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Miscellaneous Notes On Gloucestershire Bells

by H. B. Walters
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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON GLOUCESTERSHIRE BELLS.

By H. B. WALTERS, M.A., F.S.A.

THE following notes are supplementary to my previous papers in Vols. XVIII. and XX. of these *Transactions*, and represent such additional information as I have been able to collect during the past twenty years, bringing Ellacombe's work up to date. They are partly the result of individual researches among the bells, in which I have to acknowledge the co-operation of my friend the Rev. J. T. Evans, of Stow-on-the-Wold, and partly derived from printed and MS. sources. It will be noticed that I have been able to unearth some half-dozen mediaeval bells, all of considerable interest, which are not mentioned in Ellacombe's book.

The notes are arranged in alphabetical order, under the parishes.

ALDSWORTH.

The initials I.S. on the treble also occur on another bell by R. Hendley; at Aston Ingham, Herefordshire. They may be those of his assistant.

The old sanctus bell, now recast, was inscribed :

**ETERNIS ANNIS RESONET CAMPANA
IOHANNIS (Crown).**

and was probably also by R. Hendley.

AMPNEY, DOWN.

On the 5th bell the letters F.E.G.F. (as reported by Ellacombe) should probably be read as FECIT.

ASTON SOMERVILLE.

The bell is by William Bagley of Chacombe.

BARRINGTON, GREAT.

The inscription on the 3rd bell appears to be :

A RVDHALL CAST VS 1733.

On the 4th the words THIS PARISH (which make nonsense) should presumably be THE CHURCH.

BARRINGTON PARVA.

The treble here is by Henry Neale, the predecessor of Edward Neale of Burford, whose bells are not uncommon in the eastern part of the county. Henry Neale also cast the 2nd at Farmington in 1637. This bell is inscribed in a queer jumble of different-sized letters, with a fleur-de-lys stop at intervals.

There is in existence an agreement dated 1640 between the churchwardens of Nibley, Gloucs. and Henry Neale of Somerford Keynes, co. Wilts., for making five bells for Nibley church (*Hist. MSS. Com.*, V., p. 358). Possibly, therefore, H. Neale's foundry was there, and not at Burford, where Edward certainly worked.

BITTON.









The L.C. whose initials appear on the treble, with a bell between, and date 1694, is Leonard Cockey of Frome, Somerset, the predecessor of William and Edward Cockey, whose bells are common in Wilts. and E. Somerset. He also cast bells for Holt, Wilts., and Clevedon and Charterhouse Hinton, Somerset. His identity has been revealed by the tenor at Frampton, Dorset, which bears the inscription :

ROB BROWNE ESQ^R 1694 ALL 6 CAST BY
L COCKEY.

Dr. Raven in his *Church Bells of Dorset*, p. 17, gives the initial as T, but an inspection of a rubbing has proved this to be an error.

BISHOP'S CLEEVE.








The following is a corrected copy of the inscriptions :

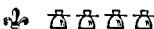
1.  PETER COCKS GENT  THO' BEALL GENT
CHVRCHWARDENS (Vine-pattern above ; *Gloucs.*
fig. 7).
2. PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD A  R 1758 (border
Gloucs. fig. 6).
3. THO^s BARNARD & JOHN TAYLER CH-WARDENS
(*Gloucs.* fig. 4) THO^s: PAINE JAMES COCKS A  R
1740 [Below, vine pattern *Gloucs.* fig. 7 all
round].
4.  WILLIAM TAYLOR CHURCHWARDEN. WILLIAM
TAYLOR FOUNDER, 1854.
5. PROSPERITY TO THIS PARISH 1700 (*Gloucs.* fig. 4)
A  R  [Borders : *Gloucs.* figs. 4 and 7, two bits
of each].
6. THE LIVEING I TO CHVRCH DO CALL & TO THE
GRAVE DO SVMMON ALL : T'H :
Ting-tang. ABRAHAM RVDHALL :  : ANNO
DOM 1695.

1st and 6th probably of same date as 5th, but the 1st is inscribed in a plain thick type, characteristic of Rudhall's earliest bells, and may therefore be previous to the others. The 4th has a leaf-pattern on the cannons. The inscription on the 6th is in larger type.

BLEDINGTON.

The following is a corrected copy of the inscriptions :

1. WE ARE THE BELLS  [71] OF BLEDINTON [border]
 [71] 1639 (borders)  [71].
2.  AND CHARLES HE IS OVR KING (border and fleur
de lys) 1639 (border).
3.  IAMES  [71] KEENE MADE MEE  1651 (words
on separate tablets or logotypes).
4. GOD SAVE KING WILLIAM 1695 (words on separate
tablets or logotypes).

5. [on the sound-bow:—] THO^s STAYT & THOMAS
COOPER CHURCHWARDENS JAMES WELLS ALD-
BOURN FECIT 1811 : 

Ting-tang.[rose] THOMAS AND \approx VS [rose] C [rose] W [rose]
HVMFRE KEENE MADE ME [rose] 1630 [3 reversed].

[Above, border of interlacing fleurs de lys all round].

1st and 2nd by James Keene of Woodstock; 4th by Richard Keene. The fleur-de-lys is *Gloucs.* fig. 71. For Humphry Keene *cf.* Stanton, where he occurs with James in 1640. He also occurs at Sandford St. Martin and Islip, Oxfordshire, and in 1631 we find him at work at Staindrop, Durham (*Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newc.*, iv., p. 249). The 4th is the only instance in my recollection of an inscription referring to King William III. by name; but as James II. is equally ignored, no political inferences need be drawn.

BODDINGTON.

