

The dedication of Willingham's new peal boards.

A peal was rung in 2006 to mark the centenary of the installation of Willingham's six bells. It had always been the intention to get a peal board made to commemorate this peal but the plan was shelved when it became apparent that the bells were going to be in need of a costly overhaul. This rehanging and refurbishment took place in August 2008 following many fundraising activities by the local ringers.

2009 saw the Golden Wedding anniversary of Doreen and Derek Hancock. Doreen has been a member of the Willingham band for about 4 years now and she thought that it would be nice to mark their wedding anniversary with a peal board and offered a very generous donation towards one. It was decided that another peal was needed to celebrate this wonderful occasion and was the first on the bells since the rehang. So now we needed two peal boards.

A number of months went by whilst decisions were made on position, size, style and layout of the peal boards and then Faculty approval was applied for and eventually received. On Sunday 8th August 2010 the boards were dedicated during a group service. Rhys Prosser, our Rural Dean and Branch President, preached a stirring sermon in which he thanked the bellringers, saying that "through your skill and dedication, you keep the rumour of God alive across our communities, and remind everyone who hears them that the church is still here."

Following the Sermon and dedication, the young ringers rang "Holy, Holy, Holy" and the Ringers' Hymn on handbells and bell shaped cookies were eaten with the coffee after the service. Many of the people whose names appear on the peal boards (clergy and churchwardens as well as ringers) were able to be present at the dedication and it was a real thrill to know that we have added a little to the living history of the church.

