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Oxfordshire Record Society

THE
CHURCH BELLS OF
OXFORDSHIRE

VOLUME I

BY
FREDERICK SHARPE

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THE CHURCH BELLS OF OXFORDSHIRE

By
FREDERICK SHARPE.

PART I.

During the past one hundred years several attempts have been made to survey the bells of Oxfordshire, now the last county in southern England to have its campanological history written. The earliest writer on the subject, the Rev. W. C. Lukis, included brief descriptions of the bells in some two dozen Oxfordshire towers in his well-known book,¹ published in 1857, and during the last quarter of the nineteenth century the Rev. T. A. Turner, and Mr. A. D. Tyssen visited a number of parishes in the county making excellent collections of rubbings of bell inscriptions which are now in the library of The Society of Antiquaries of London. In the early years of the present century the older collections were augmented as a result of investigations by Messrs. A. H. Cocks and H. B. Walters. The latter, who received valuable assistance from the Rev. P. G. Espinasse and Mr. L. H. Chambers, also collated the notes made by previous workers, and our present knowledge of comparative campanology is mainly due to his painstaking and accurate research. Nothing approaching a complete survey of Oxfordshire bells, however, had been achieved ; and in many instances although bell inscriptions were recorded, no details of founders' marks, lettering, mouldings, dimensions, weights, tuning and gear were available.

By reason of his association with Caversfield Church, where hangs the oldest dateable inscribed bell so far discovered in England, and encouraged by Mr. Walters whose advice was often sought and freely given, the present writer became interested in campanology in the early "twenties," and published an account of "The Church Bells of The Rural Deanery of Bicester" in 1932. He then proceeded to investigate the contents of the belfries in the remainder of the county, intending at the time to publish separate

¹ W. C. Lukis, *An Account of Church Bells*, 1857, pp. 89-94.

accounts of each Rural Deanery, but this work had to be postponed while surveys of the bells of Berkshire and Radnorshire were undertaken.

In 1947 the Oxfordshire Record Society offered to publish the present work, and the survey was resumed ; it has entailed a visit to almost every parish, besides numerous journeys to the leading bellfoundries, the owners of whom have helped greatly in affording the writer free access to their business records, some of them extending back several centuries. The Society of Antiquaries kindly placed Mr. Walters' collection of notes at the author's disposal and in one respect they have proved of especial value : during the past century a great many bells have been recast, and our only knowledge of these comes from the notes made by previous investigators.

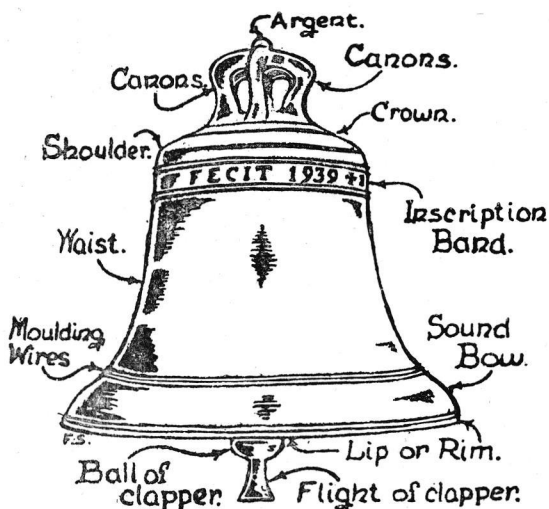


Fig. 1. Diagram illustrating technical terms.

Lack of space prevents any discourse here on the origin and development of bells, but on these subjects the works of Messrs. Cocks, North, Raven, and Walters are well-known, and the author recently dealt with them in the light of modern discoveries in the introduction to his book on Radnorshire bells. For the benefit of those unfamiliar with the art of campanology there are diagrams illustrating bells and gear on pages 4 and 7.

The parishes and chapelries in the county have been arranged in alphabetical order, and under these headings will be found particulars of the bells and their inscriptions. Details of a few bells, difficult of access, have had to be omitted as it is not always easy or possible to hire the ladders or scaffolding required to reach them. Some turret bells have been examined from the ground through field-glasses.

Unless otherwise stated, the inscriptions commence in the "band" below the "shoulder" of the bell, and the end of each line is denoted by an oblique stroke :—/. An inscription on the "waist" of a bell is recorded after that occupying the normal inscription band. Founders' errors such as spelling mistakes, faulty grammar, and letters reversed, inverted, or omitted, are common in bell inscriptions, and are reproduced in the text as they are found on the bells. It is impossible to reproduce here in facsimile the many types of lettering used by bellfounders, but two different sets of type are used in the text, one to denote Gothic, and the other Roman lettering. Illustrations of founders' marks and scale drawings of portions of some inscriptions are included, and will form evidence for dating bells which do not bear their makers' names.

The diameters and "strike-notes"¹ of tenor bells are given ; and unless stated to the contrary it is to be understood that in

¹ The sound of a bell is built up of a series of tones, which are formed by the vibrations of different parts of the bell, and collectively produce the whole sound given out when the bell is struck and the loud-sounding "strike-note" and its accessories are created. Within certain narrow limits some of these tones, known as "partial-tones," may be tuned independently of others. The strike-note, which may (or may not) have another corresponding partial-tone in the bell, appears to be governed by one of them, known as the "nominal"; and when, for instance, the pitch of the nominal is lowered the strike-note is altered also. The five most important partial-tones are the hum-note, fundamental, tierce, quint, and nominal, and are all of different strength, or intensity. The hum-note may be anything from a seventh to an octave below the strike-note ; in a correctly tuned bell the fundamental should coincide with the strike-note ; according to the shape of the bell the tierce may be either a minor or a major third above the strike-note ; the quint is a fifth and the nominal an octave above the strike-note. For further details see F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Radnorshire*, pp. 4-6.

each "ring"¹ the strike-notes of the bells are tuned diatonically in a major scale, that of the tenor being the keynote.

If known, the exact weights of the bells are recorded ; in other instances approximate weights are given. The latter have been calculated from the dimensions and strike-notes of the bells, a method which produces a good approximate guide to their weights.² Where a list includes both actual and approximate weights the latter are marked thus :—‡. Wherever possible the weights given in the text have been checked with the records of the leading bellfounders, to whom many thanks are due.

In order to avoid the constant repetition of technical details a schedule of the various types of bell fittings and gear has been compiled, and will be found on page 8 : references to it occur in the text. Bells without canons are denoted by the sign :—† and canonless rings are similarly marked.

In the Public Record Office are Inventories of Goods belonging to various Oxfordshire Churches taken in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of King Edward VI³. They were transcribed by Mr. T. Craib, edited by Dr. Rose Graham, and published by the Oxfordshire Record Society in 1919. Extracts relating to bells taken from the published account of these inventories are given at the end of the notes on the parishes to which they refer. Quotations are also given from the eighteenth century manuscripts of Browne Willis and Dr. Rawlinson, now in the Bodleian Library at Oxford.

Alterations are frequently made to bells and their gear, and restoration work may completely change the character of a ring or alter the position of a bell in it. At the end of the notes on each

¹ A set of bells hung for ringing is termed a "ring," and similarly if hung for chiming is called a "chime." A "peal" is an item of bell music. A ring may consist of either three, four, five, six, eight, ten, or twelve bells, and in each ring the bell with the highest strike-note is termed the "treble," and the deepest-toned bell is known as the "tenor"; the other bells are called "middle" or "inside" bells, and, counting the treble as one, are numbered in order of size. Tenor bells vary in weight from a few cwt. in small rings to such large bells as the tenors at St. Paul's Cathedral, London (62 cwt.), Exeter Cathedral (72½ cwt.), and Liverpool Cathedral (82 cwt.). A bell, hung for ringing, may also be chimed in the traditional manner without any alteration to its gear : a bell hung solely for chiming cannot be rung.

² No reliance should be placed on local traditions regarding weights of bells, as almost invariably it will be found that these are greatly exaggerated.

³ i.e. in the years 1552-3.

parish, therefore, the date of the survey is given, together with the initials of the person who made it, or from whom the information was obtained.

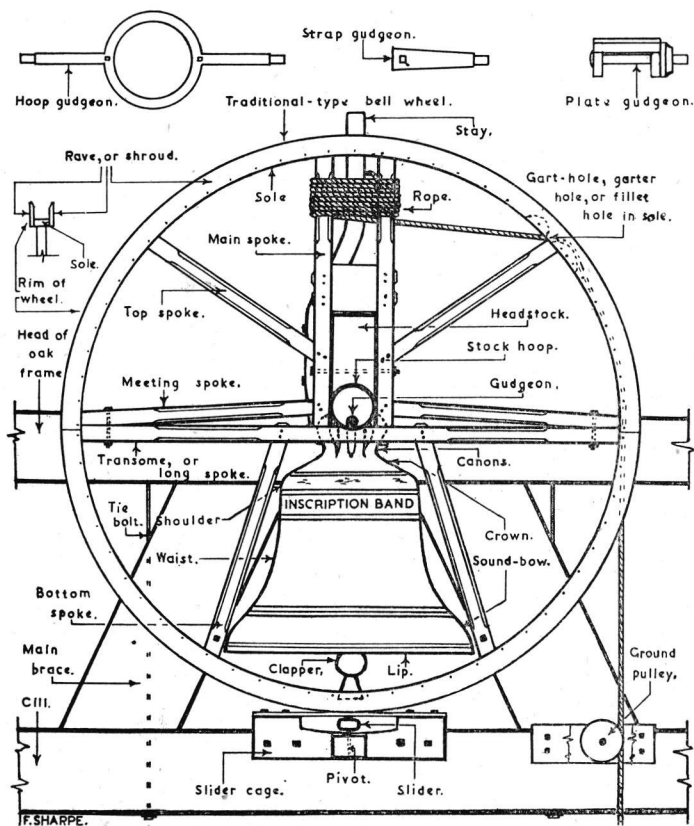


Fig. 2. Diagram illustrating technical terms.

A later chapter will give a list of the founders who cast the bells, with details of their dates, localities, founders' marks, and references. A fuller account will be given of the Oxfordshire bell-founders and their work.

It is not proposed to discuss actual ringing performances, except when, as for instance at Christ Church Cathedral, the ringing records are of historical importance.

SCHEDULE

of types of bell fittings and gear.

Type.

- A. Elm headstocks. Strap gudgeons. Brass bearings.
- B. Elm headstocks. Plate gudgeons. Brass bearings.
- C. Elm headstocks. Hoop gudgeons. Brass bearings.
- D. Elm headstocks. Strap gudgeons. Self-aligning ball bearings.
- E. Elm headstocks. Plate gudgeons. Self-aligning ball bearings.
- F. Elm headstocks. Hoop gudgeons. Self-aligning ball bearings.
- G. Cast iron headstocks. Fixed steel gudgeons. Brass bearings.
- H. Cast iron headstocks. Fixed steel gudgeons. Self-aligning ball bearings.
- J. Rolled steel headstocks. Plate gudgeons. Brass bearings.
- K. Rolled steel headstocks. Plate gudgeons. Self-aligning ball bearings.
- L. As type G, but with "Hastings" stays, and sliders.
- M. As type H, but with "Hastings" stays, and sliders.
- N. As type G, but with "Bicester" sliders, and traditional-type stays.
- P. As type H, but with "Bicester" sliders, and traditional-type stays.
- Q. As type E, but with "Hastings" stays, and sliders.

Types A—K have traditional-type stays, and sliders. All have traditional-type bell-wheels, for which see Fig. 2.

1.

ADDERBURY.

St. Mary.

A western tower with spire containing a ring of eight bells†; tenor 52½ inches diameter, in D ; and a sanctus bell, 18½ inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Treble. | WM BELLOW WM GARDNER & JOHN GARDNER C WARDENS JOHN BRIANT HARTFORD FECIT AN DOM 1789 | 8 | 2 | 11 |
| Second. | JOHN BRIANT. HARTFORD. FECIT. 1789. W: BELLOW. W: GARDNER & JOHN GARDNER C. WARDENS. | 7 | 2 | 23 |
| Third. | G. MEARS & Co. FOUNDERS LONDON / RICHARD RUDING STEPHENS B.C.L. VICAR OF ADDERBURY. / ZACHARIAH WALDON STILGOE, / THOMAS GARDNER, } CHURCH WARDENS 1863. | 9 | 1 | 16 |
| Fourth. | JOHN BRIANT HARTFORD FECIT 1789 WM BELLOW WM GARDNER & JNO GARDNER C : WARDENS. | 9 | 3 | 13 |
| Fifth. | JOHN BRIANT. HARTFORD. FECIT. A: D: 1789 WM BELLOW. WM GARDNER & JOHN GARDNER CHURCH WARDENS. | 11 | 0 | 26 |
| Sixth. | JOHN C. WARDEN JOHN BRIANT HARTFORD FECIT 1789 / RECAST 1927 (Fig. H8, three times.) (Loughborough foundry mark.) / CHARLES FIENNES CHOLMONDELEY (Fig. H8.) VICAR / HUGH WILLIAM STILGOE / JAMES SPARROW MORDAUNT } CHURCH WARDENS. | 13 | 2 | 25 |
| Seventh. | WM BELLOW WM GARDNER & J GARDNER C WARDENS J BRIANT HARTFORD FECIT 1789 | 16 | 3 | 1 |
| Tenor. | WM BELLOW. WM GARDNER. & JNO. GARDNER. C: WARDENS. JOHN BRIANT. HARTFORD. FECIT. 1789. VIVOS AD CAELUM MORTUOS AD SOLUM PULSATA VOCO. H : B. | 24 | 0 | 14 |
| Saunce. | R (Fig. A3.) G (Fig. B12.) I (Fig. A3.) B (Fig. B12.) C (Fig. A3) W (Fig. B7.) M (Fig. A3.) B (Fig. B7) 1681 (Fig. B12.) | 1 | 2 | 0½ |

Of these bells, the third was cast at the Whitechapel foundry ; the sixth is by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., and the saunce by Matthew Bagley I. The remainder are by John Briant, and the survivors of a ring of eight cast by him in 1789 from the metal of six older bells. The sixth was cast without canons : the others in the ring have had their canons removed.

The saunce is hung for chiming in an oak frame in the base of the spire, and retains its canons : in its inscription the letters "C.W." stand for church wardens, of whom "R.G." and "I.B." are the initials. The initials "M.B." are those of the bell-founder.

The ring, considered by most campanologists to be one of the best toned in the Diocese, was rehung with gear, type M, in a cast iron side-pattern frame by Messrs. Taylor in 1927.

Preserved in the vestry is a framed certificate recording the weights of the bells prior to 1789 :—Treble : 9 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lbs. Second : 10 cwt. 3 qrs. 25 lbs. Third : 12 cwt. 2 qrs. 23 lbs. Fourth : 16 cwt. 0 qr. 27 lbs. Fifth : 22 cwt. 2 qrs. 20 lbs. Tenor : 30 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lbs.—a ring of six of noble proportions, comparable in size with those now at Brailes, Warwickshire¹, and Queen Camel, Somersetshire.²

Lack of space prevents the inclusion of a description of the interesting ringing customs once prevailing here, but these are recorded by the Rev. H. J. Gepp, M.A., in his history of the parish.³

Visited : F.S., 26th July, 1947.

2.

ADWELL.

St. Mary.

A western turret with spire containing two bells, 22 and 25 inches in diameter respectively, hung for chiming.

The smaller bell is inscribed :—

✱ AVE MARIA ✱ IHS

The cross and lettering are enlarged versions of those found on bells at Stoke Talmage, Oxfordshire, and Little Missenden,

¹ The tenor at Brailes weighs 31 cwt. 0 qrs. 22 lbs. H. T. Tilley and H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Warwickshire*, 1910, p. 124.

² Queen Camel possesses the heaviest ring of six in the country, with a tenor weighing 36 cwt. 3 qrs. 7 lbs. *The Ringing World*, 8th January, 1937.

³ H. J. Gepp, *Adderbury*, 1924, pp. 38-39.

Buckinghamshire¹; and the bell is probably the work of John Rufford, *circa* 1350.

The larger bell bears merely the date :—

1640

and is probably a product of the Reading foundry.

The bells have proved inaccessible to recent investigators, but were examined by Mr. J. R. Daniel Tyssen's representative *circa* 1860. A rubbing of the inscription on the fourteenth century bell is in his son's collection at The Society of Antiquaries' Library.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 2 belles.*

3.

ALBURY.

St. Helen.

An open turret containing two bells hung for chiming.

The smaller bears the date :—

1989

which apparently was intended for 1686 ; and the bell may be identified by its mouldings and numerals as the work of Richard Keene : the figure eight, composed of two separate circles, is found on other bells by him at Milton, Berkshire,² and elsewhere.

The larger bears no inscription, but has four narrow mouldings round the shoulder, and is similar to many eighteenth century bells cast at the Aldbourne foundry.

6 Edw. VI. *Item two bell in the steple.* ("one" has been erased.) Also partly erased is the following entry : *A remembrans that an other bell was broken and the most part theroff is (?)*

7 Edw. VI. *Item 2 belles.*

Visited : T.A.T., 27th July, 1892.

¹ Illustrated by Mr. A. H. Cocks in *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, plate IV, the upper set.

² F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Berkshire*, § 135, Berkshire Archaeological Society's *Journal*, Vol. XLVII, p. 14.

4.

ALKERTON.

St. Michael.

A central tower containing a chime of four bells ; tenor 32 inches diameter, in B \flat .

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | HENRY BOND AND SONS FOUNDERS BURFORD OXFORDSHIRE 1890 | 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Second. | (Same as treble.) | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Third.† | (Vine Border all round bell.) / + ANNO DOMINI 1618 R(Bell.)P / (Shield bearing Royal Arms of James I.) | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Tenor. | * AVE : MARIA : GRACIA : PLENA ❖ DNS ❖ TECUM | 6 |

Prior to being recast at the Burford foundry in 1890, the treble was by Richard Purdue, and inscribed as the third ; the former second, by Henry Bagley III, bore the inscription :—"HENREY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1705," with portions of the border, Fig. A5, between the words.¹ The third, by Richard Purdue, has lost its canons, and is secured to the headstock by seventeenth century slotted pins and keys. The tenor is a fine medieval bell, by an unknown founder of *circa* 1400 ; its initial cross is Fig. B5, the three point stop Fig. B11, and the fleur-de-lys Fig. A4. Portions of the inscription is illustrated in Fig. 3. The cross is not known to occur elsewhere, but the fleur-de-lys is found on an earlier group of bells in Staffordshire, and on later bells cast at Worcester.²

The bells are sounded by means of "Ellacombe" chiming hammers, operated from a manual on the ground floor.³ The oak frame, of seventeenth century type, has its main braces reversed, and a double set of jack braces to each pit.

A careful examination of the gear revealed that originally the tenor alone was hung for ringing, and the others for swing chiming in the traditional method : this is proved by the existence of mortice holes for chiming levers in the older headstocks. Later,

¹ Details of the former bells were taken from notes by Mr. J. O. Bridger, *circa* 1885, transcribed by Mr. Walters.

² Tilley and Walters, *ut sup.*, pp. 8, ff.

³ It is hoped that this apparatus will be removed before any damage is done to the bells. If not hung for ringing, they should be hung for traditional-type chiming.

clumsy wheels of amateurish design were added so that the bells could be rung, but wheels and clappers are now derelict. With the exception of that on the treble all the ironwork is of the seventeenth century keyed pattern.

Visited : F.S., 21st April, 1929, 29th March, 1948.

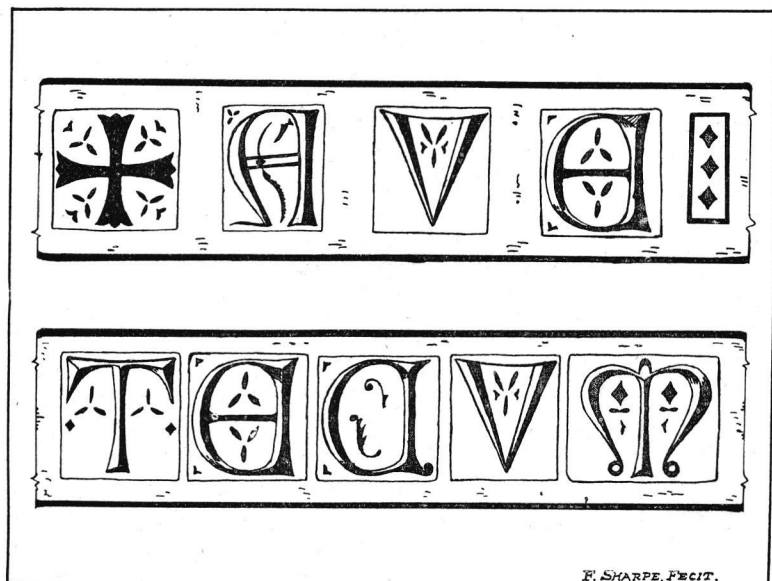


Fig. 3. Portions of inscription on tenor bell at Alkerton. (Half scale).

5.

ALVESCOT.

St. Peter.

A western tower containing a ring of five bells ; tenor 39 inches diameter, in A ♮.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|---------|--|------|------|------|
| Treble. | PROSPERITY TO THIS PARISH 1727 (Border, Fig. D2.) | 4 | 2 | 0† |
| Second. | G. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1859. / REVd. ARTHUR NEATE RECTOR. / RICHARD LARGE TANNER CHURCHWARDEN. / ALFRED WHITE BELLHANGER. | 5 | 0 | 25 |

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Third. | ROBERT & JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS FECIT 1796 | 5 3 0‡ |
| Fourth. | WM CLARIDGE CH: WARDEN IAMES HALL & IOHN KERBY ASSISTANTS 1727 | 7 0 0‡ |
| Tenor. | SAMVEL ADAMS D.D. VICAR 1727 (<i>Border, Fig. D8.</i>) | 9 2 0‡ |

From the Rudhall bell catalogues¹ we learn that Abraham Rudhall II cast a ring of five for Alvescot, of which the treble, fourth, and tenor remain. The third was recast in 1796 by R. and J. Wells, who placed the inscription above the sound-bow of the bell, and filled in the space after the date with a border of Fig. H10, and triangles of dots alternating. In 1859 Alfred White supplied new gear, type A, and rehung the bells in the existing oak frame ; the second was recast at the same time. Prior to 1727 Dr. Rawlinson noted that there were four bells.

Visited : F.S., 18th October, 1930.

6.

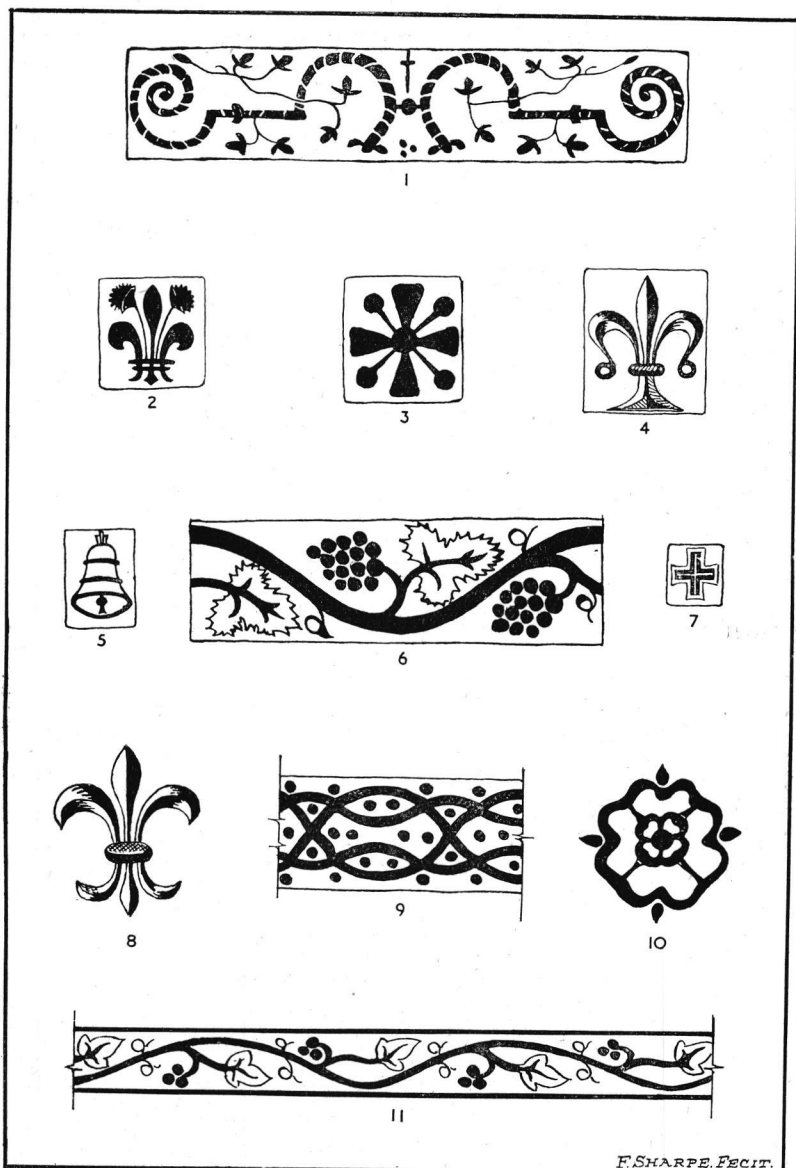
AMBROSDEN.

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of eight bells ; tenor 48 inches diameter, in E ♯ ; and a sanctus bell, 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Treble.† | (<i>Border.</i>) 19 (Loughborough foundry mark.) 28 (<i>Border.</i>) / + IN UNDYING MEMORY / OF ALL THOSE OF THIS PARISH / WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918. + / GEORGE ALDRIDGE / CHARLES AUSTIN / PERCY BUSBY / JAMES CHERRY / PERCY DEELEY / HARRY EAVES / EDWIN EDMUNDS / THOMAS GASKINS / SIDNEY HOPCRAFT / ROWLAND KNAPTON / JOSEPH MARKHAM / CHARLES ROBERT SHARP / HENRY SHAW / WILLIAM TUFFREY TURNER / Their name liveth for evermore * | 4 3 16 |

¹ 1751 Ed., Bodleian Library, Oxford, and 1830 Ed., Whitechapel foundry, London.



