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THE
CHURCH BELLS OF
OXFORDSHIRE

VOLUME IV.

BY

FREDERICK SHARPE

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NOTE.

For an explanation of the procedure followed in describing the bells see Volume I (Oxfordshire Record Society's Volume XXVIII), pp. 5—8.

THE
CHURCH BELLS OF OXFORDSHIRE

By

FREDERICK SHARPE.

VOLUME IV.

246.   **PIDDINGTON.**

St. Nicholas.

A western tower containing a ring of five bells ; tenor 36 inches diameter, in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	THE GIFT OF MRS. CHARLES BROWN / JUBILEE 1887 / REV. THOMAS IVENS VICAR / LLEWELINS & JAMES / BRISTOL	4
Second.	THE GIFT OF MRS. CHARLES BROWN / JUBILEE 1887 / F. WHITE & SONS BELLHANGERS APPLETON / THOMAS BROWN / THOMAS MAY ⎰ CHURCHWARDENS / LLEWELINS & JAMES / BRISTOL	4½
Third.	THIS BELL WAS RECAST AND THE WHOLE PEAL[1] REHUNG / AT THE EXPENSE OF MRS. CHARLES BROWN / IN THE JUBILEE YEAR OF QUEEN VICTORIA / 1887 / LLEWELINS & JAMES / BRISTOL	5
Fourth.	BENEDICTA SIT SANCTA TRINITAS (*Fig. P5, six times.*) / IOHN WALKER. IOHN LOWE. CHURCH = WARDENS. 1738. Ed: HEMINS FECIT (*Fig. N9.*)	6
Tenor.	WILLIAM : SHAW. IOHN : HONOR. CHURCH = WARDENS (*Fig. P5, four times.*) / EDWARD : HEMINS. BISSITER. FECIT. 1729 (*Fig. P5, six times.*)	8

The three smallest bells were cast at the Bristol foundry ; the two largest at the Bicester foundry. The treble and second were added to the ring in 1887.

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[1] *Sic.*

The bells hang in a sixteenth-century type frame, originally made with pits for four bells. Although there were only three bells in the tower before 1887 the frame had contained four at some time. The gear, type C, is by Messrs. F. White and Sons, who added one additional pit to the frame.

The predecessor of the third, which before 1887 was the treble of the old ring of three bells, was cast at the Drayton Parslow foundry, and, like the former bells at Launton, bore the date:[1]

1701

6 Edw. VI. *Item 3 smale belles in the steple. Item a scantis*[2] *bell and 2 hand belles.*

Visited : F.S., 1923—1951.

247.   PISHILL.

(*Dedication unknown.*)

The church possesses an open western turret containing one bell. The writer has not examined it but in the Walters' MS.[3] is a note stating that the bell was cast by Messrs. J. Warner and Sons, of London, and erected on 9th January, 1911, at a cost of £4.2s.9d., and that its predecessor is said to have been also by Messrs. Warner.

The inventory of 1552 states : *Item 2 small belles in the steple.*

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

248.   PYRTON.

St. Mary.

An open western turret containing three bells, cast by Henry Knight I, of Reading. The smallest, 14 inches in diameter, is the saunce : the other two are large for turret bells, the treble being $27\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, in C$\sharp$, and the tenor $29\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, in B.

The writer has not personally examined these bells, and is greatly indebted to Mr. Richard White for supplying information about them. Mr. White rehung the bells in 1947. They are inscribed as follows :

Treble	+	Henri	Knight	Made	This	Bell	1606
Tenor.	+	Henri	Knight	Made	Mee	1605	
Saunce.	H	K	1593				

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[1] Note by the Rev. T. A. Turner, *circa* 1880. Walters' *MS.*, Society of Antiquaries Library.

[2] *Sic.*

[3] Walters' *MS.*, fol. 240. Society of Antiquaries Library.

Transcripts of entries in the churchwardens' accounts relating to the bells were published in the Oxfordshire Record Society's Volume for 1925, from which we learn, *inter alia*, that the "great bell" was cast at Buckingham in 1548[1] This entry refers to the predecessor of the tenor.

249. RAMSDEN.

St. James.

A north-western tower, containing a ring of three bells ; tenor 25 inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	J. WARNER & SONS LONDON 1872 / (*Royal Arms.*) / PATENT	2
Second.	(*Same as treble.*)	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Tenor.	CAST BY J. WARNER & SONS LONDON 1872 / (*Royal Arms.*) / PATENT	$3\frac{1}{4}$

A complete ring by Messrs. Warner. The oak frame dates from 1872, and the gear is similar to type C but without stays and sliders.

Visited : F.S., 27th October, 1934.

250. ROLLRIGHT, GREAT.

St. Andrew.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 38 inches diameter, in A♭.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	H. BOND & SONS, FOUNDERS, BURFORD. OXON 1899. / IN MEMORY OF MARY GUEST WILLIAMS. / QUAM DELECTA.[2]	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Second.	TAYLOR BELLFOUNDER OXFORD 1839	4
Third.	WILLIAM BAGLEY MAⒹE[2] MEE 1696 (*Flat moulding.*)	$4\frac{3}{4}$

[1] F. W. Weaver and G. N. Clark, *Churchwardens' Accounts of* . . *Pyrton* O.R.S., 1925, pp. 67, 68 and 93.
[2] *Sic.*

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Fourth.	WILLIAM BAGLEY (*Fig. A11.*) MAdE[1] MEE (*Fig. F1.*) 1695 (*Fig. F1.*)	5½
Fifth.	WILLIAM (*Fig. F1.*) BAGLEY (*Fig. F1.*) MADE (*Fig. F1.*) MEE (*Fig. F1.*) 1695 (*Fig F1.*)	7½
Tenor.	IAMES (*Fig. A11.*) BERRY (*Fig. F1.*) AND (*Fig. A9.*) RICHARD (*Fig. A11.*) BECKETT (*Fig. F1.*) CHVRCH WARDENS (*Fig. F1.*) 1695 (*Fig. A11.*)	10

The treble was added to the ring in 1899 by Messrs. Bond. The second was recast at the Oxford foundry in 1839. The remainder are by William Bagley, of Chacombe.

As Bagley's bell catalogue, published in 1732, states that five bells were supplied for this church, the predecessor of the second must also have been a product of the Chacombe foundry.

All the bells have lost their canons. They hang in a frame consisting of one set of rolled steel joists, having no foundation, no diagonal bracing, and no side members.

An interesting account of life in Great Rollright in mid-Victorian days, told in verse, was published by Montague J. Rendall, in 1946, and entitled : *The Bells of Great Rollright.*

Visited : F.S., 7th July, 1929.

251.   **ROLLRIGHT, LITTLE.**

St. Philip.

A western tower containing one bell, cast at the Chacombe foundry, and inscribed :

ROBERT : FOWLER : CHVRCH :
ᴧARDEN[1] : MATTHEW : BAGLEY :
MᵥDE[1] : ME : 1762 :-:

The writer has not seen this bell ; it was examined in September, 1908, by H. B. Walters, who supplied the foregoing details.

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[1] *Sic.*

252.   **ROTHERFIELD GREYS.**

(Dedication unknown.)

An enclosed turret containing a ring of three bells ; tenor 32 inches in diameter, in B.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	✠ 𝕳𝕬𝕴 𝕸𝕬𝕽𝕴 𝕱𝖁𝕴 𝕺𝕱 𝕲𝕽𝕬𝕾 𝖂𝕶	4
Second.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE x620 ◇	4¾
Tenor.	*(Same as second.)*	6

The treble was cast by William Knight II, *circa* 1576, and is similar to the treble at Letcombe Basset, Berkshire.[1] The inscription is intended for : "HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE." The initial cross is Fig. N7. In the Rotherfield Greys example a figure of a bird is used four times as a word stop, a feature not found at Letcombe Bassett. The second and tenor are by Henry Knight I.

The ring hangs in a two-tier oak frame. The lower tier contains the two largest bells and dates from the seventeenth century. Much of the gear, type A, is of the same age. The treble has a stirrup-topped clapper with a long flight.

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

Visited : A.H.C., 25th July, 1885 ; F.S., 22nd March, 1952.

253.   **ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD.**

All Saints.

A western tower containing a chime of three bells ; tenor 29¼ inches diameter, in C.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	*(Lion's head, Fig. F2.)* *(Trefoil, Fig. F5.)* *(Coin, Fig. Q3.)*	3	3	21
Second.	*(As treble, but see below.)*	4	1	18
Tenor.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE x62x	4	2	14

The treble is a bell of modern shape and design, with flanged-headed canons : it was recast in 1908 by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., who reproduced in facsimile the founders' marks formerly on its predecessor.

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[1] *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal,* Vol. XLVII., 1943, p. 1, Figs. 94 and 95, and Plate XIII.

The second is a mid-fourteenth century bell from the Woking-ham foundry. Its canons are intact ; it has a long waist, and a narrow flat moulding above the inscription.

The tenor is by Henry Knight I. Its inscription is formed in "sheet-metal" type, and the letter "N" is reversed.

The bells are sounded by the method known as "clocking"; the clappers are operated from an "Ellacombe" chiming manual having spaces for six ropes.

6 Edw. VI. *Item three bells in the steple.*

Visited : M.L.S., F.S., 11th March, 1946.

254.   **ROUSHAM.**

St. James.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor $36\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	1 6 7 5	$3\frac{3}{4}$
Second.	EX DONO ROBERTI DORMER ARMIGER (*Border, Fig. A1.*) 1675 (*Fig. A1.*)	$4\frac{1}{4}$
Third.	1 6 7 5	$4\frac{3}{4}$
Fourth.	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1825 (*Loop border, Fig. G11.*)	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Fifth.	RICHARD KEENE CAST THIS RING 1675	7
Tenor.	THOMAS MARTEN WILLIAM DADWELL C W 1675	$8\frac{1}{2}$

A ring of six cast by Richard Keene, of Woodstock, of which the fourth has been recast at the Whitechapel foundry. Sir Robert Dormer, the donor of the second, was born in 1649 and died in 1726.[1]

The bells hang in a cast-iron side-pattern frame, installed in 1933 by Thomas Bond, of Burford, who also supplied the gear, type J, and removed the canons from all the bells.

The former oak bell-frame was constructed in two tiers, and dated from the seventeenth century. The treble and second were hung in the upper tier.

Visited : F.S., 2nd May, 1929, and later.

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[1] *D.N.B.,* XV., 249.

255.   **RYCOTE.**

St. Michael and All Angels.

(A private chapel in the parish of Great Haseley.)

The chapel was visited on 19th October, 1892, by the Rev. T. A. Turner. He states that the western tower then contained one bell, cast by Ellis Knight I, hung for ringing with elm headstock and half-wheel, and inscribed :[1]

> PRAYES THE LORD ALL YE THAT
> LOVE HIM / 1636

256.   **SALFORD.**

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of five bells ; tenor 34½ inches in diameter, in B♭.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	*(Border, Fig. U7, all round bell.)* / *(Border, Fig. A9, all round bell.)* / CANTATE ꟼOMINO[2] CANTICVM NOVVM[2] *(Coin.)* 1687 *(Coin.)* / *(Nine coins.)*	3¼
Second.	HENRY *(Fig. A9.)* BAGLY[2] *(Fig. A9.)* MADE *(Fig. A9.)* MEE *(Fig. A9.)* 1687 *(Fig. A9.)*	3¾
Third.	*(Border, Fig. A9, all round bell.)* / MATTHEW *(Fig. A9.)* BAGLEY *(Fig. A9.)* MADE *(Fig. A9.)* MEE *(Fig. A9.)* 1687 *(Fig. A9.)*	4¼
Fourth.	*(Border, Fig. A9, all round bell.)* / GOD *(Fig. V13.)* SAVE *(Fig. V13.)* THE *(Fig. V13.)* KING *(Fig. V13.)* 1687 *(Fig. V13.)* / *(Two coins.)* *(Seven coins.)*	5
Tenor.	IOHN *(Fig. U12.)* WHEELER *(Fig. U12.)* AND *(Fig. U12.)* RICHARD *(Fig. U12.)* PHILLPS[2] *(Fig. U12.)* CHVRCHWARDENS *(Fig. A9.)* 1687 *(Fig. U12.)* / *(Border, Fig. U7, all round bell.)* / *(Seven coins.)*	7½

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[1] Walters' *MS.*, fol. 248. Society of Antiquaries Library.

[2] *Sic.*

A complete ring by Henry Bagley II and Matthew Bagley 1. Later in the year 1687 they dissolved partnership ; Henry migrated to Ecton, Matthew to Evesham, and the Chacombe foundry was left in the hands of their youngest brother, William.

Two canons are missing from the treble ; one canon is missing and a large hole has been drilled in the crown of the second ; the remaining five canons on this bell are cabled. Throughout the inscriptions the letter "N" is reversed.

The ring hangs in an oak frame and is fitted with early nineteenth century gear, type A.

Visited : F.S., 5th February, 1949.

257.   SANDFORD-ON-THAMES.

St. Andrew.

A western tower containing three bells ; tenor 26 inches in diameter; and a sanctus bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	prayſe ye the lorde ✛ J ✛ c 1592	2½
Second.	B ꝺ Ƕ ꝺ Ʈ Ᵽ ꝺ b o ſ	3¼
Tenor.	THIS BELL WAS MADE 1606 i ✛ c	3¾

There is at present no permanent means of access to these bells, and the writer has not examined them. The above details were derived from notes made by Dr. A. T. Tyssen, *circa* 1880, who stated also that the saunce bore no inscription, that the treble was cracked, that he considered the second to be a product of the Reading foundry dating from the Reformation period and that the first letter of its inscription may be an "R".[1]

When the writer visited the church he noticed *two* bell-ropes hanging from the ceiling of the lowest stage of the tower ; and Mr. R. White, the bellhanger, has since confirmed that the bells mentioned by Tyssen are still there.

7 Edw. VI. *Item 2 belles and a saunce bell.*

Visited : A.D.T., *circa* 1880. F.S., 28th February, 1950.

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[1] Tyssen *MS.*, 37, fol. 3. Society of Antiquaries Library.

258.   **SANDFORD-ST.-MARTIN.**

St. Martin.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor $37\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, in A ; and a sanctus bell, $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / PRAISE THE LORD. / 1871.	3	2	18
Second.	IAMES ✿ KEENE ✿ ✿ MADE ✿ ✿ ME ✿ 1630 ✿	4	1	o‡
Third.	(Border, Fig. B10, all round bell.) / (Ornament.) NATHANIEL (Ornament.) BOLTER (Ornament.) 1629 (Border, Fig. B10.)	4	3	o‡
Fourth.	HVMFRE KEENE (Fig. H3.) (Ornament.) 1629 (Ornament.) (Fig. B10.) / (Border, Fig. B10 all round bell.)	5	2	o‡
Fifth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1871.	7	0	7
Tenor.	I K ✿ ✿ 1680 ✿	9	0	o‡

The treble was added to the ring in 1871, and like the fifth was cast at the Whitechapel foundry. No details of the predecessor of the fifth[1] are known to the writer.

The second and tenor are by James Keene. The fleur-de-lys in each instance is Fig. A2. The figure 3 on the tenor is upside down.

The third and fourth are unique castings by Nathaniel Bolter and Humphrey Keene, who used the Buckingham foundry plant and moulding stamps for this purpose. Bolter was an assistant at the Buckingham foundry; he afterwards became an itinerant bell-founder, and finally settled down as an assistant to the Purdues, of Salisbury. Humphrey Keene was the father of James, and it seems likely that James may have been absent from Woodstock in 1629 and that Humphrey called in Bolter to help in executing an urgent order. Later in 1629 we find Bolter at work on his own account at Bampton and elsewhere.[2]

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[1] Before 1871 this bell was the fourth of a ring of five.

[2] See *O.R.S.*, Vol. XXVIII, p. 28, and the Berkshire Archaeological Journal, Vol. XLVI., p. 67.

All the bells have had their strike-notes sharpened, and, in addition, the second, third and fourth have had some of their partial-tones flattened. All have lost their canons.

The bells hang in a wrought iron side-pattern frame and have gear, type J. The frame and gear were installed by Mr. F. Webb, in 1914.

In the south-west corner of the belfry is the saunce, which is hung for chiming. It was cast by Richard Keene, and bears the date :

<div align="center">1695</div>

Visited : F.S., 18th May, 1932 ; G.G., F.S., 3rd February, 1952.

259.   **SARSDEN.**

St. James.

An open turret over the north transept contains one bell, 24½ inches in diameter, hung for chiming. It was cast by Richard Keene and is inscribed in his well-known lettering :

<div align="center">IOHN MANSELL C W 1682</div>

Visited : H.B.W., 1923.

260.   **SHELSWELL.**

The parish church, dedicated to St. Ebba, fell into decay and ruin in the seventeenth century.[1] It formerly possessed two bells.

In the clock turret of Shelswell House stables is a bell, 19½ inches in diameter, cast by Lester and Pack, of the Whitechapel foundry, and inscribed with the date :

<div align="center">J757</div>

The bell is fitted with an elm headstock, strap gudgeons, nineteenth century type clapper and clock hammer. It retains its canons.

Visited : F.S., 2nd October, 1941.

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[1] *Oxford Archdeaconry Papers*, c. 98, fol. 134, "There is an old chapel but no services held within the memory of man." 1740. *Ibid*, d. 13, fol. 34, "Chapel decayed and gone to ruin." 1757.
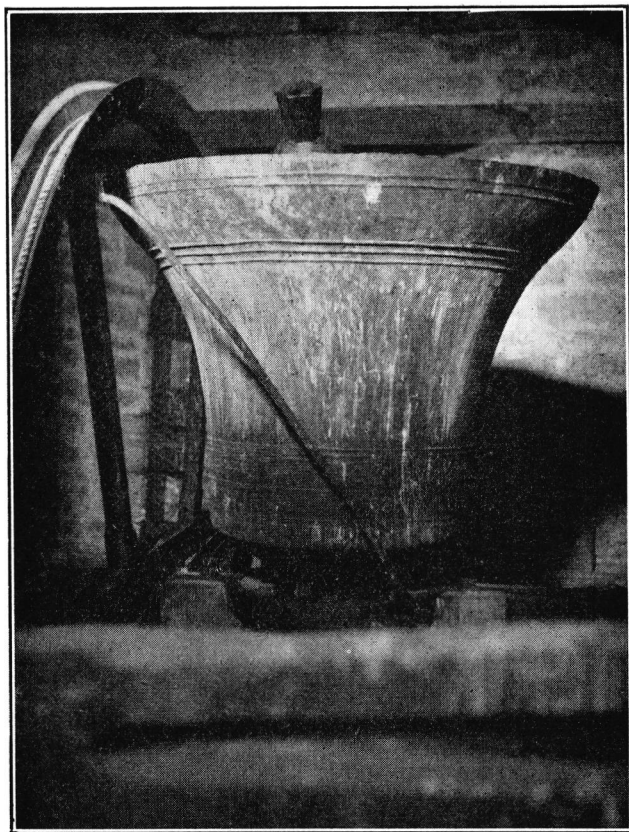
Fig. 48.   The fourth bell of the ring of five at Pidding-
ton, cast by Edward Hemins, of Bicester, 1738.

261.　　　　　　**SHENNINGTON.**

The Holy Trinity.

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

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	(*Ornament, Fig. B8, all round bell ; and again below inverted.*) / CANTATE (*Fig. B9, inverted.*) DOMINO (*Fig. B10.*) CANTICVM (*Fig. B10.*) NOVVM (*Fig. B10.*) 1678 (*Border, Fig. B10.*)	4½
Second.	ANN (*Border, Fig. B10.*) DOCHEN (*Border, Fig. B10.*) 1678 (*Border, Fig. B10.*)	5½
Third.	(*Borders : Figs. B10 and B8.*) HENRICVS (*Fig. B10.*) BAGLEY (*Fig. B10.*) ME (*Fig. B10.*) FECIT (*Fig. B10.*) 1678	6¼
Fourth.	PR♥YSE[1] (*Fig. B10.*) YE (*Fig. B10.*) THE (*Fig. B10.*) LORD (*Fig. B10.*) 1678 (*Borders : Figs. B10 and B8.*)	7½
Tenor.	FRANCIS (*Fig. B8.*) ROBINS (*Fig. B8.*) AND (*Fig. B8.*) IOHN (*Fig. B8.*) ORTEN (*Fig. B8.*) CHVRCHWARDENS (*Fig. B8*) 1678 (*Figs. B7 and B8.*)	9½

A complete ring by Henry Bagley I. The bells were rehung with gear, type J, in a composite rolled-steel and cast-iron frame by Thomas Bond, of Burford, *circa* 1926.

Visited : F.S., 29th March, 1948.

262.　　　　　　**SHIFFORD.**

St. Mary.

A western turret containing two bells, hung for chiming.

The turret is inaccessible without the use of scaling ladders or scaffolding, neither of which are obtainable locally. The bells were therefore inspected through field-glasses.

The smaller bell dates from the thirteenth century ; it is similar in shape to the early thirteenth century examples at Caversfield and Kencot already described.[1] No inscription was visible on this bell when viewed from the ground through the field-glasses.

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[1] See pp. 73 and 183.

The larger bell bears the date :

1685

followed by "H ALLEN", probably the name of a churchwarden, and other wording which is concealed by the masonry of the turret. The bells appears to be similar to the products of the Burford foundry.

Visited : F.S., April, 1950.

263.   **SHILTON.**

The Holy Rood.

A western tower containing a ring of three bells ; tenor $29\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, in C$\sharp$; and a sanctus bell, $13\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	R KILMASTER J GILLET[1] CHURCHWARDENS A D 1854	3
Second.	ROBERT KILMASTER JOHN GILLETT CHURCHWARDENS	4
Tenor.	ROBERT KILMASTER JOHN GILLETT CHURCHWARDENS A D 1854	5

The bells have moulded canons and are probably the work of Henry Bond, of Westcote. They hang in an eighteenth century oak frame, of which the main braces of the tenor pit are reversed. The bellrope "circle" is anti-clockwise. The gear is type C ; and there is an "Ellacombe" chiming apparatus, now derelict.

The saunce is hung for chiming between the eastern jamb and centre mullion of the north window of the belfry, and is difficult to examine. It was cast by Henry Bagley III, and bears the inscription :

GILES HALL WILLIAM LAY H B MA ME 1730

Writing in the eighteenth century, Browne Willis mentions *2 bells* ; and the 1732 edition of Bagley's bell catalogue states that the Chacombe foundry had supplied *2 bells* for Shilton. As saunce bells are not included in Bagley's catalogue it follows that two bells in the former ring were cast by him.

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

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[1] *Sic.*

264.   **SHIPLAKE.**

SS. Peter and Paul.

A western tower containing a ring of eight bells ; tenor 40 inches in diameter, in F♯.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LTD. LONDON 1902.	3	2	13
Second.	(Same as treble.)	4	0	9
Third.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON / (Royal Arms.) / PATENT / PRESENTED BY / THE VICAR OF SHIPLAKE / 1868	4	0	26
Fourth.	RECAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LTD. LONDON 1902. / MICHALL[1] FOVLOR C. W. 1694.	4	2	25
Fifth.	RECAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LTD. LONDON 1902 / TO THE GLORY OF GOD / AND IN MEMORY OF THE LONG REIGN OF / QUEEN VICTORIA	5	0	17
Sixth.	RECAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1868 / (Royal Arms.) / PATENT	6	1	2
Seventh.†	T. MEARS, 1790. / RECAST 1925. / MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS.	7	3	5
Tenor.†	ROBERT PATRICK, FOUNDER, 1784. / RECAST 1925. / MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS.	9	2	15

The six smallest bells were cast by Messrs. Warner ; they have canons, and are fitted with gear, type E. The two largest are from the Whitechapel foundry ; they were cast without canons, and have gear, type D. The ring hangs in an oak frame, also installed by Messrs. Warner.

The following account of the former ring of five bells is derived from notes made by Dr. A. D. Tyssen, *circa* 1860, and preserved in the library of The Society of Antiquaries :

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[1] *Sic.*

Former ring of five bells.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	MICHALL[1] FOVLOR C(*Fig. L3.*)W 1694.	4¾
Second.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE THXS BELL ANO x6x3	5¼
Third.	X AS THXRD RVNG	6¼
Fourth.	MR. TAYLOR & MR. HOUSE CHURCH WARDENS. THOS. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1790 (*Loop border, Fig. G11.*)	7¾
Tenor.	MATTHEW TAYLOR & THOMAS COBB CHURCH WARDENS ROBT. PATRICK OF LONDON FOUNDER 1784	9¾

The treble was cast at Reading by Samuel Knight, the second by Henry Knight I, and the third by Ellis Knight I. The fourth was by Thomas Mears I of the Whitechapel foundry ; the tenor came from the rival London foundry owned by Robert Patrick. The inscription on the third proves that there were at least five bells in Ellis Knight's day.[2] The writer has rubbings of the inscriptions on the fourth and tenor.

The bells were augmented in number to six in 1868 by the addition of a treble,[3] given by the Vicar ; and the third was then recast to form the fourth of the ring of six. In the year 1902 two smaller bells were added, and the second and third of the six recast to form the fourth and fifth of the ring of eight. Finally the two largest were recast in 1925.

The following extracts from the churchwardens' accounts[4] refer to the predecessor of the fourth or tenor of the old ring of five:

1699 June.
To the bellfounder for casting a bell. £9.9s.0d.
For carrying the bell to and from Reading. 8s.0d.
Spent at Reading. 1s.0d.

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

Visited : A.D.T., *circa* 1860. M.J.M., F.S., 13th August, 1949.

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[1] *Sic.*
[2] See under the headings : Marsh Baldon, Great Milton, Thame and Whitchurch.
[3] The present third.
[4] Tyssen *MS.*, Society of Antiquaries Library.

265.   **SHIPTON-ON-CHERWELL.**

The Holy Cross.

A western tower containing two bells, 20 and 22 inches in diameter respectively, hung for chiming.

The smaller bell bears the inscription :

+   ☺ ℭ ℌ 𝔄 ℍ 𝔒 𝔍 𝔍

All the letters are reversed. When read backwards the inscription spells the word :

(I) IOHAN(N)ES

The bellfounder's name is unknown, but it may be meant to disguise his identity as the bell dates from the Reformation period, a fact revealed by its shape, tuning, and mouldings.

The larger bell is of approximately the same age but in this instance the lettering and mouldings resemble those used by J. Saunders and W. Wells of the Reading foundry. The bell is inscribed :

a b i e l   o   d

The letter "p" is upside down. The inscription seems to be derived from :

(SANCTE) (G)AB(R)IEL O(RA) P(RO)
(NOBIS).

Visited : F.S., 2nd May, 1925.

266.   **SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD.**

St. Mary.

A western tower with spire containing a ring of eight bells ; tenor $44\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter in F ; and a sanctus bell, 16 inches in diameter.

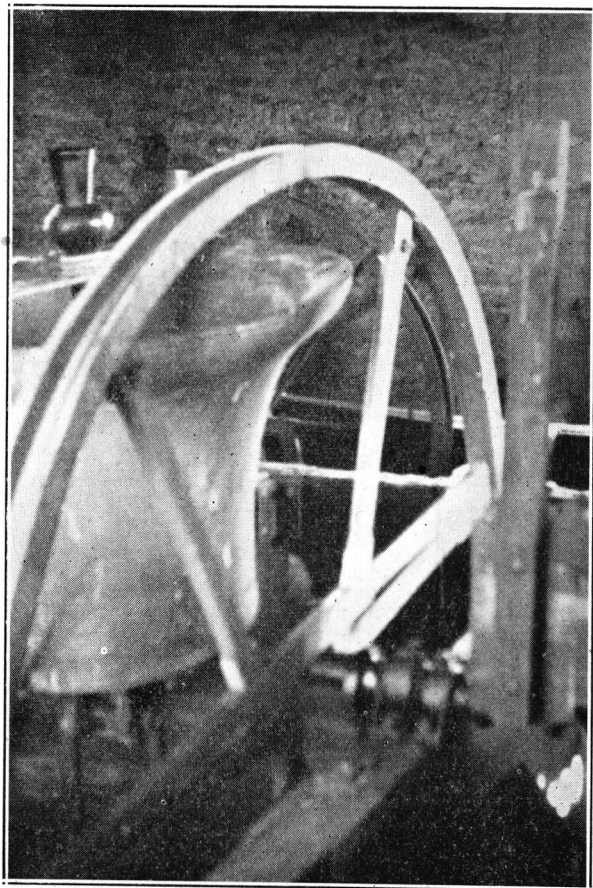| Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON, 1893. / VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO.	4	3	14
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON, 1893. / TE DEUM LAUDAMUS.	5	1	27
Third.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON, 1893. / CANTATE DOMINO CANTICUM NOVUM.	6	0	8

Fig. 49. The fifth bell of the ring of six at Stanton
Harcourt, cast by Michael Darbie, an itinerant
founder, 1656.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Fourth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON, 1893. / BENEDICITE OMNIA OPERA DOMINI DOMINO.	6	3	14
Fifth.	IAMES KEENE (*Fig. A2.*) MADE (*Fig. A2.*) M 1628 (*Fig. A2.*) / (*Border, Fig. B2 all round bell.*)	7	2	0‡
Sixth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON, 1893. / OLIM E QUINQUE SECUNDA LEVATA VOCE SONABO.	8	2	3
Seventh.	ROBERT WISDOME & NICH: WILLETT CH-WARDENS 1726 (*Border, Fig. D2.*)	11	0	0‡
Tenor.	(*Cable moulding, and border, Fig. Q7, all round bell.*) / (*Bell, Fig. A5, three times.*) HENRY : BAGLEY (*Fig. B7.*) MADE MEE (*Fig. B7.*) 1634 (*Fig. Q7.*) (*Fig. B7.*) VOBISSCOMBE[1] CONCORDO : DEUM LAVDARE (*Fig. B7.*) / (*Cable moulding all round bell above sound-bow.*)	14	3	0‡

The fifth is by James Keene, the seventh by Abraham Rudhall II, the tenor by Henry Bagley I, and the remainder by Mears and Stainbank. The bells hang in a steel frame installed by Messrs. Bond and Son.

The saunce bears no inscription or marks, but, judged by its shape, is a fairly modern casting. It is hung for chiming.

The following details of the former ring of five bells were derived from notes in the Walters' MS. at the Society of Antiquaries Library. Mr. Walters, however, does not state the source of his information, and it is unlikely that he examined the bells personally before the year 1893.

Former ring of five bells.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	(*As on the present fifth, cast by James Keene, 1628.*)	7½
Second.	ROBERT ATTON MADE ME 1617	8½
Third.	(*As on the present seventh, cast by Abraham Rudhall II, 1726.*)	11

[1] *Sic.*

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Fourth.	(*As on the present tenor, cast by Henry Bagley, I, 1634.*)	14¾
Tenor.	JAMES HERBERT AND JOHN YOUNG CHURCHWARDENS R. TAYLOR & SONS FOUNDERS 1828	20

Of these bells the second, by Robert Atton, sounding the strike-note A♭, was recast in 1893 to form the present sixth, sounding the strike-note A natural.   The tenor was recast with some additional metal to form the four smallest bells in the present ring.

Visited : F.S., 25th November, 1933.

267.   **SHIRBURN.**
                             All Saints.

A western tower containing two bells, 14 and 29½ inches in diameter respectively.

The smaller is inscribed with its makers' names and date of casting :

JOHN WARNER & SON FOUNDERS 1802

The larger is by Henry Knight I, and bears the inscription :

✠   gloria   ◇   in   ◇   excelesus[1]   ◇   deo
HK   1587   R ◇ L

The writer has not examined these bells.   The foregoing particulars were derived from notes made by Mr. H. B. Walters.

6 Edw. VI.   *Item 3 belles and 1 handbell.*

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

268.   **SHORTHAMPTON.**
                         All Saints.

An open bell-cote above the eastern gable of the nave containing two bells, 11 and 18½ inches in diameter respectively.

The smaller bell is modern and bears no inscription other than the casting pattern size "17" on its crown.

Above the sound-bow of the larger bell is the inscription :

JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS FECIT 1821
✿ (*Bell.*) ✿

The above details are taken from notes by Mr. H. B. Walters.

