



Church and Public Clock Specialists. Castle Workshops, Dacre, Penrith, Cumbria.
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10th July 2025

FAO – Christopher Birrell, Treasurer

Dear Christopher

Cucklington, St. Lawrence Church – Tower Clock

Further to our telephone conversation, we are pleased to provide the following information & suitable quotations.

We inspected the clock & carried out work to the weight pulleys in 2024, when we also submitted a report on the condition of the clock movement, a copy of which is below.

Report.

The wrought iron clock movement is a wonderful example of the workmanship of William Monk (1689-1753) of Berwick St. John. He made a number of domestic clocks but also highly regarded turret clocks including those at Sherborne Abbey, Wimborne Minster, Broadchalke, Fontmell Magna, Witchampton and Berwick St. John.

The movement has his distinctive Tulips finials on each hipped corner post and internally mounted worm wheel driven strike count wheel, sharing this and many other of the original features with the clock he made for Witchampton in 1737. They have both been altered over the years such as brass wheels added along with the dial drive gearing.

The clock is still hand wound and is reported to be keeping very good time and in overall reasonable mechanical condition. Several of the train bearings are beginning to show wear as are the teeth to the second going pinion. The pins to the pulleys are worn resulting in their sides rubbing against the inside of their mounting straps and causing greater friction. The hammer check spring for the externally mounted bell is not operating correctly and the timing of the strike train is incorrect allowing the hammer to be partially lifted after locking-off.

We recommend that in due course the clock and associated components be removed for a workshop overhaul so that they can be cleaned, all repair work undertaken and placed on test before returning and re-installing back into the tower. This would also then be covered by our ten-year guarantee on performance and reliability. Although the clock is working well despite the wear to the pulleys.

We provided a quotation for work to the pulleys which was accepted for their removal and repair in our workshops.

We would only be too pleased to provide a quotation for a workshop overhaul of the movement.

We understand you are considering converting the movement to automatic winding.

The proposed automatic winding units would be situated below the clock movement with the drive being via the barrel arbors, which meets the current DAC code of practice. The weights would fall down the existing weight chute or operate within the clock room.

These winding units can be supplied as mains driven or battery driven depending on the frequency and duration of power failures. Battery backed units should always be installed when there is a possibility of power failures lasting more than 24 hours. Where power failures are only a few hours' long mains driven units are preferred.

The quotation to convert the movement to automatic winding is shown in quotation 1.

The automatic winding units manufactured by the Cumbria Clock Company are the only units to come complete with a ten-year guarantee.

After the winding units have been fitted it must be realized that the clocks time keeping is still regulated by the pendulum. Therefore, it will still be necessary for somebody to attend to the regulation and undertake the summer and wintertime changes.

We can fit an auto-regulation system to undertake these procedures if it proves difficult to find somebody to do so. We have submitted quotation 2 for one of these systems, which will provide accurate time keeping, & automatic BST/GMT alterations.

We are pleased to provide the following quotations.

Quotation 1 - Automatic winding.

Attend on site take details & confirm electrical requirements.

To manufacture 2x 240volt mains epicyclic automatic winding units.

To manufacture 2x split sprockets to fit barrel arbors of the striking and going trains.

Attend onsite and land weights and disconnect existing weight lines.

Fit sprockets to barrel arbors.

Install automatic winding units and hang weights.

Test and leave in full working order.

For the sum of £6,635 [Six Thousand, Six Hundred & Thirty-Five Pounds] net plus VAT.

Quotation 2 – Auto regulator

In our works to manufacture, an auto regulator system to provide accurate time keeping & automatic BST/GMT alterations.

Attend on site & install

For the sum of ... £2,740 [Two Thousand, Seven Hundred & Forty Pounds] net plus VAT

Exclusions

The provision of a suitable electrical supply in the form of a double 13amp socket for quotation 1 & an additional socket for quotation 2, please note they are fused at 5amps. The details & positions of the power points would be confirmed on our first visit to site.

Price Maintenance

These prices are firm for a period of six months from the date of this letter and thereafter, subject to price increase to accord with increased costs of labour, materials and travelling costs if necessary.

Guarantees

All new parts made by us carry our ten-year guarantee against failure through faulty workmanship or materials.

When a turret clock movement has been brought into our workshops for a complete overhaul, we will give a 10-year guarantee on its performance and reliability, if maintained on an annual basis by the CCC.

This does not include failure of original materials or automatic winding systems not supplied by the CCC.

Repair work is similarly guaranteed for a period of twelve months. Suspension springs and electrical or electronic components of units not of our manufacture, are specifically excluded from our guarantees, but carry the manufacturers own warranty.

Terms Payment

30% with orders over £ 1,000.00, the balance within 14 days of the date of invoice following completion of the work.

In some cases progress payments may be asked for.

All goods remain the property of the vendor until full payment has been made and any relevant cheques cleared. Risk passes on delivery.

The above quotation is exclusive of Value Added Tax at 20%.

The Cumbria Clock Company Ltd complies with the “Code of Practice for Turret Clock Work” produced by the Clocks Advisers Forum of DAC Clock Advisers in collaboration with Turret Clock Companies and the Church Buildings Council.

Trusting the above information is helpful to you, but in the event you should have any questions to ask, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We assure you of our best care and attention, at all times and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Keith Cotton.

Technical Sales Manager

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