

## The Church Bells of Berkshire.

By FREDERICK SHARPE.

### PART II.

#### 42. CATMORE.

*St. Margaret.*

One bell, cast by Henry Bagley III,<sup>1</sup> inscribed :—H. BAGLEY MADE MEE [Fig. 49] 1700 [Fig. 49]. The ornament [Fig. 49] was used in the early part of the XVIIth century by the Attons, of Buckingham, at whose foundry the grandfather of the founder of this bell learned his trade.

*Visited* : A.F.S., c. 1925.

#### 43. CAVERSHAM.

*St. Peter.*

Ring of Eight Bells ; tenor 43 inches diameter, in F sharp.

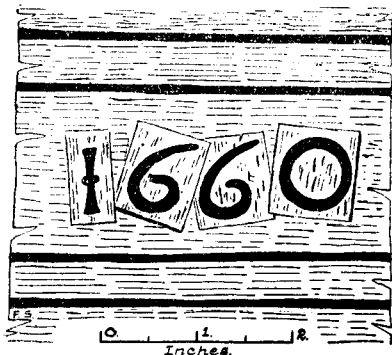


FIG. C. Caversham.

Inscription on Third Bell of Ring of Eight (Reading Foundry).

<sup>1</sup> The foundry of the Bagleys was situate at Chacombe, Northants : see generally Sharpe, *Church Bells of The Deanery of Bicester*, p. 4. Henry Bagley III, however, was of a roving disposition. In 1710 he described himself as "of Witney" on a bell formerly at Appleford ; see Vol. XLIII, p. 70. Four years later he styled himself as "of Northampton" ; Cocks, *Church Bells of Bucks*, p. 214, and, on a bell at Tilehurst cast in 1723 stated "H. Bagley of Reading made this ring." But he was again at Witney in 1732, in which year he published his "*Catalogue of Bells*" now at the Bodleian Library, Oxford ; and he returned to Chacombe in 1741..

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON. / "IN MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM." / DONO DEDERUNT / FREDERICUS GEORGIUS ET ELIZABETHA SAUNDERS. / A.D. 1891.	4	1	23
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON. / "IN MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM." / DONO DEDERUNT / JOSHUA ET CHARLOTTA BENNETT. / A.D. 1891.	4	3	6
Third.	1660	5	1	0#
Fourth.	<b>PRAYES GOD X637</b>	5	3	0#
Fifth.	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1826. .....	6	2	0#
Sixth.	THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1802 .....	8	1	0#
Seventh.	[Fig. 37] LISTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT ..... HENRY BENWELL CH. WARDEN 1768	10	2	0#
Tenor.	WM. CORNWALL CHURCH WARDEN. ..... THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1802.	13	0	0#

The border in each instance is Fig. 14 ; the number of loops depending on the space available in each inscription band. All bells have canons remaining and have been quarter turned. The treble and 2nd, added to the older six in 1891, were cast at the Whitechapel foundry, which also supplied the four largest bells. The Thomas Mears who cast the present 5th in 1826 was the son of the founder of the 6th and tenor.

The 3rd was cast at the Reading foundry in 1660, at which date, probably, the ring was increased to six. A facsimile drawing of the inscription is given in Fig. C. There are a number of the products of this foundry similarly inscribed with date only at this time, and we can only conclude that, as with the period following the Reformation, founders were reluctant to express decided religious opinions. These bells may be either by Henry Knight II or Francis Knight.

The 4th is also from the Reading foundry and was cast by Ellis Knight I in 1637.

New elm headstocks, plate-gudgeons, and self-aligning ball bearings were fitted to all by Mr. Richard White, of Appleton, a few years ago.

The 3rd and 4th hang in a wrought iron frame on the south side of the tower ; the remainder are in an oak frame which formerly housed the ring of six, when the present 3rd and 4th occupied the pits in which are now hung the treble and 2nd.

*Visited :*

F.S., 18th February, 1940.

44.

## CHADDLEWORTH.

*St. Andrew.*

Ring of Four Bells; tenor 32 inches diameter, in B, and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1924. (M)	3	1	15
Second.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1865	3	3	0#
Third.	EH & IN CW O COR 1725	4	3	0#
Tenor.	I. NEW & A. ROAD CHURCH WARDENS ROBERT WELLS ALDBOURN FECIT 1788	6	0	0#
Sanctus.	<b>E + K X635</b>		1	0#

The treble was added to the ring in 1924, when a new oak frame and fittings were erected by Mr. Richard White, of Appleton. The new bell is from the Whitechapel Foundry, and has a "Doncaster-type" head.

As the inventory of 1552 gives *three bells and a saunce bell*, the dates on the remaining bells refer to their recasting. The 3rd and tenor are from the Aldbourne foundry. The inscription on the former, by Oliver Corr, 1725, is an abbreviation of "Edward Hatt and John Nelson, Church Wardens, Oliver Corr, 1725." The tenor is the work of Robert Wells II who placed the inscription immediately above its sound bow, and filled in the normal band with a series of ten moulding wires. All bells have their canons remaining and the two largest have been quarter turned.

The sanctus, which hangs in a niche in the eastern wall of the tower, is fitted with an elm headstock, XVIIth century keyed ironwork, and drive-in type gudgeons. It was recast by Ellis Knight I, of Reading, in 1635.

*Visited :*

F.S., 22nd July, 1939.

45.

## CHALLOW, EAST.

*St. Nicholas.*

Chime of Two Small Bells.<sup>1</sup> The treble is inscribed:—  
R. WELLS ALDBOURNE FECIT, and the tenor although not inscribed is obviously of the same date as its companion. They now hang in a low tower, but until 1884 they hung in a double bell-cote.

<sup>1</sup> From *V.C.H. Berks.*

46.

## CHALLOW, WEST.

*St. Lawrence.*

Chime of Two Bells; tenor 16 inches diameter, in B.

Bell. Note.

Inscription.

Weight  
Cwts. Qrs. lbs.

