

ST JAMES' CHURCH CLOCK

As a little bit of background I thought you may find the history of our clock of interest before I report on the successful restoration on the hands to the East facing dial.

The clock installed in the tower is a two train cast iron flatbed type turret clock, designed to show the time on two exterior dials, approx. 6 feet in diameter, and to strike the hours on the church tenor bell. It is located on the second stage of the tower, with access via fixed wooden ladders inside the tower. The clock is enclosed in a wooden clock case against the East wall of the tower. It is supported on wooden beams, built into the East wall and also supported from the floor. There is a fixed wooden platform for the clock winder to stand on.

No makers name or date is marked on the clock. However, various features would suggest that the maker was Bailey of Salford, Manchester. The date is probably in the late 19th century.

I gave a brief report on the health of our village clock that has had a problem for some time and it was eventually diagnosed with a split hour tube that connects the clock mechanism to the outside dial. The consequence of this problem was that the hour hand could not rotate at the appropriate speed and consequently the clock showed the incorrect time.



On Wednesday 20th November two engineers from Smith of Derby arrived with the hour tube repaired ready to get the clock ready for action. As I reported in November the hands required to be removed. I watched the engineers carefully plan how they were going to refit the tube. There is not a lot of space between the clock mechanism and the wall. But with patience and no little skill they managed to secure the hour tube in place. All that was needed now was to refit the hands. This required one of the engineers to access the dial from the parapet above and you can see the

engineer working on the dial from the picture below. There was a great deal of care taken to ensure that the hands were free to move around the dial as the engineer spun the hands. After a few adjustments by the engineers inside the tower it became clear that they were happy with the work they had done.

The job was done and our clock was back to fully servicing the village as it has done for over a hundred years. We all have a duty to maintain our heritage.

Raymond Fergusson (Churchwarden St James)



Assessing the next step



Almost there

