGHES, O.B.E.
ALAN HUGHES

Whitechapel Bell Foundry Ltd.
(A.D. 1570)
32 & 34, Whitechapel Road,
London, E1 1DY

WAH/je

6th February, 1985.

The Reverend James R. Fry, B.Sc.,
The Vicarage,
2a Vicarage Lane,
Chalk,
Gravesend,
Kent.
DA12 4TF

Dear Sir,

Chalk - St. Mary's Church.

Thank you for your letter of 2nd February, with enclosure.

We did visit and report to you in 1966, and rendered estimates at that time.

In 1976, in answer to your request, we rendered further estimates.

In view of a report from the Kent County Association we wonder what you would really like to be done.

Briefly, the situation is that you have three old bells, only fair for tone and not well in tune; they were rehung with new fittings and framework designed to house six bells back in the early 1920's; there has been little done since then.

The bell frame is in quite good condition and is well able to house the existing bells with additions to make six. If it is your wish to consider this possibility then the bells should be brought back here, tuned and rehung with mainly new fittings; if on the other hand there is no desire to extend and form the bells into an attractive ringing peal, all we can suggest is that minimal repairs only be undertaken, but we think this would be a very great pity as such a course would leave the installation in much the same condition as at present.

From a purely bell ringing angle there is little attraction, or encouragement for three bells; six changes only are possible whereas one more bell will provide 24 changes, two more bells - 120 changes, and three more bells - 720 changes.

We do not know whether the existing bells are properly rung, or just "chimed on the swing"; if this is so, we can only suggest that all frictional parts be renewed, including gudgeons and bearings, and we include an estimate for this, but on the other hand it seems a comparatively high price to pay for doing something which can probably be done now, except of course for the improved condition of the installation.

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6th February, 1985.

ESTIMATE NO. 5.

Chalk - St. Mary's Church.

To:

Dismantle the three bells, lower and send back with the wheels and clappers to the Foundry.
Oil all nuts and bolts in the framework, and tighten where possible; scrape and wire brush all iron and steel where it is possible to reach, prime with Galvafroid, and paint two coats.
Cut out the cast-in clapper staples from the three bells and drill centre holes through the crowns; carefully adjust the notes and chief harmonic tones under the tuning machine.
Provide new fittings for the three bells, consisting of:-

Headstocks of cast iron with steel gudgeons turned in accurate alignment and with staple adjusting screws for even clappering.
Heavy duty, double row, self aligning, enclosed, ball bearings mounted on steel bearing plates.
Hardwood insulation pads for fitting between the bells and headstocks together with supporting bolts, insulation washers, nuts and lock nuts.
Independent clapper staples with stainless steel pins.
Ash stays and sliders and runner boards of hardwood.
Slider pins.
Pulleys of moulded nylon each running on two sealed ball races and housed in hardwood boxes.
Floor and ceiling bosses.
Bell ropes of best quality flax with close woven wool sallies.

Adapt the wheels to suit the new headstocks, and fit completely new rims and angle iron wheel braces.
Anneal and reface the clappers and weld on new top ends with resiliently mounted bushes at the point of swing.
Properly prepare all iron and steel and paint three coats and liberally treat timber with solignum.
Turn the bells as necessary and fit the headstocks.
Deliver the bells and fittings to the Church and hoist into the tower.
Fit the new bearings down to the bell frame, square and level, fit up and hang the three bells, and leave them in perfect going order.
Including Bellhangers' time, assistance, expenses and cartage etc., but excluding all building work, recommended in our letter.

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6th February, 1985.

ESTIMATE NO. 7.

Chalk - St. Mary's Church.

To: Cast one smaller bell to augment the peal to five; to be 2'0" diameter, weigh about 3¼ cwts. and accurately tuned to agree with the existing bells.
Provide complete ringing fittings, hoist, fit up and hang, and leave in perfect going order.
If done in conjunction with Estimate No.5.

SUPPLEMENTARY:

If a second-hand bell is used, the cost would be:

ESTIMATE NO. 8.

To: Cast one smaller bell to augment the peal to six; to be 1'11" diameter, weigh about 2 3/4 cwts. and accurately tuned to agree with the existing bells.
Provide complete ringing fittings, hoist, fit up and hang, and leave in perfect going order.
If done in conjunction with Estimate No.5.

If a second-hand bell is used, the cost would be:

Independent chime hammers fitted to additional bells, and roped down to the chime bracket would cost £143-00 per bell.

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ESTIMATE NO. 9.

6th February, 1985.

Chalk - St. Mary's Church.

To:

Dismantle the three bells, and send back the supporting ironwork, headstocks and clappers to the Foundry.
Cut out the cast-in clapper staples from the three bells, and drill centre holes through the crowns.
Provide and fit proper plate gudgeons to the headstocks and turn in accurate alignment.
Drill centre holes for new independent staples.
Ball bearings mounted on bearing plates.
Provide new and independent clapper staples with stainless steel pins; anneal and weld on new top ends to the clappers with resiliently mounted bushes at the point of swing.
Provide new supporting ironwork and nylon ball bearing pulleys.
Deliver the fittings to the Church, and hoist into the tower.
Refit and rehang the three bells, and leave all ready for swing chiming.

