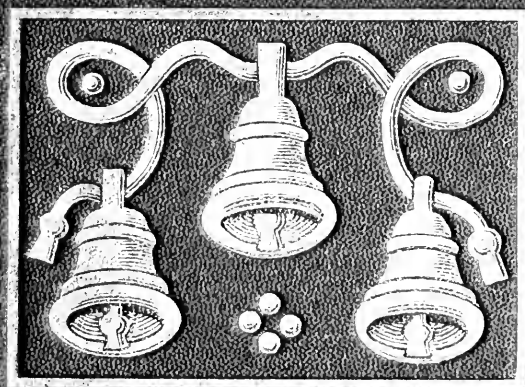


The  
Church Bells  
of  
Huntingdonshire



REV. T. M. N. OWEN, M.A.



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THE CHURCH BELLS  
OF  
HUNTINGDONSHIRE

THEIR  
INSCRIPTIONS, FOUNDERS, USES, TRADITIONS, ETC.

BY  
REV. T. M. N. OWEN, M.A.  
RECTOR OF WOODWALTON  
*Formerly Scholar of Clare College, Cambridge, and  
Vicar of Rhodes, Lancashire*

LONDON  
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1899





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TO THE RIGHT REVEREND  
LORD ALWYNE COMPTON, D.D.,  
LORD BISHOP OF ELY  
AND LORD HIGH ALMONER TO THE QUEEN,  
THIS VOLUME,  
CONTAINING THE CONCLUDING PORTION  
OF THE  
CAMPANALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE DIOCESE OF ELY,  
IS, BY PERMISSION, DEDICATED  
BY HIS LORDSHIP'S VERY GRATEFUL  
AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,  
THE AUTHOR.



## P R E F A C E.

MY prefatory words must be mainly those of acknowledgment. I am much indebted for the loan of wood blocks to Amherst D. Tyssen, D.C.L., and to Mr. Herbert L. North; without these indeed the work could hardly have been published. Also to the Rev. G. E. Sharland, vicar of Easton and Stow Longa, who, on divers occasions entertained me and drove me to various outlying churches, where he also materially aided my researches among the bells themselves. Also to the various incumbents who, whenever asked, have reported, as fully as they could, on the peculiar uses, etc., and have often allowed me to search the Parish Registers and Books; to the Rev. E. Tottenham and Miss A. E. M. Dagnall for skilful help in drawing sketches from casts and rubbings of stamps.

The book has been a long time in coming out, but many wood blocks being elsewhere engaged, could not be obtained any sooner, and this represents a delay of *six years* in the publication.

Owing, perhaps, to my being beneficed in this county, and that a small one, I have never had occasion to complain of "no answer," eventually, to any letter of enquiry addressed to local authorities.

My best thanks are also due to J. J. Raven, D.D., the veteran campanist of *Cambridgeshire* and *Suffolk*, for loan of books and manuscript notes; to Rev. J. H. Crosby and Rev. G. R. Bullock-Webster, of Ely, for interesting extracts from diocesan archives; to the Rev. W. M. Noble, rector of Wistow; to Mr. C. Mayfield, borough surveyor of Godmanchester;

and last, not least, to Messrs. Taylor and Son, the celebrated bellfounders of Loughborough, and many others too numerous to mention, but all heartily recognised and appreciated by me, and I should be most ungrateful if I neglected to thank most heartily Mr. William Emery, of the Bank, St. Neot's, for transcribing an immense amount of interesting particulars from his parish books and other germane information. Meanwhile, from the labours of my predecessors, I need hardly say, the greatest possible assistance has been derived.

T. M. N. OWEN.

WOODWALTON RECTORY,

PETERBOROUGH,

*January, 1899.*

PART I.



THE

# Church Bells of Huntingdonshire.

---

THE county of Huntingdon still possesses ninety-nine churches, several others having been destroyed. The aggregate number of church bells is three hundred and seventy-nine, thus distributed :—

|   |   |           |
|---|---|-----------|
| 4 rings of 8 bells each                   | = | 32 bells. |
| 9 " 6 "                                   | = | 54 "      |
| 21 " 5 "                                  | = | 105 "     |
| 23 " 4 "                                  | = | 92 "      |
| 19 " 3 "                                  | = | 57 "      |
| 10 " 2 "                                  | = | 20 "      |
| 13 churches have 1 bell each              | = | 13 "      |
| Sanctus bells ... ..                      | = | 4 "       |
| Unhung and disused ... ..                 | = | 2 "       |
| <hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/> |   |           |
| Total                                     |   | 379 "     |

The largest bells among these are the tenors at St. Neot's, Godmanchester, St. Ive's, Leighton Bromswold, and Kimbolton. The most interesting are the single bell at Sawtry; the disused bell at Thurning; the trebles at Abbot's Ripton, Steeple Gidding, and Water Newton; and the second at Bury; together, in less degree, with the trebles at Great Paxton (now recast) and Old Weston. Meanwhile, adopting the now usual method, the bells may be further classified as under (some recasting has, however, occurred to modify these figures since my visits) :—

|                        |        |     |                  |
|------------------------|--------|-----|------------------|
| Pre-Reformation bells  | ..     | 48  | } 64 "ancients." |
| Later, but before 1600 | ...    | 16  |                  |
| 1601 to 1701           | ... .. | 117 |                  |
| 1701 to 1800           | ... .. | 107 |                  |
| Present century        | ... .. | 84  |                  |
| Doubtful (and blank)   | ... .. | 7   |                  |
| <hr/>                  |        |     |                  |
| Total                  |        |     | 379              |

The number of "ancients" is, accordingly, rather more than one sixth of the entire number; a fair record, on the whole. Two causes have resulted in the disappearance of ancient bells—the wear and tear of centuries on the bells themselves, and facilities for recasting in favour of bells more suitable for change-ringing, offered at two local foundries, and at Stamford and Peterborough, hardly more distant.

Before examining *seriatim* the various bells in the Huntingdonshire churches, it may be well to state, in a few words, the "rules of criticism" now generally adopted towards forming an opinion as to the date of mediæval bells, on which, as is well known, it is the rarest possible accident for the exact period of their manufacture to be recorded:—

- (1) Shape has to be considered. A bell conspicuously long from canons to sound-bow at once declares itself to be ancient. Such bells are not as easy for "ringing" proper, *i.e.*, for "raising" and "setting" in changes, owing to the length of leverage; and though such bells are usually superior in sound, the change-ringer prefers a shorter and more compact bell, which can be fastened closely up into the "head-stock," and thus "raised" with far less exertion than a bell of similar weight, but "long-waisted." But as there is no rule without an exception, the converse of what is here stated is not universally true, for an ancient bell *may not be*, and, frequently, *is not*, conspicuous for unusual length in the waist.
- (2) The character of the inscription enters into the account. As a rule, in the earliest inscriptions, the letters are set at wide intervals. As, however, we shall see, there are a great many bells of this type (from the Leicester foundry) remaining in this county, whose date cannot be earlier than 1525.



- (3) Inscriptions in *Lombardics* (with stops between the words), as distinguished from *Blackletter*, rank first in point of antiquity, being earlier than *c.* 1400. There is, however, a bell of William Founder's at Abbot's Ripton, dating from between 1385 and 1418, in blackletter, showing that for a few years both styles were in vogue. Meanwhile inscriptions in Lombardic capitals came in again later, *c.* 1525 (*e.g.*, from the Leicester foundry just alluded to), but the absence of any stops at once suggests a point of difference. And, again, the same lettering and stamps are found years afterwards in the possession of succeeding founders, a fruitful cause of further difficulty in assigning a date to an ancient bell.
- (4) Stops are only used ("the exception proves the rule") in Lombardic inscriptions, the earliest form being two or three dots, pellets, or lozenges readily enough distinguished from the columns, fleur-de-lys, and medallions in subsequent use.
- (5) Foundry stamps came into use about 1400, and are, as also,
- (6) Initial crosses, gladly welcomed by campanists, as they generally indicate clearly the origin of the bell, and, thanks to the discoveries made of late years, put us on firm ground with regard to it. Albeit, here again, these are sometimes, like the lettering, passed on from one founder to another.

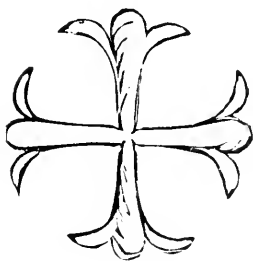


Fig. 1.

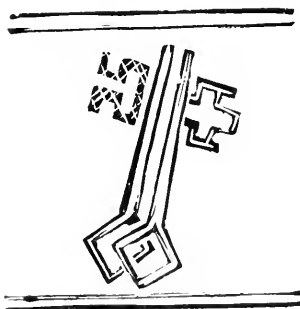


Fig. 2.

Proceeding to the examination of the forty-eight bells (forty-seven still remaining) of undoubtedly pre-reformation period, we may first consider two bells, evidently from the same hand—the bell still, in spite of many



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

experiences, at Sawtry, and its less fortunate sister at Thurning. These are exactly alike in lettering, similar in stamps and in form of inscription. The rubbing of the former was submitted to Mr. Stahlshmidt, who pronounced "Sawtry bell most interesting; lettering very like that used by the Wymbishes, but not identical." It is inscribed:—

+ (fig. 1) **M A T E R** (fig. 2) **D E I** (fig. 3) **M I S E R E R E** : (fig. 4)  
**M E I** : (fig. 4) **A M E N** (fig. 2).

Whereas the Thurning bell has:—

+ (fig. 1) **D E I G E N I T R I X** **V I R G O M A R I A O R A P R O** (fig. 2)

The letter **T** in both cases is not of Lombardic type. The Sawtry inscription is well spaced, that at Thurning evidently too long, so **M E** (probably) is left out.

Two bells resembling each other in inscription only (*not* in crosses) may come next; these are the treble at Water Newton:—

+ **A V E** : **G R I** : **P L E N A** : **D N S** : **T E C V M**

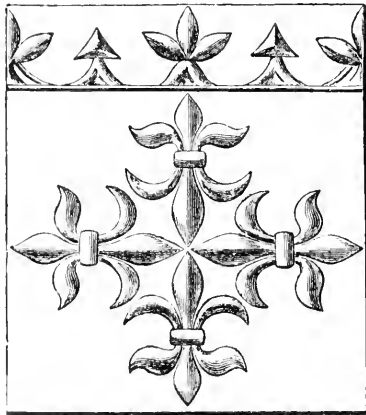


Fig. 5.

This cross is of a curious character, and is, apparently, simply the *centre* cross of fig. 5. (GRI, of course, for GRACIA.)

The other bell is the treble at Bury :—

+ (fig. 6) AVE (fig. 7) MARIA

(The lettering at Bury is larger and less ornate than that at Water Newton.) The royal head (of Queen Philippa) and the cross at Bury are well known to all campanists. Who was the founder of these two bells respectively is not certain. Mr. Cocks (in the *Church Bells of Bucks.*, pp. 10 and 11) says that, in the belief of Mr. Stahlshmidt, such bells may be assigned to John Rofford and William Rufford, bell-founders in the fourteenth century. John being a Londoner, and appointed royal bellfounder in 1367, the deed of which appointment is extant and dated June xx. (he died in or before 1390), and William being, perhaps, also a Londoner, and, moreover, very probably so. Mr. Cocks attributes these two bells to William.

**JOHN  
ROFFORD.**

**WILLIAM  
RUFFORD.**

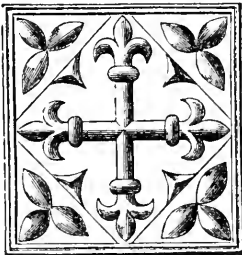


Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.

These royal heads are common in other counties, and, indeed, are to be found elsewhere in Hunts., which leads us to consider next the treble bell, only recently recast, at Great Paxton. This bore, in letters somewhat similar to those at Water Newton above :—

MR. X<sup>P</sup> T. V. and figs. 7, 9, 8, 9, 7, and 10.

This, indeed, occurs as a separate device elsewhere. I consider *Mater Christi Virgo* is intended by these letters, which are perfectly clear and legible though all the stamps were much corroded, but I am so far certain

**W. DAWE** of the correctness of description now given, as a long and searching examination made on a second visit ought to make me. A clue to the maker is afforded us in the use of W. founder's cross (fig. 9), to whose handiwork we may turn next. And here we are met by a similar difficulty to that experienced by other investigators, in reference to the use, by later founders, of an earlier man's distinctive stamps.



Fig. 9.

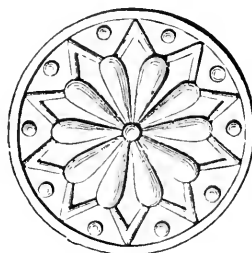


Fig. 10.

The treble bell at Abbot's Ripton is accordingly next in sequence of examination. The inscription, unique I believe, is in blackletter of the usual type, small capital letters :—

(Fig. 9) **N**on (fig. 11) **V**enit (fig. 11) **A**d **V**eniam (fig. 11) **Q**ui (fig. 11) **D**escit (fig. 11) **A**mare (fig. 11) **M**ariam.

(Anglicè—"Of its favour heaven is chary to the man that loves not Mary.")



Fig. 11.

To the researches of Mr. Stahlschmidt we are indebted for the recovery of this man's name, etc. William Dawe flourished from about 1381 to 1418. There was another person of the same name in the same ward in the East end of London, at the same time, a "white tawyer," or dresser of white

leather, possibly these two were father and son. And so, for identification, he, probably, styled himself so unvaryingly, "William ffounder," though the bird in his device points to his real name of *Dawe*. Mr. Stahlshmidt could not find his will, but believed him to have left a son, John. With him we emerge from Lombardics to blackletter.

Three other bells next call for remark.

Great Paxton fourth:—

*Sancta Caterina Ora pro nobis*

Grafham second:—

*Sum Rosa Pulsata Mundi Katerina Vocata*

And Great Staughton third:—

*Hac In Conclauē Gabriel Nunc Pange Suaue*

Each bearing either large or small fig. 12 or fig. 13 as a cross, and the well-known shields of trefoils or laver pots. fig. 15 or fig. 14 (Great Paxton has also fig. 16). It has been assumed that all bells bearing these shields

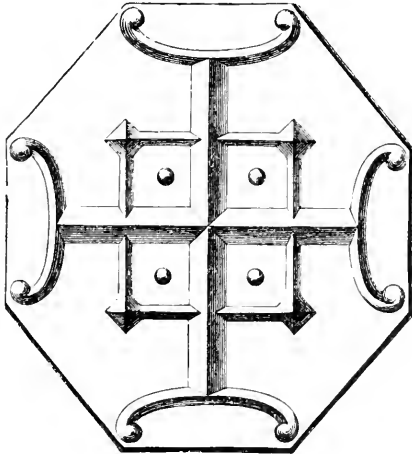


Fig. 12.

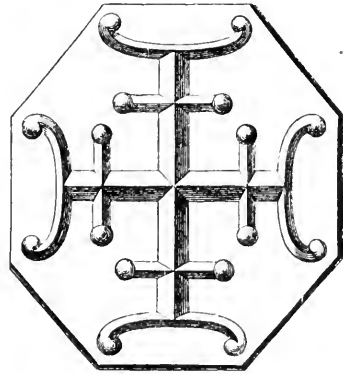


Fig. 13.

are by William Dawe. But it is not proved to my own satisfaction, who am inclined to consider his cross, fig. 9 and medallion fig. 11, indispensable to such proof. I may mention, however, that Dr. Raven informs me that at South Elmham (S. Peter), Suffolk, there are three bells, to all appearance, coeval. The first bears the three lavers, fig. 14 (in small

size, however); and what is more to our purpose, the second and third bear, respectively, the large laverpots (fig. 14) four times, and small trefoils four times (fig. 15), in conjunction with W. Dawe's cross (fig. 9), as here shown, and his medallion (fig. 11). We learn also from Dr. Tyssen's *Church Bells of Sussex*, p. 12, that Ninfield, Folkington, and Tangmere

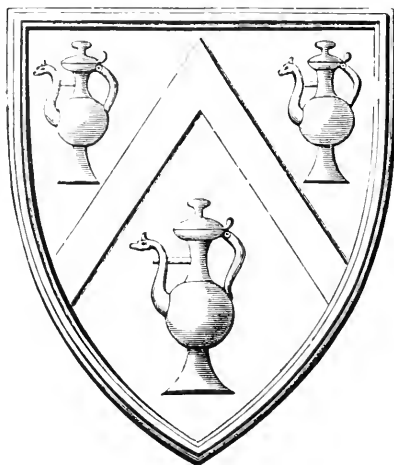


Fig. 14.

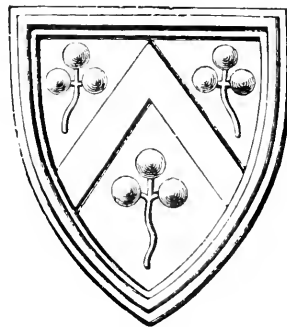


Fig. 15.

(second and third) exhibit the same combination. I incline accordingly to think that this grouping of stamps indicates a partnership existing some time between W. Dawe and, perhaps, W. Wodeward, as suggested by Mr. Stahlshmidt (*Church Bells of Kent*, p. 29); and so where Dawe's

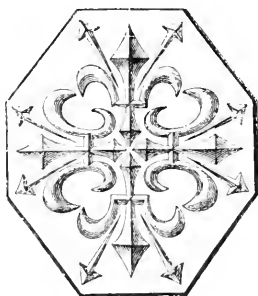


Fig. 16.



letters are used, apart from Dawe's stamps, but in company with the above figs. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, the bells are by the partner or successor suggested, whosoever he may be.

Another bell may be conveniently disposed of here, the third at Abbotsley, bearing the somewhat unusual epigraph :—

**En Sum Campana Margarete Dominata**

with the cross (fig. 9), the symbol of the Evangelist S. John (here given), surmounted by a blackletter **A**, and a cross, noted also by Mr. Stahlshmidt (*e.g.*, at Penshurst, in Kent), as *like* Wm. Dawe's, but not quite identical with fig. 9, inasmuch as the two rays or shafts are wanting in each fleur-de-lys of it. The letters are elegant blackletter, and the capitals are crowned. Now, similarly marked bells have been found by Dr. Raven in Suffolk, and as they usually bear on a shield the arms of Kebyll, it has been conjectured that a Kebyll (possibly John Kebyll mentioned in 1480), was the maker of them. Keble College, Oxford, bears these arms, exclusive of the crescent observable in this shield.

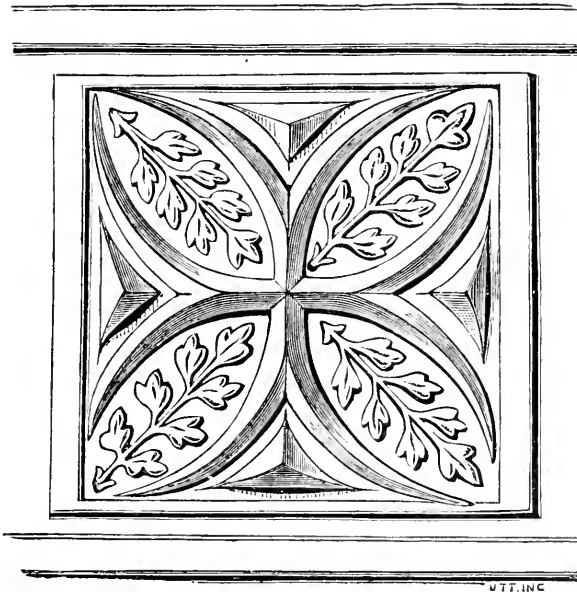


Fig. 17.

Another anonymous bell, of whose founder we have no trace, is the tenor at Water Newton, with the inscription in bold well-formed letters :—

**Sancta Maria ora pro nobis**

with the large cross, fig. 17. This has also been found at Frowlesworth, in Leicestershire, and yet again at Preston, Rutlandshire.

Two more single bells may be dismissed at this point, as we begin to leave conjecture for certainty. One of them, the tenor at Chesterton, bears the invocation:—

**O Trinitas Sancta Istam Campanam  
Conserba**

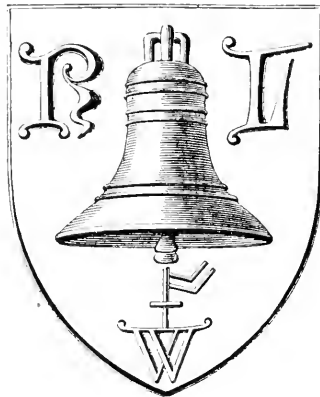


Fig. 18.

**ROGER  
LONDON.**

**JOHN  
MICHELL.**

and the stamps, fig. 18, commonly called the "R. L. W. shield," fig. 5, as a cross, a coin, and the animal's face, fig. 19. I may add, there are *two* distinct varieties of this stamp, to my own knowledge (fig. 20 being the other). Similar bells at Bushey, Herts., Stoke Charity, Hants., Hordley, Salop, and Stoke Hammond, Bucks. (formerly),



Fig. 19.

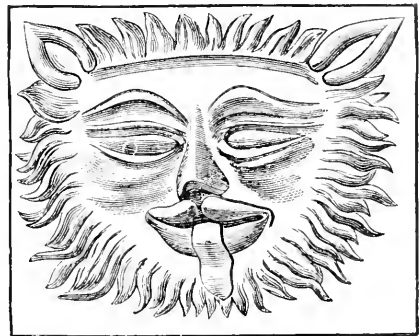


Fig. 20.

being also inscribed with invocations of the Trinity. Mr. J. W. Clark, in his



"*Cambridge*," vol. i., p. 405, has given us material information relative to their founder, as notified to me in 1891, by Dr. Raven. I quote accordingly :—

"Et Solut xxij die Marcii [1448], Rogero Landen de Wokingham loc' ad fundendum xvij lb. metalli enei pro fumivectoriis de metallo regis . . . et eidem pro metallo et fusione xij. lb. metalli enei de metallo suo proprio vijs." (Mr. Clark adds, "30 lb. of metal is not much; these *fumivectoriis* must have been small bronze chimney pots, a flue is hardly conceivable.")

Anyhow the *rebus* is clearly explained, and Roger Landon of Wokingham added to the long and worthy list of bellfounders, by this extract from Eton College accounts. But further particulars as to him personally are still wanting. John Michell, who succeeded him, used, says Mr. Cocks, the *later* stamp, fig. 19, and made this Chesterton bell; he disappears c. 1494-5.

The other bell referred to is the treble, at Old Weston, obviously of an early date, bearing several well-formed letters, and, *perhaps* (for it is by no means certain), an initial cross. But the meaning of its inscription, after four visits, remains unintelligible. It is, probably, of the Marian period.

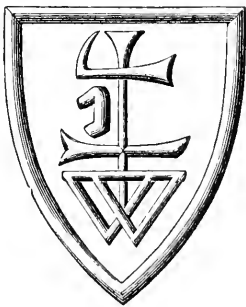


Fig. 21.

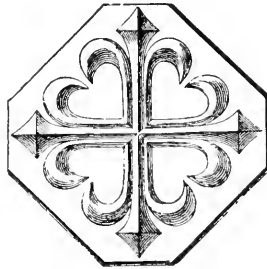


Fig. 22.

## JOHN WALGRAVE.

John Walgrave's is another name recovered from past obscurity, by Mr. Stahlshmidt in this instance. Figs. 21 and 22, are his trademark and cross. We have by him, Ellington second, Chesterton second, and Overton Longueville large bell, inscribed :—

∪ *Nomen Magdalene Campana Gerit Melodie* †

Mr. Stahlshmidt says (*Church Bells of Kent*, pp. 25 to 31) that Walgrave had been foreman to William Dawe (who disappears from deeds and

records after 1418), and limits the former's business career from that date to about 1440. He must have been fairly prosperous, as his bells are tolerably numerous. I myself found two remaining out of three (presumably) at Downham, in North Lancashire, though of course a bell being found in a church far away from its place of origin, does not necessarily indicate a wide range of business on the part of its founder. But rather it shows the wide and general sale of monastery and other bells by the Government at the Reformation period. It is observable that Walgrave's cross, fig. 22, fell into other hands. For Ellington third and Haddon first bear it in company with fig. 23, Royal Arms, and the finial fig. 24. We shall probably not err in attributing these to John Danyell, who sometimes places his initials I D on either side of his stamp; whether this joint use of a common stamp (fig. 22) again indicates *partnership*, as in Dawe's and

**JOHN  
DANYELL.**



Fig. 23.

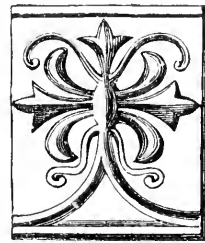


Fig. 24.

Wodeward's case above, we cannot say, but a similar instance at Fairfield, in Kent, leads Mr. Stahlschmidt to that conclusion. The Haddon bell is inscribed :—

**Johannis est nomen eius** (stamps as above)

Danyell was an excellent founder, judging by many of his bells still existing; and certainly a very interesting specimen must have been the bell by him once belonging to King's College Chapel, at Cambridge. Like Landon, he combined other trades with bellfounding, the accounts showing that in 1460 he supplied some wine to the college just mentioned; and about that time seems to have finished his career. (See Dr. Raven's *Church Bells of Cambs.*, p. 28.)

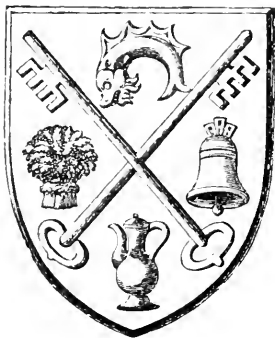


Fig. 25.



Fig. 26.

**HENRY  
JORDAN.**

His successor, however, Henry Jordan, is represented by the first and second bells at Steeple Gidding, and the one bell remaining at Stow Longa. His usual stamps are figs. 25, 26, 27, and a stamp never hitherto found elsewhere, to my knowledge, fig. 28, is found on the treble bell at Steeple Gidding, inscribed :—

(figs. 25, 28, 26) *Sancta Anna ora pro nobis*

The second :—

(figs. 25, 27, 26) *Vox Augustini sonet in auri Dei*

The Stow Longa bell has :—

*Sancte Petre ora pro nobis*

with figs. 25, 22, 26 (the cross, 22, is much corroded).

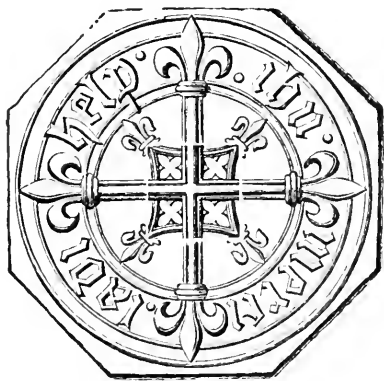


Fig. 27.

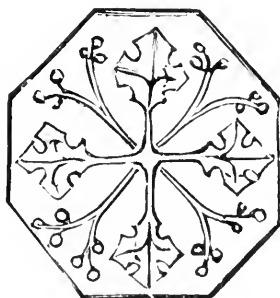


Fig. 28.

Mr. Stahlschmidt was much interested in the discovery of fig. 28; he pronounced it quite new to him—a decided “find”—and clearly Henry Jordan’s work. Of the other figures mentioned, 25 and 26 would be his own peculiarly, whereas 22 and 23 had come down from predecessors. Fig. 25 describes him plainly enough, thus: the cross-keys and the dolphin are the badge of the Fishmongers’ Company, to which he belonged; the bell and the laver-pot indicate his profession as a founder, and the wheatsheaf is part of his own armorial bearings. His will is given by Mr. Stahlschmidt in *Surrey Bells*. His career lasted, as testified by documentary records, from 1442 to 1468, and as his bells are very generally met with, he, too, like John Walgrave, must have had a “good time.” Indeed, his will gives evidence of very considerable property, the larger part of which he left (says Mr. Stahlschmidt, *Church Bells of Kent*, p. 46) to the Fishmongers’ Company in trust for certain purposes, the greater part of it being still owned and administered by them at the present day, only a small part having gone out of their hands.

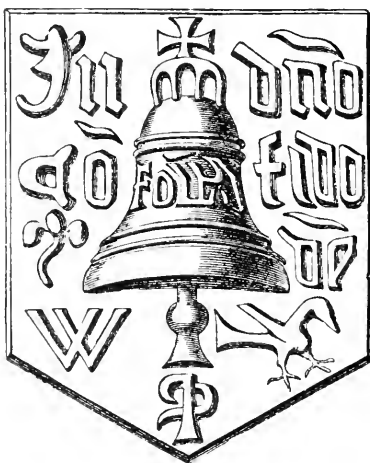


Fig. 29.

### WILLIAM CULVERDEN.

William Culverden, of London, whose rebus (fig. 29) was, for a long time unexplained, but at last elucidated by Dr. Tyssen and Dr. Raven, has two representatives remaining (possibly out of *three*, for the middle bell has been missing time out of mind) at King’s Ripton. More is known of him than of some, and yet we would gladly know more. He lived at

Houndsditch. His date is from 1513 to 1522-3, in which latter year his will was proved. It is printed in Dr. Raven's later Cambridgeshire volume, and the discovery of it at once suggested the meaning of his rebus. Previously "Daw," "Sparrow," "Peacock," "Bird," *et hoc genus omne* had been called into requisition. But the old English "Culver" (=pigeon) at once fulfilled the name given in the will and explained the "dē" (=den); and the whole rebus reads plainly enough now, *In Domino confido* [in the Lord put I my trust (how say ye then to my soul that she should flee as a *bird* unto the hill?)—*Ps.* xi. 1] "William Culverden founder."

Perhaps this idea of the pigeon (culver) fleeing to its cote suggested the former part of the same verse as a motto to Culverden; anyhow, it will be noted in the same rebus that the trefoil used by other founders threefold, occurs here singly, and is, perhaps, in allusion to Holy Trinity Priory hard by, of which his business premises were leasehold.

It appears that Thomas Lawrence, who had bought all his implements and tenements became his successor. Culverden's bells are few in number. Dr. Raven, in his very interesting Suffolk volume, gives a complete list of them; but, including the two at King's Ripton just mentioned, there appear only eighteen, so far, discovered altogether. These two are both alike—dedicated to S. John—and bearing the same marks. But the type in one case is a little larger than in the other, and the inscription a little more extended on the treble than on the tenor bell:—

(fig. 29) **S**aucte ⊕ **J**ohannes ⊕ **O**ra **P**ro ✱ **N**obis

## THOMAS BULLISDON.

Thomas Bullisdon, of London, was founding bells (Dr. Tyssen informs us) in 1510. (Perhaps he was son of the man of the same name who was Mayor of London and M.P. for the City in 1492.) One bell is attributable to him, the treble at Buckden, bearing only his trade mark fig. 30, but no cross, and inscribed in good bold letters with crowned capitals:—

**S**c̄a **K**atherina **O**ra **P**ro nobis

There is a complete ring of five by him remaining, appropriately enough, in the grand old Priory Church of S. Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield. They are dedicated respectively to S.S. Bartholomew, Katherine,

Ann, John Baptist, and Peter. All alike bear his trade mark, here given in conjunction with either fig. 22 or fig. 24, previously used by others.

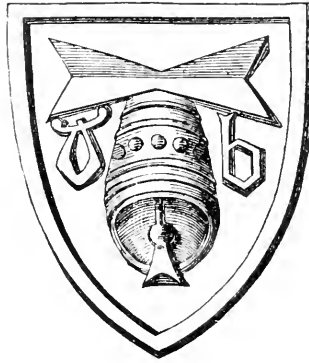
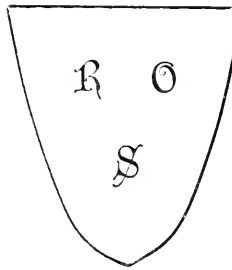


Fig. 30.

One bell may now be disposed of (before we enter on the consideration of the Leicester Foundry), and one that is rather a puzzle—the tiny treble at Denton, bearing only a shield charged with the letters



as a trade mark, and no inscription. It appears from Mr. North's Lincolnshire volume, that several church bells in contiguous churches in that county bear this mark, and sometimes in conjunction with it a cross also engraved by him. In the absence of any definite knowledge about him, Mr. North considers him to have been an itinerant mediæval workman. Failing any other suggestion, I submit that the letters may indicate, "Robert Oldfield (of S—)." The letters are Lombardics, such as Oldfield used elsewhere; and although the Spilsby Registers, as the vicar kindly informed me, do

**ROBERT  
OLDFIELD.**

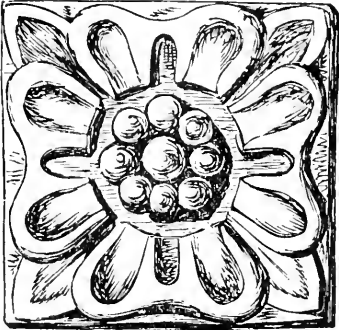


Fig. 31.

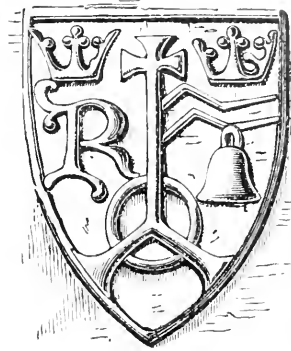


Fig. 32.

not record any such name, yet those at Spalding might do so. Denton tower was rebuilt in 1671, when one bell was cast for it; but this one may have been brought thither, out of Lincolnshire, by the Rev. W. Garfit (a Lincolnshire name), rector in 1570, who baptised Sir R. Cotton. Meanwhile the specimens remaining by the early Nottingham family are Buckworth tenor, Catworth treble, and Stilton tenor. The history of this foundry in later days, under the Oldfields, etc., has been very carefully traced, so far as found possible, by the late Mr. North, but the early

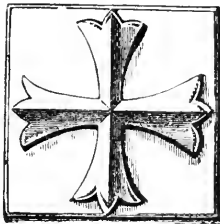


Fig. 33.

history of it is practically unrecorded, owing to the lack of discoveries made hitherto of necessary records. The stamps on the bells are, however, frequent enough, figs. 31, 32, 33. On the Stilton bell the figure of Virgin and child, as found by me at Stanion, Northants., again occurs, in conjunction with cross fig. 33. Meanwhile the Catworth inscription is so far unique:—

Or mea plene dulces laudes det Magdalene

## NEWCOMBE, WATTS.

The foundry which most largely supplies us with mediæval specimens is that at Leicester, under the successful direction of Newcombe and Watts; seventeen bells remaining from the former, and three from the latter craftsmen, which we will enumerate first, because undated. But a few more from the same hands are put in another group, because bearing their respective dates. Newcombe's first group then comprises, the treble at Fletton and at Farcet; the second at Great Stukeley, at Covington, and at Upwood; first and second at Little Stukeley; second and third at Buckworth; the second and fourth at Easton; the third and fourth at Winwick; the tenor at Grafham and at Haddon; the treble at Houghton and the bell still in use at Thurning (these last two are much corroded, but clearly, to my mind, from Leicester). The stamps being the cross, fig. 34 (usually much corroded, but clear enough on the Covington bell), a crown, the rebus shield, fig. 35, and the stunted column, fig. 36. The inscriptions may

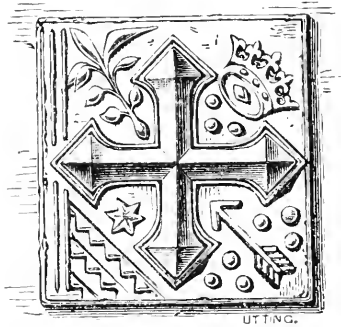


Fig. 34.

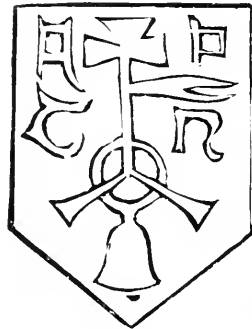


Fig. 35.

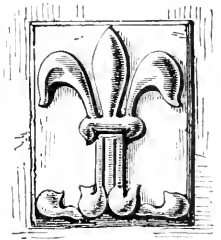


Fig. 36.

also be specified:—S. PALLE (Fletton), S. KATERINA (Grafham and Winwick), SANCTE THOMA and S. MARTINA (Little Stukeley), and SANCTA MAREA at Easton. These, probably, were cast *previous* to the Reformation; but subsequent to it in all likelihood are, REMEMBER THE PORE AND NEDE (Great Stukeley); A PENETENTE HARTE IS GOODE (Upwood); PRAISE THE LORDE (Easton and Farcet); GEVE GOD THE PREASEE, and, GEVE THANKES TO GOD ALWAIS (Buckworth); PREAES GOD ONLY (Winwick). We have also EDWARDE NEWCOME, as at Covington and Haddon. Meanwhile the Thurning bell has a small portion, I take it, of the alphabet; and the Houghton bell, what Dr. Raven reads as *Virgo Bega Hec*, together with the Leicester cross, fig. 37,



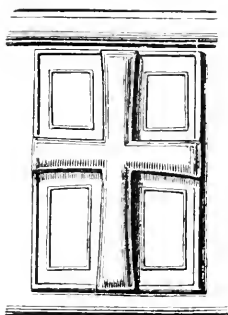


Fig. 37.

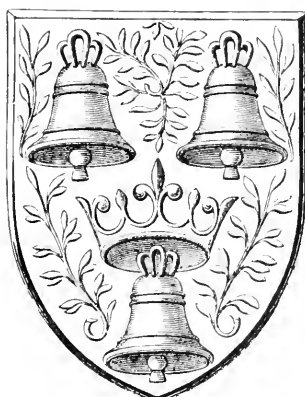


Fig. 38.

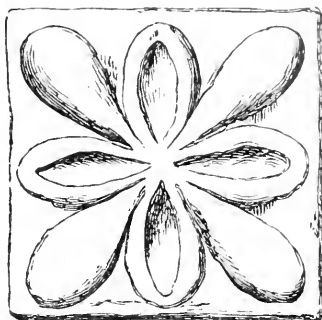


Fig. 38A.\*

in Mr. Stahlschmidt's opinion, who pronounced the bell as clearly from Newcombe's foundry at Leicester. But this last bell must be seen to be appreciated. The three bells by Watts just referred to, are the first at Grafham, and the third at Brampton and at Catworth. The first of these has no inscription. The Brampton bell is dedicated to S. Ambrose—and the Catworth bell has :—

Vox Dñi ihu xpi vox exultacionis

The stamps are the crown and figs. 38, 33. The second group, partly

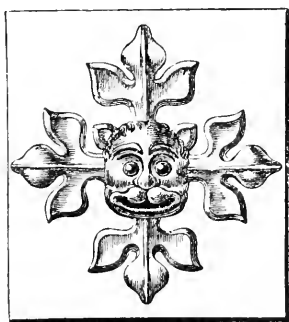


Fig. 39.

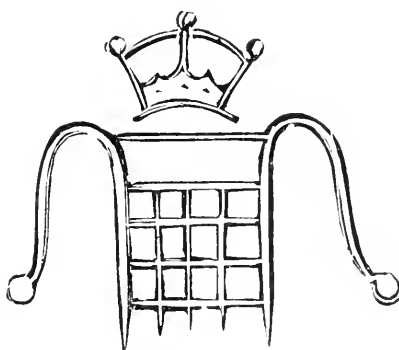


Fig. 40.

by Newcombe and partly by Watts, but with respective dates are, Haddon second (1568), bearing, like the Thurning bell, a small portion of the

\* This stamp is on the second bell at Upwood, but on a reversed shield instead of a square.

alphabet, together with a curious stamp of a nondescript animal, and another of a dog, as on a bell also by him (Newcombe) at Hamington, Northants. To which must be added the tenor at Catworth :—

ROBERTE NEWCOMBE MADE ME 1585



Fig. 8A.

with a cross *like* fig. 33 and fig. 8 (supra), or 8A, and a large medallion hopelessly corroded and equally undecipherable by myself and by Mr. W. H. Jones, who did good work in Northants. belfries, some years ago.

Meanwhile from Watts we have also Stanground fourth, 1588 :—

SERVE GOD AND OBEY THE PRINCES

Hail Weston second, 1589 :—

FEARE GOD AND OBEY THE QUEENE

Fletton third, 1590 :—

WILLIAM WATTS MADE ME

Keystone first, third, and fourth, 1592 :—

FEARE THE LORD  
REMEMBER THE LODGE  
GIVE GOD THE PRAISE

\*Glatton first and second, 1595 :—

COM COM AND PRINCE

and

SEARVE GOD AND OBEY HIS PRINCE

\*Brampton first, 1600 :—

PRAISE THE LORD

and Great Staughton tenor, 1600. These bells bear a cross (No. 45 in *Church Bells of Northants.*), together with figs. 41 and 42. As Newcombe and Watts both over-lap into the next century, 1601-1701, and as various other bells by them have to be recorded, the account of the Leicester foundry will be given later on. But it will be convenient here to dispose of a few bells belonging to this epoch (1500 to 1601) before we dismiss it.

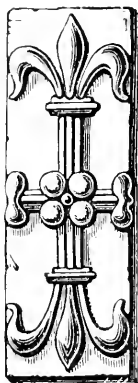


Fig. 41.

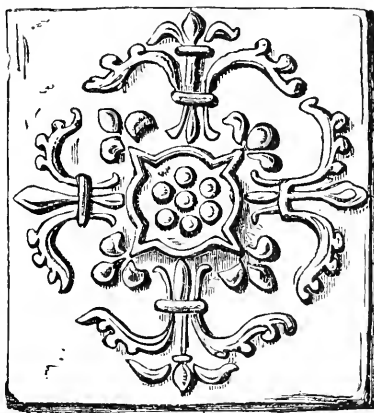


Fig. 42.



Fig. 43.

**JOHN  
GRENE.**

Kimbolton second (1571) and Abbotsley second (1575) are by a John Grene, who made two bells, still extant, at Harpenden, Herts. (See *Church Bells of Herts.*) Nothing being known of him, it is interesting to note the precise inscription on his Kimbolton bell :—

*His tribus hanc formam Grenus dedit  
arte Johannes*

\* The Brampton bell is the only one in Hunts. bearing fig. 39, as the Glatton treble is the solitary bearer of the porteullis, fig. 40, and fig. 43.

as suggesting that *three* of the Kimbolton bells were originally by him, though, alas! the registers, etc., of the Church do not go far enough back to give us any tidings about him or them. His lettering, however, closely resembles that of John Dier or Dyer, of whom again we know nothing, but whose works remain in Hunts., at Everton and Swineshead, undated, but *circa* 1575 probably; as also dated usually in Beds., Cambs., and Herts. (see the various "*Church Bells*" of those counties). Whether altogether or occasionally a peripatetic is, so far, impossible to say. But Dr. Raven, in his *Church Bells of Suffolk*, mentions what may be a corroboration of the connection above suggested between Dier and Grene:—"Abraham Green (probably the bellfounder of that name), of Lindsey, died in 1662, leaving everything to his sister, Prudence Dyer" (page 120). It is possible from this that John Grene was father or grandfather to Abraham, whose sister Prudence had married (perhaps her cousin) a descendant of Dyer. Curiously enough, the inscription on the bell at Lindsey church (Suffolk), is unknown. It *might* give a clue.

We now have to deal with the second period indicated, *i.e.*, from 1601 to 1701 (containing 117 bells), and as we do so, to take up the subject of the Leicester Foundry, in the hands of Newcombe and Watts. We may first enumerate their bells respectively.

By the former we have, treble, second, and third at All Saints, Huntingdon, 1606; his sole representatives at this period, and apparently very poor ones (see later on); whereas Watts is well attested by Great Staughton treble and second, 1633; Kimbolton tenor (a grand bell), 1634;

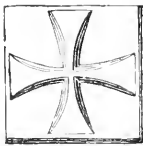


Fig. 44.