The cross on the 2nd bell is *Gloucs.* 60, not 62. This bell, like others bearing the "Royal Head" stamps, was cast at Worcester about 1410 (see *Archaeol. Journal*, lxiii., p. 187).

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER.

There are now eight bells here, two trebles having been added in 1914, with the following inscription on each :

In cherished memory of Lucy
the beloved and devoted wife of Edward Udal of this parish
fell asleep Jan. 13th, 1909
buried at Leckhampton.
Made by Mears & Stainbank,
dedicated by Archdeacon Sinclair Ap: 22: 1914.

The old 3rd, which was by Abraham Rudhall, dated 1717, was recast in 1910, with the old inscription reproduced, by Mears and Stainbank of London. The 5th (now 7th) bearing date 1650, is by James Keene of Woodstock, whose bells have already been noted at

Bledington. He also occurs at Stanton, Woolstone, and elsewhere.

For Anthony Collett, whose name appears on the old treble (now 3rd), see R. H. Hutton, *By Thames and Cotswold*, p. 167.

BRIMPSFIELD.

On the treble the initials t g occur only once. The 2nd bell was recast by Taylor in 1904; the old bell was of an unknown type, with large flat letters and a floral stop.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL.

The 2nd is by an unknown founder; cf. Westerleigh below.

BRISTOL, ST. MARY REDCLIFFE.

I have mentioned in a previous paper (vol. xxxiv., p. 116) that the 11th and former 12th bells were cast in 1622, but omitted to state that they bore the initials T.S., presumably those of the founder. There are bells with similar initials in Pembroke and Glamorgan, and one in the latter county, at St. Mary Church, has the founder's name in full, Thomas Stone.¹ His place of business was probably Cardiff or Swansea. I have not yet been able to verify the initials at St. Mary Redcliffe, but it would be interesting to know if these two bells came from the other side of the Bristol Channel.

BRISTOL, ST. WERBURGH.

For an illustration of the 3rd bell, see vol. xli., p. 52, fig. 3.

BROADWELL.

The following is a corrected copy of the inscriptions:

1. Blank, with peculiar mouldings round shoulder.

¹ As I am informed by Mr. Arthur Wright.

2. T. BOND BURFORD 1908.

3. HENRY BOND & SONS FOUNDERS

BURFORD
OXFORDSHIRE
1884.

4. WILLIAM GROVES THOMAS ROSE CHURCH WARDEN
H B MADE ME 1734 T. BOND FOUNDER BURFORD
1908.

5. JOHN HALE & IOSEPH ROSE CH-WARDENS 1761
(ornament).

**Sanctus. EDWARD (bell) NEALE : MADE : MEE :
1672:::**

The treble is by John Cor of Aldbourne, Wilts. A similar bell, bearing his name with date 1729, is at Culham, Oxon., and there are others at Ellisfield, Hants.

CHARLTON ABBOTS.

Bells with similar lettering have turned up at Pentyrch, Glamorganshire and Kilpeck, Herefordshire. I am indebted to Mr. Arthur Wright, who is investigating the bells of the former county, for rubbings and casts. All these seem to be from the Gloucester foundry, about 1350.

CHIPPING CAMPDEN.

The original ring, of which five remain, was cast by Richard Keene of Woodstock. The name of Capt. Thos. Keyte and the coat of arms also occur at Wolford, Warwickshire.

CHURCHDOWN.

See under WOOLSTON. A new treble has been lately added.

CLAPTON.

This bell, the inscription on which is not given by Ellacombe, was investigated with some difficulty in 1912

by the Rev. J. T. Evans, rector of Stow-on-the-Wold. The inscription is

HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1742 (scroll).

Henry Bagley was a descendant of the well-known bell-founding family of Chacomb, Northants. He was a roving spirit, and migrated from place to place, but the Clapton bell was probably cast at Witney, Oxon.

COALEY.

Ellacombe gives under this heading a ring of six bells which are really those of Cowley! Instead of giving the Coaley bells under the latter heading he omits the place altogether. I was informed by the vicar some years ago that Coaley has six bells cast by Thomas Mears of London about 1830.

COLN ROGERS.



The 2nd bell is by an unknown founder.

CORSE.

Ellacombe gives only three bells here, but there were originally four, the tenor being by I.B. of Gloucester,¹ dated 1580, as I learn from a rubbing in the British Museum (Ellacombe Collⁿ Add. 33202).

The old four bells were recast by Taylor of Loughborough in 1907, with the inscriptions reproduced, and two trebles were added to make a ring of six. The date on the old 3rd was 1650, not 1680, as given by Ellacombe.

The full inscription on the old tenor was as follows:—

M (bell) **IV**  (rosette) **RV** (rosette) (?) **S** (dog and rosette)
TROS (rosette) **M** (dog) (?) **R** (dog) **T**  **L** ? **O** (rosette)
 (rosette) **1580** (rosette and dog).

A similar bell is at Neen Sollars, Shropshire; the dog,

¹ See for this founder vol. xxxiv., p. 114. There is another of his bells at Llanvetherine, Monmouth.

rosette, and other stamps are given on plate IV. of my *Church Bells of Shropshire*.

DORSINGTON.

This bell, which has an inscription in large plain letters

GOD SAVE OVR KING 1640

is possibly by an itinerant founder, Richard Oldfield, who was working in the Ludlow neighbourhood about 1630-1640, and cast several Worcestershire bells (Claines, Mable, Dormstone), but I think it is more likely to be by James Keene, as Mr. Cocks (*Church Bells of Bucks.*, p. 164) mentions a bell of similar type at Chellington, Beds., which he assigns to that founder.

I am indebted to Mr. A. Binyon of Badsey, Worcs., for a rubbing.

EASTLEACH MARTIN.

