

Bell Ringing Events - 2019

St Mary's Lytchett Matravers

Fundraising Events, Talks and Presentations

We held 7 Small group events, 8 Fundraising events and raised £4,500

Date	Event	Location
16 February	Afternoon Tea by the Sea 3pm (Event)	East Dorset Sailing Club
13 April	"Not Just WI" visit (Private)	St Mary's Church
24 April	Talk from the Dorset Wildlife Trust(Event)	St Mary's Church
26 April	Bell Restoration Project launch Bell Presentation & Cheese & wine (Event)	St Mary's Church
May 2019	Display Board taken to Library for a month	Lytchett Matravers Library
9 May	U3A Art Group painting inside or outside (Private)	St Mary's Church
14 May 2019	Quiz night (Event)	Rose & Crown Pub, Lytchett Matravers
May	Poster and Flyers taken to Museum	Wareham Museum
30 May	Thursday Club presentation (Private)	Lytchett Matravers Village Hall
3 June	Talk about the bells and bell ringing (Private)	Day Centre
11 June	U3A Dorset Villages (Private)	St Mary's Church
15 June	Heritage Saturday (Event)	St Mary's Church
17 June	Cubs visit (Private)	St Mary's Church
11 August 2019	'Teddy Zip Wire' and Cream Tea(Event)	St Mary's Church
22 Sept	Bell ringers from Dorset and Wiltshire who died in The Great War - CANCELLED	St Mary's Church
28 Sept 2019	Handbell Concert (Event)	St Mary's Church
29 Sept	Bell themed Messy church - (Private)	St Mary's Church
22 October	Lecture on medieval church/bells (Event)	St Mary's Church
30 October	Coach Trip to visit Bell Foundry (Event)	John Taylor Foundry Loughborough
6 November	School Assembly (Private)	Lytchett Matravers Village School
26 January 2020	Re-dedication service (Event)	St Mary's Church

Bell Restoration Tasks

Date	Event	Location
18-21 March	Ladders Installed	St Mary's Church
16 August	Small bell parts dismantled	Gordon, Alec, John, Phil, Paul, Debbie, Ann
19-21 August	Bells down	St Mary's Church
11 September	Cleaning empty tower	St Mary's Church
8-18 October	Painting Frame	St Mary's Church
6-8 November	Repair to Bell Frame	St Mary's Church
12 Nov-29 Nov	Bells rehung	St Mary's Church
14 November	Signwriter came to write on the clappers	St Mary's Church
29 November	Test Ring	St Mary's Church
12-13 December	Ladders replaced	St Mary's Church

Date	Event	Location
13 and 20 Dec	Cathy and Alan replaced simulator parts	St Mary's Church

Band Events

Date	Event	Location
5 January	Band Christmas Party	Rose and Crown
11 January	Band AGM	St Mary's Church
29 April	Devon Outing – organized by Jack Pease	3 towers in Devon
24 May	Brownsea Visit (Both Lytchett Bands)	Brownsea Island
9 August	Final ring and Band BBQ	St Mary's Church
21 September	ART mini conference – Debbie gave presentation	Puddletown
16 Aug- 22 Nov	Ringling practice at Corfe Mullen	St Hubert's
25 October	Had our practice at Poole	St James Poole
8 December	Corfe Mullen ringers visit St Mary's	St Mary's Church
Christmas	Rang for Christingle, Carol Service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	St Mary's Church
2019-2020	Rang in the New Year 2020	St Mary's Church

Branch and Guild Events

Date	Event	Attendees
12 January	Branch AGM - Wareham	Debbie, Cathy
9 February	Gussage St Michael	Debbie
9 March	Shillingstone	Helen, Viv and Don
13 April	Cranborne	Debbie, Viv and Ann
13 May	Winchester Cathedral	Cathy
8 June	Branch Ringing Bonanza - Spetisbury	Cathy, Debbie, Ann, Helen, Sarah, Alec, John, Viv
7 September	Guild Striking Competition - Child Okeford	Cathy and Debbie with Spetisbury and Winterborne
10 September	Kingston	Cathy, Viv, John and Don
9 November	Sturminster Marshall	Debbie and Viv
14 December	Canford Magna	Debbie, Cathy and Viv