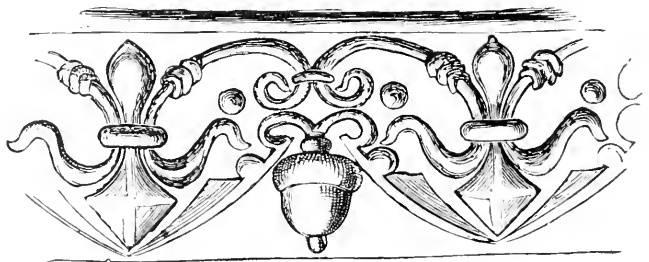


Fig. 45.

and all five at Spaldwick (a good ring), 1638. Newcombe's cross is fig. 44 on these present bells. Watts again uses fig. 38, given above, and the stiff-looking acorn foliage, familiar to many campanists, fig. 45. The

history of the two firms seems as follows. (It has been very carefully traced by Mr. North, but I do not go back to its *earliest* occupants, as no bells by them are known for certain to exist.)

The Leicester Foundry, like that at Stamford, undoubtedly sprung from that at Nottingham, and these three foundries provided collectively by far the majority of the bells remaining in Huntingdonshire.

Robert Newcombe, mayor of Leicester in 1550, is the first of the series with whom we are immediately connected, as casting the tenor bell at Catworth in 1583. He was succeeded by his sons Thomas, Robert, and Edward, of whom Thomas died in 1581; and Edward, to whom we may assign the bells bearing his name at Covington and Haddon, left three sons, Robert, Thomas, and William, connected more or less with the foundry. It was this Thomas, presumably, to whom we are to assign the All Saints bells.

Early in the seventeenth century the Watts family come very prominently on the scene as bellfounders. Between them and the Newcombes some sort of partnership seems to have previously existed, as is evinced by their joint use of the same stamps. It may be noted that Francis Watts, in 1564, bought some bell wheels from the church of S. Peter, Leicester, and, perhaps in conjunction with the Newcombes, cast these two bells for Hunts.—Brampton treble, 1600, and the third bell (undated), and some of

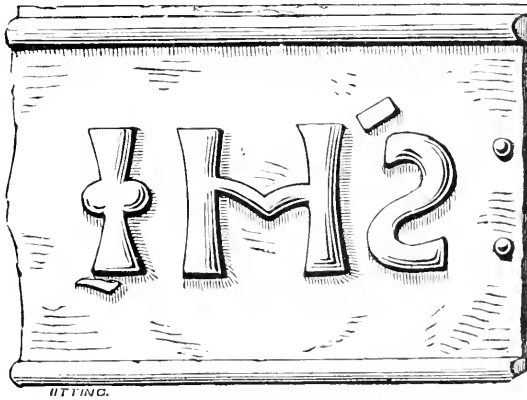


Fig. 46.

the others given above. As the Watts family seldom put their names on their bells, and use the same stamps very often, it is difficult to assign with any certainty, until we come to Hugh Watts, the last and greatest artificer of the name. The following "exceptions prove the rule":

Fletton tenor, Hunts., bears William Watts' name, and is dated the year he died, 1590; a bell at Bingham, Notts., has Francis Watts' name, who died in 1600. Meanwhile a bell each at South Luffenham, Rutlandshire, at Dean and at Kempston, Beds., bears that of Hugh Watts, who died 1643. He supplied the Hunts. bells eulogised above, and was in the habit of using the same inscription continually, one of them indeed so frequently "IH̄S: (fig. 46) NAZARENUS" etc., that his bells came to be designated as Watts' "Nazarenes." On his death some of his "plant" fell into the hands of the Nottingham founders, the Oldfields, and, curiously enough, other details appear used in common (previously) by the Leicester Foundry and by the Braziers at Norwich. Watts' bells abound in Northants., and elsewhere, and are as excellent, usually, as they are abundant. Fig. 47 is a specimen of his larger lettering.



Fig. 47.

**RICHARD  
HOLDFELD.**

Richard Holdfeld's precise habitation has not, so far, been established—probably it was at Cambridge; and a fair quantity of his work remains in Cambs., and Hunts. He must not be confounded with Robert Oldfield, fig. 49 (probably a relative, however), whose bells are frequent in Herts., and whose headquarters have been clearly shown to have been in S. Andrew's parish, Hertford. Both men used on occasion the same cross and same inscription. Richard's ordinary cross is fig. 48, a larger size of which was, as

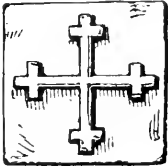


Fig. 48.

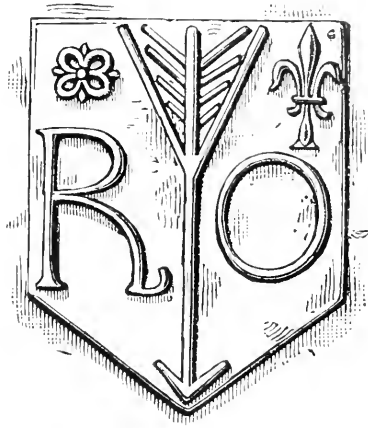


Fig. 49.

we shall see anon, used by William Haulsey of St. Ive's. He sometimes used two varieties of lettering on the same bell; ordinarily he affected Lombardics of a late type. His Hunts. bells I consider as follow:

Hilton treble, 1604 (now recast); Little Stukeley tenor, 1607; Woodstone treble, 1608; Little Paxton treble, 1610; Everton third, 1611; and Wyton second, 1612. The first-named was noteworthy as bearing this inscription:—

Maria Magdalene wil sing sweetli be soor cum  
mereli after 1604\*

A clue, as I believe, to the bells at S. Benet's, Cambridge: "OF AL THE BELLS IN BENET I AM THE BEST," etc., 1607; and, "NON NOMEN FERRO FICTI," etc., 1610. Moreover, Draper's desperate attempts at rhyme on the tenor bell there *may* have arisen from a previous bell by our friend Holdfeld existing with similar doggerel.

**WILLIAM HAULSEY.** William Haulsey, of St. Ive's, has been alluded to as using a larger variety of Richard Holdfeld's cross (as here given), fig. 50. The parish records of Buckden, Hunts., 1627; Cambridge, Great S. Mary, 1621; Shillington, Beds., 1624; and Cambridge S. Michael, 1625, record transactions with a *bellfounder*

\* N.B.—For "before" and "merrily."

at *St. Ive's*. The bells cast for Shillington remain still, both bearing inscriptions, \*and one (the tenor), this cross (below), used by this man. Bells by him are numerous round *St. Ive's*, between 1620 and 1630; Dunton (till 1887) and Edworth (both in *Beds.*), having each a bell by

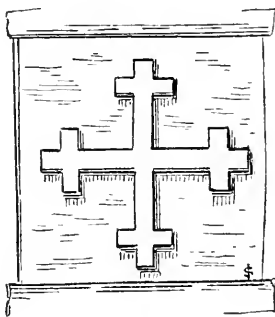


Fig. 50.

him, bearing his + and inscription (*Edworth*):—HIEE THAT WIL(L) BE MERI LET HIM BE MERI IN THE LORDE, 1623; the other (*Dunton tenor*):—WHOSOEVER DOETH VS SEE WILLIAM HAVLSEY MAD(E) ME, 1622. At *Fen Ditton, Cambs.*, the name is spelt *Hausley*, by Mr. *Lukis* apparently with Dr. *Raven*; but, in the absence of any rubbings remaining, Dr. *Raven* thinks *Haulsey* was correct. FEAR THE LORD AND ON HIM CALL WILLIAM HAUSLEY MADE US ALL, occurring on the old fourth. All five bells there were *once* by him, but owing to a fire in or about 1881, all had to be recast, except the treble, which alone remains as a record of the ring cast in 1623. The oldest register at *St. Ive's* church has the following, discovered by me:—

- 1621 William Halsey and Margaret Peret nupt the first of May.
- 1622 Elizabeth Holsey filia Will<sup>m</sup>. Holsey bapt ye 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.
- 1625 Mary Halse the daughter of William Halse buried the xiiij day of November.
- 1626 Johes Halsey filius Willm. Halsey sepult fuit xxx<sup>o</sup> die Augusti.

I agree with Mr. *North's* conjecture in his *Beds.* volume, that *W. Haulsey* may have succeeded *Holdfeld*. Also I am strongly of opinion that there was some connection between *Holdfeld* and the *Norrises*, and eventually between these and *Haulsey*, who uses their fleur-de-lys (fig. 51), letter *H*, and some of their inscriptions. But one letter, **E**, is peculiarly his own, as

° Subsequent examination proved Mr. *North*, in his *Beds.* volume, to have been in his description of *Shillington* bells, etc., plainly misled by a rubbing.



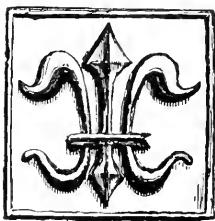


Fig. 51.

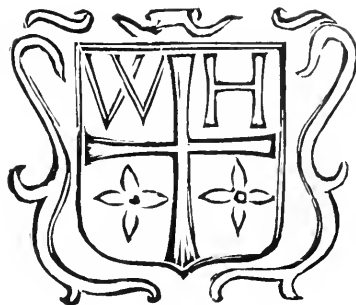


Fig. 52.

also one other inscription, *CVM CANO BVSTA MORI CUM PULPITA VIVERE DESI* (for "disce"). He also condescends to very poor rhymes occasionally; *e.g.*, at Houghton, Hunts., where four bells are by him, and one bearing his shield with letters W. H. (fig. 52) is inscribed:—

**MAN TAKETH PAINE BVT GOD GIVETH GNINE** (for "gain")

or, as in Cambs., *e.g.*, Fen Ditton, where formerly (old second), RING AND FEAR NOT, BUT SWEAR NOT, 1623. Meanwhile, Holywell third has, WHEN YE HEARE MY DOLFVL SOVND REPENT BEFORE YE COEM TO GROVND; and on the rim, I CAL AL MEN TO CHVRCH TO SERVE THE LORD I CAL TO GRAVE AND YET SPEAKE NOT A WORD; at Graveley (1), GOD OF HIS MARCE HEARETH VS ALL (16)24; *cf.* Shepreth second; (2), WHEN VPON (HIM) THAT WE DOE CALL, 1624; *cf.* Shepreth third; (3), O PRIESE THE LORD THEAREFORE I SAY, 1624; (4) I SOVND VNTO THE LIVING WHEN THE SOVLE DOTH PARTAWAY, 1624. The earliest date on any of his bells as found by me is 1617, on the second at Stanground; the latest, Wistow tenor, 1628. The bells still remaining in Hunts. besides these, are Fenstanton fourth, 1620; Offord Darcy tenor, 1620; Great Stukeley treble, 1622; Broughton treble, 1624; \*Wood Hurst bell, 1624; Wyton tenor, 1626; Houghton (see above) second, third, fourth, and fifth, 1626; and all four at Holywell, 1625. I have taken much interest in tracing him, and accordingly give in the Appendix a list of all bells I know of, as issuing from his foundry. There appears to have been a sort of lull, in my opinion, at the Stamford foundry between 1620-1630, judging by the paucity of bells by the Norrises discoverable

\* There were two more (broken) bells here till 1889, one was by Haulsey, 1621, and bore Wardens' names and his cross as above.

of that period. This Haulsey availed himself of, having very possibly been an apprentice, or learnt his trade at Stamford foundry. His career manifestly was very short—his literary abilities moderate; but his work *good*, and far more extensive than hitherto supposed, as existing still in Beds., Cambs., Hunts., and Northants. At Buckden (tenor) and Holywell



Fig. 53.

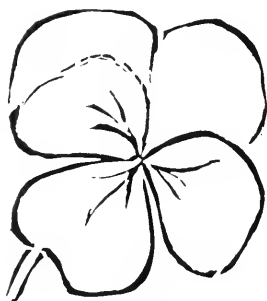


Fig. 54.

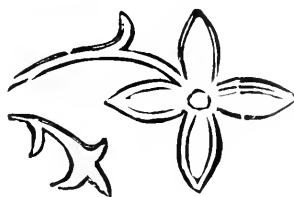


Fig. 55.



Fig. 56.

he uses foliage, etc., and Little Abington, Cambs. (figs. 53, 54, 55, 56). One thing I believe is clear, that any bell *of the period* bearing the inscription, CUM CANO BUSTA, etc., may be safely attributed to him, though afterwards of course this epigraph was employed by others, as at

Trumpington, Cambs., where Eayre possibly quoted from a bell he was re-casting of Haulsey's.

It will now be convenient to turn to the Stamford Foundry, under the Norris family, which sent no less than forty-seven bells, still remaining, into this county. The succession appears to have been thus:—

**TOBIAS  
NORRIS, I.**

**TOBIAS  
NORRIS, II.**

**TOBIAS  
NORRIS, III.**

Tobias or Toby Norris, I., 1607 to 1626, in which latter year he was buried at S. George's Church, Stamford, on November 4th. Tobias II., 1628. Thomas Norris, 1625 to 1680. Tobias III., c. 1656 to 1698, when Alexander Rigby came on, but only carried on the business till 1708, in which year he died, and the foundry, so far as we know, was closed. I have said that a connection evidently existed at some time between the Nottingham Oldfields and Norris; I am glad to have had a corroborative opinion from Mr. Justin Simpson, the well-known antiquary of Stamford. He says (under date July 29th, 1891), "In not one of the (6) parish registers of Stamford have I met with the name of Oldfield; and although I have no proof of the fact, I am, and have, for some time past been of opinion that Norris was a pupil of Oldfield's, from a marked similarity in certain marks on their bells. Norris' symbol, an owl, on his bells he adopted as a playful allusion to (?) his old master's name, *Owlfield*, and also as a compliment. The parish register of S. Michael's (Stamford) records the marriage of Thomas

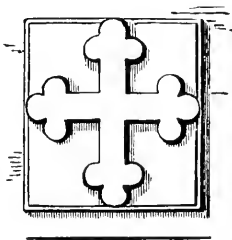


Fig. 58.

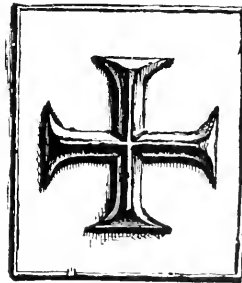


Fig. 59.

Norris and Elizabeth Brumfeld 'xi. Julye, 1570.' The family subsequently settled in S. George's parish, and are found in the registers from about 1600 to 1699. T. Norris was buried at S. George's, 4th Nov., 1626. His will is not at Somerset House, nor, *as far as I can learn*, at Lincoln," etc. There seem, from the entries supplied by Mr. Simpson to Dr. Raven, to

have been no children born to the family before 1606, which is, to my mind, in favour of the supposition that he was *married* there, and all his children were born elsewhere, possibly at Nottingham, where he was learning his trade. The marks adopted by him are figs. 51, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62.

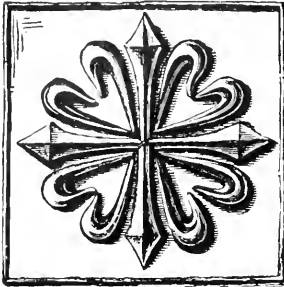


Fig. 60.

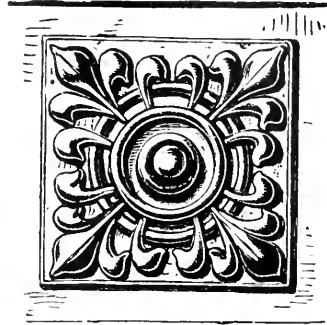


Fig. 61.

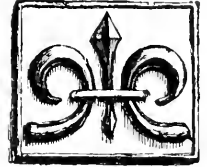


Fig. 62.

The examination of church bells, and publication of particulars connected therewith has advanced with rapid strides of late years, but the same details with regard to the foundries have constantly to be repeated, as well as any newer information, and so I can only at present here reproduce, with every possible acknowledgment to the painstaking investigation of its author, a good deal already set forth in his various volumes with regard to the Stamford Foundry and the Norris family, by Mr. North.\* From him, then, we learn, *inter alia*, that Tobias Norris I. took up his freedom at Stamford on the 4th June, 1607, was one of the "Capital Constables" in that year, and again in 1621-2; and warden of S. George's Church in 1613-14; in connection with charities attached to which parish his name occurs in 1609. He died, as above stated, in 1626, on November 2nd, and was buried November 4th, in the north aisle of the church, where a small brass is thus inscribed:—

HERE LIETH THE BO DY OF TOBIE NORRIS  
BELFOVZ : WHO DEC EA : THE 2 OF NO 1626

(It is rather singular that all the N's are reversed in this inscription, as this family constantly reverse the N's in the epigraphs on their bells). The register of the parish records his burial. He made some dozen bells for

\* *Church Bells of Northants.*, p. 96.

Hunts. churches, the earliest being Orton Waterville third, in 1606, and his latest the third at Stanground, 1622—both noticeable bells, for the former bears the old inscription repeated:—

PRÓTEGE PRECE PIA QVOS COZVOCO SAZCTA MARIA

and the latter (an unusual inscription for him):—

ME KOREM MESTIS LETIS SIC LETA SOZABO

and the royal arms in bold relief on the waist of the bell. Curiously enough, the second at Stanground bears this same inscription, though manifestly by W. Haulsey, in 1617 (see above); and the only other instance I know of Norris using this inscription is on the second at Offord Darcy, 1618, where again the tenor is by Haulsey, 1620, who uses this inscription at Fenstanton, on the fourth bell, dating also from 1620.

Tobias II., perhaps son to the foregoing, took up his freedom (as we learn from same source) on 4th June, 1628, and is mentioned in a document relating to the church estate in 1638, as “Toby Norris, of Staunford, bell-founder.” His career was probably short, and we have very few bells in Hunts. from him; two only, in fact—Wolley (the only bell remaining), dated 1634; and Great Stukeley tenor, a rather poor bell, 1635.

Thomas Norris and Tobias III. (see below) were the **THOMAS** best known men of the family. Thomas succeeded, says **NORRIS.** Mr. North, to the business on the death of Tobias I., taking up his freedom as a bell-founder on 31st December, 1625. He also served as Warden at S. George’s Church, spelling his name as Norys and Norris; filling also various offices in the parish, town, and council; though towards the end, in 1678, a letter of his to the mayor indicates a certain amount of “friction” had arisen in the conduct of municipal business. His bells are numerous in this county, ranging from Hamerton third, 1628, to Brampton second, 1679. His stock inscriptions are: “OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI,” “NON CLAMOR SED AMOR CANTAT IN AURE DEI,” and “NON SONO ANIMABUS MORTUORUM SED AURIBUS VIVENTIUM.” Perhaps, as I suggested to Mr. North, there is here a “fling” at the old faith. His more peculiarly-adopted cross is No. 58, above given. He apparently possessed no letter Z, for in the Hamerton instance, he spells “Fitz John,” “Fitchjohn”!

About twenty-four of his bells remain: specially noticeable amongst

which are the second, third, fourth, and fifth of the heavy ring at Leighton Bromswold, of which quartette the first three are alphabet bells, dated 1641. And the tenor, undated, bears simply:—

E S M E    C A T B E R J A

(mother to James, Duke of Lennox, who rebuilt the tower in 1634). The letters are Lombardics, large, bold, well spaced and executed. I have seldom seen a bell which more impressed me with an idea of almost "calm dignity" and "substantial repose" than this noble tenor.

His wife, Edith, was buried 28th July, 1673, according to the Register at S. George's; but his own date of death and burial, as far as I know, are not yet ascertained.

He has a curious trick of reversing his figure 7's, as has also his son and successor, to whom we now come.

Tobias III. was baptised at S. George's, April 25th, 1634. A member of an honoured and honourable family, by this time, he served as overseer of the highways, also of the poor, and as churchwarden. His name occurs in connection with the parish charities. His burial (at S. George's) is recorded on January 19th, 1698-9.

His bells in Hunts. are comparatively few (ten in number), ranging from Water Newton second, 1667, to Wistow third, 1678. He uses occasionally, but not always, the old foundry stamps, but was evidently a plain man, who thought "the less said the better," hence now and again, *e.g.*, at Water Newton, Great Gidding, and Holme, we have only the date, an initial or two, or scrolling, at most. And here, with much respect for the handiwork and labours of this foundry, we take leave of it. For no bells exist in Hunts. by Alexander Rigby, who succeeded to the business, and closed it with his death in 1708, being buried at S. Martin's on October 29th, that year. It might be added that, although no known record assigns a precise site to this foundry, it is yet generally supposed to have adjoined the locality of the present gas works, or of Mr. Blashfield's terra-cotta works.

James Keene, of Woodstock, sent eleven bells into this county, *i.e.*, treble, second, third, and fifth of the tiny ring at Swineshead, in 1629, and one for Old Hurst, three for Offord Cluny, two for Everton, and a tenor for Brampton (a good bell) in the following year. His marks are fig. 62 above, and fig. 63 here given. His name never appears on his bells, to my knowledge, but his

initials, I K, on a square stamp, are frequently there. His favourite inscription is said to have been, GOD SAVE OUR KING (Offord third and Everton second). At Swineshead, Old Hurst, and Everton (treble) he uses only several fleur-de-lys and date 1629.



Fig. 63.

On the treble at Offord :—

**IESVS BE OUR SPEED**

and second at Offord :—

**PRAIS THE LORD**

But at Brampton he attempts greater things than usual, and finds himself “crowded out” for want of space on his bell :—

**ALL GLORI BE TO GOD ONE HI (GH)**

His name occurs (*teste* Mr. North) on the fifth and sixth at King's Sutton, Northants., in which county he did a good deal of work ; *inter alia*, a pretty little ring of five at Pitsford, near Northampton, which I inspected many years since. Deeds and other evidence indicate the site of the foundry in Oxford Street, Woodstock, established by him between 1622 and 1631 ; he died about December, 1654, and was succeeded by his son Richard, from whose hand there are no bells in Hunts. ; and after whose death, probably at Woodstock (*c.* 1704), the foundry was closed. (*Church Bells of Bucks.*, p. 171.)

**JOHN DRAPER.** John Draper, of Thetford (Norfolk and Suffolk), was, we learn from Rev. J. J. Raven, D.D. (*Church Bells of Suffolk*, p. 111), a founder at that place for forty years, and the third son of Thomas Draper the elder. His business in Suffolk arose mainly from the collapse of the Bury Foundry. His earliest date, as ascertained by Dr. Raven, is 1600, and he died in 1644.

We are not very much concerned with him in Hunts., his only two bells being the treble and tenor at Colne, each in different lettering, but each dated 1607. A good founder, and doing elsewhere, at any rate, a lot of business, he presumably married a sister of John Brend, the bellfounder, whom he speaks of in his will as his "brother." Between them they tried to make head against the growing reputation of "Colchester Graye"; whose son, alas! for the irony of fate, makes, we find, the second bell for this very Colne in 1654, and to whom we now pass.

**MILES GRAYE.** Miles Graye, the great Colchester bellfounder, did, however, little for the Hunts. bell-chambers; one bell only, viz., Bluntisham second (1632), contiguous to Colne, to which might once have been added the tenor at Offord Cluny, made in 1624, but, after lying cracked for upwards of fifty years, recast at Whitechapel in 1842. I am sorry this grand artificer is not better represented in the county, whom Dr. Raven justly calls "a prince among workmen." He did business largely in Suffolk (eighty and more of his bells still remain); a few remain in Norfolk, some seventeen in Cambs., one in Sussex; a respectable array in Beds. and Herts.; naturally very many in Essex; and he ranges from 1605, at Ipswich, to 1646 elsewhere. At this later date, however, bell-founding was rather at a low ebb, and the great founder himself was drawing close to his end.

An attack by Fairfax being made on Colchester in 1648, whither the Cavaliers of the vicinity had resorted, Miles Graye's house in Head Gate was burned down, as we find from his will; and he himself, having made and executed it on the 17th of May, 1649, "weak in body and crazed with age, but yet in p'fect mind and memory," died a month later. Certainly it could have been no ordinary workman to whom so early in his career, as 1615, the casting of the tenor of distant Newcastle-on-Tyne was entrusted. We pass perforce to his two sons, who are rather better represented in numbers, viz., Christopher, baptised January 29th, 1625, and Myles, on the 19th September, 1628, at which date also "Moyles" Graye certifies the Register (S. Mary-at-the-Walls) as churchwarden.\*

\* *Church Bells of Suffolk*, pp. 117, 119, 120.



**CHRISTOPHER  
GRAYE.**

Christopher Graye has left us eight bells in this county, and ranging from 1665 (Hailweston first) to (Everton tenor) 1681. There are two, by him, out of the four bells at Yelling, and dated 1666; all three at Pidley-cum-Fenton, 1675; and the treble at Offord Darcy, 1676. Neither he, however, nor his brother, had the abilities of their father, and so he appears to have "knocked about" a great deal before he settled, if, indeed, he can ever be said to have done so at all. Dr. Raven traces him to Ampthill in 1659; and believes him in 1677 to have been at Ipswich, as helping John Darbie; and argues from the fact that "none of his bells are known to bear date 1673-4-5-6, that all this time he was helping Darbie." His bells, however, in Hunts. ranging as above, disprove the theory, and lead us to think that, eminently a wanderer, he had gone back to Ampthill or to Haddenham, whither, indeed, he finally betook himself, *c.* 1663, in which place a connection of some sort seems to have arisen between him and Charles Newnan, whom we shall notice anon.

We must next, in order of sequence, speak of Miles **MILES** Graye II., from whom there are remaining three bells **GRAYE II.** only:—Abbotsley fourth, 1653; Colne second, 1654; and Buckden fourth, 1654. We have alluded above to Draper and Brend combining against Graye; this is referred to on the second at Wickham Market:—

"The monument of Graie Is past awaie  
In place thereof doth stand, The name of John Brend."

An easier task now that Miles II. and Christopher had come on the scene, and old Miles I. had passed away. He also is of the "peripatetics," more or less. For Dr. Raven finds him in Suffolk, 1651; in Beds. and Cambs., 1653-6; when again he returns to Suffolk till 1664, and is in Cambs. again till 1667. Returning again to Suffolk for some years, he goes back to Colchester at last, where he dies, 1686, leaving a shilling each to his children, Samuel, Francis, Myles, James, Frances, and Jane, and the residue to his widow Elizabeth.\*

It appears from the very interesting parish account book at Buckden, where, as mentioned above, he cast the fourth in 1654, that his headquarters were at Gamlingay (Cambs.), where he had recast the ring the previous

\* *Church Bells of Suffolk*, p. 134.

year, from which place Abbotsley is only a very few miles, and Buckden and Colne not a very great distance further still.

**BRYAN  
ELDRIDGE.**

**WILLIAM  
ELDRIDGE.**

As far as possible to observe a chronological sequence, we must leave Suffolk for awhile and go to Surrey, the Chertsey Bell-foundry under the Eldridges claiming, for a brief period, our attention. We have only three bells now in Hunts. from this foundry, viz., third and fifth at Great Gransden, 1658 (formerly there were three others respectively recast in 1854, 1883, and 1895), by Bryan Eldridge (the younger); and the fourth at Kimbolton, by William Eldridge, in 1660. A full account of this foundry is given in Mr. Stahlschmidt's *Church Bells of Surrey*. It lasted for over a century, and did a very large amount of business in Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex, and elsewhere; and many excellent bells issued therefrom. It came, however, to an end on the death of William Eldridge, aged 82, in 1716. Either that "competition, which is the soul of business," or failing health and declining years brought it about, that though his business appears to have been large, and his career to have lasted fifty-three years, he was not altogether successful, there being a mortgage on his house at the time of his death, upon which the foundry at Chertsey seems to have come to an end. It may be added that Bryan Eldridge, the elder, died in 1640, leaving behind him successors in the business, Bryan II., Abraham, and William.

**CHARLES  
NEWMAN.**

Coming now to Charles Newman—he appears to have gone back to Lynn from Haddenham (Cambs.) in 1684—we find only two bells remaining of his manufacture, the third of Colne and the tenor of Bury, both cast in 1700. He, like H. Bagley and R. Chandler (see below), forms a link between the period now under consideration and the one following it, *i.e.*, from 1701 to 1801, as they worked in both centuries. Suffolk and Norfolk contain much of his work; Cambs. a little (*eight* bells); and Hunts., as stated, *two* bells. Like others we have mentioned, he appears to have thought if

**THOMAS  
NEWMAN.**

business did not come to him, he must go to the business; so he also is nomad in his habits, alternating chiefly between Haddenham and Lynn. Whilst living at Haddenham, his wife Alice bore him a son in 1682, Thomas, who, as a bellfounder, sent three bells into Hunts., and may now be briefly dismissed. Born April 2nd, at Haddenham, then, he was baptised on the 13th, and began work, says Dr. Raven, when only nineteen, his earliest

bell being 1701 ; though Wyton treble runs this pretty close, being cast in 1705.

The fourth and third at Bluntisham are respectively dated 1716 and 1717, and his handiwork. His headquarters are said, by the same authority, to have been at Norwich in 1702. If so, however, he did not remain there altogether, for the parish register at Wyton contains the following :—

June 1st 1705 Witton little bell was cast at Hadnam and weighed 337 pds.

However, he is to be heard of at Cambridge, Norwich, and Bury. But Haddenham finds him his wife, Susan Aspland, on August 27th, 1707, and she apparently survived him, for his burial record at S. John de Sepulchre's, Norwich, on April 20th, 1745, describes him as a married man, and not as a "widower." We have, alas! no specimen of the poetic proclivities which marked him, and which are graphically recorded by the campanist above-mentioned of Cambs. and Suffolk.

Henry Bagley, of Ecton, hailing originally from Chacombe, **HENRY** Northants., was the maker presumably of the treble of **BAGLEY.** Bythorn, 1682, and the treble at the adjacent parish of Kimbolton in 1702. Very little appears to be known about him beyond that in 1688 he cast the bells for Lichfield Cathedral, a new ring of ten being desired to supersede the previous six. He cast the first *eight* of the ten—of which Dr. Lynam records seven as still existing (second to eighth), but he so oversized them as to use all the metal intended for the ten, so that £80 were necessary for the completion of the ring. This was, however, eventually adjusted without interfering with Bagley's bells, which were very good ones. His burial is contained in the Ecton register :—

1703 April 1st Mr. Henry Bagley formerly of Chalcomb gentleman.

(See North's *Northants.*)

To conclude this period, we may mention now **RICHARD** two bells, bearing respectively R. C., 1688 and **CHANDLER III.** 1699, the trebles of Ellington and Diddington. These are evidently by one hand, *i.e.*, Richard Chandler III., a bellfounder at Drayton Parslow, in Bucks.; Anthony Chandler being, perhaps, the best known member of the family. Edward Hall, described in the Burial Register as "poor bellfounder," last held the foundry; dying, apparently from this, in difficulties, 1755. Richard

Chandler died at the end of 1704, being buried on January 1st, 1705. The Rev. T. A. Turner informed me that, as Curate of the parish, he frequently had conversations with an old man named Baldwin, whose garden was on the site of the old foundry, and who repeatedly turned up founders' *débris*, etc., of various kinds when digging therein.

As we leave this period, we must note an anonymous bell, the third at Fenstanton, simply inscribed :—

ANNO DOMINI + 1603

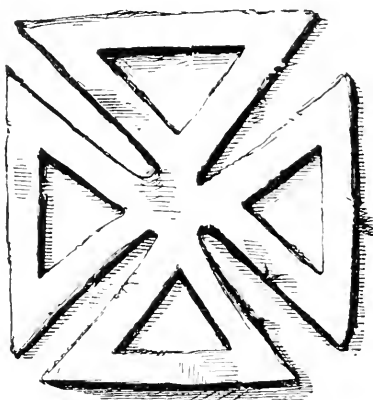


Fig. 64.

the cross (like fig. 64), being of a very nondescript character, very roughly executed, as indeed is the whole epigraph, somewhat similar to a bell I inspected several years ago, the fourth at Weekley, Northants. : SERVE GOD 1615 ; and apparently to one at Aldwinckle S. Peter's, Northants. (*Church Bells of Northants.*, p. 73). I do not pretend to assign it to any founder.

Coming to the period ranging between 1701 and 1800, we have already disposed of a few bells (see above), by founders who flourished in both centuries, *eg.*, Newman and Bagley. We will, however, first mention Thomas Russell, of Wootton, near Bedford, to whom we are indebted for three bells only : Great Paxton second, 1721 ; Keystone tenor, 1733 ; and Brampton fourth, 1741. His career seems to have lasted from 1715 to 1745, being buried, according to the Parish Register, on the 22nd of January in that year ; though other words, the Vicar tells me, appear to have been

erased, which might have indicated him to be a clock and watchmaker also; he is described therein as a bellfounder. He was succeeded by his sons Thomas and William, apparently for a short time only, if at all, for the foundry soon passed on to William Emerton, senior, and then to William Emerton, junior (his son), who married in 1766, and is described in the Wootton register as of no profession (*teste* the Vicar). He commenced business as a bellfounder, but his days appear to have closed in ruin. The foundry lasted for the greater part of the eighteenth century; the site of it is well known, and now partly occupied by the premises of a roadside inn.

We next come to Thomas Eayre, of Kettering; he did not, indeed, send many bells into Hunts., but his skill was unquestioned. He supplied nine bells, still remaining, the earliest being Leighton Bromswold treble, 1720; five of the Hemingford Grey six in 1724 (probably the whole ring (*q.v.*) was originally by him); one to Glatton (the tenor), 1736; one, Hamerton second, 1738; and Elton third, 1746.

Mr. North (*Church Bells of Northants.*, p. 47) gives many particulars as to the Eayres' family, to which I beg to refer the reader. Thomas Eayre was, presumably, the son of the clockmaker of the same name, who died at Kettering, and as we learn from the Parish Register, was buried 15th April, 1716. His sons, in that case, are thus noted in the Baptismal Register:—

Thomas son of Thomas Eayre and Anne his wife was born 26 Aug. 1691 and baptised 21 Jan. 1711. Also Mr. Josh: Eayre an adult person baptised Oct 26. 1731.

After being for a short time in partnership with John Eayre, probably his uncle, the former son assumed alone the reins of government, and presided over the destinies of the foundry. The Rev. J. Ludlam (see Brewster's *Encyclopædia*, Article Horology) speaks very highly of his work. He continued, at the same time, the business of a clockmaker, and made a curious chime for Lord Mahon at Harrowden House, between Kettering and Wellingborough, with thirteen *dish* bells, the largest of which weighed about two cwt. He died at the end of 1757, being buried in Kettering church. The entry in the register being:—

1758. Mr. Thomas Eayre Buried Jan. ye 3<sup>rd</sup>.

When I was Curate of Kettering, 1869-1872, a clock and watchmaker's shop on the Market Hill was still carried on by his descendants on the female side (Davidson or Richardson by name). He left three daughters

and one son, Thomas Eayre, also a bell-founder, who, though a good craftsman, was not pecuniarily successful. He is said to have become bankrupt about 1761, and the Kettering Foundry was closed about 1762.

Wadcroft, in Kettering, used to be called "Bellfounder's Lane," the site of the foundry well is (or was till lately) traceable; and Thomas Eayre's house still remains—an old-fashioned one—on the left-hand side of Gold Street, going from Wadcroft, a few yards above the Grammar School.

**HENRY PENN.** Henry Penn, of Peterborough (whose apparently earliest bell I found at Holcot, Northampts., dated 1703), sent seventeen bells into this county between 1706 and 1723; the tenor of Hamerton (a good bell), and the six remaining out of eight at St. Ive's, being the earliest and latest instances of his work with us respectively. It is somewhat remarkable that such scanty details are all left to us of so excellent a founder, who appears to have taken up this business a few years before the closing (in 1708) of the Stamford Foundry. Certainly he must early have displayed exceptional merit, being entrusted with the duty of casting the four largest of the ten ancient bells of Peterborough Cathedral into "a tuneable peal of ten," adding a little metal, if required. He was allowed to take the other six bells as his honorarium for "founding, hanging, and framing." This loss of the old and heavy bells to Peterborough Cathedral has been enhanced by the sale of the five lighter bells even of this diminished ring, and even the survivors, not rung owing to the alleged insecurity of the fabric in the opinion of one architect after another. (It may be added that (1889) these remaining five have been newly re-hung and quarter-turned, at a cost of £300, defrayed by H. P. Gates, Esq., J.P., but even so are not rung; in fact, have only been so once, on the occasion of a marriage, as Mr. Pearson, the cathedral architect (after the work was completed), seemed dubious of the safety of the building.)

The St. Ive's register testifies that the parishioners of that place were dissatisfied, and, as it seems to me unreasonably so (for six of his bells remain and can speak very well for themselves), with the work he did for them in 1723. After years of discussion, etc., the case was finally brought to an issue at the Hunts. County Assizes, held at St. Ive's in 1729; and he (as I think he deserved) won the day.

But, alas! for the vanity of earthly success, he was mounting his horse to return to Peterborough, in the "Crown Inn" yard at St. Ive's, when he fell dead from excitement. This is on the authority of Nichols' *Leicestershire*,

quoted in *Church Bells* of various counties. But here is some information slightly differing, and much to our purpose. In 1728 there was, living in St. Ive's, a land surveyor and owner of property there, named Edmund Pettis, who wrote a manuscript history of that town, principally on the acreage, divisions of property, etc.; and this book is considered very valuable, and has been frequently consulted for information on these subjects. It is now in possession of Mrs. Osborne (senior), of the Broadway, who very kindly allowed me to see it, after I became aware of its existence, and (through (late) Rev. J. W. S. Rugeley to Mr. Stahlschmidt, and Mr. Stahlschmidt to Dr. Raven, and Dr. Raven to me) of the following particulars:—

(Page 60.) 1723 The 6 old bells taken down (the tenor first crackt) to be recast with addition of metal into eight waied 68 92 116 return'd 78 3 0\* (or 6) Hung and rung first time Sept. 11 But proving not to Articles a Chancery Sute commenc't Mich. term Octr. 1725 twxt Town & Found (er)\*

(61.) 1730 In the p'ceeding page I mentioned the runing the six old bells into eight, and that in Octr. 1725 a Chancery Sute commencet Artickels not being perform'd by the founder Lord Chancler in 1729 turned it to a triall at Common Law. Accordingly Tryd, July Assizes and the Town cast only for this reason for the Country people had imbib'd a notion that the town was better able to pay than the founder to los't.

The founnder was sick to death at Huntington at the time of Triall when 'twas over He was told he had got the cause. Penn answard 'twas to late he was to far gone that his Hart was broke Therefore could do him no good July 1730 'twas decreed that the widow Penn and the Town should bear each their own charges only the Town to pay her the damags given on the trial. This cause cost a prety Sume of money. But the poor widow got very little or none of it. As for Penn's death 'twas no loss he was a vile man and gave trouble wherever he was consarn'd but was never so well yoak 't before.

This enabled me to make the following extract:—

Huntingdon S. Mary (and S. Benedict) Registers.  
Burials 1729 Henry Penn, Stranger July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

How far Mr. Pettis' opinion was dictated by pecuniary considerations in the matter I cannot say. But, when I consider the quantity of work, and good work too, done by Penn, I cannot approve it. And when I hear his five fine bells at Peterborough Cathedral chiming for service, I cannot help feeling a sense of pity for the poor founder of them, recorded with

\* The (er) in "founder" seems to have been cut off in re-binding the MS., and the number of lbs. in the weight of the eight bells is indistinct for the same reason.

such simple pathos in that Burial Register, as "Henry Penn, Stranger July 23<sup>rd</sup>."

The precise site of the Peterborough Foundry cannot now be established by any documentary evidence, but there is no room for doubting that it was on the east side of Bridge Street, not far from the water, and convenient for transit of bells thereby. The ground was subsequently appropriated by a large house, still remaining, built by Mr. De la Rue, a merchant of the city, and more recently occupied by Dr. Waller.

He was fond of putting coins on his bells, also a flower ornament (fig. 65), and usually he would inscribe the bells, HENRY PENN FUSORE,

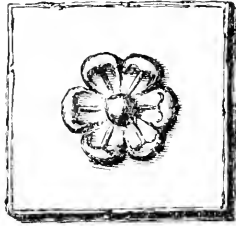


Fig. 65.

with the date. Peterborough, since his death, has had no foundry. But as late as 1835, a Mr. Stanley, of Peterborough, cast a tiny treble for Holme church. Being a local ironmonger, William Proctor Stanley occupied the shop now held by Mrs. Amies in Long Causeway; died *c.* 1856. His widow gave the Recreation Ground in or about 1860. He is reported to have had very little to do with bells, so this bell may be unique by him.

We now come to one already alluded to, but claiming a large share of our notice, as the originator of the only bell-foundry existing in Huntingdonshire in fairly recent times; as the first, moreover, of a succession of founders still extant, and, I am glad to say, fully at work in England; and as the one who, gifted with large natural capabilities, supplied some forty bells to this county, still remaining in the several parishes.

Joseph Eayre, the son of the old clockmaker, and brother accordingly of Thomas Eayre, the earlier founder of that name, was baptised, as we have learnt from the Kettering Register above-mentioned, as an adult person, October 26th, 1731. The same parish supplies the register of his marriage on the 1st November, 1736, as under:—

Mr. Joseph Eayre of St. Neot's and Mrs. Sarah Soame of Kettering.



His brother, Thomas, was twenty years of age when baptised, and probably Joseph Eayre was about the same at the time referred to. The earliest date, so far known of his bells, is that on the ring at Chatteris, Cambs., 1735, which goes to show that he must have begun founding immediately or soon after his baptism as above. His bells in Hunts. range from (Yelling tenor) 1739 to (Fenstanton second) 1771. For his foundry he erected a lofty brick building at St. Neot's, in the Priory, in the form of a bell, one of the most prominent objects of the town. The first mention of him in the St. Neot's parish-books is thus :—

1737 Mar<sup>h</sup>. 23 To Mr. Eayres as pr. Bill ... .. 3 15 0

(Other items will be found under the St. Neot's bell-inscriptions later on).

These two extracts are from St. Neot's Registers :—

Buried July 5. 1769 Sarah wife of Joseph Eayre.  
 „ July 26. 1772 Joseph Eayre.

NOTE.—The signature of Joseph Eayre appears in the Vestry Minute-book on 27th March, 1769, 17th April, 1770, and 3rd July, 1770. There is nothing in the registers to show that he had any family.

Joseph Eayre, by will dated 26th May, 1772, bequeathed £100 to the Minister and Churchwardens of St. Neot's, to place the same out at interest or in the purchase of Stock in the public funds, and to distribute the interest or dividends, in the first week of Christmas holidays every year, among such poor inhabitants of St. Neot's as they should think proper. This sum was advanced for the use of the parish, and employed towards the purchase of a workhouse; and by the deed of conveyance of the workhouse to trustees, which is dated 7th June, 1778, a term of a thousand years was created for securing the sum of £100 with lawful interest. The interest, £5 per annum, was paid regularly until 1843; about this time the workhouse was sold under the sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners, and the above sum of £100 was transferred to the Commissioners for paving and lighting the town of St. Neot's, who gave their bond to the Vicar and Churchwardens, 18th September, 1843; for this they pay interest at four per cent. per annum.

Joseph Eayre was appointed one of the Surveyors of Highways, 1738 to 1740, and Constable 1741-2. His signature also occurs in the Parish Minute-book, 1751 to 1771.

It appears (see below) that Joseph Eayre supplied fire-engines, and also erected a pump for the use of the parish. At the base of the tower of the church is inscribed on a board :—

Mr. Joseph Eayre by will in 1771 gave One hundred pounds to this parish the interest thereof to be laid out in Bread and given annually to the poor on St. Thomas's day.

