

# The Church Bells of Berkshire.

## PART XIII.

By FREDERICK SHARPE, F.S.A.

### 193. SHURLOCK ROW.

*All Saints.*

The two bells of this church hang in an open western turret and are difficult of access. They were examined through field glasses by Mr. F. M. Underhill, F.S.A., who states that the larger bell has no clapper and is used as a clock bell ; its canons are intact, and on the side of the bell facing east is a date, very indistinct, which may be 1895, or perhaps 1825. The smaller bell has no mouldings or marks and is hung for chiming.

*Visited :*

F.M.U., 2nd September, 1950.

### 194. SONNING.

*St. Andrew.*

Ring of Eight Bells ; tenor 50 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, in E flat ; and a late thirteenth century bell, now used as a clock bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>		
Treble.	C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1853 / RECAST 1912 / ( <i>Loughborough foundry</i> <i>mark.</i> )	5	1	13
Second.	AT PROPER TIMES OUR VOICES WE WILL RAISE IN SOUNDING TO OUR BENEFAC- TORS PRAISE / PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT 1778 / RECAST 1912 / ( <i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i> )	5	2	7
Third.	ECCLESIAE REGINAE SACHEVERELLISQVE CANO LAVDES R : PHELPS FECIT 1711 / RECAST 1912 / ( <i>Loughborough foundry</i> <i>mark.</i> )	6	0	27
Fourth.	< x > OUR VOICES SHALL WITH IOYFUL SOUND MAKE HILLS AND VALLEYS ECHO ROUND LESTER & PACK FECIT 1759 / BENI = MATHEWS & IOEL LANE & Wm. SCOTT & INO = BERRY CH WARDENS 8-2-26.	8	0	23
Fifth.	<b>LOVE GOD 1640</b>	7	3	9
Sixth.	<b>FEARE GOD 1640</b>	10	2	12
Seventh.	<b>LOVE GOD 1640</b>	13	2	26
Tenor.	<b>LOVE GOD 1641</b>	20	1	4

The treble, second and third were recast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, in 1912; the fourth is by Messrs. Lester and Pack, of the Whitechapel foundry, 1759; and the four largest bells are by Ellis Knight I, of Reading, 1640-41. The three smallest were cast without canons, and the canons of the five largest have been removed. The portion of the inscription on the fourth, given in *italics*, has been incised on the bell; and the weight before the removal of the canons—8 cwt. 2 qr. 26 lb.—has also been incised: this indicates that the bell was a “stock” one, cast when business was not too good, and used on the first occasion a bell with the strike-note B flat was required; the churchwardens names were added when the bell was sold to Sonning. The fifth is a remarkably thin bell compared with the others in the ring: its weight is less than that of the fourth.

The ring hangs in a cast iron side-pattern frame, installed by Messrs. Taylor in 1912. The gear includes cast iron headstocks, fixed steel gudgeons, brass bearings, traditional-type wheels, and “Hastings” type stays.

As indicated by the inscriptions on the three smallest bells, their predecessors were respectively cast by C. and G. Mears, 1853, Pack and Chapman, 1778, and R. Phelps, 1711—all of the Whitechapel foundry. Sacheverell’s name also occurs on a bell cast by Phelps in 1710 for Charsfield, Suffolk.<sup>1</sup>

Under a cupola on the top of the tower roof hangs an interesting and valuable thirteenth century bell, now used as a clock bell. It was formerly hung for ringing and retains its clapper, and headstock: the latter is incised with the date 1822 and the initials “RG,” probably those of the bellhanger. The bell is now hung “dead,” and is struck by a clock hammer.

The principal dimensions of the bell are: diameter at lip 23 inches, height from lip to crown  $19\frac{1}{2}$  inches, canons  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, argent *circa*  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, and thickness at sound-bow  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Its strike-note is *approximately* G natural.

The bell bears the inscription:

(Cross, Fig. 60)

**M A R I A**

The cross and lettering are of the primitive type, already described in this series under the heading: Enborne.<sup>2</sup> They were formed by means of the *cire perdue* process. Like the Enborne example, the clock bell at Sonning may be approximately dated 1280. Dr. A. D. Tyssen found a bell of this type at West Thorney, Sussex, and placed the date of it and others like it about 1250<sup>3</sup>; but, as will be seen on Plate XXXII, the shape of the Sonning example is that of a bell cast in the last quarter of the thirteenth century. I have previously noted that at this period the churches of Sonning and West Thorney had

<sup>1</sup> J. J. Raven, *The Church Bells of Suffolk*, 1890, p. 175.

<sup>2</sup> *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XLV, Part I, p. 12.

<sup>3</sup> A. D. Tyssen, *The Church Bells of Sussex*, 1914, p. 14.

associations with Exeter, and their bells may have been cast there.<sup>1</sup> It is known that bell foundries flourished in that city in the thirteenth century.

The Rev. T. A. Turner visited the tower in July, 1877, and noted that there was then a sanctus bell, 19 inches in diameter, cast by Wells, of Aldbourne.<sup>2</sup>

*Visited :*

F.S., 13th August, 1949.