In 1821 the churchwardens stated : "Tower rebuilt ; the three bells sent to be recast."[2]   In 1885 they stated that one bell was broken.[3]

Visited : H.B.W., 25th September, 1916.

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[1] *Sic. Oxford Archdeaconry Papers,* c. 101, fol. 234.
[2] *Ibid.*
[3] *Ibid.,* c. 42, fol. 396.

269.   **SHUTFORD.**

St. Martin.

A north-western tower containing two bells, 22 and 25¼ inches in diameter respectively.

The smaller bell bears no inscription : the larger one is inscribed :

HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE ✿ 1675

Between each word, and after the date are portions of ornamental borders used by the owners of the Chacombe foundry.

Visited : F.S., 24th December, 1932.

270.   **SIBFORD GOWER.**

The Holy Trinity.

An open western turret containing one bell, which the writer regrets he has been unable to examine. According to *Kelly's Directory* the church was built in 1840 ; and the parish formed out of the civil parish of Swalcliffe in the following year. The bell probably dates from this period.

271.   **SOMERTON.**

St. James.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 42¼ inches diameter in F ; and a sanctus bell, 13 inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	*(Band of vine pattern all round bell.)* / Ɏenite Exultemus Domino ✳ ✳ *(Loughborough foundry crest.)* ✳ ✳ / *(Band of vine pattern all round bell.)* / F. WHITE & SONS, BELLHANGERS, APPLETON. / 200 YEARS FIVE BELLS HAVE HERE BEEN RUNG, / TO MAKE PEAL, I, NOW THE SIXTH, AM HUNG. / G. E. BARNES, RECTOR, 1896.	4	0	25
Second.	*(Scroll-border, with cable moulding above, all round bell.)* / *(Fig. B7.)* CANTATE DOMINO *(Fig. B7.)* CANTICVM NOVVM 1646 *(Three bells.)* H *(Fig. B7.)* B *(Border, Fig. Q7.)*	5	1	13

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Third.	CVM (*Fig. R13.*) VOCE (*Fig. R13.*) IVCONDISIMA (*Fig. B10.*) PROSEQVOR (*Fig. B7.*) ✿ 1670 (*Fig. B10.*) H (*Fig. A3.*) B (*Fig. R13.*) (*Fig. Q7.*)	6	1	3
Fourth.	IOHN (*Fig. A9.*) HORE (*Fig. A9.*) CHVRCH (*Fig. A9.*) WARDEN (*Fig. A9.*) H (*Fig. A9.*) B (*Fig. A9.*) 1707 (*Fig. A9.*)	7	0	8
Fifth.	VOBISCVM CONCORDO DEVM LAVDARE (*Fig. B7.*) HENRY BAGLE MADE MEE (*Three bells.*) 1635 (*Fig. B7.*) (*Fig. Q7.*)	9	1	6
Tenor	PRAY FOR THE GOOD ESTATE OF WILLIAM ASTON ESQVIER AND FOR THE SOVLES OF IOHN ASTON AND (*Fig. B7, twice.*) / ISABEL HIS WIFE WHO WERE FATHER AND MOTHER OF WILLIAM THAT BOACHT[1] THIS BELL (*Fig. B7.*) HENRY BAGLE / (*Three bells.*) 1635 MADE MEE (*Fig. Q7.*)	11	3	23

The treble was added to the ring in 1896. It was given by the Rector, the Rev. G. E. Barnes, cast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and hung by Messrs. White.

The other bells in the ring were cast at the Chacombe foundry; the second, third, fifth and tenor by Henry Bagley I, and the fourth by Henry Bagley III.

All the bells retain their canons. They were rehung with gear, type M, in a two-tier cast-iron frame by Messrs. Taylor in 1931. The tenor, fifth, third and second hang in an H-pattern lower tier, with the treble and fourth, and pits for two additional trebles in a side-pattern upper tier.

The former oak frame consisted of four tiers : the tenor hung in the lowest ; the fifth, fourth and third in the second tier ; the treble in the third tier ; and the second in the uppermost tier.

The saunce is hung for chiming. It was cast by James Keene and bears the initials :

I K

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

Visited : F.S., 1923—1951.

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[1] *Sic.*

272.   **SOULDERN.**

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 36 inches in diameter, in G ; and a sanctus bell, 14 inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / A.D. 1907. / VENITE EXULTEMUS.	3	1	24
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / A.D. 1907. / TE DEUM LAUDAMUS.	3	3	13
Third.	(*Cable moulding all round bell.*) / CANTATE DOMINO CANTICVM NOVVM (*Fig. B7.*) HENRY BAGLE MADE MEE (*Fig. A5, three times.*) / 1635 / (*Cable moulding all round bell.*)	4	1	0‡
Fourth.	𝕾anc (*Fig. E13.*) ta (*Fig. E13.*) an (*Fig. E13.*) na (*Shield, E14.*) / 𝕽𝕰𝕮𝕬𝕾𝕿 𝕬.𝕯. 1910. / (*Whitechapel foundry mark.*)	4	2	27
Fifth.	I · CVM · VOCE · ICVNDISSIMA · PRESEQVOR (*Fig. U4.*) HB 1631 (*Fig. U4.*) / (*Border of Figs. B10 and R13.*)	6	0	0‡
Tenor.	VOBISCVM · CO(N)C(O)RDO · DEVM · LAVDARE (*Fig. U4.*) HENRY BAGLE (*Fig. U4.*) 1631 (*Fig. B10.*)	8	0	0‡

The treble and second were cast in 1907 at the Whitechapel foundry where also the fourth was recast three years later. The third, fifth and tenor were cast by Henry Bagley I : the two largest, and a bell at Mollington already described,[1] were the first to be cast at the famous Chacombe foundry.

All the bells retain their canons ; the seventeenth century ones have been quarter-turned. They are fitted with gear, type B, and hang in an oak frame installed by Mr. F. White in 1907. A false crown staple is fitted to the third.

The saunce is hung for chiming. It was cast by Henry Bagley I, and inscribed :

H B 1665 (*Figs. B7 and Q7.*)

The former fourth was by John Saunders, of Reading, *circa* 1550. It was cracked through the clapper being allowed to wear

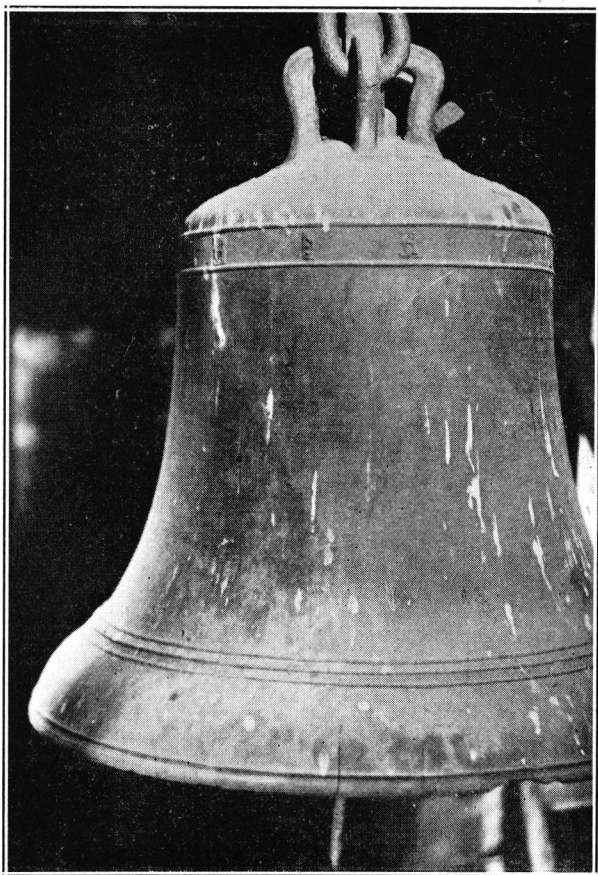---

[1] See p. 214.

Photo :   Harris Morgan, Esq.

Fig. 50. A disused bell cast by John Rufford, *circa* 1350, at Stoke Talmage.

a deep hollow in its sound-bow ; and the writer was told by Mr. Richard White that he had never seen a bell so deeply indented by the action of the clapper as this one. It was quarter-turned in 1907, but this precaution was carried out too late to save it.[1]

The treble and second were added to the ring in 1907. A tablet on the west wall of the tower is inscribed :

To the Glory of GOD / and in perpetual remembrance of my beloved Husband and my only Child / the four Ancient Bells were restored / and two were added / A.D. 1907 / by Anne Penrose Gough.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 3 belles and a saunce bell.*[2]

Visited : F.S., 1923-1952.

273.   **SPELSBURY.**

All Saints.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor approximately 38 inches in diameter, in G ; and a sanctus bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	ALTHOUGH YOU SEE I AM BUT SMALL : I SHALL BE HEARD AMONG YOU ALL .·. R : WELLS : 1788 .·.	4	1	0‡
Second.	ROBERT WELLS ALDBOURNE WILTS FECIT .·. 1788 .·. .·. .·. .·. .·. .·. .·.	4	3	0‡
Third.	RECAST 1924 / (*Whitechapel foundry mark.*) / MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON.	5	2	2
Fourth.	(*Same as second.*)	6	0	0‡
Fifth.	JOHN HUNSLOW & THOMAS CALLCUTT CHURCH WARDENS .·. ROBERT WELLS : ALDBOURNE : FECIT 1788	7	0	0‡
Tenor.	YE PEOPLE ALL WHO HEAR ME RING BE FAITHFULL TO YOUR GOD & KING ✳ ROBT. ✳ WELLS FECIT : 1788 : ✳ ✳ ✳	9	0	0‡

A ring of six from the Aldbourne foundry, of which the third was recast at Whitechapel in 1924. The bells were rehung by Mr. Richard White in that year.

From Mr. Walters' MS., we learn that former third was inscribed as the second and fourth.

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[1] For a similar instance see p. 74.
[2] The Rev. J. C. Blomfield's statement regarding this inventory, given on p. 51 of my *Church Bells of The Deanery of Bicester* is incorrect.

Spelsbury possessed a ring of six bells before Wells installed the present one in 1788. In Bagley's bell catalogue of 1732 we read :

"Spelfbury. (To make fix) 4 [bells.]"

The saunce is hung for chiming in an inaccessible position in the north window of the belfry. It was cast at the Chacombe foundry and bears the date :

1642

followed by the border, Fig. R13. There may be other wording which cannot be seen. The last figure of the date is uncertain.

Visited : H.B.W., September, 1908 ; F.S., 8th December, 1929.

274.   STADHAMPTON.

St. John-the-Baptist.

A western tower containing a ring of four bells ; tenor $34\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, in B♭.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE x62x ◊	4	0	0¼
Second.	(Same as treble.)	4	2	0¼
Third.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / G.B. PENNELL, VICAR. / A.D. 1883. / F. WHITE, BELL-HANGER.	5	2	6
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1884. / I TOLL THE FUNERAL KNELL / I HAIL THE FESTAL DAY / THE FLEETING HOUR I TELL / I SUMMON ALL TO PRAY.	6	3	11

The treble and second were cast by Henry Knight I ; the two largest were recast at the Whitechapel foundry. In the Tyssen MS., at the Society of Antiquaries Library, is a note made *circa* 1860, stating that all four bells were inscribed alike, (i.e. as the present treble) which reveals that a complete ring of four was cast at the Reading foundry in 1621.

The bells hang in a seventeenth century oak frame having pits for five bells, but never having contained more than four. The bell rope circle is anti-clockwise. The gear, type B, is by F. White.

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

Visited : F.S., 26th March, 1949.

275.   **STANDLAKE.**

St. Giles.

A circular western tower with spire containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 40 inches in diameter, in F♯; and a sanctus bell, 16½ inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1887. / IN MEMORY OF / QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE 1887. / LAUS ✚ DEO	5	3	5
Second.	∴ CANTATE DOMINO CANTICOMNOVM[1] HENRY B[1] MADE MEE -:- THOMAS BARNES. C.HOSIER : CHVRCH : W ❁ 1709 (*Fig. A9.*)	4	2	o‡
Third.	∴ IOHN CHAMBERS RECTTER[1] : THOMAS BARNES. CHRISTOPHER HOSIER. C. WARDENS. HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1709	5	0	o‡
Fourth.	WILLIAM : MARCHANT : EDMOND : CAMDEN : C : W : HENRY : BAGLEY : MA[1] : ME : 1730 : / (*Whitechapel foundry mark.*)	5	1	19
Fifth.	THOMAS BARNS[1] CHRISTOPHER HOSIER CHVRCH WARDENS H B 1710	8	0	o‡
Tenor.	✚ REVD. FRANK BURGES, CURATE. ✚ REVD. HENRY BIDDULPH, RECTOR. WILLIAM ROSE, THOMAS BLAKEMAN-BROWN, CHURCHWARDENS. (*Coin.*) WILLIAM TAYLOR FECIT, 1843. / (*Scroll border all round bell.*)	11	2	o‡

The treble and fourth were cast at the Whitechapel foundry; the latter is not dated but was cast from the metal of a former bell in 1931. The writer saw the old bell in Mr. Richard White's workshop at Appleton on 31st October, 1931 ; it bore the same inscription as the present bell, but in Bagley's lettering, and without the Whitechapel foundry mark. The treble was added to the ring in 1887. The second, third and fifth are by Henry Bagley III ; the tenor was cast at the Oxford foundry.

The fourth is an extremely thin bell, and I am told by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank that it is the lightest bell cast at their foundry

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[1] *Sic.*

sounding the strike-note A♯. The treble, on the other hand is a very thick casting : the founders say it was a stock bell, originally cast for Ringwould, Kent. Bagley appears to have reduced the smaller bells in the ring in size in order to get them into the small circular tower.

The bells hang in a three-tier cast iron side-pattern frame, installed by Mr. White in 1931 ; the gear, type H, is also by him. The fourth and fifth hang in the lowest tier, the treble and tenor are in the centre one, and the second and third occupy the uppermost tier. The fourth was cast without canons ; the canons have been removed from the other bells.

From the notebook[1] of Alfred White, the bellhanger, we learn that before 1843, the tenor was by Henry Bagley III, and inscribed :

> THRAT[2] MENMAX[2] COM[2] HEIER[2]
> GODS WORD & REPENT SO WHEN I
> RING OR TOLE[2] MY VOICE IS SPENT
> ROBERT LYDALL RECTOR WILLIAM
> MERCHANT EDMUND CAMDEN CW
> HB 1730

The first part of the inscription was intended to be :

> THAT MEN MAY COME AND HEAR
> GOD'S WORD AND REPENT SO WHEN
> I RING OR TOLL MY VOICE IS SPENT.

as on a bell by Bagley at Tingewick, Buckinghamshire.[3]

Bagley's bell catalogue of 1732 states that he cast the third[4] and tenor of the old ring of five at Standlake : he omits to mention the treble and second[5] of this ring, made by him in 1709.

The saunce hangs in an opening in the base of the spire. It retains its canons, and is fitted with an eighteenth century half-wheel, and other gear similar to type C. It was cast at the Gloucester foundry, and bears the inscription :

> THOMAS RUDHALL FOUNDER 1781

Before and after the date are portions of the border, Fig. D14.

Visited : F.S., 10th April, 1950.

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[1] Alfred White's *Notebook*, fol. 1. (Now in the possession of Mr. Richard White, of Appleton.)
[2] *Sic*.
[3] A. H. Cocks, *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 1897, p. 596.
[4] In 1887 this bell became the fourth.
[5] The present second and third.

276.   STANTON HARCOURT.
St. Michael.

A central tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor $40\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, in G.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	GOD PRESERVE THE CHVRCH OF ENGLAND (*Border, Fig. D14.*) A(*Bell.*)R 1722 (*Border, Fig. D14.*)	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Second.	MICHAEL DARBIE MADE ME 1656	$5\frac{1}{4}$
Third.	(*Same as second, except figure 5 upside down.*)	6
Fourth.	(*Same as second.*)	7
Fifth.	MICHAEL DARBIE MADE ME 1656 T M [1]	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Tenor.†	WILLIAM PARMEE WILL BARFOOT WILL BVNCE FRAN[1] WACE C W 1686	11

The treble was cast at the Gloucester foundry, and added to the ring in 1722 ; the tenor is by Richard Keene ; and the remainder by Michael Darbie. The 1751 edition of Rudhall's bell catalogue states :

"Stanton Harcourt. (The Gift of the Rt. Hon. Simon Lord Harcourt) 1 [bell.]"

The tenor is by Richard Keene, and the remainder by Michael Darbie. An illustration of the fifth is given in Fig. 49.

The treble has cabled canons ; the second, third and fourth have moulded canons ; the canons of the tenor are missing. The first four bells have been quarter-turned. The treble has a false crown staple. The sound-bow of the tenor is *not* of uniform thickness.

The ring hangs in an early seventeenth century oak frame of similar design to that at West Hanney, Berkshire.[2] The treble pit was added in the eighteenth century. The gear, type E, is by Mr. Richard White.

In the ringing chamber are some interesting peal-tablets. One on the west wall is inscribed :

"Labor omnia vincit. / (*Bell.*) / RUNG on these BELLS / Sunday Augt. 25th 1833 / a complete Peal of 720 changes / (*on the New Treble Bob System*) / by six Oxford Youths, viz :— / GEORGE HARRIS Treble. / GEORGE NUNNEY 2nd. / EDW. WHITBREAD 3rd. / ROBERT YOUNG 4th. / ARTHUR TYROR 5th. / HENRY NUNNEY Tenor. / The above was conducted by E. Whitbread."

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[1] *Sic.*
[2] *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XLV, 1941, Part II, p. 68, and plate XIV.
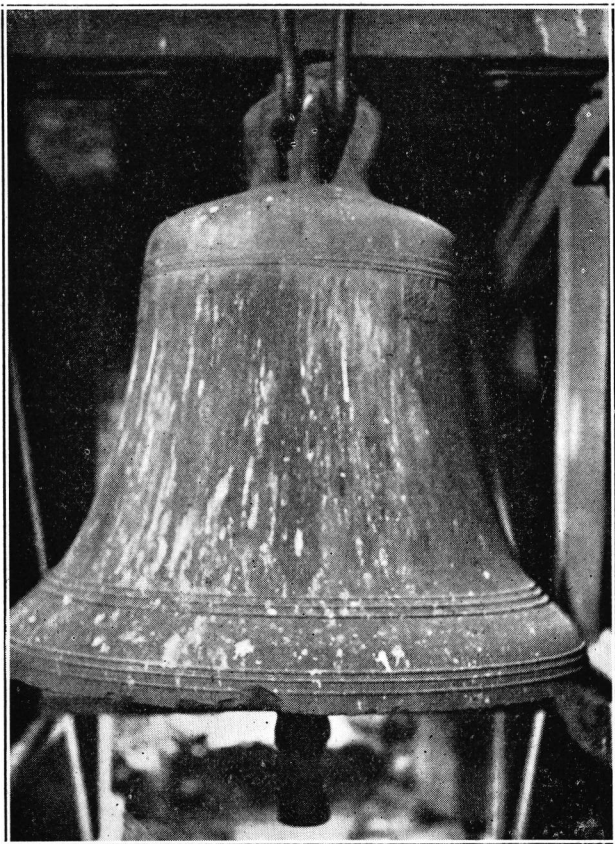
Phoio :   *Harris Morgan, Esq.*

Fig. 51. A bell at Stoke Talmage, cast *circa* 1630 at the
Wokingham foundry.

On the left of this is a tablet recording 720 changes of Grand-side Minor, rung on May 5th, 1864 ; and on the right one record-ing 720 changes of College Single Minor, and 720 changes of Grandsire Bob Minor,[1] both rung on February 23rd, 1841.

A tablet on the east wall is inscribed :

"(*Bell.*) / Change Ringing. / On March the 14th 1863 was rung a / complete Peal of Grandsire min/ors[2] comprising 720 changes, by the Stanton Harcourt Society, / the men were stationed as under / J. Calcutt treble. / J. Trinder 2nd. / G. Calcutt 3rd. / G. Davies 4th. / W. Clifton 5th. / A. Trinder Tenor. / Conducted by J. Trinder."

To the right of this tablet are three others on which are in-scribed records of 720 changes of Kent Treble Bob Minor, rung on 12th August, 1849 ; 1260 Grandsire Doubles, 24th May, 1938 ; and 720 Grandsire Minor, 20th April, 1889.

Visited : F.S., 10th April, 1950.

277.   **STANTON-ST.-JOHN.**

St. John-the-Baptist.

A western tower containing a ring of five bells ; tenor 37½ inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	1652	4
Second.	-:- HENREY[2] LODER WILLIAM GRANT CHVRCH WARDENS -:- HENREY[2] BAGLEY MADE MEE J7J6 -:-	4¾
Third.	MICHAEL DARBIE MADE ME 1656	5½
Fourth.	1652	7
Tenor.†	PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOVRHOOD (*Fig. C5.*) A(*Bell.*)R (*Fig. C5.*) 1724 (*Fig. C5.*)	9¼

The treble and fourth are by Ellis and Henry Knight of Reading ; the second by Henry Bagley III, of Chacombe ; the third by Michael Darbie, who was living in Oxford in 1656 ; and the tenor by Abraham Rudhall I, of Gloucester.

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[1] Probably what is now known to ringers as "Bob Minor."
[2] *Sic.*

The inscriptions on the treble and fourth are formed in "sheet-metal" type ; on the latter the figure "2" is reversed in a way only possible by using type of this kind. The tenor has lost its canons.

The bells hang in an oak frame and are fitted with gear, type A.

The former tenor was inscribed[1]:
        M B. W H. CHVRCHWARDENS 1652
and was probably cast at the Reading foundry.

6 Edw. VI. *Item. 4 belles yn the tower and a sanctus bell. Item. a burying bell and a sacring bell.*

Visited : F.S., 21st July, 1932.

278.   **STOKE LYNE.**
                        St. Peter.

A southern tower containing a ring of three bells ; tenor 37 inches in diameter, in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1869.	5	0	10
Second.	THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1812 (*Loop border, Fig. G11.*)	7	0	0‡
Tenor.	THE SOUND THAT REACHETH GOD ABOVE / IS NOT[2] CLANG BUT VOICE OF LOVE / SIR A. PEYTON, BART., / R. ADAMS, ⎰ CHURCHWARDENS. / M. & S. LONDON 1925. (*Whitechapel foundry* mark.)	8	3	8

The three bells were cast at the Whitechapel foundry. The tenor has a "Doncaster-pattern" head : the others have traditional type canons. They hang in an oak frame, having pits for four bells, but it has never housed more than three : the frame resembles those made by John Walters, of Kings Sutton, in the first half of the nineteenth century. The gear, type A, was renewed by Mr. Richard White in 1925.

The former tenor was inscribed :
        HENRY   WILLIAMS   EDWARD   JACKSON
        CHURCH WARDENS. T. MEARS OF LONDON
        FECIT 1812.
The bell was badly cracked when first seen by the writer.

Visited : F.S., 16th December, 1923, 9th February, 1952.

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[1] J. Skelton, *Collections for the History and Antiquities of Oxfordshire,* 1813, fol. 56.
[2] The letter "A" was omitted here.

279.   STOKE, NORTH.

◆St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of three bells ; tenor 34¼ inches in diameter, in B♭.

Bell.	Inscription.			Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	FEARE	GOD	x636	5
Second.	IN MVLTIS ANNIS RESONET CAMPANA JOHANNIS I (*Fig. S3.*) C 1601 ⏐ (*Fig. E2, three times.*)			6
Tenor.	O (*Fig. C15.*) COR (*Fig. C15.*) 1727			7½

The treble is by Ellis Knight I, the second by Joseph Carter, and the tenor by Oliver Cor. The strike-notes of the bells are tuned in the Phygian mode. The treble has a false crown-staple.

The inscription on the treble is formed in Knight's well-known sheet-metal type ; the lettering on the second is similar to that on Carter's bells at Hanborough and elsewhere ; below the shoulder of the tenor is a series of narrow mouldings, and its inscription occurs above the sound-bow.

The ring hangs in an oak frame of sixteenth century *pattern*, but the timbers of which it is made are obviously of much more recent date. The frame was probably renewed by some local craftsman who copied the pattern of the former one. The bellrope circle is anti-clockwise ; and there are pits for five bells, although the frame has never held more than three.

The gear, type A, dates from the seventeenth century ; the ironwork is keyed, and rollers are used for ground pulleys. The bell-wheels are similar to the traditional pattern, except that their main spokes are splayed like those of sixteenth century half-wheels. The stays and sliders date from the nineteenth century.

6 Edw. VI. *Item a smalle sacryng bell.   Item a hand bell. Item 3 belles in the stepulle.*

Visited : F.S., 8th April, 1950.

280.   **STOKE, SOUTH.**

St. Andrew.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 38 inches in diameter, in A♭.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. (*Whitechapel foundry mark.*) / TO THE MEMORY OF THE MEN OF THE / JOINT PARISH OF SOUTH STOKE AND WOODCOTE, / WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1919. / ALFRED D'OILY NIND GAVE ME, 1920.	4	0	10
Second.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE x622 XH XW BH XH GH ◇ / WT AH BC	4	3	0‡
Third.	FEARE GOD x633	5	1	0‡
Fourth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1881. / REVD. P. H. NIND, VICAR. / JOHN BULLOCK, CHURCHWARDEN.	6	0	10
Fifth.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE ANO x6x6	7	0	0‡
Tenor.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE THXS BELL XN ANO x609 / BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD	9	2	0‡

The treble and fourth were cast at the Whitechapel foundry: the others have inscriptions in sheet-metal type and were cast at Reading ; the third is by Ellis Knight I, and the remainder by Henry Knight I. The initials on the second are probably those of subscribers.

The treble was added to the ring in 1920 ; the fourth replaces a bell by William and Robert Cor, inscribed :

WILLIAM   HIGGS   &   WILLIAM
CLAXSON C W WILL ROB COR 1716

A cast iron side-pattern frame and fittings type G were installed by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, in 1920. The treble has a "Doncaster-pattern" head : the canons have been removed from the other bells.

In the Tyssen MS., is a complete record of the ring of five in the latter half of the nineteenth century.[1]

6 Edw. VI. *Item 4 belles in the steple. Ye parties above sayd are not as yet certeyn where ye sance bell is becum.*

Visited : F.S., 8th April, 1950.

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[1] Tyssen *MS.*, 38, fol. 37, Society of Antiquaries Library.

281.   **STOKE ROW.**

St. John-the-Evangelist.

A northern tower with spire containing one bell, 24 inches in diameter, hung for ringing.

The bell was cast at the Whitechapel foundry, and is inscribed:

G. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1858.

It hangs in an oak frame and is fitted with gear, type A.

Visited : F.S., 8th April, 1950.

282.   **STOKE TALMAGE.**

St. James.

A western tower containing two bells, 24 and $27\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter respectively, hung for ringing.

The smaller bell is cracked. It was cast *circa* 1350 by John Rufford, and is inscribed in his well-known lettering :

+   𝕩𝕡𝕖   :   𝕒𝕧𝕕𝕀   :   𝕟𝕠𝕤

The initial cross is Fig. U2. The lettering has been illustrated by Mr. A. H. Cocks,[1] and I deem it unnecessary to reproduce it here.

The larger bell was cast at the Wokingham foundry *circa* 1360. Its inscription band is filled with a narrow, flat, fourteenth-century-type moulding ; below this are three founder's marks: the initial cross, Fig. F4, the coin, Fig. Q3, and the lion's head, Fig. F2.

Both bells retain their canons and have false crown staples. The gear is similar to type A with the exceptions that there are no stays or sliders ; the larger bell has an eighteenth century roller ; and both bells have medieval stirrup-topped clappers fitted with iron baldrick copses. They hang in a modern oak frame of amateurish design, and are illustrated in Figs. 50 and 51.

7 Edw. VI. *Imprimis 2 belles.* [The present ones.]

Visited : F.S., 29th April, 1950.

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[1] A. H. Cocks, *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 1897, plate IV, the upper set. See also *O.R.S.*, Vol. XXVIII, p. 10.

Fig. 52. Lettering and mouldings on disused fourteenth century bell at Swyncombe.

283.   STOKENCHURCH.[1]

SS. Peter and Paul.

A western tower containing a ring of three bells ; tenor $33\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, in B♭[2]; and a clock bell, $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	LOVE GOD 1640	$3\frac{3}{4}$
Second.	PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT 1778 (*Loop border, Fig. G11.*)	5
Tenor.	HENRX KNGXTH[3] MADE MEE ANO x6x8 ✛	7

The treble is by Ellis Knight I, of Reading ; the second was cast at the Whitechapel foundry, and the tenor at the Reading foundry. All the bells retain their canons, and have not been quarter-turned. The tenor has moulded canons, and a false crown-staple.

The ring hangs in a seventeenth century type braced-king-post oak frame, partly constructed of second-hand timbers, one of which has medieval mouldings. With the exception of the clappers and pulleys the gear is similar to type A. The clappers of the treble and second date from the eighteenth century ; the tenor has a nineteenth century clapper. Seventeenth century rope rollers are fitted to the treble and tenor ; the second has an eighteenth century pulley.

The clock bell hangs in an open turret on the tower roof. It bears no inscription or marks ; but, judged by its shape, appears to be an eighteenth century casting.

Visited : F.S., 8th March, 1952.

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[1] Stokenchurch parish, formerly in Oxfordshire, was transferred to Buckinghamshire in the year 1896. As a description of the bells was not included by Mr. A. H. Cocks in *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, published in 1897, it was thought advisible to include it here.

[2] The strike-note of the tenor is only slightly flat of B ; those of the other two bells are approximately C♯ and D♯.

[3] *Sic.*

284.   STONESFIELD.

St. James-the-Less.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor $35\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Treble.	TO THE GLORY OF GOD / THE GIFT OF F. E. ROBINSON ESQRE. A.D. 1860 / F. ROBINSON M.A. RECTOR. / T. GARDNER / W. DAVIS } CHURCHWARDENS. / CAST BY G. MEARS LONDON.	3	1	27
Second.	T BURBROUGH & I CASTLE WARDENS 1783 (Fig. D14.)	3	3	o‡
Third.	THOMAS :-: ROBARDS :-: WILLIAM :-: HRN[1] :-: C :-: W :-: M :-: B :-: MADE :- 1756 :-:	4	2	o‡
Fourth.	ROBARD[1] LERDENER IOHN KIRKE C W IH 1660	5	1	o‡
Fifth.	THIS BELL WAS RECAST BY G. MEARS LONDON IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1860. / F. ROBINSON M.A. RECTOR. / T. GARDNER / W. DAVIS } CHURCHWARDENS	6	0	22
Tenor.	✠ 𝕴 ✠ 𝕮 ✠ 𝕿𝕳𝕴𝕾 ✠ 𝕭𝕰𝕷𝕷 𝖂𝕬𝕾 ✠ 𝕸𝕬𝕯𝕰 ✠ 1602	8	0	o‡

The treble and fifth are from the Whitechapel foundry ; the second is by Thomas Rudhall ; the third by Matthew Bagley III ; the fourth by Richard Keene ; and the tenor by Joseph Carter. The second has cabled canons. The third has a cable moulding above its inscription band. The lettering on the tenor was formerly used by Thomas Lawrence, whose moulding stamps were acquired by Carter.

Since the date of the writer's visit the bells have been rehung with gear, type E, in a side-pattern cast-iron frame by Mr. Richard White. They formerly hung in a two-tier oak frame.

Francis Edward Robinson, the donor of the treble, afterwards took Holy Orders. He gave two tenors to augment the number of the bells in the ring at Appleton, Berkshire, to ten in 1861, and three of that famous ring were recast at his own

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[1] Sic.

expense.[1]   He also gave an additional treble and tenor to augment the bells at Drayton, Berkshire, to eight.[2] He was the founder and first Master of The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers.

Preserved in the Kimber collection at the Whitechapel bell-foundry is a drawing of the inscription on the predecessor of the fifth, which, before 1860, was the fourth of the ring of five.   The bell was cast at the Wokingham foundry in the latter half of the fifteenth century, and inscribed :

  ♛   ♛   ♛   ♛   ♛
Sancta   Maria   Ora   Pro   Nobis
(Lion's face, Fig. F2.) (Shield, Fig. F7.)
(Coin, Fig. Q3.) (Cross, Fig. F4.)