Joseph Eayre's work so far as I have come across it during the last thirty years, is generally good. But there is a ring of six, 1762, tenor 11 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lbs. by him at S. Michael's, Stamford, which, in the last century exercised the mind very much of the Stamford historian, Harrod. Harrod's *Stamford*, p. 121, ed. 1785, says, "Indeed the din of *St. Michael's* bells is so intolerable to those who live in their vicinity, that they will readily believe there is no devil in his senses, but will get away as fast as he can as soon as their clamour begins." Whether they have since been tuned (a not impossible operation nor unduly extravagant in such appalling circumstances) I do not know. Anyhow, the tenor of the six bells at S. Mary's, Huntingdon (all recast by Taylor in 1876) and cast by him in 1737, is declared in Carruthers' *History of Huntingdon* to have been the best of all, and the tenor of my own church, Wood Walton, weighing only about six hundred-weight and a-half, is a beautiful bell for its size, and its tone very full and sweet. He sometimes ornamented his cannons. His inscriptions are no way *remarkable*, if we except his repeated "*Grata sit arguta resonans campanula voce*," or, "Prosperity to the Established Church and no encouragement to enthusiasm," as at Whittlesey S. Mary and in Herts. On one of the St. Neot's bells he repeats the old inscription, "WAS WROTE ON THE OLD SECOND JOHANNES EST NOMAN MEUM." As also probably on Trumpington tenor (Cambs.). Upon his death, as above in 1772, Edward Arnold, his nephew, and Thomas Osborn, cousin to Arnold (*from Downham in Norfolk*, see later on), his foreman, occupied the foundry jointly for a time. We subjoin various entries relative to Edward **EDWARD** Arnold in the St. Neot's Register, he very soon taking **ARNOLD.** the oversight alone of this foundry, and Osborn going back to Downham Market. Arnold supplied nine bells to this county between 1779 and 1782, *i.e.*, one each for Upton, Buckden, and Hemingford Grey, and the pretty little ring of six for Somersham (1782).

Baptised July 29. 1771. Jas. son of Ed. Arnold, Whitesmith; Mary his wife.

„ July 19. 1772. Jane Catherine Daugr of Ed. Arnold, Whitesmith; Mary his wife.

- Baptised Feb. 26. 1774. Mary Ann Daug<sup>r</sup> of Edw<sup>d</sup> Arnold, Bellfounder; Mary his wife.  
 „ Aug<sup>t</sup>. 8. 1775. Edw<sup>d</sup> son of Edw<sup>d</sup> Arnold, Whitesmith; Mary his wife.  
 „ July 7. 1777. Susan<sup>h</sup>. daug of Edw Arnold Bellfounder Mary his wife.  
 Buried Sept<sup>r</sup>. 7. 1777. Susan<sup>h</sup>. daug of E<sup>d</sup>. Arnold.  
 „ Sept<sup>r</sup>. 17. 1780. W<sup>m</sup>. son of Edw<sup>d</sup>. Arnold Bellfounder  
 Baptised March 10. 1780. Ann daug<sup>r</sup> of Edw<sup>d</sup>. Arnold Bellfounder Mary his wife.  
 Buried March 9. 1783. Susannah Osborn widow. (This could not be Thomas Osborn's widow, as he did not die till more than twenty years later, 1806.) (He was constable April, 1779.)

Edward Arnold opened his foundry at Leicester in 1784, but kept on the St. Neot's foundry, for a short time, probably in order to introduce Robert Taylor, the first of that series of bellfounders who have raised their art to the highest pitch of perfection, and are in the opinion of many unrivalled in their profession. Dr. Raven (*Church Bells of Cambs.*, p. 102) says Arnold knew nothing about his business, but had a good foreman, Islip Edmonds, after Osborn's departure; finally employing Robert Taylor as an apprentice at the old St. Neot's foundry. The business before long, *c.* 1785 (see Church accounts quoted below), devolved entirely on the latter, who sent twenty-nine bells into Hunts. towers, ranging from the Great Staughton fourth, 1787, to Easton third, 1821. Appended are extracts from the St. Neot's Register:—

## ROBERT TAYLOR.

Robert Taylor Bellfounder of this parish and Elizabeth Fowler of the same parish were married in this Church by licence this twentieth day of October in the year 1789 by me John Brewster Curate in the presence of Will<sup>m</sup>. Fowler, Tho<sup>s</sup>. Upchurch, Will<sup>m</sup> Fowler, Jun<sup>r</sup>, Sarah Smith, James Fowler.

(It is curious that in this entry the trade or profession "bellfounder" is stated, for in no other case, up to a certain recent date of course, did Mr. Emery notice in any of these registers searched through, that this was recorded except in that of a "curate" and "M.D.")

(Robert Taylor was constable April 1790 and Headborough March 1812.)

Baptised Nov<sup>r</sup>. 20. 1791. Robert son of Robert and Elizabeth Taylor.

Buried Feby. 5. 1792. Robert son of Robert Taylor, Bellfounder.

Baptised Dec<sup>r</sup>. 30. 1792. Mary daug<sup>r</sup>. of Robert and Eliz. Taylor.

„ May 3. 1795. William son of Robert and Elizabeth Taylor.

Buried Dec. 30. 1796. Elizabeth Taylor daug<sup>r</sup>. of Robert Taylor Bellfounder.

Baptised Dec<sup>r</sup>. 22. 1797. John son of Robert and Elizabeth Taylor.

„ Aug<sup>t</sup>. 10. 1800. Elizab<sup>h</sup>. daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Taylor.

Buried Feby. 10. 1805. Elizabeth wife of Robert Taylor Bellfounder.

The marriages of Thomas Osborn and Edward Arnold are not found in the St. Neot's Register. [It is observable that the Great Grandsden tenor has "Robert Taylor fecit" incised with a chisel, possibly indicating that his name had not yet (previous to 1787) been put on the bells from this foundry.] The marriage of R. Taylor with E. Fowler, daughter of Mr. Fowler, whose brewery was *in the Priory*, led to the removal of the foundry to Cambridge Street, as space for developing the former was required. And so the last few years of Robert Taylor's time he carried on business in the new premises which, however, were destroyed by fire in 1821. Hereupon together with his two sons, William and John (see extracts), he removed to Oxford. The elder, William, applied himself more to church clockmaking than bellfounding, although in conjunction with his brother John he still did something at this last. In 1825 Mr. John Taylor married and went into Devonshire, where he had a foundry at Buckland Brewer, a remote village near Bideford. Five children were there born to him. Mr. John William Taylor, the senior member of the present firm, being there born in 1827. Meanwhile Mr. John Taylor occasionally went to Oxford to see to the foundry there during his ten years' stay at Buckland Brewer, from 1825 to 1835, which this year was quitted, and Oxford again became the headquarters until 1840, when the migration took place to Loughborough. Mr. William Taylor died at Oxford in 1854, and in that year after his death the Oxford foundry was closed altogether. (There seems to have been some previous connection between the Eayres and Fowlers.) Mr. John Taylor evidently had a very kindly feeling to St. Neot's, and never wearied of talking about it and the old foundry. Under the present able management of Messrs. John William Taylor, senior and junior, this foundry has reached its zenith. They have introduced a very great variety of improvements and appliances for the perfecting of their art. They are the founders of Great Paul, weighing nearly seventeen tons, the largest bell in England; as also of the beautiful ring of twelve bells belonging to S. Paul's Cathedral. In this county they have about twenty-nine representatives, including Great Gidding second and third (made at Oxford), 1839; Waresley, all three (made at Loughborough), 1857; the ring of eight at S. Mary's, Huntingdon, cast in 1876; Hale Weston tenor (a beautiful bell), 1884, etc., etc. Every Hunts. man has reason to be proud of the energy and activity evinced by these the present exponents of the old bellfounding in the Priory at St. Neot's.

Thomas, son of Richard Osborn (a joiner at Downham Market), was

**THOMAS OSBORN.** born 1741, and as we have seen, after dissolving partnership with Edward Arnold, returned to Downham Market in Norfolk—his native place—where he carried on business from 1783 till his death in 1804. The only work of his we have in Hunts. is, however, *good* work; the ring of eight at Godmanchester, cast in 1794 (of which the sixth has been recast). Shortly before his death he took into partnership his grandson, William Dobson, who carried on the foundry with *apparent* success till 1832. For the success was not real after all—and he disposed of his business in that year to the Whitechapel firm of Messrs. Mears, and being admitted a poor brother of the Charterhouse, London, died there in 1843. His work in this county is not extensive. Southoe, all four, 1828; Bluntisham first, 1832, representing his range of date. But we have his *last* work also, and a very good finale it is, to an able and skilful term of business; for as the beautiful ring at Diss, Norfolk, represents his last ring, so the tenor of St. Neot's, cast in 1832, is said to be the last bell poor Dobson ever made. Long may it toll the knell of the founder and foundry from whence it came. It is also the heaviest bell in the county.

**JOHN WARNER AND SONS.** John Warner and Sons, of the Cripplegate foundry, London, made the tenor at Abbot's Ripton in 1875, and do not confine their operations to bellfounding; though dating from 1763, they do not seem to have developed their bellfoundry powers to a great extent until 1850 when they entered on their present premises in Jewin Crescent—in allusion to which probably they have adopted the crescent as their badge or designating mark containing a bell. They cast the original Big Ben—which had to be broken to pieces soon after, and was superseded by the present Big Ben—cast by Mears—but also unfortunately cracked. Readers of "Music and Morals" will remember that the use of the word "patent" on the four quarter bells at Westminster, Victoria Tower (or elsewhere), much exercised Mr. Haweis as smacking too much of the *shop*, and not sufficiently of the artist! It is not impressed, now, I believe.

**MESSRS. MEARS.** Messrs. Mears, of Whitechapel, are represented by about thirty or thirty-five bells, dating from 1827 to 1834 at Conington, to 1865 at Diddington. With the solitary exception of the six at Conington, which, by an unfortunate fate are never rung, but only clattered for the Sunday services, and the tiny four at Brington, there is not a single ring by this firm in

the county, their labours being confined to splicing. Set down below are the various dates at which their foundry has undergone changes in the management. They claim, apparently, to be the oldest bellfounding establishment in England, and are, as mentioned, the founders of that Big Ben (thirteen tons) which, until it became second to Great Paul by Messrs. Taylor, was the largest bell in England:—

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Robert Mot, 1570.             | Paek & Chapman, 1770.                                 |
| Joseph Carter, 1606.          | Chapman & Mears, 1782.                                |
| William Carter, 1610.         | William Mears, 1784.                                  |
| Thomas Bartlett, 1619.        | William & Thomas Mears, 1787.                         |
| Anthony Bartlett, 1647.       | Thomas Mears, 1791.                                   |
| James Bartlett, 1676.         | Thomas Mears & Son, 1805.                             |
| Richard Phelps, 1702.         | Thomas Mears, junior, 1810.                           |
| Phelps & Lester, 1735.        | Charles & George Mears, 1844.                         |
| Thomas Lester, 1737.          | George Mears ( <i>ob.</i> Aug. 12, 1873) & Co., 1861. |
| Lester & Paek, 1752.          | Mears & Stainbank, 1865.                              |
| Lester, Paek & Chapman, 1769. |   |

Mr. Robert Stainbank, born 1815, died January 24th, 1883, and Mr. Lawson is now the proprietor of this foundry, though the old name is preserved. If this sequence is as continuous as alleged, we have here, of course, a business of over three hundred years' duration. A record not easily paralleled.

A few bells are nameless, *e.g.*, Stanground treble, 1832, probably by Mears; and Farcet tenor; Barham Bell; the second and third at Wood Walton ditto. Certain bells are altogether blank—Caldecote both bells, Little Gidding Bell, and Ramsey, Brampton, Overton Longueville, and Great Staughton Sanctus or priest's bells. The last two of these may be ancient, but it is remarkable that, without exception, and even though the Great Staughton bell hangs in its original sance-bell cote (the only instance surviving in the county), they all, in this sense only, are obstinately mute, and refuse to tell us anything about themselves. Very few bells are cracked, satisfactory to relate; viz., the treble and second at Haddon, the third at Bluntisham, the second at Water Newton, and the third at Swineshead, the tenor at Holywell, the treble at Little Stukeley.

PARTE II.





## LOCAL USES.

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THE local uses of the bells, certainly by no means uninteresting, will be found as carefully recorded as possible under the several parishes.

The bell originally called the Passing Bell, but now more properly the Death Knell, is, of course, variously rung at the different churches. By far the majority of the Huntingdonshire sextons appear to observe the well-known arrangement of  $3 \times 3$  for a man,  $3 \times 2$  for a woman, and accordingly  $3 \times 1$  very often for a child. At Hamerton and Molesworth three are given on each bell down to the tenor. At Keystone, Brington, and Eynesbury this has given rise to the axiom, "Nine tailors make a man"—most uncomplimentary to the profession in question—and usually explained as more properly signifying "nine tellers." But the more satisfactory explanation seems to me that supplied by the Dorsetshire use, where these strokes, coming at the end or *tail* of the tolling, are called *tailers*. This at once explains the origin of the doubtless untrue and disparaging remark to the fraternity of "Snip" above indicated. It may be mentioned that at Wistow, Colne, and Pidley,  $2 \times 3$  are given for a woman, by a sort of perversion, instead of  $3 \times 2$ . At Kimbolton a variation of this is practised,  $4 \times 3$  being given for a man,  $3 \times 3$  for a woman,  $2 \times 3$  for a boy,  $1 \times 3$  for a girl. Meanwhile at Diddington  $3 \times 1$  are given for a man and  $4 \times 1$  for a woman respectively; Overton Waterville,  $2 \times 3$  and  $2 \times 5$  respectively. A sort of connecting link between this and the next principal group of churches wherein are given 3 strokes either once or thrice for a M-A-N, and 5 similarly for a W-O-M-A-N; a stroke for each letter, as explained to me in one instance. At Farcet this is supplemented by  $4 \times 1$  being given for a child. So at Woodstone,  $4 \times 1$  for a girl. Further, at Stanground,  $5 \times 1$  for a woman,  $4 \times 1$  for a girl, both before and after the knell;  $3 \times 1$  before

it and  $2 \times 3$  after it for a man ;  $3 \times 1$  before it and  $3 \times 1$  after it for a boy. Also somewhat similarly at Fletton, contiguous. But here, as in many other places, a different bell is used for children. These figures again are reversed at Steeple Gidding and Pondsbridge,  $5 \times 1$  being given on each bell for a man, and  $3 \times 1$  for a woman, previous to the knell. At Southoe somewhat similarly  $3 \times 3$  on each downwards for a man,  $3 \times 5$  on each downwards for a woman.

The remaining variations are as follows : At Offord Cluny each bell is tolled thrice, beginning with the tenor for a man *or* woman, and knell then rung on tenor for an hour. For a child each bell is tolled thrice, beginning with the treble, and then knell rung on treble for an hour. Meanwhile at Winwick, Swineshead, and Leighton Bromswold,  $3 \times 1$  are given on each bell, beginning with the *tenor*, and then on the treble, second, third, and fourth for a male ; but  $3 \times 1$  on treble, second, third, and fourth, and lastly tenor for a female. I am informed that at Great Paxton, *cum membris*, Little Paxton, and Toseland,  $9 \times 1$  for a man, and  $7 \times 1$  for a woman used to be given before the knell, slowly rung on the tenor. For children the treble was used. At Brampton  $5 \times 1$  are always given on each bell before ringing the knell, age and sex being indicated by varying the bells. Similarly  $3 \times 1$  on all the four bells at Old Weston, beginning with the treble for a man and the fourth for a woman ; but curiously enough the first bell being knolled for a man and the tenor for a woman. At Spaldwick and Easton  $3 \times 1$  on each from treble down to tenor for a man, and  $3 \times 1$  on each from tenor up to treble for a woman.

At Grafham,  $3 \times 1$  on each bell for an adult, previously to knell on the tenor ; but  $3 \times 1$  on each, previously to knell on treble, for a child, after which, the only instance in the county I know of, in connection with death, *the day of the month* is tolled on each bell in every case ! Is this because it had been customary to toll the age of the deceased, and when, perhaps, some one (? a lady) would not, previous to death, state it, the sexton, in a dilemma, bethought him as a happy expedient, that the day of the month would cover all deficiencies ? It may here be added that at Overton Longueville, Godmanchester, Wolley, and Thurning, the age of the person is given. At All Saints, Huntingdon, the knell consists of enough strokes to indicate age of the deceased (adult). At Fenstanton, age has only been indicated on *request*. At some churches no tellers are given at all ; at others, certain irregular strokes to which no meaning whatever is attached, *e.g.*, Abbot's Ripton.

The approaching celebration of the last rites is duly heralded a convenient time before the funeral, though in various ways. Ordinarily the tenor bell is simply chimed for various intervals before the funeral. At Yaxley for half an hour, "slackening the rope every alternate stroke, so as to strike in slow time." At St. Neot's a more elaborate custom obtains. Previous to the funeral each bell is tolled about twenty times till the tenor is reached, starting from the seventh backwards for a man, and from the treble round to the tenor for a woman. At Stibbington and Catworth the bells are *chimed* at funerals. At Winwick and Keystone twice, at Yaxley once, of late years, by request, this has been done. At Winwick the canon is observed and a bell rung after the funeral; whilst at Hilton it used to be customary to chime the bells after the coffin had been lowered into the grave. At Southoe, etc., the tenor is chimed as the funeral enters the churchyard. At Abbotsley, Swineshead, Ellington, and Leighton Bromswood, a bell is tolled as an *Invitation Bell* an hour before the time fixed for the funeral, to summon the bearers, and again later a quarter of an hour before the expected arrival of the party. At Ramsey, where there is a cemetery, the church bell is only sounded, if required.

## SUNDAY USES.

Assuming the mediæval use as Matins at 8 and Mass at 9 a.m., we will endeavour to trace the custom of ringing at those hours, so far as it still lingers in Huntingdonshire. Of course the early celebrations of the Holy Eucharist may cause some modification in this respect at the present time. In large parishes, 7 and 8 a.m. were adopted as the hours instead of the above later ones.

At Godmanchester a bell is rung at 7 a.m.; at Molesworth the bells are chimed 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.; at Glatton, first and second are chimed at 7 a.m., if there be a celebration of Holy Communion that day (see below); at Somersham, treble is raised; at Kimbolton, treble, 7 a.m., and at 8, treble and second; at Swineshead, second bell, 7 a.m. (if a morning service), for eight or ten minutes; Catworth, one at 7.30 a.m. (see below).

A bell is rung *at eight a.m.* at Buckworth; all are chimed at Bury and Upton; and a bell at Upwood; three or more at Ramsey, Little Stukeley; first and second at Broughton (to indicate service); treble at Wistow, Holme, Morborne, Stilton, and King's Ripton, "to set all the clocks in the

parish ” ; two at Hemingford Grey, at 8 (and 9 a.m.) ; at Glatton, first and second are chimed for a minute or two ; at Alconbury, third or fourth are chimed ; Houghton, second is chimed ; Hemingford Abbots chiming for five minutes. All Saints, Huntingdon, all four chime for five or ten minutes, unless there be a celebration of Holy Communion at that hour, when the third is chimed. At Offord Cluny, all four ; at Offord Darcy, the tenor. Tenor at Yelling ; and at Southoe, first, second, and third are chimed (*if there be service at eleven a.m.*) ; Ellington, second and third. At Winwick, treble is *rung* for a few minutes, and then second and third also, if ringers can be found. Yaxley, third, for five minutes, and day of month given at finish. Three are sounded at Old Weston ; Spaldwick, third, and at Easton ; Covington (to indicate service) ; Great Gransden (second) ; Great Gidding (treble) ; Hilton (tenor), if no early Holy Communion. Stibbington, both bells ; at Water Newton (one) (custom restored by Rector), if no celebration at 8.30. Alwalton (one). At Leighton Bromswold, second bell, raised and rung for quarter-hour. Catworth, two bells, rung at 8 a.m. (see above). Stanground, also *one* rung ; Diddington, all three, chimed at 8 a.m. ; Overton Longueville (larger bell) ; Overton Waterville (treble), for five minutes ; Waresley, one, for five minutes ; Caldecote, one (or both) ; also Denton. Buckden, all ; Grafham, treble, for five minutes, then first and second for five minutes more. At Abbotsley, all chimed, “ to announce the day.”

Meanwhile, one or more bells are sounded, *after morning service*, at Upton, Ramsey, Buckworth, Godmanchester, Hemingford Grey, Glatton, Alconbury, Houghton, Ellington, Molesworth, Catworth, Stanground, Diddington, Long Orton, Cherry Orton, Abbotsley, Kimbolton, Alwalton, and Broughton.

Granted that, in some cases, this is to give notice of an afternoon service, this is no proof subversive of a relic here remaining of an old custom. Its precise signification is difficult to say. Mr. Stahlschmidt, and he is probably right,\* says the mid-day Angelus was unknown in England, and reckons these peals accordingly as survivals of the Sanctus peal in the Mass.

Another peal (the “ spur-peal ”), after morning service, *on occasion*, was that in honour of the first publication of Banns of Marriage. This was formerly more in vogue in this county than now, but still survives at Great Stukeley, Wistow, Hamerton, Winwick, Colne, Keystone, Brington, Old

\* *Church Bells of Kent*, p. 124.

Weston, Spaldwick, Fenstanton, Great Gidding (*on the Monday*), and Morborne. At Thurning (*q.v.*) the (then) Rector, of set purpose, discontinued it on his arrival in 1884. The wedding peal is common enough when *paid* for; otherwise it is still the custom of the place at Wistow, and also thereat at 1 or 2 a.m., the morning of the next day, "on the breaking up of the ball"; at Bury, Buckworth, Wyton, Keystone, Molesworth, Covington, Great Gidding, Hilton, and Abbotsley. At Holme, if desired.

Ringings on November 5th still survives, but very sparsely. At Wistow, "loud enough to call up poor Guy"; at Brington, Old Weston; at Great Gidding and Great Gransden (at both of which the bells are "shot" or "cannoned," *i.e.*, all pulled together); at Abbotsley, Eynesbury, Ramsey.

The Pancake Bell, on Shrove Tuesday, is still practised at a goodly number of churches—Wistow, Somersham, Kimbolton, Leighton Bromswood, Catworth, Warboys, and Ramsey, at which last I have to chronicle that it was revived on Shrove Tuesday, 1889, and a peal rung in the evening in honour of the day! (Or of the pancake?)

The Gleaning Bell was much more generally sounded than now, but still is heard during harvest (usually at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.), at Hemingford Grey, the two Offords, Southoe, Swineshead, Catworth, St. Neot's, Buckden, and Abbotsley; also at Great Gransden, where, on Saturdays, it is rung at *one p.m.* instead of *six p.m.* At Kimbolton, till a few years ago, it was rung at 4 a.m. for one month, to call up the reapers.

One *Sanctus Bell* exists in its cote, but unused and unroped, at Great Staughton.

A *Priest Bell* at Ramsey, Overton Longueville, and Brampton. In this last case the bell is only used to give notice of a fire in the village; it has a peculiar, shrill tune, and is locally known as the old R. C. Priest's Bell.

The Curfew is very rare; Huntingdon All Saints, S. Mary's, Godmanchester, and Ramsey, seem the only instances now; at this last it is rung at 7 p.m. instead of 8 p.m., from October 11th to April only. At Godmanchester a legacy of £6, and at All Saints, Huntingdon, a charge of £2 on a legacy, value £10 per annum, perpetuate this old custom, honoured, alas! more often now "in the breach than in the observance."

The custom of ringing a bell for *Vestry or Town's Meetings* seems so general and natural, that I do not specify here the places, so numerous as they are, where it is usual. But this will be found noted under the several parishes.

The *Fire Bell*, on occasion of any such casualty in the parish, still sounds at Wistow (the tenor), Brampton (the otherwise unused priest's bell), and Kimbolton (the third).

This reminds me that the second bell at this last church used to be rung for *executions*, *i.e.*, when a condemned criminal was passing through the town.

Also, some few years ago, a bell was rung at 4 a.m. at Alconbury, Yaxley, and Great Gidding, to call up the horsekeepers and labourers. The clerk is said to have rung at this last place finally on a *Sunday*, when his mistake causing inconvenience to some few who rose accordingly and went to their business, he never rang it again.

At Waresley and Keystone traces remain of the Oven Bell. At Waresley a bell was rung till 1856, when the church was re-built, after morning service. *Why*, no one seemed to know; some older people thought it to be an "Oven" Bell, though that was not the expression they used. At Keystone, however, things are more definite. Possibly, as a substitute finally for the "Oven" bell (*i.e.*, for people to bring their bread to be baked, made of the gleaned wheat), which used to be rung here, after the bell had ceased, a man in charge of the oven, by name Bursnell, who had so clear a voice as to be heard all over the village, recited the verses below, at different parts of the place, after ringing a handbell and announcing that the oven was ready as long as the gleaning flour lasted:—

"My oven is hot you know,  
Come along you know,  
With your bread you know,  
While the oven is hot heigh-ho,  
Baxter and Co., Roddis and others heigh-ho.  
Come along you know,  
For the oven is hot you know."

At Catworth and Kimbolton a bell is rung daily at 12 noon. At St. Neot's it is rung at 1 p.m.

For divine service, various modes, but principally three obtain of ringing or sounding bells, each particularized under each parish. 1. Chiming all the bells till service begins. 2. Chiming all except one or two, which are rung in, alternate strokes after the others (if only *one* is raised, this is rung "stock-height," after the others part of the time, with very good effect). 3. Ringing a sermon bell part of the time, and chiming the rest. The

sermon bell is rare; sometimes sounding before, sometimes after, the chiming of the rest. It is heard at Abbot's Ripton, Swineshead, Kimbolton (occasionally), Fletton, Everton, Covington, Winwick. But the variety is so great that all the other modes can be sought for, as intimated, later on in this book. I mention, however, two local uses at Thurning and at Easton. At the former of these, since 1884, before the Holy Communion, thirty-three strokes, thrice repeated, are given, with a short interval between each peal, being our Lord's age at the time of His death; in obvious connection with the ordinary "tellers" given previous to the "death-knell," and the fact of the Holy Communion being the memorial of Christ's death. Meanwhile, at Easton, on Good Friday, the Vicar has instituted a muffled peal, only at present in abeyance for want of ringers.

I have now, I think, indicated the principal methods and occasions of ringing the Huntingdonshire Bells. Some few others, *e.g.*, at local festivals, mayor's choice, etc., can be gathered from the account of the different rings, *seriatim*. The bells are, *as a rule*, in fair order. Some few could be rehung with manifest advantage.

Several rings have been, of late years, rehung; quite recently among these, Fenstanton, Little Stukeley, Kimbolton, St. Neot's, St. Ive's, and Hilton, etc. At Holywell a movement is on foot for this purpose. One or two bells ought to be quarter-hung without delay, *e.g.*, Broughton tenor and Abbot's Ripton most interesting treble.

The tower ought to be rebuilt and the bells rehung forthwith at Steeple Gidding, where again the treble bell is very interesting.

I am very sorry to notice at several churches that the bells are all chimed by *ropes tied to the clappers*, apparently for want of ringers. This is a fruitful cause of "cracking," as I have frequently pointed out; and my advice is either to introduce the Ellacombe chiming apparatus, which the village joiner can supply for about 10s. to 15s. a bell, or, best of all, try to stir up three or four village youths to chime and ring properly. As a rule, they are glad of this exercise or amusement. Thus, at Keystone, in order to have everything in good order, a chiming apparatus was supplied when the bells were rehung, and it has *never* been required from that day to this. The late Rector, however, whose name was his character,\* was an exceptional man. To illustrate the bad system in vogue, I may mention Buckden, where five fine bells have never been rung since an

\* "Moribus ut propriis, proprio sic nomine"—Goodman.

unhappy dispute in 1863, in connection with the celebration of the Prince of Wales' marriage ; the two Offords, where surely three or four might be found to ring these good bells ; others, where, however, the state of the towers is truly or falsely charged with involving the necessity—Bluntisham and Conington.

END OF PART II.



PART III.

## Table of Approximate Weights.

| ft. | ins. | ... | ... | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. | ft. | ins. | ... | ... | cwt. | qrs. | lbs. |
|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| 1   | 3    | ... | ... | 0    | 2    | 26   | 3   | 2    | ... | ... | 11   | 0    | 0    |
| 1   | 4    | ... | ... | 0    | 3    | 15   | 3   | 3    | ... | ... | 11   | 3    | 0    |
| 1   | 5    | ... | ... | 1    | 0    | 7    | 3   | 4    | ... | ... | 12   | 2    | 0    |
| 1   | 6    | ... | ... | 1    | 1    | 2    | 3   | 5    | ... | ... | 13   | 1    | 0    |
| 1   | 7    | ... | ... | 1    | 1    | 27   | 3   | 6    | ... | ... | 14   | 0    | 0    |
| 1   | 8    | ... | ... | 1    | 2    | 24   | 3   | 7    | ... | ... | 15   | 0    | 0    |
| 1   | 9    | ... | ... | 2    | 0    | 1    | 3   | 8    | ... | ... | 16   | 0    | 0    |
| 1   | 10   | ... | ... | 2    | 1    | 7    | 3   | 9    | ... | ... | 17   | 1    | 0    |
| 1   | 11   | ... | ... | 2    | 2    | 16   | 3   | 10   | ... | ... | 18   | 2    | 0    |
| 2   | 0    | ... | ... | 3    | 0    | 0    | 3   | 11   | ... | ... | 19   | 3    | 0    |
| 2   | 1    | ... | ... | 3    | 2    | 0    | 4   | 0    | ... | ... | 21   | 0    | 0    |
| 2   | 2    | ... | ... | 4    | 0    | 0    | 4   | 1    | ... | ... | 22   | 0    | 0    |
| 2   | 3    | ... | ... | 4    | 2    | 0    | 4   | 2    | ... | ... | 23   | 3    | 0    |
| 2   | 4    | ... | ... | 5    | 0    | 0    | 4   | 3    | ... | ... | 25   | 0    | 0    |
| 2   | 5    | ... | ... | 5    | 2    | 0    | 4   | 4    | ... | ... | 26   | 2    | 0    |
| 2   | 6    | ... | ... | 6    | 0    | 0    | 4   | 5    | ... | ... | 28   | 1    | 0    |
| 2   | 7    | ... | ... | 6    | 2    | 0    | 4   | 6    | ... | ... | 29   | 3    | 0    |
| 2   | 8    | ... | ... | 7    | 0    | 0    | 4   | 7    | ... | ... | 31   | 2    | 0    |
| 2   | 9    | ... | ... | 7    | 2    | 0    | 4   | 8    | ... | ... | 33   | 1    | 0    |
| 2   | 10   | ... | ... | 8    | 0    | 0    | 4   | 9    | ... | ... | 35   | 0    | 0    |
| 2   | 11   | ... | ... | 8    | 3    | 0    | 4   | 10   | ... | ... | 37   | 0    | 0    |
| 3   | 0    | ... | ... | 9    | 2    | 0    | 4   | 11   | ... | ... | 39   | 0    | 0    |
| 3   | 1    | ... | ... | 10   | 1    | 0    | 5   | 0    | ... | ... | 41   | 0    | 0    |

(From Messrs. Taylor's List ; Messrs. Mears and Warner vary a little from this.)

# INSCRIPTIONS.



N.B.—The diameters of the bells being here stated, their approximate weight may be gathered by a reference to the table on the opposite page. And the inscriptions are given exactly as they occur on the bells; mistakes therefore in spelling and the like are chargeable to the founder, not the printer. The Edwardian documents at the Record Office are cited after letters “T. R. E.,” which indicate *Tempore Regis Edwardi*, (the VI<sup>th</sup>.)

1. *ABBOTSLEIGH.* S. Margaret. 5 bells.

1. J: EAYRE. ST. NEOTS. 1748 GRATA SIT ARGUTA RESONANS  
CAMPNULA UOCE. (27½ ins.)

2. **Johanes grene fecit anno dñm 1575** (29¾ ins.)

3. ◊ (fig. 9) ◻ ◊ <sup>á</sup> ◊ <sup>☞</sup> ◊ <sup>☞</sup> ◊ <sup>☞</sup> ◊ <sup>☞</sup> ◊ <sup>☞</sup> ◊ <sup>☞</sup> ◊ <sup>☞</sup> ◊  
**En Sum Campana Margarete Dominata**  
(*This bell much worn by the clapper and in need of quarter-turning.*) (32 ins.)

4. MILES \* GRAYE \* MADE \* ME \* 1653 (34½ ins.)

5. B: WOOD CHURCHWARDEN 1748 NON SONO ANIMABUS  
MORTUORUM SED AURIBUS VIUENTIM. (38¼ ins.)

(*See p. 9 for description of treble.*)

The Pancake Bell (second) on Shrove Tuesday was usual thirty years ago, at noon. Gleaning Bell (first) is rung during harvest at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. The death knell is rung an hour after a death, on tenor for a man, fourth for a woman, and first for a child; 3 × 3, 3 × 2, and 3 × 1 being the respective “tellers.” An “invitation bell” for bearers is tolled an hour before the funeral, and the bell is again tolled fifteen minutes before the arrival of the body. On Sundays the bells

N.B.—Eayre’s habit of repeating previous inscriptions is an excellent one, giving a clue as to the founder of the bell recast. So here, at Abbotsleigh, the tenor is probably the successor of one by Norris or Holdfeld.

are chimed at 8 a.m. "to announce the day." They are rung for each of the services, and the treble is rung after morning service, if there is to be service in the afternoon; peals on New Year's Eve, and, commonly, after weddings; treble is rung for vestry meetings. Peals also on festival of the "Amicable Society" and November 5th. From 1802 to 1882 ringers were paid 3s., and also 2s. 5d. for "vittles" on November 5th, out of rates; the parish account book dates from 1802, and contains these entries:—

|      |                     |   |  | s. | d.  |
|------|---------------------|---|--|----|-----|
| 1827 | May 1 <sup>st</sup> | Paid for ringing the bell on the death of the Duke of York, |  |    |     |
|      |                     | <i>by order of government</i> ... ..                        |  | 1  | 0   |
| 1830 | July 3              | Tolling bell for the death of His Majesty George IV....     |  |    | 6   |
| 1830 | 4 July              | Ringings bells for the King William 4th ... ..              |  | 1  | 0   |
| 1831 |                     | Gave the Ringers on the Coronation of King William 4th ...  |  |    | 5 0 |
| 1837 | June 24             | Tolling bell at death of the King ... ..                    |  | 1  | 0   |
|      | „ June 26           | Ringings bells at proclaiming the Queen ... ..              |  |    | 4 0 |
|      | „ July 8            | Tolling at funeral of the King... ..                        |  |    | 1 0 |

Very many thanks to the late Rev. G. A. F. Watson, vicar.

## 2. ABBOT'S RIPTON S. Andrew. 3 bells.

- (Fig. 9) + **Non** (fig. 11) ○ **Venit** (fig. 11) ○ **Ad** (fig. 11) ○ **Veniam** (fig. 11) ○ **Qui** (fig. 11) ○ **Descit** (fig. 11) ○ **Amare** (fig. 11) ○ **Mariam.** (*The capitals are very small compared with the rest of the letters, which are large black letter.*) (29 ins.)
- (Fig. 58) + **TOBIE NORRIS CAST ME 1671.** (*His usual scrolling between each word.*) (30 ins.)
- CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1875** (32 ins.)

The old tenor, broken 1874, was inscribed:—

*Non Clamor sed Amor cantat in aure Dei* 1622. The clapper from long use had begun to strike the *rim* instead of the soundbow, and had given warning, for some time previous by the peculiar sound emitted, of impending fracture. Mr. J. Packe, the very intelligent sexton, observing that the same fate was likely to befall the second bell, promptly had it rectified. *O si sic omnes.* (See p. 6 for description of treble.)

Death knell on tenor for adults, treble for children under twelve years old. A few strokes are given before and after the knell, but no meaning attaches thereto. Knell rung for twenty minutes as soon as possible after death has occurred, and at any time "unless the clerk has gone to bed." Bell for Vestry meetings. Peals for weddings if paid for. For divine service the Sermon Bell (the tenor) is rung half an hour before service; after which all three are chimed three times at intervals. The old tenor, either by Norris or Haulsey of St. Ives. Many thanks to Rev. J. G. Rooper, rector, and Mr. Packe as above.

T. R. E. (*i.e.*, since Feb. 15 1549.)

“Ryppton } Sold by Churchwardens there  
Abbotts } Itm oñ broken bell for vijli.”


and (goods remaining) 1552, “the parish church of Abbott ryppton.”

“Itm iij greate belles . . . sauntus bell  
“Itm oñ handebell.”

Possibly the existing treble is one of the three larger bells here mentioned.

It is from its tone badly in need of quarter-turning which, as the inscription has never been found before, it is much to be hoped may take place at no distant date in order to the bell's preservation.

### 3. *ALCONBURY*. S.S. Peter and Paul. 6 bells.

1. JOHN TAYLOR & Co: FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1876.  
(*Weight*, 4 cwt. 3 qrs. 10 lbs. *Note E.*)
2. (*The same*. *Weight*, 5 cwt. 2 qrs. 7 lbs. *Note D.*)
3. (*The same*. *Weight*, 6 cwt. 0 qrs. 16 lbs. *Note C.*)
4. THOMAS NORRIS MADE ME 1673 † (fig. 60).  
(*Weight*, 6 cwt. 1 qr. 9 lbs. *Note B.*)
5. (*The same as 1, 2, 3*. *Weight*, 9 cwt. 0 qrs. 20 lbs. *Note A.*)
6. THE REV. D: WILLIAMS VICAR \* J: PATTISON. HOMES.  
& J: GARROTT C: WARDENS \* R. TAYLOR ST NEOTS FECIT  
1812   
(*Diameter*, 40 inches. *Weight*, 11 cwt. 0 qrs. 11 lbs. *Note G.*)

Formerly five bells, three broken ones were recast in 1876 and a treble added. Messrs. Taylor have kindly communicated the weights of these three, viz., 5 cwt. 2 qrs. 23 lbs., 5 cwt. 3 qrs., and 8 cwt. The fourth bell is very “panny” in tone, and probably would be improved by quarter-hanging. Inscriptions of former bells irrecoverable.

Mr. G. J. Rust, however, says:—“I feel sure that they (the cracked bells) were of the ordinary kind, with the founder's name, and date; and I am also almost certain the bells were of last century founding, and the work of some one at St. Neot's. I am quite clear there was nothing of interest about them.” In connection with this, it will be noted that the existing tenor came from St. Neot's—*this* century, however.

The Pancake Bell ceased about eighteen years ago. Gleaning Bell (the second) formerly rung at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., now at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. At the death knell

3 × 1 for a man and 5 × 1 for a woman, previous to the knell, on the tenor; the second being used for children. Tenor tolls thirty minutes previously to the funeral. On Sundays three or four bells are chimed at 8 a.m., and all rung or chimed for service if enough ringers are present. Two are chimed a few minutes after morning service. The second rings for a few minutes previous to vestry meetings. Peals at Christmas, New Year's Eve, and the anniversary of the restoration of the Church. For weddings only when desired. Formerly, very many years ago, on night of November 5th, and 6s 8d. paid for this by the churchwardens, who now give £3 annually to the ringers. For many years the fifth bell rang for horsekeepers at 4 a.m. and 8 p.m. (also a long time ago), and £1 was paid, it is believed, annually by the wardens for it. Bells all rehung by Eaton of Tichmarsh in 1876. Rules for ringers hang at base of tower, and weight of bells noted thereon. Everything in excellent order; clock strikes on tenor and quarters on two other bells. Best thanks to the Rev. R. Conway, vicar, and to the late Mr. H. Johnson, parish clerk.

4. *ALWALTON.* S. Andrew. 5 bells.
1. (Fig. 58) + THOMAS NORRIS MADE MEE 1661 H.G.P.G. (28½ ins.)
  2. (Fig. 58) + (*The same, omitting the final initials.*) (30½ ins.)
  3. (Fig. 58) + (*The same as No. 2.*) (31 ins.)
  4. WILL . WARING . RECTOR : JOHN . COX .  
CHVRCHWARDEN : 1722 : (By Penn.) (33 ins.)
  5. (Fig. 58) + THOMAS NORRIS MADE ME 1672 H. S. H G. (36¾ ins.)  
*Norris's well-known scrolling between the words. On bell frame, at top—*  
H + K . 1790. *On side of it—*W I . M I . I O . C H ❖ CHWA . 1674. *Probably*  
*for W. I. Minister. J. O. and C. H. Churchwardens.*

Tower shaky; bells in poor order.

No daily, etc. bells. On Sundays a bell is rung at 8 a.m., and for divine service all are chimed thirty minutes beforehand. A bell is rung after morning service to give notice of evening service. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given. 3 × 1 indicate a man and 5 × 1 a woman; and the bell is tolled thirty minutes before the funeral. When bells are in order, peals are usual on New Year's Day, Christmas Eve, and occasionally at weddings. Best thanks to Rev. G. G. W. Clemenger, rector.

The Rev. W. D. Sweeting, in his *Churches round Peterborough*, says, "The Registers commence 1572; the Churchwardens' books are unusually entertaining."

T. R. E. 1549 "Allwarton Solde ij candellsticks of brass and ij handbells for vjrs."

5. *BARHAM*. S. Giles. 1 bell.  
1841. (18 ins.)

(By Mears, I consider ; one or two words appear to have been defaced. The clerk "thinks"  $3 \times 1$  and  $2 \times 1$ , previous to the knell, indicate a man and woman respectively. Gleaning Bell, formerly. Bell occasionally "jingled at weddings," which are of rare occurrence).

6. *BLUNTISHAM*. S. Mary. 5 bells.
1. WILLM DOBSON . FOUNDER . DOWNHAM . NORFOLK  
1832 :- (28 ins.)
  2. MILES ✱ GRAYE ✱ MADE ✱ ME ✱ 1632. (29 ins.)
  3. THOMAS NEWMAN MADE ME 1717 (*cracked,  
unused.*) (31 ins.)
  4. THOMAS SKEELES THO HOVSON CHURCH-  
WARDENS 1716 (34 ins.)
  5. GEO : KEY & JOHN ARON BROWN JUNER (*i.e.*, "Junior")  
CHURCHWARDENS . 1801 . ROBT. TAYLOR ST. NEOTS .  
FOUNDER (38½ ins.)

T. R. E. 1549. "Blountsham Itm Sold a Bell out of the Chappell of Erithe for xxiiij.  
"Allso ther was stollen out of their Churche on handebell."

Also 1553, remaining at "Blountshñ Itm in the stepeff iij belles and on handebell."

Gleaning Bell, *formerly*. Bells in poor order, and (four) clapper-tied ; wheels tied up ; not rung for over forty years ; tower pronounced unsafe.

They are sounded for weddings and services ; but used as little as possible. A Thomas Skeeles, in 1703, presumably father to the churchwarden (on fourth bell), left money for educational purposes at Bluntisham and Earith (see Hatfield's *Hunts. Directory*, 1854). Fourth bell by Newman. Thanks to late Rev. Canon Rumpf, rector.

7. *BRAMPTON*. S. Mary. 5 bells and a Priest's bell.
- Priest's Bell. (Blank.) (18½ ins.)
1. (Fig. 39) + PRAIS THE LOBDE 1600. (31½ ins.)
  2. (Fig. 58) + THOMAS NORRIS MADE MEE 1619 (33½ ins.)
  3. AMBROS (G) + (fig. 45 in North's *Church Bells of  
Northampts.*) (34½ ins.)

4. THOMAS RUSSELL OF WOOTTON MADE ME + ✠  
 1741 ✠ ✠ ✠ (38½ ins.)
5. (Fig. 102 + North's *Church Bells of Northants.*) ALL GLORI BE TO GOD  
 ONE HI . 1630. I K (42 ins.)

