

North Curry Appeal of Bells

This document describes the timeline and processes by which North Curry Appeal of Bells succeeded in renewing the bells and bell frame in the church tower. It is partly an historical record, partly an indicator (which other charities may find helpful) of what worked well or less well in these circumstances.

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Summary

Between July 2019 and February 2023 the Appeal of Bells raised over £150,000 to renew the eight bells and the bellframe in North Curry church. This is a remarkable achievement by a village of some 2000 people, especially as the Appeal had barely started when Covid-19 struck and large gatherings (or indeed any, at times) were forbidden.

The project was fully completed by mid-2023 in line with overall time and budget targets. While there were some delays within the execution schedule due to technical challenges arising through the complex removal and reinstallation works (eg the fragile stone of the 800-year-old bell tower, which had to be reinforced with two tonnes of concrete) these were managed within the overall project timescale and the terms of the contract.

As a result:

- The perished and infested wooden frame has been replaced with a steel frame designed for the octagonal tower.
- The aging and uneven floor of the bell chamber and ringing chamber ceiling have been replaced.
- The bell weight has been reduced whilst retaining the eight-bell peal by re-casting the old bells. This reduces structural load – which means younger and older ringers are now finding it easier to ring the bells.
- The new bells have been fully commissioned and formally approved by the Diocesan Bell Advisor. The installation has been approved by the Diocesan Architect.
- The new bells were dedicated by the Bishop of Bath & Wells on 30 April 2023 and have been rung to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III as well as a number of weddings and funerals.
- One of the bells, which was sponsored by the Parish Council to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II, is the last bell to be cast with her cypher. The remaining bells were the first in the country to be cast with the cypher of King Charles III.
- A register of donors and grant-awarding bodies is being created for display in the church, and copies will be lodged the county and village archives.
- We have received many acknowledgements of the joy and meaning of the bells being heard again through the village and its surrounds.
- Both BBC and ITV networks covered the project through execution, from bell removal through to re-installation and dedication. BBC Somerset covered the project extensively.

We have learnt from the project, above all:

- The amazing power and potential of a united community project.
- The challenges of keeping stakeholders informed and engaged.
- The benefit of expert volunteers – and the right mix of expertise – which has been critical in delivering the project in accordance with the brief, on time and within budget.

A summary of what went well and what, with hindsight, we would have done differently, has been compiled for the benefit of other charities that might consider similar projects.

The project has involved substantial numbers of people from the delivery team through to community groups and participants fund-raising events.

- The programme of fund-raising events was completed in 2022/23, contributing some £23,000 net to the funding target (~100 attendees at a time).
- Well attended open sessions were held to allow interested members of the community to see the old bells up close before they were taken away for re-casting and the new bells before re-hanging (>50 attendees).
- Specific activities were delivered with the village primary school to align with their curriculum, supported by visits to see the bells and understand their operation (~30 pupils).
- This project has been a factor in holding together the North Curry bell-ringing team throughout Covid; many other towers have since struggled to rebuild their teams.
- Bell-ringing 'taster sessions' are being delivered on an ongoing basis to encourage new ringers, already with several new members to the ringing team.

Acknowledgements

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is deeply grateful to all those individuals and organisations who supported the Appeal. Notable gifts include

Four bells sponsored @ £10,000+ each:

David and Gillian Akerman

Helen Griffiths

Sandra Joyce, on behalf of her father, Brian Moore

Frances Machen and the Knapman family

£20,000 from Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers

£10,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation

£10,000 from North Curry Parish Council

£10,000 from the PCC

£1,000 from Somerset Churches Trust

£1,000 from the John & Diana Kemp-Welch Charitable Trust

£500 from The Sharpe Trust

£1,000 each from a number of other individuals

Starting point

The Tower Captain, Darren Woodyer, was concerned about the state of the bells and bellframe and invited John Taylor & Co (Loughborough Bell Foundry) to survey them in July 2018. The summary findings were:

The bells are not of good tone ... and they are hung on a mixture of different headstocks and clappers, and some of the main bearings are inadequate.

The timber bellframe has been much cut about and altered over the years to accommodate more bells and having been heavily braced and bolted is now in poor condition. The extension bellframe is rather slight in section and has been merely bolted onto the existing bellframe. The base cills of the bellframe are very poorly supported on timber blocks, and the recorded movement [*of the frame*] noted is more than acceptable for good bellhandling even with single bells being rung.

The minimum works now required to keep the bells in ringing order is to rehang them on all new bell fittings in a new cast iron bellframe.

In order to lessen the forces on the tower structure, and to future proof the bell installation for the next 200 years, we recommend that the bells are recast into a 14¾ cwt 10 in F#. Such a peal of bells would be worthy of the fine church, and would by creation provide a 5cwt front six, ideal for training new recruits.

Covid halted change-ringing in any case, but in 2020 all ringing at North Curry was formally curtailed; the bells and frame had to be checked for safety on every occasion. In mid 2021 ringing was halted altogether (exceptions were made only for the death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II).

Initial launch

In July 2019 the Tower Captain and his predecessor, Paul Scott, launched an appeal to renew the bells, and the first donations were received in that month. A leaflet was distributed round the village in the autumn (Appendix I), and the Appeal was publicised in the parish magazine (which had a print run of c200 but a larger reach – Appendix II), also in the Post Office window, the bellringers' website and a display in the church.

Formal organisation

First attempt

At the start, the Appeal was set out by the Tower Captain as an undertaking by the bellringers (11 in number). Donations were credited to the bellringers' bank account, which was separate from that of the PCC. The bellringers were not a registered charity; as it happened, early donations were not gift-aided, so there was no loss of income to the Appeal. An application was drafted to register the bellringers as a charity in their own right, but this was halted in January 2020 by the PCC, which brought the Appeal under its own control and hence within its status as an 'excepted' charity under the umbrella of the Church of England. (In June 2021 the PCC became a registered charity in its own name.) Gift Aid was subsequently claimed on all qualifying donations.

Second attempt

A subcommittee of the PCC was constituted in June 2020 to run the Appeal (see Appendix III for the Terms of Reference). The members were

David Akerman (churchwarden and bellringer, bringing financial expertise)
Geoffrey Dart (Chair: bringing high-level finance and project co-ordination expertise)
Helen Griffiths (PCC secretary)
Martin Horrox (bringing fundraising and marketing experience)
Mary Piers (churchwarden)
Sarah Stroud (representing new and also young ringers)
Darren Woodyer (Tower Captain) *until January 2021*

North Curry was between vicars at the time. Revd Dr Simon Bale joined the committee when he took up his appointment as vicar in February 2021.

Covid-19 meant that early committee meetings had to be held via Zoom. The committee met less often as time went on, and mainly for discussing formal recommendations that required the approval of the PCC; the practical day-by-day management of the Appeal was handled by a smaller working group of those most closely involved in carrying them out. The distinction between formal and practical business was efficient. The working group comprised:

David Akerman
Geoffrey Dart
Martin Horrox
Steve Jackson

Steve Jackson, a highly experienced project director, was appointed by the PCC (as a volunteer) to act as their representative in all dealings with the chosen contractor. He drew up the detailed scope of the project (Appendix V) against which potential contractors would bid. He also negotiated and wrote the contract and managed the execution of it. He attended meetings of the working group but not the committee.

Paul Scott, Tower Captain emeritus, kept records of all individual donations and thanked the donors.

Others formed a core team of volunteers to organise and run events:

Alexandra Dart
Rowena Jackson
Penny Ross
Tony Ross
Morag Woudhuysen

Early options

The Tower Captain wanted to take the opportunity of renewing the bells to increase the peal to ten. This would provide a 'front six' that trainees would find easier to ring. North Curry church, the 'Cathedral of the Moors', is a particularly fine parish church: he considered it had the space and the stature to accommodate ten bells. Few other Somerset churches have ten.

