

stocks are badly worn eaten, especially the 2<sup>nd</sup> & they ought really to be all put in new but I dare say the other 5 by painting them 3 coats of paint would last sometime longer but the 2<sup>nd</sup> must be put in new, the gudgeons and bearings are worn badly, the gudgeon plates when they were put there were put in too long and have no end play and they have been rubbing end ways against the bearings, the bearings must be put in new also the gudgeons but new gudgeons can be fitted into the same plates, the plates must have a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " turned off from the end of each to give them some play.

The wheels are a heavy and clumsily made set and the hoops and felloeing on them are worn eaten very badly, this must be put on new and painted, the ironwork on all the Bells is rusty, and it will all have to come off, it will have to be very carefully taken off so as not to lose the thread on it, some of the pulleys under the wheels want new pins in them, and all the clappers of the Bells want new leather stumps put in them and some bolts and there are 3 or 4 new stays wanted. If I have to do the work I should send down a couple of men and take off the wheels, unhang the Bells and drop them on the floor and take off the ironwork and stocks, and send the stocks, gudgeon plates, gudgeons and bearings and the wheels home here to my workshops and rehoop and refelloe the wheels and fit up the new bearings and put new gudgeons into the same plates and fit them into the stocks again, paint it all 2 coats of paint and give it another coat in the tower when fixed except wheels which would have 3 coats



here, and then send it all back again and send the men down and put bolts in the frame and hang the Bells up again. I should much prefer to have rehung the Bells on the same frame (after bolting and strengthening it) with all new fittings entirely. I could then have made a thorough good job of it.

I will undertake to put in 18 long  $\frac{3}{4}$  bolts, 6 more strap plates to joints, and where possible let bolts go through the beams, and put 4 oak struts in frame as shown, 2 on each side of the tenor, and run off the nuts from the present bolts and oil them and strain the frame well up together and remove the wedges, unhang the six Bells and take off the wheels and stocks from them, and the gudgeons and plates and the bearings and carriages and take them home here and put new gudgeons to same plates and turn off about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from end of each gudgeon plate as they are too long, put new bearings to same carriages and fit iron hinged covers with thumb screws to them put new hoops & felloes to the wheels and paint wheels 3 coats of paint put a new stock to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and fit it to the Bell, new pins to the ground pulleys where wanted, new leather stirrups to all the clappers and make good the bolts in them, put a new pair of iron stays to bottom part of each wheel and stay them to the stock, put 3 new stays, do any repairs that are wanted to the iron work, clean the ironwork and stocks and paint it 3 coats, pay travelling expenses for my men to and from Kingsbridge (there would be 2 journeys each way for the men) pay carriage of material from Kingsbridge and back again, you to take material



from Churchston to Kingsbridge and back and  
fetch mens tools <sup>and take the pack again to Station</sup> from Station, and I will leave  
Bells in good ringing order for the sum of  
Thirty ~~£~~ Five Pounds, Eighteen Shillings (£ 35.18.0).

I remain Res<sup>d</sup> Sir & Gentlemen

your Obedient Servant

Harry Stokes

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 1908 wrote to Mr. J. Walter Symons asking  
him to have all new gudgeon plates and new bearing  
carnages at a cost of about £3.15/- extra  
to the contract  
5 new stocks to be an extra.



# Kingbridge Church Bells

July 10<sup>th</sup> 1908

To the Rev. H. A. Birkes.

Rev. Sir,

The frames which carry your peal of 8 Bells is I find wedged and strutted to the tower walls and this was done not many years ago since the Bells were hung and it was done to make the frame more rigid as I expect that when all the Bells were rung in peal that the frames swayed about a good bit especially the top frame, and if these struts & wedges were removed I expect the Bells would go rather badly without the frame could be strengthened up a bit more, this can be done I think by putting some extra long bolts into it. There are some cracks in the tower, one in the south wall in the chamber under the Bells and a crack in each wall North, East & West in the ringing chamber and some of the cracks appear to me to be fresh ones. I dare say that if about 12 extra bolts were put down through the bottom frame that the wedges between this frame and the wall could be removed, but I am not sure if by putting about 10 long bolts down through the top frame which carries the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Bells that the wedges could be removed from it, but the bolts by straining them well up and also straining up the old bolts would tighten up the frame and make it more rigid, if this would not do, the only thing to be done would be to take out the oak frame from these 3 top Bells and put some steel girders across the tower, two running North & South and three ~~two~~ East & West and put in an iron frame on top of these girders for the 3 top Bells but you could



try the putting in of the bolts first and remove the wedges & you would by ringing a peal or two find out if it would answer. The Bells want some overhauling the first 6 want new gudgeons & bearings put into them this would ~~not~~ make the bells run more smoothly they are worn now and this makes the gudgeons bump about in the bearings when they are ringing and tends to make the frame sway about, I pointed this out to the Foreman of the Ringers when he was in the tower with me. The 7<sup>th</sup> & tenor bells have had new gudgeons & bearings put into them in recent years and now all the others want them as they were put there when the bells were put in the tower, to put new gudgeons & bearings into these bells they would all have to be unhung, & if I had ~~to~~ to do it I should send down & unhang the bells and take the old gudgeons & bearings here to my place because new gudgeons could be fitted into the same plates that are now on the stocks and it could be done better here than in the tower, the pulleys, wheels, clappers &c. want overhauling and all the ironwork wants cleaning & painting.

The cost of putting the extra bolts through the frames, putting new gudgeons and bearings to the first 6 Bells new clapper leathers to 6 clappers, new pulley pins where wanted, clean all the ironwork and paint it 2 coats, carriage of things to and from, and travelling expenses for men will be Thirty One Pounds, Fourteen Shillings (£31-14-0).



July 10<sup>th</sup> 1908

To

Rev<sup>d</sup> G. V. Collins

Bholand Rectory

Rev<sup>d</sup> L<sup>i</sup>

The cost of a set of Muffles for your bells  
will be 3/6 each. £1.10.0 the set. if you are going  
to have them, and send me the order by return I could  
get them made and bring them down next week

H. S.



To

July 10<sup>th</sup> 1908

Messrs Smyth, Richards & Fox

Sirs

I will hang the Wymet Portland Bell in the frame, which has been made and fixed in the Tower for it, with all new fittings, complete, namely. Wheel stock, stay & slider, slider brant, pulley. Steel gudgeons and gun metal bearings, ironwork, rope, port clappa right and properly hang it in bell. Paint the ironwork and stock and following part of wheel 3 coats paint pay carriage of fittings to Wymet and travelling expenses for men, and leave bell complete fit for ringing for the sum of £11<sup>0</sup> 8<sup>0</sup> 0. I should want to go out <sup>to Wymet</sup> and take the exact measurements I want. This is included in the above sum

Harry Stokes



# Pillaton Church Bells

July 16<sup>th</sup> 1908.

To the Rev: R. Docking,

Rev: Sirs

The cost of providing and fixing an oak framing bed & a cast iron frame for two bells in your Church Tower, the frame to be bolted or strapped down to the girders now in the Tower & hanging three bells with all new fittings complete viz:- wheels, stocks, stays and sliders, pulleys, steel gudgeons & gunmetal bearings, the steel gudgeons fitted into iron bed plates & clip bolted to the stocks, & the bearings fitted into iron pedestal carriages bolted down to frame, each bearing to be fitted with an iron hinged cover, all new ironwork to hang the bells with, quarter turn 2 bells and also the 3rd if not recast, provide 3 new bell ropes & 3 new clappers, provide 4 new shutters in chamber under the bells for ropes to pass through properly carry away ropes from wheels to ringing chamber, & fix patrices & shimbles to each rope for it to work in, paint the iron frame 3 coats of paint, two coats before fixing & one after, pay carriage of frame and fittings to Pillaton & travelling expenses for my men, & complete it in a workmanlike and satisfactory manner will be (£82.14.0) Eighty Two Pounds Fourteen Shillings

---

If it is found necessary to recast the present 3rd bell the cost will be Twenty Pounds Seven Shillings (£20.7.0). You to deliver the bell into Saltash Station, & to pay carriage of her to the Foundry, London & back to Pillaton & add what mesd is required to allow for waste in



recasting viz: - 3 lbs per cwt, If it was found in recasting that she had to be made heavier than she is at present what was added to her would be charged for at  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>d</sup> per lb:

A new Treble a No: 1 Bell to make the peal into four, & to weigh about  $3\frac{3}{4}$  cwt, delivered at Pillington Church and hung in the tower with all new fittings complete, same as described for the 3 Bells, & left fit for ringing will be Thirty Nine Pounds, Eighteen Shillings & Sixpence  
£39. 18. 6

A new No. 2 Bell to make the peal into four & to weigh about 4 cwt, delivered at Pillaton Church & hung in the tower with all new fittings complete & left fit for ringing will be Forty Two Pounds Eight Shillings & Sixpence  
(£42. 8. 6)

A new tenor Bell to make the peal into six & to weigh about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  cwt, delivered at Pillaton Church, & hung in the tower with all new fittings complete & left fit for ringing will be Seventy Seven Pounds, Five Shillings £77. 5. 0

If either of the new Bells were over the weights mentioned viz: -  $3\frac{3}{4}$  cwt, 4 cwt,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  cwt the extra weight would be charged for at  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>d</sup> per lb. Any inscription put on either of the bells, would be charged for at 3<sup>d</sup> per letter

The carriage of the two old Bells (1st & 2nd) to the Foundry, London & back again you to deliver them at Saltash Station will be Two Pounds Fyteen Shillings (£2, 15, 0)



	£	s.	d
Frame for size 9 hanging three	82	14	0
Recasting present tenor	20	7	0
New treble	39	18	6
New second	42	8	6
New tenor	77	5	0
Carriage of two old bells	2	15	0
Total	<u>265</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>



Bodmin Church Bells

July 17th 1905

To the

Vicar & Churchwardens of Bodmin.

PRov. Sir & Gentlemen,

I beg to report that there is no need for you to have your peal of eight bells now in the Tower recast, I know that the sound of some of them in ringing is not what it should be but that is owing a great deal to some of the clappers not striking the bells where they ought, they are striking too far up the bell & some of the clappers are too heavy & this causes a flatness in the sound. Six of the bells (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7) also want quarter turning as they are worn at the sound too very badly they have been striking on one place since 1767 (141 years) and they are worn thin, this also affects the tone of them, when these bells are quarter turned and clappers put right the tone will be altogether different, it will be more full & brighter as the clappers will be striking on a proper thickness of metal. The 6th does not want quarter turning, this one dates 1808, & the tenor was quarter turned when it was last hung about 20 years ago. The other six ought then to have been quarter turned, none of the bells will want to be taken out of the tower, for quarter turning, it can all be done in the tower.

The old oak frame which carries the bell is in a very bad state & it has been cut about a great deal to get room for the bells to swing around & this has weakened it considerably, I noticed when the bells were rung up singly, that the frame shifted about a great deal, but when I saw the frame with all the bells ringing, it rocked like a cradle &



This causes the bells to ring hard especially when they are rung in changes, the frame on which the 5th bell is hung is very bad indeed & the bell is dangerous to ring, she ought not to be rung at all in peal in her present condition, if you do you will have some accident with her, I should not recommend an oak frame again, as one could not be put in without cutting it about. I should recommend to put in oak beams under an oak framing bed on the beams, & a deal floor cut in between the oak bed & nailed to beams, & put on independent cast iron frame, fixed on the oak bed & bolted through the bed to the beams under, it would be quite rigid & it would be clear from the tower walls all around by easing down the walls on the North & South sides where they are now cut out, this kind of frame with oak bed & beams would not affect the tone of bells like all iron & steel would.

The fittings on the bells are not fit to be used again, the bearings are worn out & the greater part of them are very loose, the clappers want reworking & the stocks & pullies are gone bad what is wanted is to lower the bells to the chamber under, take out the old fittings, frame, floor and beams, & put in all new, there is one awkward thing about it & that is that nothing can be let down through to bottom of tower & carried out, it will all have to go out from the window on North side up where the bells are, & all the new work will have to go up on outside & be taken in the window the same way. This can all go over only it will take longer to do. The deal ceiling which is up under the bells on the two steel girders will have to come down.



& be repaired, but not the sliders, & the  
Clock will have to be protected & the weights  
all taken down & repaired, the Clock &  
weights will be a Clockman's job.

