

# THE BELLS OF MIDDLESEX

BY THE LATE H. B. WALTERS

It will be seen that the above title now appears over a new name, that of the distinguished campanologist, the late H. B. Walters.

Though it had seemed probable that he had left an account of the Middlesex bells, no confirmation of the suspicion could for a long time be obtained. At length, however, this treatise was run to earth in the library of the Society of Antiquaries, who have most kindly given permission to this society to publish in serial form. Because of its length it has seemed necessary to edit slightly. Accordingly the Edwardian Inventories (published in the last Part of the *Transactions*), the accounts of the bells already treated here, and those of some of the modern churches in the old parishes have been omitted.

## ARCHDEACONRY OF HAMPSTEAD

Deanery of Enfield

EDMONTON. All Saints. 8 + 1 bells.

1. HENRY OWEN D.D. VICAR JOHN TAYLOR & STEPHEN BRAGG CH. WARDENS. 1788

*On waist*:—W. & T. MEARS OF LONDON

	FECIT .. .. .	Diam. 29½ in.
2.	<i>The same</i> .. .. .	30½ in.
3.	S K 1734 .. .. .	32 in.
4.	S ❖ K ❖ 1734 ❖ .. .. .	34 in.
5.	❖SAMVEL KNIGHT ❖ MADE ME ❖ AT STEPNEY ❖1734❖ .. .. .	35½ in.
6.	❖SAMVEL KNIGHT❖ ❖FECIT❖ ❖1734❖	38½ in.
7.	THE · REVEREND WILLIAM ASHBOVRN VICAR : M <sup>R</sup> EDMVND FORD : C · W ❖1734❖ .. .. .	42 in.
8.	MEARS & STAINBANK FOUNDERS LONDON 1866 .. .. .	49 in.
Small bell.	JOHN TUGWELL EDWARD TUCK CHURCH WARDENS. 1812	
	<i>Below</i> :—T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT ..	21 in.

Lines of 1, 2 and 4: 3, 2-2, 3-2. 3, 5, 6, 7: 2, 2-3, 3-2. 8: 2, 2-2, 3-2.

No.	WEIGHTS				
	Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.		
1	5	—	—	approx.	
2	5	2	—	"	
3	6	2	—	"	
4	7	2	—	"	
5	9	—	—	"	
6	10	—	—	"	
7	13	—	—	"	
8	17	—	15	accurately	
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 73	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 15	<hr/> approx.	

In W. Robinson's *History of Edmonton* (1819), p. 64, the inscription on the old tenor is given as:

"Inscription . . . round the great bell:  
 All : you : that : here : me : ring : ring :  
 O : praise : the : Lord : your : King :  
 Sam : Knight, 1734."

In *Church Bells*, 23rd September, 1892, p. 786, the first half of the inscription is given (probably incorrectly) as: ALL YOY THAT HEAR THIS BELL RING RING RING.

The Rev. William Washbourne (not Ashbourn, as on 7th) was vicar 1706–1736; he was a minor canon of St. Paul's, and is buried in the churchyard. The Rev. H. Owen (1776–1795) was also Rector of St. Olave, Hart Street.

See also Sperling, *Church Walks in Middlesex*, p. 121: "six bells" (*sic*); Robinson, *Among the Bells*, p. 385. For ringing records see *Church Bells*, 22nd June, 1872.

Death-Knell without tellers.

ENFIELD. St. Andrew. 8 and a Sanctus bell.

1. *On waist*:—

DOES BATTLE RAGE DO SANGUINE FOES CONTEND WE HAIL  
 THE VICTOR IF HES :

BRITAINS FRIEND MAY GEORGE LONG REIGN WHO NOW THE  
 SCEPTRE SWAYS AND :

BRITISH VALOUR EVER RULE THE SEAS: T. MEARS & SON OF  
 LONDON FECIT 1808 :

Lines 2, 2-3, 3-2      ..      ..      ..      ..      Diam 29½ in.

2. *Incised*:—R<sup>T</sup> DEWS ESQ<sup>R</sup> R<sup>P</sup> LANGFORD ESQ<sup>R</sup> JOSEPH BELL ESQ<sup>R</sup> C<sup>H</sup> WARDENS. 1808.

