

The Church Bells of Berkshire.

PART XII.

By FREDERICK SHARPE.

170.

READING.

St. Michael and All Angels.

The church possesses one bell, hung for chiming in an open central turret, and inaccessible without the erection of scaling ladders or scaffolding.¹ I am informed by Mr. E. G. Foster that the bell came from a mission church, erected in Katesgrove Lane in 1874, and that it bears no inscription or marks. He derived this information from a man who when a boy used to chime the bell. The church of St. Michael and All Angels was erected in 1899.

171.

READING.

St. Paul.

The church was erected in 1912 and possesses one small bell hung for chiming in an open turret at the east end. The author regrets he has been unable to examine it.

172.

READING.

St. Saviour.

The church, which was erected in 1888, possesses one small bell, hung for chiming, on the western wall below the gable. It is inaccessible without the use of scaling ladders.

173.

READING.

St. Stephen.

In an open western turret are two bells, hung for chiming; they are inaccessible without the erection of ladders or scaffolding. The church was built in 1865.

¹ The author regrets that he has no complete details of the bells in the four Reading Churches, Nos. 170-173. It is not always easy or possible to hire the necessary ladders, or scaffolding, required to reach bells in turrets such as are found here.

174.

READING.

The Town Hall.

Chime of Nine Bells; tenor 36 inches diameter, in A flat.			
<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Strike Note.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight. Cwt. Qrs. lbs.</i>
Treble.	A♭.	GILLETT, BLAND & CO., CROYDON. 1881.	1 2 8
Second.	G.	CAST BY GILLETT, BLAND & CO., CROYDON. 1879.	1 2 7
Flat Second.	G♭.	(<i>Same as second</i>)	1 3 9
Third.	F.	(<i>The same</i>)	1 3 25
Fourth.	E♭.	(<i>The same</i>)	2 3 3
Fifth.	D♭.	(<i>The same</i>)	3 2 0
Sixth.	C.	(<i>The same</i>)	4 0 17
Seventh.	B♭.	CAST BY GILLETT, BLAND & CO., CROYDON, LONDON. 1879.	5 3 5
Tenor.	A♭.	CAST BY GILLETT, BLAND & CO., CLOCK MAKERS, CROYDON, LONDON + 1879.	7 2 25

All the bells have canons, and are hung "dead" to three transverse beams. The clock chimes the "Westminster" quarters on the second, third, fourth and seventh bells, and strikes the hours on the tenor. In the tower is a derelict carillon machine which formerly played tunes on the bells every three hours.

Visited: F.S., 23rd October, 1943.

175.

READING UNIVERSITY.

The clock tower contains one bell, 65 inches in diameter, strike-note B natural, weighing 51 cwt. 0 qrs. 16 lbs. The bell was cast at the Croydon foundry and bears the inscription:

GILLET & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, ENGLAND.

1924. / (*Inverted cresting all round*
bell.) / I.

The bell is hung "dead," and is used for striking the hours; an illustration of it will be found on plate XXIII.

Visited: F.S., 25th October, 1943.

I am informed by Miss M. M. Swadling that Wantage Hall, built in 1908 as a hall of residence for men at the then University College, possesses a clock and bell in a tower above the main gateway. The only information I have concerning the bell is contained in a letter dated 22nd October, 1947, from Mr. J. Oldham, the General Manager of the Loughborough foundry, who states: "As far as I can remember the bell supplied in

1908 to Reading University was for the Chapel, and apparently the bell does not bear any inscription beyond possibly our name or founders' mark—there is nothing in our records. Its diameter is 40 inches, strike-note G, and weight 12 cwt. 0 qrs. 5 lbs.

176.

READING.

The Cemetery.

One Bell, weighing 4 cwt. 3 qrs. 10 lbs., fitted with deadstock and tolling hammer. Messrs. Mears and Stainbank inform me that it was supplied by Thomas Mears II, of the Whitechapel foundry, in 1843.

177.

READING.

The Crematorium.

One Bell, 12 inches in diameter, strike-note G natural, weighing 1 qr. 15 lbs. I am informed by Messrs. Gillett & Johnston Ltd., that the bell was supplied by the Croydon foundry in 1931.

178.

REMENHAM.

St. Nicholas.

Chime of Three Bells; tenor 29 inches diameter, in C sharp.

