

BELLS IN AND AROUND BIRMINGHAM: A SURVEY AND HISTORY

(PART 2: LOCATIONS F-Y)

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GAZETTEER

FIRS ESTATE – *see* CASTLE BROMWICH, St.Wilfrid (R.C.), Firs Estate

FOUR OAKS – All Saints, Walsall Road

All Saints was built in 1908 to the designs of Edwin F. Reynolds, architect. Messrs. J. Barnsley and Sons were the builders. The foundation stone of the nave was laid on 4 April 1908 and the nave and temporary sanctuary were consecrated on 31 October 1908. Built in the Perpendicular style in brick, the church was intended to have a chancel, organ chamber, vestry and tower over the south porch of similar design. These were never built, but the chancel was rebuilt in a more substantial manner in the early 1960s and consecrated on 21 November 1965. The parish of Four Oaks was created from the parish of Hill in 1920.

The portion of the church completed in 1908 had a stone bellcote over the chancel arch. The original bell – shown in a photograph of the church taken in 1943 – was about 20 inches in diameter and it was hung for swing chiming with a wooden stock. Having become unsafe, it was taken down in about 1965 when the chancel was added, but “went missing” shortly afterwards. There is now a loudspeaker in the bellcote.

In 2000, however, a small sanctus bell was erected on outside wall on the south side of the sanctuary to mark the Millennium. It is a small bell with a diameter of 9 inches, inscribed “The Millennium Bell”. It is rung from inside the sanctuary.

Church visited: CJP 15 May 1988

FRANKLEY (Worcestershire) – St.Leonard

Situated at the western edge of the Diocese of Birmingham, Frankley has a mediaeval church with a west tower built in 1751 – as formerly recorded on an inscription on the gallery - at the expense of Sir T. Lyttleton to replace a wooden tower described as “ready to fall”. Stone from the old Hall at Frankley, destroyed during the Civil Wars, is said to have been used in the new tower.

The Churchwardens presentments contain items confirming that the previous belfry was a wooden tower, and that it had fallen into decay by 1749:

8 May 1702 Church in good repayre excepting the Steeple which some Boards are rotten and we crave time for the doing of it

14 June 1749 The steeple of the church is worn [much – deleted] out of repair

16 October 1749 nothing presentable ... except the steeple

The church was restored by Frederick Preedy in 1873, and again after fire damage in 1931 and 1947.

In 1812 the Rev D Parkes noted “two small bells, one of which is broken”. One of the bells was sold in about 1865. According to William Saunders it was recast for the school (built in 1865), but there is no bell there now. Saunders noted that the remaining bell was 23” in diameter and that it was the smaller of the two bells that originally hung in the tower. He noted that there were two pits in the frame and that the bell was hung for “dead pull” ringing.

In 1900, H.B. Walters noted a single bell by an unknown founder inscribed “+ SIR IHON LITTILTON 1584”, with the letter L inverted. He observed that the cross resembled that used by Appowell of Buckingham. The lettering, however, was unlike Appowell’s. The figure 4 was similar to that on the bell of 1584 at Little Washbourne. There is a rubbing of the inscription in the Walters collection at the Society of Antiquaries. It is clear that the date has been incorrectly reproduced as 1588 (not 1584) on the new bells of 1932 and 1947.

The church was badly damaged by fire on 9 March 1931. The fire gutted the interior of the tower and the old bell was destroyed. The salvaged metal weighed 1-2-24 and Taylors estimated that the old bell probably weighed less than 3 cwt. The church was restored under the direction of Batemans, the Birmingham architects, and the possibility of installing a light chime of bells was considered. This was not pursued, however, and in 1932 Taylors provided a new bell, with swing chiming fittings, as follows:

Bell **Inscription**

1. 218 / (*Bell and pomegranate border*) VOCOR CAMPANA GABRIELIS
Waist: DE TURRE, A.D.VII. I.D. MART. A.S. MCMXXXI / INCENDIO DESTRUCTA,
 PRÆCIPITATA, / A.S. MCMXXXII EODEM EX ÆERE SUM DE / NOVA FUSA. / N.P.
 FROST, A.M., RECTOR / J. PEARMAN } / S. BREAKWELL } ECCLESIAE CUSTODES /
 NOMEN INSCRIPTUM FEREBAM OLIM / SIR JOHN LITTILTON 1588
Opposite: (*Taylor's rectangular mark*)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1932	25	E (1309 Hz)	3	0	4

This bell was destroyed when the tower was damaged by fire for a second time in 1947. The restoration work was again carried out by Batemans, the main contractor being Leslie Sargeant (builder) of Hollywood. There is now one bell supplied as a replacement by Taylors after the 1947 fire:

Bell **Inscription**

1. 196 / (*bell and pomegranate border*)
Waist: SIR JOHN LITTILTON 1588 / RECAST 1932 / RECAST 1947
Opposite: (*Taylor's rectangular mark*)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1947	24 ³ / ₈	F (1376 Hz)	3	0	3

The bell hangs between two wooden beams erected in 1947 and it is hung for swing chiming with a cast iron stock, ball bearings and iron chiming lever. The bell appears to have been installed by Leslie Sargeant, who doubtless provided and fixed the wooden beams for the framework.

Visited: CJP 26 August 1988

GARRETT'S GREEN – St. Thomas, Garretts Green Lane

This church was built in 1958-60 to replace the City Centre church of St. Thomas, Bath Row, destroyed by enemy action in December 1940. It was designed by Graham Winteringham of S.T. Walker and Partners, architects, and built by T. Elvins & Sons Ltd. at a cost of £56,312. The conventional district of Garretts Green was formed from Yardley and Sheldon in 1960 and later became a parish in 1968. The church was dedicated on 17 September 1960 but not consecrated until 7 March 1969.

It has a tall brick tower over the porch, with a single bell:

Bell **Inscription**

1. 106 438 / 1844
Waist: GIVEN BY / OAKFORD CHURCH, DEVON 1962 / AND RECAST BY / JOHN
 TAYLOR & CO., LOUGHBOROUGH
Opposite: P.N. HAYWARD, VICAR / G. HOUSE } / H.T. PRESTON }
 CHURCHWARDENS

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1962	14 ¹⁵ / ₁₆	C# (2195Hz)	0	2	22

The bell is hung dead from a channel-iron beam and sounded by trigger-action clapper. It was cast from the metal of a small school bell from Oakford in Devon, originally cast by C & G Mears of Whitechapel in 1844 and given to Garretts Green in 1962. The Whitechapel daybooks contain the following entry regarding the Oakford bell:

13 December 1844
 Revd. J. Parkin, Oakford
 To a bell 0-2-17 @ 14d
 Clapper

£4.5.2.
 4s.0d.

When the old bell arrived at Loughborough in August 1962, Taylors noted that it was just dated 1844, adding "looks like Mears". Its diameter was 14¾ inches.

Visited: CJP 23 August 1988

GLEBE FARM – see STECHFORD, St.Andrew, Glebe Farm

GOSPEL LANE, St.Michael – see HALL GREEN, St.Michael, Gospel Lane

GRAVELLY HILL – see ERDINGTON, All Saints, Gravelly Hill; ERDINGTON, St.Mary and St.John (R.C.), Gravelly Hill North

GREAT BARR (Staffs) - St.Chad, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey

Pheasey is in Lichfield Diocese and in Staffordshire, but it is included on account of its proximity to the City boundary. The church was built in 1964 at a cost of £30,000. The architects were Denys Hinton & Partners and James Moffatt & Sons Ltd were the builders. The building was completed in July 1964.

This building had two bells, hung stationary in a brick structure on the roof by Taylors in 1964 for chiming with trigger-action clappers

Bell **Inscription**

1. [blank and undated]
2. 196 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH *
Waist: ST.CHAD, 1964 / * * * / CHRIST IS RISEN

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Unidentified	12 ⁷ / ₈	---		0	1	5
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1964	24 ³ / ₈	1305	E-17.83	2	3	16

Subsequently St.Chad's amalgamated with the Methodist church, and the modified church building of the present Beacon Church no longer has a tower. The bells were sold in 2017, the smaller one for scrap and the larger for disposal *via* the Keltek Trust - intended (January 2018) for a light ring of bells at Vernet-les-Bains in Southern France.

Not visited: *Ex.inf.* Taylors and Eric Speake's notes (visited 21 October 1980)

GREET, St.Bede – see SPARKHILL, St.Bede, Greet

HALL GREEN – Ascension (previously Job Marston's Chapel), School Road

This church was built in 1704 to the designs of Sir William Wilson of Sutton Coldfield. Originally a free chapel or donative, it was built under a bequest from Job Marston of Hall Green (1637-1701) who left £1000 for building a chapel for the inhabitants of Hall Green living "at a great distance from their parish church" at Yardley. The contractors were William and Francis Smith of Warwick who received £698 "by the great" for their work which included building the chapel and providing most of the fixtures. The total cost amounted to £1012 18s 11½d. The chapel was consecrated on 25 May 1704. The building was enlarged in 1860 and the parish of Hall Green was created from Yardley in 1907. It was dedicated as the Church of the Ascension on 25 May 1954, on the 250th anniversary of the building.

The building has a brick tower with an octagonal belfry stage surmounted by a copper-covered cupola. The belfry contains a single bell:

Bell **Inscription**

1. (*Arabesque border all round*) / IOB MARSTON GENT FOVNDER OF THIS CHAPPELL 1704
Soundbow. (four coins)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Joseph Smith, 1704	28 ¹ / ₈	3:2-3:3:2	C sharp	4	3	0*

The bell hangs in an oak frame of 1704 with sills, posts and long heads. The posts are braced from outside the pit. It is hung for swing chiming with an oak stock, strap gudgeons and stock hoops, plain bearings with wooden covers, a long-flighted clapper and a wheel. There is no pulley and the rope passes over a beam in the base of the frame. There is no stay or slider. The supporting ironwork has been renewed and the wheel has been repaired with plywood, but otherwise the fittings appear to be contemporary with the bell. Some repairs, evidently minor, were carried out in 1978.

Visited: CJP 26 July 1988

This is a modern church serving a new parish formed from Hall Green, Olton and Shirley in 1966, with the previous mission church (now used as a church hall) alongside. The church is hexagonal in plan, with rooms and other facilities off the main worship area. It is claimed to have been the first purpose-built Anglican-Methodist Church in the country. It was licenced and designated as the parish centre of worship on 12 June 1971. There is no bell.

The origins of this church lie in the mission church of 1923 – known as St.Cadoc's, Gwynfa Dale, until 1954 when its name was changed to St.Peter's – in the parish of Yardley Wood. The original temporary building was replaced by the present church in 1962-4 after a separate parish was formed in 1962. It is an octagonal building with a domed roof, all in reinforced concrete, with a tall tower over the main entrance. The architect was Norman T. Rider and the builders were F. Deeley & Co. The foundation stone was laid on 14 July 1962 and the consecration took place on 24 October 1964.

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
<p>1. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>4. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>5. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>6. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>7. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>8. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>9. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>10. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p>	<p>1. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>4. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>5. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>6. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>7. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>8. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>9. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p> <p>10. <i>Small bell, 10 cm high, 10 cm diameter, 10 cm weight.</i></p>

- Waist:* THE CHURCH OF SAINT PETER / HALL GREEN / BIRMINGHAM / 1964

The bell is hung for ringing with standard ringing fittings in a cast iron lowside frame. The fittings include a cast iron stock, ball bearings, wheel and traditional stay and slider. There is also a disused electrically-operated tolling machine.

Serving an area of Hamstead set aside as a new parish in 1963, this dual-purpose church and community centre was built on the Tanhouse Estate in 1961-2 and licensed for service on 24 December 1962. The buildings of 1961-2 were designed by Dixon & Dixon, architects, and erected by Percy W Cox Ltd. at a cost of £19,213. A new church was built in 1972-3 and dedicated on 14 April 1973. The consecration took place over thirty years later, on 14 November 1996. There is no belfry or bell.

Church visited: CJP 24 August 1988

The original mission church for this district of the parish of St.Mary's, Handsworth, was licensed in 1886. The permanent church was erected four years later to the designs of William Davis of Birmingham, architect, in 1891-2. It was built in red brick with stone dressings in the Early English style, with a wooden flèche over the crossing. The consecration took place on 29 September 1892, and in 1894 a parish was assigned from St.Mary's, Handsworth, and Perry Barr.

The original bell was rehung in the new tower. It is hung for swing chiming with locally-made fittings including a bar stock, iron chiming lever and ball bearings and a pair of I-section girders form the frame. The bell had canons (now removed).

1. *Waist*: J BARWELL

In addition, there are louvred opening in the dormers on the nave roof near the position of the original bell turret. These contain loudspeakers used to play recorded bells at weddings.

Visited: CJP 24 August 1988

The Handsworth Public Buildings were designed by Alexander & Henman of Stockton on Tees whose entry was placed first in the design competition in 1876. William Henman of Bennett's Hill supervised the work, and Charles Steele of Pitsford Street was the builder. Built in 1878-9 for the Handsworth Urban Sanitary Authority, the building was later used by successive local authorities including the Urban District Council (1894-1911) and the Birmingham City Council (from 1911). Construction work was completed at the end of 1878 and the Free Library and Reading Room was opened on 1 May 1880. In the mid 1960s it was being used as a College of Art and it is now part of the Birmingham City College with a section of the building being set aside as the Public Library.

The building has a tall square tower rising over the main entrance. The upper section of the tower has a tiled pyramid roof with gables on three sides for illuminated clock dials. The original clock was supplied and installed by W.F. Evans & Sons of the Soho Clock Factory in Handsworth in 1879. It had a deadbeat escapement. In 1958 Smith of Derby reconstructed the clock, fitting a synchronous electric movement in place of the going train and motor drives to the striking trains. The original flatbed frame remains but without any setting dial or other indication of its maker or date. The clock strikes the hours and ding-dong quarters on three bells:

1. JAMES BARWELL FOUNDER. BIRMINGHAM 1878.
2. JAMES BARWELL FOUNDER. BIRMINGHAM 1878.
3. JAMES BARWELL FOUNDER. BIRMINGHAM 1878.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	James Barwell, 1878	25½	G	3	3	0*
2.	James Barwell, 1878	28¾	D	4	3	0*
3.	James Barwell, 1878	38½	G (sharp)	10	0	0*

There may be small variations in the inscriptions, but the dates and basic wording can be taken as correct. The notes given here are approximate.

The bells are hung from deadstocks fixed between softwood beams in the tower roof. They have Doncaster heads. The two quarter bells have no crown staples or centre holes. The hour bell has a crown staple and it is fitted with a clapper – now disused – for tolling.

Visited: CJP 16 March 2004: Thanks to Silbert McQueen and Roger Durrant

HANDSWORTH – Epiphany, Cherry Orchard, Handsworth

The original mission room was opened after World War II as a daughter church of St. Mary's. It was a converted from an old army hut and dedicated at Whitsun 1947. The hut survives as the present church hall. A new church was built alongside in 1961-2 and dedicated on 27 January 1962. It was designed by Dixon & Dixon, architects and built by Lanner Ltd., of Halifax, for £13,356. The walls are of brick but the main framework of the building is of pre-stressed plywood ribs. There is no bell or belfry.

Church visited: CJP 11 September 1988

HANDSWORTH, Good Shepherd (former mission church) – see HANDSWORTH, St. Andrew

HANDSWORTH – Handsworth Cemetery, Oxhill Road

Handsworth Cemetery was formally opened on 22 September 1909. It was established by Handsworth Urban District Council and taken over by Birmingham City Council on the extension of the City in 1911. Within the grounds stands the chapel built in 1909-10 to the designs of the Birmingham Arts and Crafts architect W.H. Bidlake. The foundation stone was laid on 22 September 1909 – when the Church of England portion of the cemetery was consecrated – and the building was completed in the following year. William Bishop of Kings Heath was the main contractor for the chapel and entrance lodge.

The chapel is a tall and handsome red brick building with stone dressings. It has apses at each end, that on the main façade to the west being flanked by a pair of octagonal turrets each with open stonework at belfry level and carrying a short octagonal stone spirelet capped with a cross. The chapel is still in use but parts of the fabric are in poor condition.

Because the bell turrets and upper parts of the west front bell towers required extensive repairs, several requests for permission to inspect the bells were refused. However, it has been possible to obtain some details by examination through binoculars from the ground. The writer's observations have been supplemented with information obtained by Peter Hayward who examined the bells on behalf of Hayward Mills Associates on 20 February 2008. Peter's details broadly confirmed what had already been established, but with minor amendments and additional information. In addition, Graham Pledger has since provided information from his official visit on behalf of English Heritage in 2001.

There are two bells, one in each tower – that in the left-hand (north) tower apparently being larger than the one in the right-hand (south) tower. Their diameters are about 38 inches and 24 inches respectively and they probably weigh about 10 cwt and 3 cwt.

The smaller bell in the south turret was hung for ringing, but it had fallen from its fittings which were in a bad state of repair. It has canons. It is inscribed CARR'S OF SMETHWICK MADE ME 1909. A photograph taken by Peter Hayward shows one side of the bell entirely without markings. The mouldings are 4:2-2:4:2. The frame is of timber with wooden sills, braces and heads but with cast-iron corner posts. The frame is positioned east-west.

The bell in the north turret is completely visible from the ground. It does not appear to carry any inscription in the inscription band, on the waist or on the soundbow. Only the shoulder and crown of the other bell are visible, but no inscription can be seen. Peter Hayward reported this bell to be by Carr too but his notes make no mention of any

inscription. Graham Pledger noted that it was completely plain apart from the moulding wires. It has a flat top. This bell is hung 'dead', being secured to its wooden stock by bolts through the crown with the ends of the stock resting on the heads of the frame. It was formerly 'clocked' and still retains its clapper with a loop to which a rope was attached. This bell hangs in a Carr composite frame with cast-iron braces and corner posts (*Bellframes* type 7.B.b) orientated north-south within the turret.

The minutes of the Cemetery Committee confirm that on 1 March 1910 the Council accepted Carr's tender of £92.13.6 for supplying and fixing two bells at the chapel. The minutes also specify that one of the bells was to be a tolling bell.

Cemetery visited: CJP (binoculars) 24 April and 2 December 2003; CJP and SMA (binoculars in better light) 15 September 2005; Graham Pledger and John Eisel, 20 October 2001; Thanks to Peter Hayward of John Taylor & Co (previously of Hayward Mills Associates) and to Graham Pledger (previously of English Heritage)

HANDSWORTH – Handsworth Grammar School, Grove Lane

The school was built in 1861-2 to the designs of George Bidlake of Wolverhampton and opened in 1862. Although substantially enlarged by later additions (including those of 1929 and 1951), the original buildings with polychromatic brickwork and stone dressings remain on the Grove Lane side of the site. Over the main entrance there is a pretty stone turret with louvred bell openings, pyramid spirelet and weathervane. There is a clock dial with blue and white numerals in a stone surround over the arched doorway to the reception area.

The clock mechanism is housed in a small chamber over the main entrance, but access has been closed off since an office was created in the former balcony over the main hall. The clock is a small two-train plate and spacer movement with deadbeat escapement. The setting dial is missing, but the clock is said to have been made by Evans & Sons of Handsworth in 1862. Interestingly, Evans recommended steel bells to another Birmingham church (St.Thomas, Bath Row) in the following year.

The clock used to strike the hours on a bell which hangs from one of the cross-beams supporting the spire. The bell is made of cast steel and it is now too badly rusted for any part of its inscription to be legible. It has a flange top, and it is of the type of bell made in Sheffield (like the ring of eight steel bells at Moseley) from the 1850s.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Naylor Vickers & Co., c.1862	23 ⁷ / ₈	A	2	0	0*

As well as having a clock hammer, the bell is also fitted with a tolling hammer by which it was at one time sounded by a rope from the main entrance below. The clock weights fall in enclosed trunks on either side of the main door.

Visited: CJP 16 March 2004: Thanks to Richard Shephard (Headmaster) and John Pryer

HANDSWORTH - Handsworth Park

Handsworth Park was first laid out in 1887-8 and opened as Victoria Park on 20 June 1888. It was later enlarged in stages, the largest extension being added in 1895. The park was laid out by the garden designer and landscape architect R.H. Vertegans.

The Park buildings include the main gatehouse of 1887-8. This is a red brick building with tile-hanging on the upper storey and a half-timbered clock turret in the angle between the two wings. There are copper-convex clock dials on two sides of the turret and a bell in the tiled pyramid spire over the clock.

Not visited

HANDSWORTH, Holy Trinity, Birchfield – see BIRCHFIELD, Holy Trinity

HANDSWORTH – St.Andrew, Oxhill Road

The present church of 1907-8 replaces a mission church (dedicated to the Good Shepherd) opened on 2 February 1894 to serve the western part of St.Mary's parish. Its foundation

stone was laid on 19 October 1907 and the consecration took place on 30 January 1909. Designed by W.H. Bidlake, it is a fine building with good Arts & Crafts features and with a small bell turret on the north west corner of the north transept. It also has a ornamental lead-covered fleche over the crossing. A parish was assigned in 1914 from the parishes of St.Mary and St.James, Handsworth.

The bell hangs in the open stage of the octagonal belfry, and a brass plate on the wall by the door to the turret records that it was given in memory of Jane Frost Jones who died on 27 July 1908. It is:

Bell **Inscription**

1. *Waist:* CARR'S OF SMETHWICK / MADE ME / 1908.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1908	27 $\frac{1}{8}$	2:2-2:3:2	C	4	1	0*

The bell was cast without canons and tuned on the true-harmonic system. It is hung between two steel beams with swing chiming fittings including a wooden stock, plate gudgeons, plain bearings, wheel, and clapper with independent staple. The wheel is outside the frame and the stock and wheel were specially designed to prevent the bell from being swung through more than a low arc. A tolling hammer was also fitted. In 1995 proposals for replacing the steelwork and providing new swing-chiming fittings were submitted by Hayward Mills Associates but to date (2004) the work has not been carried out.

Visited: CJP 24 August and 12 November 1988; also SMA and CJP (binoculars) 15 September 2005

HANDSWORTH – St.Augustine (R.C.), Avenue Road

This church was built in 1939. G.B. Cox was the architect, and the church is in a modern Romanesque style with a tall north west tower. The tower carries a life-sized figure of St.Augustine by Peter Bohm.

Taylor's records indicate that they quoted A. Gilbert Scott, architect, for a 7cwt bell with electric controls in November 1962. This was never ordered. At the time, there was an 18" bell with a flat head, fitted with swing chiming fittings including lever, ball bearings and clapper with cast-in staple.