For the two old bells here, of which Ellacombe gives no details, see my paper in vol. xx., p. 228. A visit to the tower since that paper was written proves that the bell with a black-letter inscription is actually there, although not described by Ellacombe. It is probably by John White of Reading, as there noted. The ting-tang here is by Edward Neale.

ELMSTONE HARDWICK.

See under STANTON.

FARMCOTE.

See under LECHLADE.

FORTHAMPTON.


Omitted by Ellacombe. The inscriptions on the bells are as follows :

I. DEUM - TIMETE - REGEM - HONORATE

✠ AD-DEI-GLORIAM-VICTORIA-ANNOS-L-REGINA-ME-
DEDICARUNT-MDCCCLXXXVII.

✠ CAROLO-WALTERS-VICARIO-MATTHIA-GOLLEDGE-
GULIELMO-STINTON-AEDILIBUS.

On rim :—MEARS & STAINBANK-LONDINI-FECERUNT

2. C & G MEARS FEC^T 1845. (In John Rudhall's lettering).
3. CAST AT GLOUCESTER BY IOHN RUDHALL *
1824. * * * *
4. G. MEARS & CO. FOUNDERS LONDON.
5. IN^O IRELAND & IOSEPH BURCHLOW CHURCH WARDENS
T  R 1764 (border *Gloucs.*, fig. 6).
6. I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE
GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL 1764. (This bell has
ornamented cannons.)

The second bell was cast at Gloucester.

FROCESTER.

The four bells of 1639 are by a founder, William Whitmore, who afterwards migrated to the Home Counties and worked in Herts. and Essex. For a fuller account of him see Deedes and Walters, *Church Bells of Essex*, p. 112. There are bells by a William Whitmore at Bredon, Worcs., dated 1624, but he uses different lettering. I understand that two of these bells were recast in 1892.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL.

The founder of the 7th bell, dated 1626, is not Purdue, but Pennington of Exeter. See more on this bell in a paper by the Rev. Broome Witts in *Records of Gloucester Cathedral*.

GLOUCESTER, ST. MICHAEL.

There are now ten bells here, the two smallest having been added by Taylor in 1898. The old 1st and 2nd (now 5th and 6th) dated 1667, are by an unknown founder. On the 6th is the letter N as well as the date.

GLOUCESTER, ST. MARY CRYPT.

A paper on this church which appeared in vol. xxvi. of the *Transactions*, p. 301, contained some interesting information on bell-founders which I had overlooked in compiling my previous papers in vols. xxxiv. and xli. In 1678 the tenor bell was recast, and articles of agreement were entered into with Richard Purdue and William Coney "Bellfounders of y^e City of Bristol." In 1679 there was

Paid to William Coney for casting the Bells £29 11s. od

The name of William Coney here appears for the first time. It has not been found on any bell. The Purdues often "itinerated," and it is probable that Coney was left in charge of the foundry by Roger Purdue when absent on one of his journeys in search of work.

In 1679 we also have the entry:—

Paid Abraham Ridall for his work done in the church £6 17s. od.

This is the earliest mention of the famous bell-founder, whose earliest existing bells, at Norton and Oddington, are dated 1684. It will be noted that on these he spells his name "Riddall." In 1688 Abraham "Ridall" was allowed the sum of "Thirty pounds for casting y^e bells."

HAILES.

Mr. St. Clair Baddeley, in his *Cotswold Shrine*, p. 124, has given some description of the curious little bell, ignored by Ellacombe, which now stands on the sill of the W. window of the parish church. It has been replaced in the turret by a modern bell. I repeat here the inscription which is:

✠ TRAPS MUNDI MARIA NOS DV. . . . VIRGO
MARIA

The bell certainly belongs to the 14th century, and according to Mr. Baddeley is the original bell of the old parish church. It is quite small, the diameter being 25 in.

The inscription as it stands is untranslatable, and I cannot discover a satisfactory substitute for the first *MARIA*. It is, however, possible that it represents *maria* ('seas') and not the Virgin's name. The missing letters following *NOS DV . . .* may be *CAT* or *C PIA* (i.e. *DVCAT* or *DVC PIA*); the bell is damaged just at that place. There are therefore four possible English renderings of the inscription:—

Over the seas of the world } Over the . . . of the world }	{ May the Virgin Mary guide us { Guide us, O pious Virgin Mary.
---	--

The lettering is quite unique, and there is no clue to the founder; the inscription is carelessly "set," several of the letters being placed on their sides.

HAWLING.

Ellacombe omits any description of these bells, although in 1912 the aged rector, Rev. J. Alcock, informed me that he had furnished him with a full account of them. They are somewhat difficult of access, and it is impossible to get satisfactory rubbings, but the following is the result of my investigations:—

1. ✠ *AUC S MARIA S PLENA S DOMINUS S
TECVH.*
2. The same, with *GRACIA S* added after *MARIA*.
3. Border above; below: \diamond 1626 \diamond

The 1st and 2nd are interesting as a connecting link between the well-known series by John of Gloucester (see my paper in vol. xxxiv.), and the similar bells found in Shropshire. Although they must have been cast at Gloucester, they have the plain cross of the latter group, and the same substitution of *K* for *L* in *PLENA*. But whether this is sufficient evidence for attributing the Shropshire bells to the Gloucester foundry is not clear.

The 3rd bell is by an unknown founder; the lettering is of the flat type used by the Purdues and other contem-

porary founders, but the ornamental borders are of an unusual type.

HILL.

Bell by an unknown founder.

HINTON.

