

THE RESTORATION of the BELLS

Completed in 1974



As recorded in magazines of
the Parish of St Peter
Hartshorne

This booklet records the restoration of Hartshorne's bells which had not been rung for many years, in fact for a number of years they had been placed at the base of the tower. The parish magazines describe every step of the restoration process starting with a mention in:

August 1969

THE PATRONAL FLOWER FESTIVAL

During the three days of the Festival at the end of June, the Church looked extremely lovely.

Significant aspects of Peter's life were depicted in arrangements around the pulpit and lectern, and the Church Bells were drawn to visitors' attention by being incorporated into a garden arranged at the base of the tower.

Since the Festival was reported in the local Press, the financial result has appreciated to something over £100.

Our thanks are due to all the ladies and gentlemen who contributed both flowers and arranging' skill under the co-ordination of Mrs. Alice Shaw and we thank God for His Creation, His help and His blessing.

August 1972

HISTORY VERSUS NEWS

On 22nd June 1953 Representatives from Messrs John Taylor & Co. visited St. Peter's to inspect the bells, at that time still in position in the tower.

They made a detailed report which included the recommendation that ringing of the bells should be discontinued.

Silence for nineteen years:

In 1953 the Foundry provided the church with a specification covering repair and restoration of the peal, and provision of space for a new sixth bell. Including odds and ends of 'building' extras, the total was some £750. Yes, they talked in hundreds!

Of course, having the bells repaired and re-hung was easier said than done. A great deal of work had to be done to make the tower safe, and eventually, some £800 was expended to achieve that object. Subsequently further works were done in and around the church which have included the complete redecoration of the interior and the retiling of the north slope of the Nave roof. Nearer still in time the question of Sunday School accommodation was discussed, the final outcome of which was the internal re-ordering of the building resulting in the very greatly improved use of the Plant.

In November 1970, the five bells that had for so long lain on the floor beneath the tower were removed to Loughborough for safe-keeping, and the work of the recently completed project was set in motion three months later.

On 11th July 1972 the Parochial Church Council took a very far-reaching decision. They passed a resolution to apply for a Faculty for the restoration of the bells forthwith. By the time this is granted - assuming that it is - an order can be given to the Foundry to proceed before the end of this year, and after an interval of almost exactly 21 years, we should hear the bells again sometime in 1974.

By no stretch of the imagination can this decision be regarded as anything but a gigantic step of faith in a God who has already achieved a miracle in our midst.

For years people have been asking about the bells. And even over the past four years something like £180 has been raised in an effort to get things moving. £15 has to be spent

every year in storage and insurance charges at the Foundry in Loughborough, so at the end of 1971 the fund stood at £253.

The Diocese thinks that we have a duty to restore the bells. The Parish has always given the impression that the bells are close to its heart. And the P.C.C. have had to face up to the fact that prices are rising so rapidly that they dare not delay placing an order for the work to begin while they start to set about raising the money. For if £500 could be raised over the next year and the order placed then, the overall cost would have increased by at least half that amount.

....and so?

Once the Faculty is granted we shall be placing an order for work that will cost around

£ 3,500

£2,000 is now required to restore the peal:

but it is more than likely that

350 will have to be spent re-casting the 4th bell which has an extremely bad flaw in the structure of its head, and preserving the ancient inscription surrounding the head.

400 will be needed for a new 6th Bell to complete a $\frac{3}{4}$ octave. Add a further

450 for necessary building work, bell-chamber floor and clock connections

300 for the estimated increase in labour costs over the next 18-24 months

and the picture is clear.

Of course - there are those who will say,

"It cannot be done".

"Well, it can".

Alone, of course, we could not hope to make it. But with God, all things are possible.

We've seen it happen once in the last four years. Now it can happen again.

Always there are ever-so-many imponderables.

That 4th Bell might not have to be recast. Some costs may prove less in the end. It may seem mad to order a sixth bell, although ever since 1953 everyone has urged its provision.

The logical answer seems to be to take one large final bite.

Obviously every penny will count. There will be hundreds of folk who will think in terms of making donations: some will be small - some large.

Those small amounts will matter.

The big gifts will matter too.

An appeal will be necessary.

Bridging loans will be desirable.

It'll all be a question of faith and works acting in concert.

There are a host of things that could be said at this stage. But enough is as good as a feast.

It is good that we should work for something worth-while.

It is bad that effort should only be confined to home-consumption.

The Gift Day total for this year was £61. It has been voted to the Bell Fund. But 10% of the Christmas Fayre takings this year will be given towards the Overseas Work of the Church through the Bible Churchmen's Missionary Society.