- a) The first Appeal brochure (drafted in the autumn of 2019) proposed a complete recasting of the bells, along with the installation of a new frame. As the new bells would be lighter, it was thought the metal could be stretched to create a peal of ten. The scope of the project was still uncertain at that point, so the potential cost was a wide range (£100,000–£200,000) even after allowing for the value of metal in the old bells. (All costs quoted in this document exclude VAT, though in all cases most or all of the VAT would be recoverable.)
- b) In April 2020 Taylors were asked to quote instead for recasting four bells, retaining and refurbishing four, and adding two new bells to make a peal of ten.
- c) In May 2020 the Tower Captain was in negotiation with the Keltek Trust about taking over one of two complete peals of eight redundant bells from Lancashire; the North Curry bells would be sold (or perhaps a couple would revert to the Keltek Trust to be used elsewhere). The 'new' bells would have a projected life of some 150+ years and the Tower Captain reckoned the fundraising target would be in the low tens, not hundreds, of thousands. The committee formally supported this proposal in June 2020.
- d) In August 2020 the Tower Captain put forward a slightly different proposal: take one of the redundant peals but recast the tenor and add two new bells to make ten. Taylors and two other firms were asked to quote on this basis; the total cost would be upwards of £110,000 + VAT. Negotiations over the redundant peal were hampered by Covid: visits to inspect them were repeatedly postponed. The quality of the peal was, however, known to John Taylor & Co and to the Diocesan Bells Adviser, Mike Hansford; both believed that the bells would suit North Curry well. In December 2020, however, we were told the redundant peal was not available. Although Blackburn Diocese was aware of our interest, it turned out that the diocese did not actually own the bells: they belonged to an independent trust, which intended to keep them.
- e) A brief discussion about taking over a redundant peal owned by the Loughborough foundry went nowhere.
- f) The committee considered the option of renewing the frame but merely refurbishing the existing bells as far as was possible. This was rejected on the grounds that the saving today (and a great deal more) would be swallowed up in the future as the bells came to the end of their life and had to be replaced one by one. And the bells would still be out of tune with one another (though less so).
- g) The committee also decided that increasing the peal to ten could be seen by the village as an unnecessary indulgence. Having ten bells would be attractive to bellringers, mainly perhaps from outside North Curry, but less so to residents of the village, who were being asked to pay for them. There was no evidence that it would be possible to raise between £100,000 and £200,000 at all, so setting an unnecessarily high target was an obstacle that could be avoided.
- h) One or two residents proposed that at least one of the bells be retained: one of the 1811 bells, perhaps, or one of the 1953 'coronation' bells. They could be kept as part of the peal, as a

stand-alone tolling bell, as one of the two chiming bells for the clock, or (not sounding at all) as an historic memento in the church. The key factor here was cost: the net cost of the project would increase if new metal had to be bought to cast replacements for any retained bells.

The chosen project

The committee eventually recommended to the PCC that all eight bells be recast. All the bells would all be in tune; they would all have a similar lifespan; and they would be lighter (making it easier for older and younger ringers to ring them). There would still be room in the tower for two more bells, should the parish decide to increase the peal in the future. Following a revised quotation from John Taylor & Co, the committee decided to set a fundraising target of £150,000.

The process

Information-gathering

Further surveys were carried out following Taylor's initial assessment.

The PCC commissioned a visual survey of the bellframe from **Mann Williams Consulting Engineers** in October 2019. It noted that

... the alteration of the bell frame along its west edge to increase the peal of bells from six to eight has weakened the original bell frame making it more susceptible to sway movements during ringing.

... replacement of the existing bell frame with a new cast iron bell frame ... would clearly be the optimum solution, from both ringing and future maintenance perspectives, [but] considerations of available budget and loss of historic fabric (through the removal of the existing bell frame) also need to be taken into account.

Mann Williams listed several aspects of the frame that would need to be extensively repaired if the existing frame were to be retained.

Taylor's findings were echoed by an assessor from the **Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers** in February 2020:

I believe that the current wooden and steel bellframe has come to the end of its useful life. It could be repaired and strengthened in the very short term, but replacement is inevitable in the near future if bells are to continue ringing in North Curry. The current bells are a mixture and not tuned. If a new frame is to be installed it would be the time to replace the bells and fittings, as they would have to be removed during the frame work anyway. The advantage of undertaking the augmentation to 10 lighter bells, recommended by Taylors, is to keep the bells on a single level, provide a tuneful ring and to provide a lighter tuned front six bells, ideal for teaching new bellringers on.

The ceiling of the ringing chamber is fixed through to the bellframe frame above. This is not good practice and causes the sounds from the bell chamber to be transmitted through the frame and amplified as the ceiling acts as a sounding board.

In January 2022 the PCC commissioned a structural report from **Ward Cole Consulting Engineers**; it was carried out by Adrian Dempster, a national expert on bell towers. He concluded:

... there was significant differential horizontal movement occurring between the bell frame and the tower walls. Differential vertical movement was also seen to be occurring between the bell frame and the belfry floor. This movement is clearly making the bells difficult to ring full circle. Efforts have been made to strengthen, and provide additional support to, the bell frame in the past but these have clearly not been successful. It is considered by both Taylors and *[another bidding company]* that the frame has reached the end of its useful life and should be replaced. This conclusion is agreed and it is therefore recommended that a new steel frame is installed, as proposed. In order to install a new support structure to the bell frame, it will be necessary to remove the existing belfry floor and its more recent support structure. In view of the poor condition of the floorboards, the timber beams and the ends of the steel beams, this is considered to be a sensible and viable way forward.

Four contractors were approached. One was ruled out early as showing little interest in the project. The three others submitted an estimate (in April/May 2021) and then in September a detailed quotation against the scoping document, in order that the committee could compare like with like. All three carried out their own inspections of the tower. Two proposed a rectangular-grid frame, one preferred a radial solution; two would have had bells cast in mainland Europe.

Geoffrey Dart and David Akerman between them visited ten towers in 2021, from the Midlands to the south coast, to see and hear the work of the different contractors, and to learn from the experience of other tower captains and ringers.

Re-launch

Covid both contributed to the slow start of the Appeal and made it less obvious. A new start was made in the spring of 2021, when the Appeal was re-launched and a new brochure was circulated (Appendix IV).

By February 2022 about £90,000 had been raised (including a promise from the PCC to contribute £10,000). There was a good chance that the Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers would contribute c£20,000. It was estimated that other trusts and foundations might produce the same again, and the remaining £20,000 or so could likely be raised from fundraising events and further donations from individuals. The risk – that a contract would be signed and the money would fall short – was considered tolerable; it could be mitigated by phasing payments to the contractor.

In February 2022 the committee recommended that the PCC contract with John Taylor & Co; the total cost (including professional fees, eg for surveyors and the Diocesan architect) would be in the region of £150,000, ie the target that had been made public. Delivery would take up to nine months.

In May 2022 an application for a 'faculty' (the ecclesiastical equivalent of planning permission) was made to the diocese in the name of the PCC. It was granted in July at the first attempt, and it did not impose any changes on the proposed work. Anecdotally, the lengthy and detailed consideration that had gone into the proposal meant that possible queries from the Diocesan Advisory Board had been answered in advance. The Diocesan Bells Advisor had been consulted throughout, and David Akerman had consulted and informed the Diocesan Architect from the start.

Final stages

After further negotiations with John Taylor & Co, a contract was signed in September 2022. Work on removing the frame and bells began later in the month and took about three weeks. For safety, during this time the church was closed to the public (though not for worship, which took place in the chancel). On 30 September and 1 October the church was opened so that villagers could view the four bells that had been lowered from the tower by then. On 6 October the vicar conducted a short farewell service over all eight bells, and they were taken to Loughborough the following day; a small crowd of residents gathered to see them leave.

A coach trip to Loughborough was organised for 24 November 2022 to see the first new bells being cast. Individuals arranged to view the subsequent castings (two bells on 8 December, two on 22 December and the final two in January 2023). We sought guidance from the Lord Chancellor's Office, and as a result the North Curry bells were the first in the country to bear the royal cypher of King Charles III; one bell retained the cypher of Elizabeth II as a reminder that two of the old bells had been recast in the year of her coronation. The bell sponsored by North Curry Parish Council commemorated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth.

The church was again closed from late March to allow the new frame to be installed. When the new bells arrived on 5 April 2023 onlookers greeted them, and they were displayed in the Church on three days (6-10 April) before being hoisted into the tower. Senior pupils from North Curry Primary School had an exclusive viewing. The school had included material about bells in their teaching – and these children would have remembered the handbell club run by the Tower Captain for the school pre-Covid.

The removal and reinstallation works were complex, and the technical challenges caused some delays, eg the fragile stone of the 800-year-old bell tower had to be reinforced with two tonnes of concrete. However, the delays were accommodated within the overall timescale of the project, which had allowed for such risk, and the phased payments to Taylors were adjusted accordingly.

On 9 March Dr W A Hibbert, a national expert on the tuning of bells, tested the North Curry bells to check that the tuning was accurate – which it was. (The bells had been tuned at the foundry.)

On 15 April the musical evening that had been postponed from September 2022 took place. It was originally meant as a fundraiser; in the event, it became a celebration of the successful end of the Appeal. The audience was told that the Appeal had formally closed and the PCC would shortly stand down the committee.

On 26 April ringers from the Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers tested the bells and approved the release of the Association's grant.

On 30 April the bells were dedicated in a service led by the Bishop of Bath & Wells, Rt Revd Michael Beasley.

On 6 May experienced visiting ringers rang a whole peal (three hours plus) as part of the nationwide ring to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. And on the same day local ringers rang for a village wedding: the first time in more than two years that this had been possible.