There is no permanent means of access to the belfry, and the author has not personally examined these bells. He is greatly indebted to Messrs. J. Taylor & Co., of Loughborough, for the information that they were cast by their firm in 1913 from the metal of three former bells, and that they bear no inscriptions other than their founders' names, and date of casting.

The bells are hung for mechanical chiming, and sounded by means of a clavier. Their weights are 2 cwt. 0 qr. 10 lbs., 3 cwt. 0 qr. 22 lbs., and 3 cwt. 3 qrs. 16 lbs., respectively.

In the Tyssen MS. are some details of the former bells, which were hung for ringing. The treble, 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, bore no inscription and was probably an ancient bell. The second, 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, and the tenor, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, were cast in 1803 at the Whitechapel foundry, and each bore the inscription:

THE REV'D. JAMES JANES B.D. RECTOR
BARRETT MARCH GEORGE HEWETT CH.
WARDENS THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON
FECIT 1803.

Visited: F.S., 3rd November, 1945.

179.

RUSCOMBE.

St. James.

Ring of Two Bells ; tenor 29½ inches diameter, in C sharp.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	(Cross, Fig. 4). [☞] Sancte [☞] Clete [☞] Or (Founder's mark similar to Fig. 48, but lacking the crown). (Lion's head, Fig. 1). (Coin).	4	0	0#
Tenor.	Blessed be the name of the Lorde / Joseph carter 1584. (Founder's mark, Fig. 36)	4	3	0#

The treble was cast at the Wokingham foundry ; it has a long waist, and in shape and tuning is similar to the XIVth century bell at North Moreton. The lettering, however, is of the XVth century type, and I ascribe the Ruscombe treble to the early years of the XVth century, and consider it one of the earliest examples of the group to which it belongs. Among the moulding wires above its inscription band is one flat moulding, wider than the others, a survival of the XIVth century type of flat moulding which usually occupied this position. The bell is illustrated on plate XXVIII : St. Cletus, to whom it is dedicated was the third Bishop of Rome. The tenor is by Joseph Carter, of Reading.

Both bells have been quarter-turned and retain their canons, those on the treble being moulded. They are fitted with elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels, stays and sliders. The treble has lost its original crown-staple, and has a false one bolted to its crown.

The massive XVIIth century oak frame is illustrated on plate XIVA. It consists of braced centre (or king) posts, end posts, heads and cills ; and was constructed for a ring of five bells with a tenor of approximately 10 cwt. in A flat. The frame has never held this number but at some time has housed a ring of three. The bearings of the third bell, illustrated on plate XXIX, are still in position.

The Rev. T. A. Turner visited the church on July 5th, 1877, and states¹ that there were then three bells. The largest, 32½ inches in diameter, had been "cracked and broken for many years" and had "a large piece wanting, including part of the inscription." He also states that the portion remaining bore the words :

..... CH WARDENS RICHARD PHELPS.

from which we may infer that it was cast at the Whitechapel foundry by Richard Phelps between the years 1700 and 1738.

Visited : F.M.U., 5th April, 1941 F.S., 1st December, 1945.

¹ Turner MS. Society of Antiquaries Library.

180.

SANDFORD, DRY.

(or Dry Sandford).

St. Helen.

The church, consecrated in 1855, possesses two bells, hung for chiming in a lofty open central turret; they are inaccessible without the use of scaffolding or scaling ladders.¹ The smaller bell, weighing *circa* $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., appears to have been cast to fit the south aperture in the turret, but the larger, weighing *circa* 3 cwt., is far too large for the north opening, and the stonework on the north side of the turret has been cut away to make room for it. Mr. Richard White, the bellhanger, informs me that this bell came from a parish in Wiltshire, the name of which he does not remember. When viewed from the churchyard through field-glasses, no inscriptions were visible on the bells. They are fitted with elm headstocks, strap gudgeons, and iron levers.

The inventories of 1552 give (under Hormer Hundred)

Sandford Chapell It' on' belle.

Visited: F.S., 6th August, 1949.

181.

SANDHURST.