Treble. E. ✠ **POVEL : LEPOTER**  
**: ME : FIST**

2 0

Tenor. B. **X629 E © K**

I 0 0

The treble is one of the earliest existing bells in England bearing its founder's name, and also one of the earliest examples of London bell-founding. It was cast by Paul the Potter, whose name Stahlschmidt gives<sup>1</sup> among the records of London founders whose careers extended from 1283 to 1312. Paul's name also appears as witness in a deed under the date 1297 made between "Michael le Poter ciuis London" and "Ade de Wirlee & Margte vxi ejs filiee mee."<sup>2</sup>

Previous to the discovery of this bell in 1926 by Mr. A. F. Smith, of Swindon, no example of Paul the Potter's work was known to campanologists. A scale drawing of the inscription is given in Fig. D, and the use of the Roman form of the letter T should be noted. This is also found on the early XIIIth century bell at Caversfield,<sup>3</sup> and is used by Richard de Wymbish on the saunce at Cholsey. [*q.v.*]. It is also interesting to note that Paul the Potter used the Norman-French form of "FIST" for "FECIT" as did Richard de Wymbish at Goring *circa* 1290, and this suggests that the Challow bell was cast at the beginning of his business career. Mr. H. B. Walters, writing on thirteenth century English Bells,<sup>4</sup> states that the lettering, though not identical with any other early London alphabets, is sufficiently similar in character to identify the bell's London origin even if it had no founder's name.

The diameter of the Challow treble is eleven inches, and its measurement from shoulder to lip ten inches: much the same proportion as the Caversfield bell. The crown of the former however is comparatively flat, and does not rise much above an inch from the shoulder angle. Three of its canons are broken, and the bell is secured to its headstock by means of two bolts

<sup>1</sup> *Surrey Bells and London Bell Founders*, p. 72.

<sup>2</sup> Cocks, *Church Bells of Bucks*, p. 6. Michael le Poter was Michael Wymbish, the first of a noted contemporary family of founders. [See Cholsey]. It is interesting to note that from the latter part of the XIIIth century until late in the XIVth, London bellfounders almost invariably styled themselves "Potter" or by the Latin equivalent *Ollarius*.

<sup>3</sup> See Sharpe, *Church Bells of the Rural Deanery of Bicester, Oxfordshire*, p. 19 ff.

<sup>4</sup> *Ant. Jour.* Vol. 6 (1926), p. 431.

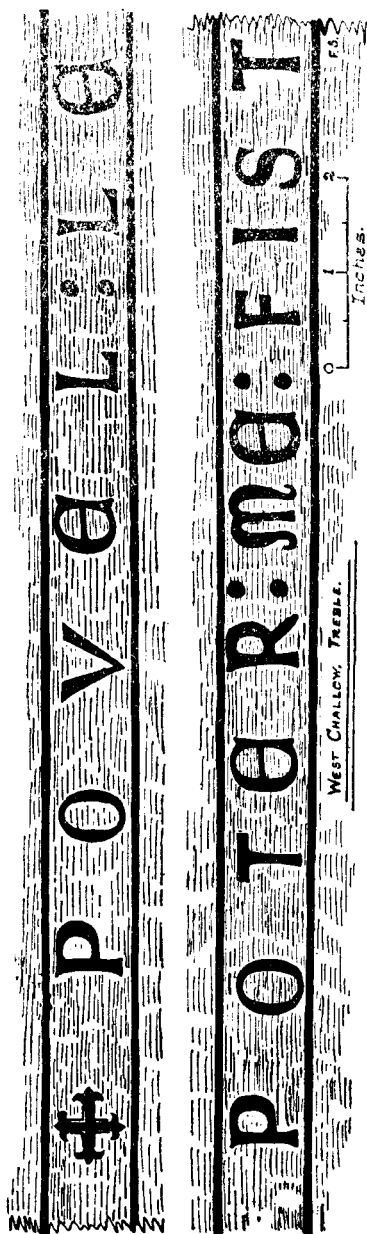


FIG. D.

FIG. D. Challow West.

Inscription on late XIIIth century Treble Bell of the Chime of Two.

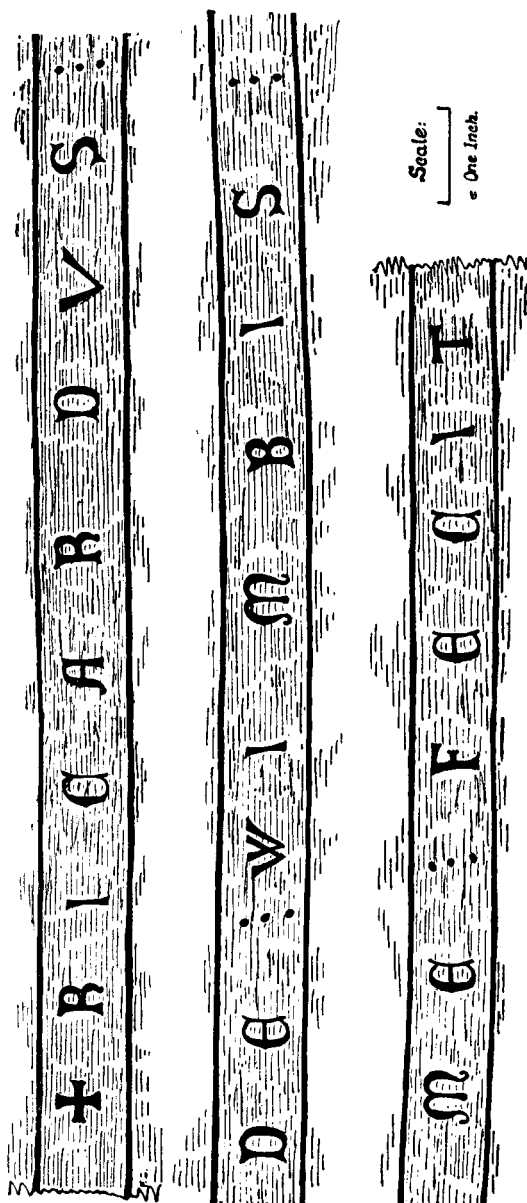


FIG. E.

FIG. E. Cholsey. Inscription on the Saunce, cast circa 1300.

passing through holes drilled in the crown; the disused canons being simply let further into the headstock, and almost concealed. The strike-note of the bell is E natural, and its harmonics approximately a minor third, and fifth; it does not hum its octave, but this is probably more by accident than design on the part of Paul the Potter. The bell has turned a greyish-green in colour through age and exposure,<sup>1</sup> and its moulding wires, one of which is actually on the shoulder angle, are very thick and heavy in type.

