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St Peter's Church Bridge: W.Rose

**The Spire:** It is recorded that repairs had been carried out by one Samuel Hills a churchwarden in 1787 and again in 1859 during major alterations instigated by Mrs Mary Gregory. The whole structure is constructed of pine timbers and proof of its immense strength design and workmanship was put to the test in June 1983 when it was struck by lightning. The subsequent damage was duly and expertly repaired by steeplejack R Peter Harknett who refixed the weather vane in a more practical and weatherproof manner,

**The Belfry:** There are three bells in size 1) 33" 2) 36" 3) 39". The third or tenor bell (together with number 2 at Patricbourne church) was cast by the same bell founder in circa 1325 & both are thought to be amongst the oldest bells in this country. They were cast by one Wm Le Belytere and bear the moulded inscription "Ave Maria: gratia plena". This tenor bell is used to strike the hour at Bridge. The other bells bear no inscription but are none the less fairly ancient. The bells are no longer fully swung, but still ring out a good account of themselves by means of harnessed clappers.

**The Clock:** The clock keeps excellent time and controls two faces. It is motivated by handwinding the heavy weights and has a movement of great interest to horologists. The date on the frame casting is 1847 and was made by Gillett & Johnson. In 1975 the mechanism and cables were overhauled by Mr SJ Foord of Bridge.

**The Font:** This is an outstanding piece of workmanship for both size and quality of workmanship. It is of serpentine stone from Cornwall. Such large pieces of this stone are very rare. We understand that to form the bowl of this font would have necessitated the use of a waterwheel for turning. It is therefore to be considered both priceless and beautiful.