

Press release: Immediate release

All Saints' Church, Winterton at 12 noon on Thursday 29th May 2014

Retirement of Tower Clock Keeper after 26 years

John Ablott, the Tower Clock Keeper for Winterton at All Saints' Church will retire on 29th May. He has held this post since 1988. Every week he has climbed up inside the tower of the church to wind the clock. Most people will have little idea of what this involves. Winding this clock is no mean feat. It involves raising two weights up a distance of nearly 11 metres. The smaller weight is about 152 kilograms and the large weight over 355 kilograms. Over the years the clock, clearly visible from the town centre, has shown the time and chimed out on the hour. John has also maintained the mechanism of the clock.

The current tower clock, made in 1834 in Winterton, was a joint effort by local clockmaker, John Robinson, and machine-maker, Matthew Beacock. The 1834 clock mechanism still functions. Part of this mechanism is unique and is thus of great interest to horologists, having been visited by members of the British Horological Institute and the Antiquarian Horological Society.

John's horological experience and knowledge is extensive. He is a Member of the British Horological Institute and the Tower Clock Advisor for the Diocese of Lincoln. He has also been Tower Clock Keeper at Alkborough.

Following John's retirement, the clock at Winterton will be in safe hands. Roger Moody and Richard Ball will take over as Joint Tower Clock Keepers. They have been acting for many months as John's assistants and John will still be on call if needed!

On 29th May at 12 noon there will be a brief ceremony to mark John's retirement. It will be attended by the Mayor of Winterton, Councillor Robert Bridge, and representatives from All Saints' Church.

Notes to Editors

About All Saints' Church, Winterton and the Tower Clock

All Saints is the medieval parish church for Winterton. The current tower clock was made in 1834. This is confirmed by the inscription on the pendulum bob "Nov. 1 1834 J Robinson and M Beacock fecit". John Robinson had married into the Tate family. The Tates ran a business in Winterton, including clock repairs, until 1987. From 1834 until 1987 the clock was wound and maintained by the Robinson and Tate families. The cost of the new clock in 1834 was £90 of which Lady Boynton, of Winterton Hall, gave £50. The rest was from public subscription. [See photos on next page].

For further information please contact:

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Photos

Above: John Ablott winding the 1834 clock mechanism.

Below: the two clock weights down below in the tower.