Not visited: *Ex.inf.* Taylors

HANDSWORTH – St.Francis (R.C.), Hunters Road and Wretham Road

The Roman Catholic mission here was established in 1840 with the opening of St.Mary's convent. The convent chapel, designed by A. W. N. Pugin and opened in 1847, served as the church of the Handsworth mission until St.Francis's was opened in 1894. The church was built in the Early English style to the designs of Canon A.J. Scoles of Yeovil, an architect who later entered the priesthood. The contractors were Messrs. Harley of Smethwick and the church cost £3500. It was opened by Cardinal Vaughan on 31 January 1894 and consecrated by Bishop Ilsley on 21 June 1900. The building was damaged by bombing in World War II and afterwards rebuilt in the 1950s.

In 1895 it was noted by John Day in his *Recollections* that the original treble from Christ Church, West Bromwich, had been taken to the Hunter's Lane convent at Handsworth when the bell was replaced in March 1848. This bell (diameter 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and weighing 5-2-7) was cast by C & G Mears of London in 1847. Its original inscription was chipped off. It was later given to the church by the nuns of St.Mary's Convent.

According to an inspection reports of 1957 by both Mears & Stainbank and Taylors the bell was then still at St.Francis's, but disused. Maddocks & Walford, builders, contacted both firms in 1956-7 to obtain estimates for hanging the bell. Taylors found that there was no tower or bellcote but suggested that the bell could be hung in angle between sacristy wall and south wall of church. Neither firm carried out the work.

Not visited: *Ex.Inf.* Whitechapel Bell Foundry and John Taylor & Co

HANDSWORTH – St.James, Crocketts Road and St.James's Road

Erected on a site given by John Crockett of the New Inn, St.James's church dates from 1838-40. The architect of the original building was Robert Ebbels of Wolverhampton, who designed a small rectangular building of stone with a short chancel, galleries and an embattled tower. The style was Early English. The builders were John and Richard Robinson and the foundation stone was laid on 24 April 1838. The consecration took place on 22 April 1840, and a separate parish was assigned from St.Mary's in 1854. A new chancel was built to the designs of W.H. Ward of Birmingham in 1878, and in 1894-5 the church was substantially enlarged under J.A. Chatwin who added a new and larger nave to the south of the original building. The extension was opened and consecrated on 23 July 1895. Part of the church was adapted for community use in 1988.

The north west (originally west) tower belongs to the original church of 1838-40. It contains a single bell:

Bell ***Inscription***

1. THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1840

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Thomas Mears, 1840	26¾	F	4	0	24

The bell has canons and it has not been quarter turned. The Whitechapel daybooks for 3 March 1841 show that the bell and clapper were supplied by Mears to the Rev. J. Finch Smith of Handsworth at a cost of £31.7.4. The frame and fittings were provided locally. The wooden framework for the bell dates from around 1840. It is supported on two bearers spanning the tower from north to south, with the frame itself having endposts, long heads and diagonal external braces between the endposts and bearers. The bell swings north-south. It is now hung for ringing with fittings of about 1895 by Carr or Barwell, including elm stock, plate gudgeons, plain bearings in iron housings, wheel, stay and slider etc. A payment of £8.15.0. to J. Barwell recorded in the church accounts on 27 October 1890 may refer to the rehangng of the bell.

John Smith & Sons of Derby provided a new synchronous electric turret clock for this church in July 1957. However the old clock remains *in situ*. It is a two-train flatbed movement signed on the setting-dial by "Evans / Handsworth / 1865". It was erected by subscription at a total cost of £74.6.0., of which £55 was paid to Evans for the clock on 30 September 1865. The other expenses included the dial, clock case and stand.

Visited: CJP 24 August 1988

HANDSWORTH – St.Mary (Parish Church)

Handsworth was originally in Staffordshire until it became part of the City of Birmingham in 1911, and St.Mary's is its ancient parish church. The church dates from the twelfth century and the oldest parts of the present building date from around 1200. The building has been substantially enlarged and restored, the main phases of development being the alterations by William Hollins of 1820, the addition of the Watt chapel by Thomas Rickman in 1826 and J.A. Chatwin's restoration of 1876-8. The church is especially notable for the monuments and memorials to James Watt, Matthew Boulton and other leading figures of the industrial revolution.

The tower stands on the south side of the church, within the body of the building at the east end of the south aisle. The lower stages of the tower date from about 1200 and the upper parts are of the fifteenth century. There is a projecting stair turret in the middle of the east wall of the tower. The tower was repaired in 1838 and restored in 1887-8, and in 1960 the pinnacles were taken down after they were found to be unsafe.

The present bells

The tower contains a ring of eight bells in the key of F natural (692Hz or F minus 16.08 cents)

Bell**Inscription**

1. 341 / RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1955 *
Waist: LAUS DEO / SOUND AS A BELL / WILLIAM RANDALL D.D. RECTOR / A.D. 1890
Opposite: IN THANKFULNESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD / THIS TREBLE BELL WAS RECAST BY MEANS OF A GIFT FROM / ALDERMAN A. PADDON SMITH, J.P. / LORD MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM 1950-51 / IN LOVING MEMORY OF HIS WIFE / NANCY EARLAND
2. 362 / RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1955 *
Waist: EX ALTABO TE DEUS / J.B. CLARKE, C.W. / A.D. 1890
Opposite: IN THANKFULNESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD / THIS BELL WAS RECAST / BY MEANS OF A GIFT FROM / COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SEMPLE & MRS. AMY C. SEMPLE / IN MEMORY OF THEIR SON / SGT. WILLIAM J.R. SEMPLE R.A.F. / 1924-1945 / WHO DID NOT RETURN
3. 361 / RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1955 *
Waist: GOODWILL TOWARDS MEN / RECAST A.D. 1890 / ROBERT MANSELL, C.W.
Opposite: IN THANKFULNESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD / THIS BELL WAS RECAST / BY MEANS OF A GIFT FROM / HORACE H. LOWE ESQ. AND MRS. ADA E. LOWE / IN MEMORY OF THEIR SON DONALD RODERIC, R.N., AGE 21 / LOST AT SEA 9TH AUGUST 1942.
4. 182 / PEACE ON EARTH
Waist: IN THANKFULNESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD / THIS BELL WAS RECAST ON BEHALF OF / THE BELLS RESTORATION COMMITTEE / IN APPRECIATION OF THE GENEROUS SUPPORT / GIVEN TO THEIR APPEAL BY PARISHIONERS / AND FRIENDS OF THIS CHURCH / GEORGE GRIFFITH LEON HUDSON HARRY MASON / DOROTHY THOMAS HAROLD THOMPSON IAN THOMPSON / ALBERT TIMS / DENIS VAUGHTON } / KENNETH WOOD } WARDENS / 1955
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 55
5. 211 / GLORY BE TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST
Waist: IN THANKFULNESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD / THIS BELL WAS RECAST / THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF / COUNCILLOR F.D.T. HALL & MRS. IRENE HALL, J.P., / IN MEMORY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE FATHERS
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 55
6. 140 / GOD PRESERVE THE CHVRCH OF ENGLAND AS BY LAW ESTABLISHED
Waist: IN THANKFULNESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD / THIS BELL WAS RECAST / BY MEANS OF A GIFT FROM / ALDERMAN G.H.W. GRIFFITH, J.P., / LORD MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM 1953-54 / IN LOVING MEMORY OF HIS WIFE / GLADYS WINIFRED, LADY MAYORESS OF BIRMINGHAM / WHO DIED 31ST JANUARY 1954
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 55
7. 188 / THOMAS OKES RECTOR IOHN PIDDOCK THOMAS OSBORNE CHVRCH WARDENS 1701
Waist: IN THANKFULNESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD / THIS BELL WAS RECAST / THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF / ALDERMAN PERCY W. COX, J.P., / IN LOVING MEMORY OF HIS PARENTS / HARRY COX AND FANNY ELIZABETH COX
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 55
8. 205 / QVARTA FVI, NVNC SEXTA, SONO MODULATE TONABO
Waist: IN THANKFULNESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD / THIS TENOR BELL WAS RECAST BY MEANS OF A GIFT FROM / SIR ERNEST R. CANNING, D.L., J.P., / LORD MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM 1937-8 / IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 55

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1955	26 ¹ / ₁₆	1404	4	1	12
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1955	27 ¹ / ₄	1323	4	3	24
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1955	28	1176	5	0	4
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1955	30 ³ / ₈	1044	5	1	26

5.	John Taylor & Co, 1955	32½	928	6	0	26
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1955	35	875	7	3	20
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1955	39⅛	778.5	11	0	5
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1955	43⅞	692	15	2	22

The new bells were dedicated on 2 April 1955. They are hung in a cast iron lowside frame with standard ringing fittings of 1955, including cast iron stocks, ball bearings and Hastings stays.

The restoration of the bells is recorded on a large brass plate on the NW pier of the tower and (in the same wording) on a smaller plate over the door of the ringing chamber: "IN THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD / FOR THE WISE AND INSPIRING MINISTRY OF / JAMES HENRY LINTON, BISHOP. / ORDAINED PRIEST IN 1904. CONSECRATED BISHOP 1919 / BISHOP IN PERSIA 1919-1935 / ASSISTANT BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM 1937-1954 / RECTOR OF HANDSWORTH 1935-1954 / THE EIGHT BELLS IN THIS TOWER WERE RECAST / AND RE-HUNG IN A NEW FRAME / BY THE GIFT OF THE PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS / OF THIS CHURCH AND WERE DEDICATED BY / LEONARD, LORD BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM / 2ND APRIL, 1955. K.B. WOOD, RECTOR'S WARDEN D.G. VAUGHTON, PEOPLES WARDEN"

Previous bells

The 1553 "Hansworthe" possessed "iiij belles". The number remained unchanged until 1701 when the four old bells were recast into six – as noted in the tenor inscription – by Joseph Smith of Edgbaston. This is confirmed by papers in the consistory court records of 1741 which indicate that the four bells were recast into six during the incumbency of the Rev. Thomas Oakes whose name appeared on the 1701 tenor. Unlike Smith's later bells, the old six at Handsworth were completely devoid of ornamental borders or marks. Only one – the fifth (later the seventh) was dated. The treble of Smith's ring was recast in 1890. Lynam records its inscription as "Good will towards men".

The newspapers of 1868 show that the bells were rehung in that year by Amos and Edward Cresser, the well-known Birmingham ringers. The reports are as follows:

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH. - We understand that the bells of Handsworth Old Church have been thoroughly rehung and refitted in a most satisfactory manner, by Messrs. Amos and Edward Cresser, of Birmingham, The necessary outlay has been defrayed by a subscription amongst the parishioners. The ringers, who are a most steady and respectable set of young men, members of the Working Men's Club, have, during the repairs, been enabled to keep up their practice through the kindness of the Vicar of Aston, who has allowed them to use the bells of his church, and they now bid fair to challenge competition with any other band of ringers in the neighbourhood (*Birmingham Daily Post*, Wed. 18 March 1868; also *Birmingham Journal*, Sat. 21 March 1868.)

In 1890 the bells were augmented to eight through the generosity of the donors named in the inscriptions. The Rector gave the treble, the second was given by J.B. Clarke Esq., and Robert Mansell paid for the recasting of the old treble.

The old bells were hung in a wooden frame of 1890 by James Barwell of Birmingham. Bells 1-3 had wooden headstocks. The others were fitted with cast iron headstocks and ball bearings and were evidently rehung at some date after 1890 – possibly by J.E. Groves of Handsworth in the 1920s. The five old bells had been quarter turned and their canons had been removed.

Details of the old bells were as follows:

Bell

Inscription

1. BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
Waist: LAUS DEO / SOUND AS A BELL / WILLIAM RANDALL D.D. RECTOR / A.D. 1890
2. BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
Waist: EX ALTABO TE DEUS / J.B. CLARKE / A.D. 1890
3. BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
Waist: GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN / RECAST A.D. 1890 / ROBERT MANSELL

4. PEACE ON EARTH
5. GLORY BE TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST
6. GOD PRESERVE THE CHVRCH OF ENGLAND AS BY LAW ESTABLISHED
7. THOMAS OKES RECTOR IOHN PIDDOCK THOMAS OSBORNE CHVRCH WARDENS 1701
8. QVARTA FVI, NVNC SEXTA, SONO MODVLATE TONABO

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	James Barwell, 1890	26¾	1553.5	4	3	10
2.	James Barwell, 1890	27⅝	1439	4	3	24
3.	James Barwell, 1890	28⅞	1299	4	3	8
4.	Joseph Smith, 1701	30¼	Gone	5	2	16
5.	Joseph Smith, 1701	32½	1023	6	1	13
6.	Joseph Smith, 1701	33¾	976	7	0	25
7.	Joseph Smith, 1701	37½	867	9	2	14
8.	Joseph Smith, 1701	40⅜	755	11	0	10

These are the nett weights of the bells as received at Loughborough on 6 September 1954. The bells were in a key between G and F sharp (755Hz or F# plus 34.77 cents).

It is interesting to note that Canon A.B. Simpson commented on the tone of the old tenor at the time he was developing his theories regarding true-harmonic tuning. Writing in *The Pall Mall Magazine* in September 1896, he described it as an example of a bell "which appears to be in perfect tune as to its three principal notes". He added that "it seems to have also its third and fifth in perfect tune, though [it is] otherwise not a remarkably good bell".

The actual pitches – apart from the fourth which had a "big chunk out of head" - as noted by Taylors in September 1954, were as follows:

Bell	Pitches		Bell	Pitches
1.	410, 718, 943, 1224, 1553.5		5.	268, 506, 630, 761.5, 1023
2.	390, 714, 886, 1178, 1439		6.	266, 481, 604, 743, 976
3.	391, 605, 802, 1158, 1299		7.	225, 457, 545, 631, 867
4.	285, 438, 698, ?, ?		8.	193, 383, 465, 555, 755

Clocks

According to their catalogues, John Smith & Sons of Derby provided a new synchronous electric turret clock for St.Mary's in August 1956. There is also a disused two-train clock in a wrought iron birdcage frame. The going train has a recoil anchor escapement and the clock has rack striking for the hours. The setting dial is missing. The clock appears to date from the late C18th. Illustrations of the church of 1769 (with no clock dial) and 1798 (showing a south dial) give an indication of its date. A good clock is mentioned in a visitation return of 1830. However, the vestry minutes indicate that "a new tower clock" was provided in 1886 by Evans & Son of Soho, Handsworth, for £55. It was installed in association with "a thorough repair of the tower" costing over £500. The old movement now in the tower is probably the predecessor of the Evans clock of 1886.

Visited: CJP and RLJ 12 November 1988

HANDSWORTH – St.Michael, St.Michael's Road, off Soho Hill

This was the third of the new churches erected in the ancient parish of Handsworth between 1833 and 1914. It was built in the Decorated style to the designs of William Bourne of Dudley, architect, and the cost of the first portion completed in 1855 was £3950. Charles Jones was the builder and the principal masons were William and John Bennett. The foundation stone was laid on 15 December 1852 and the completed church was consecrated on 23 July 1855. It was a chapel of ease to St.Mary's until a parish was assigned in 1861.

The church has a tower and spire at the south west corner of the building, and there is also a small octagonal bell turret in the angle between the chancel and south transept.

The turret belongs to the original building of 1852-5 and once contained a Sanctus bell, but this was removed and sold a long time ago. A 14" bell with a peg argent noted at this church in 1946 was probably the turret bell and may have been the bell weighing 0-1-24 from St. Michael's sold to John Taylor & Co for scrap (*per* Wm Potts & Sons of Leeds) in January 1949. No other details are recorded. A faculty was issued in January 1963 authorising the removal of the short ornamental Bath stone spire from the turret, but this was never done. Instead, in about 1976, the sound openings were simply bricked up.

In 1888 a set of eight tubular bells was placed in the tower and first chimed on 2nd June of that year. Supplied and installed by Harrington, Latham & Co of Coventry, these bells cost £100. They were in the key of A flat, the biggest bell being 7ft.5in feet long and 3¼" in diameter. The tubular bells were rehung and repaired in 1946 by William Potts & Sons of Leeds, clockmakers, in memory of three parishioners who lost their lives in World War II. Seven of them were sold to a scrap metal merchant in about 1965, and the remaining one was subsequently stolen.

A Barwell bell of 1878 from another church – St.Jude's, Birmingham (*q.v.*) - was stored here for a while. It was a 22" bell, weighing 2-2-2, which was unsuccessfully offered for use in other churches in the Diocese before being sold to Taylors for scrap in November 1986.

HANDSWORTH, St.Paul, Hamstead – see HAMSTEAD, St.Paul

This is a brick church of 1907 with a low central tower. It was designed by J.A. Chatwin & Son (and not by F.B. Osborn as sometimes stated) and Chatwin's signed drawings survive among the parish records. Only the first portion was built. Building work began in 1905 and the church was consecrated on 22 June 1907. Later in the same year a parish was assigned from those of St. Michael and St. James.

According to a church inventory of 1915 the church had "one small bell, 1907". It is believed that the bell still remains in the tower, but no further details are available.

HARBORNE – Bishop's Chapel, Bishop's Croft, Old Church Road

Bishop's Croft is an eighteenth-century house adapted and enlarged in the early twentieth-century as a residence for the Bishop of the new Diocese of Birmingham with offices for the Diocesan staff. A chapel was added by Arthur S. Dixon in 1923-4. Taylors supplied a small bell, ordered by Dixon, for the Bishop's chapel in 1924.

1. 242 / INCEPI : A.D. 1924 : CANTARE
Waist: (Taylor's mark)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1924	21	G sharp (1652Hz)	1	3	21

The bell was hung from a beam already in place, and Taylors provided stationary fittings including the clapper, lever, rope and pulley. Minor repairs were undertaken by Taylors in May 1970 at a cost of £17.12.0.

Not visited: *Ex.inf.* Taylors

HARBORNE – Blue Coat School – see BIRMINGHAM, Blue Coat School

HARBORNE – Board School (former), 106 High Street, now known the Clock Tower

The Clock Tower - used as an adult education centre since about 1965 – was originally built in 1880-1881 as a mixed and infants school for the Harborne School Board. It replaced an earlier school – established in the 1850s and known successively as the Harborne British School (c.1865-1874) and as York Street (or Harborne) Board School (1874-1881) – on the same site. The present building was designed by J.R. Sharp & Co, architects, and built by Harley & Son of Smethwick. The foundation stone was laid by the Chairman of the School Board, Thomas Griffiths, on 28 September 1880 and the new school opened in the following year as the Harborne Heath Road Board School. From 1883 it was known as the High Street Board School.

The school is a red brick building in the Gothic style with a tall clock tower over the original entrance to the Girls' school in the High Street. The tower has pairs of louvred openings on each side, and at a higher level – below the tiled pyramid spire – there are four illuminated clock dials.

The original clock movement remains *in situ* in the top stage of the tower. It is a two-train flatbed movement with double-three-legged gravity escapement and maintaining power on the going train. The hour-strike movement is now disused. The clock is not signed or dated, but it is said to have been supplied by a Harborne watch and clock maker, William Gardner, whose business premises – illustrated in Joseph McKenna's book on *Clockmakers and Watchmakers of Central England* (p.192) - were next door at 104 High Street. The clock was probably made by Smith of Derby whose records mention a gravity striking clock with illuminated dials supplied to Harborne in 1882. It was converted to auto-winding by Smith of Derby who fitted an electrically operated winding device (no.24599) in 1985. The clock is now maintained by the City Engineer's Department.

The clock originally struck the hours on a bell which was also swung to announce the start and finish of the school day. The bell used to hang between two beams behind the louvred openings, and its frame – together with a disused clock hammer, and the old bell bearings – remains in place. The bell was about 20" in diameter.

A catalogue published in about 1891 by Charles Carr of Smethwick indicates that they supplied a bell of 2 cwt for Harborne Board School at some time after 1885

Visited: CJP 4 October 2003: Thanks to Joe McKenna

HARBORNE – Fire Station

A bell in use at St.Monica's mission church in Edgbaston (*q.v.*) from 1891 until the 1930s is said to have been "originally the old Fire Bell from Harborne Fire Station". A catalogue issued by Charles Carr of Smethwick c.1891 shows that Carr's supplied a pair of bells "of different size and note, and both ringing at the same time" to Harborne Fire Brigade. The two bells had solid argents (of Carr's distinctive type) through which there passed a single bar stock. Carr's claimed that this arrangement made this "the best and easiest-to-distinguish Fire Alarm in the market".

HARBORNE, Holy Trinity – see SMETHWICK, Holy Trinity, North Harborne

HARBORNE – St.Faith and St.Laurence, Balden Road

St.Faith's mission room in Balden Road was first opened in 1906. It was eventually replaced by the present church built in 1936-7 for the new parish created from Harborne and Quinton

in 1933. Designed by Philip Chatwin of J.A. Chatwin & Son it is a plain red brick building in a Romanesque style with a tower over the porch in the south west corner. The foundation stone was laid on 16 May 1936 and the church was consecrated on 20 November 1937. The church was extended by Philip and Anthony Chatwin whose chancel, Lady chapel and vestries were consecrated on 3 March 1960.

When J.P. Fidler visited the church for Taylors on 6 July 1937 he found the tower "part way built" and noted that the parish had "three small bells, one of them a 12" bell by Barwell". Estimates were submitted for bells of various sizes, but in the end the parish ordered a single bell (now the service bell) from Mears & Stainbank, as follows:

Bell **Inscription**

1. *Low waist*: MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON, 1937

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Mears & Stainbank, 1937	19 ⁵ / ₈	B flat	1	3	0*

This bell was cast from the metal of three small bells (weigh about 2 cwt in all – one of them the undated 12" bell by Barwell) which were sent to the foundry for recasting. The bell was supplied with a lever clapper at a total cost of £16.3.1, invoiced on 27 November 1937. It hangs from a wooden deadstock resting on the brickwork in the NW corner of the tower.