Ellacombe's description of the five bells is not quite accurate. The 2nd and 3rd bear the respective inscriptions :

MAGDALENE CAMPANA I[†]_{HS}
 IOHANNIS CAMPANA I[†]_{HS}

The I[†]_{HS} is also repeated twice on the 4th and 5th. The chronogram represents the year 1705, not 1693, as stated in the text ; Ellacombe has ignored the w of WARRENI which = vv, and he takes the IV in RENOVAVIT as = IV, and not VI (sc. v + I). The founder, William Clark, was an Evesham man, as was also Michael Bushell who occurs at Pebworth (see Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwickshire*, p. 75).

ICOMB.

The old bells have been replaced by four tubular substitutes. The treble and sanctus-bell, though both un-inscribed, are said to have been mediaeval.

KEMPLEY.

See under STANTON.

KEMPSFORD.

The 3rd and 4th bells, dated 1678, are by an unknown founder. The large thin letters resemble those on the ting-tang at Barton-on-Heath, Warwickshire, dated 1674, probably by the same man.

LEA.

Ellacombe appears to regard this as a Gloucestershire

parish, but it is in Herefordshire, although actually in Gloucester diocese. Two of the bells are mediaeval, one being cast at Gloucester in the 14th century, the other at Worcester, being of the "Royal Head" type. The third is by John Rudhall, 1834.

LECHLADE.

The two largest bells are by Ellis Knight of Reading, the 3rd being by Joseph Carter, an earlier founder of the same place. It is a curious coincidence that the only Reading bells in the county should be in the one parish which aligns with Berkshire, while the only (early) bell from a Gloucester foundry in Berks should be in the correspondingly situated parish of Buscot.

The 2nd bell is by James Wells of Aldbourne, son of Robert Wells, who succeeded the Cors (see under NORTH-LEACH). There is a bell by Robert Wells at Farmcote, with his name *inside*, a peculiarity which recurs on one or two other bells by these founders. Ordinarily they place their inscriptions round the outer rims of their bells.

LEIGH.

The old 3rd bell is by Richard Keene of Woodstock, the others by Gloucester founders (see my paper in vol. xxxiv.). Two of the old bells were recast by Mears and Stainbank in 1888, and a treble added by them in 1908.

LEMINGTON.

Richard Sanders of Bromsgrove, who cast the single bell here, also cast a ring for Welford. For a local founder he had a wide reputation, his bells being found in Lancashire, Cheshire, Northants, and Oxfordshire, as well as in his own county.

LONGBOROUGH.

The following is a corrected copy of the inscriptions :

1. H. BOND & SONS FOUNDERS BURFORD OXON 1898.
2. *The same.*
3. 1680.
4. *The same.*
5. As No. 1.
6. (As given by Ellacombe; fleur-de-lys border, *Gloucs.* fig. 5, after date.)

SANCTUS. Inscribed as No. 1.

3rd and 4th by R. Keene of Woodstock. The sanctus-bell hangs in the original cot over the E. end of the nave.

MARSTON SICCA.

The inscriptions are :

1. I. RUDHALL GLOCESTER FECIT 1795.
2. 1829 I. RUDHALL FECIT.

There are pits for three bells. I am indebted for this information to Mr. W. E. Falkner of Stratford-on-Avon.

MINCHINHAMPTON.

One of the bells was recast in 1568. In 1634 five new bells were cast by Roger Purdue at Bristol, and one of these was recast in 1693. See *Archaeologia*, xxxv., p. 429, where extracts from the Churchwardens' Accounts are given.

MORETON-IN-MARSH.

The fire-bell in the Curfew Tower is by Messrs. Warner of London.

NAUNTON.

The tenor is by Richard Keene of Woodstock.

NEWENT.

The following is a corrected copy of the inscriptions :

1. JOHN HILL JOHN MATTHEWS CHURCHWARDENS THO^S
MEARS FECIT 1843.

2. SAMVEL : HILLMAN : ARTTER : PITT :
CHVRCHWARDENS : SEPTEMBER : 19 :
1674.

3. † STEFANVS ◆ SKINNER † ET ◆ RICH-
ARDVS † HILL † GARDIANI † IVLY ◆
13 ◆ 1638.

4. THOMAS : MASTERS : IOHN : CLARKE : CHVRCH :
WARDENS : ANNO DOMINI : 1649.

RECAST A.D. 1909

W. H. CONNOR RECTOR

E. CONDER, JUN^R L. J. SMITH. CHURCHWARDENS.

5. AYLWARD PARSONS & ARTHUR HOPE CHWARDENS
1724 (border *Gloucs.* fig. 5)

RECAST 1899

BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM

W. MARTIN - VICAR

T. DAY }
E. POWELL } CHURCHWARDENS.

6. As in Ellacombe.

2, 3 and old 4th by John Palmer ; old 5th by Abraham Rudhall ; new 4th by Barwell.

The cross on the 3rd bell does not seem to occur elsewhere, but it bears a close resemblance to the cross used by a contemporary Hampshire founder whose initials were I.H. See fig. 65 in Ellacombe's *Somerset*, and Colchester's *Church Bells of Hampshire* (1920), p. 58. This Newent bell is, however, undoubtedly by Palmer.

Since my paper in vol. xxxiv. of these *Transactions*, I have been able to add greatly to my list of bells cast by Palmer, largely owing to the diligent researches of Mr. Arthur Wright. The list now extends to over 90 bells in all, of which there are 28 in Gloucestershire, 35 at least in Monmouthshire, 14 in Brecknock, and 12 in Hereford. Many of his bells cast for his own county doubtless fell victims to the Rudhalls' energies.

NORTHLEACH.

