

The Church Bells of Berkshire.

By FREDERICK SHARPE.

PART IV.

69.

EARLEY.

St. Peter.

One Bell, 26½ inches diameter; and a "set" of Six Tubular "Bells."¹

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

**C & G Mears London Founders / Hugh Pearson m.a.
vicar / M DCCCX L IIII.**

This bell is hung for ringing, and is fitted with wheel, stay, and slider. It is also the clock bell.

"The tubular "bells" of Earley St. Peter's Church used to hang in the belfry of the "College Anglais" Douai (Nord) France, until 1903 when the community was obliged to leave France. They took the bells with them to Woolhampton, near Newbury, where the new Douai Abbey has since been built."² After lying there unhung for some time they were bought in 1919 by Vicar of Earley and installed in the tower. The "bells" are said to have been supplied originally by a firm in Coventry in, or about, 1887.

Visited:

A. D. Tyssen, c. 1860.

R. T. Hibbert, 25th Jan., 1940.

70.

EASTBURY.

St. James.

This Church was built *circa* 1855, on the site of a ruined chapel,³ which in medieval times was a Chapel-of-Ease to Lambourne, and is equipped with a chime of two small bells hanging in an open central turret.

"Two lytle belles" [1552 *Inventories*, under Lambourne Parish.]

¹ These are hollow tubes of metal of various lengths.

² Local History Record (L.R.H.S.) 8.4.35. From Earley Parish Magazine, by permission of the Rev. H. N. Nash, M.A. Vicar. Local Correspondent: Miss E. M. Hill.

³ See Thacker, *Kennet Country*, p. 245.

71. EAST GARSTON (or ESGARSTON).

All Saints.

Ring of Six Bells : tenor 46 inches diameter, in E., and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	1741	5	1	0#
Second.	FRANCIS GARRARD 1677	6	2	0#
Third.	[No inscription.]	7	2	0#
Fourth.	THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON / THOS ^s PALMER, MAIDEN COURT / W. HENRY PALMER, EAST GARSTON CHURCH- WARDENS 1842	8	0	0#
Fifth.	EDWARD : READ : OF : ALBOURN : WILTS : 1752.	11	2	0#
Tenor.	MR. WILLIAM PALMORE : MR. WILLIAM AMBROSE : CHURCHWARDENS. ROBERT WELLS OF ALBOURNE FOUNDER ANNO : DOM : 1763. : .	17	0	0#
Sanctus.	o ① COR ① 1727	1	0	0#

The inscriptions on the treble, fifth, tenor, and sanctus bells occur in each instance immediately above the sound bow. Below the shoulder of the treble is a series of twelve moulding wires, and this bell appears to be the work of John Corr, of Aldbourne. The bell has lost its canons and is now secured to the headstock by means of bolts passing through holes drilled in its crown.

The 2nd has a very high crown, and on the evidence of its characteristics and lettering must be assigned to H. & E. Knight, of Reading. Probably Francis Garrard was the donor.

The 3rd is approximately the same age as the treble : it has all the characteristics of an Aldbourne bell, and below its shoulder is a series of twenty-four moulding wires. This bell and the 2nd have been quarter-turned.

There is no record of the predecessor of the present fourth, which was cast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1842.

The 5th has a series of ten moulding wires below the shoulder, and the tenor has five large ones in the same position. Both are products of the Aldbourne foundry. The 5th was cast by Edward Read, whose lettering is illustrated in Fig. 69 ; and the tenor is by Robert Wells I who succeeded Read in or about the year 1760. Only one bell of an earlier date than the East Garston tenor is known by him. It is at Hemington, Somerset, and is dated 1760.

The sanctus, which is fitted with an elm headstock, drive-in type gudgeons, and brass bearings, is hung for chiming only and is

swung by means of a lever attached to its headstock. It has three moulding wires on its shoulder, and is the work of Oliver Corr, of Aldbourne, 1727.

The six largest bells hang in an oak frame of eighteenth century date constructed so that all the bells swing east-and-west. They are hung to swing mouth-to-mouth in three pairs; the treble and tenor on the north side of the tower; the 3rd and 4th on the south side, and the 2nd and 5th in the centre. It is an unusual type of frame, but one sometimes used in the XVIIIth century.¹ The bells were fitted with new elm headstocks, hoop gudgeons, brass bearings, traditional type wheels and fittings late in the last century by Mr. Frederick White, of Appleton.

East Garston was the home of the late Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, the distinguished campanologist, and Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers from 1910 until his death in 1933. He learned to ring in this tower.

Visited :
























F.S., 22nd July, 1939.

72.

EASTHAMPSTEAD.

S.S Michael and Mary Magdalene.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 37 inches diameter in A.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / OSBORNE GORDON RECTOR 1872.	3	2	27
Second.	R  C  W  Y  W  E FECIT 1699   T  E 	4	1	0#
Third.	[As second.]	5	1	0#
Fourth.	R  C  W  Y  GVLIELMVS ELDRIDGE FECIT 1699   T  E 	6	0	0#
Fifth.	IOHN  POWER RECTOR  GVLIELMVS ELDRIDGE FECIT 1699   T  E 	7	0	0#
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1872. / GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO	8	2	17

Formerly a ring of four by William Eldridge of Chertsey, to which in 1872 a treble and tenor from the Whitechapel foundry were added.

¹ Other examples are to be found at Ashbury, and Longcot, Berks. and Bletchington, Oxon.

