

The Church Bells of Berkshire

PART XIV.

By FREDERICK SHARPE, F.S.A.

217.

THATCHAM.

St. Mary.

Ring of Eight Bells; tenor 43 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, in F; and a Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription</i>	<i>Weight.</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>		
Treble.	CAST 1929 (<i>Border.</i>) / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) / L. CHAMBERLAINE ★ VICAR / W. ROWLES W. DRAPER H. H. BROOKS } WARDENS	4	3	1
Second.	CAST 1929 (<i>Border.</i>) / (<i>Loughborough foundry mark.</i>) / A. S. B. TULL / HIGH SHERIFF OF BERKS / A. H. C. FARGUS CHAPLAIN	4	3	16
Third.	X AS TREBXL BE GXN	5	2	10
Fourth.	X AS SECOND WXLL SXNG / VK GH RE	6	0	4
Fifth.	X AS THXRD WXL RXNG (<i>Matrice of letter "A".</i>)	6	2	5
Sixth.	X AS FORTH XN MY PLACE (<i>Matrice of letter "E".</i>)	7	2	25
Seventh.	X AS FXFT WXL SOVND (<i>Matrice of letter "S".</i>)	10	1	6
Tenor.	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1821 (<i>Loop ornament, Fig. 14.</i>) THE REV. JOSEPH LOWTHIAN VICAR. (<i>Loop ornament, Fig. 14.</i>) / JOHN BLAY / RICHARD TULL / Wm. NORTHWAY } CHURCH WARDENS.	13	0	23

The treble and second were added to the ring in 1929 by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and were cast without canons. The next five bells are the survivors of a ring of six, cast at the Reading foundry by Ellis Knight in 1624. The initials on the fourth, formerly the second of the old ring, are those of Vincent Knight, Giles Hatt and Robert Emans, churchwardens in 1624. The tenor was recast at the White-chapel foundry in 1821. The six largest bells have lost their canons. The former tenor doubtless bore the inscription:

X AS TENOR HVM ALL ROVND

The bells hang in a cast iron side pattern frame installed by Messrs. Taylor, in 1929. The gear includes cast iron headstocks, fixed steel gudgeons, self-aligning ball bearings, "Hastings" type stays, and traditional-type wheels.

The saunce has been recast twice within the past 72 years. The present bell is 12 inches in diameter, and bears the inscription:

(*Loughborough foundry mark.*) RECAST 1929 / ✠ SACERDOTES
UI INDUANTUR JUSTITIAI A : D. 1882.

Before 1882 it was inscribed:¹

ROBERT WELLS ALBORNE² FECIT 1765

The Parish Account book contains many entries relating to the bells. Extracts from it have been quoted by Barfield,³ and some of the more interesting entries are appended:

1566-7.		
Payd for mending the staple ⁴ of the bell	viijs.	ivd.
1568-9.		
Itm payd for mendyng of the bell whyll		jd.
1572-3.		
Itm. payd when the bellfounder came to lock upon the bell to make him drynge		ijd.
1575-6.		
For houlling ⁵ of ye clapper of ye great bell	viijs.	
1583-4.		
(Receipts.) Item for theolde ⁶ bell frame	vjs.	viijd.
Item gathered in the parish towards macking ⁷ of the bell frame] ⁸	iiijli.	iijs. ijd.
1587-8.		
Item laide owte for our charges at Reading aboute the bells	viijs.	iijd.
Item pd to the carpenters and other chardges abowte the taking downe of the bells	xjs.	xjd.
Item pd. to Nicolas Bushnell for carriing the great bell at Reading	vjs.	viijd.
Item to Stephen Knight for the carriage of the other bells to Reading	vjs.	viijd.
Item laide owte abowte the hanging up of the bells	ijs.	ixd.
Ite. pd for the bellfounder's dinner		vd.
1592-3.		
Item for carriage of the bell forth and home	viijs.	vjd.
Item moreover the church is indebted for the casinge of a bell	xxvjs.	viijd.
1594-5.		
It. pd William Smithe for buildinge the bellofte	xxxxs.	

¹ Walters' *MS.* fol. 140. Society of Antiquaries Library.

