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Church of St Catherine Gorseinon

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Registered in England No 3047073
VAT Reg.No. 651 2463 55

Customer Charter

Most of our work is for churches worldwide, other work including clock chimes in secular buildings such as town halls and country houses. We are ourselves active members of our own churches and have between us served variously as Churchwarden, Ringing Master, Organist, Fabric Officer and PCC member. As such we know, understand and appreciate the unique nature of any work to churches and other listed buildings and the often-conflicting requirements which exist when working on a historic building which is also a living place of worship or residence. We also appreciate the essential need to undertake any work to the very highest standard, both in offering only the very best to the Glory of God and recognising that our work is likely to have to stand the test of time over the decades and centuries to come. It is our privilege to work upon some of the nations' finest and most historic buildings small and large and to become part of the history of the communities we serve.

- ❖ The quality of the service we offer is second to none. Our Managing Director Andrew Nicholson is freely available to discuss your requirements or concerns before, during and after any work is complete.
- ❖ We are pleased to welcome visitors to our works to view our facilities and to see work in progress. It would be wise to make prior arrangements before visiting.
- ❖ We promise that, unless the specification has been changed by mutual agreement, when a quotation is accepted and dates agreed the price offered will be the price you pay. We never charge "extras".
- ❖ We insist on using only the very finest materials and equipment available.
- ❖ Only the casting of bells is sub-contracted albeit designed by us, all other work being under the care of our own dedicated and skilled team of craftsmen.
- ❖ We will ensure that any disruption to your place of worship is kept to a minimum while we are working there. We recognise that funerals may occasionally have to take place while we are at the church and will ensure that materials are stored as discretely as possible and that work ceases while the service is in progress.
- ❖ We will always treat your place of worship with the care and respect it deserves.
- ❖ Upon completion of any work we will clean away all mess and rubbish from the site and leave all as we found it.
- ❖ We will conform to all current Health & Safety regulations while we are working at your church.
- ❖ Upon completion of any work we will fully test all and leave ready for use. Where any new equipment has been installed we will provide instruction on its care and use.
- ❖ Our work carries a full ten-year guarantee on all new parts, the only exceptions being those parts liable to wear and tear unless failure has been due to faulty workmanship or materials. Our guarantee assumes that any installation will be subject to proper maintenance. We are pleased to offer maintenance contracts.
- ❖ Whilst we may not initially be the cheapest available, we offer true long-term value for money and superlative standards of service.
- ❖ We take great pride in offering work of the very highest quality and guarantee total satisfaction to all our clients.

Report

GENERAL

Access to the church is gained via a narrow gateway which leads to a car park on the north side of the building. The tower west door is accessed from the car park and is more than wide enough for any of the bells to pass through if required.

The church has a fine three-stage tower positioned at the south-west corner of the building. There are double buttresses to all except the south-west corner where there is a stair turret leading to the upper levels. The tower has the benefit of a lightning conductor which runs to ground at the south-west corner.

The ground floor chamber is about 12' tall and is surmounted by a low timber vault in which there is a central hatchway. The floor is made from what appears to be a concrete mosaic and would need to be protected were it necessary to move bells or other heavy items across it. The chamber is lit by a south window. A door in the east wall leads to the south nave aisle, a door in the north wall leading to the centre of the nave. The west door leads to the churchyard. A door in the south-west corner leads to the stair turret.

The ringing chamber is about 13' 6" tall and as such is only a little shorter than ideal for safe and easy rope handling. The chamber is lit by windows to all except the north side. Both the floor and ceiling are of reinforced concrete construction, each incorporating a large central hatch through which any of the bells could pass if required.

The intermediate chamber is about 8' tall and is lit by a window on the north side. Both the floor and ceiling are of reinforced concrete construction and incorporate large central bell hatches. All the bellropes are drawn away from the vertical in varying degrees in order to achieve a reasonable rope circle in the ringing chamber. The drawing over of the ropes has been achieved using pulleys to both the floor and ceiling, the pulley sheaves being of moulded nylon most of which are very deeply grooved. There are no flapping boards between the pairs of pulleys, the presence of which would have undoubtedly improved the handling qualities of the bells.