The following is a corrected copy of the inscriptions on the six old bells :

1. ROB⁽³⁾ COR⁽³⁾(¹¹)(³)(²) J700⁽³⁾(¹¹)(⁸)(¹)(⁸)(¹).
2. WILL COR J700⁽¹⁾.
3. COM⁽⁴⁾ WHEN⁽²⁾ WEE⁽⁴⁾ CALL⁽³⁾ AND ? SERVE⁽²⁾
GOD. ALL. W. C J700⁽¹⁾.
4. GOD⁽⁵⁾ BLES⁽⁵⁾ KING⁽⁵⁾ WILLIAM⁽⁵⁾ J700⁽⁵⁾ ROB.
COR⁽¹⁾.
5. ON EARTH BELLS DO RING⁽²⁾ IN HEAVEN ANGELS
SING⁽⁴⁾ HALELUJAH⁽⁵⁾(⁶)(²).
EDMUND⁽¹²⁾ STONE⁽¹²⁾ &⁽¹²⁾ RICHARD⁽¹²⁾ TOWNS-
END⁽¹²⁾ & RICHARD⁽¹²⁾ BRUNSDON⁽¹²⁾ C⁽¹²⁾W. J700.
W. C.
6. SR RALFE DUTTON'S HONORABLE & WEE'LL FOR
EVER TEL^L
THE CORRS OF ALBORNE CAST US TO MAKE YE
PEAL GO WEL^L
6. WILL⁽⁶⁾ COR⁽⁶⁾ J700⁽⁶⁾(⁷)(⁷)(⁶)(²)(⁵)(¹)(¹¹)(¹⁰)(⁹)

There are now eight bells, two trebles having been added by Mears and Stainbank in 1897. The initials of the words in the old treble and tenor are of an elaborate fancy type, larger than the rest.

Like other bells by R. and W. Cor (*e.g.* Malmesbury and Tisbury, Wilts. ; Sutton-under-Brailes, Warwick), these bells are richly ornamented with figures and patterns apparently from old brass ornaments. There are twelve varieties in all on these bells, indicated where they occur by numerals. These are as follows (the references being to the plates in Tilley and Walters' *Church Bells of Warwickshire*, where nearly all are illustrated) :

- | | |
|---|--|
| ¹ Royal Arms (pl. xxvi. 4). | ⁷ Plant (xxvi. 2). |
| ² Wheel pattern (xxv. 2). | ⁸ Head in foliage (xxv. 1). |
| ³ Face in foliage (xxiv. 3). | ⁹ Cherub (xxv. 3). |
| ⁴ Medallion (xxv. 6). | ¹⁰ Face (xxiv. 2). |
| ⁵ Two nude figures (xxv. 5). | ¹¹ Floral cross (xxiv. 2). |
| ⁶ Plant (xxv. 4). | ¹² Small plant. |

See also under BROADWELL.

NOTGROVE.

The inscription on the 2nd bell is unintelligible, and unreproducible in type. There are four *paterae* or logotypes, each with four badly-formed characters in black-letter, divided by fleurs-de-lys, and at the end is a W. The initial cross *avellane* is found on bells of similar type in the counties of Beds, Bucks, Cambridge, Herts, Northants, and Oxford. They must be dated about 1600, and are probably the work of an itinerant founder.

ODDINGTON.

The following is a corrected copy of the inscriptions:

1. ABRAHAM RIDDALL & I:L: OF GLOVCESTAR
CAST VS ALL 1684 ☩ (border).
2. ROBERT PREVET & THO^s BENFIELD CHURCHWARDENS
A ☩ R 1738 (border).
3. AS I AM THVRD BELL IN THIS RING PRAY
GOD PRESERVE OVR NOBELL KING ☩ 1684
☩ ☩
4. IOHN IOHNSINS AND JAMES BEALE CHVRCH-
WARDENS 1684 (border) ☩ ☩ ☩
5. WILLIAM☐BAGLY☐MADE☐MEE☐PETER☐HERBERT
☐THOMAS☐PHIPPS☐CH☐WAR☐ (with a fleur-
de-lys or floral stop throughout).

These were kindly obtained for me by Rev. J. T. Evans, Rector of Stow-on-the-Wold.

PAUNTLEY.

Ellacombe's account of the bells is incomplete and inaccurate. There are pits for four bells, of which three remain, as follows:

1. No inscription; may be mediaeval.
2. + HAKG KETA.
3. IOHN : PANNCEFOOT : GENT . : . C : W : GENS :
I : P : 1676 : (coin).

The 2nd bell, the inscription on which he omits, probably because his correspondent found it unintelligible,

is one of the earliest in the county. It is inscribed in small neat Gothic letters, with a plain initial cross. I only know of two similar bells, at Butcombe, Somerset, and Wambrook, Dorset. They may have been cast by one of the early Bristol founders of whom we have record (see vol. xli., p. 50). The 3rd bell is by John Palmer of Gloucester; the 7 of the dates is reversed.

PEBWORTH.

See under HINTON.

PITCHCOMBE.

For an illustration of this bell see vol. xli., p. 52, fig. 1.

POULTON.

Omitted by Ellacombe. There are three bells here, hanging in an elevated open turret, and very difficult of access. One is by Rudhall according to the list of that founder's bells (dated 1751) in the Browne Willis MSS. in the Bodleian.

QUENINGTON.

The single bell here is inscribed :

PROSPERITY TO THIS PARISH A  R 1757 (border).

RANDWICK.

The cross on 1st and 2nd is fig. 70 in *Gloucs.*, not 78. The first is inscribed SANCTI EGIDII. The lettering is not figs. 75-77 as stated by Ellacombe, who has taken them from a London-cast bell at Batheaston, Somerset. The only similar bells are at Burford, Oxon.; Trent, Somerset; and (formerly) Lugwardine, Herefordshire.

