

GSM Bells Project Summary Report

9 August 2008

The proposal:

- Install a new, lighter ring of 12 bells plus a flat 6th, which will be hung in a new single-tiered frame at the same level within the tower as the existing ring
- Weight, orientation, layout and speed of rotation of the bells chosen to minimise their impact on tower motion
- Create a new double-tiered frame to re-hang the existing clock bells 'dead.' (i.e. Bells 3, 4, 5, 8 & 12) to preserve the original 'Cambridge Chimes' for historical reasons
- Hang the existing Priest's bell in this frame to preserve for historical reasons

- In addition, we plan to:
 - include a viewing platform that permits all-round vision of the bell chamber, Cambridge chimes and priest's bell for visitors
 - include works to upgrade the clock with a new autowind mechanism

Faculty application status:

- A certificate was received in July from the DAC recommending that a Faculty application is made subject to:
 - Retaining all the 18th Century bells in the tower (i.e. three more bells besides the Cambridge chimes – 6th, 9th & 10th)
 - Keeping the void floorboards, which are an historic example of an original 16th Century bell chamber floor
- The final Petition Pack was assembled and presented to the PCC on 14th July
- The PCC approved the application for a Faculty Petition at their July meeting
- The Faculty Petition was lodged by the Church with the Ely Diocese immediately following PCC approval and a notice has gone up in church
- We await a formal response from the Chancellor on our Faculty application

Project status:

- Taylors, Eayre & Smith (TES) are the preferred bellhanger
- Reports and costings received from Smith's of Derby detailing essential works to the clock
- The PCC has confirmed that Barry Johnson will be the project manager
- The Donor visited Cambridge in July and met with the ringers, church and university. He was content with the current proposals, plans and budgetary estimates