Between October 2022 and May 2023 BBC and ITV regional TV and BBC regional radio broadcast a number of items describing the departure and arrival of the bells. Colin Trim and Julian Comrie, experienced photographers living in the village, created a photographic archive throughout the period of the Appeal.

Fundraising

Almost all initial suggestions of fundraising events (quiz night, safari supper, parachuting teddy-bears off the church tower, concerts and talks ...) involved social gatherings that were forbidden or curtailed at the time of Covid. The first planned event, a jumble sale, had to be postponed from March to August 2020, and the first 'official' fundraising event, a concert, was held in the church in the same month. It was difficult to build excitement and momentum in a fundraising campaign under these circumstances. Several major grant-giving bodies switched their priorities to relieving the effects of Covid.

Donors were promised that

- their gifts would be used solely for the renewal of the bells and frame, and not by the church more generally or for any other purpose
- if for any reason the bells could not be renewed as proposed, donations would be returned
- if the Appeal garnered more funds than were needed for the immediate renewal of the bells and frame, the balance would be used to support bellringing and promote it within the local community; to train new bellringers; and to maintain and improve the bells over the years.

Accordingly, donations were credited to a ring-fenced fund within the PCC's accounts.

Events

From the autumn of 2021 some residents organised fundraising events entirely on their own initiative (eg coffee morning, Pimms party, car boot sale, outdoor cabaret, craft fair). Others volunteered events that were organised by the committee (eg talks, concerts, quiz night, online auction). Experience led the committee to focus on events that could be expected to raise over £1000 at a time. The single most successful event was the online auction, in which local businesses (and a small number of individuals) proffered goods and services. Events continued until the autumn of 2022 (with one concert, postponed at the time of the death of the Queen, held over until April 2023). Events raised c£25,000 in total, after expenses. Tickets were sold through North Curry Post Office and online via TicketSource. The full list is at Appendix VIII.

The value of events was not just financial. Sizeable audiences demonstrated that there was wide support in the village for the Appeal. The events gave something back to supporters (the goodwill generated by providing a free glass of wine was well worth the cost of a temporary licence). And they were opportunities to talk about the Appeal and progress in it.

Individual donors

Early on, the committee discussed individuals who might be thought willing and able to donate over £1000 – but finding people who were prepared to ask them personally was largely unsuccessful. In the end, several of the largest gifts came from donors whose names did not arise in the early discussion. Some longstanding village families, who had generations buried in the churchyard or baptised and married in the church, contributed; others did not. In these respects, the pattern of donations in North Curry was unexpected; other communities might see a different pattern.

In fact £1000 turned out to be the most common larger sum donated. Gifts from individuals totalled some £65,000 (see Appendix VI for a timeline of donations).

Sponsorship

Other classic approaches to fundraising were discussed but not implemented, eg naming a patron. Several versions of a tariff of sponsorship were proposed (eg ‘your name on a headstock for £xxx, a clapper for £xx’, and so on). A fuller tariff might possibly have attracted additional donors or encouraged some to increase their gift. In the end, the only items put up for sponsorship were whole bells for £10,000 each. There were three reasons for this:

- Right at the start, one person offered to sponsor a bell, so a ‘price’ for bells was established by default.
- A full tariff was not published at the beginning. Introducing one later would have meant contacting existing donors who would have qualified at different levels, to offer them sponsorship after the fact – and do you then also approach those who fell just short of each price bracket? We could see many opportunities for giving offence, and for little or no return.
- The ‘widow’s mite’ argument. Some people, it was considered, had given as much as they were able. Why should others qualify for naming rights merely because they could afford more? Sponsorship of whole bells was so far beyond the normal range of donations that any such comparison was irrelevant.

Grant-giving bodies

Early on, volunteers had combed databases of grant-giving organisations to produce a list of those that might support repairs to bells; the final list amounted to about 15. Most approaches to them were made in the summer of 2022 – so quite late in the process, when it was fairly clear that the project would go ahead. We had noted that the appeal by St Mary’s, Taunton, for new bells in 2016 had raised relatively little from grants; and that St Mary’s, Bridgwater, had taken over three years to attain a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund; and we had wanted to set out firm and detailed plans in any applications, rather than more generalised proposals. These were reasons to wait before applying for grants. A surge of donations in the summer of 2022, however, meant that we were left with barely £20,000 to raise from the target £150,000 at the time of applying.

The bid to grant-giving bodies was therefore couched in terms of

- helping us to close the crucial final gap before rapidly-increasing inflation pushed the costs ever further from reach
- providing a contingency fund against any unexpected costs of construction work in an 800-year-old tower

Grant-giving bodies (including North Curry Parish Council) awarded over £40,000 in total: close to 25% of the final sum raised.

Heritage Lottery Fund

We did not apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund, contrary to the expectations of many people in the village. Most of the Fund's criteria concerned outreach and inclusivity, not heritage. Before Covid the Tower Captain had run successful handbell sessions with pupils from the local primary school; indeed one pupil had gone on to become a trainee bellringer (along with his mother). There were suggestions that this initiative could be revived, but no firm plans to do so. In North Curry other opportunities to practise outreach and inclusivity were likely to be limited to informing the residents about bellringing, the bells and the process of renewing them. We did this, but not on a scale that we thought would impress the Heritage Lottery Fund. In short, we considered that our project fell outside the remit of the Fund.

Contingency

The fundraising target of £150,000 was both a fairly realistic estimate of likely cost (whether or not Taylor's was given the contract) and a best guess of what the village might regard as a realistic and achievable figure – but it was still only an estimate and best guess. Negotiation with Taylor's had reduced the price somewhat, but we expected that the difference could be taken up in professional fees – so in effect there was no contingency fund. None of the surveys in relation to the bells had raised questions about the stability of the tower; nor had the Quinquennial Review of the fabric of the church that had been carried out in 2022. This was considered to be a reasonable risk – but it was still a risk. In the event, donations late in 2022 carried the fund over the £150,000 mark, thus providing a contingency fund in case unexpected structural problems arose when work started on the mediaeval tower.

Internet

- a) Appeal pages were added to the existing website for the North Curry bellringers. In addition to an online version of the Appeal brochure they included monthly news bulletins, notice of fundraising events and a list of acknowledgements. Daily visits to the website rarely crept into double figures – see Appendix VII. In other words, it was there, but it was hardly world-changing. Buttons linked to downloadable donation forms, also to our JustGiving site. We did not seek to instal a payment system for donations on the website.
- b) A JustGiving website was set up to enable online donations. It was delayed in order that some technical issues with Gift Aid could be sorted out – but they couldn't, so Gift Aid could not be claimed by that route. Also, we took out the free-of-charge version of JustGiving, which proved a mistake, as it did not provide contact details of donors. The site channelled some £1400 of donations to the Appeal.
- c) TicketSource worked well; it was our sole online outlet for events tickets. We would receive lumps of money in the Appeal bank account but could not calculate how the totals had been arrived at. Maybe we didn't try hard enough.
- d) The online auction of promises, using a proprietary program (galabid.com), raised well over £4000. Setting up the payment system (via Stripe) was complicated, and the auction demanded

huge amounts of work from Tony and Penny Ross, who ran it – soliciting all the donations, keeping the site up to date and administering the bids and bidders.

- e) The NextDoor neighbourhood website was a good outlet for publicising events, especially where (as with the viewing of the old and new bells) the timing was out of our hands and kept changing.
- f) No attempt was made to run accounts on social media, eg Facebook or Twitter; nor to crowd-fund. We didn't have the expertise, and hard-copy publicity and word-of-mouth worked well in a village-based appeal.

Should we have done more online? In an ideal world maybe, as some people might have found it easier to donate, and donate early. And we would have established the online presence sooner. The website and JustGiving were not set up until the summer of 2021, shortly after the re-launch of the Appeal.

Goodwill

What encouraged a small village to support a large appeal? These possible reasons are speculative and may be incomplete:

- There was a clear statement of the problem, the proposed solution, the rationale for it and the likely cost. The fact that the bells were largely silent from 2019 meant that the problem was self-evident: solving it was a necessity, not a nice-to-have. The case was stated in the first leaflet (2019) and sharpened in the second (June 2021).
- Residents volunteered the view that the bells were for everyone, and the Appeal was couched from the start as a project for the village, not just the church. The committee membership reflected this duopoly of church-going and secular. If the Appeal had relied solely on the church community to run and support it, it would likely have failed.
- The committee was demonstrably professional and businesslike, which gave donors confidence in the process (including the stewarding of their donations) and the chance of success: some of them said as much. Partly by chance, a core of committee members came with relevant skills and met frequently to deal with day-to-day matters. The competitive tender was run as objectively as possible. Although some residents disagreed with the proposal to recast all the bells, no one challenged the thoroughness or veracity of the process that led to that decision. The potential suppliers said the scoping document was the best they had seen.
- The village was kept up to date with progress through monthly reports in the parish magazine. A pie chart showing the total of donations was published more or less monthly in 2021-22 in the Post Office window and on the churchyard gate. Two public meetings were held (March and August 2022) as the time approached when a contract could be signed. An Appeal website was set up. The display in the church was updated as necessary. Progress was summarised for the audiences at fundraising events. Two update letters were sent to all donors in hard copy or email. Towards the end, news was circulated more often by email, but we did not have addresses for many more than one third of donors.
- Those events were well publicised (in the monthly village newsletter, via posters and on the NextDoor local-news website) and well run. Audiences appreciated being given a 'free' glass of wine as part of the ticket price.