## 195.

### SOTWELL.

*St. James.*

The church possesses two small bells which hang in an enclosed timber turret. They were examined at the end of the last century by Dr. Tyssen, who stated<sup>3</sup> that the smaller was inscribed :

JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS FECIT 1813

and that the larger bore the inscription :

C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1847

The writer searched the Whitechapel foundry ledgers for details of the latter, but with no success. When he visited the church in 1945 only one bell rope was in use.

The Commissioners' Inventories, dated 6 August, 1552, state : *two belles.*

## 196.

### SOUTH ASCOT.

*All Souls.*

The bell of this church is described in section II of this series, under the heading ASCOT, SOUTH.<sup>4</sup>

From the Whitechapel foundry records we learn that in 1862 Messrs. George Mears and Co. supplied a bell weighing 52 cwt. to Ascot Priory, a fact not previously noted.

## 197.

### SPARSHOLT.

*The Holy Rood.*

Ring of Four Bells ; tenor 40½ inches diameter, in A flat.

*Bell.*

*Inscription.*

*Weight.*

*Cwts. Qrs. lbs.*

Treble.	(Scroll border all round bell.)	/	PRAYSED	5	0	0#
	BE THE NAME OF LORD THAT					
	HAS SENT US THE HOLY					
	WORD (Coin.)	/	IC (Shield, Fig. 6.)			
	1578 (Border.)	A (Fig. 7.)	£			

<sup>1</sup> *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XLV, Part I, p. 14.

<sup>2</sup> Walters' MS., fol. 122. Society of Antiquaries Library.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, fol. 123.

<sup>4</sup> *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XLIII, 1939, Part II, p. 84.

Second.	<sup>☉</sup> Sancta <sup>☉</sup> Katerina <sup>☉</sup> Ora <sup>☉</sup> Pro <sup>☉</sup> Nobis (Lion's head, Fig. 1.) (Coin.) (Woking- ham foundry cross, Fig. 4.) / RECAST 1914. / (Whitechapel foundry mark.)	5	3	26
Third.	O FORGE EVEN FOR THE HORN NAME IN FRAME OUR HARTES TO FORGE THE SAME (Coin.) / IC (Fig. 6.) ILL (Border.) A (Fig. 7.) C 1578.	7	3	0†
Tenor.	(Fleurs-de-lys border.) (Large crown.) (Fleurs-de-lys border.) (Large crown.) (Fleurs-de-lys border.) / T (Fig. 7.) Chamberlen (Fig. 7.) T (Fig. 7.) George (Large Tudor rose.) (Two gridirons.) This (Fig. 7.) Bell (Fig. 7.) Was (Fig. 7.) Made (Fig. 7.) 1603 (Fig. 7.) I (Shield, Fig. 8.) C	10	2	0†

The treble and third are some of the earliest products of Joseph Carter's foundry at Reading. As at Lockinge Carter used the lettering which originally belonged to Thomas Lawrence, of London,<sup>1</sup> and had an assistant, whose initials were "I.W." His assistant was probably John Welch. No suggestion is offered regarding the initials "NC," except that as they do not come next to the founders' mark they are not likely to be those of another assistant bellfounder. The tenor is also by Joseph Carter : on it he used the capitals, formerly belonging to John Sanders, in conjunction with the fifteenth century Wokingham foundry smalls. The shield bearing the Arms of Chertsey Abbey (Fig. 7), occurs on all three bells ; on the treble and third is the worn version of the Wokingham foundry shield (Fig. 6) ; on the tenor is Carter's copy of the Norwich foundry shield (Fig. 8).

The second was recast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, in 1914. They very admirably reproduced in facsimile on the new bell the inscription and marks which were on the old one. The original bell was cast at the Wokingham foundry in the fifteenth century.

Mr. F. Webb, of Kidlington, Oxfordshire, supplied new gear and rehung these bells in a new side-pattern wrought iron frame in 1914. None of the bells have canons.

The Commissioners' inventories for 1552 state : *three grett belles A sance bell.*

Visited :

F.S., 22nd January, 1938.

<sup>1</sup> Illustrated in Fig. 89.

198.

## SPEEN.

*St. Mary.*

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor  $41\frac{3}{4}$  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.	THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT 1809 ( <i>Loop border.</i> )	5	2	17
Second.	( <i>Same as treble.</i> )	6	0	17
Third.	( <i>The same.</i> )	6	3	1
Fourth.	( <i>The same.</i> )	7	3	15
Fifth.	JOHN MORILL ROBT. BUNCE CHURCH WARDENS RICHD. BASING ELECT 1809 ( <i>Loop border.</i> ) / THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT.	9	2	10
Tenor.	1809 ( <i>Loop border.</i> ) / THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT.	12	2	12
Saunce.	1810	—	3	0#

All the bells were cast at the Whitechapel foundry. Those in the ring were quarter-turned and rehung by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston in 1935. The saunce has false iron canons and is hung for chiming.

The oak frame, consisting of heads, main and jack braces, and cills, dates from 1809 and was made by Thomas Mears and Son.

*Visited :*

J.R.C., F.S., 26th August, 1950.

199.

## SPEENHAMLAND.

*St. Mary.*

An enclosed southern turret contains two bells, hung for chiming. The turret is inaccessible without the introduction of scaling ladders.

