

The Church Bells of Berkshire.

PART VIII.

By FREDERICK SHARPE.

117.

LECKHAMPESTEAD.

St. James.

The present Church was built in 1860, and is equipped with a single bell, hung for chiming, in a central turret. Although the distinct ecclesiastical parish was only formed in 1882 there existed in medieval times a Church, situated about a mile from the village, which possessed bells. The Commissioners' Inventories, dated 4th August, 1552, state:—*Leckhamsted thre belles weinge vij c weighte* The existing bell may have been brought from the former Church, and the author regrets that he has not been able to examine it.

118.

LETCOMBE BASSETT.

St. Michael.

Ring of Three Bells; tenor 29½ inches diameter, in C.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	[Cross Fig. 95] HALE MARI FVE OF GRAS / WK 1576	3	0	0#
Second.	[Cross Fig. 43]. GLORI BE TO GOD ON BI IN EARCH PCS / WK 1576	4	0	0#
Tenor.	o [Fig. 62.] COR [Fig. 62.] J726	5	0	0#

Scale drawings of the inscriptions on the treble and second bells are given in Figs. 92, and 94. Illustrations of portions of these two bells will be found on Plates VIII, and XIII. Both were cast at Reading, in 1576, by William Knight II, and are the only *dated* examples, at present known to campanologists, bearing the lettering illustrated in Figs. 92, and 94. They are thus invaluable as a means of dating two interesting groups of bells which previously had puzzled investigators.¹

Bells by William Knight II fall into three main groups. (A) Bells inscribed in lettering similar to that on the treble at Letcombe Basset, illustrated on Fig. 94.² (B) Bells inscribed

¹ Walter's *Church Bells of Wiltshire*, 278.

² This lettering also occurred on the former tenor at Denchworth. See Plate III.

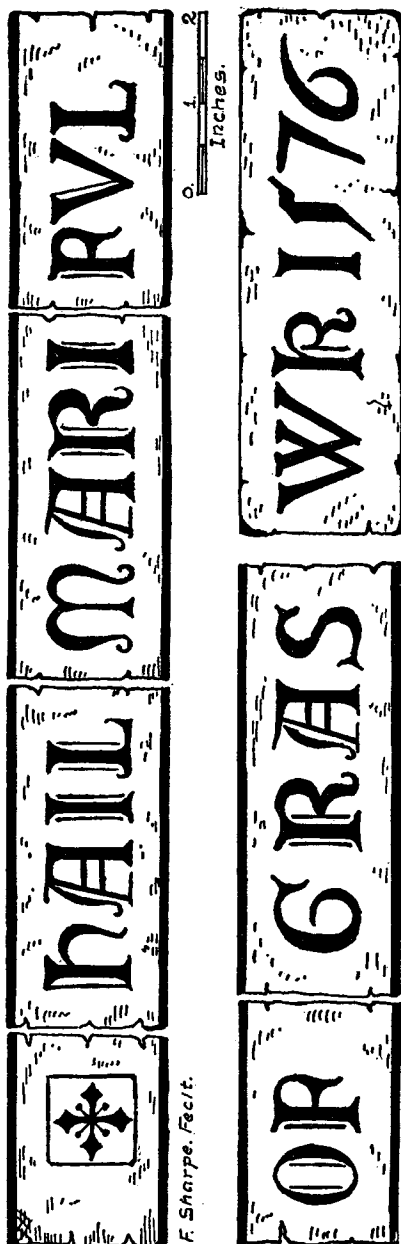


FIG. 94. Inscription on Treble Bell, at Letcombe Bassett, cast by William Knight II of Reading.

in lettering similar to that on the fourth bell at Kintbury, and the second at Letcombe Bassett, illustrated in Fig. 92. (C) Bells inscribed in black letter smalls, as at Shellingford, Tidmarsh, Welford, and Woolhampton, Berkshire.[*q.v.*] William Knight, like other Reading founders, kept up the pre-reformation style in his inscriptions; and, had it not been for the discovery of the dated examples of groups A, and B, at Letcombe Bassett, these might well have been mistaken for pre-reformation castings.

The tenor was cast by Oliver Corr, of Aldbourne. It has eleven moulding wires below the shoulder angle, and its inscription occurs above the sound bow.

The bells hang in an oak frame installed in 1926 by Mr. Richard White, of Appleton, who rehung the bells and supplied new fittings, including elm headstocks, brass bearings, strap gudgeons, traditional type wheels, and clappers. All the bells have their canons intact, and have been quarter-turned.

The former XVIth century half-wheels are preserved in the tower. An illustration of one of these will be found on Plate IX.

Visited :

F.S., 3rd Nov., 1934. F.M.U., F.S., 22nd Feb., 1941.



FIG. 95. Founder's mark used by William Knight, of Reading.

119.

LETCOMBE REGIS.

St. Andrew.

Ring of Six Bells : tenor 35 inches diameter in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	THOMAS GOODLAKE & JOHN STONE CH WARDENS JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN : FECIT 1805,,	3	0	0#
Second.	[<i>As treble, but with five commas after date.</i>]	3	3	0#
Third.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE X620 ◆	4	2	0#
Fourth.	o [Fig. 62.] COR [Fig. 62.] J726	4	3	0#
Fifth.	✠ Joseph Carter made mee 1599	6	0	0#
Tenor.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE X62X ◆	8	0	0#

The treble, second, and fourth were cast at the Aldbourne foundry, and, in each instance, their inscriptions occur above the sound-bow. The remaining bells were cast at Reading; the fifth by Joseph Carter; and the third, and tenor by Henry Knight I. The first four bells have been sharpened, the tenor has been flattened; all have been quarter-turned and have their canons intact.

A new oak frame was installed by Mr. F. White, of Appleton, in 1907. The fittings, which include plate gudgeons, brass bearings, elm headstocks, and traditional-type wheels are also by him, and recently an "Ellacombe" chiming apparatus has been erected by Messrs. J. Taylor & Co.

Visited :

F.S., 3rd Nov. 1934.

120.

LITTLEWICK GREEN.

St. John the Evangelist.

This Church possesses a Chime of Two "Hemispherical Bells" hanging in a western turret. Mr. A. A. Hughes, of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, states that these were supplied by his firm in 1906.

121.

LITTLEWORTH.

The Holy Ascension.

Built in 1839, this Church was equipped with one bell, weighing approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., hung for chiming, in a western turret. When viewed from the ground there appears to be no inscription of any kind on the bell, which is fitted with an elm headstock, and hoop gudgeons, and is swung by means of an iron lever.

Visited :

R.G., F.S., 4th August 1941.

122.

LOCKINGE.

All Saints.

Ring of Four Bells; tenor $36\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, in G; and a Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	PRAYSED BE THY NAME O LORD THAT HAST SENT [Fig. 7.] I578 © / IC [Fig. 6.] IW	4	1	0#
Second.	✠ W: TAYLOR OXFORD FECIT I852 / ✠	5	2	0#

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Third.	[Cross Fig. 95] GOE [Fig. 95] HE [Fig. 95] OVR [Fig. 95] SPYD [Cross Fig. 43] IN [Fig. 95] OVR [Fig. 95] BE [Fig. 95] GYNRYNG / W [Fig. 96] K	7	0	0#
Tenor.	ROBT. WELLS ALDBOURN FECIT J793 [Large roses, and stars, alternating.]	8	2	0#
Sanctus.	ROBT. AND JAS WELLS ALDBOURN FECIT	-	2	0#

The treble is the earliest product, so far discovered, of the famous foundry of Joseph Carter, of Reading. The initials I. W. which occur with Carter's on the bell may be either those of John Welche, mentioned, with Carter, as overseer in the will of W. Knight,¹ or they may stand for John White, Carter's predecessor, from whom he acquired some of his moulding stamps² and plant. Bells with the initials I.C. and IW, with the old Wokingham foundry shield between, also occur at Sparsholt, Berks, and North Waltham, Herts. The lettering on the Lockinge treble, however, is that formerly used by Thomas Lawrence, of London, and illustrated in Fig. 89. Carter was endeavouring to produce the inscription:—

**PRAYSED BE THY NAME O LORD THAT HAST
SENT VS THY HOLY WORD**

but failed here through lack of space.

The second was recast by William Taylor, in 1852. There is no record of its predecessor.

A scale drawing of portion of the inscription on the third bell is given in Fig. 97, where it will be seen that the first D and B in the inscription are upside-down, and that the crosses are identical with those on the treble and second at Letcombe Bassett. The large initials and founder's mark on the waist of the bell are reproduced in Fig. 96. These obviously stand for William Knight, and as the bell is earlier in character than any in the three groups mentioned under the heading Letcombe Bassett I am inclined to assign this bell to William Knight I. Should this be correct, it would be the only known example of his work extant. It will be noted that the lettering on the Lockinge third is the same as that on the fourth bell at Kintbury, and the second at Letcombe Bassett. The bell is illustrated on Plate XX.

¹ Cock's *Church Bells of Bucks.*, 123.

² Notably the Wokingham foundry stamps and lettering.

The tenor was cast by Robert Wells II, of Aldbourne, Wiltshire, in 1793. Its inscription occurs immediately above the soundbow. The sanctus is from the same foundry, and bears the names of both Robert, and James Wells, who owned the foundry from the date of their father's death in 1781, until Robert retired in 1799.