In summary: what worked, and what would we do differently if we had to start over?

What worked?

- The core working group had the right skills, from chairmanship to finance to public relations and commercial project management. Members respected the professionalism and integrity of their colleagues; this built the trust that was necessary to hold frank discussions and accept the outcomes, even though not everyone agreed every time.
- The project was run on professional and businesslike lines, eg bells at ten towers were compared; a rigorous and even-handed bidding process was carried out on the basis of a detail specification; unprofitable fundraising events were cancelled; and plans were based on what was thought achievable, not only what was desirable or ideal.
- The proposal was clear, and the reasoning for choosing one option rather than another was explained to the public.
- The village was kept informed about progress.
- Serving a free (and generous) glass of wine at events.

What would we do differently if we had to start over?

- Do not launch until you are ready:
 - Set up the committee before going public with the Appeal, and ensure that it comprises the right expertise from the start: this should not be left to chance.
 - Know, as fully as possible, what the plan is – and the likely cost – before going public.
 - Have Gift Aid arrangements and HMRC requirements in place from the start.
 - Capture full contact details of donors from the start – particularly with a view to communicating more often and more widely by email.
 - Set up online giving at the start, with a facility to capture contact details of donors.
 - Establish a tariff of sponsorship from the start.
- Be more explicit about how decisions will be made, and by whom; giving people a say is not the same as giving them a vote.

Appendix I: initial Appeal leaflet, July 2019

Draft: without photos

Church of St Peter & St Paul, North Curry

CAN WE SAVE OUR BELLS ?

Would it upset you if the church bells fell silent ? No ringing on a Sunday ? No wedding bells ? No clock chimes even ?

Maybe you've heard – the church bells are in trouble. Not just the bells, but in particular the bell-frame which supports them. An ancient oak structure of over 200 years old, it has been finally concluded that the days for repairing it are past – so a new up-to-date frame is envisaged, along with an overhaul of the bells themselves. It's a big project ...

For full details – go to the church and see the story, displayed by the west door. It's in the church magazine too. Also the post office. And the website.

Why tell you about this ?

Above all, this is a situation which impacts on the whole village – churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike. The church has been a focal point of the village for the best part of a millennium – and the bells for probably half this time. The sound of church bells has become a traditional and much loved part of the national scene. Here in North Curry we have preserved the tradition – until now ...

So – we start 2020 with a major challenge. Occasional ringing may be possible on some of the bells – but only after a thorough inspection up in the belfry each time to check the frame, tighten nuts and bolts, see clappers are secure and so on. With four tons of bells up there, we can't afford to take risks. Normal ringing in effect is suspended – other than on our hand bells which visitors to Christmas services will have seen being rung in the church porch ...

What will it cost ?

Depending on the course we take, from £100,000 to £200,000 – the various options are detailed in the church display, and website. The preferred aim – to recast and rehang the bells along with the new frame – will enable us to “future-proof” the bells for the next 200 years. This is not a “once-in-a-lifetime” project – it's one that only comes round every few generations. The feeling is: if our ancestors achieved it all those years ago, and without the benefit of the technology we have today, we must be able to do it now ...

The frame needs replacing, that is certain. Can we make savings by keeping the existing bells ? A fair question, given the extra cost involved. The factors to be borne in mind here are several: (a) many of the bells are old and in a poor state – significant repair work is needed, itself labour intensive and costly; (b) if we are going to put in a brand new frame, it makes sense to fit new bells – preferably avoid “new wine and old bottles”; (c) in recasting our bells we are in fact still retaining them, recycling in effect – it's our bell metal which goes towards the new bells; (d) in doing so we can use the opportunity to reconfigure them, ending up with 10 lighter bells instead of the present eight heavy bells – giving us a finely tuned set of bells which are easier to ring – good for children to learn on in particular; and finally (e) it's a big task to remove and rehang bells – if we don't grasp the chance now, it will be a long time away before the issue is addressed again ...

Who will pay ?

There’s this fallacy around sometimes – that the church gets help from the state. Nothing could be further from the truth. Yes, salaries and housing costs for vicars are paid by the diocese – but only from a central fund which is paid into by the parishes: a huge cost for this parish every year. On top of that, the upkeep of the church building and churchyard has to be funded by the church and its congregation on a permanent basis. It’s an ongoing challenge.

When it comes to the tower and the bells – it’s another story. A programme such as this is a world away from normal church costs. The PCC (Parochial Church Council) supports the project. But can’t even think about trying to finance it.

So – there is serious fundraising ahead. Local, regional and national. At the outset it will be critical to have local support if approaches to wider sources of funding are to be successful.

How can you help ?

To those who have already made a donation to the bellringing fund, our grateful thanks. Funding now though needs to move into another gear, and to this end we are launching an appeal to all residents of North Curry to help get the project fully on the road. Please consider whether you can be part of this. For example:

- You may be able to sponsor a bell: an opportunity to purchase a part of the project.
- No matter if it’s a nut and bolt or a new bell, your name will be placed in a special book detailing your donation, what part this went towards and any message you would like to record. This will then be kept in the church archives when the project is finished so that generations to come can see how you helped.
- We have commissioned two drawings of the church by a young bell ringer. Available for purchase framed or unframed: priced at £40 framed/£20 unframed for the drawing of the church, £30/£10 for the smaller picture of the tower.

For further information:

Contact: Darren Woodyer, Tower Captain [...]

Website: www.northcurrybells.com

Comment or ask a question ? Use the website blog.

For action:

I would like to consider sponsoring a bell or some other part of the project – please contact me to discuss this

I enclose a cheque for £ ... payable to “North Curry Bellringers”

I have made an online payment of £ ... to North Curry Bellringers –
Sort code 30-91-91 – Account no. 38229860

I am a taxpayer and would like gift aid to be claimed on the above

I’m interested in purchasing one/both of the pictures

Name Address

Postcode Tel Email

Send to Darren Woodyer, Tower Captain [...]

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT !

Appendix II

North Curry Parish Magazine, April 2020

North Curry Bellringers, Darren Woodyer writes
SAVE OUR BELLS !



Fund Raising is under way.

After licking our wounds and coming to terms that the bells need serious attention, the tower started to focus on how to start raising funds to complete this epic task.

A committee was set up to focus on what kind of fund-raising activities we could do. Also, to look at grants and outside funding from businesses. It was agreed that the first event would be a good old fashion Jumble sale. This is to be held on the 28th of March in the church itself between 10am – 1pm. People have been very generous with donating items for the event and from the amount that is in my garage at the moment, If you cant find something at the event that you like I will be very surprised

Bell Tower Appeal

If you would like to make a donation towards this project, please bac to

North Curry Bellringers:
Account: 38229860
Sort Code: 30-91-91

or give a cheque in person
to Paul or Darren.

The leaflets also were an idea to make sure that everyone in the village understood what was going on. These also gave the opportunity to donate if people wanted to. We are very grateful to those who have taken the time to write and pledge money for this cause. Also, to those who have asked to meet with me so they can discuss their pledge. I would like to take this opportunity to say that we are sorting out Giff Aid. This is taking a little longer than we intended but we hope to have it sorted very soon.

I am just awaiting confirmation from a friend of mine but I hope that our next fund-raising event after the Jumble sale will be a talk on Antiques by Mr Gareth Wasp of Cooper and Tanner Auctions. He will also be able to value your heirlooms if you so desire. Venue to also be confirmed.

I know I keep saying this but thank you so much for everyone's support. Everywhere I go in the village and also outside of North Curry, people come up to me and ask how we getting on. We have a long way to go but we have come out of the starting blocks with a bang!

Appendix III

Terms of reference for the bells subcommittee of North Curry Parochial Church Council

1. Purpose

This subcommittee is to recommend to the PCC all decisions relating to the operation of bells and ringing in North Curry and unless specifically delegated and recorded in the minutes of the PCC it may not deviate from agreed policies of the PCC. In particular it may not agree to purchase or form a contract for the supply of any goods and services. It may not dispose of any PCC property.