T. R. E. 1552. "Brampton. Itm̄ v great belles in the Steaple and oñ littell bett."

The Priest's Bell is *not*, in my opinion, the one mentioned in the Edwardian Record, but a recast of it. It has no appearance of antiquity, and is not perceptibly indented on the sound-bow. It has, however, always been known as "the old Roman Catholic Priest's Bell"; its tone is very peculiar and shrill; but it is only *roped* and rung in the event of a fire breaking out in the parish.

The cross has been, I believe, intentionally defaced on the third bell. But a similar bell hangs at Isham, Northants., from same foundry, and the M in both cases is obviously a reversed W. The founder of the tenor bell, James Keene, at last was short of space, so "High" became "Hi." There is a "cable" moulding round the sound-bow of it; it has been much tuned by turning off the rim; whilst, in company with the fourth, it has lost its cannons.

At the death knell, which is rung as soon as possible after death (and on tenor for adult males; fourth for adult females; third for a boy between twelve and twenty-one; second for a girl similarly aged; and treble for either up to twelve years old), five strokes are always given as tellers on each bell *previously*. A bell is tolled before funerals; and muffled peals are rung thereat occasionally. For divine service the bells are either rung or chimed. There is a tradition that a bell used to be rung on Sundays at one p.m., if the sermon was not finished by that time. Peals are usual on Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, Queen's Birthday. At weddings, if *desired*. Best thanks to Rev. H. S. Budge, rector.

S. *BRINGTON*. All Saints. 4 bells.

1, 2, 3, 4. C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1845  
 (Diameters, 24, 26, 27, 29 inches.)

*On the cage:—*

|                |  |                  |
|----------------|--|------------------|
| JONATHAN LEWIN |  | JOHN EATON FECIT |
| CHURCHWARDEN   |  | TITCHMARSH 1845  |

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "Brinkton Itm̄ iiij Belles."

At the death knell, rung an hour after death, 3 × 1 are given for a male (adult or infant) on each bell beginning with the tenor; and 2 × 1 for a female (similarly) on each bell beginning with the treble.



At funerals the tenor is tolled previously for three-quarters of an hour. Peals are rung on Christmas and New Year's Eves, on November 5th, and at weddings. Also the "Spur Peal" after first publication of banns of marriage. A bell is rung for Vestry meetings. Best thanks to Rev. T. J. Sanderson, Rector of Brington, Bythorn, and Old Weston.

9. *BROUGHTON.* All Saints. 4 bells.
1. OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI 1624 (29½ ins.)
  2. † (fig. 58) NON :: CLAMOR :: SED :: AMOR :: CANTAT ::  
IN :: AURE : DEI : 1616 : (*All N's reversed.*) (31 ins.)
  3. J. H. S. NAZARENUS REX IUDEORUM FILIJ DEI MISERERE  
MEI THO : EMBERY JOHN COX : C : W : 1748 (37½ ins.)
  4. † (fig. 58) THOMAS NORRIS MADE MEE 166† I BIGGS  
H WELLS (40 ins.)

Treble by W. Haulsey, of St. Ive's; second by Norris, of Stamford; third by Eayre, of St. Neot's. Old third bell probably by Watts of Leicester. The tenor is a fine bell, but its sound is very "panny," and it badly wants quarter-hanging. Gleaning Bell (tenor), *formerly*.

At the death knell, rung for about half an hour, 3 × 3 are given for a man and 3 × 2 for a woman, previously. The bell is tolled previous to the funeral. On Sundays the first and second are rung at eight a.m., to indicate services that day. Before morning service the tenor is "raised" to denote a sermon, and the others chimed. The second bell is rung after morning service to give notice of another service that day. Peals on New Year's Eve and at midnight; at weddings when *desired*. A bell is rung for Vestry meetings. Winter ringing for practice begins on November 5th. Best thanks to Rev. G. T. Johnston, rector.

10. *BUCKDEN.* S. Mary. 5 bells.
1. <sup>☉</sup> Sca <sup>☉</sup> Katherine <sup>☉</sup> Ora <sup>☉</sup> Pro <sup>☉</sup> Nobis (fig. 30) ∩ (See p. 15.) (33 ins.)
  2. JOHN GREEN ESQR. AND JOHN WALLER CHURCHWARDENS  
ROBT. TAYLOR ST NEOTS FECIT (*No date.*) (35½ ins.)
  3. JOHN GREEN ESQR. AND ROBT. BURDER CHURCHWARDENS  
1779 † EDWD. ARNOLD ST NEOTS FECIT (37 ins.)
  4. MILES \* GRAIE \* FECIT \* 1654 (40½ ins.)
  5. JOHN □ BARDAR □ MICHEL □ IARMAND □ 1627  
(*Date all backwards, □ is a sort of foliage, as at Holywell, Little Abington, etc.,*  
*fig. 53.*) (43½ ins.)

T. R. E. 1552. Remaining at "Bugden. It in the stepull v bells & one Sañs bell."

The treble by Bullisdon, the only one of his in the county; the tenor by W. Haulsey, of St. Ive's, in unusual lettering for him. These are fine, large bells, of which the treble has been much tuned by turning off the rim. Owing to an unfortunate dispute with the ringers in 1863, the bells have never been rung since the Prince of Wales' marriage; the ropes have all been removed, and the clappers tied to strings issuing from a central apparatus down below.

At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice of death,  $3 \times 3$  and  $3 \times 2$ , before and after the knell, indicates a man and woman respectively. A bell is tolled for twenty minutes before the funeral. On Sundays the bells are sounded at eight a.m., and "chimed with regular changes" for divine service; also once a week for three or four weeks before Christmas, and on New Year's Eve. At weddings, if *desired*.

The families of Burder, Green, and Waller were well-known, and long extant in Buckden. Till 1839, Huntingdonshire was in the diocese of Lincoln, and the bishop had a palace here; some parts of which remain, somewhat modernised, and known as Buckden Towers, closely adjacent to the church. It seems very probable that the tenor bell was recast at the expense of the famous John Williams, then Bishop of Lincoln, and subsequently Archbishop of York, on reading the following extracts, there being no adequate charge for recasting.

The oldest parish account book contains the following:—

Anno Domini March the 27<sup>th</sup> 1627 Layinges out by John Burder feild & Michell Jarmont beinge Churchwardenes.

|  |   |         |
|--|---|---------|
| fpent at Saint Eines of Richard fflanne & my felfe when wee went a bout<br>the bell                      | } | 0-j     |
| for one faunce bell Roppe ... ..   |   | 0-0     |
| fpent at faint Eines when we carried ye bell   |   | 0-5     |
| fpent when wee brought the bell home   |   | 0-4 (?) |
| payd to Thomas Reeue for carringe the bell & bringe it   |   | 0-8 (?) |
| payd the bell founder for mettell that hee did put in to hur more then shee<br>did waye                  | } | j-(?)   |
| payd for nayles & oyle ... ..  |   | (?)     |
| payd Christouer Parkinfun for takeinge downe ye greate bell &<br>hanginge hur up againe & eother charges | } | 0-8     |
| paid to John Marttine for fallite (salad) oyle   |   | 0-(?)   |
| For nayles & fallite oyle  |   | 0-(?)   |
| for 2 bordes & j sticke for the spokes for bell wheles...  |   | 0-j     |
| payd for leather for bould Riekes (baldricks)  |   | 0 (?)   |
| payd for fallite oyle & nayles   |   | 0 j 8   |
| payd for Ringinge the 5th of Nouember  |   | 0-4-0   |

|  |     |     |         |
|--|-----|-----|---------|
| payd for shouthinge ("shooting" or splicing) a rope ...  | ... | ... | 0-0-4   |
| payd for Crayne for turninge the bell clapper ...  | ... | ... | 0-6-8   |
| payd more to the bell founder ...  | ... | ... | 0-5-0   |
| payd for fallite oyle ...  | ... | ... | 0-0-2   |
| for fallite oyle ...   | ... | ... | 0-0-7   |
| 1654 Spent when we went to gamlingay to fetch ye Bell founder to take ye bells to cast one our horfe & our felves              |     | }   | 0-10-6  |
| payd ye Bellfounder in earnest ...   | ... | ... | 0-10-0  |
| payd to Willm Luffe for carryinge ye Bells to have them Rune (cast)  | ... | ... | 0-17-0  |
| Spent at gamlingaye when ye bells was Cast ...   | ... | ... | 1-15-9  |
| Spent one ye Bellfounder and ceirtaine of ye townes men wch ware ii or iz...   |     |     | 1-10-0  |
| payd for makeinge ye Articles & bonds betwen ye bellfounder & ye Church-wardens in ye behalfe of ye Towne                      |     | }   | 0-4-0   |
| payd to Tho: Newell & his sonne for 6 dayes worke a peec about ye Bells  |     |     | 0-15-0  |
| payd to Jo: Landle for worke about ye bells for Takinge dawne & hanginge vp  |     | }   | 0-12-0  |
| payd at that tyme for help to take them downe & Spent at that Tyme   | ... | ... | -6-10   |
| Spent when ye Bell founder cam to give order to have ye bells taken down   |     |     | 0-10-6  |
| payd to Jo Landle for bord about ye bell wheles ...  | ... | ... | 0.0.4   |
| payd to Jo: Jeakinge for goeinge to Take a noate what ye bells weyed   | ... | ... | 0-2-6   |
| payd to Jo: Martten for mendinge ye bell whelles for himfelfe & his man five dayes & a halfe a peec                            |     | }   | 0-18-0  |
| payd for a pole for a bell whele ...   | ... | ... | 0-0-2   |
| payd for 16 foote of Bord & 5 Rooles & one Bardracke (Baldrick) about ye bell wheeles  |     | }   | 0-4-2   |
| payd for 3 planks ...  | ... | ... | 0-4-4   |
| Spent one Jo: Martten & others that helpte him about ye Bells...   | ... | ... | 0-j-6   |
| payd ye Belfounder for Runninge ye Bells ...   | ... | ... | 10-0-0  |
| payd ye Bell founder for mettle put in ye bells ...  | ... | ... | 2-0-0   |
| payd ye Bellfounder for wafte according to our Articles for bell mettle  | ... | ... | 2-0-0   |
| payd to Jo: Hamont for Iron worke about ye Bells ...   | ... | ... | 1-0-jj  |
| Spent when ye bell founder cam (e) for his laft payment  | ... | ... | -0-3-0  |
| 1656 If paid to ye Smith for vp getinge ye great bell clapper and for Trufsinge her vp in ye yoke wth Cotterells (iron wedges) |     | }   | 0-j-4   |
| If paid for vp getinge ye Tribble Clapper ...  | ... | ... | -0-j-0  |
| If paid for keies & Cotters & trufsinge ye great bell ...  | ... | ... | -0-j-6  |
| If paid for Lineinge ye Seacond bell Clapper ...   | ... | ... | -0-2-0  |
| If paid to Jo: Hamont for mendinge ye eye of ye Seacond Bell Clapper   | ... | ... | 0-0-8   |
| 1660. If spent at the meetinge to put out the Bells wheels to mendinge   | ... | ... | -0-3-0  |
| If for Ringinge the 8 alocke bell and the 4 alocke Bell in the yeare 1659...   | ... | ... | -1-0-0  |
| If for a baldrick and Trussinge the clappers ...   | ... | ... | -0-2-6  |
| If to John Baxter for his worke for wheelinge the bells and for the lofs in the brasses and for nailes                         |     | }   | -11-2-6 |
| If to William Malden for 3 pound of pewter to Runn into the brasses  | ... | ... | -0-3-0  |
| If spent on the bell hangers at Severall times the time the worke was dooinge  | ... | ... | -1-4-0  |

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Ii spent at two Severall times when John Hamont and Thomas Longland<br>did take the Iron worke to doe and waiyinge The ould Iron                                  | } —0—7—6          |
| Ii spent on the Ringers the first day after the bells was hanged for to try them  | —0—3—0            |
| Ii spent the second day on the Ringers when the bells was alltred   | ... —0—1—0        |
| It for oyle and grease for the bells when They was new hanged   | ... —0—2—0        |
| Ii To Henery Maddey for one day worke in the Steeple  | ... —0—1—0        |
| Item spent at Henery Wattfon's when baxt* was hiered to new hang the bells  | —0—3—0            |
| Item paid to John Hamont for mending one elapar in October last past 1660   | —0—1—0            |
| Item paid to Thomas Longland & John Hamont for the Jeron worke about<br>the bells   | } —6—11—0         |
| 1661 It paid to Thomas Longland for arrear of the old Churchwardens<br>and alfoe for other worke hee did doe about the Bells and other<br>places about the Church | } 1—0—0           |
| It paid to John Hamont for arrear of the old Churchwardens and for 2<br>staves for the treble bell wheele   | } 1—10—0          |
| It paid to Henery Maddey for Ringinge the Eight A Clock Bell in the<br>yeare 1660   | } 1—15—0          |
| 1666. It spent on the ringers when the victorie was wone against Dutch  | ... 0—2—0         |
| It paid for bookes† concerning the fire at London   | ... 0—1—0         |
| 1669 It paid to Henry Maddey for ringinge the eight aclock bell   | ... 0—16—0        |
| It for Keyinge upp the grate Bell with 8 new keys and 9 Cotterrills   | ... 0—2—2         |
| It for new eyeing the second bell clapper and for lyneinge the shanke   | ... 0—3—4         |
| 1681 Item payd to Thomas Power gent for the Church clock macking  | ... 10 : 0 : 0    |
| Item payd to Thomas Power gent for macking the chimes   | ... 14 : 0 : 0    |
| It. spent when we agreed with Mr. Powers to mack the Clock and Chymes   | 0 : 7 : 10        |
| It. spent when we paid Mr. Powers his last monney for ye chimes   | ... 0 : 8 : 0 :   |
| 1682 It payd for hanging the bells  | ... 1 : 19 : 0 :  |
| It. spent one ye workmen when ye bells was amending   | ... 0 : 1 : 0 :   |
| It. spent when the bargain was mad for hanging the bells  | ... 0 : 7 : 6 :   |
| It: payd to John Hamont for work done when the bells were amended   | ... 1 : 11 : 10 : |
|   | <i>£ s. d.</i>    |
| 1701 Novembr ye 4 & 5 paid to the Brafor for Changing the Bell Brases...  | 1—11—0            |
| paid for fetching of wood from Eynfbury to mend the bells   | ... 0—3—0         |
| paid for bringing Two Bell wheels from Eynfbury   | ... 0—1—0         |
| paid for cleaning ye Bell Chamber   | ... —0—1—0        |
| pd to John Bullock for Two new Bell Wheels & for wood & for new<br>hanging all ye Bells   | } 17—10 . 0       |
| Spent when we Reckoned with Bullock and with the Townsmen   | ... 0—10—0        |
| 1702 Novembr ye 24 & 25 Item paid to Thomas Longland Blacksmith<br>for Iron worke Done to the Bells upon Bill   | } 12—8—9          |
| paid to Will <sup>m</sup> Parish Blacksmith upon Bill for Iron worke done to the Bells  | 9—5—6             |
| paid to Will <sup>m</sup> Walgate Blacksmith upon Bill for Iron worke done to the Bells   | 1—11—0            |
| alowed John Bullock and his man for Bear Att Six pence a Day for 55<br>Days when they hung the Bells.   | } 1—7—6           |

\* Baxter.

† Forms of prayer.

|   |     |     |     |     |         |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Spent when the hand of the Clock was put up   | ... | ... | ... | ... | —1—0    |
| paid to John Masters and John Langlye for two Dayes worke apiece when they mended the Second Bell wheele  |     |     |     | }   | 0—6—0   |
| paid to Robt Langley for 17 foot of oak Board to mend the Second Bell Wheele  |     |     |     | }   | 0—2—10  |
| paid for a plank for the Wheele   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0—0—8   |
| paid for wood to make a Stay  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0—0—6   |
| and for a Nossell   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0—0—2   |
| paid to Will <sup>m</sup> Lawrance for putting up the hand of the Diall   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0—1—0   |
| 1708 July 6 pd for Ale ye Ringers had upon the Joyfull newes y <sup>t</sup> Prince Eugin joyned his forces w <sup>th</sup> his Grace y <sup>e</sup> Duke of Marlborrow against y <sup>e</sup> ffrench, at Robt West |     |     |     | }   | 0—2—6   |
| at Robt Langleyes on some of y <sup>e</sup> Townsmen  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 . 2—6 |
| at Mr Longland's  |     |     |     |     |         |
| 10. pd. Robt Langley the contract for making the ptition betweene the Church & Steeple  |     |     |     | }   | 2—6—0   |
| & paid for Ale the Masons and the men had and the labourers about the Church and when the Lime and Brick was brought in   |     |     |     | }   | 0—11—8  |
| August 27 pd Henry Usher for 2 new Nozells for the 3rd & 4th bells  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0—1—6   |

## EXTRACT FROM THE CHURCH TERRIER.

1709. Article 8. "Also a piece of land called Bell rope piece and containing five acres more or less which the impropiator enjoys only for finding of Bell ropes for the said bells in the sd. parish when and as often as need requires."
1710. Ffeb. 9 Pd. Robt Langley for new hanging the Tribble bell & keying up the rest of the bells & for oake Timber to support the 2 beames y<sup>t</sup> lyes overwhart the Steeple & for a new forme for the young women to sitt on in the church & for Drink for y<sup>e</sup> workmen & Ringers had at times as by bill } 2. 0. 10.
- 1728/9. Paid to the ringers for ringing the 11. of June Being the day the King George ye 2<sup>d</sup>. began his raigne } 00—6—8—
- Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 1730 Ordered at a publick Vestry then held in the Parish Church of Buckden That the Churchwardens for the time being shall order the Bells to Ring on the days ffollowing allowing five shillings for each day vizt. the twentieth ninth of May The King's Birthday  
30 October  
The Queen's Birthday March 1<sup>st</sup>  
The Prince of Wales birthday 20 Janry  
The Kings accefsion the eleventh day of June  
The fifth of November

· (Signatures follow.)

Heartiest and best thanks to Rev. H. M. Roxby, vicar.

11. *BUCKWORTH.* All Saints. 5 bells.



1. J: TAYLOR & CO: FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH (27½ ins.)  
 CATHERINE D. SHAFTO GAVE ME  
 1885

PRAISE THE LORD

2. (Fig. 34) + GEVE (fig. 34) + GOD (fig. 34) + THE (fig. 34) +  
 PREASEE (28 ins.)

3.  GEVE (fig. 34) + THANKES TO (fig. 34) + GOD (fig. 34) +  
 ALWHIS (30 ins.)

4. J: TAYLOR & CO: FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH  
 1884 (31 ins.)

5. *Geforum Æge placeaf tibi Rexsonus*  
*iste* (fig. 31)  (36 ins.)  
 (fig. 32) 

*On the frame:—*

WILLIAM SISMAN CHURCHWARDEN  
 WILLIAM EATON FECIT 1885

T. R. E. 1552. Remaining at "Buckworthe Itm̄ iiij belles in the steaple and the  
 Sauntus bell and ij handebells.

"Itm̄ oñ Sacriñg bell." See p. 18 for 2 and 3, and p. 17 for 5.

The bells were rehung, as indicated, in 1885. Mrs. Shafto, who died 1888, was the widow of the last rector. There is said to be an undue interval, as suggested by the diameters, in the notes of fourth and fifth, and a fourth bell was really required instead of a treble. The bell recast in 1884 is described as of similar lettering to second (and third). It weighed, Messrs. Taylor informed me, 5 cwt. 3 qrs. 20 lbs. These four would then correspond with the Edwardian record.

A local tradition accounts for the interval alluded to, by alleging that Leighton Bromswold, a neighbouring parish, buried a dead man whom Buckworth refused to inter, and claimed a bell as the usual forfeit; but the Leighton bells (*q.v.*) do not bear out the tradition. Various daily bells were formerly usual, which have now ceased.

At the death knell, *after* the knell, three tellers indicate a man, and five a woman, and a bell is tolled before the funeral. On Sundays the bells are chimed at eight a.m. For divine service they are rung for a quarter-of-an-hour, and chimed for a quarter-of-an-hour, and one bell then "tolls in" for five minutes. A bell is rung after morning service. In Holy Week the bells are chimed only. Peals are

usual on New Year's Eve, on the morning and evening of a wedding, also on Queen's Accession Day. Best thanks to Rev. the Hon. H. W. Mostyn, rector, R.D., and to his eldest daughter, who kindly searched the parish books for any details as to the bells.

12. *BURY*. Holy Cross. 3 bells.
1. C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON. 1853 (26½ ins.)
  2. (Fig. 6) □ A V & (fig. 7) □ MARIA (29 ins.)
  3. CHARLES NEWMAN MADE MEE 1700 W. BAKER T. ROBINSON (31½ ins.)

T. R. E. 1552. Remaining at "Burye parua Itm̄ iij belles." See p. 5 for treble.

At the death knell, which is rung about four hours after death, 3 × 3 are given for a man and 3 × 2 for a woman. Similarly for children, but the treble bell used instead of tenor; a bell is tolled at the funeral. A bell is rung at 8 a.m. on Sundays, also after morning service. For divine service the bells are chimed thrice during the previous half-hour. They are rung on Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day, and Christmas Day; also after a wedding.

The Churchwardens' accounts only contain the following :—

|      |        |                            |     |     |     |         |
|------|--------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| 1853 | May 24 | Armitage work at Bells ... | ... | ... | ... | £5 0 0  |
|      | July 7 | Messrs. Mears new bell...  | ... | ... | ... | £16 9 4 |

(This last must, of course, include the old bell.) Thanks to Rev. J. B. Patrick, late rector.

13. *BYTHORN*. S. Lawrence. 4 bells.
1. HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1682 (30½ ins.)
  2. HENRY PENN FUSORE 1711 (32 ins.)
  3. (Fig. 60) + O M̄N̄I A F̄I J̄L̄O T̄ H̄D ḠL̄O R̄I A J̄M̄ D̄E I  
1620 M. Q. (By T. Norris, his scrolling between the words.) (34 ins.)
  4. THOMAS NORRIS MADE ME 1624 + (fig. 58) (39½ ins.)

T. R. E. 1552. Remaining at "Bithorne Itm̄ iij bells in the steaple. A Sauntus bell."

At the death knell, the tenor is used for males and the treble for females (*cf.* Old Weston for an exactly opposite use). For divine service the bells are chimed. Peals usual at Christmas, New Year's Eve, and sometimes on

November 5th, or after a wedding. Second bell is rung for Vestry meetings. Thanks to Rev. A. Woodd, curate.

14. *CALDECOTE.* S. Mary Magdalen. 2 bells.

(Church rebuilt in 1872-4. Both bells, in a turret, modern-looking and blank. Diameters, 21 and 23 inches respectively; they came from former church, and are rung by levers.)

At the death knell, 3 × 1 for a man, 2 × 1 for a woman, and 1 × 1 for a child, are given before the knell, which is rung an hour after death, but not after sunset. The bell is tolled before the funeral.


The bells are sounded, *if agreeable*, for a short time, after a wedding, as also on Christmas Eve. On Sundays, the treble (sometimes both) chimed at 8 a.m. For divine service, the treble is chimed for a short time, half an hour previous; then both from a quarter of an hour previous till the clergyman enters the church; "toll in" on the treble. Many thanks to Christmas Marriott, the late sexton, and Rev. D. R. Whitelaw, rector.

15. *CATWORTH.* S. Leonard. 4 bells.

1. (Fig. 31) □ (fig. 32) ∇ **Vox mea plene dulces laudes det  
magdalene** (*Unknown elsewhere, I believe.*) (32¾ ins.)

2. G. MEARS & CO FOUNDERS LONDON RICHARD LATHAM  
RECTOR JOHN PASHLER CHURCHWARDEN 1863 (33½ ins.)

3. (Fig. 33)  **Vox + dni + ihu + xpi + vox +  
exultationis** (38 ins.)

4. (Cross 45, North's *Northants.*)  **ROBERTHE** (fig. 8 or 8A) □ **NETT-  
COMBE** (fig. 8 or 8A) □ **MIDE** (fig. 8 or 8A) □ **NE** (45 ins.)  
(*Below*) ○ 1585. (*Date all backwards, and a large medallion, impossible to  
decipher from corrosion.*) See pp. 17 for the treble, 19 for the third, and 20 for the  
tenor.

The second and third bells are identical in tone. The old bell, we learn from Mr. Tyssen's *Sussex Bells*, was by William Hull, and dated 1687; by whom also a bell remains at Pertenhall (Beds.), not far distant, 1666, as also at Pavenham, 1663, in the same county. He died in 1687, being buried August 13th at South Malling, Kent. A similar bell to the third is at Paulersbury (Northants.), as we learn from Mr. North's *Bells* of that county; the cross on it is very small, and not distinctive





in character. The third bell rings daily at 12 noon. No "day of the month" tolled. The Pancake Bell (third) is rung at 11 a.m. on Shrove Tuesday. The Gleaning Bell (treble) at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. during harvest. Cf. Ibstone, Bucks., for two bells *same note*.

At the death knell,  $3 \times 1$  and  $2 \times 1$  for a woman or a child, are given on the tenor, which is then rung for half an hour. *The bells are chimed at funerals.* On Sundays one bell is rung at 7.30 a.m.; and two are chimed at 8 a.m. For divine service the bells are chimed; one being rung after morning service. Peals at Christmas, New Year's Eve, and sometimes after a wedding. A bell is rung for Vestry meetings. Many thanks to Rev. W. Woodward, rector.

16. *CHESTERTON.* S. Michael. 3 bells.

1. + (fig. 58) OMNIA □ (*scrolling and a fleur-de-lys*) FIAIT □ (*ditto*)  
AD □ (*ditto*) GLORIAM □ (*ditto*) DEI □ (*ditto*) 1621 □ (*ditto*) (30 ins.)

2. + (fig. 22) Sancta Margareta ora pro nobis ∇ (fig. 21) (32 ins.)

3.   **Trinitas Sancta istam campanam  
conserba** ∇ (fig. 18) □ (fig. 19) ⊕ (*coin*) □ (fig. 5). (*The letter T is of the present shape.*) See pp. 11 for the second, and 10 for the tenor. (34 ins.)

CHESTERTON PARISH ACCOUNTS.

|      |                             |   |                      |     |     |       |  |
|------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|-----|-----|-------|--|
| 1789 | Ringling ale                | 12/6  | (5 times at 2/6)     |     |     |       |  |
| 1790 | May 29 <sup>th</sup>        | Ringling at the Restoration of King Charles | ...                  | ... | ... | 2s.   |  |
| 1790 | June 4 <sup>th</sup>        | King George 3 <sup>rd</sup> Birthday        | ...                  | ... | ... | 2/6   |  |
| "    | "                           | Paid the ringers at the King's Coronation   | ...                  | ... | ... | 2/6   |  |
| 1815 | Ringers Beer                | Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>                        | ...                  | ... | ... | 10.0  |  |
| 1820 | Feb. 26                     | Ringers                                     | ...                  | ... | ... | 3/2   |  |
| "    | "                           | Kings funeral                               | ...                  | ... | ... | 4     |  |
| "    | April 24                    | Kings Birthday                              | ...                  | ... | ... | 2/6 ? |  |
| "    | Nov 5.                      | paid ringers                                | ...                  | ... | ... | 2/6   |  |
| 1821 | Paid Ringers coronation day | July 19 <sup>th</sup>                       | ...                  | ... | ... | 10/6  |  |
| 1822 | Ringling ale                | 2/6 for King's birthday                     | Ap. 23 <sup>rd</sup> |     |     |       |  |

Treble by Norris. Bells chimed for service; bell for Vestry meetings. Death knell as soon as notified. Many thanks to Rev. J. H. Gandy, rector.

17. *COLNE.* S. Helen. 4 bells.

1. JOHN DRAPER MADE ME 1607 (26½ ins.)

2. MILES ❖ GRAYE ❖ MADE ❖ ME ❖ 1674 (28½ ins.)

3. CHARLES ◊ NEWMAN MADE MEE 1700  
I T R S C W (Scrolling between words.) (30½ ins.)

4. JOHN DRAPER MADE ME 1607 (In Lombardic letters, differing from those on treble) (35 ins.)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "The Chapel of Coln Itm iij bells in the steaple and on hande bell."

(1889.) Bells all clappered and blocked up with twigs; tower said to be unsafe, probably so, from all appearance; a movement on foot for removing and rebuilding the church.

At the death knell, "rung" as soon as possible after notice, but not after sunset, 3 × 3 for a man and 2 × 3 for a woman are given previously. The tenor also tolls before the funeral. For divine service all four are chimed for twenty-five minutes or so; "toll in" on the treble. The bells are sounded occasionally after banns of marriage, and after weddings, if requested. *Ex inform.* sexton.

Three bells, after my visit, had been taken down, and placed in the church for relief of the tower, 1892. In May, 1896, the whole church collapsed. The remaining bell, treble, was picked out unhurt among the ruins. The church is to be rebuilt in a more central situation; this site being away from village.

18. CONNINGTON. All Saints. 6 bells.

1. THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FOUNDER 1834 (29½ ins.)

2. T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT (30¾ ins.)

3. T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1827 (32¾ ins.)

4. (Same as No. 3.) (35 ins.)

5. (Same as No. 3.) (38¼ ins.)

6. (Same as No. 3.) *And on second line:—*

REPLACED BY JOHN HEATHCOTE ESQR. AND THE TREBLE BELL ADDED ANNO DOMINI 1827 (42 ins.)

Mr. John Heathcote bought the estate, and all its belongings, early in the present century. He found five bells existing at the church, some of which were cracked. The original treble of 1827 was, apparently, recast in 1834. These bells, however, have not been rung for years, owing to the alleged instability of the very beautiful tower in which they hang; the wood-work of the frames is slowly decaying; the ropes have all been removed, and the clappers tied to strings issuing from a central apparatus down below.

Old customs are rather at a disadvantage, naturally enough, owing to the present system of clappering, which was introduced for the above prudential reasons (for


the *tower*, not the bells), by the late Rev. George Heathcote, the penultimate Rector. He kindly informed me that in his day the following were correct:— At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after death,  $3 \times 1$ ,  $2 \times 1$ , and  $1 \times 1$ , were given as “tellers” for a man, woman, and child respectively. The bell being also tolled at funerals. Peals on New Year’s Eve and after a wedding. Otherwise only for divine service. The present rector, Rev. H. H. Wyatt, to whom many thanks, kindly allowed me to search the parish register.

19. *COVINGTON*. All Saints. 3 bells.

1. □ HENRY PENN □ FUSORE □ ⊕ (*coin*) 1710 □ (*A sort of rose device as a stop, like fig. 65.*) (28 ins.)
2. + (fig. 34) EDWARD + (fig. 34) DEWCOME  
(*N.B. The cross usually so abraded elsewhere is very clear.*) (31¼ ins.)
3. THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON (31½ ins.)  
(*2nd line* :) THOMAS FAIRY CHURCHWARDEN 1841

Stow Longa (*q.v.*), in the Edwardian Record, is debited with three bells, and now has only one; two are said to have come to this Church. The diameters do not militate against the tradition, if alleged of second and (original) third. At the death knell, rung about an hour after death, but not after sunset, the tenor is used for a man, and the second for a woman or a child of either sex. A bell is tolled at the funeral. On Sundays a bell is rung at 8 a.m., as notice of a morning service. For divine service the tenor is “raised” and rung for fifteen minutes, and then all three are chimed for ten minutes, and then the tenor “tolls in” for five minutes. Peals on New Year’s Eve, and, usually, on the day of a wedding. Very many thanks to late Rev. R. L. Watson, rector.

20. *DENTON*. All Saints. 2 bells.

1. Only a medallion bearing letters  (19½ ins.)
2. + (fig. 60) 1671. (*By Norris, of Stamford.*) (22 ins.)

See p. 16. The Denton uses are those of Caldecote, from which Church it is only distant about a quarter of a mile, and with which it is consolidated for ecclesiastical purposes. All thanks to Christmas Marriott, late sexton of Caldecote, and to Rev. D. R. Whitelaw, rector of the united parishes.

21. *DIDDINGTON*. S. Laurence. 3 bells.

1. 8891 (*for* 1688). (29½ ins.)

2. MEARS & STAINBANK FOUNDERS LONDON 1865 (32 ins.)  
 3. DISCE MORI NSTRO UIUERE DISCE SONO JEREMIAH  
 BURTON CHURCHWARDEN J. EAYRE 1748 † (35½ ins.)

The treble bell, by R. Chandler, of Drayton Parslow, Bucks., *cf.* Ellington first.

The Rev. J. J. Raven, D.D., has fortunately preserved his notes of the second bell, previous to the recasting: it was evidently by Watts, of Leicester, and similar to a bell at Glatton; being inscribed:—

CUM ☐ CUM ☐ AND ☐ PREAY ☐ ROBART ☐ BRUDDENEI SQUIER 1595 S ☐

The stamps being Nos. 43 and 38, the great lion's head, and (as he is "nearly certain") Brasyer's and Watts' sprigged shield, with three bells. N.B. These occur on the Glatton bells (*q.v.*). Meanwhile this S is on a bell at Haddon, dated 1568, and also from the Leicester foundry. I can get no particulars as to Squire Brudenell. The Gleaning Bell has ceased for want of funds to pay the ringer. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice is given, but not after sunset, 3 × 1 for a man and 4 × 1 are given for a woman. All three bells are chimed at 8 a.m. on Sundays, as also for divine service thrice during the previous half-hour; "toll in" on the tenor. A bell is rung after morning service, probably a relic of the days when there was only one service on Sundays, and intended, consequently, to give notice of an afternoon service. Peals for weddings, if paid for. Old tenor doubtless by W. Haulsey. Very best thanks to Rev. A. Hannam, vicar.

22. EASTON. S. Peter. 4 bells.  
 1. HENRY PENN MADE ME 1718 (30 ins.)  
 2. † (fig. 34) SANCTA MARCA ☐ (fig. 35) (34 ins.)  
 ☐ (fig. 35)  
 3. MR WHITEHEAD C. W. TAYLOR & SON FOUNDERS ST  
 NEOTS 1821 (35 ins.)  
 4. † ☐ (*Leicester Crown*) † (fig. 34) PRAISÐ † (fig. 34) THÐ  
 † (fig. 34) LORDÐ. (*Stamps much worn. First † very indistinct and difficult of identification, sound-bow much honey-combed. Both second and fourth evidently from Leicester foundry.*) See p. 18. (39 ins.)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at Eston "Item iiii belles and a Sauntus bell."

Pancake Bell, *formerly*. Gleaning Bell, also, at 7 a.m., and a penny payable by each gleaner to the clerk, when harvest was over. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after death, but not after sunset, 3 × 1 on each bell, from treble

down to tenor for a man; and, conversely,  $3 \times 1$  on each bell from tenor up to treble for a woman previously only to knell then rung on tenor for an hour's time, which bell is chimed before the funeral. A bell is always rung on Sundays at 8 a.m., also at 11 a.m., if the service that day be in the afternoon. (Easton is united to Stow Longa.) For divine service the first three are chimed, with the tenor "rung in" behind, first in alternate strokes, afterwards "stock height," without any break, finally the third "rings in" for 5 minutes. A muffled peal was introduced by the Vicar on Good Fridays, about twelve years ago, and is now only in abeyance, if still so, for want of ringers; and during Lent all four are *chimed* for divine service, without "raising" the tenor, as first mentioned. Peals on Easter Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve; also at the Feast, and formerly on first publication of banns of marriage, and 5th November. Now only for weddings when paid for. A bell also *formerly* for Vestry and Town's meetings. Very best thanks to the Rev. G. E. Sharland, vicar of Easton and Stow Longa.

23. *ELLINGTON.* All Saints. 4 bells.

1. R O (*C reversed*) 1699 (27 ins.)
2. Vox Augustini sonet in Aure Dei ∩ (fig. 21) + (fig. 22) (30 ins.)
3. Sancta Margareta ora pro nobis □ ∩ + (figs. 24, 23, and 22.) (32½ ins.)
4. ROBT TAYLOR ST. NEOTS FECIT 1788 THOS. LADDS & HENRY HANGER C ÷ WARDENS. (See pp. 11, 12 for 2 and 3.) (37 ins.)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "Ellington Itm̄ iiij bells oñ Sauntus bell ij handebells."

The first bell by R. Chandler, of Drayton Parslow. *Cf.* Diddington treble. Both the mediævals want quarter-hanging very badly. The lettering on the second is beautifully sharp and clear. The treble has been clapper-tied in order to enable the sexton to chime all four single-handed! Pancake Bell, formerly; Gleaning Bell at 7 a.m., was discontinued for want of funds to pay the ringer. The death knell is rung on the tenor for adults, and third for children, about an hour after death, and for an hour's time. The bell is also tolled an hour before the funeral, and again when the party approaches the church. On Sundays the second and third are sounded for five minutes at 8 a.m.; and a short mid-day peal is rung for about five minutes after morning service. For divine service all four are chimed half an hour; "toll in" five minutes on the tenor. Peals for an hour on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve (at midnight); also for fifteen minutes early on Christmas Day; at weddings sometimes. Second bell rings fifteen minutes to give notice of Vestry meetings. Many thanks to Rev. P. Lamb, late vicar.

24. *ELTON*. All Saints. 5 bells.

1. THOMAS NORRIS CAST ME 1631 (34 ins.)  
 (*Lower line*):—RECAST BY G. MEARS & CO. OF LONDON 1864

2. THOMAS (*cable scrolling*) NORRIS (*ditto*) CAST ME (*ditto*) 1631 (36 ins.)

3. WM = PIX TH. BARKAR CH. WA. 1631 (39 ins.)  
 RECAST BY G. MEARS & CO. OF LONDON 1864

(*And on opposite side*):—

DONOR WILLIAM FIFTH EARL OF CARYSFORT

4. OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI THO : ROBINSON &  
 WM. DEXTER 1746 J. EAYRE (41 ins.)

(*Lower line*):—

RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. LOUGHBOROUGH

(*Incised*) 1896.

5. + (fig. 58) IESVS (*scrolling*) SPEDE (*ditto*) ME (*ditto*) OMNIA  
 (*ditto*) MHN! (*ditto*) AD (*ditto*) GLORIAHM (*ditto*) DEI (*ditto*) (46 ins.)

(*Lower down*):—

THOMAS NORRIS CAST ME 1631 (*Cable ornament between the words.*)

Newly hung, 1896, in old cage. On the fourth previous bell T. R. and W. D. were described as churchwardens. The new bell cast without cannons; all very easy of access, etc. Weight constantly over-estimated as 10, 12, 15, 18, and 20 cwts. ! really 8, 9½, 11¾, 13¾, 18½ cwts. in Taylor's scale. These are the bells said to be alluded to in Faber's hymn, "Pilgrims of the Night."

"Far, far away,  
 Like bells at evening pealing,"

F. W. Faber having been rector here up to his secession to the Roman Church, 1845.

The Gleaning Bell, rung at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., ceased 1875. At the death knell, 3 × 3 and 3 × 2 indicate a man and a woman respectively, and are repeated after the knell. A bell is tolled at the funeral. Peals on New Year's Eve, then old year "tolled" out and new year "rung in." A "Spur Peal" is rung after first publication of banns of marriage, and a peal after the wedding. Also at 7 a.m. on Feast Day. Bell for Vestry meetings.

The ring, in all probability, originally consisted of five bells by Norris, and one was recast by Eayre in 1746. Many thanks to Rev. E. W. Forrest, rector.

25. *EVERTON (CUM TETWORTH)*. S. Mary. 5 bells.

1. (*Several fleur-de-lys*) (fig. 51) 1630. (25½ ins.)

2. IK □ GOD SAVE OVR KING 1630. (*Tuned by turning off the rim.*) (25½ ins.)

3. + (fig. 48) SONORU ✻ (fig. 51) SONU ✻ (fig. 51) MIO  
 ✻ (fig. 51) SONU (fig. 51) ✻ DEU 1611 (28 ins.)  
 RICHARDVS HOLDFELD MERECIT.
4. **Johannes dier hane campanam fecit.** (*No date.*  
*Large, poor, late Black-letters.*) (31 ins.)
5. CHRISTOPHER GRAYE MADE ME 1681 (34 ins.)  
*(The first two by James Keene, of Woodstock.)*

Tenor formerly rung as a gleaming bell, at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. At the death knell, rung any time before sunset, and on the tenor for a man, fourth for a woman, and third for a child,  $3 \times 1$  are given for a man, and  $2 \times 1$  for a woman, before the knell, which then follows in minute strokes. A bell tolled at funerals. For divine service the bells are chimed, but on church festivals they are rung. The tenor is rung as a sermon bell five minutes before service begins. Tenor also rings for Vestry meetings. Peals on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Christmas Eve. At weddings if *desired*. Bells, since my visit, rehung. *Tenor* cracked and recast, 1894, by Mears and Stainbank. Best thanks to Rev. T. H. Shaw, vicar.

26. *EYNESBURY.* S. Mary. 6 bells.
1. 1810. (25½ ins.)
2. R. TAYLOR . ST NEOTS . FOUNDER . 1810 . S . ORRIS . EX .  
 (for *Excise*, I suppose) OFFICER PROFESSOR OF CAMPANOLOGY.  
*The early use of the word Campanology, (rectius) Campanalogy, is interesting.* (31 ins.)
3. R. TAYLOR ST NEOTS FOUNDER . 1810. (31½ ins.)
4. TAYLOR ST NEOTS FOUNDER 1810 (34½ ins.)
5. R. PATTISON & T: ATKINSON CHURCHWARDENS 1810  
 (37¾ ins.)
6. R. TAYLOR FOUNDER ST NEOTS 1810 W: PALMER.  
 RECTOR T. ATKINSON & R. PATTISON CHURCHWARDENS.  
*(Sanctus Bell-cote long since empty, over chancel.)* (43 ins.)

At the death knell, rung as soon as notice is given, on the tenor for adults, and treble for infants,  $3 \times 3$  for a man,  $2 \times 2$  for a woman, *after* the knell. There are also previously "sokens," *i.e.*, each bell is tolled down to the tenor. Muffled peals are occasionally usual at the burial of members of the choir, etc., etc. The bells are chimed on Sundays for morning and evening service, rung for the afternoon

service. Toll in on tenor and then on treble. Special practising in Advent. Peals on Christmas Day, Easter and Whitsun Days, New Year's Eve, 5th of November, and Children's Treat. At weddings if paid for. Very best thanks to Rev. T. Hodgson, rector.

27. *FARCET.* S. Mary. 3 bells.

1. † (fig. 34) PRAISÐ † (fig. 34) THÐ † (fig. 34) LORDÐ. (23½ ins.)
2. I H 1673. (*By Norris, of Stamford.*) (23 ins.)
3. (*On waist*):— † OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI H † S 1621  
RECHAST H † S 1854 (25½ ins.)

See p. 18. The old tenor, *perhaps* by Haulsey, of St. Ive's, *cf.* Broughton treble.

At the death knell, 3 × 1 for a man, 5 × 1 for a woman, 4 × 1 for a child. Knell for half an hour, for which time also bell rings previous to the funeral. For divine service the bells are chimed twenty minutes, "toll in" on a single bell ten minutes. Peals, occasionally, at weddings, and at some anniversaries. Many thanks to Rev. W. O. F. Hughes, vicar.

28. *FENSTANTON.* S.S. Peter and Paul. 5 bells.

1. THOMAS NORRIS MADE ME 1636. (*Cable ornament as a stop throughout.*) (28½ ins.)
2. JOSEPH EAYRE FECIT 1771 (30 ins.)
3. ANNO DOMINI † (fig. 64) 1603. (*A rough old casting by an unknown founder.*) (32 ins.)
4. (Fig. 50) † MEROREM MESTIS HETIS SIC LETA SONABO 1620. (*By Haulsey. Hetis for Letis.*) (35 ins.)
5. *Precisely similar to No. 1.* (39 ins.)