The Challow treble shows very marked improvements both in shape and tone over the well-known XIIIth century bell at Caversfield in Oxfordshire.<sup>2</sup> This bell, although it bears neither founder's name nor date, may be approximately dated 1210, by its inscription.<sup>3</sup> On the Challow example the round shoulder, the long, straight waist and thick, flat lip so characteristic of early XIIIth century bells, have now given place to an almost normal type shoulder, a sound bow of the usual medieval type, and a graceful curved waist similar to that of many XIVth century bells: the apparent results of the arrival of a recognised professional bell founder during the XIIIth century.<sup>4</sup>

The tenor was cast by Ellis Knight I, of Reading, in 1629. Its harmonics are in the major scale; the fifth being unusually prominent. From crown to lip it measures 13½ inches, and from shoulder to lip 12 inches. Its canons are intact, and it is secured to the headstock by means of nailed straps.<sup>5</sup> It has no top inscription band, a most unusual feature for bells by Ellis Knight, and the inscription is placed immediately under a series of three moulding wires below the shoulder angle.

Both bells have been half-turned. They hang in an open western turret, and are fitted with elm headstocks, iron levers, brass bearings, and gudgeons of the drive-in type secured solely by means of iron stock-hoops. The tenor clapper-staple is broken, and a false staple has been secured in position by means of bolts passing through holes drilled in the crown. By reason of the low position of this bell in the turret, its clapper has been made without a flight.

#### *Visited :*

A.F.S., March, 1926.

F.S., 18th November, 1939.

<sup>1</sup> It may also be due to an unusually large proportion of copper in the bell-metal.

<sup>2</sup> This is taken by most writers as a criterion for dating XIIIth century bells.

<sup>3</sup> The earliest dated bell in England is one of 1296, at Cloughton, Lancashire, which, unfortunately, does not bear its founder's name.

<sup>4</sup> Early bell founding was largely Monastic.

<sup>5</sup> *c.f.* Boxford and South Hinksey.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE

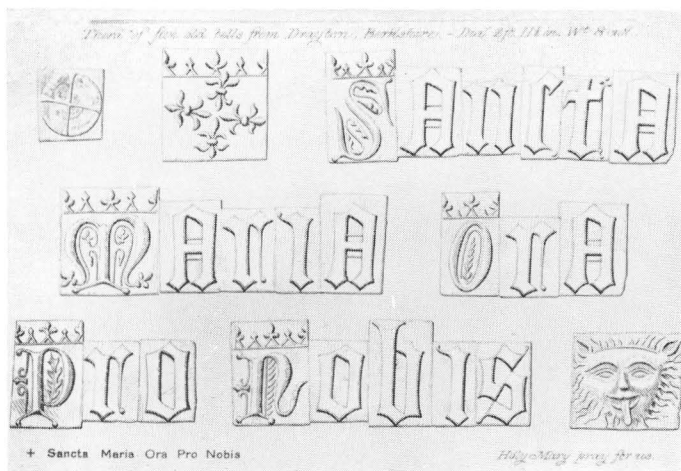
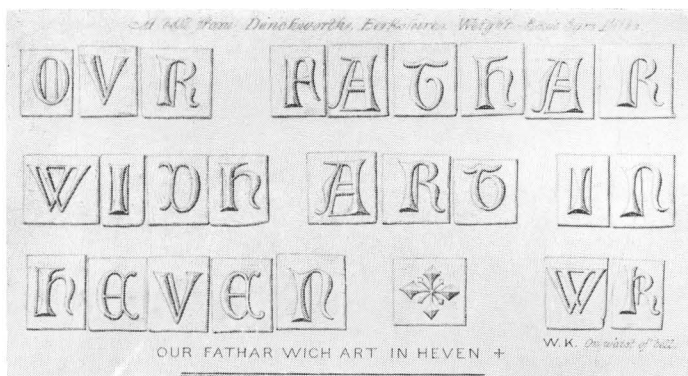


PLATE III.

Top.—Inscription on former Tenor of the Ring of Four at Denchworth, cast by William Knight of Reading, circa 1575.

Bottom.—Inscription on former Third of the Ring of Five at Drayton : a XVth century bell from the Wokingham foundry.

(Both from the Kimber Collection, at the Whitechapel foundry).

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE

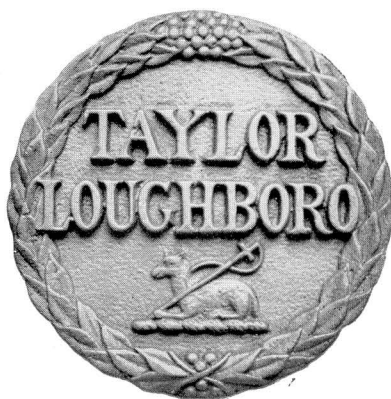
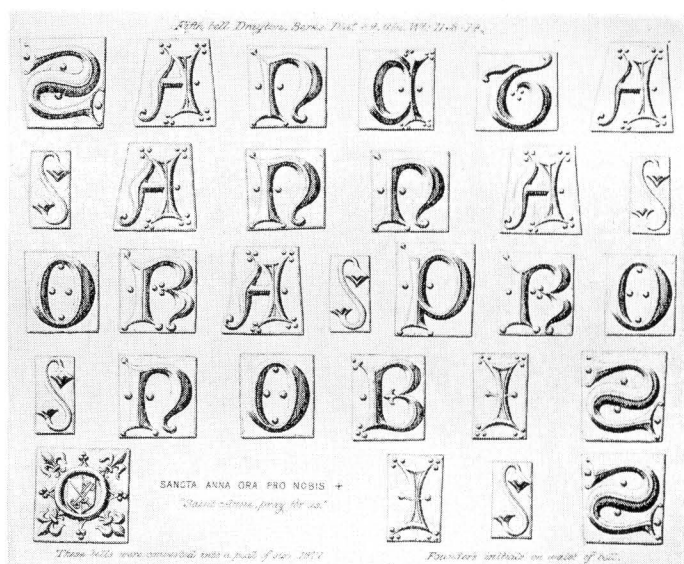


PLATE IV.

Top.—Inscription on former Tenor of the Ring of Five at Drayton, cast by John Saunders, of Reading, circa 1550.

Bottom.—Crest by Messrs. John Taylor & Co., of Loughborough.



47.

## CHARNEY BASSET.

*St. Peter.*

This Church possesses a Chime of Two Bells, which hang in a closed turret. They are both uninscribed, and on the evidence of their shape, probably medieval.