The bellchamber is about 22' tall and is surmounted by a concrete roof. There is a single softwood joist above the bells spanning centrally east-west about 12' above the floor, though it is far too flimsy to allow it to be used to support lifting tackle in the event that any of the bells needs to be lifted. It follows that there are no safe lifting points above the bells. There are double sound openings to each of the four sides, all wired to exclude birds.

We noted some cracks to the east and west walls of the intermediate chamber which are associated with two steel joists spanning east-west and fully embedded in the ceiling, the ceiling also forming the bellchamber floor. There are also quite extensive cracks to the concrete ceiling and these and the cracks to the walls strongly suggest that the steel beams are suffering from significant corrosion. Unfortunately, because the joists are embedded in the concrete, the extent of the corrosion cannot be determined.

We saw no signs of any significant structural distress which might be attributed to the imposition of the dynamic loads which the bells would generate when being rung full circle.

BELLS

The church possesses a ring of eight bells:

bell	diameter	weight	note	date	founder
Tenor	38”	10-0-0	G	1972	Whitechapel Bell Foundry
Seventh	34”	6-3-1	A	1913	Chales Carr, Smethwick
Sixth	31”	5-1-7	B	1913	Charles Carr, Smethwick
Fifth	29”	4-1-0	C	1913	Charles Carr, Smethwick
Fourth	27 ½”	4-0-20	D	1913	Charles Carr, Smethwick
Third	26”	3-3-1	E	1913	Charles Carr, Smethwick
Second	25”	3-3-0	F#	1913	Charles Carr, Smethwick
Treble	24 ½”	3-3-8	G	1913	Charles Carr, Smethwick

Originally a complete diatonic eight by Carr, unfortunately the tenor became damaged during unloading at Whitechapel and had to be recast.

All the bells were made with flat heads and with centre holes for independent crown staples, the crown staple being the part from which the clapper hangs.

The smallest seven bells have been quarter-turned to present fresh faces to the blows of their clappers. Wear at the current strike points is very low and no cause for concern.

As part of the work undertaken at Whitechapel in 1972, the bells were machine-tuned. The frequencies of the principal and main partial tones are as follows, all expressed to the nearest half-hertz;

	Hum	Fundamental	Third	Fifth	Nominal
Tenor	199	399.5	481	599.5	801.5
Seventh	223	445.5	532.5	661	896
Sixth	257.5	499.5	602.5	760.5	1002
Fifth	268.5	534	639.5	790	1966
Fourth	299.5	591	716.5	920	1200.5
Third	334	644	784.5	1048.5	1339
Second	381	734	898.5	1195	1512
Treble	404	779	967	1253	1616

Consideration of the nominal or principal notes shows that, based upon equal temperament which was the tuning system in general use at Whitechapel when the bells were tuned, they are generally in reasonable alignment, albeit with some minor irregularities.

It is the alignment of the various partial tones or harmonics which determines the tonal quality or timbre of any musical instrument, bells being no exception. The alignment of the fundamental is the most critical to the tone of a bell and should be an exact octave below the nominal or half its frequency, a sharp fundamental making a bell sound very acid and a flat fundamental imparting a sour quality to the sound. The hum note is the next in importance and should be two octaves below the nominal or one quarter of its frequency, sharp hum notes tending to reduce resonance and fullness of tone, flat hum notes being mercifully rare. The third harmonic should normally be a minor third above an accurately aligned fundamental although some sharpness of this harmonic can be a benefit as it imparts brightness to the sound. The fifth harmonic is generally very weak in amplitude and not normally a major cause for concern. Analysis of the various partial tones shows the following to be the case;

Tenor
This bell was designed to have true harmonics and all are in accurate alignment. Tonally the bell is excellent.

Seventh
The hum note is in line, the fundamental is slightly flat, the third harmonic is in line and the fifth harmonic is a little flat. Tonally this bell is very good, if not quite as good as the tenor.

Sixth
The hum note is half a semi-tone sharp, the fundamental is virtually in line, the third harmonic is a little sharp and the fifth harmonic is somewhat sharp. Tonally this bell is good.

Fifth
The hum note is slightly sharp, the fundamental is in line, the third harmonic is a little sharp and the fifth harmonic is a little flat. Tonally this bell is very good.