Including Bellhangers' time, assistance, expenses and cartage etc.

These estimates, are calculated on current costs, and will remain firm for three months.

If the Church is a listed building; the work to the existing bells will be subject to VAT, but additional bells may be zero rated.

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ESTIMATE NO. 5. 6th February, 1985.

Chalk - St. Mary's Church.

To:

Dismantle the three bells, lower and send back with the wheels and clappers to the Foundry.
Oil all nuts and bolts in the framework, and tighten where possible; scrape and wire brush all iron and steel where it is possible to reach, prime with Galvafroid, and paint two coats.
Cut out the cast-in clapper staples from the three bells and drill centre holes through the crowns; carefully adjust the notes and chief harmonic tones under the tuning machine.
Provide new fittings for the three bells, consisting of:-

Headstocks of cast iron with steel gudgeons turned in accurate alignment and with staple adjusting screws for even clappering.
Heavy duty, double row, self aligning, enclosed, ball bearings mounted on steel bearing plates.
Hardwood insulation pads for fitting between the bells and headstocks together with supporting bolts, insulation washers, nuts and lock nuts.
Independent clapper staples with stainless steel pins.
Ash stays and sliders and runner boards of hardwood.
Slider pins.
Pulleys of moulded nylon each running on two sealed ball races and housed in hardwood boxes.
Floor and ceiling bosses.
Bell ropes of best quality flax with close woven wool sallies.

Adapt the wheels to suit the new headstocks, and fit completely new rims and angle iron wheel braces.
Anneal and reface the clappers and weld on new top ends with resiliently mounted bushes at the point of swing.
Properly prepare all iron and steel and paint three coats and liberally treat timber with solignum.
Turn the bells as necessary and fit the headstocks.
Deliver the bells and fittings to the Church and hoist into the tower.
Fit the new bearings down to the bell frame, square and level, fit up and hang the three bells, and leave them in perfect going order.
Including Bellhangers' time, assistance, expenses and cartage etc., but excluding all building work, recommended in our letter.

£12797

£5,386. 00

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ESTIMATE SUPPLEMENTARY: 6th February, 1985.

Chalk - St. Mary's Church.

To: Provide an hand chiming apparatus for the three bells, consisting of:-

- Independent chime hammers complete with stanchions and bearers.
- Ropes with rubber hand grips.
- Moulded polypropylene chime pulleys.
- Polished oak chime bracket for six bells, with individual ratchet and pawl adjustment.

Install the apparatus, and leave all ready for use.
If done in conjunction with the main estimate.

Done

£941. 00

ESTIMATE NO. 6.

To: Cast one smaller bell to augment the peal to four; to be 2'2" diameter, weigh about 3 3/4 cwts. and accurately tuned to agree with the existing bells.
Provide complete ringing fittings for the bell as enumerated in Estimate No.5.
Hoist, fit up and hang, and leave in perfect going order.
If done in conjunction with Estimate No.5

£2,636. 00

If instead of a new bell, a second-hand one could be found, and allowing for cutting out the cast-in staple and tuning, the cost would be:

£1,278. 00

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ESTIMATE NO. 7.

6th February, 1985.

Chalk - St. Mary's Church.

To: Cast one smaller bell to augment the peal to five; to be 2'0" diameter, weigh about 3¼ cwts. and accurately tuned to agree with the existing bells.
Provide complete ringing fittings, hoist, fit up and hang, and leave in perfect going order.
If done in conjunction with Estimate No.5.

£4747

£2,442. 00

SUPPLEMENTARY:

If a second-hand bell is used, the cost would be:

(2732)

£1,270. 00

ESTIMATE NO. 8.

To: Cast one smaller bell to augment the peal to six; to be 1'11" diameter, weigh about 2 3/4 cwts. and accurately tuned to agree with the existing bells.
Provide complete ringing fittings, hoist, fit up and hang, and leave in perfect going order.
If done in conjunction with Estimate No.5.

4540

£2,294. 00

(2730)

If a second-hand bell is used, the cost would be:

£1,262. 00

Independent chime hammers fitted to additional bells, and roped down to the chime bracket would cost £143-00 per bell.

450

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NO. 9.

6th February, 1985.

Chalk - St. Mary's Church.

N A.

To: Dismantle the three bells, and send back the supporting ironwork, headstocks and clappers to the Foundry.
Cut out the cast-in clapper staples from the three bells, and drill centre holes through the crowns.
Provide and fit proper plate gudgeons to the headstocks and turn in accurate alignment.
Drill centre holes for new independent staples.
Ball bearings mounted on bearing plates.
Provide new and independent clapper staples with stainless steel pins; anneal and weld on new top ends to the clappers with resiliently mounted bushes at the point of swing.
Provide new supporting ironwork and nylon ball bearing pulleys.
Deliver the fittings to the Church, and hoist into the tower.
Refit and rehang the three bells, and leave all ready for swing chiming.

Including Bellhangers' time, assistance, expenses and cartage etc. £4,123.00

These estimates, are calculated on current costs, and will remain firm for three months.

If the Church is a listed building; the work to the existing bells will be subject to VAT, but additional bells may be zero rated.