

**Report on the Clock and Bells of The Priory
Church of St Andrew the Apostle, Hamble-Le Rice**

**Photographed and compiled by Julian Porter of
the Southampton Archaeological Society**

June 2022

Report on the Clock and Bells of The Priory Church of St Andrew the Apostle, Hamble-Le Rice

On the 10th of June 2022, a group from the Southampton Archaeological Society visited Hamble Church to investigate and record any graffiti found. As a group, we are mostly interested in medieval graffiti although all graffiti is recorded and more modern graffiti can tell some interesting stories.

To ensure all possible locations in the church had been inspected, I climbed the tower. While there was little visible graffiti in the tower, I was struck by the clock and bells, which I thought, while I was there, I should record and research.

Here are my results:



The Priory Church of St Andrew the Apostle, Hamble-Le-Rice

The church at Hamble, whose full title is The Priory Church of St Andrew the Apostle, Hamble-Le Rice, is mainly of 12th and 13th-century origin with a 15th-century extension. There were extensive repairs and remodelling in the later Victorian period and there have been some more recent changes and additions. The tower is within the oldest part of the church, dating back to before 1128 when the original priory was founded as a cell of the Benedictine Abbey of Tiron, near Chartres. It does however have some more up-to-date internal additions utilising engineering bricks to keep the tower stable as it has no buttresses.

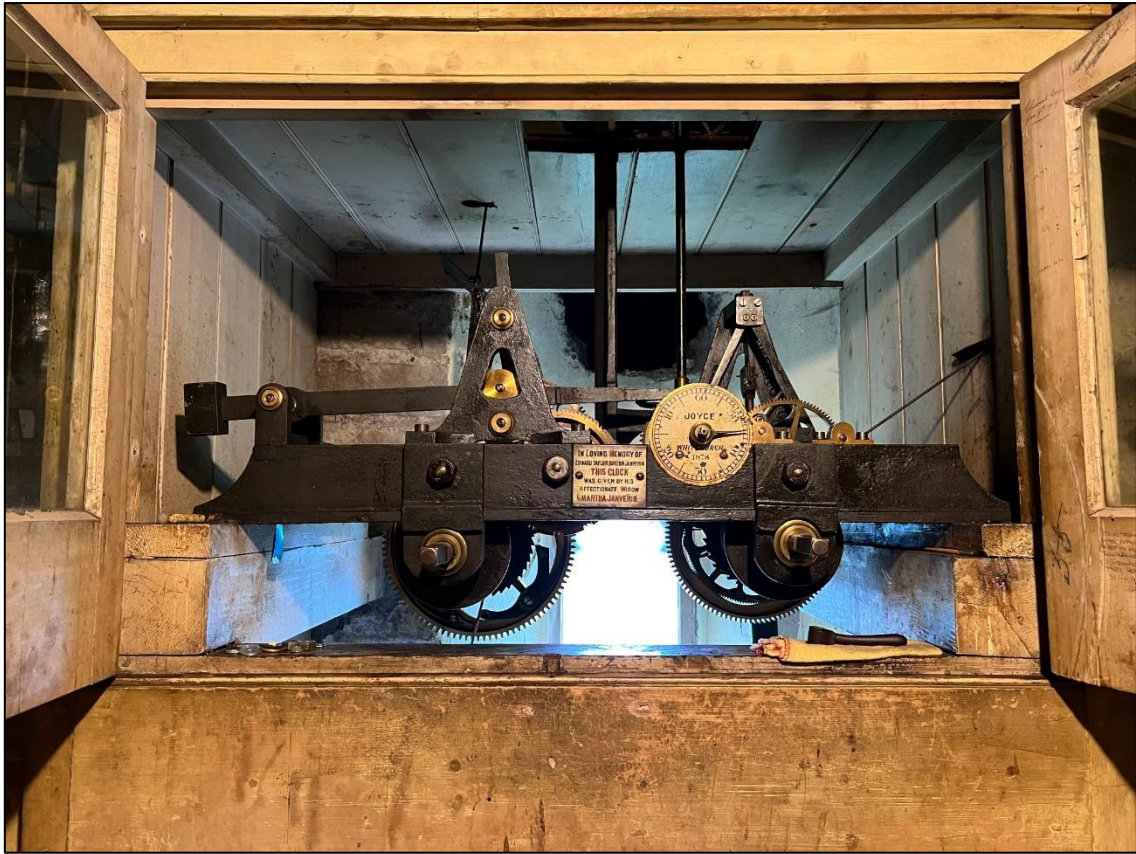
Within the tower is a clock room, and above that is a bell housing that is directly below the roof.

