

The Church Bells of Berkshire.

By FREDERICK SHARPE.

PART I.

ALTHOUGH considerable work has been carried out at various times during the last hundred years or so on the Church Bells of Berks, no publication which was in any way an exhaustive survey has hitherto been forthcoming. In the present work it is hoped to cover all the Berkshire Churches in alphabetical order. In doing this the writer acknowledges gratefully the help of other workers whose notes have been used, particularly Mr. H. B. Walters, who generously handed over his MS collections on Berkshire Bells for the writer's use, and recognition is also given to them in quoting the sources of information at the end of each parish. Individual helpers in the various parishes are also thanked for their assistance.

Inscriptions on the bells are recorded, as are also notes on their hangings, founders, and other details of interest. It is not proposed to discuss actual bell-ringing performances, except when, as for instance at Appleton, the ringing records are of historical importance.

Plates I and II show old and new methods of bell hanging.

Procedure followed in describing the Bells.

Unless otherwise stated, the inscriptions commence in the top inscription band, just below the shoulder of the bell (see Fig. A) and the end of every line of the inscription is denoted by a bar thus /. Four sets of type are used to illustrate the four main styles of lettering which are impossible to reproduce in facsimile. The various founder's marks, and some examples of lettering used by them are shown and these will form the evidence for dating bells.

The weights of the bells are recorded in Cwts. Qrs. and lbs., but where no such records exist, the approximate weights are given in Cwts. and Qrs. only. The latter are marked thus #, and have been calculated from the respective diameters and notes of the bells. The fundamental note of each tenor bell, and its diameter are recorded, and unless stated to the contrary, the fundamental notes of each bell in a ring or chime are tuned diatonically in a major scale. Details of the hum-notes, and harmonics of the bells are given in a few instances.

Letters reversed, inverted, or omitted, are very common in bell inscriptions, and these mistakes are the founders' not their copyists'.

At the conclusion of these papers will be found an account of the Bell-Founders who have supplied bells to the county.

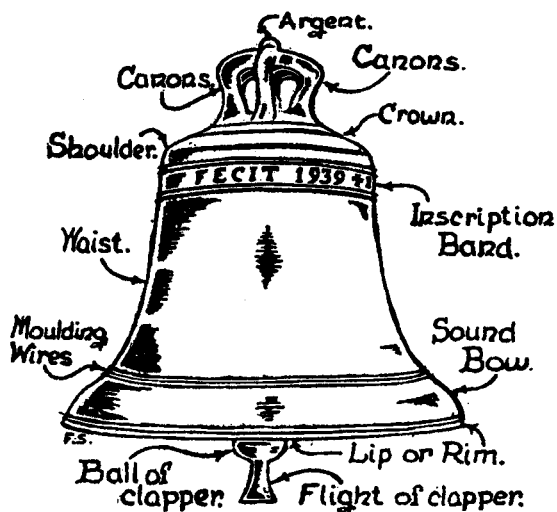
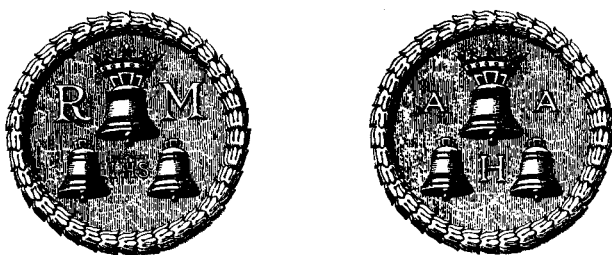


Diagram to illustrate technical terms used in the text.

FIG. A.



Founder's marks, Whitechapel Foundry, London. The initials R.M. are those of Robert Mot who owned the foundry from 1570 to 1606. A.A.H. refers to Albert A. Hughes, the present owner.

[Full size].

FIG. B.

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ABBREVIATIONS.

The following abbreviations are used in the text :

© Coin.

(J) Crest of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston.

① Leaf ornament.

Ⓜ Crest of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

(R) Rose.

(T) Crest of Messrs. John Taylor and Co.

◇ Diamond-shaped word stop.

★ Star-shaped word stop.

::::: Running ornament, or border.

✱ Fleur-de-lys.

✕ Ornamental device, or word stop.

Approximate weight.

/ End of each line of an inscription.

1.

ABINGDON.

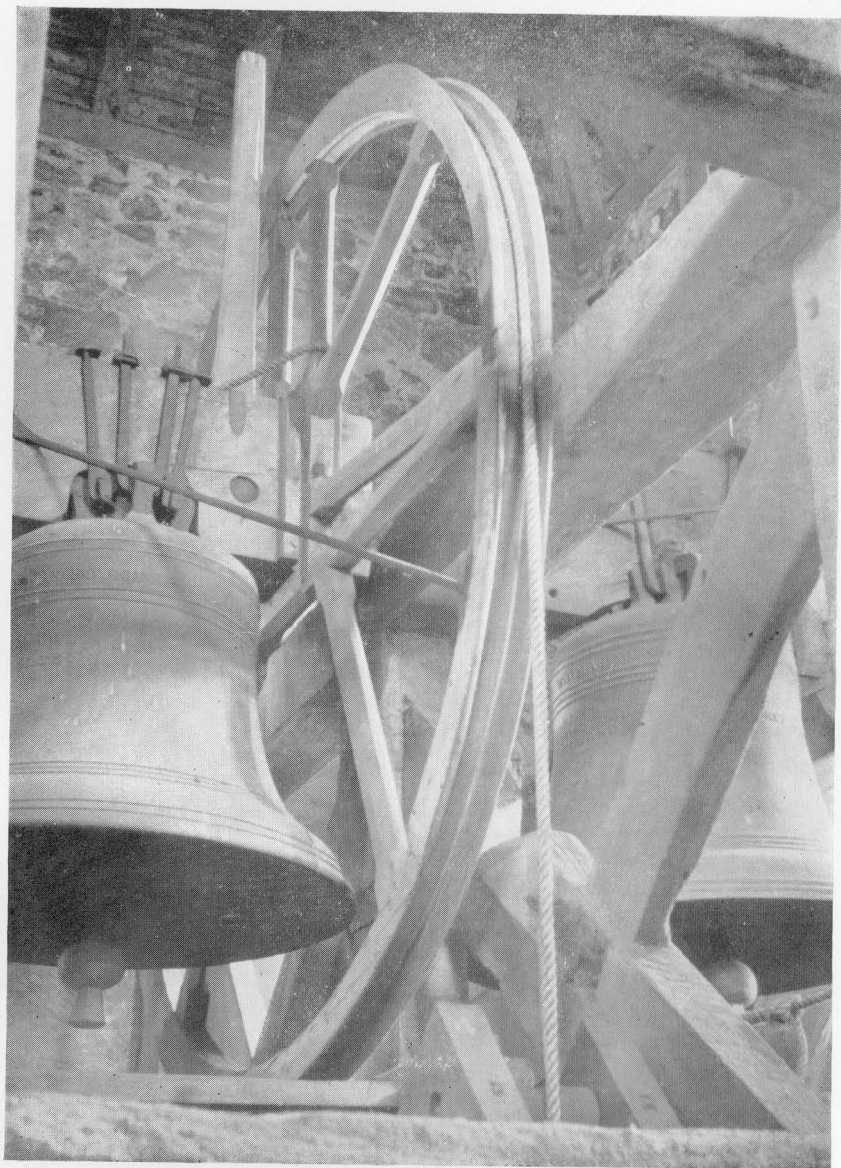
St. Helen.

Ring of Ten Bells; tenor 48½ inches diameter, in E flat; and a sanctus bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	PRESENTED BY EDWIN JAMES TRENDALL 1885. / MEARS AND STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON.	4	3	12
Second.	PRESENTED BY WILLIAM HENRY TRENDALL 1885. / MEARS AND STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON.	5	1	20
Third.	LESTER & PACK OF LONDON. FECIT 1764.	5	2	9
Fourth.	[Rosette.] LESTER & PACK OF LONDON. FECIT 1764. [19 Coins of period.]	6	1	17
Fifth.	PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD. / LESTER & PACK OF LONDON. FECIT 1764. / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK OF LONDON, 1885.	7	0	24
Sixth.	[Bell.] YE RINGERS ALL THAT PRIZE YOUR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS BE SOBER MERRY WISE AND YOU'LL THE / SAME POSSESS [Rosette.] LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1764.	8	1	16
Seventh.	LESTER & PACK OF LONDON. FECIT 1764. IN WEDLOCK BANDS ALL YE WHO JOIN YOUR HANDS WITH HEARTS UNITE SO SHALL OUR TUNEFUL TONGUES [Bell] / COMBINE TO LAUD THE NUPTIAL RITE [Rosette.]	9	0	15
Eighth.	LESTER & PACK OF LONDON. FECIT 1764 [Border.]	10	2	18
Ninth.	OUR VOICES SHALL WITH JOYFUL SOUND MAKE HILLS AND VALLEYS ECHO ROUND. / LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1764. RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK OF LONDON 1885.	14	2	23
Tenor.	BENJ: GRIFFITH & WM BUSWELL CH: WARDENS. LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1764. / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK OF LONDON 1885. / SLADE INNES BAKER, JOHN THORNBULL MORLAND, CHURCHWARDENS.	20	1	6

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE

PLATE I.



Photo]

[F. M. Underhill, Esq.

The second bell at Bisham, cast by Thomas Mears, of London in 1840. The bell-wheel is contemporary.

The oak frame is of XVIIIth century date, and of the braced-centre-post type. The headstock is of elm and coeval with the frame: its gudgeons are secured by means of slotted pins and keys, and it was originally made for the predecessor of the present bell.

An XVIIIth century type roller serves for a ground pulley. The stay and slider are fairly modern additions.

For the modern type of hanging see PLATE II.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Sanctus.	W . C . . R . B . . CHVRCH . WARDENS X64X	I	0	0#

Prior to 1764 there were six bells, slightly larger than the present major six. They were recast by Messrs. Lester and Pack, of the Whitechapel Foundry, London, in that year, into a ring of eight. Of Lester and Pack's ring of eight five remain. These are the present 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th bells; which formerly formed the treble, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th of the eight.

The present treble, and 2nd bells were added in 1885 by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of the Whitechapel Foundry, London; who, at the same time, recast the present 5th, 9th and tenor.

The former 3rd (now the 5th) was inscribed:—"PEICE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD / LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1764," the former 7th (now the 9th):—"OUR VOICES SHALL WITH JOYFUL SOUND MAKE HILLS AND VALLEYS ECHO ROUND / LESTER & PACK OF LONDON. FECIT 1764," and the former tenor: "BENJN. GRIFFITH AND WM. BUSHEL CH. WARDENS. LESTER & PACK OF LONDON. FECIT 1764."

The sanctus, which hangs in an opening in the base of the spire, was cast by Ellis Knight I, of Reading, in 1641. The inscription is in his well-known type, with N reversed.

Oak bell frame, in two tiers: the lower, and older, portion probably dates from 1764 when the ring was augmented to eight and now contains the treble, and seven largest bells. A new oak upper tier was added in 1885 in which were hung the 2nd and 3rd bells. All bells have canons remaining, and are fitted with elm headstocks, and brass bearings. Plate gudgeons are fitted to the treble and 2nd; hoop gudgeons to the 5th, 6th, 7th and 9th; and strap gudgeons to remainder. Traditional type wheels and other fittings, but of various dates.

V belles and saunce bell. (1552 Inventories).

Lukis, p. 62.

Visited: F.S. 7th January, 1927.

2.

ABINGDON.

St. Michael.

The Church was erected in 1867, and equipped with a chime of three small bells. Cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, in August 1866, their weights are as follows:

	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble	I	I	9
Second	I	3	4
Tenor	2	I	8

Visited: F.S. 30th June, 1939.

3.

ABINGDON.

St. Nicholas.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor $34\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, in B flat; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD :::: A [Fig. 31]. R 1741 :::::	4	2	10
Second.	MAY THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FOR EVER FLOURISH A [Fig. 31]. R 1741 :::::	4	2	9
Third.	PROSPERITY TO THIS PARISH A [Fig. 31]. R 1741 :::::	4	2	22
Fourth.	ABEL RUDHALL OF GLOUCESTER CAST US ALL 1741 :::::	4	3	9
Fifth.	ANTH: CLAXTON CH-WARDEN IN ^O : GREEN & NICH: MAYO OVERSEERS ::::: A [Fig. 31]. R 1741 :::::	5	3	7
Tenor.	I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL & TO THE GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL ::::: A [Fig. 31]. R 1741 :::::	7	1	18

The ornament in every instance is the vine border fig. 30. The sanctus, which hangs in an inaccessible niche on the western wall of the tower, is said to bear the date 1741; but I have not been able to verify this.

In 1552, there were *iiij belles, and the saunce bell*.¹ The ring was increased to five in the years between 1598 and 1605, when William Bostock was churchwarden: and, at the same time, one of the mediæval bells was recast. The founding was done by Joseph Carter, of Reading; and one Longe, whose place of business is not mentioned in the Churchwardens' accounts from which this information is derived, was the tuner and bellhanger. The cost of the work was £36 10s. od., of which Carter received £24 10s. od.

In 1636 the tenor was recast, and in 1649 the bells were rehung. The "little" bell, probably the sanctus, was recast by Henry Knight in 1659, and again by him in 1688, the cost at the latter date being £2 9s. 8d.