Fourth
The hum note is in line, the fundamental is somewhat flat, the third harmonic is a little sharp and the fifth harmonic is somewhat sharp. Despite its flat fundamental, tonally this bell is good.

Third
The hum note is in line, the fundamental is over half a semi-tone flat, the third harmonic is quite flat and the fifth harmonic is significantly sharp. While the flat fundamental and flat third harmonic are a disadvantage, this bell nevertheless remains very fair, if not as good as the larger bells.

Second
The hum note is a little sharp, the fundamental is over half a semi-tone sharp, the third harmonic is in line and the fifth harmonic is approaching a semi-tone sharp. Tonally this bell is good.

Treble
The hum note is in line, the fundamental is over half a semi-tone flat, the third harmonic is somewhat sharp and the fifth harmonic is half a semi-tone sharp. Tonally this bell is good.

The overall musical effect when the eight bells are rung in peal will be good, helped in no small part by the very good internal acoustics of the tower.

All the bells seem to be sound with no obvious cracks or other significant defects, though complete dismantling would be required to allow a full examination to be made.

FRAME

The bellframe is the work of Charles Carr and dates from 1913. The frame consists of lowside cast-iron framesides bolted down to four steel joists. The joists sit on the concrete bellchamber floor, the ends of the joists not being built into the walls as would be usual but instead terminate some distance from the walls. The four steel joists are additionally bolted down in four places to the two steel joists which are embedded in the floor.

The steelwork to the steel foundation grillage is in most cases very heavily corroded and there is a great deal of consequent wastage or reduction in the thickness of the steel.

A small area of one of the east-west steel joists in the floor has blown through the concrete towards the north end of the east side, indicating that the joist must be suffering from very significant corrosion.

One of the long bolts by which the north-south joists are secured to the two east-west joists in the floor has rusted right off and failed.

There is very heavy corrosion to the undersides of the north-south steel joists where they sit upon the bellchamber floor. The corroded areas have expanded and this has lifted the whole bell installation vertically, albeit unevenly. The unevenness of the degree to which the steel joists have been lifted is placing significant stresses upon the cast-iron framesides. As a result, we were not surprised to see that the foot of the north pit-end brace to the seventh has been fractured and it is a surprise that similar damage has not occurred elsewhere.

Overall, whilst the bellframe and thus the bell installation is currently physically safe, given that the corrosion will only get worse the time is fast approaching when a major restoration of the bellframe is necessary. If the frame is not attended to, the bells will fall silent and the installation will eventually become dangerous.

FITTINGS

The ringing fittings mainly date from a major restoration undertaken by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in 1972. The bells hang from cast-iron headstocks which are fitted with steel gudgeons. The gudgeons run in ball bearing races which are housed in sealed cast-iron plummer blocks. The wheels are of traditional timber construction and the pulleys consist of moulded nylon sheaves each of which runs on a pair of ball bearing races running in hardwood boxes. All the bells are fitted with conventional stays, sliders and runner gear. The clappers are of wrought iron and hang from independent crown staples.

Like all the steelwork in the belfry, the bolts by which the bells are supported from their headstocks are heavily corroded and near the end of their life. The corrosion of the bell supporting bolts has been encouraged by the fact that the bells used to be left in the raised position for long periods which allowed condensation to collect inside the bells and run down

to the bell bolts. Although we understand that the bells are no longer left in the raised position, unfortunately the damage has been done. The corrosion of the bell supporting bolts to the sixth is particularly acute, to the point where the bolts have expanded and caused the timber insulation between bell and headstock to become very badly split; for this reason, we understand that this bell has quite rightly now been taken out of use. Fortunately, being made from cast-iron which is far less susceptible to corrosion than steel, the headstocks are only suffering from light surface corrosion and remain fully serviceable.

The north gudgeon to the tenor shows signs of being slightly loose, though complete dismantling would be required to allow us to determine if in fact the gudgeon is loose. The remaining gudgeons appear to be tight and sound.

Complete dismantling would be required to allow the condition of the internal bearing components to be determined. However, given that the bearings are now well over 50 years old it is likely that, at the least, the lubricant will have become denatured. In considering this it should be noted that this design of bearing benefits from overhaul approximately every 25 years, there being no sign that they have received such attention since installation in 1972.