Visited : F.S., 1st April, 1933.

285.   **STRATTON AUDLEY.**
                   SS. Mary and Eadburga.

A western tower containing a ring of five bells†; tenor 40¾ inches in diameter, in G ; and a   sanctus   bell,   14½ inches   in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	THOS BAYLIS & JAMES SHEPARD CHURCH WARDENS *(Fig. E11.)* PACK AND CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT 1772 *(Fig. E11.)*	4½
Second.	1693	5¼
Third.	1693	6½
Fourth.	RICH KEENE CAST THIS RING 1693	8
Tenor.	ALEXANDER ROBINGS THOMAS TVGWOOD CHVRCH WARDENS *(Border.)* HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1721 *(Border.)*	11½

The treble was cast at the Whitechapel foundry ; the tenor is by Henry Bagley III ; and the remainder by Richard Keene. All the bells have lost their canons.

On the waist of the tenor is a shield bearing the Royal Arms of the period, except that in one place the fleurs-de-lys appear instead of the three leopards.   Round the shield is the motto :

HONI SOIT QVI MAL Y PENSE

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[1] *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XLIII., 1939, pp. 75—80.
[2] *Ibid.* Vol. XLIV, 1940, pp. 95—100.

The ring was rehung with gear, type B, in a wrought iron side-pattern frame in 1902 by Mr. F. Webb, of Kidlington. The former frame was dated 1636, and constructed to house five bells. One of the main braces of the tenor bell-pit of this frame is preserved in the church ; it bears the inscription :

> 1636. EDWARD FREEMAN OF BRACKLY
> MADE MEE. IOHN BROOKES AND
> ROBERT ALDAY CHVRCHWARDENS

The original sanctus bell-cote remains over the gable above the chancel arch. The bell is now in the tower. It has been recast —probably by Richard Keene in the seventeenth century—is hung for chiming, and bears no inscription.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 3 greate belles one saunctus bell one hand bell.*

Visited : F.S., 1923—1951.

At Stratton Audley Park is a chime of four bells ; tenor $24\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter in E. The bells hang in an enclosed turret above the stables. The stable clock chimes the Westminster quarters on the four bells, and strikes the hours on the tenor. Each bell bears the inscription :

> TAYLORS   ✻   FOUNDERS   ✻
> LOUGHBOROUGH ✻ 1930 ✻

The word stop is Fig. H8.

Visited : F.S., 23rd October, 1940.

286.   SWALCLIFFE.

SS. Peter and Paul.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 44 inches in diameter, in F ; and a bell cote above the gable over the chancel arch containing a sanctus bell, 14 inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.
Treble.	*(Border, Fig. V2, all round bell.)* / *(Fig. U5.)* MY FREE AND HALF FOVNDER *(Coin.)* RICHARD *(Coin.)* WYKHAM ESQ. *(Coin.)* TO *(Coin.)* HELP *(Fig. V2.)* SWALCLIFFE *(Fig. V2.)* TOWER *(Fig. V2.)* DOTH *(Fig. V2.)* MEE *(Fig. V2.)* DESIER *(Fig. V2.)* *(Rose.)* *(Coin.)* *(Rose.)* 16 45 *(Fig. V2.)* / *(Shield, charged with two chevrons between three roses.)* H 1685 W *(Twenty two coins.)*	6 0 21

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Second.	HVMPHRY (*Fig. V2.*) WYKHAM ESP OF (*Fig. V2.*) SWALCLIFFE (*Fig. V2.*) 1685 (*Fig. V2.*) / (*Shield and coins below as on treble.*)	6	1	13
Third.	WILLIAM HITCHCOX CH W 1720 (*Bromsgrove foundry mark, Fig. T8.*) (*Border, Fig. U7.*) ✛ (*Fig. U1.*) (*Border, Fig. U7.*)	6	1	19
Fourth.	HENRY (*Fig. V2.*) BAGLEY (*Fig. V2.*) MADE (*Fig. V2.*) MEE (*Fig. V2.*) 1̇685 (*Fig. V2.*)	8	1	19
Fifth.	MATHEW (*Fig. V2.*) BAGLEY (*Fig. V2.*) MADE (*Fig. V2.*) MEE (*Fig. V2.*) 1685 (*Fig. V2.*)	9	3	16
Tenor.	(*Border, Fig. V2, all round bell.*) / WILLIAM TREDWELL IOHN BAGGET IAMES WALKER MATHEW AVSTING THOMAS BVTLER C W 1685	13	2	1

A ring of six by Henry and Matthew Bagley, of Chacombe, of which the third was recast in 1720 by Richard Sanders. All the bells have lost their canons. They were rehung with gear, type H, in a cast-iron H-pattern frame by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, in 1938.

The former frame was of oak and constructed in two tiers.

The saunce is hung for chiming. It has no inscription or marks, and on the evidence of its shape was not cast before *circa* 1860. In the masonry of the chancel may be seen marks made by the rope of the former saunce in medieval times when it was rung by means of an external rope operated through a low side window. The bell was restored to the turret in 1938 : formerly it hung in the tower.

Visited : F.S., 24th December, 1932 ; 19th January, 1946.

287.   SWERFORD.

St. Mary.

A western tower with spire containing a ring of five bells.

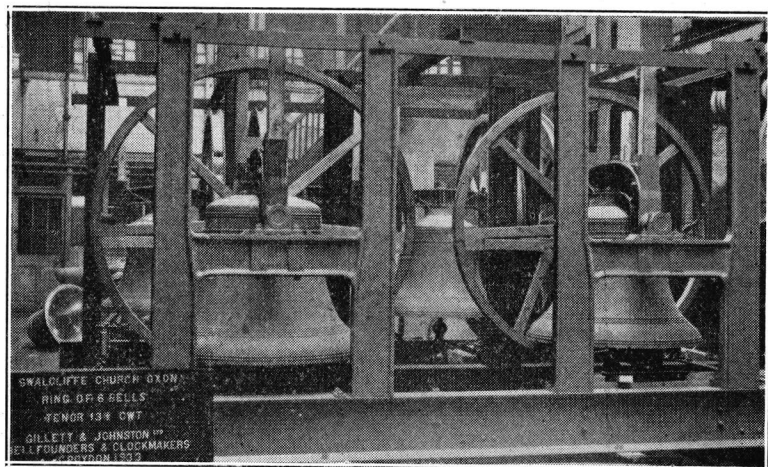| Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	J. CASTLE & W: IRONS C: W: (*Fig. N6.*) W & J TAYLOR OXFORD FEC—T 1823	3¼
Second.	. . .∴ ᴍ¹ : FRANKLIN : R : WEST : C : ᴍ¹ : M : B : MADE : ME : ɪ756 : ∴	3¾

¹ *Sic.*

Fig. 53.   The ring of six bells at Swacliffe.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Third.	+ WF + W FRANCKLIN CHURCH WARDENS 1723 / (*Bromsgrove foundry mark.*) / (*Border, Fig. U7.*)	4
Fourth.	RICHARD ❀ WEST ❀ IOHN ❀ HUMPRES ❀ CHURCH ❀ WARDENS ❀ ❀ 1766 ❀ / M ❀ B ❀ MADE ❀ MEE	5
Tenor.	SAMVEL (*Fig. A9.*) BISSELL (*Fig. A9.*) THOMAS (*Fig. A9.*) SMITH CHVRCH WARDENS 1695 WILLIAM (*Fig. A9.*) BAGLEY (*Fig. A9.*) MADE (*Fig. F1.*) MEE (*Fig. F1.*) (*Fig. A9.*)	7

The treble is by William and John Taylor, the second and fourth by Matthew Bagley, the third by Richard Sanders, and the tenor by William Bagley.

The bells hang in a two-tier oak frame, with the tenor in the upper tier.

Visited : F.S., 30th November, 1929.

288.   SWINBROOK.

St. Mary.

A western tower containing three bells. The saunce weighs 1 qr. 22 lbs., and was cast at the Whitechapel foundry : it is inscribed :

> MEARS & CO. FOUNDERS LONDON
> 1865

The largest bell was cast at the same foundry and during the same year as the saunce, but after Mr. Stainbank had joined the firm. It weighs 2 cwt. 3 qrs. 13 lbs., and bears the inscription :

> MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON 1865. / "O COME LET US SING UNTO THE LORD."

The other bell is by Edward Neale, of Burford, and bears the inscription :

> RICHARD : COLES : C : W : 1685 :
> (*Ornament.*) E (*Fig. H9.*) N (*Ornament.*)

Visited : T.A.T., 4th July, 1893.[1]

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[1] Most of the particulars regarding these bells were taken from the Whitechapel foundry ledgers.

289. SWYNCOMBE.
St. Botolph.

A small canopied open bell-cote, situated below the apex of the western gable of the nave, contains one bell, 20 inches in diameter, hung "dead" and sounded by the method known as "clocking".

The bell dates from the period 1400-1410, and is either the work of John Barber, of Salisbury, who died in 1404[1], or one of his successors. It bears the inscription :

<div align="center">

(*Initial cross, Fig. VII*)   ♛ ℟   (*Wheel*
stop, Fig. T10.)   (*Coin.*)

</div>

The initial cross is similar to that found by Mr. H. B. Walters at Odstock, Wiltshire, and elsewhere, on bells ascribed by him to Barber[2], whose name appears on a bell at Chiltern, Wiltshire[3], bearing the same lettering as at Odstock but with a smaller initial cross[4]. The larger cross, set obliquely, was found by Canon H. T. Ellacombe at Sapperton, and Stanley-St.-Leonard, Gloucestershire[5]. The alphabet from which the crowned "R" was taken was subsequently used by Worcester founders, who also used Barber's smaller cross[6]. The Worcester founders, however, only crowned the initial letter of each word[7]. Mr. Walters notes that the saunce at Preston, Rutland, has similar marks to those on the Swyncombe bell[8], but the writer observes that the wheel stops, *Rutland*, *Fig. 15*[9], and *Gloucester, Fig. 38*[10], or *Oxford, Fig. T10*, are not identical. The wheel stop, Fig. T10, was afterwards used by Bristol founders[11]. The coin is the reverse of a groat of Edward III.

Preserved in the church is another bell, which for some considerable time has been broken. The surviving fragments have been joined together by means of iron bands and rivets[12]. The

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[1] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Wiltshire*, 1929, p. 257.
[2] *Ibid*, pp. 151 and 258.
[3] *Ibid*, pp. 51 and 257.
[4] F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Radnorshire*, 1947, p. 74.
[5] H. T. Ellacombe, *The Church Bells of Gloucestershire*, 1881, p. 22.
[6] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Worcestershire*, 1930, p. 288.
[7] F. Sharpe, *ut sup.*, p. 58.
[8] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Wiltshire*, 1929, p. 258.
[9] T. North, *The Church Bells of Rutland*, 1880, p. 44.
[10] H. T. Ellacombe, *ut sup.*, Plate IX.
[11] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Worcesterhire*, 1930, p. 288 ; F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Radnorshire*, 1947, p. 74.
[12] The writer hopes that the iron rivets will be removed and copper rivets inserted.

bell is 18 inches in diameter, 14½ inches high from lip to crown, 1⅛ inches thick at the sound bow, ⅜ of an inch at the waist and $\frac{5}{16}$ of an inch thick at the shoulder. On its crown is a flat mould-ing between two narrow moulding wires ; and there are similar mouldings above the inscription band ; there are two moulding wires below the inscription band and three above the sound-bow ; below the sound-bow are two mouldings, one flat and the other narrow. The bell is of considerable interest from its inscription and beautiful fourteenth century lettering. It is inscribed :

✠ 𝔥𝔳𝔍𝔳𝔰𝔠𝔞𝔪𝔭𝔞𝔫𝔢 : 𝔍𝔥𝔢𝔰𝔳𝔰𝔢𝔰𝔗𝔫𝔬𝔪𝔢𝔫𝔰𝔭𝔢𝔠𝔍𝔞𝔩𝔢

Apart from the initial cross and three-point word stop the letters are equally spaced, and are formed on paterae. The inscription reads :

"Hujus campane Ihesus est Nomen speciale."

It is not possible to assign the bell to any particular foundry. The initial cross closely resembles that used by Sandre, of Glouces-ter, *circa* 1320[1], but the lettering is not the usual Gloucester type[2]. The flat mouldings on the crown are characteristic of fourteenth century London bells, but there is no further reason for associating the bell with any known London make. The lettering on the Swyncombe bell is unlike any of the well known London four-teenth century types, and the bell bears no London founder's marks. Flat mouldings above the inscription band were some-times used by provincial founders as at Stoke Talmage, Oxford-shire[3], and Disserth, Radnorshire[4]. All that can be said with certainty is that the bell dates from the first half of the fourteenth century and that it is probably the work of some provincial bell founder.

Before the middle of the nineteenth century the bells hung in the church porch. The inventory of 1553 states : *First 2 belles hanging in the porche.*

Illustrations of the lettering and marks on the bells were pub-lished by H. A. Napier, but the inscription on the "Jesus" bell was not accurately drawn by him and several of his statements regarding the bells are incorrect[5]. The "Jesus" bell is illustrated in Fig. 52.

Visited : E.J.M.S., F.S., 26th April, 1952 ; D.P., F.S., 22nd July, 1952.

[1] H. T. Ellacombe, *ut sup.*, Plate IV.
[2] H. T. Tilley and H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Warwickshire*, 1910, p. 5.
[3] See p. 392.
[4] F. Sharpe, *ut sup.*, p. 27.
[5] H. A. Napier, *An Historical Notice of Swyncombe and Ewelme*, 1858, p. 225.

290. <div align="center">**SYDENHAM.**</div>

<div align="center">**St. Mary.**</div>

A central tower with spire containing a ring of three bells ; tenor 33 inches in diameter, in B♭ ; and a sanctus bell, 13 inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	(*No inscription.*)	4
Second.	THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT 1810 (*Loop border, Fig. G11.*)	5½
Tenor.	LET YOVR HOPE BE XN THE LORD 1625 (*Fig. N14.*)	7

The treble is probably a medieval casting ; it has fairly straight sides, a wide spreading rim, tall canons, and no moulding wires. Its strike note has been sharpened by the removal of much of its lip, probably in an attempt to raise it a semi-tone in order to change the scale of the tuning of the ring from minor to major.

The second is from the Whitechapel foundry ; its tone is very sonorous compared with the softer ones of the older bells.

The tenor is by Ellis Knight I. Its inscription is formed in "sheet-metal" type.

The bells hang in a two-tier oak frame : the treble is in the upper tier. The gear is similar to type A, but with the exception that the clappers have eighteenth century wooden heads.

The saunce is hung for chiming in the ringing chamber ! It retains its original elm headstock, drive-in type gudgeons, and nailed and keyed ironwork. It was cast at the Reading foundry and bears the date :

<div align="center">1650.</div>

6 Edw. VI. *Item 3 belles and 1 sans bell.*

Visited : F.S., 22nd September, 1934.

291. <div align="center">**TACKLEY.**</div>

<div align="center">**St. Nicholas.**</div>

A central tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 44 inches in diameter, in F ; and a sanctus bell, 16 inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. / TACKLEY FOLK GAVE ME 1924. / G. PERRY-GORE RECTOR. / W. EVETTS JUNR., / S. F. EVETTS, } CHURCHWARDENS.	5	1	3
Second.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1859. / (*Royal Arms.*) / PATENT	5	3	0¼

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Third.	1689 (*Remainder of inscription chistled off.*)	6	2	0‡
Fourth.	(*Same as second.*)	7	3	0‡
Fifth.	ROBART STANDARD NATHANIEL BVRDEN C W 1664	10	0	0‡
Tenor.†	COMPTON READ KNIGHT AND BARRONET 1664 / (*Shield, bearing quarterly 1 and 4 : a saltire between four garbs, for Reade ; quarterly 2 and 3 : a cross fleurie, for Brocket ; and the badge of Ulster in fesse point.*) [1]	14	0	0‡

The treble was cast at the Whitechapel foundry and added to the ring in 1924.   The second and fourth are by Messrs. Warner, and the remainder by Richard Keene.

The treble has a "Doncaster" pattern head ; the second, third, and fourth retain their canons, and have been quarter-turned ; the two largest have lost their canons.

The bells hang in a two-tier oak frame : the upper tier was installed in 1924 by Mr. Richard White and houses the second bell; the lower tier dates from the seventeenth century.   The gear, type B, is by Mr. White.

The saunce is hung for chiming in the east window of the belfry.   It bears the date :

1792

In the Walters' MS.[2] is a note stating that the saunce was inscribed :

1 ✠ C 1599

This must refer to the predecessor of the present bell.   Unfortunately Mr. Walters does not state his source of information.

Visited : C.H.K., F.S., 22nd January, 1949.

292.   TADMARTON.

St. Nicholas.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 40 inches in diameter, in G ; and a bell-cote on the gable above the chancel arch containing a sanctus bell, 11 inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Treble.	1947 (*Whitechapel foundry mark.*)	4	1	5
Second.	176J / (*Cable moulding all round bell.*) / :-: IOSIAH : CHESTER : IOHN : HADLAND - CHURCH : WARDENS : MATTHEW : BAGLEY : MADE : MEE	4	3	0‡

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[1] I am indebted to P. S. Spokes, Esq., for the description of the heraldry.
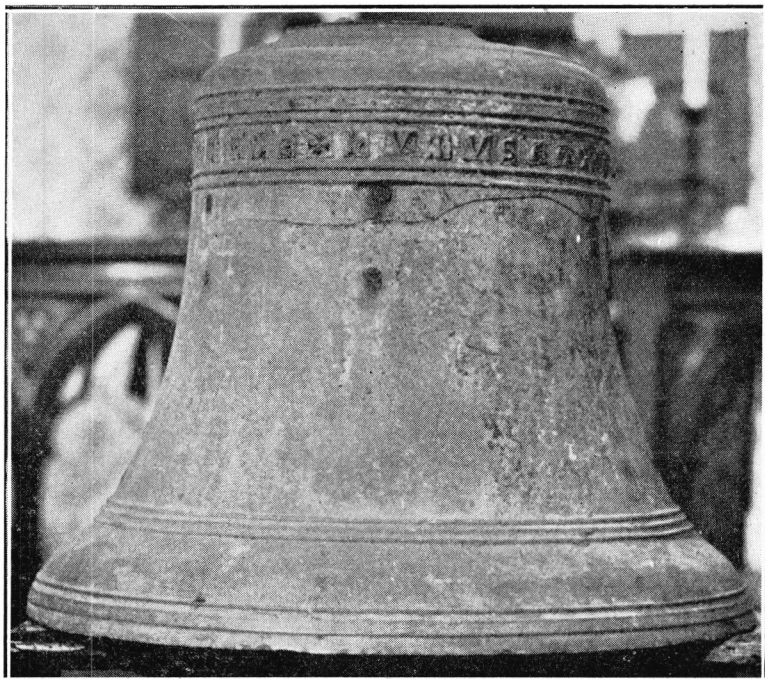[2] Walters' *MS.*, fol. 286. Society of Antiquaries Library.

Photo.:   *Harris Morgan, Esq.*

Fig. 54. A disused fourteenth century bell at Swyncombe.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Third.	NEWCOMBE OF LEICESTER MADE MEE	5	1	0‡
Fourth.	GOD SAVE KING IAMES 1607 / (*Loughborough foundry mark.*) / RECAST 1923	6	1	10
Fifth.	HENRY : BAGLEE MADE MEE (*Fig. B7.*) (*Shield, Fig. P14.*) (*Fig. R13.*) 1637 (*Fig. R13.*) (*Fig. B7.*) GOD SAVE THE KING (*Border, Fig. B10.*)	8	0	0‡
Tenor.	(*Vine border all round bell.*[1]) / ✛ COM[2] ◇ AT ◇ MY ◇ CALL ◇ TO ◇ SEAVR[2] ◇ GOD ◇ AL[2] ◇ ✛ ANNODOMINI[2] 1618 / R (*Bell.*[3]) P / (*Royal Arms of period, surrounded by a vine-border, with the inscription :* "DIEV ET MON DROIT" *below.*)	11	0	0‡

The treble is by Mears and Stainbank ; the second by Matthew Bagley II ; the third by Newcombe[4] ; the fourth by J. Taylor and Co.; the fifth by Henry Bagley I ; and the tenor by Richard Purdue.

The treble was added to the ring in 1947. A tablet on the west wall of the nave is inscribed :

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

THIS TABLET RECORDS THE ADDITION OF
A TREBLE BELL TO THE BELFREY[5] OF THIS CHURCH
ERECTED BY HIS FAMILY
IN LOVING AND GRATEFUL MEMORY OF
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER
NIGEL JOHN CROSSLEY
ROYAL NAVY
WHD DIED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED
WHILE IN COMMAND OF H.M.S. GIPSY
27TH NOVEMBER 1939

RING OUT THE DARKNESS OF THE LAND
RING IN THE CHRIST THAT IS TO BE

The fourth was recast at the Loughborough foundry in 1923. The former bell was by Atton, of Buckingham, and, with the exception of the omission of Fig. H3, its inscription has been admirably reproduced in facsimile on its successor.

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[1] Illustrated in Fig. 12 of H. B. Walters' *Church Bells of Wiltshire*, 1925, p. 19.
[2] *Sic.*
[3] See Fig. R11.
[4] See p. 310.
[5] *Sic.*

The tenor is similar to bells at Brailes, Warwickshire,[1] and Alkerton, Hanborough, Headington and Heyford, Oxfordshire.[2]

The ring hangs in a modern cast-iron side-pattern frame. The treble has gear, type G, by Mr. Richard White, who installed the new bell in 1947 : the others have gear, type B, by Messrs. Day and Sons, *circa* 1900.

The saunce hangs in a medieval bell-cote. It is a modern "brass-foundry" type casting with no inscription facing north, east or south ; and, so far as the writer could ascertain, none on the west side of the bell. It is secured to an older headstock by means of nailed straps.[3]

Visited : F.S., 11th April, 1925 ; H.G., V.L., F.S., 14th May, 1947.

293.   **TAYNTON.**

St. John the Evangelist.

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

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	CAST 1937 TO COMMEMORATE THE CORONATION OF KING GEORGE VI. / T. BOND. FOUNDER. BURFORD.	3¼
Second.	T. BOND FOUNDER. CAST 1937 TO COMMEMORATE THE CORONATION OF KING GEORE[4] VI.	3½
Third.	RECAST 1937. TO THE GLORY OF GOD. T. BOND FOUNDER BURFORD. / HARRY. HOULTON. / ADMIRAL T. D. GILBERT. C.B. / CHURCHWARDENS. / GERALD R. P. PARKINSON. VICAR.	4
Fourth.	MR. IOHN RVTTER SIDESMAN (*Border, Fig. D8.*) A(*Bell.*)R 1717 (*Border, Fig. D8.*)	4¼
Fifth.	ABRA : RVDHALL OF GLOVCESTER BELLFOVNDER 1717 (*Border, Fig. D2.*)	5¼
Tenor.	RECAST 1937. TO THE GLORY OF GOD. T. BOND FOUNDER BURFORD. OXON. (*Lion stamp, Fig. L8, eight times.*)	7½

[1] H. T. Tilley and H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Warwickshire.* 1910, p. 123.
[2] See pp. 12, 152, 158 and 165.
[3] Or shearbands. See p. 306.
[4] *Sic.*

The treble and second were added to the ring in 1937. They were cast by Thomas Bond, of Burford, who also recast the third and tenor, and installed a new cast iron side-pattern frame, and gear, type J.

The fourth and fifth are by Abraham Rudhall I, by whom the ring was cast in 1717.

The predecessor of the third, formerly the treble of a ring of four, was inscribed :[1]

<div style="text-align:center">

WHEN WE RING I SWEETLY SING
(*Fig.D8.*) A (*Bell.*) R 1717 (*Fig. D8.*)

</div>

The former tenor bore the inscription :

<div style="text-align:center">

PROSPERITY   TO   ALL   OVR
BENEFACTORS   (*Fig. D8.*)   A(*Bell.*)R
1717 (*Border, Fig. D14.*)

</div>

A local tradition asserts that in the eighteenth century the tower contained six bells ; and in *Kelly's Directory* it is stated : "two bells were lost in 1810 when a Gloucester bellfounder went bankrupt." This is confirmed by entries in the Rudhall bell catalogues. In the 1751 edition of these is the entry : "Taynton 6 [bells]."; but, in the 1830 edition, which lists only complete rings, Taynton is not mentioned.[2]

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

294.   **TETSWORTH.**

St. Giles.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 29 inches in diameter, in D♭.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	1853 / M & S. LONDON. 1936 (*Whitechapel foundry mark.*)	2	1	26
Second.	1695 / M & S. LONDON. 1936. (*Whitechapel foundry mark.*)	2	3	20
Third.	(*Same as second.*)	3	0	8
Fourth.	1702 / M & S. LONDON. 1936. (*Whitechapel foundry mark.*)	3	1	14

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[1] Notes by the Rev. T. A. Turner, 9th June, 1893. Walters *MS.*, fol. 288. Society of Antiquaries Library.

[2] *Catalogue of bells cast by the Rudhalls, of Gloucester,* 1751 ; and *Ibid,* 1830.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.
Fifth.	1695 / THESE BELLS WERE RECAST AND REHUNG / IN 1936, / AS THE GIFT OF MRS. A. E. HUTT, / WIDOW OF THE LATE CHURCHWARDEN OF TETSWORTH. / M & S. LONDON. (*Whitechapel foundry mark.*)	4 0 11
Tenor.	- : : : : : - - - IAS. ALLEN CHURCH WARDEN 1787 WILLM. HOBDAY A PRINCIPAL / BENEFACTOR TOWARDS THE TREBLE BELL / MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1936. (*Whitechapel foundry mark.*)	4 2 25

A ring of six, cast at the Whitechapel foundry, and hung with gear, type E, in an oak frame by Mr. Richard White. Portions of the inscriptions on the former bells have been reproduced in facsimile on the new ones. At the writer's suggestion the date medallions were cut out of the old bells and are preserved in the church.

Details of the former ring of six bells ; tenor $30\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, in B♭.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.
Treble.	J WARNER & SONS CRESENT FOUNDRY LONDON 1853	2 1 12
Second.	1695	1 2 26
Third.	1695	2 0 23
Fourth.	1702	2 2 23
Fifth.	1695	3 1 17
Tenor.	- : : : - - - IAS. ALLEN CHURCH WARDEN 1787 WILLM. HOBDAY A PRINCIPAL BENEFACTOR TOWARDS THE TREBLE BELL (*Border, Fig. D8.*)	5 0 14

The treble was by Messrs. Warner ; the second, third and fifth by Richard Keene ; the fourth by Richard Chandler ; and the tenor by John Rudhall. The inscription on the tenor proves that the treble had a predecessor. The treble and tenor had no argents; the treble was a maiden bell, the second and third had been sharpened ; the strike-notes of the others had been flattened. The tuning of the tenor had been done in some kind of primitive tuning-machine, probably that invented by Rudhall. According to an oral tradition long prevalent among ringers, this was a simple vertical lathe rotated by means of a long revolving shaft to which a donkey was harnessed.

The unusual scale of weights should be noted.   Richard
Keene's bells were abnormally thin and he was obviously experi-
menting in the design of his trebles.[1]

Details of the former bells were taken as they lay in the
churchyard before being sent to Whitechapel to be recast.

In his *History of the Deanery of Bicester*, the Rev. Canon J.
C. Blomfield gives an account of the family of Pettie, of Stoke
Lyne.[2]   The last member of this family, Christopher Pettie, had
estates in the parish of Great Milton and his name was formerly
inscribed on the tenor there.[2]   Canon Blomfield gives the following
quotation from "Delafield's MS. account of Great Milton":[3]

"This Christopher Pettie left his name on one of the bells in Tetsworth
Church, a lasting memorial of his unthriftiness, folly, and extravagance.
For being much addicted to ringing he carried about with him a set of
silken ropes (as I have heard it often affirmed) and a train of idle fellows
for his accommodation of that exercise, till he had rung away a good
estate, and dyed very old and extremely reduced at Thame."

Pettie's bell may have been any one of those recast in 1695,
1702 or 1787.

On 14th June, 1683, the churchwardens stated :

"Imprimis Wee present that our biggest bell is Broken & desire that
the same maybe speedily amended.
ffra ffawsett John parker Ch. Wardens.
Md. the New Ch. Wardens did appeare at the Visitation the day &
yeare abovesd about 5 of the Clock in the afternoon & did desire that
they might have to the feast of the Annunciation of our blessed Virgin St.
Mary next to new cast the sd Bell & to certify thereof within a Week
after."[4]

Visited : F.S., 15th February, 1936 ; 26th March, 1949.

295.   TEW, GREAT.

St. Michael.

A western tower containing a ring of eight bells ; tenor $51\frac{1}{4}$
inches in diameter, in E♭[5]; and a sanctus bell, $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches in
diameter.

Bell.	*Inscription.*	*Cwt.*	*Qrs.*	*Lbs.*
Treble.	PROSPERITY TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (*Border, Fig. D10.*)	6	1	6
Second.	GOD SAUE THE QUEEN 1709 (*Fig. D8.*) A : R (*Two bells.*) (*Fig. D8.*)	5	2	22

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[1] See pp. 248, 251 and 343.
[2] See p. 210.
[3] J. C. Blomfield. *Deanery of Bicester, Part VIII. A History of Ardley,
     Bucknell, Caversfield and Stoke Lyne,* 1894, p. 20.
[4] *Oxford Diocesan Visitation Papers,* quoted *O.R.S.* Vol. 10, 1928, p. 172.
[5] The strike-note of the tenor, and the key-note of the ring is between
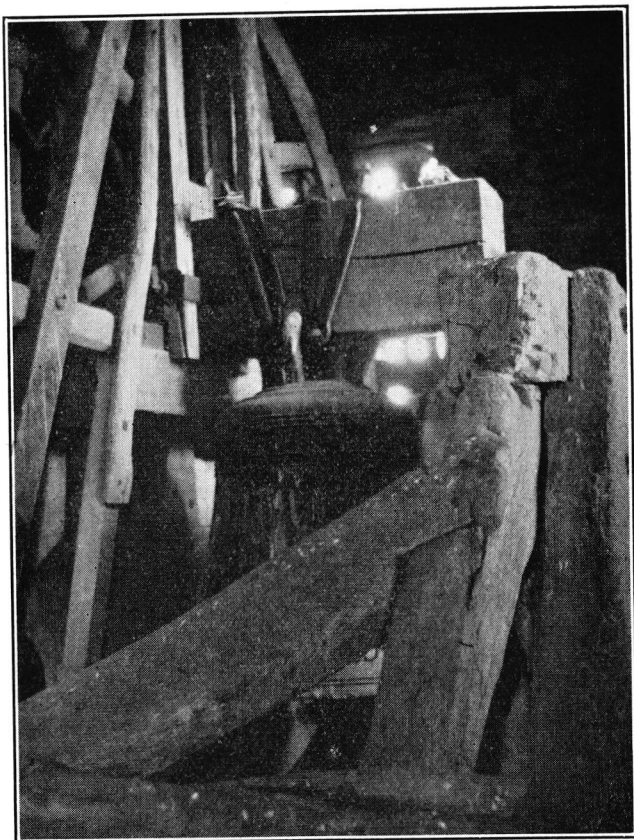   E♭ and D.

