KELTEK TRUST

Conservation by Re-use

Helping churches acquire surplus and/or
redundant bells to be hung
for English-style full-circle bell-ringing.

KELTEK TRUST – Projects in the County of Somerset

Place	Dedication	
Angersleigh	St Michael	Relocation of a surplus bell.
Ansford	St Andrew	Replacement of tonally poor tenor bell.
Bath	Christ Church	Relocation of old ring and supply of three bells.
Bath	St Saviour	Relocation of surplus bells.
Bath	St Stephen	Relocation of two old bells and supply of two bells.
Bicknoller	St George	Location/supply of two treble bells.
Bishops Lydeard	Blessed Virgin Mary	Location/supply of a clock bell.
Brompton Ralph	Blessed Virgin Mary	Location/supply of a bell.
Buckland Dinham	St Michael & All Angels	Location/supply of a bell.
Cheddar	St Andrew	Relocation of a surplus bell.
Chilcompton	St John the Baptist	Relocation of surplus bells.
Compton Dundon	St Andrew	Location/supply of two bells.
Donyatt	Blessed Virgin Mary	Location/supply of a bell.
Dowlish Wake	St Andrew	Location/supply of a bell.
Farleigh Hungerford	St Leonard	Financial assistance for augmentation project.
Freshford	St Peter	Location/supply of a bell.
High Ham	St Andrew	Location/supply of a bell.
Holford	St Mary the Virgin	Location/supply of a bell.
Hutton	St Mary the Virgin	Location/supply of a bell.
Maperton	St Peter & St Paul	Relocation of surplus bells.
Misterton	St Leonard	Relocation of a surplus bell.
Nunney	All Saints	Location/supply of a bell.
Pitcombe	St Leonard	Location/supply of a bell.
Pitminster	St Mary & St Andrew	Replacement 7th bell.
Pitney	St John the Baptist	Location/supply of two bells.
Priddy	St Lawrence	Location/supply of three bells.
Rode Hill	Christ Church	Relocation of a redundant bell.
South Petherton	St Peter & St Paul	Relocation of surplus bells.
Stanton Drew	St Mary	Location/supply of a bell.
Stawley	St Michael	Location/supply of a bell.
Tolland	St John the Baptist	Relocation of surplus bells.
Whitestaunton	St Andrew	Location/supply of a bell.
Woolverton	St Lawrence	Relocation of two redundant bells.

Updated 23rd April 2025

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Angersleigh, Somerset, St Michael

During 1999 a surplus bell from Angersleigh, Somerset was used to augment Freshford, Somerset from a ring of five to a ring of six.
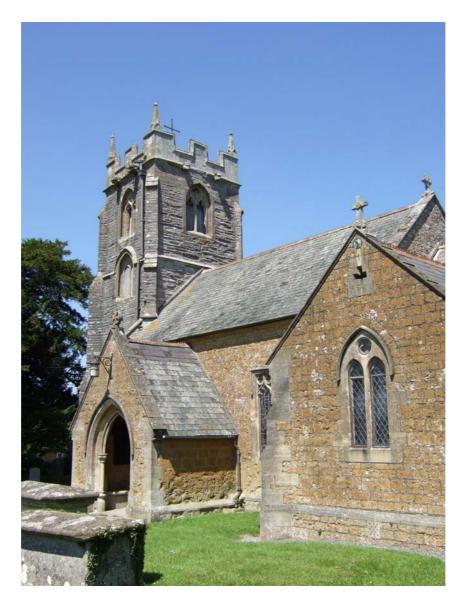
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Ansford, Somerset, St Andrew

The ring of four was augmented to six in 1991 and in 1998 the poor sounding tenor bell was replaced by a second-hand bell from St Anne's church, Rainhill, Merseyside.

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Bath, Somerset, Christ Church

The unringable ring of eight bells has been replaced with a True Harmonic cast ring of bells in a new metal bellframe. The back three bells of the new ring were originally part of the chime at the now demolished church of St Mary (RC), Highfield St, Liverpool. Bells from the old ring have been relocated at Sydney (Dulwich Hill), Ipstones, Willingale and Prescot.