In November and December 1975 a chime of eight bells (rescued from the redundant church of All Saints, Hockley, on the eve of its demolition) was installed. The bells form an octave in the key of C natural (1037Hz or C minus 15.79 cents), as follows:

Bell **Inscription**

1. 353 C / TAYLORS * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1929 *
2. 365 N.K. & O. B / TAYLORS * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * ENG. * 1929 *
3. 354 A / TAYLORS * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1929 *
4. 355 G / TAYLORS * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1929 *
5. 357 F / TAYLORS * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1929 *
6. 369 [G – *erased*] / TAYLORS * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * ENGLAND * 1929 *
7. 386 D / TAYLORS * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * ENGLAND * 1929 *
8. 388 C / TAYLORS * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * ENGLAND * 1929 *

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1929	16	2068	0	3	27
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1929	16 ⁷ / ₈	1958	1	0	15
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1929	19	1743	1	2	10
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1929	21	1552	2	0	8
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1929	23	1383	2	2	21
6	John Taylor & Co, 1929	24 ³ / ₈	1306	3	0	10
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1929	27 ⁵ / ₈	1164	4	3	3
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1929	30 ⁵ / ₈	1037	6	1	21

The bells are hung from two beams spanning the tower from north to south, with bells 1, 3, 5 and 6 on one beam (eastern) and 2, 4, 7 and 8 on the other (western). They are fitted with trigger-action clappers and chimed from an Ellacombe manual. The bells were installed by Taylors in 1975. The old service bell fits exactly as a semitone bell (between bells 2 and 3) in the chime, but it is not roped or fitted to be used with the other bells.

Visited: CJP 28 July 1988

HARBORNE – St.John, High Street, Harborne East

The present church in the High Street replaces the earlier church in St.John's Road which was destroyed by enemy action in 1941. The old church was built as a daughter church to serve the district of Harborne East, a parish being assigned out of St.Peter's in 1859. It was designed by Yeoville Thomason and built by James Wilson of Handsworth at a cost of £3000. The foundation stone was laid on 14 August 1857 and the consecration took place

on 12 November 1858. It was a brick building in the Early English style with a bell turret at the south west angle of the nave. Lynam noted that the old church had a single bell, but states that it was inaccessible.

The modern church was built in 1959-60 on the site of the old church hall, the actual church site being sold. Its foundation stone is dated 21 March 1959 and the completed church was consecrated on 28 January 1960. Batemans (project architect E.M. Marriner) were the architects, and the builders were F. Deeley Ltd. There is no belfry and the new church does not have a bell.

The bell from the old church was retained until it was sold in 1970 to St. Augustine's church at Eastcombe, in Gloucestershire. It is uninscribed and undated, but its shape and mouldings show that it is a typical Birmingham brass-foundry bell of c.1860. It has six plain canons. It was rehung in 1985 by Arthur Berry and according to Taylors' records it is 20¾ inches in diameter with the note of G natural.

Church visited: CJP 25 Aug 1988; Bell examined at Eastcombe (binoculars) Feb 1989

HARBORNE – St. Joseph's Home, 71 Queen's Park Road

St. Joseph's Home, run by the Little Sisters of the Poor, was opened in about 1874 to care for the aged poor. The chapel here has a single bell supplied by Taylors in 1991. It is hung stationary from a steel bracket mounted on a wall and fitted with an angelus unit.

Bell Inscription

1. 530 298 / (*border all round*)
 Waist: 19 (Taylors' circular mark) 91
 Soundbow: (seven crosses - evenly spaced)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1991	25¾	E (1314Hz)	3	1	10

This bell replaces a small brass-foundry bell (14¾" diameter) with an iron bar stock and lever with "JAMES BARWELL BIRMINGHAM 1954" cold stamped on the argent. The bell was perhaps refurbished in 1954, but cast about fifty years earlier.

In 2014, John Taylor & Co fitted a new electro-magnetic clapper and automatic Angelus chiming control unit to this 1991 bell. The clapper unit has a replaceable/adjustable hammer head to allow volume control as required.

It is worth noting that Tom Miller – the well-known Birmingham ringer, who worked as a tuner for Blews, Barwell and Carr and later ran his own business making and refurbishing handbells – spent the last few years of his long life here. He died at St. Joseph's home on 5 January 1950, aged 91.

Not visited: *Ex.inf.* Taylors

HARBORNE – St. Peter, Harborne (Parish Church)

Until it became part of the City of Birmingham in 1891, Harborne was wholly in Staffordshire. The ancient parish included Smethwick (or North Harborne) which remains outside the City. St. Peter's was the mediaeval church of the ancient parish, dating from the thirteenth century but now largely a Victorian rebuilding of 1865-7. Only the fifteenth century tower survives from the old church, standing on an earlier base. The rest was built to the designs of Yeoville Thomason, the Birmingham architect, and reopened in 1867.

The present bells

The tower now contains a ring of eight bells, obtained from Bishop Ryder's church in 1962-3, and the old Harborne tenor being retained as a service bell. They are in the key of F sharp (742Hz or F# plus 4.7 cents).

Bell Inscription

1. 196 / WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS, BIRMINGHAM, 1868
 Waist: (Taylor's circular mark) / RECAST 1923
2. 298 / WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS, BIRMINGHAM, 1868

- Waist: (Taylor's circular mark) / RECAST 1923*
3. 150 / WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS, BIRMINGHAM, 1868
Waist: (Taylor's circular mark) / RECAST 1923
 4. 238 / WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS, BIRMINGHAM, 1868
Waist: (Taylor's circular mark) / RECAST 1923
 5. 158 / WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS, BIRMINGHAM, 1868
Waist: (Taylor's circular mark) / RECAST 1923
 6. 202 / WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS, BIRMINGHAM, 1868
Waist: (Taylor's circular mark) / RECAST 1923
 7. 194 / WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS, BIRMINGHAM, 1868
Waist: (Taylor's circular mark) / RECAST 1923
 8. 177 / WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS, BIRMINGHAM, 1868
*Waist: TO THE GLORY OF GOD / AND IN MEMORY OF / GEORGE AND MARY STEPHENS / THESE BELLS WERE RECAST AND REHUNG / BY THEIR NEPHEW / ROBERT RAISBECK GELLING / 1923 / * * * / CANON G.E. BADGER, VICAR / JAMES GEORGE, RINGING MASTER*
Opposite: (Taylor's circular mark) / RECAST 1923

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	24 ³ / ₈	1484	3	1	11
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	25 ³ / ₈	1399	3	2	10
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	27 ¹ / ₈	1246	4	0	7
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	28 ³ / ₈	1112	4	1	4
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	31 ¹ / ₈	990	5	2	17
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	32 ⁷ / ₈	930	6	2	18
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	36 ¹ / ₂	832.5	8	3	22
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	40 ⁷ / ₈	742	12	3	24

The bells were given to Harborne church in memory of Johanna Julia Hawkins (1876-1971) and dedicated on 2 March 1963. They are hung in a cast iron H frame installed by Taylor in 1962-3, the old wooden frame from Bishop Ryder's church being unsuitable for re-use. The fittings date from 1923, but the bells were quarter turned at the time of their installation at Harborne in 1963. The bells have cast iron stocks, ball bearings and traditional stays and sliders. An Ellacombe chiming apparatus was provided, but this has recently (2002) been dismantled.

The service bell is hung in a separate frame above the ringing bells. It is hung "dead" from its old ringing headstock (probably fitted by J.E. Groves of Handsworth in 1924) and sounded by a trigger action clapper.

Bell *Inscription*

1. BE (*border*) IT (*border*) KNOWNE (*border*) TO (*border*) ALL (*border*) THAT (*border*) DOE (*border*) MEE (*border*) SE (*border*) THAT (*border*) WILLIAM BAGLY OF CHACOM MADE (*border*) / MEE (*border*) === 1691

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	William Bagley, 1691	38 ¹ / ₄	2:2-3:3:2	G (778Hz)	9	1	0

Former ring of eight

There were three bells in 1553, the Edwardian Inventory of 14 May listing "iij belles in the stepull [and] ij handbells". In 1691 William Bagley of Chacombe provided a new ring of six for "Harbourn", these bells being mentioned in the Bagley catalogue of 1732. Five of these bells survived until 1962 and the tenor remains in use as a service bell. The second of Bagley's ring was recast in 1799 by Thomas Mears I of London.

In 1877 the bells were rehung and augmented to eight. The work was carried out by John Warner & Sons of London who provided a new oak frame and completely new fittings

for the eight bells. The bells were hung for Warners by Henry Boswell, who took part the inaugural peal of Stedman Triples on the newly augmented bells on 24 February 1877.

Details of the old bells – from published accounts and also from a set of rubbings among the parish records in the Birmingham City Archives – were as follows:

- | Bell | Inscription |
|------|--|
| 1. | CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON. 1877.
<i>Waist:</i> "GLORIA.IN.EXCELSIS.DEO." |
| 2. | CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON. 1877.
<i>Waist:</i> "CUM.VOCO.AD.TEMPLUM.VENITE." |
| 3. | CANTATE (<i>border</i>) DOMINO (<i>border</i>) CANTICVM (<i>border</i>) NOVVM (<i>border</i>) 1691 (<i>border</i>) |
| 4. | THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1799 (<i>border</i>) |
| 5. | WILLIAM (<i>border</i>) BAGLEY (<i>border</i>) MADE (<i>border</i>) MEE (<i>border</i>) 1691 (<i>border</i>) |
| 6. | GODFREY (<i>border</i>) WARD (<i>border</i>) VICOR (<i>border</i>) 1·6·9·1 (<i>border</i>) |
| 7. | <i>On crown:</i> SAM VAUGHTON IOHN HANSON C W
<i>Inscription band:</i> IOHN (<i>border</i>) LVCKOCK (<i>border</i>) IOSEPH (<i>border</i>) IERVICE (<i>border</i>) CHVRCH WARDENS (<i>border</i>) 1691 |
| 8. | BE (<i>border</i>) IT (<i>border</i>) KNOWNE (<i>border</i>) TO (<i>border</i>) ALL (<i>border</i>) THAT (<i>border</i>) DOE (<i>border</i>) MEE (<i>border</i>) SE (<i>border</i>) THAT (<i>border</i>) WILLIAM BAGLY OF CHACOM MADE (<i>border</i>) / MEE (<i>border</i>) === 1691 |

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Warner & Sons, 1877	25½	1578	3	3	7
2.	John Warner & Sons, 1877	26⅞	1492	3	3	17
3.	William Bagley, 1691	27⅞	1301	4	0	26
4.	Thomas Mears, 1799	28½	1170	4	1	24
5.	William Bagley, 1691	30¼	1035	4	3	20
6.	William Bagley, 1691	32¼	984	5	2	1
7.	William Bagley, 1691	34¼	873	6	3	2
8.	William Bagley, 1691	38¼	778	9	1	0

These are the net weights of the old bells (1-7) as scrapped in August 1962.

In 1897 the ringing room was refitted. At the same time, repairs to the fittings of the bells were carried out by James Barwell of Birmingham. After repairs to the tower in 1924, the bells were repaired and rehung on ball bearings by James E. Groves of Handsworth. They were reopened on 7 December.

As long ago as 1891 the bells had been described as "very tinny & harsh" in tone, and William Saunders noted "the ring is in perfect tune but does not contain one good bell. All are too thin and low toned for their weight". Nevertheless the replacement of the old bells by the newer ring from Bishop Ryder's church in 1962-3 aroused some controversy locally. A faculty for the work was eventually issued on 4 June 1962. The dedication took place on Saturday 2 March 1963.

The clock was originally installed by Leeson & Son of Coleshill in 1877 at a cost of £153. It was a three-train movement, showing the time on three dials and striking the Westminster quarter chimes and the hours. It was converted to electrical operation by Smith of Derby in 1973.

Visited: CJP 11 Sept 1988 and (old bells) RWMC 24 March 1962

HAY MILL – St.Chad (former church), Waterloo Road

St.Chad's originated as a mission church in the parish of St.Cyprian, Hay Mill, first licensed in 1908. The original building remained in use until 1935-6 when a new dual-purpose church and hall, designed by P.J. Hunt in the Romanesque style, was opened to replace it. It was dedicated on 22 January 1936. St.Chad's remained a daughter church to St.Cyprian's until it was closed in about 1983. The building subsequently reopened as a Congregational Church.

The 1936 church was built in brick with a tall bellcote on the north side, designed to accommodate two bells one above the other in arched openings. Both apertures in the bellcote are now empty, but blocks remain in the masonry of the upper opening for the bearings of a former bell. A photograph in *Fifty Modern Churches 1930-1945* (1947) shows a bell in this position. The bell is believed to have been obtained in about 1935 from Mr. Muscott of Hay Mill Tannery who seems to have acquired it from the tannery at Balsall Heath. It was removed to St.Cyprian's (*q.v.*) in 1983-4 and rehung there in 1985.

Church visited: CJP, 7 August 1988: Thanks to Mr.Slimm

HAY MILL – St.Cyprian, The Fordrough, Coventry Road

Hay Mill is on the River Cole at the edge of the ancient parish of Yardley. James Horsfall established his wire-drawing mill here in about 1856 and in the 1860s the firm of Webster and Horsfall developed a successful manufacturing business supplying high-tensile steel wire for a wide range of purposes.

Horsfall built a school near the works in 1864. This was also used for services as a mission church of Yardley until 1873-4 when the present church was built to the designs of Martin and Chamberlain. The memorial stone was laid by Mrs. Horsfall on 14 April 1873. Standing on stilts over the river, the church is a substantial building in red brick with polychromatic ornament and stone dressings. The tower over the south porch carries a spire of slate with wooden lucarnes, and the building includes a mortuary chapel for members of Horsfall's family. The consecration took place on 23 April 1878, a parish having been assigned from Yardley earlier in the year.

According to parish officials, the tower did not originally contain a bell of any sort, the bell on the old schoolroom being used for services. A plaque in the church records that loudspeakers were installed in the tower to broadcast recorded bells in 1966. By 1988 the loudspeakers were disused.

In 1985 the bell from St.Chad's, Waterloo Road, was put up in the tower. It was hung by W.J. Furze of Nottingham, who provided a framework of two steel beams and fittings including elm stock, plate gudgeons, plain bearings and iron chiming lever at a total cost of £727. By 1995 the bell was being 'clocked'. Details of the bell are:

Bell Inscription

1. 1749

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Unknown, 1749	16¾	2:2-2:2:1	E flat	1	0	0*

The canons and agent have been removed. It is a maiden bell, and it has not been turned.

Although the bell came to St.Cyprian's from St.Chad's, its provenance can be traced back to the Lime Grove Tannery in Moseley Road, Balsall Heath. The tannery there was established in the 1740s and run for several generations by the Homer and Edwards families. Having served as a tannery bell for almost 200 years, it was acquired in about 1935 by Mr.Muscott of Hay Mill tannery and presented to St.Chad's where it remained until 1983.

Visited: CJP 7 August 1988; DLC and SEA 6 September 1995: Thanks to Mr.Slimm

HAZELWELL – St.Mary Magdalen, Vicarage Road and Priory Road

The original mission church at Hazelwell was built in 1915-16 to serve a then rural area in the parish of Kings Heath. The foundation stone was laid in 6 November 1915 and the dedication took place on 22 July 1916. It was a small functional building designed by Gerald McMichael and H.C. Weston. After the Great War, a Corporation housing estate was laid out on Pineapple Farm and the increase in the population led to the formation of a separate parish in 1932. The church was enlarged under Holland W. Hobbiss, architect, and consecrated on 7 November 1936.

It is a brick building with a south tower of 1936 containing a small bell (about 10" diameter). The bell has a peg-argent type canon head (with two loops in the same plane). It

Visited: CJP 26 July 1988

HIGHTERS HEATH – Immanuel, Highters Heath Lane

When the church was first built, there was a small bell hung from iron brackets on the side of a chimney stack behind the tower. The bell is now preserved inside the church. It is a small unmarked brassfoundry bell of about 14 inches diameter, with a peg argent. It is now hung from a wooden beam and clocked.

Bell Inscription

- | Bell | Founder and date | Diameter | Note | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|------|------------------------|------------------|-------------|------|------|------|
| 1. | John Taylor & Co, 1971 | 19 $\frac{7}{8}$ | G# (1662Hz) | 1 | 2 | 18 |

HILL – St.James, Mere Green Road

The west tower belongs to the original building of 1834-5. Access is through a door from the west gallery to the chamber over the entrance lobby, and thence by ladder to the bell chamber. According to an account of the church in the *Gents. Mag.* for February 1836 the bell was given by Thomas Holbeche Esq. Details are as follows:

Bell **Inscription**

- | Bell | Founder and date | Diameter | Hz | Note | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|------|--------------------|----------|------|--------|------|------|------|
| 1. | Thomas Mears. 1835 | 25¼ | 1500 | F# +23 | 3 | 1 | 20 |

The bell was originally hung for ringing in a wooden frame and contemporary fittings erected in 1834-5 by Daniel Studholme, the builder. An account of "Mr. Studholme's Charges at Hill & Little Sutton Chapel" includes the following items:

Novr. 2nd. Carpenters preparing Bell frame, 6 days each	£2.14.0.
Decr. 5th. 2 do. do. Hoisting &c do 8½ days each	£3.16.6.
20 feet 6 in. of 9 in by 6 in. and 2 feet of 6 in of 14 in by 6 oak	£2.10.6.
2 Carpenter's assisting with the bell fixing &c	15s.
49 feet of 8 inch by 5 inches Oak to frame	£3.2.0.
19th [Dec] Carpenters to Bell wheel & 5½ days each	£2.9.6.
24 feet of Elm for do.	6s.
7 feet 2 inch Oak to do.	5s.10d.
To iron straps do. to do.	15s.11d.
	[sub-total £16.15.3]

The original frame and fittings were still in use until 1997. The frame was of standard construction (*Bellframes* type 6.A), positioned against the west wall of the tower with the bell swinging north-south. The bell was fitted with a timber stock, drive-in gudgeons, stock hoops, plain bearings, a wheel, a metal spur stay and a fixed iron rest.

The parish obtained permission to install bell broadcasting equipment in the tower, the faculty being dated 12 September 1952. There was no sign of such a system in the tower at the time of my visit in 1988.

Visited: CJP 15 May 1988: Thanks to Derek Pimble

A mission church at Hobs Moat, in Solihull, opened in 1956 in a dual-purpose building designed by Leslie T. Moore. It was built in 1955-6 by Bragg Bros. Ltd. at a cost of £24,953. This building is now used as a church hall, having been replaced by a permanent church, designed by Lawrence King, in 1966-7. The foundation stone was laid on 9 July 1966 and the new church was consecrated on 24 June 1967. The new church cost £53,802 and Bragg Bros. Ltd. were again the builders. Hobs Moat became a separate parish in 1966.

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1. 107 146 / (*blank*)
Waist: 19 (*Taylor's rectangular mark*) 66

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co. 1966	16 $\frac{1}{8}$	2072	C-17.46	0	3	12

There is also a small bell in the chimney turret of the church hall. It is a small unmarked brassfoundry bell of about 12 inches diameter, with a peg argent. It has swing-chiming fittings consisting of a wrought iron bar stock, iron chiming lever and clapper.

HOCKLEY, All Saints – see BIRMINGHAM, All Saints, Hockley

A mission church at Hodge Hill, in Castle Bromwich, was licensed in 1937. A new parish was created from Castle Bromwich and Ward End in 1964, but on 23 January 1966 the old

Church visited: CJP 9 July 1989

KINGS HEATH – All Saints, High Street

The porch tower stands within the south aisle. It is part of the original building of 1859-60 and it carries a broach spire added a little while later. An account published in 1860 mentions the tower, assign that it was "to be ultimately surmounted by a lofty stone spire". The spire was present by 1875. The tower is built in brick with stone facing. It has a newel stair in the south west corner to the first floor, and ladder access to the upper levels. It contains a single bell.

1. JAMES BARWELL. FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM 1874.

The bell has canons. It has not been quarter turned. It is hung for ringing in a wooden frame (*Bellframes* type 6.A with end-posts). The fittings include a wooden stock, hoop gudgeons, plain bearings, wheel, stay and slider. The original ironwork has failed and the bell is now secured to its stock with chains and sounded by clocking.

Visited: CJP 28 July 1988

KINGS HEATH – see also BILLESLEY COMMON, Holy Cross; BRANDWOOD, St.Bede; HAZLEWELL, St.Mary Magdalen

The Kingshurst estate was developed to provide new housing during the post-war reconstruction of the City. A separate parish of Kingshurst was created from Coleshill in 1957, and the new church of St. Barnabas was built in 1955-7. The architect was Holland W. Hobbiss, and the contractors were Jenkins (Builders) Ltd. The church cost £37,592. The foundation stone was laid on 25 September 1955 and the church was consecrated on 13 June 1957.

The church is a simple red brick building with a plain brick tower on the north side at the west end of the building. It contains one bell:

Bell**Inscription**

1. 193 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1956 *

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Hz	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1956	29	1097	C#	4	3	7

The bell was installed by Arthur Fidler, Taylors' bellhanger, in August 1956. It is hung in a steel frame (an all-metal version of *Bellframes* type 3.B but with straight braces) with fittings for slow swinging. These include a counterbalanced cast iron stock, ball bearings, wheel and balanced clapper.

Visited: CJP 9 July 1989

KINGS NORTON – Kings Norton Secondary School (Boys)

In May 1936 John Smith & Sons of Derby supplied a non-striking clock for the School pavilion here. It cost £24.10s. The clock itself was a second-hand timepiece movement, originally made by Joyce of Whitchurch for a location in Crewe. As installed by Smiths at Kings Norton, the clock showed the time on a 2ft solid black and white dial

KINGS NORTON, St.Agnes, Cotteridge – see COTTERIDGE, St.Agnes

KINGS NORTON, St.Anne – see WEST HEATH, St.Anne

KINGS NORTON, St.John Fisher (R.C.) - see WEST HEATH, St.John Fisher (R.C.)

KINGS NORTON - St.Joseph and St.Helen (R.C.), Station Road

This mission was established in 1905, and the present church was built in 1932-3 at a cost of £9006. The architect was G.B. Cox and J. & A. Brazier of Bromsgrove were the builders. It is a brick building in the Gothic style with an open cote above the chancel arch. The single bell is hung for stationary chiming. It hangs from a beam fixed between two stone corbels in the cote. It was originally sounded by a trigger-action clapper, since replaced by an electrically-operated tolling hammer. The bell and its original fittings were supplied by Taylors in April 1933.

Bell**Inscription**

1. 196 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1933 *

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1933	24 ⁵ / ₈	E (1300Hz)	3	0	1

Visited: CJP and RLJ (binoculars) 24 January 2003 and *ex.inf.* Taylors

KINGS NORTON – St.Nicolas (Parish Church)

Kings Norton church dates from the twelfth century and includes some Norman work in the chancel. The building was extensively rebuilt in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and completed with the erection of the tower and spire in the fifteenth century. The chancel was remodelled and partially rebuilt during Ewan Christian's restoration of 1863 and the rest of the building was restored by W.J. Hopkins in 1871-2. Kings Norton was a chapelry of Bromsgrove until it became a separate parish in 1846.