Quarter Peals

14 January	Debbie	10 th Quarter Peal; 1 st of Bob Minor	Sturminster Marshall
23 May	Viv, Debbie, Cathy	A 600 to celebrate signing the contract	St Mary's Church
17 June	Cathy, Debbie	To celebrate completion of ladder project	St Mary's Church
10 August	Debbie	Final Quarter Peal before bells taken out	St Mary's Church
26 October	Sarah and Debbie	Sarah's first Quarter peal	Cranborne
18 Dec	Debbie	First to 2 Minor Methods	Sturminster Marshall

50 Ringing Things

4 December	Cathy	Gold - congratulations
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Branch Membership Nominations

January 2019	Don and Emma
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Visiting Ringers

13 March	SDGR Quarter Peal – Robert Wellen
26 March	Trish from Wimborne with her brother from Guildford and friends
19 May	St Marmadukes
6 July	Oakdale Ringers
7 August	Young Ringers Cycling Group

Weddings and Other Events

18 April	Rang for Notre Dame	
1 June	Rang for a wedding First for John, Alec and Emma	St Mary's Church
7 June	Tolling tenor for a funeral – Debbie and Cathy	St Mary's Church
22 June	Rang for a wedding – first for Don	St Mary's Church
10 December	Rang for a Memorial Service	St Mary's Church
14 December	Rang for a wedding	St Mary's Church

Courses For Our ringers

9 January	Bob Minor Ringing – organised by Debbie for herself and John Close
19 January	Cathy attended Simulator training
24 January	Extra practice for ringing up and down for Lytchett Ringers organised by Debbie
25 January	Follow up Bob Minor course ran by Jack at Bere Regis
26 January	Rounds to Plain Hunt for John and Alec
25 February	Extra practice at Lytchett Matravers for Call changes Enjoyed by Emma, Don, Ann, John, Viv and Debbie thanks to Alan for his support
27 March	Extra practice for First Week
2 May	Plain Hunt training for Ann, Alec and Nina
8 May	Plain Hunt training for Emma, Don and John
6 June	Listening Skills
15 July	Simulator Training by Cathy for Alan and Debbie
22 July	Leading Practice for whole Band
25 July	Simulator Practice for our ringers
23 September	Extra practice concentrating on Plain Hunt; and rounds for Helen
28 September	ART Level 2 Cathy - Module 2F
24 October	Extra practice on Call changes
24 October	Training on Place Bells from Jack for Debbie, Chrissie and Maureen

ART Passes

22 February	Debbie	Level 4 Change Ringer (Minor)
7 June	Emma	Level 2 Foundation Skills
17 June	Cathy	Level 3 Introduction to Change Ringing
26 July	Ann	Level 2 Foundation Skills

9 August	Helen	Level 1 Bell Handling
24 October	Don	Level 2 Foundation Skills

Bob Doubles Challenge

26 January	January Challenge	Canford, Withcampton, Gussage
28 February	February Challenge	Child Okeford, Iwerne Courtney (Shroton), Okeford Fitzpaine
23 March	March Challenge	Winterborne Whitechurch Winterborne Kingston, Wareham
6 April	April Challenge	Tollard Royal, Shaftesbury, St James Donhead St Mary
18 May	May Challenge	Corfe, Worth Matravers, Kingston
7 June	June Challenge	Oakdale, Hampreston. Lytchett Matravers
3 August	Bob Doubles Finale	Lytchett Matravers and Minster
4 August	Bob Doubles ringing for the 9:30 service	St Mary's Church

Reverse Canterbury Challenge

5 October	October Challenge	St James Poole, St George Oakdale and The Bournemouth Oratory, Sacred Heart Church
19 October	October Challenge	Holy Trinity – Bradpole St Michael & All Angels – Askerwell The Assumption – Bradford Peverell
16 November	November Challenge	Wareham, Wool, Milborne St Andrew
7 December	December Challenge	Corfe Mullen, Canford Magna, Hampreston

Grant Offers

£2,500 for Ladders and £27,150 for Bells

Date	Grant body	Purpose	Amount
4 October 2018	Manifold Bell Trust	Bells	Turned Down
12 October 2018	Sharpe Trust	Bells	£250
23 October 2018	LEBRF	Ladders	£500
23 October 2018	LEBRF	Bells	£2,900
29 October 2018	The Elmgrant Trust	Bells	£500
16 November 2018	The National Churches Trust	Ladders	Turned Down
20 December 2018	All churches Trust	Ladders	£1,000
15 February 2019	Heritage Lottery Funding	Bells	Turned Down
1 May 2019	Ironmongers Company	Bells	Turned Down
4 May 2019	Dorset County Association	Bells	£400
16 May 2019	Church Buildings Council	Bells	£2,100
24 June 2019	Erskine Muton Trust	Bells	£2,000
27 June 2019	Dorset Historic Churches	Ladders	£1,000
8 July 2019	Hobson Charity	Bells	£1,000
21 November 2019	Barron Bell Trust	Bells	£3,000
30 November 2019	Talbot Village Trust	Bells	£15,000