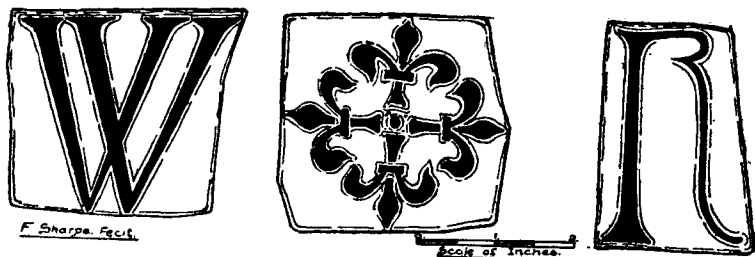


FIG. 96. Founder's initials and mark on the Third Bell of the ring of Four at Lockinge.

With the exception of the sanctus, the bells hang in an oak frame, constructed similarly to that at West Hanney.¹ It bears the date 1620, and has pits for *five* bells. The second largest pit is now vacant, but bears evidence of having once housed a bell: the positions formerly occupied by the bearings being clearly visible. An oral tradition exists in the parish that one of the Lockinge bells was stolen by the neighbouring parish of Ardington, and hung in the tower of the church there.

The bells are fitted with elm headstocks, hoop gudgeons, brass bearings, traditional-type wheels, unique pattern short stays each constructed of two short pieces of ash bolted together at the top, and curious little sliders placed half-way down each bell-pit. The treble and tenor have been quarter-turned, and the clappers of the treble and third are fitted with busk boards.² The canons of the third are missing, and this bell is secured to the headstock by bolts passing through holes drilled in its crown. The sanctus hangs in a frame of its own in the north window of the belfry: it is fitted with an elm headstock, to which its predecessor also hung, and has gudgeons of the drive-in type secured by stock-hoops. It is swung by means of a XVIth century-type half wheel, which appears to be a *copy* of one of that date. The bell is illustrated on Plate XX.

The Commissioners' Inventories, dated 6th August 1552, state:—*ij belles* and another entry has "*twoo belles.*"

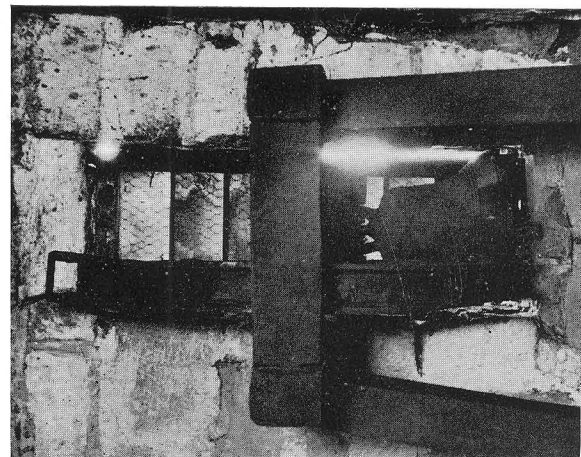
Visited :

R.G., F.S., 8th Feb., 1941.

¹ See Plate XIV.B.

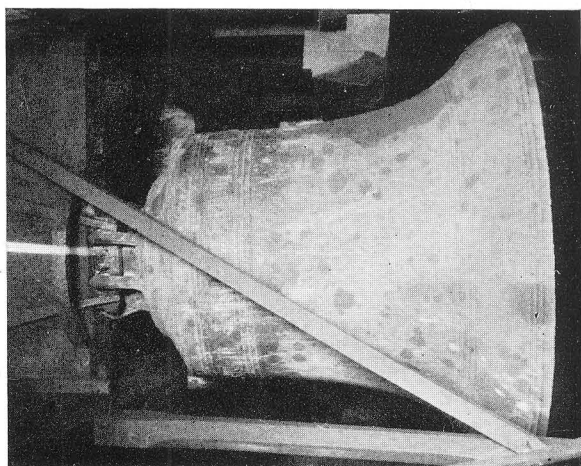
² Illustrated in Fig. 76.

PLATE XX.



A.

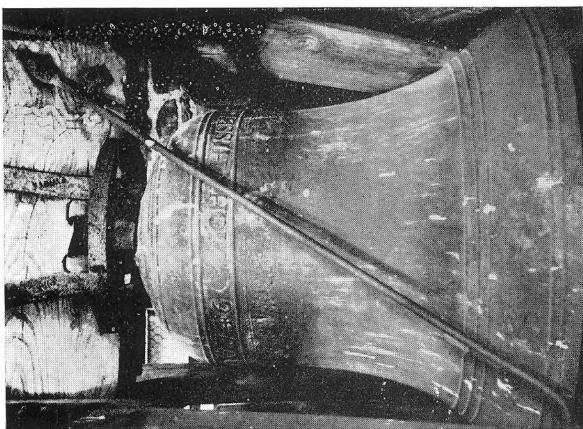
A. The Saunce at Lockinge, cast by Robert and James Wells, of Aldbourne. The frame and fittings are those of its predecessor.



B.

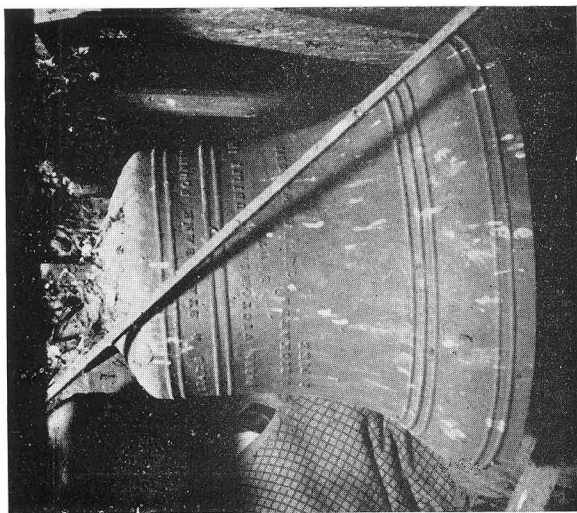
B. The Third Bell of the Ring of Four at Lockinge, probably cast *circa* 1530 by William Knight I, of Reading.

PLATE XXI.



A.

A. The Second Bell of the Ring of Five at Longworth, cast by Henry Bagley III, in 1746.



B.


B. The Treble Bell at Lyford, recast to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, in 1887.

123.

LONGCOT.

St. Mary.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 37 inches diameter, in A flat; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	PROSPERITY TO ALL MY BENEFACTORS:.... A [Fig. 31.] R 1729	4	0	0#
Second.	GOD PRESERVE THE CHVRCH OF ENGLAND ✦ A [Fig. 31.] R 1722 	4	1	0#
Third.	ABR : RVDHALL BELLFOVNDER 1722 :....	5	1	0#
Fourth.	PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOVRHOOD:..... A [Fig. 31.] R :.....	6	0	0#
Fifth.	PROSPERITY TO THIS PARISH:.....	7	0	0#
Tenor.	IOHN HEWES CHVRCHWARDEN 1722 :.... A [Fig. 31.] R :.....	8	2	0#
Sanctus.	JOHN WARNER & SONS, LTD., LONDON, 1909 / 1845 REC. 1909. / B.M.H.VIC. / WHEN I RING I BID ALL COME AND WORSHIP.	-	2	0#

A complete ring from the famous foundry of Abraham Rudhall I, of Gloucester, who cast a ring of five in 1722 to which he added a treble in 1729 to make six. All these bells have their canons remaining, and have been quarter-turned.

The sanctus was recast by Messrs. Warner in 1909. Its predecessor was inscribed :¹ W : TAYLOR OXFORD 1845. This bell was recast at the expense of Archdeacon Bares, Vicar of Shrivenham, in 1845 from the metal of a former bell which was cacked.

The bells hang in an oak frame of XVIIIth century date, which has been constructed so that all the bells swing east-and-west; a feature also found at Ashbury, Berks, [q.v] and Bletchington, Oxon, in frames of the same period. The fittings include elm headstocks, hoop gudgeons, and brass bearings.

Visited :

F.S., 8th Feb., 1936.

124.

LONGWORTH.

St. Mary.

Ring² of Five Bells; tenor 39 inches diameter, in G; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	J. PAINTON & A. BROWN CH. WARDENS. J: WELLS ALDBOURN FECIT 1807 ∴.	4	3	0#

¹ *Berks. Arch. Journ.* II (1896), 84.

² This is described as a *Ring* of bells; but, owing to the decayed state of the bell frame, the bells could not be rung at the time of my visit, in 1940, and were being clocked'

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Second.	JOHN HISSEY SIMON HERBERT CHURCH WARDENS H B J746 © ©	5	2	0#
Third.	I662	6	1	0#
Fourth.	RICHARD KEENE MAD THIS RING I662	7	2	0#
Tenor.	EDWARD SVRBY ANTHONY MANE C W I662	10	0	0#

The sanctus is probably the work of Richard Keene. It is 10 inches in diameter, has no canons, is very square shouldered, and bears no inscription.

The treble was cast by James Wells. It has five moulding wires in place of the normal inscription band: the latter being placed above the sound bow. The lettering is the same as that on Fig. 87. This bell has been very considerably flattened by hand chipping, and appears to have had its strike-note lowered quite a semi-tone. It is now the only bell in the tower not quarter-turned.

The second, one of the latest known examples by Henry Bagley III, formerly of Chacombe, was probably cast at Witney, Oxon.¹ It has a cable moulding all round below the inscription band underneath which is a border of arabesques inverted. The bell is illustrated on Plate XXI.