All these bells have canons, and were rehung in 1936 by Mr. Richard White, of Appleton, who strengthened the existing frame, and supplied new fittings, including elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, and self-aligning ball bearings.

Visited :

A. D. Tyssen, *circa* 1860.

W. J. Paice, 11th Feb. 1940.

73. EATON HASTINGS.

St. Michael and All Angels.

The single bell of this Church, which is hung for chiming only in an open western turret, is dated 1911. It was recast in that year and there is no record of its predecessor.

V.C.H. Berks.

74. ENBORNE.

St. Michael.

Ring of Two Bells ; tenor 20½ inches diameter, in F.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	[Cross, Fig. 60] MICHAEL	1	2	0½
Tenor.	S K 1688	2	0	0½

These bells hang in a small closed western turret. They are fitted with elm headstocks, strap gudgeons, and brass bearings, and XVIth century type half wheels. One of the latter is illustrated on Plate IX, and has been restored.

The treble has been quarter-turned. It has one canon broken, and is partly secured to its headstock by the remaining canons in the orthodox manner and partly by two bolts passing through holes drilled in its crown. The tenor has its canons intact, and is secured to its headstock by modern type strap-bolted ironwork.

The strike-note of the treble is approximately G natural : its diameter is 19½ inches, and height without canons 15 inches, It is, therefore, a very thin bell. An illustration of this bell photographed in very cramped and difficult circumstances by Mr. F. M. Underhill will be found on Plate VIII, and a facsimile drawing of the inscription in Fig. 69. The bell is of a peculiar type, previously considered by most campanologists to be of foreign origin ;¹ but the recent researches of Mr. G. P. Elphick, of Lewes,

¹ The reason for this seems to have been the resemblance of the hook-armed cross and lettering to that on a bell at Fontenailles, in Normandy, now in the Museum at Bayeux, which is dated 1202. The English examples, however, cannot be as early as the Fontenailles bell as the lettering is less primitive in character, and the bells are of much later type both in shape and tone.

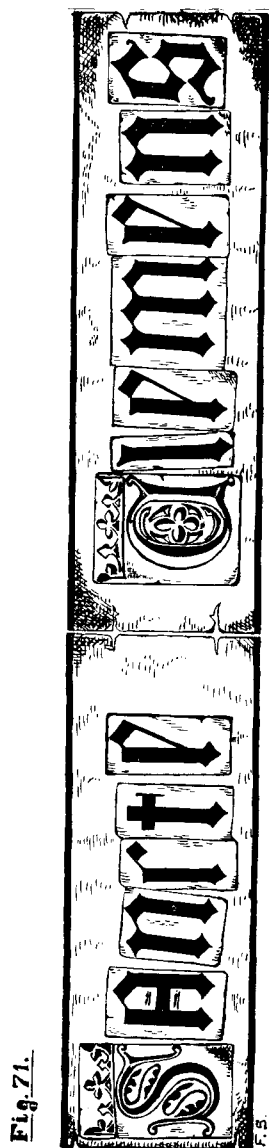
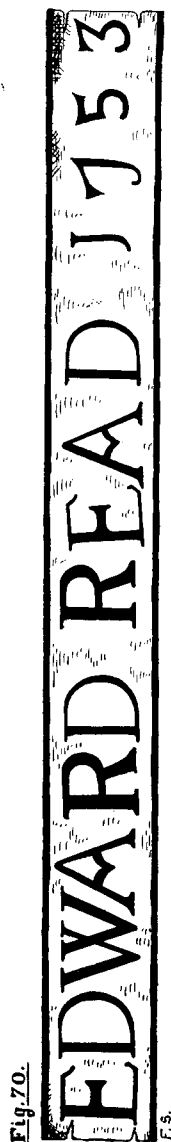
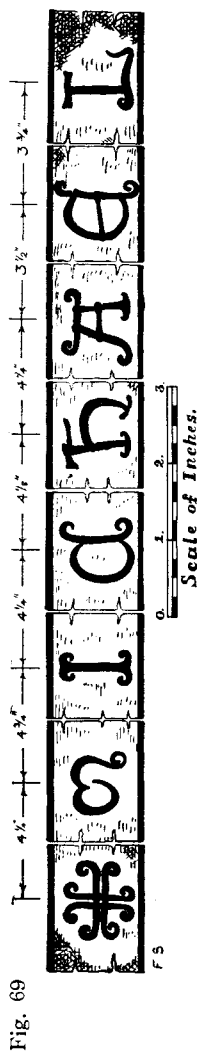


FIG. 69. Inscription on late XIIIth century bell at Enborne.
 FIG. 70. Inscription on Fourth Bell of the Ring of Five at Farnborough, cast by E. Read, of Aldbourne, Wiltshire.
 FIG. 71. Portion of Inscription on the Third Bell of the Ring of Five at Farnborough. A XVth century bell from the Wokingham Foundry.

tend to show that bells of this type¹ are more likely to be of English manufacture, and probably Monastic castings.

Other bells in the *hook-armed cross* group are to be found at
 Sonning, Berkshire.
 West Thorney, Sussex.
 Sarnesfield, Herefordshire.
 Llanallgo, Anglesey.
 Bristol Cathedral.
 St. Bride's Netherwent, Monmouthshire.²

There were formerly also bells at Vowchurch, Herefordshire, and Burwarton, Salop, with the same type of cross.

