

## SUNBURY

Details of the old ring are: treble cast by T Mears in 1817 when the Churchwardens were James Rutter and Jacob Jordan, second bell by C & G Mears in 1851, the third bell by T Swain in 1770 when John Sadler and John Chandler were the Churchwardens, the remaining three bells cast by Lester & Pack in 1755 with the tenor inscribed: LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT EDWARD LAYTON AND RICHARD CONSTABLE CHURCH:WARDENS J755, on the crown - + REPAIRE + 1829 REVD. JAMES CROWE VICAR + JA GRAHAM RUFF AND JOHN YOUNGMAN CHWARDENS.

In 1901 the bells went to John Taylor & Company of Loughborough who recast and augmented them to eight with added metal. They were Simpson-tuned and hung in a new metal 'H' frame with Hastings stays and runners.

The third peal took place in November 1901. Six of the ringers came from the Guildford area and the conductor from Drayton, Berkshire. They travelled to Walton-on-Thames Station where a horse-drawn conveyance was waiting for them as the station was rather remote from the town so they had to travel the four miles to the church which they reached about 2.30 p.m. The peal took two hours forty-three minutes to ring, after which the ringers adjourned to the local inn for refreshments. Time slipped by and they were pleased to have guidance from a local man as by now it was cold, dark and so foggy they could not see more than six feet in front of them. On their walk back to Walton Station on a lonely and winding country road they nearly fell into the rushing stream, the small river Ash, but luckily found a rough, wooden footbridge which saved them from a soaking. Despite the awful weather the train was on time and they safely travelled back to Guildford. The stream goes under the road now.

Much fund raising took place for the restoration work. The final ringing was on Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1998 before the bells went back to Loughborough. This was an ideal opportunity to redecorate the ringing chamber and attend to the frame in readiness to receive back the bells, recommissioned into service on Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

Source: H B Walters, manuscript; Dennis Brock and his article in the *Ringing World* July 14, 2000, pp 686-7; *Ringing World* July 7, 1972, p 534.