F. SHARPE, FECIT.

Figs. A1—A11. Half-scale details of founders' marks and borders. A1, A2, A6 and A11, Woodstock foundry. A3, A5, A8, A9, A10, Chacombe foundry. A4, unknown fourteenth century foundry. A8, London medieval foundry.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Second.† | (<i>Border.</i>) (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) / + POPVLVS AMBROSDVNI ME DEDICAVIT / AD MAIOREM GLORIAM DEI / ET AD HONOREM SANCTAE MARIAE / ET IN MEMORIAM GVLIELMI WHITE KENNETT / OLIM VICARII HVIVS PAROCHIAE / POSTEA EPISCOPI PETROBVRGENSIS / QVI OBIIT MLCCXXVIII + / C.C. DAVID OAKE, M.A. VICAR / W. H. P. HADLAND / A. E. S. HEPWORTH { CHURCHWARDENS / W. P. P. HADLAND, DEPUTY WARDEN / 1928 | 5 1 25 |
| Third. | 1697 | 6 0 23 |
| Fourth. | THOMAS HARRIS SAMVEL SMITH RICHARD CARTER CHVRCH (<i>Fig.A8.</i>) W (<i>Fig. J2.</i>) (<i>Fig.A8.</i>) / BE IT KNOWNE TO ALL THAT DO ME SEE H BAGLEY MADE MEE 1716 (<i>Fig.A8.</i>) | 7 1 8 |
| Fifth. | UOX MEA SONAT IOHN CHERRY CLARK / THOMAS IONES. THOMAS SMITH. WILLIAM SULSTONE. HENRY HONOUR. (<i>Fig. P5, twice.</i>) / CURCH= ¹ WARDENS. EDWARD HEMINS, FECIT MAY, THE 28,TH. 1743 (<i>Fig.P5, twice.</i>) | 8 2 27 |
| Sixth.† | W. H. P. HADLAND & A. E. HEPWORTH CHURCHWARDENS / (<i>Fig. H8, three times.</i>) CHARLES BAYFIELD VICAR (<i>Fig. H8.</i>) / F. WHITE & SON (<i>Fig. H8.</i>) BELLHANGERS (<i>Fig. H8.</i>) APPLETON (<i>Fig. H8.</i>) BERKS (<i>Fig. H8.</i>) 1895 (<i>Fig. H8, three times.</i>) / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) / AS I FOR USE AM RAISED ABOVE THE EARTH / SO MAY MY VOICE TO HEAVENLY THOUGHTS GIVE BIRTH / IF MEN WHO HEAR ME COME AND PRAISE THEIR KING / I AM CONTENT FOR NOT IN VAIN I RING. | 8 3 25 |
| Seventh.† | (<i>Cross, Fig. J5.</i>) W: Tubb I: Hazel T: Hickman & I: Crots Churchwardens / (<i>Fig. J5.</i>) Redd: I: G: G: Dryden Vicar. Ano Dni M. d. ccc. xl. v. (<i>Fig. J5.</i>) (<i>Three coins.</i>) | 12 0 23 |
| Tenor.† | THO HARRIS HEN COOPER OLIVER PANGBORN C W 1703 / + I WAS RECAST A.D. 1928 + / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) | 20 1 6 |
| Saunce. | (<i>Cross, Fig. A7.</i>) PETRVS : DE VESTON : MC : FECIT | 1 0 0† |

¹ *Sic.*

The treble and second were added to the ring in 1928, and are by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., who also recast the fourth in 1895, and the tenor in 1928. At the latter date they installed a cast iron side-pattern frame. The date of Bishop White Kennett's death was actually 1728, not as inscribed on the second. The third is by Richard Keene, who in 1697 recast five former bells into a ring of six. The tenor was again recast by him in 1703, being the last known product of the Woodstock foundry. The fourth is by Henry Bagley III, the fifth by Edward Hemins, and the seventh by William Taylor. The saunce, a beautiful little casting by Peter de Weston, *circa* 1336, and one of the few inscribed medieval sanctus bells in Oxfordshire, retains its canons and is hung for ringing with gear, type B. The third, fourth, and fifth also retain their canons and have gear, type Q; the remaining bells have fittings, type M, and no canons.

The first ring of bells in the possession of this church came, so local tradition tells us, from the neighbouring parish of Bicester, whence they were removed because they were too heavy for the tower. If we accept this tradition the date of the removal must have been prior to the erection of the present tower of Bicester church in the middle of the fifteenth century.¹

7 Edw. VI. *Item 4 belles and a sauntz bell.*

Visited : F.S., 1923-1948.

7.

ARDLEY.

St. Mary.

A western tower containing two bells hung for chiming. The smaller, 19 inches in diameter, is from the Woodstock foundry, and inscribed :—

JAMES ◇ KEENE ◇ MADE ◇ ME 1626
(*Border, Fig. A11.*)

The larger, $21\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, cast at the Bicester foundry, is inscribed :—

WILLIAM PHILLIPS. VINCENT RING.
CHURCH-WARDENS. Ed. HEMINS.
FECIT : | (*Fig. P11, four times.*) 1729
(*Fig. P11, four times.*)

6 Edw. VI. *Item 2 belles hanginge in the steple. Item one sakeringe bell.*

Visited : F.S., 23rd December, 1923.

¹ For additional details see F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of The Deanery of Bicester*, 1932, pp. 6-10, 66-68.

8. ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD.

The Holy Trinity.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 34 inches diameter, in A ; and a clock bell, 14 inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Treble. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / IN 1905, WAS I MADE, AS A GIFT FROM CORNBURY. | 3 0 2 |
| Second. | IOHN CHAUNDY MICHAELL ROSE C W HB MADE MEE J744 / (<i>Border,</i> <i>Fig. H12, on cable moulding all round bell.</i>) / SING (<i>Fig. H1.</i>) UNTO (<i>Fig. H1.</i>) THE (<i>Fig. H1.</i>) LORD (<i>Fig. H1.</i>) A (<i>Fig. H1.</i>) NEW (<i>Fig. H1.</i>) SONG (<i>Fig. H1.</i>) | 3 3 0† |
| Third. | FEAR GOD HONOUR THE KING J744 (<i>Two coins.</i>) (<i>Border, Fig. H1.</i>) | 4 1 0† |
| Fourth. | HENRY BAGLEY MADE THIS PEAL IT IS SURE IN THE YEAR J744. | 5 0 0† |
| Fifth. | MICHAELL ROSE IOHN CHAUNDY C WARDENS H BAGLEY MA. M. J744 | 6 0 0† |
| Tenor. | IOHN CHAUNDY MICHAELL ROSE CHURCH WARDENS H B MADE MEE J744 | 7 2 0† |
| Clock-bell. | 1797 | 2 0† |

The treble and clock bell are from the Whitechapel foundry ; the former has a "Doncaster" type head ; the latter hangs in a penthouse on top of the tower, and was not examined by the author in 1948, the information regarding this bell being derived from notes made by Mr. H. B. Walters in 1912. The other bells, by Henry Bagley III, retain their canons and have been quarter-turned. The ring hangs in a wrought iron side-pattern frame and is fitted with gear, type B.

A tablet on the west wall of the nave is inscribed :—

"TO / THE GLORY OF GOD / THIS TOWER WAS REPAIRED /
THE FIVE OLD BELLS REHUNG / AND A SIXTH BELL ADDED /
A.D. 1905."

Dr. Rawlinson, *circa* 1720, noted :—3 bells.








Visited : F.S., 28th June, 1948.

9.

ASTHALL.

St. Nicholas.

A western tower containing a ring of three bells ; tenor 32½ inches diameter, in B ; and a sanctus bell, 10 inches in diameter.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt.Qrs.Lbs. |
|---------|---|--------------|
| Treble. | (Cross, Fig. J9.) EDWARD THOMAS AND JOHN LOVETT CHURCHWARDENS 1859 / (Cross, Fig. J9.) JOHN TAYLOR AND CO. FOUNDERS Loughborough (Fig. J6.) | 4 1 8 |
| Second. | (Cross, Fig. F4.)  Ave  Maria (Lion's head, Fig. F2.) (Coin.) | 5 0 0† |
| Tenor. |  Sancti  Iohannis  Ora  Pro  Nobis (Lion's head, Fig. F2.) (Coin.) (Fig. F4.) | 6 2 0† |
| Saunce. | HARMAN FLECHER RICHARD GVRDIN C W 1640 / IK | - 1 14‡ |

The saunce is cracked and disused : the initials after the date are those of the founder, James Keene. Nothing is known of the former treble prior to its being recast at the Loughborough foundry except that it weighed 4 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lbs. The two largest are from the medieval Wokingham foundry ; they have fourteenth century type mouldings below the shoulder and fifteenth century lettering, and therefore were cast early in the fifteenth century.

The oak frame and gear, type C, date from the middle of the nineteenth century.

Dr. Rawlinson, *circa* 1720, stated :—"4 bells," but this may mean the ring of three and the saunce.

Visited : F.S., 31st July, 1948.

10.

ASTHALL LEIGH.¹

St. John the Evangelist.

The church was built in 1861, and furnished with a small bell, hung for chiming in an open central turret, and inaccessible without the use of ladders or scaffolding. The author regrets he has been unable to examine the bell.

¹ A chapelry in Asthall parish.

11.

ASTON.¹

St. James.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 42 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in F #.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Treble. | J : TAYLOR AND Co : FOUNDERS, LOUGHBOROUGH, 1883. | 3 | 3 | 10 |
| Second. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 4 | 3 | 15 |
| Third. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 6 | 1 | 15 |
| Fourth. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 7 | 0 | 25 |
| Fifth. | J : TAYLOR AND Co : BELLFOUNDERS, LOUGHBOROUGH. 1883. | 10 | 0 | 1 |
| Tenor. | (<i>Same as fifth.</i>) | 13 | 0 | 0 |

On a beam beneath the tenor bell is a brass plate inscribed :—
“ + To the Glory of God / this peal of bells was hung in the church on the feast of the Nativity. A.D. 1883. / Ralph Barnes : Vicar. / John Fox : A. L. Townsend : Churchwardens.”

A similar plate below the fifth bell is inscribed :—
“ + This peal of bells was dedicated to the Glory of God, February 6th. A.D. 1884. The wishes of the late Wm. Monk, a liberal Benefactor towards the Spire and Bells being carried out by the Vicar and the united efforts of the Inhabitants, small Proprietors, and Friends of the Parish, assisted by the undermentioned committee :— S. M. Stable, Curate-in-Charge. J. W. B. Bell, Vicar of Lew (Late Curate). James Clarke. William Parrot. Michael Beckinsale. William Henry Clarke. Frederick Green. Henry Luckett.”

The particulars of the ring were supplied by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., the transcripts of the inscriptions on the two brass plates were made by Mr. H. B. Walters.

12.

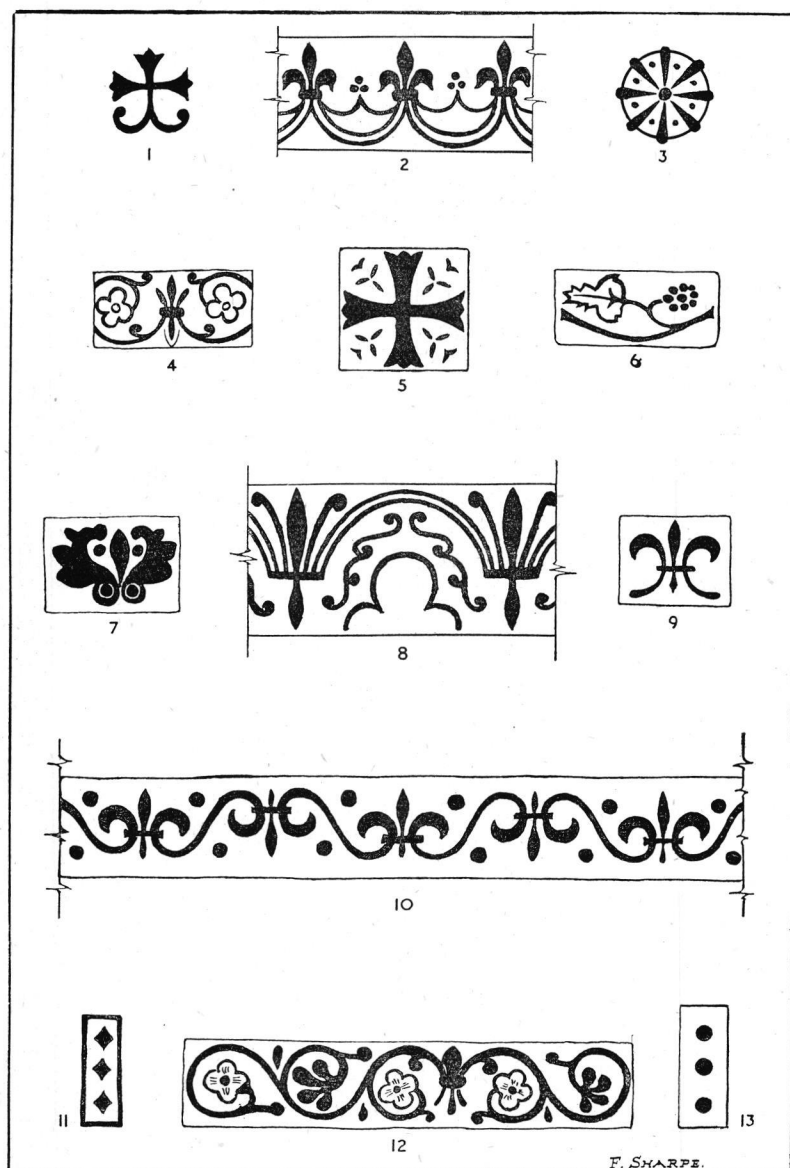
ASTON, NORTH.

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of four bells ; tenor 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, in B ♭.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1866 / (<i>Royal Arms.</i>) / PATENT | 4 |

¹ Formerly known as BAMPTON ASTON. The church was built in 1839, the parish being formed from Bampton.



F. SHARPE.

Figs. B1—B13. Half-scale details of founders' marks and borders. B1, Whitechapel foundry. B2, B4, B6—10 and B.12, Chacombe foundry. B3, Gloucester foundry. B5 and B11, unknown fourteenth century foundry.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Second. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 4½ |
| Third. | JOHN GOODMAN JOHN BAYLES CHVRCHWARDENS HENRY BAGLEY MADE M J74J | 5½ |
| Tenor. | JOHN GOODMAN JOHN BAYLES CHVRCHWARDENS HENRY BAGLEY WA ¹ ME J74J | 7½ |






The treble and second were cast at the Cripplegate foundry ; the two largest are by Henry Bagley III. The oak frame and gear date from the nineteenth century.

Early in the eighteenth century Dr. Rawlinson noted :—"3 bells," and there may only have been three down to 1866. The predecessor of the second was probably also by Bagley, whose 1732 catalogue states :—"one bell" for North Aston.

Visited : F.S., 14th May, 1929.

13. **ASTON ROWANT.** **SS. Peter and Paul.**

A western tower containing a ring of five bells ; tenor 42 inches diameter, in F[#] ; and a sanctus bell, 16½ inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | THXS BELL WAS MADE X625 | 5 |
| Second. | OVR HOPE XS XN THE LORD X625 (<i>Fig. N14.</i>) | 6 |
| Third. |  Sancte  Johannis  Ora  Pro  Nobis (<i>Lion's head, Fig. F2.</i>) (<i>Shield, Fig. F7.</i>) (<i>Coin.</i>) (<i>Cross, Fig. F4.</i>) | 7 |
| Fourth. | CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1873. | 9 |
| Tenor. | PRAYES YE THE LORD X625 / (<i>Wide scroll border all round bell.</i>) | 13 |
| Saunce. | T : CHAPMAN & J : ORPWOOD CHURCHWARDENS 1835. | 1 |

The treble, second, and tenor are by Ellis Knight I, and are inscribed in his well-known "sheet-metal" lettering²; two canons are missing from the treble which also has a false crown-staple ;

¹ *Sic.*

² Illustrated on Plate XVI, *The Church Bells of Berkshire*, Berkshire Archaeological Society Journal, Vol. XLVI., p. 10.

The scroll border on the tenor is, or until recently was, to be found on a bell at Aldershot. The third, cast by Roger Landen, *circa* 1450, is now badly chipped at the lip owing to unskilful tuning ; probably at some time its strike-note has been raised a semi-tone in order to convert the tuning of the ring from a minor to a major scale.¹ The fourth was recast by Messrs. Warner : the former fourth, by Edward Hemins, probably bore the inscription :—

BENEDICTA SIT SANCTA TRINITAS. WILLIAM BROOKES.
RICHARD STEVENS. CHURCH WARDENS. EDWARD
HEMINS, FECIT 1737.

Lukis stated² that this inscription was on two bells, and that there were six in the ring ; but as there is no room in the bell-frame for an additional bell, and as the inscriptions recorded by him for the other bells agree with those existing today, the writer is of the opinion that both inscriptions recorded by Lukis were on the former fourth. Incised on the headstock of the saunce are the initials "J.W." and the date "1803"; the present bell was recast by William Taylor in 1835.

The bells hang in a curious old "X" braced oak frame, which recently has had *deal* braces fitted to the tenor pit. The gear, type A, was renewed by Alfred White in the nineteenth century.

7 Edw. VI. *Item 4 greatt bells, a sanse bell, and a handbell.*
Visited : F.S., 22nd September, 1934.

14. ASTON, STEEPLE.

St. Peter.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 40 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, in F # ; and a sanctus bell, 15 inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Treble. | (Several defaced letters.) | 5 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Second. | 1674 | 5 2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Third. | WILL WHING GILLS HANWELL C W 1700 | 6 1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Fourth. | T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT. 1827 (<i>Border,</i> <i>Fig. G11.</i>) | 7 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Fifth. | HENRY MITCHIL IOHN FOX C W 1675 | 8 2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Tenor. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / W. DURRAN : E. H. KING : 1879. / GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO. | 11 2 2 |
| Saunce.† | HENRICVS (<i>Fig. P13.</i>) BAGLEY (<i>Fig.</i> <i>Q2.</i>) ME (<i>Fig. P15.</i>) FECIT 1701 | 3 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

¹ The minor scale was frequently used by tuners of medieval rings.

² W. C. Lukis, *An Account of Church Bells*, 1857, p. 93.

The treble, second, and fifth are by Richard Keene, and similar to the third at Ambrosden : the treble appears to have been cast for some other church and, in addition to having its inscriptions defaced, has been sharpened in tone by the removal of a considerable portion of its lip. The third is by the Chandlers, and similar to bells at Beckley and Kidlington ; the fourth, and tenor are from the Whitechapel foundry ; the saunce, which has false iron canons, is by Henry Bagley III.

The oak frame, originally made for four bells, was reconstructed in the seventeenth century into a five-bell frame ; and later in the same century was again altered to provide one additional pit. It follows the same plan as the bell-frame at St. Benets, Cambridge,¹ and may be a copy of it. The saunce is hung for chiming in a vertical frame in the east window of the belfry and has an elm headstock and half-wheel. The fittings of the other bells, types B and C, are by Mr. Richard White.

Ringling is conducted from a "ringers' gallery" erected in the seventeenth century by Richard Duckworth, B.D.,² the famous campanologist, and contemporary of Fabian Stedman and Anthony Wood. Duckworth, who was instituted Rector of Steeple Aston on March 30th, 1680,³ was a skilled ringer and the author of "Tintinnalogia, or The Art of Ringing," printed in London in 1668 by "W.G. for Fabian Stedman," in which the author describes himself as "A Lover of that Art." According to Mr. J. Armiger Trollope,⁴ Stedman owned the copyright of the book and was responsible for its publication, although Duckworth was the author. Three copies of the book are known to survive ; one is in the Cambridge University Library, another in the British Museum, and the third belongs to the President of The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers ; a reprint of it was published by Harvey Reeves in 1895.

Wood says of Duckworth⁵ "he hath written Tintinnalogia, or The Art of Ringing, etc., London, 1671. Instructions for hanging of Bells with all Things belonging therunto." This refers to the second edition of which the only known copy is in the Bodleian Library at Oxford.

¹ According to tradition St. Benets, Cambridge, is the church most associated with Fabian Stedman ; it was here that The Ancient Society of College Youths, of London, first rang Stedman's Principle ; and the bells were restored in 1931 by the ringers of England as a memorial to Stedman.

² Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, and afterwards Vice-Principal.

³ Rev. J. T. Evans, *The Church Plate of Oxfordshire*, 1928. p. 8.

⁴ *The Ringing World*, Vol. XXXI, p. 805, Vol. XXXVII, p. 478.

⁵ A. Wood, *Athenae Oxonienses*, 1721, p. 1132.

Richard Duckworth died on July 19th, 1706, and a memorial tablet in his memory may be seen on the south side of the chancel in Steeple Aston church.

Visited : F.S., 25th April, 1929 ; 22nd January, 1949.

15.


BADGEMORE.

In this civil parish is the Henley-on-Thames cemetery where there is a chapel in which Divine Service is held. The writer regrets he has been unable to examine the chapel bell.

16.

BALDON, MARSH.**St. Peter.**

A western tower containing a ring of four bells ; tenor 35 inches diameter, in A ; and a sanctus bell.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Treble. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / RENOVATUM MDCCCCII. / GAUDEMUS GAUDENTIBUS, / DOLEMUS DOLENTIBUS. | 4 0 22 |
| Second. | PRAYES THE LORD ◊ | 4 3 0‡ |
| Third. | (<i>Cross, Fig. F6.</i>)  (<i>Cross, Fig. K2.</i>) (Fig. K4.) (<i>Lion's head</i> <i>Fig. F3.</i>) | 5 3 0‡ |
| Tenor. | X · AS · TENAR · HVM · ALL · ROVND X628 | 7 2 0‡ |
| Saunce. | ROBT. WELLS . . . ALBOURN | 2 0‡ |

The treble was recast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1902 ; the second, and tenor are by Ellis Knight I, but of different dates ; originally one of a "stock" ring of which it is the sole survivor, the tenor is the older of the two, and the only one remaining in the county which bears the inscription "I AS TENAR HVM ALL ROVND" ; the third is either the work of John White, or a late example from the medieval Wokingham foundry ; the saunce is by Robert Wells I, *circa* 1760.

According to Mr. H. B. Walters, who omits to state his source of information,¹ the former treble was by Richard Keene, and merely inscribed with the date :—1673.

¹ Mr. Walters did not visit Marsh Baldon ; he probably derived the information from Mr. A. H. Cocks who makes reference to the third bell in *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 1897, p. 64.

The ring hangs in a two-tier oak frame installed by Mr. Richard White in 1922 ; the treble has plate gudgeons ; the remaining gear is type C ; all the bells have their canons intact, and the three largest have been quarter-turned. The saunce is hung for chiming.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 3 belles in the steple.*

Visited : F.S., 27th September, 1948.

17.

BALDON, TOOT.**St. Laurence.**

An open western turret containing two bells, 18 and 20 inches in diameter respectively, hung for chiming. The smaller bell is inscribed :—

MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1892. /
IN MEMORY OF / C.E.F. / JAN. 1. 1891.

The larger bell bears the inscription :—

Mears & Stainbank, Founders, London. 1892 / In Memoriam
/ C.E.F. / JAN. 1. 1891.

The initials "C.E.F." are those of Mrs. Forbes, the wife of a former Vicar.

In the eighteenth century Dr. Rawlinson noted :—"In this chapel were 2 belles before the civil wars, when one was altogether lost ; the other thrown into a pond and since recovered." The bell in use prior to 1892 bore no inscription.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 2 litle belles trussede . . . Item 1 hand bell.*

Visited : H.B.W., 7th June, 1922.

18.

BALSCOTE.¹**St. Mary Magdalene.**

A southern tower containing two bells, 16½ inches and 15¾ inches in diameter respectively, hung for chiming.

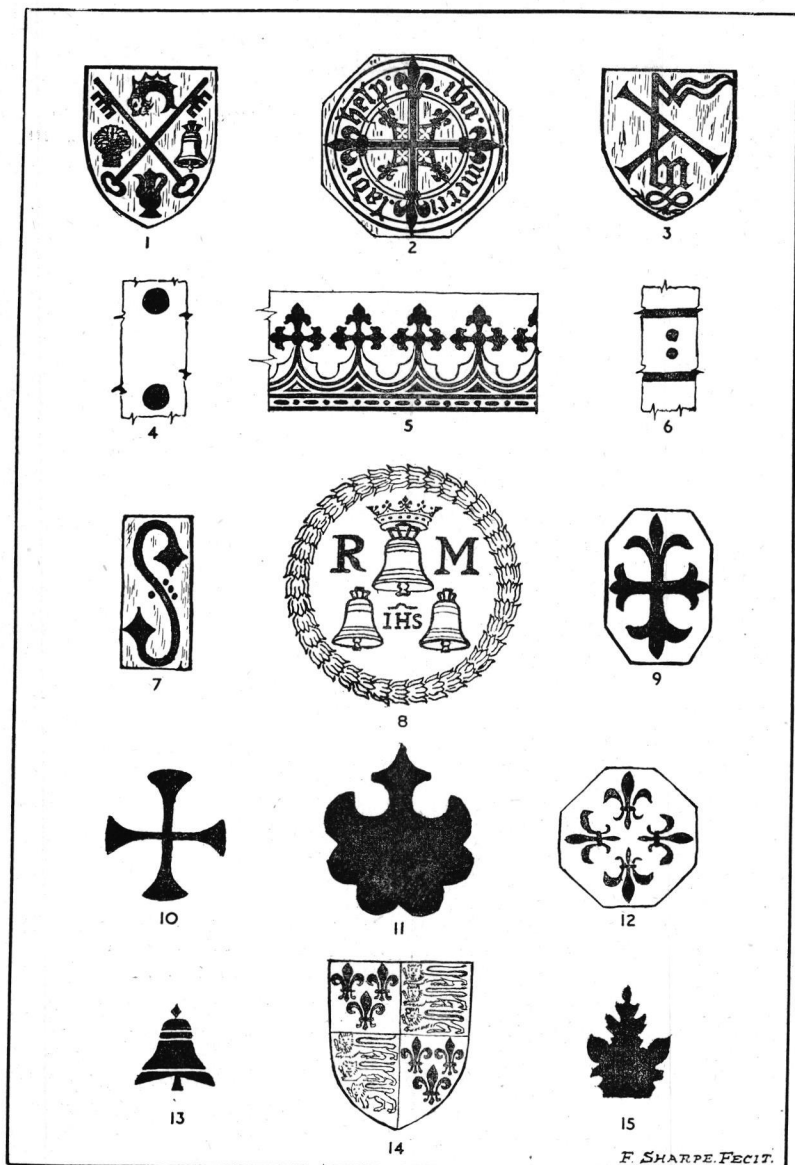
The larger bell, a rough casting with square shaped canons, one of which is broken, bears no inscription ; its upper moulding-wires have been chiselled off ; and on evidence of shape it dates from the nineteenth century.

The smaller, cast by Matthew Bagley II, is inscribed :—

M B J756

Visited : F.S., 13th October, 1934.

¹ A chapelry in Wroxton parish.



Figs. C1—C15. Half-scale details of founders' marks. C1—3, C6, C12 and C14, London medieval foundry. C4, Buckingham medieval foundry. C5, Gloucester foundry. C7, Reading medieval foundry. C8, Whitechapel foundry. C9, unknown fourteenth century foundry. C10—11, Loughborough foundry. C13, Burford foundry. C15, Aldbourne foundry.

19.

BAMPTON.

St. Mary.

