

**E. John Arthur, PGDip**

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**Church of St Edith, Bishop Wilton  
Conservation Report for work on the bells**

As part of my duties as Adviser to York DAC on Church Bells I produced a report setting out restoration proposals for the bells of this church based on the conservation advice contained within the Church Buildings Councils Guidance on Bell and Bell frames.

The specification for the work provided by Whites of Appleton date 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 complied with my recommendations and formed part of the agreed Faculty application.(

I have seen these works as they progressed and have also written a report requested by the DAC upon completion of the work.

In respect of the Guidelines relating to Post Conservation.

The contractor for the bell work was Whites of Appleton

The clock mechanism in the tower was protected by Cumbria Clocks for the duration of the work

The work was started on site November 2022 and completed 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 The bells were not removed to Whites workshop. They were drilled and fitted out for new parts in the tower. All work conformed to the Church Buildings Council Code of Practice for Bells and Bellframes.

The work was in accordance with my advice report and Whites specification (attached)

I attach a copy of the completion report requested by the DAC as this shows before and after pictures.

The parish has also recorded the work available at: <http://www.garrowbychurches.com/beck-and-bells.html>

E. John Arthur, PGDip

22 April 2023

Tel: 01865-862549

VAT Reg. No. 311 5128 09

**Directors**  
B. R. WHITE (Managing)  
G. J. CLIFTON  
J. A. HASELDINE  
A. HASELDINE



**Whites of Appleton Ltd**

(Established 1824)

**Church Bellhangers**

69 EATON ROAD  
APPLETON, ABINGDON, OXON  
OX13 5JJ

e-mail: bells@whitesbellhangers.co.uk

**Estimate**

7th December 2020

**THE CHURCH OF SAINT EDITH, BISHOP WILTON, EAST YORKSHIRE**

**REHANG THE BELLS FOR STATIONARY CHIMING**

**DISMANTLING**

Attend the tower with our bellhangers, all required tools, protective equipment and lifting gear.

Dismantle the three bells and their fittings and temporarily stand the bells level on timbers in the base of the bell frame.

Lower the fittings to the ground and transport them to our Works.

**BELLS**

Carefully drill each of the three bells by hand in the crown and remove as much as practically possible of the corroding cast-in crown staple iron to relieve stress and reduce the chances of the bells becoming cracked in the crown.

**BELL FRAME**

Level the tops cills of the bell frame ready to receive the new deadstocks.

**CHIMING FITTINGS**

Supply and fit to the bells stationary chiming fittings as follows:

Hardwood canon-retaining deadstocks with galvanised securing bolts and brackets to secure the deadstocks to the bell frame and to prevent the bells from moving.

Galvanised traditional forged supporting ironwork.

Adjustable external electromagnetic chiming hammers with support brackets for securing to the bell frame.

Galvanise all steel fittings and treat all new timber fittings with insecticide/preservative.

Company Reg. No. 04776700

Web Site: <http://www.whitesbellhangers.co.uk>

Bank: Barclays Bank Plc  
Sort Code: 20-65-18  
Account No: 80085960

**CHIMING FITTINGS (cont.)**

Supply a programmable electronic control unit (with radio time signal aerial, lightning arrestor and USB module) and hammer relay box, and have the PCC's appointed electrician fit this in an appropriate position at ground floor level and then connect the mains supply, control unit, relay box and electromagnetic hammers.

**REHANGING**

Transport the new fittings to the church and hoist them into the tower. Fit the fittings to their respective bells and hang the bells in the existing bell frame, firmly bolting the deadstocks to the bell frame.

Programme the control unit (includes manual override and optional hour/quarter strike and night silence), test-chime the bells and leave them in good order for electronically-controlled stationary chiming.