These bells are inscribed in Gothic capitals of a somewhat primitive type; the initial cross being composed of four lines ending in hooks. The lettering, which appears to have been formed by the *cire perdue* process,³ varies on each bell, and, in the case of the Bristol bell, is of a more definite English Gothic Type. The Llanallgo bell can be approximately dated 1280 by a coin *impressed on it*. At this date, both Sonning, and West Thorney churches came under the jurisdiction of the Bishops of Exeter, a point which I hope to deal with later under the heading of Sonning parish.

It will be seen by reference to Plate VIII that the Enborne treble is of almost normal early XIVth century shape.⁴ Its design is far more advanced than that of the contemporary bell at West Challow, [*q.v.*] and, with the exception of the Bristol bell, the Enborne treble and others in the hook-armed cross group may safely be assigned to the last quarter of the XIIIth century.⁵

The tenor was recast by Samuel Knight, of Reading, in 1688.

1552 Inventories. *Two belles a lytelle bell and two sackeringe belles.*

Thanks are due to Mr. G. P. Elphick.

Visited :

T.A.T., 7th July 1877.

F.M.U., 25th March 1940.

¹ The bells of this type are known to campanologists as the *hook-armed cross* group.

² Discovered by Mr. A. Wright, and described in *Archæologia Cambrensis* (December 1940) 85-86.

³ See Walters' *Church Bells of England*, pp. 34-45.

⁴ For an illustration of an early XIIIth century bell see Sharpe *Church Bells of The Rural Deanery of Bicester*, Plate I. An early XIVth century bell is illustrated in *Church Bells of Berkshire*, Part II, *Berks. Arch. Journ.*, XLIV, Plate V.

⁵ See Mr. H. B. Walters' *Berkshire MSS.* fol. 52, and Walters' *Church Bells of England*, p. 212.

75.

ENGLEFIELD.

St. Mark.

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 36 inches diameter.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	ALTHOUGH : I : AM : BUT : SMALL : I : WILL : ABOVE : ALL : GEORGE : WYATT :	3	2	0#
Second.	THOS : © : STEWARD : © 1774 : © © © © © © ©	4	1	0#
Third.	EDWARD : WHEELER : AND : GEORGE : GILES : CLARK : 1774 : © © © © © ©	4	3	0#
Fourth.	THOS : SWAIN : MADE : US : ALL : SIX : 1774 : [Fig. 71. Twice]	5	2	0#
Fifth.	THOS : SWAIN : CAST : ME : MAY : THE : JO : 1774 [Fig. 71. Twice.] © © © ©	7	0	0#
Tenor.	THE : REV. : THOS : KNAPP : PHILLIP : WYATT : AND : JOHN : WELCH : CHURCH : WARDENS : © [Fig. 71.] © [Fig. 71.] © ©	9	0	0#

A complete ring of six by Thomas Swain, of Longford, Middlesex, 1774. Canons missing from treble, 2nd, and tenor. The 5th has been considerably sharpened by removal of a portion of its lip. The 3rd is a maiden bell. The Oak frame is probably coeval with the bells ; the fittings are of much more recent date, and there is a derelict Ellacombe chiming apparatus.

When visited by Mr. Underhill, all the bells, with the exception of the 2nd, were "set" in the inverted position ready for ringing. They had apparently been in that position for some considerable time as they were nearly *half-full of water* !

Commissioners Inventories, dated 2. Aug. 1552. iij belles comonly cawled the great belles A sanctus belle A lyche bell And a sacringe bell.

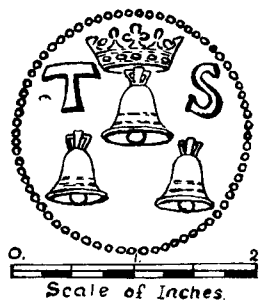
Ashmole Vol. I. 6 bells.

Visited :

T.A.T., 7th May 1876.

F.M.U., 24th Feb. 1940.

FIG. 72. Founder's mark used by Thomas Swain, of Longford, Middlesex.



76.

FARINGDON.

All Saints.

Ring of Eight Bells ; tenor $46\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, in E., and a disused Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1874. / (T) / RECAST 1926.	4	1	17
Second.	[As treble.]	4	2	24
Third.	WILLIAM BUNS & JOHN LING CHURCH- WARDENS WILL & ROB COR 1708 / (T) / RECAST 1926.	5	2	23
Fourth.	GOD BLESS THE QUEEN / (T) / RECAST 1926.	6	2	6
Fifth.	(T) / RECAST 1926.	7	2	7
Sixth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1874. / (T) / RECAST 1926. / MISS YOUNG / MISS JESSIE YOUNG / MISS MARY YOUNG	9	1	15
Seventh.	(T) / RECAST 1926. / ★ ★ ★ / COL. AND MRS. WARD BENNITT / RT. HON. LORD BERNERS / THOMAS COTGRAVE & EDMD. WILSON CHURCH WARDENS. ∴ JAMES WELLS ALDBOURNE FECIT 1803 ∴ ∴	13	0	2
Tenor.	(T) / RECAST 1926. / ★ ★ ★ / W. M. CAREY WARD ★ VICAR / R. J. CADEL / R. HUGHES / CHURCH- WARDENS / 1 : COCK & HENERY NEWMAN : CHURCHWARDENS ∴ R : WELLS ALDBOURNE FECIT MDCCLXXVIII ∴	17	1	7

A complete ring from the Loughborough foundry, 1926, with the inscriptions from the former bells reproduced. The new bells were cast without canons, and are hung to cast iron headstocks fitted with fixed steel gudgeons and self-aligning ball bearings. At the same time a new cast iron side-frame mounted on a double set of rolled steel joists was installed by Messrs. Taylor & Co., who also fitted new "Hastings" type stays, traditional type wheels, new chiming hammers, and other fittings.