The three largest bells were cast by Richard Keene, of Woodstock. A scale drawing of the lettering on the fourth is given in Fig. 66. This lettering is a means of identifying a number of bells such as the third, and tenor, here, which bear neither founder's name, nor founder's mark. The letter E in the word MADE on the fourth bell has been blurred. The crown-staple of the third is broken and this bell has a false clapper-staple bolted to its crown. The tenor is a maiden bell.

The oak bell-frame probably dates from 1662, when the ring was installed by Richard Keene. It rests upon earlier foundation beams arranged for a ring of three. The bell rope "circle" is anti-clockwise: a not uncommon feature of XVIIth century bellhanging. The elm headstocks, hoop gudgeons, and other fittings are the work of Mr. F. White, of Appleton, and date from the closing years of the last century.²

Visited :

M.L.S., F.S., 6th April, 1940.

¹ See footnote to Catmore *Berks. Arch. Journ.* XLIV (1940), 19.

² It is most unfortunate that the frame was not renewed at the same time.

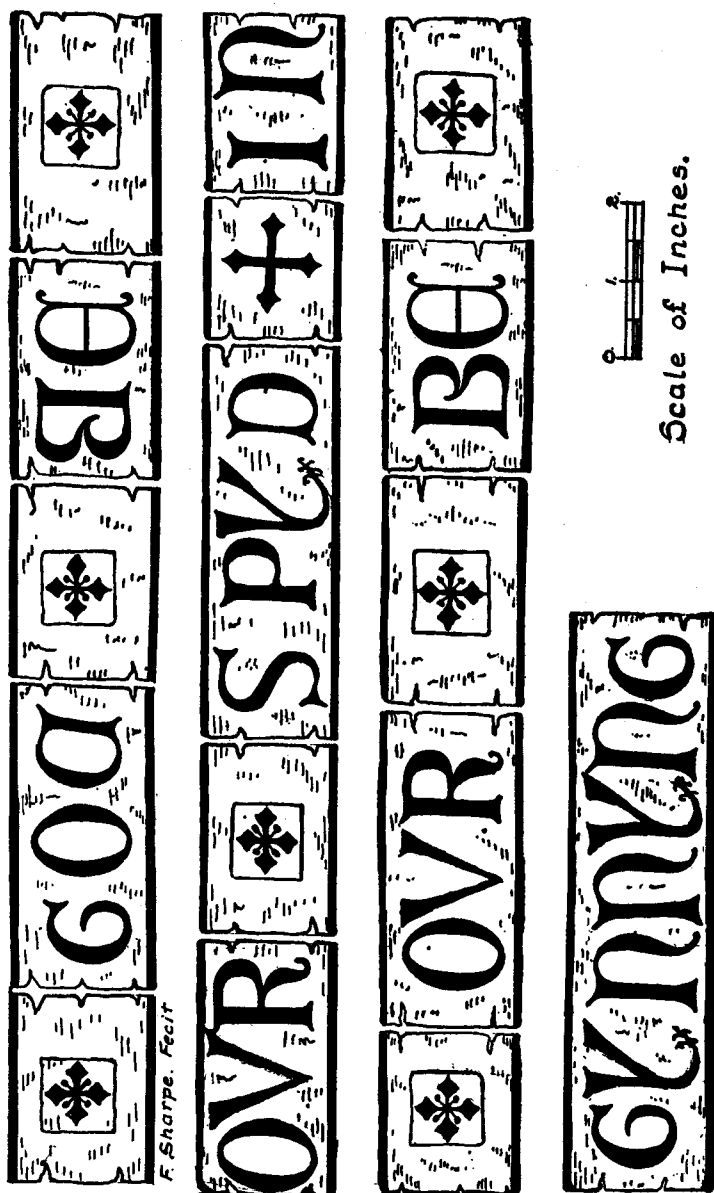


FIG. 97. Portion of inscription on the Third Bell of the Ring of Four, at Lockinge, probably cast by William Knight I, circa 1530.

125.

LYFORD.

*St. Mary.*Ring of Three Bells; tenor $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter in G.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE BELL / 1887. / C. RICKARDS / H. PIKE / CHURCHWARDENS.	1	2	1
Second.	WILLIAM CHURCH. WILLIAM HITCHCOCK C. W. 1671. / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. 1887.	2	0	2
Tenor.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. / DR. M. A. CAMILLERI, VICAR / ORDAINED 1836. / HIS GIFT TO LYFORD, 1886.	2	1	24

A complete ring from the Whitechapel foundry. The strike-notes of these bells have been tuned so that they form the upper three of a ring of four. That there were three bells here prior to 1886 is proved by the Whitechapel foundry records, where the respective weights of the old bells are given as 3 qrs. 24 lbs., 1 cwt., 1 qr. 15 lbs., and 2 cwt. 0 qrs. 26 lbs.

The bells are hung for ringing in a deal frame consisting of heads, cills, and braces. They are fitted with *deal* headstocks, hoop-gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels *also made of deal*. The timber tower in which they hang is constructed on four huge oak uprights at the west end of the nave. Access to the bells was difficult: ladders were procured from a nearby farm, but it was not easy to force open the hatchways, which were covered with many years accumulation of litter, and birds' nests. The treble is illustrated on Plate XXI.

Visited :

F.M.U., R.G., F.S., 19th April 1941.

126.

MAIDENHEAD.

St. Andrew and St. Mary Magdalene.

Two Bells.

The larger bell is 33 inches diameter, and weighs approximately $6\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. It bears the inscription:

T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1825 [*Border Fig. 14.*]

The sanctus is $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter and is inscribed with the date 1825 only. Both bells are from the Whitechapel foundry and are hung for ringing.

Visited :

T.A.T., 8th July, 1880.

127.

MAIDENHEAD.*St. Luke.*

Two Bells.

The larger bell is not hung for ringing or chiming. It bears the inscription :

GILLET BLAND & Co., CROYDON. 1878.

and is the clock bell. Its diameter is $38\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and it weighs approximately half a ton.

The Service bell is $24\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and weighs approximately 3 cwt. It is inscribed :

MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1865.

Visited :

L.H.C. c. 1926.

128.

MAIDENHEAD.*St. Peter.*

This Church, which is situated in Furze Platt, is a chapel-of-ease to St. Luke's. It was consecrated in 1898, and equipped with one bell.

129.

MAIDENHEAD.*Cox Green Mission Church.*

One Bell, hung for chiming, in a turret recently erected in memory of the late Mrs. Alice Muir. When Cox Green Mission Church was built, in 1875, it was furnished with a small bell brought from Boyne Hill School. This bell, having become cracked, another was recently presented to the Church by Mr. F. J. Spear, of "Kilnfield," Cox Green Road, Maidenhead. It is a second-hand bell of good tone, and was formerly in use at a Government Factory, at Pimlico. With the exception of the letters "W.D.," which stand for "War Department," the bell bears no inscription, or date.

Visited :

L.H.C., 4th March, 1940.

130.

MAIDENHEAD.*The Methodist Chapel.*

One Bell, inscribed :

SAMVEL KNIGHT MADE MEE 1703

Mr. F. M. Underhill notes :—"There is little doubt, by the testimony I have obtained from old inhabitants, that this bell was originally the Bray "tingtang," or saunce. The clock strikes the hours on it, and has done so as long as I can remember. I am not sure of the note, because the bell is cracked. It hangs in an open

turret high up on the north wall of the Chapel." Mr. J. H. Walker, [*History of Maidenhead*, 1st Ed. p. 142] states:—"Prior to 1898 the clock outside the building was the one which formerly did duty at Bray Church. The bell in the turret is believed also to have come from Bray."

Visited :

F.M.U., 22nd August, 1939.

131.

MAIDENHEAD.

The Public Library.

One Bell, inscribed :

R W V P 1680

Mr. F. M. Underhill states :—"This bell once hung at Philberts, Bray, and was then probably the clock, or stable bell. Afterwards it went to Cookham School, where it was also used as a fire bell. In the last century there was a tradition that the bell once belonged to the Corporation of Maidenhead, and it was restored to them *circa* 1899."

From details of the lettering, and mouldings on this bell, kindly supplied by Mr. Underhill, I am of the opinion that its founders were Ellis and Henry Knight of Reading.

Visited :

F.M.U., 9th February, 1942.

132.

MARCHAM.

All Saints.

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 35½ inches diameter, in A.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Treble.	C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1855	3	0	10
Second.	JONATHAN WARD & JOHN HILLIER	4	0	0#
	CHURCH WARDENS JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS FECIT 1816 *			
	[<i>Bell</i>] *			
Third.	[<i>Same as second.</i>]	4	2	0#
Fourth.	[<i>The same, but with only one fleur-de-lis after date.</i>]	5	0	0#
Fifth.	[<i>Same as second.</i>]	6	0	0#
Tenor.	[<i>The same.</i>]	8	0	0#

A ring of five from the Aldbourn foundry, 1816, to which a treble was added in 1855, making six. The bells hang in an oak frame which affords evidence of having been constructed originally

for four bells, and the rope "circle" is anti-clockwise.¹ The inscriptions on the Aldbourne bells occur in each instance above the sound-bow.

The Commissioners' Inventories, dated 1552, state:—*fourre bellse A sance belle A hande belle ij sacrynge belles.*

Visited :

Marie R. Cross, 22nd June, 1940.

