

Steeple Keeper's report: 2003-2004

St Andrew the Great

During the Michaelmas term the stays on the 3rd and 4th and the slider on the 4th were all replaced. The compact arrangement of the slider fittings and quite severe rust meant that replacing the slider was a complicated operation.

Thanks must go to Jill Galloway, Leigh Simpson and Jonathan Shanklin for their help in the removal of the old slider and the fitting of the new one. In order to replace the slider it was necessary to buy new hack saw blades, an adjustable spanner and several drill bits. These have now been added to the Guild's tool kit.

During a routine check of the bells it was found that the clapper of the 5th was quite loose. The bolts were tightened and this seems to have significantly reduced its odd-struckness.

Since then no other work has been needed on the bells apart from the adjustment of rope lengths and the tightening of wheel and stay bolts.

Considering the rusted state of the slider fittings of the 4th I think that it would be sensible to organise the rubbing down and repainting of the frame within the next few years to prevent any severe damage that would require more work in the future.

St Bene't's

Thanks must go to Jonathan Shanklin for looking after the bells for us. Thankfully there was no need for me to do any work while he was away earlier this year.