In the ringing chamber is a clock by Messrs. Smith and Sons, of Derby, and a modern carillon machine which plays a tune on the bells every three hours.

Prior to 1874 there was a ring of six bells ; tenor 47 inches diameter, in E.

Details of Former Ring of Six.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	WILLIAM BUNS & JOHN LING CHURCH- WARDENS WILL & ROB COR J708	5	2	0#
Second.	GOD BLESS THE QUEEN	6	2	0#
Third.	[No inscription.]	8	0	0#
Fourth.	[As third.]	9	1	0#
Fifth.	THOMAS COTGRAVE AND EDMD. WILSON CHURCH WARDENS. ∴ JAMES WELLS ALDBOURNE FECIT 1803 ∴ ∴	12	0	0#
Tenor.	I : COCK & HENERY NEWMAN CHURCH- WARDENS ∴ R : WELLS ALDBOURNE FECIT MDCCLXXVIII ∴	17	2	0#

The first four were cast by the Corrs, of Aldbourne : the 3rd and 4th being similar to the 3rd at East Garston. [*q.v.*] The two largest had inscriptions on sound bows and were the products of their successors, the Wellses.¹

In 1874 two trebles were added, making eight ; and the former fourth was recast to form the sixth of the augmented ring. These three bells were each inscribed :—"MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS LONDON, 1874," and weighed 4 cwt. 2 qrs. 1 lb., 4 cwt. 3 qrs., 12 lbs., and 9 cwt. 0 qrs. 25 lbs., respectively. They were installed by Messrs. Alfred White and Sons, of Appleton.²

The oak frame was removed in 1926, and during its removal a broken cannon ball was found in the tower wall. This is now preserved in a glass case on the west wall of the south aisle with the following inscription above :—

"This broken cannon-ball was found in one of the walls of the belfry / when the tower was being cleared for the re-hanging of the recast ring / of bells in the year 1926. It was no doubt one of the cannon-balls fired by / Cromwell's Troops in 1646, when the South Aisle of the Church was demolished / in the bombardment, and the spire said to have been shot off. The oak of the / glass case was part of the timber of the old bell-frame."

¹ Details of this ring taken in 1851 by Alfred White. MS. fol. 21.

² Alfred White's MS. fol. 107. See also *Berks, Bucks, and Oxon Arch. Journal*, III (1897), p. 15.

The disused Sanctus bell now stands on the ground floor near the pulpit. Cast at the Aldbourne foundry it bears the inscription "JAMES WELLS FECIT" and is fitted with elm headstock and three-quarter wheel. See Plate X.

Visited :

F.S., 25th March 1940.

77.

FARLEY HILL.

St. John the Evangelist.

A set of Eight Tubular "Bells."

The Church and tower were erected in 1891, and consecrated by the Bishop of Oxford in the following year.

The "bells" are probably of the same date, and are sounded by means of a chiming apparatus.¹

Visited :












W. J. Paice, 14th April 1940.

78.

FARNBOROUGH.

All Saints.

Ring of Five Bells; tenor 35 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in A, and Two Sanctus Bells.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	THIS FIFTH BELL WAS ADDED BY MRS. PUXLEY / IN LOVING MEMORY OF HER FATHER & MOTHER, / MR. & MRS. PHILIP WROUGHTON OF WOOLLEY PARK. / 1937. / MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 	4	1	17
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1927.  / I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL / AND TO THE GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL.	4	2	23
Third.	[Cross Fig. 4.]  Sancte  Clemens  Or [Lion's Face. Fig. 1.]  ©	5	1	0#
Fourth.	EDWARD READ 1753	6	2	0#
Tenor.	[Cross. Fig. 4.]  Sancta  Anna  Ora  Pro  Nobis [Lion's Face. Fig. 1.] ©	8	0	0#

¹ Tubular "bells" cannot be rung, chimed, or tolled in the technical sense. They are merely struck by means of small hammers manipulated by ropes from a manual similar to that of an Ellacombe chiming apparatus.

Of the two sanctus bells, the smaller, 12 inches in diameter, is approximately of early XVIth century date, and is fitted with a stirrup-topped clapper, and iron baldrick cospse. The larger, 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, and probably dating from the XVIIth century is cracked. Both bells have lost their canons, and are hung for chiming only.

The treble and 2nd were cast at the Whitechapel foundry. The former has no canons, and has a blank top inscription band: the inscription commencing on its waist. The latter has a "Doncaster" type head.

The fourth was cast at the Aldbourne foundry, in 1753, [See Fig. 70] and the third, and tenor, are fine early XVth century examples from the Wokingham foundry. These three bells have been quarter turned, and, in each, a minor third partial tone may be heard, but the bells are tuned in the "Old Standard" style. The third is a "maiden" bell, and its tone is exceptionally fine. The two medieval bells have had their crown staples removed, and false iron clapper staples bolted to their crowns. The lettering on these bells is illustrated in Figs 64 and 71.

The Commissioners' Inventories, dated 4th August, 1552, state:—*three belles and a sanctus bell in the tower*, and these existed until 1753 when the second largest was recast by Edward Read, of Aldbourne. The present 2nd was added, in 1927, to make a ring of four, which was augmented to a ring of five in 1937 by the addition of the present treble.

The bells hang in an excellent oak frame, with pits for six. They are fitted with elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, and traditional-type wheels and fittings. Self-aligning ball bearings are fitted to the treble, and plain brass bearings to the remainder. The frame and fittings are the work of Mr. Richard White, of Appleton.

