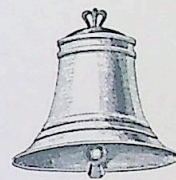




ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LAXFIELD

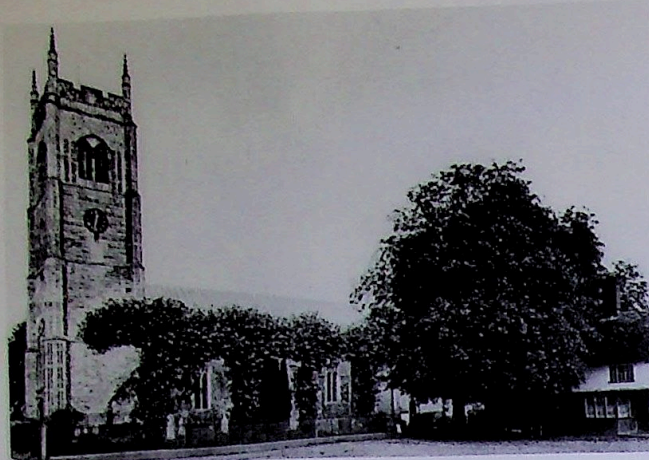


# BELL RESTORATION



APPEAL





## LAXFIELD CHURCH BELLS

There have been bells in the tower at All Saints since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. We know that the medieval oak bell frame dates back to the early days of the Tudor monarchy. Originally we had five bells, but at some point the frame was changed to accommodate a sixth tenor bell which was cast in 1804.

Our oldest bell is the third, which was cast in Bury St Edmunds at around 1490, when Henry VII was on the throne. The fifth bell (the one that strikes the time) was made in Norwich, during the reign of Elizabeth I. Both of these bells are protected by listed status.



6<sup>th</sup> (tenor) Bell in the up position, ready for ringing

Our treble (the smallest bell) was cast in 1760 and our other older bells were re-cast in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to create our current bells two and four.

In 1922 bell founder Alfred Bowell of Ipswich removed and recast the tenor bell at a cost of £40 as it had cracked. The six bells were then rehung in the medieval frame at a cost of £75.

The bells, fittings and particularly the oak frame are now showing signs of significant wear and decay. Only limited ringing is possible in the short term and the bells might be deemed un-ringable in the not too distant future.

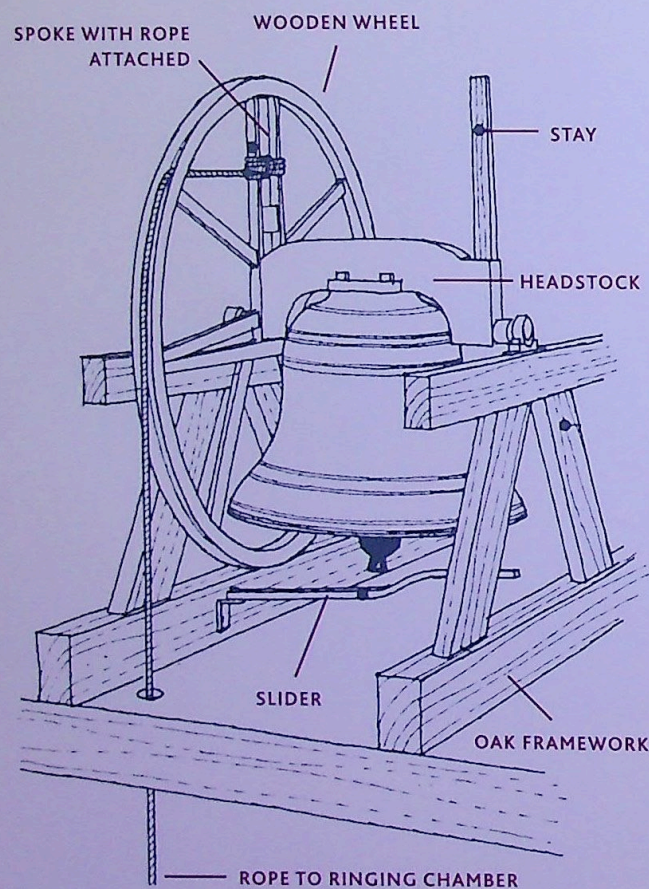
## LAXFIELD BELL RINGERS

After many years without an active ringing team, Laxfield now has an enthusiastic and growing band of bell ringers who are keen to learn this traditional community and social activity.

We practice weekly to develop this art to a standard where we will be able to ring for services, weddings and other significant occasions.



