

John/Steve,

The bells were probably last rung generally at a branch practice in the mid 1970's

In about 1999/2000 one of our Rural Branch Ringers had a relation getting married at Doynton, at that time they did not have an incumbent so we approached the PCC, they allowed us to examine the bells and look at the five which is really unringable.

When the five swings it tightens the wooden frame and makes the front four very difficult, without the five the front four go well.

We did ring the front four on that day, our local bell advisor produced a report to the Doynton PCC saying we would happily do some work on the five to improve the situation. We did not get and have not received any response to that report.

We did hear that they also had a report from the Diocesan bell advisor, we have never seen that report.

We were refused permission to ring for the wedding by the way.

The next we heard was that a toilet had been built in the bottom of the tower, this impedes the fall of the ropes for two of the bells.

We believe that the PCC always wanted a toilet in the bottom of the tower and were very enigmatic about this.

We have no idea how they obtained a faculty to do the work.

Our branch chairman wrote to the PCC recently offering help but to date has not received a reply.

When we talked to the previous incumbent of Doynton when we ring for service at Dyrham for which he is also the incumbent his replies have been, if we receive a legacy we will sort out the bells, but we cannot afford work on the bells at present.

The present incumbent has been very non committal when we have approached him on the subject. There is room for a floor above the ground floor and the toilet, this is probably the only way Doynton bells will ever ring again.

We have not given up on this tower but it is currently very difficult.

It would help if we had some local ringers in the village to campaign for the bells but currently there are none, although a number of people who live in Doynton (Not Ringers) and attend church at Dyrham are always very supportive when spoken to at church events and would like the their bells to ring again.

Hope that answers your questions!

Sorry the response is so long winded.

Regards

Tony York
Secretary Bristol Rural Branch.

----- Original Message -----

From: Steve Coleman**To:** Tony York
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 9:31 AM
Subject: Fw: Doynton

Hello Tony

I trust this finds you both well.

I don't know if you'd like to add anything to my email below.

Best wishes

Steve

----- Original Message -----

From: Steve Coleman
To: John Allen
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 9:27 AM
Subject: Re: Doynton

Hello John

Many thanks for your email.

I'm afraid that all I know is that Doynton is unringable and that Bristol Rural Branch ringers have tried very hard - both regularly and recently - to persuade the vicar and PCC to have something done - including giving them lots of offers of help. But I'll send your email on to Tony York, Bristol Rural Branch Secretary.

Best wishes

Steve

----- Original Message -----

From: John Allen

To: Steve Coleman

Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2010 2:11 PM

Subject: Doynton

Steve,

I wonder if you can help to solve a puzzling amendment to On Line Dove concerning Doynton? The Dove entry reads:-

'NO RINGING POSSIBLE: new toilet impedes rope fall'

I know that one of the bells has been unringable for some time but from this Dove amendment it appears that a toilet has been located in the ground floor ringing room thus giving the ringers nowhere to stand. This sounds a little irregular to say the least.

Do you know any more about this situation or perhaps you can point me in the direction of a Bristol Rural branch officer who may know more.

Thanks for you help.

John Allen

(Ringer at Lichfield Cathedral)