An oak tablet on the north wall of the tower is inscribed:—

"To the Glory of God, and in memory / of / John Baron Howes Whitehurst / for 30 years Rector of this Parish / These bells were rehung in the / year of Our Lord 1926."

Visited:

F.S., 25th June 1926, 27th April 1940.

79.

FAWLEY.

St. Mary.

Ring of Two Bells; tenor 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter in D.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS FECIT 1811	3	1	0#
Tenor.	[Lion's Face, Fig. 1.] © [☉] Sancte [☉] Toma [☉] Or	4	1	0#

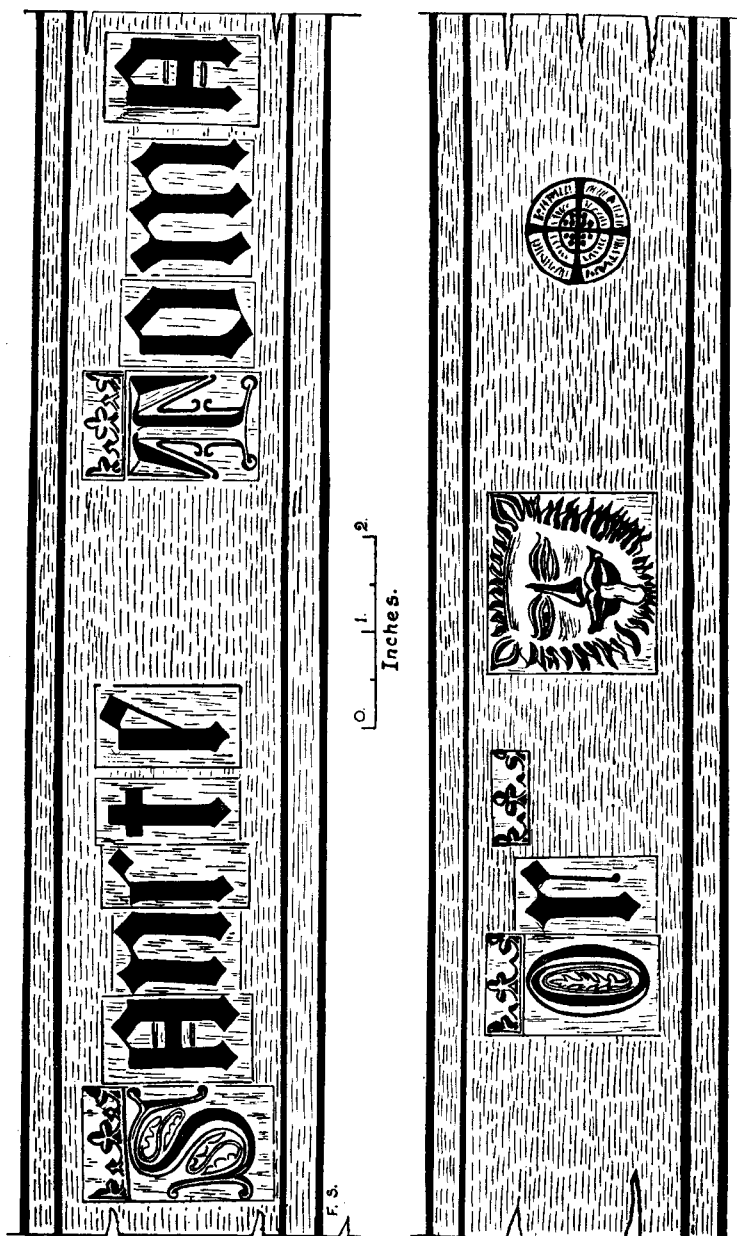


FIG. 73. Inscription on Tenor Bell at Fawley ; an early XVth century bell from the Wokingham Foundry.

The treble, cast at the Aldbourne foundry 1811, has a blank shoulder inscription band,¹ and its inscription above the sound-bow. The border consists of bells and fleurs-de-lys alternating. It is interesting to note that Wells tuned the strike note of this bell to coincide with the minor third harmonic of the tenor, and both are maiden bells.

The tenor is an exceptionally interesting early XVth century bell from the Wokingham foundry. The lettering and ornaments are similar to those on the second bell at Coombe (*q.v.*) and the omission of the crowned cross [Fig. 4] should be noted. The tuning is of especial interest to campanologists, and this example from the Wokingham foundry would have delighted writers such as the late Canon Simpson. The bell is *fairly* long-waisted, with the hum note approximately an octave below the strike note and a minor third as chief harmonic. Those who prefer "Old Standard" tuning to Medieval or "Simpson" tuning will note with satisfaction that the owners of the Wokingham foundry changed their style later in the XVth century to the flat seventh hum note and major third harmonic; and therefore the change was a matter of choice, and not due to mechanical reasons resulting from the introduction of change-ringing in the XVIth and XVIIth centuries as it is so often stated to be. Numerous XVth century bells exist to prove this claim.

The oak bell frame dates from 1844, when the Church was rebuilt. Of later date are the wheels and fittings which were renewed by the Whites of Appleton. The headstocks are of elm, fitted with strap gudgeons and brass bearings; and there are pits for three bells. The clapper of the treble has no flight; and, the crown staple of the tenor being broken, a false clapper-staple has been bolted to its crown.

Northe Fawley. *two smaule belles a lytche bell and two sakaringe belles.* [Commissioners' Inventories, 4th August 1552.]