The origins of the parish help to explain the striking similarity between the steeples at Bromsgrove and Kings Norton. Both towers have blind arcading in the belfry stage, embattled parapets and corner pinnacles and tall spires. Kings Norton's spire (184 feet) was described by John Leland in 1540 as "a goodly pyramis of stone over the bell frame". In 1684 it was reported that "The spire of the steeple is in great danger if not speedily amended". It has been restored on several occasions subsequently, including repairs in 1842 and major work during the Victorian restoration under Hopkins in 1872 (*see below*).

The present bells

The church now possesses a ring of ten bells in the key of E natural (656Hz or E minus 8.57 cents):

- | Bell | Inscription |
|-------------|--|
| 1. | 340 / (<i>floral border all round</i>)
<i>Waist:</i> THE GIFT OF FRANK B. YATES / NOVEMBER 1926. / CHURCHWARDEN 1914-17 * RINGING-MASTER 1924-26
<i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) |
| 2. | 341 / (<i>floral border all round</i>)
<i>Waist:</i> THE GIFT OF FRANK B. YATES / NOVEMBER 1926. / CHURCHWARDEN 1914-17 * RINGING-MASTER 1924-26
<i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) |
| 3. | 150 / WILLIAM BLEWS. AND SONS. BIRMINGHAM FOUNDERS. / RE-CAST 1867
<i>Waist:</i> (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) / RECAST 1924 |
| 4. | 181 / SUBSCRIPTION PROMOTED BY MESS ^{RS} . T HADLEY & W JORDON CHAPMAN & MEARS OF / LONDON FECERUNT 1783
<i>Waist:</i> (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) / RECAST 1924 |
| 5. | 202 / IF YOU HAVE A JUDICIOUS EAR YOU'LL OWN MY VOICE IS SWEET & CLEAR CHAPMAN & MEARS OF / LONDON FECERUNT 1783
<i>Waist:</i> (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) / RECAST 1924 |
| 6. | TO HONOUR BOTH OF GOD AND KING OUR VOICES SHALL IN CONSORT RING CHAPMAN & MEARS OF / LONDON FECERUNT 1783
<i>Waist:</i> (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) / * RECAST 1905 * |
| 7. | 268 / T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1826 (<i>border</i>)
<i>Waist:</i> (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) / RECAST 1924 |
| 8. | 201 / (<i>blank</i>)
<i>Waist:</i> (<i>Taylor's 1890s circular mark</i>) / RECAST 1924 / (<i>Taylor's 1920s circular mark</i>) |
| 9. | 177 / WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS. BIRMINGHAM FOUNDERS.
<i>Waist:</i> + GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO + / RECAST A.D. 1867 / I.M.L. ASTON M.A. VICAR / S.H. PARKES } / E.S. PRITCHETT } CHURCH WARDENS
<i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) / RECAST 1924 |
| 10. | 225 / REV ^D . MR. EDWARDS MINISTER MESS ^{RS} . COTTERELL & DUDLEY CH. WARDENS CHAPMAN & MEARS OF LONDON FECERUNT 1783 (<i>border</i>)
<i>Waist:</i> RESTORATION OF THE PEAL 1924 / PROMOTED BY SUBSCRIPTIONS / * * * / T.S. DUNN, M.A., VICAR / W.E. MOORE } / T. IZON } CHURCHWARDENS / F.B. YATES * CHAIRMAN, BELLS RESTORATION COMMITTEE
<i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) / RECAST 1924 |

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1926	25	1658	4	2	11
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1926	26	1480	4	3	22
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1924	27 ¹ / ₈	1315	4	1	11
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1924	28	1240	4	2	11
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1924	30 ³ / ₈	1104.5	5	2	21
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1905	33 ¹ / ₈	983.5	6	3	13
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1924	34 ⁷ / ₈	877	7	1	19
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1924	37 ¹ / ₈	828	9	1	11
9.	John Taylor & Co, 1924	41 ¹ / ₈	737	13	0	6
10.	John Taylor & Co, 1924	45 ⁷ / ₈	656	17	1	6

The bells hang in a Taylor composite frame of 1892 (*Bellframes* type 7.A.a) which was reconstructed and extended for ten bells in 1924, with ringing fittings – including cast iron stocks, ball bearings and traditional stays and sliders - all of 1924 and 1926. There is a disused Ellacombe chiming manual in the ringing room. The new ring of eight was dedicated

In addition, there is a disused bell on display in the church. This bell was brought to Kings Norton in August 2000 from Wythall church and it is believed to have originally belonged here as discussed below.

1. W (border) C (border) M (border) B (border) 1689 (border)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Matthew Bagley, 1689	22 $\frac{7}{8}$	3:1-2:3:2	2	2	0*

In 1552 there were four bells here and the Commissioners noted that a saunce bell had been "solde for the reparac'on of the churche"

It is possible that the disused Bagley bell of 1689 from Wythall belonged to the Kings Norton ring. On the evidence of its size, however, it seems more likely to have been a separate bell rather than one of the ring. Its weight implies that if it had been the treble of a ring of six then the tenor would have weighed only 6 or 7 cwt – much lighter than the bells now in the tower. The fact that this bell was retained and not recast when the new bells were put up in 1783 also points to it having been an extra bell outside the ring.

We know of nothing presentable [printed] except the Steple of the parish church out of Repare, 23 July 1773

8. Rev. Mr. Edwards, Minister. Messrs Cotterell and Dudley, Churchwardens. Chapman & Mears of London fecerunt 1783

Ignoring the minor discrepancies with the wording recorded later, this gives us a full record of the original inscriptions of seven of the bells (except the old fifth). Lukis quotes the inscriptions of four of the bells (3, 4, 6 and 7), reversing bells 4 and 7 in his account in which he also gives minor variations in the wording for the sixth (... power to music given ...) and for the bell (*recte* 7) inscribed "To honour both of God and King, Our voice in concert we will ring". Walters, however, notes that the sixth and seventh were actually inscribed:

6. SUCH WOND'ROUS POWER TO MUSIC'S GIVEN, IT ELEVATES THE SOUL TO HEAVEN (*border*) /
CHAPMAN & MEARS OF LONDON FECERUNT 1783
7. WHILST THUS WE JOIN IN CHEARFUL SOUND, MAY LOVE AND LOYALTY ABOUND / CHAPMAN &
MEARS OF LONDON FECERUNT 1792

The date of the seventh is clearly an error – not only because Prattinton's notes state 1782 but also because by 1792 the foundry was in the hands of Thomas Mears. So, this bell was dated 1782 and cast by Chapman and Mears before the other bells in the original ring of 1783.

Notice of the opening of the bells was given in *Aris's Birmingham Gazette* on 14 April 1783: "At King's Norton, on Friday the 25th Inst, will be opened the new peal of eight bells which are cast by Messrs. Chapman and Mears, and hung by Mr. Robert Turner of London; the greatest satisfaction is expected from the well-known abilities of the above persons". The first peal on the new bells - 5040 Bob Major by the St.Martin's Youths – was rung on 4 May 1783. A week later, on 11 May 1783, the Stourbridge Chapel Youths rang a peal of 5152 changes of Bob Major here in 3 hours 30 minutes.

A report in Berrow's *Worcester Journal* of 15 May refers to "those remarkable musical peal of eight bells, lately cast, and allowed to be the best peal of their weight in this part of the Kingdom, the tenor net 16 cwt." The *Birmingham Gazette* of 12 May was even more complimentary, claiming the bells to be "reckoned the best and most harmonious of their Weight in the Kingdom".

The bells seem to have been hung in a new frame in 1783. This remained in use until 1891/2, and there is a plan in E. Denison Taylor's inspection notebook dated 6 April 1891. It was arranged with bells 1 and 2 swinging mouth-to-mouth on the south side of the tower and bells 5 and 6 on the north, with the remainder swinging north-south in parallel pits across the middle of the tower (nos 4, 3, 7 and 8 – in opposed pairs - from west to east). According to Taylor, the frame was of "very light" construction and much patched with new timber.

The fifth was broken (or so Noake tells us) "by a stone falling upon it". It was recast by Thomas Mears of Whitechapel in 1826.

In 1860, E.A. Lingard Esq, of St.Paul's Square, Birmingham – presumably a churchwarden or parish official – invited a representative from the Whitechapel foundry to come and examine the bells. The firm's daybook of 24 March 1860 includes a charge to Lingard "To Mans time & expenses inspecting Bells at Kings Norton Church 14s."

In 1867 William Blews & Sons recast the treble and seventh, the new bells being inscribed in the Victorian gothic lettering commonly used by the firm. The casting of two new bells for Kings Norton was reported in the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* of 10 October 1867.

The local newspapers also carried reports of a fatal accident that occurred while the bells were being hung in early December. One of the new bells (said to weigh 14 cwt) was being raised into the tower under the supervision of the foreman, James Ansell, when a knot securing the rope to the bottom pulley slipped out when the bell was about twenty feet from the ground. At that moment, Arthur Longmore (29) stepped forward to give a hand on the rope. The bell fell on him and he was killed instantly. The accident happened on Thursday 12th December and it was reported in the next day's *Birmingham Daily Post*. The coroner returned a verdict of accidental death, but advised Ansell "to keep people from under the bell on future occasions, and to hoist it by means of a winch".

Not long afterwards the spire was found to be in a poor state of repair. The Archdeacon drew attention to its condition in June 1869, and the Worcester architect W.J. Hopkins submitted a report on the condition of the structure at the Easter Vestry meeting on 19 April 1870. In the following August an appeal was launched to raise £3000 for the restoration of the whole church, which was completed during the course of the next two

years. The main contractor was Albert Estcourt of Gloucester. The tower had been restored by the time the church was reopened on 15 May 1872, but the work on the spire was not completed until the following summer. A new clock dial was put up at the same time, and repairs to the clock were carried out by F. Palmer.

The bells were restored and rehung in 1892 by Taylors who provided a replacement bell for the old sixth from stock (hence the lack of any inscription). Following the Taylor restoration – completed on 27 January 1892 – the bells were:

- | Bell | Inscription |
|-------------|---|
| 1. | WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS BIRMINGHAM FOUNDERS RE-CAST 1867. |
| 2. | SUBSCRIPTION PROMOTED BY MESS ^{RS} . T HADLEY & W JORDAN / CHAPMAN & MEARS OF LONDON
FECERUNT 1783 |
| 3. | IF YOU HAVE A JUDICIOUS EAR YOU'LL OWN MY VOICE IS SWEET & CLEAR / CHAPMAN & MEARS OF
LONDON FECERUNT 1783 |
| 4. | TO HONOUR BOTH OF GOD AND KING OUR VOICES SHALL IN CONSORT RING / CHAPMAN & MEARS
OF LONDON FECERUNT 1783 |
| 5. | T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1826 (<i>border</i>) |
| 6. | <i>Waist: (Taylor's circular mark)</i> |
| 7. | WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS BIRMINGHAM FOUNDERS
<i>Waist: + GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO + / RECAST A.D. 1867. / I.M.L. ASTON M.A.,
VICAR / S.N. PARKES } / E.S. PRITCHETT } CHURCH WARDENS</i> |
| 8. | REV ^D . MR. EDWARDS MINISTER MESS ^{RS} . COTTERELL & DUDLEY CH. WARDENS / CHAPMAN &
MEARS OF LONDON FECERUNT 1783 (<i>border</i>) |

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	William Blews & Sons, 1867	29	1327	5	1	7
2.	Chapman & Mears, 1783	29 ⁷ / ₈	1233	5	1	20
3.	Chapman & Mears, 1783	31 ¹ / ₂	1111	5	3	11
4.	Chapman & Mears, 1783	33 ⁷ / ₈	983	6	3	18
5.	Thomas Mears, 1826	37 ¹ / ₄	877.5	8	2	13
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1891	37 ³ / ₈	827	10	1	7
7.	William Blews & Sons, 1867	40 ⁷ / ₈	730	11	2	11
8.	Chapman & Mears, 1783	45 ¹ / ₈	652	14	1	18

The weights given here are those recorded when the bells were installed in 1892. Their scrapping weights (nett), noted when they were taken down for recasting in 1924, were slightly different, i.e. 5-0-20, 5-1-7, 5-2-26, 6-3-13, 8-1-26, 10-0-17, 11-1-21, 14-1-2. The bells were in the key of F natural (706hz or F plus 18.6 cents).

The old sixth – by Chapman & Mears 1783 – weighed 8-2-25 when delivered at the foundry in December 1891. Taylors supplied a new bell from stock to replace it, hence the lack of any special inscription on the new bell. The fourth was subsequently recast by Taylors in 1905. This bell – now the sixth of the ten – originally weighed 6-3-13. Its inscription is given with those of the present bells above.

Taylors' daybook contains the following account of the 1891-2 rehunging:

The Committee of King's Norton Church, Birmingham. 27 January 1892.

To new hanging the ring of eight bells according to estimate 9 April 1891.

Clappers 30/-	£12.0.0.
Fittings 7/-/-	£56.0.0.
Ropes 13/-	£5.4.0.
English oak frame, iron struts	£70.0.0.
Fixing	£23.0.0.
Taking down	£7.0.0.
Carriage 8 tons materials (not including beams & girders) at 15/4	£7.6.8.
7T 15C 1Q bells including temporary bell at 26/8	£10.7.0.
Tuning	£0.0.0.
Girders, beams & trimmers according to estimate 29 June 1891 including carriage	£91.5.0.

Fixing same	£9.10.0.
Recasting cracked 6th bell according to quotation 7 Dec 1891	
New bell 10-1-7 at 5/5/- £54.2.9.	
Old bell 9-1-0 at 3/3/- £29.2.9.	
[Nett sub-total]	£25.0.0.
Two sets of turned iron floor bosses	£2.0.0.
To building up set off to receive beams so that beams might be clear above the tie rods, 200 grey bricks 10/-, 100 blue plinth heads, 10/- slates 3/6, blue [word illegible] 9d, 2 bags cement 14/-, commission 10/-	£2.8.3.
Lane & Dexter 10/- one day each, Price 10/- and Smith 5/6 one day each	<u>£1.15.6.</u>
	[Total] £322.16.5.
Settled 27 Feb '92.	

The restorations of 1892, 1924 and 1926 are all recorded on tablets on the north wall of the space at the base of the tower, as follows:

1. Brass plate: THE BELLS IN THIS TOWER / WERE RE-HUNG ON NEW FRAMES BY / MESS^{RS}. TAYLOR & SONS (*sic*) OF LOUGHBOROUGH / AT A COST OF £314.15.6. FEBRUARY 13TH. 1892. / ALSO IN THE ABOVE A NEW CLOCK WITH / WESTMINSTER CHIMES WAS ERECTED / COSTING £180. FEBRUARY 11TH. 1893. / DIGBY H. COTES PREEDY. VICAR / JOSIAH HANDS } / HARRY BLOOMER } CHURCHWARDENS

2. A black "Caspar" tablet with gold lettering: TO THE GLORY OF GOD / AND IN / FURTHERANCE OF DIVINE WORSHIP / THIS PEAL OF BELLS, AFTER BEING / RECAST & REHUNG BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION, / WAS DEDICATED ON NOV. 1ST. 1924 / BY THE LORD BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM / WHEN THEY WERE RUNG FOR THE FIRST TIME BY / [*names in two columns*] P.O. LAFLIN (CONDUCTOR) 1. / FRANK B. YATES 2. / W.E. MOORE 3. / H. WILLIAMS // W.H. BALL 5. / C. WEBB 6. / J. WITHERS 7. / J. BETTERTON 8. / T.S. DUNN, M.A., VICAR / W.E. MOORE & T. IZON / CHURCHWARDENS / FRANK B. YATES, CHAIRMAN, / BELLS RESTORATION COMMITTEE / W.E. MOORE, HON. SECRETARY.

3. A black tablet with gold lettering: TWO NEW TREBLES / WERE ADDED TO THE BELLS IN THIS TOWER / NOVEMBER, 1926, / INCREASING THE PEAL INTO A RING OF TEN BELLS / THE GIFT OF / FRANK B. YATES / CHURCHWARDEN 1914-17. RINGING MASTER 1924-6.

Below the last of these is a memorial tablet to Frank Yates (1877-1957) who later gave two trebles to augment the Cathedral peal at St.Philip's from ten to twelve in 1949.

The **clock** is a three-train movement by John Smith & Sons of Derby. It is dated 1892 and its installation in February 1893 is recorded on the brass plate in the base of the tower noted above. The firm's sales ledger for 11 February 1893 records the supply of a "new church clock with Cambridge chimes, £150, with extra skeleton dial, and chiming apparatus, £166". It was converted to direct-drive by Thwaites and Reed with auto-wind to the striking trains in about 1980. At some date before 1989 the synchronous motor driving the hands was afterwards replaced by Gillett & Johnston & Co of Croydon. The clock is fitted with a double-three-legged escapement (now disused) and it used to sound the Westminster quarter chimes and hours until the striking trains fell out of use in about 2003. It shows the time on two 6ft skeleton dials and the south and east faces of the tower.

Visited: CJP 10 October 1989 and (clock) 11 July 2009: Thanks to Ray Aldington

KINGS NORTON – see also BALSALL HEATH; HAZLEWELL, St.Mary Magdalen; KINGS HEATH, All Saints; LONGBRIDGE, St.John the Baptist; STIRCHLEY, Ascension; WYTHALL, St.Mary and YARDLEY WOOD, Christ Church

KINGSTANDING – St.Luke, Caversham Road

The parish of Kingstanding was created from Perry Barr in 1933 during the construction of a large inter-war municipal housing estate by the Birmingham City Corporation. St.Luke's church was planned and built as part of the development. The foundation stone of the

The north west porch tower originally contained a single bell of about 18 inches in diameter, hung for swing chiming between two steel beams. The bell was stolen in about 1985, but the frame girders remain in place along with the housings for the plain bearings. The bell may have been supplied by one of the Birmingham founders – Barwell or Carr – in about 1936-7.

KINGSTANDING – St.Mark, Bandywood Crescent

In 1963 the parish obtained a redundant bell from Immanuel, Broad Street, in Birmingham. The bell was hung in the existing brick bellcote on the north side of the old church. It is as follows:

1. J WARNER & SONS LONDON 1865.
Waist: (Royal arms) / PATENT

The canons have been removed and the bell has been quarter turned. It is hung for swing chiming with Taylor fittings of 1963 including an iron bar stock, ball bearings, iron chiming lever and clapper.

LADYWOOD – St.John the Evangelist, Monument Road and Wood Road

The tower contains a single bell which was supplied through Messrs. Hardwick & Sons, the building contractors, in 1854. Details are as follows

1. JOHN TAYLOR AND SON FOUNDERS LOUGHBORO 1854.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Son, 1854	18 ³ / ₈	C sharp	1	2	21

The inscription is in Victorian gothic lettering. The bell has six cabled canons and it has not been quarter turned. The bell was originally hung for ringing but since the removal of the wheel it has only been swing chimed. It hangs in a cast iron lowside frame standing on a wooden platform built up from the bellchamber floor. The frame castings (*Bellframes* type 8.3.A.b) have "J. TAYLOR 1851" cast on them. They are bolted to the platform and there are iron spacer bars in the pit-ends. The bell swings north-south. The fittings are mainly original, and include a wooden stock, hoop gudgeons (without stock hoops), plain bearings, a wooden chiming lever (replacing the original wheel), traditional stay and slider, clapper suspended from a cast-in staple, and a ground pulley. The supporting ironwork is of the type used by Taylors in the 1850s.

The Loughborough Foundry daybooks include the following entry:
Messrs. Hardwick & Sons, Builders, Bradford Street, Birmingham. 1854 Feb^y.
To the new bell & hangings with framework & rope all complete for fixing including carriage to Birmingham as per estimate £25.0.0.
[less] To expenses incurred 6s.6d, Builders Commission £5 per cent £1.5.0. [Together
£1.11.6] [Sub-total] £1.11.6
[Total] £23.8.6.

Access to the bell is by spiral staircase – added in 1867 after the organ was moved into the chancel from the base of the tower – to the first floor, and thence by ladders. The tower is built in brick with a stone facing. There is no clock.

Visited: CJP 27 July 1988

LADYWOOD – St.Margaret of Antioch, Ledsam Street and Alston Street

This was a red brick church of 1874-5, built in the Early English style to the designs of F.B. Osborn of Osborn and Reading. The builders were Messrs. Wilson of Handsworth. It was consecrated on 2 October 1875, and in February 1876 a parish was assigned from St.John's, Ladywood. The church was officially closed on 1 December 1956, and demolition took place in the following year. No information on the belfry and bell has come to light.

LADYWOOD – *see also* BIRMINGHAM, St.Barnabas; BIRMINGHAM, St.Mark; and SUMMERFIELD, Christ Church

LANGLEY - Good Shepherd (former mission church), Portway

In October 1896 a building formerly belonging to Primitive Methodists was taken over and opened as a mission room of the Good Shepherd. A little over two years later the foundation stone for a new brick church on a site given by Messrs. Wood & Ivery was laid on 28 January 1899. The new Church of the Good Shepherd, complete with nave, chancel, organ chamber and vestry, was dedicated on 30 August and licensed for marriages 20 November 1899. It may have had a small bell.

LANGLEY - Holy Trinity

Langley was a district of Halesowen set aside as a separate ecclesiastical district in 1846. By that date the area was becoming increasingly industrialised and developed, and Holy Trinity was built to provide a place of worship for the inhabitants. From 1846 services were held in a licensed room until Holy Trinity was opened in 1852.

The church was built to the designs of William Bourne of Dudley, architect, in the fourteenth-century style with nave, north aisle, porch, chancel and vestries. It had an open bellcote on the west gable containing a single bell. Contributions towards the estimated cost of £1520 were received from the Church Building Commissioners and the Incorporated Church Building Society. The church was consecrated on 9 August 1852.

Holy Trinity served as the parish church of Langley from 1853 until 1891 when the new church of St.Michael was substituted. At that date Holy Trinity reverted to the status of

Apart from the fact that there was a bell by the beginning of 1853 nothing is known of the bell, nor of what happened to it. Photographs of the church suggest that it was only about 18 inches in diameter. At one stage, consideration was being given to using the metal of the Langley bell towards the light chime of six bells put up at Tile Cross (*q.v.*) in 1968 but in the end it was not available for use there. The bell was still in the turret when the church was photographed for the National Monuments Record in 1968.

LANGLEY – St.John, St.John's Road and Richmond Hill, Roode End

The church is a red brick building of 1915-16 with a projecting shelter for a bell over the west end of the nave. The bell has a peg argent and it is hung for swng chiming with a bar stock and iron lever, the end of the stock being extended through the west wall for the chiming lever.