The larger bell was installed in 1879. A brass tablet on the south wall of the vestry bears this inscription in Lombardic capitals :

"The larger of the two bells / in this turret was / subscribed for and hung / there at the consecration / of the new chancel Sep. 16. 1879 / as a token of esteem for their old Master / James Corbould Esq., / by some of the pupils / whom he had educated at Wood Speen School. / J. G. Gibbs. + Vicar. / John Tanner, James Corbould, Churchwardens."

The smaller bell may be by James Wells. In the Walters' MS., at the Society of Antiquaries Library is the following note : "Speenhamland. T.A.T. One bell by J. Wells 1814: (See rubbing.)" We may safely infer from this that the Rev. T. A. Turner took a rubbing

of this bell *circa* 1870, and that it was a product of the Aldbourne foundry. It is not known if the bell has been recast since Turner's day, or what has become of the rubbing.

*Visited :*

F.S., 16th September 1950.

## 200.

### SPENCERS WOOD.

*St. Michael.*

The church was erected in 1908, and is equipped with one bell, hung for ringing in an open western turret. The author regrets that he has been unable to scale the turret, but when viewed from the ground the bell appears to be devoid of inscription or marks, and its shape is that of a late nineteenth century bell, with bold mouldings and rounded canons of the traditional type.

*Visited :*




F.S., 26th December, 1951.

## 201.

### STANFORD DINGLEY.

*St. Denis.*

Ring of Four Bells ; tenor 33 inches diameter, in B flat.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	✠ HENRX KNXGHT MADE THXS BELL 1609	2	3	11
Second.	+ Henri Knight Made Me 1607	3	2	7
Third.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <i>(Lion's head, Fig. 59.)</i>  <i>(Coin.)</i> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <i>(Cross, Fig. 3.)</i> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <i>(Shield, Fig. 6.)</i> </div> </div>	4	2	7
Tenor.	SAMVLL KNIGHT MADM 1684 <i>(Coin.)</i> HENRY <i>(Coin.)</i> KING <i>(Coin.)</i> c <i>(Coin.)</i> w <i>(Coin.)</i>	6	0	15

The treble and second are by Henry Knight I, of Reading. The letter "N" is reversed in both instances on the treble, and an illustration of this bell is given on Plate XVIII A.<sup>1</sup>

The tenor is by Samuel Knight. The inscription is intended for :  
 SAMUEL KNIGHT MAD[E] M[E] 1684. HENRY KING C[HURCH]  
 W[ARDEN].

The third is a late fifteenth century casting from the Wokingham foundry. It bears the cross, Fig. 3, and the lion's head, Fig. 59, introduced late in that century, and generally attributed to John Mitchel. A bell bearing the same inscription, and marks, is to be found at Westcote Barton, Oxfordshire.<sup>2</sup> The Stanford Dingley bell is the only surviving example, so far discovered, of John Mitchel's work in Berkshire. An illustration of a portion of the bell is given

<sup>1</sup> *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XLVI, 1942, p. 64.

<sup>2</sup> *The Church Bells of Oxfordshire*, Oxfordshire Record Society, Vol. XXVIII, 1949, p. 38.

on Plate XXXIII, and a scale drawing of its inscription will be found in Fig. 101.

These bells have been cast in a thin scale. All of them have lost their canons, and have been one-eighth turned. Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. supplied new cast iron headstocks, fixed steel gudgeons, brass bearings, "Hastings" stays, and traditional-type wheels in 1902. The rehanging of the bells was admirably carried out by the rector, the Rev. J. Horne, who dismantled the bells and former frame, made and erected the existing oak frame, and installed the bells on their return from Messrs. Taylor's foundry.

The tower was visited on 27th June, 1877, by the Rev. T. A. Turner, who noted : " Pretty ring ; all maiden bells ; third a fine bell ; tenor good tone, cabled canons." Since Turner's visit the bells have lost their canons and they are no longer maiden bells : Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. tuned them in 1902.

The Commissioners' Inventory, made 4th August, 1552, states : Stanford Dynlowe. *A littell sakinge belle, a bell used to be rynged before dede corses, iiij belles in the steple by estymatyon weing XXc weichte.*

The total weight of the present bells, plus the weight of their canons, would be almost the same as that of the four medieval bells.  
*Visited :*

F.M.U., F.S., 1st November, 1941.

## 202. STANFORD-IN-THE-VALE.

*St. Dennis.*

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 47 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, in E; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	CANTATE :: DOMINO :: CANTUM :: NOVUM :: IC : IC :: CW : H : BAGLEY : MA : ME J738	6	0	0#
Second.	I : CHVRCH : I : COLLINS : C : WARDENS : IOHN : ANNS :: HENRY : BAGLEY :: J738 :: . ::	7	2	0#
Third.	IOHN : CHVRCH : IOHN : COLLINS : CHVRCH : WARDENS :: HENRY : BAGLEY : MADE : MEE :: J738 ::	8	2	0#
Fourth.	VNTO : THE : LORD : LIFT : VP : YOVR : VOICE :: AND : IN : HIS : NAME : LET : US : REIOYCE :: H : B :: J738 :	10	0	0#
Fifth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / THIS BELL WAS RECAST A. D. 1883. / E. P. WELLINGS, VICAR. / A. WHIT- FIELD, / G. WILLIS, } CHURCH WAR- DENS. / F. WHITE, BELLHANGER.	12	2	3





203.