2. Objects

The objects of this subcommittee are

For the benefit of all residents North Curry, surrounding communities in Somerset and the wider public:

- a) to promote religion by continuing the centuries-long tradition of bell-ringing in North Curry to support the Church of SS Peter & Paul as a place of worship and a symbol of cohesion in the community at times of joy, sadness and coming together
- b) to advance education by
 - i) continuing to train future generations of bell-ringers in North Curry or elsewhere
 - ii) continuing to inform residents of North Curry and others, for example in the school and at village events, about the history and science of bells and the practice of bellringing
- c) to promote heritage by
 - i) restoring and renewing the church bells and the whole bellringing installation
 - ii) maintaining the church bells and the bell-ringing installation in the future
 - iii) continuing to train future generations of bell-ringers in North Curry or elsewhere
 - iv) continuing to inform residents of North Curry and others, for example in the school and at village events, about the history and science of bells and the practice of bellringing

3 Members

Not all members need be members of the PCC but two must be. It is recommended that the committee will not normally have more than 6 members each of whom are approved annually at the annual church meeting.

4 Meeting

Seven days' notice for convening a meeting must be given to all members. At least three members must be present for a meeting to be quorate. Minutes should be taken and submitted to the PCC secretary. At least one member of this committee should be present at PCC meetings.

5 Bank Account

The subcommittee should have its own bank account to ensure transparency that all monies donated, collected, granted, or given for the purpose of supporting the objects in paragraph 2 are used only for those purposes. No amount greater than £100 may be spent without the prior authority of the PCC. There must be two signatories to any monies drawn on this account.

AN APPEAL of BELLS

North Curry's church bells are failing.

Age has made everything unsafe.

£150,000 will renew them for centuries.

Will you help?

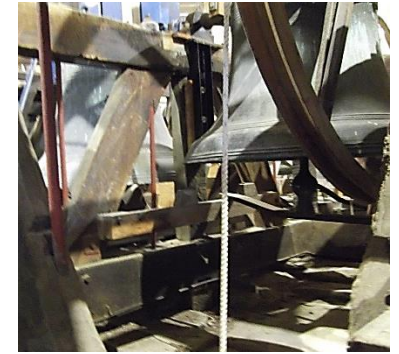


www.northcurrybells.com

The bells are for all of us

Our beautiful Church of St Peter and St Paul in North Curry has been at the centre of village life for nearly 1000 years.

Its bells have rung since at least the reign of Henry VIII. They could have sounded the alarm for the Spanish Armada and for the battles of the Civil War, celebrated victory at Trafalgar and Waterloo, and marked the end of two World Wars.



At all times the bells have called people to worship and marked events in the village: weddings, baptisms, funerals, services of remembrance and many more. The bells have been intimately bound up in our daily life . . . until 2019.

A report by structural engineers left the Churchwardens with little choice. Regular ringing had to stop. And now, ringing has stopped altogether.



What's the problem?

There are eight bells, and they weigh four tons. The 19th-century wooden frame that holds them has worked loose. It has been weakened by 200 years of alterations, repairs, woodworm and simple old age.

The frame is no longer safe and must be replaced, urgently. This is why for a year the bells could not be rung more than briefly, and not all at once – and the stability of the frame had to be checked every time. Even this is now not possible.

What is more, our original four bells, dating from 1811, are wearing out and are at risk of cracking. And the full peal of eight bells, including those cast in 1894 and 1953, has never been tuned as a harmonious set! It's like keeping a musical instrument that is always out of tune.



Top: cracking and decay in the frame. Above: eight bolts in one small stretch of 19th-century wood! Old and new materials show the years of changing, patching – and weakening.

Here's the solution

A new steel frame will spread the weight of the bells more evenly and reduce wear on the structure of the tower. To instal it, all eight bells must be lowered to the church floor.

We shall take this opportunity to re-cast the bells and tune them properly. They will sound just as you remember them – but sweeter.

The eight 'new' bells will weigh at least a ton less than they do now.

As a bonus, the new frame comes with space for ten bells, should the village ever decide to add to the peal.

The clock will continue to strike the hours and quarters.

This will cost £150,000. With your help, we can do it.



This is what a newly refurbished peal and bell frame can look like, courtesy of St Mary Magdalene church in Taunton, for which 15 new bells were cast in 2016.

The best option

We have considered alternatives.

Renew just the frame but not the bells? The saving today (and much, much more) would be swallowed up in the future as the bells came to the end of their life and had to be replaced.

Import bells from a redundant church? We looked at all the possibilities; none was feasible.

Our plan secures the future of the bells for centuries to come. The history of the old bells will live on in the new. The metal will be re-used: recycling them is environmentally friendly. We are confident our plan is the best value for money.

It's important too that we secure the future of our bell-ringers! New lighter bells will allow older ringers to carry on for longer, and we can continue to attract and train youngsters of 9 or 10 upwards, who can ring the lighter bells with ease.



Wear and tear on one of the bell wheels: part has broken away, and there is woodworm here as well as in the main bell frame.

Can you help us?

Let's put the recent sadness and worry behind us, and focus on something joyous for the church and village. This is a real chance for us all to secure our bells and bell-ringing for future generations.

Contributions of any amount, large or small, are welcomed. All monies raised will go into a designated fund purely for the bells. Whatever your contribution, your name will (if you wish) be inscribed in a memorial book to be displayed in the church. The book will be preserved in our Church Archives and a copy lodged with the county and village archives.

An Appeal of Bells qualifies for Gift Aid. For UK taxpayers, the government adds 25% to your donation at no cost to you: so for every £10 you give, we receive £12.50.

Sponsorship

Would you and your family sponsor a bell, or another vital part? Do talk to us about this. Sponsor a bell, and your name can be cast permanently into the metal* and recorded on a peal board in the church.

Please either

- return the attached form to
Church of St Peter & St Paul, Church Road, North Curry, Taunton TA3 6LJ

or

- to talk about your interest in renewing the bells, or your contribution, contact

Geoffrey Dart Chair, Appeal of Bells
Tel: 0777 1713 444; email: geoffrey@thedarts.co.uk

Martin Horrox Fund Raising, Appeal of Bells
Email: m@martinhorrox.co.uk; tel: 01823 491349

David Akerman Churchwarden. Tel: 01823 490234

Mary Piers Churchwarden. Email: marypiers@btinternet.com;
tel: 01823 491434

* We will need to agree with you the wording of your dedication

An appeal of bells

I wish to make a donation to support the renewal of North Curry's church bells.

Title and name.....

Address and postcode

.....

Email address & phone.....

Signature Date.....

Please tick as appropriate

I wish to make a single donation of

£10 £25 £50 £100 £.....,000 Other £

*Please make cheques out to 'PCC of North Curry' and write 'Bells Fund' on the back.
Please make bank transfers to 'PCC of North Curry': sort code 30-98-45; account
number 00514650; reference 'Bells Fund'.*

I wish to make a regular donation of

£10 £25 £50 £100 Other £.....

per month / quarter / year *(Please delete as applicable)*

and have set up a standing order to the bank account detailed above

I would like to discuss other forms of donation. Please contact me

I do not want my name made public

I would like my donation to be acknowledged in the book of donors as follows:*

[Name of donor]

[Message]

.....

.....

** Message: 25 words maximum. The Parochial Church Council reserves the right to edit messages. If there is doubt in the matter, you will of course be consulted.*

Gifts will be used to renew and repair the bells and all the associated fittings in the belltower. Any funds left over will be held to support bellringing and promote it within the local community; to train new bellringers; and to maintain and improve the bells over the years. Donations will not be used to support the church more generally or for any other purpose. If for any reason we cannot renew the bells as proposed, we will return your donation.

An appeal of bells

Gift Aid: boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate

If you are a taxpayer, do please sign this declaration and the government will add 25% to your donation – so for every £10 you give, we receive £12.50.

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to PCC of North Curry

My details

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title and name

Full home address and postcode

.....

.....

Email address & phone

Signature Date

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter and St Paul, North Curry, is now a registered charity, number 1194715.

Please return this form to Church of St Peter & St Paul, Church Road, North Curry, Taunton TA3 6LJ

Appendix V

1. Scope of Works

1.1 Introduction

The North Curry Parochial Church Council (“PCC”) wishes to install a replacement peal of bells and supporting infrastructure that is fit for the 21st Century and beyond. Several potential suppliers have been invited to inspect the existing bell installation and have submitted their initial proposals on how to best achieve the aims of the PCC. Reviewing these proposals has given the PCC a better understanding of the range of technical solutions and it is grateful to those suppliers who have submitted their ideas and suggestions. The PCC now wishes to invite those preferred suppliers to respond to this revised scope of works.