² *Sic.*

³ Barfield, *History of Thatcham*, Vol. I, pp. 129-130. Vol. II, pp. 95, 100 and 128.

⁴ It may safely be assumed that the original crown staple broke and that a false one was fitted.

⁵ "Houlling", probably "re-balling".

⁶ *Sic.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ The bells were rehung in a new frame 1583-1588.

1598-9.

Item pd to Richard Smith for the takeinge down the greate bell and hanginge him up	vs.
Item pd for the carriag of him to Newbery and home againe	iijs.
Item pd for bread and drinck to the helpers to get downe the bell and help him up againe	ijs. iiij <i>d.</i>
downe the bell and help him up againe	ijs. iiij <i>d.</i>
Item our chardges at the casting of the bell in the morning	xx <i>d.</i>
Item at night after the castinge of the bell	ijs. vj <i>d.</i>
Item pd Calley for making an obligacon	vj <i>d.</i>

1601-2.

It. our chardges in the morning and evening when the bell was cast	vs. ijd.
It. pd. for our drincking when we agreed with the bellfounder and for making the bond	xij <i>d.</i>
Item to William Pigion for trussing of the bells and for a plate	xvj <i>d.</i>
It. certaine chardges laide owte at the castinge of the bell	iijs. iiij <i>d.</i>

1611-12.

It. pd for mendinge a bell clapper	ijs.
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1614-15.

Item to Richard Smith for a rayle to the pulpitt and trussing ¹ the bells	ijs.
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1619-20.

Item to Fulbrooke for keping the belles and for roopes and boderikes ²	xxs.
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1620-21.

Item for cariage of the 3 belles backe and forthe to Reading	xxvijs.
Item for charges and expenses at the casting of the belles	xxxiijs. ijd.
Item to Richard Smith for the bell frame	viiij <i>li.</i>
Item to Richard Payne for 2 ire woorke for the belles and frame	iiij <i>li.</i> xiijs. vij <i>d.</i>
Item expenses for helping down the belles and setting them up	ijs. vj <i>d.</i>
Item expenses for tryal of the belles	ijs. xij <i>d.</i>
Item expenses for tryal of the belles	ijs.
Item expenses for Emes and Harris for their judgement in the bell frames	xvii <i>d.</i>
Item for Bosleyes charges for the like	xvii <i>d.</i>
Item to ringers for the bell founders hearing them	xij <i>d.</i>

From these entries it appears that a great deal of unsatisfactory work was done between the years 1583 and 1621. The following entries refer to Ellis Knight's ring of six bells, five of which remain in the tower today:

1624-5.

Item expenses on the bellfounder	xvj <i>d.</i>
Item given in earnest to the bellfounder	xij <i>d.</i>
Item expenses on the bellfounder	vj <i>d.</i>
Item expenses at the casting the fowre belles	xiijs. vij <i>d.</i>

¹ Trussing—re-securing the bells to timber headstocks by means of nailed straps.

² Boderikes—baldricks.

Item expenses at the casting of the two belles	xvjd.
Item expenses at the fetching home of the belles	ixs. iijd.
Item for carying the belles to Reading	xij.
Item for bringing them home	xvs.
Item expenses on the bell founder	xij.
Item expenses when the bell was hewen ¹	ijs.
Item to Wheeler for worke about the Tennor	xviij.

Visited :

F.S., 26th August, 1950.

218.

THEALE.

The Holy Trinity.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 42½ inches in diameter, in F sharp.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1868.	5	1	23
Second.	(<i>Same as treble.</i>)	5	3	13
Third.	(<i>The same.</i>)	6	3	19
Fourth.	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1829.	8	0	0#
Fifth.	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1828 (<i>Loop ornament.</i>)	10	0	0#
Tenor.	(<i>Same as fourth.</i>)	13	0	0#

A complete ring from the Whitechapel foundry, but of different dates. The bells hang in an oak frame, in which the treble pit has been placed slightly above the others. The gear includes elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels.

Visited :

M.L.S., F.S., 7th August, 1945.

219.

TIDMARSH.

St. Laurence.