Youtube video of the old installation.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_G8zrzEvbM
Photographs during the restoration:	https://www.flickr.com/photos/keltektrust/sets/72157645097537731/
Youtube video of the old bells ringing.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nuBzA4zUtw
Youtube video of the new bells ringing.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKQW3EFRLYk

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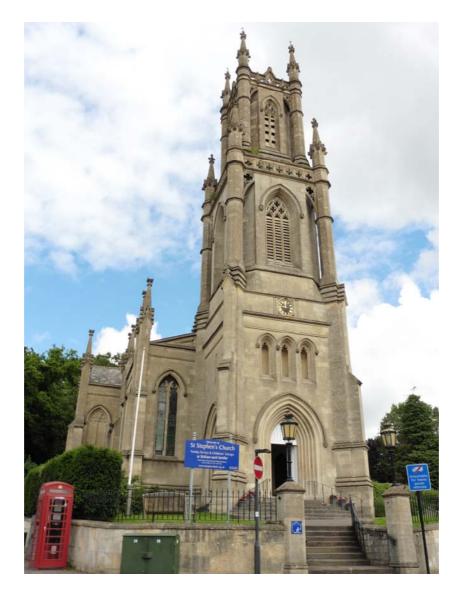## Bath, Somerset, St. Saviour, Larkhall

A lighter ring of eight bells which are more suited to the tower was installed during the 1990's. The four surplus bells from the earlier ring are now hung for ringing in four different churches. Three have been retained in Somerset and the other is the tenor bell at Griffith, NSW, Australia.

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Bath, Somerset, St. Stephen, Lansdown

The three-bell swing chime has been replaced with a ringing peal of six bells with a tenor of approximately 3cwt. The tenor bell is an ex-Trinity House buoy bell donated by the Trust and the 5th is a surplus bell from Parks & Walcot, Swindon. Four new bells were cast including one in memory of Robin Stubbs, former tower captain at Bathwick. The ring of bells was installed and first rung for Christmas 2007.

Photographs during the restoration: https://www.flickr.com/photos/keltektrust/albums/72157631817460675

Youtube video of the bells ringing. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMPBRlSaAFk

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Bicknoller, Somerset, St George

The ring of four bells was augmented to five during 1994 by adding the former second of the pre-1993 ring at St Saviour, Larkhall, Bath. Nineteen years later, during October 2013 a bell ex-High Wycombe was installed as the treble of the ring of six.
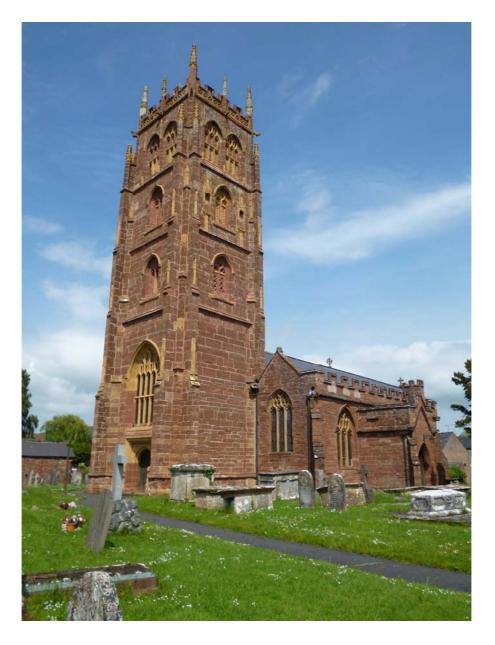
Youtube video of the bells ringing.   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oe0Fyu18KMo

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Bishops Lydeard, Somerset, Blessed Virgin Mary

The church has a fine ring of eight bells. During 1996 we were requested to locate a second-hand bell for installation as an independent clock strike bell.

A bell cast by Robert Russell circa 1490, ex-Awliscombe, Devon was acquired and installed.

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Brompton Ralph, Somerset, Blessed Virgin Mary

The ring of four bells had been classed as unringable for several years. They were restored and augmented to six during 2006. A second-hand bell located via the Trust is the second and a newly cast bell completes the ring. Work was completed in time for the bells to be rung for the Christmas Eve service.

Youtube video of the bells ringing.   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOU7EvNxLMY

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Buckland Dinham, Somerset, St Michael & All Angels

The ring of six bells had been unringable from the 1950's until the completion of an ambitious restoration program in 1994 to replace the rotten bell-frame and augment to eight bells. The heavier of the two ex-St Paul's Bristol bells is now the 2nd of the ring of eight and is the first bell donated by our trustees.