### Estimate

I will undertake to take out the old fittings  
frame, floor & beams from the tower take  
down the match board ceiling which is in  
the Clock Chamber up under the Bells, put  
the board away & replace it, when the frame  
& Bells are fixed & make good what is wanted  
lower down the eight Bells from where they are  
now & put part of them in Clock Chamber & part  
in ringing Chamber, do all the masonry that I  
should require in casing walls & levelling up the  
setoffs to take the main beams, provide & fix  
in the tower four English oak beams, two  $14 \times 10$   
 $14 \times 9$  & one  $14 \times 8$  provide make & fix an oak  
framing bed for the 8 Bells, fixed on the beams  
& bolted down to them, & cut in each pit between  
the framing & lie on the beams & nail to them  
a good red deal floor 2" thick, the size of oak  
scantling for framing bed to be  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ ,  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$   
&  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ , provide, make & fix in the tower a  
Cast Iron frame for the 8 Bells, the frame  
to be of sufficient strength & substance to  
resist the action of the Bells when ringing  
(the weight of iron frame will be 4½ tons)  
& to be bolted down through the framing bed  
into the main beams & to be clear from the  
tower walls, paint the frame three coats of iron  
oxide paint, two coats before fixing & one after.  
Have the 8 Bells again into their places in  
the new frame & hang them with all new  
fittings as follows viz: wheels, stocks, slays &



slides, pulleys, steel gudgeons & funneral bearings,  
the steel gudgeons to be fitted into iron bed-plate  
& clips fitted to the stocks & the bearings to be  
fitted into iron pedestal carriages fitted with  
iron lubricating cones, all new ironwork  
to hang the bells with, quarter turn 1st  
2nd 3rd 4th 5th & 7th Bells & put new quarter  
staples in them, put the clappers in proper  
order & properly hang them in the bells.  
provide a new set of bed made bell ropes,  
paint all the ironwork, stocks, & following  
part of wheels 3 coats of paint, pay all  
carriage of my materials & all travelling  
expences for my men & complete the work  
in a workmanlike & satisfactory manner  
& to the satisfaction of any one you would  
like to appoint to inspect it, or try the go  
of the bells, anyone that knows anything of  
Church Bell work, for the sum of  
Two Hundred & Thirty four Pounds, and  
seventeen Shillings £234.17.0

all the old material I have out to be  
my property

I remain  
Res. Sir & Gentlemen  
Your obedient Servant.  
Harry Storer.



## Twitchen Church Bells

July 23. 1908

To the Rev. J. G. Churni  
Rev. Sir.

I have examined the Bells, frame and fittings in the above Church Tower and I found that the treble Bell was cracked and the cannon head gone from her, this Bell must be recast and a new clapper put to her; the other 2 Bells want ~~quartering~~ turning in rehanging as the clappers have worn the Bells where they have been striking for so many years the frame and fittings are worn out and it all wants clearing out from the tower and all new put in.

I will undertake to recast the 1<sup>st</sup> Bell and cast her in proper note with the others, take her down from the tower and send her to the Foundry, London and pay carriage of her from Twitchen to London and back to Twitchen again, provide a new clapper for her, and add new metal enough to her to make her again with a cannon head, and hoist her into her place again into the tower. I will also undertake to lower down the other 2 Bells to the chamber under, and take out the old fittings, frame, floor, and beams from the tower, and provide and fix in the tower 4 oak beams, two to be 9x7 and two 9x8, provide, make, and fix in the tower an English oak frame for the 3 Bells, the frame to be bolted together with about 22 long  $\frac{3}{4}$ " bolts, and bolts where convenient to go down through into beams, all the joints of frame to be secured with stout strap plates, the scantling of frame to be the



same as marked on plan, provide and cut in  
between each pit and lie on the beams a best  
red deal floor  $1\frac{1}{2}$  thick well nailed to beams,  
and I will hoist the Bells again into their  
places in the new frame and hang them  
with all new fittings complete viz: wheels,  
stocks, stays and sliders, pulleys, steel  
gudgeons and gunmetal bearings, all new  
ironwork to hang the Bells with, quarter turn  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bells and provide new clappers  
for them, provide new Bellropes and properly  
guide them away from wheels through floors  
with all necessary thimbles and patrices,  
paint all the ironwork, stocks and felloeing  
part of wheels 3 coats, pay all carriage of my  
materials from here to Turtchen and all  
travelling expenses for my men and complete  
the work in a workmanlike and satisfactory  
manner and to the satisfaction of anyone  
you may like to appoint to inspect the  
work or try the go of the Bells anyone that  
knows anything about Church Bell work for  
the sum of Seventy One Pounds, Eighteen  
Shillings (£71-18-0) and all the old  
bearings and ironwork to be my property  
and the old wood and ropes to be yours  
Harry Stokes



# Pillaton Church Bells.

Aug. 12. 08

To the Rev. R. Hocking,  
Rev. Sir

The cost of providing and fixing a steel girder bed on the present floor & girders now in the tower (without disturbing the present floor & girders) and a cast iron frame for six Bells fixed on the bed, and hanging your present three Bells as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> (when recast) in a peal of six, with all new fittings complete, carriage &c. as stated in my estimate of July 16<sup>th</sup> will be One Hundred and Five Pounds Thirteen Shillings (£105-13-0). I have had to increase the weight and sizes of the iron frame as now it will have to carry a tenor Bell between 11 and 12 cwt., this with the steel girder bed has increased the cost a good bit.

The cost of recasting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bell will be Twenty Pounds, Seven Shillings, (£20-7-0).

The cost of a new 4<sup>th</sup> Bell weighing about 8 cwt., with clapper, carriage, fittings, & hanging will be Seventy Three Pounds, Fifteen Shillings and Sixpence (£73-15-6).

The cost of a new 5<sup>th</sup> Bell weighing about 9 cwt., with clapper, carriage, fittings & hanging will be Eighty One Pounds (£81-0-0).

The cost of a new 6<sup>th</sup> Bell weighing about 11 1/4 cwt., with clapper, carriage, fittings & hanging will be Ninety Eight Pounds, Two Shillings (£98-2-0).



The carriage of two old Bells from Saltash Station to the Foundry, London + back again will be Two Pounds, Fifteen Shillings (£2-15-0).

If any of the new Bells were over the weights mentioned the extra weight would be charged for at the rate of £7-0-0 per cwt, and if under deducted at the same rate, any inscriptions put on the Bells would be charged for at 3<sup>d</sup> per letter.

Frame for six + hanging three	£	s	d
	105	13	0
Recasting 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bell	20	7	0
New 4 <sup>th</sup> Bell	73	15	6
New 5 <sup>th</sup> Bell	81	0	0
New 6 <sup>th</sup> Bell	98	2	0
Carriage of 2 old Bells	2	15	0
Total	£	381	12-6



# Colyton Church Bells

Aug. 20. 1908

To the Rev. G. F. Molinere

Rev. Sir,

The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> Bells in your tower require overhauling, the 2<sup>nd</sup> must be taken out from its bearing and have the gudgeons taken out and new gudgeons fitted to the same bearings as the gudgeons are worn oval, the 4<sup>th</sup> wants to have the clapper taken out, also the old crock cover staple which is kept in by wedges, these get loose, and a new staple put in, fitted down over the staple which is cast in the bell, and put a new top to the clapper and hang the clapper with an iron stirrup filled in with leather, the 5<sup>th</sup> wants a new stock and gudgeons & bearings, the new gudgeons would be fitted into iron bed plates and the bearings into carriages similar to those now on the 4<sup>th</sup>, part new ironwork would have to be put to this bell, the clapper wants drawing out as it is too large in the stem and to be rehung with a new box, to take the bearing on side against tenor a new piece of wood would be wanted on top of frame in place of the piece put there some years ago, and well bolt it to top of frame, the pulley of this bell wants a new pin, the 6<sup>th</sup> wants new gudgeons & bearings and I think I can put plate gudgeons similar to those on the 4<sup>th</sup> on to the same stock, part new ironwork will be wanted to this bell and a new pulley pin to the the pulley, the wheels of this bell and the 1<sup>st</sup> bell want to be set true.

I should have to send up a couple of men



for a few days and unhang the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> + tenor bells and have the stocks sent home here to be fitted with the new gudgeons + bearings and then send them back again, and the men would ~~then~~ then go up and refit them on the Bells and hang the bells up again and do all the rest that was required.

The cost of doing this work which I have named will be about £27. or £28. but if I find that I cannot use the tenor stock again so as to make a good job of this bell and have to put a new stock it would then cost about £20.0.0 more

There may be a few items more to be done other than what I have named, if so it would cost a little more.



West-Workington chiming appt-

August-26<sup>th</sup> 1908

To

Rev<sup>d</sup> H. Q. Hill

Rev<sup>d</sup> S. J.

The cost of providing and fixing  
the Collacombe chiming apparatus to the peal of  
6 Bells in West-Workington Church Tower, all complete  
will be £8<sup>12</sup>0

yours obediently  
Harry Stokes



To

Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> 1908

Rev<sup>d</sup> W. S. Haynes

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

The cost of providing a 30 gallon galvanized cistern and fixing same and providing a wood bracket and cleat to carry cistern altering the present lead pipe and fixing it further up to fill cistern and putting same tap to it, fixing piece of 1" old pipe now there in outhouse, and fixing it in cistern with new 1" brass tap to it and bring it over to the wash up providing and fixing a new tap further down the pump pipe for filling buckets or cans will be  $\$2^{18.0}$  if you prefer to have a 40 gallon cistern it will be  $\$3^{18.0}$  more.

yours obediently  
Harry Stokes



Sep. 16. 1908

To Rev. W. S. Stayner.

Rev. Sir.

The Kitchen pump at  
Blyford Manor is a good deal out of  
order and it may break down again  
at any time, the plumber soldered  
the leaks on Monday but it is only a  
temporary job, as the pipe in the  
well has been mended so many times  
and is entirely worn out and the  
oak bearers to which the pipes are  
fastened are rotten.

There are 4 oak bearers required  
and about 30 feet of lead pipe and  
some lead collar, To put in 30 feet  
of 1½" stout lead pump pipe and 4 oak  
bearers in well and generally overhaul  
the pump will cost about £6. or £6.10.0  
but I could hardly tell you the exact cost

I remain Rev. Sir.

Your obediently  
Harry Stokes.  
H.S. jr



Bratton Lovelley Ropes

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 1908

To P. R. Kenyon Stanley Esq.  
Langworthy  
Leeds

Sir.

I have all the particulars about the Bell Ropes for Bratton Lovelley Bells and know the lengths that they are wanted. The cost of a new set of 6 Ropes delivered to Bratton Lovelley will be £4.2.0 and the cost of sending a man to fix them will be 19/- It would be a good thing if I had to send down man to fix the Bell Ropes to let him spend another day there and go all over the frame and fittings and test all the nuts & tighten them up this would cost another 10/-

I remain Sir

Yours obediently  
Harry Stokes



Sep. 16. 1908

To Rev. W. S. Stayer.

Rev. Sir.

The Kitchen pump at  
Bbford Manor is a good deal out of  
order and it may break down again  
at any time, the plumber soldered  
the leaks on Monday but it is only a  
temporary job, as the pipe in the  
well has been mended so many times  
and is entirely worn out and the  
oak bearers to which the pipes are  
fastened are rotten.

There are 4 oak bearers required  
and about 30 feet of lead pipe and  
some lead collars. To put in 30 feet  
of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " stout lead pump pipe and 4 oak  
bearers in well and generally overhaul  
the pump will cost about £6. or £6.10.0  
but I could hardly tell you the exact cost

I remain Rev. Sir.

Your obediently  
Harry Stokes.  
H.S. jr



Bratton Lovell, Ropes

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 1908

To P. R. Kenyon Stanley Esq.  
Langworthy  
Leeds Down

Sir,

I have all the particulars about the Bell Ropes for Bratton Lovell, Bells and know the lengths that they are wanted. The cost of a new set of 6 Ropes delivered to Bratton Lovell, will be £4.2.0 and the cost of sending a man to fix them will be 19/- It would be a good thing if I had to send down man to fix the Bell Ropes to let him spend another day there and go all over the frame and fittings and test all the nuts &c and tighten them up this would cost another 10/-

I remain Sir,

Yours obediently  
Harry Stokes



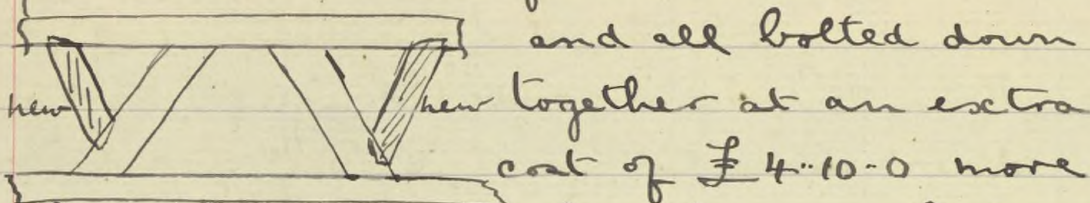
# Kingsbridge Bells

Oct. 5. 1908

To the Rev. F. A. Birks,

\* Rev. Sir,

I had another look on Tuesday last at the framework of the Bells with two of my men and I had the three top Bells rung up together. I think that if there were about 12 short struts put in the top frame and 2 more extra bolts and about 7 struts put in the bottom frame thus:—



than the estimate I sent you on July 10<sup>th</sup> last, that would then be able to take away the wedges that are now there, it will certainly strengthen the frame and make it more rigid but I will not guarantee that it will stop the vibration of frame but it will make it a lot better. The frames when they were put in were not stout enough, the scantling was too slight. The only other thing that could be done would be to take out the frames and put in steel girders and an iron frame and rehang the Bells with new fittings &c. and this would cost over £220.

Harry Stokes.



Mr. Brand's Cottage.

Woodbury

Oct. 6. 1908

To Mr. W. Summefield  
Dear Sir,

I will clean off all the woodwork inside of the above cottage give all the woodwork up in the 2 bedrooms 1 coat of paint, clean off + touch up the graining in stair case and varnish the staircase 1 coat. give all the woodwork downstairs 2 coats paint, paper the back bedroom with paper at 6<sup>o</sup> per piece, the staircase and front room downstairs with paper at 9<sup>o</sup> per piece, repair the bedroom floor and ease all the doors in the house, put in 2 panes of glass, repair bedroom lock, repair floor inside front door, repair boarding in cupboard + floor under the stairs, put new bow latch on front-room door, put in one sash cord + shorten one, put piece on bottom of back door, put new 7" stock lock on larder door, take off lock of back door + oil it clean off all the outside work that has already been painted and give it two coats of paint viz: - bonnet, barge boards, shutting, windows + doors, on both cottages late Mr. Newberrys + Mr. Downs and paint the outside woodwork on the W.C. + Mr. Downs shed for the sum of Seven Pounds £7-0-0.



Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 1908

Mr. Down Stable

Mr. W. Palmer

Dear Sir:

I have enclosed list of what is wanted  
for the above to cost of ~~it~~ with the labour including nails  
will be about £2 = This do not include putting the paving  
around the posts nor the brickwork I have mentioned  
this I should say would cost about 10/- or 12/- because  
should want some new bricks

H. Stokes



Messrs. Sears & Hearn's Painting

Oct. 12. 1908

To Mr. W. Palmer.

Dear Sir,

The cost of cleaning off & painting two coats all the outside woodwork & shuting that has already been painted, on houses and outbuildings at Messrs. Sears & Hearn's, and cleaning off & painting the front-railing three coats will be £9. 17. 0. The 3 front doors & part of the shutters on the shop window would have to be burnt off as they are blistered badly, and I have included in the above sum the cost of burning them off & priming them one coat. There are a few repairs wanted to two or three doors & the shutters on shop window also a piece or two of shuting wants repairing, and the top rails of front-railing ought to be chiselled off all through. This had better do deepwork

Yours truly

Harry Stokes



# Coppinswell Church Tower

Oct. 12. 1908

To. H. L. Brown, Esq.  
Edginswell  
Torquay

} Churchwarden of  
Coppinswell

Sir.

The cost of taking down the old lead, timber of roof and the old beams under roof from Coppinswell Church Tower and providing and fixing one oak beam 10x10 across the centre of tower, and providing and fixing eleven oak joist 6x3 on setoffs and beam, and let into the beam, and make a gutter on same, provide and lie an 1 1/2" deal floor on joist and provide and fix the necessary rolls for same, make a trap door in floor about 1-9 square in the corner of tower and ~~hang~~ <sup>hang</sup> it to open, provide and lie on the floor sheet lead 7lbs. to the square foot, and put lead flushings around the walls of tower, do all the masonry that is required, lengthen the iron ladder and complete the work in a satisfactory manner will be Fifty Four Pounds, Fourteen Shillings & Sixpence (£54-14-6). This price may probably not hold good for very long as I am advised that the price of lead is likely to rise.

I will give you 11/- per cwt. for the old lead. The Bells would all have to be lifted out from their bearings and cleaned out this would be extra to the above and would cost about £1-5-0

6 Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 1908 Reply to Telegram. Brown Kingscrossed  
Five Pounds Four Shillings, you find Oak Timber.  
Stokes, Woodbury



October 13<sup>th</sup> 1908

To

Rev<sup>d</sup> G. H. May  
Rochester Rectory.  
Beaufort

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

The cost of the ropes will be 11/6 each  
you to pay carriage of them. I will send them  
on in a few days

yours obediently  
Harry Stokes



Colyton Bells

To

October 19<sup>th</sup> 1908

Rev<sup>d</sup> H. Molineux

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

In reply to your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> I am sorry you people thought my figures was high for the amount of work required to be done to you Colyton Bells but they must understand that it is an heavy peal to handle about and any fittings &c required for them costs a good bit more than for smaller bells, and the time also takes a good deal longer you cannot do the same with heavy Bells as you can with light ones.

I have been through it again today and I find I cannot touch it a great deal but will do it same as named in my report and estimate for £25= I don't think an heavier clapper would improve the 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you think the 2<sup>nd</sup> ought to be quartered, you would to do this want a new staple put in it and alter the stock work which carries the bell this would cost £1.2/- extra to the £25= The cost of providing and fixing an Colcombe chiming apparatus to the 6 bells would be £9=

yours Obediently  
Harry Stokes



# Pillaton Church Bells

October 21. 1908

To the Rev. R. Hocking.

Rev. Sir,

The cost of providing and fixing an oak framing bed on the present floor and girders now in the tower without disturbing the present floor and girders, and providing and fixing a cast iron frame for six Bells fixed on the oak bed and fastened to the girders now in the tower the frame to be of sufficient strength and substance to carry a peal of six Bells (tenor about 11 cwt.) and hanging your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bells (when recast) with all new fittings complete, carriage, labour &c. as stated in my estimate of July 16<sup>th</sup> will be £92.14.0. If you have a steel framing bed instead of an oak one it will cost £105.13.0, but I should strongly recommend you to have the oak framing bed it is far the best.

The cost of recasting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bell carriage from Saltash to London and back will be £19.17.0.

The cost of a new 4<sup>th</sup> Bell weighing about 8 cwt. with clapper, carriage, fittings and hanging will be £70.4.0.

The cost of a new 5<sup>th</sup> Bell weighing about 9 cwt. with clapper, carriage, fittings and hanging will be £78.6.0.

The cost of a new 6<sup>th</sup> Bell weighing about 11½ cwt. with clapper, carriage, fittings and hanging will be £95.1.0.

The carriage of two old Bells from Saltash



Station to the Foundry, London and back again will be £2.15.0.

The cost of providing and fixing an Allacombe chiming apparatus to the five Bells if done the same time as the other work will be £8.0.0

If any of the new Bells were over the weights mentioned the extra weight would be charged for at the rate of £7. per cwt. and if under deducted at the same rate.

Any inscriptions put on the Bells would be charged for at 3<sup>d</sup>. per letter.

Frame for 6 hanging 3 . . . . .	£ 92.14.0
Recasting 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bell . . . . .	19.17.0
New 4 <sup>th</sup> Bell . . . . .	70.14.0
New 5 <sup>th</sup> Bell . . . . .	78.6.0
New 6 <sup>th</sup> Bell . . . . .	95.1.0
Carriage of 2 old Bells . . . . .	2.15.0
Allacombe Chiming Apparatus . . . . .	8.0.0

---

£366.17.0

October 22<sup>nd</sup> sent Telegram to say could supply Warner's Bells at £14 less than estimate sent on 21<sup>st</sup>.



To

October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1908

Rev. G. L. Powell

The Vicarage  
Hobbsdon

Rev. Sir

You must please send me the lighter Bells  
of the set - the upper G. Bell is not sufficient  
to come to The cost of tuning and repairing  
and carriage will be between 35/- & £2/-

yours obediently  
Harry Stokes



Sent to  
R. Johnson Mart. 29.

## West Abington Bells

October 27, 1908

To the Vicar & Churchwardens

Rev. Sir & Gentlemen.

I have been as you already know and thoroughly examined the beams, frame and fittings of your Church Bells. I had each Bell rung up separately so that I could properly see the working of each Bell and I found on ringing the Bells up singly that the Tower vibrated a good deal, this is owing to the frame being wedged and strutted to the tower walls which ought not to be and there is a certain amount of danger with it especially in a tower with such large pinnacles on top as in this one. I should say that when all the six Bells are ringing that the tower and pinnacles must vibrate a good deal. The beam under the Bells on the south setoff is decayed very badly in the southeast corner and the ends of two of the others are decaying badly, (end of one on the northwest and end of one on the east side) I can push a knife up into them easily.

The frame which carries the Bells is a very slight one, the timbers are very slight for the size of the peal and some of them have been cut to let the Bells swing around, you could not remove the wedges and struts from the frame and walls because they keep the frame together and if these were removed the frame would rock about so much that the Bells could not be rung at all in peal, the frame is not stout enough when the wedges are removed to resist the action of the Bells when ringing and it cannot be strengthened enough. The Bells were put there in 1775 but I am inclined to think that the frame is of earlier date.

The Bells themselves are alright but they want



quarterturning as they are badly worn at the sound bow, the clappers have been striking on one place 123 years and have worn large dents in the Bells and now they want to be made to strike opposite. Some of the fittings on the Bells are not what they should be viz:— clappers, wheels, ironwork, pullies &c. what is required to be done to this peal of Bells is to take down the Bells, take out the old fittings, frame, floor & beams and replace it with more modern work.

I should recommend to put in five oak beams lie an oak framing bed on them and a floor and put in an iron frame similar to those I put in at Aveton Gifford and East Allington. a frame of this sort would be clear from the walls and would resist the action of the Bells when ringing. You would then have a perfect job but any repairing would be a waste of money.

### Estimate.

I will undertake to lower down the six Bells and put them in some convenient place, take out the old fittings, frame, floor and beams from the tower and provide and fix five English oak beams, two to be 12" x 9" and three to be 12" x 10" and provide, make and fix an English oak framing bed, and cut in between the bed and lie on the beams a good red deal floor 2" thick, provide, make and fix on the bed and beams a cast iron frame made and fixed same as plan and similar to photograph sent, the frame to be bolted down through bed into the beams, and the frame to be of sufficient strength and substance to resist the action of the Bells when ringing and to be



clear from tower walls all around.

I will also undertake to hoist the six Bells into their places in the new frame and hang them with all new fittings complete as follows viz:- wheels, stocks, stays and sliders, pullies steel gudgeons and gunmetal bearings, the gudgeons fitted into iron bed plates and clip bolted to the stocks and the bearings fitted into iron pedestal carriages bolted down to frame and fitted with iron lubricating covers, all new ironwork to hang the Bells with, quarter turn the six Bells and put new quarter staples in them, put the clapper in proper order and properly hang them in the Bells, provide a new set of best made bell ropes and properly guide them away from the wheels to ringing chamber with all necessary shutes thimbles and patrices, take off the sand that is now on the floor above ringing chamber and lay it on again when the work was completed, pay carriage of my material and all travelling expenses for my men and complete the work in a workmanlike and satisfactory manner and to the satisfaction of anyone you may like to appoint to inspect the work or try the go of the Bells, anyone that knows anything about Church Bell work for the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Five Pounds, Eighteen Shillings (£155-18-0).

All the old material that I take out to be my property, and you to have any masons work done that may be required, to the walls and setoffs before putting in new work. All the iron frame will be painted 3 coats, two before fixing and one after, also the ironwork, stocks and following part of wheels will be painted.



Sent to  
~~P. Johnson~~  
Sent to  
Rev. W. Wilkinson

## South Milton Church Bells.

October 30. 1908

To the Vicar & Churchwardens.

Rev. Sir & Gentlemen.

I have examined the frame and fittings of the peal of six Bells in your Church Tower, and I find that the frame which carries the Bells is a very slight ~~one~~ and weak one, this is the reason that the frame is wedged all around to the tower walls to keep it steady and rigid when the Bells are ringing, if these wedges were removed it would be very difficult to ring the Bells as the frame would sway about a great deal and it would then soon get so bad that the bells would be very hard to ring, the frame being wedged all around to the walls makes a certain amount of danger to the tower and especially to a tower like yours with very large pinnacles on each corner of it. The frame cannot be strengthened and bolted enough to make it strong enough to resist the action of the Bells when ringing so as to be able to remove the wedges from between the frame and walls, and the only thing I can see that can be done is to take it all out and put in new beams, floor and frame. A new oak frame can be put in stout enough and bolted so that it would be strong enough to resist the action of the Bells when ringing, and kept clear from the tower walls all around, the Bells could then be rehung with same wheels and some of the ironwork, some of the gudgeons and bearings could be used again by turning them off and refitting them, the floor under the



frame would want to be new but the main beams I could not see, but I expect that they are slight ones after the same style as the frame and I also expect that the ends of them where they rest on the setoffs are got bad. The Bells themselves are alright but the clappers in them want seeing to and setting right, in taking the Bells down and clearing it out, the match board up under and any deadening stuff that would be on it would have to come down. This can be put back again and make good any of it that would be wanted.

### Estimate

I will undertake to lower down the six Bells and put them in some convenient place take out the fittings, frame, floor & beams, and provide and fix in the tower five English oak beams, three 12x9 and two 12x8, provide and cut in between sills of frame and nailed to beams a good 2" red deal floor, provide, make and fix an English oak frame for the six Bells, fixed clear from tower walls, the sizes of scantling for frame to be the same as marked on plan enclosed, and to be bolted together with about 43 long  $\frac{3}{4}$  bolts, the bolts where convenient to go down through into main beams, all the joints of frame to be secured with stout strap plates. I will also undertake to hoist the Bells again into their places in the new frame and hang them with part new fittings, the present wheels to be cleaned and painted 3 coats, new stocks new stays and sliders and slider boards, use same ironwork as far as possible and make good what is wanted, ~~use the same ironwork as far as possible and make good what is wanted, use the same~~



gudgeons bearings and re-turn & refit any that require it, new pulleys under wheels, new set of best made bell ropes and properly guide away ropes from wheels to ringing chamber, alter the wood guides in ringing chamber, paint all the ironwork and stocks & coals, pay all carriage of material and travelling expenses for my men and complete the work in a satisfactory and workmanlike manner and to the satisfaction of anyone you may like to appoint to inspect the work or try the go of the Bells for the sum of £ 112. 2. 0. You to have done any masonry that may be required to tower walls and setoffs before putting in any new work, all the old material I take out to be my property.

