

Contacts for further information

Please contact the Tower Treasurer:

- To make a cash or cheque donation
- To make covenanted payments
- To sponsor a named item
- To offer gifts in kind
- If you are interested in supporting any fund raising activity

Name: Jonathan Goodchild
Address: 15 Moore Close
Finchampstead
Berkshire RG40 4EZ
Telephone: 0118 973 3835
E-mail: jon.home@jgoodchild.com

Other contacts are:

The Rector: The Reverend David Hodgson 0118 979 2999

Parish Secretary: Jo Asplin 0118 979 2797 (Part time)



All Saints Wokingham

Tower Restoration Project

Bells have rung out over Wokingham for hundreds of years - the voice of the church speaking to the community. They remind everyone who hears them that the church is alive. They ring regularly to announce that worship is taking place. They ring for weddings and some times for funerals. They ring for festivals, and they mark local and national events. Bells rung 'full circle' in the English style have a unique sound that has become part of our cultural heritage.

The need

Ringling requires skill, dedication and teamwork, and the bells must be in good order. The present bell installation and fittings at All Saints date from the turn of the century, when two new bells were added to make them up to eight. Some of the bells are older, dating back to the early 1700s.

Bells and bell installations last a long time, but not for ever. Despite regular maintenance, the condition of the installation is progressively deteriorating. The effects of age are compounded by the original design - a century ago, the art of bell founding and bell hanging was not as advanced as it is now.

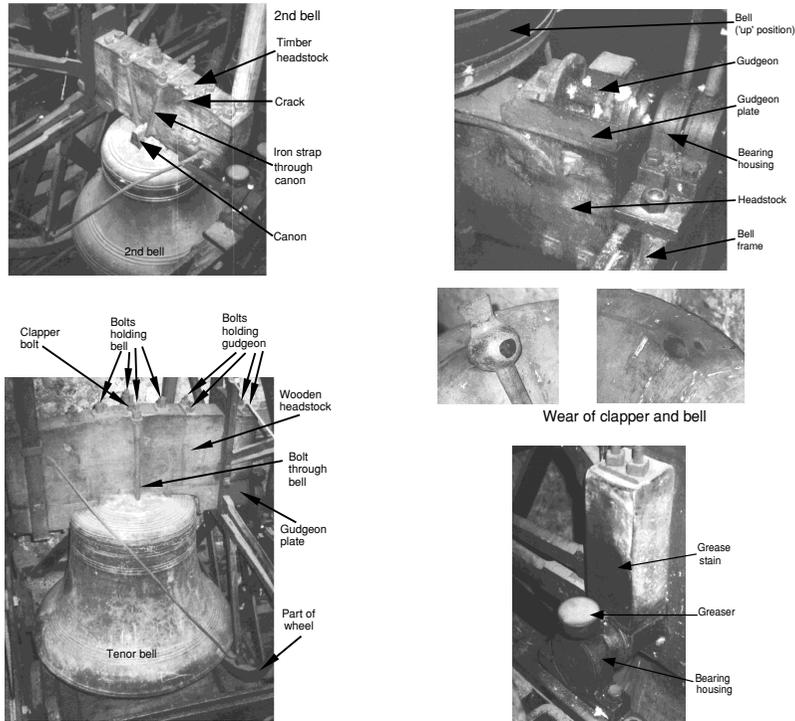
The bells are getting more difficult to ring, which in turn affects the quality of the ringing. It also makes the bells less than ideal for teaching, which is something we need to do continually to ensure the supply of ringers who will keep the bells ringing and pass on the art to the next generation.

The sound of the bells leaves much to be desired. Cast by various founders over a period of 200 years, they are not in tune with each other. Some are not properly in tune with themselves, all being cast before the principles of bell tuning were properly understood.

As well as a good 'instrument', the ringers need to be in good condition too, but the ringing room can get extremely hot, making even modest exertion extremely unpleasant. With no fresh air it gets very hot and sticky in the summer, especially with sun pouring through the west window.

Paradoxically, it can be worse in winter! The church now has a modern heating system that injects large volumes of hot air at high level, which slowly moves down to warm the people below. The ringing room, open to the body of the church but 11 feet higher, gets extremely hot, when ideally it ought to be cooler, because the ringers are more active than the people sitting below.

The bells as they are



The solutions

We are now embarking on a major project of restoration and renewal in the tower. This is one part of the church project 'Celebrating Community'.

The tower project has three objectives:

- To improve the handling of the bells, and ensure they do not need major work in the foreseeable future
- To improve the quality of sound produced by the bells
- To improve the climate in the ringing room

The bells will be rehung to modern standards, in the existing frame. The fittings will be replaced, with metal headstocks, new clappers, wheels, pulleys, stays and sliders.

The bells will be tuned, and some of the poorer ones will be recast. Any bells, found to be cracked will be welded.

A clear sheet glass panel in the arch between the ringing room and the nave will protect the ringers from excess heat when the church heating is running.

An air conditioning unit will be installed because it is not possible to open the stained glass window to let in any fresh air.

Costs and Funding

The project will cost between £65,000 and £75,000. Over £52,000 has already been raised, and some further grants are anticipated, but there is still some way to go.

Sponsorship of named items

There are opportunities to sponsor individual items, as shown below.

Bells offer an excellent way of providing a memorial to a loved one, or to commemorate a particular event by individuals, groups, or companies.

Each item sponsored will bear a suitable inscription agreed with the donor (subject to faculty approval).

Recast bells

The inscriptions cast onto the surface of the recast bells will bear replicas of the original inscriptions, together with the name of the sponsor. The costs of recasting are:

| | |
|---------|--------|
| •Treble | £3,000 |
| •Second | £3,300 |
| •Third | £3,600 |
| •Sixth | £5,000 |

Headstocks

These are the main component of the swinging bell assembly, to which the bell is attached. Each is made of cast iron and painted. A metal plaque bearing the sponsor's name will be permanently attached to each. Headstocks cost:

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| •Each headstock (8) | £500 |
|---------------------|------|

Partition window

This will fill the arch, approximately 16' high and visible from the nave. It will be made of architectural glass and bear an engraving(s) recording the donor(s). The estimated cost is:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| •Centre glass panel | £3,500 |
| •Side glass panel (2) | £2,700 |
| •Frame | £1,200 |

Other ways to help

As well as financial support, we would welcome interest from anyone who can:

- Help locate other sources of funding
- Help organise fund raising events
- Offer gifts in kind (eg labour, transport, scaffolding or fabrication of some items)