133.

MARLSTON.

(Dedication unknown)

One Bell ; 17½ inches diameter, note C sharp, weighing approximately 1 cwt. ; inscribed :

PETRVS : DE : WESTON : ME FECIT ✱

A scale drawing of the inscription is given in Fig. 98.

The author has not personally examined this bell, and is greatly indebted to Miss S. Davis, of Bucklebury, and her assistants, for the excellent rubbing, obtained in very difficult circumstances, from which the scale drawing was made. Previous to Miss Davis' visit no one was aware that the turret housed such an interesting and valuable bell.

The inscription occurs on the lower of two bands below the shoulder angle ; the upper being occupied by a typical XIVth century type narrow raised band, details of which are given in Fig. 98. The canons of the bell are intact, and it is hung for chiming only in an open bell-cote.

Peter de Weston was founding in London in the second quarter of the XIVth century, and is first mentioned under date 1328.² Eight years later, he was apparently a citizen in a good position, and, in 1347, he headed the list of members for the Portsoken Ward returned to the first Common Council elected by the Wards.³ He died between August and October, 1347.

Bells by Peter de Weston are rare. Those so far discovered are (1) the clock bell at The Hyde, Ingatestone, Essex ; (2) the third bell at Fairstead, Essex ;⁴ (3) a bell at Kingsbury, Middlesex ; (4) the saunce at Tatternhoe, Bucks.,⁵ (5) the saunce at Ambrosden, Oxon,⁶ and the Marlston bell. Peter de Weston possessed three different sized sets of moulding stamps ; the smallest⁷ occurs at Tatternhoe, and Ambrosden, the largest and

¹ Known to ringers as a *left hand ring*.

² Stahlschmidt, *The Church Bells of Kent*, 15.

³ Cock's *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 9.

⁴ Deedes and Walters, *The Church Bells of Essex*, 8.

⁵ Cock's *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 591.

⁶ Sharpe, *The Church Bells of the Rural Deanery of Bicester*, 8.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Fig. 5, and Plate IV.

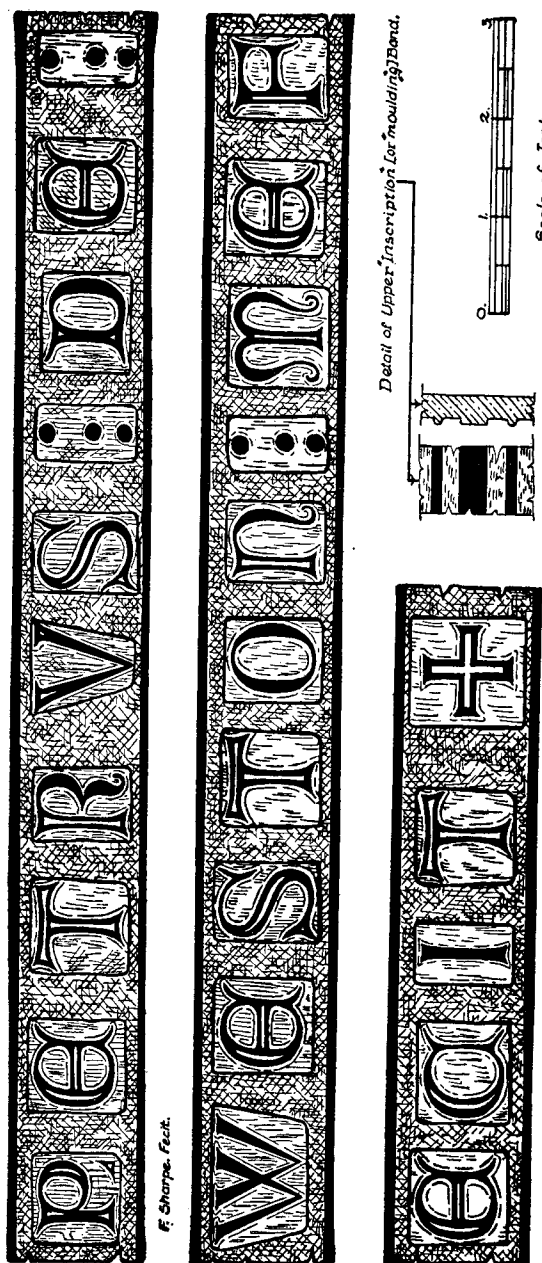


FIG. 98. Inscription on turret Bell at Marlston, cast circa 1336 by Peter de Weston, of London.

most elaborate at Fairstead,¹ and the medium sized set was used for the remainder. All three sets were afterwards used by Peter's successor, William Revel.

The Commissioners' Inventories, dated 4th August 1552, state :—*Marlstone a bell of one hundred wayhgte.*

Visited :

Stella Davis, 17th January, 1943.

134.

MIDGHAM.

St. Matthew.

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 32 inches diameter, in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1898. / PRESENTED BY THE PARISHONERS.	2	I	27
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1870.	2	I	9
Third	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1869.	2	3	10
Fourth.	ELLIS AND HENRY KNIGHT MADE MEE 1674	3	I	0#
Fifth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1898. / PRESENTED BY B. B. GREENE AND FAMILY.	3	3	26
Tenor.	BOWELL, FOUNDER, IPSWICH 1906. / "PRESENTED IN LOVING MEMORY / OF VICTORIA, BY HER GRANDMOTHER, SOPHIE CLARK. / EASTER 1906."	5	I	0#

The present Church was completed in 1869. In the former Church were two bells : the present fourth, by E. and H. Knight 1674, and a smaller bell, inscribed, in small Lombardic capitals,² **A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P**, and dating from the middle of the XVIth century. The latter, being cracked, was recast in 1869,³ and in the following year a treble was added,⁴ making a ring of three in C sharp. In 1898 an effort to add a fourth met with such response that it was found possible to add a treble,⁵ and a tenor,⁶ making a ring of five in B. The present

¹ Deedes and Walters, *The Church Bells of Essex*, 7.

² Similar to those on the treble at Finmere, Oxon. See Sharpe, *Church Bells of the Rural Deanery of Bicester*, 2, and 23. and Cocks, *Church Bells of Bucks*, 190. The founder may have been Vincent Goroway, of Reading.

³ The present third.

⁵ The present treble.

⁴ The present second.

⁶ The present fifth.

tenor was given as a memorial to Miss Victoria Clark in 1906. This bell was cast without canons: the others have canons, and the fourth has been quarter turned. The bell fittings include elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, and brass bearings.

The author has not examined these bells, and the foregoing details have been compiled from notes made by Mr. A. D. Tyssen (1869), the Rev. T. A. Turner (1877). Messrs. Mears & Stainbank (1939), and Miss S. Davis, and Mr. W. Matthews, of Bucklebury (1943), to whom many thanks are due.

135.

MILTON.

St. Blaise.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor $37\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, in A flat.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1906 / "COME TO THY GOD IN TIME / COME TO THY GOD AT LAST."	3	3	3
Second.	16 $\frac{0}{2}$	3	1	0#
Third.	16 $\frac{0}{2}$	4	1	0#
Fourth.	JOSIAH LAMBALL J RICHARD MALLAM (X) CHURCH: WARDENS (X) ROBT. WELLS: ALBOURN (X) 1787 (X)	5	0	0#
Fifth.	RICH KEENE CAST THIS RINGE 16 $\frac{0}{2}$	7	0	0#
Tenor.	FRANCIS YATEMAN ROBERT KEATE C W 16 $\frac{0}{2}$	9	0	0#

Originally a ring of five by Richard Keene, of Woodstock, Oxon, 1682. In each instance the figure 8 is composed of two distinct circles, but otherwise the lettering is the same as that illustrated in Fig. 66. In 1787, the present fourth¹ was recast by Robert Wells, and in 1906 the treble was added to make six. The latter is a much *larger* bell than Keene's original treble.² The inscription on the fourth occurs above the sound bow. The treble, and third have been flattened; the remainder are "maiden" bells. All have canons remaining, and all except the treble have been quarter-turned.

The oak frame is of the simple braced type, probably by Keene in 1682, and then ingeniously arranged with one bell on each side of the tower with the treble swinging diagonally in the centre. When the present treble was added in 1906, an additional frame of *deal* was installed above Keene's treble pit.² The bells are fitted with elm headstocks, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels and gear.

¹ Then the third of the ring of five.

² Now the second of the ring of six.

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PRICE TEN SHILLINGS.

The Church Bells of Berkshire.

PART VIII.

By FREDERICK SHARPE.

117.

LECKHAMPESTEAD.

St. James.

The present Church was built in 1860, and is equipped with a single bell, hung for chiming, in a central turret. Although the distinct ecclesiastical parish was only formed in 1882 there existed in medieval times a Church, situated about a mile from the village, which possessed bells. The Commissioners' Inventories, dated 4th August, 1552, state:—*Leckhamsted thre belles weinge vij c weighte* The existing bell may have been brought from the former Church, and the author regrets that he has not been able to examine it.

118.

LETCOMBE BASSETT.

St. Michael.