The Clock

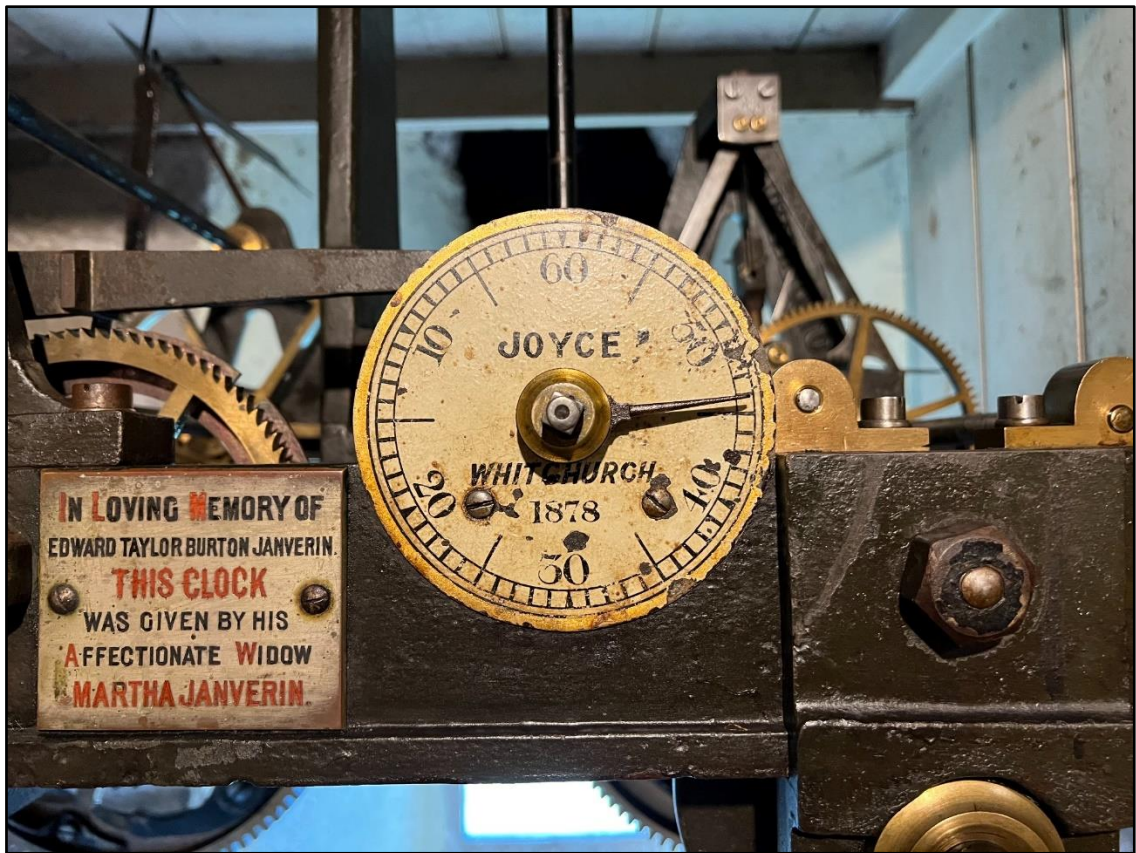
The clock room houses a turret clock within a cupboard. A turret clock is a clock which is intended to make the time known publicly either by striking on a bell or bells, or showing the time on an externally exposed dial, or both. The turret cupboard is primarily to protect the movement from pigeons and any weathering.



The turret clock cupboard



The clock movement.



The maker's plate and hand adjustment dial.

The clock mechanism, known as a "movement", is of the flatbed type introduced in the mid-nineteenth century and appears to be a two-train movement. Two trains of wheels (timekeeping and striking). The first is called the going train and this drives the hands to tell the time. The striking train strikes the hour. Each train is driven by a weight on the end of a steel line which is wound up around a barrel. On the barrel is a square on which the winding handle fits.