Events

Band Christmas Party

Saturday 5th January 2019

A fun time was had at the Rose and Crown with an enjoyable meal and then party games arranged by Helen and Viv. We thanked Alan for his continued support for our Band and of course Kathy as well for letting him out every Friday night.



Band AGM

Friday 12th January 2019

This year we held the Band AGM at church after a Friday evening ring followed by a bring and share supper. We had 13 of our 16 band present and welcomed Stephen our vicar to join us. Band jobs were shared out which eases the burden on some of our ringers. It turned out to be quite a social event.

Branch AGM

Saturday 13th January 2019

4 of our ringers joined in the ringing at the AGM event. 2 stayed for tea and the meeting. We were proud to nominate Don and Emma to full membership



Ringling Up and Down Practice

Thursday 24th January

6 ringers enjoyed some extra practice for ringing up and down under the guidance of Debbie, Cathy and Chrissie. Everyone enjoyed the morning and felt as if they had achieved a little and moved on a little

January Bob Doubles Challenge

Saturday 26th January

5 of our ringers this month enjoyed ringing at Canford, Witchampton and Gussage St Michael. There was a marked improvement especially for those ringing Treble and Tenor and a challenge to everyone on the anticlockwise bells at Gussage. We raised over £50 for our sponsorship.



Tea By the Sea

16 February

East Dorset Sailing Club



We had an amazing afternoon tea on a damp February afternoon. One comment from a visitor was *"It was a WONDERFUL afternoon! Fantastic organization, delicious cakes and so many people! I hope you made LOTS of money!"* Yes we did. We made **£522.75** Thank you to all those who planned the afternoon, baked cakes and enjoyed the afternoon.

February Bob Doubles Challenge

Thursday 28th February

6 of our ringers this month enjoyed ringing at Child Okeford, Iwerne Courtney (Shroton), Okeford Fitzpaine. Again everyone moved on with their personal challenge. We have now raised over £100.25 for our sponsorship.

March Bob Doubles Challenge

Thursday 23rd March

Again everyone moved on with their personal challenge. We have now raised over £179.50 for our sponsorship.

April Bob Doubles Challenge

The weather is getting warmer for our outings and we had another enjoyable day. Debbie has started to call for some of the session. Cathy is continuing to learn to ring a touch and also rang the tenor to a Plain course. Gordon and Sarah have started to learn an inside bell by ringing Bayles on different bells. Chrissie and Maureen are continuing to perfect ringing a touch on an inside bell. We did ring a full band of Lytchett Ringers with Debbie calling but it needs perfecting as Debbie and Maureen struggled on heavier bells and starting on a bell that they hadn't rung on before. Plans were made for our final ring over a much needed lunch at The Forester at Donhead St Andrew. Though Debbie has already got her 50 Ringing Things this was her 50th tower since starting recording towers. We would like to thank all our helpers yet again and though we are in fact almost sponsoring ourselves we have now raised £199.30. We all put in £10 for the morning, pay for the towers and for drinks for our helpers and any left over goes into the pot. We are grateful to those helpers and towers who have also donated.

Ladders Installed

18-21 March



After a few hiccups our ladders were installed and will make access to bell chamber so much easier and safer. Having been painted black they look good from the body of the church and do not stand out too much and do not get in the way of ringers. We are indebted to Allchurches Trust, Elmgrant and LEBRF for their grants to enable us to raise the funds and to John Taylor & Co for the installation.

Not Just WI Visit

13th April 10-12

On a sunny April morning we welcomed 5 members and 2 husbands from our 'Not Just' WI group for a History tour and 'Have a go' bellringing. Annie Mitchener took them round the church giving them information about the history and heritage of our church. Shirley Percival came down towards the end of the tour to give us all her wisdom and knowledge of village history. A short break for a much needed cup of coffee and cake before hearing about our bells, see them ringing and hear about our project to restore them. They then all had a go at ringing and were surprised how easy it is!

