



The Diocese of Durham

**Parish of St. Mary's
West Rainton**



Mr M Ramshaw
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20th August 2024

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Dear Chair and PC Members,

Re: St Mary's Clock Chiming System

As you are aware the chiming system has been turned off since March when it started to chime irregularly and to continue through the night. An engineer from the Cumbria Clock Company came to examine the system and has advised that has reached the end of its lifespan and needs to be replaced. They have given a quotation for this work which would involve removing the control unit and bell sound box to take back to their workshop to be rebuilt. The expectation would be to continue to use existing speakers when the unit is reinstalled.

The quotation is for £3,930 + vat, total £4716.

Until the unit is removed and parts examined it is not known whether the price could possibly be reduced. A copy of the quotation has been provided to the Parish Clerk.

The clock itself has also now stopped working but this is possibly because the winding system is stuck and would be released as part of the annual service.

At the present time St Mary's is undergoing major renovation works to exterior walls which we hope will be followed with work to the roof and restoration of the organ if further funding can be sourced. Once current bills are paid our finances will be greatly depleted so we are not able to provide any funding towards the costs of the chimes.

However, we have worked hard to source funding for work to the chiming system and have now submitted two funding bids:

CDCF Banks Fund £2,000

DCC AAP £1,000 following an offer from Councillor Kellet (Neighbourhood Budget)

We would therefore propose that the PC consider funding the remaining amount of £1,716.

If we are successful in obtaining these grants. I request that this matter be considered at your next meeting and a written response be given to us as soon as possible. It may be that grants will not be awarded until match funding is confirmed.

Yours sincerely,

Annabel

Mrs A J Burns
PCC Secretary
St Mary's Church

