

Bell Restoration Report 2019 by Brian G. Butcher Bell Restoration Officer & Diocesan Bells Adviser.

Alkham	Inspection and maintenance
Bearsted	A casting fault, where the clapper was striking, meant that the tenor was not sounding very good. The bell has now been quarter turned and is much improved.
Bethersden	Inspection and maintenance carried out but there will be no major improvement until major works are done.
Broadstairs, Holy Trinity	Inspection of single bell. Fitted with an electric solenoid (JT).
Burmarsh	There has been a problem with the treble bell here for some time but I feel confident that the problem has been found and rectified. The old bell that is on display in the church was lifted sufficiently to chime it. Is it cracked or is it just very poor tone?
Davington Priory	A band gained permission to 'ring' the 3 bells and in the process, the tenor wheel collapsed such that the bells could not even be chimed. The bells have now been rigged such that they can only be chimed. They are hung for ringing but require a complete rehang.
East Langdon	Castor oil and felt, which had congealed, removed from the bearings and re lubricated. Bells now swing.
Faversham	Better news on this in that it is proposed that the bells are rehung with all new fittings as a 10 with 3/10 and 4/10 hung above in a new frame.
Folkestone	Fourth loose on its headstock. Tightened and one new bolt fitted.
Gillingham	Inspection of single bell. (DAC)
St Luke, Hawkhurst	Inspection and maintenance.
Kingsdown	Inspection of 2 bells in West end turret (DAC). Rehung by Whites.
Milton Regis	These bells have been removed and were rehung and augmented by Whites. KCACR removed the bells and assisted Whites with rehangng.
Ospringe	Further work possibly.
Penshurst	Ringng is limited here at the moment as there is a crack in the 6 th headstock. Some local work on this.
Rochester Cathedral	There is a proposal to augment the bells to 12 and provide an additional bell to form a light 8. Grant application received.
Saltwood	Second clapper and slider refitted.
Sellindge	This church may become semi-redundant.
Selling	Rope boss refixed.
Sheldwich	Inspection and maintenance.
Stockbury	Work to the tower and ringng room complete.
Stone by Dartford	New slider.
Sutton Valance School	A new 4cwt bell installed in the chapel (John Taylor)

Walmer	Inspection and tighten up.
Westgate	The bells hang in an 8 bell frame and it is possible that the 2 missing bells may be installed as a bequest from the late Stanley Evans who was vicar here when the 6 were installed.

BELL RESTORATION REPORT TO FEBRUARY 2020 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Loose	Inspection and maintenance
Bicknor	Inspection with a view to restoration of Kent's only steel bells.
Hollingbourne	The 5 th broke a gudgeon and work is ongoing to get the bell back in service.
Monkton	Clapper came loose on one of the old bells (now number 5). Nut cut off and replacement fitted.
Pluckley	Peter Sims and I were asked to look at proposed new tower access to the clock room. This would involve a ringer standing under a platform and having insufficient headroom to safely ring the bell. Ongoing.
Selling	Inspection of the sound control with repairs to be completed.
Stowting	Site meeting to agree what is required to allow a kitchen and toilet to be installed in the base of the tower.
West Farleigh	Inspection with a view to fitting stays and sliders. There is evidence that the bells were hung for full circle ringing. The existing wheels, headstocks, bearings are all suitable for full circle ringing the only thing missing being stays and sliders. An estimated cost on parts is around £500. Currently, there is interest in getting the bells ringable for the Maidstone district carol service. While more experienced ringers could quite easily ring them without stays, the vicar has said he is only prepared to let the bells be rung if stays are fitted. The bells would be loud as they stand because there is a trap missing. A piece of ply could possibly be cut to fit. There is a substantial floor under the bells. There is an electric chiming system fitted and should anyone try to 'grab' the tower, this needs to be switched off before the bells are swung. Will they get rung, they won't without stays.