Ringling for Notre Dame

18th April



We rang each bell up individually from treble (high) to tenor (low) to signify the burning down of the spire. We then rang rounds. Then we rang down individually from tenor to treble to signify the rebuilding. Treble then tolled for a few minutes. 9 of our ringers wanted to feel part of this so the way we did it enabled them all to be part of it. Also there was a service at 7 so we couldn't ring then and needed all bells down.

Project Launch

26th April

On 26th April we launched our Bell Restoration Project to keep our bells ringing for the next generation and beyond. 48 visitors came to hear what we are planning on doing with the bells and how they could join us in this exciting project. Tower Captain Debbie Phipps gave a presentation explaining a bit about the growth of their current band, what is to be done with the bells, the costs involved and future events to help raise funds.



We were delighted to have the Wimborne handbell group to give a demonstration of change ringing and we thank Alan Bentley for organising this. Jack Pease organised our band of ringers to ring both before and after the presentation and we were joined by some of our friends from East Dorset.

Simon from Taylor's came down from Loughborough and brought some bell

parts similar to the ones which will be replaced in our tower which were much talked about and even formed part of our vicar Stephen's sermon the following morning. All took cover as Stephen picked up an extremely large, heaver clapper to talk about.

Following the presentation our visitors mingled and enjoyed refreshments and bell shaped



biscuits. We had a display of books which one non-ringer browsed and found references to a great-relative from late 19th century who was quite eminent in his time. There was a live video feed set up by Alan from the bell chamber onto a large screen so we could see 2 of the bells as they were ringing. This was much appreciated by a lot of the attendees. There was also a model bell for demonstration.

Though this was not a fundraising event our visitors were kind enough to make donations to the sum of £432 towards the cost of our Bell Restoration Project.

We are now in a position to place our order by using some Trust Fund but we will continue to apply for Grants and have Fundraising events in order to retain a sum in the Trust Fund for future expenses.

Devon Outing

29th April



A great day out for some of the Lytchett ringers and for some, their first outing and they even rang on 8 and 10 bells. They were thrilled. Thank you so much Jack for organising this for us. Also lovely to meet up with our ringing friends from other towers.

Plain Hunt Training

2nd May

Ann, Alec and Nina benefitted from a 2 hour training session learning Plain Hunt on 3 with 4 and 5 covering.

Plain Hunt Training

8th May

Emma, Don and John benefitted from a 2 hour training session learning Plain Hunt on 3 with 4 and 5 covering and finished off by all ringing Plain Hunt on 5 (all ringing bell 3...at a different time). Congratulations to them all and thanks to our ringers who came to support Viv, Cathy, Debbie, Chrissie and Alan. Thank you to Maureen for taking on the theory session.

Quiz Night at the Rose and Crown

14th May



What an excellent evening was had by quizzers at the Rose and Crown pub on 14th May. Kate Coombes organized the quiz and was helped by Cathy with the prizes and raffle. Thanks to the Rose and Crown for hosting this event. There were lots of happy quizzers winning prizes and they were also able to raise over £550 towards St Mary's Bell Restoration fund.

May Bob Doubles Challenge

Saturday 18th May



We are really moving on now and getting lots of practice during these mornings as now more than one of our ringers can ring at a time. Usually at least 2, sometimes 3 and one point there were 5. Sarah can now ring treble or cover to a touch and will move on to try an inside bell next time. Maureen and Chrissie are

improving ringing a touch from a different bell. Cathy has achieved covering ready for our Quarter Peal on Thursday and Debbie has started calling unaffected from bell 5. We have now raised £209.30 for our sponsorship. Again huge thanks go to our patient experienced ringers.

Brownsea Visit

24th May



For our third years' visit to Brownsea we were joined by some of our Lytchett Minster friends. We enjoyed a walk around the island followed by our customary Bring and Share lunch and then 12 of us rang at the church.

Thursday Club

30th May

2 of our ringers were given a warm welcome as they gave a talk to the Thursday Club in the village. Debbie and Ann talked about bellringing at St Mary's and the future Restoration project. The ladies enjoyed ringing Happy Birthday on small children's handbells to 2 of their members who have birthdays this month and Ann and Debbie were welcomed with a cup of tea and delicious home made sandwiches and cake along with some bell shaped biscuits which Debbie took along.