St. Michael.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor $35\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. + S ^c s S ^c s S ^c s D : D : SAB : + / 1880.	2	3	27
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / I : M : IONS. TOURNAY PARSONS. SACERD : / HEN ^c : FIL : / OB : 1878 +	3	1	21
Third.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / + I : M : ANNÆ. HEN ^c : VID. 1880.	4	0	1
Fourth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / AN : 26 : RECT : HUIUS : EC : A.D. 1880.	4	3	9
Fifth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / FI : FE : AM : H ⁱ : PARSONS : / A.D. 1880.	6	0	12
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / J. W. BENSON. 1879.	7	2	20

A complete ring from the Whitechapel foundry; the tenor cast in 1879, and the others in 1880. The bells retain their canons and are fitted with elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, self-aligning ball bearings, and traditional type wheels and other gear; they

¹ See footnote under the heading: Reading, St. Michael and All Angels.

were rehung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank in 1938 ; the second, third, and fifth have been sharpened, and the remainder flattened. The oak frame dates from 1879-80 and is constructed in two independent sections : the four smallest bells hang " side-by-side " in one section, and the two largest are hung in the position known to campanologists as " mouth-to-mouth " in the other.¹

I am informed by Mr. W. J. Paice, late secretary of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, that " the clock and tenor bell, on which it strikes, were given by Ellen Dumbleton, to the Glory of God, and in gratitude for His providing her a happy home in her old age, in the year of our Lord 1879, and of her 80th."

A tablet in the base of the tower is inscribed :—To the Glory of God / and in remembrance of Henry Parsons A.M. Clerk / Rector of Sandhurst from 1850 to 1878, / of Anne Hopkinson his wife, / of the Revd. John Tournay Parsons his son, / of Louisa Catherine Boyle, Caroline Lockey, / Jane Jones, Laura O' Calloghan, his daughters. / Five bells of this peal² were given by his / parishioners, relations and friends, as a testimony of their gratitude and affection 1880.

From the Tyssen MS.³ we learn that prior to 1879 the ring consisted of three bells. Of these Mr. Tyssen states that the tenor was " an ancient bell " which bore no inscription and that the other two were each inscribed :

" BOWEN FOUNDER LONDON 1854 "

The Commissioners' Inventories dated 1st August 1552 state :
Thre belles hanging in the stepulle a smaller bell to go before a corpse.

Visited : F.M.U., F.S., 20th September, 1947.

182.

SANDHURST.

St. Mary.

The church was built in 1889 and is equipped with one small bell, hung for chiming in an open bell-cote. The author regrets he has been unable to examine the bell.

183.

SHALBOURNE.

St. Michael.

This parish is now in Wiltshire, but formerly was partly in Berkshire. Details of the ring of five bells are given by Mr. Lukis, under the heading " Berkshire " ⁴ and by Mr. Walters, under the heading " Wiltshire," ⁵ and need not be repeated here. The two accounts differ a little in detail, and of the two that by Mr. Walters

¹ See plate XXX.

² *Sic.*

³ Tyssen MS., Society of Antiquaries Library.

⁴ W. C. Lukis, *An Account of Church Bells*, 1857, p. 61.

⁵ H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Wiltshire*, 1927, p. 197.

is probably the more reliable. The treble is by Henry Knight I, 1672, the second by Oliver Corr, 1727, the third and fourth by William Purdue II and Roger Purdue II, 1664, and the tenor by Robert Wells, 1782. The diameter of the latter is 41 inches.

184.

SHAW.

St. Mary.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 34 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, in A; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1925. (M)	3	2	1
Second.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER AND SONS LTD., LONDON. / A.D. 1902.	3	3	0#
Third.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS, LONDON. 1878.	4	2	0#
Fourth.	(<i>Chertsey Arms, Fig. 7</i>) <i>sanc ta an na</i> <i>ora pro no bis</i>	5	0	0#
Fifth.	FEAR GOD X63X	6	1	0#
Tenor.	RECAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1878.	7	2	0#
Sanctus.	I: BURROUGH IN DEVIZES BELL FOUNDER: J75J			

From the inscriptions it would appear that the ring consisted originally of three bells. The tenor of these was recast, and a treble¹ added in 1878. The present second was added in 1902, and the treble in 1925. The nineteenth century bells have angular canons; the treble was cast without any.

Of the older bells, the fourth is by John Sanders, of Reading, *circa* 1540, and has lettering similar to that on the second bell at Hurley;² the fifth is by Ellis Knight I, and the sanctus by James Burrough. These have canons of the traditional-type, and have been quarter-turned. The sanctus has five moulding wires round its shoulder, and the inscription on its sound-bow. It is hung for chiming.

The ring of six hangs in a two-tier steel frame, the treble and second being in the upper tier. With the exception of the treble, which has a cast-iron headstock, the bells are fitted with elm headstocks, plate-gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels and other gear.