The maker's plate and hand adjustment dial show the clock was built by J.B. Joyce & Co of Whitchurch, Salop in 1878.

William Joyce began in the North Shropshire village of Cockshutt making longcase clocks in 1690. The family business was handed down from father to son and in 1790 moved to High Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire. In 1904 J. B. Joyce moved to Station Road, Whitchurch. In 1834 Thomas Joyce made large clocks for local churches and public buildings. In 1849 the company copied the Big Ben escapement designed by Lord Grimthorpe. J. B. Joyce also installed synchronous electric clocks in several railway stations, including Liverpool's Lime Street Station, Aberystwyth in Wales, and Carnforth in Lancashire. John Edgar Howard Smith (1907–1983), a former managing director of Smith of Derby Group, designed the first and subsequent synchronous electric movements for J. B. Joyce, and their associated electro-mechanical bell striking units.

In 1964, Norman Joyce, the last member of the Joyce family, retired and sold the company to Smith of Derby. During the 1970s, many of the mechanical clocks were changed to use the electric motors made by the Smith parent company. However, J. B. Joyce continued to operate as a separate company, with mainly heritage work being carried out in the factory up to 2012, when a timed-bid auction was held to sell off surplus equipment, tools, and clock parts, at the Station Road premises. Interior designers, collectors of historic items, and aficionados of J. B. Joyce joined to bid for a "piece of horological history".

J.B. Joyce claimed to be the oldest clockmaker in the country.

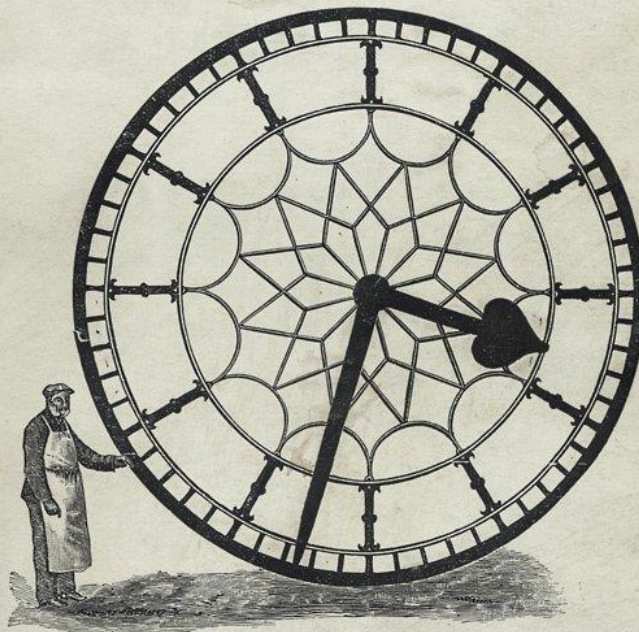
Thankfully, their magnificent factory building in Whitchurch still stands and is today the premises of Trevanion Auctioneers and Valuers.



The old Joyce factory, now Trevanion Auctioneers and Valuers, in Station Road, Whitchurch, Salop.

