

**Contract between Thomas Bilbie of Cullompton, Devon, Bellfounder and John Lambe and James Dyer Churchwardens of Milverton, Somerset for rehanding the bells in a new bell cage and retuning the bells 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1758. Original document hangs in Milverton ringing chamber. (Transcript by R H Johnston 26.5.2015)**

February 1st 1758

Memorandum It is this day concluded and agreed on by & between Thomas Bilbie of culmpton in the county of Devon Bellfounder of the One Part and John Lambe and James Dyer churchwardens of the parish of Milverton in the county of Somerset of the other part

Whereas an Agreement hath been made by and between the said Thomas Bilbie and the said churchwardens for the Erecting and putting up a New Bellcage in the Tower of Milverton aforesaid and for bringing the Bells in the said Tower in a compleat musical and Tuneable order Now the said Thomas Bilbie for carrying the said agreement into Execution and in consideration of the sum hereinafter mentioned to be paid him by the said churchwardens on his having fully compleated the said Bellcage Doth hereby for himself his Heirs Executors and Administrators covenant promise and agree to and with the said John Lambe and James Dyer churchwardens as aforesaid in manner following (that is to say) That He the said Thomas Bilbie shall and will on or before the Twentieth day of may next ensuing take down all the Bells in the said Tower and likewise the prefeus cage therein and instead thereof Erect and put up a New cage in the strongest and compleatest manner on or before the said Twentieth of may of next according and agreeable to the best method of workmanship And Likewise that He the said Thomas Bilbie shall not nor will put any more of the Timber belonging to the Old cage nor more of the Iron thereto belonging than the said churchwardens do approve and shall and will in hanging the Bells in the said Intended cage so to be Erected as aforesaid instead of Theying[?] the same put and place all New screws where conveyent and wanting And that He the said Thomas Bilbie shall and will hang the said Bells in the neatest and best manner agreeable and according as Bells that are rung in the sally way And that the said Thomas Bilbie shall find and provide every article and thing that shall be Necessary and wanting in Taking Down Erecting and putting up the said Bells and cage (Except what is hereinafter mentioned to be found him by the sd. churchwardens) at his own proper costs and charges and shall and will by chipping or otherwise after putting up the sd. New cage in manner as

aforesaid Bring all the Bells belonging  
to the said Tower in a compleat Tuneable and Musical order having proper Iron found  
him by the said churchwardens  
for what is wanting or deficient in any of their clappers and the sd. cage so compleatly  
done The said Thomas Bilbie his  
Heirs Extors. and Admors. shall and will preserve and keep in good and sufficient repair  
from the day of he date hereof  
for and during the space of one whole year  
And the said John Lambe and James Dyer churchwardens as aforesaid Do hereby  
covenant and agree to and with the  
said Thomas Bilbie his Extors. and Admors. that they the said John Lambe and James  
Dyer shall and will find and provide  
the sd. Thomas Bilbie with sufficient Timber of all sorts for makeing and compleating the  
sd cage and hanging the sd Bells together with  
Ropes for Ringing the same and in consideration of his the said Thomas Bilbie's doing  
and performing all and every his  
agreements and articles herein contained and on his part to be done and performed They  
the said John Lambe and James  
Dyer or their successors shall and will well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said  
Thomas Bilbie his Executors  
and admors. the full and whole sum of Twenty one pounds and Ten shillings and that the  
said Thomas Bilbie on his  
finding all the Iron geer Necessary for hanging the sd Bells and compleating the sd cage  
(except as aforesd.) shall be Intitled to the  
Old Iron belonging to the old cage

And Lastly the sd Thomas Bilbie for himself his Heirs Extors. and Admors. Doth hereby  
covenant and agree to and with  
the sd churchwardens and their successors that whatever accident shall happen to any or  
all the sd. Bells in taking them  
down, while down, and in hanging them up in the sd. Newcage He the said Thomas  
Bilbie shall and will Immediately thereon at  
his own costs and charges Recast amend and repair the same and for his true performance  
thereof as well as of all his other  
agreements herein mentioned He the sd. Thomas Bilbie Doth hereby obligate himself his  
Heirs Extors and Admors. to the said  
churchwardens and their successors in the Penalty of Two Hundred pounds Lawfull  
Brittish money. In Witness  
whereof the sd parties Have to these presents their hands and seals Interchangeably set  
the day and year first above written

Thomas Bilbie (seal)  
Sealed and Delivered in the presence of  
Ann church  
amuch[??] Tringdon