A good oak frame will do very well for your peal of Bells, but if you feel inclined to have an iron one similar to those I put in at Aveton Gifford, Dodbrooke, and East-Allington I can provide and fix 5 beams and floor same as stated in previous estimate provide and fix an oak framing bed and an iron frame for the six Bells similar to the photo enclosed and hang them with fittings same as stated in previous estimate except gudgeons & bearings and carry it out in a satisfactory & workmanlike manner for the sum of £ 133. 10. 0. In putting in an iron frame the bearings, carriages and gudgeons now in tower could not be used, as new ones would be pedestal carriages, quite a different thing from present ones. In estimate for oak frame I should have to send down a complemen to unhang Bells & take back the gudgeons & bearings to be refitted but not in estimate for iron frame.



Sent to  
Rev. A. Lester.

## Peterbury Church Bells.

Nov. 3. 1905

To the Rector + Churchwardens of Peterbury  
Rev. Sir + Gentlemen.

I have examined the beams, floor, frame + fittings of your Church Bells and I find that the frame is wedged all around to the tower walls which ought not to be, as there is a tendency when the frame is wedged to the walls to damage them, the frame rocks about when the Bells are ring singly and especially the piece of frame on north side where the 1<sup>st</sup> is hung, and when the Bells are all rung in peal the frame would rock about a great deal more. This causes the Bells to go badly, the wedges are put in between the frame and walls to keep the frame steady and they could not be removed as the frame which is a very slight one would rock about a great deal more and you would not be able to ring the Bells at all. I consider that the frame has been in the tower since 1722 and it cannot be braced and bolted any more than it is now to strengthen it. The floor and beams under the frame appear to be decayed a good bit on account of its having taken wet. The fittings on the Bells are most of them worn out, especially the gudgeons + bearings, and the wheels are a clumsy made set, the work that was done to the fittings of the Bells some 26 years ago was not done by anyone that knew anything about Church Bell work. The Bells themselves are alright, the 1<sup>st</sup> + 2<sup>nd</sup> being new in 1882, but the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> are worn badly at the sound bow where the clappers have been striking for so many years, the 3<sup>rd</sup> + 4<sup>th</sup> for 118 years, 5<sup>th</sup> for 186 years, and the 6<sup>th</sup> for 165 years, the 5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> especially are worn very badly and you are



liable at any moment when ringing them to have them cracked. The iron stays for ropes in bottom of tower are not proper ones, the ropes where they pass through the iron wear badly, they ought to pass through hard wood instead of iron, these iron stays want to be taken down and new ones of a different kind fixed in their place.

#### Estimate

I will undertake to lower down the 6 Bells and put them in some convenient place, take out the old fittings, frame, floor and beams from the tower and provide and fix 4 English Oak beams, two 11x9" and two 11x8" provide and lie on the beams an English oak floor 1½" thick well nailed to beams, provide, make and fix in the tower a new English oak frame for the six Bells, the frame to be made and fixed clear from tower walls, and bolted together with about 42 long ¾" bolts, the bolts where convenient to go down through into main beams, all the joints of frame to be secured with stout strap plates, the sizes of scantling for frame to be the same as marked on plan enclosed. I will also undertake to hoist the six Bells into their places in the new frame and hang them with all new fittings complete viz:- wheels, stocks, stays and sliders, pullies, steel gudgeons and gun-metal bearings, the steel gudgeons to be fitted into iron bed plates and clip bolted to the stocks and the bearings to be fitted into iron carriages screwed down to frame and fitted with iron hinged covers and thumb screws, all new ironwork to hang the Bells with, quarter



turn the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> Bells and put new staples in them, so that the clappers shall strike opposite to what they do now put all the clappers in proper order and put new ones where required and properly hang them in the Bells, provide a new set of best made bell ropes and properly guide them away from wheels to ringing chamber with all necessary shutes, thimbles and patrices, take down the iron rope stays now in bottom of tower and provide and fix a light iron rope guide with turned hard wood blocks for ropes to work in, paint all the ironwork, stocks and felloeing part of wheels 3 coats, pay all carriage of materials and travelling expenses for my men and complete the whole work in a workmanlike and satisfactory manner and to the satisfaction of anyone you may like to appoint to inspect the work or try the go of the Bells, anyone that knows anything about Church Bell work for the sum of One Hundred and One Pounds (£101.)

All the old material I take out to be my property and you to have done any masonry that may be wanted to the tower walls and setops before putting in the new work.

The above sum does not include re-fixing the chiming apparatus only for taking it down, the apparatus is not worth re-fixing, as the hammers are now fixed they do not strike the Bells properly.

June 9<sup>th</sup> 1909 The cost of providing and fixing the Glastonbury chiming apparatus to the 6 Bells would be £7.7/- if done same time as the other work.



Ann Bassett's Cottage Exton.

Nov. 5. 1908

To Mr. W. Palmer.

Dear Sir

The cost of cleaning off all the ~~paint~~ <sup>paint</sup> work inside the above Cottage & giving it 2 coats of paint, repairing the floor upstairs and easing the doors and putting a new guide to one door and making a new ash pan for stove will be £1.12.6

Yours truly

Harry Stokes.

H.S. jr.



To

Nov-11<sup>th</sup> 1908

Wm J Brown  
Carpenter & Co  
Hemlock

Dear Sir

The cost of the 6 Bell Ropes will be  
11/- per rope you to pay carriage of them I could  
let you have them latter part of next week if  
you give me the order at once

Yours truly  
Harry Stokes



Nov-12<sup>th</sup> 1908

Rev<sup>d</sup> T. M. Bell  
The Vicarage  
West-Alongton

West-Alongton Church Bells

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

In reply to your letter received this morning I beg to say that I consider the work I have suggested to you to be done to the above bells, requires attention as soon as possible the sooner the better because you do not know what may happen at any time when the bells are ringing in peal, some of your bells are worn very thin at the sound bow, and the earlier this work is taken in hand the better for the bells because you are liable to get them cracked ~~at~~ when they are ringing. I was examining the bells at East-Alongton some 18 months ago and I informed the Rector that the Tenor bell was worn very thin at the sound bow and it was liable to become cracked at any time when ringing about a week after my visit the bell got cracked in the midst of ringing a peal, and it had to be recast which is rather a costly job. This is what may happen <sup>any</sup> of your bells at any time when ringing there is more bells cracked through neglect of not having them seen to and quarter turning them than any other way.

I remain Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

your obedient Servant  
Harry Stokes



Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 1908.

re South Pool Church Bells

To the

Rector & Churchwardens

Rev. Sir & Gentlemen

I have as you already know examined the beams, frame, floor & fittings of your Church bells, & I then told you that their condition was one of the worst that I had seen for a very long time, & that the bells were not in a fit state to be rung in peal, so I need not make very much comment on it, except that it all requires to be taken out from the Tower & all put in new. The frame is strutted & wedged to the tower walls, which ought not to be, as it is a source of danger to the tower, & especially to a tower like yours, with such large pinnacles at each corner, & they are already out of perpendicular. The bells themselves are alright but are worn a little at the sound bow, but not as much as I thought when first I looked at them, but on looking at them the second time with the Churchwarden, I found that they were not worn a great deal; The first bell is worn the most, but the tenor is worn scarcely anything at all, & I think that they would go on as they are for a good number of years yet, with the exception of the first, which must be quarter turned, the clappers are worn more than the bells, & some of these would want to be put in new. I should recommend you to have an oak frame for this peal as there is plenty of room for it. I can put in a stout English oak frame & keep it clear from the walls all round. so that anyone could walk



round it on three sides, which you can see by plan I have sent. If you had an iron frame you would have to see that it was cleaned & painted every 6 or 7 years or else the rust would get into it, & I am afraid that this cleaning & painting in most Towers will be often forgotten.

### Estimate

I will undertake to lower down the 6 bells, & put them in some convenient place, take out the old fittings, frame, floor, & beams from the tower, & provide & fix in the tower four English oak beams size 12 x 10, provide make & fix in the Tower, an English oak frame for the six bells, & provide & lie on the beams, & cut in between the sills of the frame a good red deal floor 2" thick, well nailed to the beams, the sizes of scantling for frame to be same as marked on plan, & the frame to be bolted together with about 42 long  $\frac{3}{4}$  bolts, & about 26 of these bolts would go down thro' into the main beams, all the joints of frame to be secured with stout strap plates. I will also undertake to hoist the six bells into their places in the new frame, & hang them with all new fittings complete viz: - wheels, stocks, stays & sliders, pulleys, steel gudgeons & gunmetal bearings the steel gudgeons to be fitted into iron bear plates clip bolted to the stocks, & the bearings fitted into iron carriages, screwed down to the frame, & fitted with iron hinged covers & thumb screws, all new ironwork to hang the bells with, quarter turn the 1<sup>st</sup> bell, & put a new staple in her, put the clappers in proper order, & provide new ones where wanted (about four) & properly hang them in the bells, use same bellropes again, & properly guide them away from wheels to



ringing chamber with all necessary shutes, stays  
thimbles, patriees, &c. paint all the ironwork  
stocks, & felloeing part of wheels, 3 coats,  
pay carriage of all my material from here to  
South Pool, & all travelling expences for my men,  
& complete the whole work in a workmanlike  
& satisfactory manner, & to the satisfaction of  
anyone you may like to appoint to inspect the  
work or try the "go" of the bills for the sum of  
£ 130 - 6 - 0. All the old material  
that I take out to be my property, & you to  
have done any mason's work, that may be  
wanted before putting in any new work,  
which would not be a great deal.



To

Nov-16<sup>th</sup> 1908

Mr W. J. H. Potts  
Churchwarden  
Wedmore

Dear Sir

The price of the Bell Ropes will be 1/6 each  
you to pay the carriage of them, and the Tennis  
Rope if there is a strap rope put into it - will be 1/3 -  
these ropes are the same sort and quality as I  
have supplied before for the Wedmore Bells  
an order will receive prompt attention

yours truly  
Harry Stokes



Benny Rowley

Decr 4<sup>th</sup> 1908

To

Rev. H. S. Prinsep

Rev. Su

The cost of overhauling and  
screwing up the bells in your Church Tower will  
be about £1.10/- it will take 2 men one long  
day to go down and do it and come back again

H. S.

P.S

My men are accustomed to iron frames I make  
a lot of them now.



Peterbury Bells

Dec. 7. 1908.

To the Rev. A. Lester,  
Rev. Sir,

In reply to the questions in your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> I beg to say 1<sup>st</sup> with reference to my report that I consider that the frame has been there since 1722. I thoroughly examined the frame and I came to the conclusion that it had been there a great number of years. I may have made a mistake in this matter but the frame has every appearance of it, I can scarcely fancy that it was put there in 1882 it is very slight and the nature of the oak seems to be all gone. I should hardly have thought a man would put in such a frame only 26 years ago and when I saw the Bells rung up I was surprised to see the weakness of it. Are you perfectly sure it was all new timber put in the frame in 1882? With regard to the beams & floor I saw it from the chamber under and it looked as if it was all sodden with wet as it was stained so badly, it had evidently taken wet badly and showed as if it was decayed.

2<sup>nd</sup> If I have made a mistake it would not make any difference in the cost unless the beams and floor are fit to remain then it will make a difference but I should not think of using any of the old frame timber, as I have already said the frame is a very slight one and it would be a waste of money to use any of it again and



no Bellhanger could make a good job of it if he used the old timber again.

3<sup>rd</sup> If you supplied all the timber required for the frame cut to sizes and delivered at the tower it will make £12-4-6 difference and if beams and floor are provided and cut to the sizes required it will make £10. difference. Total difference £22-4-6.

You must please understand that the oak for the frame, floor & beams must be seasoned timber that has been felled for 4 or 5 years. You cannot cut it down now and use it.

4<sup>th</sup>. It will not make any difference in the cost whether the Bells are lowered to the bottom or not, two or three of them will have to come to the bottom and that is already in my estimate.

5<sup>th</sup>. The work on Lamerton Bells and yours is quite different altogether, at Lamerton they have a capital frame put there in 1878 quite different from what yours is, this I did not want to touch, the wheels were all in good order and I had only to paint them, I put new gudgeons and bearings to the six Bells a new stock to the tenor and one iron bar in the frame, a new set of ropes & repaired the chiming apparatus, this was only a partial rehauling, but yours in my opinion is all wanted new.

I have no printed testimonials but I have enclosed 65 original ones and a little book showing the names of the places I have been hanging Bells



December 9<sup>th</sup> 1908

re Orientor Church Bells  
To the Church Bell Committee  
Gentleman

I have examined the Tower & bells of the above Church, & I found that the 3 bells hung on the level, & that there is not room enough to put any more on the same level. To recess the 3 bells, & add 2 more to make a peal of 5. the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> in the peal would have to go up over the 1<sup>st</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> which would be hung on the level under & this would necessitate rising the roof. I should want 12' 0" in height & this can be got by putting a flat roof on the top, & rising it to come up a little under the low battlement. doing away with the middle beam, & putting joists across the tower about 4 x 3 with a 1" floor laid across them, & giving it a fall to where the water would go out thro' the wall, or else bringing the water down in a pipe from the roof, & carrying it out where it now goes into the cistern head outside. If you do not rise the roof, you cannot put in the 5 bells, because you must only bring it down a very little lower than it is now, & to get the 12' 0" from under the beam you would have to come down about 3' 8" in the chamber under the bells. & to do that would spoil the job entirely, as you would not hear the under bells, you would require iron framing for these bells, as the Tower is so very small, & oak framing would take up too much room, the beam & floor under the bells would want to be lowered a little, use the same beam again, & put in another on the north side, & a new plate on the south setting & lie the same floor on it again, put in a new oak framing bed on the floor, & iron



framing on the oak bed, bolted thro' the oak bed into the beams & floor. None of the present frame & fittings on the 3 bells could be used again. To carry the two top bells, I should put in two steel girders 6" x 5" into the walls, running from north to south, & put the framing across the girders from east to west, & bolt the framing down to girders.