1. *Waist: (Barwell mark)*

Visited: CJP (ladders) 25 August 1988

By 1889 the parish church (Holy Trinity) was too small for the congregation. At first it was proposed to enlarge it, but by April 1889 it had been decided to build a new church and to retain Holy Trinity as a chapel of ease instead. St. Michael & All Angels was built in 1889-90 to the designs of F.B. Osborn of Osborn and Reading in association with Wood and Kendrick of West Bromwich as joint architects. The site was given by Mrs. Barrs. Thomas Rowbotham of Birmingham was the builder. The church was consecrated on 30 October 1890, and in February 1891 it was legally substituted for Holy Trinity as Langley's parish church.

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
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- The bell was cast without canons. It is hung for swing chiming to swing diagonally SW-NE between wooden two beams fixed between the walls. Its fittings include an elm stock, plate gudgeons, plain bearings in iron housings, clapper with independent staple and a small wheel.

The church was declared redundant in 2007, the last services taking place on 1 July. It stood empty for some years until the building was sold to a Philippines-based Christian organisation in April 2014. Many of the fittings (including stained glass, tablets and memorials) were removed during the subsequent refurbishment. The church was since reopened as Iglesia ni Cristo. It is not known if the bell remains in the turret.

Visited: CJP 25 August 1988

LEA HALL – St.Richard, Ridpool Road & Hallmoor Road

The conventional district of Lea Hall was formed in 1962 and this became a parish, formed from Tile Cross and Yardley, in 1966. The church was erected in 1964-6 to the designs of Denys Hinton & Associates of Leamington. It was built by C.G. Edmonds Ltd of Solihull and the cost of the church and hall adjoining amounted to £43,800. The consecration took place on 10 December 1966.

The church is a modern red brick building with a tall lantern in the roof over the altar. The bell hangs on the roof from a steel beam linked to the structure of the lantern, one side of which is sloping and tiled. The bell is:

Bell **Inscription**

1. 237 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH *
Waist: RICHARD OF CHICHESTER
Opposite: 1966

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1966	32¼	B (978Hz)	6	1	3

The bell and its fittings cost £563.8.6. and it was dispatched and invoiced on 17 May 1966. It is hung dead and sounded by electrically-operated tolling hammer.

Visited: CJP 7 August 1988 (ladders)

LICKEY, The (Worcestershire) – Holy Trinity

The Lickey was originally in the parish of Bromsgrove. The church, built to the designs of Henry Day, architect, was consecrated on 6 June 1856. It is in the Early English style. A new parish formed from parts of Bromsgrove, Kings Norton and Catshill was created in 1858.

There is a double bellcote over the chancel arch. There are two bells, cast in 1986 to replace two old bells, which are still preserved at the church. The new bells are hung for swing chiming with bar stocks, iron chiming levers and counter-balances. The smaller bell hangs in the southern aperture of the bellcote.

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
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1. 955 313 / (*blank*)
Waist: IN MEMORY OF / HONOR CADBURY / OF BEACON WOOD / 1908-1957
Opposite: (*Taylor's rectangular mark*) / 1986
2. 955 451 / (*blank*)
Waist: IN MEMORY OF / JOAN CRADOCK LAKEMAN / 1906-1986
Opposite: (*Taylor's rectangular mark*) / 1986

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1986	12½	G	0	2	1
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1986	14½	E flat	0	2	18

The installation of the new bells is recorded on a brass plate in the vestry: THE CHURCH BELLS OF HOLY TRINITY, THE LICKEY / WERE REPLACED IN 1987 AND BEAR THE INSCRIPTION:- / "G" BELL – IN MEMORY OF / HONOR CADBURY OF BEACONWOOD 1908-1957 / "E FLAT" BELL – IN MEMORY OF / JOAN CRADOCK LAKEMAN 1906-1985"

The old bells were hung for swing chiming with locally-made fittings dating from around 1900, including wooden stocks, plate gudgeons and iron levers. The larger bell (i.e. no.1) used to hang in the southern aperture of the bellcote.

Bell **Inscription**

- | Don | Inscription |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | (No inscription or marks) |
| 2. | On rim: T HODGES ABBEY ST DUBLIN 1855 |

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Unknown, c.1855	17 ³ / ₈	A	1	2	0*
2.	Thomas Hodges. 1855	16 ³ / ₄	D	1	1	0*

The bells may be by the same founder as they have similar mouldings (brass-foundry type with stepped mouldings on the shoulder), but the canons are of different types. No.1 has six round-section canons and a flat argent. No.2 has square-section canons and a raised argent. The larger bell has the higher note.

Visited: CJP 9 June 1981, 25 August 1988 and 12 November 1988

LICKEY, The (Worcestershire) – Beaconwood

Beaconwood is a large house, with entrance lodge, built for George Cadbury in 1904-5 to the designs of Birmingham architects Cossins, Peacock and Bewlay. One of the new bells at the church commemorates a member of the Cadbury family, Honor Cadbury (1908-1957) who lived there. In 1924 Taylors supplied a small bell to Mr. Cadbury of Bournville for Beaconwood. It was a 12" bell weighing 0-1-15 (nominal 2902 Hz).

Not visited: *Ex.inf.* John Taylor & Co

LODGE HILL CEMETERY – *see* SELLY OAK, Lodge Hill Cemetery

LONDONDERRY – St.Mark, Hales Lane

A mission church was established here (in Quinton parish) and first licensed in 1928. The new district of Londonderry was created from parts of Quinton, Oldbury and Smethwick in 1929. The present church was built in brick to the designs of Edwin F. Reynolds in 1935-6. It is in the early Christian style. The foundation stone was laid on 1 June 1935 and the church was consecrated on 30 May 1936 when Londonderry became a separate parish. There are extensions of 1962 by Maquire and Murray and of 1986 by G. Hill. There is no bell or belfry.

Visited: CJP 25 August 1988: Thanks to the Vicar

LONGBRIDGE – St.John the Baptist, Longbridge Lane

The parish of Longbridge was created from Kings Norton in 1957, although there had been a mission room (known as The Epiphany, Hawkesley Crescent) for the district since about 1918. The original mission room was designed by H.W. Simister. The present church was designed by George H. While of Bromilow, White & Smeaton (architects) and built by F. Deeley Ltd., in 1956-7. The cost was £46,668, partly met by War Damage compensation for the loss of the church at Deritend. The foundation stone was laid on 25 June 1956 and the consecration was on 4 December 1957. It is a simple modern building with contemporary furnishings and carved statues in the mullions of the west window.

The plain brick tower has an ornamental copper-covered top with a double gable roof. It contains a single bell:

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
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1. 186 / PRESENTED BY EMMELINE H. CADBURY 1957 *
Waist: JOHN TAYLOR & CO. / FOUNDERS / LOUGHBOROUGH
Low waist: PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1957	28¼	C# (1095Hz)	4	1	8

The bell hangs between two steel beams, with Taylor fittings for slow swinging including a counterbalanced cast iron stock, ball bearings, wheel and balanced clapper.

Visited: CJP 23 and 25 August 1988

LOZELLS – St.Paul (former church), Ivy Bank, Lozells Road

St. Paul's was built as a district church in the parish of St. Silas, Lozells. It was designed by J.A. Chatwin, and built in 1879-80 by P. Horsman of Wolverhampton whose tender (£6702)

was accepted on 27 March 1879. The foundation stone was laid on 10 July 1879 and the consecration took place on 11 September 1880. It is built in brick in the Perpendicular style, with the tower and main street elevation being faced with stone. St.Paul's became a separate parish in 1881.

The church has a north-west tower (82ft) intended "to be capable of holding a peal of bells". The Building Committee minutes of July 1880 refer to the acquisition of a bell, but there is no mention of it in the contemporary accounts or in the list of gifts to the church. A bell was probably installed when the tower was first built, but the present bell and its fittings could be of a later date and may have been installed when the tower was restored by Collins & Godfrey of Tewkesbury, builders, under W.H.D. Capel, architect, in 1928-9.

The bell now in the tower is as follows:

Bell **Inscription**

1. [No inscription or marks]

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Unknown, c.1880 or c.1929	24	2:2-2:3-2	F	3	0	0*

The bell has six plain canons and a central hole for an independent crown staple. It has not been quarter turned. It has some similarities with bells cast by Charles Carr of Smethwick, suggesting a later rather than earlier date. It is hung for swing chiming between two wooden beams at the level of the belfry windows. The pit is very wide (5ft. 6ins) and the bell hangs from the middle of a long wooden stock, fitted with strap gudgeons, stock hoops, plain bearings and an iron chiming lever.

The church was formally declared redundant in August 1982 following the union of the parishes of St.Paul and St.Silas, and in March 1983 a scheme was approved for the transfer of the building and its contents for use by the Pentecostal congregation of the Assembly of the First Born. The building still stands and the bell remains in the tower.

Visited: CJP 7 and 24 August 1988

LOZELLS – St.Paul and St.Silas (new church), Lozells Road

This church replaces the former churches of St.Silas and St.Paul. It was built in 1985 to a design by Robert Tolley of S.T. Walker & Partners. The building is of brick with a large feature window to the North. It was licenced as a Parish Centre for worship on 28 May 1986. When the church was built, the parish obtained estimates for providing new bells from the metal of the bells in the old churches but this was not done. There is no bell.

Church visited: CJP 7 August 1988

LOZELLS – St.Silas (former church), Church Street

Lozells was an outlying district at the western end of the parish of Aston. An "Aston Church District Institution" was set up here in 1843-4, the small school room being fitted up for Sunday services at that date. The church was built in 1852-4 and a separate parish of Lozells was created in 1853. It stands in the middle of a small square of terraced houses. The foundation stone was laid on 2 June 1852 and the completed church was consecrated on 10 January 1854. The architect was F.W. Fiddian, and the contractor was James Wilson of Handsworth. Built in brick in a simple Early English style, the building cost £2,812. It has an enclosed turret and spirelet over the west end of the nave, apparently containing two or three small bells. There is no mention of the bells in the building accounts.

The church was declared redundant in June 1985, the new church of St.Paul and St.Silas being built in 1985-6 for the combined parishes. In 1988 the building was being used by the Church of God Triumphant. By 2003 the church looked disused, but the bells were still in the turret.

Church visited: CJP 7 August 1988 and 1 March 2003

MANEY, St.Peter – see SUTTON COLDFIELD, St.Peter, Maney

MARSTON GREEN – St.Leonard, Elmdon Road

There was a chapel dedicated to St. Leonard at Marston Green in mediaeval times. A mission church, served from Bickenhill, was opened here in 1861-2 in a building erected in 1837 as a congregational chapel but later abandoned. In 1929 Marston Green was transferred from Bickenhill to the parish of Sheldon, and in 1939 it became a separate parish. Building of the present church began in 1936, and the foundation stone was laid on 17 April 1937. W.J. Knight was the architect and Parsons and Morrin Ltd were the builders. The church was consecrated on 28 May 1938. From that time until it was replaced by the present hall in 1964 the old church was retained as a church hall.

The mission church originally had a small Barwell bell (12½" diameter) and in 1938 this was transferred to the new church and hung in a makeshift turret. It remained in use until the present bell was provided in 1960. The planned tower was never built, but in May 1960 the parish obtained a faculty to install a new bell to be hung under the supervision of Mr. Barnett, the church architect.

The present bell is hung dead from a concrete beam projecting from the south wall of the nave over the south porch and sounded by trigger-action clapper.

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
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1. 205 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1960 *
Waist: GIVEN BY THE PARISHIONERS OF / ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH / MARSTON
 GREEN / 1938-1959

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1960	22½	G# (1645Hz)	2	2	25

Visited: CJP 27 July 1988 (ladders)

MARYVALE – Our Lady of the Assumption (R.C.), Old Oscott Hill

When Oscott College moved to New Oscott in 1838, the old college became its preparatory school and in 1846 it was renamed Maryvale. The College was put to a range of uses between 1838 and 1851 when it became an orphanage of the Sisters of Mercy. The Whitechapel foundry daybooks show that Thomas Mears supplied bells for Dr. Weedall at Oscott. The entries are as follows:

22 August 1837

The Catholic College of St.Marys Ascott near Salisbury (*sic*) by the Rev^d. Dr. Weedall

To a Bell 12-1-17 @ 15d

£86.16.3.

Clapper

1.4.0.

£88.0.3

Welby Pugin, arch^t.

3 November 1837

Revd. Dr. Weedall, St.Mary's Ascott, Birmingham

To a Bell 2-0-13 @ 15d

£14.16.3.

Clapper

12.0.

Stock, wheel, ironwork & brasses

5.10.0.

£20.18.3.

It is not known whereabouts at Oscott or Maryvale these bells were installed.

A new church was built in 1954-7 to replace the previous church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. George Bernard Cox and Bernard Vincent James of Harrison & Cox were the architects. The church of Our Lady of the Assumption was consecrated in November 1957. It has a large west tower of brick, oblong in plan and in three stages with porch, organ loft and bell chamber. Access to the bells is by a long vertical iron ladder close to the north wall.

The tower contains a chime of eight bells in the key of B flat (923Hz or Bb minus 17.41 cents), of which the tenor bell has a diameter of 34 inches.

Bell Inscription

1. 138 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1963 *

- Waist: PATRICK
Soundbow: (seven crosses – spaced evenly)
2. 241 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1963 *
 Waist: TERESA
Soundbow: (seven crosses – spaced evenly)
3. 242 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1963 *
 Waist: MARY
Soundbow: (seven crosses – spaced evenly)
4. 243 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1963 *
 Waist: THOMAS
Soundbow: (seven crosses – spaced evenly)
5. 161 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1963 *
 Waist: JOSEPH
Soundbow: (seven crosses – spaced evenly)
6. 173 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1963 *
 Waist: FRANCIS
Soundbow: (seven crosses – spaced evenly)
7. 182 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1963 *
 Waist: PAUL
Soundbow: (seven crosses – spaced evenly)
8. 236 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1963 *
 Waist: MARYVALE 1963 / PETER
Soundbow: (seven crosses – spaced evenly)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1963	17 $\frac{7}{8}$	1846	1	0	24
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1963	19	1742	1	1	16
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1963	21 $\frac{1}{8}$	1552	1	3	12
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1963	23 $\frac{1}{8}$	1383	2	2	0
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1963	26	1232	3	1	22
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1963	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	1162.5	4	0	14
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1963	30 $\frac{5}{8}$	1036	5	1	19
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1963	34	923	7	2	2

The bells are hung in a simple steel framework of which the channel deadstocks on the north and south sides form the heads. Bells 1, 3, 5, 7 hang on the north and 2, 4, 6, 8 on the south. There is a modern type of electro-magnetic hammer in each bell. They are played from a piano-type keyboard – set out for 13 bells, with the semitones omitted – in the organ loft over the porch.

In 2009 the bells were overhauled by Simon Adams for Taylors, Eayre & Smith Ltd. New chiming hammers were fitted and an "Apollo Programmable Chime Controller". This also has a push button keypad for manual operation by pressing buttons labelled 1-8.

Visited: DLC and SEA 7 September 1995 and *ex.inf.* Taylors

MARYVALE – see also OSCOTT

MERE GREEN, St.James – see HILL, St.James

MOSELEY – St.Agnes, Colmore Crescent

St.Agnes was built in 1883-4 as a chapel of ease to St.Mary's. It retained this status until a separate parish was created in 1914. The original church was designed by William Davis, the builder of the first portion being William Bloore of Birmingham. The corner stone was laid on 3 October 1883 and the church was consecrated on 29 October 1884. The building was enlarged in 1893 with the completion of the nave and aisles and the erection of the lower portion of the tower. Although continued to the original designs, this work was supervised

The church originally possessed a single bell, hung outside on a bracket frame on the west wall near the top of the tower. In April 1921 a faculty was obtained for improvements to the bells and tower. The old bell (weighing only 0-1-1) was disposed of and two new ones installed. The new bells were:

1. 161 / (*border all round*)
Waist: 1921 / ERECTED IN MEMORY OF / HARRIET INSTON / BY HER SISTER
Opposite: (*Taylor's circular mark*)
2. 137 / (*border all round*)
Waist: 1921 / ST.AGNES' . MOSELEY / * * * / ERECTED BY / THE PARISHIONERS AND
CONGREGATION
Opposite: (*Taylor's circular mark*)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1921	26	1260	E flat+21.42	3	2	19
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1921	38 $\frac{1}{8}$	842	A flat+23.58	10	2	22

Messrs S. Agnes' Vicar & Cheshwardens, Moseley, Birmingham (Hy. H. Marshall Esq, Blofield, 56 St. Agnes Road, Moseley, Birmingham).	
Two new bells see specification 17 Dec 1919 & quotation 12 January 1921, weights:	
10-2-22	£136.10.0.
3-2-19	£49.0.0.
	[Sub-total] £185.10.0.
Fittings for chiming, garter holes top of wheels	£48.0.0.
2 beams to carry two bells	£27.0.0.
Fixing	£27.10.0.
Carriage	£10.10.0.
Contingencies say	<u>£5.10.0.</u>
	[Total] £304.0.0.
Inscriptions 105 letters @ 9d	£3.18.9.
Add for extra weight in the two bells weight together 14-1-13 instead of 13-2-0, 3qr. 13lbs @ £13.13.0	<u>£11.16.6.</u>
	[sub-total] £319.15.3.
Cr. By old bell 0-1-1 @ £5 [per cwt] see letter 26 June 1921	£1.6.0.
	[Total] £318.9.3.

The two bells – the treble and tenor of five – are hung low down in the section of the tower completed in 1893. They have standard Taylor ringing fittings including cast iron stocks (job number 615), ball bearings and Hastings stays in a cast iron H frame (also job

number 615), all provided and installed by Taylors in 1932. The frame is set out for eight bells on two levels and the girders are in place, but only the frame-sides needed for the two bells were actually installed. The Taylor invoice for the work, 7 May 1932, shows that the some of the work was undertaken by the building contractors. It was for "Rehanging the two bells of St. Agnes Church, Moseley, according to estimate 12 May 1931", including providing four frame castings and four end pieces. There is a note "The contractor supplied & fixed the steel frame girders. We drilled them" and another "The contractor took down & dismantled existing fittings". The charge for Taylors' work was £78.

The louvres are blocked up half-way for sound control and there is a sound lantern on top of the tower. In 1988 recorded bells were in use, broadcast by means of two loudspeakers in the tower.

Visited: CJP 10 June 1988; DLC and SEA 1994

MOSELEY – St. Anne, Park Hill

St. Anne's was built in 1874 at the sole expense of Miss Rebecca Anderton of Wake Green, Moseley, at a cost of around £7000. It stands on a hilltop site and its spire is visible from all around. The church was designed by Frederick Preedy, architect, and Collins of Tewkesbury was the builder. Work began in September 1873. The church was consecrated on 22 September 1874 and a parish was assigned from Moseley in February 1875. The building was extended in 1897 and 1922. It suffered severe wartime damage when a bomb fell on the church on 3 December 1940, and in 1946 the roof collapsed. The church was rededicated in 1948 after its post-war restoration.

The tower and spire stand at the north west corner of the nave. Shortly after the church was completed, three old bells from St. Mary's and one new bell were hung in the tower. This was reported in the *Worcester Diocesan Church Calendar* for 1876, which stated in its report of work completed in 1874-5 that:

The old bells of St. Mary's, Moseley (3), have been hung in the tower of this church, and a fourth bell (tenor) added; all at the cost of Miss Anderton. The bells are chimed by an "Ellacombe" apparatus, the gift of F. Elkington, Esq., Moseley Hall.

A church inventory dated 30 June 1884 states "There are 4 bells but the frame is prepared for a 5th", also noting that "a new frame prepared for five bells" was erected at the expense of Miss Anderton.

Until their restoration in 2000 the bells remained as first installed in 1874-5. They were hung in a wooden frame with derelict ringing fittings. The frame (*Bellframes* type 6.A, layout 5.5) was evidently supplied new by James Barwell in 1874-5, but some of the fittings – certainly the stocks of the two smaller bells and three of the wheels – came with the bells from St. Mary's. They were fitted with wooden stocks, strap or drive-in gudgeons, stock hoops (those on bells 3 and 4 being fitted with tightening screws), bearing brasses, wheels, stays and sliders, and an Ellacombe chiming apparatus. All four bells had canons and none had been turned.

As early as 1875 deficiencies in the older bells were noted in a report, and in 1882 James Barwell submitted quotations for re-casting the ancient bells, replacing the old fittings and providing a new tenor bell, all at a cost of £107. However, no action was taken and the bells remained in the same state as when they were first transferred to the church.

In 2000 the bells were retuned, rehung with new chiming fittings and augmented to five in 2000 by the addition of a redundant bell (from Bagworth, Leics, and cast by George Oldfield I in 1665) as tenor. These became a swing-chime of five bells in the key of B flat (953Hz), the tenor weighing 4-0-16. At this stage the bells were hung in the wooden frame of 1874 with all new fittings by Hayward Mills Associates, including steel headstocks, ball bearings and iron chiming levers. The bells could also be sounded from a computer-controlled unit operating solenoid chiming hammers on the bells. The bells were rededicated on 3 December 2000.

The hope was, however, that the bells might later become a ringing peal, and this was realised in 2008 when the bells were again rehung, augmented to six and remodelled. Early in 2004 the church was offered a redundant Warner bell from All Saints, Grimsby, by the Keltek Trust on the condition that the chime would be converted for full-circle ringing.

This bell became the new treble. In addition, a new bell was cast to replace the Oldfield bell which has become the service bell. Again carried out by Hayward Mills Associates, the work was completed in July 2008.