The five old bells, two of which were by Joseph Carter, one by Ellis Knight I; and, judging from the foregoing, two mediæval; weighing in all 28 cwts., were recast by Abel Rudhall, of Gloucester, with additional metal to form a ring of six. He received for the work the five old bells and clappers valued at £141 10s. 4d., and £70 1s. 10d. in cash. The new bells were rung for the first time on 12th November, 1741.

¹ Commissioner's Inventories.

For approximately 80 years there was a set of chimes, playing tunes on these bells at the hours of 3, 6, 9 and 12, which was presented by William Alder, of Abingdon. The chimes, having fallen into disrepair, were given away about the year 1856 to Mr. Alfred White of Appleton.

Prior to 1933, these bells hung in an oak frame, and were fitted with elm headstocks, hoop gudgeons, and plain brass bearings. In that year they were taken down, their canons removed, and rehung with new cast iron headstocks having fixed steel gudgeons, self-aligning ball bearings, new wheels, clappers, and other fittings, in an excellent new cast iron two-tier frame by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon.

Visited :

F.S. 25th Jan. 1933, and 13th June 1939.

4.

ALDERMASTON.

St. Mary.

Ring of Eight Bells; tenor 39 inches diameter, in G.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LTD LONDON 1900. / "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO" / C.E.K.	3	3	26
Second.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LTD LONDON 1895. / LAUS DEO SEMPER. / C.E.K.	3	2	27
Third.	G. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1860	3	1	12
Fourth.	HENRICVS KNIGHT FECIT 1681	3	3	14
Fifth.	[As third].	4	1	3
Sixth.	[As fourth without reversed "N" in Knight].	6	0	20
Seventh.	JNO WIX & JNO READ CHURCH WARDENS [Fig. 14] / W. & T. MEARS LATE LESTER PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT 1787 [Fig. 14].	8	2	1
Tenor.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LTD LONDON 1900. / "MÆROREM MÆSTIS / LÆTIS SIC LÆTA SONABO" / C.E.K.	10	2	14

Formerly a ring of five. The present 2nd was added to make six in 1895, and the treble and tenor to augment the ring to eight in 1900, when the bells were rehung in a new cast iron side frame mounted on an oak foundation, with new fittings.

Treble, 2nd and tenor cast by Messrs. Warner; angular type canons to treble and 2nd; tenor cast without canons. The initials C.E.K. on the new bells are those of C. E. Keyser, Squire of Aldermaston, and a well-known antiquary. Note the unusual scale of weights of the four lightest bells.

The 3rd and 5th bells are by George Mears, of the Whitechapel Foundry, 1860: round-type canons to both. Although both sharpened and flattened, the 5th is quite a good toned bell. During the time that this tower possessed a ring of five, and afterwards six, the fundamental note of the 5th bell was C sharp: it was lowered to C natural in 1900 when the ring was augmented to eight.

The 4th and 6th bells are by Henry Knight III of Reading, 1681, who probably cast the complete ring of five at this date. The predecessors of the present 3rd and 5th were also by him. The 4th is quarter-turned and has one canon broken; canons removed from 6th.

The 7th is by W. and T. Mears, of Whitechapel, 1787; canons missing.

Details of Former Ring of Five Bells; tenor 37 inches diameter in A. (*Alfred White*).

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	HENRICVS KNIGHT FECIT 1681	3	1	0#
Second.	[The same but with N in Knight reversed].	3	3	14
Third.	[As treble].	4	1	0#
Fourth.	[The same].	6	0	20
Tenor.	[The present seventh].	8	2	1

Subsequently the treble and 3rd of this ring were recast in 1860 by G. Mears as stated above. The new bells weighed 3 cwts., 1 qr., 12 lbs. and 4 cwts., 1 qr., 3 lbs. respectively.

In 1877, the Rev. T. A. Turner noted:—"curious frame coeval with the second and fourth; third, good tone; fourth, maiden bell."

Ashmole (*Berks.*, Vol. I) noted five bells but failed to see the inscriptions. Probably the tenor was then also a 1681 bell: Knights inscriptions could easily be overlooked.

ij belles weyinge xxvj. A saunce bell weyinge halfe a hundred. A hande bell weyinge Vli. (1552 Inventories, August 2nd).

Visited:

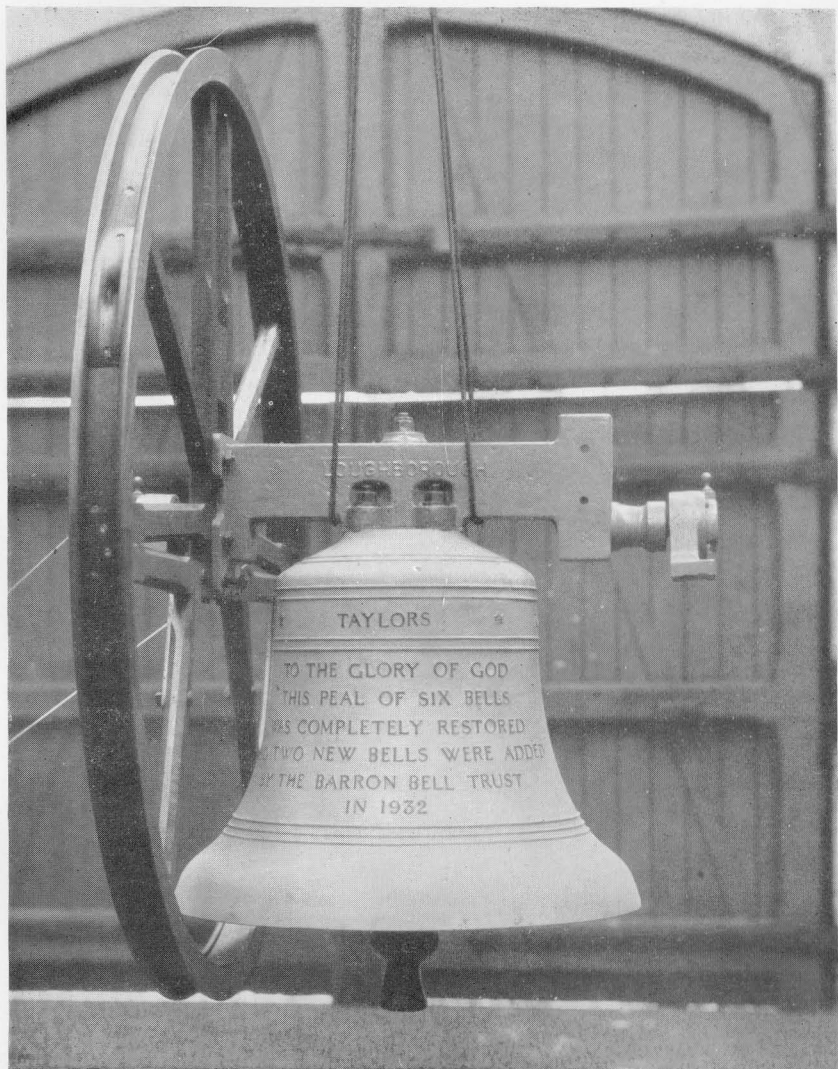
A White, circa 1855.

T. A. Turner, 9th June, 1877.

F. S., 26th August, 1939.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE

PLATE II.



Photo]

[Messrs. J. Taylor, & Co.

The treble bell at Harwell, cast by Messrs. J. Taylor & Co., of Loughborough, Leicestershire, in 1932. It is fitted with a modern type cast iron headstock, having fixed gudgeons; self-aligning ball bearings, and traditional type wheel. The bell was cast without canons.

5.

ALDWORTH.

St. Mary.

Ring of Three Bells; tenor 37 inches diameter, in A flat; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1868.	6	2	11
Second.	[As treble].	7	2	18
Tenor.	H. SELLWOOD CH WARDEN RT & IS WELLS ALDBOURN FECIT 1793.	8	3	0#
Sanctus.	X635	2	0	#

The treble and 2nd bells were recast at the Whitechapel Foundry in 1868. There is no record of their predecessors.

Tenor by Robert and James Wells, 1793, with inscription on sound bow.

Sanctus by Ellis Knight I of Reading.

Oak frame, and traditional type fittings. All bells have canons remaining. Peculiarly shaped clapper to sanctus.

Visited:

L. H. Chambers, 20th May, 1925.

6.

APPLEFORD.

S.S. Peter and Paul.

Ring of Six Bells: tenor 36½ inches diameter, in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1886.	3	3	0#
Second.	[As treble].	4	1	0#
Third.	RECAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1886. / THOMAS LAWRENCE: RICHARD TRUELUCK: C.W. / HENRY RAGLEY OF WITNEY MADE ME 1710.	4	3	0#
Fourth.	[Fig. 1.] [Fig. 2.] ©	5	0	0#
Fifth.	[Fig. 4] [☉] Sancte [☉] Gabriel [☉] Ora [☉] Pro [☉] Nobis © [Fig. 1.]	6	3	0#
Tenor.	[As treble].	8	0	0#

All bells have canons. Those of the first three are of the angular type, popular in the XIXth century, and those of the tenor are modern, consisting of four separate loops. The 4th and 5th have been quarter-turned.

Previous to 1886 there was a ring of three bells, with the tenor (now the 5th) $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter in B natural: and of these, the treble was inscribed: THOMAS LAWRENC RICHARD TRVLLVČK C.W. / HENRY BAGLEY OF WITNEY MADE MEE J7JO. This inscription was badly reproduced on its successor, the present 3rd.

In 1885, Mr. Walter Justice, of London, had the tower rebuilt and a spire added and also installed three extra bells. [The present treble, 2nd and tenor]. The former treble [now the 3rd] was recast and the complete ring of six rehung in a new oak frame, the whole of which work was carried out by Messrs. John Warner and Sons, Cripplegate.

The 4th bell has a narrow flat raised band between the moulding wires of the top inscription band. This feature is often found on XIVth century London bells, and suggests that the first owners of the mediæval Wokingham foundry, who cast this bell in the XIVth century, may either have migrated thither from London, or have learned their trade there. Unfortunately, the bell has suffered considerably at the hands of the modern tuner, having had its fundæmental note sharpened by means of the removal of much of the lip.

The 5th is also from the famous Mediæval Foundry at Wokingham; and bears the crowned capitals and black letter smalls favoured by the owners of that foundry in the XVth century. This lettering is illustrated in Fig. 20. As with the 4th the founder's name is unknown, but it is a typical XVth century bell, with its chief harmonic a minor third.

Apulford. twoo belles. A sance bell. (1552 Inventories).

The "twoo belles" are the present 4th and 5th of the ring of six. The sance, or sanctus, has disappeared.

Visited:

A. D. Tyssen, c. 1860.

F.S., 29th April, 1939.

7.

APPLETON.

St. Lawrence.

Ring of Ten Bells; tenor 44 inches diameter, in E.

Bell.

Inscription.

Treble.

ALTHOUGH I AM BOTH LIGHT AND SMALL, / I WILL BE
HEARD ABOVE YOU ALL. / RECAST BY MEARS & STAIN-
BANK A.D. 1875. / W. J. BUTLER, B.D. RECTOR.

Second.

I AM THE SECOND OF THIS RING, / THEREFORE NEXT
TO THEE I'LL SING. / THIS BELL AND THE NEXT FIVE
GIVEN BY R. SOUTHBY 1817. / RECAST BY G. MEARS
OF LONDON 1859.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>
Third.	I WITH MY FELLOWS DO AGREE, / THEN LISTEN TO OUR HARMONIE. / RECAST BY G. MEARS OF LONDON 1859. / A. WHITE & SONS, BELLHANGERS.
Fourth.	YE PEOPLE ALL THAT HEAR ME RING, / BE FAITHFUL TO YOUR GOD AND KING. / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK A.D. 1875. / W. J. BUTLER, B.D., RECTOR. A. & F. WHITE, BELLHANGERS.
Fifth.	OUR VOICES SHALL WITH JOYFUL SOUND, / MAKE HILLS AND VALLEYS ECHO ROUND. / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK, A.D. 1875, AT THE EXPENSE OF APPLETON CHANGE RINGERS.
Sixth.	✠ LAVRENTI · VOCOR · ORE · MEO · SAEPE · ILLE · SONABIT · / WILLIAM MOORE, M.A., RECTOR. / CUTHBERT GEORGE WHITE, PARISH CLERK. / MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON, 1910. (M)
Seventh.	THE GIFT OF ROBERT SOUTHBY ESQ ^R LORD OF THE MANOR OF APPLETON, 1817. / T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT.
Eighth.	WHILE THUS WE JOIN IN JOYFUL SOUND, / MAY PEACE AND HOLINESS ABOUND. / TO THE GLORY OF GOD RECAST BY SUBSCRIPTION A.D. 1874. / REV ^D W. J. BUTLER, B.D., RECTOR. / F. WHITE, PARISH CLERK. / MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON.
Ninth.	PRaised BE THE NAME OF THE LORD. / THE GIFT OF FRANCIS EDWARD ROBINSON ESQ ^{RE} OF THE OLD BANK, OXFORD. / A.D. 1861. / G. MEARS, FOUNDER, LONDON. / W. J. BUTLER, B.D., RECTOR. / W. HOLIFIELD, W. RICHARDS, CHURCHWARDENS.
Tenor.	PRAISE GOD WITH THE LOUD CYMBALS. / THE GIFT OF FRANCIS EDWARD ROBINSON, ESQ ^{RE} OF THE OLD BANK, OXFORD. / A.D. 1861. / G. MEARS, FOUNDER, LONDON. / W. J. BUTLER, B.D., RECTOR. / W. HOLIFIELD, W. RICHARDS, CHURCHWARDENS. / I TOLL THE FUNERAL KNELL. / I HAIL THE FESTAL DAY, / THE FLEETING HOUR I TELL, / I SUMMON ALL TO PRAY.