See p. 25. Bells all rehung by Messrs. Taylor, and in excellent order.

Gleaning bell, *formerly*. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, on the tenor for adults, and on treble for children, 3 × 3 for a male and 3 × 2 for a female, both before and after the knell. Age has been indicated by *request*, only. Bell tolled before funeral. The bells are chimed for divine service. "Toll in" on the treble. On first Sunday in the month the treble is rung for holy communion after matins is over. Ringing is usual after banns of marriage are first published, but after weddings only when paid for. Thanks to Rev. G. H. Frewer, vicar. There is a curious old clock tower in this village, with one bell, said to be inscribed:—



## JOHN MORRIS MADE ME MAY 1643

*i.e.*, of course T. Norris, who was at the church, 1636.

29. *FLETTON*. S. Margaret. 3 bells.
1. + (fig. 34) S. PALLÉ. ∩ (fig. 35) (30 ins.)
  2. O M O I H F I H N T O A D G L O R I H N D E I 1620 + (fig. 58)  
(33 ins.)
  3. WILLIAM + (fig. 42) WATES + (fig. 42) MADE ME 1590 ∩  
(fig. 38). (*Enriched capitals.*) (36 ins.)

See p. 18. Treble by Newcome. Second by Norris, with scrolling between words. At the death knell, on tenor for adults and treble for children, 3 × 1 for a man and 5 × 1 for a woman, 3 × 1 for a boy and 4 × 1 for a girl, before and after the knell. For funerals, the tenor rings twenty minutes. For divine service the bells are chimed for twenty minutes, and the tenor is rung for ten minutes. A bell is rung for Vestry meetings. Best thanks to Rev. C. Dowman, rector.

30. *FOLKSWORTH*. S. Helen. 1 bell.
- T. HARRIS 1660 + (fig. 58) (*Norris's scrolling.*) (21½ ins.)

It is said there were once two bells here. But the turret at present is for *one*. Gleaning bell formerly. At the death knell, rung as soon after death as convenient, 3 × 1 for a man and 2 × 1 for a woman; bell tolled at the funeral, rung after weddings. Bell of bad tone, somewhat cracked. The registers contain baptism of Thomas Harris (perhaps *son* of man named on the bell), April, 1661; and burial of Thomas Harris (perhaps his father), 1659. Very many thanks to Rev. T. H. Blencowe, rector.

31. *GREAT GIDDING*. S. Michael. 5 bells.
1. T. C. (or T. G.) 1670 (*By Norris.*) (29½ ins.)
  2. TAYLORS BELLFOUNDERS OXFORD 1839. (*Cannons gone,*  
*hung by bolts through crown.*) (30 ins.)
  3. TAYLOR'S FOUNDER'S OXFORD: 1839: (32 ins.)
  4. J: TAYLOR & Co: FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH  
1873 (36½ ins.)
  5. CONJUGIUM PARTUS MYSTERIA FESTA DECORO ANNO  
DOMINI 1756. (*By Joseph Eayre.*) (39 ins.)

See p. 31. The third and tenor much tuned by turning off the rim. At the death knell,  $3 \times 1$  on each bell for a male and  $5 \times 1$  on each bell for a female, beginning with the treble, previous to knell, rung for forty to forty-five minutes on the tenor, which is also tolled at funerals. On Sundays the treble is rung at 8 a.m. For 10 a.m. Sunday school, first and second are "raised" and rung; but for 2 p.m. Sunday School, the fourth is rung.\* For divine service the first four bells are chimed; the tenor being raised and rung in behind, when there is to be a sermon. "Toll in" five minutes on the treble. Peals on Christmas Eve, Christmas morning, and during the day. On New Year's Eve, the old year is "rung out" with muffled clappers, the New Year "rung in" with clappers open. Peals also on *Monday* after the publication of banns, and after a wedding. On November 5th, the bells are "cannoned," *i.e.*, all struck together. There is a local tradition, that this tenor and the Polebrook tenor have been interchanged. But the inscriptions at Polebrook, as given in Mr. North's *Northamptonshire* volume, do not support it. Best thanks to the Rev. W. S. Bagshaw, vicar.

32. *GIDDING, LITTLE.* S. John. 1 bell.  
*Perfectly blank.* (22 ins.)


This is a seventeenth century church. It has been rendered rather noteworthy in "John Inglesant," as once attended by Nicholas Ferrar, etc. The bell hangs in a recess in the west gable, over which a stone spirelet is erected. No particular uses.

33. *GIDDING, STEEPLE.* S. Andrew. 3 bells.  
 1. (Fig. 25) ▽ + (fig. 28) ▽ (fig. 26) **Sancta Anna Ora pro nobis.** (26 ins.)  
 2. **Max Augustini Sonet In Aure Dei** (fig. 25) ▽ (fig. 27) ⊕ (fig. 26) ▽ (29½ ins.)  
 3. **J. EAYRE ST NEOT'S FECIT 1748 + ⊕ ⊕ + DISCE MORI NOSTRO VIVERE DISCE SONO** (*Old bell probably by Haulsey.*) (32 ins.)

See p. 13 for description of first and second. The cross (fig. 28) is unique, so far as I know, *unless* it occurs at Garthorpe, Leicestershire; although Mr. North's *Leicestershire* volume does not *say so*, I am inclined to think a closer inspection *might* prove this to be the case. This church was beautifully restored by G. G. Scott, and is scrupulously cared for: except, in both regards, the tower and spire,

\* A bell having been put up in 1897 at the school, these school bells have ceased.

which were, as too often, left to take their chance of "a more convenient season," and we have here a sad tale of neglect. The three bells are clapper-tied, the cage much decayed, wheels all smashed, and the whole barely in safe condition. It is a sad pity for an old and singularly interesting bell like the treble, or even the second, to be thus in peril of destruction. Old customs, naturally enough, are at a discount also, owing to the state of the bells. At the death knell  $5 \times 1$  on each, and  $3 \times 1$  on each, signify a man and woman respectively, both before and after the "knell." A bell tolls also at the funeral. For divine service the bells are sounded for awhile, after which "toll in" on a single bell. The bells are sounded, so far, at weddings. Thanks to Rev. J. Q. Farrant, formerly curate in charge.

34. *GLATTON*. S. Nicholas. 4 bells.
1. (Fig. 40) □ *CO*℞ (fig. 43) □ *CO*℞ (fig. 43) □ *AND PRE*℞  
1595 (29 ins.)
2. (Fig. 38) ∪ *S*℞℞℞℞℞ (fig. 42) □ *GO*D (fig. 42) □ *AND*  
(fig. 42) □ *O* (fig. 42) □ *BE*℞℞ (fig. 42) □ *IS*℞ *PR*℞℞℞ (31 ins.)  
(*Second line* :) 1595
3. J: TAYLOR & CO. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH  
1863 (34 ins.)
4. : OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI ...: ... + ... GLORIA  
DEO SOLI : + : ... THO: BAYRE  1736 + (35½ ins.)

T. R. E. 1549 "Glatton Sold by . . . . ij lyttell handbels for xvij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>"

See p. 21. Treble and second bells by Watts (*cf.* treble with the bell formerly at Diddington *supra*. One similar to the second is at Stanground *infra*). Bells all in bad order for ringing. Two bells are chimed for a minute or two after morning service, a relic, probably, of the time when there was only one service (Glatton was formerly united to Holme), and signifying then that there would be an *afternoon* service that Sunday. At the death knell there appear to be no tellers at all. The tenor is chimed for fifteen minutes before the funeral. On Sundays treble and second are chimed at 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. for a minute or two; also at 7 a.m. if there be a celebration of Holy Communion that Sunday. For divine service all four are chimed; "toll in" five minutes on third, which bell is also rung for Vestry meetings. Wedding peals *sometimes*. Best thanks to Rev. F. Jickling (late) rector.

35. *GODMANCHESTER*. S. Mary. 8 bells.

1. INTACTUM SILEO PERCUTE DULCE CANO :... T. OSBORN  
DOWNHAM FECIT 1794 (31½ ins.)
2. T. OSBORN FOUNDER 1794 :.. (32½ ins.)
3. T. OSBORN FOUNDER 1794 :.. (33½ ins.)
4. :... THOS. OSBORN FECIT. OUR VOICES SHALL WITH  
JOYFUL SOUND. MAKE HILLS AND VALLEYS ECCHO  
ROUND 1794 (34½ ins.)
5. T. OSBORN FECIT 1794 :. (*Sharpened by turning off the rim.*) (38 ins.)
6. J. TAYLOR & CO. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH  
1870 (40 ins.)
- (*On waist:*) F: T: M<sup>c</sup>DOUGALL D: C: L. VICAR.  
P: E: TILLARD }  
HENRY QUINCE } CHURCHWARDENS
7. T. OSBORN FOUNDER 1794. (*Very flat crown.*) (44 ins.)
8. REV<sup>d</sup>. CASTLE SHERARD RECTOR\* JN<sup>o</sup>. MARTIN ROBT.  
WALLER BAILIFFS. JN<sup>o</sup>. SCOTT RICH<sup>d</sup>. MILES CH. WARDENS  
T. OS BORN FECIT : 1794 (*Date on second line.*)

All originally by Osborn, of Downham Market, in Norfolk. There is a clock and Cambridge chimes. The treble and second hang slightly above the others, and are rather cramped to get them in. All hang in an old and substantial frame. The ringing room is well kept, and elaborate rules for the ringers are apparently in use. The Curfew is rung from Michaelmas to Lady Day, at 8 p.m., and a bequest of £6 annual value exists for the maintenance of this custom. At the death knell, 3 × 3 for a man and 3 × 5 for a woman; the age is given of the deceased, and the tolling is in minute strokes. In some cases a muffled peal is rung at the funeral. On Sundays a bell is rung at 7 a.m., and after morning service; for divine service the bells are chimed; then a single bell tolls for five minutes, then the "parson's bell" rings. Peals on Christmas Day, at 9 a.m., and on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, on first Sunday in New Year, and on Easter Day, at 6 a.m. At weddings, when desired; peals usual on Mayor's day.

We gather from Mr. R. Fox's *History of Godmanchester* as follows (but unfortunately he gives no authorities for any of his statements):—"The present bells were cast from the metal of the old ones, four in number.

\* *i.e.*, Lessee of the Great Tithes and Curate. The Benefice is a Vicarage, held from 1782 to 1797 by Rev. Matthew Salmon.

|                                   | cwt. qrs. lbs. |            | cwt. qrs. lbs. |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| The <i>then</i> treble containing | 9 3 18         | <i>now</i> | 6 3 7          |
| „ second „                        | 11 3 7         | „          | 7 0 16         |
| „ third „                         | 13 3 24        | „          | 7 1 5          |
| „ *fourth „                       | 19 0 20        | „          | 7 3 20         |
| „ fifth „                         | 29 2 20        | „          | 9 3 14         |
|                                   | —————          | sixth      | 10 1 7         |
|                                   | 84 2 5         | seventh    | 14 3 16        |
|                                   |                | tenor      | 20 2 11        |
|                                   |                |            | —————          |
|                                   |                |            | 84 3 12”       |

(So that the only additional metal was 1 qr. 7 lbs.)

On February 2nd, 1898, I received the following letter:—

“My dear Sir—Some time ago I made the interesting discovery that the house now occupied by Mr. Achurch, was the ‘Angel Inn,’ where one of the original bells of Godmanchester Church was cast.

“Last week Mr. Achurch and I had a further interesting find, and that is the exact spot where the bell was cast. The bell was ‘cast by a shepherd,’ and there is every indication that under the floor of an old barn is the *sand* which he used for the purpose. As I thought you might be interested in the discovery, I send the above particulars.”—  
*From Mr. C. Mayfield, the Borough Surveyor of Godmanchester.*

“The old five were taken down in 1794, and recast at an expense of £120, which was defrayed by a liberal subscription. The new bells were opened on the 6th of May, 1795, by the Cambridge and Soham youths; and in 1797 the Soham youths farther celebrated their erection by ringing upon them a peal of 5,780 changes in three hours and a half.” Mr. Fox gives inscriptions on seven of the bells, but curiously enough omits that on the sixth, since recast as above. Best thanks to Rev. H. H. Chamberlain, vicar.

36. *GRAFFHAM.* All Saints. 3 bells.

1. (Fig. 38) ∩ (fig. 38) ∩ (*Otherwise blank; cannons gone.*) (31½ ins.)
2. **SUM ROSA PULSATA MUNDI KATERINA VOCATA** (fig. 12) + (fig. 14) □ (*Three times on the crown of the bell.*) (36 ins.)
3. S KATERINA (fig. 35) ∩ (fig. 34) + (*Much corroded.*) (39 ins.)

T. R. E. 1552. Remaining at “Graffhame Itmō iij bells, oñ Sauntus bell.”

\* Cast by a shepherd, at the “Angel Inn.”

See pp. 7, 18, 19. Probably the three original (large) bells of the Edwardian Inventory. First and third from Leicester, by Watts and Newcome respectively. All in good order, so far, and clean, but so deeply indented in the sound-bow as to threaten speedy cracking if not quarter-turned.

At the death knell  $3 \times 1$  *in every case* are first given on each bell, previous to the knell, on the tenor for an adult, and on the treble for a child; and tolled at short intervals for from twenty minutes to half an hour. After this the bell is let down and the *day of the month* is tolled in every case. The tenor tolls previous to the funeral.

On Sundays the treble is chimed for five minutes at 8 a.m., after which the treble and second are chimed for about five minutes more. For morning service the three bells are chimed; "toll in" five minutes on the tenor. For afternoon service the first and second are chimed, with the tenor "rung up" behind. Peals on New Year's, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day evening; at weddings, if desired. The bell for Vestry or Town's meetings ceased sixty years ago. Many and best thanks to late Rev. B. H. Puckle, rector.

37. *GREAT GRANSDEN.* S. Bartholomew. 6 bells.
1. J: TAYLOR & CO: FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH  
1883 (28½ ins.)
  2. C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1854 (30½ ins.)
  3. BRYANUS ELDRIDGE ME FECIT 1658 (32 ins.)
  4. (*The same.*) (35 ins.)
  5. (*The same.*) (38 ins.)
  6. R: TAYLOR FECIT (*Incised with a chisel.*) (43 ins.)  
(*Another inscription has been filed off; but the date 1787, etc., is still legible.*)

The two bells recast recently were like the other three (by Bryan Eldridge), one of which has lost its cannons. The tenor is said to have come in 1791, and to have been cast for some other church; but the date on the bell, and the extract below, do not favour the tradition.

The Gleaning Bell (tenor) is rung at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. (1 p.m. on Saturdays) during harvest. At the death knell, rung the morning after death (and on tenor for a man, fifth for a woman, second or treble for children, according to age),  $3 \times 3$  are given for a male and  $3 \times 2$  for a female, both before and after the knell. Tenor chimes, for about twenty minutes, previous to the funeral.

On Sundays the second is raised at 8 a.m. For divine service sometimes all are

chimed, sometimes one, two, three, or all six raised and rung according to number of ringers present. "Toll in" five minutes on the tenor. On New Year's Eve, a peal for about a quarter of an hour; then the tenor alone for five minutes "tolls out" the Old Year, after which the New Year is duly "rung in" by all six. Ringing practised during winter, and, "more or less," up to July. Peals for weddings when paid for. On November 5th (as at Great Gidding) the bells are "shot," *i.e.*, all struck together. A bell (the long-suffering tenor as usual) for Vestry or Town's meetings. The Overseers' Book contains the following:—

"2 May 1780 It is also agreed that no cows are to go out upon the Common on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May until 8 o'clock in the morning at which time the bell will be toll'd to give notice thereof." Also "Michs 1787 In part for running the great bell £2 2 0."

A local story says that the chimes came from Stamford, being rejected thereat because they did not play "God Save the King." The chime-barrel has five tunes, and plays one every three hours. The sexton (Mr. Crane, senior) says the date and source of the chimes are not known; they were repaired by Taylor about the beginning of this century (bill extant, *pencs* vicar), when the tune "Marlbrook" (commonly "Molbrooke" = "Marlborough") was added. (This tune is pariously suggestive of "We won't go home till morning.")

The other tunes are "Canaan," "Nehemiah," another found by the vicar in Dr. Hayne's Collection, published early in this century; Harvest Song, "Nuts are brown," the fifth tune, at present unauthenticated. Old Mr. Crane, the sexton's father, first wound up the clock and chimes in 1805. The ringers have lately obtained a set of handbells, with which they practise constantly, and are making good progress. Best thanks to Rev. A. J. Edmonds, vicar; also to W. J. Crane (junior), the very intelligent and courteous captain of the ringers.

Since my visit the bells have been rehung by G. Day, of Eye, Christmas, 1895; and the fourth, which had cracked, has been recast by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough (1895).

I am also indebted to the vicar for the following:—

|          |   |  |     |     |     |                    |
|----------|---|--|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| 1810     | To new roop to the Chime wait                                       | ...  | ... | ... | ... | 51/ 3 <sup>d</sup> |
| 1834     | Mar 21  | 4 Chime hammers lengthen & the chimes oltren | ... | ... | ... | 51/ 6 <sup>d</sup> |
| March 28 | 2 chime hammers lengthen 1 mended & 2 Ess(S)links                   | ...  | ... | ... | ... | 1 . 0              |
|          | [The Church W] ardens of Gt Gransden [to J] Paxton [for re] pairing | }  |     |     |     | 11 0 0             |
|          | the Church Clock & Chimes with 6 Dayes [W] ork in taking            |  |     |     |     |                    |
|          | Down & fixing &c &c   |  |     |     |     |                    |

Settled J. Paxton.

(Date torn off.)

N.B.—It will be noted that out of Eldridge's five bells, only two now remain.

## CHIME TUNES OF GREAT GRAMSDEN CHURCH.

1 "MALBROOK:"

2 "NUT BELLS:"

3 HARVEST HOME.

4 "NEHEMIAS:"

5 "CANAAN:"

38. HADDON.

S. Mary.

3 bells.

1. **Johannis est nomen ejus** (fig. 23) ▽ (fig. 22) ○ (fig. 24) ❖ (*Broken, disused, small late letters.*) (25½ ins.)
2. + (fig. 34) **A** □ (a dog) **B D E H E R** 1568 8 (On waist: □ (an animal.)) (28¼ ins.)  
(*Broken, but still rung. Cf. a bell at Hannington, Northants.*)
3. + (fig. 34) **E O W A R D E O W A R D E** (fig. 34) + **E O W A R D E** (30½ ins.)





See pp. 12, 18. Bells unsafe. Third bell, alone, sound. Treble by Walgrave. Second and third by Newcome.

*Cf.* the **Z** on second bell with that on old bell at Diddington *supra*. "When banns are first published, the young people, of both sexes, ring the bells." Kindly communicated by Rev. J. H. Gandy, rector of Chesterton and Haddon.

39. *HAMERTON.* All Saints. 4 bells.

1. C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1854 (32 ins.)

2. T: EAYRE KETTERING :  : 1728 :  GLORIA PATRI  
FILIO ET SPIRITUI SANCTO :- (33 ins.)

3. † (fig. 58) *NON* VERBO SED VOCE RESONABO DOMINE  
LAVDEM (37½ ins.)

(*Second line in small Lombardics, like Richd. Holdfeld's.*)

THOMAS NORRIS CAST ME 1628 W. BYRUBI 2. FITCHIONH  
CH : WA.

(*Apparently Norris had no Z in his alphabet, to render Fitz John withal!*)

4. HENRY PENN MADE ME 1706 WILLIAM  
SMITH CHVRCHWARDEN. (39 ins.)

These bells are in need of rehangng; especially the tenor, a very good bell, and estimated, as usual, to be much heavier than it really is, because the hangings are out of order. At the death knell, rung for about half an hour as soon as possible after notice of death, 1 × 1 for a child, 2 × 1 for a woman, and 3 × 1 for a man, are given previously on each bell, beginning with the treble in every case. The tenor is tolled half an hour before the funeral. For divine service, the first three are chimed, with the tenor rung in behind, first in alternate strokes, and later "stock-height" after each round; "toll in" on the treble. Peals on New Year's Eve; sometimes after publication of banns; after weddings, if paid for. A bell is rung for Vestry meetings. All thanks to the Rev. D. G. Thomas, rector, and to the sexton.

40. *HARTFORD.* All Saints. 6 bells.

1. ROBT. TAYLOR ST. NEOTS FECIT . 1799 Y (27 ins.)

2. ROBT. TAYLOR FECIT . 1796 LEONARD WALLER &  
CHARLES BEAUMONT OVERSEERS (28¼ ins.)

3. ROBT. TAYLOR FECIT . 1796 JOSEPH BUTT & JOHN  
RIPPIN CHURCHWARDENS (29½ ins.)

4. WHILST THUS WE JOIN IN CHEARFUL SOUND LET  
LOVE AND LOYALTY ABOUND ⊕ ⊕ (*Coins*) TAYLOR FECIT  
1796 (33 ins.)
5. THE C. WARDENS. THE OVERSEERS. CAUTHORN BLEAK  
& JOHN RANDAL THE PRINCIPAL PARTITIONERS WHEN  
WE WAS CAST 1796 (33½ ins.)
6. I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE  
GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL TAYLOR FECIT. 1796. JOSEPH  
BUTT & JOHN RIPPIN CHURCHWARDENS (36½ ins.)

*Bells rehung 1895, since my visit.*

T. R. E. 1552. Remaining at "Harford Itm̄ v belles and ðn Sauntus bell."

(The letter **Y** on treble is all by itself, and apparently unmeaning, but there is a bell [see *Bells of Herts.*] at St. Ippolyt's Church which has a similar **Y** thus impressed, and which is perhaps also from St. Neot's Foundry.)

At the death knell, 3 × 3 and 3 × 2 indicate a man and a woman respectively, and these "tellers" are not repeated after the knell, which is rung as soon after death as possible. Bell tolled before a funeral. On Sundays the bells appear to be rung for service or chimed (in the afternoon). Gleaning bell fifty years ago. No daily bells. At great church festivals, besides the usual Sunday ringing, the bells are chimed at sunrise, notably at Christmas, New Year, Easter, and Trinity Sunday (the local feast). Bells rung for weddings, if *paid* for. The tradition also obtains here of King's Ripton forfeiting a bell to Hartford owing to the non-burial by the former parish of a man found dead therein (*cf.* Buckworth). Best thanks to Rev. Dr. Banks, vicar.

41. *HAYLE WESTON.* S. Nicholas. 3 bells.
1. CHRISTOPHER \* GRAIE \* MADE ME 1655  
(*Cannons gone; second star very imperfect; a very rough casting.*) (34 ins.)
2. (Fig. 38) ∩ **F.F.H.R.E.** (fig. 42) + **G.O.D.** (fig. 42) + **J.H.D.** (fig. 42) +  
**O.B.E.H.I.** (fig. 42) + **T.S.H.** (fig. 42) + **Q.U.E.R.E.** (fig. 42) + 1589  
(*By Watts. Top edge of the crown ornamented all round; wants quarter-hanging rather badly.*) (35½ ins.)
3. JOHN TAYLOR & CO. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGH-  
BOROUGH 1884 (39 ins.)  
(*Weight of the old tenor, 8 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lbs.*)

See p. 20. These are good bells, especially the second and tenor, which last weighs 11½ cwt. The bells, previous to the Restoration in 1884, were in bad order, and the old tenor is said to have been broken at a wedding; as, on those festive

occasions, "hammers or any thing handy" were employed wherewith to sound them. At the death knell, the tenor is "rung up" without any tellers, these having become "disused during the Restoration." For divine service all three are "rung up" half an hour before service; then, shortly after, first and second are lowered and the tenor "rung in" behind, as in preceding instance. "Toll in" on single bell. No morning bells when no morning service; this parish being united to Southoe. Very many thanks to the (late) Rev. J. R. Moorsom, R.D., rector.

42. *HEMINGFORD ABBOTS.* S. Margaret. 5 bells.  
(now 6 bells.)

1. I. EAYRE ST. NEOTS 1754 W. AMBEROW\* AURCM  
PROBCTE (*Probably for Aurem præbete, "Lend your ear," Anglicè.*)  
(*And on the rim :*) JULY 17 . 1754 (30 ins.)
2. SURSUM CORDA (*"Lift up your hearts"*) T. PAIN OMNIA  
FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI (*No date.*) (32 ins.)
3. W. SMITH I. SMITH. R. SMITH 1754 VEREMINI DEUM  
(*"Fear God"*) C. PAINE  
(*And on rim :*) JULY 17 . 1754. (34 ins.)
4. REGEM HONORATE (*"Honour the King"*) I. H. S. NAZARÆNUS  
REX JUDÆORUM FILI DEI MISERERE MEI C. DICKIN  
RECTOR (36 ins.)
5. OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI W HOUSHOLD J.  
LUCAS C. W. I. EAYRE FECIT MAY 29. 1754. (40 ins.)

Gleaning Bell, *formerly.* At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given and for thirty minutes, 3 × 3 for a male and 3 × 2 for a female, are given both before and after the knell. A bell is tolled for three minutes before a funeral. On Sunday morning at 8 a.m. the bells are chimed (for five minutes). For divine service they are also chimed, except on first Sunday in the month, when they are *rung*. Peals on Easter Day (6 a.m. to 8 a.m.), Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve. A new treble bell by Taylor to make up six bells, added in Jubilee Year, 1897. Many and best thanks to the Rev. H. Herbert, rector, and (late) R.D.

43. *HEMINGFORD GREY.* S. James. 6 bells.

1. GRATA SIT ARGUTA RESONANS CAMPANULA UOCE.  
THO: EAYRE DE KETTERING CAMPANARIUS 1724 ♀ (27 ins.)

\* From Fox's *History of Godmanchester*, p. 343, we learn that A.D. 1560, "One Armeborowe left for the poor £1.0.0." The name is one of considerable abidance in the county.

2. I. H. S. NAZARÆNUS REX IUDÆORUM FILI DEI MISERERE  
MEI 1724 GLORIA PATRI FILIO & SPIRITUI SANCTO. (28 ins.)
3. EDWARD ARNOLD ST<sup>†</sup> NEOTS FECIT 1782 (30 ins.)
4. I. H. S. NAZARENE REX IUDÆORUM FILI DEI MISERERE  
MEI GLORIA PATRI FILIO ET SPIRITUI SANCTO 1724  
○ ○ (*Coins.*) (32 ins.)
5. I. H. S. NAZARENE REX IUDÆORUM FILI DEI MISERERE  
MEI GLORIA PATRI FILIO ET SPIRITUI SANCTO ○ ○ ○  
1724 ○ ○ (*Coins.*) (35 ins.)
6. I. H. S. NAZARÆNE REX IUDÆORUM MISERERE MEI  
JOHN BAXTER BENEFACITOR WILLIAM GARE C: W: GLORIA  
DEO SOLI ○ 1724 ○ ○ (*Coins.*) (39 ins.)

The Gleaning Bell (fourth) at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. during harvest. At the death knell, rung on tenor for adults and treble for children, 3 × 3 for a male and 3 × 2 for a female are given, both before and after the knell, which is rung as soon as convenient after notice of death.

On Sundays two bells are chimed at 8 a.m. and after morning service. For divine service all six are chimed for twenty-five minutes, after which the treble chimes or rings five minutes more. But on the first Sunday in the month and the church's festivals, the bells are *rung*, instead of *chimed*, for service. On New Year's Eve, a muffled peal before 12, and an open peal after 12 o'clock. Wedding peals occasionally.

Robert Langley, by will dated 14th August, 1556, charged his pasture ground lying in the "Delphs," in the Isle of Ely, with the payment of twenty shillings a year to the Overseers of the poor of Hemingford Grey, to be distributed to the poor widows and others of the poorest sort of Hemingford Grey on the 9th or 11th January yearly, and the further sum of five shillings to the Ringers of the Bells of Hemingford Grey. The bells were rehung by W. Eaton, of Tichmarsh (Northants.), in 1882; are in excellent order, and well cared for. There is also an Ellacombe chiming apparatus, and the vicar is an expert ringer. All possible thanks to Rev. P. E. Curtois, vicar.

44. *HILTON.* S. Mary Magdalen. 4 bells.

1. MARIJA MAGDALENE WIL SINȒ STÆFTLI  
BEFOOR CUM MEREKI AFȒER 1604 (29 ins.)
2. \* JOSEPH EAYRE ST<sup>†</sup> NEOTS 1767 ○ (*Coin*) WALTER  
PECK JOHN HEMINGTON CHURCHWARDENS (31 ins.)

\* "1768. The expense of the bell raised by a churchwarden's rate amounts to £14 13s. 11d."

3. (Coin) ○ THOMAS NORRIS MADE ME 1637 (35 ins.)  
 4. I: EAYRE FECIT 1744 GOD SPEED US WELL THO: PAIN .  
 EDWARD: MARTIN CHURCHWARDENS (37½ ins.)

The treble probably by Robert Holdfeld of Cambridgeshire reputation and elsewhere. Gleaning Bell, *formerly*. The death knell is tolled an hour after death ; and the bell is tolled at funerals. *Formerly the bells were chimed after the coffin had been lowered into the grave.*

On Sundays the tenor bell is rung at 8 a.m., if there be no early celebration. Otherwise, the bells are chimed, previous to that service, at that hour. For divine service the bells are chimed previously for a quarter of an hour ; “ toll in ” on a single bell, for five minutes. Peals on Christmas Eve ; after midnight for the New Year ; and on the wedding day. On November 5th, *formerly*. A bell rung for Vestry meetings. In 1898, the treble, which was cracked and disused, was recast (old inscription reproduced) ; and bells rehung by Taylor, at a cost of £150, in 1897, as a Jubilee Commemoration. Pits for five. Best thanks to Rev. C. J. Coar and to Rev. R. S. Macdonald, late vicars.

45. *HOLME*. S. Giles. 2 bells.

1. STANLEY PETERBORO' 1835 (*Cracked.*) (15 ins.)  
 2. 1670. (*Norris's scrolling all round rest of crown.*) (19 ins.)

Church rebuilt and restored, 1862, when all old customs seem to have ceased, except the bell still rung at 8 a.m. on Sundays, “ to set all the clocks in the parish.” At the death knell, three strokes are given for a man, two for a woman, and one for a child. “ Peals ” at weddings, if *desired*. For divine service both are chimed awhile. “ Toll in ” on a single bell. The treble bell is slightly cracked, and by occasionally causing the clapper to strike on both sides of the bell, the ingenious sexton, Mr. D. Whybray, contrives to get three notes out of the two bells. An advantage in a cracked bell, new to me. Best thanks to (late) Rev. J. W. B. Laurie, vicar.

46. *HOLYWELL*. S. John Baptist. 4 bells.

1. JOHN PEACHEY JOHN BESSEL CHVRCHWARDENS  
 1625 (*Cannons gone.*) (29 ins.)  
 2. (Figs. 53, 54, 55, 56) THE LORD IS IVST IN ALL HIS  
 WAYES 1625 (31 ins.)

3. † (fig. 50) **WHEN YE HEARE MY DOLFVL SOVND REPENT  
BEFORE YE COEM TO GROVND**

(*And on rim.*)

+ I CAL ∞ AL ∞ MEN ∞ TO ∞ CHVRCH ∞ TO ∞  
SERVE ∞ THE ∞ LORD ∞ I CAL ∞ TO ∞ GRAVE ∞  
AND ∞ YET ∞ SPEAKE ∞ NOT ∞ A ∞ WORD ∞ 1625

(*Tuned by turning off the rim.*)

(33½ ins.)

4. **CVM CANO BVSTAMORI CVM PVLPIA VIVERE DISE**

(*for "Disce" 1625*)

(37½ ins.)

T. R. E. Remaining 1552 at "Hollyewell Itm̄ iij greate belles oñ Saering bell ij handbells."

All four by William Haulsey, of St. Ive's, in bad order and clapper-tied. The second bell is noteworthy, because an ornamentation, rarely used by him, exists hereon, as on his fine bell the tenor of Buckden, and at Little Abington, Cambs. And the third bell is also, because of the inscription on sound-bow in different letters, as at Wood Hurst. The cross on the third is very much cramped for want of space; the lower cross is not of a distinctive character. No old customs. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, but not after sunset, 3 × 3 for a man, 3 × 2 for a woman, and 3 × 1 for a child, appear to be the "tellers." For divine service all four are sounded; "toll in" on a single bell. The tenor is now cracked, I understand. Very best thanks to (late) Rev. C. H. W. Hoskyns, rector.

47. *HOUGHTON.* S. Mary. 5 bells.

1. † (fig. 37) **UIRG BEGO EGAHC** (27 ins.)

2. **MAN TAKETH PAINE BVT GOD GIVETH GNYNE** (*for Gaine*) †626 (*W. Haulsey's trade mark (fig. 52) thrice on waist.*) (30½ ins.)

3. **HEE THAT WILL BE MERI LET HIM BE MERI IN THE  
LORD** †626 (31 ins.)

4. **NON CLAMOR SED AMOR CANTAT IN AVRE DEI**  
†626 (34 ins.)

5. **CVM CANO BVSTA MORI CVM PULPIA VEVERE DISE**  
(*for "Vivere disce" 1626*) (37½ ins.)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "Houghton. Itm̄ iij Belles in the steaple A Sauntus bell A handbell." See p. 18.

These bells are said to be very sweet toned. All have been rehung by Taylor, of Loughborough, and are in excellent order. The fourth and fifth have lost their cannons. Mr. Stahlschmidt inspected a rubbing of the treble, and reported, "Is, no doubt, from Newcombe's foundry at Leicester." With regard to the legend thereon, Dr. Raven writes, "I think I have seen or heard of this inscription before. It seems to me that the lettering was begun by a clerkly hand, but that he was interrupted, and some ignoramus finished it. By some oversight the first word was thought to have finished at 'VIR.' By the time that the three following letters were stamped in, the mistake was discovered, and the 'G' was taken to finish 'Virgo.' Then overlooking the previous use of 'E,' 'BEGA' was finished, and 'HEC' had to go short of its middle letter, by reason of previous extravagance in that department. I have no doubt about the 'Virgo Bega Hec.'" I can give no further suggestion myself, as the bell must be seen to be appreciated. The bells are often chimed by separate ropes attached to the clappers. At the death knell, rung an hour after death; and on the tenor for an adult,  $3 \times 1$  are given for a man,  $2 \times 1$  for a woman. It is also tolled for half an hour before the funeral. On Sundays two bells are chimed at 8 a.m., and after morning service to indicate a second service that day. For divine service all five are rung or chimed for half an hour. They are rung on Easter Day, Whit Sunday, Trinity Sunday, and Feast Sunday (*i.e.*, the dedication of the Church). Also on Christmas and New Year's Eves. The fourth bell for Vestry meetings. The bells are not rung now, 1897, owing to alleged insecurity of tower, but chimed by an apparatus. Thanks to (late) Rev. R. Burrow, curate in charge.

48. *HUNTINGDON.* All Saints. 4 bells.

1. † (fig. 44) **NEWCOMBE OF LEICESTER MADE MEE 1606** (27½ ins.)
2. *Same as treble.* (28 ins.)
3. *Same as treble.* (31½ ins.)
4. † (fig. 58) **GOD SAVE THE KING S HAMPSHIRE**  
(*Smaller letters*) **TOBIAS MORRIS CAST ME 1626** (35 ins.)

T. R. E. 1549 "All Hollowes in Huñt. Sold . . . a holly water stocke and ij littell sacring belles for xvjd."

R. Carruthers, in his *History of Huntingdon*, 1824, observes that these bells "are certainly not remarkable for their melody." The testimony is true, though he gives the inscription on the tenor wrongly. These bells are all clappered with special ropes, except the third, which is only so treated on Sundays.

At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice of death, and on tenor for an adult, treble for a child,  $3 \times 3$  are given for a man,  $3 \times 2$  for a woman, and  $3 \times 1$  for a child, both before and after the knell, which is not rung after sunset, and consists of enough strokes to indicate the *age*, in the case of an adult. For divine service the tenor, clappered, is chimed five minutes, all four are chimed, clappered, five minutes; "toll in" five minutes on the treble, clappered. On Sundays at 8 a.m. all four are chimed for five or ten minutes, clappered, except twice a month, when the third is chimed for Holy Communion at that hour.

The Curfew, third, is rung every night at 8 p.m., £2 being devoted to the purpose from a bequest of a field at Stukeley, which brings in £10 a year. Peals at Queen's Birthday, Mayor's Day, and the Assizes, twice a year. After weddings, if desired.

Samuell Hampshire (tenor bell) and Thomas Tomlinson attest the Registers as Churchwardens in 1675. The Register also contains the following:—

1672 Katherina Hampshire the daughter of Samuell Hampshire and Lora his wife was baptised the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March .72

Anno Dom 1683/4 Lorha ye daughter of Mr Hampshire buri<sup>d</sup> May 2 "Ric.. Carr, Rectr

Babington ye son of Mr Hampshire buried Aprill ye 14

1687 Mary Magdalen a stranger was buried December ye 15<sup>th</sup>\*

1692 Mr Samuell Hampshire was bur. July 9<sup>th</sup>

John Reynell, rector.

Many thanks to the sexton, W. Merry, and late rector, Rev. J. Pycock.

49. *HUNTINGDON*. S. Benedict. (Destroyed.)

"This church was shattered during the Civil Wars, and never afterwards repaired. The tower *alone* remained standing during the last century, but about twenty years ago it was taken down to prevent the danger of its expected fall. The churchyard is occasionally used as a burying-ground." The materials were used to build the Barley Mow public-house at Hartford, close to Huntingdon. This parish is united now to S. Mary's.

T. R. E. 1552. Remaining at "St Bennett Itm̄ iiij bells in the steaple oñ Sauntis bell ij sacringe belles."

Whether these bells remained, all or any of them, up to the time R. Carruthers above mentions, *i.e.*, about 1804, I am altogether unable to say.

\* "Nil fortasse ad rem, penitus tamen ad misericordiam." A quaint entry, reminding that "Nothing but the infinite Pity is sufficient for the infinite pathos of human life." (*John Inglesant*, p. 74.)



50. *HUNTINGDON.* S. John Baptist. (Destroyed.)

This church "was demolished during the Civil Wars, and pulled down about the time of the Protectorate, or between the years 1651 and 1660, by one Sylvester Bedell. The churchyard still remains, and continues to be used as a burying ground. Eight of Oliver Cromwell's children were baptised in St. John's Church." One would have thought from this he would have endeavoured to preserve it! Parish now united to All Saints.

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "St Joones Itm̄ ij belles and oñ Sauntus bell."

51. *HUNTINGDON.* S. John Evangelist. 1 bell.

This is a building consecrated as a church in 1846, after serving other offices of divers kinds. It is extra parochial, having no district assigned to it. The bell is clappered, about twenty-five inches in diameter, and inscribed—

"T. MEARS OF LONDON" (*No date.*)

52. *HUNTINGDON.* S. Mary. 8 bells.

1. J. TAYLOR & CO. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH  
1876

(*And on waist:*) THE TWO SMALLEST BELLS IN THIS  
PEAL : GLORIA IN ALTISSIMIS DEO : WERE PRE-  
SENTED BY MATTHEW EDIS MAILE CHURCH-  
WARDEN 1876 (26 ins.)

2. JOHN TAYLOR & CO. FOUNDERS LOUGH-  
BOROUGH 1876

(*And on waist:*) IN TERRA PAX HOMINIBUS (26 ins.)

3. JOHN TAYLOR & CO. FOUNDERS LOUGH-  
BOROUGH 1876

(*And on waist:*) VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO (29 ins.)

4. J: TAYLOR & C<sup>o</sup> FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH  
1876

(*And on waist:*) LAUDATE DOMINUM IN SANCTO  
EJUS. (31 ins.)

5. J: TAYLOR & C<sup>o</sup>. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH  
1876

(*And on waist:*) SANCTA KATERINA ORA PRO NOBIS .  
CIRCA 1510 (34 ins.)

6. J: TAYLOR & C<sup>o</sup>. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH  
1876

(*And on waist:*) VOX AUGUSTINI SONET IN AURE  
DEI . CIRCA 1510 (35 ins.)

7. JOHN TAYLOR & C<sup>o</sup>. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGH-  
BOROUGH 1876

(*And on waist:*) LABOR IPSE VOLUPTAS UTILE DULCI  
1737 (38 ins.)

8. JOHN TAYLOR & C<sup>o</sup>. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGH-  
BOROUGH 1876

(*And on waist:*) SIT NOMEN DOMINI BENEDICTUM  
CIRCA 1510 THE SIX LARGEST BELLS WERE  
GIVEN BY MATTHEW EDIS MAILE CHURCH-  
WARDEN 1876 IN THE PLACE OF A FORMER  
SMALLER PEAL (43 ins.)

Prior to 1876, there were six bells, *of about the same weight as six of the present*, and the treble had been given by the Arundels not so very long before. All six were quite sound. The history of them may be gathered from R. Carruthers' *History of Huntingdon*, 1824, and from the present ring. "It (the tower) contains a peal of five bells, the best of which is the tenor, cast by Joseph Eyre (*sic*) of St. Neot's, a celebrated bellfounder, who cast the fine peal of eight bells in St. Neot's Church. Round this bell is inscribed, 'I. E. St. Neot's fecit 1737. *Labor ipse voluptas. Utile Dulci,*' which may be translated, 'Labour itself is a pleasure. Let what is useful be united with what is delightful.' Another of the bells bears the inscription, *Sit Nomen Domini Benedictum*, or, 'Blessed be the Name of the Lord.' Another, 'Thomas Norris cast mee 1659.' *The inscriptions on the remaining two we were unable to make out*, partly from the blocked-up state of the letters, and partly from the situation in which they are placed preventing a close inspection of them." They were evidently by Jordan or Walgrave, as at Ellington or Steeple Gidding. Who suggested "circa 1510," I do not know; of course they were cast many years anterior to that. The old bells were described to me as

“having no sound in them.” Mr. Maile (ob. 1888) originally proposed “giving” (see tenor) *six* bells, but eventually “gave” eight, paying £400 in addition to what was realised by the sale of the old six. The present tenor weighs 16½ cwt.

(The new bells are excellent, and Mr. Maile’s liberality indisputable. But I confess to a feeling of great regret that six sound bells, three of them ancient, and the tenor a very good one, one of the earliest bells Joseph Eayre ever made, being literally sent “to pot,” as in the present instance. I can only wish that the “experimentum” had been rather made on the “corpus vile” existing in the tower at All Saints! No possible concern could have been forthcoming *then*. But we must deal with things as they are :—)

The present bells are well-cared for ; kept very clean, and provided with second sets of ropes for clapper-chiming. The clock strikes Cambridge-quarters on the bells. At the death knell, rung between sunrise and sunset, on tenor for an adult and treble for a child, 3 × 3 for a male and 3 × 2 for a female are given, both before and after the knell. Curfew (sixth) all year round at 8 p.m. ; and at 8 a.m. a bell rung for daily prayer. Treble, three minutes, for Vestry meetings. Peals for Queen’s Birthday and Mayor’s Choice (£3 3s. being the repayment). On Sundays at 8 a.m. all eight are chimed (clappered) for divine service. But at 10.30 the bells are *rung* for fifteen minutes, *chimed* for ten more, and treble “rings in” for two minutes.

R. Carruthers notes the following from a will in the local Archidiaconal Registry :—

1527 William Marrette off the parishe of Seynt Marie (bequeathed)  
 To the Bells of my parishe Church xij<sup>d</sup>  
 To the reparacion of the Church xij<sup>d</sup>

S. Mary’s was formerly the church of the Priory of Black Canons, founded in or near the church before 973. At the time of its dissolution it contained *inter alia* (Carruthers) :—

Webbes of lead 972 Item six bells of a tune and a clockbell.