A central tower with spire containing a ring of eight bells ; tenor 52 inches diameter, in D ; and a sanctus bell, 16 inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Treble. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1906. / AD DEI GLORIAM / ET. IN. MEM. / HARRIET SARAH SOUTHBY. / ET ANN HORMAN-FISHER. / MDCCCV. | 6 | 1 | 11 |
| Second. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1906. / AD DEI GLORIAM ET / IN. MEM. GUL : KNOWLTON HAMPSHIRE. / HUIJUS. ECCLESIAE. / VICARII. MDCCCXCV—MDCCCV. | 7 | 0 | 18 |
| Third. | MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. / CAST A.D. 1629. RECAST A.D. 1906 | 7 | 3 | 9 |
| Fourth.† | MEARS & STAINBANK FOUNDERS LONDON 1865 | 9 | 0 | 14 |
| Fifth.† | (<i>Cross, Fig. M8.</i>) ANNO DOMINI (<i>Cross, Fig. M10.</i>) 1629 | 10 | 0 | 0‡ |
| Sixth.† | ANNO DOMINI 1629 | 12 | 2 | 0‡ |
| Seventh. | (<i>Cross, Fig. M8.</i>) ANNO (<i>Fig. M8.</i>) DOMINI (<i>Fig. M8.</i>) 1629 / RECAST A.D. 1903. / MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. | 18 | 0 | 10 |
| Tenor.† | (<i>Cross, Fig. M8.</i>) COME ◇ WHEN ◇ I ◇ CALL ∴ TO ◇ SERVE ◇ GOD ◇ ALL ∴ 1629 / WARDENS / ◇ CHVRCH ◇ / ◇ RD ◇ TG ◇ IB ◇ | 25 | 0 | 0‡ |
| Saunce. | IAMES ◇ KEENE ◇ MADE ◇ ME ◇ 1626 | 1 | 0 | 0‡ |

The fifth, sixth, and tenor, like similar bells at Buckland and Lambourne, Berkshire¹, are probably the work of Nathaniel Bolter; the saunce is by James Keene, and the others by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. The treble and second were added to the ring in 1906 and have "Doncaster-type" heads ; the third and seventh have similar heads ; the saunce retains its canons ; the others have had their canons removed. On the tenor the portion of the inscription recorded above in italics has been incised, and on the seventh the former inscription has been reproduced in facsimile.

¹ F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Berkshire*, § 115, Berkshire Archaeological Society Journal, Vol. XLVI, p. 67.

It would appear that the ring was recast and the number of bells in it augmented to six in 1629, an early date for a ring of this number.

The bells hang in a wrought iron side-pattern frame installed in 1903 by Messrs. Webb and Bennett : the gear, type B, is also by them. A portion of the former oak frame, dated 1608, is preserved in the belfry, and is similar to the work of Matthew Chancelor in the bell frame at West Hanney, Berkshire.¹

Visited : F.S., 15th April, 1931 ; 10th July, 1948.

20.

BANBURY.

Christ Church.

A northern tower containing one bell, 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter,² hung for chiming. The bell has five narrow mouldings below the shoulder similar to those favoured by the Aldbourne foundry, and ornamented canons ; above the sound-bow is the inscription :—

ROBERT TAYLOR FECIT LOUGHBOROUGH 1853

The founder was Robert Edward Taylor, a lesser known member of the Taylor family, and son of John Taylor.

Visited : E.C.P., F.S., 4th December, 1948.

21.

BANBURY.

St. Leonard.

(Grimsbury.)

An open central turret containing one bell, hung for chiming and inaccessible without the use of scaffolding. When viewed from the churchyard both bell and gear appear similar to the service bell at Brize Norton, and may be the work of Messrs. Naylor, Vickers and Co.

Visited : E.C.P., F.S., 4th December, 1948.

¹ *Ibid*, § 93, Vol. XLV, p. 68.

² A bell of this size was supplied to Mr. William Taylor, of Oxford, by the Loughborough foundry in 1853, and weighed 1 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lbs.

22.

BANBURY.

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of ten bells†; tenor 46½ inches diameter, in E; two additional semi-tone bells† for the clock chimes; and a sanctus bell, 18 inches in diameter.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt.Qrs.Lbs. |
|--------------|--|--------------|
| Treble. | (<i>Border all round bell.</i>) / GIVEN BY / THOMAS HENRY BOOTE / AND HIS DAUGHTER ALICE ELIZABETH / IN MEMORY OF / ELIZABETH (WIFE) / AND DOROTHEA AND CLARICE (DAUGHTERS) / BANBURY / 1930 / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) | 4 2 19 |
| Second. | (<i>Border all round bell.</i>) / THIS AND TWO OTHER NEW BELLS / WITH THE CLOCK AND CHIMES / WERE ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE THE DIAMOND JUBILEE / OF QUEEN VICTORIA / 1837-1897 / THIS BELL WAS PRESENTED BY JOHN PHILLIPS BARFORD J.P. / 1897 / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) / RECAST 1930. | 4 3 3 |
| Third. | THIS BELL WAS GIVEN BY FREDERICK EARL OF GUILDFORD TO THE BOROUGH OF BANBURY JOHN BRIANT HERTFORD (<i>Fig. N6.</i>) / FECIT 1820 / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) / RECAST 1930. | 5 0 10 |
| Fourth. | JOHN PAIN JAMES HILL THOMAS NASBY C: WARDENS (<i>Fig. N6.</i>) JOHN BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1820 / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) / RECAST 1930. | 5 2 8 |
| Flat-fourth. | CAST 1897 (<i>Fig. H8.</i>) RECAST 1930 BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. LOUGHBOROUGH. | 5 2 15 |
| Fifth. | GEORGE :: LUCAS :: IAMES :: LANE :: SAMUELL :: GARDNER :: CHURCH / WARDENS :: MATTHEW :: BAGLEY :: MADE :: MEE :: 1753 IH / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) / RECAST 1930. | 5 3 8 |
| Sixth. | RECAST 1897 (<i>Fig. H8.</i>) AGAIN RECAST 1930 BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. LOUGHBOROUGH. | 6 2 22 |
| Flat-sixth. | CAST 1897 (<i>Fig. H8.</i>) RECAST 1930 BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. LOUGHBOROUGH. | 6 3 11 |

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Seventh. | IOHN : PAIN : IOHN : FRY : IOHN : PEARSON : CHURCH : : : WARDENS : : : / MATTHEW : : : BAGLEY : : : : : MADE : : : : : MEE : : : : : : : : : J779 : : : : : : : : : : / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) / RECAST 1930. | 7 2 12 |
| Eighth. | HENRY (<i>Fig. B10.</i>) BAGLEY (<i>Fig. B10.</i>) MADE (<i>Fig. B10.</i>) MEE (<i>Fig. B10.</i>) 1669 (<i>Fig. B10.</i>) / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) / RECAST 1930. / GIVEN IN MEMORY OF / SARAH CARTER / BY GEORGE CARTER (HER HUSBAND) / HIS FAMILY / AND ELIZA FOSKETT (HER SISTER) / 1930. | 9 2 11 |
| Ninth. | RECAST 1852 (<i>Fig. H8.</i>) AGAIN RECAST 1930 BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. LOUGHBOROUGH. | 13 0 6 |
| Tenor. | THAT (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) ALL (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) MAY (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) COME (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) AND (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) NON (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) MAY (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) STAY (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) AT (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) HOME (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) I (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) RING (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) TO (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) SERMON (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) WITH (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) A (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) / LVSTY (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) BOOME PHILLIP (<i>Fig. B7.</i>) STYLE (<i>Fig. B7.</i>) GENT (<i>Fig. B7.</i>) IOHN (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) WEST (<i>Fig. B7.</i>) THOMAS (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) ABRAHAM (<i>Fig. B7.</i>) IVNER (<i>Fig. P3.</i>) THOMAS (<i>Fig. B7.</i>) SVTTON (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) (<i>Cross, Fig. A3.</i>) / CHVRCHWARDENS 1667 / H (<i>Fig. P2.</i>) B / (<i>Royal Arms.</i>) / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) / RECAST 1930. | 17 1 9 |
| Saunce. | G. DUNTCEs T. PAIN J. WHEATLEY CH: WARDENS 1773 | 1 1 0† |

The saunce was cast by Pack and Chapman : the remainder are by Messrs. Taylor and Co. The ring of ten hangs in a cast iron H-pattern frame and is fitted with gear, type M ; the two additional semi-tone bells are hung "dead" in a separate frame above the ring ; the saunce is hung for chiming.

The lettering on the second, third, fourth, fifth, seventh, eighth, and tenor is a facsimile copy of that on the former bells ; but as the present ones are of smaller dimensions than their predecessors the spacing of the inscriptions is different and some portions have been omitted. The portion of the inscription on the saunce, recorded in italics, has been incised. An illustration of the tenor is given in Fig. 4, where details of the Royal Arms may be seen.



Photo :

Messrs. J. Taylor & Co.

Fig. 4. The tenor bell of the ring of ten at Banbury cast by Henry Bagley I, 1667, and recast with its inscription and marks reproduced in facsimile by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., 1930. The gear includes a cast iron headstock, fixed steel gudgeons, self-aligning ball bearings, and traditional type wheel.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Fifth. ¹ | BEE IT KNOWNE TO ALL THAT DOE MEE SEE THAT BAGLEY OF CHACOMB MADE MEE 1664 | 16 1 0 [†] |
| Tenor. | THAT (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) ALL (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) MAY (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) COME (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) AND (<i>Fig.</i> <i>P1.</i>) NON (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) MAY (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) STAY (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) AT (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) HOME (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) I (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) RING (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) TO (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) SERMON (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) WITH (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) A (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) LVSTY (<i>Fig. P3.</i>) (<i>Cross, Fig. A3.</i>) / BOOME PHILLIP (<i>Fig.</i> <i>B7.</i>) STYLE (<i>Fig. B7.</i>) GENT (<i>Fig. B7.</i>) IOHN (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) WEST (<i>Fig. B7.</i>) THOMAS (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) ABRAHAM (<i>Fig. B7.</i>) IVNER (<i>Fig.</i> <i>P3.</i>) THOMAS (<i>Fig. B7.</i>) SVTTON (<i>Fig. P1.</i>) CHVRCHWARDENS 1667 H (<i>Fig. P2.</i>) B / (<i>Royal Arms.</i>) | 21 2 1 |

When these bells were rehung in the new church in 1820 two smaller bells, cast by John Briant, were added to form a ring of eight.

In 1841 the fourth of the augmented ring (i.e. the second of the six before described), was recast by John Taylor. The new bell weighed 7 cwt. 3 qrs. 24 lbs., and bore the inscription :—

JOHN TAYLOR. BELL FOUNDER.
LOUGHBOROUGH AND OXFORD. 1841.

Eleven years later the seventh was recast at the Whitechapel foundry.

In connection with the commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria the bells were tuned and overhauled, the fourth again being recast. Three new bells were added for the carillon machine which was then renewed and enlarged to play twenty-one tunes.²

A bronze plate in the vestibule of the church is inscribed :—

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE / **Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria,** / 1837-1897. / A NEW CLOCK WITH WESTMINSTER QUARTERS, THREE / ADDITIONAL BELLS, AND THE CHIMES PLAYING 21 TUNES, / WERE PLACED IN THE TOWER, AND THE PEAL OF BELLS / RETUNED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION. / C. F. PORTER, VICAR. / W. LAKE, MAYOR. / W. POTTS, SECRETARY. / JUNE 22. 1897.

¹ W. C. Lukis, *An Account of Church Bells*, 1857, p. 94.

² W. Potts. *A Souvenir of . . . The Diamond Jubilee*, 1897, pp. 4-20, 30-49.

Details of the ring of eight bells, and three additional clock-chime bells, in 1897.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Extra-treble. ¹ | GILLET & JOHNSTON, FOUNDERS, CROYDON. / THIS AND TWO OTHER NEW BELLS / WITH THE CLOCK AND CHIMES / WERE ERRECTED TO COMMEMORATE THE DIAMOND JUBILEE / OF QUEEN VICTORIA / 1837-1897 / THIS BELL WAS PRESENTED BY JOHN PHILLIPS BARFORD J.P. / 1897 / | 6 0 6 |
| Treble. | THIS BELL WAS GIVEN BY FREDERICK EARL OF GUILDFORD TO THE BOROUGH OF BANBURY. JOHN BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1820 (<i>Fig. N6.</i>) | 6 1 25 |
| Second. | JOHN PAIN JAMES HILL THOMAS NASBY C: WARDENS (<i>Fig. N6.</i>) JOHN BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1820. | 6 2 21 |
| Flat-second. | GILLET & JOHNSTON, FOUNDERS, CROYDON. 1897. | 7 3 1 |
| Third. | (<i>Matthew Bagley's bell of 1753, formerly the treble of the ring of six.</i>) | 8 0 14 |
| Fourth. | (<i>Same as flat-second.</i>) | 8 0 11 |
| Flat-fourth. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 9 3 7 |
| Fifth. | (<i>Matthew Bagley's bell of 1779, formerly the third of the ring of six.</i>) | 11 0 7 |
| Sixth. | (<i>Henry Bagley's bell of 1669, formerly the fourth of the ring of six.</i>) | 11 1 14 |
| Seventh. | C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1852 | 16 0 21 |
| Tenor. | (<i>Henry Bagley's bell of 1667.</i>) | 21 2 1 |

These bells were recast by Messrs. John Taylor and Co. in 1930 into the present ring of ten and the two additional semi-tone bells.

Visited : F.S., 23rd June, 1927, 20th November, 1948.

¹ One full tone higher than the strike-note of the treble.

23.

BANBURY.**St. Paul.**

(Neithrop.)


An open western turret containing one bell hung for chiming. Owing to its inaccessible position the writer has not examined this bell, but a search in the Loughborough foundry records revealed that it was cast there in 1896, its diameter being 24 inches and weight being 2 cwt. 3 qrs. 11 lbs.

Visited : E.C.P., F.S., 4th December, 1948.

24.

BANBURY.**Roman Catholic Church of St. John.**

A western tower containing a ring of three bells ; tenor 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, in B ♯.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Treble. | J: TAYLOR & Co FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1860. | 3 7 |
| Second. | (Cross, Fig. J9.) TAYLOR & Co. FOUNDERS. 1852. | 3 20 |
| Tenor. | (Five narrow mouldings all round bell.) TAYLOR. 1861.  | 1 2 8 |




These appear to be three "stock" bells from the Loughborough foundry, not tuned in relation to one another : their strike-notes are approximately those of the treble, third, and fourth of a major set of six. The gear, also by Messrs. Taylor, is similar to type A, but with no stays or sliders.

Visited : E.C.P., F.S., 4th December, 1948.



25.

BARFORD ST. MICHAEL.¹**St. Michael.**

A south-eastern tower containing a ring of two bells ; tenor 32 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, in B ; and a sanctus bell, 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS FECIT 1810.  ..  ..  | 4 |
| Tenor. | (The same, but with no date.) | 6 |

¹ Or Great Barford.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Saunce. | JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS FECIT 1810 (<i>Bell, Fig. D7.</i>)  (<i>Bell, Fig. D7.</i>)  | 1 |

The two largest are tuned to form the treble and tenor of a major ring of three ; and in common with most Aldbourne cast bells have inscriptions on the sound-bows. The fleur-de-lys in each instance is Fig. D9.

A new oak frame and fittings, type B, were installed by Mr. Richard White in 1923.

Visited : F.S., 24th May, 1926.

26. BARFORD ST. JOHN.¹


St. John.

A southern tower containing two bells, 14½ inches and 22½ inches in diameter respectively.

The smaller, probably cast at the Whitechapel foundry, is hung for chiming, and inscribed merely with the date :—

1848

The larger, by William Taylor, is hung for ringing, and inscribed :—

1831. / (*Figure of ox*) /  W.T.

Visited : T.A.T., 6th August, 1883.

27. BARTON, STEEPLE.

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of five bells ; tenor 38½ inches diameter, in G.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Treble. | 1698 | 4 0 0½ |
| Second. | WILL HIET IONAS GREEN C W 1698 | 5 0 0½ |
| Third. | C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1851. | 6 3 27 |
| Fourth. | (<i>Same as third.</i>) | 7 0 21 |

¹ Or Little Barford.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Tenor. | C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1851. / REV ^d . ARTHUR H. PACKENHAM VICAR. | 10 1 10 |

The two smallest bells are by Richard Keene¹ and similar to his work at Ambrosden : the others were recast at the Whitechapel foundry.

Early in the eighteenth century Browne Willis noted :—"5 bells." Bagley's catalogue, dated 1732, states :—"Steeple-Barton 1," presumably one of the three recast in 1851.

The oak frame must have been installed prior to 1698 as it was originally constructed to house four bells ; it has an anti-clockwise rope circle. A pit for an additional bell was afterwards formed by installing an oak frame-head on the cill of the south window in the belfry ; this device it not in use today, a diagonal pit for the treble having been added later in the centre of the bell-frame.








Visited : F.S., 29th December, 1928.

28.

BARTON, WESTCOT.²

St. Edward.

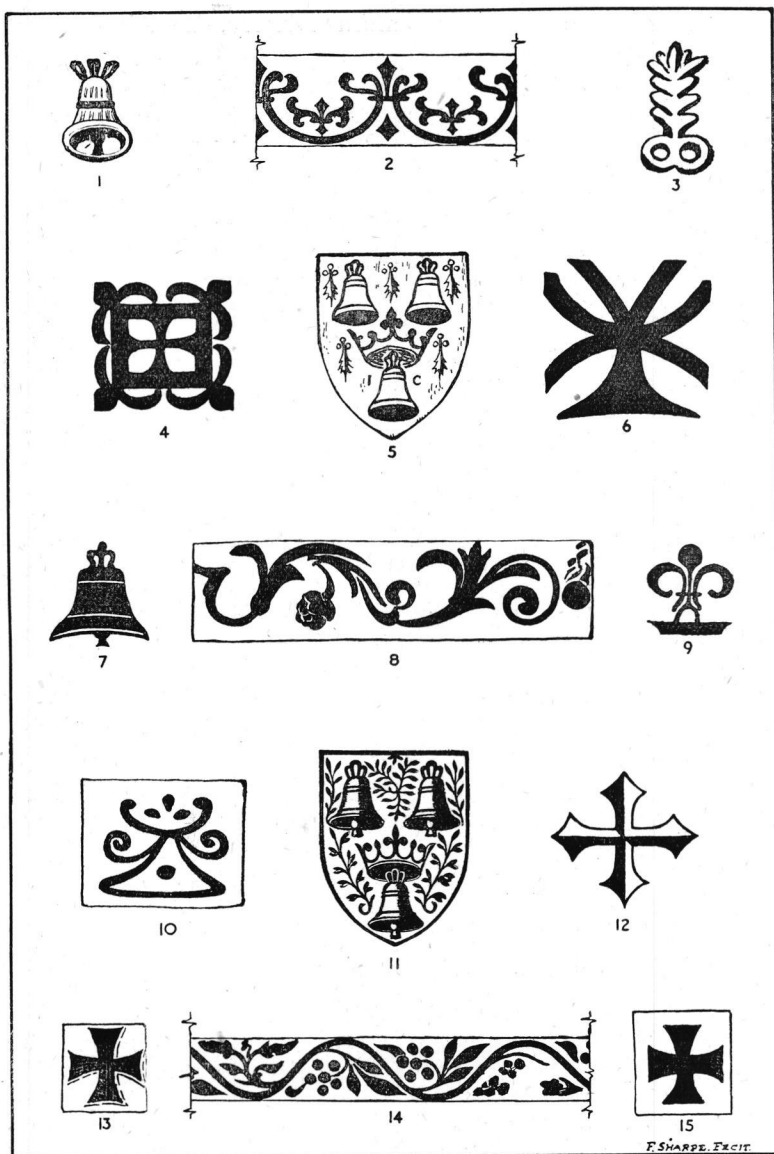
A western tower containing a ring of three bells ; tenor 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in B ; and a sanctus bell, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Treble. | I : BUSWELL : SENR : I : BUSWELL : IUNR : C:W: M:B: MADE : ME : J756 : / RECAST 1904 / M & S. LONDON. | 4 0 18 |
| Second. |  Te Deum Laudemus (<i>Lion's head, Fig. F3.</i>) (<i>Shield, Fig. F7.</i>) (<i>Coin.</i>) (<i>Cross, Fig. F6.</i>) | 4 3 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Tenor. |   Sancta  Maria  Gra  Pro  Nobis / RECAST 1904 / M & S. LONDON. | 6 0 1 |

The treble and tenor are from the Whitechapel foundry. The second is by John Mitchell, *circa* 1490, and similar to the

¹ The contract between Richard Keene and the churchwardens of Ambrosden is printed in *extenso* in my *Church Bells of The Deanery of Bicester*, 1932, p. 66, and proves that bells of this type are his work.

² Or Westcot Barton.



Figs. D1—D15. Half-scale details of founders' marks and borders. D1—D3, D8, D10 and D14, Gloucester foundry. D4, D5 and D12, Reading foundry. D6, Itinerant founder, seventeenth century. D7 and D9, Aldbourne foundry. D11, Norwich, Leicester and Buckingham foundries. D13 and D15, Buckingham foundry.

third of a ring of four at Stanford Dingley, Berkshire.¹ The saunce bears no inscription but on evidence of shape may be assigned to the early years of the sixteenth century.

The inscription on the former treble, by Matthew Bagley II, has been reproduced in facsimile on its successor. The former tenor, like the second, came from the Wokingham foundry but according to the Rev. T. A. Turner was an extremely rough casting : its inscription was therefore reproduced on the present tenor in Messrs. Mears and Stainbank's lettering.

The bells hang in a wrought iron side-pattern frame installed in 1904 by Messrs. Webb and Bennett. The gear is of unusual type comprising elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, and fifteenth century type half-wheels, made to the pattern of the former ones which are preserved in the tower. In lieu of sliders are fifteenth century type rests.²

Visited : T.A.T., 11th June, 1879 ; F.S., 31st January, 1925, *et seq.*

29.

BECKLEY.

St. Mary.

A central tower containing a ring of five bells ; tenor 41 inches diameter, in F # ; and a saunce bell, 13½ inches in diameter.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt.Qrs.Lbs. |
|---------|---|--------------|
| Treble. | o661 | 5 0 0† |
| Second. | :- WILLIAM LEDWELL SAMVWELL POWELL : C : W : HENREY BAGLEY MADE ME 1707 | 6 0 0† |
| Third.† | 1664 | 7 0 0† |
| Fourth. | WILLIAM LEDWELL C W 170S | 8 2 0† |
| Tenor. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1881. | 11 1 13 |

The treble and third are by Richard Keene and are similar to bells at Steeple Barton ; the date on the treble is intended for 1660 when probably the number of bells in the ring was increased to five ; false iron canons are fitted to the third. The second is by Henry Bagley III ; the letter "N" in "HENREY" is reversed. The fourth is by the Chandlers, of Drayton Parslow ; the date

¹ The two bells have identical inscriptions and marks. A scale drawing by the author of those on the Stanford Dingley bell will be found on p. 14, of Vol. XLVIII., of The Berkshire Archaeological Society's *Journal*.

² Called in some old accounts "wrests," "pegs," or "peggins."

doubtless is intended to be "1705" and similar bells may be seen at Steeple Aston and Kidlington. The tenor is from the White-chapel foundry : its predecessor also was cast there and according to Mr. A. D. Tyssen bore the inscription :—

RICHARD BERTIE ESQ THOMAS ANGER CHURCH WARDENS
1778 PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT

The ring hangs in an oak frame originally made for four bells and later altered to take five ; the rope "circle" falls in the awkward order 1-2-3-5-4 ; new gear, type C, was installed by Mr. F. White in 1881.

The saunce hangs in a fourteenth century foliated niche in the eastern wall of the tower : it bears no inscription, but on evidence of shape probably dates from the seventeenth century.

6. Edw. VI. *Item 4 grett belles in the steple. Item one sanctes bell.*

Visited : F.S., 18th April, 1930.

30.

BEGBROKE.**St. Michael.**

A western tower containing one bell, 24 inches in diameter, hung for ringing.

The bell was cast at the Gloucester foundry and bears the inscription :—

ABEL RUDHALL FOUNDER 1755

followed by the border, Fig. D14.

Visited : F.S., 15th July, 1942.

31.

BENSON.**St. Helen.**

A western tower containing a ring of eight bells ; tenor 44 inches diameter, in F[#].

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Treble.† | MUSICA EST MENTIS MEDICINA * THOMAS JANAWAY FECIT 1787 | 5 0 0† |
| Second. | C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1852 | 5 2 24 |
| Third. | MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. / (Whitechapel foundry crest.) / CAST 1781. / RECAST 1922. / J.E.FIELD, VICAR | 6 0 9 |

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Fourth.† | WHEN FROM THE EARTH OUR NOTES REBOUND * / THE HILLS AND VALLEYS ECHO ROUND * * * / THOMAS JANAWAY OF CHELSEA FECIT J78J (<i>Border.</i>) | 6 2 0† |
| Fifth. | THOMAS JANAWAY OF CHELSEA FECIT J78J | 7 0 0† |
| Sixth. | THOS: JANAWAY OF CHELSEA FECIT J78J (<i>Border.</i>) / * THE RINGERS ART OUR GRATEFULL NOTES PROLONG * / APPOLLO LISTENS AND APROVES THE SONG * * * | 8 1 0† |
| Seventh. | JOHN GRANTHAM GENT. * THOMAS JANAWAY OF CHELSEA FECIT J78J | 10 2 0† |
| Tenor. | THE REVd: WILLIAM IUDGSON : A M : VICAR * THE REVd: IOHN LEWIS : AM : CURATE * THOS. COLES CHURCH WARDEN HENRY NEWBERY / UNTO THE LIVING I DO CALL AND TO THE GRAVE I SUMMONS ALL * THOMAS JANAWAY MADE US ALL J78J | 14 0 0† |

A ring of eight from the Chelsea foundry, 1781, of which the second and third have been recast. The third has a Doncaster pattern head ; the others have been quarter-turned, and the treble and fourth have lost their canons.

From Alfred White's note book we learn that the former third bore the inscription :—

THOMAS JANAWAY OF CHELSEA¹ FECIT J78J

The oak frame consisting of heads, cills, main and jack braces, and having an anti-clockwise rope circle, dates from the eighteenth century. The gear, type B, was renewed in 1922 by Mr. Richard White.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 4 belles in the steeple.*

Visited : F.S., 28th June, 1947.

32. BERWICK SALOME.

St. Helen.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 33½ inches diameter, in B ♯.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | TAYLOR FECIT OXFORD 1836. / (<i>Ox.</i>) / CAST BY SUBSCRIPTION BY THE SOCIETY OF RINGERS / S. BRAZIER FOREMAN | 2 |

¹ *Sic.*

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Second. | H K X62X | 2½ |
| Third. | ALEXANDER (<i>Fig. G9.</i>) RIGBEE (<i>Fig. G9.</i>) MADE (<i>Fig. G9.</i>) ME (<i>Fig. G9.</i>) 1692 (<i>Fig. G9.</i>) + | 3½ |
| Fourth. | H K 1621 | 4 |
| Fifth. | (<i>Same as third</i>) | 5 |
| Tenor. | + IOHN : BARRETT : GENT : AND : EDWARD : HARFORD : GENT : C : W + : A : R : MADE : ME : 1692 | 7 |

The treble, by William Taylor, was added in 1836 : the second and fourth are by Henry Knight I ; the other bells are the work of Alexander Rigbee (or Rigby), an itinerant founder who afterwards settled at Stamford.

A wrought iron frame, and fittings, type B, were installed in 1908 by Messrs. Webb and Bennett.

A tablet in the belfry is inscribed :—"The first bell of this peal (*sic*) was added 1836, and the expense was defrayed by voluntary contributions of the Society of Ringers, and others of the parish." A list of subscribers is given.

7 Edw. VI. *Berwick in Chalgrove 2 belles.*

Visited : F.S., 28th April, 1934.

33.

BICESTER.

St. Edburg.