The tower now contains a ring of six bells in the key of B flat (954.5Hz or B flat plus 40.69 cents):

- | Bell | Inscription |
|-------------|---|
| 1. | J WARNER & SONS LONDON 1904. |
| 2. | (<i>Brasyer shield</i>) GOD (<i>acorn border</i>) SAVE (<i>acorn border</i>) THE (<i>acorn border</i>) KING (<i>acorn border</i>) 1638 (<i>acorn border</i>) / (<i>arabesque border</i>)
<i>Soundbow: (three coins)</i> |
| 3. | + IESVS (<i>vine border</i>) BEE (<i>border</i>) OVR (<i>border</i>) GOOD (<i>border</i>) SPEED (<i>border</i>) 1650 (<i>border</i>) (<i>John Martin's large heart mark</i>) |
| 4. | SAMUEL SMITH IUNIER * CHURCH WARDEN * 1740 (<i>ornament</i>) W ^M BROOKE CAST ME (<i>Arabesque border</i>) |
| 5. | JAMES BARWELL FOUNDER. BIRMINGHAM 1874. |
| 6. | HAYWARD MILLS [<i>space</i>] NOTTINGHAM 2008
<i>Waist: TO THE MEMORY OF ALFRED RICHARD AND MARGARET MAY / WORTHINGTON OF STEVENAGE HERTFORDSHIRE / DONATED BY THEIR SON MICHAEL AND HIS WIFE TESSA WHO MARRIED IN / THIS CHURCH ON 27TH FEBRUARY 1982</i>
<i>Opposite: ROYAL EIJSBOUTS</i> |

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Warner & Sons 1904	21 ³ / ₈	2:2-2:3:2	1606.5	1	3	7
2.	Hugh Watts II, 1638	22	2:2-2:3:1	1425	2	0	24
3.	John Martin, 1650	24 ⁵ / ₈	0:2-2:3:2	1271.5	2	3	6
4.	William Brooke, 1740	26 ³ / ₄	2:2-2:3:2	1200.5	3	1	16
5.	James Barwell, 1874	30 ¹ / ₈	2:2-2:3:2	1072.5	4	3	26
6.	Hayward Mills (Eijsbouts) 2008	32 ³ / ₄	2:2-2:3:2	954.5	7	0	5

All the old Moseley bells (i.e. 2-5) have canons and they have now been eighth turned. The canons of the Warner bell have been removed and the new tenor was cast with a flat top. The treble is a maiden bell. The second has not been retuned, but it was heavily edged or skirted long ago and the lower moulding wire has been removed in the process. The third has been chip tuned and retuned. The fourth has been retuned in the crown and also skirted at the lip. The fifth has also been retuned in the soundbow and in the crown.

The Barwell five-bell frame has been extended with the addition of an extra pit on the north side for the new tenor. This pit is of traditional timber construction (*Bellframes* type 6.A like the rest of the frame). The old frame has long pits on the east and west sides, now containing the treble (and service bell) and fourth respectively, with parallel transverse pits between them for bells 2, 3 and 5. The bells are hung with new ringing fittings supplied by Hayward Mills Associates in 2008, including cast iron stocks, ball bearings, wheels, traditional stays and sliders and clappers suspended from independent staples. The stocks of bells 2-5 are of canon-retaining type. These bells are also fitted with solenoid chiming hammers.

The service bell is hung dead from a wooden stock bolted to the frame at the south end of the pit of the treble bell. It retains its canons and it also has a resin pad on the crown from when it was rehung for swing-chiming in 2000. It is used instead of the new tenor when the bells are chimed. It has a solenoid chiming hammer but it is not fitted with an internal clapper.

- | Bell | Inscription |
|-------------|---|
| Service | IHS (<i>vine border</i>) NAZARENVS (<i>border</i>) REX (<i>border</i>) IVDEORVM (<i>border</i>) 1665
(<i>George Oldfield's mark</i>) |

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Service	George Oldfield, 1665	30	2:2-2:3:1	950	4	0	16

There is no clock.

Visited: CJP 28 December 1977, and CJP and Heather Pickford 14 August 2008; Thanks to Jayne Beauchamp

MOSELEY – St.Mary (Parish Church), St.Mary's Row

Until 1853 Moseley was a chapelry, first of Bromsgrove and then of Kings Norton (which only became a parish in 1846). It was from Kings Norton that the parish of Moseley was eventually created in 1853. St.Mary's was first built as a chapelry in the fifteenth century, and the present tower, said to have been begun in 1496, was added early in the following century. The building has been enlarged and rebuilt several times – notably in 1783, 1823-4, 1886 and 1910 – and the tower is all that now remains of the old chapel. The tower was restored in 1913.

The present bells

Standing at the south west corner of the building, the tower now contains a new ring of ten bells in the key of F natural (686 Hz or F minus 31 cents):

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
1.	295 / 20 (<i>Gillett & Johnston badge</i>) 12 <i>Waist:</i> EDWARD'S BELL / SMALL IN STATURE / GREAT OF HEART / EDWARD BLOXSOM 1984 <i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Royal arms</i>) / CAST BY / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. / LOUGHBOROUGH
2.	295 / 20 (<i>Gillett & Johnston badge</i>) 12 <i>Waist:</i> DONATED BY / REUBEN COLLEY / FINE ARTS / MOSELEY <i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Royal arms</i>) / CAST BY / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. / LOUGHBOROUGH
3.	295 / 20 (<i>Gillett & Johnston badge</i>) 12 <i>Waist:</i> THE WALL FAMILY BELL / DONATED BY / SHARON AND CHARLES WALL / TRUSTEES <i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Royal arms</i>) / CAST BY / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. / LOUGHBOROUGH
4.	295 / 20 (<i>Gillett & Johnston badge</i>) 12 <i>Waist:</i> DONATED BY / JOHN AND GILL FIELDEN / 'IN LOVING MEMORY / OF OUR PARENTS' <i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Royal arms</i>) / CAST BY / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. / LOUGHBOROUGH
5.	295 / 20 (<i>Gillett & Johnston badge</i>) 12 <i>Waist:</i> DONATED BY / SARAH A BLACK / IAN BRYAN, TOWER CAPTAIN / REMEMBERING / FAMILY AND FRIENDS / FIAT PAX IN VITUTE TUA <i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Royal arms</i>) / CAST BY / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. / LOUGHBOROUGH
6.	295 / 20 (<i>Gillett & Johnston badge</i>) 12 <i>Waist:</i> THE GIFT OF / THE ST MARTIN'S GUILD <i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Royal arms</i>) / CAST BY / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. / LOUGHBOROUGH
7.	295 / 20 (<i>Gillett & Johnston badge</i>) 12 <i>Waist:</i> IN MEMORY OF / DAVID JOSEPH SLATER / 1922-1983 / * * * / JANET SLATER / 1932-2000 / * * * / EMILY JANE SLATER / 2004 <i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Royal arms</i>) / CAST BY / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. / LOUGHBOROUGH
8.	[<i>blank</i>] / 6783 <i>Waist:</i> (<i>Gillett & Johnston badge</i>) / FOUNDED 1889 / RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON / CROYDON / 1913 & 1950 / 8 <i>Opposite:</i> (<i>engraved</i>) MICHAEL / THE GIFT OF MANY DONORS
9.	[<i>blank</i>] / 6784 <i>Waist:</i> THIS PEAL OF BELLS WAS PRESENTED BY / MRS. ROBERT SHANKLAND TO THE / FREE MIDDLE CHURCH, GREENOCK / IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS / MR. & MRS. GIBSON, PAISLEY, 1889 / RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON / CROYDON / 1913 & 1950 / 9

Opposite: (engraved – except the badge, which is cast) ANNE / (Gillett & Johnston badge) / THE / MARGARET PIGGOTT / BEQUEST

10. *(Leaf-scroll decoration all round) / 6785*

Waist: (Gillett & Johnston badge) / CAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1912 / MIDDLE UNITED FREE CHURCH / GREENOCK / THIS TENOR BELL WITH TWO TREBLES / ADDED BY THE CONGREGATION IN 1912 / RECAST 1950 / FOLLOWING THE FIRE OF 22ND. MAY 1948 / 10

Opposite: (engraved) MARY / FR. JEREMY DUSSEK / AND / ST. MARY'S P.C.C.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Hz	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 2012	25½	1733	A	4	1	11
2.	John Taylor & Co, 2012	26½	1543	G	4	2	19
3.	John Taylor & Co, 2012	27¾	1367	F	4	2	17
4.	John Taylor & Co, 2012	28½	1293	E	5	0	5
5.	John Taylor & Co, 2012	30	1153	D	5	2	11
6.	John Taylor & Co, 2012	31½	1027	C	6	0	12
7.	John Taylor & Co, 2012	34	916	Bb	7	1	15
8.	Gillett & Johnston, 1950	36 ⁹ / ₁₆	864	A	9	1	5
9.	Gillett & Johnston, 1950	41	770	G	12	3	26
10.	Gillett & Johnston, 1950	45½	686	F	18	0	9

The bells are hung with modern Taylor fittings in a two-tier cast-iron and steel frame, installed in 2012. Bells 2, 5 8 and 9 are in a lowside frame (*Bellframes* 8.3.A.h) on the upper level and the rest are in an H frame below (type 8.3.C.e). All the bells have flat tops and none have been turned.

The previous bells

From 1874 until 2011 the tower contained a second-hand ring of eight cast steel bells in the key of D. These bells were previously hung at St.Marie's, Sheffield (now the Roman Catholic Cathedral) in July 1861, having been originally set up as a demonstration peal in a wooden tower in the Naylor Vickers foundry.

The original set was made up in 1858, but most of the bells were replaced over a period, mainly in 1860-61. The authorities at St.Marie's allowed Naylor Vickers to put them in the church where intending purchasers could better sample what they might get. This worked well for a while, but when the firm pressed for payment for the bells in 1873 the church authorities instructed them to remove the bells but leave the frame. Thus the steel octave at St.Marie's was replaced by a new ring of eight bell-metal bells by Mears & Stainbank in 1873-4. These remained in the original frame until they were rehung in 1934.

Mr. Walter H. Lyndon of the Henburys, Moseley, subsequently obtained the Sheffield bells for £700 and presented them to St.Mary's. They were hung at Moseley in 1874 by Mr. C. Bateman of Sheffield, foreman to Vickers & Sons. Not much is known about Bateman, although as "Mr. C.G. Bateman, of Sheffield", he rehung the eight bells at East Retford, Notts, in 1860.

The inscriptions are now badly corroded, and so the versions below are largely based on the account of the bells in H.B. Walters *Church Bells of Worcestershire* p.175 as revised (following careful inspection) by Randal Clouston and Fr. David Cawley in 1986. A slightly different version appears in G.A. Dawson *The Church Bells of the Diocese of Sheffield* p.89. The main difference is that the treble appears to be by Vickers & Sons Ltd and not Vickers Sons & Co as stated by Walters.

Bell Inscription

- Crown: (The Royal Arms)*
VICKERS AND SONS LIMITED SHEFFIELD 1874 : PATENT CAST STEEL 6046
- NAYLOR VICKERS & C^O. 1858 SHEFFIELD : E RIEPE'S PATENT CAST STEEL No. 1985
- NAYLOR VICKERS & C^O. 1861 SHEFFIELD : E RIEPE'S PATENT CAST STEEL No. 2508

4. (*Remains of ornamental cresting – largely rusted away – by the upper moulding wires*) / NAYLOR VICKERS & C^o. 1861 : SHEFFIELD E RIEPE'S PATENT CAST STEEL No. 2515
5. (*Remains of ornamental cresting – as fourth*) / NAYLOR VICKERS & C^o. 1860 : SHEFFIELD E RIEPE'S PATENT CAST STEEL No. 2123
6. (*Remains of ornamental cresting – as fourth*) / NAYLOR VICKERS & C^o. 1861 : SHEFFIELD E RIEPE'S PATENT CAST STEEL No. 2519
7. (*Remains of ornamental cresting – as fourth*) / NAYLOR VICKERS & C^o. 1861 : SHEFFIELD E RIEPE'S PATENT CAST STEEL No. 2486
8. (*Remains of ornamental cresting – as fourth*) / NAYLOR VICKERS & C^o. 1860 : SHEFFIELD E RIEPE'S PATENT CAST STEEL No. 2085

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Vickers Sons & Co Ltd, 1874	30¾	1136	Db+42.06	4	1	0*
2.	Naylor Vickers & Co, 1858	31¾	1120	Db-17.51	5	0	0*
3.	Naylor Vickers & Co, 1861	35½	919.5	Bb-23.98	6	2	0*
4.	Naylor Vickers & Co, 1861	38½	854.5	Ab+49.09	7	2	0*
5.	Naylor Vickers & Co, 1860	41¾	776	G-17.74	10	2	0*
6.	Naylor Vickers & Co, 1861	44¾	732	F#-18.79	11	3	0*
7.	Naylor Vickers & Co, 1861	49½	648	E-29.81	13	2	0*
8.	Naylor Vickers & Co, 1860	53½	590.5	D+9.32	16	3	3

The bells all have flange tops. The back five sound relatively well in tune, but the third is extremely flat, the second is sharp and almost the same note as the treble which is excessively flat. The version of the tuning figures are given here are as recorded by David Kelly, superseding a provisional analysis of notes or pitches as noted by Ranald Clouston and David Cawley which found the notes to be 1. D-0.76, 2. C#-0.08, 3. B-1.38, 4. A-0.61, 5. G-0.20, 6. F#-0.36, 7. E-0.52, 8. D-0.22. It will be noted that there are significant differences between the two versions. The tenor was weighed when the bells were refurbished in 1991 but the other weights are approximate. According to Pawson and Brailsford's *Illustrated Sheffield Guide* of 1862 the total weight of the original ring at St.Marie's, Sheffield, was 8500 lbs. The original treble was replaced when the bells were transferred to Moseley, and the second (dated 1858) is one of the original demonstration bells which escaped substitution as others were replaced piecemeal in 1860-61.

The following testimonial appeared in a catalogue of Vickers, Sons & Co of Sheffield, published in 1881:

Moseley Parsonage, near Birmingham

To Messrs. Vickers & Sons, June 11th, 1874

Dear Sirs, I have much pleasure in informing you that the Peal of Eight Bells which you have hung in Moseley Church, gives much satisfaction both to myself and to the inhabitants generally. I consider that the frame for the bells is constructed very scientifically. I have further pleasure in stating that your foreman, Mr. Bateman and the men who have worked under his superintendence, have been uniformly most civil and obliging in all my intercourse with them. I shall be glad to recommend them on future occasions.

I am, dear Sirs, yours faithfully, J. R. DAVISON.

(Peal of Eight Bells, Tenor 54 in. diam., weighing 17¾ cwts.)

In March 1887 J.W. Taylor junior visited Moseley to advise on the condition of the bells. He noted that "the timbers of the frame are only 9" x 4" and the braces are the same size", commenting "it is impossible to make heavy bells go in sticks like these". He declined to quote for repairs, noting in his pocket book "I really don't think I would have anything to do with them".

The bells are hung in Vickers & Sons' two-tier wooden frame of 1874, with bells 1, 3, 4 and 7 above and 2, 5, 6 and 8 below (*Bellframes* layout 4.3 on each level). The frame (*Bellframes* type 6.S with 6.B trusses in each tier) has been strengthened with angle-plates and tie-rods. The fittings supplied for the original bells were partially renewed by Carr at a

cost of £42.5.0. in April 1903 when plate gudgeons and new bearings in iron housings were supplied. Even after Carr's rehanging the bells were regarded as difficult to ring, and ringing was stopped in 1909 when the ringing floor was removed during the rebuilding of the church. An Ellacombe chiming apparatus was installed in May 1909 at a cost of £17.5s.

The bells were overhauled by Eayre & Smith and brought back into use in 1991, bells 1, 6, 7 and 8 being rehung on ball bearings and the clappers, gudgeons and ironwork of all eight bells were refurbished. The seventh bell was rehung with new gudgeons and ball bearings and a new wheel in 1992. The restoration project was led by Ralf Vines of Moseley, with much of the work in the tower being undertaken by Simon Adams and Jeff Webb, ringers from Yardley.

Following the failure of the tenor gudgeons on 17 May 2008 ringing continued on the remaining seven bells. However, it became clear that the existing installation had little future and plans were formed to replace the steel bells with something better. The bells were last rung on 15 January 2012 and dismantling began on the following day. The old bells will be shipped to Western Australia for display in the vicinity of The Bell Tower in Perth, and St.Mary's will receive a ring of ten bells with a tenor of 18 cwt. Installation is due to be completed in mid-2012.

Former bells

There were three bells – "in the steeple iij bells" – at Moseley in 1552, and the number remained unchanged until the steel bells were installed in 1874. By that time there were three bells dated 1638, 1650 and 1740.

The three old bells from St.Mary's were transferred in 1874 to St.Anne's (*q.v.*) where they remain in use. They are as follows:

Bell	Inscription
1.	(<i>Brasyer shield</i>) GOD (<i>acorn border</i>) SAVE (<i>acorn border</i>) THE (<i>acorn border</i>) KING (<i>acorn border</i>) 1638 (<i>acorn border</i>) / (<i>arabesque border</i>) <i>Soundbow. (three coins)</i>
2.	+ IESVS (<i>vine border</i>) BEE (<i>border</i>) OVR (<i>border</i>) GOOD (<i>border</i>) SPEED (<i>border</i>) 1650 (<i>border</i>) (<i>John Martin's large heart mark</i>)
3.	SAMUEL SMITH IUNIER * CHURCH WARDEN * 1740 (<i>ornament</i>) W ^M BROOKE CAST ME (<i>Arabesque border</i>)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Hugh Watts II, 1638	22	2	0	25
2.	John Martin, 1650	24 ⁵ / ₈	2	3	6
3.	William Brooke, 1740	26 ³ / ₄	3	1	16

Clock

The clock is a two-train flatbed movement by Joyce of Whitchurch, 1937, erected to commemorate the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on 12 May 1937. It strikes the hours on the seventh bell and shows the time on a dial on the south face of the tower. It is fitted with a pinwheel escapement. It replaces an earlier clock erected by public subscription in 1857 which was sold in 1937.

Further work

- Complete details for new bells
- Revise the remainder of the text to reflect latest developments, replacement of steel bells etc

Visited: CJP 11 November 1989 and old bells (at St.Anne's) 28 December 1977; DLC and RWMC 20 November 1992

MOSELEY – Springhill College (Congregational), Wake Green Road

It was rehung in 1962 by Mears & Stainbank who removed the canons, provided a new wooden deadstock, supplied new ironwork and fitted an electronically operated solenoid

Visited: CJP (binoculars) 28 July 1988

NEWTOWN, St.Stephen - see BIRMINGHAM, St.Stephen, Newtown

The Hollymoor Mental Hospital was built in 1896-1905, the architects being Martin and Chamberlain of Birmingham. The hospital stood in extensive grounds, the site being dominated by the water tower of brick (132ft high) with copper roof and lantern. The hospital chapel was built in a simple Gothic style with a louvred spirelet over the east end of the nave. Also designed by Martin and Chamberlain, the chapel was licensed for worship on 13 May 1905. Since the closure of the hospital the site has been redeveloped for housing, but the water tower and chapel are among the buildings that remain. Since 1998 the congregation from St.Bartholomew's, Allens Cross, has used the chapel for worship. The turret may contain a small bell of up to 18 inches in diameter.

This mission was established in Steel Road in 1918 and the permanent church in Frankley Beeches Road opened in 1936. The church was built to the designs of E. Bower Norris. It is in the Italianate style, in pale red brick with concrete dressings, with a square bell tower over the porch in the south-west corner. There is ladder access to the bell stage.

The tower contains a single bell - blank, with a peg argent - of 15 $\frac{7}{8}$ " diameter, note F. It is hung for swing chiming with an iron stock, iron lever, plain bearings and a hook-over clapper suspended from a cast-in staple. The bell swings east-west between two wooden beams supported on two further beams at right angles to them. It is a brassfoundry casting, doubtless dating from either 1918 or 1936.

NORTHFIELD, St. Bartholomew – see ALLENS CROSS, St. Bartholomew

The large parish of Northfield was originally in Worcestershire until it became part of the city of Birmingham in 1911. There was a priest at Northfield in 1086 and the church is probably of pre-Conquest origin. The oldest parts of the present fabric date from the twelfth century, including the north doorway of c.1170. The chancel is a complete thirteenth-century piece in the Early English style. The lower stages of the west tower date from around 1300, the belfry stage having been added or rebuilt in the fifteenth century. The church was enlarged by the addition of a north aisle, designed by G.F. Bodley, in 1898-1900, but it retains much of the atmosphere and appearance of a large mediaeval village church.

The tower now contains a ring of ten bells in the key of F sharp (734.5Hz):

1. 337 243 / (*Millennium badge*) (*vine border*) 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 99 (*vine border*)

Waist: IN MEMORY OF / THE RT. HON. HERBERT BARON AUSTIN / OF
 LONGBRIDGE, / 1886-1941.

Opposite: THE REVEREND R.I. WARREN, M.A. - RECTOR / P.J. BIRCH } / S. EVANS }
 CHURCHWARDENS.

2. 337 267 / (*Millennium badge*) (*vine border*) 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 99 (*vine border*)
Waist: SILK HER NAME / SMALL HER FRAME, / WARM HER HEART / GOD'S LOVE TO
 IMPART / A.M.D.G. / BY THE DONOR / IRENE BEATRICE SILK, / 1900-1998.
3. 213 / (*bell and pomegranate border*)
Waist: ELIZA / THE WIFE OF FRANK JUCKES, J.P. / GAVE THIS BELL / 1923
Opposite: (*Taylor's circular mark*)
4. 298 / (*bell and pomegranate border*)
Waist: THE GIFT OF / FRANK JUCKES, J.P. / CHURCHWARDEN, / P.M. ST. LAURENCE
 LODGE / NO. 2724 NORTHFIELD / 1923
Opposite: (*Taylor's circular mark*)
5. 173 / WE NOW ARE SIX (*coin*) THO ONCE BUT (*coin*) FIVE (*four coins*) (*scroll border*) /
 HENRY (*coin*) KNOWLES PARISH CLARK (*coin*) 1730 (*scroll border*)
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1923
6. 151 / AND AGAINST OUR (*coin*) CASTING (*coin*) SOME DID (*two coins*) STRIVE 1730
 (*scroll border*) / (*scroll border all round*)
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1923
7. 237 / BUT (*coin*) WHEN A DAY FOR (*coin*) MEETING (*coin*) THERE WAS FIXT (*coin*)
 1730 (*scroll border*) (*coin*) / JOSEPH SMITH (*coin*) MADE ME (*floral border*) (*two*
coins) (*border*)
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1923
8. 236 / APEARD (*coin*) BUT NINE (*coin*) AGAINST (*coin*) TWENTY SIX (*coin*) 1730
 (*border*) (*coin*) / SQUIRE SMITH (*two coins*) (*scroll border*) (*two coins*)
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1923
9. [No number – crook 232 used] / SAMUEL PALMER AND (*coin*) THOMAS (*coin*) SILKE (*coin*)
 CHURCH (*coin*) WARDENS (*coin*) 1730 (*border*) / (*border all round*)
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1923
10. 265 / THOMAS JERVOISE ES^{QR} PATRON : WILLIAM WORTH D:D RECTOR IT WAS
 WILLIAM (*coin*) KETTLE (*coin*) THAT (*coin*) / DID CONTRIVE TO MAKE US 6 THAT
 WERE BUT 5 (*coin*) 1730 (*scroll border*) (*two coins*)
Waist: SIX BELLS RECAST 1923 / * * * / C.H.J. WILTON, RECTOR / F. JUCKES } / J.W.
 PARKER } CHURCHWARDENS
Opposite: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1923

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1999	22 $\frac{7}{8}$	1851	3	1	19
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1999	24	1653	3	1	22
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	25 $\frac{1}{8}$	1473	3	2	14
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	25 $\frac{3}{8}$	1387	3	2	16
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	1237	4	0	18
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	29 $\frac{3}{8}$	1103	5	0	2
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	31 $\frac{3}{4}$	984	6	0	6
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	33 $\frac{7}{8}$	926	7	1	0
9.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	37 $\frac{3}{8}$	826	9	1	17
10.	John Taylor & Co, 1923	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	734.5	14	1	13

The bells were rehung in a new cast iron lowside frame (*Bellframes* type 8.3.A.h, layout 10.3) by Taylors in 1999. New fittings were provided for the trebles and the 1923 fittings of the other bells were refurbished. All ten bells have standard Taylor fittings including cast iron stocks, ball bearings etc. The restored bells were dedicated on 20 November 1999. The old frame of 1637 (see below) remains *in situ* above the new installation.