1.2 Instructions to Bidders

Following extensive consultation, the PCC wishes to formally tender its requirements and is inviting bids for this work. The PCC is not obliged to accept any tender submitted and bidders acknowledge that their costs in preparing a tender are for their account. The PCC intends to recommend the selection of a preferred supplier by 23rd September 2021. This scope document, and the bids submitted in response to it, will form part of the contract in due course. The closing date for bids is the 10th September 2021 and should potential suppliers wish to propose more than one solution, this will be permitted. Should bidders wish to deviate from this scope of works when submitting their bids they should identify the variation, the reasons for it and any related costs in sufficient detail that the PCC can properly consider it.

Should bidders have any questions on this tender, they should confirm these via email to Mr. G Dart via email (geoffrey@thedarts.co.uk).

1.3 Summary

The PCC wishes to contract for a turnkey package of works where the chosen supplier takes responsibility for the delivery of the complete project to replace the bells at North Curry. The chosen supplier will provide all necessary labour, materials, tools, equipment, transport, and staff welfare facilities required to remove the existing bells, re-cast, tune, install and commission the new bells. Where bidders propose to use sub-contractors, these shall be confirmed in advance to the PCC and shall not be changed without the PCC’s approval.

1.4 Removal of existing installation

Throughout the work to dismantle, lower and transport the existing bells, the bell frame and other materials, the Church will remain open for active worship. The chosen supplier is to securely safeguard the Church buildings, contents, and any occupants to ensure that no harm befalls them. The bidder should include in its pricing for:

- Supplying protective coverings to Church floors, fixtures and fittings to ensure they are not damaged during the works
- Temporary removal of any church fixtures and fittings to allow access to carry out the works
- All temporary access requirements to the bell tower

- All lifting equipment required to safely remove the bells, bell frame and other materials from the bell tower
- Lowering the bells, bell frame and other materials arising from the works to the floor of the Church
- Ensuring that the lowered bells can be safely transported out of the Church
- Any temporary works required to load the bells onto transport
- Transportation of the bells to the bidder's and/or bell founder's premises as appropriate
- Setting aside the existing bell frame and materials to allow the PCC's representative to inspect them to decide which items should be retained by the PCC for other purposes
- The safe disposal of all waste materials from the works that the PCC does not require
- Sufficient physical barriers and signage to ensure that any occupants of the Church cannot expose themselves to risk by straying into the active working site
- Such welfare facilities as the potential supplier deems to be required
- Returning the body of the Church to the same condition as it was prior to the bells being removed

1.5 Bell manufacture

The bidder shall include in its pricing for melting down and recasting the existing bells into a new peal of 8 bells tuned to the following pitches according to the harmonic scale:

- 8. F (Tenor – approximate weight up to 15 hundredweight)
- 7. G
- 6. A
- 5. Bb
- 4. C
- 3. D
- 2. E
- 1. F (Treble – approximate weight 4 hundredweight)

Any remaining bell metal not required to cast the new bells remains the property of the PCC until its value has been credited against the agreed price of the contract.

Bells should be decorated with a year of manufacture, the makers name and decoration substantially similar to the existing decoration on the bells. Any additional decoration will be an optional item (see below).

1.6 Enabling works in the bell tower

The PCC wishes the chosen bell installation to minimize the structural load on the weakest parts of the tower. All wall pockets or bearings necessary to mount the structure of the bell frame, bell chamber floor and ringing chamber ceiling (including any supporting structures) must be below the window openings in the octagonal tower. The bidder should include in its pricing for undertaking the following works:

- Removing the old supporting steel and wooden beams (if these are not being retained and re-used)

- Temporarily disabling any building utilities located in, on or near the bell chamber floor / ringing chamber ceiling
- Removing the existing bell chamber floor and ringing chamber ceiling
- Locating suitable wall pockets or mounting structures to take the new bell frame, bell chamber floor and ringing chamber ceiling structures. It is permissible to re-use existing wall pockets where they are located appropriately and capable of supporting the loads of any temporary installations required to facilitate the works. It is also permissible to re-use wall pockets to house the new bell frame, bell chamber floor or ringing chamber ceiling (including any supporting structures).
- Making good any unused pockets in the tower walls.
- Independent of the bell frame structure, provide and fit a new bell chamber floor and ringing chamber ceiling with appropriately sized bell access hatch(es) and a bellringer access hatch. The void between the ringing chamber ceiling and bell chamber floor should be insulated to minimize the transmission of sound into the ringing chamber.
- Reinstating any services that have been temporarily disabled
- Providing and fitting new access ladders in suitable locations to:
 - The bell chamber
 - The back of the clock face
- Dismantling and setting aside the existing clock hammers for future use once the new bells are installed
- Preserving as much of the existing clock hammer mechanism as practicable to reconnect the clock to the new bells

1.7 Bell Frame and fittings

The bidder should include in its pricing for the design, fabrication, supply and fitting of a new steel bell frame for the eight bells included in this scope of work.

A copy of the report by Mann Williams has been provided to the bidders to enable them to better understand the condition of the Church tower when proposing their solution. Bidders should submit any initial design calculations and drawings as part of its tender to the PCC for review as part of their bid.

Following contract award the chosen supplier will be required to submit their detailed design including any calculations and drawing to the PCC's designated structural engineer for review. Should this detailed design be deemed to be unacceptable, the chosen supplier shall re-work the design at its own cost and re-submit it. The PCC (including its representatives and advisors) shall, at all times, behave reasonably in reviewing the detailed designs. For the avoidance of doubt, bidders shall remain responsible for the structural integrity of their proposed solution and, upon appointment, remediating any adverse impact on the structural integrity of the Church building.

The bell frame shall be designed to accept a connection from the Church lightning conductor and the bidder shall include for making that connection in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The bidder shall include for the provision of a comprehensive set of fixtures and fittings to ensure that the bells have an industry standard in service life. This includes but is not limited to wheels,

headstocks, bearings, pulleys, clappers, bell ropes together with all necessary fixings required to give them effect as working peel of bells. As part of its tender the bidder should set out its technical solution to the works in sufficient detail to allow the PCC to make an informed judgement on the quality of the bidder's proposed solution.

The works shall have the following guarantee periods from the date they are accepted by the PCC:

- Bells and frame – 25 years
- All other parts of the installation – 10 years

It is accepted by the PCC that ropes, stays and sliders are subject to wear and tear in use. The guarantee in these items would only extend to defects caused by faulty materials or workmanship.

As a minimum the following surface treatments should be applied to the materials provided:

- All structural steel will be hot dipped twice in galvanizing solution
- Any structural metalwork which penetrates masonry will be additionally coated with a heavy bitumastic coating where it is in contact with the Church structure to further protect the steelwork from corrosion
- Cast components will be painted with 1 coat of undercoat and two coats of machine quality enamel in a colour of the PCC choosing
- Wooden components will be treated with appropriate high-quality preservative to minimise damage from insect attack, rot and decay.

The bidder should include for assembling the bell frame and bells at their premises to ensure that the bells, frame and all fixtures, fittings and fixings are compatible and fit with the appropriate tolerances. The PCC's representative shall be invited to observe these tests. There will be no acceptance testing by the PCC's representative, the purpose of this trial assembly will be for the potential supplier to check for physical fit and to provide a basis for any agreed stage payments to be made.

1.8 Installation

Throughout the work to transport, raise and assemble the new bell frame and bells, the Church will remain open for active worship. The chosen supplier is to securely safeguard the Church buildings, contents, and any occupants to ensure that no harm befalls them. Bidders should include in its bid for:

- Securely transporting the new bells from its premises to the Church in suitable packaging to avoid the potential for damage to the bells, bell frame and associated materials
- Supplying protective coverings to Church floors, fixtures and fittings to ensure they are not damaged during the works
- Temporary removal of any church fixtures and fittings to allow improved access to carry out the works and ensure that the new bells can be safely transported into the Church
- All temporary access requirements to the bell tower
- All lifting equipment required to safely raise the bells, bell frame and other materials
- Transportation of the bells within the Church

- Raising the bells, bell frame and other materials and installing them in their final locations within the Church
- The safe disposal of all waste materials from the works that the PCC does not require
- Sufficient physical barriers and signage to ensure that any occupants of the Church cannot expose themselves to risk by straying into the active working site
- Such welfare facilities as the potential supplier may be require
- Returning the Church to the same condition as it was prior to the works commencing and making good any damage

1.9 Commissioning

Bidders shall include for sufficient skilled resources to commission the bells and associated materials once they have been installed and left in a condition where they are ready to use. The PCC shall arrange for the bells to be rung to test their performance in all respects. Subject to a successful test will accept the commissioning of the bells. Should the bells not perform satisfactorily the potential supplier will be responsible for carrying out, at its own cost such remedial works as may be necessary to enable the bells to be re-tested.

