

Ringling the Changes – Update 2 May 2021



Since we last made contact about the exciting Honington Church bells project, much progress has been made. The church tower now looks very different inside as the bells are currently undergoing their first MOT since the turn of the last century. As you can imagine this has been a very intricate and surprisingly delicate process. There is no denying that it has been a dirty one too as 100 years of dust has been disturbed but for those leading the project it has been a really satisfying step on the journey to overhaul the bells.

Far more technical manoeuvres are involved than most of us could even begin to imagine as you can see from the pictures. In a nutshell, the fittings for each bell have had to be dismantled piece by piece, all of which have been bagged and labelled to facilitate putting everything back together again. Perhaps the most hair-raising part of the operation was for someone to crawl under the bells to retrieve the clappers! Some of the bigger parts such as the wheels have been lowered to the ground on the outside of the tower and the bells themselves are resting on a timber frame using a block and tackle system to manoeuvre them.



All the fittings have been transported to John Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough where they will be cleaned, refurbished or replaced as appropriate. It's not a job that can be done quickly and it will be the end of May /beginning of June before everything can be reassembled, which in turn will take even longer than the initial dismantling.

Ringling the bells is an important service to the community as well as being a great workout and an entertaining way to meet new people. David from Shipston is a recent recruit. He had no prior experience and got involved initially when there was a national campaign as part of the First World War armistice centenary commemorations in 2018 to recruit one new person for each ringer who was killed in the conflict. Three years on, he is still ringing on a weekly basis and very much enjoying it.



If you or anybody you know would be interested in ringling the bells once they are ready to go, then please ring **01608 663948** – we'd be delighted to welcome new recruits to the team!