

Telephone: 41 LOUGHBOROUGH

Telegrams: BELLS, LOUGHBOROUGH

JOHN TAYLOR & CO
(*E. Denton Taylor*)
BELL FOUNDERS & BELL HANGERS
BELL FOUNDRY
LOUGHBOROUGH 27th. October, 1933.
ENGLAND

Ref. Y/ML.

The Rev. H. J. Sillitoe,
St. Thomas' Rectory,
408, Chatsworth Road,
BRAMPTON,
Chesterfield, Derbys.

Rev. Sir,

St. Thomas' Church, Brampton.

Further to your letter of the 23rd. inst. and Mr. Oldham's consultation with yourself and the Wardens and Mr. Austin on Wednesday last, we beg to enclose the estimate for the peal of eight bells to be hung stationary and played from a keyboard, as agreed upon. The figure of our estimate is a very very low one for these bells and their erection, etc. and we are making this offer in the hope that the low price will be sufficient inducement for the work to be put in hand forthwith.

We have referred to our records of the North Wingfield peal which was installed by us and the bells covered by our specification will be of the same key note as the North Wingfield peal, viz. E natural, the tenor bell being approximately the same weight as at North Wingfield. We can assure you that this peal will be extremely fine and effective from the musical point of view and one which may be regarded as a really worthy peal of bells.

Looking forward to the favour of your further communication,

We remain, Sir,
Yours faithfully,

John Taylor & Co.

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(E. Denison Taylor)

BELL FOUNDERS & BELL HANGERS

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LOUGHBOROUGH

ENGLAND

Ref. Y/ML.

27th. October, 1933.

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH,
BRAMPTON,
CHESTERFIELD.

SPECIFICATION AND ESTIMATE FOR PROPOSED PEAL OF EIGHT BELLS.

THE BELLS.

The peal to consist of eight bells in the key of E natural, in the diatonic scale, the largest bell to weigh approximately 17-cwts., total weight of bell-metal to be approximately 63-cwts. Each of the bells to be scientifically proportioned and graded from the largest to the smallest bell to give a "well balanced" effect throughout the peal. The bells to be cast of best quality bellmetal, alloy of copper and tin, and to be perfectly in tune one to another in their own harmonics or overtones, i.e. fundamental note, nominal, hum note, tierce and quint scientifically tuned on the "Taylor true-harmonic" system.

The surface of each bell to have sandblast finish.

FRAMEWORK.

To provide strong and massive fabricated steel framework, also heavy foundation girders, the whole structure of frame and girders to be well braced throughout.

CLAVIER, FITTINGS
AND CONNECTIONS.

To provide HEADSTOCKS to which the bells will be suspended and the necessary securing ironwork. To provide eight CLAPPERS correctly proportioned to each of the bells, suspended on staples passed independently through the crown of the bell and the headstock. To supply HAND CLAVIER constructed of oak and artistically finished by fuming. To supply a set of TRANSMISSION ROLLERS and FRAMING, also connections to be of stainless steel wiring with turnbuckles by means of which the tension of the wiring will be adjustable at the clavier.

The whole of these connections and fittings to be designed and constructed with a view to the attention and maintenance being reduced to the absolute minimum.

TOLLING HAMMERS.

To provide and fix independent tolling hammers for operating two of the bells of the peal from the ground floor of the tower; these hammers to be correctly proportioned to the weight of the bells, and the seatings for the hammers to be carried upon steelwork securely affixed to the frame.

To supply the necessary pulleys and cords to operate these hammers.

CLOCKHAMMER.

To refit the clockhammer to strike upon one of the bells of the new peal, this clockhammer to be mounted on steelwork securely affixed to the frame and to be connected up to the clock-works to strike the hours.

CARRIAGE AND ERECTION.

To deliver at the site the bells, framework, girders, fittings, &c., also all necessary tools and tackle for erection, including carriage and carting to and from between our works and the Church.

To remove the existing bell from the tower, also its framework.

To hoist and place in position the framework, bells and playing apparatus, leaving the peal in proper working order, including all bellhangers' time, fares, expenses, assistance, insurance, &c. and use of tackle.

Inclusive of taking up a section of the first floor and replacing and re-painting this, also making the necessary hatches through the clockroom floor and bellchamber floor.

PAINTING. All the iron and steelwork of the framework, fittings, &c. to be thoroughly painted with three coats of best quality anti-rust paint.

ESTIMATE. Our price, based on today's metal markets, for supplying and erecting the peal of eight bells with hand clavier, fittings, etc. all as detailed in the foregoing specification, including allowance for the metal in the existing bell as scrap metal, amounts to

..... £ 825. 0. 0d.

(EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS).

INSCRIPTIONS can be cast on any of the bells as desired, at the additional charge of 6d. (sixpence) per letter.

THE ABOVE ESTIMATE IS CALCULATED ON THE CURRENT MARKET PRICES OF COPPER AND TIN, THE CONSTITUENTS OF BELLMETAL, AND IS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION ACCORDING TO THE FLUCTUATION IN THE MARKETS.

GENERAL. The above estimate provides for all bellhangers' time and expenses, &c. at work in the tower and travelling, also all assistance, insurance, &c. - all workmen engaged by us being insured under the Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Acts.

We take responsibility for damage to the fabric of the Church by men in our employ during the progress of the work in the tower.

John Taylor & Co

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JOHN TAYLOR & CO

(E. Denison Taylor)

BELL FOUNDERS & BELL HANGERS

BELL FOUNDRY

LOUGHBOROUGH

ENGLAND

Ref. X/ML.

24th. October, 1935.

John Austin, Esq.,
Grasmere Lodge,
Thornfield Avenue,
Linden Avenue,
CHESTERFIELD.

Dear Sir,

St. Thomas' Church, Brampton.

We now beg to reply fully to your favour of the 21st. inst. and to the points raised in our conversation when Mr. Oldham rang you up on the 'phone on the 22nd. inst.

We note that the proposal of installing a peal of eight bells in this Church has again been raised and that Mrs. May has decided she would like the matter to proceed subject to the conditions named.

We beg to say that providing the order is placed at a time when the current market prices of copper and tin, the constituents of bellmetal, are not appreciably different to the prices ruling today, we would be prepared to adhere to the quotation and specification submitted by us 27th. October 1933 and would undertake that the whole installation complete would not exceed the estimated price of £325.

We note that the question has been raised as to the relative merits of a stationary peal and a swinging peal of bells. Relative to this, we beg to say that the heaviest peal of swinging bells which in our opinion should be placed in the tower is a peal of eight bells tenor bell weighing not more than 13-cwts., note F#. The pitch of this peal would thus be two semitones higher than the pitch of the stationary peal, the key of which would be E natural. We venture to say that the more majestic tones produced by the deeper toned key of the stationary peal would be more pleasing to the general public than the higher pitched swinging peal.

We understand that some have formed an unfavourable opinion as to the effect of the chiming of the Chesterfield Parish Church peal - we beg to explain that the Parish Church peal is not a particularly musical peal of bells and the tone quality of these bells falls very far short of the rich musical tones which would be produced by the new peal in the key of E as proposed by us. Then again a better effect altogether is produced by the clavier system of chiming which is included in our proposals with regard to St. Thomas' but which system it was not practicable to fit in the case of the Parish Church bells.

For your information we beg to say that the cost of providing and installing a swinging peal of eight bells, tenor bell 13-cwts. in F#, including all ringing equipment, i.e. swinging fittings also strong and massive cast-iron framework on a double foundation of heavy rolled steel girders, including all costs of installation, also lowering the bellchamber floor and making hatchways through the other floors, and mason's work in connection with building in the foundation girders of the bellframe, also refitting clockhammer and providing two tolling hammers, would amount to just a little more than the £825. cost of the stationary peal of heavier and deeper toned bells.

With regard to your question as to where we have recently installed a similar peal of bells to that proposed, we beg to say that last month we completed the installation of an almost identically similar peal at St. Paul's Church, Porth, Glamorgan, South Wales. This peal at Porth has a tenor bell of 16-cwts. as against the somewhat heavier peal, tenor 17-cwts., covered by our proposals for St. Thomas' Church, Brampton. If you were able to visit Porth, however, you would be able to have this peal demonstrated to you and it would give you a very accurate impression as to the effect of such a peal installed in the tower. We enclose two original letters received by us regarding the Porth peal, viz. a letter from Harry Teather, Esq., Architect, 6th. September 1935, and a letter 20th. September 1935 from Mr. George Webster, Porth. We shall be much obliged if you will kindly see that these two original letters are returned to us when done with.

We could demonstrate upon bells in our Foundry at Loughborough a peal of bells in the key of E natural and also a peal of bells in the key of F#. The bells of course would only be sounded by means of striking them with clappers but we think that might be sufficient to show you the difference in tonal

effect between the two peals. It is not necessary for us to say that we should be only too pleased for any of you to visit our Foundry at any time convenient, to hear such a demonstration as suggested.