Laxfield Bell Ringers in 1958 (L to R) Mr. Scoggins, S. Ayers, Robin Allum, Walter Smith, Reggie Wright, Ivan Allum, Tommy Revell



## OUR RESTORATION PROJECT

We are aiming to provide the village with working church bells for the next 100 years or more by restoring the complete installation. We will also take the opportunity to augment to eight bells, allowing a full octave to be rung plus an increase in the number of bell-ringers who can ring together.

### THE RESTORATION WILL INCLUDE:

**NEW BELL FRAME** - A new cast iron bell frame for 8 bells will be installed in the space below the existing oak frame.

**OLD OAK FRAME** - this will be left in place and treated to preserve it for historical interest. It will also hold the 5<sup>th</sup> Bell which will remain in its current position as the clock bell so the striking tone every hour will remain familiar.

**BELLS** - these will be removed to the bell foundry for work specific to each bell and 4 new bells will be cast. This will give us a unique opportunity to include inscriptions significant to Laxfield Church and our fund raising appeal donors.

**FITTINGS** - Headstocks, clappers, wheels, ropes, guides, stays and sliders will all be replaced.

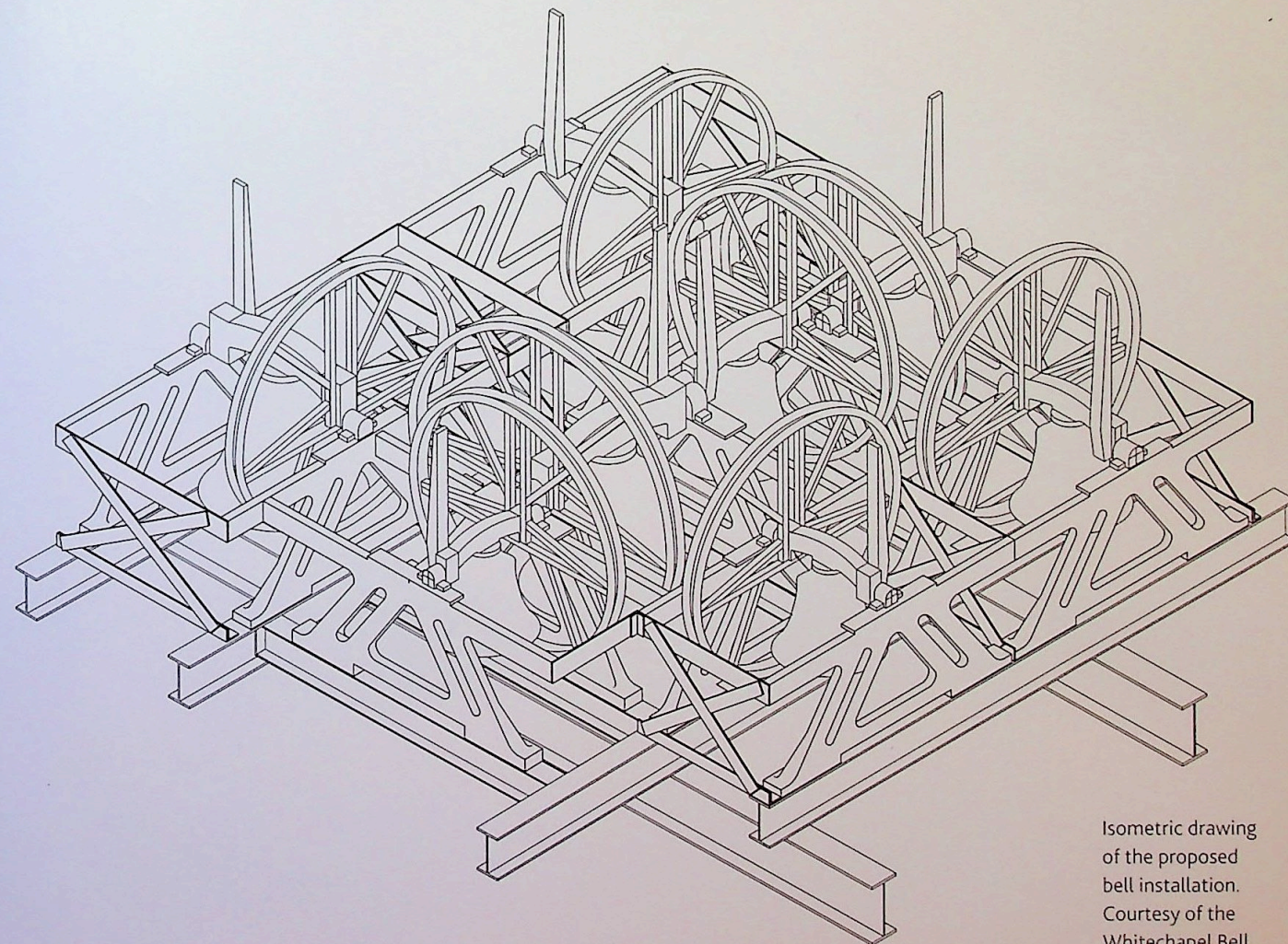
**RINGING CHAMBER** - decoration, new floor covering, improved lighting and heating



## COST OF RESTORATION

The overall cost of this restoration project will amount to nearly £120,000, of which £20,000 has already been donated from the legacy of Ronald Marchant via the Church Charity Fund, and £4,000 from local fundraising and donations. There are opportunities for individual items to be sponsored ranging from a new bell to 1ft of new cast iron frame. Inscriptions can be cast onto bells and headstocks as a lasting recognition to a major donor.