Ring of Three Bells; tenor 30 inches in diameter, in B.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	JOHN KNIGHT C W SAMVEL KNIGHT B 1687	3	0	0#
Second.	LOVE GOD 1649	4	0	0#
Tenor.	(<i>Chertsey Arms, Fig. 7.</i>) <i>ſit no men dni hene dir tum</i>	5	0	0#

The treble is by Samuel Knight, of Reading, 1687; the letter "B" after his name is probably intended to denote "bellfounder"; the letters "C.W." indicate "church warden". The lettering and mouldings on the second are the well-known ones used by Ellis Knight I who seldom placed his name or founder's marks on bells

¹ Hewen i.e. tuned.

cast during the Civil War, or interregnum. The tenor is by the predecessor of John Saunders, of Reading, circa 1510, and is similar to the second bell at Hurley.¹ The bell is illustrated on Plate XXXVI.

The three bells retain their canons and have not been quarter-turned. Their strike notes are tuned in the Dorian mode. False clapper staples are fitted to the treble and tenor. The latter has moulded canons.

The bells hang in an oak braced-king-post frame, consisting of short frame heads, cills, king posts, main and jack braces, partly of medieval date, on which has been superimposed another set of moulded frame heads of seventeenth century type. The original frame once had rope transomes fixed to the main braces, but the transomes have been removed.

The headstock of the treble is of the same date as the bell; it has drive-in type gudgeons and keyed ironwork. The other two bells also have elm headstocks but of slightly later date, and these are fitted with strap gudgeons. The bell wheels are of unorthodox type: that on the second has been converted from a former half-wheel. The treble clapper is original, but has been repaired.

Visited:

F.M.U., F.S., 17th August, 1946.

220.

TILEHURST.

St. Michael.

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

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription</i>	<i>Weight</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1885. / IN CALEDONIS AFEXANONI MEM- ORIAM / CONNUBALIS QUE PEA XL ANNOS / FELICITAS ME ET SOROREM MEAM DD VIDUA EJUS CAROLINA.	6	0	4
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1885. / CALEDON DU PRE ALEXANDER OBIIT XVIII ^{mo} DIE QUINT A.D. 1884. AETAT LXVI	6	1	11
Third.	CANTATE ² DOMINO ² CANTICUM ² NOVUM ³ HENREY ³ BAGLEY ³ MADE ³ MEE ³ ANNO- DOMINI ³ J723 (² and ³)	7	1	10

¹ *Berks. Arch. Journ.* XLVI (1942) Part I, p. 14, and Fig. 88.

² Ornamental border, *Oxfordshire Record Society*, Vol. XXVIII, p. 55, Fig. F1.

³ *Ibid.*, Vol. XXX, p. 331, Fig. Q13.

Fourth.	THOMAS ³ STEVENS ³ WILLIAM ³ BOULT ³ CHURCH ³ WARDENS ³ HENERY ³ BAGLEY ³ MADE ³ MEE ³ J723 ⁴	8	o	14
Fifth.	BLESSED ¹ BE ¹ THE ¹ NAME ¹ OF ¹ THE ¹ LORD ¹ HENRY ¹ BAGLEY ¹ MADE ¹ MEE ¹ IN ¹ YE ¹ YER ¹ OF ¹ OVR ¹ LORD ¹ J723 ¹	9	I	10
Sixth.	THOMAS ⁴ STEVENS ⁴ WILLIAM ⁴ BOULT ² CHURCH ⁴ WARDENS ² H ² B ² J723 ² ²	10	o	o#
Seventh.	WILLIAM ¹ COWDEROY ¹ WILLIAM ¹ KNIGHT ⁴ BE ¹ IT ¹ KNOWNE ¹ TO ² ² ² / ALL ¹ THAT ¹ DO ¹ ME ¹ SEE ¹ THAT ¹ H ¹ B ¹ OF ¹ READING ¹ MA ¹ ME ¹ INY ^{EY} RL ^R J723.	13	o	o#
Tenor.	(<i>Arabesque border</i> , ⁴ , <i>all round bell</i> .) / THOMAS ³ WALKER ³ RECTOR ³ THOMAS ³ STEVENS ³ WILLIAM ³ BOULT ³ CHURCH ³ WARDENS ¹ / BE ¹ IT ¹ KNOWNE ¹ TO ¹ ALL ¹ THAT ¹ HEARE ¹ ME ¹ SINGE ¹ THAT ¹ H ¹ BAGLEY ¹ OF ³ READING ³ MA ³ THIS ³ RING / (<i>Royal Arms</i> .) / WHEN ¹ I ¹ RING ¹ OR ¹ TOLL ¹ MY ¹ VOICE ¹ IS ¹ SPENT ¹ THAT ¹ MEN ¹ MAY ¹ COME ¹ AND ¹ HEARE ¹ GODS ¹ WORD ¹ AND ¹ SO ¹ REPENT ¹ YE ¹ LORDS ¹ NAME ¹ BE ¹ PRAISED ¹ J723 ⁴	18	o	o#