There it is then. Target £3,500.

Completion 1974.

The P.C.C. is ready to receive gifts now.

(Trevor Beedell)

August 1973

IT CANNOT BE DONE...OH! BUT IT CAN!

Those first four words are always damning.

The second group of words suggests that the impossible is possible, and the miracle merely takes time - for with God all things are possible.

Before our Gift Day on 24th June, 450 gift envelopes were distributed in this magazine in connection with the Rector's letter in which he set a target of £250 to be achieved by people giving one day's take-home pay.

Was such a target pie-in-the-sky for a Church whose weekly offerings amount to an average of about £12?

About 100 envelopes were returned, and there may have been another thirty donations. In other words a lot of people did sit down and count the cost. Several cheques came, many treasury notes came, many seven-sided coins came, and much other silver and copper - there were not a few widow's mites, and not a few days' take-home-pay. In all, £155.00 arrived. No - we didn't get £250, but no more than 130 people produced over twelve times as much as on a regular Sunday. Perhaps there will be those whose memory will take them back to another such Sunday at Saint Peter's, but no-one has mentioned such 'a happening' yet. No comments are necessary as to why £250 didn't come in: certainly those who did dig much deeper than usual did their bit - and together they witnessed a miracle, and sang the doxology together to mark it, at the end of the evening service.

So where are we now on the Bells?

At this moment we have £1,042 in the bank, and a loan of £250 we can take up from the Diocese - £1,292 in all. That is 35% of what we need, and the restoration work is going on apace. Drawings have come for the masonry work and time is passing.

April 1973

RESTORATION OF OUR PEAL OF BELLS

There is much to be done, but certainly we can do it together with the God of the impossible. I was very pleased to be invited to accompany the Rector and a number of parishioners on a visit to the Taylor Bell Foundry at Loughborough to witness the casting of the new treble bell and the re-casting of one of the old bells on Tuesday afternoon, 23rd January.

Our three cars duly arrived after lunch, and we somewhat gingerly entered the building through a gloomy doorway, and peered at a litter of bells, girders, chains and strange machinery in a scene that took us back in time to the Industrial Revolution. A huge rambling building with whitewashed walls powdered with dust had skylights in the roof of smoky glass, and an earthen floor covered with steel sheeting. Our guide led us to the rear of the foundry where we were shown the moulds in which the bells were cast. They were rather like plant pots, ranging in size from those that could be lifted by one man, to huge moulds weighing several tons. The inner portion called the 'core' and the outer shell called the 'cope' are lined with a mixture of clay, manure and sand which is painstakingly worked to give the correct thickness and profile to the finished bell. The 'note' is dependent on those factors. The moulds for our bells had, of course, been prepared, and were waiting in the foundry to receive the molten metal.

Having brought ourselves up to date on the progress of Hartshorne's bells we returned to the foundry where the copper content of the bell metal had been heating in the furnace since early morning. We learned that in addition to the two Hartshorne bells, further castings for churches in Barbados, Sarawak, and nearer at home - Bradford Cathedral, were also being made at the same time. As old and new metal became intermixed, it was nice to think that a little bit of our church was going overseas.

The great moment arrived: The foreman marshalled the spectators behind a line chalked on the floor at a safe distance, and then opened the furnace door. A white flame lit up the dingy building as the loose bricks at the mouth were pulled away to allow the ingots of tin to be thrown in. A branch of a willow tree was then thrust into the fire - much to our mystification - and we were informed that this fluxed the two metals. No modern chemicals were required here.

The travelling crane then rumbled overhead and the ladle was attached ready to be filled. The molten bell metal, mostly copper but for the small quantity of tin added five minutes before 'the mix' was declared ready, was allowed to run out from the furnace and into the ladle which was then lifted over the bell moulds. These were filled in turn through a small opening in the top - our two bells coming last. Not a drop spilt, and the whole operation was directed with just a few brief signals from the foreman to the crane operator and other workmen, and with hardly a word being spoken. Complete teamwork and confidence in one another were the keynotes.

Now came the 'crowd participation' as we were invited gently to stir the metal inside the moulds to release any trapped air bubbles - the ladies' skill was soon evident at this job! We all felt that we were really involved in the enterprise at this point: our bells were well and truly on the way.

The remainder of our visit was rather prosaic by comparison, but we toured the machine shop and joinery sections and amused ourselves playing scales by striking bells of various sizes with a wooden mallet.

The overall impression was of a very friendly family business, with each man a master of his craft and engaged in a manufacturing process which was a unique blend of art and science. We were all grateful of the opportunity to witness so rare an event.