Visited: M.L.S., F.S., 12th January, 1946.

¹ The present third.

² See Fig. 88.

185.

SHEFFORD, GREAT.
(or West Shefford).*St. Mary.*Ring of Six Bells; tenor $36\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, in A flat.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1870.. / F. MENZIES, RECTOR. / I. LANGFORD, / I. W. WARD, } CHURCHWARDENS. / AWAKE UP MY GLORY.	3	1	11
Second.	R: WELLS: ALDBOURNE: FECIT ..	3	2	0#
Third.	IN WF IC [Bell.] W[Bell.]P [Bell.] ANNO DOMINI 1662 / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. / F. MENZIES, RECTOR. / I. LANGFORD, / I. W. WARD, } CHURCHWARDENS. 1870.	4	0	22
Fourth.	[Vine border all round bell.] † IN † WF † IC † [Bell.] W[Bell.]P [Bell.] [Border of fleurs-de-lys.] [Fig. 62, four times.] ANNO DOMINI [Fig. 62.] 1662.	4	2	0#
Fifth.	IN WF IC ANNO DOMINI 1662 [Bell.] W[Bell.]P [Bell.] / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. / F. MENZIES, RECTOR. / I. LANGFORD, / I. W. WARD, } CHURCHWARDENS. 1870.	5	2	7
Tenor.	:::: RICHARD KENWRICK RECTOR. IOHN FVLBROOK & RICHARD POCKOCK CHVRCH WARDENS :::: I & R COR J735	7	2	0#

Of these bells the second was cast at Aldbourne, Wiltshire, by Robert Wells I, whose bellfounding activities cover the period 1760–1780. The fourth is by William Purdue, of Salisbury, 1662, as were also the predecessors of the present third and fifth. At this time Purdue was probably either in partnership with, or assisted by, Nathaniel Bolter, and the fourth possesses the high domed head, large canons, and other characteristics of the Bolter-Purdue group of bells. The tenor is by John and R. Corr, of Aldbourne, a partnership otherwise unknown to campanologists. On each Aldbourne bell the inscription occurs above the sound bow. Below the shoulder of the second is a series of eight moulding wires; and in a similar position on the tenor is a series of twenty one. The remaining bells were cast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1870, prior to which date there were only five, the present treble being an addition. The three oldest have been quarter-turned.

The massive "left-handed" (or "anti-clockwise") oak frame is probably of local manufacture, and the circular tower accounts for the curious bell-rope "circle." The fittings were renewed in 1870 by Mr. Alfred White, of Appleton, and the bells were dedicated on Friday, the 23rd December, of that year. After the ceremony a *touch* of 720 changes of Grandsire Minor was rung by the following members of the Appleton Society of Ringers:—Alfred White, treble; Noble White, second; Benjamin Barrett, third; Henry White (Conductor) fourth; Henry Woodward, fifth; and Frederick White, tenor.

The Commissioners' Inventories, dated 4th August, 1552, state: *Shefforde Magna—In the Tower three greate belles and one lytle bell.*

Visited: F.S., 22nd July, 1939.

186.

SHEFFORD, LITTLE.
(or East Shefford).

The Holy Innocents. (New Church).

One bell, 18 inches in diameter, hung for chiming in an open western turret. The bell is difficult of access but was examined in 1926 by Mr. A. F. Smith, of Swindon, who states that it was cast by James Wells of Aldbourne. Mr. L. H. Chambers was informed by Mr. W. G. Hamblin, parish clerk of Great Shefford, that the bell bore the inscription:

JAMES WELLS 1813.

As the present building was erected in 1868 the bell may have been brought from the old church.

Visited: A.F.S., 1st March, 1926.

187.

SHEFFORD, LITTLE.
(or East Shefford).

Old Church.

The church is now used as a mortuary chapel; it was originally the chapel of the manor house of the Fettiplace family. In an enclosed turret is one bell, 12 inches in diameter, which bears no inscription or marks, and is hung for chiming.

The Commissioners' Inventories, dated 4th August, 1552, state: *Lytle Sheffourd, two belles by estymation one C weichte.*

Visited: A.F.S., 1st March, 1936.

188.

SHELLINGFORD.

St. Faith.

