

the bellcote should be repointed in lime mortar at the same time.

While it could be argued that only the top part of the wall shows the open joints that clearly require early repointing, there are risks in lime-repointing over areas where cement pointing is then retained lower down. No pointing excludes all water: the purpose of changing to lime mortars is to allow the wall to dry more quickly after rain. Cement pointing – especially old cement pointing which tends to show hairline cracking – will not completely exclude water but will tend to retain it. As water enters a wall it moves downwards as well as inwards. An unintended consequence of retaining cement pointing lower down the wall might then be that retained water starts to collect behind it, possibly making the wall wetter.¹⁰

Allowance should be made for the work to the bellcote including *the resetting of some stones if found loosened and possibly, replacement of some too badly eroded to function structurally* [Photo 7]: a decision best made off scaffolding.

3.2.3.2 Bell

The Diocesan Bell Advisor, Peter Hayward has reported on the historic C15 bell. The bell and its hanging are in a seriously poor condition [see Photo 9, Photo 8]: the headstock holding the bell is severely corroded on one side and could bend and collapse at any moment, while the **gudgeon** on the N side of

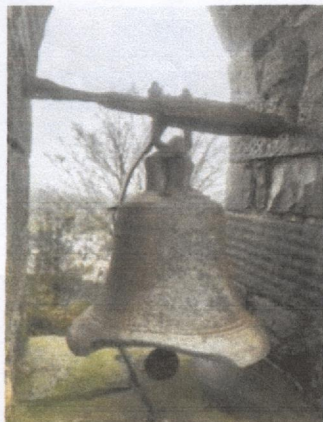


Photo 9 view of bell showing the broken sound bow, and the headstock thinned on its S side by rust.

the headstock supporting the bell only engages some 10 mm with its bearing.

The bell should not be rung, and the bell should be taken down as soon as possible to keep it safe from falling. Its repair¹¹ and rehanging should then be planned, ideally within this coming quinquennium.



Photo 8 Detail of N side bearing of bell: the engagement with the bellcote masonry is minimal and precarious.

¹⁰ A final decision on the extent of the repointing must be made by the CC's professional advisor after more investigation and observation of the wall, and possibly testing of mortar samples, work beyond the scope of this QIR.

¹¹ This should include the specialist welding in of a new section of sound bow unless the fragment broken off has been found and kept safe, in which case that should be welded back in. The work will need to be done by Soundweld, a firm in Newmarket that specialise in this, the only firm in Europe who do this.