

THE BELLS ARE BACK!

At last, after much tears, toil and sweat - to say nothing of gymkhana and other efforts - the bells are back where they belong.

At 9 o'clock on Tuesday, 10th April, the Vicar and about 20 others met the lorry which brought them from Loughborough, Leicestershire, where for the past ten years they have been lying in Messrs Taylor's Bellfoundry. This little reception party, led by the processional cross and singing "Praise my soul the King of Heaven", escorted the lorry to the church. A short service was held in the churchyard and the bells were blessed.

The work of re-hanging was carried out by Mr. Fidler, of Messrs Taylors, Loughborough, assisted by Mr Gould and Mr Rogers from Dunster. Those of us who were free to do so, watched while these gentlemen carefully hoisted the bells from the lorry, lowered them on to rollers and trundled them into the church. We also watched while the tenor was trundled out again; it was a little too large to go through the inner door. However, Mr. Fidler, having been faced with worse problems than that, soon put things right.

By Wednesday evening the work had been completed and ringers from Dunster, Dulverton, Exford, Bampton and Taunton assembled to try out the bells. Prominent among them was the Rev. H. Warren, Rural Dean, Rector of Exford and himself a notable ringer, being Master of the Diocesan Change Ringers Association. For nearly an hour the ringers worked in relays and many people were drawn to the church to see them in action. The more active among us climbed the somewhat hazardous spiral stair to the bell-chamber to see the bells swinging in their new cages. The verdict of those "in the know" is that we have a nicely balanced ring.

How long is it since the bells were properly rung? By that we mean had "changes" rung upon them. Some say thirty years, some are of the opinion that it may be longer than that. Most are agreed that they were "chimed" on occasions up

to about 1957, but it would be interesting to have some more accurate dates.

Anyway, we hope that we shall soon be able to hear them sounding regularly across our hills and valleys for several potential ringers are receiving instruction. Are there any more would be campanologists or former ringers who are prepared to swell the band? The Vicar would be glad to know.

C.H.F.

Brompton Regis Vicarage,
Dulverton.

18th April, 1968.

Dear Friends,

The Easter services were well attended and the sound of the bells pealing before the Parish Eucharist made a memorable occasion. Our thanks are due to those who rang for us on that occasion. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, most sincerely, for the generous Easter offering.

On Tuesday May 28th, Bishop Wilson will administer Confirmation at Withypool and six of our people hope to receive this sacrament. Please pray for them and support them by your presence on the day itself. The service is at 7.0 p.m. and the First Communion will take place on the following Sunday, June 2nd, (Whit Sunday) at the 10.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist.

Ascension Day falls on Thursday 23rd May and there will be a celebration of the Eucharist at 9.30 a.m.

Your sincere Pastor,

JOHN WOODBURN

P.S. Since writing these notes I have been trying to arrange a day for the re-dedication of the bells but have not any definite news as yet. - J.W.