In a field at Watcombe, a hamlet in this parish, may be traced the site of the Ancient Church. There is a local tradition that the bells of Watcombe Church were taken to East Garston, recast, and hung in the Church there.

Visited :

F.S., 25th March 1940.

80.

FERNHAM.

St. John.

One bell, 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, inscribed :—

J. WARNER & SONS LONDON 1857.

The bell is hung in a western turret, and may only be chimed.

Visited :

R. F. J. Gilling, 5th May 1940.

¹ A most unusual feature for an Aldbourne bell.

81. FINCHAMPSTEAD.

St. James.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 36 inches diameter in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / TO THE GLORY OF GOD / AND IN COMMEMORATION OF THE REV: EDWARD S ^T . JOHN M.A. / RECTOR OF THIS PARISH ATTAINING THE 80 TH YEAR OF HIS AGE / THIS BELL WAS GIVEN BY SOME OF HIS PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS / A.D. 1885.	3	3	21
Second.	[Head, within a wreath.] THOS ALLIN & JOHN SOANE CHURCH WARDENS JOHN WARNER [Head] / FOUNDER AT LONDON 1792	4	0	0#
Third.	THOS ALLIN & JOHN SOANE CHURCH WARDENS 1792 JW	4	2	0#
Fourth.	[As third to date.] J © W © ©	5	0	0#
Fifth.	[As third to date.] © J © W [Head] © © ©	6	0	0#
Tenor.	THE REV ^D E. S ^T JOHN THOS ALLIN & JOHN SOANE CHURCH WARDENS 1792 © © / THY GLORY LORD WE WILL RESOUND TO ALL THE LISTENING NATIONS ROUND AND © © / WITH OUR TONGUES OUR VOICES RAIS TO THEE O GOD IN SONGS OF PRAISE J W FOUNDER	8	0	0#

The five largest bells are by John Warner I of the Cripplegate foundry. The treble is an addition. All the bells have canons and were rehung in a wrought iron side frame by Messrs. Webb and Bennett, of Kidlington, Oxfordshire, in 1909.

Thre belles wherof is owing for one of them which of late was new caste L^S a littell sanctus bell. [Commissioners' Inventories. 1 Aug. 1552.]

Visited :

W. J. Paice, 2nd February 1940.

82. FRILSHAM.

St. Frideswide.

Two Bells; tenor 25 inches diameter.

The treble is inscribed:—HENRY KNIGHT MADE MEE 1662, and its diameter is 21 inches. The tenor is similarly inscribed but the first E is reversed.

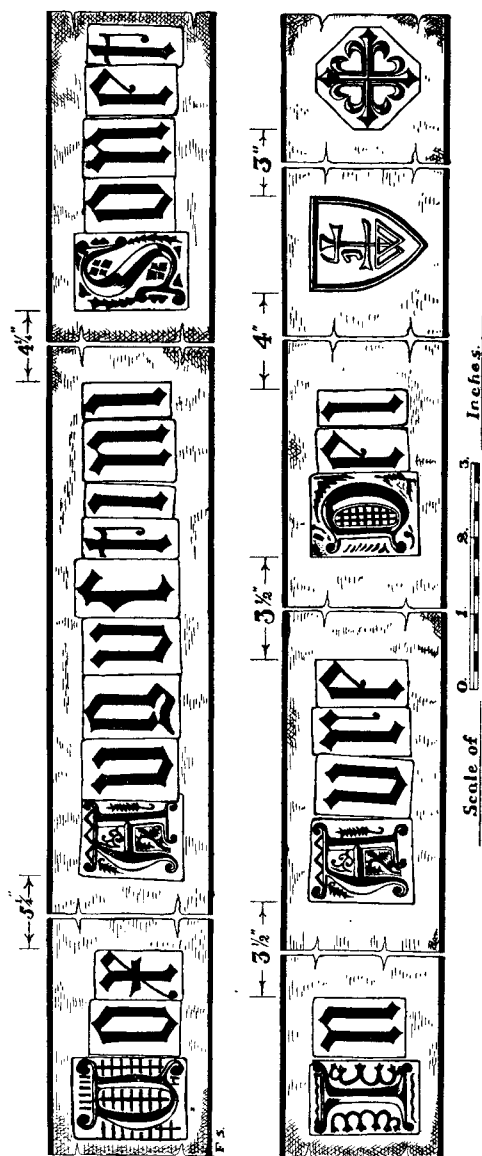


FIG. 74. Inscription on Treble Bell of the Ring of Three at South Hinksey. The bell was cast by "I.W." of London, *circa* 1420, and the lettering was used by his successors.

4 Aug.: 1552. Ffrylsham. *twoo belles twoo hande belles and twoo sakeringe belles viij^c. weighte.* [Commissioners' Inventories.]

Visited :

T. A. Turner, 18th June, 1877.

83.

FYFIELD.

St. Nicholas.

One Service Bell, and a Sanctus Bell.

The larger bell is inscribed :—JOHN DOLTON THOS. HENSLow CH. WARDENS THOS. SWAINE FECIT 1776 and was probably cast at Longford, Middlesex.¹ It is unusual to find this foundry eclipsing that of Aldbourne in this part of the county.

The sanctus bears no inscription, and, on the evidence of shape, is a medieval casting.

Visited :

L. H. Chambers, c. 1926.

84.

GARFORD.

St. Luke.

One Bell, hanging in an open turret, inscribed :—

G. MEARS & CO. FOUNDERS LONDON / CORNELIUS HAMMANS CHAPEL WARDEN / 1864

Recorded by Alfred White.² who hung this bell in 1864.