The three old bells weigh about  $14\frac{1}{2}$  cwt, & the 5 new ones would weigh about 23 cwt.

#### Estimate

I will undertake to take down the 3 old bells from the Tower & send them to the Foundry, London, & recast them adding new metal enough to them to make them the weights specified & supplying 2 more bells to make a peal of 5 of about the following weights viz:— 1<sup>st</sup> new bell  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. 2<sup>nd</sup> new bell 4 cwt. 3<sup>rd</sup> recast bell  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. 4<sup>th</sup> recast bell 5 cwt. 5<sup>th</sup> recast bell 6 cwt. pay carriage of the 3 old bells to the Foundry, & carriage of the 5 new bells from the Foundry to Brentor Church, & supply clappers, & crown staples for each bell.

I will also undertake to take out the old fittings & frame from the Tower & take up the floor beam & plates. You to do any masons work that may be wanted in lowering the beam, fix same beam again & provide & fix one more 10" x 8" & a plate 6" x 4", lie the same floor again on beams & plate & make good. I will also provide & fix an oak framing bed on the floor to take the iron framing, the sizes of scantling for the bed to be 8" x 4" & 8" x 5". & provide & fix on the framing bed an iron frame for the 3 under bells & to carry the 2 top bells. I will provide & fix 2 steel girders 6" x 5" (28 lbs to the foot) & provide & fix on the 2 steel girders an iron frame for the two top bells, the frame to be bolted down to the steel



girders, all the iron framing to be of sufficient strength & substance to carry the 5 bells when ringing. I will also hoist the 5 bells into their places in the new frame & hang them with all new fittings viz:- wheels, stocks, stays & sliders, pulleys, steel gudgeons & gunmetal bearings, the steel gudgeons to be fitted into iron bed plates & clip bolted to the stocks, & the bearings fitted into iron pedestal carriages, bolted down to the frame, & fitted with iron hinged covers & thumb screws, all new ironwork to hang the bells with, provide & fix a new set of best made bell ropes, & properly guide them away from wheels to bottom of tower with all necessary pulleys, thimbles, patrices &c. paint all the ironwork & the iron framing 3 coats of paint, 2 before fixing & one after, & paint all the stocks & felloeing of wheels, pay carriage of all my materials & travelling expences of men & complete the work in a workmanlike & satisfactory manner & to the satisfaction of anyone you may like to appoint to inspect it or try the go of the bells, anyone who knows about Church bell work for the sum of £ 198 - 8 - 0

you to have done any masonry that may be required & the work of raising the roof. All the old materials that I take out to be my property.

If the 3 old bells did not weigh  $14\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. what they were less would be charged for at £ 7 - 0 - 0 per cwt. & if they were over  $14\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. they would be allowed for at £ 4 - 18 - 0 per cwt. & if the 5 new bells were over 23<sup>cwt</sup> they would be charged for at £ 7 - 0 - 0 per cwt, & they would be charged if less than 23<sup>cwt</sup> they would be allowed for at the same rate.



Burlescombe Church Bells

December 18<sup>th</sup> 1908

To

Rev<sup>d</sup> E. Bramwell

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

The cost of a new treble bell to make your peal of 5 into one of 6. The bell to weigh  $5\frac{3}{4}$  cwt, & to be in tune with the other bells, provide a clapper for her, & pay carriage of her to Burlescombe Church, & hoist & hang her in the tower in the frame already provided for her, with all new fittings complete, fit for ringing will be £56-10-0. You to have the window in the bell chamber taken out so that can get the bell in from the outside, because cannot take her up from inside, & have window put in again.

If any inscription was put on bell, it would be 4<sup>s</sup> per letter extra. If bell should weigh over  $5\frac{3}{4}$  cwt it would be charged for at the rate of £4 — per cwt. & if under that weight it would be deducted at same rate.

January 1<sup>st</sup> 1909 wrote to say the bell would be only  $5\frac{1}{4}$  cwt and would do the work same as named in above estimate for £51-14-0



To

Decr 21<sup>st</sup> - 1908

Rev<sup>d</sup> W. F. Connor

The Rectory

Kings-nympton

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

The cost of providing and fixing the  
Ellacombe chiming apparatus to the peal of 6 bells  
in your Church Tower, everything complete will  
be £8-3-0. you to send and fetch the apparatus  
and my man and his tools from Southmorton R<sup>d</sup>  
Station, and take man and his tools to Southmorton  
Road Station when he had finished his work of  
fixing, an order from you will be much esteemed  
and I could it make and fixed the early part  
of next month.

yours obediently  
Harry Stokes



To

December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1908

Rev<sup>d</sup> G. P. Lancelotti  
Harford

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

I did supply and hang the 6 bells in  
Harford Church Tower, and I shall be very pleased  
to supply and fix an Ellacombe chiming apparatus  
to them for you the cost of supplying and fixing  
the apparatus all complete to them will be  
£9.14.0. I should be very pleased to receive the  
order from you to supply and fix it. The early  
part of next year and would give you 6 months  
credit for the amount if you cannot get  
the funds in for it for a little while!

Harry Stokes



To

Dec-24<sup>th</sup> 1908

Rev. C. G. Barton

Rosston Rectory  
Lyne Regis

Rev. Sir

My son was at Colyton yesterday and he  
went over to Combeque and had a look at the bells  
again, the cost of providing and fixing a chiming  
apparatus to the 3 bells all complete with a little  
door with lock & key to the manual were chimed  
the bells will be £5.6.0 I can get this made  
and fixed the early part of January  
H. Stokes



Dec<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1908

To

Rev<sup>d</sup> M. Kelly.

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

I am in receipt of your letter this morning, with reference to my estimates for different peals of bells. In the first place you refer to my prices, as being much higher than they used to be, & you refer to the difference in price of Milton Abbot bells, & South Pool. a difference of £12-1-0 & that I did more work at Milton Abbot than I have specified for South Pool. I must first tell you that I did not get a penny profit out of the Milton Abbot job. I found after I had taken it up that I had not got enough for it. The best of us are liable to mistakes sometimes. There is another thing in connection with these two peals, that is the difference in the size of the 2 Towers, Milton Abbot Tower is 11-6 by 11-9. South Pool Tower is 15 ft 6 in by 14 ft. Milton Abbot frame had to be made very small, as it is cramped up, & South Pool frame having got plenty of room I have not stinted the timber, as the more timber & more bolts in a reason that you can put into a frame the better it is, I have never seen bell frame too strong yet, for example, in Milton Abbot Tower, it being small, I put 2 beams 12x9 and 2- 12x8 - in South Pool Tower it being larger (15-6 across) I specified 4 beams 12x10 the extra timber for beams, floor & frame amounts to about £6 or £7 more than that at Milton Abbot. I. M. A. Tower I used 32 long bolts in S. P. estimate I specified 43. & with extra strap plates this means another £2-10-0, there is very little difference in the peals S. P. tenor is 3-4½. M. A. is 3-5. my own measurements. The profit I should get on S. P. job is not a great deal only a living profit. I could reduce the size of scantling & beams, & number of bolts etc.



& it would not be a good job to do so. With regard to the West Alvington Bells (150) I have specified all new & an iron frame. I could put it in all in oak, for about £15 less. I have carried out 3-6 bell peals within the past year or two & hung them in iron frames at the following cost. Culmstock £169-12.

Hemjock. £168-9-0. Buckland Monachorum £174-6-0. The two first named. I was tendering against other firms & I was the lowest. You say that the West Alvington bells go very well. I know that do, but the gudgeons & bearings are worn badly, & all the bells want quastering, & the frame is a very weak one, & is wedged all around to the Tower walls. If it was not wedged the bells would not be able to be rung. This wedging of frame is the difficulty & it makes the tower rock a great deal when bells are ringing, & the Rural Dean has condemned the wedging, that is the reason I was called in, & there is no other thing to be done, except to clear it all out & put it in new. Why I recommended an iron frame was because it could be put in smaller than an oak one. could not put in an oak one with very stout timbers, & an iron one I can put in stout, & will be more rigid than the oak. With reference to Peterkany bells, I have had a letter from the Rector since you visited the tower, asking me a lot of questions re. I have replied to him, but don't know if you have seen my replies to his questions to me. I condemned the frame because it is a slight one & badly made & I can scarcely fancy this frame was put in new 26 years ago. I may be wrong. I spent several hours there, & went all over it & crept about all under the bells. I did not say in my report that the frame, beams & floor were rotten, I said I considered the frame had been in the tower since 1722 & that was the decision I came to when I saw it, & I said



the floor & beams under the frame appear to be decayed a good bit on account of its having taken wet. & it has every appearance of what I say. If they carry out the work & it is found that the floor & beams are alright they can be let remain this would save them about £10, but I am very doubtful about it. I hope that these explanations will be satisfactory to you. as I know that your advice is often asked for in connection with bell work & that I have to thank you for a good many jobs that I have had thro' your recommendation, & for which I most heartily thank you, but you must please bear in mind that the cost oftentimes has to do with the sizes of the towers & with the sizes of the timbers used. I could skin the timbers & other things down & put it in in a lot less substance if I like, but it is not worth doing. You look at one of my wood or one of my iron frames & look at those put in by other local & London bell hangers, there is nothing like the substance in them that there is in mine. I have been at this work now about 38 years & have always tried to please my employers in my work, & in my prices, & have scores of testimonials which will show that I have done so. I may mention before closing this that I have to pay more wages than I used to a few years ago. also that oak timber I used to get at 3/- per cube, I have now to give 3/6 to 4/- for it, Iron is dearer & coal is dearer, than it was a few years ago, & it all tends to make my estimates come to more than they used to. I put in for a heavy job at Milborne Port some months ago, with some other firms under Mr. Caroe, Architect, to recast the tenor bell 29 cwt. & make an oak frame for 8 bells. & rehang them with all new fittings (except beams & floor which were already there) I got the job at £324-12-0, which was a good bit under the others. The Tower, bells,



+ Chancel were re-opened last Mon: by the Bishop of Bath & Wells. I have a letter from a Gentleman who has seen the work & tried the bells, & he congratulated me on the splendid work I have done; he says it is a magnificent frame, best he has ever seen, & he knows about Bells & bellhanging. I shall be very pleased to hear from you that you will be able to recommend me to the three places named in your letters to me. I have done 2 jobs in the neighbourhood of South Pool. one at Churchstow & one at Kingsbridge.



Dec- 31<sup>st</sup> - 1908

To

Rev<sup>d</sup> W. B. Tutting  
1<sup>st</sup> - Litchney Vicarage  
Helston

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

The cost of Bell Ropes are 1/- each  
60 feet long. every 10 ft. above that will be  
1/- for every 10 ft. - you to pay carriage  
of them.

H Stokes



Peterway Bells

January 5<sup>th</sup> 1909

To

Rev<sup>d</sup> A Lester

Rev<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

I shall be very glad if you will please return me my testimonials by this day week or earlier if you have done with them. I have been all over my estimate and ~~figures~~<sup>prices</sup> again, and if you can see your way clear to give me the order for the restoration of your Bells I can take off £3= from my estimate and give up the old wood to you. What really would be the best thing to do would be to lower down the bells and take out the old fittings and frame before preparing the floor & beams could then see if the floor and beams were fit to remain if they were not fit to remain could have the beams and floor cut-out while was making the frame and fittings.

yours Obediently  
Harry Stokes



To

January 6<sup>th</sup> 1909

Rev<sup>d</sup> H. G. Cooper

Thurleston Rectory

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

The only thing I can advise you to have done to the Tenor Bell would be to put in a new pair of Gudgeons & Bearings into her that is if the stock on her is good enough to do so, and perhaps put a long bolt or two down thru the framing each side of Tenor to steady it a bit because my man that went down about the 2<sup>d</sup> bell says the frame rocks about a bit, if this was done it would improve the go of the Tenor a good deal what would be wanted would be to send down one of my men and unhang her with a little local help and take out the gudgeons and bearings and bring them back here also the stock, and then reft it up and go down again and hang her up it would cost you something about £5 or £6 - you to do the fetching from Station if I shall know this a week before Xmas I could have gone out to Thurleston from Hingobridge myself and seen the bell because I have had my men at Blunchove & Hingobridge putting the bells right there and finished it Saturday before Xmas they had been in these 2 places about 5 weeks altogether please let me know if what I have suggested to you if it will do.

H Stokes



To

January 9<sup>th</sup> 1909

Rev. W. J. Whitwell  
London

Rev. Sir

The cost of providing and fixing stays for the 5 Bell Ropes in your Church Tower similar to the ones I fixed at Lew, will be about £3.5/- I should want the exact size of the Tower. N. S. E. & W they may come to a few shillings more as it depends on size of Tower I shall be very pleased to receive order from you to fix them

H. Stokes

P.S

You would have to get a mason to punch out holes and stop them in after bars were put-in.



Aylesbeare Chapel

Jan. 11. 1909.

To Mr. Wm. Summerfield.

Dear Sir,

I will carry out the Painters  
& Carpenters work at Aylesbeare Chapel  
in accordance with the specifications,  
for the sum of Seventeen Pounds  
Fifteen Shillings (£ 17.15.0.)

