

Ringling the Changes in Honington!

Monday 19th April 2021 marks a red letter day for Honington village church as its six bells are due to be dismantled, refurbished by a specialist team at Britain's only remaining bell foundry in Loughborough and then rehung, hopefully in June which coincides beautifully with the easing of restrictions.



The bells have been a much loved part of village life for over 400 years. Research tells us that there were 4 bells in 1687 – for context, that was just 21 years after the Great Fire of London and James II was king! A fifth bell was added in 1786 and a sixth in 1810. The last major overhaul was in 1908 (when Honington was still part of Worcestershire) so we look forward to hearing our newly refurbished bells ring out again after this latest maintenance, more than a hundred years after the previous servicing.

Already an integral and historical part of our community life, ringing out joyfully every week and marking passages of life or moments of national significance, the bells are moving into present and future phases. However, we need some new bellringers to continue this tradition and service to our village. Are you over 11 or perhaps recently retired and looking to start a new hobby or to meet new friends? Could you spare an hour or two a week to practise and to ring the bells when there is a Sunday service? It's a good way to explore other local churches and villages and it will help you to keep fit as well – an hour's ringing is a great workout both physically and mentally! The Shipston team members have been practising in a virtual belltower throughout lockdown and are eager to return to practising in the Tower, so they have the experience needed to support new ringers and training is at hand. If this is you, then contact Len Morley on 01608 663948 We look forward to getting you on board!