



NICHOLSON ENGINEERING LTD

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12th March, 2024.

POST-CONSERVATION REPORT

Church of St. Andrew, Collingbourne Ducis.

Diocese of Salisbury

Grade II* listed

Overhaul of clappers. Repositioning of third bell in its pit. New pulley to second.

Tenor, fourth, second and treble by Taylor of Loughborough 1902. Fifth C15th bell from the medieval Salisbury foundry, third by John Wallis of Salisbury 1608.

Bellframe by John Taylor 1902. Bottom tier contains the largest four bells, treble and second in top tier. Bottom tier consists of cast-iron H-frames bolted down to a single foundation of steel joists. Top tier consists of lowside cast-iron framesides bolted down to a single foundation of steel joists built up off the top of the bottom tier.

Work commenced in 23/10/23. Work completed 8/3/24.

Work to the bell installation undertaken by Nicholson Engineering Ltd of Bridport.

RECORD OF CONSERVATION WORK UNDERTAKEN TO THE BELL INSTALLATION

The bells were dismantled as necessary to allow the third bell to be rotated in its pit such that the rope path down through the tower was more logically arranged thus improving ease of ringing that bell. All fittings were repositioned to suit. The pulley to the second was replaced. The clappers were overhauled, annealed and fitted with new bushes and hinge pins.

Bells

No work was undertaken to the bells.

Wear at the current strike points is estimated to be about 5% of total thickness, 10% being the point at which remedial action will be required. At the current wear rate, this is likely to be required in approximately the year 2150.

Bellframes

No work was undertaken to the bellframes.

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Fittings

The pulley assembly to the second was replaced.

The clappers were overhauled, to include annealing in our blacksmiths' hearth to help prevent stress fractures. All new stainless steel hinge pins and Tufnol bushes were fitted. New insulation washers were fitted between the staples and the insides of the bells.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

All fixings to the ringing fittings should be checked and tightened after an initial 12-16 week period, particular attention to be paid to the fixings of the timber parts and those parts such as the bell supporting bolts and crown staple bolts which are fitted with leather insulation washers. Checking and tightening should then be undertaken once annually.

The main bearings are sealed and will require overhaul every 25 years, it not being known when this was last done. It is important that the temptation to pump them full of grease is resisted as doing so would damage the seals.

A few drops of light machine oil should be applied either side of the clapper pivot points once annually.

The ropes should be moved up/down a little from time-to-time to help distribute wear.

IMAGES

None.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None.