Former bells

There were three bells in 1552. The dates of augmentation to 4 and 5 are not known, even though there are some churchwardens' accounts from 1603. The third bell is mentioned in 1623, and the accounts for 1626 and 1628 refer to repairs to the brasses. A clapper was replaced in 1633 and in 1634 a bell was taken down and rehung.

The accounts for 1637 show that in that year the old bells were recast and rehung in a new frame. Unfortunately neither the bellfounder nor the maker of the frame are named, and the number of bells is not specified. The entries in the accounts include:

1637	
It spent at Northfield at the first meeting of the Bellfounder	3s.
It layd out at Northfield to the Carpenter for taking downe the floore Two bells & ye frame	6s.
It at Worcester when I went to testify about the Bells	2s.
It at Roger Bestes bestowed on ye wainemen	8s.9d.
It at the meeting of the bells	5s.6d.
It to Richard Nayler for carrying the bells to Walsall and carrying one loade of timber	£1.3.6.
It spent at the helping in of the bells	1s.4d.
It to the Carpenter for taking downe the nether floore and helping up with the timber	4s.4d.
It spent with the ironworke maker	1s.
It payd unto the [sawyers - deleted] carpenters	5s.3d.
It payd to the Carpenters another time	£2.11.0
It Payd to the bellfounder	£2
It layd out amongste the workemen for laying up the nether floore	4s.4d.
It layd out when I bought the timber of William Kettle	1s.
It payd Edward King for oller for ye rolles	1s.8d.
It to John Roper for fellies	2s.6d.
It payd to the carpenter	10s.
It payd for making the ironworke	£2
It layd out at the hanging of the bells	3s.
It payd to the bellfounder	£2.10.0.
It to the Carpenter	£1
It payd for ironworke at another time	£1.10.0.
It for turning the rolles	2s.
It to the Carpenter another time	£1.10.0.
It for carrying the rolles to Northfield	1s.
It spent at ye tuning of the bells	3s.
It to the Carpenter at another time	£1.10.0.
It to Keene	2s.6d.
It for his dinner ye same time at Walsall	1s.
It to the bellfounder	£1
It to the ironworke maker	2s.6d.
It to the bellfounder	£1
It to William Kettle for timber and helping to drawe the same	17s.
It to Richard Mucklow for mending ye clappers	1s.
It to John Smith for timber [and spokes - deleted]	£3.10.0.
It to John Smith more for timber and spokes	£1.3.4.
It to Robert Jenkins for drawing timber & Iurnes[?]	5s.4d.
It for bellropes	18s.8d.
It to Anthony Griffin for carrying timber	16s.
It to the bellfounder	£2
It to the carpenter another time	8s.6d.
It to Griffin and those that holpe him to unloade	6d.
It to those that did helpe up ye bells and frame	2s.
It for Ashe to make hookepinnes	1s.
It to the Carpenter and those that did helpe about the mendinge of the bellfloore	4s.
It to Anthony Griffin for timber to make pinnes	1s.10d.
It at Worcester when wee appeared at the courte	1s.6d.
It to Humphrey Horton for fetching one loade of stone	1s.
It to Roger Best for the stone	1s.4d.
It to William Aston for iron worke	2s.6d.
It fr the houre glasse	9d.

It layd out at Bromesgrove when wee certified yt ye bells were caste	6d.
It payd unto the sawyer	5s.
It spent at Harborne with one of Wedgebury that came about the iron worke	1s.
Total in 1637 - £32.17.3	

Notes appended about sums abated, including £1.15.0 out of the carpenter's work, 14s.2s. out of the bellfounder, and 11s.11d. for ironwork

These accounts are of particular importance as they refer to the 1637 frame which continued in use until 1999 and now remains *in situ* above the new frame. The references to Walsall suggest that the founder of the new bells was probably Thomas Hancox II whose foundry was there. There were probably five bells in the new ring, since the frame was built for that number. The accounts for 1684 mention the fourth bell, and in 1695 five clappers were repaired. An inventory of 1703 mentions five bells in the tower.

As originally built, the frame was arranged with four parallel pits (east-west) and one transverse pit (north-south) on the east side of the tower (i.e. *Bellframes* layout 5.3). It is of jack-braced construction (*Bellframes* type 6.B). It is carried on six north-south beams resting on an offset in the tower walls. The frame is tall (5ft. 9ins. from the base of the sills to the top of the heads). All the joints are mortised and the main joints are numbered in Roman numerals. Evidence of the original bearing positions can be seen in the redundant indents for brasses in the heads.

A sanctus bell or "Little S^{ts} Bell" is mentioned in the accounts for 1643, 1695 and 1707. In 1720 it is referred to as "ye Ting-tang". The bell is again mentioned in 1732 when the parish paid a shilling "for stocking ye little bell and helping to hang it".

The accounts show that two new headstocks were provided by Nicholas Field in 1648-9, these being fitted by Thomas Harrison who was paid 6s "for hanginge the beeles". Another stock was replaced in 1658. In 1671 Richard Winsor provided "five Roles for the bells" for 11s. 6d. and William Green received 1s.4d. "for mending the gudgeons for ye bells". The wheel of the fourth bell was repaired in 1684. In 1695-6 Walter Bradnock, whose name also occurs at Aston in 1676 and 1687, came to advise on the bells, and this resulted in repairs being done:

1695	
June ye 21. Allowed Will Cottrell for goeing to Walter Bradnack about the bells	4d.
Sp ^t with Walter Brodnack when we had his Advice about the Bells	1s.
Sp ^t with Will Bell when he under took the Bell Worke	1s.
July 11th. pd Brodnack for 2 days Coming About Mending the bells	5s.
Dec 29th. Sp ^t When the bells were a mending	1s.
March 4 [1695/6]. It pd Will Bell for Making 1 new bell Wheele & Mending others & hanging ye 4th bell upright & for Makeing the 5 Clappers a new & for Hanging them In againe	£2
It Sp ^t When I had them Tried	1s.
It pd for 2 Bell Ropes & one for ye Little S ^{ts} Bell	3s.7d.
1695/6	
Feb.22 [1695/6]. It Sp ^t When we Mett to pay Will Bell for Bell worke And on the Ringars when the bells was tried	2s.
March 29. It pd to Will Bell for 5 Roles for the Bells	5s.
It pd Will Bell for Stocking the third Bell	£1.5.0.

In 1730 the five old bells were recast into six by Joseph Smith of Edgbaston. The inscriptions of the 1730 ring refer to divided opinions within the parish about the recasting. William Kettle was the prime mover, and although some "against our casting some did strive" the vote at the vestry meeting was carried by 26 for to 9 against.

The accounts for 1730 are incomplete, but the following entries refer to the bells:

1729-30 [small sheet in poor condition]	
Spent going on purpose to see after ye Bells	6d.
Spent at ye Weighing of the Bells	6d.
Spent at the fetching Whome of ye Bells at Joseph Townsend and George Witherses	11s.6d.
Payd to Joseph Smith part of the Consideration money for new Casting the Bells	£5.15.3
Payd to Joseph Smith for the Halfe part of the new mettle Aded to the Bells	£1.1.9
1730	
Pd Mr Sinco making an Article relating to the Casting ye Bells and spent when sealed	12s.
Spent takeing down the Bells and drawing them to be Cast	9s.8d.
spent in weeing the Bells	3s.

spent when the Bells first rung at Witherses	2s.6d.
pd Mr. Sargen for plancks to Lay the Bell chamber floor	19s.
pd in part to Joseph Smith Casting ye Bells	£8.14.9
1731	
June 18 payd to Joseph Smith and Robert Silk The Remainder for new Casting the Bells	
And for Bell Wheels And the other part of new mettle Aded to them	£13.11.9

Details of Smith's ring were as follows:

Bell	Inscription
1.	WE NOW ARE SIX (<i>coin</i>) THO ONCE BUT (<i>coin</i>) FIVE (<i>four coins</i>) (<i>scroll border</i>) / HENRY (<i>coin</i>) KNOWLES PARISH CLARK (<i>coin</i>) 1730 (<i>scroll border</i>)
2.	AND AGAINST OUR (<i>coin</i>) CASTING (<i>coin</i>) SOME DID (<i>two coins</i>) STRIVE 1730 (<i>scroll border</i>) / (<i>scroll border all round</i>)
3.	BUT (<i>coin</i>) WHEN A DAY FOR (<i>coin</i>) MEETING (<i>coin</i>) THERE WAS FIXT (<i>coin</i>) 1730 (<i>scroll border</i>) (<i>coin</i>) / JOSEPH SMITH (<i>coin</i>) MADE ME (<i>floral border</i>) (<i>two coins</i>) (<i>border</i>)
4.	APEARD (<i>coin</i>) BUT NINE (<i>coin</i>) AGAINST (<i>coin</i>) TWENTY SIX (<i>coin</i>) 1730 (<i>border</i>) (<i>coin</i>) / SQUIRE SMITH (<i>two coins</i>) (<i>scroll border</i>) (<i>two coins</i>)
5.	SAMUEL PALMER AND (<i>coin</i>) THOMAS (<i>coin</i>) SILKE (<i>coin</i>) CHURCH (<i>coin</i>) WARDENS (<i>coin</i>) 1730 (<i>border</i>) / (<i>border all round</i>)
6.	THOMAS JERVOISE ES ^{QR} PATRON : WILLIAM WORTH D:D RECTOR IT WAS WILLIAM (<i>coin</i>) KETTLE (<i>coin</i>) THAT (<i>coin</i>) / DID CONTRIVE TO MAKE US 6 THAT WERE BUT 5 (<i>coin</i>) 1730 (<i>scroll border</i>) (<i>two coins</i>)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Joseph Smith, 1730	28½	D sharp	1316	4	3	2
2.	Joseph Smith, 1730	29¾	C sharp	1155	4	3	22
3.	Joseph Smith, 1730	31	B	1022	5	0	27
4.	Joseph Smith, 1730	32	A sharp	952	6	0	26
5.	Joseph Smith, 1730	35½	G sharp	857	8	1	26
6.	Joseph Smith, 1730	40¾	F sharp	759	11	3	4

These are the pitches (nominals) and nett weights as recorded when the bells arrived at Loughborough for recasting on 25 June 1923. They were in the key of F sharp (759 Hz). The full pitches of Northfield old bells were taken on 26 June 1923, as follows:

Bell	Pitches		Bell	Pitches
1.	316, 613, 776, 922, 1316		4.	252, 490, 578, 745, 952
2.	289, 562, 689, 847, 1155		5.	223, 448, 520, 648, 857
3.	256.5, 538, 615, 763, 1022		6.	190, 396, 456, 552, 759

Bill Hibbert's analysis of these figures showed that three of these bells (2, 3 and 6) had hums pretty exactly the double octave below the nominal (i.e. very true-harmonic). The back four had sharp primes, which would have spoiled their tone a little. The tierces (apart from the treble) were very well controlled. The treble was a poor bell with a flat hum and flat prime. It was also quite sharp compared with the rest of the ring, although the bells were steadily sharper going up the ring. The bells would have sounded quite good, especially the back five, and could nowadays be tuned up to make a very nice peal quite close to true-harmonic

These bells remained in use for over 190 years, but between 1730 and 1923 various repairs were necessary to the frame and fittings. Thomas Bingham, the Birmingham ringer and clockmaker, was paid £9.10.0. "for repairing the Church Bells" in 1829.

The bells were rehung in the old frame with new fittings by William Blews & Sons in 1875 at a cost of £50. At that time, the bells were rearranged in the frame to give a clockwise rope circle – having been hung back-handed or anti-clockwise prior to 1875. There

are frame plans in the notebooks of William H. Fussell and William Saunders, who visited on 18 April 1883 and 8 July 1891, showing the arrangement of the bells after rehanging, with two bells in the pit on the south side of the tower.

In 1881 Taylors submitted an estimate for adding a treble and a 17cwt tenor to make eight. The work would have involved recasting the fourth (of six) half a note lower, altering the framework and providing new fittings at a total cost of £182.1.8. The scheme was not carried out.

The bells were again rehung with new fittings by John Warner & Sons of London in 1901-2. The record of parochial events noted "bells now in London" in March 1902.

The restoration of the bells in 1923-4 was undertaken alongside repair work on the tower under W.H.D. Caple, the church architect. The old bells were taken down and removed to Loughborough in June 1923. They were recast, all the old inscriptions and decorative marks being carefully reproduced in facsimile, and two new bells were given by Frank Juckes and his wife, Eliza, to make a ring of eight. Despite the care taken to preserve the inscriptions, the work aroused some controversy as the old bells were recast without a faculty. A confirmatory faculty was issued on 15 April 1925, after the work was completed. The bells were dedicated on 22 December 1924.

Owing to delays with the repairs to the tower the bells - which were actually cast in October 1923 - were sent on loan and exhibited at the Empire Exhibition at Wembley, alongside a Taylor eight-bell chime, from April to December 1924. They left the foundry on 12 July and arrived at Northfield on 6 December.

The augmentation to eight necessitated the rearrangement of the old frame to accommodate the extra bells. This was carried out by William Sappcote & Sons, the contractors, and not by Taylors. Sappcotes inserted extra timbers to fit two bells in the transverse (east) pit previously occupied by the treble of the six, and made room for an extra bell in one of the parallel pits. They also fitted four phosphor-bronze tie-rods. The additions of 1924 were removed when the bells were restored in 1999.

The work of 1924 is commemorated on a tablet on the north wall alongside a new stone tablet recording the 1999 restoration and the rededication of the restored and augmented ring on 20 November 1999.

There is no mention of a clock in the accounts until 1702 when Humphrey Hadley II supplied a clock at a cost of £10 15s. Hadley maintained it until 1715. Thomas Bingham carried out repairs in 1826 and had the care of it until about 1833. The present clock is a two-train flatbed movement with a four-legged gravity escapement and hour strike, made by Joyce of Whitchurch in 1888. It cost £90. It drives a single dial on the north face of the tower. The clock was removed to a new position on the west wall of the tower during the restoration of the bells in 1999 and fitted with a new auto-winding system by Joyce of Whitchurch.

Visited: CJP 12 November 1988 and 23 May 1995; CJP and HEP 4 October 2003

NORTHFIELD, St.Michael & All Angels, Bartley Green - see BARTLEY GREEN, St.Michael & All Angels

NORTHFIELD – see also SELLY OAK; WEOLEY CASTLE, St.Gabriel

NORTH HARBORNE – see SMETHWICK

OLDBURY Albright & Wilson works, Langley Green

The chemical manufacturing company set up a works at Langley Green in 1856, and this is now (2015) within a large industrial complex operated by Solvay Ltd. The original office building had a clock tower and bell, the clock by W.F. Evans & Son of Soho Works, Birmingham, being dated 1858. This struck the hours on a small bell.

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
1.	[No inscription or marks]

According to Dr. Prattinton, the original chapel at Oldbury had a small wooden bell turret containing one bell. This bell – believed to have been cast by Joseph Smith – was inscribed:

Bell

Inscription

1. FRANCIS LEA IOHN BOSWORTH CHVRCH WARDENS WILLIAM FREETH BENEFACTOR
1733

There is no indication of its size. William Freeth, named as “benefactor” on the bell, was a considerable landowner in Oldbury and lived at The Big House, built in 1705 and acquired by Sandwell Council as a Civic Suite in 1996. This shows that the bell was cast for Oldbury chapel rather than obtained second-hand from another church. After 1887 it was hung in a campanile at the Oldbury Cemetery (*q.v.*).

In 1828 the incumbent set about raising money to build a new church, writing to the Incorporated Church Building Society of his wish to have a new building “in the cheapest and plainest manner possible”. Various difficulties arose and it was not until 1838 that the scheme started to proceed, a site for the new church having been finally acquired in March of that year. The original plans were prepared by William Watson of Birmingham and Leamington, but the church could not be built to his designs for the money available and so Thomas Johnson of Lichfield was appointed as architect instead. The old chapel was demolished in 1839 and in 1840-41 a new church was erected in its place. The foundation stone was laid on 28 April 1840 and the new church, largely funded by the Commissioners for Building New Churches, was consecrated on 28 July 1841. It cost £4507.

The new church was built in brick with a tower at the north west corner. The old bell was rehung in the new tower, along with a second bell added in 1841 and inscribed “Cast by Thomas Mears, London, 1841”. It has not been possible to trace this bell in the Whitechapel foundry records. Later *Directories* refer to two bells in the tower.

On 30 June 1887 the vestry resolved that the two old bells be sold, the tower be raised and eight new bells be placed in the tower. The work on the tower was carried out under the direction of Wood & Kendrick, architects, and the new bells - a ring of eight by Warner – were hung in October 1887. They were first rung at the dedication on 12 December 1887 when members of the Society of Change Ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford attempted a peal of Stedman Triples. This failed after about 2000 changes, but a second attempt for the first peal on the bells was successful on 20 December.

The work on the tower and bells was a parish memorial for the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria as recorded on a tablet in the church inscribed:

FOR THE HONOUR OF GOD / AND THE USE OF THIS CHURCH / THE BELLS IN THIS
TOWER WERE RAISED / IN THE JUBILEE YEAR OF QUEEN VICTORIA'S REIGN / * A : D :
1887 * / UNDER THE DIRECTION OF / WILLIAM THOMAS TAYLOR * M.A. VICAR / ELIJAH
HOLLINS * VICAR'S WARDEN / ALFRED THOMPSON * PARISHIONERS' WARDEN / --- /
COMMITTEE / [*names in two columns*] MICHAEL PRYOR * B.A. [*line*] JOSEPH MOORE /
ALFRED ROBERT BONE [*line*] JAMES WALKER SAYER / WALTER SIDDINS CLARK [*line*]
PETER SPENCER / JOHN JOSEPH HOLLYHEAD [*line*] CHARLIE THOMLINSON / THOMAS
JONES [*line*] CHARLES TORBITT / DONORS OF BELLS / TREBLE BELL: THE EMPLOYEES OF
THE ALKALI WORKS / SECOND: GEORGE THOMPSON AND ALFRED THOMPSON / THIRD:
SAMUEL WRIGHT AND AGNES LYDIA HIS WIFE / FOURTH: JOHN SMART WAKEMAN /
FIFTH: MARY PHEBE PALMER / SIXTH: BENJAMIN HINGLEY, M.P. / SEVENTH: ALEXANDER
MACOMB CHANCE / TENOR: JOSEPH MOORE / WOOD & KENDRICK – ARCHITECTS /
HENRY HARPER – BUILDER / JOHN WARNER & SONS – BELL FOUNDERS

The total cost of the work amounted to over £800. The bells cost £360 and the frame and fittings cost a further £120. The tower was raised by the addition of a top stage (16ft) with pinnacles (9ft), with sound openings all round. This cost £220 and there were incidental expenses amounting to £120.

The bells form a ring of eight in the key of G natural (803.5hz), as follows:

Bell

Inscription

1. CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1887.
Waist: GIVEN BY THE EMPLOYEES / OF THE ALKALI WORKS. / H.C.D. FRANCE,
MANAGER / 1887.
2. CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1887.

- Waist:* GIVEN BY GEORGE THOMPSON, / AND ALFRED THOMPSON, OF THIS TOWN, / 1887.
3. CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1887.
Waist: GIVEN BY SAMUEL WRIGHT, OF THIS TOWN / AND AGNES LYDIA HIS WIFE, 1887 / OUR HOPE IS IN THE LORD
 4. CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1887.
Waist: GIVEN BY JOHN SMART WAKEMAN / OF THIS TOWN, 1887.
 5. CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1887.
Waist: GIVEN BY MARY PHEBE PALMER / SOUTH ABBOTSFIELD, MALVERN, A.D. 1887. / WE PRAISE THEE O GOD.
 6. CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1887.
Waist: GIVEN BY BENJAMIN HINGLEY / FIRST M.P. FOR THIS DIVISION / 1887.
 7. CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1887.
Waist: GIVEN BY ALEXANDER MACOMB CHANCE / OF OLDBURY AND BIRMINGHAM. / QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE / 1887.
 8. CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1887.
Waist: GIVEN BY JOSEPH MOORE / THE FIRST ORGANIST OF THIS CHURCH / 1887.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Hz	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Warner & Sons, 1887	25¼	1594	G	3	3	0*
2.	John Warner & Sons, 1887	26¾	1509.5	F#	4	0	0*
3.	John Warner & Sons, 1887	28⅛	1347.5	E	4	2	0*
4.	John Warner & Sons, 1887	30	1201	D	5	2	0*
5.	John Warner & Sons, 1887	32¼	1081.5	C	6	2	0*
6.	John Warner & Sons, 1887	33¾	1012.5	B	7	0	0*
7.	John Warner & Sons, 1887	35¾	893	A	8	1	0*
8.	John Warner & Sons, 1887	38¾	803.5	G	10	2	0*

The bells have angular canons (nos 1-3) or Doncaster Heads (nos 4-8). They are hung in a two-tier wooden frame of 1887 (*Bellframes* type 6.S, but with 6.A trusses in each tier) with bells 2, 4, 6 and 7 in the upper level and 1, 3, 5 and 8 below (*Bellframes* layout 4.3). The fittings are largely original, but with ball bearings fitted by Mears & Stainbank who rehung the bells at a cost of £137 in July 1937. The fittings include wooden stocks, strap gudgeons, ball bearings and an Ellacombe chiming apparatus.

Between 1887 and 1954 some 64 full peals were rung at Oldbury, but by the 1960s the bells had become unringable. This was partly due to the state of the tower, which had always rocked significantly while the bells were being rung. They were rung again on a couple of occasions in 1980, but otherwise they have been silent for many years.