Yours truly,  
Harry Stokes  
H.S. jr.

Feb. 3. 1909

Told Mr. Summerfield would put up a  
wood shute lined with lead (4lb.) instead of  
repairing zinc one for an extra sum of 15/-  
shute to be 3" deep & 3" wide



January 15<sup>th</sup> 1909

To

Mr. James Steer  
Builder.

Winsford

Dear Sir

I have no printed illustrations for the Elacombe chiming apparatus, but have enclosed a sketch which will show you what it is. The manual against wall in ringing chamber where they are chimed only takes up about 2 feet.

The price of the chiming <sup>apparatus</sup> fixed complete will be between £8-15-0 & £9. You are a good distance from railway station, & this adds to the cost a good bit. The price of the bell ropes, will be 11/- per rope. you to pay carriage of them, but if you ordered chiming apparatus, the ropes would go same time as apparatus, the bell ropes are same sort & quality as I put there, when I rehung the bells, & same as I put to Oxford & Withypool, an order would be esteemed & would receive immediate attention.

Yrs -



West-Arlington Bells

January 19<sup>th</sup> 1909

To  
Rev<sup>d</sup> T. M. Bell Saltu

Oak frame

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

I will undertake to take down the 6 bells and take out the old fittings frame floor & beams from the Tower, and provide and fix in the Tower 5 Oak beams two-12x9 and 3-12x10 provide and tie on the beams and cut-in between the rails of frame a good red deal floor 2" thick nailed to beams and provide make and fix in the Tower clean all around from walls an English oak frame of well seasoned oak the sizes of scantling for frame to be the same as marked on plan sent and the frame to be bolted together with about 44 long 3/4 & 1/2 bolts the bolts when convenient to go down through into main beams, all the top joints of frame to be secured with west-iron angle plates and the bottom joints with strap plates. I will also undertake to hoist the bells into their places in the new frame and hang them with all new fittings complete viz - wheels stocks, stays & slides, pulleys steel gudgeons and gunmetal bearings, the steel gudgeons fitted into iron bed plates clip bolted to the stocks and the bearings fitted into iron carriages (not pedestal carriages) and screwed down to frame, and fitted with iron winged covers and thumb screws all new ironwork to hang bells with quarter turn all the 6 bells and put new quarter staples in them so that the clappers shall strike opposite to what they do now put the clappers in proper order and properly hang them in the bells provide a new set of bell ropes and properly guide them away from wheels to ringing chamber with all necessary stubs thimbles & pulleys, paint all the ironwork, stocks and following part of wheels 3 coats <sup>oil</sup> paint take off the sand now on floor above ringing chamber and put it on again when the work was completed pay carriage of all my materials and travelling expenses for my men



and complete the work in a workmanlike and satisfactory manner and to the satisfaction of anyone you may like to appoint to inspect the work ~~and~~ by the go of the bells anyone that knows anything about Church Bell work for the sum of £130.4.0 you to have done any masons work that may be required to be done, all the old ironwork and bearings and ropes to be my property and you to have the old wood which would help pay for masons work If after clearing out the Tower either of the old beams were found fit to remain I will allow the sum of £2.6.0 for each one that is fit.

Amended estimate for Iron frame  
I have been over my plan and estimate for iron frame &c again today and in my estimate of Oct 27<sup>th</sup> last I calculated to put in an iron frame to weigh 3 tons 12 cwt - but I think I can safely reduce it and take off about 8 cwt - from it - but if I had my own way I should prefer to put it in the 3 tons 12 cwt by reducing the weight and with a reduction of carriage &c I can reduce my estimate to £149.13.0. you to have done any masons work that may be required, all the old ironwork bearings & ropes to be my property and you to have the old wood which would help pay for the masons work If after clearing out the Tower either of the old beams were found fit to remain I will allow the sum of £2.6.0 for each one that is fit.  
A. Lister



re West Abington Bells

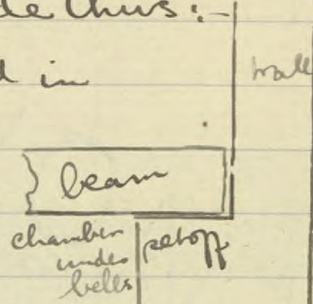
Jan. 18. 1909

To the Rev. T. M. Bell-Salter.  
Rev. Sir.

It is a mistake on your part & the others that think so that there would have to be fresh holes made in the Tower walls to put 5 beams there instead of four, the present beams are not in any holes they are resting on a settop about 7 or 8" wide thus:

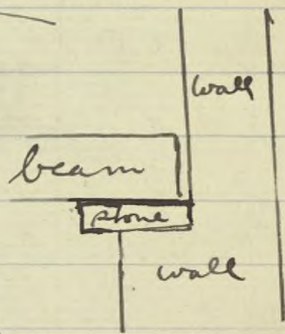
and the beams are only walled in between them this bit of walling can be made good again after the five beams

were put in, but I would suggest that they be not walled in again up to their level but should remain open so that the air can get around them, if it was found necessary to make the bearing on settop a bit wider for beams to rest on their could be a flat stone put on the settop under each beam about 12" wide thus:



but I do not think that this would be necessary. The five beams are necessary to make

a good job of it because they take the bearing of each piece of framing under the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Bells and each piece of framing is bolted down through into the beams, in putting in 4 beams you could not do this, if the 4 old beams had been let into the tower walls five beams could have been put ~~there~~ there very well by putting in corbel stones in the walls to take the beams and walling up all the old holes this





would have strengthened the Tower instead of weakening it, I had this done at Aveton Gifford put in granite corbels and walled up all the old holes with stone and cement. If you want a cheaper estimate I will send you one for an oak frame and will send it by tomorrow night's post why I suggested an iron frame was because I could put in a very stout one and it would be very rigid but if you prefer an oak frame you can have one and it will cost a good bit less and I can make a good job of it with an oak frame. There is another thing which would reduce the cost a little that is if one of the old beams ~~was~~<sup>was</sup> found good enough to remain it could be put on the North side as it would not be wanted as long as any of the others. I will also tomorrow see if I can reduce the weights of the iron frame and if so will send you an amended estimate.

Harry Stokes



Miss Dagworthys Root House.

Dec. 20. 1909  
January

To Mr. W. Palmer

Dear Sir.

The cost of the labour and nails  
for roofing and featheredge boarding, and  
providing, fixing & painting shuting to the  
Root House at Miss Dagworthys as told me  
by you ~~for~~ will be about Four Pounds (£4-0-0).

yours truly  
Harry Stokes,  
H.S.jr.



Jan. 21. 1909.

To Messrs. Gardiner & Sons Ltd.

All Saints Street.

Bristol.

Dear Sirs.

Please send me by return of post an illustration of and price of 118.6 run of unclimbable wrought iron fencing 4.0 high with two  $1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{16}$  channel iron horizontals with two lugs under bottom one, standards 9.0 apart of Tiron  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{16}$  with earth plate, stays  $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{5}{8}$  with base plates, bars  $\frac{5}{8}$  circular at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  centres with blunt tops. Also of 77.6 of the above kind of fence 4.6 high but with strong bar iron stays to project as little as possible. Also of a pair of gates 4.6 high to match the above fencing with cast iron pillars with self fixing bases, and fitted with slip bolts, strong padlock & suitable lifting latch, and a wrought iron stop suitable for fixing to a block of concrete, the gates would be 7.8 wide between the pillars.

Please state the price delivered to Woodbury Rd. Station L.S.W.R. and to Exeter Station G.W.R. I have enclosed plan showing the position of fencing (lined in blue) and the different lengths. How long would it take to execute the order after receiving it?

Yours truly  
Harry Stokes.

P.S.

Please return plan with the quotation.



School Platform Jan. 23. 1909  
To Mr. A. S. Phillips.

Dear Sir

The cost of fixing a Platform  
as described by you in Woodbury School  
will be £10.

Harry Stokes.

ITS jr



Skinner chiming app<sup>ts</sup>

Rev<sup>d</sup> T. G. Fox  
Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1909

In reply to your inquiry this morning about a chiming apparatus for your bells. I beg to say that they would not at all interfere with the ringing of the bells, they are so fixed that they are thrown out of gear down where they are chimed from at bottom of the Tower, would not want to go up in the Tower for anything, it is very simple and a lad can chime them. The cost of providing and fixing the apparatus to your 6 bells everything complete will be £8.18/- an order from you to fix it will be highly esteemed, and would receive immediate attention. I have fixed one already this year, and I have received an order this week to fix one to the 6 bells in Kingsnympton Tower

yours obediently  
Harry Stokes

February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1909 To put a dove to the Manual with a lock and 2 keys, will be 6/- or 7/- extra to the above contract.



Devon County Education Authority

Aylesbeare Council School

Fence

Form of Tender

We hereby tender to carry out the above mentioned work in accordance with the Plan and Specification prepared by Mr. Percy Morris, County Architect (Education), 1 Richmond Road, Exeter, and subject to the Form of Contract which accompanies such Plan and Specification for the sum of Forty two Pounds, Eleven Shillings. (£42-11-0).

We hereby agree on our Tender for the said work being accepted, to sign the said Plan and Specification and the said Form of Contract.

{ William Summerfield  
Harry Stokes

Woodbury

January 25. 1909

To the

Devon County Education Committee



Kings Nympston Bells Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 1909

To

Rev<sup>d</sup> J. Brown

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

The cost of providing and making and fixing 2 uprights and a match board door with edges being complete, with a lock fixed to it, to the churning apparatus will be 10/- same to be fixed when went down about the 2 bells, and the cost of the Bell Ropes would be 11/- per rope, you to send to Southwell Rd to fetch door, ropes & man and take him back again to station.

yours Obediently  
Harry Stokes

To

Mr R. Halland

Churchwarden, Kings Nympston

Sir

It would be best for you to get the iron bands from the Smith in the Village. I should have to go to him if I supplied them they will want a bar  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 5/8$  of best iron.

I will send down and unhang the 2 bells and put on the bands with your Smith and hang up the bells again for the sum of £3-8-0 - you to supply the iron bands, you for the Rector to send to Station and fetch man & tools (I should have to send 2 men) and send them back to station again when finished

H. Stokes



To

February 9<sup>th</sup> 1909

Mr. J. J. Daymont  
Talon

Dear Sir

In reply to your P. C. enquiring about the cost of <sup>best</sup> bell ropes. I beg to say they would be 11<sup>th</sup> each 45 feet long you to pay the carriage of them, these ropes do not get stiff and hard like the local bell ropes you get.

I supply hundreds of them during a year. I sent a set to Gordon just before Xmas an order would receive immediate attention

yours truly  
Harry Stokes



Bow Muffles

February 19<sup>th</sup> 1909

To

R. D. Pickman Esq.

Sir

The cost of the Muffles is 3/6 each  
if you want them at once please let me know by  
return because I am runned out of them.

H Stokes



Mr. H. Glawills & Mr. G. Langs

Feb. 23, 1909

To Mr. W. Palmer,

Dear Sir

re Mr. H. Glawills.

To provide, prepare & fix  
the 2 wood partitions, 2 pairs of jambs, one  
four panel door with lock & architraves, shift  
one four panel door and rehang it and paint  
it all 3 coats will cost (£6.4.0. The  
jambs would be 4x3 rebated, rails 3x2 arch.  
deal, and 1" red match board, new four panel  
door to match existing one, no skirtings.

repainting at Mr. G. Langs Cottage

I will clean off & paint 3 coats all the  
woodwork that has been already painted at  
the above Cottage for the sum of 15/-.

Yours truly  
Harry Stokes



Mar. 4. 1909

To Mr. W<sup>m</sup> Summerfield

3 ribs for a centre made from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " deal with  
2 - 3 x 2 rafters across bottom of each.

14/8" wide & spring 1-6 will cost £1-19-0

Harry Stokes



# Talaton Church Bells.

March 11. 1909

To the Rector & Churchwardens

Rev. Sir Gentlemen,

I have examined your peal of six Bells and I find that the 1<sup>st</sup> Bell is alright with the exception of one bearing which is loose, this can be tightened and put right, and that the clapper wants re-leathering. The other five Bells (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, + 6<sup>th</sup>) have their gudgeons and bearings worn out and they all require to be put in new, the clappers of these Bells want setting right, three of them want re-leathering and two want new wood boxes put to them and the five pulleys under the wheels want new pins, to do this I should have to send up a couple of men and take off the wheels, and unhang the Bells, and take off the stocks and take out the bearings, and bring the stocks, gudgeons and bearings home here and make new gudgeons and bearings the same pattern as the old ones so that they will fit in the same stocks, fit them up, take them back again in tower and send men up to repair it. This work will cost £ 14.10.0.

I would recommend that 14 long  $\frac{3}{4}$  bolts be put down through frame and one pair of strap plates, this would stiffen & strengthen the frame because now when the Bells are ringing it moves about a little, I will bore the holes down through the frame and put in 14 long  $\frac{3}{4}$  bolts for £ 2.15.0.

All the ironwork, stocks, and felloeing part of wheels want cleaning and painting very badly. The stocks and felloeing part of wheels are



Take home  
all wheels  
stocks &  
ironwork

getting worn eaten and if they were painted  
it would prevent the worms eating into it.  
I will clean the ironwork, stocks and  
felloeing part of wheels and give it two  
coats of paint for £1.9.0.