The treble and second were cast at the Whitechapel foundry and added to the ring in 1885. The six largest bells were cast by Henry Bagley III, of Chacombe, Northamptonshire, while temporarily residing at Reading in 1723.

All the bells retain their canons. The six Bagley bells have been quarter-turned. The tenor is a maiden casting; the fourth has been sharpened by means of the removal of a considerable portion of its lip; and the others have had their strike-notes flattened.

The oak frame and most of the gear date from 1885 and are the work of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, who also installed new gudgeons and self-aligning ball bearings in 1937.

Visited:

F.S., 2nd October, 1954.

¹ Ornamental border, *Oxfordshire Record Society*, Vol. XXVIII, p. 55, Fig. F1.

² *Ibid*, Vol. XXX, p. 331, Fig. Q13.

³ *Ibid*, Vol. XXVIII, p. 15, Fig. A9.

⁴ *Ibid*, Vol. XXXII, p. 461, Fig. V2.

221.

TILEHURST.

St. George.

The church was erected in 1882 and possesses one bell, hung for chiming, in an eastern turret. The writer regrets he has been unable to procure the necessary ladders needed to examine the bell, but it appears to be a nineteenth century casting.

222.

TUBNEY.

St. Laurence.

An open western turret containing a chime of two small bells. The writer has not examined these bells but is informed by Mr. Richard White, of Appleton, that they were cast by Messrs. Charles and George Mears, of the Whitechapel foundry, about the middle of the nineteenth century, and that they were hung in the turret by his grandfather, Alfred White.

223.

TWYFORD.

St. Mary.

Ring of Eight Bells; tenor 42½ inches in diameter, in F sharp; and a Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / TO THE HONOUR AND GLORY OF GOD MOST HIGH, / THIS PEAL ¹ OF EIGHT BELLS WAS PLACED IN THE / PARISH CHURCH OF TWYFORD, IN BERKSHIRE, / IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1913.	3	3	22
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1913. (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / MAY GOD BLESS ALL / WHOM WE DO CALL.	4	0	26
Third.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1913. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / IN MEMORY OF FATHER, MOTHER, SISTERS AND BROTHERS, / AND IN GRATITUDE FOR MANY MERCIES, THIS BELL WAS / GIVEN BY MARY HEDGES.	5	0	0
Fourth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1913. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / HEAR MY PRAYER, O GOD.	5	1	26

¹ *Sic.*

Fifth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1913. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / NOW AT LENGTH OUR BELLS ARE MOUNTED, / IN THEIR HOLY PLACE ON HIGH, / EVER TO FULFIL THEIR MISSION, / MIDWAY TWIXT THE EARTH AND SKY.	6	0	26
Sixth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1913. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST.	7	3	4
Seventh.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1913. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / IN MEMORY OF HENRY VEREY, AND / ANNE PATIENCE HIS WIFE, THIS BELL / WAS GIVEN BY THEIR CHILDREN, / GRAND CHILDREN AND GREAT GRAND CHILDREN.	9	2	12
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1913. / TO COMMEMORATE THE CORON- ATION OF KING GEORGE THE FIFTH / THIS BELL WAS GIVEN BY MANY PARISHIONERS. / GOD SAVE THE KING. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>)	12	0	10

A complete ring from the Whitechapel foundry. All the bells have "Doncaster" pattern heads, and are fitted with cast iron headstocks, fixed steel gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional type wheels, clappers and other gear: they hang in a cast iron side-pattern frame also installed by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

The sanctus bell hangs in a bell cote above the eastern gable of the nave. It is of late nineteenth century shape, and when viewed from the churchyard appears to bear no inscription.