*Twoo Bells* (1552 Inventories).

*Visited :*

A. F. Smith, c. 1926.

48.

## CHIEVELEY.

*St. Mary the Virgin.*

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 41½ inches diameter, in F, and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	JOHN CORR B F 1740	4	I	0#
Second.	<b>HONAR GOD X633</b>	5	0	0#
Third.	[Bell] <sup>Ⓢ</sup> JOHN CORR [Bell] <sup>Ⓢ</sup> BF 1740	6	0	0#
Fourth.	[Fig. 36] <b>praysed be the name of the lorde / Joseph carter 1584</b>	7	0	0#
Fifth.	Ⓢ Ⓢ Ⓢ P Ⓢ HENCHARE Ⓢ ESQ Ⓢ R Ⓢ POCOK Ⓢ F Ⓢ PARSONS Ⓢ GENT Ⓢ I Ⓢ CORR Ⓢ J728	8	2	0#
Tenor.	<b>* BOLINESS UNTO THE LORD / W: Taylor Fecit Ano Dni M.dccc xl.v. Purchased by Subscription. / [Ornamental border twice all round bell.] / Revd. F: E: Robinson Vicar Ⓢ Ⓢ Joseph Pocock &amp; Samuel Shrimpton Churchwardens.</b>	11	0	0#

These bells hang in an oak frame, and are fitted with elm headstocks, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels, stays, and sliders. Hoop-gudgeons are fitted to the headstocks of the two largest, and plate-gudgeons to the remainder. The treble, 2nd and 4th have been sharpened. All bells have canons remaining, and all have been quarter-turned.

The treble, by John Corr of Aldbourne, Wilts, 1740, has the inscription above the sound bow, and eight moulding wires below the shoulder. B.F. = Bell Founder.

The 2nd, by Ellis Knight I of Reading, 1633, with lettering as Fig. 12, has a false crown-staple. It is a good toned bell.

The 3rd, by John Corr, 1740, has the inscription above the sound bow, and nine moulding wires below the shoulder.

The 4th is by Joseph Carter, of Reading, 1584. Its clapper staple is broken, and a false crown-staple has been fitted. Either in 1740 or 1845 this bell was sharpened a semi-tone by means of the removal of a considerable portion of its lip, thus completely ruining its tone.<sup>1</sup>

The 5th, a very fine-toned bell is by John Corr, 1728. N in Henchare is reversed, ornamental canons, thirteen moulding wires on crown, twelve on shoulder and seventeen in top inscription band.<sup>2</sup>

The tenor<sup>3</sup> is by William Taylor of Oxford, 1845. It has ornamented canons.

The history of these bells is not easy to read. The *Commissioners' Inventories*, dated 4th August, 1552 state *ij great belles, and a sanctus bell by estymacion xlv.c.* but this, while not impossible owing to the size of the tower, seems most improbable, and the weights of the bells, as so often the case, appear to have been grossly exaggerated. If we allow one cwt. for the sanctus, it would mean that the treble weighed approximately 10 cwt., the 2nd 14 cwt., and the tenor one ton. We know that the present 4th, a bell of some 7 cwt. was cast 32 years later, and it is difficult to believe that the medieval bells were as heavy as estimated. Probably the strike-notes of the original three were respectively G, A flat, and B flat; to which, in 1633, C natural<sup>4</sup> was added. G was recast in 1728<sup>5</sup>; and B flat in 1740, when D natural<sup>6</sup> was probably added. A flat was afterwards raised to A natural, and, finally, F was added.

The sanctus hangs in a small cote above the tower roof, and is also used as a clock bell. It was cast by James Wells, *circa* 1810, and bears, above its sound bow, the inscription:

♣. JAMES WELLS ALDBOURNE WILTS FECIT.

*Visited:*

F.S., 19th August, 1939.

<sup>1</sup> In the opinion of the writer, it is far preferable to have a ring of bells tuned in a minor key than to spoil an interesting old bell by tuning.

<sup>2</sup> These series of wires are a marked characteristic of the products of the Aldbourne foundry.

<sup>3</sup> For the inscription on this bell compare Brightwaltham.

<sup>4</sup> The present 2nd.

<sup>5</sup> The present 5th.

<sup>6</sup> The treble.

49.

## CHILDREY.

*St. Mary.*

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 40½ inches diameter, in A flat ; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	G. MEARS & CO. FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1865. / SAMUEL WHITTINGHAM, D.D., RECTOR. / ROBERT SMITH, JOSIAH BURSON, CHURCHWARDENS.	3	I	12
Second.	[Fig. 37]. PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT 1770 JOHN LAWRENCE & JOHN BUSH CH. WARDENS	4	2	0#
Third.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / RECAST A.D. 1907.	5	I	I
Fourth.	<b>R ♦ A ♦ I ♦ H ♦</b> <b>CHVRCHWARDENS X639</b>	6	3	0#
Fifth.	<b>SANCTA ANNA ORA</b> <b>PRONOBIS</b>	8	0	0#
Tenor.	<b>W ♦ B X ♦ V CHVRCH-</b> <b>WARDENS X632</b>	11	0	0#
Sanctus.	JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS FECIT 1806 . . . . .	I	0	0#

The first three bells are from the Whitechapel foundry, London. The treble appears to have been recast in 1865. The canons of the 2nd are broken, and the bell is now secured to its headstock by means of bolts passing through holes drilled in the crown. The 3rd, which has a "Doncaster-type" head, was recast in 1907, and there is no record of its predecessor.

The three largest bells are the work of Ellis Knight I, of Reading ; (Lettering as Fig. 12). The inscription on the 5th is noteworthy for the period, and, in each instance the letter N is reversed on the bell. The Sanctus is a typical Aldbourne bell with inscription above the sound-bow.

A new wrought-iron side-frame was installed by the late Mr. F. Webb, of Kidlington, Oxfordshire, who removed the canons from the three largest bells. He also fitted new elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, traditional type wheels and other fittings to all the bells. The four oldest have been one-eighth turned, and the treble quarter-turned.

*Chylrey, three belles [1552 Inventories].*

*Visited :*

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

F.S., 22nd April, 1939.