RISSINGTON, WICK.

The old bells were by Bagley. A new treble was added in 1888, cast by Bond of Burford.

SAINTBURY.

The inscription on the 3rd bell is " Bagley of Chalcombe made mee 1678."

SALPERTON.

Bells by Abraham Rudhall; inscriptions as given obviously incomplete.

SANDHURST.

5th and 6th by John Greene of Worcester. *Cf.* Droitwich, St. Peter and Grimley in that county.

SHERBORNE.

The founder's stamp on the 2nd and 3rd bells is inscribed E (bell) N, and on the 5th the name is given in full EDWARD, 1653, not JO., as Ellacombe gives it.

The 4th bell has a plain Maltese initial cross; the stamp after GRACIA is too much worn to make out. It belongs to a scattered group of bells in Bucks, Northants, Oxon, and elsewhere, which have some connexion with the " Royal Head " group, but their foundry is uncertain. See Tilley and Walters' *Church Bells of Warwickshire*, p. 8. The old 2nd at UPPER SLAUGHTER was one of this group.

SHIPTON OLIFFE.

The two old bells now stand on the sill of the W. window of the church. The smaller bell has no inscription, but on the waist are two impressions of coins of Charles I. each repeated four times. The larger bell has an inscription in black-letter smalls, *reversed*, and exceedingly difficult to read. It appears to be

§ *Demonēs* § *tetri* § *pellantur* § *merito* § *petri*,

but the first word is uncertain, though it makes excellent sense. This bell may be a late example from the Bristol foundry, but I am rather doubtful as to this.

In the turret there are now two bells cast by Mears and Stainbank of London, about 1907.

SHIPTON SOLLARS.

The solitary bell hanging in the open turret of this church is quite a curiosity ! Inspecting it through glasses from below I was deluded into thinking it to be mediaeval, but a closer investigation produced the following result (the lettering being black-letter smalls) :

mmmm mmmmm mmm 1310

No local explanations were forthcoming, beyond the fact that the bell was put up not many years ago. I can only suppose it to have been a trap for the archaeologist ; but the Arabic numerals give it away.

SLAUGHTER, UPPER.

There are now five bells, the inscriptions being as follows :—

1. JOHN TAYLOR AND C^o * LOUGHBOROUGH 1897
Below, ornamental border, and VICTORIA
1897

2—4. As in Ellacombe.

5. JOHN TAYLOR & C^o * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH
* 1897
Below, border, and A.M.D.G. ET. I.N. M.E.M.
LX ANNI REGNI
VICTORIAE
1897.

Inscriptions on the two new bells in Gothic letters.

The old 2nd (now 3rd) is the successor of a mediaeval bell, resembling that at Sherborne (q. v.). The old 3rd (now 4th) is certainly a mediaeval bell, from the Bristol foundry, though Ellacombe assumed it to be an imitation by one of the Cors of Aldbourne. I cannot, however, explain the I COR at the end of the inscription. The very effective letters are found at E. Harptree, Somerset, and elsewhere, and as initials at Swindon, etc.

STANDISH.

The 2nd and 3rd are by Bryan Eldridge of Chertsey, who was founding at Coventry in that year (1656); several of his bells of that date are found in Warwickshire.

STANTON.

The following is a corrected copy of the inscriptions :

1. + FILIVS □ EGO □ GENEROSORV □ NAT □ EVI □
QVO □ C □ IT □ REDNT □ ABINDE □ 1660

Below, arabesque borders and the founder's mark, a heart-shaped shield with a bell and I M for John Martin of Worcester.

2. ♣ HVMPRY KEENE AND IAMES KEENE MADE THIS RING (border) 1640

3. 1640 with two varieties of borders and fleurs-de-lys at intervals.

4. W S (border) H S (two varieties of borders alternating) ♣ 1640 (border)

5. Similar to 3rd.

6. + HENRICVS (border) IZOD (border) GVLIELMVS (border) SPOONER (border) PROCVRATORES (border) 1659 (border)

Below, similar border and founder's mark as on 1st.

The 1st and 6th are both by John Martin of Worcester, whose work is rarely found in this county. The only other examples known to me are at Elmstone Hardwick and Kempsey.

2nd. For Humphrey Keene *cf.* BLEDINGTON.

STANWAY.

The following is a corrected copy of the inscriptions :

1. ♣ TO THE PRAYES OF GOD WEE ♣ SINGE ♣
1625 (border)

2. H BOND & SONS FOUNDERS BURFORD OXON 1894
AND TRIUMPH FOR OUR KING
ALEXANDER TRACY NOVEMBER 1625

3. G. COOK & T. COURT CHURCH WARDENS IOHN
RUDHALL FECIT 1826.
4. + SOLI DEO GLORIA PAX HOMINIBVS ❀
SIPPRAM ❀ GYE ❀ FRANCIS ❀ WOLLAMS
❀ CHVRCH ❀ WARDNES 1638 (founder's
mark with H F in monogram).
Below, arabesques as Stanton 1st, and trade-mark of
Robert Atton of Buckingham.

Sanctus. R A 1694

The 1st and the old 2nd are the work of James Keene of Woodstock. The 4th is a bell of some interest, though I cannot identify the founder H.F. But it is of special importance as affording a connecting link with John Martin of Worcester, who used the trade mark of Robert Atton of Buckingham, replacing the initials by his own. Here we still have the R.A., but the latest known bell by this founder is dated 1633, and H.F. must have had this stamp in the interim, Martin's earliest date being 1644. The letters and other stamps were also used by Martin, and the initial cross previously belonged to Thomas Hancox of Walsall and his son (1622-1640). The foundry stamp of H.F. also resembles one used by Hancox, and it is just possible that this bell may have been cast by an assistant of his at Walsall. There is another bell by Hancox at Swindon (Ellacombe gives the initials wrongly as F.H.). See also Tilley and Walters, *Church Bells of Warwickshire*, p. 50ff. I cannot identify the founder of the "ting-tang" unless the 9 of the date should really be a 2, and it might then be assigned to Robert Atton, who was working in 1624.

