

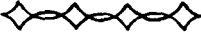
## THE BELLS OF MIDDLESEX

BY THE LATE H. B. WALTERS




## III

Deanery of Holborn

BLOOMSBURY. ST. GEORGE (1715). 1 bell.

1. THOS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1791  Diam. 36½ in.  
*Lines*  $\frac{2, 2}{3, 2}$

HOLBORN. ST. ANDREW. 8 + 1 bells.

1. R: PHELPS FECIT 1731 ... .. 31½ in.  
 2. Inscription defaced. ... .. 32¼ in.  
 3. R: PHELPS FECIT 1731 ... .. 34½ in.  
 4. R: PHELPS MADE ME 1731 ... .. 37 in.  
 5. The same. ... .. 41 in.  
 6. RICHARD PHELPS FECIT 1731 ... .. 43½ in.  
 7. THE REVEREND IEFFERY BARTON L:L:D: RECTOR: R:  
     PHELPS MADE ME 1731  48½ in.  
 8. MESSRS ROBERT WADDILOVE JOSHUA  
     COX CHURCH WARDENS   
     RICHARD PHELPS MADE ME 1731  
     DEO ECCLESIAE REGISQUE CANO LAUDES  54 in.

S. *Robertus* • *mot* • *me* <sup>(a)</sup> *fecit* • 1587 <sup>(b)</sup> 25½ in.

[The bells are no longer in the tower, which was gutted in the Blitz. It has therefore seemed best to leave Walters' pencilled notes on the Sanctus as they stand in the M.S.:— (a) 'anchor', (b) 'trade mark'. At the same time it must be stated that no other *anchor* is known on Mot's bells.]

The Rev. T. M. N. Owen notes (on the authority of Mr. J. R. D. Tyssen): "All by R. Phelps 1731, except 2, which is by Mears (inscription defaced)."

Both single cannons off all except 6th, which retains both, and 7th, which retains one.

Sanctus bell disused; no clapper; but cannons perfect, ornamented with cable pattern. Weight of tenor 28 cwt.

Steeple begun in 1447, and bells originally placed there in 1457 (Malcolm, *Londin. Rediv.* ii, p. 187). Church rebuilt 1687 (part of old tower left). In 1709 (*New View*) "six bells and two more intended." Paterson, *Pietas Londin.* (1714), p. 19, gives 'six bells'. Malcolm (*op. cit.* pp. 186, 197) says the bells used to be rung at the election of a Pope, to which Bentley adds 'how much rather ought they to be rung and rung again for our blessed Prince.'

For Ringing Records see *Church Bells*, 3 Feb., 24-31 Aug. 1872.

1552. The weyght of the bells

The fyrst bell viij c vij li. The second bell xj c x li. The iijde bell xij c. The iiijth bell xvij c xxvj li. Summa of ye hole weight lij c. Itm iiij grete belles & a lyttill bell in ye stepull.

For bells cast here in 1578 see Brit. Mus. Add. MSS. 33206, fol. 14 (Ellacombe). The Rev. W. A. Southgate, curate, writing 30 April 1913 refers to a MS book at the church, compiled by Bentley in 1584, from which we learn that in 1457 four bells were placed in the tower, and these were recast in 1529 (? names and weights recorded). In 1708 there were six bells, with clock-bell by Mot, and the whole ring was recast in 1731.

Jeffery Barton, Rector 1724-1734, was of King's College, Cambridge.

St John Evangt, Red Lion Square (1867). One bell of 2½ cwt by Mears and Stainbank 1878. (This may be the old bell of St James, Duke Place, Aldgate, from the proceeds of which this church was built. If so, it has of course been recast.)

Bedford Row Chapel, afterwards St John, Bedford Row (1720). Now destroyed. The bell is at St James', Hove (see Tyssen, *Church Bells of Sussex*, p. 77). It was inscribed:


R: PHELPS FECIT 1721

At Farrington Market in this parish there is or was a bell inscribed:

SK 1737. Diam. 17 in.

ST GEORGE THE MARTYR (1723). One, and two clock bells.



Clock bells.

1. MEARS AND STAINBANK FOUNDERS LONDON 1878 ... Diam. 17½ in.
2. The same. ... .. 22½ in.  
*Lines* 2, 2  
           3, 2
3. ANNO DOMINI 1743  
*On waist* T. LESTER MADE ME  Weight 6 cwt. 32 in.  
*Lines* 2, 2  
           3, 2

Bells most awkward to reach, the only approach to the belfry being along the ceiling of the church from the west end.