## 50.

## CHILTON.

*All Saints.*



Ring of Six Bells ; tenor  $36\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON.	3	2	11
Second.	[The same with date, 1892].	3	3	21
Third.	© PETER LEWSON & WILLIAM PAYNE ① ::::: C ::::: W ::::: J7J0 ::::::::::	4	1	0#
Fourth.	<b>LET YOVAR HOPE BE XN THE LORD EK X633</b>	4	3	0#
Fifth.	FEARE GOD HONOV R THE KING 1665	6	2	0#
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON. / RECAST 1892.	8	1	3

These bells hang in a side-frame, the older parts of which are of oak. Subsequent repairs and additions were made in deal. The headstocks are of elm, and are fitted with hoop gudgeons, brass bearings and traditional-type fittings.

There was a ring of four bells only prior to 1892, in which year the present treble and 2nd were added and the tenor recast. The 3rd is by William and Robert Corr, of Aldbourne, and has below its shoulder and above the inscription band three moulding wires ; the inscription band being filled with a series of twelve of these, while below are three more. The 4th and 5th were cast at Reading ; the former by Ellis Knight I, with letter N in inscription reversed ; and the latter by Ellis and Henry II, with inscription in lettering as at East Hendred (*q.v.*). The three old bells have been quarter-turned, and the 5th considerably sharpened by the removal of a portion of its lip.

The former tenor<sup>1</sup> was one of a group of early inscribed examples from the Wokingham foundry dating from the latter half of the XIVth century. It was inscribed :

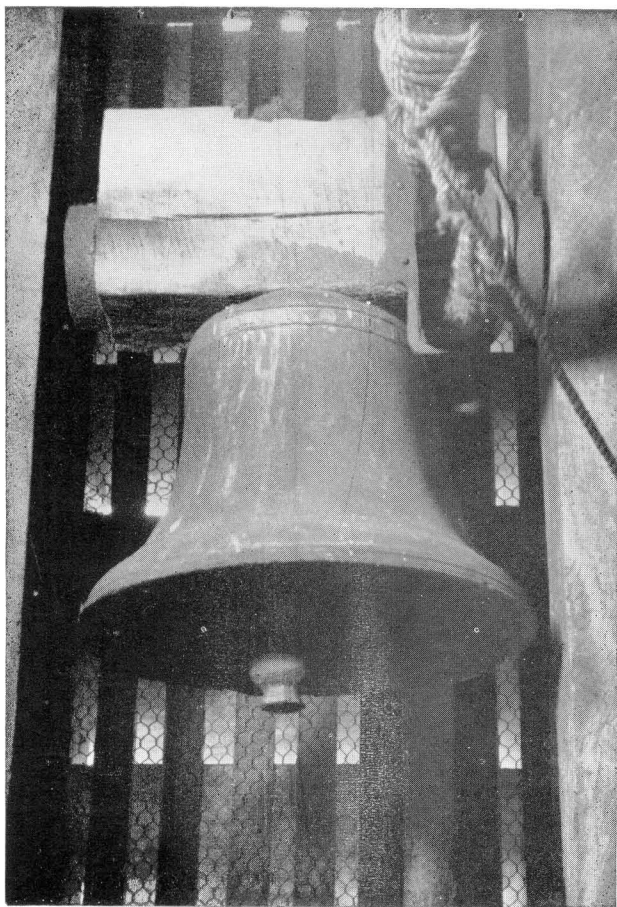
[Cross Fig. 4]  **AVE** [Fig. 48]  **MARIA** [Lion's Head.  
Fig. 1]. ©

and appears to have been exactly similar to the 3rd bell of a ring of five at Sible Hedingham, Essex.<sup>2</sup> Other bells in this group, which lack the use of the trefoil stamp [Fig. 2] and are prior to the introduction of the black letter smalls [see Fig. F], are at

<sup>1</sup> Cocks, *Church Bells of Bucks*, p. 49.

<sup>2</sup> Deedes and Walters, *Essex Bells*, p. 291. There are now eight bells at Sible Hedingham.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE



*Photo by F. M. Underhill*

PLATE V.

Early XIVth century saunce at Cholsey.

Dorchester, Oxon,<sup>1</sup> Sherborne S. John, Hants, and Chertsey, Surrey. At North Moreton, Berks (*q.v.*) the 4th bell of the ring of five has the same stamps and lettering with the addition of the trefoil.

Lukis, p. 63.

*Visited :*

F.S., 25th Nov., 1939.

## 51.

## CHOLSEY.

*St. Mary.*

Ring of Eight 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.	A GIFT, 1939. I CALL WITH MY WHOLE HEART. / M & S, LONDON. (M)	3	2	26
Second.	CHOLSEY, ST. MARY. A GIFT, 1939. BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD. / M & S, LONDON. (M)	3	3	21
Third.	VIVE UT VIVAS. JOHN HUNT, FOUNDER, CHOLSEY, 1826.	4	2	0#
Fourth.	✠ SAMVELL KNIGHT MEAD MEE THE LEDER OF THIS RING TO BEE	5	0	0#
Fifth.	S K 1685 / RECAST 1939. / F. K. WEEDON, C. W. BOSHER, CHURCH-WARDENS. / M & S, LONDON. (M)	6	0	10
Sixth.	J. HUNT FOUNDER. T. E. WASHBOURNE & T. WILLMOTT CHURCH WARDENS. 1826.	6	2	0#
Seventh.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1869.	7	2	0#
Tenor.	WB SK 1685	10	0	0#
Sanctus.	✠ RICARDVS : DE : WIMBIS : ME : FECIT	1	3	0#

The treble and 2nd bells, added to the older six in 1939<sup>2</sup> were the gift of an anonymous donor. At the same time the former 3rd was recast and now forms the 5th of the augmented ring.

<sup>1</sup> The tenor at Dorchester bears the name of its donor R. Rastwold, who died in June 1383.

<sup>2</sup> Although cast in 1939, they were not hung until Feb. 1940.

The installation of these bells, which were cast at the Whitechapel foundry, including the necessary additional framework and other bellhangers' work, was ably carried out by Mr. Richard White, of Appleton.

The inscriptions on the 3rd and 6th occur in each instance above the sound bow, and these bells are the work of John Hunt, the Cholsey smith, who, as we have seen at Blewbury, occasionally undertook the recasting and rehangings of Church bells. In these operations he was assisted by Chamberlain White, a half-brother of the celebrated bellhanger, Alfred White, of Appleton; and their work follows the traditional style of the Aldbourne foundry.

