

Copy of material on a Paper loaned by Mr. R.P. Heald, one of the Ringers.

Title - Presentation of Tower Bells, May 20, 1896.
Opening Services, Wednesday, May 20th, at 7.30 p.m.
REV. T.E. Cleworth, Rector of Middleton.
Whitsunday, 10.30 & 6.30, by the Vicar.

DEANE TOWER AND BELLS.

A local authority states that 'Deane Church is the mother Church of Bolton.' There are Norman remains hidden under the present fabric, and part of a Norman Window is preserved in the Tower.

There is record of Churchyard Consecration in 1120 A.D., and the Church would precede that certainly. The Tower is beautifully proportioned to the elevation and length of the nave. It stands, as shown over a clough of singular beauty, but which the Parish Council want to see obliterated by cinders. The Tower windows are very fine in their way and the jambs are slooted to carry timbers for resisting attacks. The Tower arch was bricked up till 1880. In 1896 it was thought that the time to repair the Tower had arrived.

Till 1885 the flue of heating apparatus was carried up inside the Tower, and frequently set fire to the Bell timbers and roof. The Vicar, to prevent this, erected a boiler house outside.

A legacy by Mr. R. Green of £180 formed the nucleus of a restoration fund, which owes much to Alderman Nicholson.

Alderman Miles collected the funds for the New Bells. The Tenor Bell is 12 cwt. and 3ft. 5½ in. diameter and is f Sharp, next @ sharp, A sharp, B, C sharp, D sharp, E and F sharp; changes possible, over a million. An inscription says: -

"Richd. Sanders made us six, 1718 A.D."

No doubt the older bells were sold, as a relic of superstition by the Cromwellians, and at the same time the OLD BIBLE was sold because it contained the Prayer Book.

In 1792 Thos. Meres, London, recast No. IV Bell, now No. VI.

In 1831 Thos Meres again recast No. V., now No. VII. About 1875 Messrs Taylor "quartered" or quarter-turned the Bells, which necessitated the removal of the "cannons."

(over)

1896 -The Bells have all been taken down.The Tower walls have been re-built internally.The upper "Story Bells" rest upon iron girders let into the walls which strengthens the Tower,and the bearings and frames of bells are such that the bells run 'sweetly' and there is no fear of oscillation.

Mr. F.Thompson has acted as architect.

The Bell Ringers are again placed 10 feet from the ground which renders ringing more easy.

Messrs.Taylor & Sons of Loughborough,have carried out all that relates to the Bells.

The Tower is amply strong and spacious for an Octave of Bells,and on May 20th,1896,the Bells will be opened by a Divine Service,and the local Bell Ringers will start the bells,which we hope will never allow discord to enter.

There will be a formal starting of the Bells, Wednesday Evening,at seven o'clock,by several Donors

WHAT THE BELLS DO.

They notify the Clergy.
They call the worshippers.
They express our joys.
They toll our departing.

The Curfew Bell will again be heard as of old
at 8 p.m.

H.Sheridan Patterson,Vicar.

RESTORATION COMMITTEE.

VICAR. Chairman.

John Miles,J.P.

F.Thompson.

W.Crompton.

W.Chadwick.

Sidesmen:

S.Warburton. F.Hewitt. T.Mather. J.Farnworth.
W.Sharples.

Secretary:

Rev.F.Cleworth,B.A.