

### Bells installed and ready to ring!

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November, Whites of Appleton, the bellhangers, completed their work on the bells and declared them ready to ring! The installation has gone very smoothly. The bells were collected from the workshop of Whites of Appleton in Oxfordshire by ABE of Ledbury who kindly donated their time and a lorry. The bells arrived outside the church on the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> November and were lined up in order of size and note. Once all the bells were in place it was possible to hold a short service of blessing although due to Covid restrictions we were sadly unable to make this public. The donors of the new bells and those who had sponsored refurbishment did have a chance to see ‘their’ bells.



The next stage was to get the bells into the tower and then raise them into position. Bell metal being valuable this had to be done as quickly as possible!



### Remembrance Day

The clappers were fitted but since the bells were not ready for ‘full circle’ ringing on 11th November the new treble, the Remembrance Bell, was chimed directly by hand. It rang out 128 times, sounding once for each Ledbury life lost in action during the two world wars.



### Getting ready to ring

Once the bells were hung, it was time to fit the wheels, stays and sliders to the frame and the clappers to the bells. Ropes and other fittings come last, and the delicate business of deciding the ‘rope circle’, to ensure that the sight lines for the ringers are as good as possible with the increased number of bells. It was a pleasure to welcome the new mayor, Daniel Vesma, to the tower and to introduce him to the bells.



### An Army of Volunteers

The contribution of volunteers to the Ledbury Bells Project has amounted, collectively, to thousands of hours of volunteer work. From devising and putting on a special show in the Market Theatre, to sanding and painting the bell frame; from cleaning up the whole inside of the tower to helping the bellhangers in their work, from painting and varnishing woodwork in the ringing room to researching and planning for the many items that will go in our exhibition area on the ground floor of the tower, or writing and illustrating a comprehensive leaflet to explain the importance of bellringing in Ledbury and in the country as a whole: nearly fifty individuals have given their time and talents. The whole project has been planned and overseen for the last two and half years by a team of five volunteers who have given countless hours to ensuring that our detailed planning was brought to fruition and that we raised the funds to meet the cost of the project.