Photo : *Harris Morgan, Esq.*

Fig. 55. Bucknell. The treble bell, cast by Bartholomew Attun, 1597, hanging in a medieval oak bell-frame.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Third.	(*Scroll border, Fig. D8, and seven impressions of circular stamps, or seals.*) CHARLES & IOHN RUDHALL FECT 1785 (*Medallion.*) / (*Flat moulding all round bell.*)	7	0	4
Fourth.	ABR: RUDHALL CAST THIS PEAL[1] 1709 (*Fig. D2.*)	7	3	9
Fifth.	✚ J : BARLOW J : FAULKS & J : GARDNER C : WARDENS ✚ ✚ W & J : TAYLOR FOUNDERS 1842	9	0	15
Sixth.	WILLIAM HARTLEY MINISTER 1709 (*Fig. D8.*)	11	3	4
Seventh.	IOHN IENENS THO : HOARE CHURCHWARDENS 1709 (*Fig. D8.*) / (*Scroll border, Fig. D8, all round bell.*)	15	0	12
Tenor.	FRANCIS KECK ESQR. BENEFACTOR 1709 (*Fig. C5.*) / (*Scroll border, Fig. D8.*)	22	0	10

A ring of eight by Abraham Rudhall I, 1709, of which the third and fifth bells have been recast. The third is by Charles and John Rudhall whose bells are comparatively rare : the fifth is by Messrs. Taylor, of Oxford. All the bells have lost their canons. They were rehung in a two-tier cast-iron composite "H" and "A" pattern frame with new gear, type H, by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, in 1924. The upper tier houses the second, third, and fifth.

The saunce bears the inscription :

MEARS ET STAINBANK FECERUNT. / THIS PEAL[1] OF EIGHT BELLS TUNED AND REHUNG IN AN IRON FRAME 1924

The former saunce bore no inscription or marks. The former fifth was inscribed :

PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD 1709[2]

The ring is considered by most campanologists to be one of the best-toned in the Diocese. North Oxfordshire ringers have been known to debate at great lengths on the respective merits of these bells and the ring at Adderbury. Of the two rings the writer prefers the one at Great Tew.

Visited : F.S., 4th September, 1926; 9th September, 1950.

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[1] *Sic.*
[2] J. Skelton, *Collections for the History and Antiquities of Oxfordshire,* 1813, fol. 56.

296.   **TEW, LITTLE.**

St. John-the-Evangelist.

A north-western tower containing a chime of six bells ; tenor 36 inches in diameter, in A, weighing approximately 8 cwt.

The fourth bell bears the inscription :

CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1868 / (*Royal Arms.*) / PATENT

The other five bells are similarly inscribed but with the exception that they bear the date :

1869.

The canons of the treble are broken and the bell is badly cracked in the crown ; the third has a "Doncaster" pattern head; the others have angular-type canons.

The bells are sounded by means of an "Ellacombe" chiming manual. They were the gift of the Rev. C. F. Garrett, M.A., first vicar of the parish.

Visited : W.M.E.S., F.S., 9th September, 1950.

297.   **THAME.**

St. Mary.

A central tower containing a ring of eight bells ; tenor $42\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, in F$\sharp$, and a sanctus bell, $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1876.	4	0	7
Second.	(*Same as treble.*)	4	2	24
Third.	(*The same.*)	4	2	25
Fourth.	(*The same.*)	5	1	1
Fifth.	(*The same.*)	6	1	1
Sixth.	(*The same.*)	7	2	3
Seventh.	(*The same.*)	10	1	6
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / REVD. E. B. CORBETT, VICAR / WILLIAM EDDEN / RICHARD BERRY } CHURCH WARDENS. / 1876.	13	0	13

The ring was cast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1876 from the metal of the former ring. The bells hang in a nineteenth century oak frame, and are fitted with gear, type E, part of which dates from the nineteenth and part from the present century.

The saunce bears no inscription. Judged by its shape and mouldings it appears to date from the seventeenth century. It is hung for chiming and retains its original elm headstock, drive-in type gudgeons, and nailed ironwork : it has not been quarter turned.

On one of the piers supporting the central tower is a brass tablet, inscribed :

" R L 1876. Ad maiorem Dei Gloriam. In the year 1867, Richard Lee, Surgeon of this Town, raised a fund by subscription amounting to £240. for recasting the six old bells of this house of prayer. A peal on eight new bells, hung in the tower, was first rung on August XI of the above-named year. May God the Trinity bless and have mercy upon all the Donors. Amen ! "

The parish of Thame is fortunate in possessing interesting and valuable churchwardens' accounts which go back as far as the year 1442, and throw much light on the early history of the bells and their founders. The accounts were transcribed in part by the Rev. F. G. Lee and some of the transcriptions included in his history of the parish.[1] Others made by Dr. A. D. Tyssen, or his father, were used by Mr. A. H. Cocks when compiling his book on the bells of Buckinghamshire[2] as, at the time, the original accounts were lost. They were subsequently found and some of the early entries published in the *Berks., Bucks. and Oxon Journal*[3]: others were included in Mr. Lupton's *Extracts from the Accounts of the Proctors and Stewards of the Prebendal Church of the Blessed Virgin of Thame.*[4]

The extracts from the accounts given below are taken from these four sources.

With a few exceptions the accounts covering the years 1442-1486 contain only receipts for the ringing of the great bell for "vales", and payments for minor repairs of which the following furnish good examples.

[1] F. G. Lee, *The History of Thame Church*, 1883.
[2] A. H. Cocks, *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 1897.
[3] The *Berks., Bucks. and Oxon. Journal*, Vols. VII—XX.
[4] H. Lupton, *Extracts from the Accounts of the Proctors and Stewards of the Prebendal Church of the Blessed Virgin [Mary] of Thame, commencing in the Year 1529, and ending in the Year 1641, And of the Churchwardens of Thame, beginning in the Year 1542*. 1852.

1442.

For rep'asyo'[1] of the bellys of tomas Wodgrene . . . . vjs viijd.

Yn expensys of ye same nobul[2] for a rope to the grete belle . . . . xvjd.

Ffor the makyng of iij bawdryck . . . . viijd.

And anothr tyme for ye making of a klapur at tomas smyghtheys . . . . vjd.

and for Wytheleder . . . . ijd.

and for bawdreykys making at dyversetymys . . . . viijd.

for a klapur making at tomas smyghtheys at Wyttsontyde . . . . iijs iiijd.

1444.

halso for maky'g of ij brasysse[3] to a bell . . . . xviijd.

1447.

Item for mending of the grete bell whele . . . . id.

Item for makyng baudrikkes . . . . vjd.

1449.

Item to kocke haron for me'dyng of ye bellys howr parte . . . . vs vjd.

Item to tomas smyzt for worke of ye yr kere[4] of ye bellys . . . . ijd.

From an inventory made in 1448 we learn that the church then possessed a ring of five large bells ; in the tower was another bell not forming part of the ring ; there were two sacring bells[5] in the chancel ; and in addition the church possessed five handbells, four of which were used as lych bells.[6]

Itm   ii'j hand Belles ffor s'rvyse of dede pepull.

Itm   a lytyll Bell of laton of the gyfft off Agnes Bryghtwell for visitacon off seke men.

Itm   v grete Belles wt so many clapps honging in the Stepull off the said church.

Itm   a lytell Bell for the hy Autr to ryng to Sacring wyth.

Itm   a lytell Bell hongyng in the chauncele by the quere dor for to ryng Sacryng.

Itm   a Belle hongyng in the saide Stepull for to ryng to holyewat' wyth Sondayes.

The weights of the two largest bells are mentioned in later accounts, and from these we may calculate their notes and the sizes of the remaining three in the ring. The five bells were almost identical with the five largest in the rings at Bloxham[7] and Christ Church, Oxford.[8]

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[1] Sic.

[2] i.e. "noble": value 6s. 8d.

[3] Brass bearings.

[4] Gear.

[5] Sacring bells were rung during Mass at the Consecration of the Elements.

[6] Lych bells were rung before funereal processions.

[7] p. 52.

[8] pp. 227—284.

Details of the medieval ring of five bells at Thame.

Bell.	Note.	Weight.
Treble, or forebell.	A♭	10
Second.	G♭	13
Third.	F	16
Fourth.	E♭	20¾
Tenor, or great bell.	D♭	28

Mention is made in 1450 of a bellfounder named Thomas Swadling, of whom nothing further is known.   No hint as to his locality is given, but Mr. Cocks thought he must have been a local man.

The saunce was rehung in 1469, and in 1477 and 1486 there is mention of the "Judas" bell, a term already noted on page 306, and of which no explanation can be given.

In the latter half of the fifteenth century the Wokingham foundry was owned by one John Michell, of whom Mr. Cocks has given an interesting account,[1] and who does not appear to have been a successful founder.   In the year 1487 the second of the ring of five was sent to Wokingham to be recast, and an "obligacion" made with the bellfounder.   It was taken down by John Baret ; on its return to Thame it was fitted with a new headstock by Henry Slye ; and its supporting ironwork repaired by Thomas Ide.   The third, fourth and tenor bells were "trussed", or re-secured to their headstocks.   The second bell did not last the year and a day as stipulated, for in the next year it was again sent to Wokingham, but no entry appears of paying the bellfounder. The new bell was not a success.   It cracked, and   was   taken down before Ascension Day, 1495.   It was sent to Wokingham accompanied by two men on horseback, but apparently they were unable, or perhaps unwilling, to do business with John Michell or his successor.   Mr. Cocks thought this an indication of the closing of the medieval foundry at Wokingham,[2] and of the transfer of the business to William Hasylwood, of Reading, as the Reading founders afterwards used some of the   Wokingham   plant.   He was not aware that John Michell was succeeded by Faulk Michell, who carried on the business at Wokingham in a modest way.   The men from Thame probably tried to get Michell to recast their bell free of charge, and on his refusal took it to Reading.

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[1] A. H. Cocks, *ut sup*, p. 56.
[2] *Ibid*, p. 58. Mr. Cocks was unaware of the existence of a foundry at Wokingham in the following century.

Photo :   *Harris Morgan, Esq.*

Fig. 56. Wendlebury. Founders' marks, lettering and mouldings on
sixteenth century bell.

1487.
Item. sol: le bellemaker in ernyste p. factur : scde campane in festo
visitacois be marie eodem anno . . . . iijs iiijd. ob.
    It: sol: Willmo Kyng p. scrip.ra cert : indenturar & ij obligac: int:
nos pr.curatores ecclie & le Bellemaker de Okyngham eod.m die . . . .
iiijd. ob.
    It: sol: in expens: ad domu Johis Baret pro le letyng downe scde
campane . . . . ijd.
    It: sol: ad le bellemaker de Okyngham p. le castyng scde campane
de pr.dict . . . . xvjs. viijd.
    It: sol p. cariand: eiusd.m campane apud Okyngham & homward agen
in expens. . . . . iijs. iiijd.
    It: sol: henrico Slye p. le stokkyng scde campane . . . . ijs. xd.
    It: sol: Thome Ide p. factur: ferrei circa scdam campanam . . . .
js. viijd.
    It: sol: eidem Henrico p. le trussyng uppe tercie campane iiijte
campane & magne campane . . . . iijs. vjd.

1495.
    In primis Nicho: Bunse & Thome hyll equitantz Wokyngham . . . .
xxd.
    Itm. eid.m Nicho & Johi Bunting equitantibus Hendeley sup
Thameseam . . . . viijd.
    Itm. in sumpt Johis: Cokks & Thome Hyll egtant.   Redyng ad
fusionem s.c.de campane introrsu . . . . xijd.
    Itm. sol. Willmo Yong & Petro Powley p. cariag. dte campane ad
villam de Redyng p. nra pte . . . . xxd.
    Itm. in expensis circa suspensionem dte campane div.sis. ho.ib.s . . . .
xijd.
    Itm. p. una cordula ad id.m opus . . . . ijd.
    Itm. p. emendac. unius batelle eiusd.m campane & p. clavis . . . .
iiijd.
    Itm. Willmo Hasylwood de Redyng p. fusione s.c.de campane pon-
derante xiiij C di & j quart.¹ p.rc. le V vs. Sm. iijli. xiijs ixd. unde p.
parte nra . . . . xxxvjs. xd. ob.
    Item Henrico Sly p. totali labore suo in grosso circa suspencoem
scde campane & emendac. framee cum le trussyng p. me campane . . . .
iiijs. ijd.
    Item in expus. div.sis ho.ib.s laborant.z circa penden.t dte scde
campane . . . . ijd.
    Itm. Johi Cathorpp p. iiijor braces ad id.m opus . . . . vijd.
    Itm. sol: p. scptur: indentur: & oblig: int dict pcurat: ecclie & Willm:
Hasilwood . . . . ijd.

Some minor repairs were carried out by John Appowell in
1503 ; and in 1522 the treble was recast at the London foundry,
having been sent by road to Marlow and from there conveyed by
boat on the River Thames.   The bellfounder's name is not men-
tioned.

The frame of the tenor bell was either repaired or renewed
in 1530-31 ; and two bells were taken down, sent to London, and
exchanged for new ones.

¹ 1475 lbs. = 13 cwt. 19 lbs.

1530. Itm. Payd to the Abbott of Notley for timber for the great
bell frame . . . . vj*s*. vij*d*.

Itm. Pd to the belfounder yn pte of payment of xlvij for the
changying of ij Bells with new metall . . . . x*lb*. ij*s*. iij*d*.

Itm. Pd to the Rynggers when the King passed thro the Towne
Mychelmas . . . . ij*d*.

Item. Pd for the Churchmen's costs in London ij times for the change
of the bells . . . . xiij*s*. iiij*d*.

1531. Itm. Pd. to Thomas Bloxham & Rd. Burford for fynyshing
the frame of the great Bell . . . . xxvj*s*. viij*d*.

Itm. Pd to Richd. Nortun of caryage of Tymber to the great Bell
frame . . . . xx*d*.

An entry in the accounts for 1537 confirms the theory that in
the middle ages those who rang the bells on ceremonial occasions
were in minor orders.

1537.
Item. Paid for a surples for the belman . . . . xx*d*.

In the year 1538 the gear of the saunce was repaired ; and the
parish entered into an agreement with Thomas Lawrence, a Lon-
don bellfounder, to recast the "trebull" and "great" bells. After
the disasters of 1488 it seems strange that the bells were not sent
to the Reading foundry in 1530 and 1538. Again the work was
not a success, and on this occasion Lawrence had to pay for his
failure. The parishioners of Thame called in John White of the
Reading foundry. White, and several others, were entertanied
one morning at breakfast before the second attempt to recast the
tenor. Lawrence and his friends were also invited in a friendly
spirit. White appears to have been successful, and the parish then
entered into a further agreement with him to recast the treble.

1538.
Item. Pd for mendyng the Sanct Bell . . . . v*s*.

Item. Pd for makyng of ij Bylles Indented betwene the parifhe &
lawrence belfounder of london . . . . vij*d*.

Item. Pd to Iohn Tylby for goyng to marlow for the fore bell . . . .
v*d*.

1539.
Item. Rec[eived] of Thomas lawrence of london belfounder and of
his fuerties . . . . viij*li*.

Item. Pd for a breakfaft made at Willm wayes for Mr. White of
Redyng & the men of london w[ith] other of o[u]r neybors for ye 2nd
makyng for the great bell wiche were at charges upon us before . . . .
ij*s*.

Item. Pd for an obligacon w[ith] a condicion made betwene the
forefaid mafter white and the parifhe concernyng the trebull bell . . . .
viij*d*.

We learn from the accounts that the sexton, or bellman, was
paid the yearly sum of one shilling and sixpence for his duties.

Among other items of interest concerning the ringing of the bells, mentioned in the accounts, are the following :

1539.
　　Item.　Paid to the bell man for his wages by the ye[a]r . . . . xvj*d*.

1541.
　　Item.　Pd for Ale for rynging when the King's gre[1] came through the town . . . . 1*d*.

1543.
　　Item.　Pd to Thos. Peres for rynging of the day Bell for the ſpace of one y[ea]r . . . . xiij*d*.

Two or more bells were sent to Reading to be recast in 1545 : on their return they were hung by John Myller.

　　1545.　Itm. Pd to John Barber for grinding tooles for the Bell . . . . vj*d*.
　　Itm.　Pd to Thomas Downe for helping . . . . vj*d*.
　　Itm.　Pd to Symon Synclere for his labore & the Horſe Rydingſ to Redynge to see the caſting of the Bellis . . . . xvj*d*.
　　Itm.　Pd for the Coſtes of Richd Chylde & Simon Synckler Rydyngs to Redynge for to see the weight and cartynge of the Bells, By the space of ij Days & ij Nyghtts for their Horſes & their selffs . . . . vs. viij*d*.
　　Itm.　Pd for Ale to them th. helpyd to hieve the sayd Bellis Downe & uppe into the steple . . . . vj*d*.
　　Itm.　Pd to Iohn Myller for hangying the ſaid bellis . . . . xvj*d*.
　　Itm.　Pd for mete and drynke for the ſame Iohn and his Sone by the ſpace of ij dayes for his ſone for iij dayes for hym ſelffe . . . . v*d*.
　　Itm.　Pd to the Belfoundrys as doth appere by a Byll indented . . . . iiij*li* xiij*s*. iv*d*.
　　Itm.　Pd to the Carrter for Carriage of the Bellis . . . . xxvj*s*. viij*d*.

For centuries the parishioners of Thame, like others throughout the land, had lavished gifts on their church and had spared nothing in their endeavours to adorn and beautify it. As in many other parishes considerable sums of money had been expended in installing and maintaining the largest and best ring of bells that could be procured for the tower. But at last the adverse effects of the Reformation began to be felt in Thame. We read that in 1548, only three years after some of the bells had been recast, the tenor and three small hand bells,[2] weighing in all 28 cwt. were sold to one Richard Hylton, of London. In order to save expense the tenor was broken in pieces in the tower, weighed, packed into two barrels and sent to London via Marlow.

　　1548.　Itm.　Rec. for ye great bell & iij litle hand belles ſold to Richarde hylton wayinge xxviij*C li*.　Aftre the rat[e] of xxvj*s* ye C. ſumma . . . . xxxvj*li* viij*s*.
　　Itm for ye brekynge of ye Bell wt in ye ſtepull & for ye Cariage to Mr. Dormers to be weyd . . . . iij*s* iiij*d*.

---

[1] *Sic.*
[2] The hand bells would only weigh a few pounds.

Itm. for ye Carige of ye fame bell to marlowe. Itm. our expences
. . . . vij*s*.

Itm. for our Coftes to london fechynge ye money for ye fame bell
. . . . vj*s* viij*d*.

Itm. payd for ij Barrelles to Cary ye bell when yt was Brokyn . . . .
xiiij*d*.

Itm. for hoopynge & heddynge ye faid barrelles . . . . xvj*d*.

Three years later another large bell, weighing 20¾ cwt. was
sold to John Appowell, the Buckingham bellfounder. It is
referred to as the "great" bell, and of course would be so as after
the sale of the 28 cwt. bell it was the largest then remaining in
the tower.

1551. Itm. [Received] for the great Bell fold vnto Iohn Appowell
weyinge xx*C*. iij *quarters*. At xxxiij*s* ye *C*. fumma xxxiiij*li* xj*s* viij*d* De
qbz deduct for coftes charges and loffes in ye fall of Money, xvij*s* ix*d* &
fo remains . . . . xxxiij*li* xiij*s* xj*d*.

In the early years of the reign of Edward VI, injunctions had
been sent to the parishes that all churches must be kept in repair
and that for this the churchwardens might sell the plate and other
church property

"if great need requires, and whereas the parish is very poor, and not
able otherwise to repair the same."[1]

And as the late Rev. J. T. Evans so aptly says :

"Here was a fine excuse which many an impoverished or miserly or
Puritanical parish seized on to sell the Church Goods."[2]

He continues :

"As will be seen from the following, taken from Exchequer K.R.
Church Goods 7/165, the churchwardens of Thame afford us a merry
illustration of the sort of thing that took place :

'Tame in the countye of Oxon. A certifycath made to the Kynges
Majestie and hys honerable counfell by the mooft part of the inhaby-
tauntes and paryffhyoners there of suche churche goodes iuelles plate and
other ornamentes of the fam churche as hath ben fold within fyve yeres
laft paft by the perfons hereafter namyd.

Firft 4 chalecys of filver.

Item 2 croffys of filver and gylte.

Item 2 fote for the grett croffe of fylver and gylte.

Item 2 bafyns of fylver.

Item 2 fenferes of fylver.

Item 2 fhypps of fylver.

Item 2 candelftyckes of fylver.

Item a pax of fylver and gylt.

Item a pyckes of fylver and gylt.

Item the grett bell.

Item the fore bell.[3]

Item the hangynges of the hygh altare of fyne fylk.

Item the hangynges of the fepulcre of fylk.

Item a canape that coft 8 *li* befydes veftmentes and copes.

---

[1] J. T. Evans, *The Church Plate of Oxfordshire*, 1928,]
[2] *Ibid.*
[3] *Sic.* Probably meant to be "fourth" bell.

The fyrſt churchwardens that began to ſell the ſeyd churche goodes were . . . . Abraham and Henry Cooper.

The next churchewardens Edward Collyns and John Hefter. The next to theym Rychard Bunce . . . . Spenſer and Wylliam Mynſhare the wich thre perſons have ſpoyled all and have left almoſt noo thyng for when the alteres were taken down they caryed awey the ſtones by nyght and they have made none accompte to the paryſhioners by the ſpace of thre yeres and more laſt paſt. And the chyeff counceller and doer of all thynges aforeſeyd ys one Iohn Smyth of Tame aforſeyd.

Also all the Kynges majeſtes trewe and faythfull ſubiectes there thynke that all the ſeyd goodes iuelles plates and ornaments soo ſold amounted to thre hundred poundes and more, the wich was devyded amongſt the perſons before namyd and they threten to punnyſſhe your poore ſubiectes and have punnyſſhed them that ſpeake of the ſam soo that they ſtand in feare to declare the trewthe therein.' ''

Mr. Evans continues :

''Piety and sacrifice to magnify the abiding place of God on earth had passed away. On the authority of Heylin, we learn, that 'many private man's parlours were hung with Altar-cloths, their tables and beds covered with Copes instead of carpets and coverlids, and many made carousing cups of the sacred Chalices, as once Belshazzar celebrated his drunken feast in the sanctified vessels of the Temple.''

In 1547 and 1549 commissions were appointed to inquire into the number and value of Church goods and ornaments throughout the country and to forbid their sale or misappropriation ; but failed substantially to achieve these objects. Mr. North has given us an excellent account of them and of the more successful commission appointed in 1552.[1] The inventories relating to Oxfordshire, transcribed and edited by Dr. Rose Graham, and published by the Oxfordshire Record Society, are quoted under the headings of the parishes. One point which has often been misinterpreted should be mentioned here. In the 1553 commission the commissioners are instructed :

''to sell or cause to be sold to our use by weight all parcels or pieces of metall except the metall of great bell or saunse bells, in every of the said churches or chapels.''[2]

In the past it was thought that the intention was to sell all except the tenor bell and saunce bell in each church ; but many still possess two, three, four and even five medieval bells, and as Mr. Wright has so aptly stated, the term ''great bell'' in this instance probably meant what we should call ''steeple'' bells.[3] Both Mr. North and Mr. Wright quote the following injunction, which appears later in the 1553 commission :

[1] T. North, *The Church Bells of Bedfordshire*, 1883, pp. 9—21.
[2] Seventh report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, p. 312, quoted by T. North, *ut sup.*, p. 15.
[3] A. Wright, *The Church Bells of Monmouthshire*, 1942, p. 99.
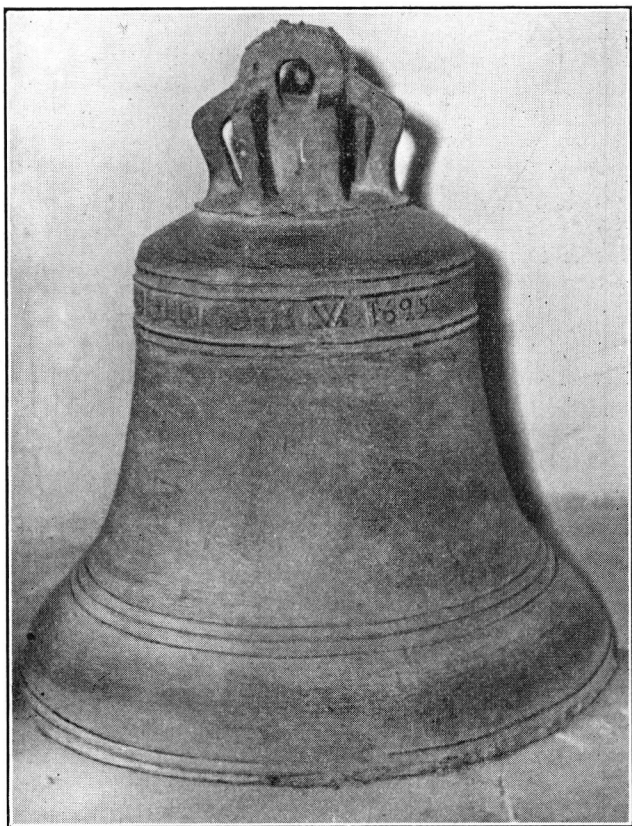
Photo :   *Harris Morgan, Esq.*

Fig. 57.   Wendlebury.   The treble bell of the disused ring of
three, cast by Richard Keene, of Woodstock, 1695.

"that they and everye of them do safely kepe unspoiled, unem-
besiled, and unsold all suche bells as do remayne in every of the said
Churches and chapells and the same to conserve untill our pleasur be
therein further knowne."[1]

With the death of Edward VI in July, 1533 and the accession
of Mary, the conditions were substantially altered, but the occas-
ional robbery of church goods still went on. Soon after her ac-
cession Queen Elizabeth I issued this proclamation :

"That some patrons of churches and others who were possessed of
impropriations, had prevailed with the parson & parishioners to take or
throw down the bells of churches or chapels & the lead of the same, &
to convert the same to their private gain, by which ensued not only the
spoil of the said churches, but even a slanderous desolation of the houses
of prayer."[2]

Therefore it was commanded :

"That no manner of person should from thenceforth take away any
bells or lead off any church or chapel under pain of imprisonment during
Her Majesty's pleasure, & such further fine for the contempt as shall be
thought meet."[3]

After the sale of the bell in 1551 before mentioned, there
seems to have been no further embezzlement of the contents of the
tower of St. Mary's, Thame. In 1560 we find John Appowell
employed to carry out minor repairs and seven years later he
recast one of the bells :

1560. Item. payd to John Appowell[4] for makynge of certayne iren
about the bells . . . . iij*d*.

1567. Payd to Iohn Appowell of Buckingham the bellfoundre for
caftinge of the bell . . . . xliiijs. iiij*d*.

Pd for makinge the obligacon betwene the the[5] fayd Iohn Appowell
& ye churchemen . . . . vj*d*.

1568. Item. Pd to Iohn Appowell for the laft payment of the bell
. . . . xliiijs. iiij*d*.

Payde for the cariinge of the bell to Buckingham & bringinge yt home
agayne . . . . xls.

In the year 1623 Ellis Knight I succeeded his father in the
ownership of the Reading foundry. He was an excellent crafts-
man as his work at Magdalen College, Oxford, and elsewhere
testifies ; and he was also a good business man. He introduced
new business methods, one of which was the making of "stock"
rings of bells, a principle later developed by the Gloucester

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[1] T. North, *ut sup.*, p. 16 ; A. Wright, *ut sup.*, p. 99.

[2] T. North, *ut sup.*, p. 19.

[3] *Ibid.* Quoted from Heylyn's *History of the Reformation*, Vol. II.,
p. 339.

[4] Mr. Cocks, *ut sup.*, p. 177, believes that this entry refers to a namesake,
who was probably a blacksmith living at Thame.

[5] *Sic.*

founders, and of which mention has already been made.[1] So that he could easily identify these he placed upon them suitable inscriptions : the treble was inscribed :

I AS TREBIL BE GIN

on the second he placed :

I AS SECOND WILL SING

on the third :

I AS THIRD WILL RING

if there were six in the ring, the fourth was inscribed :

I AS FOVRTH IN MY PLACES

if there were five in the ring, the fourth bore the inscription :

I AS FOVRTH WILL SOVND

if there were six in the ring the fifth was inscribed :

I AS FIFT WILL SOVND

and on the tenor he placed :

I AS TENAR HVM ALL ROVND.

The bells of St. Mary's, Thame, were exchanged for one of Ellis Knight's "stock" rings of six in 1627. The tenor was recast by Richard Keene in 1664 ; and the ring remained in use until 1876. The bells were examined by the Rev. T. A. Turner on 20th March, 1876. From him we learn that the first five were "maiden" bells ; the treble and fourth were clean castings ; the treble, second and tenor had high crowns ; the fourth and fifth had flat crowns ; the crown of the third was capped ; the second and fourth had square shoulders ; the tenor, according to Turner, was a very rough casting, much flattened at the lip, and had lost its canons ; and the two largest each had a piece broken out of its sound-bow where the clapper struck.[2]

Details of the former ring of six bells ; tenor $45\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter in E.[3]

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	X AS TREBLE BEGXN	6
Second.	X AS SECOND WXLL SXNG	7
Third.	X AS THXRD WXLL RXNG	8
Fourth.	X AS FOVRTH XN MY PLACES	10
Fifth	X AS FXFT WXLL SOVND	12
Tenor.†	RICHARD KEENE CAST ME 166ʞ4	$17\frac{1}{2}$

[1] p. 209.

[2] Walters' *MS.*, Society of Antiquaries Library.

[3] From notes by the Rev. T. A. Turner, Mr. A. H. Cocks, W. C. Lukis, and the Whitechapel foundry records.

[4] *Sic.*

The Cistercian Abbey at Thame, transferred from Oddington in 1138, and dissolved in 1539, also possessed a heavy ring of five bells.

At the dissolution of the religious houses the bells of some of them in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire were sold at dates ranging from *circa* 1538 to 1540 by the commissioners to a certain John a Marlowe. Mr. Cocks gives an account of the Buckingham-shire examples in his book on the bells of that county,[1] and of those from the following Oxfordshire houses :

The Late Monaſtery of Godſtowe—The belles—ix fold to John Marloo for lv *li* xjs iij*d*.

The Late Nunny of Studeley—The belles—iiij fold to John Marloo, for xxxiiij *li*. vs.

The Late Monaſtery of Thame. no there wer at Thame v belles. Belles—ij fold to John A Marloo for xvij *li* xs.

We have no knowledge of the fate of the remaining three bells of Thame Abbey.

St. Mary, Thame, visited : F.S., 7th August, 1948.

298.   WARBOROUGH.

St. Laurence.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 39¾ inches in diameter, in G.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	ELLIS AND HENRY KNIGHT MADE MEE 1675.	4	2	0‡
Second.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE ANO x6x8	5	0	0‡
Third.	1618. RECAST AND THE PEAL[2] REHUNG, BY SUBSCRIPTION 1871. / JOHN BAILEY, / LANGFORD WHITE, / EDWIN TRIPP, / JOSEPH TUBB, } COMMITTEE. / JAMES TUBB, / JAMES SHRUBB, } CHURCHWARDENS. / MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON.	5	3	3
Fourth.	✠ SANCTA[2] LAVRENTXE[2] ORA PRO NOBXS XH WH HK x6x8	6	2	0‡

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[1] A. H. Cocks, *ut sup.*, p. 467.
[2] *Sic.*

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.
Fifth.	WILLIAM WALLIS (*Coin.*) IOHN EMBREE (*Coin.*) C(*Coin.*)W (*Coin.*) SK 1701 (*Coin.*)	8 0 0‡
Tenor.	WILLIAM HARFORD WALTER PORTER C(*Fig. L3.*)W / K / E(*Fig. K3.*)H 1675.	11 0 0‡

The treble and tenor are by Ellis Knight II and Henry Knight III ; the second and fourth are by Henry Knight I ; the third is by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and the fifth by Samuel Knight. The inscriptions on the second and fourth are formed in "sheet-metal" type : the canons of the fifth are broken.

The ring hangs in a seventeenth century oak frame originally made for five bells and having an anti-clockwise rope circle : the treble pit is an addition. The bells were fitted with elm head-stocks, strap gudgeons, and self-aligning ball bearings by Mr. Richard White : the remainder of the gear is by his grandfather, Alfred White.

According to Dr. A. D. Tyssen, the former third was "broken and lying on the belfry floor" in 1860 : it bore the inscription :[1]

✠ SANCTA MARXA ORA PRO NOBXS
HK x6x8

The tower was rebuilt in the seventeenth century and bears the date : 1666. The ring was not rehung immediately as in 1673 the churchwardens stated that the bells had been lying in the churchyard four or five years.[2] They were not hung a year later : the excuse this time being that there was as yet no bellframe.[3] Dr. Rawlinson notes : "5 bells" which implies that the treble was added in 1675.