Surviving church records tell of local ringers being paid 5 shillings for beer, for ringing on November 5th each year in memory of the 1605 Gunpowder Plot. This tradition was kept up until 1878.
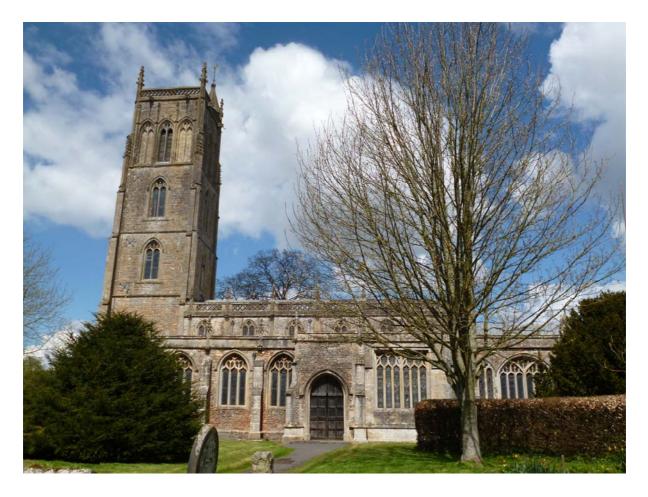
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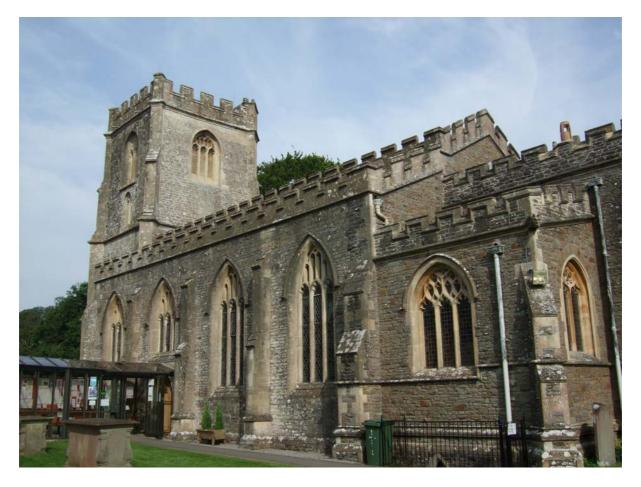
Cheddar, Somerset, St Andrew

Four of the ring of eight bells were replaced in 2002 with newly cast bells. The former treble bell was acquired by the Keltek Trust and has been installed at Badsworth, West Yorkshire as the treble of six.

The former 2nd is now the replacement 2nd at Fontmell Magna, Dorset; the former 3rd is the sharp 5th at Lydeard St Lawrence, Somerset. Both bells were relocated by Bob Parker and without Keltek Trust assistance. The former 6th bell was scrapped.

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Chilcompton, Somerset, St John the Baptist

The heavy ring of six was replaced with a ring of ten bells (now twelve) as part of the Ringing in the Millenium project.

The Trust located new homes for the front four bells; the old treble, third and fourth are now the three tenors of the ring of six at East Rudham, Norfolk and the old second is part of a clock chime at Manor Farm, Wantage.

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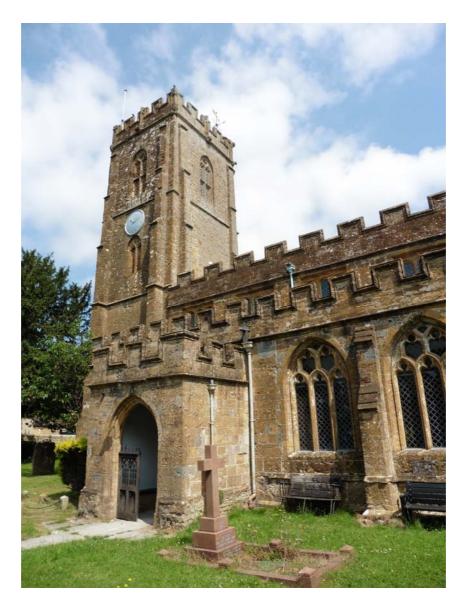
Compton Dundon, Somerset, St Andrew

The heavy ring of five bells was rehung for chiming during 1935. The chime has been restored for traditional full-circle ringing and augmented to six. The existing tenor bell has been retired and the Trust donated a surplus bell ex-Lindfield, Sussex as the second and a bell ex-Church Kirk as the treble of six.