## STEVENTON.

*St. Michael.*

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor  $42\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, in F sharp ; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	ELLIS AND HENRY KNIGHT MADE MEE 1674	4	0	12
Second.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE THXS BELL ANO x6x7 +	5	0	25
Third.	REVD : W : VINCENT VICAR. R : GREEN- AWAY J. TYRELL CHURCHWARDENS 1849.	5	1	8
Fourth.	THIS BELL WAS MADE 1613	6	3	12
Fifth.	W : TAYLOR FECIT 1849 + REVD : W : VINCENT VICAR. R : GREENAWAY J : TYRRELL CHURCHWARDENS.	8	3	12
Tenor.	THIS BELL WAS MADE 1613	11	2	7

The saunce is 9 inches in diameter, and bears no inscription.

The treble was cast by Ellis Knight II, and Henry Knight III ; the second by Henry Knight I ; the third and fifth by William Taylor ; and the fourth and tenor by William Yare. The mouldings and lettering on the latter bells are similar to those on the third at Harwell. The treble, second, and fourth retain their canons and are fitted with cast-iron canon retaining headstocks : the canons have been removed from the remainder.

The bells were rehung with new fittings in a two-tier cast-iron frame by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston in 1932.

The Commissioners' Inventories for 1552 state : *Stevington three belles in the stepulle A smalle belle ij sacringe belles A burying belle.*

*Visited :*

F.S., 2nd August, 1941.

204.

## STOCKCROSS.

*St. John.*

Three Bells,  $17\frac{1}{2}$ , 22 and  $33\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter, respectively.

The smallest is the saunce. It is hung for ringing and with the exception of the wheel its gear is of traditional type : it has lost its canons. The bell was cast at the Whitechapel foundry, and is inscribed with the date :

1839.

The largest bell was also cast at the Whitechapel foundry, and bears the inscription :

THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1839

Like the saunce it has lost its canons and is hung for ringing, with modern type gear, in a built up steel frame installed in 1936 by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co.

The other bell is hung "dead" and used as a clock bell. It was cast without canons, and is inscribed :

IN MEMORY OF HENRY CECIL SUTTON. / MAY 24TH 1936.

/ J. SMITH & SON, CLERKENWELL.

Although it bears no founders' names or marks the bell was obviously cast at the Loughborough foundry : its shape, mouldings, and tuning are the well-known ones favoured by Messrs. J. Taylor & Co.

*Visited :*

F.S., 16th September, 1950.

## 205. STRATFIELD MORTIMER.

*St. Mary the Virgin.*

Ring of Eight Bells ; tenor  $42\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, in F sharp.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>		
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON 1896. / VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO.	4	0	20
Second.	( <i>As treble to date.</i> ) / TE DEUM LAudemus.	4	3	6
Third.	( <i>As treble to date.</i> ) / BENEDICITE OMNIA OPERA DOMINI DOMINO.	5	0	9
Fourth.	( <i>As treble to date.</i> ) BENEDICTUS DOMINUS DEUS ISRAEL.	5	2	3
Fifth.	( <i>As treble to date.</i> ) JUBILATE DEO OMNIS TERRA.	6	2	8
Sixth.	( <i>As treble to date.</i> ) MAGNIFICAT ANIMA MEA DOMINUM.	7	1	2
Seventh.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON 1896. / CANTATE DOMINO CANTICUM NOVUM.	8	1	27
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON. 1896. / CAST 1702. / JAMES PARSONS / WILLIAM WHITE } CHURCHWARDENS. / RECAST 1896. / C. LOVETT CAMERON, VICAR. / J. H. FELLOWES / E. WILKINS } CHURCH- WARDENS. / NUNC DIMITTIS SERVUM TUM.	11	2	23

A complete ring from the Whitechapel foundry. The bells have "Doncaster" pattern heads, and are fitted with elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels, stays, and sliders. They hang in an oak frame. The seventh has been sharpened: the remainder are "maiden" bells.

The following record of the former ring of six bells has been compiled from notes made by the Rev. T. A. Turner, 11th May,

1877, and now among the Walters' MS. at the Library of The Society of Antiquaries.

Former ring of Six Bells ; tenor  $41\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	SK 1709 ( <i>Floral border.</i> )	4	0	0#
Second.	1710 SK	4	3	0#
Third.	S 1709 K ( <i>Border.</i> )	5	2	0#
Fourth.	( <i>Same as treble.</i> )	7	1	0#
Fifth.	( <i>The same.</i> )	9	0	0#
Tenor.	IAMES PA RSONS WILLIAM WHIT ( <i>Shield, Fig. 17.</i> ) CHVRCH WARDNES ( <i>Floral scroll.</i> ) 1709 ( <i>Floral border.</i> ) SAMVELL KNIGHT FECET ( <i>Fig. 16.</i> ) ( <i>Border.</i> )	11	0	0#

Mr. Turner noted : "Treble, third and fifth have moulded canons ; letters on treble, third and fifth on paterae ; third and fifth have flat crowns ; second high crown ; fourth, a maiden bell. Bells well hung and belfry clean."