6 Edw. VI. *Item. 3 great belles with a saunce bell.*

Visited : 14th June, 1949.

299. **WARDINGTON.**

St. Mary Magdalene.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 46¾ inches in diameter, in E.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	FEARE (*Fig. V2.*) GOD (*Fig. V2.*) AND (*Fig. V2.*) HONNOR[4] (*Fig. V2.*) THE (*Fig. V2.*) KING (*Fig. V2.*) 1685 ✿ / (*Royal Arms.*)	6¾

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[1] Tyssen *MS.*, Society of Antiquaries Library.
[2] *MS. Oxon*, c. 158, fol. 341.
[3] *Ibid*, b. 66, fol. 211.
[4] *Sic.*

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Second.	Wm COLE & Rᴅ GOODMAN C W J BRIANT HARTFORD[1] FECIT 1791	7¼
Third.	: J : BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT. 1795 :	8½
Fourth.	JOHN TAYLOR BELL FOUNDER OXFORD & LOUGHBOROUGH 1841.	9½
Fifth.	BAGLEY *(Fig. B10.)* OF *(Fig. B10.)* CHACOMB[1] *(Fig. B10.)* MADE *(Fig. B10.)* MEE *(Fig. B10.)* 1669 *(Figs. B10, R13 and B10.)*	12
Tenor.	*(Border, Fig. Q7, all round bell.)* / IOHN *(Fig. V2.)* WEBB *(Fig. V2.)* AND *(Fig. V2.)* IOHN *(Fig. V2.)* LANGLEY *(Fig. V2.)* CHVRCH WARDENS *(Fig. V2.)* H*(Fig. Q13.)*B *(Fig. Q13.)* 1682 *(Fig. Q13.)*	18

The treble is by Henry Bagley II and Matthew Bagley I ; the second and third are by John Briant ; the fourth is by John Taylor, the fifth by Henry Bagley I, and the tenor by Henry Bagley II. The canons have been removed from all the bells. The treble has the peculiarity known to campanologists as a "double cry." When chimed its strike-note appears to be a trifle flat, but when rung in full circle it sounds much flatter.

The ring hangs in a cast iron side-pattern frame and is fitted with gear, type B.

The predecessors of the second, third and fourth were also by members of the Bagley family, whose bell foundry was situated in the neighbouring parish of Chacombe. Bagley's bell catalogue states that his foundry had supplied to :

"Wordington[1] 6 [bells]."[2]

Amazed at the writer's request for permission to examine the bells a former incumbent suspected him of planning to rob the church and telephoned the police.

Visited : F.S., 1934—1950.

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[1] *Sic.*

[2] Bagley, H., *Catalogue of bells cast by Henry Bagley*, 1732.
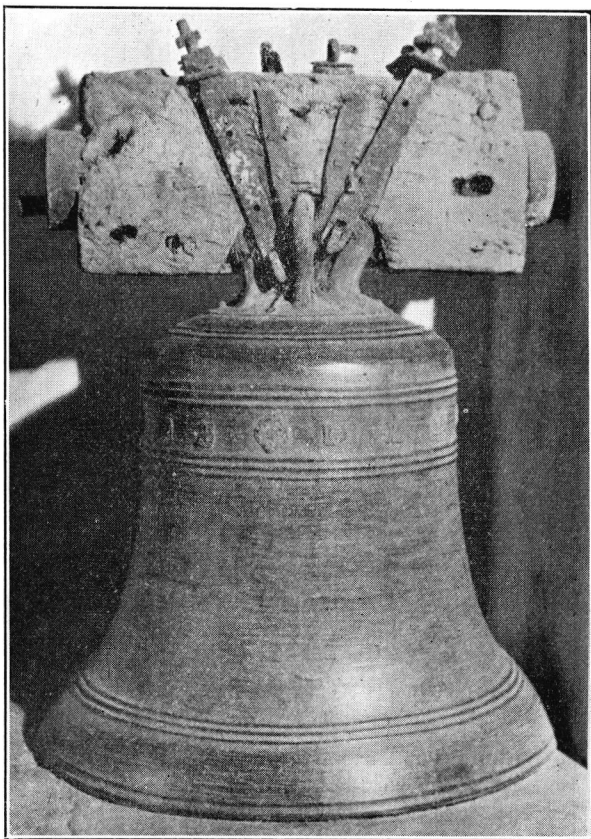
Photo.:   *Harris Morgan, Esq.*

Fig. 58. Wendlebury. The second bell of the disused
ring of three, cast by an unknown itinerant bell-
founder in the latter part of the sixteenth century.

300.   **WATER EATON.**[1]

The Manor House Chapel.

An open western turret contains one bell, hung for chiming.
The bell has a peg argent, and is fitted with an iron headstock,
lever and counterpoise.   When viewed from the ground the bell
appears to have no inscription or band for one, and resembles a
nineteenth century "brass-foundry" casting.   The chapel is a
Jacobean building in the local late Gothic style.

Visited : F.S., 16th July, 1952.

301.   **WATERPERRY.**

St. Mary.

A western tower containing two bells, 19½ and 23 inches in
diameter, hung for ringing.   They are tuned as the treble and
tenor of a ring of three.

The smaller bell was cast at the Bicester foundry ; it bears
the founder's mark, Fig. P5, in the form of a border, below which
is the inscription :

THOMAS RIPPINGTON CHURCH WARDEN
E HEMINS FECIT 1732 *(Fig. P5.)*

The larger bell was recast at the Whitechapel foundry in
1873.   Its former inscription was then reproduced in Gothic letter-
ing of a type similar to, but not identical with, that on the old
bell.   It is now inscribed :

✠ 𝔄𝔙𝔈 : 𝔐𝔄𝔕𝔍𝔄 : 𝔊𝔕𝔄𝔆𝔍𝔄 : 𝔭𝔩𝔈𝔫𝔄
: 𝔇𝔒𝔐𝔍𝔫𝔙𝔖 : 𝔗𝔈𝔆𝔙𝔐 : / 𝔕𝔈𝔆𝔄𝔖𝔗
𝔅𝔜 𝔐𝔈𝔄𝔕𝔖 & 𝔖𝔗𝔄𝔍𝔫𝔅𝔄𝔫𝔎,
𝔏𝔒𝔫𝔇𝔒𝔫, 1873.

The strike note of the bell is E natural, and it weighs 2 cwt.
2 qrs. 24 lbs.   Its predecessor was a fourteenth century bell, but
of doubtful origin.[2]

The smaller bell is fitted with an elm headstock, drive-in
type gudgeons, and brass bearings of early eighteenth century
date ; its ironwork is of the nailed type, and it has a restored
medieval half-wheel which must have belonged to its predecessor.

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[1] A hamlet in the parish of Kidlington.
[2] A drawing of part of its inscription on a reduced scale is given in
Parker's *Guide to the Architectural Antiquities in the neighbourhood
of Oxford*, 1845, p. 255.   A rubbing of the inscription is in the Tyssen
Collection at the Library of the Society of Antiquaries.

The gear of the larger bell is by Alfred White, and, with the exception that stay, slider, and ground pulley are not included, is similar to type A.

The oak bell-frame is medieval and embodies many interesting constructional details. It consists of short frame-heads, king posts, curved braces, and cills, and transomes connecting the braces. The braces are morticed to the cills, but instead of being morticed to the king posts are morticed to the frame heads. Below and at right angles to the cills are sub-cills occupying the position usually taken by the foundation beams. The latter are below and at right angles to the sub-cills. Frames of this type generally have their braces morticed both to the king-posts and heads, or to the king posts alone, with or without head-struts.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 2 litle belles in the steple—Item a broken hande bell.*

Visited : F.S., 14th October, 1952.

302.   **WATERSTOCK.**

St. Leonard.

A western tower containing a chime of six bells ; tenor 34¾ inches in diameter in B♭; and a sanctus bell, 12¼ inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	1664 / 1888. J.H.A. / RECAST BY GILLETT & Co CROYDON	3	0	1
Second.	✠ ANO x6x5 / G C / 1888. J.H.A. / RECAST BY GILLETT & Co CROYDON	3	3	3
Third.	**Sancte** (*Fig. E13.*) **nith** (*Fig. E13.*) **olae** (*Shield, Fig. F7.*) / **s** (*Coin, Fig. Q3.*) **i** / RECAST BY GILLETT & Co CROYDON	4	0	14
Fourth.	CAST BY GILLETT & Co CROYDON / J.H.A. 1888.	4	3	15
Fifth.	(*Same as fourth.*)	6	1	4
Tenor.	(*The same, but in larger type, and with band of floral ornament all round bell.*)	7	3	21

The chime was cast at the Croydon foundry. The initials "J.H.A." are those of Canon J. H. Ashhurst, by whose gift the three old bells were recast and three new ones added. The bells hang in a pine frame ; they are fitted with elm deadstocks, and are sounded by means of an "Ellacombe" chiming manual.

The saunce was cast by John Waylett, an itinerant founder. It is inscribed :

I W 1726

The bell retains its original headstock, and some keyed ironwork. It is fitted with strap gudgeons, and is swung by means of a lever and counterweight.

The former three bells were hung for ringing. The treble was by Richard Keene, the second by Henry Knight I, and the tenor by John Saunders, *circa* 1550. Their inscriptions, which were not accurately reproduced on the new bells, were as follows :[1]

Treble :   1664

Second :   HENRX KNXGHT MADE ME x6x5 G C

Tenor :   𝔖 ancte (*Fig. E13.*) nich (*Fig. E13.*) olae
(*Shield, Fig. F7.*) / i (*Coin, Fig. Q3.*) 𝔰

The initials on the second are those of Sir George Croke, Kt., who was probably either churchwarden or donor.

7 Edw. VI. *Item 3 great belles and one litle bell.*

Visited : T.A.T., *circa* 1880. F.S., 15th September, 1934.

303.   WATLINGTON.

St. Leonard.

A western tower containing a ring of eight bells ; tenor 49½ inches in diameter, in E♭.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / THE CHARITY OF THE SISTERS / MARIA COOK, AND CAROLINE WELTON, / GAVE ME. / 1905.	6	0	1
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / THE PARISHIONERS / GAVE ME. / 1905. / REV: SIDNEY C. SAUNDERS, M.A. VICAR. / HENRY DIXON, M.R.C.S., / WILLIAM WIGGINS, J.P., } CHURCHWARDENS	6	1	10
Third.†	THOMAS STONER ESQVIER / SYMON BARTLET THOMAS GREGORY C(*Fig. L3.*)W H(*Fig. K3.*)K 1663	6	2	0‡

[1] Walters' *MS.*, fol. 303, Society of Antiquaries Library.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Fourth.†	𝕵𝖊𝖗𝖆𝖒 𝕮𝖆𝖚𝖘𝖙𝖆𝖘 𝕲𝖆𝖚𝖊 𝕿𝖍𝖎𝖘 𝕭𝖊𝖑𝖑 in 1587 (*Cross, Fig. U9.*) / H K	7	1	0‡
Fifth.†	SIMON BARTLET THOMAS GREGORY W(*Fig. L3.*)C / H(*Fig. K3.*)K 1663	9	0	0‡
Sixth.†	FEARE GOD x635	12	0	0‡
Seventh.†	Thos: Iohnson & Willm. Chaplin Wardens : 1785 (*Fig. D8.*) C: & Iohn Rudhall : Founders (*Fig. D8, twice.*)	16	2	0‡
Tenor.†	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1869.	24	0	7

The treble and second have "Doncaster" pattern heads ; they were added to the ring in 1905. In that year the canons were removed from the six older bells, and the augmented ring was hung with gear, type J, in a wrought iron side-pattern frame by Messrs. Webb and Bennett.

From the Edwardian inventories we learn that in the medieval ring there were four large bells. To these Jeremy Ewstes added a treble[1] to make five. On the east wall of the nave south of the chancel arch is a brass bearing the inscription :

"𝕳𝖊𝖗𝖊 𝖑𝖞𝖊𝖙𝖍 𝖇𝖚𝖗𝖎𝖊𝖉 𝖙𝖍𝖊 𝖇𝖔𝖉𝖞 𝖔𝖋 𝕵𝖊𝖗𝖊𝖒 𝕮𝖜𝖘𝖙𝖊𝖘 𝖞𝖊[𝖔𝖒𝖆𝖓] / 𝖙𝖍𝖊 𝖊𝖑𝖉𝖊𝖘𝖙 𝖘𝖔𝖓𝖓𝖊 𝖔𝖋 𝕽𝖔𝖇𝖊𝖗𝖙 𝕮𝖜𝖘𝖙𝖊𝖘 𝖑𝖆𝖙𝖊 𝖔𝖋 𝖙𝖍𝖎𝖘 𝖙𝖔𝖜[𝖓𝖊] [𝖔𝖋] / 𝖂𝖆𝖙𝖑𝖞𝖓𝖌𝖙𝖔𝖓 𝖜𝖍𝖔 𝖌𝖆𝖚𝖊 𝖞𝖊 𝖙𝖗𝖊𝖇𝖊𝖑𝖑 𝕭𝖊𝖑𝖑 𝖙𝖍𝖆𝖙 𝖍𝖆𝖓𝖌𝖊𝖙𝖍 [𝖓𝖔𝖜] / 𝖎𝖓 𝖙𝖍𝖎𝖘 𝕾𝖙𝖊𝖕𝖕𝖞𝖑𝖊 𝖍𝖊 𝖉𝖊𝖈𝖊𝖆𝖘𝖊𝖉 𝖙𝖍𝖊 𝖋𝖞𝖗𝖘𝖙 𝖉𝖆𝖞 𝖔𝖋 𝕸𝖆𝖞 15[87]"

The brass has been damaged and a small portion incorporating the end of each line is missing. The wording of the missing portions of the inscription is taken from a transcript made by Dr. Rawlinson in the seventeenth century.[2]

The bell given by Ewstes was cast at the Reading foundry by Henry Knight I, whose son, Ellis I, recast the third and fourth of the ring of five in 1635. The third survives as the sixth of the present ring. The fourth has been recast, and we are indebted to Dr. Rawlinson for a transcript of its inscription. According to him the bell was inscribed :[3]

PRAYERS OF THE LORD 1635

But Rawlinson probably misread the inscription, and from our knowledge of Ellis Knight's work we should expect it to be :

PRAYES YE THE LORD x635

as on bells by him at Magdalen College, and the churches of St. Aldate and St. Mary Magdalene, Oxford.[4]

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[1] The present fourth.
[2] Rawlinson, R., *Parochial Collections*, p. 334.
[3] *MS. Rawl.*, B400, c 69v. Bodleian Library, Oxford. For the discovery of this I am indebted to Mr. B. J. Enright.
[4] See pp. 286, 302 and 334.

The tenor was recast by Henry Knight II in 1660. A. H. Cocks and W. C. Lukis tell us it was inscribed :[1]

FEARE GOD HONOVR THE KING 1660

Three years later Knight added a treble to make a ring of six and recast the second of the old ring to form the third of the new one. The two bells made by Knight in 1663 are now the third and fifth of the ring of eight ; both bear the names of the churchwardens and the one added to the ring bears also the name of Thomas Stonor, probably its donor.

One of Ellis Knight's bells was recast at the Gloucester foundry in 1785 : it is now the seventh of the ring.

The tenor was recast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1869.

6 Edw. VI. *Item in the steple 4 great belles and one litle bell.*

Visited : F.S., 21st August, 1948, 29th July, 1952.

In Dr. Rawlinson's MS. is the following note on the market bell :

"The inscription upon the Markett Bell comonly called the Cross Bell hanging in a wooden turrett upon the Market House on which strikes the town clock :

THIS BELL BELONGETH TO THE
INHABITANTS OF WATLINGTON /
RALPH WALIS RICHARD GREGORY
1665"[2]

At Christmas Common in the parish of Watlington is a chapel-of-ease dedicated to The Holy Nativity. It possesses an open central turret containing one hemispherical "bell", or gong, hung dead, and sounded by means of a tolling hammer. The chapel was built in 1891.

Visited : F.S., 8th March, 1952.

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[1] A. H. Cocks, *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 1897, p. 130. W. C. Lukis, *An Account of Church Bells*, 1857, p. 93. Lukis gives the inscriptions on the ring of six existing in his day, but has not described the bells in the correct order.

[2] *MS. Rawl.*, B400, c 69v. Bodleian Library. I am indebted to Mr. B. J. Enright for the discovery of this quotation.
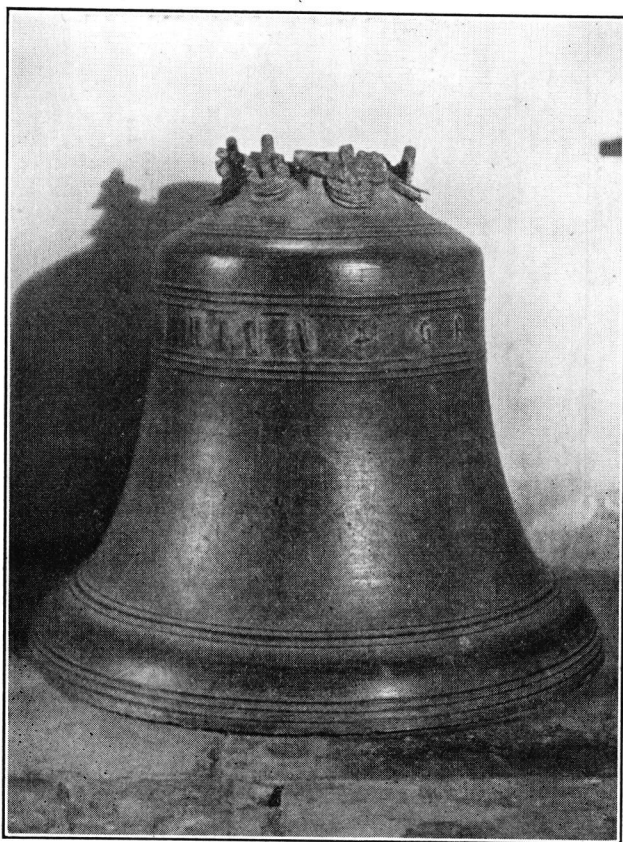
Photo :   *Harris Morgan, Esq.*

Fig. 59. Wendlebury. The tenor bell of the disused ring
cast at the Reading foundry in the middle of the six-
teenth century.

305.　　　　　　　　**WENDLEBURY.**

St. Giles.

A small bell-frame under a pent roof on the western gable of the nave contains one bell, 13¾ inches in diameter, hung for chiming. The bell bears no inscription or marks and is said to be modern.

The western tower was demolished at the end of the nineteenth century. It once contained a ring of three bells ; tenor 34½ inches in diameter. The bells now stand on the floor at the west end of the Church.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	WILLIAM BASSON DANELL[1] HOROD C W 1695	4½
Second.	(*Cross, Fig. J8.*) Ö L KI D ᴎS Ö ᴧ G K (*Fleur-de-lys, upside down.*) T (*Cross.*) (*Fleur-de-lys, upside down.*) ᴊ[1]	5½
Tenor.†	ꞩanc (*Fig. E13.*) te (*Fig. E13.*) deo (*Fig. E13.*) nisi (*Shield, Fig. F7.*)	7½

The treble is by Richard Keene ; the second is by an itinerant founder of 1570-1600 who is also found at Milcombe ; the tenor was cast at the Reading foundry, probably by John Saunders, in the middle of the sixteenth century.

The treble is cracked. The initial cross on the second is similar to that used by William Watts on the tenor at Chesterton, *circa* 1590. Portions of the gear of the two largest bells remain. The second is attached to its original sixteenth century elm headstock, which is fitted with drive-in type gudgeons, stock hoops, and nailed and keyed ironwork. The headstock has a large mortice hole at one end where a wooden lever was once fixed for the purpose of traditional-type chiming. The tenor has lost its canons and argent, and holes have been drilled in its crown through which slotted pins were passed to secure it to the headstock. These pins and their keys remain : they date from the seventeenth century. The bells are illustrated in Figs. 56—59.

6 Edw. VI. *Imprimis 3 bells and one sanctus bell.*

Visited : F.S., 12th January, 1925, 27th June, 1948.

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[1] *Sic.*

306. **WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN.**

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of five bells†; tenor $35\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, in A♭ ; and a sanctus bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1870.	4	1	10
Second.	(Same as treble.)	4	3	20
Third.	(The same.)	5	1	18
Fourth.	(The same.)	6	1	8
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / THESE BELLS, ORIGINALLY THREE, / WERE RECAST AND REHUNG AT / THE COST OF THE REV. W. J. DRY, VICAR. / A.D. 1870.	8	0	8

A complete ring from the Whitechapel foundry. The bells were rehung in a wrought iron frame with pits for six bells, early in the present century by Mr. F. Webb, who removed their canons and supplied new gear, type J. The weights recorded above are those of the bells before their canons were removed.

The saunce was cast by Messrs. Taylor at the Oxford foundry. It bears the inscription :

W. & J. TAYLOR (*Figure of Ox.*) 1834

The following particulars of the former ring of three bells are derived from the Whitechapel foundry records.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Treble.	ROBERT (*Fig. H3.*) ATTON (*Fig. V1.*) MADE (*Fig. H3.*) ME (*Fig. H3.*) THE (*Fig. V1.*) TREBVLE[1] (*Fig. H3.*) BEL[1] (*Fig. H3.*) FOR (*Fig. V1.*) TO (*Fig. H3.*) BE (*Fig. V1.*) 1611 (*Figs. U10, R5, and U10.*)	8	0	7
Second.	𝕾it 𝕹omen 𝕯omini 𝕭enedictum (*Figs. V4, V5, and V6.*)	9	3	9
Tenor.	𝕾ancte blaſi ora pro nobis	12	1	0

The treble was cast at the Buckingham foundry ; the second was by Richard Hille, of London, *circa* 1430 ; and the tenor by John Saunders, of Reading, *circa* 1550. Drawings of the inscriptions on these bells are to be found in the Kimber collection at the Whitechapel foundry.

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

Visited : F.S., 22nd December, 1923, 3rd February, 1933.

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[1] *Sic.*

307.   **WESTON SOUTH.**

St. Laurence.

An open central turret with spirelet above containing one bell, hung for chiming. The bell was examined by the Rev. P. G. Espinasse who states that it is inscribed :

G C 1724

The initials are those of the founder, George Chandler. The bell has not been quarter-turned ; it is fitted with an elm headstock, strap gudgeons and iron lever.

Visited : P.G.E., 30th October, 1920 ; F.S., 26th March, 1949.

308.   **WESTWELL.**

St. Mary.

An enclosed western turret containing three bells ; 12¼, 22¼ and 24½ inches in diameter. The smallest is the saunce.

The largest bears the inscription :

THOMAS   HALL   THOMAS   PARHAM
CHURCH WARDENS HENRY BAGLEY
MADE ME J730

The other bells have no inscriptions or marks.

The writer has not seen these bells, and has derived the foregoing particulars from the Walters' MS.[1] Mr. Walters thought that the second largest bell might be a medieval casting.

309.   **WHEATFIELD.**

St. Andrew.

An enclosed western turret containing one bell, 18½ inches in diameter, hung for chiming.

The bell was cast by Ellis Knight I, and is similar to bells at Balliol College, and elsewhere. It is inscribed in Knight's well known sheet metal type with the date :

x636

Visited : P.G.E., 4th March, 1920 ; F.S., 29th April, 1950.

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[1] Walters' *MS.*, fol. 308. Society of Antiquaries Library.

310.   **WHEATLEY.**

St. Mary.

A western tower with spire containing a ring of six bells ; tenor $37\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, in A♭ ; and a sanctus bell, 9 inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / "PRAISE GOD IN HIS SANCTUARY" PS.150. / EDWARD ELTON, VICAR. / GEORGE ROSE, / CHARLES BUSHNELL, } CHURCHWARDENS. 1879.	4	1	17
Second.	J. BRIANT HERTFORD. FECIT. 1794 :	4	2	0‡
Third.	JOHN BRIANT HARTFORD.[1] FECIT. 1794 :	5	0	0‡
Fourth.	· J : BRIANT HERTFORD : FECIT : 1794 :	5	2	0‡
Fifth.	: J : BRIANT HERTFORD. FECIT. 1794 : GLORIA DEO IN EXCELSIS :	7	0	0‡
Tenor.	JOHN BRIANT. OF HERTFORD. FECIT. 1793. / GLORIA DEO IN EXCELSIS (*Four coins.*)	9	0	0‡

A ring of five by John Briant, to which a treble was added in 1879, making six. All except the treble have been quarter-turned. The bells hang in an eighteenth century oak frame, and are fitted with gear, type C.

The saunce is hung for chiming ; it bears an inscription in Russian for which see below.

In the minute book of the Parochial Church Council, under the date, 7th March, 1921, is the entry :

"The Vicar presented to the Council a bell, weighing 20 English lbs., which had hung till 30th June 1919 in the belfry of the church at Troitsa, (on the banks of the Northern Dvina, 150 miles from its mouth) in the Government of Archangel, North Russia, inscribed with the words (in Russian characters):

'Made in the factory of Olovyanishmik at Taroslav'

The bell was the gift of Mr. D. Hancock of C.C.C., Oxford."[2]

Visited : F.S., 24th July, 1948.

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[1] *Sic.*

[2] I am indebted to Mr. W. E. Sheldon for this transcript.

311.   **WHITCHURCH.**

St. Mary.

A western tower with spire containing a ring of six bells†; tenor 35¾ inches in diameter, in A♭.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON. 1912. / (Border, Fig. M1.) / CANON H. E. TROTTER, RECTOR. / CHARLES H. PALMER, / COL. E. DICKENSON, ⎱ CHURCHWARDENS. / FOUNDED AT LONDON 1790. / 1	2	3	6
Second.	RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON. 1912. / (Border, Fig. M1.) / I AS SECOND WILL RING. / 2	3	0	8
Third.	RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON. 1912. / (Border, Fig. M1.) / I AS THIRD WILL SING. / 3	3	2	20
Fourth.	RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON. 1912. / (Border, Fig. M1.) / I AS FORTH WILL SOVND. / 4	4	1	11
Fifth.	RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON. 1912. / (Border, Fig. M1.) / AS TENOR HUM THEM ROUND. / 1624. L.W. T.F. / THIS BELL RECAST A.D. 1858. / REVD. EDWARD MOORE M.A. RECTOR. / 5	5	2	10
Tenor.	RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON. 1912. / (Border, Fig. M1.) / LAUS DEO : D: D: E:J:BLYTH: 1878. / 6	8	0	9

A complete ring from the Croydon foundry. The bells hang in a cast iron side-pattern frame and are fitted with gear, type G.

Before the year 1878 their were five bells in the ring ; the tenor of these being 34¼ inches in diameter. They were examined by the Rev. T. A. Turner whose notes are now in the **Walters'** *MS.*, at the Library of The Society of Antiquaries, and from which the following account has been taken.

Particulars of the former ring of five bells.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	JOHN WARNER FOUNDER AT LONDON 1790	3	0	0‡
Second.	X AS SECOND WXLL RXNG	3	2	0‡

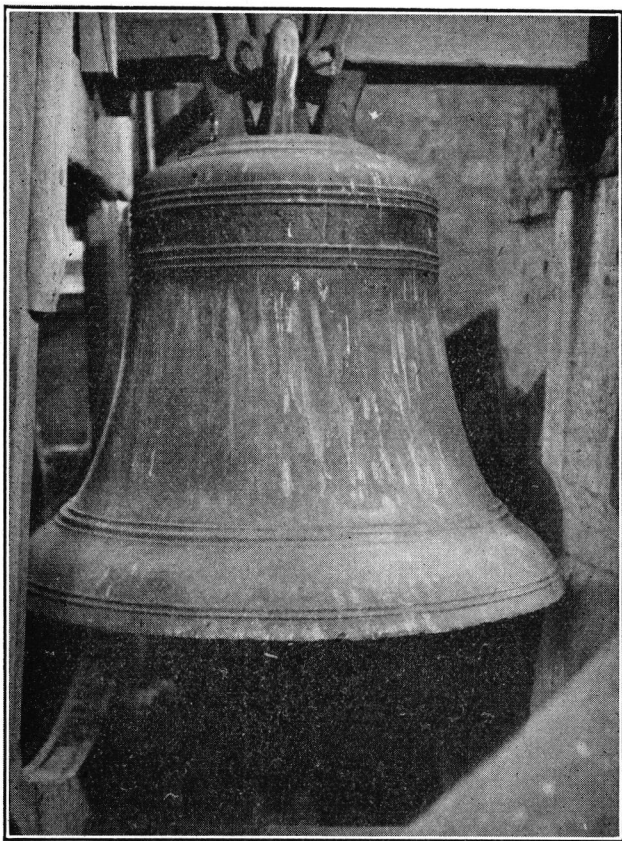*Photo :*   *Harris Morgan, Esq.*

Fig. 60. Bucknell. The treble bell of the ring of three, cast
by Bartholomew Atton, of Buckingham, 1597.

Bell.	*Inscription.*	*Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.*		
Third.	X AS THXRD WXLL SXNG	4	o	o‡
Fourth.	X AS FORTH WXLL SOVND	5	o	o‡
Tenor.	AS TENOR HUM THEM ROUND 1624 L.W. T.F. / THIS BELL WAS RECAST A.D. 1858 / REVD. EDWARD MOORE M.A. RECTOR / G. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON	7	o	9

Of these the second, third and fourth were the remains of a "stock" ring of five bells cast by Ellis Knight I in 1624. The treble was recast by J. Warner in 1790, and the tenor by G. Mears in 1858.

In 1878 Messrs. Mears and Stainbank added a tenor, weighing 8 cwt. 3 qrs. 25 lbs., which was recast with the others in 1912.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 3 belles.*

Visited : T.A.T., 21st July, 1877 ; F.S., 22nd April, 1950.

312.   WHITCHURCH HILL.

St. John.

An open bell-cote under the gable of the south porch contains one bell, 18 inches in diameter, hung for chiming. It has a peg argent, and is fitted with an iron stock and lever.

The bell bears the inscription :

JOHN WARNER & SONS, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1921. / (*Border, Fig. U3, all round bell.*)

Visited : F.S., 22nd April, 1950.

313.   WIDFORD.

St. Oswald.

An open central turret containing one bell, $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, cast by Thomas Rudhall, hung for chiming, and inscribed :

COME AT MY CALL & SERVE GO�[1]
ALL (*Border.*) 1777 (*Border.*)

Visited : F.S., 13th September, 1952.

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[1] *Sic.*

314. **WIGGINTON.**

St. Giles.

A western tower containing a ring of three bells ; tenor $39\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, in G ; and a sanctus bell, $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Treble.	IOHN :-: HALL :-: WILLIAM :-: WYATT :-: CHVRCH : :-: WARDENS (*Border.*) / MATTHEW : BAGLE : MADE : : MEE : THE : LEADER : OF : THIS : PEAL : TO : : BE : : J753 :	6	2	0‡
Second.	G. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1859.	7	2	26
Tenor.	+ PERPETUIS * RESONET * CAMPANIS * NA * JOHAIS / H. BOND & SONS. / FOUNDERS. BURFORD. / OXON. 1896.	10	2	0‡

The treble was cast at the Chacombe foundry, the second at the Whitechapel foundry, and the tenor at the Burford foundry. The bells are fitted with gear, type B, and hang in a rolled steel frame. The frame and gear are the work of Messrs. Bond. The old oak frame was not removed but remains in situ below the new one.

As Browne Willis noted : "3 bells", early in the eighteenth century, it follows that the dates on the existing bells are those of the years in which they were recast.

Several different accounts are found of the inscription on the former tenor. Writing in the year 1813 Skelton stated the bell was inscribed :

> + PER . . . TVVIS. ANNIS. RESONAT. CAMPANA. IOHANNIS.[1]

Some seven years later Robinson read the inscription as :

> PERTUIS HONORIS RESONET CAMPANA IOHANNE[2]

And at the end of the nineteenth century Dr. Tyssen thus recorded the inscription :

> + PERTVVIS. HANNIS. RESENET. CAMPANA. IOHANIS.[3]

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[1] J. Skelton, *Collections for the History and Antiquities of Oxfordshire*, 1813, fol. 56. Bodleian Library, Oxford.

