
Notes on Bell Removal Procedure

Wrington PCC confirmed that the diameter of the largest bell (The Tenor Bell) is 1490mm and that the clear width of the hatch above the Vestry in vaulted stone ceiling is 1800mm.

In conversation with Andrew Ogden and Nathan Evans, bellhangers from John Taylor Bell Foundry, we discussed the feasibility of swinging the large tenor bell off centre as it was lowered. (Andrew was familiar with the church and bell) They both said that this would be straightforward albeit with some additional manpower. The hatch is 8.5m above the Vestry Joinery which allows plenty of scope for the descending bell to be swung to one side.

Following their advice we have designed the WC 'pod' a permanent structure which has greatly improved the design and simplified its construction.

The clear width to 'trolley' the bell out of the Vestry is only 1550mm which is tight, we have therefore designed the southwest corner of the pod to be demountable should additional width be required. We suspect that the bellhangers will simply protect the corner of the pod for the tenor bell removal and take a little more time to carefully remove it from the church.