2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup> + 5<sup>th</sup>  
small pattern  
6<sup>th</sup> No. 2  
pattern  
bearing

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bell is cracked down over the  
shoulder and there is one thing that can  
be done to prevent it going any farther  
and that is to put an iron band around it  
put it on hot and let it shrink on. This  
will cost £1. The only thing that can be  
done is to recast it this would cost about  
£17 or £18.

The above named sums are for doing  
all the work at the same time  
Harry Stokes

Sent to Mr. W. Pyle.  
Harris Farm  
Talatou.  
Ottery S. Mary.



Burlescombe Ropes

Mar. 11. 1909

To Rev. G. Bramwell.

Rev. Sir.

I will supply you with a set of  
best-made Bell Ropes (Mucilli make) for 11/9  
each. Trusting to be favoured with an  
order for same

I am

Harry Stokes

H.S.

11

11

11



## Thurleston Church Bells

March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1909

To the Vicar & Churchwardens

Rev. Sir & Gentlemen

I have been as you already know and examined the peal of five Bells and the beams, framework and fittings attached to them. I then told you that the beams which carry the whole thing, and the framework was in a very dilapidated state and that the Bells were dangerous to ring especially the tenor<sup>bell</sup> so I need only say that the Bells must be taken down, and all the old framework, beams and floor must be taken out from the tower and put in new. I was rather surprised to find that there was some money spent on the fittings of the Bells about 20 years ago, this money was spent very foolishly and the man that advised it did not look thoroughly into it as then at that time there ought to have been new beams and frame put in as it must then have been badly decayed and the money that was spent about it, with the exception of recasting the Bell was I consider money wasted as none of that work will do again.

The five Bells are sound but the treble is a very poor ~~one~~<sup>bell</sup> and ought to be recast, it has a very poor tone and is flat and cannot be sharpened any more as it has already been sharpened as much as it can be, and if you do not now have it recast it must in re-hanging be quarter turned as where the clapper has been striking it is worn a great deal, been striking on one place since 1697. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bell was recast in 1844 and does not want quarter turning. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Bell was recast in 1888 and does not want



quarterturning. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bell was cast in 1748 and must be quarter turned. there are some of the canons cracked on the head of ~~her~~<sup>it</sup> and ~~she~~<sup>it</sup> has had 2 holes drilled through ~~her~~<sup>its</sup> head and bolts put up through to help keep the stock on, what is wanted to be done in rehangng this bell is to take off all the canons and put 2 more bolts through ~~her~~<sup>its</sup> head (4 in all) to bolt on the stock, ~~to be~~ the same way as 2<sup>nd</sup> is done and it will not affect the tone. The Tenor Bell cast in 1654 is a fine toned bell and must be quarter turned, the clapper of ~~this~~ Bell has been striking on one place  $\frac{1}{2}$  255 years, this Bell has got very high canons on ~~her~~<sup>it</sup> like the 4<sup>th</sup> and in rehangng ~~her~~<sup>it</sup> I should recommend that they be taken off and holes drilled through the head like the 2<sup>nd</sup> to fasten on the stock, it would not take such a deep stock to hang ~~her~~<sup>it</sup> with and ~~she~~<sup>it</sup> could be taken up in the stock more than ~~she~~<sup>it</sup> could with the high canons on ~~her~~<sup>it</sup> and made to ring much easier & lighter. There is another thing required in the tower and that is to have another floor put in between the ringing chamber and the bells, this floor is wanted badly and should be put about 13 or 14 feet up from the ringing chamber floor, there is nothing now between the Bells and the ringing chamber, a distance of 25 feet, except some old wood stays for ropes, if this floor was put in it would be a great comfort to the ringers and it would deaden the sound from the Bells, I will give you a seperate estimate for this floor & post.

### Estimate

I will undertake to lower the 5 Bells from the tower



and put them in some convenient place, take out the old frame, fittings, floor & beams from the tower and provide and fix in the tower five English oak beams, one 12x9 and four 12x10, provide, make and fix an English oak frame for the six bells, the sizes of scantling for frame to be same as marked on plan, and bolt it together with about 46,  $\frac{3}{4}$ " &  $\frac{1}{2}$ " bolts and the bolts where convenient to go down through frame into the main beams, all the top joints of frame to be secured with wrought iron angle plates and the bottom joints with stout strap plates, provide and lie on the beams and cut in between the pills of frame a good red deal floor 2" thick and nailed to the beams. I will also undertake to hoist the five bells again into their places in the tower and hang them with all new fittings, complete viz. wheels, stocks, stays & sliders, pulleys, steel gudgeons and gunmetal bearings, the steel gudgeons fitted into iron bed plates, clip bolted to the stocks and the bearings fitted into iron carriages screwed down to frame, and fitted with iron hinged covers and thumb screws, all new ironwork to hang the bells with, quarter turn the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and tenor bells and put new staples in them to take the clappers, take off the canons from the 4<sup>th</sup> and tenor bells and drill holes through their heads similar to the 2<sup>nd</sup> bell, put the clappers in proper order and properly hang them in the bells, use the same set of ropes again, and properly guide them away from wheels to ringing chamber with all necessary thimbles, guides &c. paint all the ironwork



stocks, and felloeing part of wheels 3 coats,  
pay carriage of all my materials and  
travelling expenses for my men and complete  
the work in a satisfactory, and workmanlike  
manner and to the satisfaction of anyone you  
may like to appoint to inspect the work or try  
the go of the bells, anyone that knows anything  
about Church Bell work for the sum of  
£130.10.0. You to have done any masons  
work that may be required. All the old metal  
ironwork and bearings to be my property and  
the old woodwork to be yours and which if  
sold would help pay for the masons work that  
would be wanted.

If you should feel disposed to put in  
the joist and floor which I have recommended  
and which I hope you will have done, I will  
undertake to put it in for the sum of  
£7.14.6. I should put in two pieces of  
oak 8" x 4½" against east & west walls,  
running from north to south and lie the  
joists which would be 6" x 2" deal across on top  
of these pieces of oak and nail them to the oak  
beams, trim out a trap door 3' 9" square in  
centre and hang the door to lift and lie on  
1½" good red deal tongued floor on the joists, and  
stain the bottom side of it which would show  
in the ringing chamber.

To provide and fix a chiming apparatus to  
the five bells and prepare it for use at the  
bottom, with door, lock &c. complete and paint  
door &c. at bottom green similar to the chairs  
if done at the same time as the other work will cost  
£7.8.0. If I had to send specially to fix the  
chiming apparatus it would cost £8.12.0



Loddlowale Bells

March 30<sup>th</sup> 1904

To Rev<sup>d</sup> W. Hodges  
Dillon

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

In reply to your letter received this morning I beg to say I have a job in your neighbourhood to rehang the West-Abington Church Bells put in a new frame and all new fittings to the bells but I shall not be going there until about April 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> I could then examine your Church Bells sometime in that week but if you wanted a report on them for your Ecclesiastical Society I could go down one day next week and look at them. My charge for going and examining them and reporting on their condition would be £1.0.0 - but if there was anything required to be done to them and you gave me the work to do I should not make any charge for examining them.

Yours Obediently  
Harry Stokes



Izel Cottage

March 31<sup>st</sup> - 1909

Mr W. Summerfield

Dear Sir

To put the letter box & plate  
outside and 5 shelves and bracket for Lamp  
all fixed with brackets & cleats will be 18" 6.

Harry Stokes

To put 2 extra shelves one in Kitchen and one  
in Scullery will be 5/-



S. Philip + S. James, Alpacombe

April 10. 1909

To the Vicar & Churchwardens.

Rev. Sir & Gentlemen,

I have examined the frame and fittings of the peal of six Bells in your Church Tower. I had each Bell rung up by itself so that I could see the working of it. I found that the frame was a very good one but when the Bells were ~~ringing~~ <sup>rung separately</sup> I found that it shifted about a bit and when all the Bells were ringing in peal it would shift about a great deal, this is through there not being enough bolts in it. I should propose that 16 or 18 more long  $\frac{3}{4}$ " bolts be put down through it to stiffen & strengthen it, and take off the nuts from the bolts now in the frame and oil them and then screw up the old bolts and the new bolts at the same time, you would then find that the frame would be more rigid and steadier, this would be done before putting in the new bearings which would then be put in perfectly level. Some of the fittings on the Bells want renewing, all the gudgeons and bearings are worn out and they must be renewed. In putting in new gudgeons and bearings I should put in ~~a~~ different ~~gudgeon~~ <sup>ones</sup> and bearing from what there is now there, I should do away with the rings on end of the stocks also the tail gudgeons, and put ~~in~~ iron bed plates to take the gudgeons, they would then be clip bolted up through the stocks, the bearings would not have wood covers but iron ones hinged to the bearings and fitted with



thumb screws. these covers are always in their places. no trouble with them. The wheels are good except the 2<sup>nd</sup> and that one wants new hooping and shrouding put to it, the bottom half of the wheels want a pair of iron stays put to them to keep them steady they shift about when the Bells are ringing and they are <sup>liable</sup> ~~apt~~ to throw their rope. All the ironwork on the Bells would have to come off. it is rusted very badly for want of paint. I am afraid that in taking off some of it the screw part will come off but it would have to be soaked with paraffin before starting. all the ironwork, bolts, wheels, stocks, and chime hammers want cleaning & painting badly. it has had no paint since it was put there. all the clappers want new boxes put to them. and bolts & clips put right. and all the ground pulleys under the wheels want renewing as the holes in them & the pins are worn out. To put new gudgeons & bearings to these bells I should have to send down a couple of men and unhang them and take the stocks and 2<sup>nd</sup> wheel home here as I could not fit the new gudgeons & plates to the old stocks in the tower ~~and~~ <sup>or</sup> put the new hoops and shrouding to the 2<sup>nd</sup> wheel. The chiming apparatus wants overhauling.

#### Estimate

I will undertake to put in about 16 or 18 long  $\frac{3}{4}$  bolts down through the frame run off the nuts on the bolts now in the frame, and screw them all up tight, unhang the six Bells and take off the wheels, stocks & ironwork



from them and send the stocks & the 2<sup>nd</sup> wheel home here, provide and fix 6 new pairs of gudgeons & plates to the stocks, and bearings, and put new hoops & shrouding to the 2<sup>nd</sup> wheel, make good any ironwork that may be wanted, put new boxes to 5 of the clappers and a new leather strip over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> clapper and properly hang all the clappers in the bells again, put six new ground pulleys, and six pairs of wheel stays to bottom half of wheels to steady them, make the holes in floor over ringing chamber a little larger where the rope comes through and put a turned hard-wood block with hole in it under the floor for each rope to work in, look over the chiming apparatus and put 6 new tubes to it, clean off all the wheels, stocks & ironwork and give it 3 coats of paint, pay carriage of all my materials and all travelling expenses for my men and finish the work in a satisfactory manner for the sum of Thirty Eight Pounds, Eleven Shillings (£38.11/-) and the old materials I take out to be mine.

If after unhooking the Bells any of the stocks were found defective and wanted to be put in new it would be 10/- extra for each stock required

May 24<sup>th</sup> 1919 Have 5 wheels home here, and put new brood blocks to them & repair ropes that want it for £2.15.0



April 26<sup>th</sup> 1909

To

Halliday Hartley Esq-  
O'Henry St-Mary

Sir

I have no cheap Bell 15 or 18 across the mouth  
I could supply you with a new one 15" across mouth  
which would be about 70<sup>lbs</sup> at 1.3 per lb and you  
pay carriage of it. The fittings for Bell of what  
"namely" wrought iron headstock with turned  
ends, gunmetal bearings, clapper screw & rope would  
be extra to the above price.

H. L.



re Priory Dining Room

April 26. 1909

To the

Rev. J. L. I. Fulford.

Rev. Sir.

The cost of stripping off the loose paper, sizing walls, cleaning down all the woodwork and painting it 2 coats, and papering the Dining Room with paper at  $\frac{1}{6}$  per piece will be about  
£2.5.0

yours obediently

Harry Stokes

H. S. jr



To

May 1<sup>st</sup> - 1909

Rev<sup>d</sup> W. T. Wellcott

The Vicarage

Bradworthy

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

I am pleased to hear that you are getting on with the funds for Pancraswyke Bells! If you are thinking of carrying out the work after 2 months from now why not give me the order for it now right away I could then perhaps get it done in August. I have enough in hand now to last me up to end of July and I am expecting every week to hear my estimates are accepted for 2 more peals and the first I get order for that is the first I carry out and I am going next week to examine 2 more peals and give estimates for them one of them I know will be done right away. If you paid me at the completion of the work all the money you had in hand I could give you 6 months credit for the remainder that is if you could not get enough to pay before 6 months was up.

H. Stokes

for iron frame which you ask for, the iron frame to carry top bell, would be carried on 4 steel girders - 2 running from east to west, + 2 north to South.



May 5<sup>th</sup> 1909

Holbeton Church Bells

To Rev. E. S. Powell.

Rev. Sir.

When I wrote you on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> last, it was in the iron frame & the steel girders that I thought I could make a reduction, but I find now I cannot do so, so my estimates of June 12<sup>th</sup> 1907 will stand. Trade was very bad in the foundry line the early part of the year but now it is looking up a bit better, so I cannot now get a reduction from the Founders. The cost of providing & fixing a chiming apparatus to the 6 bells will be £7-10-0 if done same time as the other work, the hand pulls at bottom for chiming will be gutta percha tubing, put over the chiming <sup>cords</sup> ropes but if you wish to have chiming ropes with sallies same as bell ropes, the chiming apparatus will cost £8-18-0.