CHURCH & TURRET CLOCKS

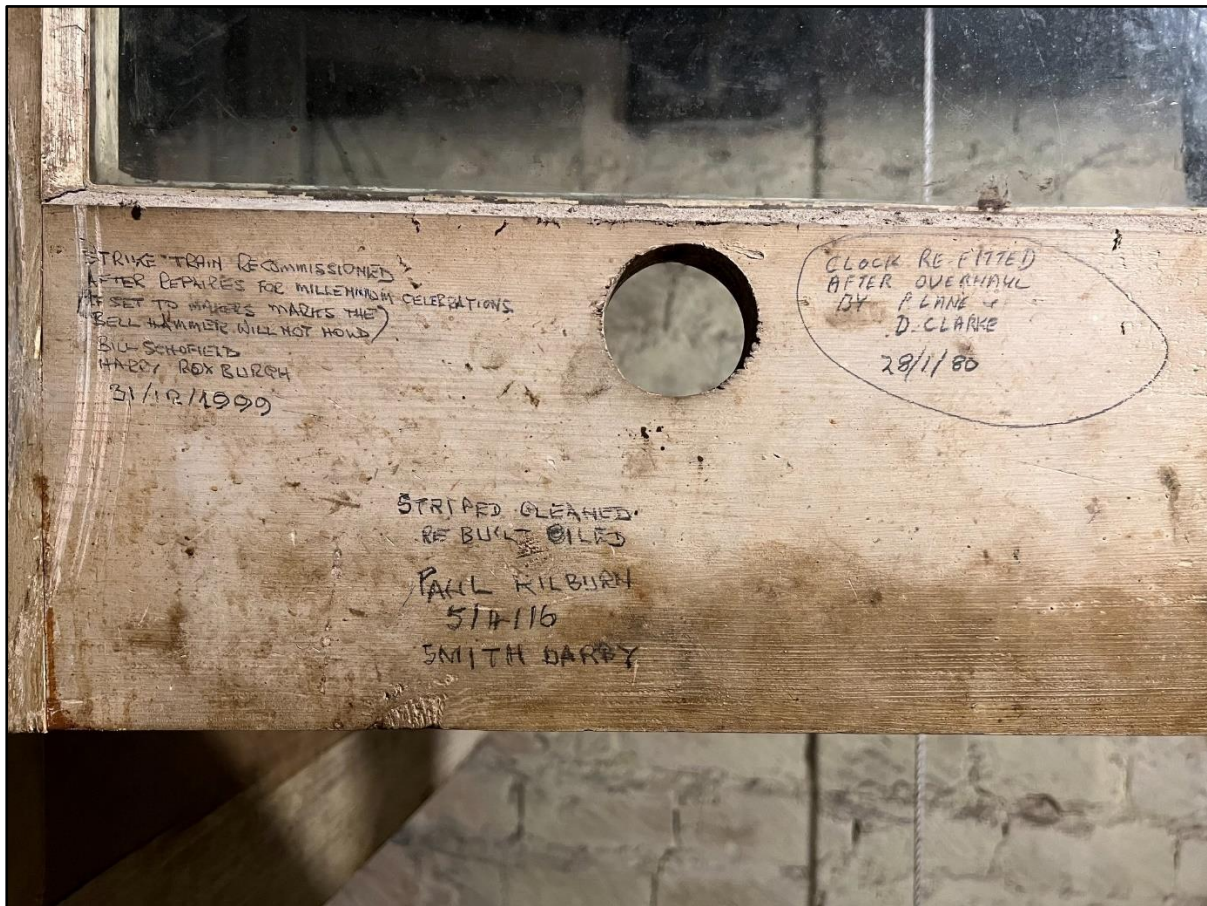
MANUFACTURED BY



J. B. JOYCE & Co.,
WHITCHURCH, SHROPSHIRE.

R. B. JONES, PRINTER, "HERALD" OFFICE, WHITCHURCH.

On the inside of the right-hand clock case door are handwritten remarks describing the repairs that have been carried out in recent years.



Remarks on the interior of the clock case.