The 4th and tenor are the work of Samuel Knight of Reading, as was also the former 3rd. The initials WB on the tenor may be those of an assistant or foreman.

In the south window of the belfry hangs an unique late XIIIth, or early XIVth century sanctus bell, cast by Richard de Wymbish, a member of a noted Essex family of bellfounders, at least three of whom were founding in Aldgate in the XIIIth and XIVth centuries (see Plate V). Richard's business career extended approximately from 1290 to 1315,<sup>1</sup> and as he used the Latin *FECT* on the Cholsey bell and the Norman-French form *FIST* at Goring in 1290, we may infer that the sanctus was cast towards the end of his career. Richard possessed at least four different alphabets of Gothic capitals, and the Cholsey set, illustrated in Fig. E, is not known to occur elsewhere.

The Cholsey sanctus is a very thin bell, 20 inches in diameter, having its strike-note G natural [slightly sharper than the treble] and harmonics unusually high in the scale for a bell of this date. Unfortunately it has lost its canons, and is now secured to an elm headstock by means of bolts passing through the crown. It is fitted with a medieval-type clapper, having a wrought iron baldrick copse. This interesting bell was discovered in 1932 by the late Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. For many years it was not hung and lay forgotten in a dim recess in the tower.

*Visited :*

H.B.W., April 1914.

F.S., Sept., 1932.

F.M.U., Nov., 1939.

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<sup>1</sup> His first known bell is at Goring, in Oxfordshire, and is inscribed

✠ ORATE : PRO : PETRO : EXONIENSI : EPISCOPI :  
✠ : RICARD : DE : WYMBIS : ME : FISC :

This bishop was Peter Quivil, who died in 1291, and as the prayer is not for his soul the bell must have been cast during his lifetime. The use of the Norman-French form *FIST* should be noted [see also Challow].

See generally Walters' *Church Bells of England*, p. 184. Other examples of Richard's work are reported from Northants (2), Kent, and Essex.

52.

## CLEWER.

*St. Andrew.*

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 44 inches diameter, in F.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1897.	5	2	16
Second.	<i>Mears &amp; Stainbank, Founders, London, 1866. / Dominus regnavit</i>	6	1	12
Third.	<i>Mears &amp; Stainbank, Founders, London, 1866. / Benedictus Dominus.</i>	7	0	8
Fourth.	G. MEARS & CO. FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1862.	8	1	2
Fifth.	[As fourth].	10	0	9
Tenor.	[The same].	14	2	25

Incised on waist of 4th in ornamental Gothic type, "*Cum Angelis*"; on the 5th "*Jubilate Deo*"; and on the tenor, "*Adeste Fideles.*" All cast at the Whitechapel foundry.

The four largest hang in an oak frame, and the treble and 2nd in a light frame of timber and metal above the main frame, almost in the spire. The fittings are of the traditional type and have been renewed fairly recently.

At Dedworth, in this parish, is a Chapel-of-Ease, in which is one bell, hung in an inaccessible turret by Mr. Posnet, the Captain of the Clewer Ringers, in 1927. Mr. Posnet states that it bears no inscription and was presented by Father Simpson.

*Visited :*

F.M.U., 4th March, 1940.

53.

## COLD ASH.

*St. Mark.*

This Church possesses a Chime of Two Bells, cast by Messrs. Mears, of Whitechapel, *circa* 1850, and bearing only the founders' names, and date.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> From Mr. R. White's records.



54.

## COLESHILL.

*All Saints.*

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 34 inches diameter, in B flat, and a Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	M & S. LONDON. 1938. (M) / TO THE GLORY OF GOD, / AND IN MEMORY OF / MARIA ELEANOR / PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE / OB. 25 NOV: 1936. / R.I.P. / AVE MARIA GRACIA PLENA	3	0	24
Second.	ABRA RVDHALL OF GLOUCESTER CAST VS ALL 1708 .....	3	1	0#
Third.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / JACOB, 4 <sup>TH</sup> EARL OF RADNOR HAD ME / RECAST A.D. 1884, IN MEMORY OF HIS / FRIEND, WILLIAM EYKYN. / WHILE I LIVE I WILL PRAISE THE LORD.	3	2	22
Fourth.	GOD SAVE THE QVEEN A : R [Fig. 3I] [Fig. 3I] 1708 [Vine border. Fig. 30].	4	1	0#
Fifth.	PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOVRHOOD [Border Fig. 29] A : R [Fig. 3I] 1708 [Border Fig. 27].	5	1	0#
Tenor.	PROSPERITY TO ALL OVR BENEFACTORS 1708.	7	0	0#

Treble cast by Mears and Stainbank, 1938: formerly a ring of five. The 3rd also from the same foundry, 1884. Remainder by Abraham Rudhall I, of Gloucester, who in 1708 cast the complete ring of five. Cabled canons to 5th and tenor,<sup>1</sup> treble cast without canons.

The frame, which is of oak, and of the "centre-post" type, probably dates from the beginning of the XVIIIth century.

The bells were rehung in the existing frame in 1884, when the present 3rd was recast at the expense of the Earl of Radnor, and they were again rehung in the same frame and augmented to six in 1938-39 as a memorial to the late Hon. Mrs. Pleydell-Bouverie. The latter restoration was carried out by Mr. Richard White, of Appleton, who fitted the bells with new elm headstocks, plate-gudgeons, self-aligning ball bearings, and new wheels and fittings. The canons of the 2nd, being faulty, were then removed, and this bell drilled in the crown and bolted direct to the new headstock. At the same time the four largest were quarter-turned.

<sup>1</sup> I have learned that the tenor has become cracked since my visit in May 1939.

The sanctus, which weighs approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt., bears no inscription. It hangs above the other bells, and is swung by means of a lever. It is a fairly modern bell, having no top inscription band, and not unlike one of Warner's castings.

*ij belles a saunts bell a pece of a broken bell.* (1552 Inventories, 6 August).

*Visited :*

F.S., 29th May, 1939.

55.

### COMBE.

*St. Swithin.*

Ring of Three Bells ; tenor 36 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT. 1831.	6	1	0#
Second.	[Cross Fig. 4]. <sup>☞</sup> Sancte <sup>☞</sup> Laurenti <sup>☞</sup> Or [Lion's Head Fig. 1]. ©	7	0	0#
Tenor.	GIVE THANKES TOGOD I W 1616	8	0	0#

The treble, which was cast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1831, has incised on its waist : "JOHN NEWTON CH. WARDEN." There is no record extant of its predecessor.