Visited:

F.S., October, 1954.

224.

UFFINGTON.

St. Mary.

Ring of Five Bells; tenor 45 inches diameter, in E.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	JOHN THATCHER & ANTY. MUNDY CH. WARDENS :: JAMES WELLS FECIT 1803	5	2	0#
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1886. / LAUDO DEUM VERUM. / PLEBEM VOCO CONGREGUM CLERUM. / H. P. GURNEY, VICAR. / ISAAC WHEELER, / GEO: JEFFERIES, } CHURCHWARDENS. /	6	0	26

Third.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / THIS BELL PRESENTED BY JAS: WARREN, MERCHANT, OF LONDON, / TO THE PARISH OF UFFINGTON. / H. P. GURNEY, VICAR. / JOHN THATCHER, / ISAAC WHEELER, } CHURCHWARDENS, 1867.	8	3	24
Fourth.	IAMES : MUNDY : CHURCHWARDEN : R : WELLS : OF. ALDBOURNE : FECIT : MDCCLXX :	11	1	0#
Tenor.	MR. IOHN LOCKEY & Wm; MUNDAY CHURCHWARDENS T [<i>Fig. 31.</i>] R 1762 ::::: : : : : :	15	0	0#

The treble is by James Wells, of Aldbourne, 1803; the second and third by Mears and Stainbank, dated 1886 and 1867 respectively; the fourth by Robert Wells I, of Aldbourne, 1770; and the tenor by Thomas Rudhall, of Gloucester, 1762. All the bells retain their canons. The fourth and tenor have been quarter-turned. The Aldbourne bells have their inscriptions on their sound bows.

The bells hang in an oak frame, having an anti-clockwise rope-circle. The second, fourth and tenor swing side-by-side; at right angles to them on one side is the treble pit, and on the other side is the pit of the third bell. The gear is of traditional pattern and includes elm headstocks, hoop gudgeons, and brass bearings.

Visited :

M.L.S., F.S., 31st July, 1937.

225.

UFTON NERVET.

St. Peter.

Ring of Four Bells; tenor 28 inches in diameter.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	FEARE GOD 1650 / RECAST A.D. 1919. / DOMINUS BENEDICET POPULO SUO IN PACE. / A. E. BRISCO-OWEN, M.A., F.R.A.S., RECTOR.	2	1	0#
Second.	LOVE THE LORD 1650	2	3	0#
Third.	LOVE GOD 1642	3	2	0#
Tenor.	FEARE GOD X633	4	2	0#

A ring by Ellis Knight I of Reading, cast in the years 1633, 1642 and 1650, of which the treble was recast in 1919. All the bells have been quarter-turned; the two largest have false clapper staples. The bells hang in an oak frame erected *circa* 1862; the bell gear was renewed by Richard White, of Appleton *circa* 1935. The tenor bell is illustrated on Plate XXXVII.

Visited :

F.M.U., 12th July, 1941.

226.

UPTON.

St. Mary.

In an open western turret is one bell, 13½ inches in diameter, hung for chiming. It was examined by the late H. B. Walters, who states that it bears the date "1747", and is the work of Thomas Lester, of the Whitechapel foundry¹.

The inventories of 1552 give: *Upton chapell. ij smalle belles.*

227.

WALLINGFORD.

All Hallows.

The church was destroyed during the siege of Wallingford in 1643, and the parish annexed to that of St. Mary the More.

The Commissioners' Inventories made on August 6th, 1552, state:— *All Sanctes in Wallyngforde two belles. Also two small belles callid sackeringe belles.* Another entry gives:— *All Haloes ij belles and ij smalle belles.*

228.

WALLINGFORD.

St. Leonard.

One bell, 29½ inches in diameter, strike-note D natural, weighing 4 cwt. 3 qrs. 26 lb., hung for ringing.

The bell was cast at the Loughborough foundry and bears the inscription:

	Taylor & Co.	★	Loughborough	
★	Founders	★	1808	★

Visited:

F.M.U., 20th June, 1942.