The Rev. W. J. Butler, whose name occurs on five of the bells, was born in 1818, Vicar of Wantage, 1846, Canon of Worcester, 1880, Dean of Lincoln, 1885. Died 1894.

There was formerly a sanctus bell, inscribed :

"THE GIFT OF B. HOWSE, 1818."

Hung in a two-tier oak frame. (See later). Elm headstocks, brass bearings, and traditional type wheels, clappers, stays and slides to all. Ninth: quarter-turned. Hoop gudgeons to all

except treble, 2nd, 3rd and 6th, which are fitted with strap gudgeons. The bearings of the 3rd, 5th, 6th and 9th are the original ones fitted in 1817; the remainder have been renewed at various dates by members of the White family.

Prior to 1817 there were only three bells; one of which was cast by Henry Bagley III, of Chacombe, Northants, while temporarily residing at Witney.¹

These three bells were replaced in 1817 by a ring of six, cast by Thomas Mears, of London, at the expense of Robert Southby Esq., of Appleton Manor.

Former Ring of Six Bells.²

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Note.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight³</i>		
			<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	F#	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1817.	3	2	5
Second.	E.	[Same as treble].	4	0	11
Third.	D.	[The same].	4	0	15
Fourth.	C#	[The same].	4	1	14
Fifth.	B.	[The same].	5	0	0#
Tenor.	A.	THE GIFT OF ROBERT SOUTHBY [Present seventh] ESQR LORD OF THE MANOR OF APPLETON 1817. / T. MEARS OF LONDON, FECIT.	6	3	0#

The new ring was dedicated on 4th March 1818, when the whole village was given a public holiday and entertained at the expense of Squire Southby. The anniversary of that day has ever since been celebrated in Appleton by special ringing and a dinner, which is now attended by ringers from considerable distances.

The following was composed by John Harding, the Village Schoolmaster, and sung on 4th March 1818, and upon each anniversary :—

March 4th, 1818.

I.

May friendship and freedom
this day much abound,
May mirth and good humour
go jovely round ;
May the young, and the old,
the grave, and the gay,
Remember this is
our March the Fourth Day.

¹ Catalogue of Bells cast by Henry Bagley, Bodlean Library, Oxford.

² A. White's Note Book.

³ Whitechapel Foundry Records.

2.

In this present year
 which we have now all seen,
 The number one thousand,
 eight hundred, eighteen ;
 The six well-tuned bells
 that by Southby were given,
 Rang their first Merry Peal
 our hearts to enliven.

3.

Then come all you aged,
 and witness this scene ;
 Bring your Sons, and your Daughters,
 to dance on the green.
 You are heartily welcome
 to take of the fare,
 Which will drive away sorrow,
 and banish all care.

4.

So fill up your Bumpers,
 Be this Toast given.
 " Here's Southby for ever
 May His Soul rest in Heav'n."
 For his bountous hand
 It has made us all Sing
 " Old England for Ever
 And God save the King."

In 1854, the following verse was added :—

But when thirty six years
 had quite altered the date.
 The peal of six Bells
 was transposed into eight.
 For a Treble, and Tenor,
 are put up quite right,
 By the Friend of all ringers,
 that fam'd Alfred White.

Three years after the installation of this ring of six, the Appleton Ringers scored their first touch¹ of 720 changes² upon the new bells. Their instructor was James Newman, a former Oxford ringer who had come to reside in the parish.

¹ Any number of changes less than five thousand is known as a " touch."

² The greatest number of changes that can be achieved upon six bells without repeating, also known as " extent."

This extent is recorded on a tablet on the south wall of the tower, inscribed :—

“The First 720 of New Treble Bob that was rung on these / bells, was rung by the / APPLETON RINGERS, / in the year 1821, viz :

Joseph Treadwell	Treble
Ewin Sellwood	2
Alfred White	3
James Newman	4
James Maselin	5
Richard King	Tenor

Conducted by James Newman.

Among the ringers of 1818 was Alfred White, who was destined to become famous in the annals of campanology. Founder of the famous bell hanging business, it was due to him that the Appleton bells were first augmented to eight and later to ten. As a member of a renowned family of smiths and wheelwrights, his skill and interest in bell ringing and hanging was well known in most of the southern counties, and members of his family still follow the tradition of this great craftsman.

In 1854 Alfred White started a fund for increasing the Appleton bells to eight, and on June 4th, 1854, he paid Messrs. C. and G. Mears, of Whitechapel, the sum of £82 10s. 10d., for a new treble bell, which cost £27 5s. 0d., and a second-hand tenor, formerly the 5th¹ of a ring of eight at Wednesbury, Staffordshire, for which he paid £53 14s. 2d. The balance of £1 11s. 8d. being the cost of the carriage of the bells to Appleton.

There was no room in the tower to hang the eight bells on one level, and a second tier had to be added to the 1817 bell-frame, in which were hung the old tenor, which now became the 7th of the ring of eight, and the 4th bell. This necessitated the removal of the tower roof and the bells in the top tier swing above the masonry of the tower: a louvered cage being constructed above this, finished with a pyramidal tiled roof. Also, the original 4th bell had to be lowered a semi-tone to form the 5th of the ring of eight. This was done by hand tuning in the tower, for which Messrs. C. and G. Mears charged £3 3s. 0d.; both this and the expense of hanging the bells being paid as a gift from Mr. Alfred White.

Details of ring of Eight Bells in 1854.

Bell.	Note.	Weight.			
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	
Treble.	G.	3	3	16	New bell, cast by Mears in 1854.
Second.	F#	3	2	5	Former treble of six, 1817.

¹ Mr. White's note book states the 5th, but the records of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry state the 4th.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Note.</i>	<i>Weight</i>			
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	
Third.	E.	4	0	11	Former second of six, 1817.
Fourth.	D.	4	0	15	Former third of six, 1817.
Fifth.	C.	4	1	14	1817 bell lowered from C [#] to C.
Sixth.	B.	5	0	0 [#]	Former fifth of six, 1817.
Seventh.	A.	6	3	0 [#]	Former tenor of six, 1817.
Tenor.	G.	7	3	13	Second-hand bell from Wednesbury.

A tablet on the west wall of the tower records the following :—

"Appleton Society / of Change Ringers. / March 5th, 1855. / Erected this Tablet to Record the / Opening of their Transposed Peal.¹ / of Six Bells into a Peal¹ of Eight / and on that occasion they Rang / their first Peal of Grandsire Trebles² / containing 5040 Changes in three / hours and thirty minutes, by the / following persons :—

John Sparrow	Treble
James Newman	2
Benjn Barrett	3
William White	4
Alfred White	5
Henry White	6
Fred ^k White	7
Willm Woodwards	Tenor

Conducted by H. White.

After October 1859, the treble, 2nd and 3rd bells which were considered too heavy in proportion to the remainder, were taken down and recast at the expense of Mr. F. E. Robinson,³ of Stonesfield, Oxon. The cost of this recasting which was carried out by Mr. George Mears of London amounted to £10 11s. 3d., and these three bells were reduced in weight. [Compare table of weights below with that above]. The necessary bell-hangers' work was the gift of Mr. Alfred White.

Thus in 1859, Appleton possessed a ring of eight bells, comprising the following :—

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Note.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
			<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	G.	THIS BELL AND THE TENOR GIVEN BY SUBSCRIPTION 1854. / ALTHOUGH I AM BOTH LIGHT AND SMALL I WILL BE HEARD ABOVE YOU ALL. / W. BUTLER, RECTOR. / W. RICHARDS, W. HOLIFIELD, CHURCHWARDENS. / RECAST BY G. MEARS OF LONDON 1859.	2	2	19

¹ This should be "Ring" not "Peal."

² This should be "Triples."

³ Founder and First Master of The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, and author of "Among the Bells."

<i>Bell.</i>		<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
			<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Second.	F#	I AM THE SECOND OF THIS RING, / THEREFORE NEXT TO THEE I'LL SING. / THIS BELL AND THE NEXT FIVE GIVEN BY R. SOUTHBY 1817. / RECAST BY G. MEARS OF LONDON 1859.	3	0	7
Third.	E.	I WITH MY FELLOWS DO AGREE, / THEN LISTEN TO OUR HARMONIE. / RECAST BY G. MEARS OF LONDON 1859. / A. WHITE & SONS, BELL- HANGERS.	3	2	11
Fourth.	D.	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1817.	4	0	15
Fifth.	C.	[Same as fourth].	4	1	14
Sixth.	B.	[The same].	5	0	0#
Seventh.	A.	THE GIFT OF ROBERT SOUTHBY ESQ ^R LORD OF THE MANOR OF APPLETON 1817. / T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT.	6	3	0#
Tenor.	G.	MR. EGGINTON VICAR RICHARD TIBBITS EDWARD GUEST JOHN HAND WILLIAM HOLDEN CHURCHWARDENS 1733.	7	3	13

The tenor of this ring was the second-hand bell from Winesbury. This was subsequently recast, as were also the treble, 4th, 5th and 6th.

Following a successful ringing of a complete peal of Stedman Triples, a tablet was placed on the north wall of the Church inscribed:—

“ASSIDUITY ACCOMPLISHES WONDERS. / On Tuesday Feby. 12th 1861, Eight members of THE APPLETON SOCIETY / of CHANGE RINGERS succeeded in obtaining for the first time on these / bells a true and complete PEAL of / TRIPLES on Steadman's Principle, comprising 5040 Changes, which / were brought round in excellent / style in 2 hours and 54 minutes, viz:

N. White	Treble
C. Hounslow	2
F. E. Robinson, Esq.	3
B. Barrett	4
E. Corbut	5
H. White	6
F. White	7
W. Robins	Tenor

Conducted by H. White.

In the same year Mr. Robinson gave two new tenors to augment the ring to ten. The new bells were cast by George Mears, of London, at a cost of £254 6s. 3d., and hung on the 17th of May 1861. The tower was already crowded and the new framework had to be built *in situ*. The considerable difficulty involved is a lasting credit to the craftsmanship of Alfred White. The 4th, 7th, 8th, and tenor of the ring of ten were now hung in the upper tier above the tower walls, with the remaining bells in the original frame of 1817 below; a considerable portion of the latter having to be cut away to allow the 9th bell to swing through the top cills.

The great disadvantage of this augmentation to ten was that the fundamental notes of the treble 4th, 5th and 8th bells had each to be raised one semi-tone, a practise usually resulting in poor-toned bells. Especially so was this in the case of the 5th bell at Appleton, which in the 1817 ring had sounded the musical note C sharp, had been flattened to C natural in 1854, and sharpened again to C sharp in 1861. It was therefore decided to recast these four bells as soon as funds permitted.

The following advertisement appeared in a local paper in 1867 :

“ A. WHITE and SONS Bellhangers were made,
 Because it was their fancy trade ;
 In hanging bells they take delight
 To make them go with all their might.
 They in their brasses don't confine them,¹
 Or else no man could ever rise them.²
 In clapping they're quite expert,
 For in the bell they put the work
 That makes the clapper to rebound,
 Which brings the true and proper sound.
 In tuning they are competent,
 To tuning fork, and instrument.
 In ringing bells also they're right,
 For they're a band whose name is WHITE :
 They'll ring the bells with any band,
 To Treble Bob, Grandsire, or Stedman ;
 Hand Bells they make ; are skill'd in tuning,
 Can ring some tunes that are amusing ;
 If you've a peal that's not quite right,
 Just drop a line to ALFRED WHITE,
 And with his SONS he will come down,
 Re-hang the bells, and make them sound
 The proper note, that's not been heard
 Perhaps for as much as twenty years.

¹ The bearings not continued above centre of gudgeon line.

² To “ rise ” a bell is to “ ring it up ” or “ invert ” it for ringing.

His SONS the clocks and chimes can do,
 Make them play tunes and keep time true.
 If you've a job that's worth attention,
 They will do their best to give satisfaction.

A. WHITE & SONS, BESSELSLEIGH, NEAR ABINGDON, JULY 1867.

The first peal of exceptional length to be scored on the Appleton bells was rung to celebrate the Fourth of March, 1871, and is thus recorded on a tablet on the east wall of the tower :—

“On Saturday March 4th, 1871, the APPLETON SOCIETY of / CHANGE RINGERS, / celebrated the 53rd Anniversary / of the Opening of these Bells by Ringing A True Peal of / GRANDSIRE CATERS, / containing 10,080 Changes. / Composed by Frederick White.

J. Avery	Treble
A. White	2
J. Newman	3
H. White	4
B. Barrett	5
N. White	6
C. Hounslow	7
F. White	8
H. Woodward	9
W. Robins	Tenor

Conducted by Fred^k White. / The Peal was well struck throughout and admirably / brought round in 6 hours, 21 minutes.”