Thanks to Rev. Dacre Craven, formerly Vicar (now of St Andrew, Holborn). [The survey is dated 17 May 1898.]

ST GILES IN THE FIELDS. 8 bells.

1. HENRY GALLY D:D: RECT: THO: COGIN STEPH: LE BAS CH:  
    WARDENS J736 RD: PHELPS FECIT  Diam. 27 in.
2. HEN: GALLY D:D: RECT: THO: COGIN STEPH: LE  
    BAS CH: WARDENS J736 RD: PHELPS MADE ME  27½ in.

3. HONAR GOD **✠635** ... .. 29½ in.
4. PRAYES YE THE LORD CHEARFVLLY **✠635** ... 30 in.
5. HEN: GALLY D:D: RECTOR THOMAS COGIN STEPHEN  
LE BAS CHURCHWARDENS J736 RD: PHELPS MADE  
ME **✠ ✠** ... .. 32½ in.
6. HENRY GALLY D:D: RECTOR THOMAS COGING STEPHEN  
LE BAS CHURCHWARDENS J736 RICHD: PHELPS  
MADE ME **✠ ✠** ... .. 34½ in.
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7. JOHN BAYLEY AND ROBERT SEXTON CHVRCHWARDENS **●** 38½ in.  
**●** WILLIAM AND PHILIP WIGHTMAN MADE MEE **● J685 ●**
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8. THE GIFT OF THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE LADY DVTCHIS OF DVDLEY  
JOHN **●** BAYLEY **●** AND **●** ROBERT **●** SEXTON  
CHVRCHWARDENS **● ● ●** ... .. Weight 16 cwt.  
WILLIAM AND PHILIP WIGHTMAN MADE MEE **J685 ● ● ●**  
43½ in.

3rd and 4th by Ellis Knight.

Church built 1624; 6 bells in 1708, and in 1714 (Paterson, p. 95).

T.R.E. (10 March 1549). "Itm a payre of organs and iij belles with a saunce bell."

Churchwarden's accounts (1547-50): "The accompte of us Henry Amphthyll and John Basely wardens of the church of St Gyles yn the Feildes for foure yeres begynnyng at the feast of thanunciation of our Lady yn the fyrst yere of o.r sov.aigne Lord King Edward the Syxt and endyng at the same feast yn the fourth yere of his Ma.ties said Reigne.

Receptes.

Itm for making of a bell whele ijs. viijd. (See also Wheatley and Cunningham, ii, p. 110.)

Parton in his History of the Parish, p. 191, says: "After the dissolution of the hospital, the ancient partition walls, or screen being removed, the whole church was formed into a parish church, and a new steeple was built with a ring of bells, to accommodate the parishioners." (See also pp. 203, 204.)

"From the Minutes of Vestry, 1617, four persons were appointed by vestry to inspect the account of Mr Bigg concerning the charges of building the steeple and casting the new bells, when £125 19s. 5d., due to him for money expended thereon, was ordered to be paid; and at the next vestry, 'the upper churchwarden was ordered to be assistant to the late churchwarden in the hanging of the said bells in the new steeple.'" (R. Dobie, *The United Parishes*, p. 91.)

In reference to the tenor, given by the Duchess of Dudley, Dobie (p. 100) quotes from the funeral sermon of Dr Boreman on that lady: "Besides all this, she . . . gave the *great bell* in the steeple, which as oft as it rings sounds her praise; and was at the charge of casting and hanging the other five bells." It appears that she gave the original ring of six, of which the tenor was recast by the Wightmans with the old inscription reproduced; she died in 1669. Dr Galley was rector from 1732 to 1769; he was a prebendary of Gloucester and Norwich.

See also B.M. 796, g. 32.

Union Society's Peals, all 5040s: 20 Mar. 1736, 26 Feb. 1738, 1 Nov. 1747, 25 Sept. 1752, 18 Dec. 1757. (See Osborne MSS.)

**BEDFORD CHAPEL** (1771). Destroyed 1896. Formerly one bell. See *Notes and Queries*, 8th Ser. ix. p. 221 (21 Mar. 1896) and 11 Ser. ii. p. 202 (10 Sept. 1910).

*Note.* (1) In order to save space, District Churches without a bell of date earlier than the 19th century have been omitted.