From the Walters MS.² we learn that the former bell was by Thomas Swaine, of Longford, Middlesex. Its diameter was 20 inches; it weighed approximately 1½ cwt., and was inscribed:

T SWAINE FECIT J78J ∴ (*Founder's mark, Fig. 72.*)

In the Middle Ages the church possessed a ring of three bells. The Commissioners' inventory, dated 2nd August, 1552, states:

St. Leonard in Wallyngforde, three belles.

Another entry under the date 30th September, states:
ijj belles.

¹ Walters' MS., fol. 145, Society of Antiquaries Library.

² Ibid, fol. 147.

229.

WALLINGFORD.

St. Mary le More.

Ring of Eight Bells; tenor 48 inches in diameter, in E flat.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	R : P : FECIT + ¹	5	2	0#
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1887.	5	3	26
Third.	RICHARD PHELPS T: LESTER LONDINI FECIT ² J738	6	2	0#
Fourth.	RICHARD PHELPS THO: LESTER LONDINI FECIT J738	7	2	0#
Fifth.	(<i>Same as fourth.</i>)	8	2	0#
Sixth.	+++ EDWD: WELLS IOSEPH TUCKWELL AUGT: BATT J738 RICHARD PHELPS T: LESTER FECIT	12	0	0#
Seventh.	THE GIFT OF IOHN COTTINGHAM ESQR: & RICHARD TOOVEY GENT : MR RICHARD GOODHALL CH: WARDENS. R : P T : L FECIT J738	15	0	0#
Tenor.	THE GIFT OF S ^R : GEORGE OXENDEN BAR ^T : WILLIAM & ROBERT HUCKS & THOMAS TOWER ESQ ^{RS} : R: PHELPS T: LESTER FECIT J738	21	1	7

A fine toned ring from the Whitechapel foundry during its joint ownership by Richard Phelps and Thomas Lester. The second was recast at the same foundry: the former second bore the same inscription as the third.³ All except the second have been quarter turned.

False clapper staples have been keyed to the crowns of the treble, fifth and tenor, and these three bells have had their strike-notes sharpened slightly; the second and fourth are maiden castings; and the remainder have been flattened in tone. Of particular interest is the seventh, the strike-note and partial-tones of which have been flattened by "fluting". This is clearly seen in Plate XXXVIIIb as is also the method of quarter turning the clapper staple. The tenor bell has an exceptionally fine tone.

The fittings which include elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, brass bearings and traditional type wheels and other gear, are by Mears and Stainbank and date from the time of the rehanging of the ring by them in 1887. The unique frame, illustrated in Plate XXXIX,

¹ Phelps' cross is illustrated in *The Church Bells of Oxfordshire*, Oxfordshire Record Society, Vol. 28, p. 21, Fig. 51.

² Phelps and Lester used the singular in all their inscriptions.

³ *Turner MS.*, Society of Antiquaries Library.

is made of Spanish chestnut, said to have been removed from the castle. It was originally constructed to house six bells, and follows the plan of the mid-seventeenth century frames at Headington, and New College, Oxford¹. To accommodate the augmented ring three smaller pits were constructed within the original treble pit, but at right angles to it: the former bearing holes remain in the frame head. That there were six bells in 1711 is proved by an entry in the vestry minute book giving directions about ringing of the fifth and tenor bells.

The Commissioners' inventory dated 6th August, 1552 states:

St. Mareys in Wallyngforde. three belles in the steple and one sanctus bell.

Visited :

F.M.U., F.S., 20th June, 1942.

229.

WALLINGFORD.

St. Peter.

One bell, 26 inches in diameter, having the strike-note E flat, weighing approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., hung for ringing.

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

PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT 1776 (*Loop ornament.*)

The bell is hung in an oak frame in the base of the spire. It is fitted with an elm headstock, strap gudgeons, brass bearings, traditional-type wheel, stay and slider, and a nineteenth century type clapper.

The medieval church contained a ring of three bells, and other small ones in addition to the ring.

The inventory of 2nd August, 1552 states:

Sainte Peters iij belles and the santuous bell

and another entry gives:

ijj belles ij smalle belles.

Visited :

F.M.U., F.S., 20th June, 1942.

¹ *Oxfordshire Record Society*, Vol. XXX, p. 159.

(*To be continued.*)