*Perhaps* the ancient bells above, all or some of them, came herefrom. In the earliest parish book at S. Mary’s, before 1607, is written (barely legible) :—

Item four grete bells and one small Bell.

In another Church Book it is noted in the Inventory at the Visitation of the Archdeacon, “5 Bells.”

In the Churchwardens’ Account Book, for about 150 years, are frequent entries for “Bellropes” and “Ringing Beer.” And under date August 7th, 1833, is the following :—

“At a Vestry Meeting \* \* \* it was resolved that the thanks of the parish are due to Sir John Arundel for the public spirit and liberality displayed by him in providing and setting up at his own expense an additional bell for the use of the parish. Resolved also that Sir John Arundel’s liberal donation be forthwith published on the Tablet of Benefactions in the North Aisle of the Church.

“Charles Margetts, Chairman.”

Best thanks to Mr. John Kay, sexton, etc. ; also to late and present vicars.

N.B.—It is in the register here that we read :—

Burials 1729 Henry Penn, stranger July 23.

53. *KEYSTONE.* S. John Baptist. 5 bells.

1. + (fig. 34) **FEAR** (fig. 57) \* **THE** (fig. 57) \* **LORD** (33 ins.)  
1592

2. **WILLIAM MARKS CHURCHWARDEN : I: EAYRE FECIT. 1743 GLORIA DEO SOLI : FRANCIS (?) CLITHEROW\* ESQUIRE**  
(*These last three words mutilated, all but illegible.*) (36½ ins.)

3. + (fig. 45 in North’s *Northants.*) **REMEMBER** (fig. 41) †  
**THE** (fig. 41) † **EDOE** 1592 (38 ins.)

4. + (fig. 45 in North’s *Northants.*) **GIAE** (fig. 41) † **SOD**  
(fig. 41) † **THE** (fig. 41) † **PRAISE** 1592 (42 ins.)

5. **THOMAS RVSSSELL OF WOOTTON NEAR X BEDFORD : MADE ME IN J733 THOMAS SIMONTS CHURCHWARDEN**  
(*Fine bells ; treble, third and fourth from Leicester Foundry of Newcombe and Watts.*) (45 ins.)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at “Kaiston Itm̄ iiij bells w<sup>th</sup> the Sauntus bell.”

See p. 20. Pancake Bell and Gleaning Bell, *formerly*. At the death knell, 3 × 1 are given on each bell, from the tenor up to the treble, for a man, and 2 × 1 on each bell, from the treble down to the tenor, for a woman, after which the knell is given on the tenor for about twenty minutes. Chiming all the bells at funerals is recollected by some old people ; when the rector’s wife was buried in 1886 there was such chiming by his wish ; and there has been *once* since then, but it is, of course, only exceptional now, a single bell being tolled for twenty minutes or half an hour before the funeral. Old year “rung out” and new one “rung in,” but no ringing allowed in Holy Week, nor when anyone is lying dead and unburied in the parish. For divine service the bells are chimed for twenty-five minutes, after which the treble “rings in” for five minutes. The bells are rung the first time of publication

\* Clitherow is a very old name in Keystone, as owners of property.

of banns, and at the wedding, not afterwards unless special remuneration is forthcoming. A bell, always, for Vestry meetings. On Easter Day, Christmas Day, and Feast Sunday, the bells are *rung*, instead of chimed, for service. There is a chiming apparatus, introduced when the bells were rehung, but it is, happily, *never* required, as enough ringers *always* attend. Practising is allowed from 7 to 9 p.m., twice a week. The rector drew up a few rules, signed by himself, the warden, and the ringers, one of whom is appointed leader, and responsible for good order during the ringing, for seeing lights put out, and bell ropes left properly put up. All chimers are expected to attend the service for which they chime. Very best thanks to Rev. J. P. Goodman, rector and R.D. (since deceased). *Multis ille bonis febilis occidit.*

54. *KIMBOLTON.* S. Andrew. 5 bells.

1. (*Hung above*) HENRICVS BAGLEY ME FECIT □  
1702 (33½ ins.)

2. *Sis tribus hanc for mam GRÆTUS dedit*  
*arte Joanes 1571* (36½ ins.)

3. HENRY PENN FVSORE 1713 (39 ins.)

4. ✻ WILLIAM ✻ ELDRIDGE ✻ MADE ✻ MEE  
✻ 1660 (42½ ins.)

5. (Fig. 38) ∩ *HS* (fig. 45) □ *DASARETVS* (fig. 45) □  
*REN* (fig. 45) □ *IUDICORVM* (fig. 45) □ *FILI*  
(fig. 45) □ *DEI* (fig. 45) □ *MISERERE* (fig. 45) □  
*DEI* (fig. 45) □ 1654 (fig. 45) □ (*Third and fourth have been tuned by*  
*turning off the rim.*) (47½ ins.)

The tenor is a grand bell by Watts. On the old cage was, "Thomas Young 1619" (the figure 1, in 19, almost obliterated). But all rehung 1895-6, by Taylor of Loughborough; and pits for six bells.

T. R. E. 1549 "Kimbolton. Sold a sauntus bell etc. ij handbells etc. for xxxviij.s." And, 1552. Remaining at "Kimbolton Itm v bells in the Steaple."

The tenor bell is rung daily at noon throughout the year. Pancake Bell (fourth) at 11 a.m. on Shrove Tuesday. The Gleaning Bell, until a few years ago, was rung for a month at 4 a.m., to call up the reapers. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice is given, and on the tenor for a man, fourth for a woman, and third for a child, 4 × 3 are given for a man, 3 × 3 for a woman, 2 × 3 for a boy,

and 1 × 3 for a girl. A bell tolls at the funeral. On Sundays the treble “rings out” at 7 a.m.; the treble and second at 8 a.m. At 1 p.m. two bells are rung to give notice of an afternoon service. For divine service the bells are rung for fifteen minutes, chimed for ten more, and a single bell “tolls in” for five minutes more. The tenor is occasionally rung for thirty minutes as a Sermon Bell. Peals on New Year’s Eve; and three merry peals as soon as the New Year is “ushered in.” The second was formerly used at executions, *i.e.*, when a condemned criminal passed through the place on his way to his sentence being executed. The second still rings for Vestry meetings, and the third as a “fire” bell. Peals on all Church Festivals and their eves, *e.g.*, Christmas, Easter, Whitsun Day.

Till twenty years ago, fifteen shillings was annually paid to one of the publicans by the churchwardens, to be taken out in beer by the ringers, for special ringing on Royal Birthdays, Coronation Days, etc. This ceased at last, owing to the ringers very properly refusing to drinking the money out in this way, and the churchwarden would not give the money in any other!

On a board at the base of the tower is:—

The Clerk of the Parish Church of Kimbolton for ringing ye bell and looking after the Clock receives the yearly rents of a close at Newtown and of two acres of arable land in Wornditch field and twenty shillings a year payable out of S. Gilbert Pickering’s Estate in Newtown for two leys in Barn Close next Long Breach, we know not the donor thereof.”

The Kimbolton parish-books give us no help as to John Green (ii bell) being all subsequent to the date in question. Best thanks to Rev. R. Kater Vinter, vicar.

55. LEIGHTON BROMSWOLD. S. Mary. 5 bells.

1. † I. H. S. NAZARENVS REX JVDEORVM FILI DEI  
MISERERE MEI † ○ (Coin) GEORGE WOOLF VICAR I:  
MICHELL: ○ (Coin) C: W: W: N. 1720 (By Eayre of Kettering.) (36 ins.)

2. + (fig. 60) H B C D E F G H I K L M N O P Q R  
(On first line, in Lombardics.) THOMAS NORRIS MADE ME 1641  
(On second line, in small ordinary capitals. Norris’s foliage ornament as stops throughout.) (38½ ins.)

3. Same as No. 2. (41 ins.)

4. Same as No. 2. (43½ ins.)

5. ESMÉ CATHERINÉ (Lombardics.) (48 ins.)

(Mother to James, Duke of Lennox, who rebuilt the tower about 1634. A grand, majestic-looking bell. Note, E flat.)

T. R. E. 1552. Remaining at “Laughton Bromsholde Itm̄ iij belles oñ Sauntus bell.”

These are fine, large bells ; badly in need of rehangng, and, as at Kimbolton, would take a treble of six cwt. easily and well in front of them. The tower is late, massive, and large. The Pancake Bell is rung on Shrove Tuesday at 11 a.m. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice is given, but not late in the evening,  $3 \times 1$  are given previously on each bell, from tenor up to treble for a man, and on treble down to tenor for a woman ; the knell is then rung for half an hour. *The bells are chimed at funerals*, if requested ; otherwise, the tenor only is tolled thereat. A warning or invitation bell to the funeral party is tolled for a short time an hour previous thereto. On Sundays, at 8 a.m., the second bell is raised and rung for fifteen minutes ; and all five are chimed half an hour for divine service. Peals at weddings, if desired.

A tradition alleges that these bells, came from Clapton in Northants., near here, to this church towards the close of the last century. But their inscriptions are known (see North's *Northants. Bells*), and the tradition is evidently untrue, from the testimony of these Leighton bells. It is rather curious that George Herbert, sometime Prebend of this place, in Lincoln Cathedral, had one bell at his church of Bemerton, Wilts., and this is also an Alphabet Bell. Many thanks to Rev. T. Ladds, the venerable vicar.

56. *MOLESWORTH.* S. Peter. 3 bells.

1. G. MEARS & C<sup>o</sup> FOUNDERS LONDON 1861 L. F. CLARKSON  
RECTOR

(*On waist*.) THOMAS PASHLER CHURCHWARDEN (26 ins.)

2. (Fig. 60) + THOMAS N (*scrolling*) NORRIS (*scrolling*) MADE  
(*scrolling*) ME 1636 (29 ins.)

3. ○ (*Coin*) OLIVER PASHLER CHVRCHWARDEN 1710  
○ (*Coin*.) (*By Henry Penn of Peterborough.*) (31 ins.)

T. R. E. 1549 "Moulesworth Sold . . . a lampe of latteñ ij handbells and oñ  
brokeñ Sauntus bett iijjs."

Gleaning Bell (second), formerly. At the death knell  $3 \times 1$  are given on each for a man and  $2 \times 1$  on each for a woman, previous to the knell on the tenor, which also tolls at the funeral. On Sundays, at 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., the bells are chimed. For divine service they are rung half an hour ; "toll in" five minutes on the tenor. After morning service the second and third are chimed only if there be an afternoon service also that day ; a New Year's Eve peal was rung about twenty years ago ; peal also many years ago on evening of November 5th. Peals on wedding days. The bells were entirely rehung in a new cage when treble was recast n 1861. Many thanks to Rev. L. F. Clarkson, R.D. and rector.

57. *MORBORNE.* All Saints. 2 bells.

1. CVM ◊ VOC ◊ AD ◊ ECCLESIAM ◊ VENITE ◊ 1614 + (fig. 59)  
(By Norris.) (22½ ins.)
2. HENRY ❀ PENN ❀ FVSORE ○ 1712 ❀ ○  
(A sort of rose device, as at Covington, like fig. 65.) (23¼ ins.)

Pits for four. John Neath, of this parish, aged seventy, remembers hearing his father say that the two missing bells from here were sold more than a hundred years ago to the neighbouring parish of Lutton, Northants. But the sizes of the Lutton bells and their inscriptions make entirely against the Morborne bells going there. (See North's *Northants. Bells.*)

At the death knell, rung about an hour after death, but not after sunset, 3 × 3 are given for a man and 3 × 2 for a woman, after "raising" the bell; which is also tolled when the funeral party leaves the house, or comes in sight, until it reaches the church. On Sundays a single bell is rung at 8 a.m. to indicate service that day, and to set all the clocks in the village. For divine service the two bells are rung previously for ten minutes, and the tenor "tolls in" five minutes immediately before service. The bells are rung on the first publication of banns, and, occasionally, after a wedding. Many thanks to the Rev. R. Warrener, rector.

58. *OFFORD CLUNY.* All Saints. 4 bells.

1. I K (fig. 51) ❀ ❀ ❀ IEVS BE OUR SPED 1630 (*Intended, of course, for "Jesus be our speed."*) (29 ins.)
2. I K (fig. 63) □ □ + PRAISE THE LORD 1630 (30½ ins.)
3. I K + GOD SAVE OUR KING 1630 (34 ins.)
4. THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1842 (36½ ins.)

See p. 33. Treble, second, and third by James Keene, of Woodstock (his cross on second and third). The parish-book contains the following:—

"The fourth, which is now cracked and useless, measures 3 feet 2 inches in diameter, and 3 feet high, with this inscription, MILES GRAYE MADE ME 1624."

"The fourth bell, mentioned in the Terrier as being cracked and useless, was recast in London. It was hung by James Baxter, and completed Dec. 20th, 1842, on which occasion a supper was given to the Ringers, viz.: John Smith, William Smith, John Morby, Levi Gaunt (Clerk), Richard Harper, and John Skegs, George Harper, and Ephraim Reed. — Asplin was also invited, as being the only remaining Ringer of the old set. He rang a peal on this day, being 85 years of age."



“The old bell had been cracked for upwards of fifty years, the cost of recasting, new gudgeons, and rehangng, £29 2s. 8d., which sum was raised by subscription. George Price, Rector.”

The book referred to also gives the measures of the other three bells, varying a little from my own measurements, as above, but as follows :—

- 1st. 2 ft. 6 in. diameter, and height 2 ft. 6 in.  
 2nd, 2 ft. 7 in. diameter, and height 2 ft. 8 in.  
 3rd. 3 ft. diameter, and height 2 ft. 10 in.

The bell ropes, etc., are all useable, but the bells are chimed by separate ropes attached to the clappers. The Gleaning Bell (tenor) is rung during harvest at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. At the death knell, *rung for an hour* as soon as notice is given, 3 × 1 are given on each bell for a man or a woman, beginning with tenor, which rings the knell. But for a child on each bell are given 3 × 1, beginning with the treble, which in that case rings the knell. On Sundays the bells are chimed at 8 a.m., and also for half an hour previous to divine service. Peals at Christmas, Easter, New Year, weddings, and local festivals. A bell is rung for Vestry and Town's meetings. Many thanks to Rev. G. C. Thompson, rector, and Mr. Thomas Selby, churchwarden.

59. *OFFORD DARCY*. S. Peter. 3 bells.

1. CHRISTOPHER GRAY MADE ME I. G. R. P.  
 1676 (29½ ins.)

2. (Fig. 60) + ∴ (fig. 60) + ∴ (fig. 60) + ∴ (fig. 60) +  
 MERORENN ∴ MESTIS ∴ HEHIS ∴ SICC ∴  
 LEGL ∴ SONBFO ∴ ∴ 1618 ∴ (*Letters partly*  
*Lombardics, M, N, E, T, A; but L, R, S, and I ordinary capitals. All good bold*  
*type.*) (34½ ins.)

3. (Fig. 50) † CVM CANO BVSTA MORI CVM PVLPTIA  
 VIVERE DISCE 1620 (*By W. Haulsey.*) (38 ins.)

Bells badly in need of rehangng. The ropes, etc. are all useable, but the bells are chimed by separate ropes attached to the clappers. Gleaning Bell, the tenor, 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. At the death knell 3 × 1 are given for a man and 2 × 1 for a woman. The bell tolls shortly before the funeral arrives at the church. On Sunday the tenor is sounded at 8 a.m. and at 10.30, evidently for a sermon bell originally. At 10.40 all are chimed; “toll in” on the treble. Bell for Vestry meetings. Very many thanks to the Rev. Thomas Warrington, rector.

60. *OLD HURST.* S. Peter. 2 bells.

1. 1630 (fig. 51) ♣ (fig. 51) ♣ (fig. 51) ♣ (fig. 51) ♣ (By. *J. Keene.*) (22½ ins.)
2. H HUNSTON R WEST C W 1705 (23½ ins.)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "Oldehurst . . . . Itm ij bells and ij handebells."

See p. 33. The larger bell probably by Newman. H. Hunston's name occurs as churchwarden in Parish Register. (See under Wood Hurst.) Very many thanks to Rev. L. A. Pollock, curate in charge of the Hursts.

61. *OLD WESTON.* S. Swithin. 4 bells.

1. (*Unintelligible, pre-Reformation.*) (32 ins.)
2. (Fig. 58) + NON : VERBO : SED : VOCE : RESONABO : DOMINI : LAVDEM : R : A : E : A : 1612 (*All N's reversed.*) (31 ins.)
3. (Fig. 58) + NON CLAMOR SED AMOR CANTAT IN AVRE DEI 1612 (2 reversed. *Norris's scrolling after each word.*) (33 ins.)
4. + (fig. 60) NON : SONO : HANIMHEVS : MORVOVVN : SED : HVRLEVS : VIVEVCIVM. (*No date. Lombardic.*) (35½ ins.)

T. R. E. Remaining at "Olde Westone Itm ij bells in the Steaple and ij handebelles."

See p. 11. Bells in very bad order; one clapper-tied, one not used, as the crown staple has broken out, and clapper fallen (January 5th, 1890). First bell most interesting, though, after four searching examinations, I am obliged to report it as above. Letters beautifully formed, but some uncertain.

At the death knell, rung about an hour after death, on the first (now second) for a male and the tenor for a female, 3 × 1 are given on all, beginning with the light bell for a man, and 3 × 1 on all, beginning with the tenor, are given for a woman, previous, only, to the knell. The tenor tolls awhile at the funeral. On Sundays, at 8 a.m., one bell is chimed a short time, and then two are rung stock height. For divine service the bells are chimed. Third bell for Vestry meetings. Second and third are chimed after morning service, if there is to be an afternoon service. Peals sometimes at weddings, publication of banns, on November 5th, New Year's Eve, etc. Thanks to Rev. A. Woodd, curate, and to Thomas Radwell, sexton.

62. *OVERTON LONGUEVILLE.* (*Vulgo*, Long Orton.)  
 Holy Trinity. 1 bell and a Priest's bell.

*Large Bell:* (Fig. 22) + **Romen Magdalene Campana Serit  
 Melodie** (fig. 21) ∩ (*By Walgrave.*) (35 ins.)

*Priest's Bell.* *Blank.* (14 ins.)

See p. 11. The bell-wheel is of a sort hitherto unfound by me, as it has no flanges, but spokes or pegs alternately on either side of the rim to keep the rope from slipping off when the bell is "raised."

At the death knell, rung for an hour immediately after notice is given, 3 × 1 are given for a man and 5 × 1 for a woman, before and after the knell; and the age of the person is also tolled. On Sundays the large bell is rung at 8 a.m. and after morning service, in order to give notice of a morning and an afternoon service respectively. It is also rung for twenty minutes before each service, after which the small bell "tolls in" for five minutes. Best thanks to Rev. P. Royston, rector.

63. *OVERTON WATERVILLE.* (*Vulgo*, Cherry Orton.)  
 S. Mary. 4 bells.

1. **THOMAS NORRIS MADE ME 1670** (*7 reversed.*) (27½ ins.)

2. **SIC FIAT INTER CHRISTIANVS CONCORDIA RICH<sup>d</sup>.  
 CHAMBERS C. W.—I: EAYRE FECIT 1754** (29 ins.)

3. (Fig. 58) + **PROTEGE** (fig. 51) ✻ **PRECE** (fig. 51) ✻ **PIA**  
 (fig. 51) ✻ **QVOS** (fig. 51) ✻ **CONVOCO** (fig. 51) ✻ **SANCTA**  
 (fig. 51) ✻ **MARIA 1606 I** (fig. 51) ✻ **N** (*N's reversed. T, N, and  
 all G's Lombardics.*) (31 ins.)

4. **JOS: EAYRE ST. NEOT FECIT SAMUEL SHARMAN  
 CHURCHWARDEN 1755** (*And on sound-bow twice repeated, "1755," under  
 some scrolling.*) (33½ ins.)

On the third bell Tobias Norris has evidently reproduced the inscription on previous bell, a rare occurrence with him. There is a tablet in north aisle (see Sweeting's *Churches round Peterborough*) to R. Chambers and his wife, 1772-4. Gleaning Bell, treble, formerly.

At the death knell, rung as soon as convenient, 2 × 3 are given for a male and 2 × 5 for a female, both before and after the knell, which is rung for fifteen minutes on the tenor for an adult, on third for a child. The tenor tolls awhile before the funeral. On Sundays the first bell is rung at 8 a.m. for about five minutes, and

also after morning service. For divine service the four bells are chimed, and the treble "rings in" for about five minutes. Peals after a wedding, usually; and *sometimes* on New Year's Eve. A bell for Vestry meetings. Best thanks to Miss Mills, The Rectory.

64. *PAXTON, GREAT.* Holy Trinity. 5 bells.

1. M. T. XP T. V. □ (fig. 7) ▽ (fig. 9) □ (fig. 8) ▽ (fig. 9)  
□ (fig. 7) ○ (fig. 10) (see p. 5.) (27 ins.)
2. ○ ○ (*Coins*) RVSSSELL ♀ MADE ♀ ME ♀ 1721 (28½ ins.)
3. JOS: EAYRE ST. NEOTS FECIT 1756 (30 ins.)
4. *Sancta Caterina Ora Pro Nobis* ▽ (fig. 14) ○ (fig. 16)  
▽ (fig. 15) (33½ ins.)
5. PRAISE THE LORD 1758 (*By Eayre. Much tuned by turning off the rim.*) (35 ins.)

See p. 7. The treble is very roughly cast and "panny" in tone, suggesting that "quarter-turning" is necessary. The bells have been rehung, 1896-7; treble recast by Mears and Stainbank. Inscription reproduced. Gleaning Bell (tenor), *formerly*.

At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, nine strokes used to be given for a man and seven for a woman on each bell, before the knell, tolled on the tenor for an adult, and third for a child, and for an hour's duration; which same bells were similarly selected at the funeral. Till 1886 the vicar served three churches (the two Paxtons and Toseland) single-handed. Up to which time, therefore, a bell was sounded at 8 a.m., to signify a morning service; and, similarly, a bell at noon announced an afternoon service. Wedding peals are occasionally rung, as also, *sometimes*, on the day following. The deputy overseer used to sound a bell for a Vestry meeting. And for a *fire* the bells used to be "*shot*," *i.e.*, all rung together.

The Rev. E. Giles, vicar, kindly extracted the following from a parish-book:—

The Articles of Complaints of the Inhabitaunts of Much Paxton against the Inhabitaunts of Lit(tle) Paxton being within the pish of Much Paxton afo(resayd) Anno Regni Regis Edwardi Sexti ( ) First whereas . . . Item . . . Item to approve further that the said Inhabitaunts of L(ittle) Paxton) are chargeable to the premisses so it was that abo(ve a year) past a bell belonging unto the said Churche of Much (Paxton aforesayd) weh was mad new againe toward the costs of the w(ch) bell the said Inhabitaunts of Little Paxton paid vjs. viijd. Inhabitaunts of Towsland vjs. viijd. and for so much (as this) bell was broken in the default of the Ringers the Inha(bitaunts of) Much Paxton aforesayd of their curtesies paid the (remainder) Item . . .

N.B.—The gaps in this extract (in brackets) have been filled up, so far, by easy conjecture, but are caused by the total wearing away of the edges of the paper of the original. If the muniments of the Archdeaconry have been catalogued and preserved, the text of this document might be found in more perfect form there. Very best thanks to Rev. E. Giles, late vicar, also to Rev. A. G. Cane, present vicar.

65. *PAXTON, LITTLE.* S. James. 4 bells.

1. † (fig. 48) SŌNORŌ ❖ (fig. 51) SŌNŌ ❖ (fig. 51) JNEŌ.  
❖ (fig. 51) SŌNŌ ❖ (fig. 51) DEŌ ❖ (fig. 51) 1610 (28 ins.)

2. **WILL— HEDDING CHW 1713** (29 ins.)

3. † (fig. 60) **GOD SAVE THE KING 1669 W.H. R.C.** (*The 9  
looks like 6 reversed.*) (31½ ins.)

4. **ROBT. TAYLOR ST. NEOTS FECIT 1791 HENRY POYNTER  
STANDLY C: WARDEN** (35 ins.)

See p. 25. The name of Hedding is still extant in the parish; the bell is probably by Newman. The first is by R. Holdfeld; the third by Norris. The bells badly want rehanging. The uses follow those of Great Paxton (*q.v.*), but the treble rings the knell for a child. "Double stroke for a woman." Peals, *formerly*, on November 5th. All thanks to Rev. E. Giles, late vicar.

66. *PIDLEY-CUM-FENTON.* All Saints. 3 bells.

1. CHRISTOPHER GRAY MADE ME 1675 (28 ins.)

2. (*Same as No. 1.*) (30½ ins.)

3. (*Same as No. 1.*) (34 ins.)

These bells came from the original church, entirely demolished 1864; they are very clean and well cared for. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, on tenor for adults and on treble for children, 3 × 3 are given for a male and 2 × 3 (? 3 × 2) for a female. The bell tolls before the funeral. For divine service the bells are chimed twenty-five minutes; "toll in" five minutes on the treble. Ringing is usual at Easter and Christmas, on New Year's Eve, and after weddings. Best thanks to Rev. E. H. W. Barry, late curate.

67. *POND'S BRIDGE.* S. Thomas. 1 bell.

Bell in a turret quite inaccessible, reported blank, and utterly uninteresting, by Rev. R. D. Jones, first incumbent of this new district church consecrated in 1870. At the death knell, rung as soon as convenient, 5 × 1 and 3 × 1 are given

respectively for a man and a woman. The bell tolls as soon as the funeral procession comes in sight. For divine service the bell rings at thirty minutes, and again at ten minutes before commencement thereof. "After weddings if paid for." All thanks to Rev. E. B. Tanqueray, late vicar.

68. *RAMSEY*. S. Mary. 2 bells.
1. G. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1858 (26 ins.)
  2. (*Same as No. 1.*) (27½ ins.)

This new district church, dating from 1858, has adopted old customs in a commendable manner.

At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice is given, 3 × 3 are given for a man and 3 × 2 for a woman. The bell tolls every ten seconds before the funeral. On Sundays both bells are sounded at 8 a.m. Also for half an hour before divine service, with two pauses; "toll in" last five minutes on single bell. A bell is rung for Vestry meetings. "Peals" on New Year's Eve, and immediately after weddings. Thanks to Rev. W. Harper, vicar.

69. *RAMSEY*. S. Thomas à Becket.  
6 bells and a Priest's bell.

1. R: TAYLOR . ST. NEOTS : FOUNDER . 1810 (31 ins.)
  2. THOMAS . POOLEY . & HENRY . PARKER . CHURCHWARDENS . 1810. (31 ins.)
  3. (*Same as No. 1.*) (34 ins.)
  4. 1810. (*only.*) (35 ins.)
  5. R: TAYLOR . FOUNDER . 1810. (38½ ins.)
  6. R: TAYLOR : FOUNDER . 1810 . THOMAS : POOLEY . & HENRY: PARKER CHURCHWARDENS. (42 ins.)
- Priest's Bell. Blank. (*Hung above the others.*) (15 ins.)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "Ramsey Itm̄ iij be(II)an)d oñ Sauntus Bell and oñ . . . Itm̄ oñ handebell and vij (? ij) Sacring Bells."

Another entry has:—

Ramseye Itm̄ iiiij bellys hanginge in ye steeple Itm̄ oñ sancts bell and a handebell.

On the cage, in good bold letters:—

1672 NEVILL JONES & }  
THOMAS WALLIS } CHVRCHWARDENS

Several bells sharpened by turning off the rim.

Quoting from Willis, we read on page 163 of *Ramsey Abbey*, by Wise and Noble, that previous to 1672 the steeple of Ramsey church was a low wooden building; in it then hung *four* bells, which, upon erecting the stone tower were, with additional metal, cast into *five*; such was the case according to Cole's MS. on June 7th, 1744.

The Curfew, fifth, is rung at 7 p.m. from October 11th to April 6th; and at 8 p.m. from April 7th to October 10th. The Pancake Bell (third) at 11 a.m. on Shrove Tuesday. At the death knell, for which there is no particular time fixed, on the tenor for an adult, and on third for a child under twelve years of age,  $3 \times 3$  are given for a male and  $3 \times 2$  for a female. The bell is tolled at the funeral, if required, *i.e.*, there is a cemetery in a different part of the town. On Sundays at 8 a.m. the bells are rung. Also for divine service; and Priest's bell "tolls in." The third bell is rung after morning service. Peals on Christmas Eve, afternoon of Christmas Day, and on New Year's Eve. At weddings, if *desired*. A bell rung for Vestry meetings and "Drainage District meetings." Peals have been usual, early, on November 5th. It is said that the 8 a.m. bell on Sundays was intended to give notice of a sermon at the morning service.

The Churchwardens' and Overseers' accounts for 1682-3 contain three similar entries:—

And vj ffor sending the bell about the towne for the Townsmen to meet.

This bell seems to have been the crier's bell. The ringing of the Pancake Bell was revived in 1889, and a peal rung in the evening in honour of the day! Best thanks to Ven. J. Wise, late vicar, and Rev. W. M. Noble, late curate.





70. *RAVELEY, LITTLE.* S. James. 1 bell.

J. TAYLOR & CO FOUNDERS

(*Second line* :) 1771 RECAST 1883. (15 ins.)

There are openings for two bells in the west gable; though no one knows any thing as to the other, which has gone. A rustic joke is current "that all the bells are rung for a funeral, but only one for a wedding." Thanks to Rev. J. Richards (late) vicar.

71. *RIPTON REGIS, or KING'S.* S. Peter. 2 bells.

1.  (fig. 29) SANCTE  IOHANNES  ORA PRO  NOBIS  
(*Capitals all crowned, and Culverden's stamp on both.*) (26 ins.)



2.  (fig. 29)  Sancte  Johannes  (*Pits for three.*) (34 ins.)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "Kinge Ryppton. Itm̄ iij great (bells) in the steaple  
Oñ Sacring bell. Itm̄ oñ handebell."

The second bell is missing, and it is quite probable all three were originally alike, having only been placed in the tower a comparatively short time before the Edwardian Inventory was taken, *i.e.*, between 1510 and 1522. It is said King's Ripton refused to bury a man, and his body was accordingly dragged through a hedge into the adjoining parish of Hartford, which buried him, and took away a bell as the customary forfeit. This is confirmed at Hartford.

At the death knell, rung as soon as convenient, but not after sunset, on the tenor for an adult and treble for a child, 3 × 3 are given for a male and 3 × 2 for a female, before the knell. A bell is rung for Vestry meetings; and a peal (save the mark!) for weddings, if desired. On Sundays both bells are chimed at 8 a.m., and for divine service the bells are chimed thrice during the previous half hour; "toll in" on tenor. The bells are in poor order; no stays; are never apparently "raised," and the clapper of tenor is mended with string. Many thanks to Rev. E. Green, rector, who kindly searched registers; also to John Spendelow, clerk.

72. *SAWTRY.* All Saints. 1 bell.

(Fig. 1)   (fig. 2) +  (fig. 3)    :  
  :        :  
(23 ins.)

See p. 4. This is a new church, built on the site of the old All Saints, which had a tower and two bells; one of which is that just mentioned, the other was sold by the contractor, and now hangs at Albert Place Schoolroom, Peterborough. Dr. Raven kindly sent me notes taken of the Sawtry Bells by W. M. Fawcett, Esq., M.A., of Cambridge, from which it appears that this second bell was blank, but bearing the Leicester crown, rebus shield, and ornament, figs. 32 (see p. 17) and 38A.

Mr. H. L. Hutton, M.A., of New College, Oxford, to whom I am indebted for very considerable help in my researches, examined the bell at Albert Place School, and finds all just said correct.

At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, but not after sunset, 3 × 1 are given for a man and 5 × 1 for a woman, *before* the knell. The bell tolls awhile till the funeral-party arrives. For divine service the bell chimes for a quarter of an hour previously. See below. Many thanks to H. M. Bell, Esq. (late) churchwarden.

73. *SAWTRY.* S. Andrew. (Church destroyed.)

This church was also "improved away" in 1880. It had one modern bell, which the contractor sold to St. John's Chapel, Ludlow, as he believes; it was blank.



74. *SAWTRY ABBEY.*

S. Mary (locally S. Judith.)

*(Demolished.)*

It is supposed by some that the bell at All Saints came from Sawtry Abbey (there is a similar bell, by the way, at Thurning, see below); but the note from the Record Office seems to disprove the idea:—

Inventory taken May 30, 28 Henry viii (*i.e.* 1537). Sawtre (co. Hunts.). In the Church Itm ij boxes of Iverye & vj Sacryng bells ij. In the Chappell Itm an old chest a lytyl bell and a cand: of latten } iiij<sup>d</sup>.

|  |   |                     |                     |                      |
|--|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Itm theyrin bells iiij unde              | } | I.E. :—             |                     |                      |
| The fyrst in depnes di yarde di qt       |   | 1st ...             | High.               | Diam.                |
| In brede ... .. ij qt one ynche          |   | 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ in | ... 28 in           |                      |
| The ij in depnes ... ij qt               |   | 2nd ...             | 27 in               | ... 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| In brede ... .. ij qt di                 |   | 3rd ...             | 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ in | ... 36 in            |
| The iiij <sup>d</sup> in depnes ij qt di |   | 4th ...             | 36 in               | ... 36 in            |
| In brede ... .. i yarde                  |   |                     |                     |                      |
| The iiij in depnes i yarde               |   |                     |                     |                      |
| Itm in brede ... i yard                  |   |                     |                     |                      |

They belonged, as I understand it, to the Abbey church (remains of which were discovered in the adjacent Abbey domain at S. Judith's), and the measurements indicate far larger bells than that at Sawtry church now, or at Thurning, already alluded to. Possibly they found their way to neighbouring churches, but to which it is now impossible to say.

75. *SOMERSHAM.* S. John Baptist.

6 bells.

1. OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI EDW<sup>D</sup>. ARNOLD ST. NEOTS FECIT 1782 (29 ins.)
2. EDW<sup>D</sup>. ARNOLD ST. NEOTS FECIT 1782 (31 ins.)
3. LET AVERY THING THAT HATH BREATH PRAISE THE  
LORD ✠ EDW<sup>D</sup>. ARNOLD ST. NEOTS FECIT 1782 (33 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins.)  
✠
4. REV<sup>D</sup>. JOHN WILSON CURATE ✠—✠ MARTIN RAWLING  
JOS. WILL. MARTIN CHURCHWARDENS ⊕ (*Coin*) EDW<sup>D</sup>.  
ARNOLD FECIT 1782 (35 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins.)
5. REV<sup>D</sup>. JOHN WILSON CURATE ⊕ (*Coin*) MARTIN RAWLING  
JOS. WILL. MARTIN CHURCHWARDENS EDW<sup>D</sup>. ARNOLD FECIT  
1782 (38 ins.)
6. J TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE  
( ) DO SUMMON ALL EDW<sup>D</sup>. ARNOLD ST. NEOTS  
FECIT 1782 (41 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins.)

T. R. E. 1549 "Som̄shñ Sold A Bassēn of lattēn and oñ handbell for xvjd Also stolne out of their Church . . . a handebell"

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "Sommershñ Itñ iiij great belles and oñ Sauntus bell"

In good order; but the chime-barrel does not act at present.

Several of the heavier bells have ornamented cannons. There is a monumental inscription to Rev. John Wilson (ob. 1821, ætat. 80) in the chancel. The registers record his marriage, his burial (November 27th), and, later, that of his widow; also of Joseph William Martin, a grocer, November 8th, 1821; his widow and his son. Also of "Martin Rawlings (*sic*) gent., July 14th, 1816, aged 85 years." The above curate and wardens attest the Register, 1782.

At the death knell, rung an hour after death, but not after sunset, 3 × 3 are given for a man, 3 × 2 for a woman, and 3 × 1 for a little boy, both before and after the knell. Tenor chimes for about twenty minutes previously to the funeral. The Pancake Bell (third) is usually rung on Shrove Tuesday; and second for Vestry meetings. On Sundays, at 7 a.m., the treble is rung. At 9 a.m. first, second, and third are chimed for Holy Communion. For divine service at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. the fifth and sixth are "raised" and rung in alternate strokes after the other four, which are chimed; after which the treble is *rung* for five minutes. At the afternoon service first, second, and third are chimed, and treble again "rings in." Peals on New Year's Eve ("Old Year out and New Year in"), Christmas Day at 6 a.m., and for service on Christmas and Easter Days. Not *now* on November 5th. For weddings, if paid for. Many thanks to the sexton, Edward Oldfield, who has been a ringer thirty-three years, and to the clerk, John Monk, who has been forty-eight years in the choir. November 7th, 1889.

76. *SOUTHOE.* S. Leonard. 4 bells.

- |    |   |            |
|----|---|------------|
| 1. | PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD  | (27½ ins.) |
| 2. | LONG LIVE KING GEORGE THE FOURTH  | (28½ ins.) |
| 3. | WILLIAM DOBSON . FOUNDER . DOWNHAM . NORFOLK<br>1828  | (31 ins.)  |
| 4. | THE REV <sup>d</sup> ROBERT POINTER, RECTOR, ( <i>Name erased</i> )<br>HARPER, CH <sup>r</sup> WARDEN, 1828 | (34 ins.)  |

Bells in good order, and cleanly kept. Pits for *five* in a modern cage; a tradition rather vaguely indicates that five were cast into four bells. A cote for a departed Sanctus Bell exists on chancel gable. There are tablets in chancel indicating that Rev. James Pointer, M.A. (forty-eight years *vicar*), died 1796. The

Rev. Robert Pointer, M.A. (his son, and forty-two years *vicar*), died 1838, and Rev. John Standly,\* M.A. (his nephew), Rector and R.D., died 1848. These three occupied a hundred years, collectively, in this benefice. Similarly, the Rev. J. R. Moorsom, M.A. and R.D., to whom best and heartiest thanks, has been rector since the year last mentioned (obit. 1895).

At the death knell, on tenor for adults and treble for children,  $3 \times 3$  on each bell, from treble to tenor, are given for a man, and  $3 \times 5$  on each bell similarly downwards, for a woman, before the knell only. Tenor chimes as funeral enters churchyard. Gleaning Bell (tenor) at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. during harvest. On Sundays first, second, and third are chimed at 8 a.m., when there is to be a morning service; but at 1 p.m. when service is in the afternoon. For divine service the tenor is "raised," and first "rung in" in alternate strokes, and then "stock height," after each round of chiming the other three; "toll in" on treble. On Easter Day, Christmas Day, Feast Sunday, etc., the bells are rung, instead of chimed, for service. Peals on *New Year's Eve* and *Christmas Eve*. *Not* on November 5th. For weddings when paid for, as is *usually* the case. Practice during Advent and Lent, *i.e.*, for Christmas and Easter Days.

77. SPALDWICK. S. James. 5 bells.

1. ∪ (fig. 38) GOD SAVE THE KING 1635 (32¼ ins.)

2. ∪ (fig. 38) ROBERT HERRIGGE AND RICHARD EDWARDS CHVR CHWARDENS 1655 (Fig. 45 between words.) (32¼ ins.)

3. ∪ (fig. 38) CVM . SONO . SI . NON . VIS VEDIRE . QVODQVAM . AD PRECES . CVPIES IRE: 1655 (See fig. 47.) (34½ ins.)

4. IHVS NAZARENVS . REX IVDORVM . FILI DEI . MISERERE MEI . 1655 (See fig. 46.) (38 ins.)

5. MI SOUNDIGE IS EACH ONE TO CALL TO SERVE THE LORD 1655 (Broad scrolling between words.)

(And on line above:) BOETH GREAT AND SMALLE (42¾ ins.)

(A fine ring, by Watts of Leicester. Treble is hung by bolts, having lost its cannons.)

\* On Little Paxton tenor, a neighbouring parish, Henry Poynter Standly occurs as Churchwarden 1791.

T. R. E. 1552. Remaining at "Spalldwicke Itm̄ iiij bells and oñ Sauntus bell ij handebells Itm̄ oñ Sacring bell."

Gleaning Bell, formerly. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after death, but not after sunset,  $3 \times 1$  are given on each bell, from treble down to tenor, for a man, and  $3 \times 1$ , conversely on each bell, from tenor up to treble, for a woman, before the knell only, which is then rung on the tenor for an hour. The bell also sounds a convenient time before the funeral. On Sundays, at 8 a.m., the third bell is rung. Formerly one was rung at 11 a.m., to denote an afternoon service. For divine service the tenor is raised, and first "rung in" in alternate strokes, and then "stock height" after each round of chiming the other four; then third "rings in" for five minutes. Two bells used to be chimed after morning service. On Easter Day, etc. the bells are rung instead of chimed for service, Peals on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, and Harvest Festival; not *now* on Nov. 5th. At weddings, if desired. *Sometimes* a spur peal is rung after first publication of banns. A bell, formerly, rung for Vestry and Town's meetings. Best thanks to (late) Rev. G. T. Sharland, vicar of Spaldwick and Barham.

78. *ST. IVE'S.* All Saints. 8 bells.

1. A . RISE . AND . GO . TO . YOUR . BVSINES :  
HENRY . PENN . FOUNDER . PETERBOROUGH :  
1723 : (31 ins.)

2. I . PRAISE . THE . TRVE . GOD : HENRY .  
PENN . FOUNDER : 1723 : (30 ins.)

3. THEIR . SOVND . IS . GONE . VP : 1723 (33 ins.)

4. SOMETIMES JOY AND SOMETIMES SORROW  
MARRIGE TO DAY AND DEATH TO MORROW  
J723 (34½ ins.)

5. : WHNE . BACKWARD . RVNG . WE . TELL .  
OF . FIRE : THINK . HOW . THE WORLD SHALL  
THVS EXPIRE : 1723 : (37½ ins.)

6. ROBT TAYLOR ST NEOTS FECIT . 1796 . JOHN  
LINDSELL & JAMES OSBORNE CHURCHWARDENS (37 ins.)

7. (*Same as No. 6.*) (43 ins.)

S. : WHEN : SOULS : ARE : FROM : THESE :  
 BODY'S : TORN : TIS : NOT : TO : DYE : BUT  
 TO : BE : BORN : ⊕ (*Coin.*)

(*And on second line :*) IAMES : FISHER : ISAAC : JONES :  
 CHWARDENS : 1723 : IAMES : DODGSON : VICAR  
 : I H<sub>Y</sub> HENRY PENN FOUNDER (48 ins.)

(*Of these letters underlined, "I H<sub>Y</sub>" are very small, and have almost been obliterated in the mould ; and the rest is very small and cramped in.*)

T. R. E. 1559 "St Iues Sold a pillow of velvet &c & oñ handebell for iiij<sup>s</sup> viij  
 Also stolen . . . ij littel bells of Sillu" (silver).

These bells are all clappered for ordinary use, though, of course, rung on occasion, as below. The second and fifth have been much sharpened by turning off the rim ; and the sixth and seventh flattened by chipping inside ; these last two very square in the crown. The lettering on Penn's bells is of three kinds, *i.e.*, first, second, and third in one variety ; fourth and fifth in another ; and tenor in a third variety of characters. There is a monument to Mr. Dodgson, the vicar (who died, rector also of Yelling, 1735, aged forty-five), in the north aisle (see Hatfield's *Hunts.*, 1854). The clock chimes every quarter of an hour, and one bell is made to *sound* cracked by the bad arrangement of the clock-hammer ; being really quite perfect.

The intelligent captain of the ringers said these bells were originally intended for Godmanchester church. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, but not after sunset, 3 × 3 are given for a man, 2 × 2 for a woman, before and after the knell, which is rung for an hour or thereabouts.