1552. *Garford. twoo belles A hande belle A Sacrynge belle.* (Commissioners' Inventories).

85.

GOOSEY.

All Saints.

Two small bells; the larger bearing the date 1799, and the smaller inscribed :—"Prays the Lord i c 1599" cast by Joseph Carter of Reading.³

1552. *Gosey. twoo smalle belles A sacryng belle.* (Commissioners' Inventories.)

86.

GRAZELEY.

The Holy Trinity.

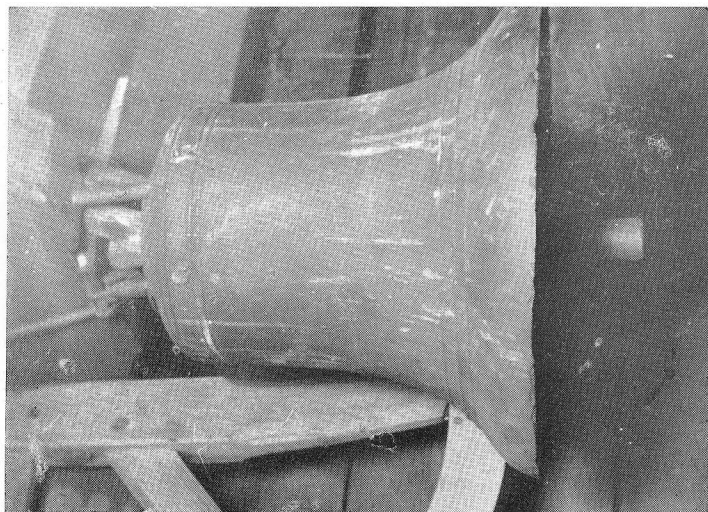
This parish was formed on May 9th, 1854, out of portions of the parishes of Sulhampstead Abbots, and Sulhampstead Bannister. The church was erected in 1850, and is equipped with one small bell.

¹ Cf. Bisham and Englefield.

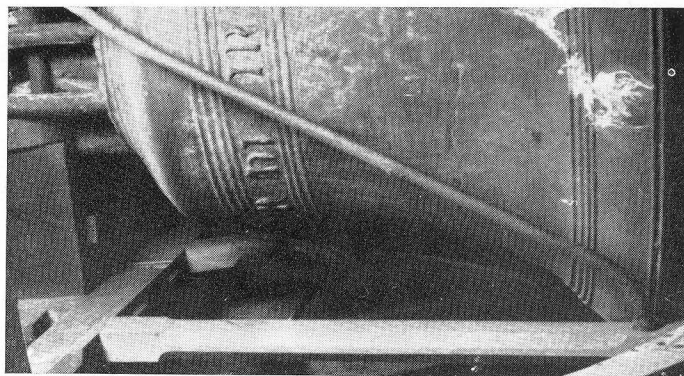
² Note Book fol. 74.

³ See *Berks, Bucks, and Oxon Arch. Journal*, XXII (1917), p. 115.

PLATE VIII.



ENBORNE. The late XIIIth century treble bell, cast by an unknown founder.

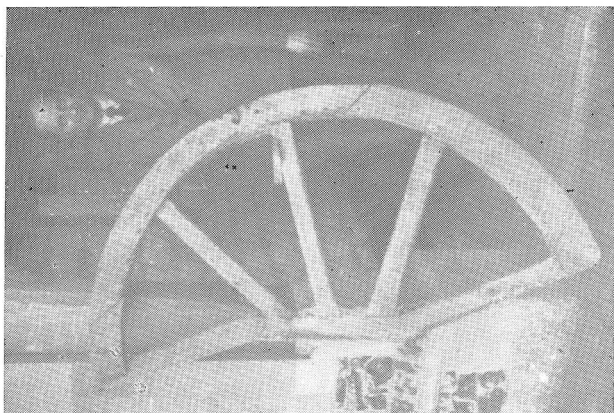


LETCOMBE BASSETT. The second bell of the ring of three, cast by William Knight II, of Reading, in 1576.

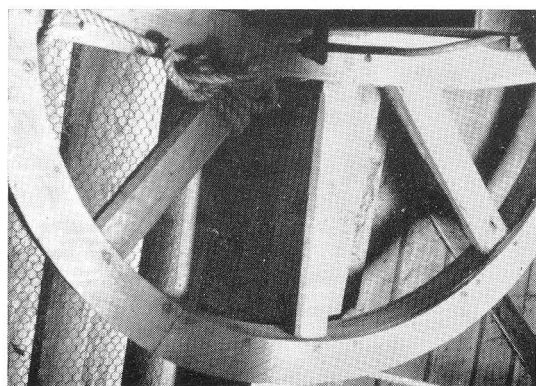
Photos : F. M. Underhill.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE

PLATE IX.



Photos : F. M. Underhill.
LETCOMBE BASSETT. Original XVIth
century half-wheel.



ENBORNE. Restored XVIth century
half-wheel.