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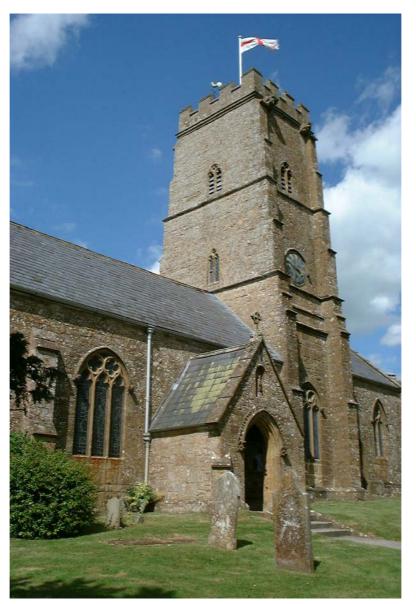## Donyatt, Somerset, Blessed Virgin Mary

The ring of four bells was augmented to five during 2002 by adding a surplus bell from Coggeshall, Essex. The ring of eight at Coggeshall was augmented to ten as a millennium project and this involved disposing of three of the original bells. The Trust found alternative homes for all three bells but this is the only one now hung for full-circle ringing.

Youtube video of the bells ringing. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApWNeTpki5k

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Dowlish Wake, Somerset, St Andrew

This fine-sounding ring of five bells was augmented to six by the addition of a surplus bell from St Augustine's Centre, Southampton. The Trust acquired the bell and put it into storage until a suitable project was found. The ringers at Dowlish Wake worked hard to raise the necessary funds and the bell was re-dedicated on Sunday 10th June 2001 by the Venerable John Reed, Archdeacon of Taunton. The bells have recently been augmented to eight by adding two newly cast trebles.

Youtube video of the bells ringing. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHfW7KriWUE

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Farleigh Hungerford, St Leonard

The pre-restoration ring of four bells at Farleigh Hungerford were only rung a few times over the previous 25 years. They were patched-up at least twice by ringers from the Bath & Frome areas to allow them to be rung for special occasions. They fell silent again in 1995 when it was realised professional work would be required before they could ring again. Details of the bells are as follows:

Treble   *PHIL PALMAR WARDEN 1681 L C*
                              Hungerford arms on the waist
Second *IN TERRA PAX   ANNA HOULTON DEDIT*
                                      LLEWELLINS & JAMES
                                           BRISTOL
                                             1885
                                Hungerford arms
Third   *JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS*
                                      FECIT 1810
Tenor   *GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO 1613*
                    Weight 4-3-3, Note C – 28 cents

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The oldest bell, the tenor was cast by Roger Purdue of Bristol. The treble of the four is believed to have been cast by Lewis Cockey of Frome and is thought to be the earliest known bell by this founder. The second bell is a 19th Century recast of a 1681 bell. Although a small village, it was important in ancient times; the nearby castle was the seat of the Hungerford family whose arms appear on the two trebles. The village was an important cloth manufacturing centre and remains of the industry can be found below the castle walls by the River Frome.

The restoration of the ring was completed during 1999. The *Frome Branch* of the *Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers* donated a surplus bell to augment the ring to five. The Keltek Trust financially assisted the *Frome Branch* in this worthwhile project.

Following the augmentation from four to five it is now proposed to augment to six and replace the undersized tenor with a second-hand bell ex-Gorran, Cornwall.

Details of the bells taken from: *The Bells of the Frome Deanery* by George Massey.

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Freshford, Somerset, St Peter

The ring of five was augmented to six during 1999 with the addition of a surplus bell from Angersleigh, Somerset.

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High Ham, Somerset, St Andrew

The heavy ring of five has been augmented to six by adding a second-hand bell ex-Chawton, Hampshire. The work was completed during January 2016.

Right: The treble of six in its bell-frame.