Ring of Three Bells; tenor 29½ inches diameter, in C.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	[Cross Fig. 95] HALE MARI FVE OF GRAS / WK 1576	3	0	0#
Second.	[Cross Fig. 43]. GLORI BE TO GOD ON BI IN EARCH PCS / WK 1576	4	0	0#
Tenor.	o [Fig. 62.] COR [Fig. 62.] J726	5	0	0#

Scale drawings of the inscriptions on the treble and second bells are given in Figs. 92, and 94. Illustrations of portions of these two bells will be found on Plates VIII, and XIII. Both were cast at Reading, in 1576, by William Knight II, and are the only *dated* examples, at present known to campanologists, bearing the lettering illustrated in Figs. 92, and 94. They are thus invaluable as a means of dating two interesting groups of bells which previously had puzzled investigators.¹

Bells by William Knight II fall into three main groups. (A) Bells inscribed in lettering similar to that on the treble at Letcombe Basset, illustrated on Fig. 94.² (B) Bells inscribed

¹ Walter's *Church Bells of Wiltshire*, 278.

² This lettering also occurred on the former tenor at Denchworth. See Plate III.

in lettering similar to that on the fourth bell at Kintbury, and the second at Letcombe Bassett, illustrated in Fig. 92. (C) Bells inscribed in black letter smalls, as at Shellingford, Tidmarsh, Welford, and Woolhampton, Berkshire.[*q.v.*] William Knight, like other Reading founders, kept up the pre-reformation style in his inscriptions; and, had it not been for the discovery of the dated examples of groups A, and B, at Letcombe Bassett, these might well have been mistaken for pre-reformation castings.

The tenor was cast by Oliver Corr, of Aldbourne. It has eleven moulding wires below the shoulder angle, and its inscription occurs above the sound bow.

The bells hang in an oak frame installed in 1926 by Mr. Richard White, of Appleton, who rehung the bells and supplied new fittings, including elm headstocks, brass bearings, strap gudgeons, traditional type wheels, and clappers. All the bells have their canons intact, and have been quarter-turned.

The former XVIth century half-wheels are preserved in the tower. An illustration of one of these will be found on Plate IX.

Visited :

F.S., 3rd Nov., 1934. F.M.U., F.S., 22nd Feb., 1941.



FIG. 95. Founder's mark used by William Knight, of Reading.

119.

LETCOMBE REGIS.

St. Andrew.

Ring of Six Bells : tenor 35 inches diameter in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	THOMAS GOODLAKE & JOHN STONE CH WARDENS JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN : FECIT 1805,,	3	0	0#
Second.	[<i>As treble, but with five commas after date.</i>]	3	3	0#
Third.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE X620 ◆	4	2	0#
Fourth.	o [Fig. 62.] COR [Fig. 62.] J726	4	3	0#
Fifth.	✠ Joseph Carter made mee 1599	6	0	0#
Tenor.	HENRX KNXGHT MADE MEE X62X ◆	8	0	0#

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Third.	[Cross Fig. 95] GOE [Fig. 95] HE [Fig. 95] OVR [Fig. 95] SPYD [Cross Fig. 43] IN [Fig. 95] OVR [Fig. 95] BE [Fig. 95] GYNRYNG / W [Fig. 96] K	7	0	0#
Tenor.	ROBT. WELLS ALDBOURN FECIT J793 [Large roses, and stars, alternating.]	8	2	0#
Sanctus.	ROBT. AND JAS WELLS ALDBOURN FECIT	-	2	0#

The treble is the earliest product, so far discovered, of the famous foundry of Joseph Carter, of Reading. The initials I. W. which occur with Carter's on the bell may be either those of John Welche, mentioned, with Carter, as overseer in the will of W. Knight,¹ or they may stand for John White, Carter's predecessor, from whom he acquired some of his moulding stamps² and plant. Bells with the initials I.C. and IW, with the old Wokingham foundry shield between, also occur at Sparsholt, Berks, and North Waltham, Herts. The lettering on the Lockinge treble, however, is that formerly used by Thomas Lawrence, of London, and illustrated in Fig. 89. Carter was endeavouring to produce the inscription:—

**PRAYSED BE THY NAME O LORD THAT HAST
SENT VS THY HOLY WORD**

but failed here through lack of space.

The second was recast by William Taylor, in 1852. There is no record of its predecessor.

A scale drawing of portion of the inscription on the third bell is given in Fig. 97, where it will be seen that the first D and B in the inscription are upside-down, and that the crosses are identical with those on the treble and second at Letcombe Bassett. The large initials and founder's mark on the waist of the bell are reproduced in Fig. 96. These obviously stand for William Knight, and as the bell is earlier in character than any in the three groups mentioned under the heading Letcombe Bassett I am inclined to assign this bell to William Knight I. Should this be correct, it would be the only known example of his work extant. It will be noted that the lettering on the Lockinge third is the same as that on the fourth bell at Kintbury, and the second at Letcombe Bassett. The bell is illustrated on Plate XX.

¹ Cock's *Church Bells of Bucks.*, 123.


² Notably the Wokingham foundry stamps and lettering.

123.

LONGCOT.

St. Mary.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 37 inches diameter, in A flat; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	PROSPERITY TO ALL MY BENEFACTORS:..... A [Fig. 31.] R 1729	4	0	0#
Second.	GOD PRESERVE THE CHVRCH OF ENGLAND ✦ A [Fig. 31.] R 1722 	4	1	0#
Third.	ABR : RVDHALL BELLFOVNDER 1722 :.....	5	1	0#
Fourth.	PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOVRHOOD:..... A [Fig. 31.] R :.....	6	0	0#
Fifth.	PROSPERITY TO THIS PARISH:.....	7	0	0#
Tenor.	IOHN HEWES CHVRCHWARDEN 1722 :..... A [Fig. 31.] R :.....	8	2	0#
Sanctus.	JOHN WARNER & SONS, LTD., LONDON, 1909 / 1845 REC. 1909. / B.M.H.VIC. / WHEN I RING I BID ALL COME AND WORSHIP.	-	2	0#

A complete ring from the famous foundry of Abraham Rudhall I, of Gloucester, who cast a ring of five in 1722 to which he added a treble in 1729 to make six. All these bells have their canons remaining, and have been quarter-turned.

The sanctus was recast by Messrs. Warner in 1909. Its predecessor was inscribed :¹ W : TAYLOR OXFORD 1845. This bell was recast at the expense of Archdeacon Bares, Vicar of Shrivenham, in 1845 from the metal of a former bell which was cacked.

The bells hang in an oak frame of XVIIIth century date, which has been constructed so that all the bells swing east-and-west; a feature also found at Ashbury, Berks, [q.v] and Bletchington, Oxon, in frames of the same period. The fittings include elm headstocks, hoop gudgeons, and brass bearings.

Visited :

F.S., 8th Feb., 1936.

124.

LONGWORTH.

St. Mary.

Ring² of Five Bells; tenor 39 inches diameter, in G; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	J. PAINTON & A: BROWN CH: WARDENS. J: WELLS ALDBOURN FECIT 1807 .:	4	3	0#

¹ *Berks. Arch. Journ.* II (1896), 84.

² This is described as a *Ring* of bells; but, owing to the decayed state of the bell frame, the bells could not be rung at the time of my visit, in 1940, and were being clocked'

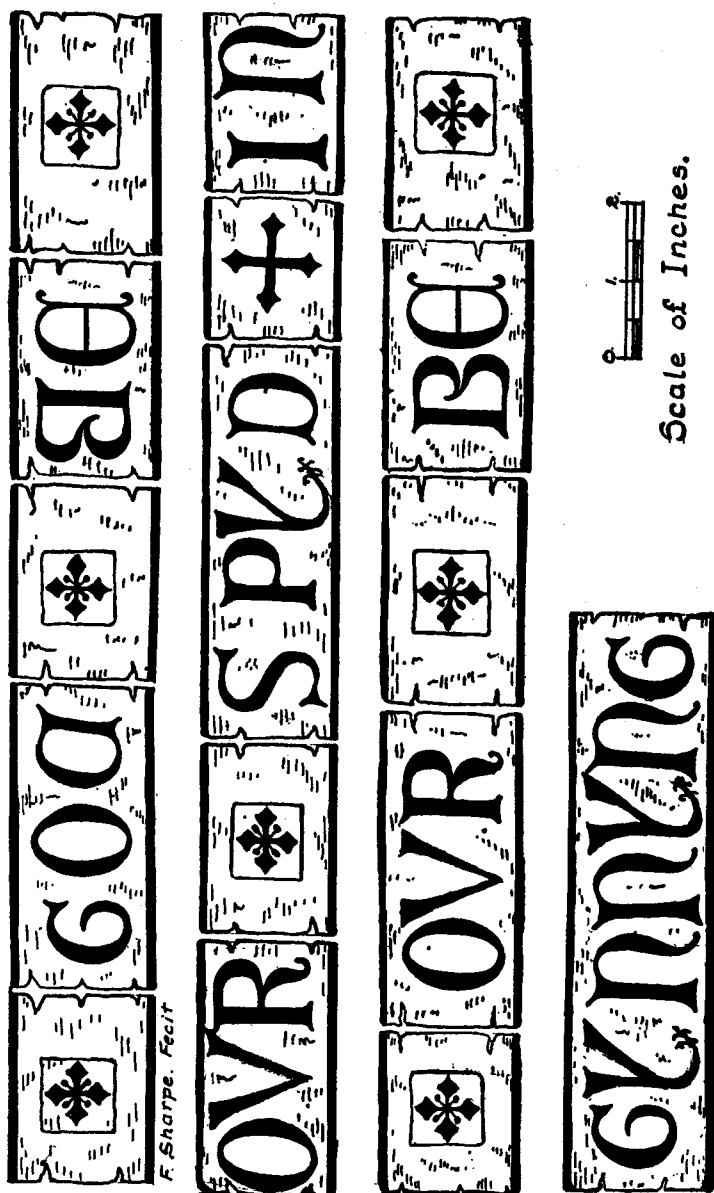


FIG. 97. Portion of inscription on the Third Bell of the Ring of Four, at Lockinge, probably cast by William Knight I, circa 1530.