Day Centre

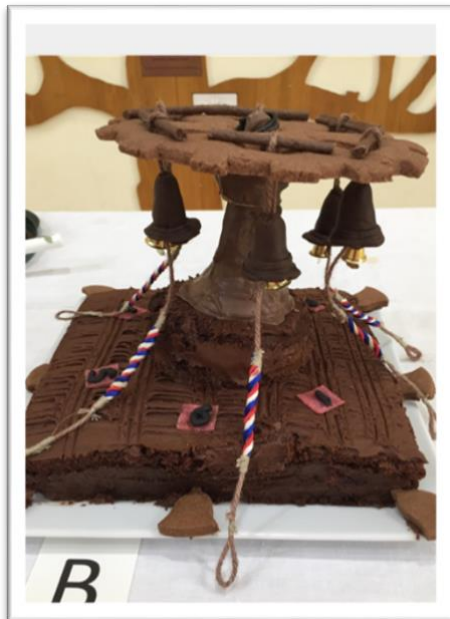
3 June



We had a warm welcome at the Day Centre after they had enjoyed their lunch when Ann and Debbie talked about bellringing and what needs to be done to our bells to restore them. We were joined by Alan Bentley, Kathy Bentley and Trish Hitchins all from Wimborne Minster to give a demonstration of handbell ringing and to show the model bell. One of their gentlemen had memories of working with an apprentice from one of the bell founders in the past.

Branch Ringing Bonanza Spetisbury

8 June



Once again we managed to find 2 novice bands and one band for the main competition making us by far the most represented tower in the ringing but also taking part in most of the activities.

Our novice bands did a great job on such heavy bells compared with our own and what an improvement on last year where our faults were 93 and 118 faults in the two teams. Sadly we lost out to Spetisbury by only 18 points and they had the advantage of ringing on their own bells.

I was very proud that we were able to put in a complete Lytchett team for the main competition (including our honorary member and supporter Alan). Last year we got 54 points with 3 other experienced ringers joining us so to have 70 with our band was a good achievement.

Having supported the ringing we also supported the other parts of the event with Ann and Debbie winning the cake competition (We are building up a good band of bakers too - this includes Helen). We also have a good Quiz team in the making with Helen taking the lead there and winning the quiz competition.

Onwards and Upwards but preferably not on the end of a rope is there a makings of a team name there?!

Novice

Position	Team Name	Faults	Comments
1st	Spetisbury Spetacular	52	Very enjoyable rounds and very few mistakes
2nd	Lytchett Oddstrikerz	70	Very consistent good ringing, enjoyable to listen to. A few mistakes.
3rd	Winterborne Nouveau	78	Confident ringing. Leading was a little rushed at handstroke.
4th	Winterborne Creek	97	Leading was okay, good consistency. No major problems.
5th	Lytchett Peasepuddings	114	Leading was slightly rushed. Major problem in the middle, but recovered well and the last half was enjoyable.

Main Competition

Position	Team Name	Faults	Comments
1st	Wimborne Minster X	19	Difficult to decide between top three teams. Very consistent pace. Hard to pick faults. No method mistakes, and very confident. Very enjoyable to listen to.
2nd	Wimborne Minster Y	25	Difficult to decide between top three teams. Very enjoyable ringing, the odd inconsistency.
3rd	Blandford	31	Difficult to decide between top three teams. Very consistent pace. Hard to pick faults and was a very good piece of ringing.
4th	Hampreston	63	Winning potential. Very good in-between method mistakes. Good pace from back bells.
5th	Lytchett Allsorts	70	Team was nervous, but they persevered. Good effort.

U3A Dorset Villages

11 June

On a slightly miserable June morning we welcomed the U3A Dorset Villages group at St Mary's after some of them had a stroll down Church path. They started with a welcome cup of our popular fresh coffee with some home made cake and biscuits. This was followed by a very interesting talk given by John about our bells, bellringing in general and demonstration using the model bell.

Most of them then enjoyed having a chime or even a backstroke ring with Debbie and Cathy. They kindly left us donations towards our Bell Restoration project and then the rain held off for them to walk back up Church Walk to have lunch at the Chequers.