Both the halving bolts to the sixth wheel are missing, the wheels being in otherwise very fair order. In 1972, the wheels were rebuilt with new rims and although the various parts were secured using steel screws, fortunately the screws are currently only suffering from surface corrosion.

All the pulleys are suffering from grooving in varying degrees. Some of the grooving is very deep, to the point where it will soon begin to have an adverse effect in the handling qualities of the ropes.

Most of the stays have been replaced at various times. Bell stays should be made from seasoned ash, this being the only species which possesses the necessary degree of resilience. We noted that the stays to the smallest six bells have in fact been made from an entirely different species. The stay to the second is split at its bottom end and the split has been bolted to hold the area together, this repair being serviceable. The stay to the third is very loose where it is fixed to the headstock. The sliders are very worn at their pivot points and they are also suffering from significant witness marks where they bear upon the runner board tracks.

Like all the ironwork to the installation, the clapper assemblies are suffering from significant corrosion. Although not visible without complete dismantling, we think it very likely that the crown staple bolts which pass through the bells and headstocks will be suffering from heavy corrosion. The crown staple bolt to the treble is very loose where it passes through the bell and headstock. The clapper bushes are lacking lubricant as a result of which some of them squeak quite loudly, in particular that to the tenor.

RECOMMENDATIONS

BELLS

No work is required to the bells. Although the latest tuning techniques would allow us to make improvements to the tonal qualities of all but the tenor, overall, we do not think the considerable expense and disruption involved would be justified.

FRAME

In our view, the only way forward will be to entirely dismantle the whole of the bell installation including the foundation grillage. Importantly, this should include those steel joists which are embedded in the concrete bellchamber floor. In order to extract these two joists, we think it almost certain that the floor slab would need to be broken up and removed. The bellframe will then need to be restored and rebuilt with entirely new steelwork. Overall, we recommend as follows;

A. The bell installation should be dismantled and brought to our works.
B. An entirely new foundation of steel joists should be made for the bellframe. This should include the two east-west joists embedded in the floor slab, the four joists which span north-south and all other steel parts of the bellframe.
C. Instead of using long bolts and copses as is currently the case, the two sets of foundation joists should be bolted together through their flanges at all intersections.
D. The four north-south joists should be made longer at both ends such that their ends can be built into pockets in the walls.
E. The ends of all the foundation joists should be fitted with anti-shunt cleats.
F. All steelwork to the bellframe should be hot-dip galvanized to help guard against future corrosion.
G. After galvanizing, it is our practice to have all steelwork powder coated, this providing a further level of protection against corrosion.
H. All cast-iron parts of the bellframe should be shot-blasted to remove all old paint and corrosion.
I. Any damaged or fractured cast iron parts of the bellframe should be repaired.
J. After shot-blasting and repair, the cast-iron parts of the bellframe should be primed with a heavy zinc-rich primer and then given two coats of good quality enamel.
K. All securing bolts to the bellframe should be replaced in spun galvanized steel. It should be noted that on no account should zinc-plated fixings be used as their plating will quickly break down and allow corrosion to take hold.
L. After installation of the new foundation steels by us, a new concrete bellchamber floor slab will need to be cast. Alternatively, the architect/structural engineer may allow the slab to be done away with and a new timber floor deck to be installed. If a new timber floor were to be installed, it should be set about 300mm below the undersides of the two east-west steel foundation joists. The floor should be made from boards a minimum of 40mm thick, noting that such a floor serves three functions; a safe platform for access to and maintenance of the bell installation, an acoustic barrier to attenuate sound levels to a comfortable level in the ringing chamber, and as a safety net in the event that any part of the installation should fail in use.
M. If a new timber floor is to be installed in place of a concrete slab for the bellchamber, heavy steel plan bracing should be installed between the new steel foundation joists. This will ensure that the bellframe remains dimensionally stable on plan, avoiding the need for the tower structure to provide the necessary degree of rigidity.