127.

MAIDENHEAD.*St. Luke.*

Two Bells.

The larger bell is not hung for ringing or chiming. It bears the inscription :

GILLET BLAND & Co., CROYDON. 1878.

and is the clock bell. Its diameter is $38\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and it weighs approximately half a ton.

The Service bell is $24\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and weighs approximately 3 cwt. It is inscribed :

MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1865.

Visited :

L.H.C. c. 1926.

128.

MAIDENHEAD.*St. Peter.*

This Church, which is situated in Furze Platt, is a chapel-of-ease to St. Luke's. It was consecrated in 1898, and equipped with one bell.

129.

MAIDENHEAD.*Cox Green Mission Church.*

One Bell, hung for chiming, in a turret recently erected in memory of the late Mrs. Alice Muir. When Cox Green Mission Church was built, in 1875, it was furnished with a small bell brought from Boyne Hill School. This bell, having become cracked, another was recently presented to the Church by Mr. F. J. Spear, of "Kilnfield," Cox Green Road, Maidenhead. It is a second-hand bell of good tone, and was formerly in use at a Government Factory, at Pimlico. With the exception of the letters "w.d.," which stand for "War Department," the bell bears no inscription, or date.

Visited :

L.H.C., 4th March, 1940.

130.

MAIDENHEAD.*The Methodist Chapel.*

One Bell, inscribed :

SAMVEL KNIGHT MADE MEE 1703

Mr. F. M. Underhill notes :—"There is little doubt, by the testimony I have obtained from old inhabitants, that this bell was originally the Bray "tingtang," or saunce. The clock strikes the hours on it, and has done so as long as I can remember. I am not sure of the note, because the bell is cracked. It hangs in an open

for four bells, and the rope "circle" is anti-clockwise.¹ The inscriptions on the Aldbourne bells occur in each instance above the sound-bow.

The Commissioners' Inventories, dated 1552, state:—*fourre bellse A sance belle A hande belle ij sacrynge belles.*

Visited :

Marie R. Cross, 22nd June, 1940.

133.

MARLSTON.

(Dedication unknown)

One Bell ; 17½ inches diameter, note C sharp, weighing approximately 1 cwt. ; inscribed :

PETRVS : DE : WESTON : ME FECIT ✱

A scale drawing of the inscription is given in Fig. 98.

The author has not personally examined this bell, and is greatly indebted to Miss S. Davis, of Bucklebury, and her assistants, for the excellent rubbing, obtained in very difficult circumstances, from which the scale drawing was made. Previous to Miss Davis' visit no one was aware that the turret housed such an interesting and valuable bell.

The inscription occurs on the lower of two bands below the shoulder angle ; the upper being occupied by a typical XIVth century type narrow raised band, details of which are given in Fig. 98. The canons of the bell are intact, and it is hung for chiming only in an open bell-cote.

Peter de Weston was founding in London in the second quarter of the XIVth century, and is first mentioned under date 1328.² Eight years later, he was apparently a citizen in a good position, and, in 1347, he headed the list of members for the Portsoken Ward returned to the first Common Council elected by the Wards.³ He died between August and October, 1347.

Bells by Peter de Weston are rare. Those so far discovered are (1) the clock bell at The Hyde, Ingatestone, Essex ; (2) the third bell at Fairstead, Essex ;⁴ (3) a bell at Kingsbury, Middlesex ; (4) the saunce at Tatternhoe, Bucks.,⁵ (5) the saunce at Ambrosden, Oxon.,⁶ and the Marlston bell. Peter de Weston possessed three different sized sets of moulding stamps ; the smallest⁷ occurs at Tatternhoe, and Ambrosden, the largest and

¹ Known to ringers as a *left hand ring*.

² Stahlschmidt, *The Church Bells of Kent*, 15.

³ Cock's *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 9.

⁴ Deedes and Walters, *The Church Bells of Essex*, 8.

⁵ Cock's *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*, 591.

⁶ Sharpe, *The Church Bells of the Rural Deanery of Bicester*, 8.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Fig. 5, and Plate IV.

most elaborate at Fairstead,¹ and the medium sized set was used for the remainder. All three sets were afterwards used by Peter's successor, William Revel.

The Commissioners' Inventories, dated 4th August 1552, state :—*Marlstone a bell of one hundred wayhgte.*

Visited :

Stella Davis, 17th January, 1943.

134.

MIDGHAM.

St. Matthew.

Ring of Six Bells ; tenor 32 inches diameter, in A.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1898. / PRESENTED BY THE PARISHONERS.	2	I	27
Second.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1870.	2	I	9
Third	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1869.	2	3	10
Fourth.	ELLIS AND HENRY KNIGHT MADE MEE 1674	3	I	0#
Fifth.	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1898. / PRESENTED BY B. B. GREENE AND FAMILY.	3	3	26
Tenor.	BOWELL, FOUNDER, IPSWICH 1906. / "PRESENTED IN LOVING MEMORY / OF VICTORIA, BY HER GRANDMOTHER, SOPHIE CLARK. / EASTER 1906."	5	I	0#

The present Church was completed in 1869. In the former Church were two bells : the present fourth, by E. and H. Knight 1674, and a smaller bell, inscribed, in small Lombardic capitals,² **A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P**, and dating from the middle of the XVIth century. The latter, being cracked, was recast in 1869,³ and in the following year a treble was added,⁴ making a ring of three in C sharp. In 1898 an effort to add a fourth met with such response that it was found possible to add a treble,⁵ and a tenor,⁶ making a ring of five in B. The present

¹ Deedes and Walters, *The Church Bells of Essex*, 7.

² Similar to those on the treble at Finmere, Oxon. See Sharpe, *Church Bells of the Rural Deanery of Bicester*, 2, and 23. and Cocks, *Church Bells of Bucks*, 190. The founder may have been Vincent Goroway, of Reading.

³ The present third.

⁵ The present treble.

⁴ The present second.

⁶ The present fifth.

The Commissioners' Inventories for 1552 state : *Fourre belles in the stepule A sance bell ij sacrynge belles.*

Visited :











E.J.M.S., F.S., 20th April, 1940.

136.

MORETON NORTH.

All Saints.

Ring of Five Bells ; tenor 42½ inches diameter, in G ; and a Sanctus Bell.

Bell.	Inscription.	Weight.		
		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	LOVE GOD 1641	4	2	0#
Second.	T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1817 [<i>Border Fig. 14.</i>]	5	0	0#
Third.	RICHARD SLADE FRANCIS LEAVER C W 1684	6	2	0#
Fourth.	[<i>Cross Fig. 4.</i>]	9	0	0#
	<div style="text-align: center;">      </div> S A N C T A			
	<div style="text-align: center;">      </div> M A R I A			
	[<i>Lion's Head.</i> <i>Fig. 1.</i>] [<i>Trefoil. Fig. 2.</i>] [<i>Coin.</i>]			
Tenor.	Blessed be the name ol the lorde / Joseph [Shield Fig. 6.] carter 1591	12	2	0#
Sanctus.	1757	-	2	0#

The treble was cast by Ellis Knight, I, of Reading, and its inscription is in his well-known *sheet metal* type, similar to that illustrated in Figs. 13, and 50.

The second is from the Whitechapel foundry, and both this bell and the treble have been flattened.

The third is a maiden casting by Richard Keene, of Woodstock, with lettering similar to that on the Milton, and Longworth bells, illustrated in Fig. 66, and with the figure 8 composed of two separate circles as on the Milton bells.

The fourth is a very fine example of a XIVth century bell from the famous medieval foundry at Wokingham, and is now the sole survivor in Berkshire of the group to which it belongs. The earliest examples from the Wokingham foundry bear no inscriptions. They are usually cast fairly thin, and are poor in tone, both on account of the scanty thickness of metal, and also because of their shape. Some of these bells bear the founders' marks Figs. 1 and 2, and the impression of the reverse of a groat, and they date from the first half of the XIVth century. The next group of bells from this foundry shows marked improvements in shape and tone, being the medieval equivalent of our modern "Simpson tuned" bells, with longer waists and less acute curves

C. & G. Mears, of the Whitechapel foundry in 1849. The author regrets he did not visit this Church before the present war, and travel restrictions have now made this impossible.

138.

MOULSFORD.

St. John-the-Baptist.

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

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Approx Weight.</i> <i>Cwts.</i>
Treble.	✠ Ave Pax et Charitas [X] A. D. M DCCCX LVJJ	3½
Second.	✠ Ave Fili [X] Lux Salvator A. D. M DCCCX LVJJ	4½
Tenor.	✠ Ave Pater [X] Rex Creator A. D. M DCCCX LVJJ	5

A complete ring of three by Messrs. William and John Taylor, of Oxford, 1847. A similar ring of three with the same inscriptions and date is to be found at Worminghall, Bucks¹ The lettering is the same as that on bells at Ashbury, and Boxford, Berks, bearing the founders' names.