We shall be pleased to give you any other information which you may require and Mr. Oldham would be glad to run over again for a discussion at any time convenient to you, if it should be thought that would be of any assistance in furthering the matter.

As you are no doubt aware the metal markets are very "jumpy" and violent fluctuations have been taking place this last few weeks, especially in the price of tin. Copper seems to be consistently advancing and we think from the point of view of cost it would be of advantage if the matter could be settled at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

John Lambert & Co

X
ERNEST MORRIS,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

24, Coventry St.,
LEICESTER

□

Author of:

"HISTORY AND ART OF CHANGE RINGING."
"LEGENDS AND TRADITIONS OF THE BELLS,"
Etc.



JOHN R. NICHOLS,

47, Kings Rd.,
STAMFORD,
Lincs.

□

Author of:

"BELLS THRO' THE AGES,"
'A SHORT HISTORY OF BELLS,'
Etc.

MEMBERS OF THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS, LONDON and other Ringing Societies.

Investigating Ancient Bells, Founders & Foundries, Clocks, Chimes, etc.

Please reply to LEICESTER X
~~LEICESTER~~

.....Dec. 11th.....1935

John Austin Esqr.
Grasmere Lodge.
Thornfield Avenue.
Chesterfield.

Dear Mr. Austin,

Thank you for letter and enclosures received this morning re Brampton suggested bells.

As requested I enclosed herewith impressions of my visit last Saturday, together with my suggestions as to best procedure. Should there be any other questions you would like me to answer regarding the bells or structure, I shall be happy to explain.

Trusting this will enable you to come to a decision and that the scheme will go through and prove a delight to all the parishioners and nearby neighbours of St. Thomas' church,

Yours very sincerely

Ernest Morris

N.B. I am at the moment very busy trying to get subscribers to my latest book, "Legends of the Bells", published only last month. It is a very fine volume.

SAINT MARGARET'S SELECT VESTRY.

ERNEST MORRIS,

~~ERNEST MORRIS~~
CLERK.

TELEPHONE NO. 5487.

24 Coventry St.

~~VESTRY HALL~~

HUMBERSTONE GATE,

LEICESTER.

Church of St. Thomas the Apostle. Brampton, Chesterfield.

At the request of the Rector I visited this church on Saturday, Dec. 7th 1935, and in company with Messrs. J. Austin and Beck, examined the tower from bottom to top. It will be admitted that as a ringer of considerable experience (having taken part in over 700 long peals of 5,000 changes and more, at 200 churches and cathedrals in 25 counties) and as the author of "History & Art of Change Ringing" the standard work on our art, I should be only too pleased to be able to advise that a swinging ringing peal of bells be in every possible tower. After viewing your tower, however, I do not feel justified in doing this here for several reasons as set out below.

Your tower is stone faced with ~~smaller~~ smaller stones centre, and plaster interior, and never was built to carry a swinging peal of bells. It is not strongly built and in its upper stages very frail in substance. I could not recommend a swinging peal with a tenor (or largest bell) over the weight of 10 cwt, and even so would not feel very happy as to what the result of the stress and strain set upon the tower might be. If such a peal was erected it would have to be well down in the tower in the stronger portion about where the clock now is, as the higher portion where the louvres are ~~is~~ is very slightly built. A clavier octave of bells, being hung stationary could be put in this top story of the tower, and being a massively built structure of itself would be a considerable

source of strength to the tower, and being thus placed the bells would sound out through the louvres quite as far as a swinging peal placed in a lower stage of the tower. Further, a much heavier set could be thus placed in the tower with a more majestic and deeper tone than a very light swinging peal.

Although as a keen bellringer I should like to see a swinging peal erected, common sense, and an extensive knowledge of oscillation and sway in towers, makes it impossible for me to either suggest or consent to such an erection. I should feel far from happy as to the ultimate result for in a few years you would have to rebuild your tower I am sure!!

My suggestion is therefore, that an octave of bells with a tenor about 17 cwt, stationary in the tower in a massive steel and iron framework, and with a properly constructed clavier attachment, be accepted. I have carefully considered the question in all its bearings, and gone thoroughly into Messrs. Taylor's estimate and am quite certain this plan to be the best, and in the end prove to be the right and proper procedure.

Yours faithfully,

Ernest Morris

Hon. Consultant for Bells to Lord Bishop's Advisory
Committee
Leicester Diocese.

Gen. Hon. Secretary, Midland Counties Association of
Change Ringers.

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

GEORGE H. WIDDOWS, F.R.I.B.A.,
County Architect.