In 1874 Alfred White was able to exchange the existing 5th bell at Appleton for one giving the note C sharp, cast by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester in 1717, and recently removed from the Church of St. Mary Magdalene at Oxford.

At the same time the second-hand bell, note G, purchased in 1854, which had been raised to G sharp in 1861, was recast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

This transaction was recorded by Alfred White, as follows :—

“The new eighth Bell, weighing 8 cwts.		
2 qrs. 8 lbs., cost	£72 9s. 2d.
Less allowance for old bell in exchange		£46 5s. 10d.
		<hr/>
Carriage of Bells to Appleton	£26 3s. 4d.
		14s. 7d.
		<hr/>
		£26 17s. 11d.
By exchange of former fifth Bell for a		
second-hand bell weighing 5 cwts.		
1 qr. with carriage on same	£4 19s. 0d.
		<hr/>
		£31 16s. 11d.

Paid to Mears & Stainbank, 6th March, 1875.”

The second-hand 5th bell thus acquired did not prove a success as the scale of tuning and harmonics did not harmonise with the other Appleton bells. In the following year (1875) it was recast, together with the treble and 4th, which were the two remaining bells sharpened a semi-tone in 1861. The recasting was carried out by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank at a cost of £33 19s. 9d., which was defrayed by the Appleton Change Ringing Society and friends.

After the death of Alfred White in 1876, his son Frederick succeeded in the business and it was he who later fitted the hoop type gudgeon in all cases instead of the strap gudgeons formerly fitted to the headstocks of his lighter bells. The majority of his frames were of English oak; but, towards the end of his career, and against his better judgment, he supplied a considerable number of wrought iron frames.

Record breaking peal-ringing reached fever pitch in 1888, in which year no fewer than four world's records were made at Appleton. The first was rung on January 28th, and consisted of 10,080 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major which were brought round in 5 hours 58 minutes, the ringers being:—

Treble	F. White.
2.	E. Holifield.
3.	C. Hounslow
4.	W. Bennett.
5.	J. Avery.
6.	Rev. F. E. Robinson.
7.	G. Holifield.
Tenor	J. W. Washbrook.

On Monday, March 5th 1888, a Peal of 12,041 Stedman Caters was rung in 7 hrs. 26 mins. by:—

Treble	F. White.
2.	G. H. Phillott.
3.	E. Holifield.
4.	W. Bennett.
5.	H. Baker.
6.	H. Holifield.
7.	Rev. F. E. Robinson.
8.	J. Avery.
9.	J. W. Washbrook.
Tenor	F. Stedman White.

This was followed on April 11th, by a Peal of 13,265 Grandsire Caters, in 8 hours, 5 minutes, by:—

Treble	E. Holifield.
2.	C. Hounslow.
3.	H. Baker.
4.	W. Bennett.
5.	Rev. F. E. Robinson.

6.	F. White.
7.	J. Avery.
8.	G. Holifield.
9.	J. W. Washbrook.
Tenor	F. Stedman White.

These three peals are commemorated by a tablet on the north wall of the tower, and were conducted by J. W. Washbrook.

Later in the year a successful attempt was made to regain the record for Stedman Caters which had been lost to Cheltenham.

The Peal is thus recorded on a Tablet on the east wall of the tower :—

“Praise Him on the Well-Tuned Cymbals. Praise Him on the Loud Cymbals. / On Monday, December 31st, 1888, a true and complete Peal of / Stedman Caters, / comprising 15,041 changes, / was rung in 9 hrs. and 16 minutes, by Members of The Oxford Diocesan Guild. /

Frederick White	Treble
Charles Hounslow	2
Herbert Baker	3
William Bennett	4
George Holifield	5
Rev. F. E. Robinson	6
Jesse Avery	7
James W. Washbrook	8
Rev. G. F. Coleridge	9
F. Stedman White	Tenor

Composed and conducted by J. W. Washbrook. / The longest length yet rung in this method.”

In 1909 Frederick White was succeeded by his son Richard (the present owner). At first following the style of his father, he gradually discontinued the use of the hoop gudgeons in favour of the modern type fixed in cast iron bedplates (plate gudgeons) but occasionally strap gudgeons have been used to save expense. Like his grandfather he has carefully recorded the bells which have passed through his hands and has hung rings of bells in eighteen different counties. He discontinued the manufacture of the wrought iron frames used by his father, and has subsequently made use of the modern type cast-iron frames mounted on rolled steel joists. The majority of his frames, however, have been constructed of English oak of which Mr. White has been very fortunate in having an excellent supply. He uses either cast-iron, or elm headstocks, and in 1926 he adopted the universal habit of fitting self-aligning ball-bearings instead of the plain brass bearings formerly used.

The 6th bell, one of the original bells of 1817, was taken down in 1910 and recast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank ; and thus the ring assumed its present form.

Particulars of Present Ring of Ten Bells.

Bell.	Note.	Weight			Date.
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	
Treble.	G#	3	1	20	1875
Second.	F#	3	0	7	1859
Third.	E.	3	2	11	1859
Fourth.	D#	4	1	4	1875
Fifth.	C#	4	3	2	1875
Sixth	B.	5	0	26	1910
Seventh.	A.	6	3	0#	1817
Eighth.	G#	8	2	8	1874
Ninth.	F#	10	1	21	1861
Tenor	E.	14	2	19	1861

For the inscriptions on these bells see pages 70-71.

After the Great War of 1914-1918, some of the Appleton Ringers determined to regain the World's Record for Long Peal Ringing, which, since 1909, had been held by the Midland Counties Association of Change Ringers, whose members had rung a Peal of 18,027 changes of Stedman Caters, at the Parish Church, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

In 1921, a Peal of 10,043 Grandsire Caters¹ was rung by an Appleton band which is recorded on a tablet on the south wall of the tower, inscribed:—

“The Oxford Diocesan Guild. / On Saturday, November 19th, 1921, in / 6 Hours, 5 Minutes, a Peal of / Grandsire Caters / 10,043 Changes.

F. S. White	Treble
G. Holifield, Jun.	2
H. Holifield	3
F. Barrett	4
C. G. White	5
A. H. White	6
F. S. Masey	7
G. Holifield, Senr.	8
R. White	9
F. White	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by / G. Holifield, Senr.”

On Tuesday, 22nd April, 1922, the World's Record returned to Appleton, when a mixed band composed of Members of The Ancient Society² of College Youths, and The Oxford Diocesan Guild, succeeded in accomplishing a Peal of Stedman Caters, containing 21,363 changes, in 12 hours and 25 minutes: a truly remarkable feat.

¹ A song was composed about this peal and the men who took part in it. It is regularly sung at the “Fourth-of-March” Dinner.

² A London Ringing Society, founded in 1637.

This Peal is commemorated by a tablet on the west wall of the tower, inscribed :—

"THE · OXFORD · DIOCESAN · GUILD · / AND · THE · ANCIENT · SOCIETY · OF · COLLEGE · YOUTHS · / ON SATURDAY APRIL 22ND 1922,) IN 12 HOURS & 25 MINUTES, A PEAL OF /

Stedman Caters

21,363 CHANGES.

CHALLIS F. WINNEY	TREBLE	HENRY R. NEWTON	VI
GEORGE HOLIFIELD, JUN.	II	ALFRED B. PECK	VII
WILLIAM HIBBERT	III	RICHARD T. HIBBERT	VIII
HERBERT LANGDON	IV	RICHARD WHITE	IX
GEORGE HOLIFIELD, SEN.	V	FRED WHITE	TENOR

COMPOSED BY HENRY G. MILES. / CONDUCTED BY HERBERT LANGDON. / F. C. R. JOURDAIN, RECTOR. /

J. C. RICHARDS } CHURCH
J. D. PEEL } WARDENS.

THIS IS THE LONGEST PEAL RUNG / BY ONE SET OF MEN. / C. G. WHITE,¹ PARISH CLERK."

In 1932 a successful attempt was made to regain the Grandsire Caters record by a mixed band of members of The Oxford Diocesan Guild. The Peal is recorded on a tablet on the west wall of the tower, inscribed :—

"The Oxford Diocesan Guild. / On Tuesday, December 27th 1932 / in 9 hours and 20 minutes, a Peal of / GRANDSIRE CATERS, / 16,271 Changes. /

Cuthbert G. White	Treble
William Simmonds	2
Francis E. Taylor	3
Richard A. Post	4
Walter F. Judge	5
R. Thomas Newman	6
F. Donald Boreham	7
George Holifield, Junior	8
Richard White	9
Fred White	Tenor

Composed by G. Holifield, Senr., / Conducted by G. Holifield, Junr., / G. E. B. Scanlan, Rector. / B. H. Blackwell, H. C. White, Church Wardens. / C. G. White, Parish Clerk. / Longest Peal yet rung in this Method."

Thanks are due to Messrs. Stedman, and Richard White, G. Holifield, and A. A. Hughes.

Apulton. Three belles, a sance belle. (1552 Inventories).

Visited :

F.S., 1925-1939.

¹ The last line was added some time after the dedication of the tablet.

8.

ARBORFIELD.

St. Bartholomew.

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 40½ inches diameter, in G.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	[Fig. 1]. [Fig. 2]. ©	3	2	3
Second.	ROBERT GRACE THOMAS COWDRY CHURCH WARDENS ∴ R ∴ CATLIN FECIT 1743 ✕	4	2	5
Third.	JOHN · WEB · MATH7W · MILAM · CHVRCH WARDENS 1653	5	3	2
Fourth.	© <i>pryase ye the lorde</i> / J [Fig. 6] C 1589	6	0	12
Fifth.	LOVE GOD 1639	8	2	23
Tenor.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1862.	11	2	24

The tenor was an addition by Warner in 1862, and is said to have been cast from old gun-metal. Incised on the waist is:—
“THIS BELL / was Presented to / THE PARISH OF ARBORFIELD / by / JOHN SIMONDS ESQ^{RE} / of NEWLANDS. / JUNE 1863.”

Formerly there were five bells, which hung in the tower of the old Church, now in ruins. The treble is a XIVth century bell from the Wokingham foundry, as Appleford 4th; 2nd by Robert Catlin, of Holborn; 3rd and 5th by Ellis Knight I, N in John reversed; 4th by Joseph Carter, of Reading, with the worn version (Fig. 6) of the Wokingham shield.

The bells were rehung in 1911 by Mr. F. Webb, of Kidlington, Oxfordshire, in a new iron frame with pits for eight, at a cost of £145 os. od. Unfortunately he removed the canons from all the bells.

1220. “Two Good Bells” recorded in St. Osmund’s Register from an inventory made at Sonning by W. [Dean of Sarum] under the heading “Edburgfeld.”

Visited:

T. A. Turner, 19th July, 1877.

W. J. Paice, 8th June, 1939.

9.

ARDINGTON.

Holy Trinity.

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 35 inches diameter, in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	J: TAYLOR & SON FOUNDERS LOBORO LATE OF OXFORD 1855 ✕	4	3	7
Second.	J: TAYLOR & SON FOUNDERS LOUGH- BOROUGH 1855 ✕	4	2	25

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Third.	J: TAYLOR & SON FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH A: D 1855 ✱	5	0	1
Fourth.	J: TAYLOR & SON LOUGHBOROUGH LATE OF OXFORD 1855 ✱	5	2	11
Fifth.	✱ J: TAYLOR & SON FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH LATE OF OXFORD / THESE BELLS RECAST AND NUMBER / INCREASED TO SIX A:D 1855 / L: VERNON T: GOODWIN CHURCHWARDENS	5	3	16
Tenor.	JOHN TAYLOR & SON LOUGHBOROUGH LATE OF OXFORD FOUNDERS 1855 ✱ / <i>Ecclesia restavrata / Tunis reaedificata / Et in pyramidem erecta / A: S. M DcccXLVJ / Rev: Barnes Vicario / P. S. Coxo / He: Clarke / Eccl. Gardianis / A: S. M DcccXLVJ</i>	6	1	25

Oak frame, elm stocks, hoop gudgeons, brass bearings; curious short stays, and unique-type sliders; with traditional-type wheels and other fittings; all by Taylor & Son, 1855.

Lukis, p. 93, under the heading "Hardington, Oxfordshire" (sic) says "The tenor of a peal of four sold to Taylor of Oxford was inscribed "Geve thanks to God withe on acorde."

three belles, a sance bell. (1552 Inventories).

Visited :

L. H. Chambers, 13th August, 1924.

F.S., 29th April, 1939.

10.

ASCOT.

All Saints.

The Church was erected in 1864, and equipped with one small bell, which is hung for chiming only, in a central bell turret.

11.

ASCOT, SOUTH.

All Souls.

This Church, which was erected at the end of the XIXth century possesses one bell, cast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. of Loughborough, in 1896; who state that it was supplied to form the 4th of a future ring of eight, which has never materialized. Its weight is 7 cwts. 2 qrs. 1 lb., note C natural. Mr. W. H. Hallam, of Swindon, states that it was given by Mr. Barnett of Kings Beeches in memory of his father, and that it is inscribed:—"IN MEMORY OF CHARLES GEORGE BARNETT OF KINGS BEECHES, WHO DIED MAY 1ST A.D. 1896."

12.

ASHAMPSTEAD.

St. Clement.