Subject to a successful test the PCC, the Diocesan Bells Advisor and nominated surveyor will accept the commissioning of the bells.

The newly commissioned bells should be re-connected to the operating mechanism for the clock hammers to allow the clock chimes to be recommissioned.

1.10 Support

Bidders should include in their tenders for:

- A comprehensive set of spares covering the likely failures that the new bells and their fixtures and fittings could experience in the first 10 years of life
- Such return visits as maybe necessary to resolve any minor in-use issues
- A set of tools required to maintain the bells
- Comprehensive instructions on how to maintain the bells and their fixtures and fittings
- Comprehensive instructions on how to replace any consumable parts of the bell installation
- A full service visit to be carried out 12 months after the bells have been accepted

1.11 Project management

This is a turn-key project, and the bidders should include in their tender for:

- All costs driven by the requirement to comply with applicable legislation and regulation that are required for a project of this type
- All necessary resources to manage a project of this type, report on its progress and undertake any remedial actions required by the PCC
- Bidders should include the following items in their tenders:
 - All method statements for the works

- An outline drawing of their proposed solution which includes sufficient detail to allow the PCC to understand the bidder's offer. As a minimum bidders should show the relationships between any supporting girders, the bell frame, the bell chamber floor and ringing chamber ceilings to the structure of the Church with particular reference to any mounting points, wall pocket or foundations.
- An outline drawing showing the differences between the current installation of bells, supporting structures, floors / ceilings and the bidders proposed solution.
- All risk assessments for the works
- Any proposed terms and conditions of contract
- A copy of the bidders last audited accounts

1.12 Optional items

The PCC may request the chosen supplier to undertake additional works which will be instructed in writing. When submitting its bid, the bidder should confirm its pricing for

- Clock Actuation
Provision of new clock hammers and complete actuation mechanisms for the tenor, third and fifth bells, including the functionality to electrically engage and disengage the mechanism. This should include a remote indication and isolation switch to ensure that the hammers can be demonstrably disconnected when the bell chamber is occupied during maintenance activities.
- Additional Bell decoration
A per character charge for decoration that is requested in addition to that specified in 1.5 above.

1.13 Trade-in and Discounts

Bidders should show the trade in value of the bells and / or bell metal separately. In addition, some bidders may offer discounts for factors like the use of volunteer labour or local transportation. These should also be shown separately. Where discounts are offered the bidder should confirm any applicable terms and conditions. For example, if a discount for volunteer labour is offered the bidder must include confirmation of the applicable insurance and health and safety policies.

1.14 PCC Funds

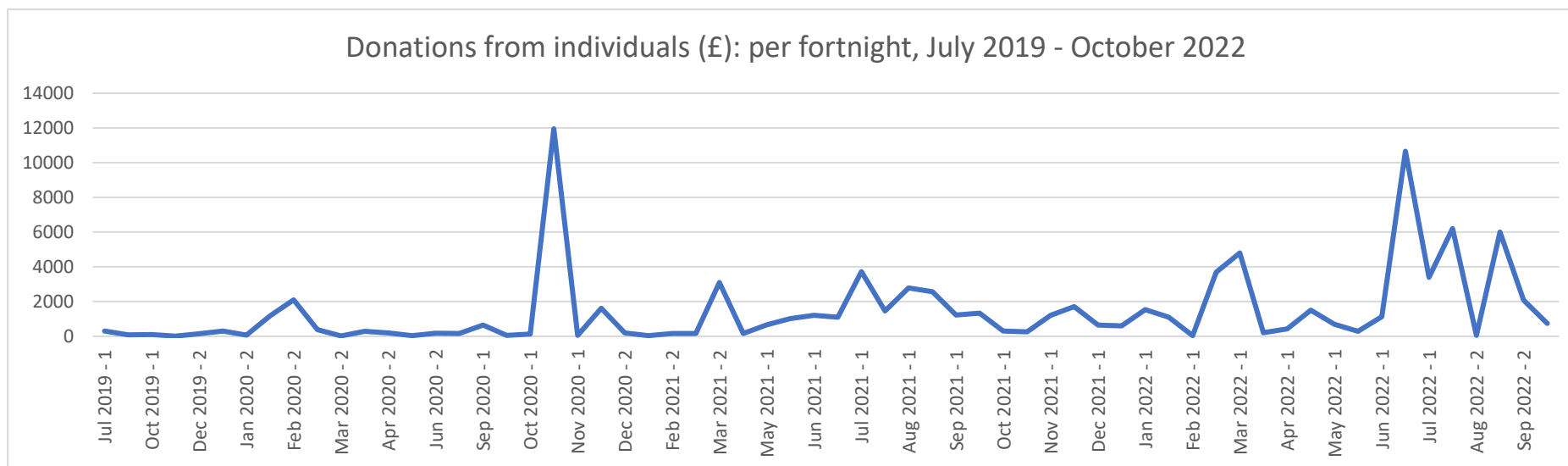
Bidders should state how they would propose to protect any funds paid to them or PCC property in their possession should they cease trading in the period between award of contract and the acceptance of the works.

1.15 Exclusions

For the sake of clarity, bidders should note that the following items are excluded from the tender and the bidder can assume that they would be additional cost items to be agreed via a variation process:

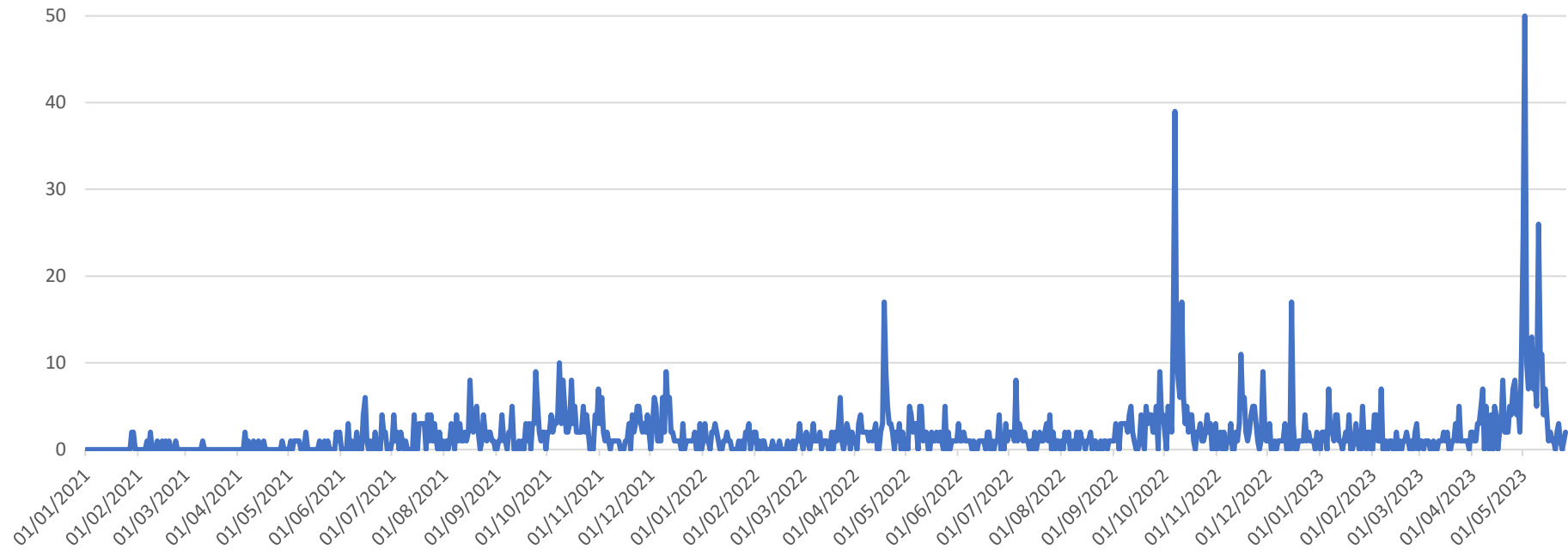
- Any works required to safely remove, handle, transport and dispose of asbestos and materials containing asbestos currently present in the Church
- Any work to the sound louvres in the bell tower

Appendix VI



Appendix VII

Daily visits to the website, January 2021 – May 2023



Appendix VIII

Appeal of Bells: events

2021

Saturday 3 July

Cabaret in the Country (organised independently of the committee)

Bluebirds Theatre Company

Friday 16 July

Coffee morning (organised independently of the committee)

Liz & Keith Gibbs

July (various dates, by arrangement)

Open garden (organised independently of the committee)

Wendy & Richard Jackson

Sunday 8 August

Pimms & strawberries (organised independently of the committee)

Olivia Spall

Saturday 21 August

Concert including Vivaldi's Four Seasons

Ben Griffiths, Fenella Humphreys and friends

North Curry Church

Saturday 28 August

Jumble sale

Darren Woodyer and Helen Griffiths

Wednesday 8 September

INSIDE THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD: MY 35 YEARS OF MEMORIES

Talk by Mary Stewart-Wilson, whose late husband, Lt-Col Sir Blair Stewart-Wilson KCVO, was Deputy Master of the Household and Equerry to Her Majesty the Queen.