[2] J. E. Robinson, *Notes on Oxfordshire Churches*, MS. Top. Oxon., b 220. Bodleian Library, Oxford.

[3] Tyssen *MS.*, 40, fol. 82, Society of Antiquaries Library.

From Robinson we learn that the former second was one of the early products of the Chacombe foundry and bore the inscription :

/   CVM VOCE IVCVNDISSIMO PRESEQVOR
             1631 HB[1]

The saunce has no inscription or marks: judged by its shape it dates from the second half of the sixteenth century.

Visited : F.S., 14th April, 1934.   .

315.   **WILCOTE.**

St. Peter.

An open western turret containing one bell, hung for chiming and fitted with elm headstock, strap gudgeons and iron lever. It retains its canons. When viewed through field glasses the following inscription could be seen :

J. WARNER & SONS LONDON 18..[?]

The remainder of the date was concealed by the masonry. The bell probably dates from *circa* 1870.

Visited : W.M.E.S., F.S., 21st April, 1950.

316.   **WITNEY.**

St. Mary.

A central tower with spire containing a ring of eight bells†; tenor 47½ inches in diameter, in E ; and a sanctus bell, 20 inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	AUGUSTINE BATT *(Fig. D8.)* THOS : SANDERS *(Fig. D8.)* T *(Bell.)* R 1765 *(Fig. D8.)* / RECAST 1938 / *(Loughborough foundry mark.)*	5	3	23
Second.	RECAST BY H. BOND & SON BELL FOUNDERS / BURFORD, OXON / 1885 / W. FOXLEY NORRIS RECTOR / J. HABGOOD / J. STODDART CHURCHWARDENS / 1885 / GLORIA TIBI DOMINE / RECAST 1938 / *(Loughborough foundry mark.)*	6	0	15

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[1] J. E. Robinson, *ut sup.*

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Third.	MAY THE CHURCH FOR EVER FLORRISH[1] 1761 (*Fig. D8.*) / *Border, Fig. D8, all round bell.*) / RECAST 1938 / (*Loughborough foundry mark.*)	6	3	19
Fourth.	PHILLIP - HORN : ANTHONY - GEEVES : ARTHER[1] - BROOKS : WILLIAM - WEARING :-: CHVRCH - / :-: : WARDENS : HENRY . BAGLEY : MADE : MEE : IANVARY : THE : FIRST :-: J73J	7	3	24
Fifth.	HENRY DORNE MICHAEL DOLLEY CHURCH WARDENS T(*Bell.*)R 1765 (*Border, Fig. D8.*)	7	2	12²
Sixth.	PROSPERITY TO THIS PARISH & THE TRADE THEREOF A(*Bell.*)R 1755 (*Border, Fig. D8.*)	8	2	10²
Seventh.	WILLIAM TANNER WILLIAM SMITH C W 1660	12	0	24
Tenor.	(*Fig. L11.*) I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE GRAVE I SUMMON ALL. J. N. LAWRENCE HENRY SALMON / CHURCH WARDENS. T . . MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1815	16	3	11

The three smallest bells were cast at the Loughborough foundry ; the fourth is by Henry Bagley III, the fifth by Thomas Rudhall, the sixth by Abel Rudhall, the seventh by Richard Keene, and the tenor by Thomas Mears II. The treble, second and third were cast without canons ; the canons have been removed from the others. At the time the fourth was cast Henry Bagley's foundry was situated in Witney. In his catalogue, published in 1732, he stated that he had cast two bells for Witney parish church and that these were the treble and tenor. As he made the present fourth in 1731 it follows that there were then five bells in the ring :

        Treble : by H. Bagley, 1731.

        Second : the predecessor of the present fifth.

        Third : the predecessor of the present sixth.

        Fourth : by R. Keene, 1660.

        Tenor : by H. Bagley. (Recast by Mears, 1815.)

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[1] *Sic.*

[2] By comparison with the others these two bells were cast in a thin scale.

In a letter dated 30th January, 1738, written to Thomas Secker by Browne Willis, it is stated that there were six bells in the ring.[1] It follows that one was added between the years 1732 and 1738.

Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. rehung the ring with gear, type H, in a cast-iron side-pattern frame in 1938.

The saunce hangs in a separate oak frame above the other bells. It is fitted with an elm headstock, drive gudgeons, and half-wheel. It has lost its canons, and is secured by means of seventeenth century type keyed ironwork. It has a medieval-type stirrup-topped clapper, which must have once belonged to its predecessor, but which now lacks a leather lining to its baldrick. The tone of the bell is poor : it was cast at the Burford foundry by Edward Neale, and bears the inscription :

NICHOLAS   SHORTER   (*Fig. G8.*)
EDWARD MOVLDEN 1679

Visited : F.S., 25th September, 1948.

317.   WOLVERCOTE.

St. Peter.

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

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / A DEO — AD DEUM / WALTER DMITRI SARGENT, VICAR. / JOSEPH CASTLE, HENRY OSBORN KING, } CHURCHWARDENS. / A.D. 1900.	2	2	3
Second.	WILLIAM BAGLEY MADE MEE 1707	3	1	0‡
Third.	IOHN SMITH IOHN ROWLANDS CHURCH WARDENS / MATTHEW : & IAMES BAGLEY MADE MEE :-: J747 :-:	4	0	0‡
Fourth.	IAMES ROVLAN[2] IOSEPH HALL CHVRCH WARDENS 1707	4	3	0‡
Fifth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1881.	5	3	12
Tenor.	(*Same as fifth.*)	6	2	6

[1] *MS.*, Oxf. dioc. papers, e. 651, fol. 1. Bodleian Library, Oxford.
[2] *Sic.*
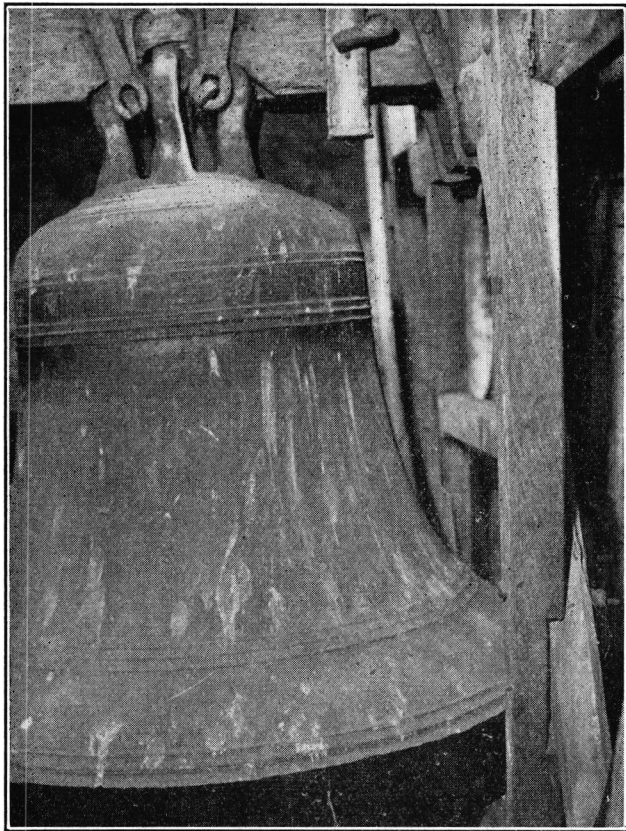
Photo :   *Harris Morgan, Esq.*

Fig. 61.   Bucknell.   The tenor bell, cast by James Keene,
of Woodstock, 1628.

The treble, fifth and tenor were cast at the Whitechapel foundry ; the second and fourth are by William Bagley, and were probably cast at Chacombe ; the third is by Matthew and James Bagley, whose bells are rare.

The treble was added to the ring in the year 1900.   The third and fourth are "maiden" bells, and have ornamental borders between the words of their inscriptions.   The second has been sharpened by the removal of a portion of its lip ; the strike-notes of the Whitechapel bells have been flattened.   A new wrought-iron frame and fittings, type C, were installed by Messrs. Webb and Bennett, in 1900.

From Dr. Tyssen's notes[1] we learn that the old ring of five consisted of the following :

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	(As on the present second, dated 1707.)	3¼
Second.	(As on the present third, dated 1747.)	4
Third.	(As on the present fourth, dated 1707.)	4¾
Fourth.	H AND WILLIAM BAGLEY MADE MEE MARCH 1710	5¾
Tenor.	IOHN HOWELL EDWARE[2] LOCK CHURCH WARDENS HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE MARCH THE 22 J742	6½

Visited : A.D.T., circa 1860 ; F.S., 10th January, 1935.

318.   WOODCOTE.
St. Leonard.

An open western turret containing one bell, 25½ inches in diameter, hung for ringing.

Round the shoulder of the bell are a number of narrow mouldings and above its sound-bow is the inscription :
JAMES WELLS ALDBOURNE FECIT 1801

In a letter written by the late Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn to Mr. H. B. Walters, in 1920, he states : "There is a local tradition that the bell originally came from South Stoke, the mother church."

6 Edw. VI. Item . . . . 2 belles.

Visited : C.W.O.J., 1920 ; F.S., 19th February, 1949.

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[1] Tyssen MS., Society of Antiquaries Library.
[2] Sic.

319.   **WOOD GREEN.**

The Holy Trinity.

An enclosed western turret contains one small bell, hung for chiming. It is inaccessible without the erection of scaffolding, and has not been examined by the writer. The Rev. Canon R. F. Bale states :

"The one bell at Holy Trinity, Woodgreen, is a small, rather miserable, tinkler. I have no reason to suppose it is not the same bell that was supplied to the church when it was built and consecrated in 1849."

Visited : F.S., 26th July, 1952.

320.   **WOODEATON.**

The Holy Rood.

A western tower containing a ring of five bells ; tenor 33 inches in diameter in B ; and a sanctus bell, $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	CANTATE DOMINO CANTICVM NOVVM 1680	$3\frac{1}{4}$
Second.	PRO REGEA ET ECCLESIA 1680	$3\frac{3}{4}$
Third.	GOD SAVE THE KING 1680	$4\frac{1}{4}$
Fourth.	HENRICVS BAGLEY ME FECIT 1680	$5\frac{1}{4}$
Tenor.	BE IT KNOWN TO ALL THAT DO MEE SEE THAT BAGLEY OF CHACOMB MADE MEE 1680	$6\frac{1}{2}$

A complete ring from the Chacombe foundry, probably by the second Henry Bagley. All the bells retain their canons. On the waists of the treble and second are shields bearing the arms of Nourse.[1] The bells were given to the church by John Nourse, of Woodeaton.[2]

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[1] A fèsse between two chevrons.

[2] Oxfordshire Archaeological Society, *Report for the Year 1917*, p. 116.

In 1718 Dr. Rawlinson stated :

"The church is handsome ; here are 5 bells given by Mr. Nourse's uncle and [they] are so sweet and tunable that they are called the Woodeaton Flagalets."[1]

The bells are richly ornamented. Encircling the treble and tenor above and below their inscription bands are borders similar to Fig. V2. Ornamental word-stops occur on all the bells : on the treble are Figs. U6, V3, V7, V8 and V9 ; on the second, Figs. U6, V3 and V8 ; on the third and fourth, Figs. V7, V8 and V9 ; on the tenor, Figs. V2 and V8. The tenor has also flower and plant ornaments which are not illustrated.

The ring is fitted with gear, type B, and hangs in wrought iron "x-braced" frame, installed by the late Frederick White, of Appleton.

The saunce bears the date :

1674

It resembles the products of the Woodstock foundry.

6 Edw. VI. *Item 3 small belles.*

Visited : F.S., 1925-1952.

321.   WOODSTOCK.
St. Andrew.

An open western turret contains one bell, hung for chiming. The bell is a small brass foundry-type casting with peg argent and no moulding wires : when viewed from the churchyard no inscription can be seen on it. The church was built *circa* 1886.

Visited : F.S., April, 1952.

322.   WOODSTOCK.
St. Mary Magdalene.

A western tower containing a ring of eight bells ; tenor 43 inches in diameter, in F$\sharp$; and a sanctus bell, 14 inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	WITH MARLBORO'S AID THE TOWER BILT[2] & THE CHURCH REPAIR .˙. q^2 .˙. R : WELLS FECIT .˙. .˙. .˙. .˙.	4

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[1] Rawlinson *MSS.*, B. 400, F. fol. 31d. Bodleian Library, Oxford.
[2] *Sic.*

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Second.	WE HERE WERE BROUGHT TO IOIN IN CONCORD ∴ IN HONOUR OF GEORGE MARQs OF BLANDFORD ∴ / ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ ROBERT WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS FECIT ∴ 1785 ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴	4½
Third.	THE GIFT OF EDWARD ATKINS ES[1] 1662 RECAST APR 1708 / CANTATE DOMINO CANTICVM NOVVM / W(*Three bells.*)B H(*Three bells.*)B H ✿ B	5¼
Fourth.	RECAST ᵥPR[1] 1708 MILES PARKER THOMAS MAIOR C W / H(*Three bells.*)B W (*Three bells.*)B H ✿ B	5¾
Fifth.	MILES PARKER THOMAS MAIOR C W RECAST APR 1708 / W(*Three bells.*)B H(*Three bells.*)B H ✿ B	6½
Sixth.	MILES PARKER THOMAS MAIOR C W RECAST APR 1708 / ✿ WILLIAM BAGLEY AND HENRY BAGLEY MADE VS ALL / W(*Three bells.*)B H(*Three bells.*)B H ✿ B	7½
Seventh.	THE GIFT OF THOMAS SPENCER BARONET 1666 RECAST APR 1708 / W(*Three bells*)B H(*Three bells.*)B H ✿ B	9½
Tenor.	THIS BELL MADE NEW APR 1708 BENIAMIN IOHNSON MAYRE MILES PARKER / THOMAS MAIOR ✿ C W ✿ WILLIAM BAGLEY AND HENRY BAGLEY OF CHALCOMBE / DID VS FIX OVT OF FIVE INTO SIX H ✿ B / W(*Three bells.*)B H(*Three bells.*)B	12½

The treble and second are by Robert Wells II ; the others are by William and Henry Bagley. In addition the ornaments and word-stops above mentioned, the devices, Figs. A9, B7, F1, F11, Q7, U6 and V7—9, occur on Bagleys' bells.

The ring hangs in an oak frame and has gear type B. The frame and gear are not now (1952) in first rate order, and some few years ago the tenor crashed out of its bearings during ringing. Luckily little damage was done by its fall, and no one was hurt : its gear was afterwards renovated.

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[1] *Sic.*

The inscriptions on the third, seventh and tenor suggest that there were originally three bells in the ring to which a treble, given by Edward Atkins, was added in 1662, and a tenor, given by Sir Thomas Spencer, Bart.,[1] was added in 1666 to augment the number to five. As testified by the inscription on the tenor, five bells were cast into six in April, 1708. Bagley's bell catalogue states :

"Woodftock 6 bells. His Grace the Duke of Marlborough gave 100*l*."[2]

Two smaller bells were added in 1785, making a ring of eight.

The saunce bears no inscription or marks ; it has four narrow mouldings below its shoulder, and has lost its canons. It is hung for chiming.

The Woodstock foundry, the most important of the Oxfordshire bell-foundries, was established in or about the year 1623 by James Keene, and continued until the death of Richard Keene in 1704.

Among the *Oxford Diocesan Papers* in the Bodleian Library is a letter dated 30th January, 1737/8, to Thomas Secker, Archbishop of Canterbury, from Browne Willis, in which he states :

"When I was a youngster I loved Bell Ringing & have been in all ye market town churches [in Oxfordshire] in number 13. What is very remarkable of them, every one of them have six bells except *Deddington*, where are only 4. There were but 2 in my time & the other two are an Addition ; there was a very tall spire at Deddington the most noted of all Oxfordshire & seen the farthest, this fell down in 1634 as I have remarked, the Bells were alienated, I think cast into canon by K. Charles the martyr's freinds : the tower was begun to be rebuilt but never finisht till after 1680 when it was adorned with large pinnacles. Tis seen still a great way : the Bells in the market towns are encreast[3] of late date. In my time some of these church had but 5 : the famous Rudhall make six at *Charlbury* as did Bagley at *Woodstock* & *Banbury*. A notable Bell castfounder[3] lived at Burford—I paid dear for a monstrous bell of his which was unhappily purchas'd & brought to Stratford chapell[4] on the fall of Castlethrupp tower abt 6 years agoe it being by a Faculty permitted to be sold—I think his name was Neal & that there is a remarkable epitaph for him in Burford chur:[5] which I am sorry to have mislayd—At *Whitney*,[6] *Burford* & *Bampton* are high spires—there are good towers at

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[1] A member of his family gave five bells to Yarnton in 1620.

[2] *Catalogue of Bells cast by Henry Bagley*, 1732, Bodleian Library, Oxford.

[3] *Sic.*

[4] Fenny Stratford, Buckingham. A. H. Cocks, *ut sup.*, p. 582.

[5] There is a remarkable epitaph to Elizabeth, wife of Edward Neal, in Burford Church.

[6] *Sic.*

all the other nine[1] market towns esp[ecially] at Henley as I remember, where were 5 good bells spoilt ab[ou]t 47 years agoe in 1692 as I have noted in casting them into six . . . . ''[2]

The thirteen Oxfordshire towns to which Willis refers were probably : Adderbury, Bampton, Banbury, Bicester, Burford, Charlbury, Chipping Norton, Deddington, Henley, Thame, Watlington, Witney and Woodstock.

Adderbury possessed a ring of six before 1789.[3]

Bampton possessed a ring of six in 1629.[4]

Banbury : As Willis states that in his day the bells in the ring were six in number, it follows that the old treble, dated 1752, had a predecessor, a fact previously unknown to the writer.[5]

Bicester had a ring of six before the year 1714.[6]

Burford had a ring of six before the year 1635.[7]

Charlbury : the existing ring was installed in 1716.[8]

Chipping Norton : Willis' statement proves that there were six bells in the ring before 1825.[9]

Deddington possessed a ring of four at the time Willis wrote.[10]

Henley : Willis' statement proves that the ring contained five bells before 1692.[11]

Thame possessed a ring of six bells in 1627.[12]

Watlington : The bells in the ring were augmented to six in number in 1663.[13]

Witney : If Willis' statement and Bagley's catalogue are correct one bell must have been added between 1732 and 1737.[14]

Woodstock possessed a ring of six in 1708.

Visited : F.S., 11th March, 1933.

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[1] *Sic*. It is difficult to know which nine towns are meant.

[2] *MS.*, Oxf. dioc. papers, e. 651, fol. 1. Bodleian Library, Oxford.

[3] *O.R.S.*, Vol. XXVIII., p. 10.

[4] *Ibid*, p. 28.

[5] *Ibid*, p. 32.

[6] *Ibid*, p. 46.

[7] *Ibid*, p. 68.

[8] *Ibid*, p 83.

[9] *Ibid*, p. 91.

[10] *O.R.S.*, Vol. XXX., p. 116.

[11] *Ibid*, p. 161.

[12] *O.R.S.*, Vol. XXXIV, p. 425.

[13] *Ibid.*, p. 434.

[14] *Ibid.*, p. 446.

323.   WOODSTOCK.

Blenheim Palace.

In Townsend's tower is a chime of three bells ; comprising an hour bell, 36 inches in diameter, sounding the strike-note A natural, and two quarter-bells.

The smaller quarter-bell is 22 inches in diameter, and its approximate strike-note is A flat. It was cast by Messrs. Lester and Pack, of the Whitechapel foundry and bears the date :

<div align="center">

1753

</div>

Encircling the inscription band is the border, Fig. U11., which terminates on both sides of the date with an arrow head stop ; on the opposite side of the bell an impression of a man's head has been inserted in the border.

The larger quarter-bell is $26\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter and sounds the strike-note E natural. This bell and the hour bell each bear the inscription :

<div align="center">

THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1842

</div>

The three bells have traditional-type canons ; those of the smallest are of the tall pattern ; those of the middle bell are of the rounded pattern. The middle bell has a hemispherical crown. The two smallest are "maiden" castings ; the strike-note of the hour bell has been slightly flattened. The bells hang in an oak frame consisting of heads, main and double-jack braces and cills : they are fitted with deadstocks and clock hammers.

These bells replace others installed in 1710 when the Palace clock was erected. The original hour bell was reputed to weigh approximately 10 cwt., and if so would probably have sounded the strike-note A flat, to which note the smallest bell was made in 1753. In 1842 the strike-notes and weights of the two largest appear to have been altered during their passage through the furnace. The present hour bell weighs approximately 8 cwt.

In an open turret on the Palace roof is a bell 14 inches in diameter, hung for ringing, and fitted with an elm headstock, drive gudgeons, brass bearings, traditional-type wheel and clapper. The bell is a brass foundry casting with peg argent dating from the latter half of the last century : it has no canons, and no inscription-band ; and bears no inscription or marks.

Visited : F.S., 14th January, 1953.
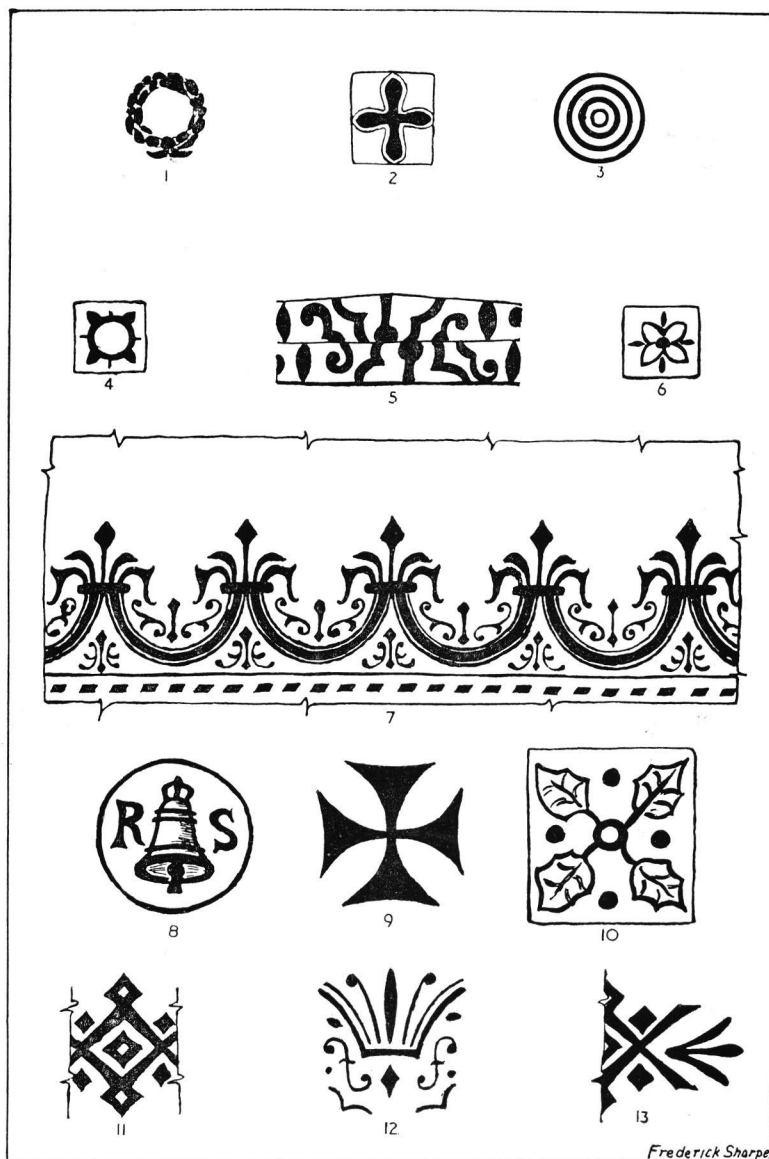
Figs. U1—U13. Half-scale details of founders' marks and borders. Figs. 1, 4, 5 and 12, Chacombe foundry. Fig. 2, Toddington medieval foundry. Figs. 3, 11 and 13, London foundries. Figs. 6 and 9, Reading foundry. Figs. 7 and 8, Bromsgrove foundry. Fig. 10, Buckingham foundry.

324.   **WOOTTON.**

St. Mary.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor 39 inches in diameter, in A♭ ; and a sanctus bell, 16½ inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Cwt.Qrs.Lbs.		
Treble.	THE PEOPLE OF WOOTTON GAVE ME IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1923. / MEARS & STAINBANK. FOUNDERS. LONDON. (*Whitechapel foundry mark.*)	4	0	11
Second.	PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD A (*Bell.*) R 1749 (*Border, Fig. D2.*)	4	3	0‡
Third.	RICHARD NORRIS. SAMUEL HOWES. CHURCH = WARDENS. E : HEMINS FECIT. 1732. (*Fig. P5, twice.*)	5	2	19
Fourth.	R : NORRIS. S : HOWES. C : WARDENS. E : HEMINS FECIT 1732 (*Fig. P5, three times.*)	6	2	27
Fifth.	E : H. 1732 (*Fig. P5, fifteen times.*) / BEHOLD OUR USES ARE NOT SMALL : THAT GOD TO PRAISE ASSEMBLIES CALL.	8	1	12
Tenor.	BENEDICTA SIT SANCTA TRINITAS (*Fig. P5, six times.*) / RICHARD IOHNSON : IOHN SOUTHAM : CHURCH = WARDENS Ed. HEMINS FECIT. SEPT : 3RD : 1739	10	3	14‡

The treble was cast at the Whitechapel foundry ; the second is by Abel Rudhall ; and the others are by Edward Hemins. The treble was added to the ring in 1923. All the bells retain their canons and are hung with gear, type B, in an oak frame. The frame and gear were installed by Mr. Richard White in 1923.

The weights of the four largest bells are taken from a memorandum dated 1733. This also contains a record of the weight of the predecessor of the second bell, which is stated to be 5 cwt. 0 qrs. 6 lbs.[1] and the weight of the tenor recorded there is that of the former bell.

The saunce is hung for chiming. It was cast at the Gloucester foundry, and bears the inscription :

T : RUDHALL FOUNDER 1778

Before and after the date are portions of the border, Fig. D8.

Visited : F.S., 13th March, 1927.

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[1] C. C. Ponsonby, *The History of Wootton*, 1947, p. 80.

325.   **WORTON, NETHER.**

St. James.

A western tower containing two bells, 13 and 24½ inches in diameter.

The smaller bell is hung for chiming. It was cast by Richard Keene, and is inscribed :

1681 R ⚜ K

The larger bell is hung for ringing. It was cast by Thomas Mears II, and is inscribed with the date :

1816

followed by a band of the traditional Whitechapel foundry loop ornament, similar to Fig. G11.

With the exception of four strap-bolts the ironwork and other fittings of the tenor are much older than the bell and must have belonged to its predecessor The keyed ironwork dates from the seventeenth century.

Visited : F.S., 25th June, 1933.

Since the date of the writer's visit he has learned that amplifiers have been installed in the tower by means of which gramophone records of bells are broadcast to the parish.

326.   **WORTON, OVER.**

The Holy Trinity.

The southern tower contains two bells, hung for chiming. For the reasons given below their exact dimensions could not be ascertained when the writer visited the tower in 1924, but their diameters are *approximately* 10½ and 23 inches.

The bells bear no inscriptions or marks. The larger has three narrow mouldings below its shoulder, and judged by its shape may be a medieval casting. The smaller is of later date and not unlike a product of the Woodstock foundry.

The bells hang from two transverse beams situated some 15 feet above the belfry floor. There is no permanent means of access to them, and it is impossible to introduce a ladder by means of the newel staircase leading from the vestry to the first floor. To examine the bells the writer had to lasso one of the beams and climb the rope, but when astride the beam could not reach the lips of the bells to measure their diameters. Since 1924 the writer's knowledge of the shape of medieval bells has increased considerably, but he cannot now climb ropes as in the past and has not been able to verify his original notes.

The church formerly possessed another bell, which was sold to defray the cost of purchasing a clock. Among the Oxford Diocesan papers at the Bodleian Library is an undated certificate in these terms :

Charles Talbot

    To
        Churchwardens of Over Worton in the Diocese of Oxon.

Whereas by a Certificate under ye hands of ye Minister & Church Wardens of Overworton aforesaid and of most substantial Parishioners of ye same it dothe plainly appear that the money arising by the sale of an old bell uselefs for a long time to ye Parish may be Better employed in providing a Church Clock for ye use of the Parishioners, applying ye remainder of the money (if any) to the use of Church. We therefore ye Worshipll Charles Talbot Bachr of Laws and Vicar Generall do by these presents empower ye Church Wardens of Overworton to sell ye said old uselefs bell and with ye money arrising to provide a Church Clock applying ye remainder to ye use of Church.

In Witnifs. [etc.][1]

Visited : F.S., 24th May, 1924.

327.   WROXTON.

All Saints.

A western tower containing a ring of five bells ; tenor 37½ inches in diameter, in A♭.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	CANTATE DOMINO CANTICVM NOVVM 1676	4
Second.	HENRICVS BAGLEY ME FECIT 1676 (*Fig. A3.*)	4¾
Third.	HENRY ✿ BAGLEY ✿ MADE ✿ MEE ✿ 1676 ✿	5¼
Fourth.	SAMVELL ✿ ALDINGTON ✿ AND ✿ WILLIAM ✿ ELLIS (*Fig. B10.*) CHVRCH WARDENS 1676 (*Fig. B10.*)	6½
Tenor.	(*Fig. B10.*) THAT ✿ ALL ✿ MAY ✿ COME ✿ AND ✿ NONE ✿ MAY ✿ STAY ✿ AT ✿ HOME ✿ I ✿ RING ✿ TO ✿ SERMON ✿ WITH ✿ A / LVSTY BOME 1676	9

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[1] MS., Oxf. Dioc. Papers, c. 455, f. 132.

A complete ring by Henry Bagley I, but not included in the catalogue of bells cast by the Bagleys, published in 1732. Encircling the treble and third above their inscriptions are bands of the border, Fig. B.10. Between each word on the second is the border, Fig. R13 ; and on the treble is another narrow border with a cable moulding above.

The oak bell-frame dates from the seventeenth century. The gear is similar to type A, but with the addition of bearings as in type D. On the 23rd of January, 1937, while the bells were being rung the heads of the tenor pit widened under the live load of the swinging bells and the tenor bell crashed down. Fortunately its fall was broken by the lower members of the bell-frame and the bell was unharmed. Some minor repairs were carried out after this catastrophe, but the frame is not now in first rate condition.

Visited : F.S., 29th July, 1933 ; 23rd January, 1937 ; 5th October, 1952.

328.   **YARNTON.**

St. Bartholomew.

A western tower containing a ring of six bells ; tenor $51\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, in D ; and a sanctus bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Treble.	Sʀ - THOMAS - SPENSER - KNIGHT - AND - BARONET - LORDE - OF (*Border.*) / THIS - MANNER - GAVE - ME - 1620 (*Border.*)	$7\frac{1}{4}$
Second.	(*Cross, Fig. C10.*) RECAST 1853. V.T.V. (*Fig. C11.*) W : TAYLOR OXFORD FECIT.	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Third.	(*Border, Fig. U13, all round bell.*) / ◇ Sʀ THOMAS SPENCER KNXGHT AND BARRONET LORD OF THXS MANNOVR / GAVE ME x620 (*Border.*) H ◇ K (*Border.*)	11
Fourth.	Sʀ § THOMAS § SPENCSER § KNIGHT § AND § BARONET § LORDE § OF § THIS § MANNER § / (*Border.*) (*Border.*) GAVE § ME § 1620 (*Border.*)	13

Bell.	Inscription.	Approx. Weight. Cwt.
Fifth.†	Sʀ - THOMAS - SPENCER - KNIGHT - AND - BARONET - LORDE - OF - THIS - MANNER - GAVE - / (*Border.*) ME - 1620 (*Border.*)	17
Tenor.†	(*Border, Fig. U13, all round bell.*) / Sʀ THOMAS SPENCER KNXGHT AND BARRONET LORD OF THXS MANNOVR GAVE ME x620 ◇ / HK	23

The second was recast by William Taylor in 1853 : the letters "V.T.V." stand for "Vaughan Thomas, Vicar." The other bells date from the seventeenth century and their founders are discussed below. The treble and fourth have angular type canons ; the second has ornamented canons ; the third has moulded canons of the round shouldered type ; the canons of the two largest bells have been removed. On the sound-bow of the fourth are several impressions of coins. The fourth has been both flattened and sharpened, and its tonal qualities have suffered in consequence ; the third has been flattened in characteristic Reading foundry style by means of deep chisel cuts extending for a quarter of the inner circumference of the sound-bow[1]; the other four bells have had their strike-notes lowered a little in pitch by means of a traditional pattern tuning hammer.