A western tower containing a ring of eight bells†; tenor 44½ inches diameter, in F.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt. Qrs. Lbs.</i> | | |
|--------------|--|-----------------------|---|----|
| Treble. | RECAST BY GILLET & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1913. / (<i>Fig. M1, all round bell.</i>) / I | 3 | 3 | I |
| Second. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 3 | 2 | 12 |
| Third. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 4 | I | 16 |
| Fourth. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 4 | 3 | 20 |
| Fifth. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 6 | 2 | 12 |
| Sixth. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 7 | 3 | 23 |
| Seventh. | RECAST BY GILLET & JOHNSTON, CROYDON. 1913. / (<i>Fig. M1, all round bell.</i>) / 7 | 10 | I | 3 |

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Tenor. | RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON. 1913. / (<i>Fig. M1, all round bell.</i>) / THE WHOLE PEAL OF EIGHT BELLS RECAST / A.D. 1913. / WALTER O'REILLY, M.A. VICAR. / THOMAS COSTAR FINCH, / ROBERT WATTS, } CHURCHWARDENS. / 8 | 15 0 7 |

The ring was recast from the metal of the former bells at the Croydon foundry in 1913 : the new bells have no canons, and on the sound bow of each is a number corresponding to its position in the ring, a feature of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston's work also found at Cowley St. Luke, and Whitchurch. Illustrations of the old and new rings are given in Figs. 5 and 6.

Self-aligning ball bearings have recently been fitted to the tenor by Mr. Richard White ; the remaining gear, type N, and the cast iron H-pattern frame were installed in 1913 by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston.

With the exception of the seventh the former bells were supplied at various dates by the Whitechapel foundry ; the diameter of the tenor was 43 inches and its strike-note F. The inscriptions and weights of these bells¹ are given below :—

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Treble. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / JOHN WM. WATTS, M.A. VICAR. / THOMAS GARDNER, / JOHN SHILLINGFORD, } CHURCHWARDENS. / A.D. 1870. | 4 2 10 |
| Second. | GABRIEL MAYNARD & RICHARD JESOP CH. WARDENS (<i>Border, Fig. G11.</i>) / CHAPMAN & MEARS OF LONDON FECERUNT 1782 | 4 3 0† |
| Third. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 5 2 4 |
| Fourth. | T . . MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1821 (<i>Border, Fig. G11.</i>) | 5 3 0† |
| Fifth. | (<i>Fig. E11.</i>) MESSRS. GEORGE FOSTER & RICHARD JESOP CHURCH WARDENS (<i>Fig. E11.</i>) PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT 1775 | 6 2 0† |
| Sixth. | SEWELL STEVENS & THOMAS LAMBORN CH. WARDENS 1760 LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECERUNT (<i>Border, Fig. G11.</i>) / INFANTS' BELL | 7 2 0† |
| Seventh. | (<i>Border, Fig. G3, all round bell.</i>) / RICHARD CHANDLER MADE ME 1715 | 10 0 0† |
| Tenor. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 14 0 7 |

¹ A revised account of that given in my *Church Bells of The Deanery of Bicester*.

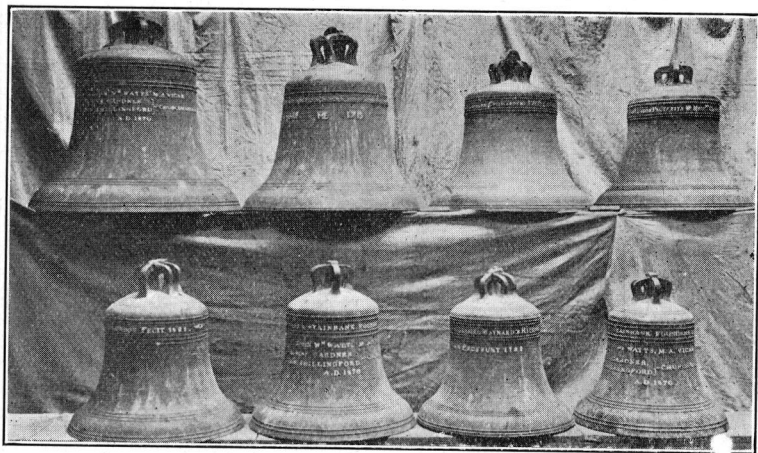


Photo :

Messrs. Gillett & Johnston.

Fig. 5. The former ring of eight bells at Bicester.

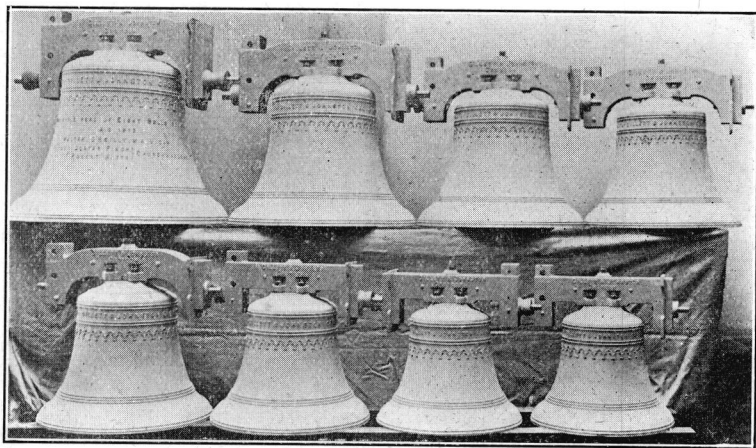


Photo :

Messrs. Gillett & Johnston.

Fig. 6. The present ring of eight bells at Bicester.

These bells hung in a two-tier oak frame, the two smallest being in the upper tier. The words "INFANTS' BELL" on the sixth refer to its use for tolling at the death of a child. The treble and tenor were added in 1870, and at the same time the fourth of the former ring was tuned a semi-tone lower to form the fifth of the ring of eight, and the second of the former six recast to form the third of the augmented ring. The bellhanger's work in 1870 was carried out by Mr. Alfred White.¹

A local tradition regarding a still earlier ring of bells at Bicester has already been given.²

The inventory of church goods made in 1552 states :—*Item four belles³ and a sens bell⁴ in the steple.*

Two entries in the churchwardens' accounts refer to bells recast prior to 1821, viz :—

1708. Pd. for casting the third bell, 3 lb. of metal added, . . . £7.3s.9d.

1714. For casting the fifth bell and clapper for her, . . . £10.16s.6d.

From the last entry it appears that the number of bells in the ring had been increased to six prior to 1714.⁵

In the Church School is a bell, 13 inches in diameter, hung for chiming, and inscribed :—

J WARNER & SONS LONDON 1860

The bell was cast by the "brassfoundry" method, and has canons of normal shape.

In the Infant School, formerly used as a Mission Church, is one bell, 14 inches in diameter, with peg type argent and no canons, inscribed :—

MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1869.

Visited : F.S., 29th May, 1920, 12th February, 1949.

¹ For further details see F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of The Deanery of Bicester*, 1932, p. 11. ff.

² See page 17.

³ The Rev. J. C. Bloomfield's statement (*The History of Bicester*, 1884, p. 13) that in the fifteenth century an inn called "The Six Bells" was opened near the church so that the ringers might practise their art on hand-bells, and that the inn took its name from the number of the bells in the tower, is without historical foundation. Rings of six bells were not common until the seventeenth century, and musical hand-bells such as are used for the practice of change-ringing were first introduced in the latter half of that century.

⁴ The saunce survived until the nineteenth century. Old prints of the church show it hanging in the north window of the belfry.

⁵ The largest bell of a ring would be called the "tenor," or "great bell"; the second largest of a ring of six would be referred to as the "fifth" bell.

34.

BINSEY.**St. Margaret.**

An open central turret containing two small bells hung for chiming.

The smaller is inscribed :—

MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS,
LONDON. / T. J. PROUT VICAR OF
BINSEY. / 1875.

The larger bears the inscription :—

HENRI KNIGHT MADE ME 1650

Visited : H.B.W., 9th May, 1920.

35.

BIX.**SS. James and Michael.**

An open turret containing two bells, each of which bears the inscription :—

MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS,
LONDON. 1870.

The church was erected in 1875, an old bell then being exchanged for two "stock" ones from the Whitechapel foundry.

Formerly there were churches at Byxgybwyn and Bixband in this parish : the inventory of church goods made in 1552 states :—
Byxgybwyn and Byxbrone—Imprimis 4 belles within the stepulles.

Visited : H.B.W., 29th April, 1914.

36.

BLACKBOURTON.**St. Mary.**

A south-western tower containing a ring of five bells ; tenor 33 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter in B ♯ ; and a sanctus bell, 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|---------|---|------|------|------|
| Treble. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / JAMES LUPTON, VICAR. / THOMAS AKERS, DAVID HERN, } CHURCHWARDENS. / 1866. | 3 | 0 | 11 |
| Second. | (Same as treble.) | 3 | 1 | 11 |

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Third. | RICHARD MEZSEY (<i>Fig. Hr.</i>) FRANCES EDMONDS (<i>Fig. Hr.</i>) CHVRCH WARDENS (<i>Fig. Hr.</i>) / HENRY (<i>Fig. H12.</i>) BAGLEY (<i>Fig. H12.</i>) MADE (<i>Fig. H12.</i>) MEE (<i>Fig. H12.</i>) J743 (<i>Fig. H12.</i>) | 4 0 0† |
| Fourth. | (<i>Cross, Fig. H4.</i>) HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE X6X8 | 5 0 0† |
| Tenor. | HENRX KNXGHT MADE ME X6X9 (<i>Fig. H5.</i>) | 7 0 0† |
| Saunce. | XG VXCKAR HK X6X9 | 2 0† |

The treble and second were cast at the Whitechapel foundry ; the third is by Henry Bagley III, and the others by Henry Knight I. Bagley's bell is slightly cracked.

Prior to 1866 the ring consisted of four bells which hung in a late medieval frame having an anti-clockwise rope circle. The greater part of this frame survives today ; it was extended to take the additional bell by Mr. Alfred White, who also quarter-turned the two largest, and supplied new gear, type A. The saunce is hung for chiming.

Visited : F.S., 10th July, 1948.

37.

BLADON.

St. Martin.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter in B ; and a sanctus bell.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Treble. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1883. / VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO. | 2 3 26 |
| Second. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1883. / TE DEUM LAUDAMUS. | 3 1 15 |
| Third. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1883. / BENEDICITE, OMNIA OPERA DOMINI, DOMINO. | 3 2 26 |
| Fourth. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1883. / BENEDICTUS DOMINUS DEUS ISRAEL. / F. WHITE BELLHANGER. | 4 1 26 |
| Fifth. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1883. / MAGNIFICAT ANIMA MEA DOMINUM. / CAPTN. THURSBY / W. GREEN } CHURCHWARDENS. | 5 0 16 |

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt. Qrs. Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|-----------------------|
| Tenor. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1883. / NUNC DIMITTIS SERVUM TUUM DOMINE / SECUNDUM VERBUM TUUM IN PACE. / REV. H. A. MAJENDIE, RECTOR. / REV. W. BURNETT, CURATE. | 6 1 18 |

The ring was cast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1883, and hung with gear, type B, by Mr. Frederick White, who enlarged the existing oak frame to take three additional bells. Self-aligning ball bearings were fitted to the three largest by Mr. Richard White in 1933. The saunce bears no inscription or marks and judging by its shape dates from the nineteenth century.

Prior to 1883 the ring consisted of three bells with a tenor measuring $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The following particulars of this ring have been derived from notes made by the Rev. T. A. Turner, and from the Whitechapel foundry records :—

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | R K 1670 | 4½ |
| Second. | Sancte Edmunde Ora Pro Nobis (<i>Fig. C1.</i>) (<i>Fig. C2.</i>) (<i>Fig. C3.</i>) | 5½ |
| Tenor. | IOHN SIMMANS ✠ EDWARD PARSONS ✠ 1629 ✠ ✠ ✠ | 7 |

The treble was by Richard Keene, the second probably by William Chaimberlain, *circa* 1470, and the tenor by James Keene. In each instance the fleur-de-lys was Fig. A2. A drawing of the inscription on the second is preserved in the Kimber collection at the Whitechapel foundry.

Visited : T.A.T., 11th April, 1880 ; F.S., 23rd June, 1933.

38.

BLETCHINGTON.

St. Giles.

A western tower containing a ring of five bells ; tenor $35\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in A ; and a sanctus bell, $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | THOMAS ANNISON, IOSEPH DENNET, CHURCH = WARDENS (<i>Fig. N9.</i>) / EDWARD HEMINS FECIT. J738 (<i>Fig. P5,</i> <i>six times.</i>) | 3½ |
| Second. | FOR GOD I RING FOR CHURCH AND KING. 1877. | 4½ |

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Third.† | ALTHOUGH I AM BOTH LIGHT AND SMALL I WILL BE HEARD ABOVE YOU ALL. 1877. | 4½ |
| Fourth. | RALPH : BUTLER : THOMAS : BAYLEY : CHURCH WEARDINS¹ :- : MATTHEW BAGLEY :- : MADE ME J774 | 6 |
| Tenor.† | IOHN COGGIN ESQR.; LORD OF THIS MANNOUR & THE HONOURABLE SR.; RALPH DUTTON WAS¹ GOOD BENEFACTORS WHOPROMOTE¹ CASTING US ; W & R CORR J7Jo. | 8 |

The treble is a clean, well moulded casting by Edward Hemins ; the second and third are by James Barwell ; the fourth is by Matthew Bagley II, and the tenor by William and Robert Corr. The saunce, which bears no inscription, was recast in 1877 by Barwell and is hung for chiming. The canons of the third and tenor are missing ; and, in common with most products of the Aldbourne foundry, the tenor has a series of narrow mouldings below the shoulder and its inscription occurs above the sound-bow : the inscription suggests that the entire ring was cast in 1710 by the Corrs, and in an age when ringing was considered a fashionable form of recreation, John Coghill² and the Hon. Sir R. Dutton may well have been ringers. The name of the latter also occurs on the tenor bell at Northleach, Gloucestershire.

An eighteenth century oak frame of unusual plan is ingeniously arranged so that the minimum possible lateral forces are imparted to the masonry of the tower by the action of the swinging bells.³ Although the *design* of this frame is good its *condition* in 1948 was dilapidated. The gear, type A, dates from the nineteenth century.

The former second⁴ was by Matthew Bagley II, and inscribed :—

R : B : T :- B :- C :- W :-
M :- B :- MADE :- MEE :- 1774
(*Border.*)

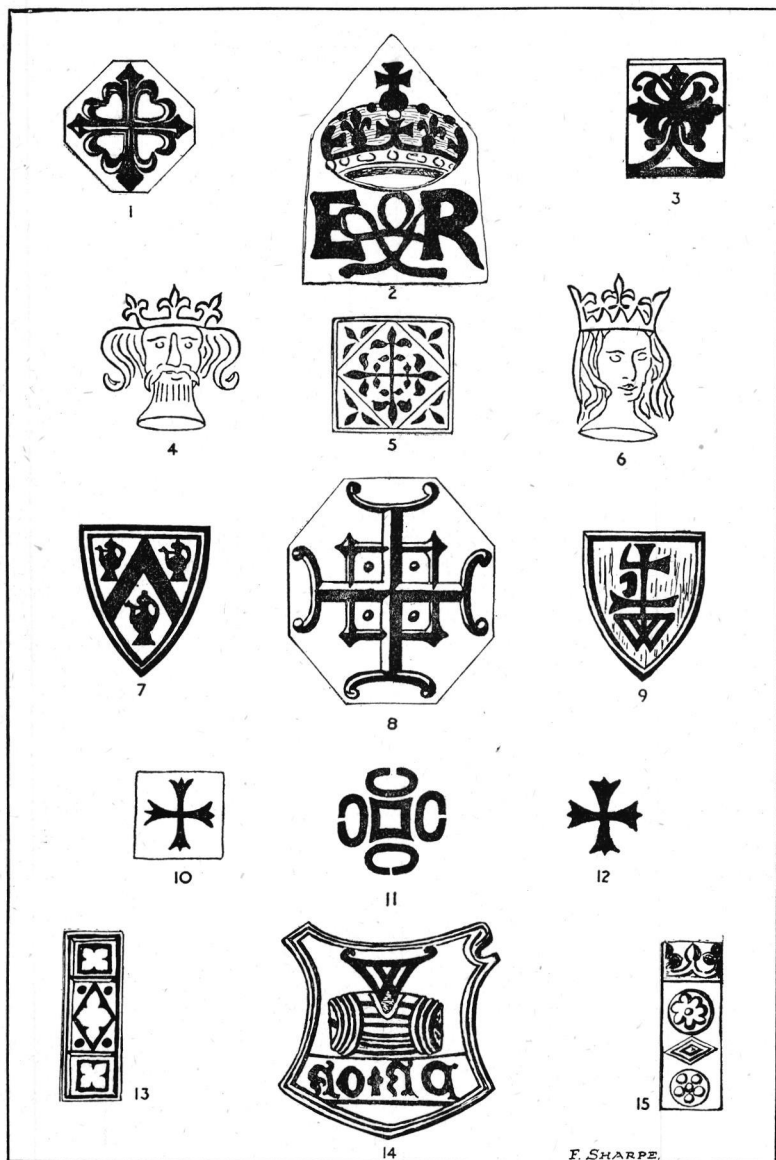
(i.e. Ralph Butler, Thomas Bayley, Church Wardens, Matthew Bagley made mee 1774.)

¹ *Sic.*

² Although spelt Coggin on the bell, the name of the donor was Coghill.

³ Similar frames are to be found at Ashbury, and Longcot, Berkshire.

⁴ Compiled from notes by the late Mr. G. J. Dew, of Lower Heyford, and from a rubbing now in the Society of Antiquaries Library.



Figs. E1—E15. Half-scale details of founders' marks. E1, E3, E7-9, London medieval foundry. E2, Reading foundry. E4-6, Worcester medieval foundry. E10 and E12, Gloucester medieval foundry. E11, Whitechapel foundry. E13-E15, Wokingham and Reading medieval foundries.

The former third,¹ from the Whitechapel foundry, bore the inscription :—

ALTHOUGH I AM BOTH LIGHT AND SMALL I
WILL BE HEARD ABOVE YOU ALL T. LESTER
& T. PACK FECIT.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 3 belles in the stepull. Item a saunce bell.*

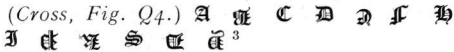
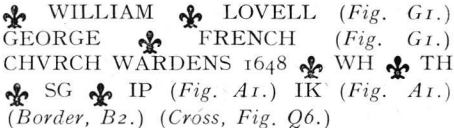




Visited : F.S., 6th December, 1926, *et seq.*

39.

BLOXHAM.

St. Mary.

A western tower with spire² containing a ring of eight bells†; tenor 54 inches diameter, in D ; and a sanctus bell, 22½ inches in diameter. In a cote on the west gable of the Milcombe chapel is a service bell, 16 inches in diameter.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|----------|--|------|------|------|
| Treble. | IN MEMORIAM CONSTANTIAE / CONJUGIS CARISSIMAE / A.S. MCMIII | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| Second. | IN MEMORIAM CONSTANTIAE / FILIAE CARISSIMAE / A.S. MCMIII | 7 | 1 | 17 |
| Third. | GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH 1880 — RECAST 1903 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| Fourth. | RICHD. POTTER & WILLM. WILLITTS TOWNSMEN J830 (<i>Border, Fig. D2</i>) I. RUDHALL FECT. (<i>Border, Fig. D2.</i>) | 10 | 1 | 0‡ |
| Fifth. | (<i>Cross, Fig. Q4.</i>)  ³ | 12 | 2 | 0‡ |
| Sixth. | EDWARD LAMLEY IOHN WELLS CHURCH WARDENS A(<i>Bell</i>)R 1750 (<i>Border, Fig. C5.</i>) / (<i>Fig. C5, all round bell.</i>) | 14 | 0 | 0‡ |
| Seventh. | SANCTA MARIA ORA PRO NOBIS — REFICTA A.S. MCMIII | 20 | 0 | 10 |
| Tenor. |  (<i>Fig. G1.</i>) GEORGE  FRENCH (<i>Fig. G1.</i>) CHVRCH WARDENS 1648  WH TH  SG  IP (<i>Fig. A1.</i>) IK (<i>Fig. A1.</i>) (<i>Border, B2.</i>) (<i>Cross, Fig. Q6.</i>) | 28 | 0 | 0‡ |

¹ From notes by the late Mr. G. J. Dew, of Lower Heyford.

² 198 feet high.

³ *Sic.*

The fourth and sixth were cast at the Gloucester foundry ; the fifth is probably by one of the Appowells, of Buckingham, *circa* 1570 ; the tenor is by James Keene, and the remainder of the ring by Messrs. Barwell. Some of the letters on the fifth are reversed and similar to those on the fourth at Padworth, Berkshire¹: inscriptions of this kind frequently occur on bells cast between the Reformation and the reign of Elizabeth, the founders being uncertain whether papist or protestant would eventually triumph and not wishing to risk their lives by offending either. The tenor is one of the largest and finest productions of the Woodstock foundry² and is the second largest tenor in the county, being exceeded only by that in the ring at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford : in each instance the fleur-de-llys is Fig. A2.

The treble and second were added to the ring in 1903 ; at the same time the present third and seventh were recast and a rolled steel joist frame and gear, type G, installed by Messrs. Barwell.

A tablet on the north wall of the tower is inscribed :—

AD GLORIAM DEI / ET IN PERPETVAM MEMORIAM /
CONJVGIS NVRVSQVE DESIDERATISSIMAE / LVICIAE
CONSTANTIAE FARQVHAR PHILLIPS / EX OCTO HVJVS
AEDIS CAMPANIS / PRIMAM FRANCISCVS GEORGIVS
ANDERSON PHILLIPS / HVJVSCE ECCLESIAE VICARIVS
/ SECVNDAM FRANCISCA PHILLIPS / DICAVERVNT A.S.
MCMIV. / TOTA DEO ECCLESIAE SVIS INDEFESSA VIXIT
/ OBDORMIVIT IN CHRISTO / A.S. MCMII.

Soon after the installation of the new bells ringing was prohibited by the Church Architect on account of the oscillation of the tower and spire,³ and has only recently been resumed on a limited scale : it is hoped that a complete restoration will not long be delayed.

The saunce bears no inscription, but is a "long-waisted" bell of early sixteenth century shape, with three narrow mouldings round the shoulder ; it is hung for chiming in the north window of the belfry.

The service bell, supplied by Messrs. Warner at the end of the last century, bears an inscription apparently inspired by that on the

¹ F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Berkshire*, Fig. 99, Berkshire Archaeological Society *Journal*, Vol. XLVIII, p. 3. The Padworth lettering is crowned ; that at Bloxham is not.





² Unfortunately the tone of the tenor is now (1949) marred by a bad clapper.

³ Oscillation of a tower, similar to the kind experienced here, can easily be rectified : See *A Handbook on the Installation, Preservation, and Repair of Bells, Bell-frames and Fittings*, issued in 1948 by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

well-known saunce at Clapton-in-Gordano, Somersetshire¹; it is inscribed :—

+ SIGNIS CESSANDIS : SERVIS CIBANDIS +

Details are given below of the ring of six bells existing prior to 1903 :—

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Treble. | Mears and Stainbank Founders London. / GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH / A.D. 1880 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| Second. | (The present fourth, cast by John Rudhall, 1830.) | 10 | 1 | 0† |
| Third. | (The present fifth, probably cast by Appowell, circa 1570.) | 12 | 2 | 0† |
| Fourth. | (The present sixth, cast by Abel Rudhall, 1750.) | 14 | 0 | 0† |
| Fifth. |  Sancta  Maria  Morapronobis ²  W | 20 | 0 | 0† |
| Tenor. | (The present tenor, cast by James Keene, 1648.) | 28 | 0 | 0† |

Of these the treble was added in 1880; the fifth, from the Reading foundry, circa 1520, was probably the work of John White. The others are incorporated in the present ring.³

Visited : A.H.C., 1888; H.B.W., 1914; F.S., 1932—1949.

40.

BODICOTE.

St. John the Baptist.

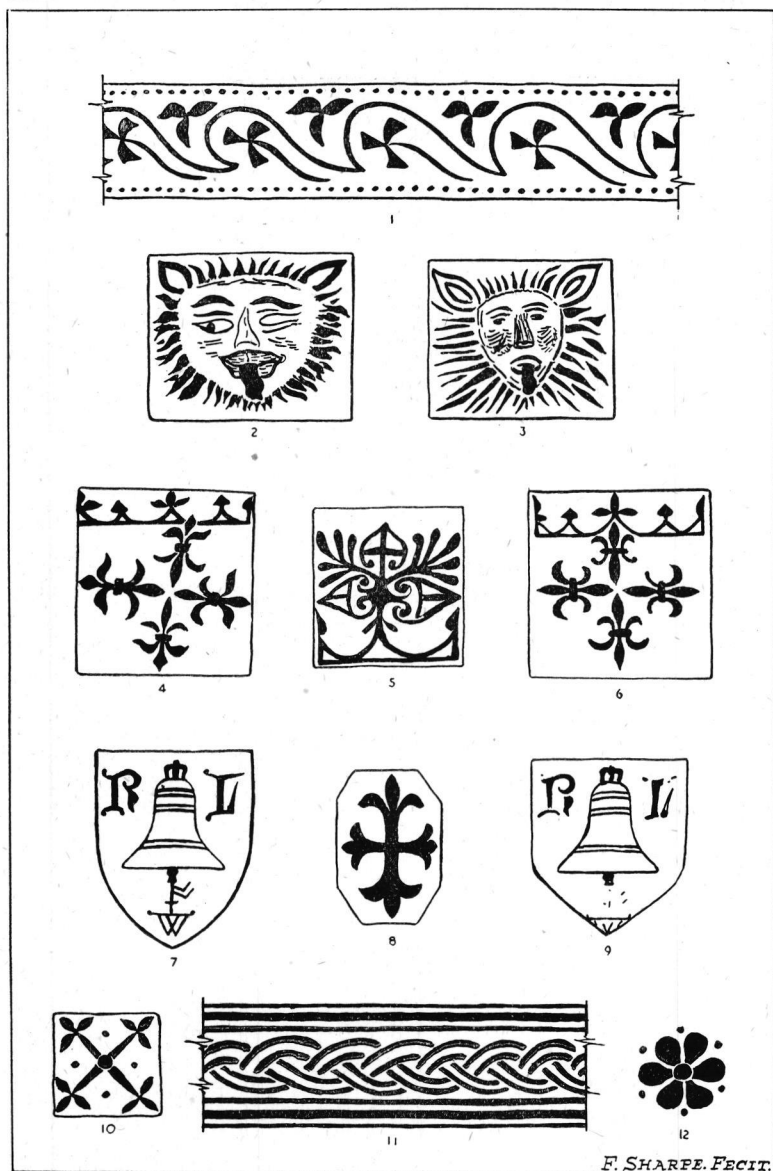
A western tower containing a ring of five bells; tenor 37½ inches diameter, in G; and a sanctus bell, 14 inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Treble. | THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1843 | 4 | 2 | 25 |
| Second. | (Same as treble.) | 5 | 0 | 27 |
| Third. | (The same.) | 6 | 0 | 3 |
| Fourth. | (The same.) | 7 | 0 | 5 |
| Tenor. | (The same.) | 9 | 1 | 26 |
| Saunce. | CAST 1624 RECAST 1900 | 3 | 0† | |

¹ H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of England*, 1912, p. 136, and H. T. Ellacombe, *The Church Bells of Somersetshire*, 1875, p. 39.