For the sum of:

**SEVENTEEN THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED & THIRTY-TWO POUNDS**  
**(£17,332.00)**  
**PLUS VAT**

**POSSIBLE EXTRA**

In addition to the above works, also provide each bell with an internal adjustable trigger-action chiming clapper, chiming rope (with a close-woven pure wool sally and a pre-stretched Terylene top end) and guide pulley units as required. Creating new rope ways with rope bosses as required, fit the ropes, adjust the clappers to strike unworn surfaces on the bells' soundbows and leave the bells in good order for both manual chiming and electronically controlled chiming.

For the additional sum of:

**£3,367.00 + VAT**

**N.B.**

*These figures are calculated at current costs and may be subject to fluctuation.*

**TERMS OF PAYMENT**

- 1) 33% when the bells have been dismantled and the old fittings transported to our Works.
- 2) 33% when all is completed in our Works.
- 3) The balance when works are complete in the Tower.

**EXCLUSIONS**

- 1) We recommend that the bell frame is treated with insecticide/preservative by a specialist company in conjunction with the bells being restored, if advised by the Church Architect.
- 2) All required electrical installation works for the fitting of electronic control equipment to the bells. This should be carried out by the PCC's appointed qualified electrician and they should also supply the connecting cables throughout the tower. We will supply a wiring diagram.
- 3) Any work to the clock and clock hammer.

**POSSIBLE DEDUCTION**

Lodgings and all meals provided to our bellhanger(s) during all on-site works.

**£43.00 per day per man**

**A FACULTY MUST BE OBTAINED BEFORE ANY WORKS  
COMMENCE**

**From the Bells and Clock Adviser: E. John Arthur, PGDip**  
Hill House, 8 Castlegate, Pickering. N. Yorks YO18 7AX  
Tel:01751-798271 or 07947677711  
email: [john.eborbells@gmail.com](mailto:john.eborbells@gmail.com)

15 March 2023

Dear Catherine,

**Church of St Edith, Bishop Wilton**

**Completion report for work carried out under Faculty 2020-055981 as required as a condition of the Faculty**

**Restoration of the church bells Completion visit 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Probably the best way to illustrate the work carried out is by before and after pictures which clearly illustrate the work.

Before



The bells with their derelict fittings and rot at the end of the headstocks



Wedge bolts and old blacksmiths strap bolts. (Only the visible parts had been painted!)

After the work



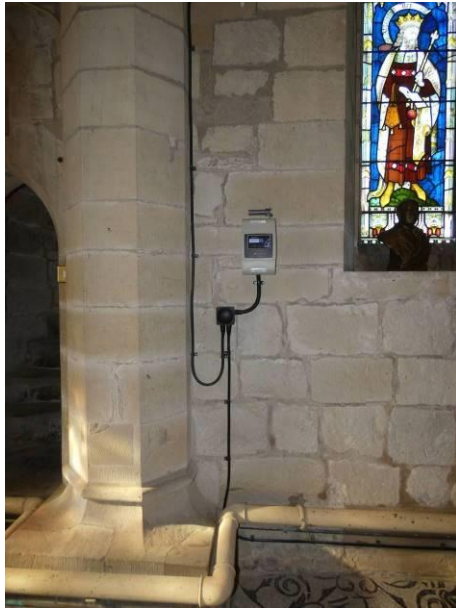
The new "dead stocks" of sapele fitted after the bells had been drilled for centre holes and the cast in staples removed as much as possible. Also the new galvanized supporting ironwork.



The old rope pulleys left in situ and the new pulleys for the lever safety clappers mounted on the floor. These pulleys are from the Bartol range design for marine usage.



The new electromagnetic hammer units mounted firmly on the outside of the bells



The control unit mounted on the West wall adjacent to the tower doorway and a close up of the Apollo III control unit. These units now have touch screen operation.

I consider that the specification as set out by Whites of Appleton dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and which formed the basis of the Faculty has been complied with. The church now has a system of using their bells easily and still has the facility to safely chime them using bell ropes should they desire.

Everything has been well finished and the electrical engineer has been tested and certified the electrical work

Best wishes,  
John