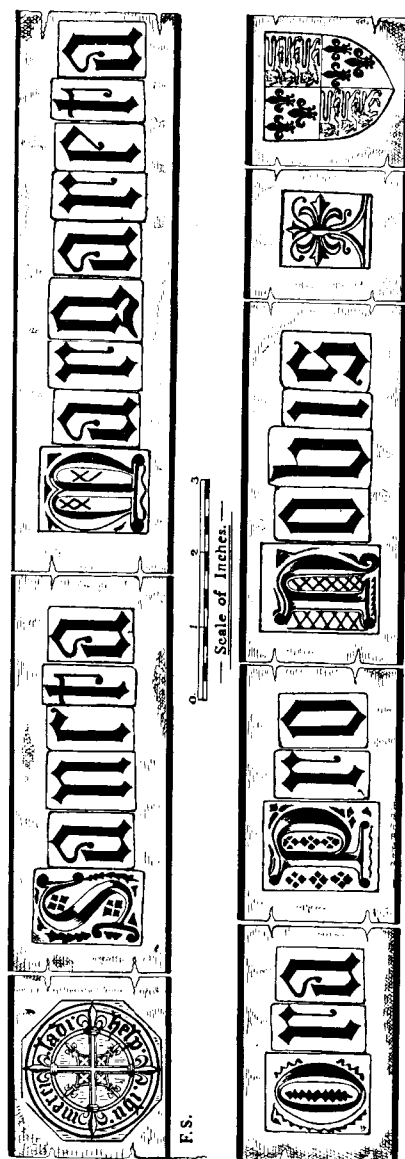


FIG. 75. Inscription on the Second Bell of the Ring of Three at South Hinksey. The bell was cast at The London Foundry, *circa* 1470. The lettering is the same as Fig. 74, with different Founders Marks.

87.

GREENHAM.

St. Mary.

Two bells, hanging in a turret, very difficult of access. The smaller inscribed "WILL BAKER . . ." followed by other wording now hidden by woodwork, which Mr. Chambers states cannot be read until the bell is removed for repairs. The tenor is inscribed :—
"MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1876."

88.

GROVE.

St. James the Great.

One bell, inscribed :—MEARS & CO., FOUNDERS, LONDON. / REV^d
R. N. BRICKNELL MINISTER. / W. STEVENSON AND G. CASTLE CHURCH-
WARDENS 1865. (Alfred White's note book, fol. 56.)

(*To be continued.*)

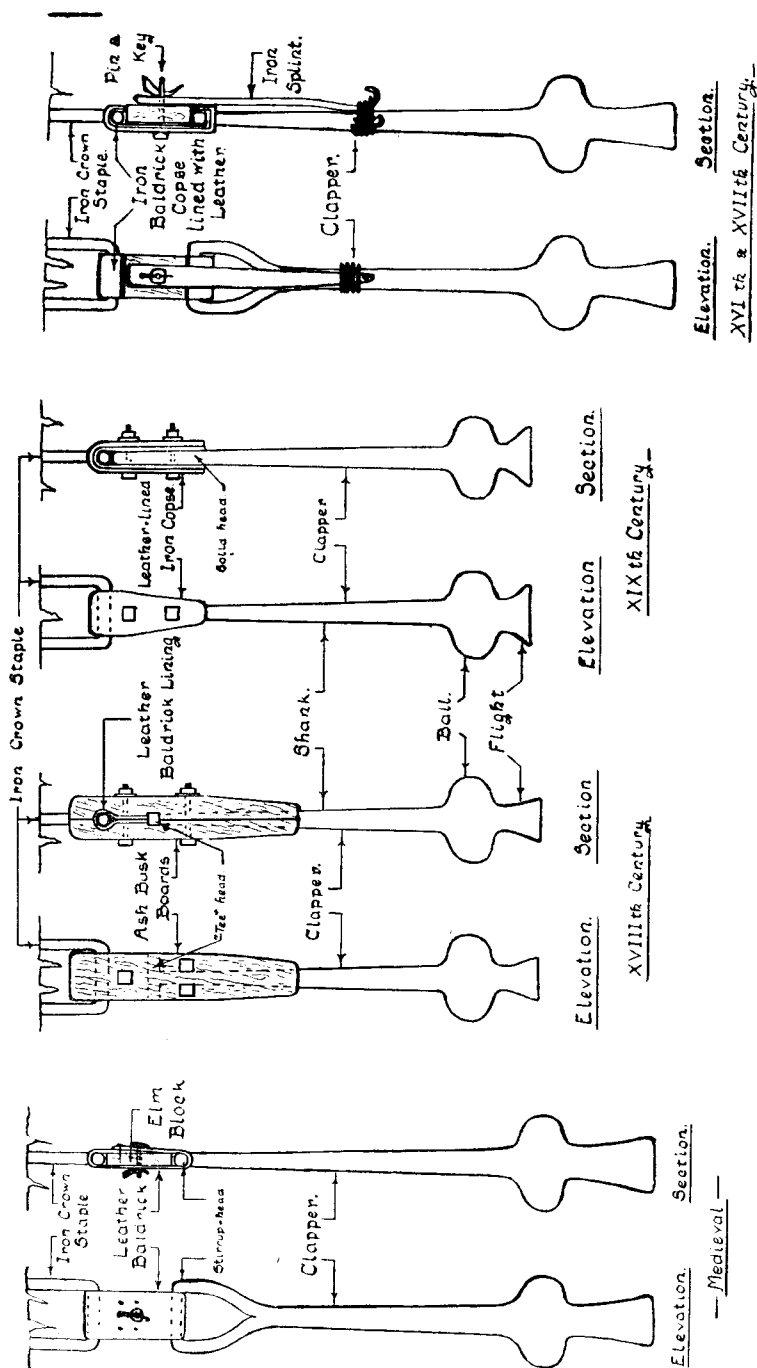


Fig. 76. Types of Bell Clappers. The dates of the four main types overlap each other considerably, and there are many local varieties of each.