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD.

A bell was cast for this church in 1686 by Richard Keene of Woodstock (Marshall, *Hist. of Woodstock*, p. 185, from Royce's *Hist. of Stow*, p. 38, note). It is probably the old 5th or tenor, both of which were recast about 100 years later.

SUTTON-UNDER-BRAILES.

This parish was omitted by Ellacombe, although it was in Gloucestershire when his book was published, and also in Gloucester Diocese. It has now been officially transferred to Warwickshire, and also quite recently to the Coventry Diocese. A full description of the bells, which are similar to those at Northleach (*v. supra*) is given in Tilley and Walters' *Church Bells of Warwickshire*.

SWINDON.

The treble is by Alexander Rigby, whose failure at Badgworth was immortalised by Rudhall. He was afterwards at Stamford, where he succeeded Tobie Norris, but as his earliest bells are all in Gloucestershire, Oxford, and Bucks., I think he must have begun his career as an itinerant worker.

The tenor is by Thomas Hancox (see under STANWAY).

TAYNTON.

The single bell has no inscription. It is not older than the 17th century, during which the church was built.

TIRLEY.

The inscriptions on the bells are incomplete in Ellacombe's book. The following is a correct version :—

1. 1787 RECAST 1897 (floral pattern, Ellacombe fig. 6)

J. TAYLOR & C^o

FOUNDERS

LOUGHBOROUGH

2. FEAR GOD HONOUR THE KING 1785 (fig. 6)

3. JOHN RUDHALL FEC^t 1787 (fig. 6)

4. CHARLES & JOHN RUDHALL FOUNDERS 1785 (fig. 6)

5. IEREMIAH HAWKINS & Iⁿ BARNES CHURCH
WARDENS 1785 (fig. 6).

6. I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE
GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL (fig. 6).

Below, a band of Fig. 6 all round.

TURKDEAN.

On the waist of the 1st and 3rd bells is the stamp, Ellacombe's fig. 89, with the date 1641 (the date and founder's name are not on the inscription-band of the 1st, as Ellacombe implies). The lettering, however, is not Edmund Neale's, but that of his predecessor Henry Neale, as at Farmington and Little Barrington.

The earliest bell with Edmund Neale's name after this is at Fulbrook, Oxon, dated 1649. I am inclined to think that this bell was cast by Edmund while assisting Henry.

On the sanctus-bell the word OF should be inserted, and there are three fleurs-de-lys after the date.

WAPLEY.

For illustrations of the mediaeval bells see vol. xli. p. 62, figs. 5, 6.

WELFORD.

See under LEMINGTON.

WESTCOTE.

There is a mediaeval sanctus-bell here, not mentioned by Ellacombe. The inscription is not easy to make out, but appears to be

⊕ R A P H A E L D A E R I E A U R I E

The first seven letters read as "Raphael," but I can make nothing of the rest. The founder is Thomas Hey, who cast bells still existing in Dorset and Somerset, his name appearing on one at Wraxall in the former county. The initial cross is *Somerset*, fig. 101. The inscriptions on his bells at W. Chinnock and Pitney, Somerset, seem to suggest that he hailed from Montacute in that county. His date is probably about 1350-1360.

Ellacombe's description of the other bells is not quite correct. The inscriptions are as follows :—

1. WILLIAM BAGLEY MADE ME H B 1706 IOHN
RALEIGH C W
2. GOD SAVE KING IAMES 1614 T W
3. IOHN : SMITH : AND : RICHARD : HOPKINS :
CHVRCH-WARDENS
EDWARD NEALE (*stamp of bell*) BEL FOUNDER
Below, Royal arms with CR and date 1662.

The 2nd is by Henry Farmer of Gloucester; the initials T.W., probably those of a foreman, occur on another of his bells at Martin Hussingtree, Worcestershire.

WESTERLEIGH.

The 4th bell is rather puzzling. The cross is not otherwise known except on a much earlier bell at Holcombe, Somerset, with unique lettering; the capitals, however, are of a well-known Bristol type, as found at Swindon and elsewhere.¹ The date is probably about 1450. The 2nd bell at Bristol Cathedral has a similar cross, but different lettering and stop. The 5th bell here appears by the cross and stop to be from the Bristol foundry, but the lettering is not of the usual Bristol type. The 3rd bell was recast by Mears and Stainbank in 1902.

WINCHCOMBE.

In 1757 Abel Rudhall was paid £22 10s. od. for casting a bell, and in 1776 Thomas Rudhall was paid £33 6s. od. for another. (From the Churchwardens' Accounts.)

WOOLSTONE.

Inscriptions incorrectly given by Ellacombe. They are as follows :

1. RICHARD (flower) ROBERTS (flower and fleur-de-lys)
ROBERT HIGINS (fleur-de-lys) 1633 (flower and
fleur-de-lys) Diam. 25½ in.
2. H ♣ F (border) I ♣ K (border) Diam. 26 in.

¹ See Vol. xli., p. 78 (group vii.d). In that list the Holcombe bell is wrongly assigned to the Bristol foundry.

