

The Church Bells of Berkshire

PART XVI.

By FREDERICK SHARPE, F.S.A.

240. WINDSOR, NEW.

All Saints.

In an open central turret hangs one small bell, weighing not more than one cwt. It is hung for chiming. A close examination of the bell is not possible without the erection of scaffolding.

Visited:

F.M.U., F.S., 9th June 1956.

241. WINDSOR, NEW.

St. Agnes.
(Spital.)

In an open central turret is one bell, weighing approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt., and having the strike-note G sharp. It was cast by Messrs. Warner, and is hung for chiming. It bears the inscription:

J WARNER & SONS LONDON 1871

Visited:

F.M.U., F.S., 9th June 1956.

242. WINDSOR, NEW.

St. Andrew.
(Clewer.)

An account of the ring of six bells was given in *The Berkshire Archæological Journal*, vol. XLIV., (1940) Part I., p. 31.

243. WINDSOR, NEW.

St. John-the-Baptist.

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

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	Lb.
Treble.	THE GIFT OF THE HONOURABLE SAMVEL MASHAM ESQ: COFFERER TO QVEEN ANN 1711	5	0	5
Second.	RICHARD PHELPS MADE ME 1711	5	0	16
Third.	+ R : PHELPS FECIT 1730 + * + *	5	3	15
	+ *			
Fourth.	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1824 (Loop border.)	6	3	19

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Fifth.	JOHN ELDRIDGE RICHARD MORRIS CHRISTOPHER CLARK CHVRCH WARDENS 1711	7	2	20
Sixth.	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1822 (<i>Loop pattern border.</i>)	9	3	9
Seventh.	MESSRS. THOS. PHIPPS HY. COOMES & THOS. BIGG CHURCH WARDENS 1730 RECAST BY T. MEARS OF LONDON 1822: / I AND MY SEVEN SISTERS HERE / WERE GIVEN BY THE COFFERER / WHOSE NAME IF YOU DESIRE TO KNOW / MY ELDEST SISTER WILL IT SHOW	13	0	19
Tenor.	THE GIFT OF SAMUEL MASHAM ESQR. COFFERER TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ANN IN THE YEAR 1711 (<i>Leaf ornament,</i> <i>four times.</i>) / ALEXR. STAPLES THOS. BRYER RICHD. HOPE CHURCH WARDENS NEW CAST 1822 THOS. ADAMS THOS. JENNER WM. LEGH / CHURCH WARDENS T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT	17	2	11

A ring of eight by Richard Phelps of the Whitechapel foundry, 1711, of which the third and seventh were recast by him in 1730; the seventh was again recast, together with the sixth and tenor in 1822 by Thomas Mears II, who in 1824 also recast the fourth, so that only three of Phelps' original octave remain. As testified by their inscriptions the bells were given in 1711 by the Hon. Samuel Masham, Cofferer to Her Majesty, Queen Ann, and husband of Her Majesty's court favourite.

On the treble and fifth bells the letter "N" is reversed in the words: ANN, IOHN, and WARDENS. Phelps' cross, which occurs on the third bell, is illustrated in Fig. B 1 of *The Church Bells of Oxfordshire*.¹

All the bells have had their original crown staples removed, and independent clapper staples are fitted in their place. The five largest have lost their canons, and have been one-eighth turned; the three smallest retain their canons, and have been quarter turned.

The treble and second had their strike-notes sharpened in the eighteenth century by the process known as "skirting", but these notes were flattened again in the present century. The six largest bells had their strike-notes flattened in varying degrees when they were tuned in 1930.

¹Oxfordshire Record Society, vol. 28, p. 21.

The bells hang in a two tier oak frame. The fourth and fifth bells occupy the "rider" frame, or upper tier. The frame dates mainly from 1822, but a few timbers, relics of an earlier frame, have been re-used in it. The treble, second, third and sixth bells swing side-by-side; the fourth and fifth bells swing mouth-to-mouth in the rider frame, as do also the seventh and tenor bells in the main frame below them. The treble, second and third are fitted with elm headstocks and plate gudgeons; the five largest bells have cast iron headstocks with fixed steel gudgeons. All the bells have traditional type wheels, and clappers; but their stays and sliders are of unorthodox type. The frame was restored and the bells rehung in it with new gear by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, in 1930. A portion of it is illustrated in Plate XL.

In addition to their ecclesiastical duties, these bells are rung on "Royal" occasions. A facsimile of a receipt for one of these, dated 26th April 1764 is illustrated in Plate XLI.

The churchwardens accounts contain many references to the bells and payments to the ringers. From these it appears that in the first part of the seventeenth century the church possessed a ring of five bells, and a sanctus bell.¹ These were recast in 1674 by Michael Darby, an itinerant bellfounder,² who is described on this occasion as "of Southwarke". Darby also added a treble to make a ring of six.

1583.

For reparacon of the Steeple, Bells &c. this year £21.11s.6d.

1616.

To ringers at the King's coming Jul. 4 and going Jul. 9 14d.

1630. 29 May.