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Holford, Somerset, St Mary the Virgin

The ring of five bells was augmented to six in 1995 by adding a second-hand bell from Holy Trinity, Gosport located by the Trust.

Youtube video of the bells ringing.   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNkIU88pd9I

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Hutton, Somerset, St Mary the Virgin

The ring of five bells has been rehung in a new frame and augmented to six by the addition of a second-hand bell (ex-Maperton) located by the Trust. The project was completed during 2010.

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Maperton, Somerset, St Peter & St Paul

Two bells were replaced in 2004 by newly cast bells. The Trust has found new homes for these bells; one has been installed at Stawley, Somerset and the other at Hutton, Somerset.

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Misterton, Somerset, St Leonard

The Trust acquired a surplus Llewellins & James bell from the parish in 2007. It is now the treble of the ring of five at Avington, Hampshire.

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Nunney, Somerset, All Saints

The ring of six bells has been augmented to eight. The 2nd of eight is a second-hand bell from Chelsfield, Kent. The augmentation work was completed during September 2023.
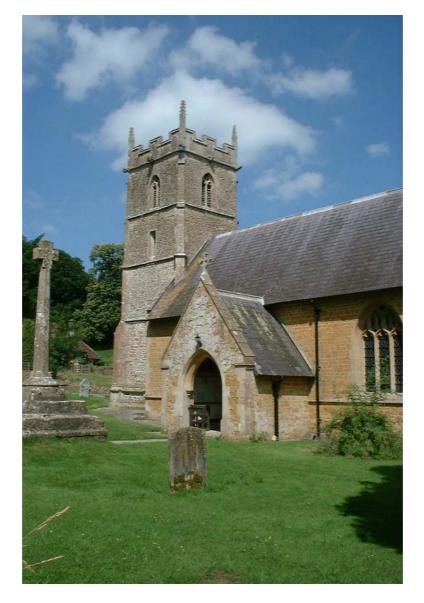
Youtube video of the bells ringing.   https://youtu.be/FB3estPdG0g

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Pitcombe, Somerset, St Leonard

The pre-2014 minor key ring of three consisting of a modern tenor bell and two listed treble bells cast by Henry Jeffries circa 1550 has been augmented to a ring of six bells. A second-hand bell, ex-Sandhurst, Kent has been installed as the new tenor and two newly cast trebles added. The original bells are now three to five of the ring of six.

The augmented ring was dedicated on 4th May 2014.

Youtube video of the bells ringing.   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thITUF5x3wM

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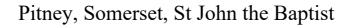
Pitminster, Somerset, St Mary & St Andrew

The cracked 7th bell has been replaced with a bell from the pre-2020 ring at Stafford, St Mary. The work was completed during August 2020.

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Pitney, Somerset, St John the Baptist

The poor toned ring of five bells has been improved by replacing two bells; The old 2nd bell has been replaced by a bell from the former church of St James, Upton, Somerset (this bell was not relocated by the Keltek Trust) and the old 3rd bell has been replaced by a redundant bell from St Joseph's Convent, West Wickham, Kent. At the same time the ring was augmented to six by adding a bell from the demolished church of St Clement, Bristol. The restoration work was completed during April 2014.

Youtube video of the bells ringing.   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpqITVCH0kE

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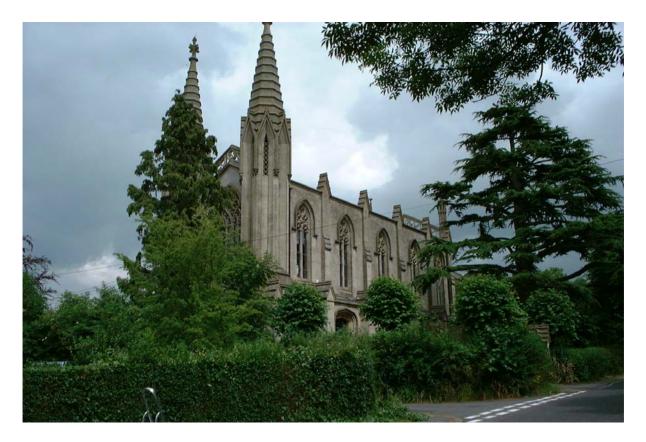
Priddy, Somerset, St Lawrence

The ring of three bells was augmented to five during 1997 by adding two bells located by the Trust. One of these was the 5th of the former ring of eight at Holy Trinity, Gosport, Hampshire; the other was from Compton, Surrey. During 2007 we located another bell (ex-West Fordington, Dorset) and it was hung in 2009 to augment the ring to 6.