3. I HOWETT I WOOD TOBIE NORRIS CAST ME 1678 ✕
SANCTUS. 1654 (with border above).

The 1st and 2nd are cracked. The 1st is by an unknown founder. The sanctus-bell is probably by James Keene of Woodstock, the 3rd by Tobie Norris of Stamford. On the 3rd the N,S, and the 6 and 7 of the date are reversed, and the Ls are inverted; on the sanctus the 5 is inverted and the 4 reversed. Tobie Norris also cast a bell for Churchdown, but is not often found so far from his own neighbourhood.

The 2nd bell is interesting as bearing the initials of two founders, Henry Farmer of Gloucester and James Keene of Woodstock. The same two names occur in conjunction on a bell at Chesterton, Oxfordshire, dated 1623, and this bell must be assigned to the same year. I have had occasion previously to note that Farmer and Keene used the same lettering and fleur de lys stop, and it is now clear that Farmer, who is the earlier of the two, must have handed over his business to Keene. But whether the Woolstone bell was cast at Gloucester or Woodstock is not clear; on the evidence of the Chesterton bell, the latter place is more likely.

WORMINGTON.

The John Clark whose name appears on the 2nd bell is probably identical with the founder of a bell at Whatcote in Warwickshire, dated 1711. He is not otherwise known, but must have succeeded the William Clark who cast the Hinton bells in 1705, and whose foundry was at Evesham.

YATE.

The founder of the 5th bell, inscribed

✕ GEEVE THANKES TO GOD A° D 1600

is Robert Wiseman of Montacute, Somerset. His bells are otherwise mostly found in that county, where they

range in date between 1592 and 1619, numbering some 15 in all, and there are one or two in Dorset and Devon. He was succeeded by his son Thomas (1620-1640).

NEW BELLS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHURCHES
SINCE 1880.

Avening. Treble added and tenor recast by Mears and Stainbank, 1903.

Barnwood. Two trebles added by Taylor, 1913.

Berkeley. Two trebles added by Blackburn of Salisbury, 1900.

Bourton-on-Water. See above, p. 152.

Brimpsfield. See p. 153.

Bristol St. Mary Redcliffe. First seven, 9th and 12th recast by Taylor, 1902.

„ St. Nicholas. 1st-3rd recast by Taylor, 1898.

„ St. Stephen. Two trebles added by Llewellins and James, 1901.

„ St. Thomas. Tenor recast by Llewellins and James, 1894.

„ Temple. 5th-8th recast by Taylor.

Broadwell. See p. 154.

Cam. New treble added by Blackburn of Salisbury, 1901.

Charlton Kings. Two new trebles added, and old 3rd and 5th recast by Mears and Stainbank, 1893.

Cheltenham. Old 2nd and 4th recast by Mears and Stainbank, 1893. Two trebles to make 12 added by them in 1911.

Childswickham. Now six bells; treble added by Taylor and old 4th and 5th recast.

Churchdown. See p. 154.

Cirencester. 9th recast by Taylor, 1895, and a fire-bell added.

Corse. See p. 155.

Cranham. Two trebles added and tenor recast by Mears and Stainbank, 1887.

Didbrook. A new ring of five, 1911.

Dursley. Said to have a new ring by Taylor (1904).

Dyrham. Three recast by Llewellins and James, 1911.

Edgeworth. New ring of five by Mears and Stainbank, 1895.

Frocester. See p. 157.

Gloucester, St. Michael. See p. 157.

Hasfield. Six new bells by Warner, 1901.

Hempsted. Treble recast by Mears and Stainbank, 1885.

- Henbury. Two trebles added by Taylor, 1897; 5th recast by Warner, 1914.
- Huntley. Two trebles added.
- Iron Acton. Five new bells by Taylor.
- Leigh. See p. 161.
- Longborough. See p. 162.
- Lydney. Four bells by Warner and one recast by Taylor, making eight.
- Maisemore. New ring of six, 1884.
- Mickleton. Two trebles added by Taylor, 1892.
- Moreton Valence. 5th recast by Mears and Stainbank, 1899.
- Newent. See p. 163.
- Newnham. New ring of eight by Mears and Stainbank, 1894.
- Northleach. See p. 164.
- Oxenhall. Tenor recast by Llewellins and James, 1912.
- Prestbury. Two trebles added by Mears and Stainbank, 1886.
- Quedgeley. Two trebles added and 4th recast by Taylor, 1891.
- Rissington, Wick. See p. 166.
- Ruardean. Two trebles added by Mears and Stainbank, 1905.
- St. Briavel's. New tenor by Mears and Stainbank, 1900.
- Siddington. New ring of six by Warner.
- Slaughter, Upper. See p. 168.
- Slimbridge. 1st and tenor recast and a treble added by Llewellins and James, 1912.
- Stanley St. Leonard. New ring of six by Taylor, 1908.
- Stinchcombe. New ring of six by Warner.
- Stone. New treble by Mears and Stainbank, 1908.
- Stow-on-the-Wold. Old 5th recast 1883; two trebles added by Taylor, 1897.
- Swell, Nether. Three new bells, 1901.
- Tewkesbury. Two added by Mears and Stainbank to make ten.
- Thornbury. Treble recast by Llewellins and James, 1885.
- Tirley. See p. 171.
- Tredington. Tenor recast by Mears and Stainbank, 1883.
- Upton St. Leonard's. Two new trebles added by Barwell, 1892.
- Westbury-on-Severn. 3rd recast by Mears and Stainbank, 1886.
- Westerleigh. See p. 173.
- Whitminster. Two new trebles, 1889.
- Wickwar. All recast by Gillett and Johnson, 1908.
- Witcomb. Four new bells by Taylor, 1901, making the four inner of a ring of six.
- Wotton-under-Edge. Treble and tenor recast by Taylor, 1902.

NOTE.—This list does not claim to be exhaustive, or brought up to a later date than 1914.