



More about Winslow Bells

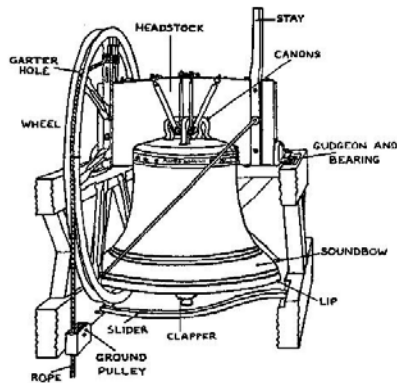


St Laurence Church Winslow has 8 bells.

After 7 silent years, they are rung for Sunday Services, practice on Mondays and for weddings and other special occasions. Already there are difficulties with ringing the 5th and 7th bells and ringing the heaviest bell, the tenor, causes undue movement and affects the chiming apparatus.

Recent reports make it clear that much work needs to be undertaken, mainly:

- The wooden oak frame needs strengthening/replacing
- The bells need turning and tuning due to wear from the clappers
- The clappers need replacing due to wear
- The five heaviest bells have wooden elm headstocks, these have weaknesses and need replacing with cast iron ones
- There is wear to the gudgeons, the spindles on which the bells rotate and movement where the gudgeons are



supported. New headstocks would be complete with new steel gudgeons, the bearing housings need new seals and ball races.

This work would require removing the bells and transporting them to the bell hangers workplace. Total costs (with strengthening rather than replacing the frame) and associated building work around £45,000 (*re-estimate August 2006*)

The keen and enthusiastic band of ringers prepared to raise money in two ways

- Fundraising activities (already circa £24,500 October 2006)
- Applying to a variety of trusts and funds who can give grants to bell restoration projects

Diana Slevin, Tower Captain

Ringers include: Jo Anderson, Margaret Lowrey, Chris Mellows, Louise & Andy Wetherall, John Cliffe, Paul Bagni, Clive Robinson, Mandy Cliffe