At the point marked [X] in the inscriptions is a founders' mark consisting of a sword and key, crossed, which is also found on bells at St. Giles', Oxford, and Worminghall.

*Moulsford Capella. ij sacrynge belles. . . .ij belles in the stepell of A corde.*² Commissioners' Inventories, 6th August, 1552.

Visited :

F. West, April 1935.

139.

NEWBURY.

St. Nicholas.

Ring of Ten Bells; tenor 50½ inches diameter, in D; and a Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>
Treble.	M & S. LONDON. (M) / NEWBURY RINGERS GAVE ME 1933. / H. W. CURTIS, CAPTAIN. / W. H. ADKINS / A. BARBER / E. A. CROCKER / C. POOLE / A. POOLE / R. W. REX / C. CRAWFORD. / W. L. COOPER, M.A., RECTOR. / C. A. HAWKER, J.P., R. MARTIN, CHURCHWARDENS.	5 I I

¹ Cocks' *Church Bells of Bucks*, 646.

² i.e., tuned diatonically; as distinct from three odd bells.

designed her so excellently that her tone in no way appears weak. This thin scale is repeated, to a lesser degree, in the ninth, but no further. Wells seemed to be aiming at not having his fine trebles overpowered by the heaviest bells in the ring, while not decreasing the quality of tone in the latter, and his designs have proved a great success. The inscriptions on the nine Aldbourne bells occur, in each instance, immediately above the sound bow.

The bells hang in a modern cast-iron side pattern frame, mounted on rolled-steel joists. They are fitted with cast-iron headstocks having fixed steel gudgeons, self-aligning ball bearings, and traditional type wheels, stays, and sliders. The frame, and fittings, were installed by Messrs. Mears & Stainbank, in 1929 and 1933.

The Commissioners' Inventories, made on August 2nd, 1552, state:—*v belles hanging in the Tower . . . and a sanctus bell.* This, like Abingdon St. Helen, would be an early ring of five. The bells were purchased by the town from the King's Commissioners.¹

From entries in the Churchwardens' accounts, quoted by W. Money, it would appear that the ring was increased to six before 1680, but the actual date of this augmentation is not known.

The accounts record the following:—

1602. Six bells mentioned. These, however, may be the ring of five, and the sanctus.

1603. The fourth bell recast.

1607. One bell recast, which bell it was is not stated.

1652. The sanctus bell recast at a cost of £3 10s. 6d.

1666. The sanctus, and tenor, recast.

1680. The ring of six recast into a ring of eight,² at a cost of £67 os. od., and the sanctus also recast, by Henry Knight, of Reading.

1721. The sanctus³ recast by Robert Corr, of Aldbourne.

1724. The "grate" and "little" bells⁴ recast by R. Corr, at a cost of £31 5s. od., the gift of Mr. Henry Bennett.

In 1803 the entire ring of eight was recast by James Wells. These bells have always been considered among the finest products of the Aldbourn foundry; and they now form the third-to-tenor of the present ring of ten. The cost of recasting the eight in 1803, was approximately £400 os. od.

The Rev. T. A. Turner noted, in 1877:—a fine ring, and in tune, but tenor "went" badly.⁵

¹ Walter Money, *History of Newbury*, 467, and framed notes hanging in tower, by W. Money.

² This would be an early date for a ring of eight. See Sharpe *Church Bells of the Rural Deanery of Bicester*, 70, and also under the heading Harwell.

³ This is the date of the existing sanctus bell.

⁴ i.e., the tenor, and treble, bells.

⁵ A ringers' term meaning it was a strenuous job to ring this bell.

8. Geo. Holifield, Junior. / 9. Walter F. Judge. / Tenor. Edward Crocker. / Conducted by G. Holifield, Jun. / Canon W. L. Cooper, Rector."

Thanks are due to Mr. H. W. Curtis, Captain of Ringers.

Visited :

T.A.T., 10th July, 1877.

F.S., 23rd January, 1943.

140.

NEWBURY.

St. John the Evangelist.

The Church was erected in 1860. There are two small bells, hung for chiming, in an open western turret.

141.

NORTHBOURN.

St. Peter.

One Bell; $27\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, note E, weighing approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., inscribed :

LLEWELLINS & JAMES / BRISTOL / A.M.D.G.

ECCL. S. PETR. HAGBOURN. D.D. G.H.G.

WILLIAM. SUIQ. A.D. 1898.

The bell has canons of the normal type, and is hung for ringing. It is fitted with an elm headstock, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels, stay, slider, and clapper. The bell frame is of oak, and consists of heads, cills, braces, and end posts. The bell is the only product, so far discovered, of Messrs. Llewellyns and James' foundry in the county.

The Parish is sometimes called North Hagbourne.

Visited :

F.S., 10th May, 1941.

142.

NORTHBOURN.

St. Frideswide.

One Bell, cast in 1940, by Messrs. J. Taylor & Co. The Vicar states that it was hung a few days before the wartime ban on ringing, and, up to the date of my visit, had not been rung.

Visited :

F.S., 10th May, 1941.

143.

OARE.

St. Bartholomew.

This Church possesses One Bell, hung for chiming in an open western turret. It was examined through field glasses by Mr. Underhill in 1941 and is inscribed : J. WARNER & SONS, LONDON, 1880. Mr. Underhill states that the last figure of the date was difficult to decipher, and may be a figure 8.

(To be continued.)

above the sound bow. In the matter of inscriptions and decoration they again show a definite advance over the earlier group. About the middle of the XIVth century the owners of the Wokingham foundry added a very beautiful set of crowned capitals to their stock-in-trade of moulding stamps, which remained in use for two centuries. Bells cast in the latter half of the XIVth century have their inscriptions formed entirely of these crowned capitals, together with the earlier founder's marks, as on the fourth bell at North Moreton. A scale drawing of the inscription on this bell will be found in Fig. 63. The inscription occurs in the lower of two inscription bands; the upper being filled in characteristic XIVth century style by a narrow flat raised band. The bell has suffered at the hands of the tuner by having its strike note raised a little to the consequent detriment of its tone; and, like all the others in the ring, it has lost its canons. It is to be greatly regretted that there are no others of its type and date in the county.

The tenor was cast by Joseph Carter, of Reading, with its inscription in *sheet-metal* type, with no two letters alike, very similar to that on the seventh bell at Harwell, illustrated in Fig. 79. Here however, instead of the three-bell shield, Carter used the old Wokingham foundry crest, Fig. 6. This bell, like the fourth, has been sharpened.

The sanctus has a centre argent and only two canons instead of the normal six. It was cast by Messrs. Lester and Pack of the Whitechapel foundry.

The bells hang in a modern cast-iron side frame, with pits for six.¹ They are fitted with rolled-steel headstocks, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels, stays, and sliders. Wooden tops of an unusual type are fitted to the clappers.

The Commissioners' Inventories for 1552 state *iiij belles*.

Visited :

M.L.S., F.S., 4th May, 1940.

137.

MORETON SOUTH.

St. John.

A Chime of Two Bells, hanging in a closed western turret. Mr. H. B. Walters states² that these bells were cast by Messrs.

¹ Although the *construction* of the frame is excellent, the *positions* of the bell pits and ropes are so arranged that the *maximum* lateral forces set up by the swinging bells are exerted on the masonry of the tower walls when the bells are rung in "rounds": and these forces are delivered *into* the walls at eight points, instead of being equally distributed *along* them. The first disadvantage could easily be overcome by a simple rearrangement of the positions of the bell ropes, and the second by the insertion of two additional rolled steel joists at right angles to the existing ones.

² Berkshire M.S., fol. 95.

C. & G. Mears, of the Whitechapel foundry in 1849. The author regrets he did not visit this Church before the present war, and travel restrictions have now made this impossible.

138.

MOULSFORD.

St. John-the-Baptist.

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

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Approx Weight.</i> <i>Cwts.</i>
Treble.	✠ Ave Pax et Charitas [X] A. D. M DCCCX LVJJ	3½
Second.	✠ Ave Fili [X] Lux Salvator A. D. M DCCCX LVJJ	4½
Tenor.	✠ Ave Pater [X] Rex Creator A. D. M DCCCX LVJJ	5

A complete ring of three by Messrs. William and John Taylor, of Oxford, 1847. A similar ring of three with the same inscriptions and date is to be found at Worminghall, Bucks¹ The lettering is the same as that on bells at Ashbury, and Boxford, Berks, bearing the founders' names.

At the point marked [X] in the inscriptions is a founders' mark consisting of a sword and key, crossed, which is also found on bells at St. Giles', Oxford, and Worminghall.

*Moulsford Capella. ij sacrynge belles... iij belles in the stepell of A corde.*² Commissioners' Inventories, 6th August, 1552.

Visited :

F. West, April 1935.

139.

NEWBURY.

St. Nicholas.

Ring of Ten Bells; tenor 50½ inches diameter, in D; and a Sanctus Bell.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>
Treble.	M & S. LONDON. (M) / NEWBURY RINGERS GAVE ME 1933. / H. W. CURTIS, CAPTAIN. / W. H. ADKINS / A. BARBER / E. A. CROCKER / C. POOLE / A. POOLE / R. W. REX / C. CRAWFORD. / W. L. COOPER, M.A., RECTOR. / C. A. HAWKER, J.P., R. MARTIN, CHURCHWARDENS.	5 I I

¹ Cocks' *Church Bells of Bucks*, 646.