Grant applications are also part of our fundraising as well as local events.



Isometric drawing of the proposed bell installation. Courtesy of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry

☩ : D J U J R U : A U R X J L J U : M A N E A T : S E M P E R : N O B I S C U :

(opposite) Inscription on the 5<sup>th</sup> bell 'May divine help always remain with us'

## HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

There are a number of ways in which individuals, families and businesses can support our project.

**VOLUNTEERING** – we welcome all volunteer support and there are plenty of opportunities from helping out at fundraising events to providing accommodation and manual labour for the bell foundry professionals when we undertake the restoration.

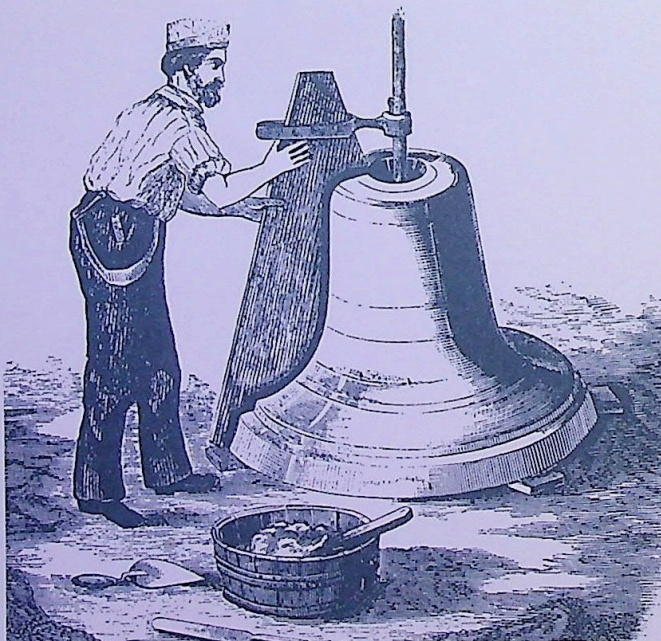
**SUPPORT EVENTS** – we are planning a number of fundraising events over the coming year including a "Summer of Love 50th anniversary quiz" so please come and have fun and support us at the same time.

**DONATIONS** – Contributions of individual items or general donations are most welcome and appreciated, please gift aid if you can.

## SPONSOR INDIVIDUAL ITEMS ...

HERE'S A LIST OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS THAT CAN BE SPONSORED

- |                          |                                |         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NEW BELL WITH INSCRIPTION      | £12,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HEADSTOCK WITH INSCRIPTION     | £1,500  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ROPE WHEEL                     | £1,000  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CLAPPER                        | £600    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NEW CLOCK STRIKE HAMMER        | £500    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | STAY & SLIDER                  | £200    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | BELL ROPE                      | £150    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ROPE PULLEY                    | £100    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 FOOT OF CAST IRON BELL FRAME | £50     |



FACEBOOK & TWITTER: @LaxfieldBells  
EMAIL: laxfieldbells@gmail.com

Front cover: (Top) bell ropes and sallys (Bottom left) massive oak beams in the belfry (Bottom right) the new rope spider made by Mark Fuller of Laxfield

DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY: © WILLWEBB.CO.UK

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## ... OR MAKE A GENERAL DONATION

I/we wish to donate the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Laxfield bell restoration fund.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ (required for gift aid)

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

### DEDICATION

The names of individuals and organisations making contributions to this appeal will be recorded in a Book of Benefactors if they wish. Please indicate how you wish to be recorded.

\_\_\_\_\_

### SEND DONATIONS TO:

Laxfield Bell Restoration Appeal,

c/o Flax House, Vicarage Road, Laxfield, Suffolk IP13 8DT

Tel 01986798135 to arrange collection or discuss your donation.

Cheques payable to: Laxfield Parochial Church Council (PCC) Bells

Any surplus from this appeal will be held to maintain the bells in the future and the fabric of the tower

### If you are a uk tax payer, please complete the GiftAid declaration

Charity Gift Aid Declaration – single donation

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

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

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ to:

All Saint's Church, Laxfield

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

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.

*giftaid it*