² *Sic.*

³ See Warden Woodward's *Progress Notes*, ed. R. L. Rickard (Oxfordshire Record Society, for 1945) p. 25, for an appreciation of the sound of the former ring of five bells in 1666. The present fifth and tenor were among the five.



F. SHARPE. FECIT.

Figs. F1—F12. Half-scale details of founders' marks. Figs. F1 and F11, Chacombe foundry. F2-F7 and F9, Wokingham medieval foundry. F8, unknown fourteenth century foundry. F10 and F12, Hull foundry.

These bells were cast at the Whitechapel foundry and retain their canons. The second is a maiden bell ; the treble has been sharpened, and the others flattened in tone.

The saunce is hung for chiming. In the Walters' MS. is a note that its predecessor was by Henry Bagley I and inscribed with the date "1634",¹ followed by the border, Fig. B12 : no indication of the source of this information is given, and Mr. Walters did not visit the tower.

Composed mainly of second-hand materials the oak bell-frame was reconstructed in 1843, the gear, type A, being renewed at the same time, and in 1948 the bells were again rehung in the existing frame, this time with gear, type E, by Messrs. R. White and Son.

On the corner of a house in the village there used to be a small nineteenth century bell hung for chiming ; it bore no inscription, and was formerly the parish fire bell. It was removed in 1949.

Visited : F.S., 15th December, 1934.

41.

BOURTON, GREAT.**All Saints.**

A detached campanile, comprising an open timber belfry, with ringing chamber and base of lych gate below of stone, containing one bell, 28 inches in diameter, hung for ringing, and inscribed :—

SMITH & SONS / CLOCKMAKERS / ST. JOHN'S
SQUARE / CLERKENWELL

Although Messrs. Smith made and fixed the clock in the campanile it is doubtful if they cast the bell which in appearance is not unlike one of Messrs. Llewellyns and James' products.

In one of two open archways below the apex of the west gable of the church is another bell, *circa* 15 inches in diameter, hung for chiming, and inscribed :—²

HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1673

Visited : F.S., 4th August, 1948.

¹ *Sic.*

² Walters' MS.

42.

BRIGHTWELL BALDWIN.






St. Bartholomew.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 36 inches in diameter ; and a sanctus bell, 16 inches in diameter.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt.Qrs.Lbs. |
|---------|--|--------------|
| Treble. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1911. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) | 3 3 15 |
| Second. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 4 1 26 |
| Third. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 5 0 21 |
| Fourth. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark</i>) / WE PRAISE THEE O LORD. / 1911. | 5 2 15 |
| Fifth | FEARE GOD x637 | 7 2 1 |
| Tenor. | + sancta : maria + is | 9 0 7 |
| Saunce. | + § § § + § | 1 0 0‡ |

The saunce probably dates from the middle of the sixteenth century ; the fourth is by Ellis Knight I and the tenor by John Saunders ; the remaining four bells are from the Whitechapel foundry, and a portion of the metal used in their casting came from the tenor of the former ring of three.

The following particulars of this ring are derived from the Tyssen MS., now in the Library of The Society of Antiquaries, and from the Whitechapel foundry records :—

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt.Qrs.Lbs. |
|---------|---|--------------|
| Treble. | (<i>As on the present fifth.</i>) | 7 2 1 |
| Second. | (<i>As on the present tenor.</i>) | 9 0 7 |
| Tenor. |  Sancta  Maria  Ora  Pro  Nobis (<i>Lion's head, Fig. F2.</i>) (<i>Coin.</i>) (<i>Cross,</i> <i>Fig. F4.</i>) | 11 2 26 |

The tenor, 39½ inches in diameter, was cast at the Wokingham foundry in the fifteenth century.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 3 bells in the steeple. Item oon sanctus belle.*

Visited : F.S., 16th April, 1932.

43.

BRITWELL SALOME.

St. Nicholas.

An open turret containing two bells, hung for chiming. The smaller has no inscription band or mouldings and judged by its shape may be medieval. The larger bears merely the date :—

J76J

and may be the work of Lester and Pack.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 2 belles.*



Visited : H.B.W., 30th April, 1914.

44.

BRIZE NORTON.

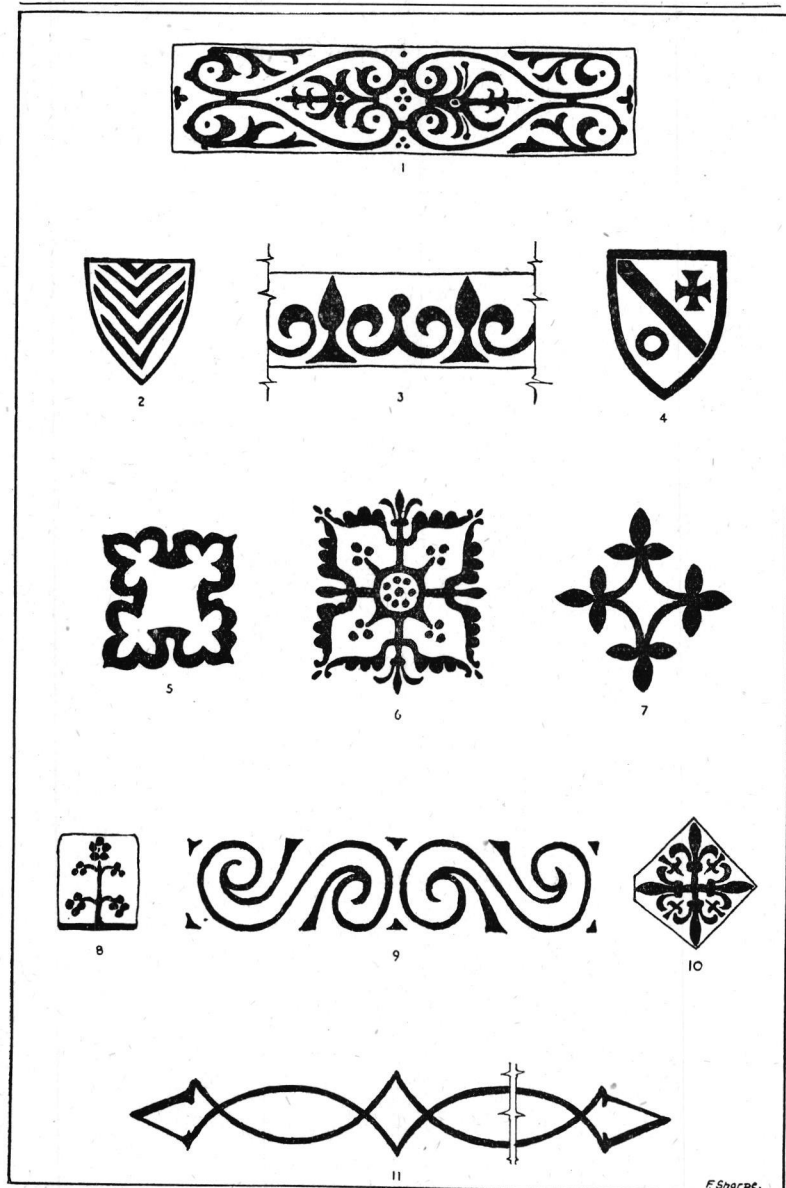
St. Britius¹.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 36½ inches diameter, in A ♭ ; and a service bell, 17½ inches in diameter ; and an open bell-cote above the gable over the chancel-arch containing a sanctus bell.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|----------------------|--|------|------|------|
| Treble. | CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON. / + OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI. / A. HEDLEY. A.D. 1884. / W. E. IVENS. VICAR. / JOHN WORLEY, EDWARD HOLLIS, CHURCHWARDENS. | 4 | 0 | 0½ |
| Second. ² | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / GEORGE FEREMAN, VICAR. / JOHN WORLEY & WILLIAM WALKER / CHURCHWARDENS 1873. | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Third. ² | (Same as second.) | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| Fourth. |  (Fig. E15.)  (Lion's head, Fig. F2.) (Coin.) (Cross, Fig. F4.) / RECAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1881. | 5 | 0 | 0½ |
| Fifth. | RECAST 1873 BY MEARS & STAINBANK / "READER THOU ALSO MUST / KNOW A RESURRECTION OR RENEWAL." | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| Tenor. | JOHN ECKLY MINISTER THOMAS BOVLT AND SIMOND DENTON / EDWARD (Bell, Fig. H9.) NEALE BELLFOVNDR OF BVRFORD MADE MEE 1679 / (Royal Arms.) | 8 | 0 | 0½ |

¹ Better known as "Brice."

² In the Whitechapel foundry records of the weights of these two bells are given in the reverse order.



F. Sharpe.

Figs. G1—G11. Half-scale details of founders' marks and borders. G1, Woodstock foundry. G2, Buckingham medieval foundry. G3, Drayton foundry. G4, London medieval foundry. G5, G7 and G11, Whitechapel foundry. G6, Buckingham foundry. G8, Burford foundry. G9, Stamford foundry. G10, Exeter medieval foundry.

The treble was added to the ring in 1884, and like the fourth is a product of the Cripplegate foundry. The tenor, an artistic work by Edward Neale, has the stop, Fig. P10, between each word of its inscription. The other bells in the ring are from the Whitechapel foundry. On the treble the portion of the inscription recorded in italics has been incised.

The predecessor of the fourth, cast at the Wokingham foundry *circa* 1350, was similar to the fourth at North Moreton, Berkshire¹; its inscription and marks have been admirably reproduced on the present bell, and an entry in the notebook of Alfred White, the bellhanger, confirms that the spelling of "CATERNIA" was the original founder's error.

The oak frame and fittings, type A, of the five largest bells date from 1873 and are the work of Mr. Alfred White : the fittings of the treble, type B, are by Messrs. Warner.

The service bell hangs in the east window of the belfry : frame, headstock, wheel and bell are made of steel. The bell is inscribed :—

No. 1693. / NAYLOR VICKERS & Co. 1860.
SHEFFIELD E. RIEPE'S PATENT

In the sanctus bell-cote is a small "brassfoundry" type bell with peg-argent, iron headstock and lever. Prior to the installation of this bell about the end of the last century the cote was unoccupied.



Visited : F.S., 31st July, 1948.

45.


BROADWELL.

SS. Peter and Paul.

A western tower with spire containing a derelict ring of five bells ; tenor 45 inches diameter in F ; and a sanctus bell.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Approx. Weight. Cwt. |
|---------|--|----------------------------|
| Treble. | HENRY : WILLETT : NICHOLAS : SAVNDERS : CHVRCH = WARDENS : IOHN SONE VICAR : (<i>Ornament, Fig. G8, five times.</i>) / (<i>Burford foundry mark, inscribed :—EDWARD NEALE MADE MEE  1663 ) / SIR THOMAS HAMPSON KNIGHT</i> | 6 |

¹ Sharpe, *ut sup.*, § 136.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Second.† | (No inscription : shoulder inscription-band filled with early fourteenth century flat moulding.) | 7 |
| Third.† | IOHN : SONE : MINISTER : ANDREW : NEWBVRY : WILLIAM : MERRY : CHVRCHWARDENS : : THOMAS : HAMPSON : ESQVIER : / (Burford foundry mark, inscribed :—EDWARD NEALE MADE (Bell) : MEE (Bell) : 1653 (Bell, Fig. H9.)) | 8 |
| Fourth.† | (Cross, Fig. H2.) Blessed be the name of the Lorde 1581 / ioseph carter | 10 |
| Tenor.† | (Cross, Fig. M6.) Sancte Andrea Ora Pro nobis (Shield, Fig. N2.)  | 15 |
| Saunce. | COME AWAY MAKE NO DELAY 1778 | $\frac{1}{2}$ |

The treble and third are by Edward Neale ; judged by its shape and mouldings the second dates from the early part of the fourteenth century ; the fourth is by Joseph Carter, the tenor by William Hasyllwood, *circa* 1500, and the saunce by Thomas Rudhall. The four largest have lost their canons : the treble has been quarter-turned. Although described on the treble in 1663 as "Vicar," John Sone was cautiously described as "Minister" on the third ten years earlier.

The saunce lies unhung on the ground floor of the tower ; the others hang in a rolled steel frame, installed about fifty years ago, and having no foundation. At present they are "unringable," and are sounded by the pernicious and dangerous practice known to campanologists as "clocking."

Visited : F.S., 18th October, 1930, 10th July, 1948.

46.

BROUGHTON.

St. Mary.

A western tower with spire containing seven bells comprising a chime of five, one additional clock bell, and a disused sanctus bell.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Treble. | CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1864 □ / (Royal Arms.) / PATENT | 7 1 15 |
| Second. | IOHN TAYLOR AND Co. LOVGHBOROVGH. 1884. | 8 1 11 |

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Third. | JOHN TAYLOR AND Co. FOVNDERS, LOVGHBOROVGH. 1884. | 9 2 11 |
| Fourth. | J : TAYLOR AND Co.. FOUNDERS, LOUGHBOROUGH. 1884. | 13 2 12 |
| Tenor. | + TAYLOR & SONS FOUNDERS OXFORD & ST. NEOTS 1822 + (Four coins.) | 17 0 21 |
| Saunce. | J : TAYLOR AND Co. | 2 0 † |

The additional clock bell bears the same inscription as the treble, and the quarters are chimed on these two bells : the extra bell is tuned an octave above the tenor.

The chime of five is sounded by means of an "Ellacombe" manual : the tenor, 45½ inches diameter in F, is also hung for ringing and has nineteenth century gear, type A.

Incised on the second, third, and fourth is the inscription :—

ad laudem Dei / et in piam memoriam / Frederici Josephi
Morrell / haec campana resonat a.d. 1884

In the gatehouse of Broughton Castle is a small bell inscribed :—

EDWARD HEMINS FECIT 1729 (*Fig. P5.*)

Visited : F.S., 9th August, 1938.

47.

BROUGHTON POGGS.

St. Peter.

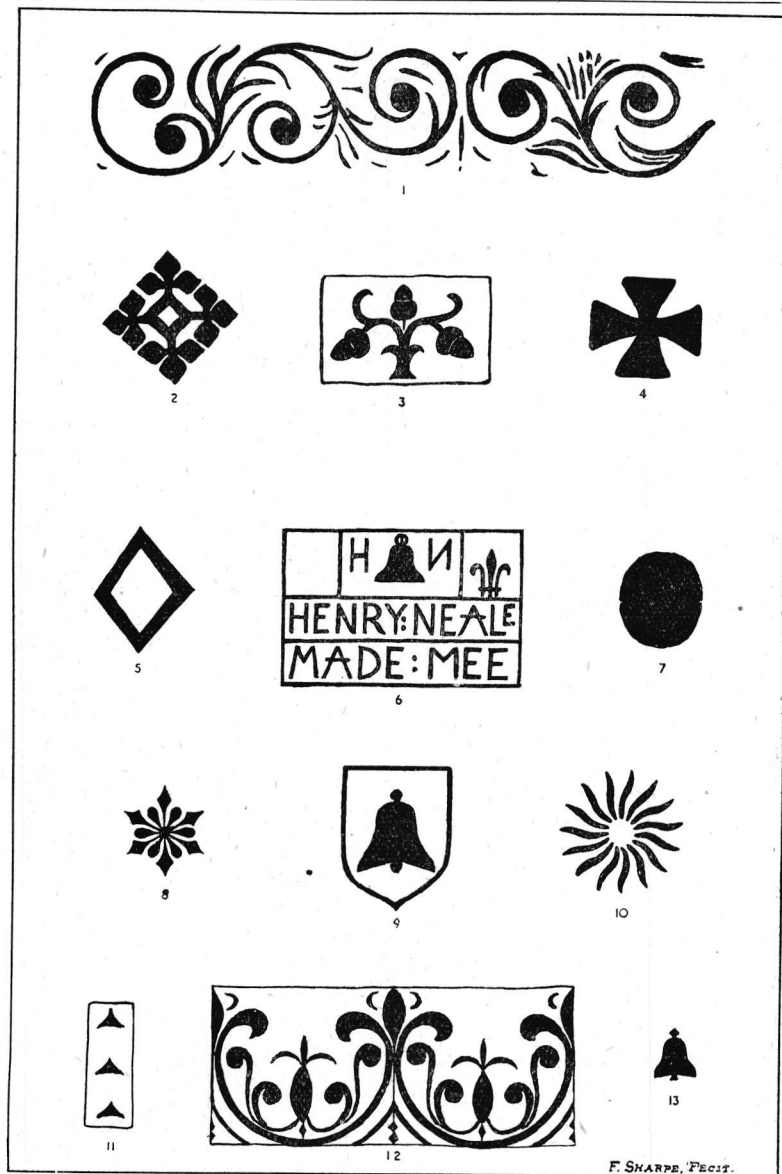
A western tower containing one bell, the dimensions and method of hanging of which are not known to the author.

The bell was examined by Mr. L. H. Chambers, who states that it is very difficult of access, and bears the inscription :—

+ AVE : MARIA : GRACIA : PLENA : DOMINVS :
TECVM

On the evidence of the style of the lettering Mr. Chambers dates the bell *circa* 1320.

Visited : L.H.C., August, 1920.



F. SHARPE, Fecit.







Figs. H1—H13. Half-scale details of founders' marks and borders. H1 and H12, Chacombe foundry. H2, H4, H5 and H7, Reading foundry. H3, Buckingham foundry. H6, H9, H11 and H13, Burford foundry. H8, Loughborough foundry. H10, Aldbourne foundry.

48.

BUCKNELL.

St. Peter.

A central tower containing a ring of three bells ; tenor 37 inches diameter, in G ; and a sanctus bell, 13 inches in diameter.

| Bell. | Inscription | Approx. Weight. Cwt. |
|---------|--|----------------------------|
| Treble. | (Cross, Fig. G6.) BARTHOLOMEW ATTON MADE / ME 1597 (Shield, Fig. D11.) | 5½ |
| Second. | WILLIAM BLEW¹ AND SONS, FOUNDERS, BIRMINGHAM. 1875. | 6½ |
| Tenor. | (Fig. A1.)  I K   (Fig. A1.)  (Fig. G1.)  1628  | 9 |
| Saunce. | 1816 | ¾ |

The bells are not tuned diatonically. The treble was cast at the Buckingham foundry ; the second is by Messrs. Blews and Sons, and the tenor by James Keene whose initials appear on it : the fleur-de-lys is Fig. A2. These bells hang in a dilapidated medieval oak frame, probably of the same date as the upper storey of the tower. The wheels of the treble and tenor are of huge proportions, and may be contemporary with the bells : the remaining gear is similar to type A, but has some of its ironwork keyed.

The founder of the saunce is unknown : it is hung for chiming in a separate frame near the south window of the belfry.

In 1753 the churchwardens stated :—"The second bell crack'd which shall be repair'd as soon as we conveniently can," but the bell was afterwards removed. The present second was the gift of the Rev. W. Master in 1875.

6 Edw. VI. *Imprimis 3 great belles in the steple and one sanctus bell.*

Visited : F.S., 4th November, 1923, 26th December, 1947.

¹ Sic.

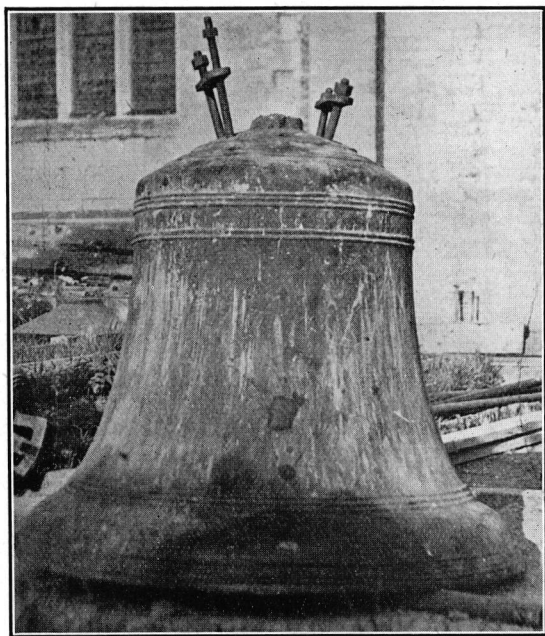


Fig. 7. The tenor of the ring of eight at Burford, cast by an unknown founder, *circa* 1330.

49.

BURFORD.

St. John-the-Baptist.

A central tower with spire containing a ring of eight bells ; tenor 46 inches diameter, in E ; and a sanctus bell, 15½ inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Treble. | EDWARD : ANSELL : IAMES : MONK : ABSOLOM : MONK : CHURCH-WARDENS (<i>Border</i>) / MATTHEW :-: BAGLEY :-: MADE :-: MEE J77J (<i>Border</i>). | 6 | 0 | 8 |
| Second. | (<i>Bell, Fig. M9, twice.</i>) CAST BY H. BOND & SON. BELLFOUNDERS. BURFORD. / OXFORDSHIRE. 1868. | 6 | 2 | I |
| Third.† | THOMAS (<i>Lion, Fig. L10</i>) SILVISTER ♣ I : HVNT (<i>Fig. L10</i>) ROBERT TAYLAR ◇ THOMAS TVNCKES ♥ ◇ CHVRCH WARDENS 1635 (<i>Henry Neale's foundry mark, Fig. H6</i>) | 6 | 0 | 21 |
| Fourth. | THOMAS (<i>Lion, Fig. L10.</i>) SILVISTER (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) IOHN (<i>Crest.</i>) T (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) TVNCKES (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) R (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) TAYLAR. CH WA 1635 ♥ / (<i>Henry Neale's foundry mark, Fig. H6.</i>) | 7 | 3 | 12 |
| Fifth. | Blessed be the name of the lorde (<i>Fig. Q1.</i>) 1586 (<i>Fig. Q1.</i>) / Joseph (<i>Bell.</i>) carter / WILLIAM ANTHONY CASS VICAR / JOHN., NEWMAN / THOMAS., BROWN / JOHN., JACOBS } CHURCHWARDENS / RECAST IN 1885 BY H. BOND & SON BURFOR. ¹ OXON. | 9 | 0 | 20 |
| Sixth. | THOMAS. (<i>Lion, Fig. L10.</i>) SILVISTER. (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) IOHN ♥ ◇ HVNT. (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) TVNCKES. (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) R (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) TAYLER : CH WA (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) 1635 (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) / (<i>Henry Neale's foundry mark, Fig. H6.</i>) | 11 | 3 | 21 |
| Seventh.† | (<i>Lion, Fig. L10.</i>) (<i>Cross, Fig. M4.</i>) (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) THOMAS. (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) SILVESTER ² . (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) IOHN (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) HVNT (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) ROBERT (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) TAYLAR ♥ ◇ THOMAS (<i>Fig. L10.</i>) ♥ TVNCKES ◇ (<i>Fleur-de-lys, Fig. Q3.</i>) 1635 ◇ ♥ | 13 | 0 | 9 |

¹ *Sic.*² Note the different spelling of SILVESTER on the third, fourth and sixth bells.

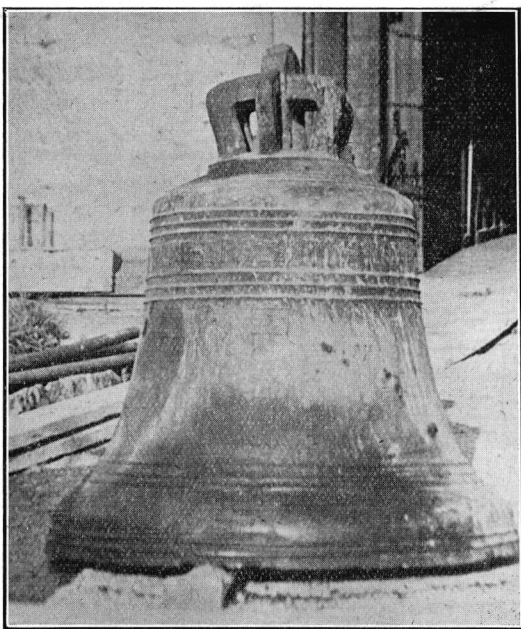


Fig. 8. The fourth of the ring of eight at Burford,
cast by Henry Neale in 1635.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt.Qrs.Lbs. |
|---------|---|--------------|
| Tenor.† | S A N C T A M A R I A (Cross, Fig. Q9.) | 17 3 1 |
| Saunce. | COME AWAY MAKE NO DELAY (Fig. D14.) A(Bell.)R 1720 | 3 0‡ |

The treble is by Matthew Bagley II ; the second and fifth are by Messrs. Bond and Son, of Burford ; the tenor is a fine-toned bell by an unknown founder of *circa* 1330 ; the saunce is by Abraham Rudhall II ; and the remaining four bells are the work of Henry Neale, of Somerford Keynes, Wiltshire, who established a bell-foundry in Burford in 1635.

The cross and lettering on the tenor are also found on two bells at Randwick, Gloucestershire¹, and a bell of similar type has been noted by Canon H. T. Ellacombe, at Batheaston, Somersetshire.² A scale drawing of the inscription is given in Fig. 9, and the bell illustrated in Fig. 7. Double lined letters such as those at Burford, Randwick and Batheaston were frequently used during the first half of the fourteenth century, and are also found on a bell of *circa* 1290 at Goring-on-Thames. A different initial cross is found on each bell.

On Neale's bells the letter "N" is reversed in each instance ; and the lettering and marks on the fifth are near copies of those on the former bell, cast by Joseph Carter in 1586.

A large piece has been broken out of the sound-bow of the fourth ; the third has been greatly mutilated by the removal of much of its lip by some past tuner in an endeavour to raise its strike-note ; and the third, seventh, and tenor have lost their canons.

The predecessors of the treble and second were by Henry Bagley III, who states in his 1732 catalogue :—"Burford, (Two trebles to make eight.) 2 bells."

The following extracts from entries in the churchwardens' accounts³ prove that Henry Neale *recast* four of the bells in 1635, and that the ring consisted of six bells prior to this, a very early date for a ring of that number.

¹ H. T. Ellacombe, *The Church Bells of Gloucestershire*, 1881, p. 60, and Figs. 75-78. I have to thank Mr. R. Clouston for casts of the lettering on the Randwick bells ; this is identical with that on the Burford tenor, but differs slightly from that in Canon Ellacombe's drawings.

² H. T. Ellacombe, *The Church Bells of Somersetshire*, 1875, p. 27, and Figs. 52-54, and 66.

³ Monk, *History of Burford*, p. 68.