FITTINGS

The ringing fittings are in need of overhaul. We recommend as follows;

1. All the timber insulation pads between the bells and their headstocks should be replaced. Given the corrosive maritime atmosphere, we recommend that the new insulation pads be made from iroko or a similar timber with a low susceptibility to rot and decay.
2. All fixing bolts to the ringing fittings should be replaced, this to include the bell supporting bolts. We recommend that the new bolts be made from spun galvanized steel. It is important that the bell supporting bolts be fitted with insulation washers between their heads and the insides of the bells.
3. The bearing assemblies should be dismantled and all old lubricant, dirt and debris washed away. New felt seals should be fitted to the plummer blocks. New bearing races should be provided. The bearings should be charged with new lithium-based grease before sealing up the plummer blocks, noting that no further lubrication will be required for 25 years.
4. A close inspection should be made of the tenor north gudgeon. If there is any doubt whatever about the tightness of the gudgeon, both gudgeons should be replaced, it being best practice to always replace them in pairs.
5. All the pulley sheaves should be replaced, both in the bellchamber and in the intermediate chamber. The new sheaves should be made from cast nylon which is an entirely different material to that which was used when the current sheaves were made, cast nylon being exceptionally tough and hard wearing.
6. The stays should be replaced where necessary such that all eight are made from seasoned ash. The stays should be properly proportioned and well finished and secured using new spun galvanized bolts.
7. The sliders should be replaced in steam bent ash.
8. The runner boards should be cleaned down and sanded smooth where possible, otherwise they should be replaced.
9. The clapper assemblies should be cleaned down and descaled. Any bushes or other parts over which there is any doubt should be replaced while the opportunity is to hand. New insulation washers should be fitted between the crown staples and the insides of the bells.
10. All ironwork to the ringing fittings should be thoroughly cleaned down and descaled, primed with a heavy zinc-rich primer and then given two coats of a top-quality machinery enamel.
11. All timber parts of the ringing fittings should be given a heavy application of a good exterior grade preservative.

CONCLUSION

We regret to have to advise that the bell installation is now in poor order. The only way forward will be to dismantle the whole installation and overhaul and renew it as recommended above. Any lesser scheme would not be able to address the significant issues which the installation presents and, in anything but the short term, would be doomed to failure.

With the bell installation restored as we recommend, all would be put into first class order in every respect. As such, with the good ongoing regular maintenance which any piece of heavy machinery requires, the installation would be put into first order in every respect and could then be expected to serve the parish well for at least a century before major work might once again be required.

I trust that the above report is of interest and assistance. If there is anything further we can do to help do please let us know.

Andrew Nicholson

Managing Director

6th October 2026

Quotation

QUOTATION NO.1 – REBUILD THE BELLFRAME WITH A NEW FOUNDATION GRILLAGE AND OVERHAUL THE RINGING FITTINGS

PRELIMINARIES

Attend a meeting at the church between all interested parties to discuss the detail of the project and to agree working methods at the church.

Undertake a detailed survey of the whole of the bellframe and its foundation grillage. From the measurements, produce all necessary working drawings for our work.

DISMANTLING

Travel to the church with all necessary tools and equipment.

Lay protective plywood sheeting over all floors over which bells and other heavy items must pass.

Dismantle and lower to the ground all the bells and their ringing fittings and lower all to the ground. Dismantle the whole of the bellframe down to bellchamber floor level, leaving the two east-west steels currently embedded in the floor slab for removal by others.

Take up the plywood floor protection and leave all areas affected by our work clean and tidy.

Transport all dismantled parts back to our works.

Remove the headstocks from the bells and after taking dimensions discard all the insulation pads and bell supporting bolts.

BELLS

Clean down the bells and prepare them for further use.

FRAME

Shot-blast all the cast-iron parts of the bellframe to remove all old paint and corrosion.

Grind out any cracks or other breakages to the cast-iron parts to form a deep V-formation, pre-heat the castings and then weld up the damaged areas using special cast-iron rods. Lag the repaired parts and allow them to cool slowly so as to minimize the development of internal stresses which might lead to later failure. Prime all the cast-iron parts with two coats of a heavy zinc-rich primer and then paint all with two coats of a top-quality machinery enamel.

Construct an entirely new foundation grillage for the bellframe, consisting of two joists spanning east-west and four joists spanning north-south. The north-south joists to be made longer than the originals such that their ends can be embedded in the bellchamber walls. The ends of all the joists to be fitted with anti-shunt cleats.