One bell, 28 inches diameter, inscribed "HENRY KNXGHT MADE MEE 1662." It hangs in a western tower constructed of timber. *Ashamsted iij belles. (1552 Inventories).*

13.

ASHBURY.

St. Mary.

Ring of Six Bells; Tenor 43½ inches diameter, in F sharp, and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / HENRY MILLER, M.A., VICAR. / HEBER HUMFREY, JAMES LAURENCE, CHURCHWARDENS. 1873.	5	1	9
Second.	CANTATE DOMMINO CANTICVM NOUM H.B. MADE THIS RING J733	5	3	0#
Third.	† ANDREW ✕ BADEN † WILLIAM ✕ KING † CHVRCH ✕ WARDENS † H ✕ B † J733	6	2	0
Fourth.	ANDREW BADEN WILLIAM KING CHVRCH WARDENS H B J733	8	0	0#
Fifth.	© © © © J. Bowles & N. Warman Churchwardens. Rev: W. Chambers Vicar. Ano. Dni. M.dccc.xl.v.	10	2	0#
Tenor	✕ This Bell and the Fifth were recast at the expense of Mrs. S. Shepherd ✕ by W. and J Taylor Oxon. Ano. Dni. M.dccc.xl.v.	14	0	0#
Sanctus	JAMES WELLS FECIT 1800.	3	0#	

The treble was cast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1873. Formerly there were five bells, which were cast in 1733 by Henry Bagley III, of Chacombe, Northants, while temporarily residing at Witney, Oxon. Subsequently, as the inscriptions show, the two largest were recast by Messrs. Taylor of Oxford. The sanctus is from the Aldbourne foundry.

The bells hang in an old frame which is in not too good a state of repair (1937), and are fitted with elm headstocks, strap gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels and other fittings. All the bells swing east-to-west, and, because of the unusual plan of the frame the bell-rope "circle" falls in the somewhat awkward order of 5. 3. 1. 2. 4. 6.

Visited:

F.S., 31st July, 1937.

14.

ASTON TIRROLD.

St. Michael.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 42 inches diameter, in F sharp, and a Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>		
Treble.	TO COMMEMORATE THE CORONATION OF KING GEORGE VI. 1937. / MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. (M)	4	0	9
Second.	This [Fig. 7.] Bell [Fig. 7.] was [Fig. 7.] made 1603 J [Fig. 8.] C.[Fig. 10]. [Fig. 10].	5	0	0#
Third.	✠ M A R I B E L W	6	0	0#
Fourth.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE ANO X6X7 HL WC ✠	7	1	0#
Fifth.	LOVE GOD 1639	10	0	0#
Tenor.	[Fig. 14]. / LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT [Fig. 15].	13	0	0#
Sanctus.	[No inscription].	2	0	0#

The treble, cast at the Whitechapel Foundry, was added to the other five in 1937. It was cast without canons, and hung by Mr. Richard White, of Appleton, who, a few years previously had installed a new oak frame with pits for six bells. He also fitted the five old bells with new gudgeons and self-aligning ball bearings, but re-used the existing headstocks, wheels, and other fittings.

The former frame was constructed for five bells and was coeval with the former treble (now 2nd). One of the oak braces of this frame, bearing the date 1603, is preserved in the Church.

The canons remain on the five largest bells, which have been quarter-turned. Hoop gudgeons are fitted to the 2nd and 3rd, and plate gudgeons to the remainder.

The 2nd, which has an ornamental border encircling the bell above the shoulder inscription band, was cast by Joseph Carter, of Reading, in 1603. The founder's mark, Fig 10, occurs twice on the waist of this bell.

The 3rd is unique. The cross, and lettering [Fig. 11] are not known at present by campanologists to occur elsewhere; but, as other examples may be discovered during the investigation of Berkshire towers, it would be unwise to attempt to assign this bell to any particular foundry until all available evidence has been collected. The style of the inscription belongs to the mid-XVIth century: a period when founders were reluctant to express

decided religious opinions. The lettering seems a mixture of the Wokingham crowned capitals¹ and the later set used by William Hazlewood, and may cover a period of transition between the two ; but, on the other hand, it is possible for this type of lettering to belong to the XIVth century. The hum-note of this bell is approximately a flat seventh, and the harmonics approximately² a major third and fifth, which is the style of the XVIth century. The name of the probable founder of this bell will be mentioned in the account of the bellfounders at the end of this paper.

The 4th is by Henry Knight I of Reading [see Fig. 12], and the initials H.L., and W.C. are probably those of the Churchwardens. The inscription on the 5th, which was cast by Ellis Knight I, of Reading, is reproduced in facsimile in Fig. 13.

The tenor is from the Whitechapel Foundry. It is not dated, but was cast by Messrs. Lester and Pack, whose partnership extended from 1752 to 1770. Incised in the top inscription band is :—"JOHN CRIPS & RICH^d HAYWARD CH-WARDENS"; and, as this bell is not dated and has had the portion of the inscription relating to Aston Tirrold parish incised upon it at a date subsequent to its casting, it is not unreasonable to suppose that it was a "stock" bell, cast when business was not too good, and used on the first occasion on which a bell giving the fundamental note F sharp was required.

There is no clue to the age, or founder, of the sanctus ; but it may be a pre-Reformation casting. It has, unfortunately, lost its canons.

Visited :

F.S., 26th April, 1939.

15.

ASTON UPTHORPE.

All Saints.

Chime of Two Bells ; tenor $22\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	[Fig. 2]. [Fig. 1]. ©	1	3	0
Tenor.	† [Fig. 7]. Joseph Carter made me 1585 / [Fig. 6].	2	2	0

Both bells have canons remaining. The treble is an early product of the mediæval Wokingham foundry, as is the Appleford 4th (XIVth century). The tenor, cast by Joseph Carter of

¹ See Figs. 20 and 26.

² The complete control of the harmonic tones of the bells was not possible until the invention of the modern tuning machine. In old bells they are only approximate.

Reading, has on its crown three small fleurs-de-lys spaced equidistant from each other.

In 1925 the treble had no wheel and was swung by means of a lever; the tenor was fitted with a XVIth century type half-wheel. Subsequently these bells were rehung by Mr. Richard White of Appleton, who fitted them with new elm headstocks, iron levers, new gudgeons, and brass bearings. The bell chamber is small, and the gear very cramped.

Visited :

L. H. Chambers, 13th June, 1925.

F.S., 21st July, 1939.

16.

AVINGTON.

SS. Mark and Luke.

This Church possesses one bell, weighing approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwts., 19 inches diameter, which hangs in a closed turret.

The bell was examined by the Rev. T. A. Turner, 30th June 1877, and bears no inscription.

Two belles a sakring bell. (1552 Inventories, August 4th).

17.

BARKHAM.

St. James the Great.

Ring of Four Bells; tenor $28\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, in D flat.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	J. WARNER & SONS LONDON 1863.	2	3	0#
Second.	[As treble].	3	0	0#
Third.	[The same].	3	3	0#
Tenor.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1863.	4	2	0#

On waist of each bell, "Royal Arms," and "PATENT."

Oak frame; elm headstocks fitted with strap gudgeons; brass bearings, and traditional type wheels and other fittings. Angular canons to all bells. Rung from ground floor of tower which also forms porch, and the members of the congregation have to pass between the ringers to enter the Church.

Visited :

L. H. Chambers, 1925.

18.

BASILDON.

*St. Bartholomew.*Ring of Four Bells; tenor 39 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, in G.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1876.	5	0	14
Second.	[As treble].	5	2	25
Third.	ISAACK MATHEWE FRANCES RIGGS C [Fig. 16]. W / H [Fig. 17]. K 1665.	7	0	0#
Tenor.	XN TRVE DESXER FOR TO DO WELL THE LADX LXTCOT GAVE THXS BELL H K X62X ◇	10	0	0#

The treble and 2nd were cast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1876. The 2nd has been sharpened, and both have round-type canons.

The former treble was cast by Thomas Dicker,¹ a Reading clockmaker, whose work also occurs at Inkpen, Berkshire, and Sherfield, Hampshire. It was inscribed:—"THO DICKER 1734." Bells by Dicker are very rare, and it is most unfortunate that this example should have been recast.

The former 2nd was inscribed:—"✠ HENRXX KNIGHT MADE THXS BELL XN ANNO X6XX" and was the work of Henry Knight I, of Reading, who also cast the tenor. The 3rd is by Henry Knight II.

The canons have been removed from the 3rd and tenor; both of which have been quarter turned. The tenor is a fine toned maiden bell.

The frame is curiously placed diagonally across the tower, and is probably of XVIIIth century date. The bell wheels, headstocks, and fittings have been renewed at some date subsequent to 1876.

At St. Stephen's Church, Upper Basildon, in this Parish is one bell, said to be the old Sanctus bell of the Parish Church. It is housed in an inaccessible closed turret.

Bestleden iij belles. (1552 Inventories).

Visited:

F.S., 17th May, 1939.

¹ See *Berks, Bucks, and Oxon Journal* xxiv (1918) p. 77.

19.

BALKING.*St. Nicholas.*

Chime of Two Bells.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Note.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>		
Treble.	D. ST NICHOLAS / RECAST 1935 / REV. G. H. C. BARTLEY ★ VICAR / C. LIDDIARD, H. READE, CHURCHWARDENS. (T)	-	2	18
Tenor.	B. ST GEORGE OF ENGLAND I I 5 / 1825 ★ RECAST 1935 / THE 25 TH ANNIVERSARY / OF / KING GEORGE'S ACCESSION (T)			

Both cast by John Taylor & Co., in 1935. The former bells, one of which bore the date 1825, were by James Wells, of Aldbourne.

Visited :

F.S., 15th June, 1939.

20.

BEAR WOOD.*St. Catherine.*

Ring of Two Bells; tenor 39½ inches diameter, in A.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>		
Treble.	C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1845	8	2	18
Tenor.	[As treble].	10	0	13

These bells are fitted with elm headstocks, strap gudgeons, brass bearings, traditional-type wheels, and curious short iron stays with swinging iron bars below bearings to act as sliders. They hang in an oak frame obviously arranged so that they could be augmented to any number up to six without any subsequent alteration to the existing work, of which the present two bells would form the two largest of the intended augmented ring. It seems a pity that such careful planning has not materialised.

Visited :

F.S., 24th June, 1939.

21.

BEECH HILL.*St. Mary the Virgin.*

Church erected 1867. Parish formed out of the Berkshire portion of the Parish of Stratfieldsaye, Hampshire. In a small wooden belfry at the west end of the Church is a chime of three

bells, cast circa 1867 by the late John Warner and Sons, of London. Approximate weights: treble, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwts., second, 2 cwts., and tenor $2\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.

In 1913, Messrs. Mears & Stainbank recast the tenor, half-turned the other two, and refitted the clappers.

Visited :

A. A. Hughes, July, 1939.

22.

BEEDON.

St. Nicholas.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 32 inches diameter, in B flat.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1922. / W. A. LOWSLEY, VICAR. / L. H. HOXMAN, W. S. GOOD- MAN, CHURCHWARDENS.	3	0	17
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / TO THE GLORY OF GOD / ERECTED A.D. 1899 IN MEMORY OF / QUEEN VICTORIA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE. / T. TROTT VICAR / W. GOODMAN, W. WHITE, CHURCHWARDENS.	3	1	25
Third.	SAMVELL KNIGHT ✕ MADE ✕ MEE 1683	3	2	1
Fourth.	M. & S. FOUNDERS, LONDON. (M) / CAST 1622 RECAST 1922.	3	3	14
Fifth.	1675	4	2	0#
Tenor.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE ANO X6X5	6	1	0#

There are no canons to the treble, and 4th bells, and the canons have been removed from the 3rd. The remainder have canons, and the 5th and tenor have been quarter turned. All except the treble have elm headstocks and traditional-type fittings, and hang in an oak frame. The treble hangs in an iron and steel frame above the others, and is fitted with a cast iron headstock.

The bells hang in a wooden tower constructed on a foundation of four huge pitch-pine uprights inside the Church.

Formerly there were only four bells. In 1899 they were augmented to five by the addition of a treble (now the 2nd); and, by the addition of another treble, to six in 1922, in which year also the present 4th was recast. The new bells are from the Whitechapel Foundry.

The 5th is by Henry Knight III of Reading, 1675. The tenor is by Henry Knight I, who also cast the predecessor of the present 4th in 1622.

Bedon or Byddon. three belles by estymation weinge XX^c (1552 Inventories, August 4th).

Visited :

A. F. Smith, 1925.

23.

BEENHAM VALENCE.

St. Mary.

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor $37\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in A flat.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1800	4	0	0#
Second.	[As treble, with interlacing border at end].	4	3	0#
Third.	[As second].	5	2	0#
Fourth.	[The same].	6	0	0#
Fifth.	[The same].	7	0	0#
Tenor.	THE REV ^d JOHN DOUGLAS D.D. VICAR OF BEENHAM WILLIAM ROBINSON & RICHARD STEPHENS CH. WARDENS & RICHARD IREMONGER OVERSEER & THOS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1800.	9	0	0#

A complete ring from the Whitechapel Foundry. No record of their predecessors. Visited by the Rev. T. A. Turner, 6th June, 1877 who recorded the above inscriptions, and noted that the tenor was a maiden bell and of good tone.

