

The Church Clock



The clock in the church tower was made by Bridgwater brasier and metalworker Thomas Bayley in around 1750. It replaced an earlier clock.

Best known as a prolific bell founder (he cast 100 bells for towers in Somerset alone) he also manufactured brass chandeliers, weathercocks and other metal utensils (see the "skillet" pictured left). His church clocks can be found in a number of local towers including neighbouring Chedzoy and Lyng: of these - Weston zoyland is the least altered.



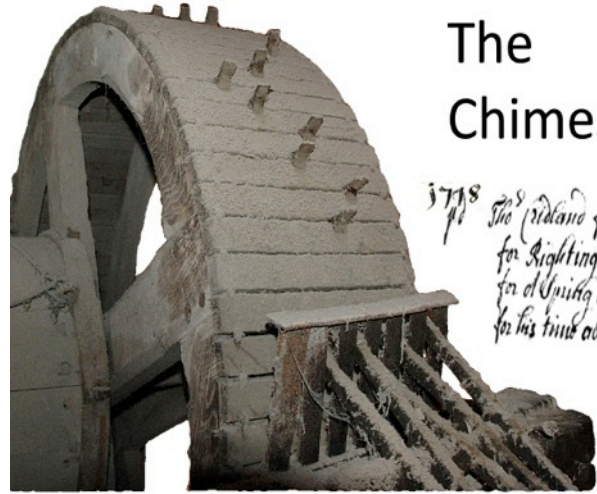
Our clock - like the other Bayley turret clocks - was originally "faceless" (it told the time by striking the hours on a bell). It would have been the only means available - to most villagers - of telling the time: watch and clock ownership was then the preserve of the rich.

The external dial we see today was added in the 19th century.

This church clock (and that at Chedzoy) was maintained by Westonzoyland clockmaker William Bawden through the mid 1800's.



The Chimes



1718 The 'ridano for naitas for Righting of Arino Harior for el Unika King for el Bell Flaps for his time about the Chimes -

Weston Zoyland Chimes

Unknown



"The chimes" as they were known in the village - were renewed by John Hunt, a Bridgwater clockmaker, in 1730 and so pre-date the present clock.

The mechanism is housed in the tower, on a gantry some 25 feet above the ringing chamber floor. It turns a 4 foot diameter wooden drum upon which the notes of the chime are recorded using raised iron "hardies".

It is similar in its construction to cider-making equipment of the time which was in common use on the Somerset Levels (see right).

The chime played at 6 o'clock, 8 o'clock and 11 o'clock - after the hour was struck. It's sound would have punctuated the days of villagers and labourers in the surrounding fields.



Although fully re-instated after the 1935 reordering of the tower and bells - the chimes have not operated in living memory.

Any future plan to restore the chimes would need to include a "night silencing" facility...