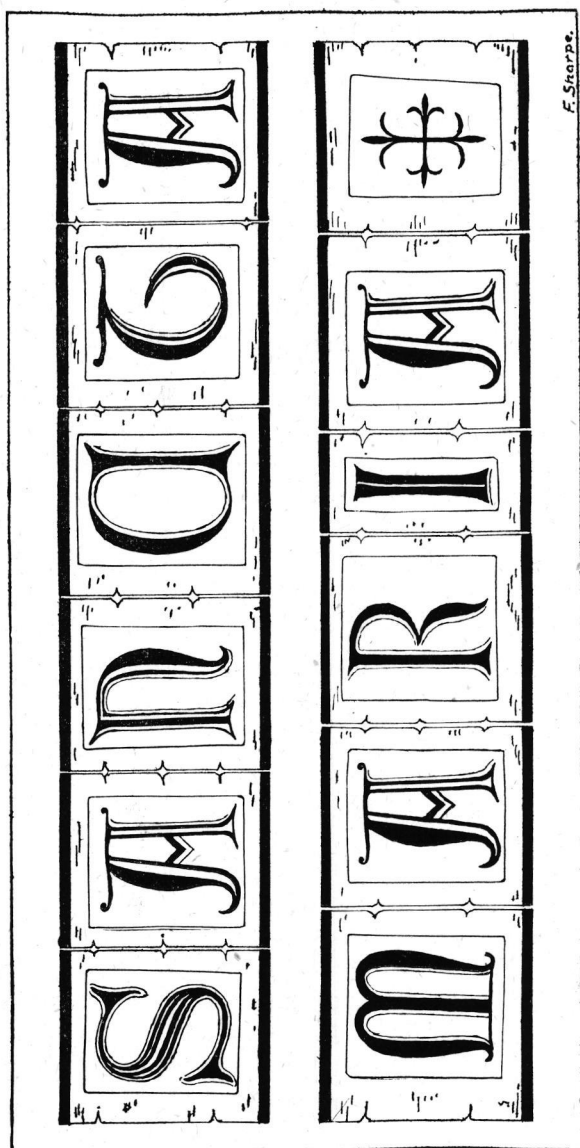


Fig. 9. Half-scale details of the inscription on the tenor bell at Burford.

1636.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Charges layed out for the new casting of four bells as followeth. | |
| Ffor three hundred weight of bell mettell at <i>iiijli</i> vs ... <i>xijli</i> xvs | |
| Ffor carriage | vjs viijd |
| Ffor 44 <i>li</i> and a halfe at <i>vijd</i> of the pound | xxvs jd |
| xx <i>ijli</i> more of mettelle at <i>vijd</i> of the pound | xvs |
| Payed to the Bell founder for the takinge downe castinge and hanging up of the four bells | xv <i>li</i> xvjs |
| Bringing the bells from the Church and carriage back again | iijs |
| Pd for making scales to weigh the bells | ijs |
| Pd for a piece of oake for the stocke of the bells | ijs |

As this work is going to press, the bells, frame, and gear are being dismantled for restoration by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. Of late sixteenth or early seventeenth century type the oak frame was originally constructed to house six bells, and had an anti-clockwise rope circle; at the ends of each bell-pit were moulded end posts of similar pattern to those at Minster Lovell; additional pits had been added on the west side when the bells in the ring were augmented to eight, and a superstructure forming the frame heads for the four lightest bells had been added to the upper members of the original frame. The seventh was fitted with a rolled steel headstock and plate gudgeons; the others in the ring had elm headstocks and hoop gudgeons; the saunce had a half-wheel, and the remainder traditional-type wheels; brass bearings were fitted to all. Frame, foundation beams and gear were in a dangerous condition when examined by the writer in 1948. A description of the new work will be given in a later chapter.

On the eastern wall of the ringing chamber is the inscription:—



Who sways a bell
Let him look well
To honde and hedde and herte
De honde for werke
De hedde for witte
De herte for worshippe

Similar inscriptions are found elsewhere but the last line usually reads :— *De hearte for worshippe's parte.*






Visited : F.S., 1933—1949.

50.

CASSINGTON.

St. Peter.

A central tower with spire containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 41 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in F \sharp ; and a sanctus bell, 13 inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | 1665 | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Second. | RICHARD CHERRY  RICHARD GREENEWAY 1652 ¹ | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Third. |  RICHARD GREENEAWAY ¹ STEVEN SEELE C W I (Border, Fig. B2.) K 1604 | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Fourth. | ALIKSANDER SLATFORD  EDWARD SILVESTER  C W  K (Fig. A1.) 1652 | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Fifth. | RICH KEENE 1665 | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Tenor. | RICHARD KEENE I C NW 1666 / FB CW ¹ | 12 |

These bells were cast at the Woodstock foundry, the second, third and fourth being by James Keene, and the remainder by his son, Richard. As the date on the third is too early for James it is probably an error for 1640. In each instance the fleur-de-lys is Fig. A2. The saunce bears no inscription or marks. A new wrought iron frame and fittings, type J, were installed by Messrs. Webb and Bennett in 1913.

In 1652 the ring consisted of six bells, and in the following year Anthony Wood learned to ring here. At the age of twenty, after a serious illness "he was advised to retire into the country to take better ayre than in Oxon, follow the plow, and use what exercise he could there to shake the ague off."²

On Tuesday, 15th February, 1653, "A(nthony) W(ood) went to Cassington . . . and . . . he took up his quarters . . . in the house of an honest and sufficient farmer called Francis Bolter ; whose house tho thatched, yet he had a very fair chamber therein

¹ Sic.

² A. Clarke, *The Life and Times of Anthony Wood, antiquary, of Oxford, 1632-1695, described by Himself*, Oxford Historical Society, 1891, Vol. I, p. 177.

with a chimney and a place to lay his books in" "While he continued in the country, he followed the plow on his well-dayes and sometimes plowed. He learnt there to ring on the six bells then newly put up : and having had from his most tender years an extraordinary ravishing delight in musick, he practiced privately there, without the help of a instructor, to play on the violin.¹"

On Wood's return to Oxford he often "plucked at" Merton College bells "with some of his fellow-colleagues for recreation sake,"² and throughout his life retained a love of bells.

Visited : F.S., 10th March, 1927. R.G., 10th January, 1948.

51.

CAVERSFIELD.³

St. Laurence.

A western tower containing a ring of three bells ; tenor 29½ inches diameter, in D ♯ ; and a disused early thirteenth century bell.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt.Qrs.Lbs. |
|---------|--|--------------|
| Treble. | ✱ AVE · MARIA · GRACIA · PLENA · DOMINVS · TECVM ✱ / (Whitechapel foundry mark.) / ✱ ANNO · DOMINI · MCMXXVII ✱ | 2 3 4 |
| Second. | J: TAYLOR & Co: FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1876. / IN HONORE BEATI LAVRENTII | 4 0 18 |
| Tenor. | J: TAYLOR & Co: FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1874 | 4 3 16 |

The treble was added to the ring in 1927 ; it was cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and has a "Doncaster" type head and canons. The tenor was added in 1874, and the second recast from the metal of an ancient bell in 1876 ; they are by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and have angular canons.

¹ Clarke, *ut sup.*, p. 178.

² *Ibid.*, p. 219.

³ See also F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of The Deanery of Bicester*, 1932, pp. 19-21.

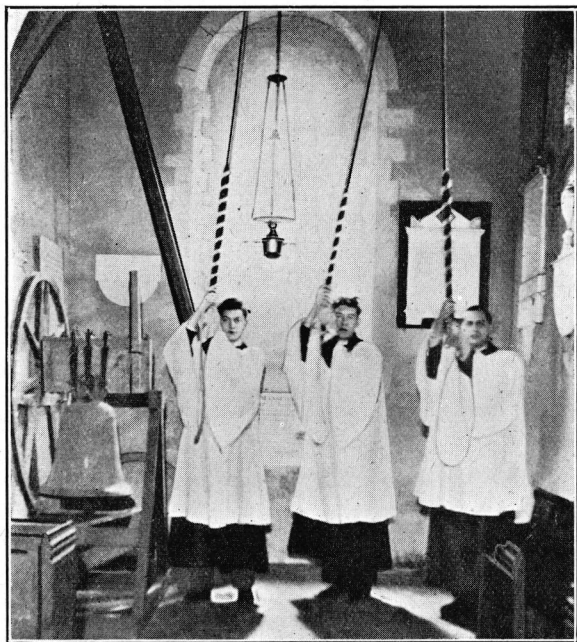


Fig. 10. Ringing at Caversfield Church in 1931. From left to right the ringers are :—(Treble) Cyril Kinch, (Second) Leslie Evans, (Tenor) The Author. On the extreme left is the early thirteenth century bell in the frame in which it was placed in 1927.

The treble and second hang in a seventeenth century oak frame on the west side of the belfry : on the east side is a separate oak frame, installed in 1874, for the tenor. Both frames consist of heads, cills, centre posts, main braces morticed to heads and cills, and diagonally braced end sections. Except in a few isolated cases this form of construction has been discontinued since the seventeenth century, and the nineteenth century frame is a copy of the older one.

The fittings of the treble, type H, are by Mr. Richard White ; they were designed by the writer, who was also responsible for the selection of canons, tuning, lettering and inscription on this bell : the fittings of the other bells, type A, are by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co.

The disused bell is cracked. It now hangs with its fittings, type A, in an oak frame on the ground floor of the tower, having been removed from the belfry to make room for the new treble in 1927. The crack was caused by excessive wear in one place, the sound-bow having become too deeply indented by the action of the clapper.¹ By reference to Figs. 10 and 12, it will be seen that this bell has a long waist, straight sides, round shoulder, tall canons, and a sound-bow of very slight projection ; it also has a thick flat lip. It weighs 1 cwt. 3 qrs. 24 lbs., and its principle dimensions are :—diameter $20\frac{3}{8}$ inches, height from lip to crown $20\frac{1}{2}$ inches, height from top of crown to top of canons $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, height from top of crown to top of argent *about* 7 inches,² and thickness at lip 2 inches. Such a primitive shape is characteristic of bells cast in this country prior to the middle of the thirteenth century³; and the Caversfield example is the earliest known dateable inscribed bell in England. During its lifetime the bell appears to have been more frequently chimed than rung ; a fact revealed by the greater depth of one of the two hollow places worn by the clapper. Its gear was renewed by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. in

¹ The bell was quarter-turned so that the clapper might strike two different portions of the sound bow in 1874, but too late to prevent the development of a crack. Had it been done a century or two earlier this disaster would not have happened.

² The top of the argent is concealed by the headstock, and it is therefore impossible to obtain the exact measurement.

³ The shape of bells was completely changed about the middle of the thirteenth century. See F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Radnorshire*, 1947, p. 4, and plate 1.

1874. The modern crown-staple passes through two holes in the crown of the bell and is secured by seventeenth century type keys: it replaces a seventeenth century staple of similar pattern. The ends of the original cast-in type crown-staple may still be seen and it is reasonable to assume that this staple became broken or worn out in the seventeenth century, necessitating a new one of different design.¹

Before the inscription on this bell is described some brief explanation of the process of bell founding is necessary so that it may be understood how the two different parts of the inscription came to be formed. To cast a bell an inner mould, or "core", is first made. In ancient times this core was constructed of stonework, plastered over with clay, shaped by a "crook" or "strickle" to the inner dimensions of the bell, and baked dry. On the finished core was built a full-sized clay model of the bell, likewise shaped by means of a strickle but to the outer dimensions of the bell, the inside of the model taking its shape from the core. On the model were placed in relief the inscriptions and mouldings as they were to appear on the bell. When dry the model itself was covered with a sufficient thickness of clay to form the outer mould, or "cope." After drying, cope and model were lifted from the core, the model broken out and the cope replaced, leaving a cavity between the two moulds. The "cap" or canon mould was fixed last, having in its top the hole through which the molten metal was to be poured. A simple form of reverberatory furnace, often constructed in the churchyard², sufficed to melt the alloy of tin and

¹ The Rev. J. C. Bloomfield (*History of Caversfield*, 1894, p. 33) states that the thirteenth century bell was cast without a clapper-staple (or crown-staple), and that consequently it was sounded by being beaten with a hammer, a process which he says was continued through the centuries and helped to obliterate portions of the inscription on the sound-bow. These statements have often been repeated, but are incorrect. The remains of the original crown-staple, which could only have been inserted when the bell was cast, are clearly to be seen, and when after four centuries of use the staple was either broken or worn away it was superseded by a keyed one. There are no traces of hammer marks on the sound bow, and at any rate continued hammering of a bell in this position would speedily crack it.

² It is often possible to trace fire-reddened stones in the masonry at or near the base of a church tower which may have formed part of a temporary furnace.

copper, which after the tapping of the furnace was run by gravity to the mouth of the mould. Today the moulds are made independently, without the use of a model ; specially prepared loam takes the place of clay ; inscriptions are impressed into the mould by means of stamps ; steel cases are used in which to form the copes ; and modern reverberatory furnaces and mechanically operated foundry ladles are employed.

To return to the early thirteenth century bell at Caversfield ; we find that the first part of its inscription occurs in the shoulder inscription band and appears to have been built up on the clay model of the bell prior to the construction of the cope as described on p. 75. It reads :—

+ INHONORE · DEI · ETSANTI · LAVRENCII

The second part of the inscription occurs above the sound-bow ; unlike the first part, it was not built up on the clay model, and must have been roughly scratched into the cope when the moulds were separated and the clay model removed prior to casting operations. This latter inscription reads from right to left on the bell, and all the letters are formed backwards as a result of not having been reversed in the cope. The moulds were probably made for a "stock" bell, and the second part of the inscription added as an after thought, possibly at the request of the donors. When read backwards¹ the inscription is as follows :—

HVQQRQAT · SIBILLA · Q · VXOR ·
EIVSHTIMPPANA · FECERVNT · ECPONI ·

The whole was intended for :—"IN HONORE DEI ET SANTI LAVRENCII / HVG(H) GARGAT(E) SIBILLAQ(VE) VXOR EIVS H(AEC) TIMPPANA² FECERVNT ECPONI"³ and may be translated :—"In honour of God and Saint Laurence." "Hugh Gargate and Sibilla, his wife, had these bells erected."

A scale drawing of the inscription on the thirteenth century bells is given in Fig. II, where it will be seen that, although the lettering is mainly Roman in form, some letters, such as A, E and M, are Gothic in character. Owing to roughness in the casting other letters are badly formed. The S in EIVS is shaped rather like an H ; Q is used for G ; and in two instances the letter N is of peculiar shape. The inscription is remarkable for such an early date and implies that at least two bells were then given to the church by Hugh Gargate and his wife.

¹ See Fig. II.

² Or "tympana."

³ Or "exponi."

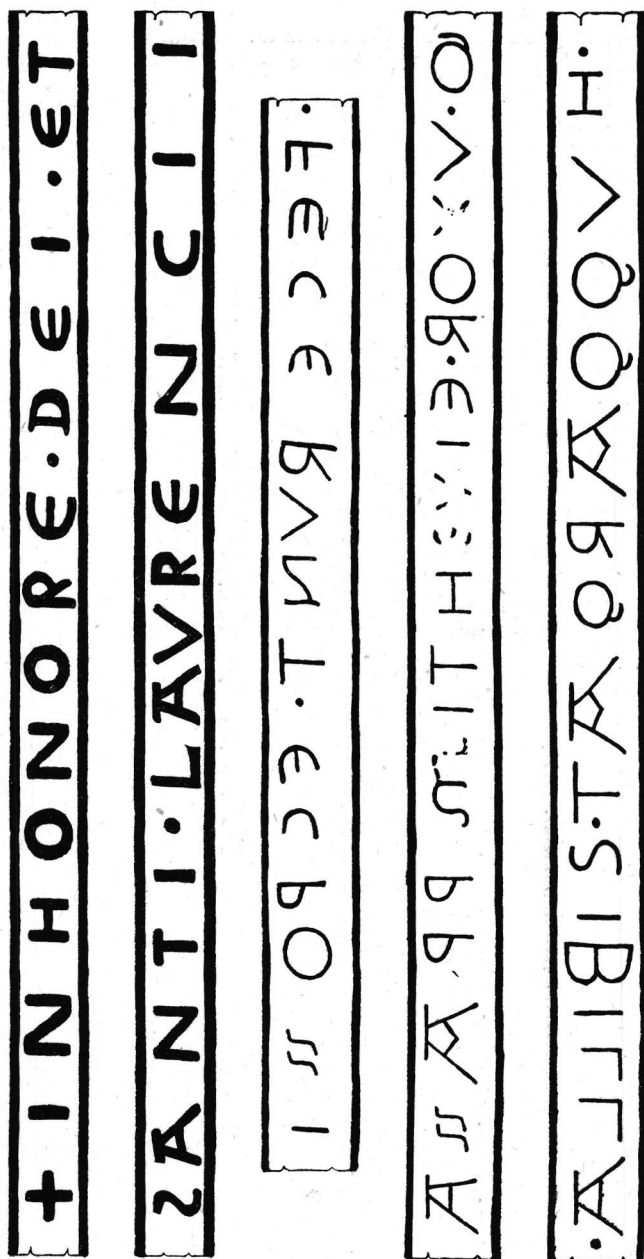


Fig. 11. One-third scale details of the inscriptions on the early thirteenth century bell at Caversfield. The three lower lines read from right to left, starting at the bottom. See p. 76.

There is good evidence for the date. Hugh Gargate succeeded his father, Roger, in the Manor of Caversfield, and was in possession of the property during the first years of the thirteenth century. He is mentioned in the *Close Rolls*¹ for 1216; but in 1219 his wife is described in a deed² as "Sybil de Kaversfeld, widow of Hugh de Gargat."

One of the bells given by the Gargates was recast early in the fourteenth century³, and, as stated on page 72, survived until 1876. It formed the tenor of a ring of two until 1874, when it became the second of a ring of three.

A description of the ring as it existed in 1875 is given on p. 80. The particulars have been derived mainly from notes made by the Rev. T. A. Turner⁴ and Mr. A. H. Cocks⁵, and from the records of the Loughborough foundry.

¹ A. H. Cocks, *ut sup.*, p. 5.

² W. W. Kennett, *Parochial Antiquities*, 1st Ed., 1695, p. 189.

³ A few bells of similar shape to the thirteenth century bell at Caversfield are found in other counties, but the majority of these lack inscriptions or marks to prove their age. Mr. H. B. Walters noted a bell at Marton-cum-Grafton, Yorkshire, inscribed :—" + CAMPANA : SANCTI : IOHANNIS : EWAGELIST " which he considered somewhat later in date than the Caversfield bell. (*Some Thirteenth Century English Bells*, The Antiquaries Journal, 1926, Vol. VI, p. 427.). Mr. R. Clouston, who recently examined the Marton bell, and to whom I am indebted for photographs of it, has confirmed Mr. Walters' opinion. The bells at Caversfield and Marton are the only known examples in England of medieval bells with inscriptions in Roman lettering. In Oxfordshire uninscribed bells of the same shape as the thirteenth century bell at Caversfield are found at Kelmscott and Shifford.

⁴ Turner's notes, of which the writer has transcripts, are now in the Society of Antiquaries Library; they include rubbings of the inscription on the bell recast in 1876.

⁵ Caversfield parish was formerly in Buckinghamshire, but since 1845 has been in Oxfordshire. A description of the bells was given by Mr. A. H. Cocks in *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 1897, pp. 3-5, 326-7; but he is in error in stating (1) that there were three bells prior to 1874, (2) that the bell with the inscription on the sound-bow had been recast, and (3) that the thirteenth century bell was the second of the ring. Mr. Cocks did not personally examine the Caversfield bells, and in some way misinterpreted the Rev. T. A. Turner's notes.



Fig. 12. The early thirteenth century bell at Caversfield, prior to the restoration of the belfry in 1927. For the purpose of photographing the bell was "rung up" (or inverted) in order to get it clear of the bell-frame.

Details of the ring of three bells in 1875 :—

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|
| Treble. ¹ | + INHONORE · DEI · ETSANTI · LAVRENCII / · HVQQARQAT · SIBILLA · Q · VXOR · EIVSHTIMPPANA · FECERVNT · ECPONI | 1 3 24 |
| Second. | * (Coin.) <i>IN * HONORE² *</i> <i>BEATI * LAVRENCII</i> | 2 2 25 |
| Tenor. | J: TAYLOR & Co: FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1874 | 4 3 16 |

The approximate strike-notes of these bells in descending order were A♭, E and D♭. The treble is described on pp. 74-79, and the tenor on page 72. The second was an early fourteenth century bell, probably by one of the Ruffords, of Toddington, Bedfordshire, with cross, Fig. L2, and lettering similar to that on the saunce at Idbury³. The Loughborough foundry records state :—“the second is an old bell, but the treble is very ancient,” from which we may assume that the shape of the second was that of an ordinary medieval bell, and caused no undue interest ; and from the same source we learn that “the second became cracked, and a new one was made in 1876.” Among the Walters’ MSS. at the Society of Antiquaries’ Library is a note stating that the inscription-band of the former second had been cut out and preserved when the bell was recast, and that towards the end of the nineteenth century it was in the possession of Canon H. T. Ellacombe, the noted campanologist⁴.

As this work is going to press the good news comes of an offer by Miss M. Phillips, a former resident at Caversfield House, of the gift of two additional bells in memory of her mother and brother. A description of these will be given in a later chapter.

6 Edw. VI. (Ex Buckinghamshire returns). *Item 2 belles.*

Visited : T.A.T., 21st April, 1875, 19th July, 1875. H.B.W., January, 1890 ; F.S., 1921—1949.

¹ For the sake of convenience the second part of the inscription is given here as reading from left to right, but see p. 78, and Fig. 11. This bell had been cracked for several years prior to the writer’s first visit in 1921.

² *Sic.*

³ Mr. Cock’s opinion that the former second was cast at the medieval London foundry is not shared by other campanologists.

⁴ This inscription band may still be in existence, although at the moment its whereabouts are unknown to campanologists.

53.

CAVERSHAM.

This parish, formerly in Oxfordshire, has been transferred to Berkshire. The bells in the churches of St. Peter, St. Andrew, and St. John-the-Baptist, and the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St. Anne, are described in the author's work on *The Church Bells of Berkshire*, published in the Berkshire Archaeological Society's *Journal*, Vol. XLIII, ff.

54.

CHADLINGTON.

St. Nicholas.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 39 inches diameter, in G; and a sanctus bell.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | ROBERT & JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS FECIT 1796 (<i>Border of Fig. H10, and alternating.</i>) | 4 |
| Second. | LET US RING MERILY (<i>Fig. D10.</i>) A : R (<i>Bell.</i>) 1714 (<i>Border, Fig. D2.</i>) | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Third. | GOD PRESERVE THE QVEEN (<i>Border Fig. C5.</i>) A : R (<i>Bell.</i>) 1714 (<i>Border, Fig. C5.</i>) | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Fourth. | PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD. A.R. 1714 / BOND & SON, FOUNDERS BURFORD 1911 | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Fifth. | + W. Taylor Oxford fecit Ano Dni. M.dccc.xl.vi. | 8 |
| Tenor. | + Rebd. Thomas Silver D.C.I. Vicar Ano Dni M.dccc.xl.vi. | 11 |
| Saunce. | BOND 1911 | $\frac{1}{2}$ |

As on most Aldbourne bells the inscription on the treble occurs above the sound-bow. The second and third are by Abraham Rudhall I, as was also the former fourth¹; and as the ring is not mentioned in the 1830 edition of the Rudhall catalogues, which gives only complete rings, we may safely assume that these were the only products of the Gloucester foundry in the tower. The two largest bells were recast by William Taylor,² and the fourth

¹ Alfred White's *Notebook*, (1865) fol. 78.

² There is no mention of these two bells in the Loughborough foundry records.

and saunce by Messrs. Bond and Son. The five oldest have had their canons removed.

The cast iron side-pattern frame and fittings, type J, are by Messrs. Bond. The former oak frame was constructed in two tiers with the treble and second in the upper tier. The saunce hangs under a penthouse on the top of the tower.

Visited : J.K., F.S., 28th June, 1948.

55.

CHALGROVE.

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor $45\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter in E ; and a sanctus bell, $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM / H(<i>Fig.</i> <i>K3.</i>)K 1664 / RECAST BY / H. BOND & SON / BELLFOUNDERS, BURFORD OXON. 1888. | 5 |
| Second. | PRAISE THE LORD 1664 | 6 |
| Third. | HOPE IN GOD 1664 | 7 |
| Fourth.† | FEARE THE LORD 1664 | $8\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Fifth. | ROBERT HALL & WILLIAM GREY CHVRCH WARDENS A(<i>Bell</i>)R 1729 (<i>Border.</i>) | 12 |
| Tenor. | I TO THE CHVRCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE GRAVE DO SVMMON ALL 1729 / (<i>Border all round bell.</i>) | $16\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Saunce. | 1659 | $1\frac{1}{2}$ |

As testified by its inscription the treble was recast at the Burford foundry, its predecessor by Henry Knight II being inscribed :—

THE FEARE OF THE LORD IS THE
BEGINNING OF WISDOM H(*Fig.K3.*)K
1664

The tenor, a fine toned maiden bell, and the fifth are by Abraham Rudhall II, and the remainder by Henry Knight II. The canons of the fourth are missing ; the fifth has been sharpened, and the rest flattened.

With the exception of the tenor which has gear, type E, and was rehung by Mr. R. White in 1928, the oak frame and remaining gear, type A, are by Messrs. Bond. The saunce retains its original headstock and seventeenth century keyed ironwork.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 3 great bells and on litell bell.*

Visited : F.S., 28th April, 1934.

56.

CHARLBURY.

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 43 inches diameter in F ; and a sanctus bell, 17½ inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOVRHOOD (Fig. D2.) A(Bell.)R 1716 (Border, Fig. D2.) | 5 |
| Second. | PROSPERITY TO THIS TOWN & PARISH (Fig. D8.) A(Bell.)R 1716 (Border, Fig. D8.) | 6 |
| Third. | GOD PRESERVE THE CHVRCH OF ENGLAND (Fig. C5.) A(Bell.)R 1716 (Border, Fig. C5.) | 7 |
| Fourth. | ABR: RVDHALL OF GLOVCESTER CAST VS ALL 1716 (Border, Fig. C5.) | 8 |
| Fifth. | PROSPERITY TO ALL OVR BENEFACTORS (Fig. D2.) A(Bell.)R 1716 (Border, Fig. C5.) | 10 |
| Tenor. | WM: RYMAN THO: COOKE IN: ROGERS EDWD: BRAIN CHVRCH WARDENS A(Bell.)R 1716 (Border, Fig. C5.) | 14 |

The ring was cast at the Gloucester foundry. An oak frame and fittings, type J, were installed in 1905 by Messrs. Bond, who removed the canons from all the bells except the saunce. The latter is hung for chiming in a separate frame above the others ; it bears no inscription or marks, and on evidence of shape probably dates from the sixteenth century.

On the north wall of the tower is a brass plate inscribed :—

THE REHANGING OF THE BELLS /
ON AN OAK FRAME WAS THE GIFT
OF / FRANCIS C. B. WEST / WINIFRED
S. B. WEST / EASTER 1905.

Visited : J.K., F.S., 22nd September, 1948.

57.

CHARLTON-ON-OTMOOR.

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of five bells ; tenor 44½ inches diameter, in E ; and a sanctus bell, 18¼ inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Treble. | THE REV. MR. MURTHWAITE RECTOR : THOS. COOPER & ED. WHITHERS. CHURCHWARDENS : JOHN WARNER FOUNDER OF LONDON 1789 (<i>Five coins.</i>) | 6 0 0† |
| Second.† | THOS. LESTER LONDON MADE MEE 1746. HENRY KIRBY & WILLIAM BROOKES CHURCH WARDENS. | 7 0 0† |
| Third. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1898. / C. E. PRIOR, M.A. RECTOR. / J. BOTTRELL, F. STANTON, CHURCHWARDENS. | 8 1 17 |
| Fourth.† | CHRISTOPHER SHEERES ◇ IOHN WYATT 1681 | 10 2 0† |
| Tenor.† | BENE DICTE TREVISE ¹ ET GOD BE MERCII FVLL 1861 ¹ | 16 0 0† |
| Saunce. | 1793 | 1 1 0† |

The second and third were cast at the Whitechapel foundry ; the treble and saunce are by John Warner, and the two largest by Richard Keene, who in error reversed the date figures on the tenor. The bells were rehung with gear, type B, in a wrought-iron frame by Messrs. Webb and Bennett in 1896.