Replace all other steel braces, brackets and other steel parts to the bellframe.

Send all the steelwork for hot-dip galvanizing and then have all powder coated to provide a further level of protection against corrosion.

All bolts to the bellframe to be replaced in spun galvanized steel.

FITTINGS

Make a close inspection of the gudgeons to determine if any are loose or in any other way defective. Advise the parish of any problems which may be discovered and seek permission to proceed with any necessary replacements at additional cost.

Clean down and paint all iron and steel parts of the ringing fittings which are to be re-used. Prime all with a heavy zinc-rich primer and then paint all with two coats of a top-quality machinery enamel.

Make new insulation pads for fitting between the headstocks and the heads of the bells, all made and finished to a high standard.

Stock the bells down with their headstocks and accurately balance each bell with its headstock. Fit new spun galvanized steel bell supporting bolts together with insulation washers for fitting between the bolt heads and the insides of the bells.

Dismantle the bearing assemblies and discard the seals and bearing races. Wash away all old grease from the remaining components. Fit new felt seals to the plummer blocks. Provide all new premium quality ball bearing races.

Dismantle all the pulley assemblies from both the bellchamber and intermediate chamber and discard all the sheaves. Provide new cast nylon sheaves and fit them to the boxes.

For the smallest six bells make entirely new stays from finest quality air-dried ash, all properly proportioned and well finished. Provide new steam bent ash sliders for all eight bells. Clean down and sand smooth the tracks of all the runner boards to remove all witness marks. Wax the tracks.

Remove and discard the existing crown staple bolts to the clapper assemblies. Make new steel bolts and fit them to the crown staples. Thoroughly clean all down and reassemble. Provide new insulation washers for fitting between the crown staples and the insides of the bells. Lubricate the clapper pivot points.

ERECTION AND TESTING IN OUR WORKS

Erect the whole of the bellframe, bells and ringing fittings in our works and carefully check and test all before dismantling for dispatch.

INSTALLATION

Transport all to the church.

Relay the plywood floor protection.

Hoist the new foundation joists into the tower and install them on concrete padstones cast true and level into pockets in the walls by others. Leav all ready for others to fill all the pockets in the walls and to cast a new concrete bellchamber floor slab.

After the concrete has cured sufficiently, return to the church.

Hoist the remaining bellframe components into the tower and erect them on the new foundation grillage.

Hoist the bells into the tower and hang them true and level in the restored bellframe. Assemble all the ringing fittings, test each bell and adjust for even striking and correct set at handstroke and backstroke.

Reassemble all the drawing pulleys in the intermediate chamber, fitting the new sheaves.

TESTING AND COMMISSIONING

Fit the existing ropes and adjust them to a convenient length.

Try out the bells with a band of at least eight competent local ringers and make any final adjustments which might be required.

Clear away all tools and equipment and the floor protection and undertake a thorough clean of all areas affected by our work.

Leave all ready for use.

We are prepared to undertake the whole of the above works, including time on site and in our works, materials, transport, men's accommodation and expenses etc., for the sum of:

£74919

SUPPLEMENTARY QUOTATION NO.1A – PLAN-BRACING OF BELLFRAME FOUNDATION AND FITTING OF ROPE BOSSES TO NEW TIMBER BELLCHAMBER FLOOR

Install heavy plan bracing to the new bellframe foundation grillage such that it stands firm under ringing conditions.

Drill down through the new timber bellchamber floor for the bellropes and fit turned and polished ash rope bosses.

Secure the existing drawing pulleys to the underside of the new bellchamber floor, ensuring all are in accurate alignment.

If done in conjunction with quotation no.1, we are prepared to undertake the whole of the above works, including time on site and in our works, materials, transport, men's accommodation and expenses etc., for the sum of:

£1920

SUPPLEMENTARY QUOTATION NO.1B – FLAPPING BOARDS

Make and install flapping boards to all eight rope paths where they pass through the intermediate chamber. Fit the flapping boards with guide hoops.