The ring was by Samuel Knight, of Reading. In Mr. Turner's notes the date of the second is given as 1710 and the other dates are clearly stated to be 1709. On the present tenor, and on a framed certificate in the church the date of the old ring is stated to be 1702.

*Visited :*

T.A.T., 11th May, 1877. F.S., 26th December, 1951.

## 206. STRATFIELD MORTIMER.

*St. John-the-Evangelist.*

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor  $35\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON 1896. / TIBI GRATIAS AGIMUS.	3	3	5
Second.	( <i>As treble to date.</i> ) / TE GLORIFICAMUS.	4	2	5
Third.	( <i>As treble to date.</i> ) / TE ADORAMUS.	4	3	17
Fourth.	( <i>As treble to date.</i> ) / TIBI BENEDICIMUS.	5	0	26
Fifth.	( <i>As treble to date.</i> ) / TE LAUDAMUS.	6	1	6
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON. / RICHARD BENYON, FOUNDER OF THIS CHURCH. / C. LOVETT CAMERON, VICAR. / 1896. / IN TE CONFIDIMUS.	7	2	16

A complete ring from the Whitechapel foundry. The bells are fitted with gear similar to those at Stratfield Mortimer, St. Mary, and hang in a two tier oak frame.

*Visited :*

R.C., 9th July, 1945.

207.

## STREATLEY.

*St. Mary.*

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor  $36\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, in A flat ; and a disused Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>		
Treble.	ROBT : HOUSE EDWD : BAILY CH : WARDENS. J738 ❖❖❖ R : PHELPS T : LESTER RECIT ❖❖❖ / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. 1936. ( <i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i> )	3	3	20
Second.	<b>G·H H·M I·D L·B W·B I649</b>	3	1	27
Third.	WILLIAM BOWDRY C( <i>Fig. 16.</i> )W / H( <i>Fig.</i> 17.)K 1661	3	2	23
Fourth.	MR : ROBERT HOUSE & MR : EDWARD BAILY CH : WARDENS J737 R : PHELPS FECIT ❖❖❖	5	1	18
Fifth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LON- DON. / FEAR GOD : HONOUR THE KING. A.D. 1887. / VICTORIÆ REG : JUBILEE. / W. T. HENHAM, VICAR. / J. HULBERT / W. EDMONDS } CHURCHWARDENS.	6	1	8
Tenor.	<b>FEARE GOD I649</b>	8	1	26

The treble was recast at the Whitechapel foundry in 1936 ; the second, and tenor are by Ellis Knight I, of Reading, 1649 ; the third is by Henry Knight II, 1661 ; the fourth is by Richard Phelps, of the Whitechapel foundry, 1737 ; and the fifth was recast at Whitechapel in 1887.

The treble was cast without canons ; the canons of the second have been broken off ; those of the four largest bells are intact. The second, third, fourth and tenor have been quarter-turned.

The cross on the treble and fourth is the well-known one introduced by Richard Phelps during his ownership of the Whitechapel foundry.<sup>1</sup> The initials on the second are probably those of subscribers.

The former treble was by Phelps and Lester, 1738, and inscribed as indicated in the first line of the inscription on the present bell. The former fifth was by R. Phelps, 1737, and inscribed :<sup>2</sup>

MR : ROBERT HOUSE & MR : EDWARD BAILY CH : WARDENS J737  
R : P : FECIT

The ring hangs in an oak frame. The gear includes elm head-stocks, hoop gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels and clappers.

<sup>1</sup> Illustrated in *The Church Bells of Oxfordshire*, Oxfordshire Record Society, Vol. XXVIII, 1949, Fig. B.1, p. 21.

<sup>2</sup> Walters' *MS.*, fol. 131. Society of Antiquaries Library.

Preserved in the tower is the ancient sanctus bell. It is  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, and  $16\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter ; and is inscribed in black letter minuscules :

✠ hac : in : conclabe : gabriel : nunc : pange : suabe

The type of lettering is that generally found on bells dating from the first half of the sixteenth century, and of which an illustration has been given in Fig. 81.<sup>1</sup>

The bell is illustrated on Plate XXXIV. Its founder's name is unknown, but it closely resembles a bell at Loxwood, Sussex, of which Mr. Tyssen has given an interesting account.<sup>2</sup> The Loxwood bell is inscribed :

✠ Christus perpetuae det nobis gaudia vitae

and a peculiar feature of this inscription is that the long form of the letter "S" is used in every position, a peculiarity also found on the Streatley bell. The lettering on both bells is similar to, but not identical with, that used by John Saunders, of Reading, and Mr. A. H. Cocks thought that they may have been cast there.<sup>3</sup>

The Streatley bell has been described in an article by a former vicar, the Rev. J. R. Izat, in Volume II of *The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal*.<sup>4</sup> From him we learn that before the year 1863 the tower was surmounted by a Georgian Cupola in which was hung the sanctus bell. It was then removed to the school, where it remained until *circa* 1894. Mr. Izat ascribes the bell to the middle of the fifteenth century, but, for reasons already given, the present writer considers it to be a sixteenth century casting. It would be most unusual to find a mid-fifteenth century bell inscribed solely in black letter minuscules.