On May 14th, 1787, the churchwardens stated :—"wee present the treble bell broke but it will be new run imedately"¹

The former third was by Matthew Bagley II, and inscribed:—²

:- RALPH. KIRBY. IOHN. :. HONOR :.
CHURCH . . . WARDENS : M : BAGLEY
MADEM 1755¹

6 Edw. VI. 4 *greate belles and a saunce bell.*

At the Mission Church at Murcot in this parish is one small modern bell, hung for chiming in an open turret.

Visited : F.S., 1921—1948.

¹ *Sic.*

² From notes by Mr. G. J. Dew, of Lower Heyford.

58.

CHASTLETON.

St. Mary.

A southern tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 34 inches diameter, in A.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | THE GIFT OF IOHN IONES & ARTHUR IONES ESQUIRES 1811 / IOHN RUDHALL GLOCESTER FECT. (<i>Border, Fig. D8.</i>) | 4½ ¹ |
| Second. | IOHN : PREEDY : RICHARD : DAVIS : CHURCH : WARDENS : M : BAGLEY : MADE : ME : 1762 : | 4 ¹ |
| Third. | 1696 | 4¾ |
| Fourth. | RICHARD. PAXFORD : RICHARD. MAIDS : C. W : H. BAGLEY. MA. MEJ73J :- ² | 5 |
| Fifth. | RICHARD. PAXFORD : RICHARD. MAIDS : C. WARDENS : H. BAGLEY. MADE. ME J73J ² | 6 |
| Tenor. | G. GARDNER & W. HURBRIDGE C. WARDENS. J825. (<i>Fig. B3.</i>) I. RUDHALL FECT. (<i>Fig. B3.</i>) | 7½ |

The treble and tenor are by John Rudhall ; the second is by Matthew Bagley II, the third by Richard Keene, and the fourth and fifth by Henry Bagley III.

The fittings, type A, are by Messrs. Bond, who removed the canons from all the bells and rehung them in the existing two-tier oak frame. The treble is hung in the upper tier.

Visited : F.S., 22nd March, 1948.

¹ As both bells have the same diameter, the second is lighter and thinner than the treble to sound one whole tone below it.

² *Sic.*

59.

CHECKENDON.

SS. Peter and Paul.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor approximately $39\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter,¹ in G (slightly flat).

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt. Qrs. Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|-----------------------|
| Treble. | LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1765 | 4 2 0‡ |
| Second. | (<i>On waist: same as treble, but without date.</i>) | 5 0 0‡ |
| Third. | MUSICK IS MEDECINE TO THE MIND LESTER & PACK FO ² LONDON FECIT 1765 (<i>Loop ornament, Fig. GII.</i>) | 6 0 0‡ |
| Fourth. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1879. / O PRAISE OUR GOD, YE PEOPLE + | 7 0 1 |
| Fifth. | IN WEDLOCK. BANDS ALL YE WHO JOIN WITH HANDS YOUR HEARTS UNITE SO SHALL OUR TUNEFUL (<i>Scroll.</i>) / TONGUES COMBINE TO LAUD THE NUPTIAL. RITE LESTER & PACK LONDON FECIT 1765 (<i>Vase among scrolls.</i>) (<i>Scroll.</i>) | 8 2 0‡ |
| Tenor. | MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1879. / C. J. ABBEY RECTOR, H. HOPE AND A. TOBITT CHURCHWARDENS. / GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST + | 10 2 8 |

The ring was cast in 1765 at the Whitechapel foundry where also the fourth and tenor were recast in 1879. In the present century the canons were removed from all the bells which were then rehung with gear, type J, in a new composite iron and steel side-pattern frame.

From Tyssen's MS. we learn that the former fourth was inscribed:—

OUR VOICES SHALL WITH JOYFUL SOUND
MAKE HILLS AND VALLEYS ECHO ROUND
LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1765
(*Loop border.*)

and that the former tenor bore the inscription:—

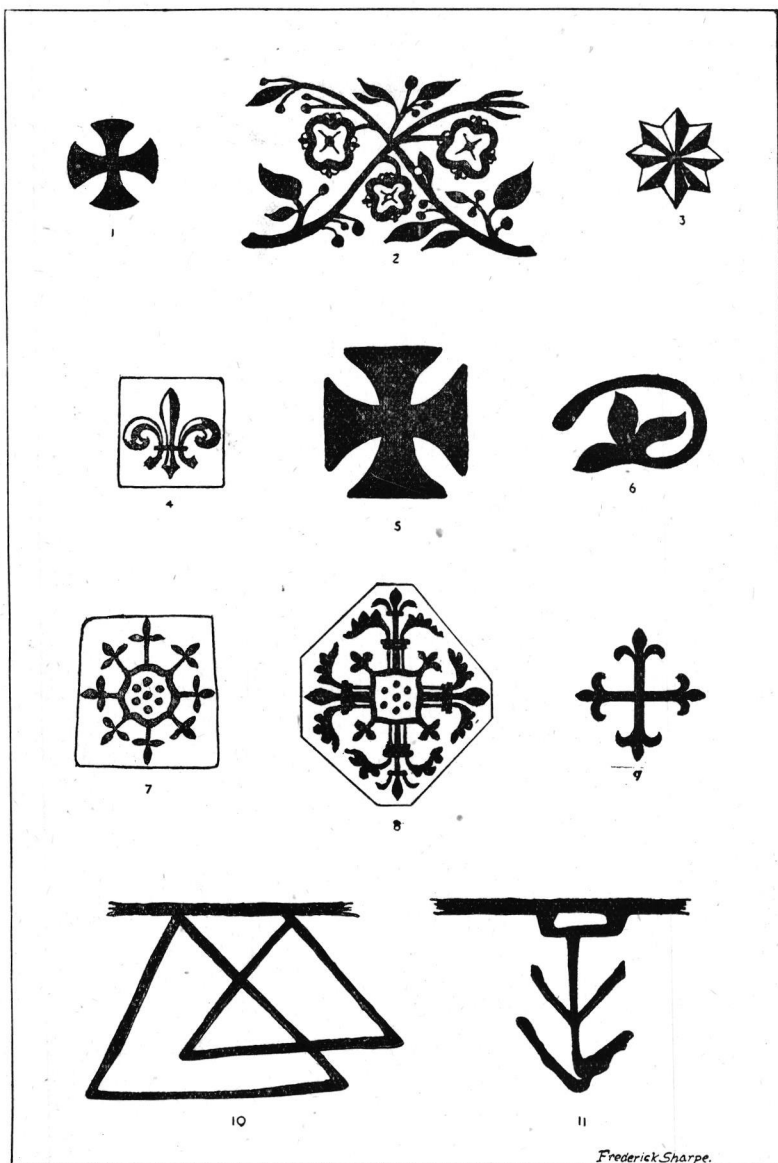
RICHD. SHERWOOD & GRIFFITH WARD . .
CH. WARDENS 1765 LESTER & PACK OF
LONDON FECIT (*Scroll.*)

6 Edw. VI. *Item 4 belles in the steple.*

Visited: A.D.T., circa 1870. F.S., 19th February, 1949.

¹ The tenor has been sharpened by the removal of a portion of its lip and is difficult to measure.

² *Sic.*



Frederick Sharpe.
























Figs. J1—J11. Half-scale details of founders' marks. J1, J3, J5, J6 and J9, Loughborough foundry. J2, Chacombe foundry. J4 and J7, Bedford and Buckingham foundries. J8, Norwich, Bedford and Buckingham foundries. J10 and J11, Unknown seventeenth century foundry.

60.

CHESTERTON.¹

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of three bells†; tenor 40 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in F \sharp ; and a sanctus bell, 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | HENDRY ²  FARMER  AND  IAMES  KEENE  MADE  ME 1623  | 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Second. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Tenor. | (<i>Cross, Fig. J8.</i>)         (<i>Shield, Fig. DII.</i>)     (<i>Lion's head, Fig. M2.</i>)     | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Saunce. | R CHANDLER MADE ME 1715 | $\frac{3}{4}$ |

The treble and second are by Henry Farmer and James Keene, whose joint work is rare³; the lettering and fleurs-de-lys (Fig. A2) are those formerly used by Farmer and subsequently by Keene. The tenor is an interesting bell by William Watts, of Bedford, *circa* 1590; the lettering⁴ and founder's marks are those formerly used by the Brasyers of Norwich, in the fifteenth century; and meaningless collections of letters are a distinctive feature of bells by Watts. The saunce is by Richard Chandler III.

The saunce retains its canons and hangs in a separate oak frame near the west window of the belfry; the bell is fitted with an elm headstock, drive-in type gudgeons, nailed and keyed iron-work, and lever: it retains the medieval stirrup-topped clapper and iron baldrick copse of its predecessor.

At the end of the last century the ring was rehung with gear, type B, in the existing eighteenth century oak frame by Messrs. Webb and Bennett, who removed the canons from the three largest bells. The former tenor headstock is preserved in the tower, and this bell has an eighteenth century roller in addition to the modern ground pulley.

¹ A revised account of that given in *The Church Bells of The Deanery of Bicester, Oxfordshire*, pp. 21-22.

² *Sic.*

³ A bell at Woolstone, Gloucestershire, was cast by these two men.

⁴ Sharpe, *ut sup.*, p. 22, and Fig. 7.

There are pits in the bell-frame for four bells and the ring was formerly composed of that number. The missing bell (the treble of the ring of four) was by Richard Keene, and inscribed :—

R K 1659 RICHARD HARVEY C W

A rubbing of the inscription is preserved among the Turner collection in the Society of Antiquaries Library.

6 Edw. VI. *Item three belles and a sanctus bell.*

Visited : F.S., 20th July, 1949.

61.

CHINNOR.


St. Andrew.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 39 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in G; and a sanctus bell, 17 inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|----------------------|
| Treble. | G. MEARS & CO. FOUNDERS LONDON 1864. | 5 1 7 |
| Second. | (Same as treble.) | 5 3 4 |
| Third. | HONAR GOD x635 | 6 1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Fourth. | THOMAS EWSTACE CHRISTOPHER BROOKES C(<i>Fig. L3.</i>)W / H(<i>Fig. K3.</i>)K 1663 | 7 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Fifth. | HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE x620 ◇ | 8 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Tenor. | (<i>Cross, Fig. D12.</i>) OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HELEN HALOED BE THE NAME / WK | 10 2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Saunce. | MEARS & CO. FOUNDERS LONDON 1865 | 1 1 0 |

Prior to 1864 the ring consisted of five bells; the tenor of these, 43 inches diameter, in F, weighing approximately 14 cwt. and cast by Henry Knight II, was then recast into the present treble and second at the Whitechapel foundry, where also the saunce was recast a year later. The other bells are by members of the Knight family, the present tenor, dating from *circa* 1586, being by William Knight II, whose bells are comparatively rare.¹

The former tenor bore the inscription :—²

CHRISTOVER KING THOMAS MONDAY
CHVRCH WARDENS 1651 H  K

¹ See Sharpe, *ut sup.*, § 118.

² Tyssen MS., *circa* 1860, Society of Antiquaries Library.

With the exception of the saunce all have lost their canons, and are fitted with rolled-steel headstocks. The oak bell-frame is fairly modern.

7 Edw. VI. *Item 4 belles with a sauns bell.*

Visited : F.S., 19th September, 1936.

62.

CHIPPING NORTON.

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of eight bells ; tenor 43 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in F \sharp ; and a sanctus bell, 20 inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Treble. | MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| Second. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Third. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 5 | 3 | 23 |
| Fourth. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 6 | 3 | 13 |
| Fifth. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 7 | 3 | 23 |
| Sixth. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 8 | 2 | 17 |
| Seventh. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 10 | 2 | 6 |
| Tenor. | JESU, MISERERE MEI. / THESE BELLS ORIGINALLY CAST BY / JOHN RUDHALL, GLOUCESTER, 1825. / R. S. SKILLERN, VICAR. / J. HEYNES, / S. GUY, } CHURCHWARDENS. / WERE RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON, 1907. / G. A. LITLEDALE, M.A. VICAR. / A. C. RAWLINSON, / THOMAS DONELLY, } CHURCHWARDENS. / D. ST. G. DALY, CHURCHWARDEN FOR OVER NORTON. | 14 | 1 | 4 |

As indicated on the tenor the ring was recast from the metal of eight former bells at the Whitechapel foundry in 1907 : the present bells have "Doncaster" type heads, and were hung with gear, type B, in a wrought iron side-pattern frame by Messrs. Webb and Bennett.

The saunce hangs in an oak frame above the others. It was cast by Richard Purdue, and bears the inscription :—" + ANNO
◇ DO ◇ MI ◇ NI ◇ 1624 R(*Bell*)P". The letters N in Anno are conjoined, and the figure 6 is reversed ; below the shoulder of the bell is a band of interlacing fleurs-de-lys, similar to Bagleys' ; and on the waist are the initials "C.P.", a shield bearing a large fleur-de-lys, two crowns, and the words "ICH DIEN."

The following particulars of the former ring are derived from transcripts of the Rev. T. A. Turner's notes, made by Mr. H. B. Walters,¹ from the Rudhall catalogues and the Whitechapel foundry records :—

Former ring of eight bells ; tenor 43½ inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | JOHN RUDHALL FECT. J825 (<i>Fig. B3, five times.</i>) | 5 |
| Second. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 5½ |
| Third. | JOHN RUDHALL FECT. J825 | 6 |
| Fourth. | THE REVD. R. S. SKILLERN VICAR J825 JOHN RUDHALL FECT. | 6½ |
| Fifth. | J. HEYNES & S. GUY CHURCH WARDENS J825 JOHN RUDHALL FECT. | 7 |
| Sixth. | (<i>Same as fourth.</i>) | 8 |
| Seventh. | J. CARPENTER CHURCHWARDEN OVER NORTON J825 I. RUDHALL FECT. | 11 |
| Tenor. | THE REVD. R. S. SKILLERN VICAR. J. HEYNES & S. GUY CHURCH WARDENS J825 JOHN RUDHALL FECT. | 14 |

The following advertisement appeared in the *Gloucester Journal*² on Monday, 1st May, 1826 :—

“On Monday next will be opened in the newly-erected tower of Chipping Norton Church, Oxon, a peal (*sic.*) of eight bells, cast Mr. Rudhall, of this city ; on which occasion the Churchwardens will give prizes of 5*l.* 3*s.* and 2*l.* for the best three peals of changes that shall be rung.”

The fourth of Rudhall's ring was recast at the Burford foundry in 1889³, and inscribed :—

H BOND & SON BELL FOUNDERS BURFORD OXON 1889

Visited : T.A.T., 18th September, 1878 ; F.S., 5th February, 1949.

¹ In Mr. Walters' transcript the dates of the first three bells are given as 1835. The bells, however, are included in the 1830 edition of Rudhall's catalogue, and in view of this and the extract from the *Gloucester Journal* given later I have amended them to 1825.

² Vol. CV, No. 5413.

³ The Rev. F. E. Robinson, *Among the Bells*, 1909, p. 218, records the date of Messrs. Bond's bell as 1885 ; his estimate of the approximate weights varies a little from those given above.

63.

CHISELHAMPTON.

St. Katherine.

An open cupola on top of a small tower containing two bells, 21½ and 22 inches in diameter respectively, hung for ringing ; and a sanctus bell 10½ inches in diameter.

The bells were examined by Mr. H. B. Walters, who notes that they bore no inscriptions ; that the treble is older than the tenor, and that neither are of great antiquity. On the waist of the saunce is a geometrical device, for which see Fig. L9.

7 Edw. VI. *Item 2 belles in the steple.*

Visited : H.B.W., 7th June, 1922.

64.

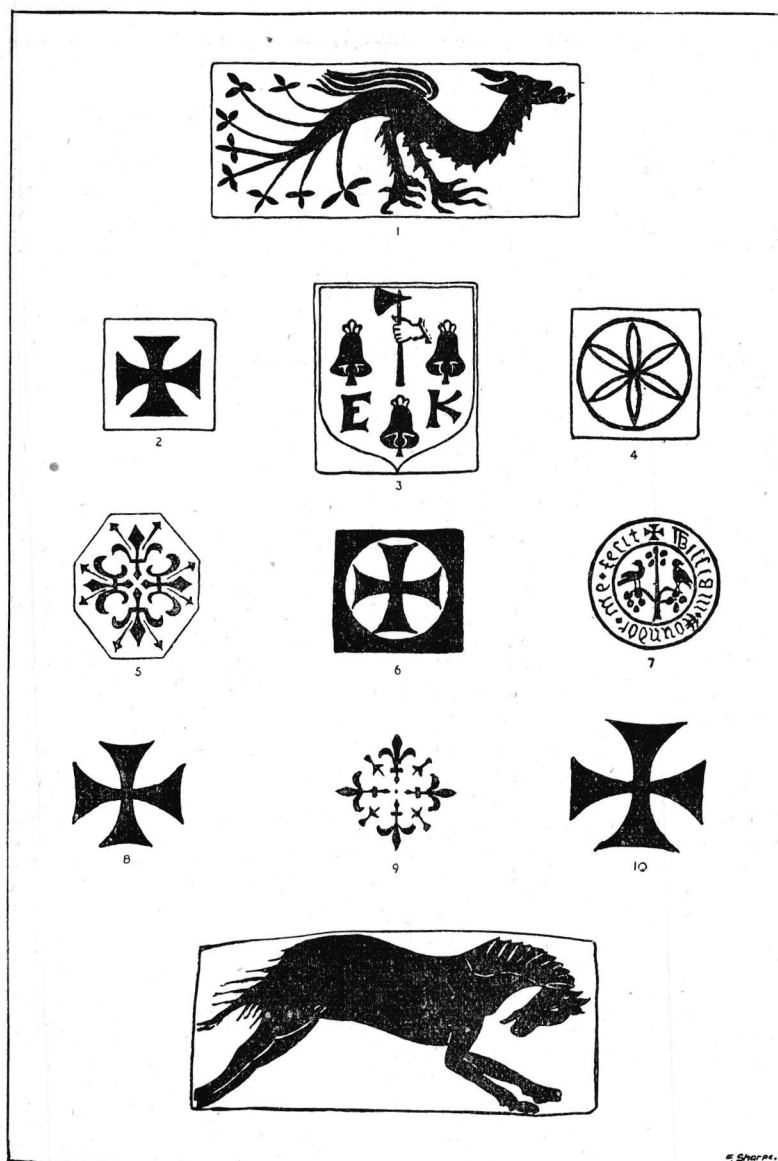
CHURCHILL.

All Saints.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 40 inches diameter, in G.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> | | |
|--------------|---|---------------------|---|----|
| Treble. | M (<i>other letters filed off.</i>) | 5 | 2 | 0† |
| Second. | MDCCCXXVI | 6 | 0 | 0† |
| Third. | MDCCCXXVI | 6 | 3 | 0† |
| Fourth. | R: TAYLOR & SONS FOUNDERS. MDCCCXXVI. | 7 | 0 | 0† |
| Fifth. | MDCCCXXVI | 7 | 3 | 23 |
| Tenor. | THIS PEAL WAS RECAST BY / ROBT TAYLOR OF OXFORD 1826. / -:- -:- WATCH AND PRAY FOR YOU KNOW NOT THE HOUR OF DEATH -:- / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK / WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY / LONDON. 1894. | 10 | 3 | 27 |

A ring of six by Robert Taylor and Sons, of which the tenor has been recast at the Whitechapel foundry. From Messrs. Taylors' books we learn that the former tenor weighed 11 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs., and the weight of the fifth recorded above is derived from the same source, which unfortunately only gives the approximate weights of the others. The bells have lost their canons, and hang in an oak frame installed in 1826 ; the fittings, type J, date from the present century and are the work of Messrs. Bond.



Figs. K1—K11. Half-scale details of founders' marks. K1, K2, K4 and K11, Wokingham medieval foundry. K3, K6, K8 and K10, Reading foundry. K5 and K7, London medieval foundry. K9, Whitechapel foundry.

The inscription on the former tenor was recorded by Alfred White¹ on July 15th, 1858, as follows :—

WATCH FOR YOU KNOW NOT THE HOUR OF DEATH.
THIS PEAL WAS RECAST BY ROBT. TAYLOR & SONS
OXFORD MDCCCXXVI.

In *Kelly's Directory* the statement is made that:—"The Church was erected in 1826 . . . and contains a clock and six bells, five of which, dated 1630, were removed from the old church ; one is inscribed :—

OUR MOURNFUL SOUND DOTH WARNING GIVE
the couplet being finished on the tenor :—

THAT MAN CANNOT HEARE ALL WAYES LIVE"

There is no doubt that here we have a record of the bells existing prior to 1826 ; and the most likely founder to have cast this ring of five in 1630 would be James Keene.

Visited : F.S., 3rd July, 1948.

65.

CLANFIELD.

St. Stephen.

A western tower containing a ring of eight bells ; tenor 42½ inches diameter, in F♯.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt.Qrs.Lbs. |
|---------|--|--------------|
| Treble. | (Border.) TO THE GLORY OF GOD / THIS BELL WAS GIVEN BY / L. R. KNAPP & ELIZABETH HIS WIFE / IN REMEMBRANCE OF MANY MERCIES / (Fig. H8.) 1905 (Fig. H8.) / W. N. RAINEY. VICAR. / (Lough- borough foundry mark.) | 3 2 22 |
| Second. | THIS BELL WAS GIVEN BY THE WOMEN OF CLANFIELD (Fig.H8.) 1905 (Fig. H8.) / (Border all round bell.) / GIVEN BY WOMEN, I THE WOMEN CALL / TO GIVE THEMSELVES TO GOD WHO GIVETH ALL / W. N. RAINEY. VICAR. / (Loughborough foundry mark.) | 4 0 25 |
| Third.† | JOHN TAYLOR & CO. (Fig. H8.) FOUNDERS. (Fig. H8.) LOUGHBOROUGH (Fig. H8.) LEICESTERSHIRE (Fig. H8.) / (Border all round bell.) / SO LONG IN SAFETY CLANFIELD DWELLS / AS CLANFIELD HEEDS THE CHURCH'S BELLS / REV. W. N. RAINEY. VICAR. 1905. | 4 1 11 |

¹ A. White's *Notebook*, fol. 49.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Fourth.† | OF FOVRE WE FIVE WERE MADE TO BE IN 1653 (<i>Fig. G1, twice</i>) (<i>Fig. A2.</i>) | 5 3 2 |
| Fifth † | IAMES KEENE MADE THIS RING (<i>Fig. A2.</i>) 1653 (<i>Fig. A2.</i>) IOHN SANDERS GENT (<i>Fig. A2.</i>) | 6 1 5 |
| Sixth.† | RICH MAY ROB ROBBINS C W 1696 | 6 3 19 |
| Seventh.† | (<i>Fig. A2.</i>) LORD LET DISSENTION VANISH IANGLING CEASE THAT WE MAY RING THE LONGED FOR / PEALE OF PEACE 1653 | 9 2 25 |
| Tenor.† | 166L | 12 3 16 |

The three smallest bells were added to the ring in 1905, and at the same time Messrs. Taylor and Co. supplied a cast iron H-pattern frame, and fittings type G. The treble and second have flanged canons; the third was cast with a flat head; and the canons have been removed from the remainder.

The former ring of five (of which three bells remain) was cast in 1653 by James Keene from the metal of an earlier ring of four, as testified by the inscriptions on the present fourth and fifth: John Sanders was probably the donor. Subsequently the present sixth (then the third of the ring of five) was recast by James' son, Richard. The shape of the tenor and its mouldings also look like Richard Keene's work; but the date numerals, intended for 1667, are not his usual ones, being thick and rough, and they closely resemble those favoured by Michael Darbie, who also may have been the founder of this bell.

Five old clappers are preserved and hang on the north wall of the first floor chamber in the tower: three of them are medieval, proving that there were at least three bells in the ring in pre-reformation times.

Visited: F.S., 10th July, 1948.

66.

CLAYDON.

St. James-the-Great.

A western tower containing a ring of three bells; tenor 32½ inches diameter, in B♭.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Treble. | + BE · YT · KNOWN · TO · ALL · THAT · DOTH · ME · SEE · THAT · NEWCOMBE · OF · LEICESTER · MADE · MEE · 1611 | 4 0 0½ |

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Second. | NEWCOMBE OF LEICESTER MADE MEE 1609 + | 5 0 0† |
| Tenor. | CAST 1756 BY BAGLEY, RECAST 1910. + / A.M.D.G. / E. SYMES THOMPSON, VICAR. / J. F. GOODE, / S. WELLS } CHURCHWARDENS. / M & S / (Bell.) LONDON. | 6 0 3 |

These bells hang in a wrought iron two-tier frame installed in 1910 by Mr. R. White, who also supplied new gear, type C.

The treble and second are by the Newcombe "firm"; the tenor was recast at the Whitechapel foundry. The former tenor is said to have been inscribed :—¹

JOHN ASTELL :: THOMAS : WELLS :- C :: W :: M
:: BAGLEY : MADE : MEE :: 1756 :

Visited : F.S., 9th December, 1933.

67.

CLIFTON.

St. James.

An open western turret containing two small bells, hung for chiming, and inaccessible without the erection of scaffolding.

I have a note by Mr. L. H. Chambers, of St. Albans, that one of the bells is by Messrs. Taylor and Co., 1852, inscribed :—

OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI

Messrs. Taylor have no record of this bell.

When viewed from the ground both bells appear to be of mid-eighteenth century shape, and have angular type canons.

68.

CLIFTON HAMPDEN.

St. Michael.

An enclosed western turret with spirelet containing a chime of five bells ; tenor 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in B.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Treble. | LAUDATE PUERI DOMINUM LAUDATE NOMEN DOMINI | 3 2 21 |
| Second. | VIGILATE ET ORATE NE INTRETIS IN TENTATIONEM | 4 0 3 |

¹ Walters' MS., fol. 82, Society of Antiquaries Library. Mr. Walters did not visit this tower, however, and gives no reference stating his source of information.

| | | | | |
|---------|--|---|---|----|
| Third. | BENEDICITE OMNIA OPERA DNI DNO | 4 | 1 | 16 |
| Fourth. | SANCTUS SANCTUS SANCTUS DNUS DEUS SABAOTH | 4 | 3 | 23 |
| Tenor. | GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO / MEARS LONDINI FECERUNT 1844 REFECERUNT 1907 | 6 | 2 | 16 |

The bells are by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, 1907, and are sounded by means of hammers worked from an "Ellacombe" chiming manual. The former bells were by C. and G. Mears.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 2 belles.*

Visited : L.H.C., *circa* 1920.

69.

COGGES.

St. Mary.

