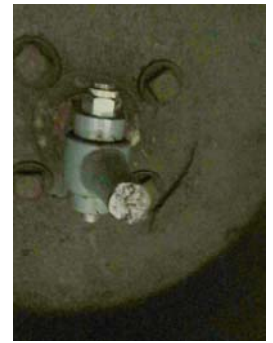


Replacing the Tenor Clapper at Bampton August 2017



On 16th July the tenor clapper broke whilst the bells were being rung down after service ringing. There was a tremendous thump as the clapper hit the bell chamber floor. Investigation the following day showed that the clapper had broken a few inches from the pivot (see picture top right) where, judging from the discolouration, there had been a long standing crack in the shaft. On landing the clapper had broken a ringing chamber floor board (see picture on bottom right).



Nicholson Engineering Ltd were commissioned to repair the clapper. The break was too near the pivot for the two parts of the stem to be welded together and, as Nicholson didn't have a suitable replacement, a new clapper had to be cast. Nicholson were ready to replace the clapper on 22nd August. The replacement clapper and the bell ready to receive the replacement can be seen below. A new Tufnol bush mounted in neoprene rubber has been fitted together with a stainless steel hinge pin.



Below

The bell hanger lifts the clapper feeding the fixed part through the crown of the bell and Mike replaces the nut to hold the clapper in place. The nut is then tightened and the clappering checked.





The bell hanger starts to swing the bell by pulling on the wheel. Note that the bell rope has been removed to prevent it becoming entangled round the headstock as the bell swings to and fro. The bell hanger continues to pull on the wheel raising the bell higher and higher...



...until it is striking in both directions. Then the bell is allowed to come down and the bell is checked for even striking on hand and back stroke. Ear defenders are a must!



It was nearly right the first time and only needed a small adjustment which was made by pushing the fixed part of the clapper over in the hole through the crown whilst Mike held the moving part against the bell to ensure that it didn't turn. And finally the lock nut was put on and the rope replaced.



And at the practice on 24th August all the ringers agreed that now we have a really nice sounding tenor.