The Commissioners' Inventory of 1552 states: *ij belles and a sanc belle*. The small bell now preserved in the tower is doubtless the one mentioned in the inventory.

*Visited :*

M.L.S., F.S., 6th August, 1945.

## 208.

### STUBBINGS.

*St. James-the-less.*

One bell, weighing *circa* 3 cwt., hung for mechanical chiming in an open western turret.

When examined from the ground through field-glasses the only portion of the inscription not concealed by the masonry of the turret contained the words :

MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON

The only owners of the Whitechapel foundry to use the plural, "FOUNDERS," were Messrs. C. and G. Mears, 1844-1861 ; Messrs. G. Mears and Co., 1861-1865 ; and Messrs. Mears and Stainbank,

<sup>1</sup> *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XLV, 1941, Part II, p. 77.

<sup>2</sup> A. D. Tyssen, *Sussex Church Bells*, 1914, p. 21.

<sup>3</sup> A. H. Cocks, *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 1897, p. 190.

<sup>4</sup> *The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal*, Vol. II, 1897, p. 109.

1865 to present date. As there are no words between "MEARS" and "FOUNDERS" on the Stubbings bells we may safely assume that it was cast by the first-named founders, and its full inscription probably is :

C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON (*date of casting.*)

*Visited :*

F.S., 17th November, 1945.

209.

# SULHAM.

*St. Nicholas.*

Chime of Six Bells ; tenor 36 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. / S. NICHOLAO, J.W. 1878.	3	1	1
Second.	✠ <b>HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE ANO X6X6 XL</b> / S. JOANNI BAPT. J.W. 1878	4	0	0#
Third.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1878. / LAUS DEO.	4	3	13
Fourth.	<b>HONAR GOD X63X</b> / LAUD-ATE DOMINUM.	5	0	0#
Fifth.	THO DICKER ✠ FOVNDER 1734 / PORTAS EJUS INGREDIMINI CUM LAUDE.	6	0	0#
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1878. / GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.	7	1	11

A former ring of four bells was converted into the present chime of six in 1876 by the addition of a treble and tenor, and by the recasting of the second of the ring to form the third of the chime. The new bells were cast at the Whitechapel foundry. The portions of the inscriptions recorded above in *italics* were incised in the three old bells at the same time. The second is by Henry Knight I, of Reading ; the fourth by Ellis Knight I ; and the fifth by Thomas Dicker, a Reading clockmaker, who cast bells for Basildon, and Inkpen. Dicker's lettering, and fleur-de-lys stamp, are illustrated in Fig. 90.<sup>1</sup> All the bells retain their canons, and are hung in the two-tier oak frame which formerly housed the ring of four.

A tablet on the south wall of the tower is inscribed :

" These · BELLS · the · Gift · of · the · / Revd. · John · Wilder · Rector · of Sulham · / were · Dedicated · to · the · Service · of · GOD, / January ·∴ 12th. ·∴ 1879."

The following account of the old ring is compiled from notes made by the Rev. T. A. Turner, in 1877, and now in the Walters MS. at the Society of Antiquaries Library, and from the Whitechapel foundry records.

<sup>1</sup> *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XLVI, 1942, Part II, p. 59.

Details of former ring of four ; tenor 32 inches diameter, in C.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>
Treble.	✠ <b>HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE ANO X6X6 XL</b>	4 0 0#
Second.	<sup>☞</sup> <b>A</b> u r <sup>☞</sup> <b>H</b> a r i a ( <i>Lion's head, Fig. 59.</i> ) ( <i>Shield, Fig. 5.</i> ) ( <i>Coin.</i> ) ( <i>Cross, Fig. 3.</i> )	4 3 0#
Third.	<b>HONAR GOD X63X</b>	5 0 0#
Tenor.	THO DICKER † FOVNDER 1734	6 0 0#

The treble, third and tenor remain as the second, fourth, and fifth of the present chime. It is to be regretted that the Rev. J. Wilder engraved his initials and additional inscriptions on them. It is also to be regretted that the second was recast. This bell was originally cast late in the fifteenth century at the Wokingham foundry by John Mitchel, and bore founder's marks similar to those on the third at Stanford Dingley. A drawing of the inscription on the Sulham former second is preserved in the Kimber Collection at the White-chapel foundry.

The Rev. T. A. Turner noted : "treble and second are maiden bells ; treble has high crown, and good tone ; second and third are poor in tone ; bad clapper in third ; all closely packed in small tower."

The Commissioners' Inventory, dated 2nd August, 1552, states : "*Sullum. iij belles in weyht by estamacyon XX hundrythe A bell callyd a handebell A bell callyd A saintus or A sacrynce bell.*"

In this instance the weight appears to have been over estimated. The mediæval bell remaining until 1878 was the smallest of the three and weighed  $4\frac{3}{4}$  cwt. The other two were the predecessors of the third and tenor of the old ring, and the total weight of the three bells could not have been much more than 16 cwt.