A north-western tower containing two bells, 27½ and 31 inches in diameter respectively ; and a sanctus bell, 17 inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | ✠ IAMES ✠ KEENE ✠ MADE ✠ ME ✠ 1626 (<i>Border.</i>) | 4 |
| Tenor. | - : - THOMAS : LINSEY : WILLIAM : HANKS : CHURCH : WARDENS : M : BAGLEY : MADE : MEE : J757 | 5½ |
| Saunce. | R WELLS | 1 |

The treble, an early example from the Woodstock foundry, has a border of interlacing fleurs-de-lys below the inscription band ; the tenor, by Matthew Bagley II, has a cable moulding below the shoulder ; both are maiden bells, and their approximate strike-notes are B and D. The inscription on the saunce occurs inside, a peculiarity often found on bells by Robert Wells I, *circa* 1760.¹

The bells are fitted with seventeenth century elm headstocks, having drive-in type gudgeons, keyed ironwork and wheels of approximately the same date. The saunce is fitted with a half-wheel. The oak frame was constructed to house a ring of three, and as Bagley's 1732 catalogue states :—"Coggs (Tenor) 1 bell," the missing bell was doubtless larger than the present ones and cast by a member of the Bagley family.

Visited : F.S., 1st February, 1936.

¹ A similar instance occurs at Fringford.

70.

COKETHORPE.¹

St. Mary.

A north-western tower containing three bells. Of these, the smallest, 12 inches in diameter, is hung for chiming; it bears merely the date "1860" and is probably the work of George Mears.

The other bells are hung for ringing: one of them, 18½ inches in diameter, bears no inscription, but has cabled canons of the type favoured by the Rudhalls; the other, 22 inches in diameter, cast by Henry Bagley III, is inscribed:—

THOMAS PRICE CHURCH WARDEN
HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1732

Visited: F.S., 3rd March, 1927.

71.

COOMBE.

St. Laurence.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 40¼ inches diameter, in F♯; and a sanctus bell, 15 inches in diameter.

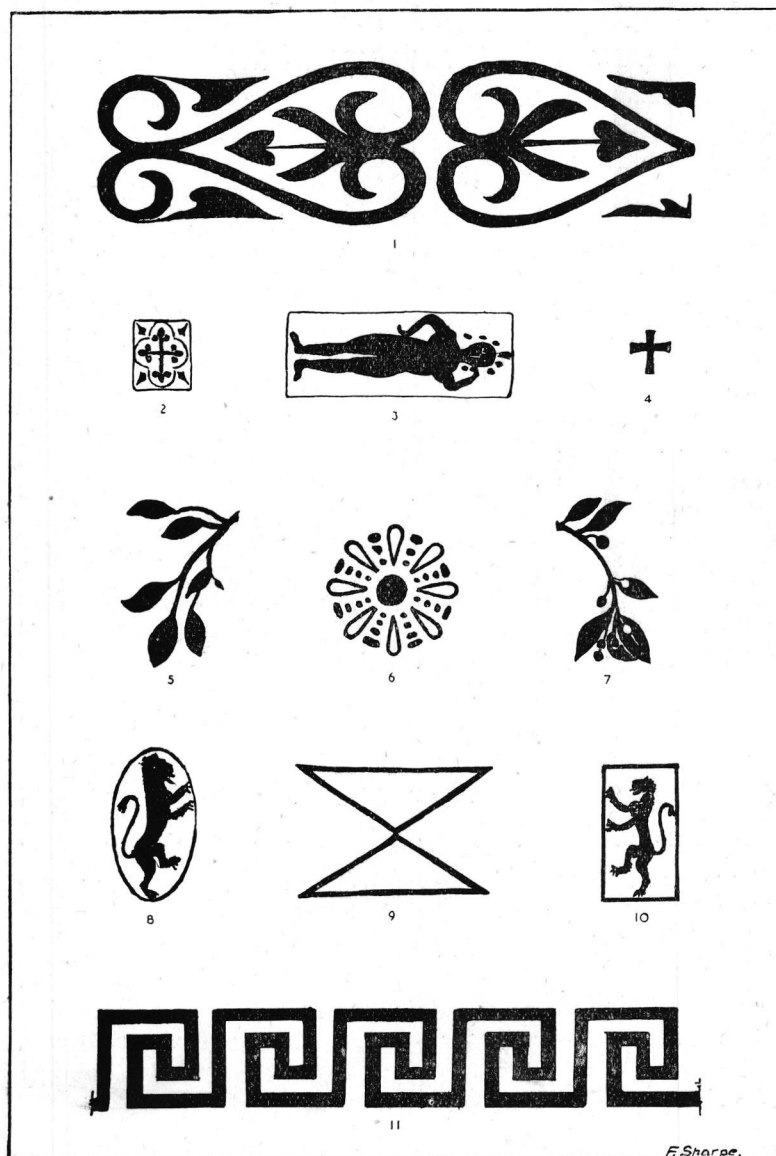
| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Treble. | (<i>Border all round bell.</i>) / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) / RECAST 1924 | 3 | 3 | 14 |
| Second. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 4 | 0 | 20 |
| Third. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 5 | 0 | 16 |
| Fourth. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| Fifth. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 8 | 1 | 23 |
| Tenor. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 12 | 0 | 15 |

A tablet on the south wall of the tower is inscribed:—

THESE BELLS WERE RECAST AND HUNG BY MESSRS. TAYLOR BELLFOUNDERS / LOUGHBOROUGH IN MARCH 1925, USE BEING MADE OF THE METAL / OF FIVE ANCIENT BELLS DAMAGED BY FIRE IN MARCH 1918. / JOHN H. PEARSON, M.A. VICAR. / A. H. GIBSON. / W. E. OLIVER. / CHURCHWARDENS.

The saunce, which bears no inscription or marks, survived the fire in 1918: it retains its canons and is hung for chiming. The ring is fitted with gear, type M, and hangs in a cast iron side-pattern frame.

¹ Or Hardwick.



Figs. L1—L11. Half-scale details of founders' marks and borders. L1, Buckingham foundry. L2, Unknown fourteenth century foundry. L3, Reading foundry. L4, L8 and L10, Burford foundry. L5 and L7, Chacombe foundry. L6, Aldbourne foundry. L9, Unknown seventeenth century foundry. L11, London foundry.

Particulars of the former ring of five have been derived from notes by Mr. Alfred White,¹ and Mr. H. B. Walters.²

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> |
|--------------|--|
| Treble. | 1621 |
| Second. | IAMES ♣ KEENE ♣ MADE ♣ ME ♣ 1628 (<i>Border, probably Fig. A1.</i>) |
| Third. | IAMES ♣ KEENE ♣ MADE ♣ ME ♣ 1629 |
| Fourth. | RICHD. HILL AND THO : LAY CH: WARDENS ♣ A R 1723 ♣ |
| Tenor. | IOHN MALCHER IONAH SMITH C. W. 16(?)8 |

Of these the treble was probably by Robert Atton ; the second and third were by James Keene, and the fourth by Abraham Rudhall II. Mr. White read the date on the tenor as 1628, but while stating that it was difficult to read Mr. Walters thought it must be intended for 1688, and the work of Richard Keene. I am inclined to think Mr. White's reading is likely to be correct, as Richard Keene used a distinctive form of figure 8 comprising two separate circles, which could not easily have been mistaken.

Visited : F.S., 2nd August, 1948.

72.

CORNWELL.

St. Peter.

An open central turret containing one bell hung for ringing. When viewed from the churchyard the bell appears to bear no inscription and to be of fairly modern shape.

At Cornwell Manor is one bell, 14 inches in diameter, cast at the Cripplegate foundry, hung for ringing, and inscribed :—

J. WARNER & SONS, LONDON. 1879.

Visited : F.S., 9th November, 1942.

¹ *Notebook*, fol. 50.

² Walters' MS., Society of Antiquaries Library.

73.

COTTISFORD.**St. Mary.**

A timber belfry in the apex of the roof at the west end of the nave containing two bells, $20\frac{1}{2}$ and $25\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter respectively, hung for ringing.

The larger bell, which has the higher strike-note and ranks as the treble, is inscribed :—

CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS
LONDON 1858 / (*Royal Arms.*) / PATENT

The smaller bell, a much thinner casting, with a strike-note approximately a semi-tone below the other bell, bears the inscription :—

WILLIAM TOPPING C W (*Floral Scroll.*)
W B MA M 1710

The latter is intended for "William Topping Church Warden. William Bagley made me 1710."

Preserved in the church is a small sanctus bell, $10\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter ; it bears no inscription but has two geometrical devices cutting into the moulding wires below its shoulder. These devices are illustrated in Figs. J10 and J11, and the bell is illustrated in Fig. 14. Two of its canons are missing, and judged by its shape the bell dates from between 1660 and 1700. It is fitted with an elm headstock, drive-in type gudgeons, and nailed and keyed iron-work.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 2 gret belles, 2 handebelles and a sacring bell.*

At Cottisford House, the residence of Sir Robert and Lady Brooke-Popham, is a bell, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, with peg-type argent and no canons, which was brought by them from Bagborough Park, near Taunton, Somersetshire. It is inscribed with the date "1668" in numerals which resemble those used by the Purdues, and having the flat-topped "8" so frequently found on their products.

Visited : F.S., 1932-1949.

74.

COWLEY.**St. Alban.**

An open western turret containing one bell, hung "dead," and fitted with elm "deadstock" and chiming hammer. The bell was hung *circa* 1934.

Visited : A.R.P., F.S., 30th October, 1948.

75.

COWLEY.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital Chapel.

At present the chapel does not possess a bell, but the building is medieval, and there is evidence in the masonry of an opening below the apex of the western gable that it formerly possessed one.

Visited : A.R.P., F.S., 30th October, 1948.

76.

COWLEY.

St. Francis Church Hall.

An open western turret containing one bell hung for ringing. The bell is of nineteenth century shape, with rounded canons of the Whitechapel pattern ; it is fitted with an elm headstock, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, and a second-hand wheel of the traditional type. The Whitechapel foundry records state that a bell, 22 inches in diameter, was supplied by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank to St. Francis Church Hall in 1930, but the present bell and fittings appear to be much older.

Visited : F.S., November, 1948.

77.

COWLEY.

St. James.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 32 inches diameter, in B ; and a sanctus bell, 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt.Qrs.Lbs. |
|---------|--|--------------|
| Treble. | + REMEMBER 1939-1945. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE. (<i>Obverse and reverse of a half-crown.</i>) / 19(<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) ⁴⁹ / MEARS & STAINBANK. | 2 3 20 |
| Second. | DANIEL WHITE. WALTER DAY. CHURCH = WARDENS (<i>Fig. P₅.</i>) / E : HEMINS FECIT. J738 (<i>Fig. P₅, six times.</i>) / 19(<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) ⁴⁹ / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK. | 3 0 21 |
| Third. | DANIEL WHITE. WALTAR ¹ DAY. CHURCH = WARDENS (<i>Fig. P₅, twice.</i>) / EDWARD HEMINS (<i>Fig. P₅.</i>) FECIT. J738 (<i>Fig. P₅, six times.</i>) / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK 1949. | 3 2 22 |

¹ Sic.

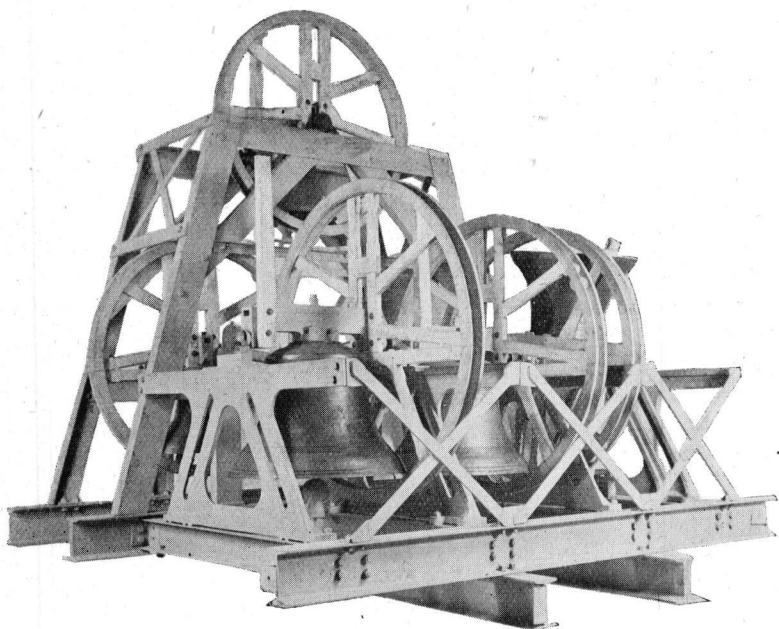


Photo :

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

Fig. 13. Cowley St. James. The ring of six bells in composite cast iron and steel two-tier frame by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, 1949. The tenor is nearest the camera ; the treble occupies the upper tier ; the third and fourth are inverted for ringing ; the gear is type H.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Fourth. | (<i>Fig. N9.</i>) BENEDICTA SIT SANCTA TRINITAS (<i>Fig. P5, three times.</i>) / Ed : HEMINS : FECIT SEPTEMBER 3. 1739 (<i>Fig. P5, six times.</i>) / 19(<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) ⁴⁹ / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK. | 4 1 12 |
| Fifth. | 1693 / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK. 1949. | 5 0 2 |
| Tenor. | WILL TERRELL 1694 C.W. IAMES WHIT ¹ / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / RECAST BY MEARS AND STAINBANK. 1949. | 5 3 3 |

A ring of six from the Whitechapel foundry. The five largest were cast from the metal of former bells, and a treble added to make six, in 1949. The lettering on the old bells has been reproduced on their successors, but the spacing of the inscriptions and the number of ornaments on the new bells differ slightly from those on their predecessors.

The gear, type H, and the composite cast iron and steel two-tier frame are illustrated in Fig. 13. The saunce, by Richard Keene, dated "1691," is at present unhung.

Details of the former ring of five bells.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Treble. | DANIEL WHITE. WALTER DAY. CHURCH = WARDENS (<i>Fig. N9.</i>) E : HEMINS FECIT J738 (<i>Fig. P5, five times.</i>) | 3 0 1 |
| Second. | DANIEL WHITE. WALTAR ¹ DAY. CHURCH = WARDENS (<i>Fig. N9.</i>) EDWARD HEMINS FECIT J738 (<i>Fig. P5, five times.</i>) | 3 1 12 |
| Third. | (<i>Fig. N9.</i>) BENEDICTA SIT SANCTA TRINITAS (<i>Fig. P5, four times.</i>) Ed: HEMINS : FECIT SEPTEMBER 3. 1739 (<i>Fig. P5, five times.</i>) | 3 1 22 |
| Fourth. | 1693 | 4 0 27 |
| Tenor. | IAMES WHIT ¹ WILL TERRELL C W 1694 | 6 0 4 |

¹ *Sic.*

The first three bells were by Edward Hemins ; the remainder on evidence of lettering and mouldings, were by Richard Keene. They hung in an oak frame, and were not in good order when visited by the author in 1932.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 3 belles and a saunc bell.*

Visited : F.S., 22nd October, 1932, 20th September, 1949.

78.

COWLEY.

St. Luke.

A north-western tower containing a chime of four bells†, of which the first three are hung "dead" and sounded by means of electrically operated chiming hammers, and the largest hung for ringing and swung by means of an electric motor. Above the vestry roof is a sanctus bell, hung for chiming.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Treble. | GILLETT & JOHNSTON, FOUNDERS, 1938. / CROYDON, ENGLAND. / CFJ / 6930 / 1 | 6 0 2 |
| Second. | (<i>Same as treble, but with pattern No.</i> 5994/3) | 7 1 10 |
| Third. | (<i>The same, but with pattern No.</i> 5932/5) | 10 2 14 |
| Tenor. | GILLETT & JOHNSTON, FOUNDERS. / CROYDON, ENGLAND. / CFJ / 5933 / MAY EVERY TONGUE BENEATH THE SKY / SEND FORTH SO SWEET A SOUND AS I / AND PRAISE THE LORD CONTINUALLY. / 1938. / 8 | 24 0 7 |

These bells were cast at the Croydon foundry ; their strike-notes are E♭, C, A♭ and E♭, and they are tuned to form the treble, third, fifth and tenor of a future ring of eight. The diameter of the tenor is 50½ inches.

The saunce¹ was supplied in 1934 by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank to St. James' Hall, where it did duty for four years before being moved to its present position. Its strike-note is D natural and it weighs 4 cwt. 3 qrs. 12 lbs.

Visited : A.R.P., F.S., 30th October, 1948.

¹ The author is indebted to Mr. A. R. Pink for particulars of this bell.

79.

COWLEY.**SS. Mary and John.**

A western tower containing one bell of late nineteenth century date, 14 inches in diameter, hung for ringing, and inscribed with its makers' names :—

J. WARNER & SONS LONDON

In an opening on the east gable of the nave hangs a disused sanctus bell, inaccessible without scaffolding. When viewed from the churchyard the bell appears old, having three narrow mouldings round its shoulder, and is much chipped at the lip.

Visited : A.R.P., F.S., 30th October, 1948.

80.

CRAWLEY.**St. Peter.**

One bell, 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, inscribed with the date :—
1812

Visited : L.H.C., 6th August, 1920.

81.

CROPREDY.**St. Mary.**

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, in E ; and a sanctus bell, 19 inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Treble. | CANTATE (<i>Fig. Ag.</i>) DOMINO (<i>Fig. Ag.</i>) CANTICVM (<i>Fig. Ag.</i>) NOVVM (<i>Fig. Ag.</i>) / WILLIAM (<i>Fig. Ag.</i>) BAGLEY (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) MADE (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) MEE (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) 1690 (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) | 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Second. | WILLIAM (<i>Fig. Ag.</i>) BAGLEY (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) MADE (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) MEE (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) 1686 (<i>Fig. Ag.</i>) | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Third. | MATHEW (<i>Fig. Ag.</i>) BAGLEY (<i>Fig. Ag.</i>) MADE (<i>Fig. Ag.</i>) MEE (<i>Fig. Ag.</i>) 1689 (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) | 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Fourth. | FEAR (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) GOD (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) AND (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) HONOR (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) THE (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) KING (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) 1689 (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Fifth. | RICHARD (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) HICHMAN (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) SOLAMAN (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) HOVSE (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) IOHN (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) HVNT (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) IOHN (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) HASLOR (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) C(<i>Fig. Fl.</i>)W (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) 1689 (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) / (<i>Double band of Fig. Ag.</i>) | 11½ |
| Tenor. | CALCOTT (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) CHAMBERS (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) OF (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) WILLSCOTE (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) GENT (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) GAVE (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) MEE (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) 1689 (<i>Fig. Fl.</i>) / (<i>Band of Fig. Fl.</i>) / (<i>Royal Arms.</i>) | 16 |
| Saunce. | 307I EEM EDAM YELGAB MAILLIW | 1½ |

All the bells were cast at the Chacombe foundry ; the tenor is a very fine-toned bell.

The ring hangs in a cast iron side-pattern frame with pits for eight bells, installed in 1913 by Messrs. Warner ; the fittings of the first five bells, type B, are also by them ; those of the tenor, type E, were recently renewed by the Loughborough foundry.

The saunce alone retains its canons, and is hung for chiming : its inscription was not reversed in the cope, or outer mould, prior to casting, and consequently reads backwards.

In an open bellframe standing in the garden of the School House adjoining Great Bourton and Cropredy School is a bell, 14 inches in diameter, 11 inches high from lip to crown, with canons 3 inches high plus argent, and strike-note approximately D natural, hung for chiming : it was cast by Robert Newcombe III, and Bartholomew Atton, and bears the inscription :—

OXON / (*Cross, Fig. D15.*) GEORG (*Fig. P4.*) CHAMBRE (*Fig. P6.*) OF (*Fig. P6.*)
WILLIAMSKOT (*Fig. P6.*) / 1588

Owing to the crown-staple rusting away the clapper has been wired in ; and in consequence of not having been quarter-turned and of being chimed a considerable amount the bell is badly worn in one place ; one canon is broken. The gear dates from the nineteenth century ; and comprises an elm headstock, in which is the mortice hole where a former lever was secured, drive-in type gudgeons, and stock-hoops ; a clumsy modern lever has been nailed to the top of the headstock. The bell was probably cast for Williamscoote School.

George Chambre married Judith, the daughter and sole heir of Walter Calcott ; the latter built Williamscothe House, *circa* 1560, and built and endowed a school there in 1572. Calcott Chambers, whose name appears on the tenor bell at Cropredy, was the son of George and Judith.¹

Visited : F.S., 20th April, 1929, 10th April, 1948.

82.

CROWELL.**St. Mary.**

A bell cote containing one bell ; which, according to Mr. L. H. Chambers, was recast some time before 1928. Mr. A. D. Tyssen noted that the former bell was by Ellis Knight, and dated 1642.

83.

CROWMARSH GIFFORD.**St. Mary Magdalene.**

A western tower containing eight tubular "bells," which according to *Kelly's Directory* were presented in memory of Henry Bertie Watkin Williams Wynn, D.L., J.P., late of Howbery Park, who died 4th October, 1895.

In the Tyssen MS. at the Society of Antiquaries Library it is stated that formerly there were two bells, 20 and 24 inches in diameter respectively, by Park and Chapman, of London, each bearing merely the date :—

1776

6 Edw. VI. *Item 2 belles in the steple.*

84.

CUDDESDON.**All Saints.**

A central tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 44½ inches diameter, in F ; and a sanctus bell, 13 inches in diameter.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|---------|--|------|------|------|
| Treble. | THE GIFT OF DR. E. SMALLWELL BPT OF OXFORD & Co. IOHN BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT AN : DOM : 1795. | 5 | 2 | 0½ |

¹ *Visitation of the County of Oxford*, Harleian Society, Vol. V, 1871, p. 150 ; and T. Warton, *History of Kiddlington*, 1815, p. 43.

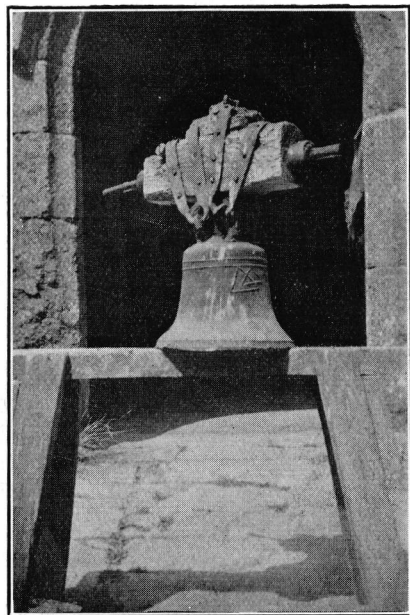


Fig. 14. The saunce at Cottisford,
cast by an unknown founder
circa 1660-1700.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Second. | + HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE X6X7 | 6 1 0† |
| Third. | + HENRX KNXGHT MADE THXS BELL X6X7 | 7 0 0† |
| Fourth. | + HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE ANO X6X7 | 8 0 0† |
| Fifth. | G. MEARS & CO. FOUNDERS LONDON 1863 | 9 3 19 |
| Tenor. | (Same as fifth.) | 14 2 16 |
| Saunce. | 1748 | 2 0† |

The treble is by J. Briant ; the fifth, tenor and saunce are from the Whitechapel foundry, and the remainder by Henry Knight I. All except the third have been quarter-turned.

The former fifth was dated 1677, and the former tenor 1709.¹

The oak frame dating from the seventeenth century was renovated in 1949 by Messrs. R. White and Son, who then rehung the treble, fifth and tenor with new gear, type E. The fittings of the remaining bells, type C, date from the last century.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 4 belles and 1 litle bell. Item 2 handbells.*

7 Edw. VI. *Item 4 gret belles and one lyttle belle.*

Visited : F.S., 17th May, 1924, 28th May, 1949.

85.

CULHAM.

St. Paul.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 31½ inches diameter in C ; and a sanctus bell, 12 inches in diameter.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| Treble. | M & S. LONDON. (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / 1921. | 2 2 2 |
| Second. | M & S. LONDON. (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / B. B. WOOLRYCH, VICAR. / G. MITCHELL, T. WILLIAMS, } CHURCHWARDENS. / 1921. | 2 2 24 |
| Third. | M & S. LONDON. (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / RECAST 1921. | 3 0 1 |

¹ Walters' MS., Society of Antiquaries Library, and Kellys' *Directory*.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt. Qrs. Lbs.</i> |
|--------------|--|-----------------------|
| Fourth. | M & S. LONDON. (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / CAST 1729, RECAST 1921. | 3 2 8 |
| Fifth. | MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / CAST 1597, RECAST 1921. | 5 0 3 |
| Tenor. | M & S. LONDON, 1926. (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / IN MEMORY OF / G. H. GILLAM, VICAR. / FROM HIS SON ARTHUR. | 6 3 8 |
| Saunce. | I * WAS * CAST * BY * EDNE * WITTS * OF * ALBORNE ¹ * ANNO * DOMMI ¹ * 1774 (<i>Two rosettes.</i>) | 2 0½ |

The ring is by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank : the treble and second have traditional-type canons ; the remainder have "Doncaster-pattern" heads.

The eighteenth century oak frame with anti-clockwise rope circle was altered and enlarged in 1921 by Mr. R. White. The gear, type A, is also by him.

The saunce hangs in the south window of the belfry ; it has eighteenth century gear including keyed ironwork, and is hung for chiming. The inscription occurs above the sound-bow, and below the shoulder angle is a series of narrow mouldings. It is the only bell known to campanologists to bear the name of Edne Wills, assistant to Robert Wells I, and a noted Aldbourne ringer.²

Prior to 1921 the ring comprised three bells ; of which the treble bore no inscription but could be identified as an Aldbourne bell by a series of narrow mouldings below its shoulder ; the second had the same type mouldings, and above the sound-bow "IOHN COR 1729 (*Ornament.*)" ; the tenor was by Joseph Carter, and inscribed :—

This bell Was Made 1597 (Coin.) i(Fig. D5.)c

These bells were recast in 1921 when two smaller ones were added to make a ring of five : the present tenor was added five years later.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 3 belles and a sanctus bell yn the steple. Item oon sacryng bell.*

Visited : H.B.W., 30th July, 1919 ; F.S., 3rd January, 1948.

¹ *Sic.*

² H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Wiltshire*, 1927, p. 312, and peal tablets in the belfry at Aldbourne.

86.

CURBRIDGE.**St. John the Baptist.**

An open south-eastern turret containing one bell, weighing *circa* $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., hung for chiming. The bell retains its canons and is fitted with a wrought iron headstock and lever. It is inscribed :—

REVD: C: JERRAM RECTOR. / 1836.

There may be a further portion of the inscription which cannot be seen owing to the bell's inaccessible position.

Visited : F.S., 16th April, 1949.

87.

CUXHAM.**The Holy Rood.**

A western tower containing two bells, 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches and 24 inches in diameter respectively, hung for ringing ; and a sanctus bell, 11 inches in diameter, hung for chiming.

The saunce bears merely the date "1713" and may be by the Corrs of Aldbourne : there is a similar bell at Little Kimble, Buckinghamshire.¹

The largest bell is from the Reading foundry and inscribed :—

ELLIS AND HENRY KNIGHT MADE
MEE / 1675

The other bell bears no inscription, but judged by its shape may be assigned to the early years of the eighteenth century.

All have keyed and nailed ironwork, elm headstocks, drive gudgeons, and brass bearings ; the largest bell has a wheel of the traditional pattern, but that on the treble is of unorthodox type and probably the work of some local wheelwright. The two largest have false crown-staples ; the tenor has a stirrup-topped clapper with iron baldrick copse, and hardwood splints.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 2 belles.*

Visited : F.S., 21st August, 1948.

¹ A. H. Cocks, *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 1897, p. 266.

J. Smart & Co.,
Printers, Brackley, Northants.