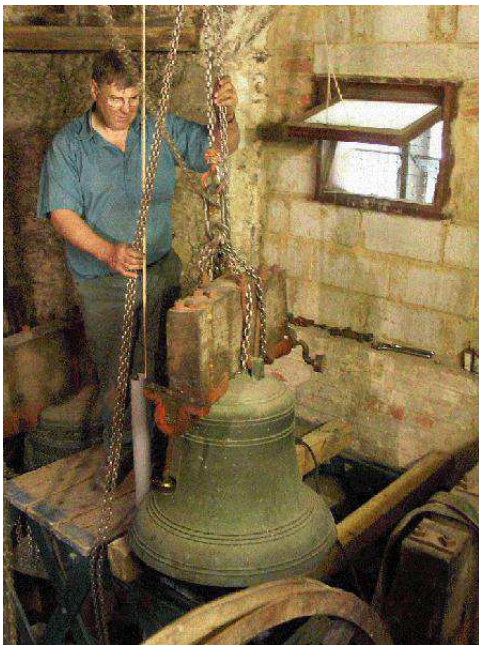


Bell restoration project – Removal of the bells

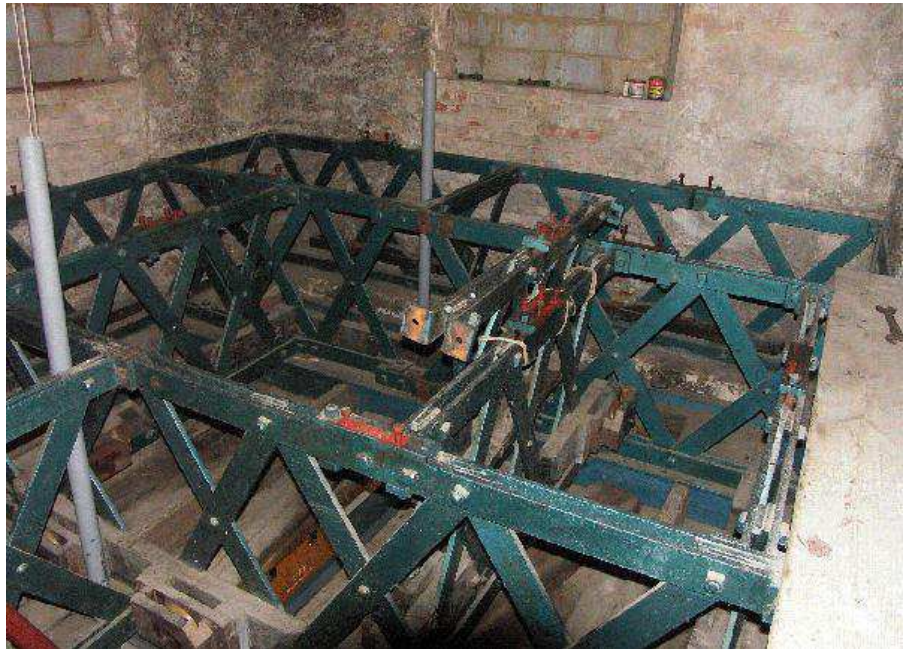
In 1999 the ringing installation needed attention. The 1903 wrought iron frame was sound, and although the bearings had been replaced in 1958, the fittings needed attention. The bells were hung on traditional timber headstocks, which require a lot of maintenance, the wheel rims were deteriorating and the ropes didn't run true.

The bells themselves all pre-dated modern tuning techniques and their sound was from from ideal. One of the clappers was broken and all bells had wear pits where the clappers struck them, which could lead to cracking.

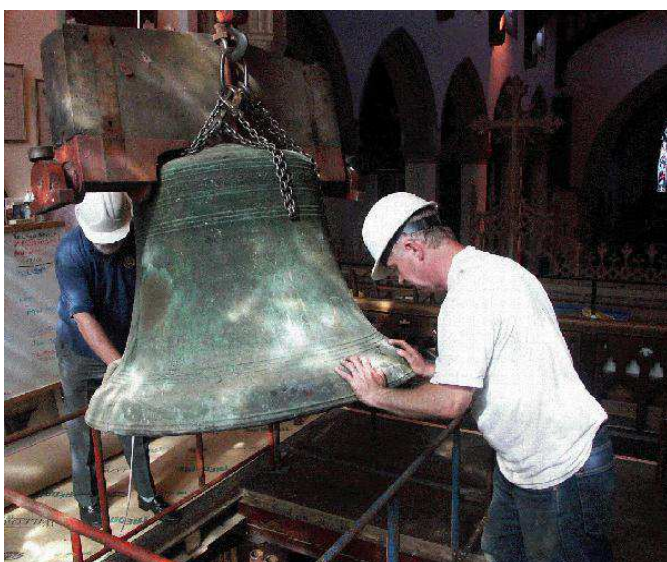
The decision was taken to rehang them with modern fittings and to improve the sound. The first phase of the project was to remove the bells from the tower and take them to the bellhanger's works.



Lifting a bell from its pit



The empty eight-bell frame



Lowering a bell through the floor



Moving a bell out to the lorry