In 1937 these bells were quarter-turned and rehung in a new welded-steel frame mounted on rolled steel joists by Messrs. Gillet and Johnston, of Croydon, who fitted elm headstocks, plate-gudgeons, self aligning ball bearings, and traditional-type wheels and other fittings to them. The work was carried out in honour of the Coronation of H.M. King George VI. All bells have canons remaining.

Visited :

F.S., 17th June, 1939.

24.

BESSELSLEIGH.*St. Lawrence.*

Chime of Two Bells; Tenor 20½ inches diameter, in G.

*Bell.**Inscription.**Weight**Cwts. Qrs. lbs.*

Treble.	LENTHALL : ME : DEDIT : 1674.	RECAST	3	0	0#
	1828 : BY R: TAYLOR.				

Tenor.	[No Inscription].		1	3	0#
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These bells, which comprise the treble and tenor of a chime of five, hang in an open western turret. They were rehung in 1899 by Mr. F. White (of Besselsleigh and Appleton) who fitted them with elm headstocks, strap gudgeons, brass bearings, and iron levers.

The treble is by Robert Taylor, of Oxford. Figure 2 of date reversed. The tenor has a flat narrow band inside the top inscription band, and its shape, and tuning are those of a mediæval bell. It has the same mouldings (but without founder's marks) as the 4th bell at Appleford, and I consider it to be an early example from the XIVth century foundry at Wokingham; or by a predecessor of the first owner of that foundry.

The Lenthalls have owned Besselsleigh Manor since 1634 when William Lenthall, the celebrated Speaker of the Long Parliament bought it from the Fettiplaces, to whom it had passed by marriage from the Besils family.

Visited :

F.S., 30th June, 1939.

25.

BINFIELD.*All Saints.*

Former Ring of Five Bells; tenor 40 inches diameter, in G, and a Clock Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>
Treble.	I AS TREBELL DOO BEE GINN 1698 S ✕ K ::	5 0 0#
Second.	FEARE GOD HONER THE KING 1698 S [Fig. 18]. K	5 2 0#
Third.	SAMVELL KNIGHT KAST THIS RING 1698 ✕	6 0 0#
Fourth.	IN ✕ BINFIELD ✕ TOVAR ✕ FOR ✕ ✕ TOO ✕ SING ✕ S ✕ K 1698.	7 0 0#
Tenor.	CHARLES ✕ WINCH ✕ AND ✕ THOMAS ✕ HOSEORNE ✕ CHVRCH ✕ WARDINS ✕ 1698 SAMVELL KNIGHT MAD MEE	9 3 0#
Clock.	RXCHARD REDXSH GAVE THXS BELL / X629	1 0 0#

From notes by Mr. J. R. D. Tyssen, transcribed by Mr. H. B. Walters.

It will be seen from the inscriptions that the complete ring of five was cast by Samuel Knight of Reading, in 1698. The clock bell is by Ellis Knight I.

In 1882 the ring was augmented to six by the addition of a treble. In 1910 the three tenors were recast and the complete ring rehung in a new wrought-iron frame with all new fittings. The canons were removed from the two remaining bells by S. Knight, and the new tenor became also the clock bell. The former clock bell, which is housed in a turret above the tower roof, is now used for "tolling in" before Divine Service.

Present Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 39 inches diameter, in G., and a Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK FOUNDERS LONDON 1882.	4	2	1
Second.	I AS TREBELL DOO BEE GINN 1698 S & K ::	5	0	0#
Third.	FEARE GOD HONER THE KING 1698 S [Fig. 18] K	5	2	0#
Fourth.	"SAMUEL KNIGHT KAST THIS RING 1698" / RECAST 1910. / (M)	5	3	12
Fifth.	"IN BINFIELD TOVAR FOR TOO SING, 1698" / RECAST 1910. / (M)	7	0	12
Tenor.	CHARLES WINCH AND THOMAS OSBORNE CHURCHWARDENS 1698. / WILLIAM MINCHIN AND ARTHUR S. GIBSON, CHURCHWARDENS 1910. / (M) [See Fig. 19].	9	3	1
Sanctus.	RXCHARD REDXSH GAVE THXS BELL / X629	1	0	0#

The lettering on the 1910 bells is that of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. Unfortunately no attempt was made to reproduce Samuel Knight's lettering and ornaments in facsimile.

Visited :

F.S. 13th, May, 1939.

26.

BISHAM.*All Saints.*

Ring of Three Bells; tenor 34 inches diameter, in B flat.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1840	5	1	21
Second.	THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON / REV ^D R. BLUNT VICAR / JOHN LAWRENCE, RICHARD SHELTON, CHURCHWARDENS. 1840	5	3	19
Tenor.	[As second].	6	2	20

All from the Whitechapel foundry. The treble, and tenor have unique wheels, keyed to headstocks. These are made up of the spokes of XVIth-century-type half-wheels with later additions, and rims of XVIIth century date to form complete wheels. The wheel of the 2nd bell is contemporary with it [see plate I]. The headstocks are of elm and fitted with strap-gudgeons, each secured by means of one slotted pin and key, and stock hoop; showing that all these fittings were assembled at a date prior to the invention of nuts and bolts, and that the former bells had been fitted to them. The present bells are bolted to the headstocks in the normal manner.

In lieu of ground pullies, rollers are fitted to the oak frame, which is of the braced-centre-post type, and dates from the XVIIIth century.

Of the former bells the treble bore no inscription; the 2nd, inscribed:—"THIS BELL WAS MADE 1604" was probably the work of Joseph Carter, of Reading, and the tenor, inscribed:—"THOS SWAINE MADE ME AND I AM TENOR OF THE THREE 1757" was cast at Longford, Middlesex. (From Tyssen's MS).

Visited:

F.S., 10th June, 1939.

27.

BLEWBURY.*St. Michael.*

Ring of Eight Bells; tenor 47½ inches diameter, in E., and a Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	IN POPULO GRAVI LAUDABO TE ★ [oak leaf border] ★ / [vine border all round bell] / (T) V. L. WHITECHURCH ★ VICAR / ELI CAUDWELL, L. G. SLADE, CHURCH- / WARDENS. / ★ 1906 ★	5	0	2

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Second.	DOMINE IN CŒLO MISERICORDIA TUA ★ [oak leaf border] ★ / [vine border all round bell]. / (T) V. L. WHITECHURCH ★ VICAR / ELI CAUDWELL, L. G. SLADE, CHURCHWARDENS. / ★ 1906 ★	5	0	19
Third.	HENRY KNIGHT MADE MEE 1663	5	2	0#
Fourth.	[Fig. 21]. THMAS LYFORD HENRY BVTLER C·W 1689 SAMVELL KNIGHT	6	2	0#
Fifth.	IOHN HVMPHRY IOH LEATE C[Fig. 16].W 1704. [Two borders].	7	3	0#
Sixth.	Blessed be the name of the Lorde © / Joseph [Fig. 6] carter 1586	10	0	0#
Seventh.	EDWARD READ OF ALBOURN WILTS FECIT 1752	14	0	0#
Tenor.	JOHN HUNT, FOUNDER, CHOLSEY BERKS. 1825. NIL DESPERANDUM.	19	0	0#
Sanctus.	1819.	1	1	0#

The treble and 2nd bells, cast at the Loughborough foundry, were added to the older six in 1906, and these two bells were cast without canons. The remaining bells have canons, and have been quarter-turned.

The four middle bells were cast at Reading. The 3rd by Henry Knight II; the 4th and 5th by Samuel Knight; and the 6th by Joseph Carter. On the latter is to be found the familiar "Wokingham Coin," and the "R. L. Shield," which by this date (1586) had become almost worn out with over a century and a half of continued use. Parts of the R and L are now worn away, the bell clapper shortened, the device below gone, and the shield reduced in length so that only part of the W appears. (See Fig. 6).

The fine-toned 7th is by Edward Read, of Aldbourne,¹ Wilts., a little known founder, who succeeded to the foundry of the Cors in 1751, and whose bell founding activities produced only some nine or ten bells. His lettering is illustrated in Fig. 22, and we may regret the scarcity of his productions. He placed his inscription in true Aldbourne style in an inscription band immediately above the sound bow; the space normally occupied by the inscription band being taken up by a series of twelve moulding wires. The sanctus is also an Aldbourne bell.

The tenor was cast by John Hunt, of Cholsey, assisted by Chamberlain White, of Appleton. Before the advent of White, Hunt had made two previous attempts to recast this bell, but had

¹ See Walters, *Church Bells of Wilts.* p. 311.

failed through not allowing sufficient metal. This would be a very pardonable fault for a man who did little bell-casting, and who would not have had a huge store of metal as part of his stock-in-trade; considering that modern foundries melt approximately one-third more metal than that estimated to be required to fill the moulds. At his repeated failures John Hunt became desperate, and is recorded to have sworn that if the metal ran short in the third attempt he would jump into the furnace himself; and on this occasion he placed on the bell the inscription "NIL DESPERANDUM." [See Fig. 23].

A local rhyme was made about it —

"Three times run and three times cast
Blewbury's tenor's cast at last."

One cannot help suspecting a connection between John Hunt and the old bell foundry at Aldbourne, Wilts, which was bought up by Mears, of Whitechapel, in the same year in which Blewbury tenor was cast. It is interesting to note that Hunt moulded his bell in the traditional Aldbourne style, and also he placed the inscription just above the sound-bow and filled the top inscription band with a series of seven moulding wires, which is again characteristic of the Aldbourne foundry. The chief harmonic in Blewbury tenor is a very prominent major third.

The oak bell-frame is of massive section and originally made for six bells. It bears the date 1640, and is constructed of top and bottom cills, braces and end posts. The bell fittings have been renewed at various dates by the Whites, of Appleton. Hoop gudgeons are fitted to the 7th and tenor, strap gudgeons to the 3rd, and plate gudgeons to the remainder.

From a record in the Church chest we learn that when the old 5th (now 7th) returned from the Aldbourne foundry in 1753 (Date of casting 1752) it was "dedicated" in the following manner:—"It was set upside down in a hole in the ground in front of the School and filled with beer, and many of the company thereat assembled were exceedingly intoxicated therewith."

Visited :

F.S., 23rd May, 1939.

28.

BOURTON.

St. James.

The parish was formed in 1867 out of the civil parish of Shrivenham. The Church was erected by public subscription in 1881, and equipped with two bells of that date, which are hung, for chiming only, in an open western turret.

29.

BOXFORD.

St. Andrew.

Ring of Five Bells; tenor 37 inches diameter, in A, and a Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	THE GIFT OF MRS SUSANNA ARCHER OF WELFORD TO THE CHURCH OF / BOXFORD BARKS · IOHN STARES BELL- FOUNDER ANNO DOM : J744	3	3	0#
Second.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE ANO X6X8 ♀ / VH RH	4	2	0#
Third.	GOD BE OVR GYD 1601 C [Fig. 24]. W	5	1	0#
Fourth.	LOVE GOD 1639	6	2	0#
Tenor.	✠ W: Taylor Oxford Fecit Ano Dni M. dccc. xl. vi.	8	2	0#
Sanctus.	DONVM . SAM . RADELXF . RECTORXS / X640	1	0	0#

The treble is of unusual shape and poor in tone. It has a round shoulder, a narrow waist, three narrow moulding wires just below shoulder, and the inscription placed in two lines just above the sound-bow. Carved on the headstock is "MTN." The bell was cast by John Stares,¹ who owned the Aldbourne Foundry from 1744 to 1746, and is the only example of his work in Berkshire.

The 2nd is by Henry Knight I, of Reading. It has one canon broken, and a false clapper-staple bolted to its crown. The 4th and sanctus, are the work of his successor, Ellis Knight I.

The 3rd is the only bell in Berkshire cast by R. Becconsall, whose bells, dated 1571-1624, are fairly common in Hampshire. The site of his foundry has not yet been determined. [See Fig. 24]. This bell was rehung by Mr. F. White, of Appleton, who supplied a new wheel, elm headstock and hoop-gudgeons. It has been quarter turned, has also had a false clapper-staple bolted to its crown.

The tenor is by William Taylor of Oxford, and has ornamented and cabled canons. The wheel of this bell is of unusual design, and probably of local make since it is fairly modern. The former tenor also hung from the present headstock, which is riddled with plug holes showing that the predecessor of the present bell had been at some time fixed to it by means of nailed straps.²

¹ See Walters' *Church Bells of Wilts.* p. 311.

² The earliest and most primitive method of securing a bell to its headstock. c.f. South Hinksey.

The hangings of the other bells probably date from the first half of the last century and the gudgeons are of the strap-type.

An oak bell-frame of the braced-centre-post type has end-posts to all pits also braced in the reverse direction to the main braces. It was originally constructed for four bells, and later (possibly in 1744) adapted for five, the addition being made with second-hand timbers.

The sanctus is hung for chiming only, and is swung by means of an upright lever bolted to the headstock.

Boxworth three greate belles wth one saunce bell XX^c. (1552 Inventories, 4th August).

Visited :

F.S., 3rd June, 1939.

30.

BOYNE HILL.

All Saints.