Ring of Four Bells; tenor $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, in B; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.		Weight.		
			Cwt.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. 1920. (M)		2	3	17
Second.	THOMAS DODGE CHRISTOFOR LAGETT CHVRCH WARDENS H BAGLEY MADE MEE J738		3	2	0#
Third.	[No inscription].		4	3	0#
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON, (M) / RECAST A.D. 1920 AT THE COST OF COL: HENDERSON / IN MEMORY OF THOSE FALLEN IN THE WAR.		6	2	10
Sanctus.	R WINDLE CHVRCH WARDEN 1663 V (There may be other wording).		—	2	0#

The treble and tenor were recast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1920; the second is by Henry Bagley III and probably cast during his residence at Witney¹; there are no clues to the name of the founder of the third, but, on evidence of its shape, the bell is not likely to have been cast earlier than the XVIth century. The name of the founder of the saunce also is unknown; the author could not reach this bell in 1939, and no details are given in Mr. Hallam's notes²; Mr. Walters noted the inscription recorded above,³ but with the reservation that it required verifying.

A new oak frame was installed in 1920 by Mr. Richard White, who rehung the bells and supplied elm headstocks, strap gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels and other gear.

The former treble was by William Knight II, of Reading, and inscribed: ³

gloria.....exce gloria Deo / W K 1586

The former tenor, by Edward Neale, bore the inscription:

WHEN .. I .. AM .. TOLLED .. WITH ..
SPEED .. PREPARE .. BOTH .. YOUNG ..
AND .. OLD .. THE .. WORD .. TO .. HEAR
.. / ROBERT .. THOMPSON .. CHVRCH ..
WARDEN .. EDWARD .. NEALE .. OF ..
BVRFORD .. MADE .. MEE .. 1653 ..

The Commissioners' Inventories for 1552 state: *Shalyngforde foure belles.*

Visited: R.G., F.S., 22nd April, 1939.

¹ See footnote to Catmore.

² *Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 2, p. 107.

³ H. B. Walters, *Berkshire MSS.* fol. 117. Society of Antiquaries Library.

190.

SHIPPON.

St. Mary Magdalene.

One bell, weighing *circa* $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., hung for chiming in an enclosed central spirelet. When viewed from the churchyard the bell appears to bear no inscription, and is fitted with an elm headstock, drive-in type gudgeons, and iron lever; it retains its canons. The Church was consecrated in 1855.

The inventories for 1552 give: *Shyppon Chapell j smale bell.*
Visited: F.S., 6th August, 1949.

191.

SHOTTESBROOKE.

St. John the Baptist.

Ring of Five Bells; tenor $39\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, in G.
Bell. *Inscription.*

		<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Ins.</i>
Treble.	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1811 (<i>Twelve loops</i>).	4	3	0#
Second.	CAMPANA CANTARE DNO XN ECLESXA / WLLYAM FOSTER X634	5	2	0#
Third.	CAMPANA CANTARE DNO XN ECLESXA / HVMPREY TVRNOR X634	6	2	0#
Fourth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. / RECAST A.D. 1904.	7	1	11
Tenor.	CAMPANA CANTARE DNO XN ECLESXA DE SHOTTES- BROOKE / HENRY POWLE X634	10	2	0#

The treble and fourth are from the Whitechapel foundry, and have their canons intact; the treble has been quarter-turned; the fourth has a "Doncaster" type head. The remaining bells are by Ellis Knight I of Reading; their inscriptions are in his familiar sheet-metal type; and they have lost their canons. The former fourth was also by Ellis Knight I.¹ The third and tenor have been sharpened; the others have been flattened. On the second, third and fourth the names may be those of donors.

The bells hang in a wrought-iron side-pattern frame mounted on rolled steel joists; the fittings include elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels. An illustration of the belfry is given on plate XXXI.

Visited: F.M.U., F.S., 27th September, 1947.

¹ Tyssen MSS. Society of Antiquaries Library. There is no record however of the former inscription.

192.

SHRIVENHAM.

St. Andrew.