I should require about 3½ months from the time of receiving order to complete the work. I make everything here, the frames & fittings all ready for fixing, but the work in the Tower, clearing out the old frame etc. & fixing new frame, & hanging the bells would take between 3 & 4 weeks, so if you think of giving me the work to do, the sooner you order it the better, as I should then know what to do. I like to carry out my work as ordered, first ordered first done.

I should not be able to get on else. I am now putting in a new iron frame, & hanging the 6 bells at West Alington, Kingsbridge, & they are I believe to be opened on Ascension Day. I have also a job at Ilfracombe, & one at Shelbridge, & I am just returned from examining 2 peals one in Somerset, & one in this County, & have to send in estimates for them for a meeting next week. I enclose a photo of an iron frame, also the sketch elevation



May 5<sup>th</sup> 1909

Berry Pomeroy Church Bells

To.

C. Barran. Esq.

Sir.

I will provide two new treble bells & Clappers, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> to match the present six now in the Church Tower, the two bells to weigh about 11 <sup>cwt</sup> & to be in perfect harmony with the present six, & pay carriage of them to Berry Pomeroy Church. I will also undertake to provide, make & fix in the Tower, new iron framing for two bells, provide & fix oak sills same as in present frame, & hoist the two bells in the tower, & hang them with all new fittings complete for ringing, provide & fix 2 chiming hammers to the 2 new bells, & alter the chiming manual now in bottom of Tower from 6 to 8. and complete the work in a satisfactory & workmanlike manner for the sum of £119-15-0.

The present 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> now in the tower, would have to be shifted out. from where they are, & hung in the new framing. The two new bells would be hung in the present 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> pits. The two old ones must be shifted to get the bell ropes around properly. I have included in my estimate for shifting the present 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> I should go to Messrs Mears & Stainbank London. for the 2 new bells, they are the best Founders of treble bells in England.

May 17<sup>th</sup> 1909 wrote to say that any inscription put on the bells would be 4<sup>d</sup> per letter extra to the contract



East-Brent Church Bells

To

May 4<sup>th</sup> 1909

Rev. F. S. P. Seal

Rev. Sir

I have as you are aware examined the Tower, and frame and fittings of the bells and I beg to say I found some of it in a bad condition. The Tower would want seeing to before the bells were returning as there is a crack in the spire on North West corner and the battlements on top of the Tower on South and West want seeing to, the lead around beside the battlements is off from them and lets the wet in ~~in the bell chamber~~, some of the arches over the windows in the bell chamber want to be put right, some of the stones are loose, and the quoins want pinning up the quoin on one side of doorway leading into bell chamber is gone, this one wants renewing and the arch over made good all the walls in bell chamber want to be thoroughly overhauled and the stones which are loose reset, there is a crack or two in the walls in the clock chamber these want to be seen to as well, what is wanted to be done is to lower down the bells and clear out all the framework &c from the bell chamber, then the masons would be able to do all that was required to the walls and spire before putting in a new frame and hanging the bells again. There is a new frame wanted and all new fittings for the bells as it is all got in a bad state, and the old frame is bulged against the wall which right not to be, there is plenty of room to put in a new frame and keep it all clear from the tower walls. I should recommend to put in an Iron frame, it will not take so much room as an Oak one and it is more rigid there are 4 ~~large~~ beams under the bells running from East to West which will have to be renewed, and there are two large ones under the 4 running from North



to South which I believe could be used again by taking them down and cutting off the ends a little and putting in 4 corbel stones one under each end of them for beams to rest on, and filling up the holes behind with stone and cement, if these 2 beams were not found good enough to remain I would suggest to put in 2 steel girders about 12x6 in place of them and rest them on corbels the same, but this cannot be decided on until the Tower is cleared out. There is a beam in the middle of floor over the bell chamber in bottom of spire, the end of which is decayed badly this one wants renewing. The steps leading up the Tower, and the bell chamber, are in a dirty condition owing to the birds bringing in sticks &c and making their nests there, the birds must be kept out, this can be done by putting perch netting to all the windows and openings. The bells themselves are alright the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> have been quarter turned already and they must remain so, except the 3<sup>rd</sup> and she ought to be half quarter turned, this half quarter turning cannot be done without taking the canon off from her same as 2<sup>nd</sup> and drill 2 holes thro head for clapper staple, the staples inside 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> which clappers swing on are got bad and want to be set right again, the 4<sup>th</sup> and Tenor do not want quarter turning the 4<sup>th</sup> dates from 1799, and the Tenor was recast in 1847, the chime hammers which are fixed to the bells were not fixed so as to strike the bells properly and they do not bring out the proper tone of the bells, especially the Tenor, this hammer strikes on the tip of the bell and it was knocked a piece off from the edge of it, this hammer ought not to be used for chiming the bell, some of the clappers in the bells are worn out and will have



to be new. The wood steps leading from ringing chamber to clock chamber are in a bad condition and new ones are wanted.

I will undertake to lower down the 5 bells and put them in some convenient place and take out the old fittings, frame, floor and beams. (I should send up men a special journey for this so that the Tower could be put right before putting in new work) provide and fix in the Tower 4 oak beams, 2 to be 14 x 9 and 2 to be 14 x 8, cut off the ends of the 2 large beams running from North to South and refix them if they are found good enough to remain. provide and fix on the beams an oak framing bed for the 5 bells, and cut in between the framing bed and tie and nail on the beams a good red deal floor 2" thick. provide make and fix on the framing bed an iron frame for the 5 bells, the frame to be of sufficient strength and substance to resist the action of the bells when ringing, and the frame to be bolted down through the framing bed into the beams and kept clear from the Tower walls, the frame to be painted 3 coats paint-2 before fixing and one after. I will also undertake to hoist the bells into their places in the new frame, and hang them with all new fittings complete, "as follows," wheels, stocks, stays and sliders, pulleys, steel gudgeons and gunmetal bearings, the steel gudgeons fitted into iron bed plates clip bolted to the stocks and the bearings fitted into iron pedestal carriages, fitted with iron hinged covers and thumb screws, the carriages bolted down to frame, all new ironwork to hang bells with, quarter turn the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> bells again, and half quarter turn the 3<sup>rd</sup> and put new staples in them, provide 3 new clappers, and rework the other 2, and properly hang them in the bells, provide a new set of best made bell ropes and



properly guide them away from wheels to ringing chamber  
with all necessary shutts, turnbuckles, pattresses & repair  
and upix the churning hammers, paint all the ironwork  
and stocks and following part of wheels 3 coats of paint  
pay all carriage of my materials and all travelling  
expences for my men, and complete the work in a  
workmanlike and satisfactory manner, and to the satisf-  
-action of anyone you may like to appoint to inspect the  
work or by the go of the bells (anyone that knows anything  
about church bell work for the sum of £158<sup>0</sup> 14<sup>0</sup>  
One hundred and Fifty Eight Pounds Fourteen Shillings,  
all the old ironwork, bearings, metal and ropes to be  
my property, and all the old timber to be yours, you to  
see to the clock and make it secure, and have done all  
masonry that would be required, also all corbel stones  
if any should be wanted. If it was found that the  
2 old beams, ~~under the beams~~ running from North  
to South were not good enough to remain I would supply  
and fix 2 steel girders 12x6 in their place for £6<sup>0</sup> 5<sup>0</sup>  
This estimate do not include replacing the bad beam  
over the bell chamber at bottom of spire, neither for  
the new steps in ringing chamber.

I remain Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

your Obedient Servant

Harry Stokes



May 4<sup>th</sup> 1909

To

Rev<sup>d</sup> J. Hill Hasegood  
Thebridge

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

Will you please write and tell me what date in June you want the bells finished, also say if I shall fix up the iron stays for the bell ropes to be brought down to the bottom of Tower. I hope you will have this done because it will not be a good job else. The cost of these stays all fixed complete will be £2<sup>10</sup>/- I suppose the ropes are long enough if they are not - would want to splice on a piece to the end of each one of them.

yours &c  
Harry Stokes



To

May 12<sup>th</sup> - 1904

Rev<sup>d</sup> W. J. Whitwell  
Loutham Vicarage

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

The cost of the Bell ropes will be 11/- each  
you to pay carriage of them if they are wanted  
over 60 feet they will be 11/9 each they are  
11/- each any length up to 60 ft -

yours & obediently

Harry Stokes



May 12<sup>th</sup> 1909

To

Rev<sup>d</sup> R. C. W. Ekins  
Rame Rectory  
Plymouth

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

If you had to put up your 3 bells new  
and new framing & fittings it would cost ~~between~~  
about - £200 - and £220.

Harry Stokes

Bells <sup>cost</sup> 5

6

8

19 at £7 - £133

beams, floor frame fittings about - 60

£ 193



Stoddleigh  
Tipton

To

May 17<sup>th</sup> 1909

Mr W. H. Scott-

Sir

I have no descriptive catalogue for  
Belle Ropes the price is 1/- per rope up to 60 feet  
in length every 10 feet above 60 feet is 1/- extra  
you to pay carriage of them they are best-  
made Belle Ropes I have supplied same out-  
to Tipton & Wells for years  
# Stokes



re Mr. J. Cornishs. Cotthills, Woodbury

May 20. 1909

To Mr. Wm Palmer.

Dear Sir.

The cost of casing bedroom floor  
(about 12 sq.) with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " board, repairing door &  
putting new sill to it, repairing staircase,  
and painting windows outside at Mr. J. Cornishs  
Woodbury will be about £2-14-6

Yours truly,  
Harry Stokes.  
H.S. jr



# Loddiswell Church Bells

May 21. 1909

To the Rev. W. Hodges,  
Rev. Sir.

I have as you are aware examined the tower, and the the frame and fittings of the Bells in the abovenamed Church and I beg to say that I found the frame in a very bad condition and the bells owing to the bad condition of the framework ought not to be rung again in peal, the frame is an old one and the timbers of it are very slight and some of it has been cut about a great deal to let the bells pass around when ringing, I also noticed that some parts of the frame were butted to the walls and also wedged, this might not be and when I saw the six bells rung together in peal I wondered that some of it had not come to grief <sup>long</sup> before now, nothing can be done to it to repair it and the bells must be taken down out of the way and all the fittings, frame, floor and beams must be taken out and all put in new. Some years ago the tower walls were cut about a great deal and some parts of ~~the~~ <sup>them</sup> cut out, on one side of window quoins on east & west walls there is only about 1-3 of stonework left, what I would suggest is that the bells should be taken down and all the woodwork taken out and could then <sup>exactly</sup> see what masonry is required and make it good in stone & cement before putting in any new work, this could be done under my instructions. I should want to send down some men a special journey for this to take down the bells and clear out the old woodwork.



The Bells are alright with the exception of the 3<sup>rd</sup> which is cracked badly and wants recasting, then it will be alright again. I should not hang the top bell the same way as now but I should put two steel girders about 8x5 across the tower from north to south and let them in the walls and wall them in, and make a piece of framing to go east and west for the top bell similar to plan pent.

### Estimate

I will undertake to lower down the six bells and put them in some convenient place take out the old fittings, frame, floor and beams and provide and fix four English oak beams two 10x9 and two 10x8, provide and lie on the beams and well nailed to them an oak floor 1 1/2" thick, provide, make and fix in the tower an English oak frame for the six bells well bolted together with about 38 3/4" bolts and the bolts where convenient to go down through into the main beams, all the joints of frame to be secured with strap plates, five bells will be hung on the level and one hung over in a separate oak frame this top framework to be carried on two steel girders 8x5 about 27 lbs. to the foot. I will also undertake to hoist the six bells into their places in the new frame and hang them with all new fittings complete viz:- wheels, stocks, stays sliders, pulleys, steel gudgeons and gunmetal bearings, the steel gudgeons fitted into iron bed plates and clip bolted to the stocks, and the bearings fitted into iron carriages screwed down to frame and fitted with iron hinged covers



and thumb screws, all new ironwork to hang the bells with, put the staples in the bells, which the clappers hang on, in proper order, also the clappers and properly hang them in the bells, provide a new set of best made bell ropes and properly guide them away from wheels with all necessary patrices, thimbles or provide and fix new pulleys for ropes to work in, repair and refix the iron guides at bottom of tower and put in turned hardwood blocks for ropes to work in instead of the iron rings now there, paint all the ironwork and stocks & felloeing part of wheels 3 coats, pay carriage of all my material and all travelling expenses for my men and complete the work in a satisfactory and workmanlike manner and to the satisfaction of anyone you may like to appoint to inspect the work or try the go of the bells for the sum of £121.6.0.

(One Hundred and Twenty One Pounds, Six Shillings). You to have done all the masonry that is required and see to the clock, all the old ironwork, ropes and bearings to be my property and the old wood your property.

To send the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bell to the Foundry and recast her, pay carriage to and from and add what metal is required to allow for waste in recasting (3lbs. to 1wt.) will cost Fifteen Pounds Twelve Shillings (£15.12.0). Any inscription put on her will be 4<sup>d</sup> per letter.



May 26<sup>th</sup> 1909

To

Colonel H. Batson

(Churchwarden of Bratton Fleming)

Cheltenham

Stoke Rivers R. S. O.

£

The cost of the muffles will be 3/6 each.

4 Stokes