*Visited :*

T.A.T., 4th July, 1877 ; F.S., 17th August, 1946.

## 210. SULHAMSTEAD ABBOTS.

*St. Mary.*

Ring of Three Bells ; tenor  $31\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, in C sharp.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>
Treble.	( <i>Border of fleurs-de-lys cresting all round bell.</i> ) J JNO. WHITAKER & DANL. FIELD CH. WARDENS. 1773	3 0 0#
Second.	ELLIS AND HENRY KNIGHT MADE MEE 1673	3 3 0#
Tenor.	<b>1 6 5 4</b>	5 0 0#

The treble was cast at the Aldbourne foundry and the others at the Reading foundry. On the treble the inscription band is blank, and the inscription has been incised. The lettering on the second is similar to that illustrated in Fig. 67.<sup>1</sup> The tenor is inscribed in thick sheet-metal type.

All the bells retain their canons, and have not been quarter-turned—a process which should not be long delayed if the seventeenth century ones are to be preserved. The tenor has a false crown staple secured by means of seventeenth century slotted pins and keys. The strike-notes of the two smallest bells have been flattened : the tenor is a “maiden” bell.

The oak frame probably dates from the seventeenth century, and is of unusual design. It consists of heads, cills, king-posts end-posts and braces, but instead of the king-posts being braced to the cills, the braces have been placed between the end-posts and the cills. Seventeenth century rope rollers are fitted to the lower members of the frame. The treble and tenor have traditional-type wheels : the meeting-spokes of the wheel of the second are of unusual shape. The two largest bells have eighteenth century type clappers.<sup>2</sup> All the bells are fitted with elm headstocks, strap gudgeons and brass bearings.

The Commissioners' Inventory dated 2nd August, 1552, states : “*Sulhamstede Abbott. iij belles in the steple and a sanct belle.*”

*Visited :*

F.M.U., F.S., 19th October, 1946.

## 211. SULHAMSTEAD BANNISTER.

*St. Michael.*

A Chime of Two Bells, 20½ and 21¾ inches in diameter respectively.

Both bells were cast at Reading, but each came from a different foundry. The treble is by Ellis Knight I, and is inscribed with the date :

**X 6 3 7**

The tenor is by Joseph Carter, and bears the inscription :

praise ye the Lord (Coin.) / i (Fig. 6.)  
r 1581 (Fig. 6.)

The writer has not examined these bells. Rubbings of their inscriptions, made by Dr. A. T. Tyssen, and the Rev. T. A. Turner are in the Walters' MS. at the Library of The Society of Antiquaries.

## 212. SUNNINGDALE.

*The Holy Trinity.*

One Bell, 32 inches in diameter, hung “dead” in an iron frame, and sounded by a mechanical hammer. The strike-note of the bell

<sup>1</sup> *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XLIV, 1940, Part II, p. 96.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XLV, 1941, Part I, Fig. 76, p. 27.



is C natural ; it has no canons ; and bears the inscription :

MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. (*Whitechapel foundry mark.*) / A.M.D.G. / THIS BELL WAS GIVEN / IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL SANDAY, / BY HIS WIFE. / A.D. 1932.

The bell replaces an early nineteenth century casting, which was hung for ringing, and of which the frame and gear remain. This bell was 24 inches in diameter and bore no inscription.

*Visited :*

F.S., 11th May, 1946.

## 213.

## SUNNINGHILL.

*St. Michael and All Angels.*

Ring of Three Bells ; tenor 26 inches diameter, in E.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	WILLIAM ELDRIDGE MADE MEE 1662	2	0	0#
Second.	S (Coin.) K 1705	2	3	0#
Tenor.	CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1867. / ( <i>Royal Arms.</i> ) / PATENT.	3	2	0#

The treble was cast at the Chertsey foundry ; the second is by Samuel Knight, of Reading ; the tenor is by Messrs. Warner. The tenor replaces a bell from the Chertsey foundry, inscribed :

BRYAN ELDRIDGE MADE MEE 1647

A rubbing of this inscription is preserved among the Tyssen MSS. at the Library of The Society of Antiquaries.

The strike-notes of the three bells are tuned in the Phrygian mode.

The ring hangs in an oak frame and the gear is of nineteenth century date.

The Commissioners' Inventory, dated 1st August, 1552, states : *Thre belles in the Stepull.*

*Visited :*

F.S., 11th May, 1946.

## 214.

## SUNNINGWELL.

*St. Leonard.*

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 36 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, in B flat ; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	M & S. LONDON. ( <i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i> )	3	2	24
Second.	C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1857 / G H SAWYER VICAR / H CHILDS / R KIMBER / CHURCHWARDENS / A WHITE BELL-HANGER	3	2	12
Third.	( <i>Same as treble.</i> )	4	1	11

Fourth.	( <i>The same.</i> )	4	3	9
Fifth.	( <i>The same.</i> )	6	0	17
Tenor.	1653	8	0	0#

The tenor was cast at the Reading foundry : the others were cast at the Whitechapel foundry. The treble was added to the ring in 1937 ; it was cast without canons and is fitted with a cast-iron headstock and fixed steel gudgeons. The other bells have their canons intact and are fitted with elm headstocks and plate gudgeons. All have traditional-type wheels, clappers, stays and sliders, and hang in an oak frame. The frame and gear were made in 1928 and 1937 by Mr. Richard White.