Ring of Eight Bells ; tenor 45 inches diameter, in F ; and a Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	19 (<i>Shield bearing Arms of Johnston</i>). 48 / GILLET & JOHNSTON / CROYDON / TO THE GLORY OF GOD / THIS BELL WAS GIVEN / BY MEMBERS OF THE / AMERICAN & BRITISH ARMED FORCES / SHRIVENHAM / 1944 / 1	5	0	11
Second.	(<i>Same as treble, but with figure "2" at end.</i>)	5	1	23
Third.	MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. / CAST A.D. 1701., RECAST A.D. 1908. / EDWARDUS VII. R. ET I. VIVAT. / EDWARD F. HILL., VICAR. / JOHN W. DAY, / JAMES LAWRENCE, } CHURCHWARDENS.	5	3	2
Fourth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON, 1908. / F. WHITE & SON, BELLHANGERS, APPLETON, BERKS. / " GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST."			
Fifth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. 1908. / " ON EARTH PEACE, GOODWILL TOWARDS MEN "	7		
SIXTH.	MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. 1908. / " GOOD PEOPLE ALL THAT HEAR ME RING " / " BE TRUE AND LOYAL TO GOD AND KING."	8	2	3
Seventh.	MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. 1908. / " ON EARTH BELLS DO RING, / IN HEAVEN ANGELS SING, / ALLELUIAH."	10	1	11
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. 1908. / I TOLL THE FUNERAL KNELL, / I HAIL THE FESTAL DAY ; / THE FLEETING HOURS I TELL, / I SUMMON ALL TO PRAY.	14	1	1

The treble and second were cast at the Croydon foundry and added to the ring in 1948 ; as testified by their inscriptions they were the gift of the American and British Armed Forces, stationed in Shrivenham during Hitler's war, some of whom of both nationalities learned to ring here ; the two additional bells were cast without canons. The six largest are from the Whitechapel foundry, and have " Doncaster " type heads and canons.

The saunce is an early fourteenth century casting. Its diameter is 15 inches, height from lip to crown $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and height from lip to top of argent 18 inches. It bears no inscription, but has a series of three narrow mouldings high on the shoulder, and is a "long-waisted" bell; two of its canons are broken, and it has a false crown-staple keyed to its crown. Its clapper is mediæval, possessing a stirrup-topped head, and iron baldrick copse. The bell hangs in the east window of the clock room, and is fitted with an elm headstock, drive-in type gudgeons, nailed and keyed ironwork, brass bearings, and lever.

The ring hangs in a composite iron and oak frame installed by Messrs. F. White and Son in 1908; the fittings of the six largest bells are their work and include elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, and brass bearings. The two bells added in 1948 have cast iron headstocks, fixed steel gudgeons, and self-aligning ball bearings.

In the belfry is a set of ten handbells, the eight largest of which were cast by James Bridgeman, of Aldbourne, *circa* 1830.

Prior to 1908 the ring consisted of six bells, cast by William and Robert Cor, of Aldbourne. The bells were richly ornamented, like those at Aldbourne, Lydiard Tregoze, Malmesbury and Tisbury, Wiltshire, of which Mr. Walters has given us an interesting account,¹ and the same ornaments are found at Sutton-under-Brailes, Warwickshire.²

In the following account, compiled from notes made by the Rev. T. A. Turner in 1892, the various ornaments are numbered, and a schedule given comparing them with the Tisbury and Sutton-under-Brailes examples:

Inscriptions and ornaments on the former ring of six.

- Treble. W (*Plant*, 1.) C (*Vertical plant*, 2.) (*Royal Arms*, 3.) (*Vertical plant*, 2.) (*Cupid's mask*, 4.) (*Vertical plant*, 2.) (*Whirligig*, 5.) (*Vertical plant*, 2.) (*Head in scrolls*, 6.) (*Vertical plant*, 2.) (*Adoration of Magi*, 7.) (*Vertical plant*, 2.) (*Monogram*, 8.)
- Second. W (1.) C (2.) (1.) (2.) (3.) (2.) (*Floral border*,³ 9.) (2.) (*Grotesque face*, 10.) (2.) (*Scrolls* 12.) (2.) (9.) (2.) (9.) (2.)
- Third. R (2.) C (7.) (12.) (6.) (4.) (12.) (6.) (4.) (12.) (6.) (12.)
- Fourth. R (5.) C (*Three defaced letters*.) (3.) (8.) (7.) (7.) (7.) (11.) (3.) (7.) (7.)⁴
- Fifth. On: EARTH : BELLS : DO : RING (1.) IN HEAVEN : ANGELS : SING (1.) HALELUJAH (1.) W : C (1.) / 170J.

¹ H. B. Walters, *The Church Bells of Wiltshire*, 1927, p. 308.

² Tilley and Walters, *The Church Bells of Warwickshire*, 1910, p. 77.

³ Under the floral border in the first instance are the ornaments: 7, 1 and 7; and in the second instance: 5, 1 and 5.

⁴ The last six ornaments were difficult to decypher.