Telephones & Telegrams :
No. 355 (three lines) and
No. 2077.

PLEASE REFER TO: GW/TW/156/468



COUNTY OFFICES,

ST. MARY'S GATE,
DERBY.

December 19, 1935.

Dear Mr. Austin,

With reference to our interview at S. Thomas's Church, Brampton I wish to confirm what I then stated, namely, that in my opinion the tower of this Church is totally unsuited for a peal of swinging bells. Apart from the size of the tower which would make the hanging of swinging bells difficult the structure is far from what it ought to be for such a purpose. While the outside of the tower is faced with dressed and squared stone work the inner part of the walls so far as I can see appears to be made of rubble. Moreover there are vertical cracks to be observed which lead one to think that whatever tie may have existed has been broken. The upper part of the tower is much thinner than the base and its construction speaks for itself. I have not the slightest doubt in my own mind that were a peal of swinging bells put into this tower it would not be long before the top part collapsed. The cumulative effect of pealing might very well bring about a sudden collapse with the risk of fatal results.

As stated at the beginning of this letter I am definitely of opinion that this tower ought not to be used for swinging bells. In the event of stationary bells being installed I would suggest that the framework be designed in such a manner as to bring the weight of the bells as far down the tower as possible and that a large template be placed under each beam to spread the weight as much as possible.

I thank you for letting me see the reports from the experts which have come along this morning and it is with much interest that I notice they express themselves as strongly as I did yesterday. I return the reports herewith.

Yours sincerely,

George H. Widdows.

J. Austin, Esq.,
Grasmere Lodge,
Thornfield Avenue,
Linden Avenue,
Chesterfield.

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JOHN TAYLOR & CO

(E. Denton Taylor)

BELL FOUNDERS & BELL HANGERS

BELL FOUNDRY

LOUGHBOROUGH

ENGLAND

Ref. U/ML.

13th. January, 1936.

John Austin, Esq.,
Grasmere Lodge,
Thornfield Avenue,
Linden Avenue,
CHESTERFIELD.

Dear Sir,

St. Thomas' Church, Brampton - Bells.

With reference to our specification and estimate dated 27th. October 1933, we beg to confirm that although the costs of labour and materials have advanced considerably since that date we will agree to adhere to that estimate, viz. £825., and we also confirm that we will include in this price the inscriptions which are to be placed upon the two largest bells of the peal. Terms - nett cash on completion of the work.

With regard to the time required to carry through the work we cannot promise to do this in less than six months after receiving word that everything is in order regarding the Faculty, when we will proceed with the preparation of the moulds for the bells.

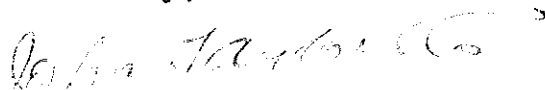
Regarding the proposed bronze inscription tablet, we enclose herewith a photograph which will give an idea as to the appearance of this tablet, the size of which will be approximately 20" x 14" to bear in $\frac{1}{2}$ " Roman capitals the wording as repeated on the enclosed sheet (in triplicate). We will agree to supply this tablet at the special price of £10. (ten pounds) carriage paid. This does not provide for fixing to the wall of the Baptistry, this fixing to be charged for at actual nett cost. This would not be a large item.

We enclose also three copies of the inscriptions suggested for the tenor bell and for bell No. 7.

Thanking you for the courtesy shown to our representatives on Friday evening last, and assuring you of our best attention,

We remain, Sir,
Yours obediently,

P.S. We enclose our cheque for one guinea, being half Mr. Morris' fee, as arranged with Mr. Oldham.



Telephone : 2241 LOUGHBOROUGH.

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JOHN TAYLOR & CO

(E. Denison Taylor)

BELL FOUNDERS & BELL HANGERS

BELL FOUNDRY

LOUGHBOROUGH

ENGLAND

CH/LC.

8th. March, 1937.

J. Austin, Esq.,
Grasmere Lodge,
Thornfield Avenue,
Linden Avenue,
CHESTERFIELD.

Dear Sir,

St. Thomas' Church, Brampton - Bells.

One of our representatives, Mr. J. P. Fidler, visited the above on Friday last, the 5th. March, and made a careful inspection of the bells and their fittings; he reports that everything was in good order and although he learned that one of the clappers had fallen out of the bell at some previous time due to the securing nut working loose, he found that this particular clapper, as indeed all the other clappers, was properly tightened up at the time of his inspection.

Yours faithfully,

John Taylor & Co