Robert Langley, by will dated 24th August, 1656 (see Hatfield's *Hunts.*), left six shillings yearly for the ringers on the 9th or 11th January for a dumb peal, the bells muffled on one side.

The bells are rung every first Sunday in the month for all services throughout the day, except for the Holy Communion at 8 a.m. ; otherwise they are chimed (clappered), as above indicated, for divine service. Peals on Christmas Day, Easter Day, and at Harvest Festival ; on New Year's Eve ("Old Year out and New Year in"). For weddings, when paid for, usually £2 2s. od., which is also paid hitherto for peals on Mayor's Day. The bells have all been lately rehung at expense of present vicar ; but now it is discovered the beams on which the cage rests are unsound, so no ringing is even now possible. Many thanks to Walter Smith, captain of ringers, and to Rev. A. S. Barnes and Rev. S. J. M. Price, late and present vicars.

## 79. ST. NEOT'S. S. Mary. 8 bells.

1. GRATA SIT ARGUTA RESONANS CAMPANULA VOCE I.  
EAYRE FECIT

(*And on sound-bow* :) AUGUST 28 1753 ∴ (32 ins.)

2. WAS WROTE ON THE OLD SECOND = JOHANNES EST  
NOMAN MEUM

(*And on sound-bow* :) AUGUST 28. 1753 ∴ (32 $\frac{3}{4}$  ins.)

3. I. H. S NAZARENUS REXIUDÆORUM FILI DEI MISERERE  
MEI J: EAYRE FECIT ∴ 1753 (36 ins.)

4. CUM EGO VOCEM MORTALES MENTEM ATTOLLANT  
DEO. ANNO DOMINI 1753 (38 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins.)

5. UT NOS SIC HOMINES INTER SE CONUENIANT ANNO  
DOMINI 1753 (41 ins.)

6. OMNIA FIANE AD GLORIAM DEI . J. EAYRE . FECIT  
1753 ————✠ (42 $\frac{3}{4}$  ins.)

7. ✠———— STEPHEN SCARBROW . CHURCHWARDENS .  
ANNO : DOMI 1753 ————✠ J : EAYRE . FECIT  
————✠ (47 $\frac{3}{4}$  ins.)

8. WILLIAM DAY & WILLIAM PEPPERCORN CHURCH-  
WARDENS . WILLIAM DOBSON FOUNDER DOWNHAM  
NORFOLK 1832 ∴ (54 $\frac{1}{4}$  ins.)

(*On the yoke of this bell is* :) “JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> 1832.”

Gorham's *History of St. Neot's*, published 1820-4, states, “The tower contains a fine peal of eight bells, cast by Joseph Eyre (*sic*) of St. Neot's—the seven smaller in 1753—the eighth in 1764. The great bell is 14 ft. in circumference, and weighs 3051 lbs.” From the agreement printed elsewhere, we learn that Eayre cast all the bells originally in 1753.

The late Dr. Rix, who collected many additional notes to the above work, states in his *Addenda* that the recasting of the bells in 1753 was not effected without much opposition. A set of chimes existed here as early as 1688. In course of time, however, they became very poor and so much out of order, that a subscription was entered into by the inhabitants, and an order given to Mr. (Robert) Taylor for a new set. After, apparently, rather long delay, the chimes were completed and fixed; but by deaths, removals, and other causes, the amounts promised as subscriptions could not be raised, and after being used some time, Taylor took them down; upon this, the old chimes were replaced, and remained until 1847-8, when the church was restored; after this the chime-barrel was lying on the floor of

the tower. R. Taylor's chimes were considered very good; the tune they ordinarily played was "Gramachree." See, however, accounts below, from the churchwardens' books, in which, unfortunately, the entries for several years are missing; the accounts being in those days kept on sheets of paper of various sizes, and not always in a book, as may be imagined, those that remain are in a somewhat dilapidated condition. The extracts here given are, as far as may be, copied *verbatim*; and I desire here to acknowledge most gratefully, and with all possible sense of obligation, the intense care and pains with which Mr. William Emery, of the Bank, St. Neot's, has searched the parish archives for me, and transcribed everything he could find therein, or gain by enquiry, material to the subject in hand. It may be added that he resigned the post of parish churchwarden in 1890, after holding the office for eleven years. His father and grandfather had also served therein for several years; during the tenure by the latter of whom, the church was restored, as above mentioned, in 1848; he was also organist for many years; and all three being natives of St. Neot's, it is easily imagined what great interest in matters connected with the parish, and especially the church, is taken by this gentleman, to whom I feel thus considerably obliged and indebted.

EXTRACTS OF PAYMENTS FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS,  
PARISH OF ST. NEOT'S.

|       |   |  |     |     |     |     |               |
|-------|---|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| 1674  | 29 May  | For Ringing  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 00 . 05 . 0   |
|       | 5 Novemb  | for ringin   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 00 . 05 . 0   |
| 1676  | 29 May  | pd. for Ringing  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 . 10 . 0    |
|       | 5 Nov.  | for Ringing  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 . 6 . 8     |
| 1685  | Paid Atwood & Bass for ale the ringers had when the rebels in<br>the west were routed   |  |     |     |     | }   | 0 . 5 . 0     |
| „     | Paid Bass & Dixy for ale the ringers had the thanksgiving day<br>for the victory over the rebels  |  |     |     |     | }   | 0 . 5 . 0     |
|       | (The Duke of Monmouth rising against James II. was totally<br>defeated by the King's army at Sedgemoor, near Bridgewater,<br>on July 6.)  |  |     |     |     |     |               |
|       | Paid Attwood Bass Dixy & Small for ale the ringers had Feby 6<br>being the day the King came to the crown   |  |     |     |     | }   | 10 . 0        |
| 1688* | June 18.  | pd. the ring <sup>rs</sup> for the Bishops out of Tower... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 000 . 07 . 00 |
|       | (The Primate and six other Bishops had presented a remon-<br>strance against the measures taken in favour of the Roman<br>Catholics. Committed to the Tower, they were tried and<br>acquitted on June 30, to the satisfaction of the nation, and<br>chagrin of the king.) |  |     |     |     |     |               |

\* These items were evidently not always "booked" at the time, but set down sometimes from memory.

|       |  |               |
|-------|--|---------------|
|       | July pd. the ring <sup>rs</sup> for the prince being borne ... ..  | 000 . 12 . 06 |
|       | (James Francis Edward, later known as the "Pretender,"<br>and born June 10.)   |               |
|       | July 14 pd. Geo: Ingoldsbey for ye clock and chimes keeping }<br>¼ and 1 day's work }  | 000 . 08 . 06 |
|       | (The earliest entry found as to the chimes, and probably<br>meaning 7/6 for one quarter of a year's attention thereto, and<br>1/- for one day's work.)   |               |
|       | Octob. ye 14 <sup>th</sup> To the ring <sup>rs</sup> the King's birthday ... ..  | 000 . 10 . 00 |
|       | Novemb. powder plott the ring <sup>rs</sup> ... ..   | 000 . 15 . 00 |
| 1689  | Feb. 14. the ringers the day of thanksgiving ... ..  | 000 . 07 . 06 |
|       | the ringers the day of proclimation ... ..   | 000 . 15 . 00 |
|       | April 11 the ringers the Coronation day 28 (William III.'s sc.)...<br>(This 28 means perhaps day these items were paid.)   | 001 . 00 . 00 |
|       | 11 April To 6 men for ringing on the Coronation day ... ..   | 00 . 06 . 00  |
| 1692  | 17 May To the Ringers when the Bishop came to Towne ... ..<br>(Probably a visitation by the Bishop of Lincoln.)  | 00 . 02 . 00  |
| 1692. | 23 May ffor ringing ffor the News of the Victory at sea ... ..<br>(Louis XIV. endeavoured to effect the restoration of James<br>II., and essayed the invasion of England with a numerous<br>fleet, which was utterly routed off La Hogue by the English<br>and Dutch fleets on May 19.)                    | 00 . 08 . 06  |
|       | 30 May To George Ingoldsbye a bill due at Lady Day last past<br>(This bill is preserved; the first item therein is—"Due at a<br>Lady Day for Seting the Clock and chimes on quarter o 7 6"<br>Similar entries occur, and a receipt for the quarters due at<br>Mids <sup>r</sup> . and Mich <sup>s</sup> .) | 00 . 11 . 06  |
|       | 24 June To Joyce and Bullock for Hanging the great Bell and }<br>nayles }  | 00 . 05 . 08  |
|       | Octob <sup>r</sup> . For Ringing when the King returned from fflanders ... ..  | 00 . 10 . 00  |
|       | 4 Novemb. To the Ringers ... ..  | 00 . 03 . 06  |
| 1709  | Gave Tho: Church for not letting the boys go in Church of }<br>Shrove Tuesday }  | 0 . 2 . 6     |
| 1714  | Augt ye 1 <sup>st</sup> Gave to the Ringers (George 1st proclaimed King) ... ..  | 00 . 07 . 06  |
|       | Octobr ye 20 <sup>th</sup> for Ringing at the King's Coronation ... ..   | 00 . 10 . 00  |
| 1715  | Nov: 21 <sup>st</sup> Gave the Ringers at the News of the Victory at }<br>Preston & Scotland }   | 00 . 12 . 06  |
|       | ( <i>i.e.</i> , over the adherents of the Pretender on November 13.)   |               |
| 1716  | April 13 <sup>th</sup> To Tho: Church for setting ye Clock and Chimes }<br>&c. & Sand }  | 22 . 07 . 02  |
|       | May 28 <sup>th</sup> /1718 pd. for ringing on King Georg I birthday ... ..   | 0 . 05 . 0    |
|       | Augt 27 <sup>th</sup> pd. for ringing two times for victory over the Spani <sup>d</sup> ... ..<br>( <i>i.e.</i> , an expedition from Spain, on behalf of the Pretender,<br>disabled by a violent storm off Cape Finisterre.)   | 0 . 06 . 0    |



|        |                     |  |        |            |
|--------|---------------------|--|--------|------------|
|        | Sept. ye 17.        | pd for ringing when the Bishopp confirm'd  | ...    | 0 . 03 . 0 |
|        | Octobr ye 20        | pd for ringing on ye King's Coronation   | ...    | 0 . 05 . 0 |
|        | Nov. ye 5           | pd. to Ringers   | ... .. | 0 . 05 . 0 |
| 1723   |                     | pd for a Rope for the Chimes   | ... .. | 1 . 01 . 0 |
| 1737*  | Mar <sup>h</sup> 23 | To Mr. Eayres as p Bill  | ... .. | 3 . 15 . 0 |
| 1746   | Ap. 15              | Ringing on the Duke's birthday by the order of Mr }<br>W <sup>m</sup> Wye }  |        | 0 . 5 . 0  |
|        |                     | Ringing for gaining the victory of the Rebels by order of Mr Wye<br>(The Duke of Cumberland and the awful massacre at<br>Culloden are here referred to.) |        | 0 . 5 . 0  |
| 1747-8 |                     | For looking after the Clock and Chimes   | ... .. | 1 . 10 . 0 |

In a bill of Jos. Eayre's, dated 1747, occurs:—

|      |                                      |   |        |             |
|------|--------------------------------------|---|--------|-------------|
|      |                                      | “ July. New fixing the Chime Role in a corner of the Steeple<br>and turned the Role and some Ironwork | }      | 0 . 3 . 0   |
|      |                                      | Removed the Chimes into a new place to suit the weights<br>coming down close in the corner            | }      | 0 . 2 . 0   |
|      |                                      | For cleaning the Church Clock and Chimes  | ... .. | 0 . 10 . 6” |
| 1752 | June 11                              | pd. for ringing King George (the second's) Inauguration   |        | 0 . 5 . 0   |
|      | Oct <sup>r</sup> 24                  | pd. at Ye Bell & Angel for ye King's Coronation   | ...    | 0 . 5 . 0   |
|      |                                      | (i.e., for <i>ringing</i> on the Anniversary thereof.)  |        |             |
| 1754 | July ye 26                           | paid one pound of Wyer for the chimes   | ... .. | 0 . 1 . 0   |
|      | Nov <sup>r</sup> ye 10 <sup>th</sup> | paid to ye Ringers on King George birthday  | ... .. | 0 . 5 . 0   |
| 1764 |                                      | A memorandum as follows:—   |        |             |

“The Churchwardens of St Neot's Left to pay Mr Silvester Oliver and Mr Dockrey—

|  |   |             |
|--|---|-------------|
| To taking downe the Old Great Bell and putting up the new<br>one &c. | } | £3 . 1 . 0” |
|--|---|-------------|

(In three bills of Joseph Eayre's for 1759-60, 1765-6, and 1766-7 are various small items of repairs to Bells, Clock and Chimes, &c.)

In a bill of Thomas Upchurch's, in 1767, occurs:—

|  |        |              |
|--|--------|--------------|
| “April looking after ye Clock and Chimes | ... .. | £1 . 10 . 0” |
|--|--------|--------------|

(In a list of subscriptions dated 19 December, 1757, for the purchase of one or more Fire Engines, Joseph Eayre's name appears as a Contributor of £5 5. 0. And at a Vestry held 26 May, 1758, “It was unanimously agreed that one Fire Engine be purchased of Mr Jos: Eayre of St Neot's according to ye proposals delivered by him and hereunto annexed.” The price to be paid was £40, for which Jos: Eayre's receipt, dated Oct<sup>r</sup> 4, 1758, is attached.)

\* First apparent mention of Joseph Eayre. In 1746 a bill of his occurs for screws, bolts, and work done when one of the Pinnacles was repaired.

|       |          |  |     |             |
|-------|----------|--|-----|-------------|
| 1758  | Augt. 21 | Pd for Beer for ringing for taking Louisburg   | ... | 0 . 10 . 0  |
| ..    | Octr 24  | Pd for Ringing at the Kings Coronation   | ... | 0 . 10 . 0  |
| ..    |          | Paid for Ringing Beer on Gunpowder Treason   | ... | 0 . 10 . 0  |
| ..    | Octr 21  | Paid for Ringing Beer on the King's Birthday   | ... | 0 . 10 . 0  |
| 1759  | March 30 | Paid for a Wier for the Chimes   | ... | 0 . 1 . 0   |
| 1760  | Octr. 23 | To the Ringers on ye King's Coronation   | ... | 00 . 12 . 6 |
| ..    | Nov. 5   | To the Ringers   | ... | 00 . 12 . 6 |
| ..    | .. 6     | To Do. at proclaiming King George 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | ... | 00 . 12 . 6 |
| 1761  | May 29   | To Ringing on Charles ye 2 <sup>nd</sup> Restoration...  | ... | 00 . 12 . 6 |
| ..    | Augt. 14 | To a fine copy of ye Articles between ye late Mr Loftus<br>Hatley on behalf ye parish and Mr Joseph Eayre relating to<br>ye recasting ye bells   | ... | 00 . 02 . 6 |
|       |          | To a fine copy of a Lter sent to Mr Newton at Leicester in<br>answer to a Lter recd from him requesting ye parish to pay<br>Capt Montagu's deficiency of his subscription tow <sup>ds</sup> recast-<br>ing ye bells and stateing ye whole affair of ye bells as it now<br>stands between ye Parish and Mr Eyre's, with ye Resolution<br>of ye Vestry (consisting of ye principall inhabitants) viz: that<br>they wou <sup>d</sup> not be answerable for Capt. Montagu's non<br>payment of his subscription &c.   | ... | 00 . 02 . 6 |
| 1762  | April 9  | To Mr Joseph Eayres as p bill and rec <sup>t</sup>   | ... | 02 . 07 . 0 |
| 1763  | April 1  | To Mr Gray for a Clock rope 8 <sup>s</sup> /6 <sup>d</sup> . For 8 Bell-ropes<br>£2 16 0   | ... | 3 . 4 . 6   |
| 1769  | March 28 | Paid Mr Eayre a bill for hanging up the great Bell   | ... | 2 . 2 . 0   |
| 1771  | March 28 | Mr Eayre a bill  | ... | 1 . 10 . 5  |
|       |          | [It appears from a Minute of a Vestry Meeting held 23<br>April, 1776—that the pump, which until <i>Dec.</i> , 1879, stood<br>near the Cross, was erected by the late Joseph Eayre (he died<br>the following year, 1772). It was removed by order of the St.<br>Neot's Local Board.]  |     |             |
| 1772  | April 17 | Pd for Bread insted of Beare on the Ringing days for<br>the Poor   | ... | 1 . 12 . 6  |
| 1773  | April 9  | Bread given away to the Poor insted of Beare on the<br>Ringing Days  | ... | 2 . 0 . 0   |
| 1773  | April 12 | Paid Ed Arnold* a Bill   | ... | 3 . 1 . 11  |
| 1774  |          | (Three payments of 10/- each for Ringers' Beer.)   |     |             |
| 1778. | Dec. 18. | Rec <sup>d</sup> of Mr R <sup>d</sup> Hatley one years Int <sup>t</sup> of £100 in the<br>3 per cent Consol. Annuities vizt. Sixty four pounds two<br>shillings and sixpence of the Extors of Josh Eayre late of<br>St. Neots dece <sup>d</sup> in part of his Donation, and Thirty five<br>pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence raised by a sub-<br>scription from the Inhabitants making the said £100 which<br>was placed out by the said Rich <sup>d</sup> Hatley on the above Security<br>for the use and benefit of the Poor of St Neot's aforesaid | ... | 3 . 16 . 4  |

\* His signature appears with others at a Vestry Meeting held 20 April, 1778, for passing Churchwardens' Accounts; also at a meeting held 30 November, 1783.

|   |                     |  |   |            |
|---|---------------------|--|---|------------|
| 1784  | April 3             | M <sup>r</sup> : Arnold for repairing the Bells and the Fire-Engines, &c.                            | } | 5 . 14 . 2 |
| 1785  | March 21            | M <sup>r</sup> : Rob <sup>t</sup> : Taylor a bill ... ..   |   | 2 . 4 . 6  |
| 1786  | April 15            | P <sup>d</sup> : Robert Taylor a bill for engines and bells ...                                      |   | 4 . 2 . 0  |
| 1787  | Jan <sup>y</sup> 22 | To Rob <sup>t</sup> : Taylor for Iron work for the Church Doors &c.                                  | } | 5 . 14 . 9 |
| "   | April 4             | To John Upchurch for $\frac{1}{4}$ yrs (?) ringing the 8 o'clock Bell                                | } | . . 10 . 6 |
| (From 1788 to 1811 various sums are entered as paid to Robert Taylor, but the details are not specified.) |                     |  |   |            |
| 1791  | March 25            | To the Sexton for ringing the 4 & 8 o'clock bell ...   |   | 1 . 1 . 0  |
| "   | June 4              | Paid the Sexton in lieu of letting the Boys ring the bells at the Fair                               | } | 2 . 6      |
| 1792  | Jan <sup>y</sup> 27 | Paid William Palmer for Ringers' Beer (Christ's Eve)   | } | 5 . -      |
| 1793  | June 4              | Sexton perquisite instead of his letting the bells be rung at the two Fairs                          | } | 5 . -      |
| 1794  | March 4             | Upchurch Bell perquisite for Shrove Tuesday ...  |   | 2 . 6      |
| 1797  | April 1             | Paid Gil. Church a year's salary for Ringing the Great Bell at 4 & 8                                 | } | 1 . 1 . 0  |
| 1798  | Oct <sup>r</sup> 2. | To Ringers for beer on account of Admiral Nelson's (Aboukir Bay) Victory                             | } | 10 . 6     |
| 1799  | Oct <sup>r</sup> 25 | Ringings Beer on account of taking the Dutch Fleet ...   |   | 10 . 6     |
| 1803  | April 9             | Rob <sup>t</sup> : Pattison a Bill work to the Chimes ... ..   |   | 13 . 8 . 0 |
| 1812.   | Oct <sup>r</sup> :  | Paid the Ringers &c 2/6 each for ringing on the Illumination night Sept <sup>r</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup> | } | 1 . 10 . 0 |
| 1815  | June 15             | Jacques for Ringer's ale 29 <sup>th</sup> May ... ..   |   | . . 10 . 0 |
| 1816  | April               | Paid Tho <sup>s</sup> : Upchurch for Ringing Dinner and 8 o'clock Bell for one year to Easter 1816   | } | 1 . 11 . 1 |
| (Similar entries to this in 1817, 1818, & 1819.)  |                     |  |   |            |
| 1818  |                     | Paid for Tolling Bell on Queen's funeral and Ringing Beer Dumb Peal                                  | } | 13 . 0     |
| (Charlotte, wife of George III.)  |                     |  |   |            |
| 1822-3  |                     | Paid the Men for ringing the Bells after they were new hung and repaired                             | } | . . 5 . 0  |
| "   |                     | Paid Taylor Bellhanger a bill... ..  |   | . . 6 . 0  |
| "   | "                   | Peach* for repairing the Bells as p bill ... ..  |   | 9 . 8 . 6  |
| "   | "                   | Upchurch for ringing the Bell in Harvest ... ..  |   | . . 9 . 0  |
| "   | "                   | Upchurch Sexton for ringing the one eight o'clock a Bill &c &c                                       | } | 1 . 13 . 2 |

\* Peach is believed to have been a whitesmith and bell-hanger, resident in St. Neot's.

|   |         |  |     |     |     |           |
|---|---------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1823*   | May 28  | Paid Ringers Fair Day                              | ... | ... | ... | 2 . 6     |
| ,*  | June 17 | ditto  | ... | ... | ... | 2 . 6     |
| 1828  | April 4 | for ringing one o'clock bell                       | ... | ... | ... | 1 . 1 . 0 |
|   |         | ditto eight ditto                                  | ... | ... | ... | 10 . 6    |
| 1832  |         | Paid Dobson for bell (Tenor) ( <i>sic.</i> )       | ... | ... | ... | 39 17 . 8 |
| (The shillings and pence are thus struck out, and in the next year's account occurs) :— |         |  |     |     |     |           |
| 1833  |         | Paid the ringers the odd 17/6 of Mr. Dobson's Bill | ... | ... | ... | 17 . 6    |
| 1834  |         | James Foskett for carriage of Bell                 | ... | ... | ... | 1 . 5 . 0 |

The following extracts from the Vestry Book are to our present purpose :—

“Easter Monday April 9<sup>th</sup> 1787. It is also ordered that the said Thomas Upchurch the present Sexton do pay proper obedience to the Clergymen of this Parish and that he do begin to ring the Sermon Bell at 10 o'clock every Sunday morning and so continue it to be rung half an hour, when he shall chyme the other bells for prayers.”  
 “It is also ordered that the sexton do keep all boys out of the Belfrey only those who he shall want to chyme,” &c., &c.

(This Sermon Bell (the tenor) is believed to have been rung till thirty years ago.)

“13<sup>th</sup> October 1801. It is apprehended that the windows of the Belfry have been repeatedly broken by the boys who ring the warning Bell for the Charity School or other boys who are on the outside the Church during the ringing the said Bell—It is hereby ordered that the School Boys shall have no admission into the Belfry and that the ringing the School Bell be from this time discontinued.”

18<sup>th</sup> April 1808. “Resolved and ordered that in future the 4 o'clock morning Bell be discontinued and that the Sexton do instead thereof ring as formerly a Bell at one o'clock in the day & that the Sexton do not admit any Boys into the Belfry on that occasion nor to go upon the Leads on any other occasion.”

April 23. 1832 (After appointing W<sup>m</sup> Day and W<sup>m</sup> Peppercorn Churchwardens, see Tenor Bell). “At this meeting it was ordered that the great Bell be now cast and that the Churchwardens Do employ proper persons to take the same down Cast the same with such additional metal as may be required & put up the same again, & do pay the expences thereof and other expences incurred thereby out of the Churchwardens' rate.”

This is continued at the present time, the fifth bell being rung, and the sexton receives £2 10s. as a yearly remuneration in respect of it. It is sometimes called the “Dinner Bell.” The seventh bell was rung as a Curfew, or eight o'clock bell, till, as believed, about 1856; it can be traced back in the Churchwardens' Accounts to 1787. After the Curfew finished, the day of the month was tolled on the tenor

\* These fairs were held on Ascension Day, and three weeks after that date. Two other fairs are held in October and December, but no payment appears to have been made on these latter occasions.

bell. A bell was rung at eleven o'clock on Shrove Tuesday till about 1860. The Gleaning Bell is rung during harvest, generally the fourth bell; sometimes the sixth. 10/6 per annum is paid to the sexton for this out of the rent of not quite half an acre of land in Eynesbury parish, known as "Bell Rope Land," formerly let for £2 5s. od. annually, but now only for £1 5s. od.; the remainder of the money is applied as the name indicates. How or when the land was acquired is not known. The tenor bell is tolled once a minute as soon as intimation of death is received; at the finish 3 × 3 are given for a man, 3 × 2 for a woman. At funerals the present custom is for each bell to be tolled about twenty times, till the tenor is reached, starting from the seventh backwards for a man, and from the treble round to the tenor for a woman. A dumb peal is sometimes rung the same evening after the funeral of an official connected with the church.

For divine service the bells are chimed and rung. The ringers receive about £3 13s. a year for ringing on Sundays, out of the offertory. Peals on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Peals sometimes at a wedding and during the same day; also, if an extra fee is thought probable, on the day the newly-married pair return home; and till about forty or fifty years ago a peal was customary on the first Sunday they attended church.

A bell was formerly rung for Vestry meetings and at the election of a Pinder. In the Churchwardens' Accounts for 1845, there are no less than seven payments of 10/- each for "Ringers' Beer"! and for many years previous are similar entries. It appears to have been no uncommon thing to pay £3 to £4 a year for Beer on these occasions, *e.g.*, November 5th, May 29th, etc.

The Sanctus Bell has disappeared long ago, though the cote in which it formerly hung has been repaired in recent years. All rehung in 1896 by Mr. William Wade, of Eaton-Socon. Very heartiest acknowledgments and thanks to Mr. W. Emery, of the Bank, St. Neot's.

(COPY.)

Articles of Agreement Indented and made this second day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & Fifty Three Between Joseph Eayre of Saint Neots in the county of Huntingdon Bellfounder of the one part and Loftus Hatley and Stephen Scarbrow Gentlemen Churchwardens of Saint Neots aforesaid and Jeremiah Davies of Saint Neots aforesaid Gentleman for and on behalf of the Inhabitants and Parishioners of St Neots aforesaid Subscribers for the purposes hereunder mentioned of the other part.

Whereas several of the Principal Inhabitants of Saint Neots aforesaid are desirous of having a compleat peal of Eight Bells in the Tower or Steeple of the Parish Church of Saint Neots aforesaid and for that purpose have raised by Voluntarily Subscriptions the sum of Two hundred pounds which with the sum of Thirty Three pounds Agreed by the Inhabitants of the Said parish to be raised by a Churchwardens Rate within the said parish and the old bells now hanging in the said Tower or Steeple will be

sufficient to compleat the same. And whereas the consent of the Inhabitants of the said Parish is obtained and a Lycence or faculty from the Archdeacon's Court at Huntingdon is Decreed for the purpose aforesaid. Now therefore it is agreed by and between the said parties to these Presents as followeth (that is to say)

First the said Joseph Eayre in consideration of the sum of Eighty-one pounds seven shillings of Lawful money of Great Britain (part of the said two hundred pounds subscription money) to him in hand paid by the said Jeremiah Davies at or before the Execution of these presents the Receipt whereof is hereby aeknowledged and for the other considerations hereinafter mentioned doth hereby for himself his Heirs Executors and Administrators Covenant Promise and Agree to and with the said Loftus Hatley Stephen Scarborow and Jeremiah Davies their Executors Administrators and Assignes that he the said Joseph Eayre shall and will forthwith at his own cost and charge take down the said old bells and recast the same with the addition of Twenty-six hundredweight of new Bell metal into Eight Bells in due and proper proportion and weight to each other and that the said Eight Bells shall be as Tuneable and Toneable and as good in all respects as any Bells in England of the same weight according to the opinion of any two competent Judges in Bells, the one to be nominated by the said Joseph Eayre and the other by any five or more of the Principal Inhabitants and Subscribers towards the said New Bells and that the said Joseph Eayre shall and will on or before the first day of November next at his own Cost and Charge alter the Bell Frames and find and provide all materials work and Labour necessary thereto and likewise wheels for the said bells and finish place and hang up the same new Bells in a substantial and workman-like manner fit for Ringing in the Tower or Steeple of the said Church and shall and will from and after the said Bells shall be so finish'd & hung up as aforesaid at his own charge maintain and keep the same in order for one whole year from thence next ensuing without any other expence or charge to the said Parish or the Parishioners of the same than as aforesaid

And the said Loftus Hatley and Stephen Scarbrow do hereby agree with the said Joseph Eayre that they shall and will when and as soon as the said Joseph Eayre shall have fully performed his said covenant in all respects to the satisfaction of the major part of the inhabitants and subscribers aforesaid raise and pay to the said Joseph Eayre the said sum of Thirty-three Pounds

And the said Jeremiah Davies do hereby Agree with the said Joseph Eayre that he the said Jeremiah Davies shall and will when and as soon as the said Joseph Eayre shall have fully performed his said Covenant in all respects to the satisfaction of the major part of the Inhabitants and Subscribers aforesaid raise and pay to the said Joseph Eayre the sum of one hundred and Eighteen pounds Thirteen shillings residue of the said sum of Two hundred Pounds subscribed as aforesaid In witness whereof the Parties above said to these presents have interchangeably set their hands and Seals the day and year above written

|   |                                    |                  |   |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Sealed and Delivered }<br>in the Presence of us } | J. WALLER, Not. Pub.<br>JNO. PARK. | JOS. EAYRE       | ○ |
|   |                                    | LOFTUS HATLEY    | ○ |
|   |                                    | STEPHEN SCARBROW | ○ |

Memorandum before the sealing and delivery of the within written articles It is agreed by and between the parties within named that in case the two persons who shall be nominated as Judges of the goodness of the new Bells within mentioned shall disagree in their opinion about the same then and in such case the said two persons shall nominate a third person to be Judge whose Determination therein shall be Final.

Witness

J. WALLER, Not. Pub.  
J<sup>NO</sup>. PARK.

JOS. EAYRE.  
LOFTUS HATLEY.  
STEPHEN SCARBROW.

Received June 27th, 1754, of the Inhabitants and Parishioners of St. Neot's, by the hands of Mr. Loftus Hatley and Mr. Stephen Scarbrow the sum of Thirty Three Pounds being the sum of money agreed to be paid by them in behalf of the said Inhabitants and Parishioners towards recasting the Bells by virtue of the within written Agreement & is in full satisfaction & discharge of their within written Covenant in that behalf I say received by me.

Witness R. HATLEY.  
JOHN WALLER.  
St. Neot's, April 7, 1760.

33 . 0 . 0.  
JOS. EAYRE.

Whereas notice was given of a Vestry To be held this Day to consider of the Right Rev<sup>d</sup> ye Bishop of Lincoln's and ye Rev<sup>d</sup>. ye Archdeacon's Letters concerning ye Bells of this Church and whereas those Letters have been laid before ye Vestry and most respectfully considered, the Parish or ye Majority of them being of opinion ye said Letters were obtained by misrepresentation of Mr. Eayre do now Resolve that they will not consent: that the Bells should be taken down and Recast by Mr. Eayre and likewise Resolv'd that they will not consent to charge themselves with the Payment of the Deficiency occasioned by Capt. Montague's Non payment of his Subscription: or by any other means; this being contrary to the Churchwardens' Agreement made with the said Mr. Eayre in ye year 1753.

JOHN RAWLINGS  
JONATHAN PATTISON  
JOS. ROBINSON  
P. DAY  
EDWARD LAUDY  
J. GORHAM  
ROBERT PATTISON  
WILL<sup>M</sup>. SMITH  
SIL<sup>R</sup>. OLIVER  
THOS. BEAL  
REYNOLDS POINTER  
THOS. SMITH  
HEN: OLIVER  
JAMES YOUNG

THOS. HANKIN  
GEORGE GRAY  
JONATHAN RAWLINGS  
JAMES <sup>HIS</sup> X BRUCE  
<sub>MARK</sub>  
HENRY IBBETT  
RICHARD SWEPSON  
JAMES X NICKLAS  
<sub>MARK</sub>  
JOHN PATTISON  
THOMAS NELSON  
JOSEPH OLIVER  
JAMES SMALL  
RICHARD SMITH  
THOS. BOSTON

80. *STANGROUND.* S. John Baptist. 4 bells.

1. HENRY YEATS SMYTHIES B. D. VICAR JOSH. WARWICK  
CHURCHWARDEN 1832 (*Probably by Mears. The vicar died 1842.*) (33 ins.)

2. + (fig. 50) **MEROREM** ❀ (fig. 51) **MESTIS** ❀ (fig. 51) **LETIS**  
❀ (fig. 51) **SIC** ❀ (fig. 51) **LETA** ❀ (fig. 51) **SONABO** ❀ (fig. 51)  
1617 (*Cannons gone.*) (35 ins.)

3. + (fig. 58) **MEROREM MESTIS LETIS SIC LETA SONABO**  
1622 **E** ❀ (fig. 51) **VI** ❀ (fig. 51) **E** ❀ (fig. 51) **H** ❀ (fig. 51) **TOBIAS**  
❀ (fig. 51) **NORRIS** ❀ (fig. 51) **ME**  
(*And then below :*) ❀ (fig. 51) **FECIT** ❀ (fig. 51) (39 ins.)

4. + **S** HARVE (fig. 41) **I** ❀ **G** OD (fig. 41) **I** ❀ **J** HD (fig. 41) **I** ❀  
**O** BE **I** (fig. 41) **T** HI **I** (fig. 41) **P** RINCES  
(*Date below :*) **I** (fig. 41) 1588 (41½ ins.)

(*The Royal Arms are on the waist of third. The Leicester cross and crown (figs. 45 and 35, North's "Northants.") occur respectively once and thrice on the crown of the tenor.*)

T. R. E. 1549. "Standground cu9 farsett. Sold . . . on Sauntus Bell one Cross of Copp for XLs."

These bells are very noteworthy. The second unmistakably by W. Haulsey—his earliest bell with which I am acquainted; the 7 of date very clumsily executed. The third bell bears the same inscription, but Norris only used it on one other bell to my knowledge, on the second at Offord Darcy (see *supra*). Meanwhile, the date on the tenor, obviously by Watts of Leicester, has been read by one antiquary as 1788! owing to the 5 being reversed and of the peculiar type then used.

At the death knell, rung two hours after death, the "tellers" are somewhat peculiar; thus, for a woman 5 × 1 both before and after the knell; for a girl 4 × 1 both before and after it; for a man 3 × 1 before and 2 × 3 after it; for a boy 3 × 1 both before and after it. A bell is rung at the funeral, but the churchyard is now closed. On Sundays a bell is rung at 8 a.m. For divine service the bells are chimed for fifteen minutes. The treble bell is rung after morning service. Peals at weddings, sometimes.

The Churchwardens' Accounts from 1772 are very summary; they contain the following, for which, and above "uses," best thanks to (late) Rev. J. Fuller, vicar.



|   |                                       |     |     |              |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| From 1772 to 1785 annually                              |                                       |     |     | <i>s. d.</i> |
| Paid for ringing at the 5 <sup>th</sup> of Novr         | ...                                   | ... | ... | 6 8          |
| "    "    King's Coronation                             | ...                                   | ... | ... | 4 0          |
| 1789 Paid for ringing at the General thanksgiving       | ...                                   | ... | ... | 5 0          |
|   | (Presumably for the King's recovery.) |     |     |              |
| 1821 to 1837 Ringing at the King's Coronat <sup>n</sup> | ...                                   | ... | ... | 5 0          |
| 1838 to 1842 Rings at the Queen's Coronat <sup>n</sup>  | ...                                   | ... | ... | 5 0          |

81. *STAUGHTON, GREAT.* S. Andrew. 5 bells,  
and 1 Sanctus bell.

1. ∪ (fig. 38) **I H E . D A Z A R E O V S** (fig. 45) **R E X .**  
**F V D E O R V M** (fig. 45) **F I L I . D E I** (fig. 45) **M I S -**  
**E R E R E . M E I** (fig. 45) 1655 (*Ordinary letters.*) (34½ ins.)

2. ∪ (fig. 38) **E D M O N D I B B O T T R A P H E**  
**P A I N E** © 1655 (*Lombardic letters.*) (36½ ins.)

3. + (fig. 12) **Hac In Conclauē Gabriel Nunc Pange** + (fig. 13)  
**Suaue** ∪ (fig. 14) (*Small size ; is repeated thrice on crown. Cannons*  
*ornamented. Deeply indented in sound-bow. Needs quarter-turning.*) (38½ ins.)

4. ○ (*Coin*) **JOHN APPLEBY VICAR . EDWD S . . . A . . . &**  
**JOHN ROSE CHURCHWARDENS** ○ ○ ○ ○ (*Coins*) **ROBT**  
**TAYLOR ST NEOTS FECIT 1787** (*Flattened by inside chipping.*) (43 ins.)

5. + (fig. 42) **GEORGE WAUTON ESQUIER**  
**1600 GEORGE WALKER MINISTER**  
(*And on second line :*) + (fig. 46) **GEORGE BARBER**  
**WILIAM GLOVER CHURCH-**  
**WARDENS** (*Fine large Lombardic letters.*) (45¾ ins.)

Sanctus Bell. *Blank ; disused ; no rope.* (c. 18 ins.)

T. R. E. 1552. Remaining at "Moche Stoughton Itm̄ in the stepull iiii belles Itm̄  
one sans bell."

See p. 7. Sir George Wauton died in 1606; a monument to him is in south aisle. "Ger. Walker" signs the Register books from 1540 to 1612, when he disappears, after apparently seventy-two years' service; and there is, sad to say, no entry of his burial in the place, which, doubtless, he served so well. Edmund Ibbott and Ralph Paine were churchwardens from 1631 to 1640. Rev. John Applebee (should be) was the son of the Rev. George Applebee, of S. Bride's Church, London. He entered Merchant Taylors' School in 1762, and was elected to S. John's

College, Oxford (the patrons of this benefice), in 1772. The churchwarden's name obliterated on this bell (*viz*, it is hard to discover) was Edward Shadbolt's, who, in or about the year 1806, left £20 to the minister and churchwardens, the interest thereof to be distributed among the poor widows of Great Staughton, on Easter Monday yearly.

The Churchwardens' Accounts give the following particulars as to the fourth bell:—

|   |  |        |           |
|---|--|--------|-----------|
| Easter 1786 to Easter 1787 (Mr. Sam <sup>l</sup> Rose's acct)       |  |        |           |
| Pd. Mr. Taylor  | part of Acct. for casting the Bell                                       | ... .. | £12 0 0   |
| Easter 1787 to Easter 1788 (Mr. John Rose's acct)                   |  |        |           |
| July 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Pd Mr. Cant for beer for taking down the bell sent to St. Neot's         | ... .. | 4 . 6     |
|   | P <sup>d</sup> Waying Bell 1 <sup>s</sup> Carriage of D <sup>o</sup> 2/6 | ... .. | 3 . 6     |
| Sept 20   | Pd weiging Bell and Bringin the bell from St Neots                       | ... .. | 3 . 6     |
| Easter 1788 to Easter 1789 (Mr. Edw <sup>d</sup> . Shadbolt's acct) |  |        |           |
| Paid Mr. Taylor   | on acct of ye Bell   | ... .. | 5 . 5 . 0 |

There is a piece of land, 2a. 1r. 13p., in the Town Field, called "Bell Rope Land," the yearly value of which is applied to defray such expenses as relate to ropes and bells. The Sanctus Bell, the only one in the county in its proper cote, over the chancel arch, was rung in living memory, from the chancel step, as the officiating clergyman entered the reading-desk, there being in those days no musical instrument in the church.

On the fly-leaf of an old parish book, without date, occurs:—

The order of tolling, ye 4<sup>th</sup> Bell for children, and ye 5<sup>th</sup> or Great Bell for any above 12, for females 6 tolls or knolls (*i.e.*, 3 × 2) for males 9 (*i.e.*, 3 × 3).

Also elsewhere:—

Days appointed for Ringing and what ye Parish have agreed to allow ye Ringers. Agreed upon at a Vestry Meeting February 1<sup>st</sup> 1728 for Ringing days as follows:—the 19<sup>th</sup> January one day, the first of March, the twenty-ninth of May, the eleventh of June, the eleventh of October and the fifth of November. Allowed each day for ye Ringers to ring three shillings each day, &c. J. Gyles Vicar, Joseph Henson, John Scarbrow, Will. Maxey, Peter Scarbrow, J. Bonfield, Jos. Bull, Robart Scarbrow, Cha. Collins, Elijah Peacock, Thomas Barrett.

Now, therefore, accordingly, the knell is rung as soon as convenient, and for about ten minutes on the tenor for males, fourth for females, and a smaller bell for children. For divine service the bells are chimed, according as chimers are present. Peals at Christmas and New Year's Eve; and for weddings, if requested. A new set of ringers meet for practice once a week. Very many and hearty thanks to Rev. T. W. Gibson (late) vicar.

82. *STIBBINGTON*. S. John Baptist. 2 bells.

1. C. & G. MEARS. FOUNDERS LONDON PRESENTED BY FRANCIS DUKE OF BEDFORD MDCCCXLIX WHEN THE NAVE AND AISLES OF THIS CHURCH WERE REBUILT (22 ins.)

2. (*Same as No. 1.*) (23 ins.)

In the rectory coach-house there has been since 1848-9, one large bell, 37½ inches diameter, inscribed:—

JOSEPH EAYRE FECIT 1767 MR HOLDICH RECTOR JOHN HARRESON CHURCHWARDEN

Two others were sold at the same time, when the present wretched little pigeon-cote was erected on the church in lieu of the solid old square tower which was reported unsafe, but required gunpowder for its demolition! The present rector would like to utilise the bell disused since the above loss to the church took place by hanging it in some outside angle of the church, and using it for funerals. But the idea is not favoured by the character of the building.

Gleaning Bell, formerly. The death knell is rung as soon as possible after notice of death, but there is nothing to denote age nor sex. When the funeral party, however, is close to the church, *the bells are chimed*; as also at weddings, if requested.

On Sundays the bells are chimed at 8 a.m. A single bell at 10.30, and another at 10.45, after which they are chimed for three minutes before service at 11 a.m. So at other times of divine service. Best thanks to H. L. Hutton, M.A., New Coll., Oxon, and Rev. C. Trollope, rector.

83. *STILTON*. S. Mary. 2 bells.

1. + (fig. 60) THOMAS NORRIS MADE ME . 1639 (30 ins.)

2. + + + + (fig. 33 four times) ∇ (fig. 32) □ (*Virgin and child, p. 92 North's "Northants."*) (*One cannon defective; deeply indented in sound-bore, and needs "quarter-turning."*) (30 ins.)