Ring of Eight Bells; tenor 46½ inches diameter, in E.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	"WE BLESS THEE" / J.W. & S.	5	3	0#
Second.	"WE GIVE THANKS TO THEE" / J.W. & S.	6	0	0#
Third.	"IN THE HIGHEST" / J.W. & S.	6	1	0#
Fourth.	"ON EARTH PEACE" / J.W. & S.	7	0	0#
Fifth.	"GOODWILL TOWARDS MEN" / J.W. & S.	8	3	0#
Sixth.	"WE PRAISE THEE" / J.W. & S.	9	3	0#
Seventh.	"WE WORSHIP THEE" / J.W. & S.	12	0	0#
Tenor.	"WE GLORIFY THEE" / J.W. & S. 1868.	16	0	0#

A complete ring by Messrs. John Warner & Sons, of London, 1868. Cast iron "A" pattern frame and traditional type fittings.

The foundation stone of the tower was laid on All Saints Day, 1864; and the spire was completed in February 1866. Walker (*History of Maidenhead* 1st Ed., 1909) says that "the tower and spire were erected 1866-7, and the following year a fire destroyed the bells, which were, however, speedily replaced." There is a photograph hung in the ringing chamber, of the tower in scaffolding after the fire, signed "Wm. Gresley, Vicar, 1869."

The bells were rehung in their present frame in 1922. A stone tablet in the porch of the belfry bears the following inscription:—"I.H.S. / 1914-1918. / To the Glory of God and in / Thanksgiving for Peace / The Bells in this Tower / were rehung by the Parishioners. / A.D. 1922.

In the fire the bells were not completely destroyed, but all were recast when the tower was renovated.

Visited :

F. M. Underhill, 26th July, 1939.

31.

BRACKNELL.*The Holy Trinity.*

The Church was built in 1851, and hanging in the north tower is a small bell supplied by Messrs. C. & G Mears, at that date. Its diameter is $19\frac{1}{4}$ inches, note D sharp, and it weighs 1 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lbs. It bears the inscription:

176£

and appears to be the work of Messrs. Lester and Pack.

Visited :

F.S., 13th May, 1939.

32.

BRADFIELD.*St. Andrew.*

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor $39\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, in G.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	AT PROPER TIMES MY VOICE IL :: RAISE AND SOUND TO MY SUBSCRIBERS PRAISE xxxxxxxx / ROBT :: FORD & THOS :: JUSTICE : CH WARDENS 1757 LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT.	4	0	0#
Second.	SAMAELL KNIGHT 1705	4	3	0#
Third.	1655	5	2	0#
Fourth.	SAMVELL KNIGHT MADE ME 1705	6	1	0#
Fifth.	X AS FORTH SOVND	7	2	0#
Tenor.	AS TENAR HVM ALL ROVND X630	9	2	0#

The canons were broken off the treble as a result of an accident while ringing some years ago. The remainder have canons and have been quarter turned. They hang in a fairly new oak frame and are fitted with elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional type wheels and fittings. A false clapper-staple has been bolted to the crown of the tenor.

The treble was cast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1757 ; the 2nd and 4th are by Samuel Knight of Reading, 1705 ; and the two largest by Ellis Knight I, in 1630, who evidently cast a ring of five for Bradfield Church at this date as the inscriptions testify.¹

The 3rd was cast during the Commonwealth, and may be either the work of Francis Knight, or of Henry Knight II.

Visited :

T. A. Turner, 4th June, 1877.

F.S., 27th May, 1939.

¹ See Walters' *Church Bells of England*, p. 341.

33.

BRAY.
St. Michael.

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 53½ inches diameter, in D.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	FEAR GOD HONOUR THE KING 1678	7	1	15
Second.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE THXS BELL ANO X6X2 ✱ RGHPELTW	8	1	20
Third.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE THXS BELL ANO X6X3	9	1	23
Fourth.	RECAST BY JOHN WARNER AND SONS LONDON 1914. / PERPETUIS ANNIS MEMOR ESTO MARIAE / IOHANNIS CUJUS SUBCURA FUERAS MALA PELLE FUTURA / T. MEARS FECIT. / REV. EDWARD TOWNSEND, VICAR. / GEO. SANDERS, WM. BAKER, CHURCHWARDENS—	13	2	14
Fifth.	THOS ^s WARD WM LEE CHURCH WARDENS J77J [Trade mark of Thomas Swain three times].	16	2	6
Tenor.	1656	26	3	8

Incised on the 4th bell:—THIS BELL WAS RECAST 1914. /
REV. CHAS. ANDREWS RAYMOND, VICAR. / FREDERICK ISLAY PITMAN,
FREDERICK THOS. FORD, CHURCHWARDENS.

The former 4th was inscribed:—THE REV^d EDWARD
TOWNSEND VICAR. GEO. SANDERS WM. BAKER CHURCH WARDENS
1812 / PERPETUIS ANNIS MEMOR ESTO MARIAE IOHANNIS CUJUS SUB
CURA FUERAS MALA PELLE FUTURA T. MEARS FECIT. This repro-
duced the inscription on the previous bell, for which see *New
London Magazine* 1786. It also had an inscription round the
shoulder:—Te (?) rege Iohannes quos a culpis congrego servos (?)
[Extract from letter to Mr. H. B. Walters from P. G. Espinage,
Esq., 12th Nov., 1923]. Although recast in 1914 this bell was
not rehung until the following year.

The treble is by Henry Knight III of Reading, the 2nd
and 3rd by Henry Knight I, the 5th by Thomas Swain, of
Longford, Middlesex (cf. Bisham) and the tenor, a very fine-
toned bell, the largest in the county, by Ellis Knight I, and Henry
Knight II, 1656.

The bells hang in an iron frame with pits for eight. Canons
remain on the treble, 2nd, 3rd and 5th, those of the tenor

were removed about forty years ago when some repairs were carried out, and the 4th bell was cast without canons.

Thanks are due to Mr. G. Gilbert of Maidenhead.

Visited :

A. D. Tyssen, c. 1860.

L. H. Chambers, 1926.

F. M. Underhill, June, 1939.

34.

BRAYWOOD.

All Saints.

Ring of Five Bells ; tenor 39 inches diameter, in G.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1871.	4	3	14
Second.	[Same as treble].	5	2	16
Third.	[The same].	6	2	12
Fourth.	[The same].	8	1	13
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1866. / THE NIGHT IS FAR SPENT, THE DAY IS AT HAND.	9	3	8

The bells hang in an oak frame, and although the belfry is neglected, they all seem in good condition, except the tenor, the headstock of which is cracked.

In the ringing chamber is a brass tablet, inscribed :—" The largest bell was hung in 1867 / previous to the consecration of this church. / The four other bells were given as a / Thank offering by Sylvain and Elizabeth / Van de Weyer in 1870 to commemorate / the birth of their first grandson / William John Bates Van de Weyer / upon condition that a peal should be / rung annually for one half hour on February 12th / at 10.30 a.m.— in remembrance of their wedding day."

Visited :

F. M. Underhill, 4th August, 1939.

35.

BRIGHTWALTHAM.

All Saints.

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 38 inches diameter, in G.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1925. (M)	3	2	2

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Second.	[Fig. 25] CAST A.D. 1600. [Fig. 25] RE-CAST A.D. 1922. [Fig. 25] M. & S. LONDON. (M)	3	2	14
Third.	[Fig. 1] © [Fig. 4] [♂] Aue [♂] Maria	4	0	0#
Fourth.	PRAYES THE LORD X627	4	3	0#
Fifth.	JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS FECIT 1816 † [Bell] † † [Bell] † † [Bell] † † [Bell] † † [Bell] †	6	1	0#
Tenor.	BOLINESS UNTO THE LORD . A.D. 1922. / MEARS & SCARBARK, FOUNDERS, LONDON (M)	8	1	21

Formerly a ring of four bells, of which the present 3rd, 4th and 5th were the three largest.

The treble of this ring was a unique bell by an unknown¹ founder, inscribed :—" THE RAYNE OF THE QVENE 42 E R E B C W 1600 " with the Braybrook (?) arms [Fig. 25] as stop. In 1922 this bell was recast and the tenor added, both from the Whitechapel foundry, which in 1925 also supplied the present treble. The hanging was done in each case by Mr. Richard White, of Appleton. The treble hangs in a separate frame above the others. It is to be regretted that the inscription of the former treble was not reproduced in facsimile upon its successor.

The 3rd is a Wokingham bell of circa A.D. 1400 and the lettering of the inscription is illustrated in Fig. 26. It affords an example of an early product of that foundry, having the three well-known stamps [Figs. 1 and 4 and the coin] and an inscription. The bell has suffered somewhat at the hands of the tuner, having had a considerable portion of its lip turned off to the subsequent detriment of its tone, although its fundamental note is in tune with the other bells. Musically, this bell spoils what would otherwise be a very fine ring of six ; but it is to be hoped that the authorities will not allow it to be recast.

The 4th bell is the work of Ellis Knight, of Reading ; and the 5th is by James Wells, of Aldbourn. The inscription on the latter occurs just above the sound-bow.

The inscription on the tenor refers to Zechariah, chapter xiv, verse 20.

¹ R. Beconsall may be mentioned as a possible founder of this bell, but as it has been recast and the former lettering not reproduced it is difficult to determine.

All the bells have canons, and the three oldest have been quarter-turned.

Visited :

F.S., 20th May, 1939.

36.

BRIGHTWELL.

St. Agatha.

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 39½ inches diameter, in G, and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT 1808	4	2	0#
Second.	[Same as treble].	5	1	0#
Third.	[The same].	6	1	0#
Fourth.	[The same].	7	0	0#
Fifth.	[The same].	8	1	0#
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / RECAST 1908. / IN MEMORY OF / THE REV : FREDERICK GRAYE KIDDLE RECTOR 1899-1908.	10	2	25

The sanctus bears no inscription. It is a modern bell, 10½ inches in diameter, and hangs in belfry window above the level of the other bells.

The former tenor was inscribed :—" THESE BELLS WERE CAST ANNO DOMINI MDCCCVIII REV^D THOMAS WINTER RECTOR WM. TOOVEY ANTONY BIRCH CHURCH WARDENS THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT "

Bells hung in an oak frame.

Visited :

L. H. Chambers, 26th April, 1924.

37.

BRIMPTON.

St. Peter.

Ring of Four Bells ; tenor 33½ inches diameter, in B flat.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	1642	3	2	0#
Second.	THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON / REV ^D GEORGE B. CAFFIN VICAR / JOSEPH ARUNDELL, JAMES RIVERS, CHURCH- WARDENS. 1842.	4	1	9

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Third.	LOVE GOD 1642	5	2	0#
Tenor.	PRAYES YE THE LORD 1624 / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON, 1876.	7	2	3

The former tenor was cast by Ellis Knight I, of Reading, in 1624 and inscribed:

"† PRAYES YE THE LORD X624"

The treble and 3rd also are his work. The two remaining bells are from the Whitechapel foundry.

These bells hang in an oak frame, and are fitted with elm headstocks, strap gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional type wheels and fittings. The clock is by Cooke & Sons of York, 1699.

Visited :

Rev. T. A. Turner, 9th June, 1877.

F.S., 27th May, 1939.

38. **BUCKLAND.** *St. Mary.*

Ring of Eight Bells ; tenor 46 inches diameter, in E, and a Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1915. M / TO THE GLORY OF GOD, AND TO THE MEMORY OF / ELIZABETH JEMIMA COLE, / ONLY CHILD OF WILLIAM WHEELER WINTLE, OF / NEWTON HOUSE, IN THIS PARISH, AND WIFE OF / SYDNEY COLE, OF COWLEY PLACE, UXBRIDGE, MIDDLESEX, / WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE, MARCH 12TH, 1915.	5	1	21
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. M / A.M.D.G. / 1915. / R. L. C. NEWHOUSE, VICAR. / J. FLETCHER, A. T. WEST, CHURCH- WARDENS.	5	1	1
Third.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / THE GIFT OF W. E. G. N. 1898.	6	0	18

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Fourth.	ANNO DOMINI 1636	7	0	0#
Fifth.	[As fourth, but with "N" in "Domini" reversed].	8	2	0#
Sixth.	[Fig. 32]. ANNO DO MI NI 1636	9	2	0#
Seventh.	[Fig. 32]. ANNO DOMINI 1636	12	0	0#
Tenor.	THE LIVING I TO CHURCH DO CALL & TO THE GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL [Border Fig. 27]. / ABR : RUDHALL OF GLOUCESTER BELLFOVNDER 1721 [Border Fig. 29].	16	2	0#
Sanctus.	JWARNER & SONS LONDON 1854	1	1	0#

The first three bells were cast at the Whitechapel Foundry : the 3rd, given by W. E. Graham Niven, Esq., was added to the older five in 1898 ; and the treble and 2nd were added in 1915, during the incumbency of the Rev. Canon R. L. C. Newhouse, who was himself a keen ringer.

The next four bells are dated 1636, and are probably the work of Nathaniel Bolter, while working as an itinerant founder, before he finally settled down as an assistant to the well-known West-Country founders, the Purdues. A number of bells in Berks, Wilts, and the adjoining counties have similar characteristics, and like the Buckland bells, bear no founders' names. There are bells in this group known to me at Kintbury ; and, as more may possibly be discovered during the investigation of the county, I will deal with the whole group later. With regard to the Buckland examples : apart from the seventh, the harmonics of which are very false, they are good in tone, and characteristic of bells by Bolter, and the Purdues, with the peculiar-shaped high crowns favoured by these founders. [For cross and lettering see Figs. 32, 33].