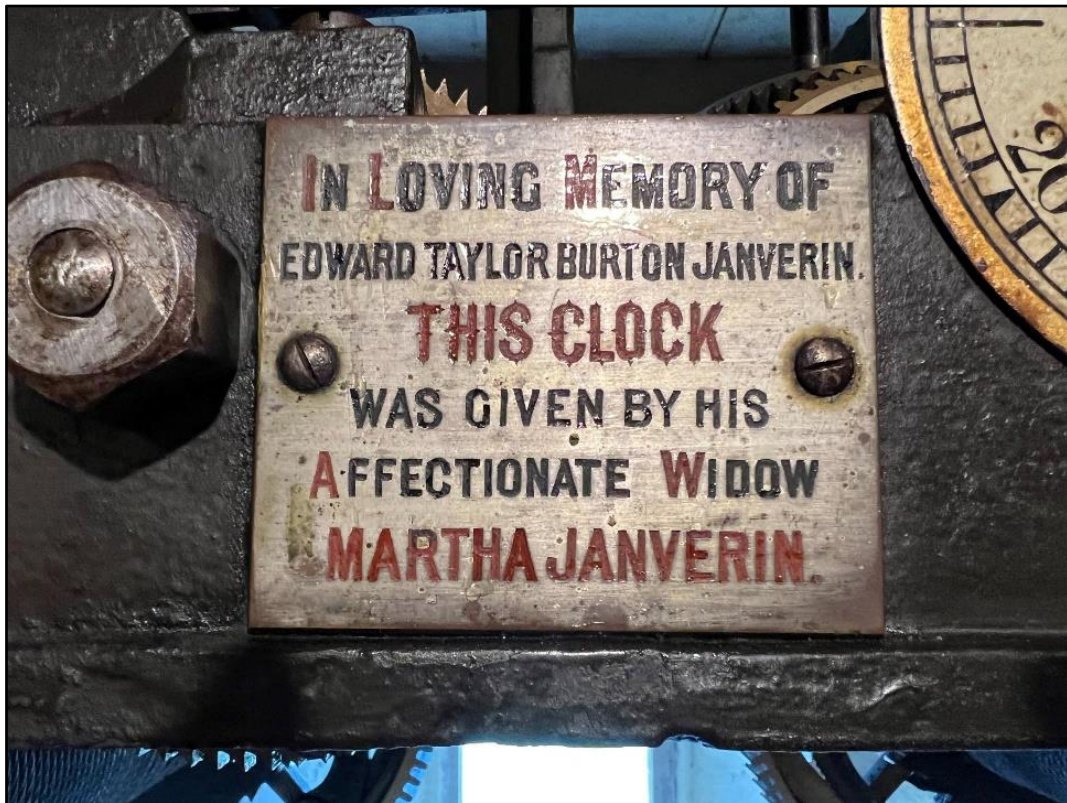
These read (as written) in chronological order:

CLOCK RE-FITTED AFTER OVERHAUL BY P.LANE & D.CLARKE 28/1/80

*STRIKE TRAIN RE-COMMISSIONED AFTER REPAIRS FOR MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS
IF SET TO MAKERS MARKS THE BELL HAMMER WILL NOT HOLD
BILL SCHOFIELD
HARRY ROXBURGH
31/12/1999*

