

Holy Rood Church : 1. The Clock

Many of you will have noticed that the clock has been out of action since the end of October last year. Wear and tear on the three legged escapement parts, which are activated by the swinging pendulum, resulted in an irregular timing and the clock would then stop. Adjustments and minor repairs carried out over the last 10 years, since the clock was previously restored, had finally caught up and a major overhaul of this crucial part was needed.

The clock is a "Jubilee Clock" bought for the church to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. It cost £120 when installed and although the exact date it was fitted is not known, Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee (60 years) was in 1897. The cost of the latest repair work was £610 + VAT.



The external clock face on the tower

The clock was made by F Jacob of Dorchester and is of robust construction, as can be seen in the photographs below showing the clock workings, escapement assembly and clock face. The pendulum is some 7 feet or 2.1 metres long. Originally the clock and chime mechanisms used to be wound by hand once a week but both have had electric winding motors fitted to raise the weights.

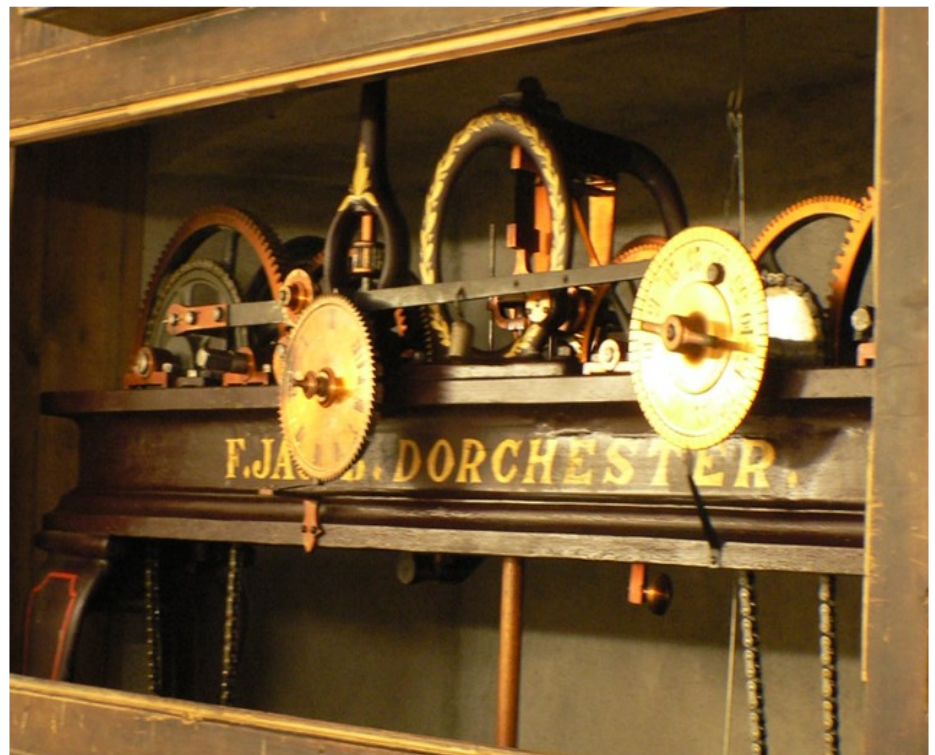
Since the bells were rehung a couple of years ago, the chimes are on the fifth bell which weighs just over 13 cwt. This bell is 42 inches in diameter and tuned to F#. We hope the clock will continue to keep good time and chime the hours for many years to come.

Next Time – The Bells and Tower

Brian Wells



Repaired escapement



Clock as viewed from inside the tower