D.E. Rose

June 1973

THE BELLS

At the time of going to press the figure in the Bells Restoration account is £852. We have not yet taken up an Interest Free Loan from the Diocese of £250.

The net total includes £41.50 handed to the Rector in memory of Mr. Jack Ward. This sum represented half of the donations given at the funeral Service at West Street Methodist Church, which was conducted by the Rev. Jack Charlton.

When will the BELLS be up?

In February I announced the hope that the peal would be restored and re-hung to coincide with our Patronal Festival on the last Sunday in June. The three day working week represented a hazard to maintaining this schedule, and we have now established that through no fault of their own, the Foundry cannot be expected to complete by that time. However, after consultation with the Parochial Church Council, and following further negotiations with the Foundry, we aim to complete the restoration to coincide with another festival - Harvest-tide. Unless any other hitch intervenes therefore, we shall make for

Sunday, 6th October.

Taking account of the loan of £250 we can take up, as soon as we actually begin to incur expenses, we have reached a point £35 short of £2,000.

Our aim has always been to effect the restoration debt-free. And I am aware of the effects of inflation.

Nevertheless, the P.C.C. have proceeded with the restoration in the belief that it was the will of the folk living in the sound of the bells - not heard for the last 21 years. I hope therefore that donations will begin to flow in more freely, so that the last £1,500 can be found without delay.

(Trevor Beedell)

June 1974

The BELLS RESTORATION

fund stands at £2,343 including interest-free loans of £450 at the time of going to press.

The Bells

On our Gift Day, a cluster of people stayed behind after the evening service to praise God for what had been given - an obvious response for committed people to make.

On the evening, the total announced was £110, and this subsequently rose to £126. This sum was of course additional to our regular giving and as Rector, I want to thank the people that contributed that very large sum in cheques, in fivers, in ones, in 50p pieces and in silver and copper besides.

To many people, this entire project has been extremely expensive, but the P.C.C. have felt that the peal should be restored for two reasons. The first reason - because five years back we set our hand to make the church building much more flexible and so facilitate the work among young people and families - and let it be known that the bells would come next.

The second reason - even five years back money was in the bells fund, given in good faith to help defray the cost of restoration - not simply of the peal - but of the church itself to its ancient splendour.

In the next issue of the magazine I shall include details of the special rededication service scheduled for early October.

For now, let me tell you that the Bell Fund stands at £2,675, including interest to date and several loans promised but not taken up, because as yet we have not been required to make any payments.

Meanwhile very sincere thanks are due to Graham Rutter and Arthur Spencer for the work they have been doing on their Saturday mornings removing the old wooden belfry floor, and making preparations to receive the new framework and foundation grillage in September.

A few folk have shown an interest in learning to ring the bells, and arrangements are now in hand for instruction to be given to them in the Cathedral at Derby.

The Rector

October 1974

A "DOUBLE" ON Sunday 6th October 1974

HARVEST THANKSGIVING & REDEDICATION OF THE PEAL OF BELLS

This double event in our 1974 calendar will be marked by three services.

At 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Series 3)

At 11.00 a.m. A special service of thanks for all God's good gifts, and for the arrival of the long-awaited day when the peal of bells - now increased to six - would be heard once more. At this service we welcome as a special preacher/guest

The Archdeacon of Derby, The Ven. Robert Dell.

In the evening at 6.30 p.m. there will be a further thanksgiving service.

Please note that on this Sunday there will not be sessions for Climbers and Explorers.

In order that the church may be decorated we would be very grateful for donations of fruit, flowers and vegetables in advance, from Friday onwards. There will also be opportunity for gifts of tinned and bottled goods suitable for Winter sick-visiting to be received from the young folks during the morning service.

The P.C.C. has decided that all monetary gifts apart from Church Expenses Envelopes, given during the day shall be ear-marked for the Fabric Fund which needs resources. Any profit that accrues from the Harvest Supper will be similarly credited.

These are the BELL QUESTIONS How to pay? How and when to ring?

Over the past two years, metals fuel and labour costs escalated very rapidly, and we now have to face the fact that to meet the total cost of the restoration of the bells will involve a bill of approx. £4,450 !! *

Including two interest-free loans, one from the Diocese and one from the Bell-ringers Association, we have already raised almost £2,700.

We have yet to raise the remaining	£1,750
We have also to repay the loans of	450
And there is interest to find on the sum outstanding to the	
Founders at the rate of 10% per annum over three years, probably	<u>300</u>
	£2,500

At this time we aren't yet half way home. God has certainly over-ruled until now, and can be relied on to do His part.

