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Post Conservation Report

28th February 2020

<p>CHURCH OF SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, LETCOMBE BASSETT, OXFORDSHIRE</p>

BELLS

Each bell was drilled in the crown and as much of the cast-in crown staple removed as practicably possible to relieve stress and reduce the chances of the bell becoming cracked in the crown.

The false iron staple stumps were removed from the crown of the treble bell to relieve stress.

The bells were not tuned.

A resin pad was cast on the crown of each bell ready to accept its new headstock, drilling the bells as required for their new support bolts.

When rehung, the bells were turned to present unworn surfaces to the blows of their respective clappers.

BELL FRAME

All existing bell frame ironwork was checked over and uniformly tightened.

The bell frame ironwork was cleaned and painted with three coats of exterior grade gloss paint.

New heavy steel bearing foundation plates were levelled, bedded and securely bolted to the top cills of the bell frame ready to accept the new ball bearing units.

RINGING FITTINGS

New full-circle ringing fittings were supplied and fitted as follows:

Hot-dipped galvanised and powder-coated steel canon-retaining headstocks with fixed steel gudgeons turned in true alignment and heavy-duty double-row self-aligning ball bearings in totally enclosed dust-proof housings.

8.8-grade galvanised steel supporting bolts, nuts, locknuts and insulation washers.

Independent adjustable crown staple units, each fitted with a "maintenance free" stainless steel clapper pin.

Ductile iron clappers with octagonal flights, each with a machined Tufnol bush resiliently mounted in Neoprene rubber at its point of swing.

Traditional hardwood wheels, each fitted with two steel angle braces.

Hardwood pulley units containing hard-wearing nylon sheaves each revolving on twin ball races.

Dry ash stays and sliders and hardwood runnerboards.

Slider brackets with facilities to take up pivot wear and to prevent the sliders from lifting.

Ceiling and floor rope bosses.

A set of flax bell ropes each with a close-woven pure wool sally and a pre-stretched Terylene top end.

All timber fittings were treated with Sovereign low odour "bat-friendly" insecticide/preservative and all non-galvanised metal ringing fittings painted with three coats of exterior grade paint (Lidden Red Oxide Primer and Rust Oleum Combi-Colour undercoat and gloss top coat, colour code 20D45).

REHANGING

The bells and their fittings were transported from our Works to the Church.

The bells were hoisted into the Tower and hung complete with their fittings in the existing bell frame, firmly bolting the self-aligning ball bearings to the new bearing plates and securely bolting the "shifter" frameside back into the bell frame.

Two of the existing rope-ways were reused and a new ropeway was created for the tenor to improve the rope circle. All were fitted with new ceiling and floor ropes bosses. The bellropes were fitted, the clappers set up for even striking and the bells test-rung, leaving them in good order for full-circle ringing.