*On waist*:—THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT.

Lines as 1 .. .. . Diam. 30½ in.

3. R : PHELPS FECIT 1724 ☿ ☿

Lines 3, 2-2, 3-2 .. .. . Diam. 30¾ in.

4. RECAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON. 1886.

*On waist*:—G. H. HODGSON—VICAR.

J. COLLYER	}	CHURCHWARDENS
J. WARREN		
W. J. MITCHELL		

Diam. 33 in.

5. MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON.

*On waist*:—RECAST 1892.

REV<sup>D</sup> G. H. HODSON, VICAR.

C. S. CATLING

J. WARREN

W. J. MITCHELL

}	CHURCHWARDENS.
---	----------------

Diam. 36 in.

- 6-7. R : PHELPS FECIT 1724 ☿ ☿

Diam. 38 and 42¾ in.

8. M<sup>R</sup>: ROB : UDALL D : D : VIC : I<sup>N</sup>: BRIDGES MAT<sup>W</sup>: ATWOOD  
W<sup>M</sup> KIRBY CH : WARDENS RICHARD PHELPS MADE ME  
1724

Lines as 3 .. .. . Weight 19 cwt., Diam. 47 in.

Sanctus Bell:—HENRY HODGE RICHARD IOSEPH WILLIAM  
HVNSDVN RICHARD WRIGHT CHVRCH WARDENS  
WW J680

Lines 2, 3-1, 3-2. .. .. . Diam. 19 in.

At funerals 3 3 for a male, 2 3 for a female, on tenor or, if a child, on treble.

The sanctus bell is or was rung for five minutes before service; it is hung above the rest. Sanctus by William Wightman; the earliest specimen of his work.

Bell-frames dated 1809. Clock strikes on tenor.

The old 4th and 5th were inscribed like the third; see *History of Enfield*, by G. H. Hodson and W. Ford, p. 276. For Ringing Records see *Church Bells*, 22nd June, 1872.

For the Enfield entry in the Edwardian Inventories see *Trans.*

The Rev. Dr. Udall (more correctly Uvedale) was vicar 1721-32. Hennessy *apud* Newcourt gives several variants of the spelling of the name.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

Tenor has been quarter-turned. 4th has angular cannons. The three-quarter wheel of the little bell was broken about 1900.

In 1620 the fees to be paid for knells were as follows:

For one hour's knell of ye 1st bell	6d.,	strangers	12d.
of ye 2nd	8d.,		16d.
of ye 3rd	10d.,		18d.
of ye great	12d.,		24d.

(Hodson and Ford, p. 312.)

The same writers say (p. 277) "No. 4 is cracked from the top down the cannon and requires recasting." (This was done in 1886.) P. 276: No. 7 "is said to contain silver, which no doubt arises from its being the clearest-toned bell in the belfry." No. 8 weighs about 1 ton. See also Robinson, *Hist. of Enfield*, II, p. 2, and History by J. Tripp.

*Customs* (? c. 1900). Sundays: chiming and five-minute bell—ringing on 2nd and 4th Sundays. Five-minute bell for week-day services. Tolling for deaths and funerals with 3 3, 3 2 tellers.

*Peal-boards*. 15th November, 1829. Grandsire Triples, complete peal in 3 hr. 3 min. Sunday, 9th April, 1809. Grandsire Triple 3 hrs. 8 min. Monday, 10th July, 1809. Oxford Treble Bob 5088, "the greatest performance ever achieved on these bells. Wm Williams."

MONKEN HADLEY. St. Mary. 6 + 1 bells.

1. RECAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON. 1876 .. .. .	Diam. 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.
2. <i>The same</i> .. .. .	28 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.
3. SCIANT OMNES ME FASAM AD OPVS ET VSVM VILLE DE HADLEY. 1702 .. ..	30 in.
4. GOD ✕ BLES ✕ QVEEN ANN 1711 ○ ○ ○ ○ CRIS • COOPER : } <i>Below:</i> CHVRCH • WARDENS 32 in. ED • CHANDLER : }	
5. CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1876	35 in.
6. ED CHANDLER RICH HILL C W WAYLETT MADE ME 1714 .. .. .	39 in.
Small bell. No inscription; three lines on shoulder .. .. .	15 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

The treble is *not* a recast; before 1876 there were only four bells. The old treble was inscribed IAMES BARTLETT MADE ME 1681 (diam.  $27\frac{1}{2}$  in.). The fifth was made to supply the place of a bell said to have been sold to High Barnet many years ago: "Old Bishop and old Block sold the bell to buy the clock." In Mr. Tyssen's notes (*c.* 1859) there are only four bells given, with the gap of 32–39 in. between the 3rd and 4th bells. The small bell has a very good tone; cf. that of Harefield. The edges of the old bells are much broken; Warner's bells have angular cannons. (*In pencil*: "new frames.")

See on the bells L.M.A.S. *Trans.* IV. 281 and Cass, *Monken Hadley*, p. 123; where inscriptions on the four old bells and inventories are given.

On the bell-frame:

THIS PEAL OF BELLS  
WITH FRAMEWORK AND FLOORING  
WAS RESTORED

BY VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS

A.D. 1876

FREDERICK CHARLES CASS, M.A., RECTOR.

EDWARD HOLMAN HAY  
RICHARD ALFRED GLOVER } CHURCHWARDENS.

No customs.

The third bell was cast by an unknown founder whose initials were A.K. He also occurs at Hedsor, Bucks; Plaxtol, Kent; and Tatsfield, Surrey. Possibly one of the Knight family. The lettering is small and neat. Fourth bell: founder uncertain. It can hardly be Waylett, who cast the tenor, nor yet Samuel Knight.

SOUTHGATE. Christ Church. (Formerly Weld Chapel, built 1616.) 8 + 1 bells. (Two more were added by Mears and Stainbank 1920. On 1 *sursum corda*, on 2 *sursum corda domino*.)

1.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON ..	Diam.	34 in.
2.	<i>The same</i> .. .. .		35 in.
3.	<i>The same</i> .. .. .		37 in.
4.	<i>The same</i> .. .. .		39 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

5. MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON,  
1872 .. .. . 41 in.

*Incised on waist:*— IN MEMORIAM  
A. G. G.

6. *As* 5, but no date .. .. . 43½ in.

7. *As* 1 .. .. . 46 in.

*Incised on waist:*— WHITSUNDAY, 1874  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD,  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
ARTHUR GEORGE GEORGE,  
THIS & TWO OTHER BELLS ARE DEDICATED  
BY A FEW FRIENDS

8. *As* 1 .. .. . 52 in.

*On waist:*—

“I CALL THE LIVING MOURN THE DEAD  
I TELL WHEN DAYS AND YEARS ARE FLED  
FOR GRIEF AND JOY FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE  
TO HEAVEN MY TUNEFUL VOICE I RAISE”

*Incised:*—

TO THE GLORY OF GOD,  
IN MEMORY OF A BELOVED SON,  
BY HIS MOTHER  
A. GEORGE  
WHITSUNDAY, 1874.


- Small bell (Sanctus) .. .. . 23¾ in.

GOD BE MY GOOD SPEED W & C 1616  
THE GVIFFTE OF THE LADY IOANE BROOKE

The first and second bells were put up in 1879 (*Church Bells*, 10th January, 1880).

Weights:— (1) 7 : 0 : 9 (5) 11 : 2 : 24  
(2) 7 : 2 : 17 (6) 13 : 3 : 2  
(3) 8 : 2 : 0 (7) 17 : 2 : 23  
(4) 10 : 0 : 24 (8) 24 : 3 : 7

(From F. E. Robinson, *Among the Bells*, p. 77.)

Small bell by William Carter, with Thomas Bartlet as foreman (for the mark  cf. Northolt, and Ramsden Crays, Essex); the small Roman capitals were only adopted by Carter in this his last year, and are also found on a mortar by him in the possession of A. G. Hemming, Esq., of the same date; cf. also the old 2nd at St. James, Clerkenwell.