To ringers for the prince's birth (Later Charles II) 1s. 6d.

1635.

Pd. Wm. Webb for hanging the Saints Bell and the wheel and fastning other bells 0 : 4 : 0.

1661.

Pd. for Bread and beere for ye ringers on Gunpowder treasonday 00 : 03 : 06.

1674.

Agreed with Mr. Darby, Bell founder, of Southwarke for £50, of which he hath received One Pound ffive shillings in pte conditionally, that hee make of the ffive bells, sixe good and tuneable bells: the ffive Hinde bells being equal in their noates with the 5 yt are now in being and to make a new fframe for the treble, to cast new Brasses for all the bells and to be at the chardge of taking them downe, hanging them up, making good all the wheeles defraying all chardges of Ironworke and Carpenters' worke and to secure them for a yeare and a day.

For writing the articles of Agreement betwixt the Bellfounder and us 0. 4. 0.

Spent in beere all that time 0. 3. 6.

For inke and a glasse 0. 0. 3.

¹Described in the accounts as the "Saints" bell.

²See Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Oxfordshire*, Oxfordshire Record Society, vol. XXXII, 1951, p. 342 ff and 348.

For drinke for ye bellfounder's men 0. 1. 0.

For mending the Saints bell 0. 1. 0.

For beere and tobacco to ye Bellfounder's men att ye time of ye Runninge
0. 5. 0.¹

Entries in the accounts for the year 1675 show that the bells were rung for the arrival of Charles II seven times this year.

Among the many peal tablets in the ringing chamber is one which deserves especial mention by reason of its historic interest. It hangs on the east wall of the tower and is inscribed:

THE SOLEMN SWEET HARMONIOUS BELLS,
ALL OTHER MUSIC FAR EXCELLS.
(Bell.)

On Saturday, Sepr. 22d.,
1798, was Rung in
this Steeple in 3
Hours & 14 Minutes,
A true & Compleat
Peal of 5040, or
Whole Peal of
Grandfire Tripples,

by HENRY, SEDGWICK	..	..	..	1
WILLIAM, DARWENT	..	..	..	2
JOSEPH, AVIS	..	..	..	3
RICHARD, BALL	..	..	..	4
JOHN, THOMPSON	..	..	..	5
RICHARD, LOVEGROVE	..	..	..	6
PHILIP, LOVEGROVE	..	..	..	7
WM. WISE & C, PRENTICE	..	..	..	8

And on Sunday Feb.
24th, 1799,
was rung in
this Steeple in 3
Hours & 12 Minutes
A true & Compleat
Peal of 5040, or
Whole Peal of
Grandfire Tripples,

by HENRY, SEDGWICK	..	..	..	1
THOMAS, LEWIN	..	..	..	2
JOSEPH, AVIS	..	..	..	3
RICHARD, BALL	..	..	..	4
JOHN, THOMPSON	..	..	..	5
RICHARD, LOVEGROVE	..	..	..	6
PHILIP, LOVEGROVE	..	..	..	7
WM. WISE & C, PRENTICE	..	..	..	8

¹For transcripts of these entries I am indebted to Mr. F. M. Underhill, F.S.A., and to Mr. L. Stilwell.

Alfo on Sunday Sepr. 15, 1799
 was Rung by the Above Com
 pany in the Steeple at Denham in the County of Bucks,
 A true Peal of 5040, as Above in 3 Hours & 12 Minutes.

Another peal which deserves mention was rung on 21st October, 1899. It was the first Peal of Stedman Triples to be rung on the bells, and was conducted by the Rev. F. E. Robinson, Vicar of Drayton, and founder and first Master of The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. On this occasion the ringers were:

J. J. PARKER	Treble
G. STANBROOK	2
C. GILES	3
H. TUCKER	4
W. NEWELL	5
A. E. REEVES	6
F. E. ROBINSON	7
A. W. HIGGS	Tenor

The peal was completed in 3 hours and 2 minutes.

Visited:

F.M.U., F.S., 9th June 1956.

244.

WINDSOR, NEW.

St. Stephen.
 (Clewer.)

The single bell in this church is inaccessible without the use of scaffolding. It is hung for chiming in an open central turret crowned with a spirelet. When viewed from the churchyard the bell appears to be of mid-nineteenth century shape. Its canons are intact, and it weighs about one cwt.

Visited:

F.S., 9th June 1956.

245.

WINDSOR, NEW.

The Holy Trinity.

A chime of Eight Bells; tenor 35 inches in diameter, in A natural.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>
		<i>Cwt. Qrs. Lb.</i>
Treble.	JOHN TAYLOR & CO., FOUNDERS, LOUGHBOROUGH, 1949. / (Lough- borough foundry mark.)	1 2 13

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	Lb.
Second.	(Same as treble.)	1	3	11
Third.	<i>The same.</i>	2	1	14
Fourth.	<i>The same.</i>	2	3	17
Fifth.	<i>The same.</i>	3	3	11
Sixth.	<i>The same.</i>	4	1	22
Seventh.	<i>The same.</i>	5	3	26
Tenor.	<i>The same.</i>	7	3	15

The bells were cast without canons: they are hung "dead"¹ in a steel frame, and are sounded by means of a clavier. They were installed as a memorial to men of the Household Cavalry.

