

Liverpool Bellringers tune up St. Thomas's

MAY 2001

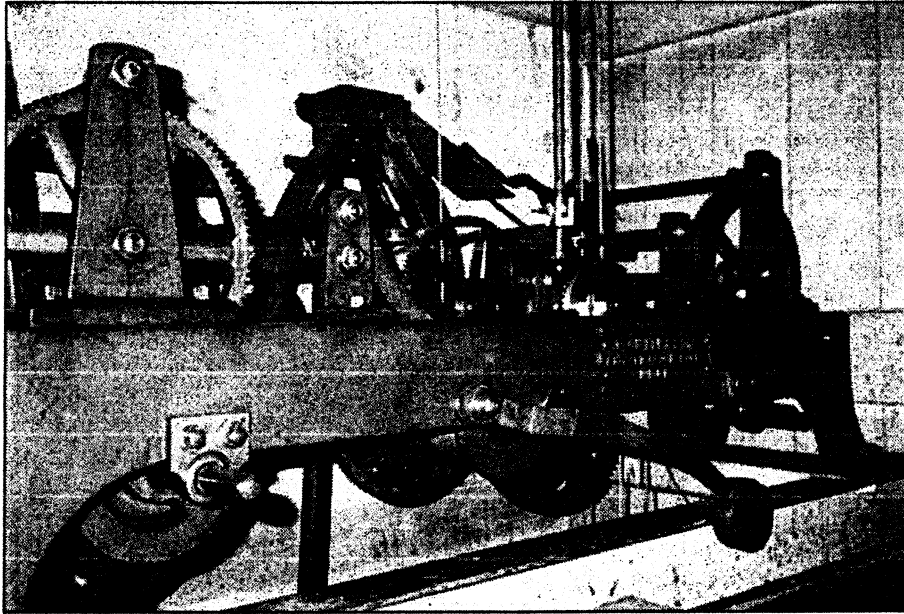
By Doug Smith

THE bells of St. Thomas's are now in superb condition again, thanks to some hard work by the Liverpool Bellringers.

The original eight bells, cast by Murphys of Dublin, were badly damaged by a fire in the tower in February, 1912. John Taylor & Co., Loughborough, were commissioned to cast the replacements and six bells were installed in the same year and a further two in 1926.

The heaviest, the tenor bell, weighs in at 12 cwt. (i.e., hung for ringing), but are fixed in a frame with the clappers being operated by ropes from the ringing chamber, two floors below in the tower. The chime can be rung by one person.

In addition, the clock chimes are struck by a set of three hammers against the tenor bell and are heard on the quarter, half, three-



▲ Part of the clock mechanism at St. Thomas's
▼ Graham Austin of the Liverpool Bellringers checks the bell chiming frame

quarter and the hour. The original clock was destroyed by a fire in 1912 and the

replacement supplied by Messrs. John Smith & Sons of Derby. The work was carried out to the order and under the personal supervision of Mr. C.T. Cowell, Victoria Street, Douglas.

Mr. Graham Austin of the Liverpool Bellringers, very kindly offered to re-rope the bells, which required 320 feet of terylene rope. Graham's visit to the Island in March was sponsored by the Steam Packet Co., and the

Vicar and Wardens are most grateful to Graham and the Steam Packet Co., for their generosity to St. Thomas's Church.

A party of 115 from the Liverpool Bellringers group will be on the Island on the 28th April, and will ring the bells in the Cathedral, St. George's and St. Thomas's.

▼ The bells with some of their clock hammers