If done in conjunction with quotation no.1, we are prepared to undertake the whole of the above works, including time on site and in our works, materials, transport, men's accommodation and expenses etc., for the sum of:

£1168

EXCLUSIONS

This quotation specifically excludes the following;

1. The provision of a suitable arrangement of lifting steels above the bells from which we can safely lift any of the bells or other parts of the bell installation. We would be pleased to advise upon a suitable arrangement.
2. All building work involved in breaking up and removing the existing bellchamber floor slab and removing the two steel foundation joists embedded in it.
3. All building work involved in forming pockets in the walls for the new foundation joists – the foundation steel joists to be provided and installed by us.
4. After installation of the new steel foundation joists by us, all building work involved in returning to the church to fill all the pockets with concrete and cast a new bellchamber floor slab. The new slab will need to have rope holes pre-cast into it in positions which we will provide.

POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS

If the parish is able to provide the fit, able-bodied assistance of three people to assist with all the site work, we would be pleased to make a reduction as follows;

Quotation no.1	£18040
Supplementary quotation no.1A	£275
Supplementary quotation no.1B	£435

In considering the provision of such assistance the parish must realise that the work would be dirty and would involve a degree of heavy lifting and working at height, for all of which those assisting must be prepared and suited. Provided some basic health & safety criteria are adhered to, those assisting would be fully covered under the terms of our employers' liability insurance.

If the parish can provide transportation of the bells, bellframe and other components to and from our works and the church, we would be pleased to make a reduction of £2800 against this quotation. It should be noted that those providing the transport must also provide a safe and efficient means of loading and unloading at the church.

If the parish provide good quality accommodation on a B&B basis for our staff while working at the church, we would be pleased to make a reduction of £95 per man/night.

TERMS

For the above quotations we would require one third payment with order, one third upon commencement, with the balance due immediately on completion of the works according to this specification.

All prices are based upon current costs but will be held firm if accepted in writing within 90 days.

VAT

VAT is chargeable in addition as applicable at the rate current at the time, currently at 20%.

GUARANTEE

For these works we would be pleased to offer a full ten-year guarantee on all new parts, the only exception being those items subject to wear and tear such as ropes, stays and sliders, except where failure is due to faulty workmanship or materials. All guarantees are given on the basis that the installation would be subject to full and rigorous maintenance and in particular that all fixings are kept fully tightened at all times.

FACULTY

A faculty will be required before these works may be commenced.

INSURANCE

We carry full public, products and employers' liability insurance in the sum of £10,000,000.

I trust that the above quotation is of interest and we look forward to being favoured with your valued instructions.

Andrew Nicholson

6th October 2026

Possible Sources of Grant Aid

SOME CHARITIES WHICH CAN GRANT-AID CHURCH BELL RESTORATION WORK

The following charities have in the past given grant aid to various types of bell restoration and augmentation schemes. The list is by no means comprehensive, there being a large number of local charities in many areas of which we have no knowledge.

Church Buildings Council

The Conservation Officer
Church Buildings Council
Church House
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3NZ

The council has funds available for the conservation of bells and bellframes of historical significance.

The Barron Bell Trust

The Managing Trustees
71 Lower Green Road
Pembury
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN2 4EB

This fund specifically exists to help all aspects of work to bells in churches where, in the opinion of the trustees, the associations are low as distinguished from high, broad or modernist.

Historic Churches Preservation Trust

Historic Churches Trust
Fulham Place
London
SW6 6EA

The trust supports structural repairs but not bell restoration.

Heritage Lottery Fund

10 St.James Street
London
SW1A 1EF
Tel. 0171 930 0963
Fax. 0171 930 0968

The Fund has made grants for bell restoration. The heritage aspect is important regarding both the bells and the building. The conditions applicable to such grants can sometimes be onerous.

Worshipful Company of Ironmongers

Ironmongers' Hall
Shaftesbury Place
Barbican
London
EC2Y 8AA

The Company has given substantial grants aimed specifically at those parts of bell projects connected with the conservation of the ironwork to a bell installation.

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Foundation may be contacted via its website at www.garfieldweston.org

The Foundation has made significant grants towards bell restoration projects.

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

The Council represents bell ringers worldwide and operates a bell restoration fund. The Council has members willing to give their time to advise parishes contemplating a bell restoration scheme. They may be contacted via their web addresses;

https://cccbr.org.uk/about/workgroups/stewardship-and-management/

https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/stewardship-and-management/

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