

Dear Mrs St.Clair,

Mrs Alison Hopper-Bishop of RAMM has recommended me to get in touch with you for advice. As chairman of our Ringmore Historical Society I am anxious for advice about a find in an old fire place in the tower of our church where bits of wood and other items had been unceremoniously stacked away.

It is a decorated wooden board in good condition except for a few worm holes.(2'6" x 8").It is connected with the old peel of three bells,restored through the efforts of Preb.F.C. Hingeston Randolph Rector (1860-1910),and re-hung in October 1869 by W..Aggett of Chagford whose name is inscribed on the board. The lettering is gothic in red, pale blue,gold and black. It has a triple pulley block in the centre. The original nail heads are in the board which is thought to be of Elm.

The colours are dimmed by ingrained dust and age(?). We would like to display the board in the church

By what means can we clean the board so that the colours are enhanced?

Is there a special sealant and varnish which could be used?

In the mean time the board is being protected from direct light.

We would be most grateful for your advice.

The date is confirmed by the writings of FCHR. As our church is ALL HALLOWS,it is very probable that he wanted the bells to peel out again on ALL SAINTS day.

In 1950 or thereabouts the bells were fixed for chiming. They are dated:-

Treble. Founders mark I.T. of Exeter. c1440.

Second. Recast by Mordecai Cockney.Totnes 1692.

Recast By Mears of London 1869.

Tenor. Recast by Ambrose Gooding of Plymouth.1740.

With Best Wishes, Yours Sincerely,

*R.A.*

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