² i.e., tuned diatonically; as distinct from three odd bells.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight.</i> <i>Cwts. Qrs. lbs.</i>		
Second.	M & S. LONDON. (M) / NEWBURY RINGERS / GAVE ME 1933. / E. CROCKER, SUB: CAPTAIN / W. H. Y. ADKINS / R. BUTCHER / H. T. E. CURTIS / E. A. PALMER / E. W. SMITH / A. J. WHITTLE. / W. L. COOPER, M.A., RECTOR. / C. A. HAWKER, J.P., R. MARTIN, CHURCHWARDENS.	5	2	20
Third.	S. GRIGG & C. BULL CH. WARDENS. : JAMES WELLS FECIT 1803 .: .: .: .: .: .: .:	6	1	19
Fourth.	[<i>Same as third.</i>]	6	1	15
Fifth.	SAML. GRIGG & CHS. BULL CH. WARDENS : JAMES WELLS FECIT 1803 .: .:	6	3	7
Sixth.	SAMUEL GRIGG & CHARLES BULL CHURCH WARDENS : JAMES WELLS FECIT 1803	8	0	18
Seventh.	SAMUEL GRIGG & CHARLES BULL CHURCH WARDENS : JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN FECIT 1803 :	10	1	3
Eighth.	[<i>Same as Seventh.</i>]	13	3	9
Ninth.	SAMUEL GRIGG & CHARLES BULL CHURCH WARDENS : JAMES WELLS ALDBOURN WILTS FECIT 1803.:	15	3	9
Tenor.	THIS BELL WAS GIVEN BY HY. BENNETT 1724 AND RECAST WITH THE WHOLE PEAL, BY SUBSCRIPTION 1803, BY JAS. WELLS ALBOURN FECIT : / SAMUEL GRIGG & CHARLES BULL CHURCH WARDENS :	21	2	1
Sanctus.	R COR 1721	1	3	0

A very fine-toned ring of ten bells ; the fourth¹ of that number in the county. The treble, and second, are by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, the sanctus is by Robert Corr, of Aldbourn, and the remainder by James Wells. None of the bells have canons. The treble is a maiden casting ; an unusual feature in a modern bell, and the strike-notes of the others have been slightly flattened. Although the tenor is a very thin bell, 21½ cwt. being exceptionally light for a bell sounding the strike-note D natural, James Wells

¹ The others are (1) Reading, St. Lawrence, increased to ten in 1748 and subsequently to twelve. (2) Appleton, increased to ten in 1861, and (3) Abingdon St. Helen, increased to ten in 1885.

designed her so excellently that her tone in no way appears weak. This thin scale is repeated, to a lesser degree, in the ninth, but no further. Wells seemed to be aiming at not having his fine trebles overpowered by the heaviest bells in the ring, while not decreasing the quality of tone in the latter, and his designs have proved a great success. The inscriptions on the nine Aldbourne bells occur, in each instance, immediately above the sound bow.

The bells hang in a modern cast-iron side pattern frame, mounted on rolled-steel joists. They are fitted with cast-iron headstocks having fixed steel gudgeons, self-aligning ball bearings, and traditional type wheels, stays, and sliders. The frame, and fittings, were installed by Messrs. Mears & Stainbank, in 1929 and 1933.

The Commissioners' Inventories, made on August 2nd, 1552, state:—*v belles hanging in the Tower . . . and a sanctus bell.* This, like Abingdon St. Helen, would be an early ring of five. The bells were purchased by the town from the King's Commissioners.¹

From entries in the Churchwardens' accounts, quoted by W. Money, it would appear that the ring was increased to six before 1680, but the actual date of this augmentation is not known.

The accounts record the following:—

1602. Six bells mentioned. These, however, may be the ring of five, and the sanctus.

1603. The fourth bell recast.

1607. One bell recast, which bell it was is not stated.

1652. The sanctus bell recast at a cost of £3 10s. 6d.

1666. The sanctus, and tenor, recast.

1680. The ring of six recast into a ring of eight,² at a cost of £67 os. od., and the sanctus also recast, by Henry Knight, of Reading.

1721. The sanctus³ recast by Robert Corr, of Aldbourne.

1724. The "grate" and "little" bells⁴ recast by R. Corr, at a cost of £31 5s. od., the gift of Mr. Henry Bennett.

In 1803 the entire ring of eight was recast by James Wells. These bells have always been considered among the finest products of the Aldbourn foundry; and they now form the third-to-tenor of the present ring of ten. The cost of recasting the eight in 1803, was approximately £400 os. od.

The Rev. T. A. Turner noted, in 1877:—a fine ring, and in tune, but tenor "went" badly.⁵

¹ Walter Money, *History of Newbury*, 467, and framed notes hanging in tower, by W. Money.

² This would be an early date for a ring of eight. See Sharpe *Church Bells of the Rural Deanery of Bicester*, 70, and also under the heading Harwell.

³ This is the date of the existing sanctus bell.

⁴ i.e., the tenor, and treble, bells.

⁵ A ringers' term meaning it was a strenuous job to ring this bell.

Ten years later the fittings were renewed and the bells rehung in the existing oak frame. Mr. H. W. Curtis states that this frame was of massive construction, and took up so much space in the tower that only seven bells could be accommodated in one tier; the treble being housed in a separate tier above the others.

A tablet in the ringing chamber records :—" The bells of this Church / were opened after being rehung / with a / FINE PEAL OF / STEDMAN TRIPLES / Thurston's / 5040 / on the 26th November 1887, / in 3 hours 3 minutes / by the following members of the / OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS. / Treble, W. Bennett / 2, E. Hollifield / 3, E. Field / 4, H. D. Betteridge, Esq. / 5, Rev. F. E. Robinson. / 6, G. Holifield / 7, J. W. Washbrook. / Tenor, Stedman White & Fred White. / Conducted by J. W. Washbrook. / The First Peal Rung in Newbury. / GOD SAVE THE QUEEN."

The augmentation to ten in 1933 was made possible chiefly by a legacy of £100 os. od., bequeathed to the Newbury Ringers by Mrs. Peerless, of West Fields, Newbury. This was invested for three years, after which a ringers' meeting was called by Mr. H. W. Curtis, the Captain of the Ringers, at which it was decided to sell out the bonds and purchase two additional bells, The total cost was £190 os. od., the balance being subscribed by ringers and friends from all parts of the country. The new bells were dedicated on Palm Sunday, 1933; and, on Easter Monday, an open ringing meeting was held to enable visiting ringers to try out the augmented ring. This meeting was marred by a tragic incident. The Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn,¹ the beloved Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, attended the meeting, and, after ringing the second bell through a "touch" of Grandsire Caters, remarked "What a lovely peal, I must go outside and listen to them." He had scarcely walked 100 yards from the tower when he collapsed on the pavement and died within a few moments. His death, however, was directly tracable to his experiences in the Great War of 1914-1918, when, as Chaplain to the Forces, he gained the Military Cross for bravery under fire. He had been severely gassed during the war and his heart was affected.

The first full peal on the ring of ten is recorded on a tablet in the tower, inscribed :—

"November 4th, 1933 / The First Peal of Grandsire Caters on / Newbury Ten, 5,075 CHANGES / in 3 Hours, 24 minutes. / Composed by G. Holifield, Senior, Esq. / Treble, Albert E. Lock. / 2, Mrs. A. E. Lock. / 3, Ernest W. Smith. / 4, Miss S. Davis. / 5, Reg. W. Rex. / 6, Wm. H. Adkins. / 7, Henry W. Curtis. /

¹ See also under the heading E. st Garston.

8. Geo. Holifield, Junior. / 9. Walter F. Judge. / Tenor. Edward Crocker. / Conducted by G. Holifield, Jun. / Canon W. L. Cooper, Rector."

Thanks are due to Mr. H. W. Curtis, Captain of Ringers.

Visited :

T.A.T., 10th July, 1877.

F.S., 23rd January, 1943.

140.

NEWBURY.

St. John the Evangelist.

The Church was erected in 1860. There are two small bells, hung for chiming, in an open western turret.

141.

NORTHBOURN.

St. Peter.

One Bell; $27\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, note E, weighing approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., inscribed :

LLEWELLINS & JAMES / BRISTOL / A.M.D.G.

ECCL. S. PETR. HAGBOURN. D.D. G.H.G.

WILLIAM. SUIQ. A.D. 1898.

The bell has canons of the normal type, and is hung for ringing. It is fitted with an elm headstock, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels, stay, slider, and clapper. The bell frame is of oak, and consists of heads, cills, braces, and end posts. The bell is the only product, so far discovered, of Messrs. Llewellyns and James' foundry in the county.

The Parish is sometimes called North Hagbourne.

Visited :

F.S., 10th May, 1941.

142.

NORTHBOURN.

St. Frideswide.

One Bell, cast in 1940, by Messrs. J. Taylor & Co. The Vicar states that it was hung a few days before the wartime ban on ringing, and, up to the date of my visit, had not been rung.

Visited :

F.S., 10th May, 1941.

143.

OARE.

St. Bartholomew.

This Church possesses One Bell, hung for chiming in an open western turret. It was examined through field glasses by Mr. Underhill in 1941 and is inscribed : J. WARNER & SONS, LONDON, 1880. Mr. Underhill states that the last figure of the date was difficult to decipher, and may be a figure 8.

(To be continued.)