The majority of medieval bells in Berks appear to have come from the famous Wokingham foundry which supplied the 2nd bell early in the XVth century. A facsimile drawing of the inscription is given in Fig. F. Gothic capitals only were used on the earlier inscribed examples from the Wokingham foundry, as for instance on the former tenor at Chilton, together with Figs. 1 and 4 and the familiar coin. The next group, of which the 2nd at Combe forms a good example, are inscribed in black letter with the initial capitals from the original alphabet and the former founders' marks, and these cover the period circa 1400-1440, before the first *known* owner of the foundry, Roger Landen, introduced the shield, Fig. 5. The founder, as at Farnborough and Fawley (*q.v.*), obviously intended to complete the inscription<sup>1</sup> with the familiar "Ora Pro Nobis," but could not do so on account of bad spacing. This bell affords an unusually early example of the scale of tuning which became popular in the XVIth and succeeding centuries, and which is known as "Old Standard."

<sup>1</sup> Dedications to St. Lawrence are uncommon on bells. There are examples at Caversfield, Oxon circa 1210 ; Manor Deifi, Pembrokeshire, circa 1500 ; Hilmarston, and Sutton Benger, Wilts, both medieval ; and Appleton, Berks, modern.

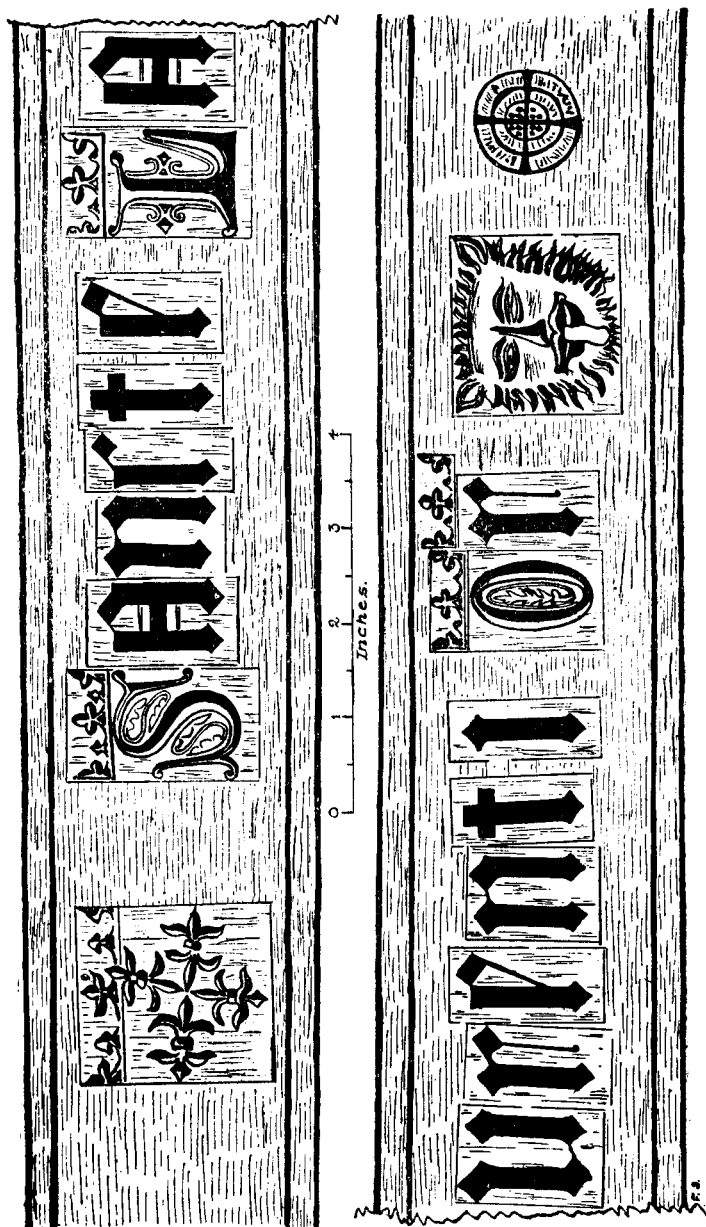


FIG. F. Combe.

Inscription on Second Bell of the Ring of Three : an early XVth century bell from the Wokingham foundry.

In the inscription on the tenor the letters NK are conjoined, while TOGOD appears as one word. The chief harmonic in this bell is a minor third, and it was cast in 1616 by John Wallis,<sup>1</sup> of Salisbury, whose bells are not common in Berks.<sup>2</sup> He was a man of fine character<sup>3</sup> and a noted founder, having had among other distinctions the honour of installing the first ring of eight bells in an English Parish Church.<sup>4</sup>

All the bells have canons, and are fitted with elm headstocks and traditional-type wheels which appear to date from the XVIIIth century. The strap gudgeons and brass bearings are of more recent date and are not unlike Warner's late XIXth century pattern. All are fitted with huge stays; that of the tenor being further strengthened by a large wrought-iron bar. Rollers are fitted to the braced-centre-post type oak frame in place of ground pullies; and XVIIIth century clappers with busk-boards are fitted to the two largest bells.

The tower is of unusual design and consists of massive oak framing set on a stone and flint base, with an inner room constructed within the main framework. The outer frame is covered with shingles leaving a curious cavity between the two walls, which nevertheless has the useful purpose of concealing both staircase (?) and cupboards, and of giving access and means of ventilation to the main timbers, some of which are 16" x 14" section. Both inner and outer walls join and meet at the level of the carrying beams of the bell frame, which in reality are part of the framework of the tower, and a light shingle covered oak framework only is carried above this, which terminates in a pyramidal roof. The tower appears to have dated originally from the Tudor period but it has undergone many alterations and the external shingles are comparatively modern.

*Visited :*

F.S., 27th Dec., 1939.

*To be continued.*

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<sup>1</sup> See generally, Walters *Church Bells of Wilts*, p. 294 and Lukis, *Journ. Brit. Arch. Association*, 1859, p. 146.

<sup>2</sup> Wallis cast a ring of five bells for the Curfew Tower at Windsor Castle in 1612, and there is a bell by him at Inkpen (*q.v.*).

<sup>3</sup> See Lukis, *Church Bells*, p. 7.