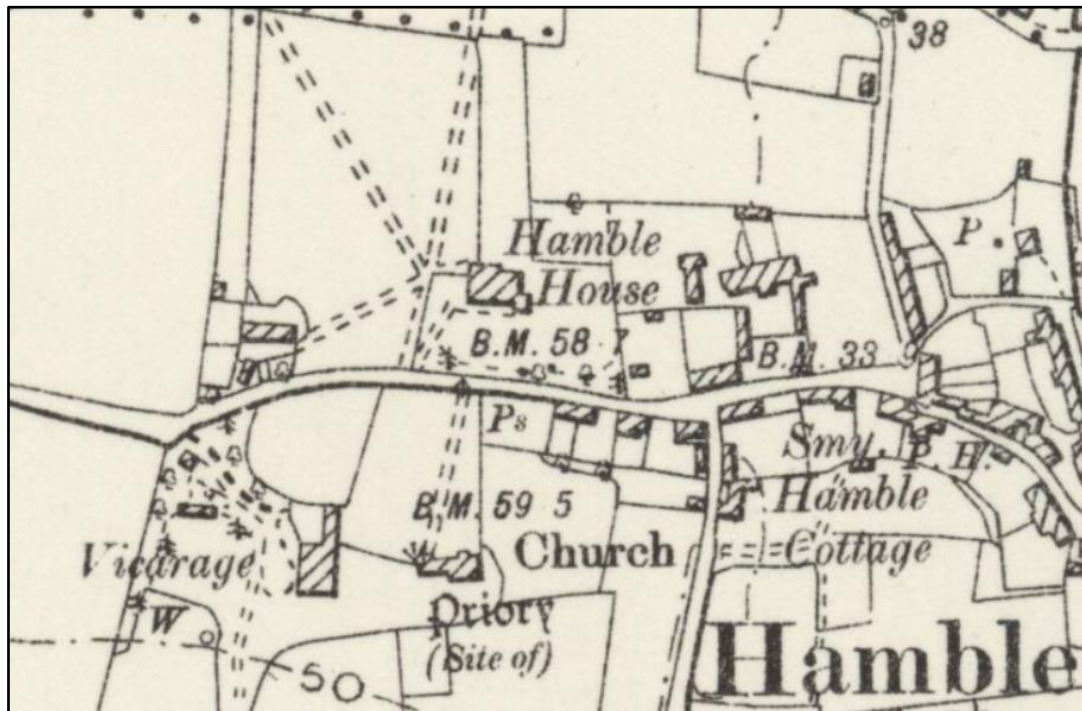
*STRIPED CLEANED
RE BUILT OILED
PAUL KILBURN
5/4/16
SMITH DARBY*

A plaque on the clock mechanism states "In loving memory of Edward Taylor Burton Janverin. This clock was given by his affectionate widow Martha Janverin."



The Janverin Plaque on the Movement.

Edward Taylor (1797-1877) and Martha Janverin (nee Sharp - 1803-1889) lived in Hamble House, now demolished, directly opposite the church. Edward was a major landowner.



The OS Map published 1898 shows Hamble House opposite the Church.

There is also a memorial to them and Edward's first wife Margaret Jane within the nave of the church.