The tenor is a fine-toned bell from the famous foundry of the Rudhalls, at Gloucester. The use of both "V" and "U" for the same vowel sound should be noted.

The sanctus, cast by the Warners, has no top inscription band, and its inscription has been placed on the lip. It has angular-type canons ; is hung for chiming only, and fitted with a wrought iron stock and lever.

The two lightest bells were cast without canons, and with the exception of the sanctus, the canons were removed from the remaining bells in 1915 by Mr. F. Webb, of Kidlington. He also supplied a new wrought iron "X" braced frame, and new fittings to the

complete ring. The headstocks, as so often the case with Webb, are composed of short lengths of rolled steel joists with plate-gudgeons bolted on.

The approach to the ringing chamber is unique. A newel staircase in the angle between the south transept and the nave gives access to a gallery erected across the east end of the nave, from which is a door leading into the central tower.

Visited :

F.S., 10th May, 1939.

39.

BUCKLEBURY.

St. Mary.

Ring of Eight Bells ; Tenor 40 inches diameter, in G.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MERCY & TRUTH. / TO THE GLORY OF GOD. IN MEMORY OF G. W. PALMER FROM HIS WIFE. / BOWELL. 1915.	3	2	0#
Second.	RIGHTEOUSNESS & PEACE. / BOWELL. 1915.	3	3	0#
Third.	PRAYES THE LORD 1632 / RECAST BY BOWELL 1915.	4	1	0#
Fourth.	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1824 [Fig. 14].	4	3	0#
Fifth.	✠ o lorde in thee ys all my trust 1581 ✠ / ioseph carter / RECAST 1926 IN MEMORY OF GEORGE DAVIS, BY BOWELL.	5	1	0#
Sixth.	[As fourth].	6	3	0#
Seventh.	✠ HENRX KNXGHT MADE THXS BELL IN ANO X6X0	8	0	0#
Tenor.	FEARE GOD X634	11	2	0#

The treble and 2nd were added to the older six in 1915 ; and, at the same time the present 3rd was recast, and the complete ring of eight rehung with all new fittings in a new iron and steel frame by Mr. Alfred Bowell, of Ipswich. Eleven years later the 5th also was recast by him. The new bells were cast without canons, and the canons have been removed from the four old bells.

The treble was given in memory of the late Rt. Hon. George William Palmer, of Marlston House, in this Parish, who died in 1913.

George Davis (in memory of whom the 5th bell was recast) had been connected with the Church all his life. He was a loyal member of the choir, and captain of the ringers.

The 4th and 6th bells were cast at the Whitechapel Foundry in 1824; there is no record of their predecessors. The 7th is by Henry Knight I, of Reading, 1610. Tenor, and predecessor of present 3rd by Ellis Knight I, of Reading. The former 5th was by Joseph Carter, of Reading, 1581, and the lettering on this bell has been reproduced in facsimile on its successor.

iiij greate belles, the fore bell wayinge by estymacion V^c waighte, the seconde bell wayinge by estymacion viij^c wayghte, the thridde bell wayinge by estymacion IX^c wayghte, the greate bell wayinge by estymacion XI^c wayghte, two sanctus belles, and one leche bell. (1552 Inventories, August 4th).

On the belfry wall is a tablet inscribed with some typical XVIIIth century ringers' rules:—

Gentlemen that here intend to ring,
 See that these laws you keep in everything;
 Or to be sure you must without delay
 The penalty thereof unto the ringers pay.
 First when you to the bell-house here do come,
 See that the ringers have convenient room;
 For if you be a hindrance unto them,
 Fourpence you forfeit to these gentlemen.
 Next if you do intend here for to ring,
 With hat or spur, do not touch a string.
 For if you do your forfeit is for that
 Just sixpence down and pay or lose your hat.
 If you a bell throw over¹ without delay
 Eightpence to the clerk you then must pay.
 For every oath here sworn, ere you hence
 Unto the poor you then must pay twelve pence.
 But if you strike or call, or else abuse,
 You must pay fourpence to the ringers use;
 And if that you desire to be enrolled
 A ringer here, these orders keep and hold.
 But whoso doth these orders disobey,
 Unto the stocks he shall be brought straightway
 And there remain until that he be willing
 To pay his forfeit, and the clerk a shilling.

Visited:

T. A. Turner, 15th June, 1877.

Stella Davis, 10th July, 1939.

¹ Until the XIX century bells were not fitted with stays or sliders, and if the ringer exerted too much pressure on the bell at one stroke he would consequently be unable to control the bell when in the inverted position in the succeeding stroke, and the bell would be "thrown over."

40.

BURGHFIELD.

St. Mary.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 41 inches diameter, in F sharp.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	FEAR GOD, HONOUR THE KING.	5	0	1
Second.	PRAISE GOD IN HIS SANCTUARY / PRAISE HIM IN THE FIRMAMENT OF HIS POWER.	5	3	18
Third.	LET CHRIST BE KNOWN AROUND / AND LOVED WHERE'ER WE SOUND.	7	0	23
Fourth.	THEN SHALL TRUE JOYS ABOUND.	7	2	15
Fifth.	BEFORE HIM LOWLY FALL / WHEN E'RE WE LIFT OUR CALL.	9	1	20
Tenor.	AND PRAISE HIM LORD OF ALL.	11	3	1

On all bells :—"MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL
FOUNDRY, LONDON, 1888."

A complete ring from the Whitechapel foundry 1888. Hung in a two-tier oak frame of the same date. The ringing chamber in this Church is one of the best kept in the county.

The former bells were by Samuel Knight, of Reading, and inscribed :—

Treble.	"FERE GOD ✕ HONOWR ✕ THE KING ✕ ✕"
Second.	"SAMVELL KNIGHT ✕ MAED MEE THE LEDARE OF THIS RING TO BEE ✕ / GEORGE GLOVER PETER ✕ SALTER C ✕ W 17 ✕ 03."
Fifth.	"S K 1689"
Tenor.	"SAMVELL KNIGHT MADE MEE 1689"

The third and fourth bells were uninscribed.

Treble cast by Samuel Knight, but with later date "1772" incised. Large ornamental capitals on tenor as at Wargrave.

Burfyld. V belles in the steple. (1552 Inventories, August 2nd).

Visited :

T. A. Turner, 11th June, 1877.

F.S., 27th May, 1939.

41.

BUSCOT.*St. Mary.*

Ring of Three Bells; tenor 36 inches diameter, in A.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weigh</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>		
Treble.	ANTHONY IONES C W WILL & ROB COR 1708	5	2	0#
Second.	[Fig. 34]. SANCTA : MARIA W W	6	3	0#
Tenor.	EDMVND : IACOBS : AND : ROBERT : BROWNE : CHVRCH-WARDENS : EDWARD [Bell] NEALE : MADE : ME : 1661 : [Bell] :	8	0	0#

An interesting ring; hanging in an XVIIIth century oak frame, complete with fittings of that date, comprising elm head-stocks, strap gudgeons [each secured to stock by means of one iron strap and key, and end stock-hoop], brass bearings, and traditional type wheels of huge dimensions. Later stays and sliders subsequently fitted.

With the exception of a few recent repairs, all the ironwork is of a date prior to the introduction of nuts and bolts, and consists of the XVIIIth century type straps and keys. The tenor head-stock is dated 175(3) ?

The treble was cast by William and Robert Corr, of Aldbourne, Wiltshire, in 1708. It has heavy moulding wires above and below inscription band, a series of eleven moulding wires above sound-bow, and is a maiden bell.

The 2nd is from the medieval Bristol Foundry. The founder's name is at present unknown but the bell dates from the XIVth century. The C in "Sancta" is reversed, and the bell has been badly sharpened by hand chipping. The only example from this foundry in Berkshire.

The tenor was cast by Edward Neale of Burford, Oxfordshire, in 1661. Lettering illustrated in Fig. 35.

The canons remain on all the bells, and all badly need quarter-turning.

Visited :

H. B. Walters, 31st March, 1899.

F.S., 29th May, 1939.

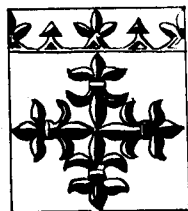
(To be continued)



1



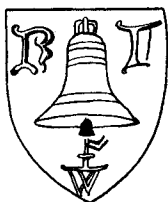
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5



6



7



8



9



10

FIGS. (1) Lion's Head Stamp, Wokingham Medieval Foundry. (2) Trefoil Stamp, Wokingham. (3-4) Crowned Crosses, Wokingham. (5) Crest of Roger Landen of Wokingham, c. 1448. (6) Worn version of (5) used by Joseph Carter of Reading, at end of XVIth century. (7) Arms of Chertsey Abbey. (8) Founder's mark used by Joseph Carter of Reading. (9-10) Ornaments used by Joseph Carter.

[Half full-size]

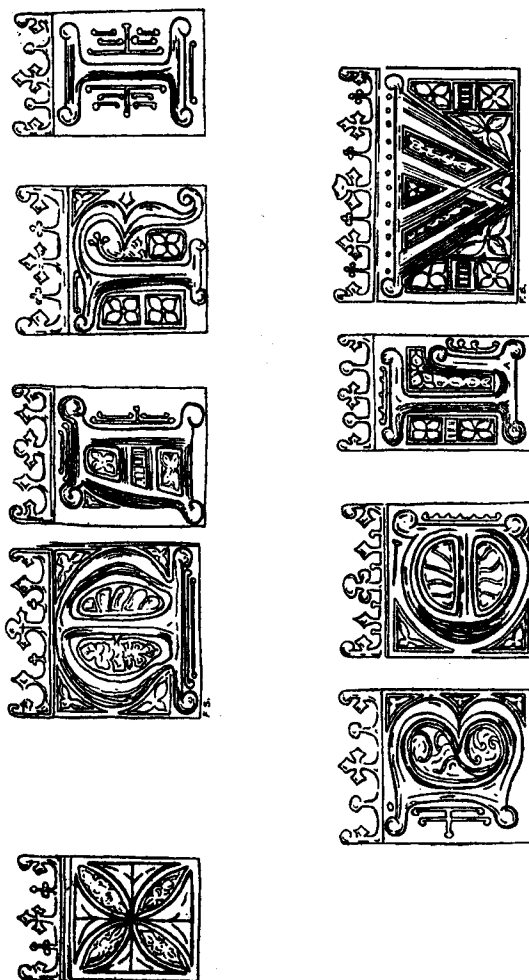


FIG. 11. Cross and lettering on third bell of ring of six at Aston Tirrold.
[Half full-size]

HENRY
 KNIGHT
 LOVE
 GOD 1639

12

13



14



15

FIGS. (12) Lettering used by Henry Knight I, of Reading. (13) Lettering used by Ellis Knight I, of Reading. (14-15) Ornaments used by Lester and Pack of London.

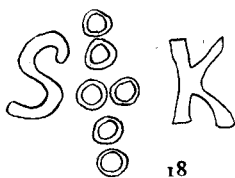
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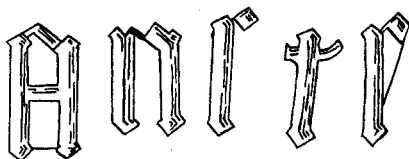
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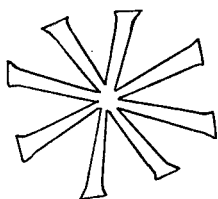
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19



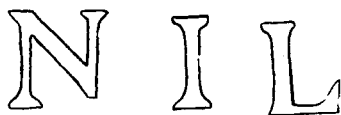
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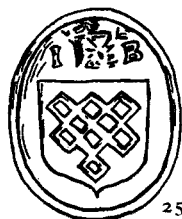
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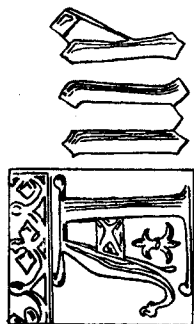
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FIGS. (16) Ornament used by the Knights of Reading in the XVIIth century. (17) Trade mark of Ellis Knight. (18) Trade mark of Samuel Knight of Reading. (19) Stamp of Mears and Stainbank. (20) Lettering from Wokingham Medieval Foundry. (21) Stamp of Samuel Knight of Reading. (22) Lettering used by Edward Read of Aldbourne. (23) Lettering used by John Hunt of Cholsey. (24) Founder's mark on third bell at Boxford. (25) Crest on second bell of ring of six at Brightwaltham.

[All half full-size]



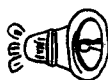
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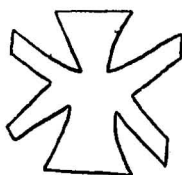
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FIGS. (26) Lettering on third bell of ring of six at Brightwaltham, from the Wokingham Medieval Foundry.
(27-31) Rudhall's ornaments.

[All half full-size]



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FIGS. (32) Cross on seventh bell at Buckland, bearing date 1636. Probably cast by Nathaniel Bolter. (33) Lettering on seventh bell of ring of eight at Buckland. Probably cast by Nathaniel Bolter. (34) Cross on second bell of ring of three at Buscot. Medieval Bristol Foundry. (35) Lettering and ornament used by Edward Neale of Burford, XVII Cent.

[Half full-size]