The sanctus bell is hung for chiming. It was also cast at the Whitechapel foundry and bears the inscription :

J. WHEELET CHURCHWARDEN 1849 (*Scroll ornament.*)

One of the bells recast in 1857 was by John Sturdy, of the smaller of the two London foundries, *circa* 1450. A drawing of its inscription and marks is preserved in the Kimber Collection at the Whitechapel foundry. The bell was inscribed in Sturdy's well-known lettering :

✠   ✠   <sup>☞</sup> Sancta   <sup>☞</sup> Anna   <sup>☞</sup> Ora   <sup>☞</sup> Pro   <sup>☞</sup> Nobis   (*Coin.*)

and was similar to bells at Adstock, Buckinghamshire,<sup>1</sup> and Gloucester Cathedral.<sup>2</sup>

1552 Inventory. *Sonyngwelle. iij belles.*

*Visited :*

F.S., 27th October, 1945.

## 215. SUTTON COURTENAY.

*All Saints.*

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

Bell.	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	JAMES WOODLEY & CORNELIUS HALE : CHURCH : WARDENS ★ ROBT. WELLS ALBOURN ∴ 1787 ★	4	2	0#
Second.	THOS. SWAINE : [ <i>Fig. 72.</i> ] MADE MEE : 1775 [ <i>Fig. 12, twice.</i> ]	5	2	0#
Third.	FEAR GOD HONOUR THE KING © R : TAYLOR & SONS FOUNDERS MDCCCXXIX.	6	3	0#
Fourth.	1675	7	3	0#
Fifth.	RICH KEENE CAST THIS RING 1675	9	2	0#
Tenor.	JOHN. ∴ RUSS ∴ ∴ IOHN ALLNUTT [ <i>Fig. 72.</i> ] CHURCH : WARDENS : THOS. SWAINE : MADE : IN : 1775	12	2	0#

<sup>1</sup> A. H. Cocks, *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 1897, p. 26.

<sup>2</sup> Examined by the writer, 20th January, 1951.

The treble is by Robert Wells I, of Aldbourne, Wiltshire ; the second, and tenor are by Thomas Swaine, of Longford, Middlesex ; the third is by R. Taylor and Sons, of Oxford ; and the fourth and fifth are by Richard Keene, of Woodstock, Oxfordshire, who either cast, or recast the complete ring in 1675.

Wells placed the inscription above the sound-bow of the treble in characteristic Aldbourne foundry style. Below the founder's marks, Fig. 72, in each instance on the second and tenor is a scroll bearing the words :

T. SWAINE FECIT.

Incised in the waist of the fifth is :

A. LOUGH. / C.W. / 1893.

The treble and third have had their strike-notes sharpened by means of the removal of portions of their rims ; the strike-notes of the others have been flattened.

The first five bells have their canons intact. The tenor has lost its canons and with them a portion of its crown to which they were cast. This leaves a hole in the top of the bell approximately 15 inches by 13 inches. Holes have been drilled in the remaining portion of the crown for the purpose of bolting the bell to its headstock : the lower parts of the bolts pass through a circular wrought iron ring which has been fitted inside the crown of the bell to support its weight.

The oak frame is composed of heads, cills and braces ; it was originally made for five bells, which implies that Richard Keene cast a ring of that number in 1675. The bells are now fitted with elm headstocks, hoop gudgeons, brass bearings, traditional-type wheels, clappers, stays and sliders : these fittings were supplied at various dates by members of the White family.

The 1552 Inventory states: *fourre belles in the towre A sance bell fourre sacrynge belles.*

*Visited :*

F.S., 12th April, 1941.

## 216.

## SWALLOWFIELD.

*All Saints.*

Ring of Five Bells ; tenor 36½ inches in diameter.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	1660	3	3	0#
Second.	1660	4	3	0#
Third.	JAMES HEWETT CHURCH WARDEN. 1771 PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT ( <i>Whitechapel foundry loop border.</i> )	5	2	0#
Fourth.	1660	6	2	0#

Tenor.      · JOHN · WARNER · FOUNDER · OF · LON-      8    o    o#  
                  DON · 1788 · JAMES · SIMONDS & THOMAS  
                  · HEWETT · CHURCH · WARDENS

The treble, second and fourth were cast at the Reading foundry and are inscribed with numerals like those on the third bell at Caversham.<sup>1</sup> The third was cast at the Whitechapel foundry, and the tenor is by John Warner. On the latter is the figure of a head within a wreath, also found at Finchampstead, and the obverse and reverse of two coins of George III. The canons of the third are partially broken : those of the other bells are intact.

The writer has not personally examined these bells and is greatly indebted to Mr. R. Clousten for an excellent set of notes from which the foregoing account was compiled. The frame and gear were not in good order when he inspected the bells.

*Visited :*

R.C., 5th July, 1945.

*(To be continued.)*

<sup>1</sup> Illustrated on p. 19, of *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XLIV, 1940, Part I.