



Church Bells of Berkshire.

II.



ASHBURY.

- (1) Mears and Stainbank : Founders : London.

Henry Miller : M : A : Vicar.

Heber Humfrey, }
James Lawrence, } Churchwardens.

1873.

- (2) H : B : made this ring 1733 Cantate Dommino Canticumnovum*

- (3) Andrew Baden ; William King : Churchwardens, H. B :
1733.

- (4) Andrew Baden William King : Churchwardens, H. B :
1733.

- (5) J. Bowles and R. Warman : Churchwardens.

Revd. W : Chambers : Ano. Dni. M.D.CCC.X.L.V.

- (6) ✠ This bell and the fifth were recast at the expense
of Mrs. Sheppard.

✠ By W. and J. Taylor : Oxon : Ano. Dni. MDCCCX.L.V. ✠
Small Bell. James Wells, Fecit. 1800.

The weight of the Tenor is given as 14 cwt.

The initials H. B. are probably those of H. Baigley.

SHRIVENHAM.

This Church contains the original peal of six bells, no doubt from the Bell Foundry at Aldbourne, owned at that time by the Corrs. The inscriptions are meagre, but round the shoulders of three of them are medallions, as if the moulder had taken impressions on the wet mould from a crown piece of William III.

(1) W. C.

(2) W. C.

†(3) On : Earth : Bells : do : Ring : in : Heaven : Angels :
Sing : Hallelujah. W. C. 1701.

* "Sing a new song unto the Lord."

† The same inscription appears on a bell at Devizes.

- (4) R. C.
 - (5) R. C.
 - (6) George : Greene : Richard : Penn : C. W. R. G. 1701.
- The small bell is plain.

LONGCOTT.

- (1) A. R. 1729. Prosperity to all my Benefactors.
- (2) A. R. 1722. God Preserve the Church of England.
- (3) A. B. R : Rudhall, Bell Founder. 1722.
- (4) A. R. 1722. Peace and good Neighbourhood.
- (5) A. R. 1722. Prosperity to this Parish.
- (6) A. R. John Hewes, Churchwarden. 1722. Weight
13½ cwt.

Small Bell. W : Taylor, Oxford. 1845.

There is a tradition in the village that the old Church Tower fell while the bells were being rung. The bells, three in number, were broken and re-cast into five and placed in the present Tower which was built in 1721 not 1724, as stated by Mr. Parker. Another bell, the first, was added by the inhabitants seven years later who no doubt selected the inscription which appears on it. My informant added, "They do say there was only one poor man in Longcote and Fernham in them days."

The Rudhalls were a noted firm at Gloucester, who cast bells from 1684 to 1828.

The small bell was cast at the expense of Archdeacon Barends, Vicar of Shrivenham, in place of one which was cracked.

UFFINGTON.

- (1) James Wells, Fecit, 1803.
John Thatcher and Ant^r. Mundy, Ch^h. Wardens.
- (2) Mears and Stainbank, Founders, London, 1886.
Laudo Deum Verum Plebem voco Congrego Clerum.
H. P. Gurney, Vicar.
Isaac Wheeler, }
Geo. Jeffries, } Churchwardens.
- (4) Mears and Stainbank, Founders, London.
This bell presented by Jas. Warren, Merchant, of
London, to the Parish of Uffington.
H. P. Gurney, Vicar, 1867.
John Thatcher, }
Isaac Wheeler, } Churchwardens.

- (4) R. Wells, of Aulborne, Fecit : MDCCLXX :
James : Mundy : Churchwarden :
(5) Mr. John Lockey and William Mundy, Churchwardens.
T. R. 1702.

Weight of Tenor, 15 cwts.

W. H. HALLAM.

(To be continued.)

Welford Church Bells and their Inscriptions.

At the date of the general inventories of Church goods there were four bells in Welford Church, of which one was a Sanctus bell. There are now six, including the Priest's bell. They are hung for scientific ringing, though the apparatus is out of order.

INSCRIPTIONS.

- (1) "Blessed be the name of the Lord. Joseph Carter.
1588."
(2) "Henri Knight mad mee. Año 1592."
(3) "Henri Knight made mee. 1619."
(4) "William Webb, George Coxhed, Churchwardens.
G. B. 1661. W. P. W. B."
(5) Tenor Bell. "Missi de Celis, habeo nomen Gabrielis.
1576."
(6) Priest's Bell. "1674."

H. M. BATSON.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, OXFORD.—The history of this Church has been written by Mr. T. G. Jackson, and will be published shortly by the Clarendon Press. The story of the University Church, which was at one time the Senate House, Divinity School, Library, Court House and Treasury of the University, the very centre of its life, is one of surpassing interest, and Mr. Jackson's book will receive a warm welcome from all who love Oxford.