<sup>4</sup> Wallis installed a ring of eight bells at Bishops Cannings, Wilts, in 1602.

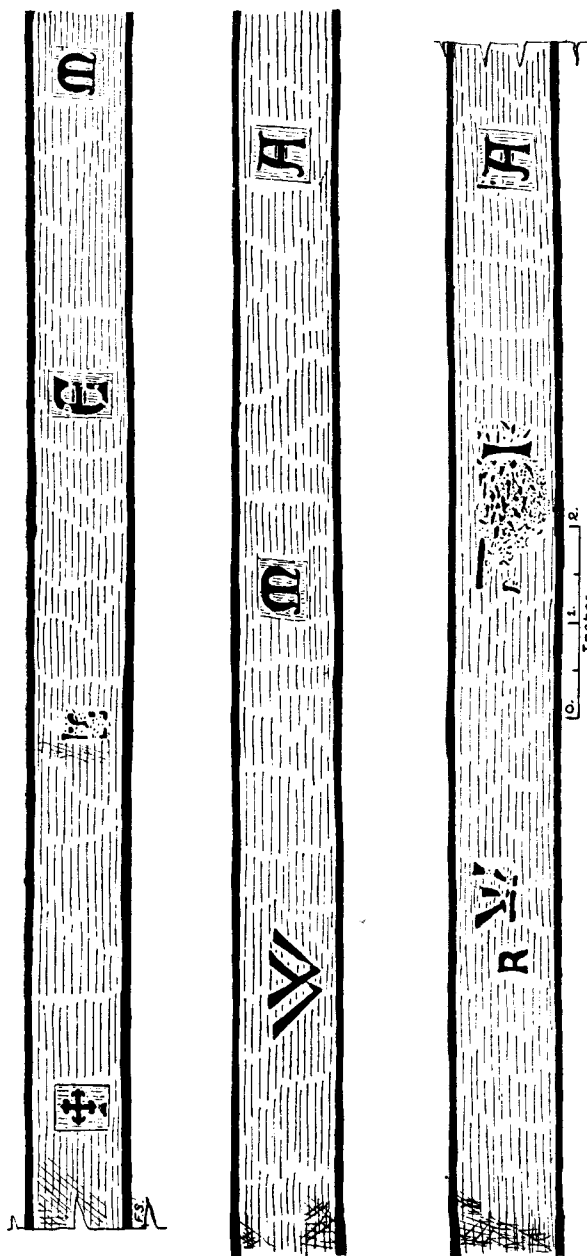


FIG. G. Compton Beauchamp.

Inscription on XIVth century bell by an unknown founder. The defaced and illegible letters are reproduced in facsimile as far as possible.

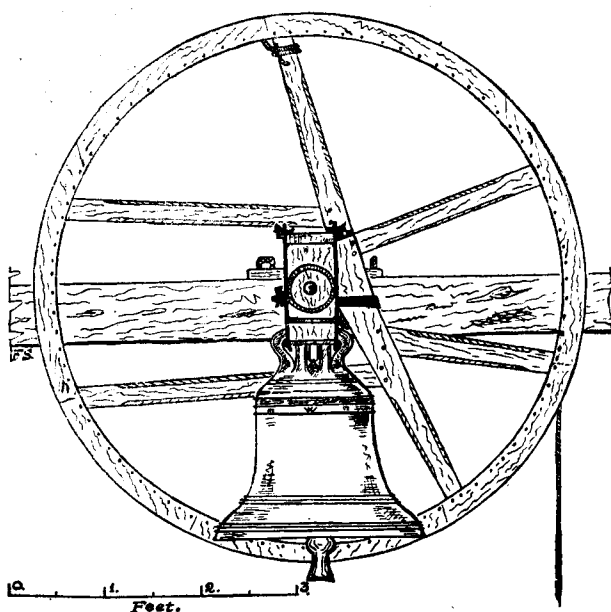
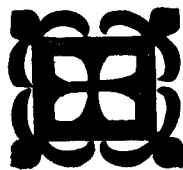


FIG. H. Compton Beauchamp.

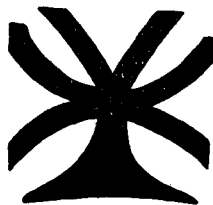
Fourteenth century bell hung for ringing, with medieval elm headstock, XVIIth century keyed ironwork, and XVth century-type half-wheel (on right) to which in the XVIIth century the left half was added. The medieval-type stirrup-topped clapper is fitted with an iron baldrick copse lined with leather.



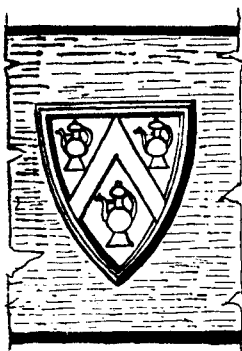
36



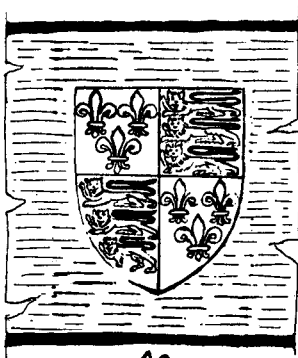
37



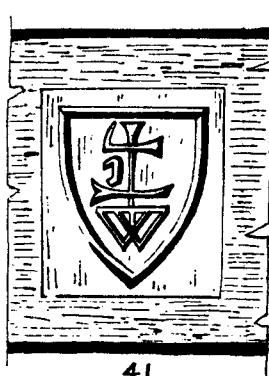
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39



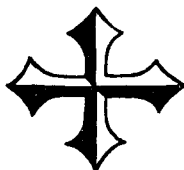
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42



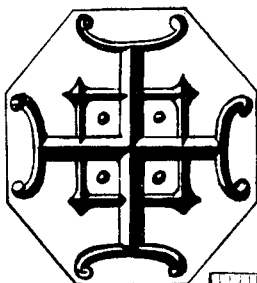
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45



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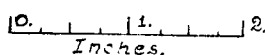


48



49

Figs 36-49.



FIGS. 36-49. Founders' Marks.

(36, 43, 46, 47) Reading XVIth century.

(39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45) London XVth century.

(37) London XVIIIth century.

(38) Itinerant. Probably N. Bolter.

(48) Wokingham XIVth century

(49) Buckingham XVIIth century  
(afterwards used by the Bagleys).