Pits for three; the old tenor, being cracked, was sold by the last rector, on advice of a past archdeacon; tower said to be unsafe. Repaired in Jubilee Year, 1897. Bells very "panny." At the death knell, which is rung an hour after death, 3 × 1 are given. A bell is tolled before the funeral. The bells are sounded at 8 a.m. on Sundays, and for a quarter of an hour before divine service begins. A bell for Vestry meetings. "Peals" on all Feast Days; and at weddings, if desired. It appears from the Churchwardens' Books, dating from 1772, that it was customary to ring the bells on June 4th, September 22nd, November 5th, and December 25th, *e.g.*—

|       |          |   |     |     |       |
|-------|----------|---|-----|-----|-------|
| 1775. | June 4   | Ringing money at Mr. Pitt's, the King's B'day                   | ... | ... | 3 . 0 |
| ..    | Sept. 22 | Ringing money at Mr. Sibley's, Crownation                       | ... | ... | 3 . 0 |
| ..    | Nov. 5   | Ringing money at Werrington's Powder pt.                        | ... | ... | 3 . 0 |
|       |          | <i>(i.e., a shilling for each ringer to drink at some inn.)</i> |     |     |       |

Two victories are recorded :—

|       |             |   |     |     |       |
|-------|-------------|---|-----|-----|-------|
| 1782. | June 8      | Ringing Beer for Admiral Rodney's Victory*                | ... | ... | 3 . 0 |
| 1794. | June 4, 13. | Ringing Beer on defeating the French fleet by Lord Howe † | ... | ... | 3 . 0 |

There are also various entries, 10s. 6d. or 12s., for new bell-ropes, and for repairs of bell wheels, etc., *e.g.*—

|       |      |   |     |     |             |
|-------|------|---|-----|-----|-------------|
| 1794. | Feb. | Geo. Lee a bill for work at Bellwheels    | ... | ... | 18 . 10     |
|       |      | A. King for repairing Bell-wheels &c.     | ... | ... | 1 . 19 . 9  |
|       |      | T. Cook a bill                            | ... | ... | 3 . 19 . 11 |
| 1806. |      | W. Cook's bill for work done at the Bells | ... | ... | 9 . 6       |
|       |      | Mr. Seaton's bill for a bell wheel        | ... | ... | 2 . 2 . 0   |

Best thanks to H. L. Hutton, Esq., M.A., Oxon.

84. *STOW LONGA.* S. Botolph. 1 bell.

◻ (fig. 25) + (fig. 22) ◻ (fig. 26) *Sancte Petre Ora Pro Nobis* (*All three stamps, especially fig. 22 in the centre, much corroded. See p. 13.*) (28 ins.)



T. R. E. 1552. Remaining at "Stowe Longa Itm̄ iij belles and oñ Sacriñge bell."

An old tradition was related by a man who died in 1890, and whose mother, he said, frequently spoke of having seen two old bells, taken down from this tower, and sold for repairs, lying outside the door of Mr. Peacock, watchmaker, etc., in Kimbolton Street, for twelve months, it being alleged that he dared not dispose of them elsewhere till such a time had elapsed. This was about eighty years ago. The bells, however, at the neighbouring parish of Covington (*q.v.*) are said to have come from this parish. The hanging of this bell quite suggests the idea of more bells here once, even apart from the direct testimony above of the Edwardian inventory. There are no peculiar uses, the bell is simply rung for everything. Very many thanks to the Rev. G. E. Sharland, vicar of Easton and Stow Longa.

\* Rodney's victory over Cont de Grasse in the West Indies on April 12th.

† The victory known as "the Glorious first of June." But though the accounts cover the period of Nelson's and Wellington's great victories, no mention is made of them.

85. *STUKELEY MAGNA*. S. Bartholomew. 4 bells.

1. (fig. 50)  OMNIA FIANET AD GLORIAM DEI 162 $\bar{z}$   
(*By Haulsey.*) (27 ins.)
2.  (*Leicester crown*) RƏMƏMBƏR † (fig. 34) THƏ † (fig. 34)  
PORƏ † (fig. 34) HND † (fig. 34) NƏDƏ (*i.e., "The poor and needy."*  
*All E's reversed, and a C reversed used as a D. Said to be cracked—I believe not.*  
*By Newcome.*) (29½ ins.)
3. ROBT TAYLOR ST NEOTS FOUNDER 1797 ○ (*Coin*) ROBT  
BOND CHURCHWARDEN (33 ins.)
4. TOBIAS Ƶ NORRIS Ƶ CAST Ƶ ME Ƶ 1635 † (fig. 58) IOHN Ƶ  
DODSON Ƶ VICAR Ƶ I Ƶ WEBSTER Ƶ T Ƶ CLARKE Ƶ  
C Ƶ W Ƶ (*Scrolling between words.*) (36½ ins.)

See p. 18. Tradition says Great Stukeley gave Little Stukeley a clock in exchange for a bell. The weights of present bells do not favour this. Pancake Bell, formerly. Harvest Bell till more recently. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after death, but not after sunset, on tenor for an adult and treble for a child, 3 × 3 are given for a male and 3 × 5 for a female. The bell tolls at funerals. For divine service the tenor is "raised," and rings awhile alone; after which the others are chimed and the tenor is rung in behind alternate strokes or "stock height," after each round of chiming. The treble "tolls in" with a few strokes. Bell for Easter Vestry meeting. Peals at first publication of banns, and weddings, if desired. All thanks to (late) Rev. J. Malpas, vicar.

86. *STUKELEY PARVA*. S. Martin. 4 bells.

1.  $\frac{+}{\cup}$  (fig. 34) SANCTE THOMH. (30 ins.)  
(fig. 35)
2.  $\cup$  † (figs. 35 and 34) S. MARTINA (*A good bell but roughly cast.*) (33 ins.)
3. JOSEPH WHITE AND EDWARD COCKS CHURCHWARDENS  
1759 (35½ ins.)
4. † (fig. 48)  $\mathcal{N}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{N}$  † (fig. 51)  $\mathcal{S}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{N}\mathcal{O}$  † (fig. 51)  $\mathcal{H}\mathcal{A}\mathcal{L}\mathcal{I}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{H}\mathcal{B}\mathcal{V}\mathcal{S}$   
† (fig. 51)  $\mathcal{M}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{R}\mathcal{T}\mathcal{V}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{R}\mathcal{V}\mathcal{M}$  † (fig. 51)  $\mathcal{S}\mathcal{E}\mathcal{D}$  † (fig. 51)  $\mathcal{H}\mathcal{V}\mathcal{R}\mathcal{I}\mathcal{B}\mathcal{V}\mathcal{S}$   
† (fig. 51)  $\mathcal{V}\mathcal{I}\mathcal{V}\mathcal{E}\mathcal{N}\mathcal{T}\mathcal{I}\mathcal{V}\mathcal{M}$  † (fig. 51) 1607 (*By Rich. Holdfeld.*) (38 ins.)

On old cage, R.O. I.G. C.W., 1659. But bells rehung therein by G. Day, of Eye, Suffolk, Christmas, 1891. The treble is now cracked. At the death knell 3 × 1 are given on each of the three lighter bells, commencing with the third for a M, A, N.

Similarly, but  $5 \times 1$  for a w, o, m, a, n, before the knell. Gleaning Bell, formerly. On Sundays three bells are sounded at 8 a.m. For divine service all four are raised half an hour previously, and rung for fifteen minutes. After this the first three are chimed for ten minutes, with the tenor "rung in" behind. Finally, the treble "tolls in" for five minutes. Bells now (1898) chimed with an apparatus, and second "tolls in." Messrs. White and Cocks (Cox)'s names occur in register. A fund was inaugurated by Rev. A. A. Toms (late rector) for recasting the treble. All thanks to (late) Rev. J. Stewart, rector.

87. *SWINESHEAD.* S. Nicholas. 5 bells.

1. 1629 (*and three fleur-de-lys, fig. 51.*) (20½ ins.)

2. 1629 (*only.*) (21¾ ins.)

3. 1629 (*and two fleur-de-lys, fig. 51, cracked.*) (23 ins.)

4. **Johannes dier hanc campanam ferit** (*No date; poor, late black letter.*) (25½ ins.)

5. 1629 (*and three fleur-de-lys, fig. 51. 1, 2, 3, 5 by Jas. Keene. 1, 2, 3 all sharpened by turning off the rim, and hung above 4 and 5.*) (30 ins.)

T. R. E. 1552. Remaining at "Swainshed Itm̄ iij belles in the steaple on handebell and on Sacſing bell"

Gleaning Bell (fourth) at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. during harvest. At the death knell, rung generally an hour after death,  $3 \times 1$  are given on each bell, beginning with the tenor, upwards, for a male, and  $3 \times 1$  on each bell, beginning with the treble, downwards, for a female, before the knell, which is then rung for thirty minutes. On two occasions, in the memory of the present clerk, there has been chiming at funerals at the request, previously expressed, of the deceased. Ordinarily the tenor is tolled for five minutes an hour before the funeral ceremony, to call the bearers together; and then for fifteen minutes before the time fixed for the funeral. On Sundays the second bell is rung at 7 a.m. for eight or ten minutes. For divine service the tenor is rung for a quarter of an hour, thirty minutes before service begins; after which the bells are chimed for the remainder of the time. If there be no service in the morning, but only in the afternoon or evening, the bell otherwise rung at 7 a.m. would be rung at 12 noon. Peals at weddings, if paid for. The fourth bell was rung for Vestry meetings when held in the church vestry; now being held in the school, no bell is rung to announce them. Best thanks to (late) Rev. H. Matthews, rector.

## 88. THURNING. S. James.

2 bells.

1. (Fig. 2) ✠ (fig. 1) + DEI GENITRIX VIRGO MARIÆ  
 ORÆ PRO (Cracked, unhung, lying in church.) (22½ ins.)

2. G F. A B. E D. C B + (? fig. 57) (Four pairs of letters  
 and an undistinguishable stamp. Probably pre-Reformation, and, as I believe, from  
 Leicester Foundry. These letters are not certain, being corroded.) (24½ ins.)

T. R. E. Indenture dated May 3. 7 Edward VI. between the King's Commrs and the  
 Churchwardens:—assigned to them ij greate belles wt a sauns bell beinge in  
 the Churche of T———— (Endorsed) "Thirnyng."

The larger bell is in one opening of a double bell-cote, or small spire, easily  
 accessible from roof of the church. It used to grate so heavily against the central  
 division of the cote, as to have worn a deep line in the stone; the other bell,  
 of exceptional interest, and "twin-sister" to that at Sawtry, has gone to  
 Loughborough for recasting.



Fig. 57.

At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, 3 × 1 indicate a  
 man and 2 × 1 a woman, *before* the knell, which is tolled in strokes fifteen seconds  
 apart; and, finally, *the age of the person* is tolled rather more quickly. A minute  
 bell at funerals. On Sundays the bell is sounded for five minutes half an hour  
 before service begins, and again for the five minutes immediately preceding it.  
 "Before Holy Communion the bell is rung thirty-three strokes, thrice repeated at  
 short intervals, being our Blessed Lord's age at His death; an innovation introduced  
 by the present rector to distinguish the call to this service from that to other services.  
 As the age of a person who dies is indicated (in Thurning) as above, it seemed  
 good, at the memorial of *our Saviour's* death, to ring out His age three times over.  
 An idea which has commended itself to many who have heard it." The bell after  
 publication of banns was stopped by the present rector on his arrival in 1884, for  
 reasons which seemed to him sufficient. Many thanks to Rev. J. Carter Browne,  
 D.D. (late) rector.

89. *TOSELAND.* S. James. 1 bell.

THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1840 (18½ ins.)

(For such uses as remained, see under the Paxtons)

All thanks to Rev. E. Giles (late) vicar.

90. *UPTON.* S. Margaret. 2 bells.

1. W: WALTON RECTOR ME JUBET ALTESONARE  
1778 (28 ins.)






2. + (fig. 58) ∞ GOD ∞ SAVE ∞ THE ∞ KING ∞ 1671 ∞ (30 ins.)  
(Treble by Arnold: second by Norris. Lettering and scrolling very faint on treble.)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "Upptowne Itm ij belles in the steaple and a sauntus  
bett and ij handebelles."

Bells rehung in recent years. A tablet at base of tower to William Walton, M.D., this rector, who died 1789, *ætat.* 80. The Pancake Bell (tenor) is rung at twelve o'clock on Shrove Tuesday by the clerk; till recently it was rung by the clergyman. At the death knell, rung about an hour after death, or as soon as possible after notice given, three tellers indicate a man, five tellers a woman, and knell is rung for forty minutes. For a child five tellers, and knell rung for thirty minutes. The bell is tolled at the funeral. On Sundays a bell is rung at 8 a.m. For divine service the tenor is rung for ten minutes, then both are chimed for ten minutes; "toll in" a few strokes on single bell. Both are rung for a minute or two after morning service. Banns' peal abolished. "Peals" at weddings. Bell rung for Vestry meetings. Best thanks to Rev. W. E. Allfree (late) rector.

91. *UPIWOOD.* S. Peter. 3 bells.

1. ∘ JOHN ∘ GREGORY ∘ THOMAS ∘ CHARTER ∘  
CHURCHWARD ∘ 1709 (27 ins.)

2. □ (fig. 68)  (*Leicester crown*) R  (fig. 34) PƏNƏTƏNTƏ  (fig. 34)  
HARTƏ  (fig. 34) IS  (fig. 34) GOODƏ (*Lombardic letters; all E's  
reversed.*) (31 ins.)

3. + (fig. 58) VOV: SOZO: JLVJHVS: MOR-  
VORVM: SED: JLVRIVS: VIVEZTIVM: 1615  
(On second line:) BERNARDUS WELLS JRMIGER (34 ins.)

(Treble by ?; second by Newcome; third by Norris. See p. 18.)

T. R. E. 1549. "Uppwodde Soldby, . . . Itm and theyr myddell Bell for vij<sup>z</sup>."



The bells were rehung when the tower was rebuilt, 1890. But the tenor sounds very "panny," and ought to have been "quarter-turned." At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, on the treble for a child, second for young people, and tenor for adults,  $3 \times 1$  indicate a male and  $5 \times 1$  a female. A bell is tolled at the funeral. On Sundays a bell is rung at 8 a.m. The bells are chimed for divine service. The Pancake Bell was discontinued a few years ago. Bell for Vestry meetings. *Ringing* was stopped by the vicar since the tower was rebuilt, probably in order to allow it to settle firmly together before *ringing* is commenced again. The Cromwells lived at Upwood Hall, so that the tradition that the tenor came from Great Raveley Church (destroyed) is probably untrue. I have also been gravely informed that the crosses on the second bell, used *passim* by Newcome, are the arms of the Moigne family, formerly connected with Sawtry! Meanwhile, another absurd tradition says that the bell of Great Raveley Church, being conveyed in a boat, presumably for repairs of some sort, fell overboard, and is now at the bottom of Whittlesey Mere. But, on the draining of the Mere in 1860, I am not aware that the bell was discovered. Thanks for "uses," *not* "traditions," to Rev. J. F. Cooksey, vicar.

92. *WARBOYS.* S. Mary Magdalen. 5 bells.

1. CVM VOCO UENITE ○ (*Coin*) JOSEPH EAYRE FECIT  
1765 (*Cannons gone.*) (29 ins.)
2. OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI . JOSEPH EAYRE  
S† NEOTS FECIT 1765 (29 ins.)
3. EDWARD DRING AND OLIVER HILLS CHURCHWARDENS  
JOSEPH EAYRE S† NEOTS FECIT 1765 (32 ins.)
4. (*Name excised*) CHURCHWARDEN ○ (*Coin*) JOSEPH EAYRE  
FECIT 1765. (33½ ins.)
5. ALLEN COWPER RECTOR EDWAR DRING AND OLIVER  
HILLS CHURCHWARDENS 1765  
(*And on the rim.:*) EGO SVM VOX CLAMANTIS (*with scrolling on  
either side.*) (38½ ins.)

(*Fourth and fifth have ornamented cannons. Treble and fourth are maiden bells. Second, third, and fifth tuned by turning off the rim.*)

The Rev. W. M. Noble tells me that Leonard Poulter, of Warboys, yeoman, left  $\frac{3}{4}$  to the churchwardens of Warboys towards the mending of the bells. His will was proved October 10th, 1589, and is now at Peterborough. There is a place for a sixth bell (a treble) in the cage. A story goes that the original bells came from abroad, and one was lost in transit over the sea (see below). The Rev. Allen Cowper died 4th March, 1772, and has a stone in the chancel, near the door.

At the death knell, rung an hour after death,  $3 \times 1$  and  $2 \times 1$  denote a man and a woman respectively. For children a smaller bell is used, without tellers. For divine service all five are chimed, and treble "rings in" for five minutes. The treble is rung after morning service (originally, doubtless, to announce an afternoon service). The Pancake Bell is rung on Shrove Tuesday. Peals on Easter and Whitsun Days, from 7 to 8 a.m.

The Rev. C. G. Hill, on becoming rector, found various parish papers, mutilated and uncared-for, lying in a chest. He has taken all possible measures for their preservation ("O si sic omnes"! ) Amongst others is the following, relative to the recasting in 1765 (the paper is torn in one or two places):—

|   |            |     |     |     |                                     |
|---|------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|
| To new . . . . bells painted  | ...        | ... | ... | ... | £30 . 0                             |
| To 10 screw bolts for the frames  | ...        | ... | ... | ... | 10 = 0                              |
| To 5 sets of hanging materials as stocks wheels Clappers Brasses and<br>all Iron work with screws nuts &c | ...        | ... | ... | ... | 20 = 0 = 0                          |
| To an Eight-day clock and a Dial Plate  | ...        | ... | ... | ... | 10 = 0 = 0                          |
| To 5 New Bell Ropes   | ...        | ... | ... | ... | — 16 = 6                            |
|   |            |     |     |     | <hr/>                               |
|   |            |     |     |     | 135 = 19 = $4\frac{1}{2}$           |
| Sept 10. 1765 Recd on account   | ...        | ... | ... | ... | 70 = 0 = 0                          |
|   |            |     |     |     | 70 = 0 = 0                          |
| Aug. 23. 1766 Recd on account   | 30 = 0 = 0 |     |     |     | 65 = 19 = $4\frac{1}{2}$            |
| March 24. 1765 Recd thirty five pounds nineteen shillings and four-<br>pence in full of all demands       | ...        | ... | ... | ... | 35 = 19 = $4\frac{1}{2}$            |
|   |            |     |     |     | <hr/>                               |
|   |            |     |     |     | J. EAYRE. 135 = 19 = $4\frac{1}{2}$ |
|   |            |     |     |     | <hr/>                               |

(Paper torn.)

|                          |     |     |     |     |     |              |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| The old Bells casting    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43 . 1 . 0   |
| New Mettle               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 . 2 . 8   |
| The Frame                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 . 0 . 0   |
| Wheels Yokes &c          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 . 0 . 0   |
| Clock                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 . 0 . 0   |
| Carpenters work and wood | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 . 0 . 0    |
| Brick 300                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 . 6        |
| Line                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 . 0 . 0    |
| Do—work                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 . 15 . 0   |
| Do. Beer                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 . 0        |
|                          |     |     |     |     |     | 3 . 3 . 0    |
|                          |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/>        |
|                          |     |     |     |     |     | 121 . 12 . 2 |

Very best thanks to (late) Rev. C. G. Hill, rector and R.D.

93. *WARESLEY*. S. Andrew (or S. James.) 3 bells.
1. TAYLOR FOUNDER LOBORO 1857 (34 ins.)
  2. TAYLOR FOUNDER LOBORO A.D. 1857 (37 ins.)
  3. TAYLOR FOUNDER LOBORO LATE OF ST NEOTS 1857 (*Hung in iron frames.*) (38½ ins.)

Formerly only one bell, taken away by contractor, 1857, when these new ones were provided, and church rebuilt on a new site, by Mr. Thompson, of Peterborough, who, though kindly informing me as to the Sawtry Bells, see above, writes to say he has no recollection as to what was done with this bell:—

“The old church, removed in 1856, was built in 1728, in humble imitation of the Chapel at Pembroke College, Cambridge, the Patrons of the living. The bell was small, without wheel. It was always rung at the end of morning service: *why*, none seemed to know; some older people thought it to be an “oven bell,” though that was not the expression they used: others thought it a notice of afternoon *service*: others, again, of an afternoon *sermon*. It was also rung for Vestry meetings: not in my memory for Gleaning Bell.”—*Letter to me from Rev. W. M. H. Elwyn, late vicar, to whom very many thanks.*

The fact of there only having been *one* bell at the old church has somewhat militated against old customs.

At the death knell, rung about an hour after death, 3 × 3 are given for a man, 3 × 2 for a woman, 3 × 1 for a child; and the bell is tolled at the funeral. On Sundays a bell is rung for five minutes at 8 a.m. For divine service the bells are rung for ten minutes, then chimed for the remaining five. All thanks to Rev. C. G. Wilkinson, vicar.

94. *WATER NEWTON*. S. Remigius. 3 bells.
1. (See p. 4.) + AVE : GRI : PLENA : DNS : TECUM (29½ ins.)
  2. 166Γ (*Cracked. By Norris.*) (31½ ins.)
  3. **Sancta Maria ora pro nobis** + (fig. 17) (*Large letters.*) (36½ ins.)

See p. 9. At the death knell 3 × 3 are given for a man 3 × 2 for a woman. For divine service the bells are chimed. The 8 a.m. bell on Sundays has been restored by the rector, if no celebration at 8.30 a.m. “Peals” discouraged, as No. 2 is useless.—“Cætera silent.” All thanks to rector, Rev. H. G. Woodhouse.

|     |                          |   |                    |
|-----|--------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 95. | <i>WINWICK.</i>          | All Saints.                             | 5 bells.           |
| 1.  |                          | 1716 ( <i>Probably by Penn.</i> )       | (28 ins.)          |
| 2.  | J: EAYRE FECIT           | 1756 THOMAS WADE                        | CHURCH-<br>WARDEN. |
|     |                          |   | (27½ ins.)         |
| 3.  | + (fig. 34)              | PREAES (fig. 36) † GOD (fig. 36) † ONLY | (30 ins.)          |
| 4.  | ∩ (fig. 35) + (fig. 34)  | S KATERI ( <i>N A omitted.</i> )        | (32¼ ins.)         |
| 5.  | J: TAYLOR & CO: FOUNDERS | LOUGH-<br>BOROUGH 1864                  | (35¾ ins.)         |

(*The second has been much sharpened by turning off the rim, and the tenor, cast without cannons, is hung by a circular boss on the crown, secured by clamps to the headstock.*)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "Winwicke Itm̄ iij belles. Itm̄ ij handebells."

See p. 18. There are very good ringers here, and the bells are a very tuneful little ring; they were rehung by Taylors at the restoration in 1864. Gleaning Bell, formerly. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, 3 × 1 are given on each bell, beginning with the tenor, *then* on first, second, third, and fourth for a male; and 3 × 1 on treble, second, third, fourth, and lastly tenor for a woman. The church's canon (No. 67) is duly observed, and a bell chimed after the funeral. If desired, all five are chimed as the body is brought to the church, ceasing when the gate is reached; this has been done two or three times since present vicar came in 1863. On Sundays at 8 a.m. the treble is "raised" and rung for a few minutes, then second and third also, if ringers can be found. For divine service all five are chimed for a quarter of an hour, at thirty minutes before service; then the tenor is "raised" and rung for ten minutes; finally, the treble chimes the remaining five minutes. The bells are sometimes rung in a "spur peal," *i.e.*, "speer peal," after first publication of banns of marriage. Peals for weddings, if paid for; peals at principal festivals. Very best thanks to (late) Rev. R. Rowden, vicar.

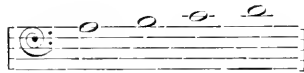
|     |   |                                    |            |
|-----|---|------------------------------------|------------|
| 96. | <i>WISTOW.</i>                              | S. John Baptist.                   | 4 bells.   |
| 1.  | LET EVERY THING THAT HATH BREATH PRAISE THE | LORD 1756 JOS. EAYRE FECIT         | (27 ins.)  |
| 2.  | □ (fig. 61)                                 | THOMAS NORRIS MADE ME 1642         | (29 ins.)  |
| 3.  |   | M G I M 1678 ( <i>By Norris.</i> ) | (34 ins.)  |
| 4.  | NON CLAMOR SED AMOR CANTAT IN AVRE DEI      | 1628 ( <i>By W. Haulsey.</i> )     | (36½ ins.) |

(*John Margets, ob 1684, Math. Gosline, and Isaac Michell or James Mitchell, may be signified on third bell.*)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "Wistowe Itm̄ ij handebelles iij belles in the steaple and oñ Sauntus bell."

These bells need rehanging badly, especially the tenor, the cage of which is falling apart, and making it very difficult, not to say dangerous, to ring. But old customs, happily, are well kept up. The Pancake Bell (second) is rung at noon on Shrove Tuesday. The Gleaning Bell (treble) about thirty years ago.

At the death knell, on the tenor for adults and treble for children,  $3 \times 3$  are given for a male and  $2 \times 3$  for a female. A bell is tolled at the funeral. On Sundays, at 8 a.m., the treble is rung. For divine service all four are chimed for twenty minutes or more, and treble "rings in." The second is rung after morning service. Peals at Christmas and New Year's Eves. Also at first publication of banns, and after weddings occasionally; *and also on the following morning (very early, i.e.), on the "breaking up of the ball."* A bell for Vestry meetings; and the tenor is rung as a "Fire-Bell." Peals have been discontinued lately at festivals and anniversaries, but *not* on November 5th, when peals are rung "loud enough to call up poor Guy." The bells are as nearly as possible in the following notes, according to Captain Thatcher, who adds, "if the C were C $\sharp$ , they would not sound perhaps so melancholy as they do." Many thanks to Rev. W. S. Page, sometime curate.



97. *WOOD HURST.* All Saints, or, S. John Baptist.

1 bell.

HEE THAT WILL BE MERI LET HIM BE MERI IN THE LORD 1624 (*By W. Haulsey, in his small type.*) (26 $\frac{3}{4}$  ins.)

(Pits for three). Till 1889 there were two other bells, which had been broken and unhung since 1871. They were sold to Messrs. Taylor, and, weighing 8 cwt, realised £25, which sum was devoted to the repairs and warming of the church. (The lightest was by W. Haulsey). They were as follows:—

(*Old second* :)  $\text{H}$  (fig. 50) W GOVVE I CHRISTMAS CHVRCH-  
WARDENS 1621 (28 ins.)

(*Old third* :) IOHN  $\diamond$  CHRISTMVS WILILAM BVLL C  $\diamond$  NEWMAN  
MADE MEE 1695 (*The words underlined in smaller type.*) (30 ins.)

At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, but not after sunset, there are "no tellers now." The bell is chimed for fifteen minutes before the funeral. For divine service it is chimed three separate times during the previous half-hour. A few strokes are given at a wedding; and, formerly, when all three were hung (though two were cracked), "peals" were rung on Christmas and New Year's Eves. Vestry Bell, formerly. Old Hurst and Wood Hurst are two chapelries attached to St. Ives. It is hardly worth serious mention that the Old Hurst folks, presumably on their *antiquity*, say the Wood Hurst bells came from Old Hurst. But the respective turrets prove the absurdity of the tale; and *Old* Hurst really means *Wold* Hurst. So a village is called Old or Wold near Northampton. Very many thanks to Rev. L. A. Pollock, late curate in charge of the Hursts.

98. *WOODSTONE*. S. Augustine. 3 bells.

1. † (*A plain cross*) OMNIA : FIANT : AD : GLORIAM : DEI : 1608  
(*Lombardics, probably by R. Holdfeld.*) (25 ins.)
2. GRATA SIT ARGUTA RESONANS CAMPANULA VOCE J.  
EAYRE ST NEOTS 1749 : (27 ins.)
3. † (fig. 58) IOHAN̄NES CLEMENT\* RECTOR PETRVS CHV̄IE  
CHWA 1636 (*By Norris. A coin impressed on either side of the sound-bow,  
above where the clapper strikes.*) (29 ins.)

This tower supersedes the old one, alleged to be *unsafe*, but requiring gunpowder, as at Stibbington, in the end, for its destruction! Meanwhile, the bells have not been rung for about thirty years owing to alleged insecurity of the frame, which looks sound enough, however. Gleaning Bell, formerly. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, 3 × 1 are given for a man, 5 × 1 for a woman, 4 × 1 for a girl. For divine service the bells, I suppose, are chimed. All thanks to Canon Tompson (late) rector and R.D.

99. *WOOD WALTON*. S. Andrew. 4 bells.

1. W̄M MACKNESS CHURCHWARDEN ∴ HUGH PALMER  
MINISTER (*Ornamented cannons; sharpened by turning off the rim*) (27 ins.)
  2. 1841 { (*Both by Mears, I believe.*) (27½ ins.)
  3. 1841 } (28½ ins.)
  4. J: EAYRE FECIT 1764 : HUGH PALMER MINISTER W̄M  
MACKNISS CHURCHWARDEN. (*Ornamented cannons.*) (31½ ins.)
- T. R. E. 1549 "Woddwatton Stohn out of the Church . . . . ij handbells."

\* According to Mr. Sweeting's *Churches round Peterborough*, he died 1653.

The Rev. Hugh Palmer was rector and patron, I believe, from 1760 to 1777. Mackness is also a frequent name in the Registers. The bells are in fair order, having been rehung 1860, on the rebuilding of the tower, etc., by Eaton of Tichmarsh. Though very light, the tenor is a beautiful bell, sweet and musical: the treble is also a good one. I can gain no particulars whatever from the oldest inhabitants as to the bells recast in 1841; one of which, the third, is of very poor tone.

At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, 3 × 3 for a man, 3 × 2 for a woman, and 3 × 1 for a child are given, before and after the knell. The tenor is chimed fifteen minutes before the funeral. For divine service the tenor is raised, and rung first in alternate stokes; and, later, "stock-height," after the others, as they are chiming. The tenor "rings in" for five minutes. Ringing is practised before Christmas, and peals rung on Christmas Eve, etc. The church being away from the village, all old customs have been rather hindered thereby, and no day or other bells have survived. The Rev. H. M. Stowers, however (my predecessor), for some years instituted a Gleaning Bell.

100. *WOLLEY.* S. Mary. 1 bell.

† (fig. 58) **THOMAS NORRIS MADE ME 1634** (*His usual scrolling between the words.*) (30 ins.)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at "Wolley Itm̄ iij belles in the steaple and the Sauntus Bell Itm̄ oñ littell bell in the Chauncell."

The pits for the other two bells remain. Old people in the village speak of a bell going away to be recast, but the new one never came. The Terrier has the following:—"One bell diameter 2 feet 6 inches made by Thomas Norris in the year 1634." At the death knell 3 × 1 indicate a man and 2 × 1 a woman, and the age of the deceased is given afterwards. The bell is in good order; and new dooring has recently been placed in the tower. Best thanks to Rev. John Whitaker, rector.

101. *WYTON.* All Saints. 3 bells.

1. **THOMAS NEWMAN MADE MEE 1705** (26½ ins.)

2. † (fig. 48) **SVN ROSA ❖ (fig. 51) PVLISHOJA ❖ (fig. 51)**  
**MVQDE (fig. 51) ❖ MARIJA (fig. 51) ❖ ❖ VOCHJA**  
**❖ (fig. 51) RICHARDVS BOLDFIELD ME FECIT**  
 1612 (28½ ins.)

3. **LET ALL MEN PRAIES THE LORD FOR HIS GOODNES(S)**  
**1626** (*By W. Haulsey.*) (32½ ins.)

T. R. E. 1552 Remaining at the "Chappell of Witton Itm̄ iij belles in the steaple."

Another (duplicate) entry has :—

ij handbells, ij Sacringe Belles.

The old tower was demolished in 1866 and a new one built, which, it is said, is too small to allow of the bells being “rung.” They are accordingly packed, immoveably, as closely as possible together, and are very difficult to inspect on all sides, much more to “rub.” They are, all three, “clappered”; with a little re-arrangement, however, the tenor might be swung.

At the death knell, sounded as soon as possible after notice given, and for half an hour, *no* “tellers” are in use. The bell is sounded for about ten minutes before the funeral. For divine service the bells are “chimed,” as above, for twenty-five minutes, and the treble alone for the last five minutes. All three are sounded after weddings; as also one bell for vestry meetings.

The Parish Register has the following :—

June 1st 1705 Witton Little Bell was cast at Hadnam (Haddenham Cambs) and weighed 337 pds.

In the Churchwardens’ Accounts, middle of the last century, are numerous entries, such as :—

|  | £  | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| 1760 April 10 pad. Mr Bradshaw (the clerk) for ringing Bear ... .. | 10 | 0  |    |

In 1810 the ringing beer cost £1. In the wardens’ accounts an item for *five* bell-ropes occurs several times, *e.g.* :—

|      |                           |     |     |     |     |     |     |            |
|------|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| 1768 | Five Bell ropes           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £1 . 1 . 0 |
| 1778 | Five Bell ropes           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £1 . 1 . 0 |
| 1826 | Paid Robb for 5 bellropes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £1 . 5 . 0 |

(Robb’s descendants are still ropemakers at St. Ive’s.) These entries are perhaps explained by the fact that Houghton (five bells) and Wyton were, till lately, one benefice, and Wyton has a Wardens’ Account Book, which Houghton has *not*, and the items, therefore, were for Houghton. Many thanks to the Rev. Joseph Harrison, vicar.

102. YAXLEY. S. Peter. 6 bells.

1. J: TAYLOR & CO. FOUNDERS LOUGH-  
BOROUGH 1881

(2nd line:) PRAISE GOD IN HIS SANCTUARY

(3rd line:) THIS BELL WAS ADDED TO THE  
RING A.D. 1881



(4th line :) JOHN AND SARAH NICKOLLS BENE-  
FACTORS

(5th line :) FRED: J. MOULE M.A. VICAR (30 ins.)

2. J: TAYLOR & CO. FOUNDERS LOUGH-  
BOROUGH 1881

(2nd line :) HAEC EST DOMUS DEI ET AULA CÆLI

(3rd line :) JONATH. STYLES VICAR 1721

(4th line :) THIS BELL WAS RECAST A.D. 1881

(5th line :) JOHN NICKOLLS BENEFACTOR (32 ins.)

3. **DOMUS MEA EST DOMUS ORATIONIS 1721** (34½ ins.)

4. **GLORIA DEO EXCELSIS 1721** (37 ins.)

5. J: TAYLOR & CO. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGH-  
BOROUGH 1881

(2nd line :) HEN: CLINTON COMES LINCOLNIENSIS  
BENEFACTOR

(3rd line :) JOHN CHILD SIMON BROWN CHURCH-  
WARDENS

(4th line :) HEN. PENN FOUNDER 1721

(5th line :) THIS BELL WAS RECAST . A.D. 1881

(6th line :) JOHN NICKOLLS BENEFACTOR

(7th line :) J. TURNER J. W. MOORE CHURCH-  
WARDENS (38½ ins.)

6. **MEMENTO . MORI . JOH . PROBY . ARMIGER .  
MANERII DOMINUS BENEFACTOR 1721** (9 coins.) (44 ins.)

T. R. E. 1519 "Also declared that Mr. Gomme did take ij belles out of the Church  
for my ladie Elisabethes grace of the w<sup>ch</sup> her grace hath given oñ to the pish to  
ryng at aunye casualties of fyer."\*

\* These two bells belonged to the original ring of four, which were hung probably  
when the steeple was built, about 1480. The old cage, which was neatly renewed in  
1881, was evidently constructed for four bells—recast into five by Penn, 1721.

The old treble and fourth were recast in 1881, and a new treble added to complete the ring of six. The two old bells were thus inscribed:—"HEN . CLINTON . COMES LINCOLNIENSIS . BENEFACITOR . JOHN CHILD SIMON BROWN : CHURCHWARDENS : HENRYCUS . PENN . FUSORE . 1721." And "HÆC EST DOMUS DEI ET AULACÆLI . JONATH . STYLES . VIC . 1721."

The treble was formerly rung at 4 a.m. till broken *c.* 1820, probably as a "Call Bell" for labourers, as shewn by old Churchwardens' Account-book—"Paid for ringing the four o'clock Bell," etc.

At the death knell (for the last twenty years), rung as soon as possible after notice given, on the tenor for adults and fourth for children,  $3 \times 3$  have been given for a man,  $3 \times 2$  for a woman,  $2 \times 3$  for boy under fifteen, and  $2 \times 2$  for a girl aged similarly, both before and after the knell; the previous custom having been to give  $3 \times 1$  or  $2 \times 1$ , according to sex and irrespective of age. Only once during (about) the last twenty years have the bells been chimed at a funeral by special request. Muffled or "half" muffled peals are rung before and after the funeral of a ringer or church officer. Otherwise, the tenor is "knolled" for half an hour before the funeral, "slackening the rope every alternate stroke, so as to strike in slow time."

On Sundays, at 8 a.m., the third bell is *rung* for five minutes, and the day of the month is sounded after this peal. For divine service the bells are chimed for twenty-five minutes; the treble is then "rung up" for the last five minutes of the half hour. On Christmas, Easter, and Whitsun Days, an early peal is rung on all the bells from 7.30 to 8 a.m., and on those days the bells are rung instead of chimed for service. On New Year's Eve a "half" muffled peal is rung from 11 to 11.30 p.m., when the midnight service commences; at 12 o'clock *twelve* strokes are sounded on the tenor, and then an "open" peal is rung till 12.30. Peals at weddings, when desired; and at intervals during the day. Third bell for Vestry meetings. Ringing practice during the winter months, usually once a week. Very kindly communicated by H. L. Hutton, Esq., M.A., of New Coll., Oxford, *ex inform.* Rev. F. J. Moule (late) vicar, to whom thanks.

- |      |  |             |            |
|------|--|-------------|------------|
| 103. | <i>YELLING.</i>  | Holy Cross. | 4 bells.   |
| 1.   | CHRISTOPHER GRAYE MADE ME 1666   |             | (27½ ins.) |
| 2.   | <i>(Same as No. 1.)</i>  |             | (28 ins.)  |
| 3.   | JOSEPH EAYRE ST NEOTS FECIT 1770 THOMAS RAYSTON<br>CHURCHWARDEN  |             | (32½ ins.) |
| 4.   | I: EAYRE ST NEOTS FOUNDER OMNIA FIANT AD<br>GLORIAM DEI JOHN GODHARD CHURCHWARDEN 1739.<br><i>(One of his <u>first</u> and one of his <u>last</u> castings, side by side.)</i> |             | (34½ ins.) |

Good old frame. Bell-chamber very clean and free from birds. At the death knell, rung as soon as possible after notice given, the *second* bell is used. At funerals the bell is tolled half an hour before the ceremony commences. On Sundays, when there is service at 11 a.m., the tenor is rung at 8 a.m. If service, by any chance, be only in the afternoon or evening, it would be rung at 12 o'clock, in notice thereof. For divine service the bells are chimed for a previous half hour. "Ring in" five minutes on the second. Practising generally once a week in the weeks before Christmas, if ringers are available. Peals on New Year's Eve. Gleaning Bell, formerly. All thanks to (late) Rev. W. H. Burville, rector.

**"Christus perpetue det nobis gaudia Vita."**

*(Old bell at Cuxton, Kent.)*

END OF PART III.



# APPENDIX.

## LIST OF BELLS CAST BY WILLIAM HAULSEY OF ST. IVE'S, HUNTS.

|          |  |                               |       |
|----------|--|-------------------------------|-------|
| Hunts.   | Stanground.  | Second bell.                  | 1617. |
|          | Fenstanton.  | Fourth bell.                  | 1620. |
|          | Offord Darcy.  | Tenor.                        | 1620. |
|          | Great Stukeley.  | Treble.                       | 1622. |
|          | Broughton.   | Treble.                       | 1624. |
|          | Wood Hurst.  | Bell.                         | 1624. |
|          | (And old second, now gone, being broken and sold, 1621.) |                               |       |
|          | Holywell.  | All four.                     | 1625. |
|          | Wyton.   | Tenor.                        | 1626. |
|          | Houghton.  | Second, third, fourth, tenor. | 1626. |
| Buckden. | Tenor.   | 1627.                         |       |
| Wistow.  | Tenor.   | 1628.                         |       |
| Beds.    | Dunton.  | Old tenor, recast 1887.       | 1621. |
|          | Edworth.   | Treble.                       | 1623. |
|          | Shillington.   | Fourth, tenor.                | 1624. |
|          | Tillbrook.   | Tenor.                        | 1625. |
|          | Melchbourne.   | Third bell.                   | 1626. |
|          | Little Staughton.  | Second.                       | 1628. |
| Cams.    | Little Abington.   | Bell.                         | 1620. |
|          | Guilden Morden.  | Tenor.                        | 1621. |
|          | Milton.  | Tenor.                        | 1621. |
|          | Shudy Camps.   | Fourth.                       | 1621. |
|          | Fen Ditton.  | Treble (formerly all five).   | 1623. |

|                     |                       |                   |       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Cambs.              | Shepreth.             | Second and tenor. | 1623. |
| ( <i>contd.</i> )   | Cambridge, S. Edward. | Tenor.            | 1623. |
|                     | Graveley.             | All four.         | 1624. |
|                     | Croxton.              | Tenor.            | 1624. |
|                     | Elsworth.             | Treble.           | 1628. |
| <i>And probably</i> | Christ's College.     | Hall bell.        | 1628. |
|                     | S. Giles', Cambridge. | Bell.             | 1629. |
| Northampts.         | Cranford S. Andrew    | Second and tenor. | 1624. |

The following relates to two destroyed churches :—

1. Needingworthe :—  
T. R. E. 1552. Indenture dated July 18. Itm̄. ij small belles.
2. Copmanforde :—  
July 15. Itm̄. in the Steople ij belles and oñ handebell.

# INDEX.

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N.B.—The parishes being arranged alphabetically, with their respective inscriptions, and references being given, where necessary, under each, to the pages on which I allude thereto in Part I., a fuller index is not requisite. The names that follow are accordingly those of the founders who supplied bells to the various churches in this county.

|                                 | PAGE |
|---------------------------------|------|
| ARNOLD, EDWARD ... ..           | 44   |
| BAGLEY, HENRY ... ..            | 37   |
| BULLISDON, THOMAS ... ..        | 15   |
| CHANDLER, RICHARD (III.) ... .. | 37   |
| CULVERDEN, WILLIAM ... ..       | 14   |
| DANYELL, JOHN ... ..            | 12   |
| DAWE, WILLIAM (FFOUNDER) ... .. | 6    |
| DOBSON, WILLIAM ... ..          | 47   |
| DRAPER, JOHN ... ..             | 34   |
| DYER, JOHN ... ..               | 22   |
| EAYRE, THOMAS ... ..            | 39   |
| EAYRE, JOSEPH ... ..            | 42   |
| ELDRIDGE, BRYAN ... ..          | 36   |
| ELDRIDGE, WILLIAM ... ..        | 36   |
| GRAYE, CHRISTOPHER ... ..       | 35   |
| GRAYE, MILES (I.) ... ..        | 34   |
| GRAYE, MILES (II.) ... ..       | 35   |
| GRENI, JOHN ... ..              | 21   |
| HAULSEY, WILLIAM ... ..         | 25   |
| HOLDFELD, RICHARD ... ..        | 24   |
| JORDAN, HENRY ... ..            | 13   |

|                                       | PAGE |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| KEENE, JAMES ... ..                   | 32   |
| LANDON, ROGER ... ..                  | 10   |
| MEARS, MESSRS. ... ..                 | 47   |
| MICHELL, JOHN ... ..                  | 10   |
| NEWCOMBE, EDWARD ... ..               | 18   |
| NEWMAN, CHARLES ... ..                | 36   |
| NEWMAN, THOMAS ... ..                 | 36   |
| NORRIS, TOBIAS (I., II., III.) ... .. | 29   |
| NORRIS, THOMAS ... ..                 | 31   |
| O. R. ... ..                          | 16   |
| OLDFIELD, ROBERT ... ..               | 16   |
| OSBORNE, THOMAS ... ..                | 47   |
| PENN, HENRY ... ..                    | 40   |
| ROFFORD, JOHN ... ..                  | 5    |
| RUSSELL, THOMAS ... ..                | 38   |
| STANLEY, W. P. ... ..                 | 42   |
| TAYLOR, ROBERT ... ..                 | 45   |
| TAYLOR, MESSRS. ... ..                | 46   |
| WALGRAVE, JOHN ... ..                 | 11   |
| WARNER, JOHN ... ..                   | 47   |
| WATTS, MESSRS. ... ..                 | 18   |





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