The saunce has no marks or mouldings ; it is primitive in shape, and is hung from its argent to an elm headstock, and swung by means of a lever. It may have originally possessed canons. Mrs. Stapleton found an entry in the churchwardens' accounts for 1611 stating that the "sans" bell was changed, and taken to Oxford for that purpose.[2] William Yare was working in Oxford in 1611,[3] and in Kidlington in 1610, and may have been the founder employed.

Although the inscriptions on the five oldest bells in the ring state that they were the gift of Sir Thomas Spencer in 1620 it is obvious from a comparison of their design and tuning, and from the shape of their mouldings, canons, lettering, and ornamental borders, and also from the spelling of their inscriptions that they are the work of two different bellfounders. The identification of the founder of the third and tenor presents no difficulty : they are

[1] See pp. 119 and 254.
[2] Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *Three Oxfordshire Parishes*, Oxford His. Soc., Vol XXIV, 1893, p. 264.
[3] See under the headings : Christ Church, St. Mary-the-Virgin, and The Bodleian Library, Oxford.
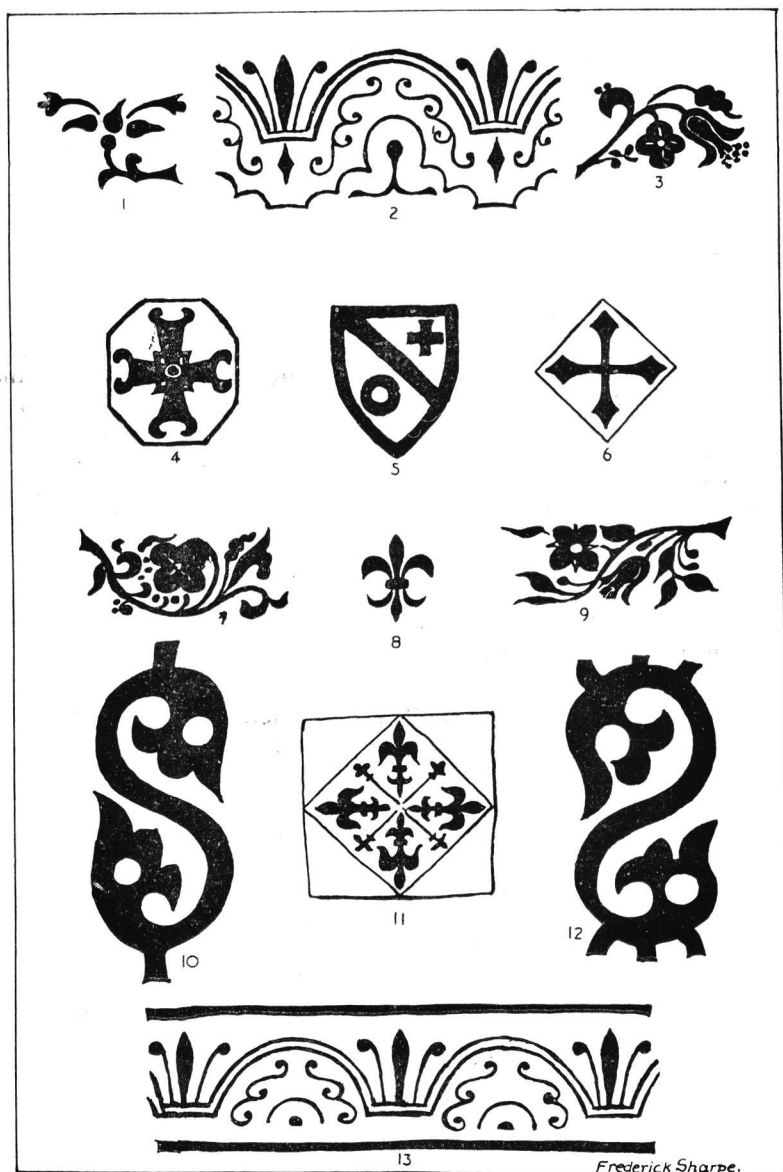
Figs. VI—VI3. Figs. 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 13, Chacombe foundry. Figs. 4, 5 and 6, London medieval foundry. Figs. 10 and 12, Reading foundry. Fig. 11, Salisbury medieval foundry.

of the traditional Reading foundry pattern ; they have the border, Fig. U13 ; their lettering is formed in sheet-metal type, and they bear the founder's initials "H.K." for Henry Knight I. In the inscriptions recorded above the difference in the spelling of the words: "Spencer," "Knight," "Baronet," "Lord" and "Manor," will be noticed. In contrast to the third and tenor, the treble, fourth and fifth have several peculiarities. They are cast in a thicker scale ; their inscriptions are formed by means of moulding stamps ; one ornamental border used on them is a vine-pattern larger than that afterwards used by James Keene but similar although not identical with it ; another border is similar to but not identical with that afterwards used by members of the Bagley family. Who then was the founder who used these stamps and what was the reason for two different bell founders being employed, if not at the same time, at any rate within a few months of one another ? In an endeavour to solve these problems the writer made a careful examination of the bells, frame and tower. He found that the frame had originally been made to house a ring of five bells with a tenor of smaller dimensions than the present one ; that the timbers of the tenor pit had been cut away considerably to allow the bell to swing clear of the frame ; and, of even greater significance, that after the bells had been installed one of the foundation beams below the tenor pit had been removed and the cill of this pit cut away to allow a larger bell to be hoisted into the belfry than the frame was originally designed to take. In addition he found that the two smallest bells were hung from transverse beams mounted above the lower tier of the frame ; and on the transverse beams a superstructure of oak had been added to carry the brass bearings in which the gudgeons revolved. This superstructure, which could hardly be termed a frame as it was completely solid, was found to have been made in two parts : that in which the second bell hangs having been added to the earlier portion containing the treble.

Before discussing the reasons for the alterations to the bell-frame, and the evidence relating to the probable founders of the three bells, two important facts should be noted. First, that before the installation of the bells and gear the tower had been entirely rebuilt at the expense of Sir Thomas Spencer, and that there is no question of an earlier frame being altered to suit the bells. All was entirely new and the alterations must have been made immediately after the original installation. Secondly, that on its completion the tower was provided with a single bell, which later be-

came the second of the ring. This bell was recast in 1853 but fortunately a record of its inscription has been preserved in the note-book of Alfred White, the bell hanger, who visited the tower in the eighteen-forties. From him we learn that the bell was inscribed :

ROBERT ATTVN MADE ME 1618

Robert Atton's foundry was situated at Buckingham ; and a peculiarity of its owners appears to have been their practice of calling in contemporary bellfounders to assist in coping with sudden rushed orders or large jobs. We therefore find the Buckingham foundry plant used by a variety of bellfounders, of which some examples have been quoted in discussing the bells of Christ Church and St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, and Sandford St. Martin. The treble, fourth and fifth bells are in many ways characteristic of bells cast by Atton and his contemporaries and also of early bells by the Keene family ; and we know that the Bagley ornaments were inherited from the Attons. Because of their exceptional size and the difficulties of haulage it is extremely probable that the Yarnton bells were cast near the church by a group of itinerant bellfounders. We have already noted examples of this at St. Mary-the-Virgin, Oxford, in 1623, and at Christ Church in 1626. The writer is of the opinion that Robert Atton, assisted by Humphrey and James Keene cast four bells at Yarnton in the year 1620 and that these, with the 1618 bell, formed the original ring of five bells for which the frame was made. Rings of six bells were then very rare, and Sir Thomas may only have realised that a ring containing this number was possible after the five were installed. Whatever the cause one thing is apparent : the provision of six bells did not form part of the original design. Sir Thomas may have been dissatisfied with Atton's work ; but it has lasted until today and bears testimony to the excellence of his craftsmanship : or Atton and his contemporaries may have journed elsewhere in their capacity as itinerant bellfounders. We can only hazard the reasons. We know that when it was decided to augment the number of bells in the ring to six by adding a larger tenor, Henry Knight I of the Reading foundry was called in to carry out the work. To make room for the additional tenor, each bell, with the exception of the treble, had to be moved into the pit of the next smaller bell ; the second was mounted on the transverse beams beside the treble in the additional superstructure before mentioned ; the third had to be recast so that its strike-note would be a semitone lower to suit the altered key-note of the ring, and after being recast was hung in the pit previously occupied by the second ; the

fourth was hung in the pit where the third formerly swung ; the old tenor now became the fifth and was housed in the pit formerly occupied by the fourth ; and the new tenor hung in the pit where the old tenor had once been, after the framework, foundation beams, cill and braces had been extensively cut away in order to get it in.   The cut away portions were not strengthened in any way.

The work was not entirely satisfactory ; and it is not surprising to find that the parish had constantly to pay for repairs to the bells and their gear.   Mrs. Bryan Stapleton has given extracts from the churchwardens' accounts relating to the repair and maintenance of the bells and of the various interesting occasions on which they were rung.[1]   No major work was carried out and beyond the re-casting of the second in 1853 no bells were removed from the frame which remained unaltered from the seventeenth century until 1934.

In his boyhood the writer frequently stayed at Yarnton Vicar-age and well remembers the unique bell-frame with its curious roping arrangements.   In those days the tenor (as now) swung north-and-south, parallel with the east wall of the tower, but its wheel was then on the eastern side of the headstock ; the fifth then swung north-and-south, parallel with the west wall ; the third and fourth then swung east-and-west ; the third (as now) parallel to the north wall ; the fourth parallel to the south wall.   The ropes from these four bells formed a "rope circle", if such it could be called ; one rope fell on each side of the tower but in the awkward order : 4—5—3—6.   The ropes of the treble and second fell in the centre of the belfry and could not form part of the rope-circle.

In the year 1934 Mr. Richard White was entrusted with the restoration of these bells ; and, by ingeniously transposing the pits of the fourth and fifth and moving the tenor wheel to the west side of the headstock, succeeded in obtaining for the first time a rope circle in the tower.   He thus solved a problem which had baffled bellhangers for upwards of three hundred years.   As the design of the seventeenth century frame made it impossible to reverse the pits of the two largest bells, the new rope circle had to be anti-clockwise in direction.   Mr. White supplied and fitted new elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, and self-aligning ball-bearings, and renovated the wheels, clappers and other gear.

Visited : F.S., 1921—1953.

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[1] Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *ut sup.*, pp. 264 ff.

329.   **YELFORD.**

SS. Nicholas and Swithin.

An open western turret containing two bells, $15\frac{1}{2}$ and 17 inches in diameter, hung for chiming.

The writer has viewed the bells from the churchyard. The turret is inaccessible without ladders, and none could be procured at the time of his visit.

The bells were examined in the year 1920 by Mr. L. H. Chambers who states that the smaller was cast at the Burford foundry and inscribed :

        MADE FOR : MY LADY LENT : HALL :
        1620 : ✿ E(*Bell.*)N ✿

and that the larger bell bears the inscription :

        RECAST FOR / EDMUND KYFFIN
        LENTHALL / DECR. 1891 / F. & S.
        WHITE, APPLETON.

The date on the smaller bell is puzzling. Edward Neal's bells date from 1641 to 1685. The date on the Yelford bell may be intended for 1670, or have been misread by Mr. Chambers.

The larger bell is probably by Messrs. Warner. A search through the records of the Whitechapel foundry revealed that the bell was not cast there. The bellhangers were Frederick and Stedman White.

Visited : L.H.C., 5th August, 1920 ; F.S., 1952.

End of Oxfordshire Parishes and Chapelries.

A GENERAL SURVEY OF OXFORDSHIRE BELLS

In Volumes I—IV of this work the bells of 297 parish churches and chapels have been described. An account has been given of the bells of the Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxford, and of those in 22 Oxford Colleges. Also included in this survey of the bells of the county are details of the bells in the Church of The Cowley Fathers, the Independent Evangelical Church of St. John and the chapel of St. Edward's School, Oxford, the Roman Catholic Church, Banbury, and the secular bells at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Carfax Tower, The Clarendon Press and The Bodleian Library, Oxford. A few secular bells are described under the headings of the parishes in which they hang.

The survey is divided into 329 sections, arranged alphabetically under the names of the parishes, but as no bells are described in section 244 the number of places visited is 328.

In these are a total of 1,423 bells, which may be classified as follows :

One ring of twelve bells	12
3 rings of ten bells	30
31 rings of eight bells	248
68 rings of six bells	408
28 rings of five bells	140
6 rings of four bells	24
33 rings of three bells	99
18 churches with two bells, hung for ringing ...	36
41 chimes, containing a total of	112
Single bells, service bells, clock bells, disused bells, secular and miscellaneous bells ...	161
Saunce bells	125
Tubular and hemispherical bells	28
Total	1423

Or again, if we classify them chronologically, it is with the following approximate results :

Thirteenth century bells	6
Medieval bells (1300-1540)	56
Transitional bells (1540-1600)	26
Seventeenth century bells	289
Eighteenth century bells	382
Nineteenth century bells	414
Modern bells	212
Bells of uncertain age	23
Unexamined bells of unknown age[1]	15
Total	**1423**

The number of pre-Reformation bells is therefore 62, a proportion of almost $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total. This is a lower percentage than the average for the English counties whose campanological history has so far been written. In these the average number of medieval bells is about 6 per cent. of the total.

In Oxfordshire an unusual feature is the high proportion of saunce bells. This is a little under 9 per cent. of the total number of bells described, and a little over 42 per cent. in proportion to the number of churches.

The largest bell in the county is Great Tom, of Oxford, which at the time of going to press is in process of being rehung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. Advantage has been taken of the opportunity to weigh the bell and it was found to weigh 6 tons $4\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.

The largest ring is that in the cathedral belfry, the only ring of twelve in the county. The rings of ten are at Magdalen and New College, Oxford, and St. Mary, Banbury. The last named is the only parish church to possess more than eight.

Christ Church, Oxford, has the largest tenor bell in the county. It weighs approximately 30 cwt., and is closely followed by those at Bloxham and Merton College, 28 cwt., St. Mary-the-Virgin, Oxford, 27 cwt., Bampton, 25 cwt., and Adderbury and Watlington, 24 cwt.

The oldest bells in Oxfordshire are the early thirteenth century inscribed bell at Caversfield, uninscribed bells of the same period at Kelmscot and Shifford, and later thirteenth century bells at Hampton Gay, St. Clement, Oxford, and Goring-on-Thames. Interesting examples of fourteenth century bell-founding are found at Adwell, Alkerton, Ambrosden, Broughton Poggs, Burford, Dor-

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[1] The age of some unexamined bells is known.

chester, Idbury, Newton Purcell, Stoke Talmage and Swyncombe.[1] The best-toned medieval bells are those at Burford, Dorchester, and Christ Church Cathedral. The majority of the medieval bells in the county came from the foundries at Wokingham, Reading, Buckingham and London. The Exeter, Gloucester, Toddington and Worcester foundries are also represented.

In the seventeenth century most of the bells in the north of the county came from the foundry of the Bagleys, at Chacombe : the Keenes, of Woodstock, monopolised the centre ; and the Knights, of Reading, supplied most of the bells in the south. The Neales, of Burford (Fig. 8) were active in the west, but did less work than the others. During the Commonwealth, Michael Darbie set up furnaces in Oxford and cast many bells for local churches.

With the exception of the Bagleys, who erected temporary furnaces in several places in addition to their foundry at Chacombe, all the above-mentioned foundries had disappeared by the eighteenth century. Except for Hemins, who for a short time had a foundry in Bicester, the chief eighteenth century founders at work in the county were the Rudhalls, of Gloucester, and the Wellses, of Aldbourne.

In the first quarter of the nineteenth century the Oxford foundry was established by members of the Taylor family, one of whom afterwards removed to Loughborough, where he built the foundry which subsequently became world famous. Over 150 bells have been made for Oxfordshire churches by the Taylors.

The equally famous Whitechapel foundry, established in 1575, or a few years earlier,[1] and which is now the oldest established business of any kind in England, has supplied over 300 bells to churches in the county. (Figs. 5, 13). Some 50 bells have been supplied by the Croydon foundry and a similar number by the Cripplegate foundry.

The only bellfoundry in Oxfordshire in recent years was that of the Bonds of Burford, established just after the middle of the last century and finally closed on the death of Thomas Bond in 1947.

As stated on page 7 of Volume I of this work it was originally intended to conclude with a chapter giving an account of the bell founders who supplied bells for the county with a fuller account of the Oxfordshire bellfounders and their work. Owing to lack of space this has had to be reduced to a simple list of founders' names and dates to which a list of their bells is added and will serve as a sub-index. The bell founders' names, like the parishes, are arranged in alphabetical order.

[1] See Figs. 7, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 50, 52, 54.
[2] F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Radnorshire*, 1947, p. 83.

Fig. 62. The late Thomas Bond's bellfoundry, Witney Street, Burford, in 1941

THE FOUNDERS OF OXFORDSHIRE BELLS.

APPOWELL, GEORGE. Founding at Buckingham, 1577 ; died 1578.[1]

APPOWELL, JOHN. First mentioned 1552 : owner of the Buckingham foundry ; died 1577.[2] Cast bells for Bloxham, Emmington, Milcombe, Mixbury and Thame.

ATTON, BARTHOLOMEW. First mentioned at Leicester, 1582 ; in partnership with Robert Newcombe, *circa* 1585 ; founding at Buckingham, 1589 ; retired *circa* 1613 ; died 1630.[3] Cast bells for Bucknell,[4] Milcombe, and Mixbury, and probably also for Christ Church, Oxford, and Cropredy School. (Figs. 31, 55 and 60).

ATTON, ROBERT. Founding at Buckingham, 1605 ; died 1628 ; bells bearing his name cast until 1633.[5] Cast bells for Combe, Fringford, Fritwell, Hanborough, Kidlington, Islip, Mixbury, St. Mary-the-Virgin, Oxford, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Tadmarton, Weston-on-the-Green and Yarnton.

BAGLEYS, THE. Messrs. Cocks,[6] North[7] and Walters[8] did much towards identifying the bellfounder members of this family ; but were unanimous in stating that they could not hope to solve all the problems. Cocks and Walters expressed the opinion that the future chronicler of Oxfordshire could best unravel the tangle. The writer's researches confirm that Mr. Walters' account[9] is substantially correct, with the exceptions that Matthew Bagley I must be regarded as the second son of Henry I, and that Matthew III was the son of John, the brother of Henry I.

BAGLEY, HENRY I. Born 1608 ; son of Matthew who died in 1649, and grandson of Henry who died in 1609;[10] apprent'ced to Atton, of Buckingham ; established the Chacombe foundry, 1631 ; retired *circa* 1679 ; died 1684. Cast bells for Banbury, Bodicote, Bourton, Drayton-St.-Peter, Mollington, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Shutford, Somerton, Souldern, Spelsbury, Tadmarton, Wardington, Wigginton and Wroxton.

BAGLEY, HENRY II. In partnership with his father, Henry I, 1674-1679 ; with his brother, Matthew I, 1679-1687 ; established the Ecton foundry, 1687 ; died 1703. Cast bells for Shennington and Woodeaton.

BAGLEY, HENRY III. Son of William. Founding at Chacombe 1701-1746 ; at Witney 1710-1741 ; at Northampton 1714 ; at Buckingham 1721 ; at Reading 1723. In partnership with his father, 1706-1712. Cast bells for Alkerton, Ambrosden, Ascott-under-Wychwood, North Aston, Steeple Aston, Beckley, Blackbourton, Burford, Chastleton, Cokethorpe, Ewelme, Fulbrook, Garsington, Godington, Hampton Poyle, Heyford Warren, Hornton, Kirtlington, Langford, South Leigh, Lewknor, Middleton

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[1] A. H. Cocks, *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 1897, p. 179.

[2] *Ibid*, p. 174.

[3] *Ibid*, p. 196.

[4] See Fig. 60.

[5] A. H. Cocks, *ut sup.*, p. 200.

[6] *Ibid*, p. 212.

[7] T. North, *The Church Bells of Northamptonshire*, 1878, p. 42.

[8] H. T. Tilley and H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Warwickshire*, 1910, p. 63.

[9] *Ibid*, p. 66.

[10] T. North, *ut sup.*, p. 42.
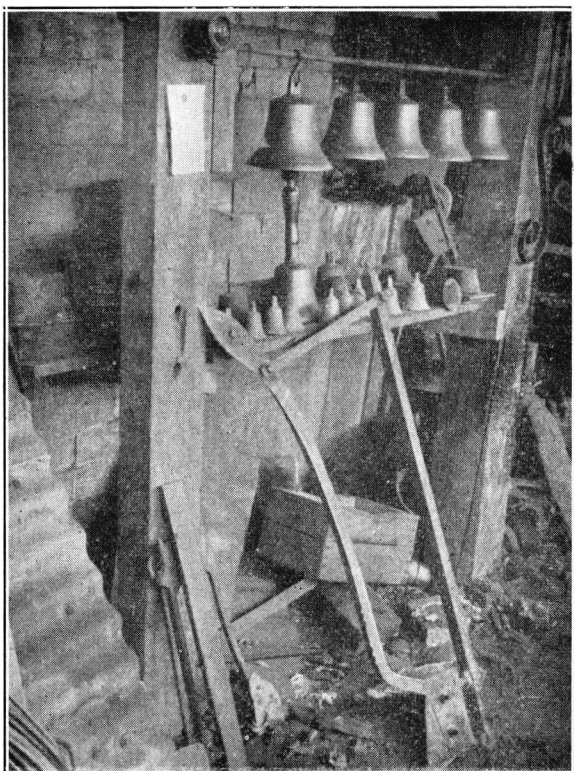
Photo :   *F. M. Underhill, Esq., F.S.A.*

Fig. 63. A corner of the Burford bellfoundry. In
the foreground are house bells, handbells, a
moulding box, and strickles of a church bell and
a clock bell ; in the background is the wall of
the mould baking oven.

Stoney, South Newington, St. Ebbe, Oxford, University College, Oxford, Shilton, Somerton, Standlake, Stanton-St.-John, Stratton Audley, West-well, Witney and Wolvercote. (Fig. 26).

BAGLEY, JAMES. Son of Matthew III. Founding in London, 1710; at Chacombe 1746-7. The writer is of the opinion that James helped Matthew II to reopen the Chacombe foundry after the death of Henry III. Cast bells for Fifield and Wolvercote.

BAGLEY, MATTHEW I. Son of Henry I. In partnership with Henry II at Chacombe, 1679-1687 ; established the Evesham foundry 1687 ; died 1690. Cast bells for Adderbury, Cropredy, Salford, Swalcliffe and Wardington.

BAGLEY, MATTHEW II. Son of William. Born 1700 ; founding at Chacombe 1746-1782 ;[1] at Wolverhampton, 1748 ; died 1785. Cast bells for Balscote, Banbury, Westcote Barton, Bletchington, Burford, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Chastleton, Claydon, Coggs, Duns Tew, Enstone, Heyford-ad-Pontem, Kiddington, Little Rollright, Stonesfield, Swerford, Tadmarton and Wigginton.

BAGLEY, MATTHEW III. Son of John, the brother of Henry I. Born at Chacombe 1653 ; founding in London 1693-1716. With others, including his son Matthew IV, he was killed while casting canon at The Royal Foundry.[2]

BAGLEY, WILLIAM. Son of Henry I. Born 1663 ; founding in Northampton, 1681 ; at Chacombe, 1687-1712 ; died 1712. Cast bells for Cottisford, Cropredy, Great Rollright, Swerford and Wolvercote. In partnership with his son, Henry III, cast bells for Ducklington, Eynsham, Horley, Wolvercote and Woodstock.

BARTLETT, JAMES. Owner of the Whitechapel foundry, 1675-1700.[3] Cast a bell for Exeter College, Oxford.

BARWELL FAMILY. Founding in Birmingham, 1870 to present day.[4] Cast bells for Bletchington, Bloxham and Hook Norton.

BIRD, JOHN. Founding in London circa 1408-1418.[5] Cast bells for Oseney Abbey. (Figs. 29, 30 and 34).

BLEWS, WILLIAM. Founding in Birmingham, 1852-1887.[6] Cast a bell for Bucknell.

BOLTER, NATHANIEL. Itinerant bellfounder.[7] In partnership with Humphrey Keene cast a bell for Sandford-St.-Martin, 1629. The probable founder of bells at Bampton.

BOND FAMILY. Henry Bond I founding at Westcote, Gloucestershire, 1851 ; established Burford foundry circa 1861 ; died 1905. His sons, Henry II and Thomas continued the business, and the foundry closed after the death of Thomas Bond, on 13th March, 1947. Members of this family cast or hung bells at Alkerton, Burford, Chadlington, Chalgrove, Charlbury, Chastleton, Chipping Norton, Churchill, Fulbrook, Hanwell, Idbury, Minster Lovell, Great Rollright, Rousham, Shennington, Shilton, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Taynton, Wigginton and Witney. (Figs. 62—67).

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[1] A bell by him at Staverton, Northamptonshire, stated by Mr. North to be dated 1726 was found by the writer to bear the date 1756.

[2] J. C. L. Stahlschmidt, The Church Bells of Kent, 1887, p. 101.

[3] F. Sharpe, The Church Bells of Radnorshire, 1947, p. 84.

[4] Ibid, p. 80.

[5] C. Deedes and H. B. Walters, The Church Bells of Essex, 1909 p, 27.

[6] F. Sharpe, ut sup., p. 80.

[7] Berkshire Archæological Journal, Vol. 43, 1939, p. 106.

Fig. 64. The late Thomas Bond, of Burford, the last of the Oxfordshire bellfounders. In the foreground are several cope moulding cases.

BRIANT, JOHN. Founding at Hertford, 1782-1825.[1] Cast bells for Adderbury, Banbury, Cuddesdon, Epwell, Godington, Hanwell, Headington, Mollington, St. Ebbe, Oxford, Brasenose College, Oxford, Wardington and Wheatley.

CARTER, JOSEPH. Founding at Reading, 1578;[2] owner of the Whitechapel foundry, 1606-1610.[3] Cast bells for Broadwell, Burford, Culham, Emmington, Hanborough, Hook Norton, Horspath, Iffley, Christ Church, Oxford, St. Giles, Oxford, St. Michael, Oxford, Magdalen College, Oxford, Sandford-on-Thames, North Stoke, Stonesfield and Tackley.

CHAMBERLAIN, WILLIAM. Founding in London, *circa* 1426-1450.[4] The probable founder of bells at Bladon, Drayton-St.-Leonard and Finmere.

CHAPMAN AND MEARS. Owners of the Whitechapel foundry, 1781-1784.[5] Cast a bell for Bicester.

CHANDLER FAMILY. Richard Chandler I founding at Drayton Parslow *circa* 1635-1638 ; Anthony, founding 1650-1679 ; Richard II, founding 1662-1673 ; Richard III, founding 1674-1723 ; George, founding 1681-1726 ; and Thomas, founding *circa* 1723.[6] Members of this family cast bells for Steeple Aston, Beckley, Bicester, Chesterton, Emmington, Fringford, Glympton, Kidlington, Launton, Piddington, Tetsworth and South Weston. (Fig. 5).

CONYERS, JOHN. Founding in Hull, 1616-1630.[7] Cast a bell for Mollington.

CORR, WILLIAM AND ROBERT. Founding at Aldbourne, 1694-1724.[8] Cast bells for Albury, Bletchington, Cuxham, Ewelme, Haseley and South Stoke.

CORR, OLIVER. Founding at Aldbourne, 1725-1727.[9] Cast bells for Goring Heath and North Stoke.

CORR, JOHN. Founding at Aldbourne, 1728-1741.[10] Cast bells for Culham.

CULVERDEN, WILLIAM. Founding in London *circa* 1508-1522.[11] Cast bells for Kencot. (Fig. 25).

DANYELL, JOHN. Founding in London, *circa* 1450-1470.[12] His successor, whose name is unknown, cast a bell for Headington. (Fig. 21).

DARBIE, MICHAEL. Itinerant. Between 1654 and 1657 cast bells for Elsfield, Headington, Islip, Stanton Harcourt and Stanton-St.-John, and the following churches and chapels in Oxford : Christ Church (Great Tom), Brasenose College, Merton College, New College, Queen's College, St. Aldate's and St. Peter-in-the-East. (Fig. 49).

[1] T. North and J. C. L. Stahlschmidt, *The Church Bells of Hertfordshire*, 1886, p. 55.
[2] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Wiltshire*, 1929, p. 277.
[3] F. Sharpe, *ut sup.*, p. 83.
[4] H. B. Walters, *ut sup.*, p. 275.
[5] F. Sharpe, *ut sup.*, p. 84.
[6] A. H. Cocks, *ut sup.*, pp. 220-235.
[7] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of England*, 1912, p. 371.
[8] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Wiltshire*, 1929, p. 305.
[9] *Ibid*, p. 309.
[10] *Ibid*.
[11] C. Deedes and H. B. Walters, *ut sup.*, p. 42.
[12] H. B. Walters, *ut sup.*, p. 275.

DAWE, WILLIAM. Founding in London, *circa* 1393-1418.[1] Cast bells for Madaglen College, Oxford. (Fig. 45).

DICKER, THOMAS. Founding in Reading in the first half of the 17th Century.[2] May have been the founder of a bell at Goring Heath.

ELDRIDGE, RICHARD. Founding at Wokingham, *circa* 1592-1622.[3] Cast a bell for Newington.

FARMER, HENRY. Founding at Gloucester, *circa* 1602-1623.[4] In partnership with James Keene cast bells for Chesterton.

GILLETT, WILLIAM. The founder of the firm of clockmakers 1844 and bellfounders 1877 at Croydon, which has traded under the following titles: Gillett and Bland, Gillett, Bland & Co., Gillett and Co., Gillett and Johnston, The Croydon Bell Foundry Ltd., and (at present time) GILLETT & JOHNSTON, LTD.[5] Gillett & Co., cast bells for Hethe and Merton ; Gillett & Johnston cast bells for Banbury, Bicester, Haseley, Launton and Whitchurch ; and Gillett & Johnston, Ltd., cast bells for St. Luke, Cowley, and St. Barnabas, Oxford. (Figs. 6, 20 and 53).

HASLEWOOD, WILLIAM. Founding at Reading *circa* 1494-1508.[6] Cast a bell for Broadwell.

HEMINS, EDWARD. Founding at Bicester,[7] 1728-1743 ; died 1744. Cast bells for Ambrosden, Ardley, Aston Rowant, Bletchington, Broughton Castle, Caversfield House, St. James, Cowley, Hook Norton, St. Clement, Oxford, All Saints, Oxford, Oriel College, Oxford, Piddington, Waterperry and Wootton. (Figs. 48 and 68).

HILLE, RICHARD. Founding in London, *circa* 1423 ; died 1440.[8]

HODSON, CHRISTOPHER. Founding in London and St. Mary Cray, Kent, 1669-1689 ;[9] in Oxford, 1680. Cast bells for Christ Church, Corpus Christi and Merton College, Oxford. (Figs. 36, 37, 46 and 47).

JANAWAY, THOMAS. Founding in Chelsea, 1762-1788.[10] Cast bells for Benson, Ewelme, Iffley and Mapledurham.

KEENE, HUMPHREY. A "yeoman" living at Caulcot, in the parish of Heyford-ad-Pontem, who occasionally cast, or assisted in the casting of bells. In partnership with his son, James, in 1626, he assisted in casting Great Tom ; cast bells at Sandford-St.-Martin in partnership with Nathaniel Bolter, 1629 ; founding in Durham, 1631 ; latest known bell by him at Islip, dated 1652.

