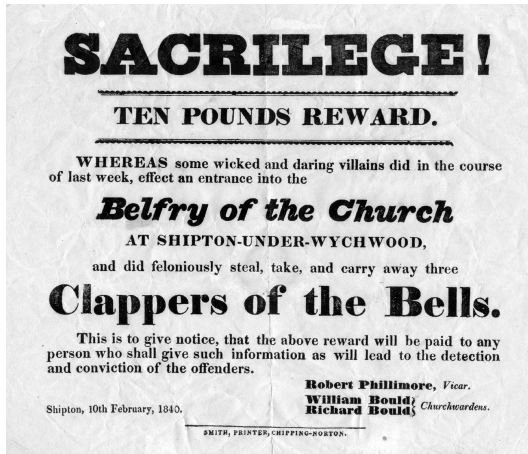


Shipton Bell-Ringers Vandals in the Belfry!

Before our practice on February 2nd we were very pleased to welcome Margaret Ware to the Tower and Margaret had brought a piece of history with her.



Fortunately for us Richard Cross, who was Clerk to the Parish Council in 1840, never threw anything away. The result is that all sorts of fascinating memorabilia were passed down through the family, ending up with his great-grand daughter Katherine (Kitty) Wiggins. On clearing up after the death of her sister Mrs. Coombes came across the papers and passed them on to Margaret Ware for safekeeping.

Away With The Clappers!

On the face of it, as this notice records, it looks as though vandalism is not a new phenomenon! However the mystery

deepens. Further research by Margaret has unearthed the following cutting from 'Jackson's Oxford Journal' of Saturday February 15th 1840.

"Some waggish disputants we understand took away the

clappers of the bells in Shipton Church last Saturday evening so that the other party could not ring them the next day for public and mutual worship."

So was it a political or religious dispute or just somebody who didn't like the sound of the bells?

We are very grateful to Margaret for presenting us with this piece of history, which will now hang in pride of place in the Tower where it will be a constant source of interest to all who come to ring our bells.

John MacVicker

Flicks in the Sticks, Reel 4

There has been a slight delay in deciding on the best equipment options. This will mean that the start date for regular showings is likely to be in April.

Keep your eyes on the local notice boards for further news.

Gordon Halliday