Youtube video of the bells ringing.   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATMDjnT6ftU

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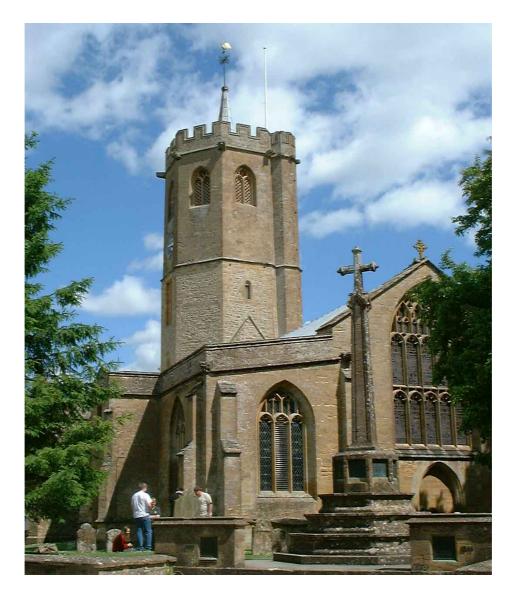
Rode Hill, Somerset, Christ Church

Like many redundant churches in England, the costs of repair by far exceeded the parishes income. The Victorian building was erected in 1824 and has two polygonal turrets at the west end. The bell cast in 1823 by John Rudhall was hung for static chiming in the Southern turret; there being insufficient room to swing the bell. The Trust acquired the bell after the church was declared redundant and it is now the tenor of a new ring of six bells at Menangle, NSW, Australia.

The congregation of Christ Church now worship at the parish church of St Lawrence, Rode.

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South Petherton, Somerset, St Peter & St Paul

The *Ringing in the Millennium* project to replace the poor-sounding ring of eight bells with a newly-cast ring of twelve bells involved the disposal of seven of the existing bells. The former third bell, cast by Robert Wiseman in 1641 to be retained in the tower because of its historic interest.

The Trust was contacted to help find new homes for as many bells as possible within the tight schedule of work. The old treble is now the treble of the ring of four bells at Horton-in-Ribblesdale, North Yorkshire.

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The old South Petherton second has replaced the broken 4th bell at Horfield, Bristol allowing ringing to resume once again.

The fourth bell was found to be cracked and is currently being used to help develop clapper indentation weld-repair techniques.

The old sixth bell is now hung for chiming at St Mary of Furness, Barrow-in-Furness and the old tenor bell has been hung for chiming at St Charles of Borromeo, Detroit, USA.

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Stanton Drew, Somerset, St Mary

The ring of five bells has been augmented to six by adding a surplus bell ex-Roath, Cardiff. The augmentation work was completed during December 2018.

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Stawley, Somerset, St Michael

The ring of five bells was augmented to six during 2007 by the addition of a second-hand bell (ex-Maperton, Somerset). The augmentation project required the existing treble bells to be slightly re-tuned to bring their strike notes into line.

Youtube video of the bells ringing.   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lIdMuZWkVs

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Tolland, Somerset, St John the Baptist

The unringable ring of three bells has been replaced with a newly cast light ring of eight. The Trust assisted the parish to find a new home for two of the original ring of three bells. They have now been installed at Our Lady & St Philip, Uckfield.

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Whitestaunton, Somerset, St Andrew

The unringable ring of five bells has been restored and augmented to six. The treble bell came from St Matthew & St Mary, Bootle, Merseyside.

The restored bells were rung for the first time on Friday 19th May 2017.

Youtube video of the bells ringing.   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_fRDUpCTPA

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Woolverton, Somerset, St Lawrence

Woolverton like Rode Hill was part of the Rode major group of parishes. The church was declared redundant at the same time as Christ Church, Rode Hill and both buildings have found alternative uses.

We acquired the two medieval bells and both have been relocated. The ex-Woolverton treble has been hung as a service bell at Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon and the tenor bell has been hung for full-circle ringing at Buscot, Oxfordshire where it is now the treble of a ring of four bells.