



THE BELL TOWER ST MARY'S CHURCH, HENHAM



8th September 2016

The Heritage Open Day Festival afforded a small number of us to a rare opportunity to climb the Church Tower and witness the unique views of the village and beyond from the top.

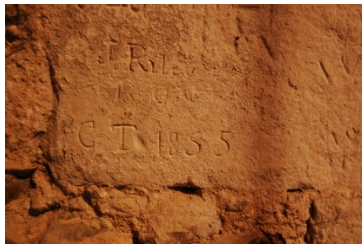
Our expert guides, Shenna Bigland and James Pimblett escorted us up the three stage ascent.



First from the Church floor, via an iron ladder, through a trap door in the roof to the Clock Housing. An immaculate piece of 1887 Ludgate Hill (Clock Maker to the Queen and Prince of Wales) engineering.



Then onto the second stage, The Bell Housing. A very tight ladder and squeeze to the chamber that houses the Henham Bells we all know so well. Here we find events of past visitors. Graffiti etched in to the stone from a J Riley 1855!! In addition, the remanence of a Millennium celebration. An empty bottle of Champagne left in situ for prosperity (Sainsbury's Vintage no less!)



Finally, on to the summit and out onto the spire roof. This is surprisingly precarious as the rampart surrounds are uncomfortably low offering very little protection from a sticky end! As we hug the lead of the spire we are privileged to take in the amazing vista, from unique views of the village itself, to the Control Tower at Stansted Airport, Little Henham and surrounding areas. Amazing on such a great weather evening.



Additional pictures are on the Henham website.

Thanks to all involved a truly memorable experience. If the tour opportunity is offered again I strongly suggest you sign up.

Fantastic (not for the faint hearted!)

Simon Lee