Before the erection of the chime in 1949, there were four bells in the tower. I am informed by Mr. A. J. Glass, of Windsor, that the diameter of the largest was 35 inches, and that their strike-notes in descending order were respectively G sharp, F sharp, E natural, and B natural. They were thus much thicker castings than the present bells. The old bells bore no inscriptions, founder's marks or dates, and were removed when the new bells were installed.

The writer has not visited this tower, and is greatly indebted to Mr. A. J. Glass, and Messrs. J. Taylor and Company, for information relating to the past and present bells.

246.

WINDSOR, NEW.

The Cemetery Chapel.

The chapel possesses one small bell. It hangs in an enclosed turret, and is inaccessible. It is hung for chiming.

Visited:

F.M.U., F.S., 9th June 1956.

247.

WINDSOR, OLD.

St. Peter.

Ring of Eight Bells; tenor 41½ inches in diameter, in G.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwt.	Qrs.	Lb.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON. / PRESENTED BY J. H. HINDSON, / VICAR OF WAYSBURY, / FORMERLY ASST. CURATE OF THIS PARISH. / A.D. 1890. / "IN FILIO DEI VIS MEA." / T. E. HARWOOD, VICAR. / FRANCIS RICARDO / ROBERT BUTLER } CHURCHWARDENS. 1890.	4	1	21

¹i.e. They are fixed rigid.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON. / TO THE GLORY OF GOD, / AND IN MEMORY OF HER BELOVED HUSBAND, / ARTHUR HENRY MOORE, / THIS BELL WAS GIVEN BY ELLEN MOORE, / A.D. 1890. / "VIVIT POST FUNERA VIRTUS" / T. E. HARWOOD, VICAR. / FRANCIS RICARDO / ROBERT BUTLER} CHURCHWARDENS. 1890.	4	3	26 ¹
Third.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1872. / LAUS TIBI SIT SALVO PRINCIPE, LAETA DEUS. / FEB: XXVII. 1872.	4	2	21
Fourth.	THOS. SWAINE : MADE : US : ALL : IN : 1775 (<i>Founder's</i> mark, Fig. 72.) ²	5	1	0
Fifth.	THOS. SWAINE : FECIT : 1775. RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK, 1890.	6	0	4
Sixth.	THOS : SWAINE : CAST : MEE : THE : JJ : DAY : OF : JANUARY 1775	6	3	0
Seventh.	RICHD WEST : JACOB LINE : OVERSEERS (<i>Fig. 72, twice.</i>) 1775 (<i>Fig. 72.</i>)	8	1	0
Tenor.	EDWARD (<i>Coin.</i>) LAWRENCE (<i>Coin.</i>) JOHN (<i>Coin.</i>) CLOASE (<i>Coin.</i>) CHURCH (<i>Coin.</i>) WARDENS (<i>Coin.</i>) THOS. SWAINE (<i>Founder's</i> mark, Fig. 72.) 1775	11	0	0

A ring of five by Thomas Swaine, of Longford, Middlesex, 1775, to which three smaller bells have been added by the Whitechapel foundry in 1872, and 1890. All the bells have canons of the traditional type. The fourth, sixth, seventh and tenor have been quarter-turned. The sixth is a maiden bell: the others have had their strike-notes flattened. A large piece has been broken out of the crown of the seventh.

The bells hang in an oak frame installed by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, in 1890. They are hung to elm headstocks, fitted with plate gudgeons, and self-aligning ball bearings, and traditional-type

¹The records of the Whitechapel Foundry state: 4 cwt. 3 qrs. 26 lb., but in the town the weight is stated to be 2 lbs. less.

²*Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XLV, 1941, Part I, p. 15. At Windsor below the founder's mark in each instance is a scroll, bearing the words: "T. Swain Fecit."

wheels, clappers, stays and sliders. The gear is of varying dates, and is also the work of the Whitechapel foundry.

Visited:

F.S., 9th June 1956.

St. Luke's mission church in this parish is a small brick building, with a western turret containing one bell.

248.

WINDSOR, OLD.

The Royal Chapel of All Saints.

This chapel was erected in Windsor Park in 1868 at the expense of Her Majesty Queen Victoria for the benefit of the people residing in the park. The writer regrets it has not been possible for him to examine the bells in the chapel. They are two in number and hang in a western turret.¹

249.

WINDSOR, OLD.

The Cemetery Chapel.

The chapel possesses one bell, weighing approximately one cwt., which is hung for chiming in an open turret. The canons of the bell are intact, and it has no upper, or shoulder, inscription band. On its sound bow are the names of its founders, Messrs. J. Warner and Sons, of London. It probably dates from the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and is fitted with an elm headstock, strap gudgeons, and an iron lever.

Visited:

F.S., 9th June 1956.

¹*V.C.H. Berks.*, III, p. 68.

(To be continued.)