In honour of HRH Prince Philip and in aid of the campaign to renew North Curry's church bells

North Curry Village Hall, 7.30pm

£10, to include a glass of wine.

Places are limited (Covid!) so book early.

Saturday 25 September

CAR BOOT SALE (organised independently of the Appeal committee)

9.00am – 12.30pm

North Curry Playing Field, Greenway

Car £5, van £7 – pay at the gate

Refreshments

1 October – 10 December

Online silent auction

app.galabid.com/bellsauction/items

Buy something you've not tried before, Christmas presents, things you might have bought anyway (and, if you're lucky, at less than the usual cost). What you spend goes directly to the Appeal.

Choose from dinners, teas, dog-walking, experiences, Aga servicing, car valeting, newspapers, artwork, MOTs, accommodation, and more – all given free of charge by local businesses and individuals.

Help by asking people and suppliers that you know if they would donate an auction item to this good cause.

Contribute by donating an item or service of your own. Can you: walk a dog for a week; bake a special cake; knit a jumper; give legal advice; lend your Ferrari for a day or your holiday home for a week; tutor a child; paint a portrait? Every item counts.

Friday 8 October

Public meeting

Join us to hear about progress and plans

Talk, question & answer

North Curry Church, 7.30pm

Come at 7.00pm for a glass of wine; free of charge: all welcome

Thursday 21 October

Concert: Songs of Innocence and Experience

A recital to lift the spirit: a night of classical music with Sasha Herriman, April Anderson and Andrew Trehella

North Curry Church, 7.00pm

Tickets £15 to include a glass of wine; from the Post Office or online via

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/appeal-of-bells/t-npqlax>

Saturday 4 December

Family workshop and musical: 'The Musicians of Bremen' (cancelled due to low bookings)

The Bluebirds Theatre Company

North Curry Church

Family workshop and concert, 2.00pm

Tickets: £15 adult, £5 children

Concert 5.00pm

Tickets: £10 adult, £5 children, family up to 4 children £25

2022

Tuesday 8 March

Public meeting

Come and hear about progress.

North Curry Church, 7.30pm

All welcome, free of charge –

and a free glass of wine from 7.00pm

Friday 8 April

From Kitchen Table to Royal Wedding Cake

Celebrated baker Fiona Cairns talks about her fascinating career and how she created the wedding cake for Prince William and Catherine Middleton

North Curry Village Hall, 7.30pm

Tickets £15 including a glass of wine and a sample of Fiona's delicious cupcakes!

Sunday 22 May

Garden (Re)Treat

Visit the gardens

Glass of pink fizz and strawberries & cream

The Old Rectory, Moor Lane, 2.00pm – 6.00pm

Tickets £10 per adult (accompanied children under 12* free)

Saturday 14 May

North Curry Quiz and Buffet Supper Evening

Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30pm

Teams of 6; tickets £10 per person; please bring your own drinks & glasses

[Postponed from November 2021 – Covid]

Friday 27 May

Cider Tasting (cancelled due to low bookings)

with the Taunton Cider Company

North Curry Village Hall, 7.15pm

Tickets £10: North Curry Post Office or www.ticketsource.co.uk

Saturday 18 June

Picnic in the Paddock (cancelled due to heavy rain)

Live music, 6pm, Knapp Lane

Saturday 16 July

Halfway round the world at 17mph (cancelled due to low bookings)

John Clarke describes his adventures travelling in a bulk carrier from London to New Zealand.

North Curry Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the Post Office or via

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/appeal-of-bells>

Saturday 6 August

Concert including Vivaldi's Four Seasons

Ben Griffiths, Fenella Humphreys and friends

7.30pm at Bradon Farm, Isle Abbots

Wednesday 17 August

Public meeting

Come and hear more about the progress

North Curry Church, 7.30pm

Doors open at 7pm with a glass of wine

Free entry; everyone welcome

Saturday 17th September

Barn Dance and Hog Roast (cancelled due to low bookings)

Live music and caller

From 6pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £15 from the Post Office or via

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/appeal-of-bells>

Friday 30 September

All Jangle and Riot:

A Journey into the Unique World of English Church Bell Ringing

A bell ringer for over 50 years, Steve Coleman has written five books on English Church Bell Ringing and broadcast extensively on television and radio.

North Curry Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £15 (to include a glass of wine or soft drink from 7.00pm)

This event is kindly sponsored by the North Curry Society

Friday 21 October

What did you do in lockdown, Grandpa?

Julian Comrie FRPS will show specially selected photographs to answer his own question – and to remind us of more cheerful times since (and before) the pandemic.

North Curry Village Hall, , 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Tickets £10 (to include a glass of wine or soft drink from 7.30pm)

This talk was postponed from 12 November 2021 because of Covid.

Thursday 24 November

Visit To Loughborough Bell Foundry

to see North Curry bells being cast

[a number of residents also visited the foundry on two subsequent dates]

2023

Saturday 15 April

A musical evening with Mary Stewart-Wilson and friends

Glenise Bunn (alto), Wayne Hahn (organ), Margaret Marinkovic (piano),

Alan Philips (baritone) and John Williams (tenor) present G & S, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Flanders & Swann, organ solos and more.

This concert, due to take place on 10 September 2022, was postponed following the death of HM the Queen

North Curry Church, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Tickets £12.50 (to include a glass of wine or soft drink from 7.00pm)

Appendix IX

Dimensions and inscriptions of the bells

The old bells

| Bell | Pitch | Date | Weight Cwt-qtr-lb | Diameter Inches | Inscription |
|-------------|-------|------|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 Treble | F | 1894 | 5-3-10 | 29.75" | Mears & Stainbank Whitechapel Foundry London Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals William Edmund Buller, M.A., Vicar, gave me. AD1894 |
| 2 | E | 1894 | 6-1-13 | 30.88" | Mears & Stainbank Whitechapel Foundry London Praise him upon the loud cymbals William Edmund Buller, M.A., Vicar, gave me. AD1894 |
| 3 | D | 1953 | 6-1-10 | 31.88" | T Mears of London fecit 1811 E[Crown]R; Recast 1953; Mears Crest London |
| 4 | C | 1953 | 7-3-20 | 33.75" | T Mears of London fecit 1811 E[Crown]R; Recast 1953; Mears Crest London |
| 5 | Bb | 1811 | 9-1-4 | 37.63" | T Mears of London fecit 1811 |
| 6 | A | 1811 | 11-3-9 | 40.50" | T Mears of London fecit 1811 |
| 7 | G | 1811 | 13-3-2 | 42.75" | T Mears of London fecit 1811 |
| 8 Tenor | F | 1811 | 16-3-24 | 47.50" | Six Bells were Cast AD 1811. R.M. Whatley, W. House Churchwardens : T Mears fecit May all whom I shall summon to the grave, the blessing of a well-spent life receive |

The new bells

| Weight Cwt-qtr-lb | Diameter Inches | Inscription |
|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 4-0-25 | 26.00" | When I do ring God's praises sing When I do toll pray heart and soul |
| 4-1-9 | 27.00" | Rev Dr Simon Bale Vicar David Akerman Mary Piers } Churchwardens |
| 4-2-3 | 28.25" | In memory of Preb. H.W.H. Knapman (1907-2004) of the Diocese of Bath and Wells |
| 5-2-0 | 30.50" | Lord let North Curry flourish through the preaching of Thy word and the praising of Thy name. Given by the Akerman family 2022 |
| 6-3-8 | 33.38" | To honour the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II this bell has been donated by the Parish Council of North Curry |
| 8-0-0 | 35.38" | This bell was recast in 2022. A gift from Brian (and the late Audrey) Moore of Wisteria House, Greenway Let the bells ring out for generations Calling all to hear the word of the Lord |
| 10-1-14 | 39.00" | In loving memory of Mr Standfast (M.A.L. Griffiths) 1946- 2019 |
| 14-3-10 | 44.13" | I to the church the living call and to the grave do summon all The Parochial Church Council had all eight bells recast in 2022 |

All bells record 'Recast 2022' and have the badge of John Taylor & Co. Seven bells bear the royal cypher of HM King Charles III. Bell 5 has the cypher of the late Queen Elizabeth II, to mark her Jubilee and as a reminder that two of the old bells were recast in her coronation year.