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[1] *Ut sup.*, p. 272.

[2] F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Berkshire*, Berkshire Archaeological Journal, Vol. 46, p. 57.

[3] A. D. Tyssen, *The Church Bells of Sussex*, 1915, p. 78.

[4] Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society's *Transactions*, Vol. 34, p. 115.

[5] F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Radnorshire*, 1947, p. 81.

[6] A. H. Cocks, *ut sup.*, p. 58.

[7] F. Sharpe, *The Bicester Bell Foundry*, The Bicester Advertiser, 11th May, 1951.

[8] C. Deedes and H. B. Walters, *ut sup.*, p. 16.

[9] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of England*, 1912, p. 375.

[10] *Ibid.*

KEENE, JAMES. Baptised at Heyford-ad-Pontem, 1601 ; founding at Bedford with Edward Newcombe, 1618-1622 ; a bell at Ecton, Northamptonshire, stated by Mr. North[1] to bear the date 1612 and to be James Keene's earliest work, was found by the writer to be dated 1619 ; James may have continued the Bedford foundry after Newcombe's death[2]; in partnership with Henry Farmer he cast bells for Chesterton in 1623 and soon afterwards established the Woodstock foundry. He died in 1654. Cast bells for Ardley, Asthall, Bampton, Bladon, Bloxham, Bucknell, Cassington, Churchill, Clanfield, Coggs, Coombe, Deddington, Ducklington, Eynsham, Heyford Warren, Islip, Kiddington, Kingsey, South Leigh, Minster Lovell, Oddington, St. Clement, Oxford, St. Martin, Oxford, Sandford-St.-Martin, Shipton-under-Wychwood and Somerton. (Fig. 61).

KEENE, RICHARD. Founding in Woodstock, 1654-1703 ; at Royston, Hertfordshire, *circa* 1698-1703 ; died at Woodstock, 1704. Cast bells for Albury, Ambrosden, Steeple Aston, Marsh Baldon, Steeple Barton, Beckley, Bladon, Cassington, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Chastleton, Chesterton, Clanfield, St. James, Cowley, Duns Tew, Enstone, Ewelme, Eynsham, Garsington, Hanborough, Holton, Kidlington, North Leigh, Merton, South Newington, St. Cross, Oxford, St. Martin (Carfax), Oxford, St. Mary Magdalene, Oxford, St. Michael, Oxford, St. Peter-in-the-East, Oxford, Rousham, Sandford-St.-Martin, Sarsden, Stanton Harcourt, Stonesfield, Stratton Audley, Tackley, Tetsworth, Thame, Waterstock, Wendlebury, Witney, Woodeaton, Woodstock and Nether Worton. (Fig. 57).

KNIGHT, ELLIS I. Son of Henry I. Founding in Reading *circa* 1623-1658.[3] Cast bells for Adwell, Aston Rowant, Marsh Baldon, Brightwell Baldwin, Chinnor, Crowell, Drayton-St.-Leonard, Ewelme, Goring, Haseley, Iffley, Ipsden, Kingsey, Lewknor, Mapledurham, Great Milton, Newington, Christ Church, Oxford, St. Aldate, Oxford, St. Cross, Oxford, St. Giles, Oxford, St. Mary Magdalene, Oxford, St. Mary-the-Virgin, Oxford, St. Michael, Oxford, St. Thomas, Oxford, Balliol College, Oxford, Magdalen College, Oxford, Rycote, Shiplake, North Stoke, South Stoke, Stokenchurch, Sydenham, Thame, Watlington, Westwell and Whitchurch. (Figs. 38 and 42).

KNIGHT, ELLIS I, FRANCIS and HENRY II. Founding in Reading *circa* 1647-1658.[4] The name of Francis occurs only in the year 1647. Cast bells for Dorchester, Forest Hill, Stanton-St.-John and Sydenham.

KNIGHT, ELLIS II and HENRY III. Founding in Reading *circa* 1672-1683.[5] Cast bells for Cuxham, Great Milton, All Souls College, Oxford, and Warborough.

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[1] T. North, *ut sup.*, p. 104. This statement was repeated by A. H. Cocks, *ut sup.*, p. 159, and H. T. Tilley and H. B. Walters' *ut sup.*, p. 59. Several authorities give the date 1612 as the earliest for James Keene, but this must now be regarded as incorrect.

[2] A. H. Cocks, *ut sup.*, p. 160.

[3] A. H. Cocks, *ut sup.*, p. 126.

[4] *Ibid.*, p. 128.

[5] *Ibid.*, p. 130.
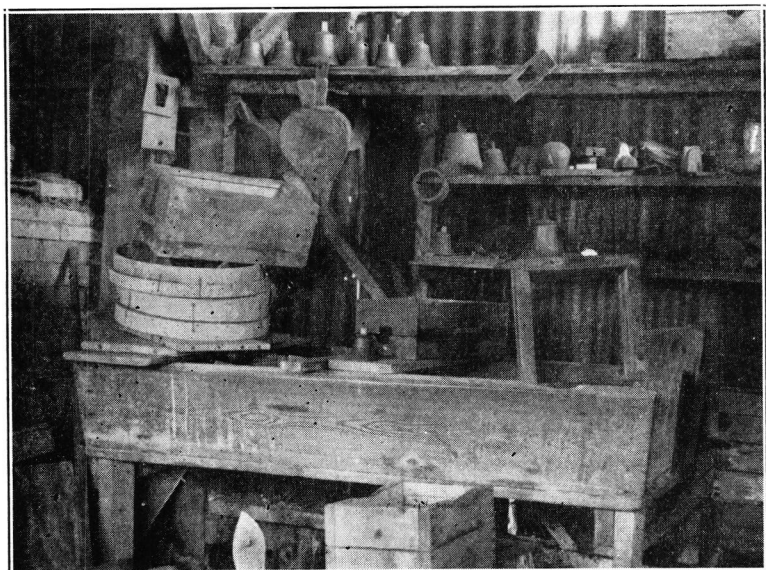
Photo :   *F. M. Underhill, Esq., F.S.A.*

Fig. 65.   Burford bell-foundry.   The handbell moulding shop, with mould-
ing trough, moulding boxes, and casting patterns.

KNIGHT, HENRY I.   Son of William II.   Founding in Reading, *circa* 1587-1622.[1] Cast bells for Berwick Salome, Blackbourton, Chinnor, Cuddesdon, Dorchester, Drayton-St.-Leonard, Newington, Noke, St. Aldate, Oxford,   St. Cross, Oxford,   St. Ebbe, Oxford,   All Saints, Oxford,   St. Mary Magdalene, Oxford, Pyrton, Rotherfield Greys, Rotherfield Peppard, Shiplake, Shirburn, Stadhampton, South Stoke, Stokenchurch, Warborough, Waterstock, Watlington and Yarnton.

KNIGHT, HENRY II.   Founding in Reading *circa* 1651-1672.[2] Cast bells for Binsey, Chalgrove, Chinnor, Emmington, Mapledurham, New College, Oxford, and Watlington.

KNIGHT, HENRY III.   Founding in Reading, *circa* 1672-1682, chiefly in partnership with Ellis II.

KNIGHT, SAMUEL.   Founding in Reading *circa* 1681-1709 ; in London, 1709-1739.[3] Cast bells for Kingsey, Mapledurham, Shiplake and Warborough.

KNIGHT, WILLIAM I.   Founding in Reading *circa* 1518-1535.[4]

KNIGHT, WILLIAM II.   Probably son of William I.   Founding in Reading *circa* 1536-1587.[5] Cast bells for Chinnor and Rotherfield Greys.

LANDEN, ROGER.   Founding in Wokingham *circa* 1448.[6] Cast a bell for Aston Rowant.

LESTER, THOMAS.   Owner of the Whitechapel Foundry, London, 1738-1752.[7] Cast bells for Charlton-on-Otmoor and Cuddesden.

LESTER AND PACK.   Owners of the Whitechapel Foundry, 1752-1769.[8] Cast bells for Bicester, Bletchington, Berwick Salome, Checkendon, Finmere, Shelswell and Blenheim Palace, Woodstock.

LEWIS, THOMAS C.   Founding in Brixton during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.   Cast bells for Heythrop.

LLEWELLINS AND JAMES.   Founding in Bristol *circa* 1851-1922.[9] Cast bells for Piddington, and probably the makers of the Great Bourton bell.

MEARS, CHARLES and GEORGE.   Owners of the Whitechapel Foundry, 1844-1861.[10] Cast bells for Banbury, Clifton Hampden, Duns Tew, Holwell, Kirtlington and Littlemore.

MEARS, GEORGE.   Founding at Whitechapel 1844-1884.   His name occurs without those of his partners on bells at Alvescot, Cokethorpe, Islip, Hardwick-with-Tusmore, Stoke Row, Stonesfield, Whitchurch and Wigginton.

MEARS, GEORGE AND CO.   Owners of the Whitechapel Foundry, 1861-1865.[11] Cast bells for Adderbury, Barford-St.-John, Steeple Barton, Benson, Chinnor, Cuddesdon, Fritwell, Nettlebed, and Swinbrook.

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[1] *Ut sup.*, p. 123.
[2] *Ibid.*, p. 129.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 135.
[4] *Ibid.*, p. 118.
[5] *Ibid.*, p. 119.
[6] *Ibid.*, p. 53.
[7] F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Radnorshire*, 1947, p. 84.
[8] *Ibid.*
[9] *Ibid.*, p. 80.
[10] *Ibid.*, p. 84.
[11] *Ibid.*

MEARS, THOMAS I. Owner of the Whitechapel Foundry 1791-1805.[1] Cast bells for Ascott-under-Wychwood, Deddington, Duns Tew, Harpsden, Kidlington, Oddington and Shiplake.

MEARS, THOMAS AND SON. Owners of the Whitechapel Foundry 1805-1810.[2] Cast bells for St. Thomas, Oxford, and Sydenham.

MEARS, THOMAS II. Owner of the Whitechapel Foundry, 1810-1844,[3] founding at Gloucester *circa* 1829-1841.[4] Cast bells for Steeple Aston, Bicester, Bodicote, Henley-on-Thames, Lew, Balliol College, Oxford, Exeter College, Oxford, Jesus College, Oxford, The Clarendon Press, Oxford, Stoke Lyne, Witney, Nether Worton, and Blenheim Palace.

MEARS, WILLIAM and THOMAS. Owners of the Whitechapel Foundry, 1787-1791.[5] Cast bells for Middleton Stoney and Trinity College, Oxford.

MEARS AND STAINBANK. The owners of the Whitechapel foundry have traded as "Mears and Stainbank" from 1865 to the present day,[6] and have cast bells for 98 churches in Oxfordshire. (Figs. 5 and 13).

MITCHEL, JOHN. Founding at Wokingham in 1493. Cast bells for Henley-on-Thames and Westcote Barton.

NAYLOR, VICKERS AND CO. Founding at Sheffield, 1857-1874.[7] Cast bells for Banbury and Brize Norton.

NEALE, EDWARD. Founding in Burford, 1641-1685 ; died 1695. Cast bells for Brize Norton, Broadwell, Fulbrook, St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, Shifford, Swinbrook, Witney and Yelford.

NEALE, HENRY. Founding at Somerford Keynes, Wiltshire, *circa* 1627-1641.[8] Cast bells for Burford, 1635. (Fig. 8).

NEWCOMBE FAMILY. Founding at Leicester and elsewhere, *circa* 1506-1616.[9] Cast bells for Claydon, Cropredy, St. Mary-the-Virgin, Oxford and Tadmarton.

PACK, THOMAS. Founding at Whitechapel, 1752-1781.

PACK AND CHAPMAN. Owners of the Whitechapel foundry, 1776-1781.[10] Cast bells for Banbury, Beckley, Bicester, Crowmarsh Gifford, Stokenchurch and Stratton Audley.

PATRICK, ROBERT. Founding in London, *circa* 1782-1787.[11] Cast bells for St. Michael, Oxford, and Shiplake.

PURDUE, RICHARD. Itinerant. Founding in Oxfordshire 1618-1624. Cast bells for Alkerton, Chipping Norton, Hanborough, Heyford Warren, Headington and Tadmarton.

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[1] *Ut sup.*, p. 84.
[2] *Ibid.*
[3] *Ibid.*
[4] *Ibid.*, p. 80.
[5] *Ibid.*, p. 84.
[6] *Ibid.*
[7] *Ibid.*, p. 80.
[8] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Wiltshire*, 1929, p. 281.
[9] H. T. Tilley and H. B. Walters, *ut sup.*, pp. 16—38.
[10] F. Sharpe, *ut sup.*, p. 84.
[11] C. Deedes and H. B. Walters, *ut sup.*, p. 131.

RIGBY, ALEXANDER. Itinerant. Cast bells for Berwick Salome, 1692 ; afterwards settled at Stamford, Lincolnshire.[1]

REEVE, NICHOLAS. See pages 240—242.

RUDHALL, ABRAHAM I. First mentioned 1679 ; founding in Gloucester, 1684-1718 ; died 1736.[2] Cast bells for Chadlington, Charlbury, Iffley, Kidlington, Northmoor, Christ Church, Oxford, St. Mary Magdalene, Oxford, St. Michael, Oxford, St. Peter-in-the-East, Oxford, St. Thomas, Oxford, Magdalen College, Oxford, New College, Oxford, Taynton and Great Tew.

RUDHALL, ABRAHAM II. Founding in Gloucester, 1718-1735.[3] Cast bells for Alvescot, Burford, Chalgrove, Coombe, Fifield, Garsington, Horspath, Kingham, Newington, St. Cross, Oxford, St. Mary-the-Virgin, Oxford, St. Thomas, Oxford, New College, Oxford, Queen's College, Oxford, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Stanton Harcourt and Stanton-St.-John.

RUDHALL, ABEL. Founding in Gloucester, 1736-1760.[4] Cast bells for Begbroke, Bloxham, Cokethorpe, Idbury, Kirtlington, Milcombe, Mongewell, Newnham Courtenay, Christ Church, Oxford, St. Michael, Oxford, St. Peter-in-the-East, Oxford, Keeble College, Oxford, Lincoln College, Oxford, Magdalen College, Oxford, Witney and Wootton. (Fig. 43).

RUDHALL, THOMAS. Founding in Gloucester, 1760-1783.[5] Cast bells for Broadwell, Hampton Gay, Haseley, Kelmscot, Kingham, Great Milton, Northmoor, St. Aldate, Oxford, St. Peter-in-the-East, Oxford, Trinity College, Oxford, Standlake, Stonesfield, Widford, Witney and Wootton. (Fig. 19.)

RUDHALL, CHARLES AND JOHN. Founding in Gloucester, 1783-1785.[6] Cast bells for Great Tew and Watlington.

RUDHALL, JOHN. Founding in Gloucester on his own account circa 1785-1830 ; as manager for Thomas Mears II, circa 1830-1835.[7] Cast bells for Bloxham, Chastleton, Chipping Norton, Garsington, Pembroke College, Oxford, and Tetsworth.

RUFFORD, JOHN. Founding in Toddington, Bedfordshire, circa 1350-1380.[8] Cast bells for Adwell and Stoke Talmage. The former second bell at Caversfield may have been by John Rufford, or by his predecessor as is the saunce at Idbury. (Figs. 24 and 50).

SANDERS, RICHARD. Founding in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, circa 1703-1737.[9] Cast bells for Swalcliffe and Swerford.

SAUNDERS, JOHN. Founding in Reading circa 1539-1559.[10] The probable maker of bells at Brightwell Baldwin, Harpsden, Shipton-on-Cherwell and Wendlebury, and former bells at Goring-on-Thames, Souldern, Waterstock and Weston-on-the-Green. (Fig. 59.)

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[1] T. North, *The Church Bells of Lincolnshire*, 1882, p. 57.
[2] F. Sharpe, *ut sup.*, p. 79.
[3] *Ibid.*
[4] *Ibid.*, p. 80.
[5] *Ibid.*
[6] *Ibid.*
[7] *Ibid.*
[8] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of England*, 1912, p. 381.
[9] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Worcestershire*, 1930, p. 320.
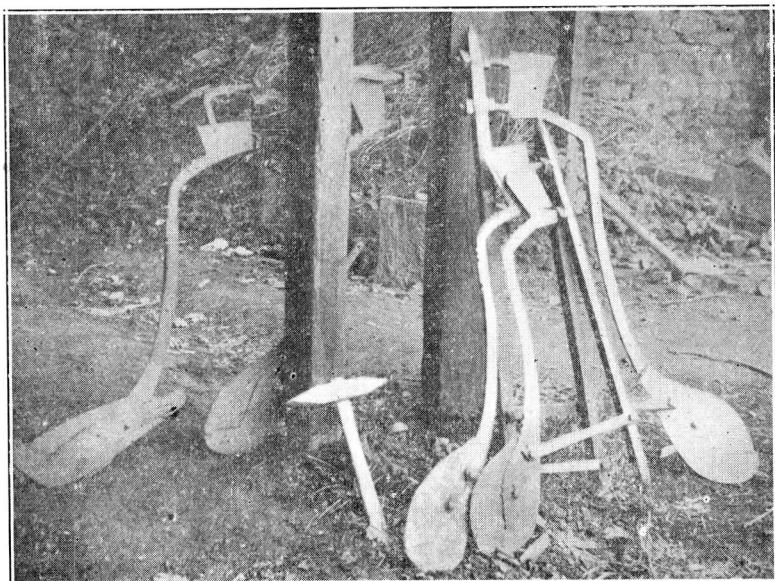[10] A. D. Tyssen, *The Church Bells of Sussex*, 1914, p. 63.

Fig. 66. Burford bell-foundry. Moulding strickles, or gauges, and old style tuning hammer.

STAINBANK, ROBERT. Founding in London, 1865-1884, chiefly trading as Mears and Stainbank. His name appears on the bell at Wadham College, Oxford.

STURDY, JOHN. Founding in London *circa* 1440-1458.[1] Cast a bell for Holton.

SANDRE. Founding in Gloucester *circa* 1320.[2] The initial cross on a bell at Swyncombe resembles his. (Figs. 52 and 54).

TAYLOR, ROBERT. Founding in St. Neots, 1786-1821 ; established the Oxford foundry, 1821, trading as Robert Taylor and Sons. William and John Taylor, sons of Robert, were founding in Oxford 1821-1854. John, brother of William was founding in Buckland Brewer, Devonshire, 1825-1835, and he established the famous foundry at Loughborough in 1840. The Oxford foundry was closed in 1854.[3]

TAYLOR, JOHN AND CO. The owners of the Loughborough foundry since 1840 have been John Taylor, 1840-1858, John William Taylor I, 1858-1906, John William Taylor II and Edmund Denison Taylor, 1906-1919, Edmund Denison Taylor, 1919-1947, and Paul Taylor, 1947 to the present day. Since 1859 the firm has traded as John Taylor and Co.[4] Members of the Taylor family cast bells for 66 Oxfordshire parishes. (Figs. 4, 22.)

WARNER, JOHN. Founding in London, 1788-1802 ; re-established as JOHN WARNER AND SONS *circa* 1853-1920.[5] Cast bells for 37 Oxfordshire parishes.

WATTS, WILLIAM. Founding in Bedford, *circa* 1587-1597.[6] The probable founder of bells at Chesterton and Holton.

WAYLETT, JOHN, Itinerant. Cast a bell for Waterstock, 1726.

WELLS, ROBERT I. Founding in Aldbourne, Wiltshire, 1760-1780.[7] Cast bells for Marsh Baldon, Coggs, Dorchester College, Fringford, and Mapledurham.

WELLS, ROBERT II. Founding in Aldbourne, 1781-1799[8] Cast bells for Duns Tew, Glympton, Hanborough, Hook Norton, Minster Lovell, St. Peter-le-Bailey, Oxford, Worcester College, Oxford, Spelsbury and Woodstock.

WELLS, ROBERT II and JAMES. Founding in Aldbourne, 1792-1799.[9] Cast bells for Chadlington and Hook Norton.

WELLS, JAMES. Founding in Aldbourne, 1799-1826.[10] Cast bells for Barford-St.-Michael, Little Faringdon, Hanborough, Horspath, Ipsden, All Souls College, Oxford, Shorthampton and Woodcote.

WESTON, PETER-DE-. Founding in London, *circa* 1336-1347.[11] Cast a bell for Ambrosden.

[1] C. Deedes and H. B. Walters, *ut sup.*, p. 18.
[2] F. Sharpe, *ut sup.*, p. 28.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 82.
[4] *Ibid.*
[5] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of England*, 1912, p. 383.
[6] H. T. Tilley and H. B. Walters, *ut sup.*, p. 39.
[7] H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Wiltshire*, 1929, p. 311.
[8] *Ibid.*, p. 312.
[9] *Ibid.*
[10] *Ibid.*
[11] C. Deedes and H. B. Walters, *ut sup.*, p. 8.
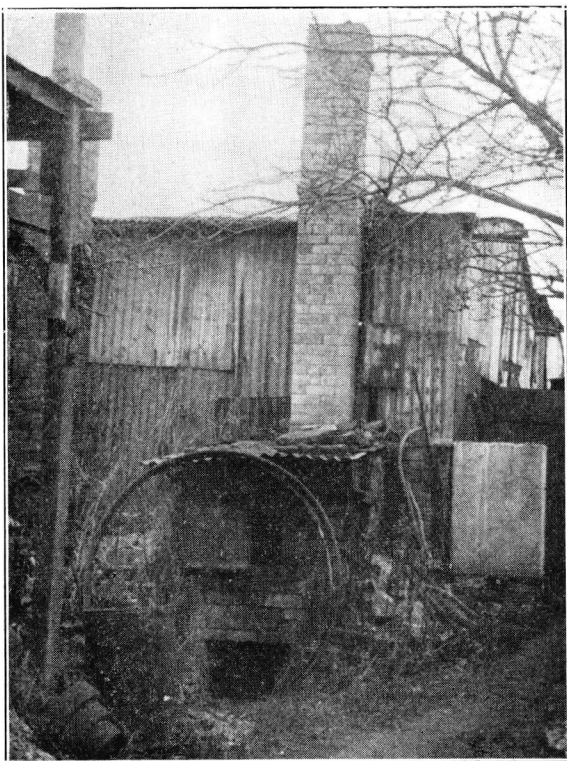
Photo :   *F. M. Underhill, Esq., F.S.A.*

Fig. 67. Burford bell-foundry. The reverberatory
furnace built by the late Thomas Bond and used
until 1939. Since Mr. Bond's death the furnace
has been dismantled.

WHITE, JOHN. Founding in Reading, *circa* 1515-1539.[1] The probable founder of bells at Marsh Baldon, Ewelme and Sandford-on-Thames, and of former bells at Bloxham and St. Ebbes, Oxford.

WITTS, EDNE. Founding in Aldbourne, 1774. Cast a bell for Culham.

WOKINGHAM FOUNDERS. Names unknown. 14th and 15th centuries. Cast bells for Asthall (Aston Rowant), Westcote Barton, Brightwell Baldwin, Brize Norton, Dorchester, Fifield, Minster Lovell, Newington, St. Martin, Oxford, Rotherfield Peppard and Stoke Talmage. (Figs. 15, 16 and 51).

WYMBISH, RICHARD-DE-. Founding in London, *circa* 1290-1315.[2] Cast a bell for Goring-on-Thames.

YARE, WILLIAM. Founding in Reading, 1609-1616.[3] Cast bells for Horspath, Headington, Islip, Kidlington, Christ Church, Oxford, St. Mary-the-Virgin, Oxford, and the Bodleian Library.[4] (Fig. 44.)

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[1] A. H. Cocks, *ut sup.*, p. 61.
[2] C. Deedes and H. B. Walters, *ut sup.*, p. 4.
[3] A. H. Cocks, *ut sup.*, p. 17.
[4] *The Bodleian Library Record*, Vol. III, No. 31. (March, 1951), p. 143.
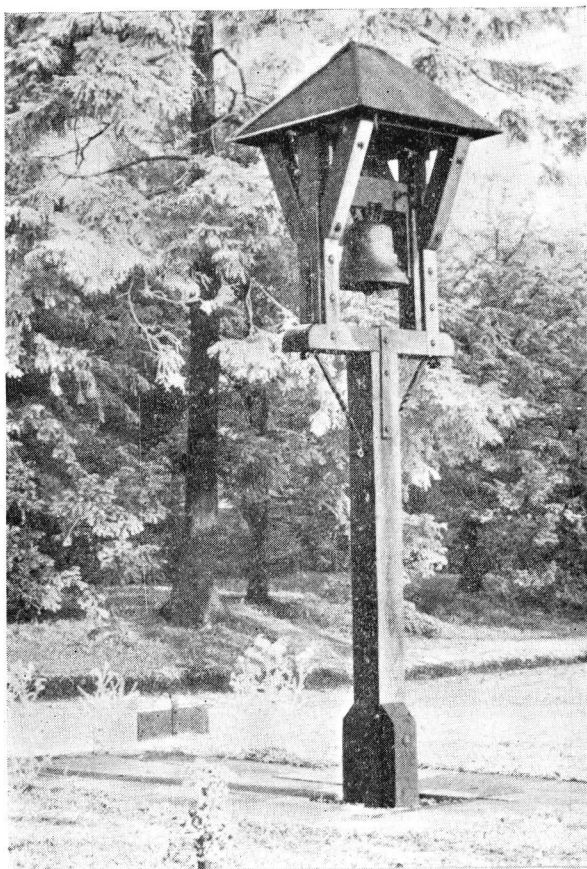
Photo :   *P. A. Lang, Esq.*
  By courtesy of Messrs. Pankhurst and Smith.

Fig. 68.   The former Bicester Town Hall bell, cast by
  Edward Hemins, 1732, now at The Garth, Bicester.

LIST OF BELLHANGERS.

(In addition to those who were also bellfounders.)

BLACKBURN, THOMAS, of Salisbury. Worked at Christ Church and New College, Oxford, late in the nineteenth century.

BOSWELL, FRANCIS, of Oxford. Worked at Christ Church, 1860.

COOPER, NATHAN. Worked at Christ Church, Oxford, 1762.

DAY & SONS, of Eye. Present century. Employed at Hanborough and Tadmarton.

DUBBER, R., of Wolvercote. Date unknown. Made a bell-frame for St. Michael, Oxford. A man named Dubber hung a bell at St. Mary-the-Virgin, Oxford, in 1616.

FREEMAN, EDWARD, of Brackley. Made a bell-frame for Stratton Audley, 1636.

JEFFS, JOHN. Hung bells at St. Mary-the-Virgin, Oxford, 1650.

KEENE & AUSTINE. Employed at Christ Church, Oxford, 1620.

LLOYD, ARTHUR, of Holywell, Oxford. See page 282.

MYLLER, JOHN. Employed at Thame, 1545.

PARKHAUS & OWEN. Employed at Christ Church, Oxford, 1589.

SANDERS, HENRY. Assistant to James Keene, first half of seventeenth century.

TURNER, ROBERT. Employed at Christ Church, Oxford, 1778.

WALTERS, JOHN, of Kings Sutton. Early nineteenth century. Hung bells at Fringford and Stoke Lyne.

WEBB & BENNETT, of Kidlington. Late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Rehung the bells in 15 Oxfordshire churches.

WHITE FAMILY, of Besselsleigh and Appleton. Business established *circa* 1842, by Alfred White, who rehung the bells in 17 Oxfordshire churches ; he was succeeded in 1876 by his son, Frederick, who rehung the bells in 19 churches in the county. Richard White, the present owner, succeeded his father in 1909. He has rehung the bells in 50 Oxfordshire churches. In 1945 he took his son, Frank, into partnership, and the firm now trades as Richard White and Son.

WILLIAMS, J. & R. Working at Enstone, 1718.

WYANDES, PHILLIP. Working at St. Michael, Oxford, 1612.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Page 26. BALSCOTE. A ring of six bells was cast in 1951 by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston for Mr. and Mrs. C. Jarvis, and their daughter, Beryl. The bells were hung by Mr. Jarvis at Home Farm, and comprise the lightest ring of six in the country. The tenor is 17½ inches in diameter in C, and weighs 1 cwt. 0 qrs. 22 lbs.

Page 36. BANBURY. A new bell was given to the Roman Catholic Church by the Rev. Father F. Askew, of Birmingham, in 1949.

Page 46. BICESTER. The former town hall bell, cast by Edward Hemins, 1732, which for many years had hung in the Workhouse, was hung at the entrance to the Urban District Council's premises at "The Garth", 1949. See Fig. 68.

Page 49. BLADON. Line 25 : for "1470" read "1450".

Page 50. BLETCHINGTON. At Bletchington Park is a bell by John Warner, 1788.

Page 57. BRIGHTWELL BALDWIN. Line 18 : for "fourth" read "fifth".

Page 64. BUCKNELL. Line 7 : for "ATTON" read "ATTVN".

Page 70. BURFORD. The bells were rehung with gear, type H, in a new cast iron side pattern frame by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, Ltd., in 1950. The old third and fourth bells have been preserved in the church and replaced by two new ones from the Croydon foundry.

Page 71. CASSINGTON. The second bell was recast in 1953 by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and rehung by Messrs. R. White and Son.

Page 72. CAVERSFIELD. There are now five bells in the ring. Two new ones, given by Miss M. Phillips in memory of her mother and her brother, were cast in 1948 by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and hung by Messrs. R. White and Son in the following year.

Page 116. DEDDINGTON. The saunce has been rehung by Messrs. R. White and Son in a new position. The Vicar, the Rev. M. Frost, published a history of the bells in 1950. See also p. 452.

Page 122. DRAYTON-ST.-LEONARD. Line 20 : for "1470" read "1450".

Page 126. DUNSDEN. Both bells bear the date : "1841".

Page 132. EWELME. The bells were rehung and a treble added to make a ring of six by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., 1950.

Page 136. FINMERE. Line 5 : for "1470" read "1450".

Page 159. HEMPTON. The bell bears no inscription and dates from *circa* 1850.

Page 181. ISLIP. The former third may have been by Atton.

Page 202. LEWKNOR. A treble, cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and hung by Messrs. R. White and Son, was added in 1950 to make a ring of six.

Pages 227 ff. THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST IN OXFORD. The treble and second of the ring of twelve were recast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, in 1952, and rehung in 1953 by Messrs. R. White and Son, as a memorial to the late Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge, a member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Ringers, 1881-1949, and Master of the Guild, 1933-1946. Great Tom was rehung in 1953 by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, who have fitted a counter-balanced cast iron headstock, fixed steel gudgeons, self-aligning bell bearings,

counter-balanced clapper and traditional type wheel. Wren's bell-frame has been reconstructed : the old king posts, braces and seventeenth century bell-gear are preserved in the clock room. New tolling gear and clock hammer have been provided. The work was tested on 28th May, and in Radio Newsreel the following day, exactly 269 years since the bell was first rung, the boom of Great Tom was heard again. On Coronation Day, 2nd June, as the crown was placed on Her Majesty's head, Great Tom was rung in the traditional English manner by Mr. P. Walker, the Secretary of the Oxford Society of Change Ringers, and the writer. It was rung by members of the Society again in the evening.

Page 247. The treble of the ring of ten should be first in the list.

Page 275. Line 6 : the Headstock is of oak.

Page 277. Great Tom was weighed in 1953. It weighs 6 tons, 4 cwt. 2 qrs.

Page 277. Line 17 : for "1603" read "1663".

Page 284. Line 32 : for "Chaundry" read "Chaundy".

Page 292. OXFORD, ST. EBBE. Matthew Bagley I died in 1690 : the bell may be by Matthew III, of London.

Page 314. OXFORD, ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN. Yare's treble of 1616 was recast in 1623 and again in 1731.

Page 373. SHIPLAKE. Line 8 : for "RVNG" read "RXNG".

Page 377. Footnote 1 should read "Sic". Footnote 2 should read "Oxford Archdeaconry Papers, c. 101, fol.234".

Page 386. STANTON HARCOURT. Delete line 24.

Page 387. Caption to Fig. 51. For "1630" read "1360".

Page 388. STANTON ST. JOHN. Last line : for "Abraham Rudhall I" read "Abraham Rudhall II".

THE END.