Heritage Saturday

Saturday 15th June

What a wonderful day we had today even though it was a bit damp to start with we were able to welcome over 80 visitors to our beautiful church to explore more about the Heritage within the church, bellringing and village community. We had over 15 people having a go at ringing and 5 children. Certainly one adult and 2 children might actually take up this stimulating hobby. Comments from our visitors included *"So much to see and read"*; *"Trying the bells was my favourite bit"*; *"Very interesting display – thank you for your efforts"*. A big thank you to all our helpers who made this day such a success.

Cubs Visit

Monday 17th June



We were delighted to welcome 16 cubs and their leaders with some parents. All of them had a go at ringing with some of them ringing handstroke as well as backstroke. Our boxes were put to good use. There were other activities such as quizzes, handbells and looking at the model bell. They enjoyed refreshments with bell shaped biscuits. Our thanks go to Alan Bentley and Rob Childs who were helping them ring, Hilary Childs with the handbells and Helen with the



refreshments. Cathy co-ordinated the event along with Debbie on the planning and we are pleased to say they all had a great time and have asked to be involved in more of the Bell Restoration Project. We congratulate Emma, the Cub Leader on having such a well behaved group.

Bob Doubles Finale

Saturday and Sunday 3/4 August



Our Bob Doubles Finale was held this weekend with a ring at both Lytchett towers on Saturday and a full Lytchett band ringing on their own with no helpers for the service at Lytchett Matravers on Sunday morning. We would all like to thank our great band of supporters and helpers for sticking with us over the last 9 months to achieve our goal today and to raise enough to sponsor one of our clappers.

Full report at www.smlm.co.uk/bell_restoration_project/

Young Ringers Cycling Tour

Wednesday 7th August

I have never seen so many cycles around the church as when we were able to welcome the YBRCT - Young Bellringers Cycle tour this morning. What a lovely bunch of 'Young' ringers. Thank you for including us in your tour and we wish you all the very best for the rest of the week.



Bell Restoration Starts Small bells parts dismantled

16th August



After just under a year of Grant Applications, Fundraising Events and talks, we have now begun the process of preparing their bells for restoration. On Friday 16th August, Tower Captain, Debbie Phipps removed the first stay. We had a great 'Clapper Team', organised by Gordon Patterson our Steeple Keeper who removed all the stays, sliders, clappers and wheels. Thank you John, Alec, Phil and Paul. We now await Andrew from Taylor's of Loughborough to lead some volunteers to dismantle the bells and fittings and take them to the foundry for a full restoration.

Bells Taken Out

19-21 August



Andrew Mills from Taylor's took under 3 days to get the bells out of the tower with the sterling help of 5 of our ringers. Hard hats worn at all times.



Cleaning The Tower

11 September



4 of our ringers cleared out decades of dust and rubble leaving the belfry ready to paint the frame. Viv made a Baffle Board for the window in the Bell Chamber which didn't have one. Made from an old Surf Board – thanks Viv.



Reverse Canterbury Sponsored Ring

5th October 2019

After a successful and fun few months learning Bob Doubles the Lytchett Ringers, currently an all girl band from Lytchett Minster and Lytchett Matravers towers, have set themselves a new challenge to learn Reverse Canterbury. Our short term goal is to be able to ring a plain course by Christmas and then move on to learn the bobs. We hope to raise funds for Lytchett Minster Tower in the process for their cracked no 5 bell fund. We visited three towers - St James Poole, St George Oakdale and The Bournemouth Oratory, Sacred Heart Church. All that hard work and fun raised an amazing £33.70.

Of course our progress would not have been possible without the support of Branch members Alan Bentley, Ross Bradley, Tracey Davis, Nick Hodgson, Jack Pease, Kim Matthews, Gillian Richards and Paul Tyson who with great patience, put us right when we strayed from the infamous blue line and gave little tips to help us. Our thanks go to them all.

Painting The Frame

8 - 18 October



After the Big Clean in September we moved on to the next stage when 24 willing volunteers cleaned, painted, restored and made refreshments so that the Bell Tower and frame were completely prepared for the bells to be rehung. We rubbed down the frame ready to use Fertan on any rust. When dry this was

rubbed off ready for the undercoat. The undercoat was a rusty colour and the tower was soon looking very smart. But we began to think it might look better if we painted the walls as well thus making our job much longer but greatly satisfying. The top coat was an Ivory Rustoleum and we gave the frame 2 coats of this. The walls had 2 coats of limewash paint.



During this time we found 4 cracks in the frame which were quickly dealt with by Taylor's in early November so we could keep to the time frame to have our bells ringing for Christmas.

