

The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Bletchingley



Come And Discover God

Tuesday, 08 August 2023

Dear DAC

I am tidying up some outstanding items on the OFS that are due for completion well before my arrival.

Training Bells: Ref 2018-020421

The background is:

- 1) The "Training Bells" were manufactured by Matthew Higby & Company Ltd of Charmborough Farm, Holcombe, Somerset BA3 5FX. They are Bell Founders, Bell Hangers and Engineers. The training bells were manufactured to Matthew Higby's proven design, similar to other installations they had manufactured.
- 2) The inspecting architect was Russell Hanslip, our church architect at that time. (I think now known as HMDW Architects, based in London and Chichester.)
- 3) He was aware of our application and commended it to the DAC. It was also supported by Robert Cooles, the DAC Bells Advisor, and our Archdeacon. I have a copy of an email from Russell Hanslip to Luke Tatum (of the DAC) confirming this, dated 22/03/18.
- 4) I don't have a record of a "Practical Completion Certificate", from the Architect. (He must have seen the Training Bells though, during his last Quinquennial inspection).
- 5) The work was completed in August/September 2019.

The architect emailed me today and said, "I am sorry that my involvement with the training bells ceased at the time of supporting the DAC application. I am not aware of what happened with the Practical Completion Certificate. I did not see anything amiss at the time of the last quinquennial inspection but am unable to comment further, I am afraid".

I hope this information is acceptable for the completion of this item.

Father Paul

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