The church is the successor of the Weld Chapel, built in 1616, as a chapelry to Edmonton. In 1859 there were two bells here, according to Mr. Tyssen's notes, the smaller inscribed THO<sup>s</sup> MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1791 (22½ in.) and the larger the present sanctus. See Lysons, *Environs of London*, and Robinson, *Hist. of Edmonton*, p. 122.

The ring of six put up in 1874 was originally cast for Youlgreave, Derbyshire (see *Ringing World*, 10th November, 1911). Death-Knell tolled for old inhabitants; muffled peal on evening of funeral for residents, with age of deceased tolled.

Best thanks to Mr. Miller, Head Ringer.

Deanery of Hampstead

HAMPSTEAD. St. John. 2 bells.

1. T. LESTER MADE ME 

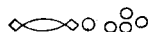
*On waist, incised:—*

THE REV <sup>p</sup> .....	}	MINISTER	}	1747
LANGHORNE.....				
WARREN.....	}	CH=WARDENS		
IN <sup>o</sup> DUTTON.....				
IN <sup>o</sup> IAMES.....				
IA <sup>s</sup> MACKLELLAN...	}	OVERSEERS		
RICH <sup>p</sup> BLYTON.....				

Lines 3, 2-2, 3-2 .. .. . Diam. 25½ in.

2. THE REVEREND LANGHORNE WARREN MINISTER IOHN  
DUTTON & IOHN IAMES C<sup>h</sup> WARDENS & IA<sup>s</sup> MACKLELLAN  
RICH<sup>p</sup> BLYTON OVERSEERS. 1747

*On waist:—* T. LESTER MADE ME

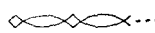


Lines 3, 2-2, 3-2 .. .. . Diam. 44¾ in.

1st is several tones above 2nd; rung before 2nd at services. 2nd rung at all services, at funerals, etc. At funerals: 3 × 3 m., 3 × 2 f., 3 × 1 ch. before tolling: no age. The church was rebuilt in 1747, when the bells were put up. The Rev. Langhorne Warren was vicar 1740-1762.

District churches omitted except Well Walk Episcopal Chapel. Erected 1733 or earlier, and now long since destroyed or converted to other purposes. Mrs. White in *Sweet Hampstead and its Associations*, p. 271, states that the bell was inscribed: NEW CHAPEL HAMPSTEAD 1725.

## HENDON. St. Mary. 6 bells.

1. AT PROPER TIMES MY VOICE I'LL RAISE AND SOUND TO  
MY BENEFACTORS PRAISE: LESTER & PACK 1759  
*Incised on waist:—5 × 0 × 26 (Prob.  
cwt., qrs., lbs.) .. .. . Diam. 29¼ in.*
2. GLORIA † DEO † IN † EXCELSIS  
† IE † RM 1637  
*Below: B † E .. .. . 30¼ in.*
3. FEARE GOD 1638 .. .. . 33¾ in.
4. THO<sup>s</sup> MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1802 ... 36¾ in.
5. EDWARD NICOLL MICHAEL COMBES  
CHVRCHWARDENS 1690  
*Below:—IB .. .. . 38½ in.*
6. MR WALTER EARLE VICAR W<sup>m</sup> WADE &  
JN<sup>o</sup> DOWDESWELL CH:WARDENS 1759  
*Below:—LESTER & PACK OF LONDON  
FECIT 00 .. .. . 11 cwt., diam. 45¼ in.*

2nd by Bryan Eldridge, 3rd by Ellis Knight of Reading, 5th by James Bartlett (lip filed away about 1 in.). See North, *Church Bells of Bedfordshire*, p. 207, for a tradition that four bells from Wilshampstead, Beds., were sold here in 1742. See also E. T. Evans, *Hist. of Hendon*, p. 96. The Rev. Walter Earle was Vicar 1756–1772; also Rector of St. Michael, Crooked Lane. In *Notes and Queries*, May, 1902, Mr. St. Clair Baddeley refers to an 18th century bell from Italy now in a church in this parish (? Christchurch or St. John).