

# JOHN TAYLOR & CO

## BELLFOUNDERS, BELLHANGERS AND CARILLON BUILDERS



Our ref: NME/ne/859/30  
Greenways  
Swarby  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 8TG

4<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Mrs Dawes,

### **ST MARY'S AND ALL SAINTS, SWARBY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Please find below our post-conservation report for the works carried out at St Mary's and All Saints, Swarby.

#### **Post-Conservation Report**

#### **Church and Object Details**

Church Name: St Mary's and All Saints

Location: Swarby, Lincolnshire

Diocese: Lincoln

Object Location: Bell located in the west end tower of the church, mounted in the original timber frame.

Object Description: A single church bell with traditional fittings, to be converted for chiming via an Ellacombe chime hammer currently hung for swing chiming. The bell is original to the tower, cast in approximately 1550, and mounted within a timber frame. A timber wheel and headstock were present of unknown age but suspected >100years.

Object Maker: Marked RC.

#### **Conservator-Restorer Details**

Company: John Taylor & Co.

Address: The Bellfoundry Freehold street Loughborough LE111AR

Sub-contractors or Advisers: None. All work undertaken in-house by qualified staff at John Taylor & Co.

#### **Conservation Project Timeline**

Commencement of On-Site Work: 09.06.25

Workshop Conservation Period: 11.06.25 - 27.06.25

Reinstallation and Final Completion: 04.07.25

Total Duration of Project: 4 weeks

#### **John Taylor Bell Foundry (Loughborough) Limited trading as JOHN TAYLOR & CO.**

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Registered in England No. 7032766

## **Reference to Grant Application**

A specification of proposed works was previously submitted to the PCC and DAC Advisor, Christopher Woodcock, forming the basis for approval and grant support.

Report Title: Specification & Quotation 2.0 – Bell Chime Conversion

Author: Nathan Evans

Date of initial Survey : 16.08.24

Date of Publication: 21.03.25

## **Record of Conservation**

### **Structural Works**

- A small lifting frame was constructed on-site to safely dismantle and lower the bell.
- The bell was carefully removed and supported on bearers across the timber frame.
- The headstock, associated ironwork and other fittings were transported to our works for refurbishment.

### **Treatments**

#### **At the Workshop:**

- The iron bands of the headstock were treated with Furtan rust converter and repainted.
- New cannon straps were fabricated from mild steel, based on accurate measurements of the original configuration.
- A new Ellacombe trigger-type chiming hammer was manufactured to a sizing fitting for the bell.
- Bell wheel was restored, reusing as much original material as possible, works were completed in reversible way. Soling and half of shrouding was not reusable and therefore new ash soling and sapele shrouding were installed with stainless steel strews.
- Wheel and headstock were treated with Silka five star wood treatment.

#### **On-Site Reinstallation:**

- The bell was reassembled and re-hung using the restored headstock and new fittings.
- The original cast-in crown staple was removed as thoroughly as possible.
- The new chiming hammer was installed, adjusted to strike an unworn section of the bell, and mounted securely to the timber frame with a new board across the pit.
- New bell ropes, floor bosses and a floor pulley were fitted for ease of use and longevity.
- Final test chiming was carried out to ensure operational success.
- Original Wheel and Clapper were mounted at the bottom of the tower with brackets screwed into mortar joints.

### **Reconstruction and New Elements**

- Introduction of new Ellacombe chiming hammer, fabricated in mild steel with a cast head, with necessary pulleys and mounts.
- New cannon straps fabricated and installed.
- These additions were sympathetic to the existing structure and designed to preserve historic fabric wherever possible.
- Frame treatment using 5-star wood preservative carried out by local labour.
- Full restoration of bell wheel including hardwood soling, sapele shrouding, stainless steel

screws, and new bobbins completed in our works and delivered back to the church.

#### Additional Work

None

#### New Discoveries

No significant new discoveries were made during the conservation work.

#### Further Work Required or Recommended

At present, the bell and fittings are in full working order.

Recommended: Periodic inspection of the chiming mechanism and bell suspension every 5 years, or sooner if heavy use is expected.

#### Building Environment

- No significant structural issues within the tower were noted during the installation.
- Any concerns noted in the latest Quinquennial Inspection Report should be reviewed in conjunction with this conservation.
- The tower appears dry and well-ventilated; however, ongoing monitoring of damp and heating effects is recommended.

#### Care and Maintenance Recommendations

- Routine visual inspection annually of hammer strike point, pulleys, and rope wear.
- Full mechanical inspection of all fittings every 5 years in line with the church's Quinquennial Review.
- Adjustment of hammer alignment may occasionally be required.

#### Images, References, and Appendices

Please find appended:

- Colour photographs of the bell and fittings:
  - Before removal
  - During workshop conservation
  - After reinstallation
- PDF copies of the quotation and workshop records.

Image Copyright: John Taylor & Co., 2025

Prepared by: Nathan Evans

Sales and Major Projects Manager

John Taylor & Co.

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Yours sincerely,



Nathan Evans

**JOHN TAYLOR & Co.,**



