Foundry Visit J Taylor & Co - Loughborough

30th October 2019

A great day was had by some of our bellringers, church members and friends on Wednesday visiting our bells at Loughborough. We just had to make careful inspection as to what was being done.



34 ringers and from Dorset and other friends made the long journey up to Loughborough to visit the Bell Foundry where are bells are currently being refurbished. As one of our ringers commented "it was like going back in time".

Sadly we couldn't see the foundry itself but we were able to learn how the tuning works and had an interesting talk about making the wheels. We saw our bells with their new headstocks and our new clappers and the wheels which were being worked on.

School Assembly

6 November



A presentation was given to the children at the village school explaining how a bell works and what was being done with our village bells. Debbie made a 2 dimensional life size bell including stay, slider, runner board and clapper. Ann demonstrated what happens when you pull the rope and Stephen demonstrated what happened to the clapper.

Bells Return

November 12th



All was prepared and early on a chilly November morning the bells were returned. Before they were taken off the transport, Stephen, our vicar gave a short service to 'Welcome the bells'. It was just PERFECT including the reference to '**Save me O God**' which is inscribed on our 5th bell. We welcomed over

30 visitors to see the bells before they were hoisted up into the belfry.

Bell Installation

11-28 November

Andrew Ogden (Oggy) was the Taylor's bellhanger who came down this time and he swiftly organised our helpers to get all 6 bells and their components off the vehicle. Over the next 3 weeks some of our bellringers along with others from the Branch helped Oggy get our bells up and ringing. Other ringers and also volunteers from the church kept everyone fed and watered for the duration.

Gordon Paterson our Steeple Keeper positioned the last clapper to be put in, and Tower Captain Debbie Phipps attached the bolt at 10 past 12 on November 15th! All the bells were now hanging ready for all the fittings to be put in during the next couple of weeks. Ropes were attached and other fittings in the next few days followed by another big clean up. Hard hats were then put away ready for a final test ring.



Test Ring

28 November

We were grateful to have an experienced band of ringers to do a test ring and were thrilled with the way the bells now ring and sound; they are now said to be one of the best peals of 6 bells in the East Dorset Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild and we believe the outcome is all that we had had planned for.



We are hugely grateful to Oggy for his expertise for carrying out the work with such professionalism and for supervising some of our own ringers to assist with the work (a once in a lifetime experience thoroughly enjoyed by all). We would also like to thank the support team who were always on hand to provide refreshments and lunches and taking on the other admin jobs necessary for a successful project. All in all a great team effort by ringers and non-ringers alike and an experience that brought a lot of people together.

First Practice And Sunday Ring

29th November 2019

We had our first practice the next day and then followed by our first ring for the morning service on the first day of Advent and then for our Christingle service in the afternoon. Though we are nestled in the valley just outside the village we were pleased to see on the village Facebook page that the bells were heard and enjoyed by several people in the village.

Old Headstocks



When the "Not Just WI" visited along with husbands we were approached by Hayden Crumpler asking what we would be doing with the old wooden headstocks. To our delight he has recently taken up wood turning and offered to make some items for us from them. Little did we know then what professional items he would be making for us. The first item was a new spider to hold the ropes along with several little bells and pots. He then transformed number IV headstock and preserved the old metal disc from the end to be used to hold the whiteboard. 3 more headstocks have been turned into beautiful items to be sold and the final headstock is being used by one of our bellringers in their garden.

St Mary's Thank St Hubert's

8th December 2019

Corfe Mullen were kind enough to let us use their tower whilst our bells were out so we had a permanent place to ring. St Mary's Lytchett Matravers were delighted to welcome some of the Corfe Mullen ringers and their supporters to have a ring on our newly restored bells for their Sunday evening practice as a thank you for letting us ring in their tower while our bells were being restored. We then enjoyed mulled wine and cake together. THANK YOU St Hubert's





New Year

For the first time since and of us started ringing at St Mary's we have rung in the New Year. Thrilled to say Debbie has now achieved 70 of the 74 possible 'Things' for 50 Ringing Things. Not ever likely to get 2 of the final 4 but feel proud I have got to 70!

A wonderful end to a VERY busy year and one where we have achieved so much for the tower and the progress of all our ringers.

Final Comment from Tower Captain Debbie Phipps

“I am very proud to be part of such a friendly and caring band of ringers – may we continue to prosper”