

Cambridge University Guild of Change Ringers
Report on the remedial work at St Andrew's, for the meeting on 26.1.01

My note dated 11 October 2000, circulated to resident members before the Michaelmas business meeting, described the estimate from White's of Appleton for rebushing the clappers and servicing the pulley units, and recorded the views of several Guild experts. The meeting on 13 October agreed to meet half the cost of the work, the Church having agreed that the work should be put in hand and that Church funds would also meet half the cost.

The fittings were taken out by William Edwards and Richard Smith on Friday 1 December, and transported to Appleton by John Sturdy; the clappers and pulleys were reinstalled on 18 December by the bellhanger from White's, assisted by Martin Bright, Robert Johnson, Lucy Weston and Richard Smith. I am sure that the Meeting will wish on behalf of the Guild warmly to thank these members, whose efforts reduced the cost of the work by £869.50.

The cost after this saving was £1164.43, which has been shared equally by the Church and the Guild, as agreed.

In a letter dated 18.12.00 Brian White wrote:

“With the clappers out Graham [the bellhanger] was able to ring the bells silently and discovered that at least the 3rd, 5th and 6th main bearings are failing. I would suspect that some of the others are “on the way out” as well, as the front seven are all on the same size bearings. Your local helpers will bear out his findings if you ask them. As we have found this problem many times before we are of the opinion that the bearings were probably over-tightened on the gudgeons in the first place, causing premature failure.

We will be pleased to quote for replacing the bearings using local help as before but you should be aware that this work needs to be done in the not too distant future.”

I have asked for that quotation, not yet received but I hope to have it before the meeting. I hope that some of the helpers will be able to comment, and I have asked Clarke Walters for his opinion, so that a preliminary view might be reached at the meeting.

Chris Johnson
22 January 2001