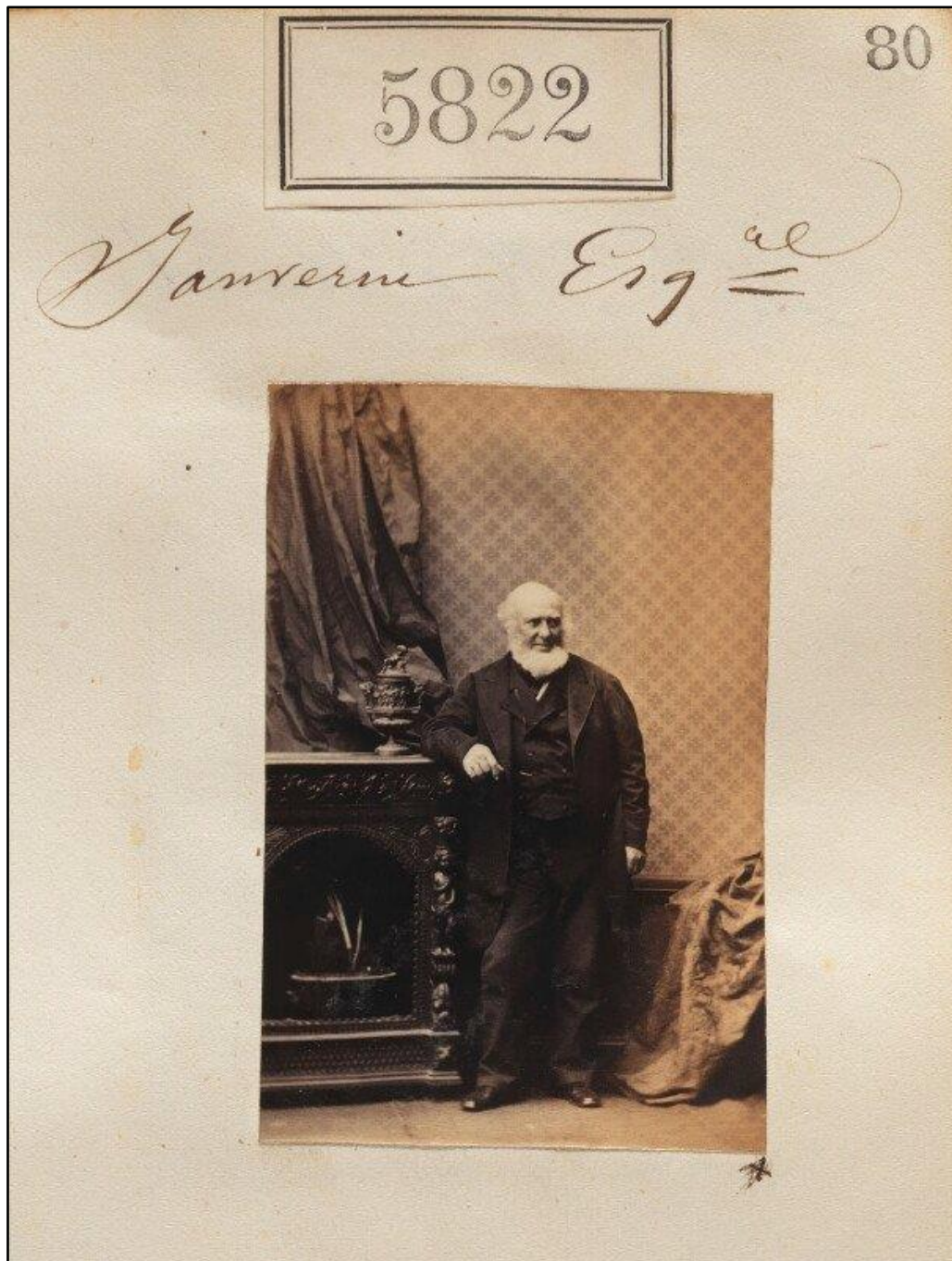


Memorial to Edward Taylor Janverin and his two wives.

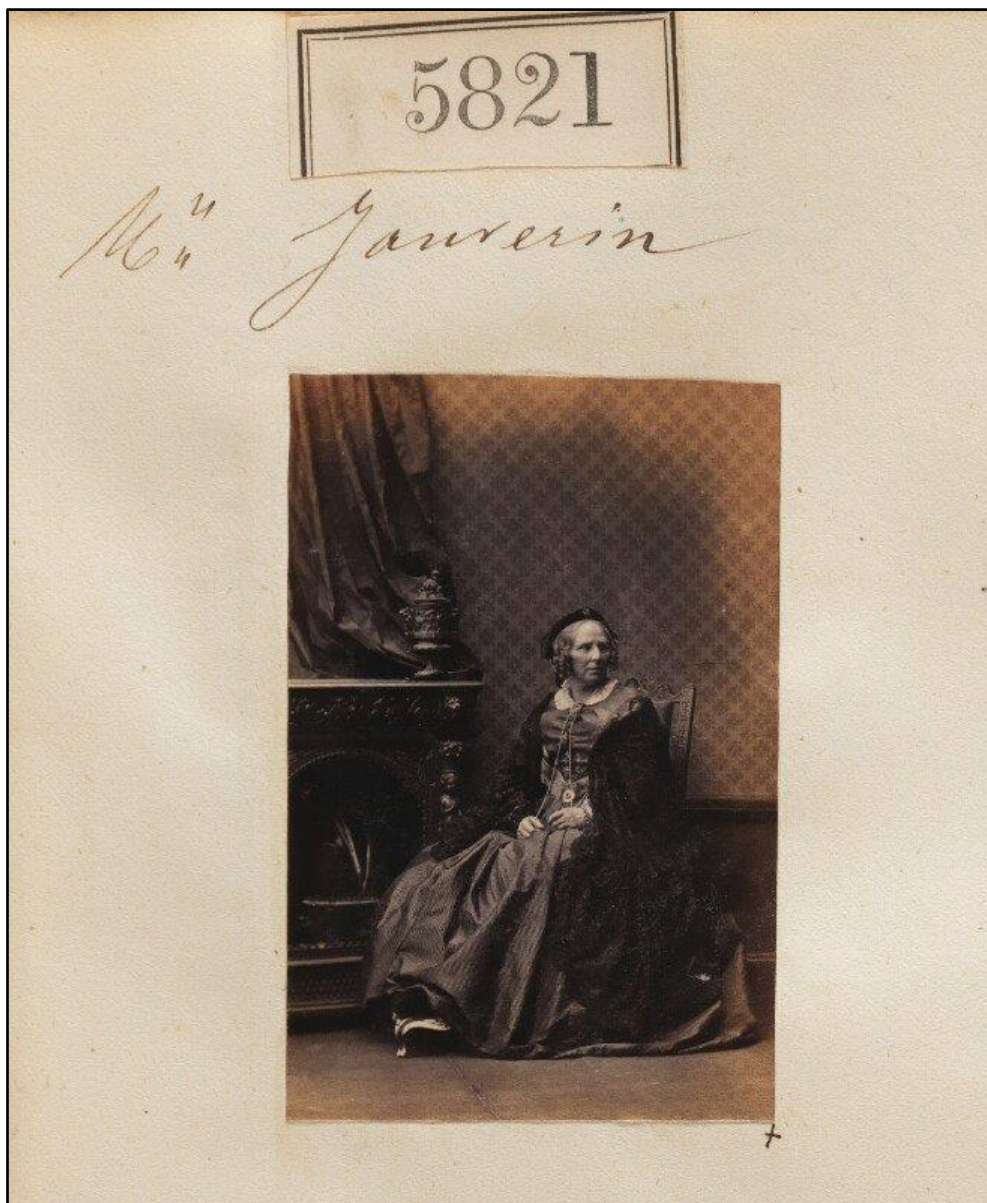
Quite by chance I also found that the National Portrait Gallery have photos of Edward and Martha or at least they are recorded as "Probably" them. These portraits were taken by Camille Silvy, a celebrated French photographer, based in London.