The P.C.C. are keeping a close watch on the situation, and if special efforts or a general appeal become necessary, then we shall look to the Parish to rise to the challenge.

Ringing the bells

Headed up by Arthur Spencer, six of our men are in process of learning the arts of campanology. Inevitably it takes a fair time, and up to now has involved regular journeys to the Cathedral for classes. However, progress is rather slow, and no guarantees can be given of a date by which our own peal can be rung with any regularity.

Obviously, arrangements will be made for a peal on 6th October, and by then, or very soon after, the clock will strike the hours.

Meanwhile, the P.C.C. have to consider the question of ringing frequency, and the scale of fees for ringing on such occasions as weddings.

Patience is still required!

December 1974

A PEAL OF PRAISE

Since June 1969 there have been many separate references to the bells in this magazine. This item is the twentieth and last!

The bells are installed, dedicated, and ringing regularly, and the total costs incurred covered in full.

Thank God for that:

pause right now to thank Him.

The Foundry's bill amounted to £4,294. We expect all other items to amount to about £260: the Parish Council have promised to help us with the work on the clock, and we have sufficient moneys in hand to cover the final costs of work in the tower, provision of ringing mats and spare stays and mufflers, a new ladder for access to the Tower roof, a new hatch to complete the maintenance floor above the clock cabinet, and introduction of lighting positions in the spiral staircase clock room and belfry.

The final jump in income was achieved by the sale of a piece of land in Sandcliffe Road, held for very many years by the Trustees of the Benefice. The Rector first raised the possibility of sale with the Trustees in the Summer of 1969 with the request that the proceeds be used to finance restoration of the peal of bells. The P.C.C. have had the possibility before them for over five years, and been kept briefed of progress periodically.

In spite of the fact that the land cannot yet be developed owing to inadequate sewage facilities, a buyer came forward prepared to purchase before development permission could be granted. A final £150 donation took us to the point where we could meet all our liabilities.

God always enables, so long as His people will work. Here then has been one more evidence of the fact.

The P.C.C. have considered a number of other matters that need decision, and the important items are set out here for your guidance and information:

1. With the help of ringers from Ticknall our own team is ringing every Sunday from 10.30-10.55 a.m. We want here to record our gratitude to our friends from the Melbourne Deanery.
2. Recruits to our team will need to learn bell-handling at the Cathedral. After that, they will be able to carry on at Hartshorne. Very soon we shall introduce a fortnightly

Tuesday practice evening, when our team can make progress. For this purpose the bells will be rigged so that no sound is heard.

3. We ask our ringers to make a point of staying on for worship after ringing.
4. If those who are to be married wish the bells to be pealed at their weddings, it will rest entirely with the Captain of our band to see whether a team can be mustered. If ringing is possible a fee of £5.00 will be payable to the ringers who will pass 50p to the P.C.C. to cover maintenance costs.
5. Private groups of ringers will not be allowed to ring the bells, and official Associations of Diocesan and Ringers will be allowed only from time to time.

We hope you agree that the bells and striking clock add to the villageness of the village!

The Derby Association of Church Bell Ringers have been granted permission to peal the bells on Saturday evening 14th December from 7.00 -9.00pm. The Association have given a great deal of help in the process of restoration, both financially, and in the training of our own folk at the Cathedral.

December 1975

BELL RINGING

Everyone has been delighted at the way our team has grown under the captaincy of Arthur Spencer, assisted by Graham Eaton.

The Diocesan Association recently had a meeting at Hartshorne, and on that occasion Arthur became a full member.

Our ringers now number eight, with several others learning. The main group are composed of

Arthur Spencer	Christopher Redfern
Graham Eaton	Paul Beedell
Dennis Bracher	Neil Jenkinson and
Doug Jenkinson	Richard Harvey

All these gentlemen ring regularly both on Sunday mornings and at some weddings.

We have recently made the decision to vary the occasions when the bells are pealed for services. From December onwards, instead of the bells being rung every Sunday morning from 10.30 - 10.55 they will be rung for the Family Service on the first Sunday morning, then for the Communion Services on the second Sunday evening, the third Sunday morning, the fourth Sunday evening, and when there is a fifth Sunday, on the fifth Sunday morning.

You may have noticed that during evening services the clock never chimes 7 o'clock! This is because the chiming mechanism is taken out of gear, so that the peal doesn't ring out at an inopportune moment.

The final phase of the re-hanging has only just been completed - the lighting of the tower staircase, the clock room and the belfry. That light makes a lot of difference.

* £4,450 in 1974 is the equivalent of £32,500 today (2017)