Coming from an aristocratic background, Silvy moved to London in 1859 and bought Caldesi and Montecchi's studio on Porchester Terrace, which became renowned for its tasteful furnishings. Except for Queen Victoria, he photographed all of the Royal Family and most of the British aristocracy. By 1864, aged twenty-six, he had forty employees.

He kept daybooks with the details of each sitter, the date, and a file print, and these are now in the National Portrait Gallery's archives.



Edward Taylor Janverin (1797-1877) (probably) from the collection of the National Gallery, London. Supplied under a Creative Commons Licence.



Martha Janverin (nee Sharp - 1803-1889) (probably), from the collection of the National Gallery, London. Supplied under a Creative Commons Licence.

The Bells

On the next floor is the bell housing, where there are three bells.

The oldest is the tenor which was cast in 1402 by Richard Brasier of Wickham. This resembles those to be found in Winchester College and is inscribed Ave Gracia in Gothic capitals. Soon after Hamble came into the hands of Winchester College, namely in 1401-2, the large sum of £17 7s. 1d. was spent on the church, chiefly in providing it with a new roof. The manor was also furnished with a new dovecot. In 1410-1 the bell tower of the church was either entirely rebuilt, or underwent very considerable repairs. In the following year, three new bells were provided for this tower. Richard Brasier, who was paid 40s. in addition to the three old bells. Two of these have since been replaced.



The tenor bell which was cast in 1402 by Richard Brasier of Wickham

The treble and second are by Clement Tosier Jnr. The inscriptions on them read Treble – *Ames Bradbey Churchwarden. Clement Tosier cast me in 1715.* Second (small) bell – *Lettel and small tho' I ham, but I will be hard above them all. C.T 1715.*

Clement Tosier Jnr cast these bells at the Salisbury Foundry. The foundry had been taken over from Richard Florey, some time after he died in 1679 by Clement Tosier Snr. Five members of the Tosier family ran the foundry until at least 1732.

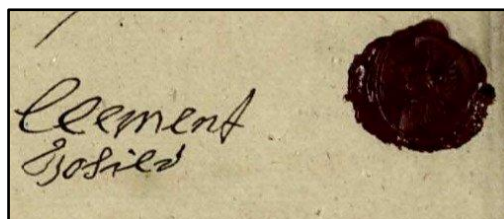


The treble bell was cast by Clement Tosier Jnr in Salisbury in 1715.



The second or small bell was cast by Clement Tosier Jnr in Salisbury in 1715.

I managed to find a signature of Clement Tosier Jnr on his will, dated 1730.





The Bell Headstocks hold the bells in place and allow them to be turned when rung.

Who would think that there was so much history in a Bell Tower?

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part hereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project or assessment without the permission of the Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project or the church.

Acknowledgements:

Google Maps – The old Joyce Factory, Whitchurch – Page 5
National Library of Scotland for the image from the OS Map published 1898 – Page 8
National Portrait Gallery for images of Edward Taylor Janverin and his wife Martha – Pages 10 and 11
Ancestry.co.uk – Clement Tosier signature from his will – Page 14

References:

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers – The Turret Clock Keeper’s Handbook
Waghorn, J (2011), A Short History and Guide to the Priory Church of St Andrew, the Apostle, Hamble-le-Rice.
Wikipedia – Various snippets, in particular, J.B. Joyce and Co.