A clock was placed in the tower by Smith of Derby in 1890. This completed the work of the Jubilee Committee, as recorded on a plate in the church inscribed:

THIS CLOCK WAS ERECTED IN THE CHURCH TOWER / BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION UNDER THE SUPERVISION / OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE / W.T. TAYLOR M.A. VICAR CHAIRMAN / A.D. PENNINGTON B.A. CURATE / *[names in two columns]* WALTER SIDDONS CLARK *[gap]* JAMES WALKER SAYER / GEORGE FREDERICK OLD *[gap]* PETER SPENCER / HARRY PUGH *[gap]* CHARLIE THOMLINSON / ELIJAH HOLLINS (VICAR'S WARDEN & TREASURER) *[gap]* ALFRED THOMPSON (PEOPLES WARDEN) / OLDBURY, JUNE 1890. *[gap]* THOMAS JONES HON.SEC.

Seven firms were invited to tender, including John Smith (Derby), Shaw & Son (Bradford), Jno. Moore (38 Clerkenwell Close EC), Sir John Bennett Ltd (London EC), Messrs. G.E. Frodsham Ltd (London EC), Gillett & Co (Croydon) and Evans & Son (Handsworth). Smith's tender (£125) was provisionally accepted on 29 November 1899 but the order was not confirmed until members of the committee had inspected a similar Smith clock at Enville. The contract was finally signed on 1 February 1890 and the clock was started at a ceremony on 23 June 1890.

The 1890 clock was a three-train movement with Cambridge quarter chimes. The dials were illuminated. Smith's sales ledger for 24 June 1890 records the supply of a "new church

Visited: CJP 15 May 1988 and (ladders) 9 July 1989

OLTON - The Holy Ghost and Mary Immaculate (R.C.), St.Bernard's Road

Various dates are given for the establishment of the Franciscan Capuchin Friary at Olton. Pevsner indicates that the main buildings were built in 1873 to the designs of Dunn and Hansom, but other sources give the date of foundation of the house and Roman Catholic Mission as 1883 and 1889 respectively.

The present church of The Holy Ghost and Mary Immaculate was built in 1926-9 to the designs of G.B. Cox. It is in the gothic style with a light interior, but the exterior is in red brick with stone dressings. There is an octagonal tower on the south side of the building between the church and friary. This has an ornamental belfry stage with open traceried windows and carried a copper-covered spire.

There is one bell, originally hung for ringing but now hung dead and used for tolling the angelus etc. It is as follows:

Bell

Inscription

1. (*Royal arms*) / VICKERS SONS & C^o LIMITED SHEFFIELD 1883 PATENT CAST STEEL 7220

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Vickers, Sons & Co Ltd, 1883	29	0:1-1:3:0	E	3	2	0*

The bell is made of cast steel, with a flange top. Although the metal is corroded, the inscription is still fully legible, the bell having been shot-blasted in 1994 to remove surface rust.

The bell hangs in a wooden frame resting on an octagonal offset round the walls of the tower below the belfry window openings. The bell originally swung east-west, and the frame consists of sills, king posts, braces and corner posts (similar to *Bellframes* type 5.L). The bell was rehung by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough in 1994 at a cost of £2647. They fitted a new wooden deadstock with supporting ironwork and installed a solenoid clapper operated from an angelus tolling unit. It was previously hung for swing chiming with a wooden stock, plate gudgeons, ball bearings and iron lever. In 2019 John Taylor & Co supplied a replacement Apollo controller unit with wire-free remote control.

The frame also has an empty pit for a second, smaller, bell on the south side of the tower and an iron bearing housing remains on the frame head. There are rope holes – with wooden bosses - in all the floors for two bells. Nothing is known of the other bell, which had disappeared before 1994.

The bells may have been originally installed – as suggested by the rope bosses, frame design, and former gudgeon plates and bearings – by Charles Carr of Smethwick in 1929.

Visited: CJP and SMA 15 September 2005

OSCOTT – St.Mary's College (R.C.)

The Whitechapel daybooks for 22 August 1837 record that a bell was supplied to the order of the Revd. Dr. Weedall for "The Catholic College of St.Mary's, Ascott, near Salisbury (*sic*)". This entry actually refers to the bell for Oscott. It gives the following details:

22 August 1837

To a Bell 12-1-17 @ 15d

£86.16.3

Clapper

1.4.0

Welby Pugin Arch^t.

£88.0.3

A second bell was supplied later in the same year

3 November 1837

Revd. Dr. Weedall, St.Mary's Ascott, Birmingham

To a Bell 2-0-13 @ 15d

£14.16.3.

Clapper

12.0.

Stock, wheel, ironwork & brasses

5.10.0.

£20.18.3.

The larger bell was installed in the Oscott chapel tower, but it is not known whereabouts at Oscott or Maryvale the smaller bells was hung.

Dr. Henry Weedall was the President of Oscott College at this date. A.W.N. Pugin, the architect of Oscott College, was also working at Salisbury at the time. Pugin's diary contains an entry for 5 April 1838 "At Oscott" and on 19 April he noted "Benediction of the great Bell". At Oscott there is an illuminated manuscript recording the blessing of the bell.

The chapel at Oscott was consecrated on 29 May 1838. It was designed and built by Joseph Potter of Lichfield, with interior furnishings and decoration by A.W.N. Pugin. The larger of these two bells, cast by Thomas Mears and dated 1837, hangs in the octagonal turret in the north-eastern angle of the chapel. It is 41½" diameter. It was originally hung for swing chiming, but it was rehung during repairs to the turret in 1990. The contractors provided a new wooden headstock and Eayre & Smith fitted new ironwork and supplied a second-hand Taylor trigger-action clapper for tolling.

Not visited. *Ex.inf.* Whitechapel Bell Foundry and John Taylor & Co (Eayre & Smith files)

OSCOTT – see also MARYVALE

PACKWOOD, St.Philip – see DORRIDGE

PERRY BARR – St.John the Evangelist (Parish Church), Church Road

St.John's was built as a chapel of ease to Handsworth in 1831-3 at the sold cost of John Gough Esq of Perry Hall. The architect was a Mr. Studholme, probably Robert Studholme of Sutton Coldfield. The foundation stone was laid on 18 April 1831 and the completed church was consecrated on 6 August 1833. Perry Barr became a separate parish in 1862.

The church is built of local sandstone in a plain gothic style with a nave and west tower of 1831-3. The tower originally had pinnacles, but these were removed in 1977 after they became unsafe. The chancel and transepts were added in 1887-8 and consecrated on 18 October 1888.

Present bells

The tower now contains a ring of eight bells in the key of F natural (710Hz or F plus 28.38 cents)

Bell

Inscription

1. 161 / RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1958 *
Waist: WE ARE PLACED HERE BY SUBSCRIPTION / IN THE YEAR MDCCLXXVI / THO: COX MINISTER
2. 210 / RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1958 *
Waist: HEALTH & HAPPINESS TO ALL OUR WORTHY SUBSCRIBERS / R WELLS FECIT MDCCLXXVI
3. 245 / RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1958 *
Waist: R WELLS ALDBOURNE FECIT MDCCLXXVI
4. 151 / RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1958 *
Waist: MAY THE TOWN OF BIRM^M BE EVER HELD IN ESTEEM / FOR ITS MANUFACT^S R WELLS FECIT
5. 178 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. LOUGHBOROUGH LEICESTERSHIRE 1904
Waist: HOOPER / BISHOP AND MARTYR / BORN 1495 / MARTYRED 1555.
6. 236 / RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1958 *
Waist: WISDOM TO THE COUNCIL OF THE STATE / & SUCCESS TO THE BRITISH FLEET / R WELLS FECIT MDCCLXXVI
7. 137 / RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1958 *
Waist: MAY GREAT BRITAIN EVER STAND / UNRIVALLED IN HER COMMERCE / R : WELLS F : MDCCLXXVII
8. 265 / RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * LOUGHBOROUGH *
Waist: R WELLS OF ALDBOURNE FECIT / MDCCLXXVI / * * * / RECAST 1958 / CECIL H. SMYTH, VICAR / OWEN R. GREEN } / HENRY A. HIPKISS } WARDENS

Opposite: TO THE GLORY OF GOD / PART OF THE EXPENSE OF RESTORING THESE BELLS / WAS DEFRAYED BY THE BARRON BELL TRUST 1958 / EMMA BARRON, FOUNDER / H.W. ELDRED } / K.C. WALROND } / E.R. PENNELL } TRUSTEES

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1958	25 $\frac{7}{8}$	1441.5	4	0	6
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1958	26 $\frac{3}{8}$	1358	4	0	26
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1958	28 $\frac{1}{4}$	1208	4	2	7
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1958	29 $\frac{5}{8}$	1071	5	0	3
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1904	31 $\frac{3}{4}$	953	6	0	14
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1958	34	898.5	7	1	16
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1958	38	799	10	0	12
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1958	42 $\frac{3}{8}$	710	13	3	22

These bells were transferred to Perry Barr from Bishop Latimer's church in 1972. They are hung in the lowside frame (*Bellframes* type 8.3.A.h, layout 8.3) of 1958 from Bishop Latimer's, rearranged in two tiers in 1972 with bells 3 and 4 hung in the upper level. The fittings are of 1904 and 1958 and by Taylors, with cast iron stocks, ball bearings etc.

Former bells and history

The original bell at Perry Barr was provided by John Rudhall of Gloucester whose foundry notebook lists a bell "for a New Church, Perry Barr n^r. Birmingham ordered by Jn^o. Gough Esq^r. Perry Hall, Staffordshire". It was invoiced on 22 July 1833, details being as follows:

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Rudhall, 1833	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	D	6	1	9

In 1868 a new ring of eight bells (tenor 13-2-10 in F sharp) was erected in memory of Frederick, Lord Calthorpe. The new bells were cast by Taylor of Loughborough and opened on 22 December 1868. Taylors' records indicate that "only the peal of six ordered at first, afterwards the two trebles, but all put up at the same time". The invoice in the firm's daybooks certainly refers to all eight:

The Minister and Churchwardens of St.John's Perry Barr, nr. Birmingham. 1868, Dec.26
 To new peal of eight Bells the following wt. 1. 5-1-7, 2. 5-3-3, 3. 6-1-24, 4. 7-0-19, 5. 7-3-7, 6. 8-1-21, 7. 10-0-7, 8. 13-2-10, [Total] 64-2-14 at £7 per Cwt £452.7.6.
 Hangings for Do with Clappers at £6 per Bell £48.0.0.
 Ropes 10/- each £4.0.0.
 Additional frame work & fixing for the 2 trebles £15.0.0.
 [Total] £519.7.6.

Old Bell is taken as to pay for 6 Bell frame [*Note:* the scrap value of a bell weighing 6-1-9 at £5.12s. per cwt (the price offered by Taylors in 1868) would have been about £35.9s]

The bells are listed in the Taylor catalogue of 1870 as a ring of eight with a tenor of 13 cwt in G, and the catalogue also includes a testimonial from the Vicar, the Rev. C.B. Snepp, dated 24 May 1870 stating "We like your bells extremely, they have well earned you a good name, and you are highly spoken of in many new quarters because of them."

The inscriptions are recorded in the Loughborough Foundry records and in Lynam's *Church Bells of Staffordshire* p.14. The bells were a ring of eight in a key midway between F sharp and G (761Hz = F sharp plus 48.47 cents).

Bell Inscription

1. J. TAYLOR & C^o.. FOUNDERS, LOUGHBOROUGH. 1868.
Waist: LAUS DEO IN JESU CHRISTO
2. J. TAYLOR & C^o.. FOUNDERS, LOUGHBOROUGH 1868.
Waist: GLORIA PATRI: / FILIOQUE: ET / SPIRITUI SANCTO.

3. J. TAYLOR & C^O.. FOUNDERS, LOUGHBOROUGH 1868
Waist (incised): IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE / OF / JOHN FAWKENER WINFIELD
4. J. TAYLOR & C^O.. FOUNDERS, LOUGHBOROUGH 1868.
5. J. TAYLOR & C^O.. FOUNDERS, LOUGHBOROUGH 1868.
Waist: PRESENTED BY M^{RS}. DICKINSON
6. J. TAYLOR & C^O.. FOUNDERS, LOUGHBOROUGH 1868.
Waist: PRESENTED BY / R : W AND M^{RS}. WINFIELD / REVND C : B AND M^{RS} SNEPP / REVND PHILIP AND M^{RS} BROWNE
7. J. TAYLOR & C^O.. FOUNDERS, LOUGHBOROUGH 1868.
Waist: THE REVND C B SNEPP VICAR
Opposite: JOHN GILBERT / HENRY DAVENHILL / CHURCH WARDENS
8. J. TAYLOR & C^O.. FOUNDERS, LOUGHBOROUGH 1868.
Waist: IN MEMORIAM / FREDERICK LORD CALTHORPE / 1868.
Opposite: THIS PEAL OF SIX BELLS ERECTED BY FRIENDS / AND PARISHIONERS OF PERRY BARR / LAUS DEO

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Hz	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1868	27 ⁷ / ₈	1548	5	1	7
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1868	28 ¹ / ₄	1468	5	3	3
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1868	30 ¹ / ₂	1307	6	1	24
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1868	32 ³ / ₄	1147	7	0	19
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1868	34 ¹ / ₄	1035	7	3	7
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1868	35 ¹ / ₂	974	8	1	21
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1868	38 ¹ / ₂	855	10	0	7
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1868	42 ³ / ₄	761	13	2	10

These are the original weights as recorded in Taylors' records for 1868. The nett weights of the bells when taken down in 1972 were recorded as 5-0-25, 5-2-25, 6-1-19, 7-0-16, 7-3-2, 8-1-18, 10-0-3 and 13-2-3. The bells were cast with canons and had holes in the crown for the clapper bolts.

The bells were hung in a two-tier wooden frame with the treble hung in the upper level over the tenor. Six of the bells were hung to swing east-west (with bells 2 to 5 in parallel pits on the east side of the tower), with only bells 6 and 7 swinging north-south.

The opening peal was rung on 9 January 1869 and reported in the newspaper:
CHANGE RINGING.—On the 9th instant eight members of the St. Martin's Society of Change Ringers, of this town, paid a visit to Perry Barr, and, by permission of the Vicar, rang a true and complete peal of 5,040 grandsire triples, on the new peal of bells erected in the tower of St. John's Church. The band was placed as follows:— Job Joynes, treble; T. Day, 2nd; G. Barlow, 3rd; H. Bastable, 4th; H. Johnson, 5th; G. W. Baldwin, 6th; J. Day, 7th; J. Newbold, tenor. The peal was composed by Mr. Thomas Day, and conducted by Mr. G. W. Baldwin, and was completed in 3 hours and 9 minutes. Weight of tenor 13 cwt. 2 qrs. 10 lbs. (*Birmingham Journal*, Sat. 16 Jan. 1869)

Some twenty years after the bells were installed James Barwell of Birmingham undertook some repairs to the bells - retuning of the trebles and partially rehangng the whole peal – in 1888. The work included the renewal of the gudgeons and bearings. One of Barwell's printed testimonials refers to the job:

Perry Barr Vicarage, near Birmingham,
April 19th, 1888.

I write to you on my own behalf, and also on behalf of the ringers here to express our satisfaction at your late work in the belfry, and also to say how much we appreciate the kind interest you have taken in the bells and the great service you have rendered in setting them in proper tune.

Signed, John R. Keble

The clock is of chair frame type, made by Whitehurst of Derby in 1839. The maker's name is given on a plate fixed to the front of the frame and the date appears on the setting dial. It is a two-train movement with pinwheel escapement on the going train and an hour-strike train. There is a single dial on the west face of the tower.

PERRY BARR – *see a/so* KINGSTANDING

The original church at Perry Beeches was opened in July 1939 as a chapel of ease to Perry Barr. It was known as Christ Church at first, but by 1940 the present dedication had been adopted. It was a dual purpose building designed for future use as a church hall. It has rainwater heads dated 1938. A district was assigned in 1949 and Perry Beeches became a separate parish in 1957. The present church of 1963-4 was built to a modern design by Robert Maguire and Keith Murray. The foundation stone was laid on 13 July 1963 and the consecration took place on 21 September 1964.

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
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- | Bell | Founder and date | Diameter | Note | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|------|-------------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. | Mears & Stainbank, 1964 | 24 | G | 3 | 1 | 8 |

Visited: CJP 11 September 1988

The mission here was established in 1926 and the permanent church was opened in 1937. It was consecrated in 1966. It is a brick building with a porch tower at the west end. Taylors' records mention a bell for "Erdington Catholic church", supplied for the church in Perry Common Road. It is hung dead and fitted with a trigger-action clapper.

1. 213 / (*Birmingham ornament*)
Waist: SANCTA MARIA MARGARITA / ORA PRO NOBIS
Opposite: 19 (*circular mark*) 36

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1936	29 $\frac{7}{8}$	C (1056Hz)	5	0	14

PERRY COMMON – St.Martin, Witton Lodge Road

The original mission church at Perry Common was licensed on 19 October 1927. It was in the parish of Aston. Perry Common became a separate parish in 1971. The church building was begun in 1927 and completed in its present form in 1975, with the old church (now the

hall) and the new one alongside each other. It was designated as the parish centre of worship on 22 March 1975.

The bell now hangs on the new church, having been removed from the old building to the new one in about 1982. It hangs in a louvred box on the side of the church where it is hung for swing chiming with a bar stock and iron lever. It is a small bell, 13¾" diameter (note C), without any inscription of marks, but with a tapered peg argent of the type used by Charles Carr of Smethwick. It probably dates from around 1927.

Visited: CJP (ladders) 12 November 1988

PYPE HAYES – St.Mary, Tyburn Road

This church was built in 1929-30 as the suburban successor to St.Mary's, Whittall Street, in Birmingham. The City church was closed in 1925 and demolished in 1927, and the funds from the sale of the site were used towards the cost of building a church for the City Council's new housing estate at Pye Hayes. The 1774 plate from St.Mary's was also given to Pye Hayes. The building was designed in the Romanesque or early Christian style by Edwin F. Reynolds (of Wood, Kendrick and Reynolds) and built by C. Bryant & Son Ltd at a cost of £13,837. The foundation stone was laid on 4 May 1929 and the church was consecrated on 26 July 1930. A separate parish of Pye Hayes was formed from Erdington in 1930.

The church is a large brick building with a small rectangular tower at the south west corner of the south transept. The tower has an open belfry stage with wooden beams in the top of the openings for a single bell. The bell was originally hung for swing chiming and fitted with a long wooden stock, plate gudgeons, plain bearings and a small wheel. These fittings remain in place, but the bell has been removed and rehung from a wooden beam placed diagonally between the parapets of the belfry window openings. It is clocked. The bell is without inscription or markings of any kind

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Unknown, c.1930	24⅞	4:2-2:4:2	F	3	0	0*

The bell has six plain canons and a square hole through the crown for a staple. It is a good bell with near true-harmonic tuning. The shape of the canons and mouldings, and the tonal quality, suggest that the bell may have been cast by Charles Carr of Smethwick, probably in 1930.

Visited: CJP and RLJ 12 November 1988

QUINTON – Cemetery

Quinton Cemetery occupies a large site on the north of the Halesowen or Hagley Road. The site was acquired by the City Council in 1912 but the cemetery did not open until 1923. The Cemetery was established by Birmingham City Council who still run it. As originally laid out, there was a chapel in the centre of the site – built in 1923 to the designs of J.A. Swan. The chapel has now been demolished.

Site visited: CJP 13 September 2003

QUINTON – Christ Church, Hagley Road West

The Quinton or Ridgacre was originally in the parish of Halesowen. A site for a church was acquired in 1839, and a simple stone building in the Early English style was built in 1840-41 at a total cost of £2066. Rickman and Hussey were the architects, although R.C. Hussey was chiefly responsible for the commission as Rickman retired from active involvement in the partnership in 1838. The foundation stone was laid on 19 July 1839 and Christ Church was consecrated on 18 September 1840. A separate parish of The Quinton was created in the following year. The church was restored under Frank B. Osborn of Osborn and Reading in 1890, and this work included extensive repairs to the spire and the erection of a handsome weathercock vane.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor, 1840	21¾	A	1	3	10

In 1958 a new bell was put up during the course of repairs to the roof and stonework of the west end of the church under Bromilow. While & Smeaton. It was supplied from stock, having been originally cast for Eccleshall in 1956 but not used. It is hung from a steel stock and sounded by trigger-action clapper. The installation work was carried out by a local builder who reused the steel uprights in the turret to carry the new steel stock.

1. 298 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * [*no date – "1956" removed*] *
Waist: [Eccleshall inscription "SUSAN ANNE LOWE" removed]

In 2007-8 Hayward Mills Associates provided a new stainless steel supporting framework and rehung the bell at a cost of £5334.50. The work was done in the course of church repairs under Christopher Thomas, the church architect.

QUINTON – St.Boniface, Quinton Road West

The building has a hexagonal bell turret with gabled turrets and central spike. This contains a single bell which is hung between girders fixed to the woodwork supporting the turret. It is hung for slow swinging and fitted with a counterbalanced cast iron stock, ball bearings, wheel etc. The bell is as follows:

1. 186 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH *
Waist: O PRAISE GOD IN HIS HOLINESS / 1957

Visited: CJP 7 and 23 August 1988

QUINTON – *see also* LONDONDERRY, St.Mark

REDNAL – St.Stephen the Martyr

The church itself is of mediaeval origin, dating from around 1190, but none of the ancient fabric still stands as it has rebuilt several times since 1839. The original church was

closed in November 1839 and replaced by a new one (incorporating the original tower) built in 1840-1841. William Bourne was the architect and the builders were J. and R. Wilson of Soho Hill, Handsworth. The new church was opened on 8 September 1841 but it was closed in February 1894 after it became unsafe. This building was demolished in 1904 and a third church erected in 1904-5 to the designs of Lewis Sheppard & Son. Consecration of the first portion took place on 13 July 1905. Less than eight years later, the church was destroyed by fire on 18 June 1913. Rebuilding was postponed until after the Great War and from 1913 to 1923 the church lay in ruins. The present church by A.S. Dixon and H.W. Hobbiss, architects, was built in 1922-3. It is built in brick, unlike its predecessors which were of stone.

The tower of the original church remained until 1858 when it was rebuilt. The architect for the rebuilding was William Bourne and William Nelson was the builder. After the church suffered severe storm damage in 1894 it was at first thought that "the tower will not require rebuilding, but must be restored". Later, however, the damage was found to be more serious and in 1899 the tower was shortened by 30 feet in 1899 "in order to allow the housing of the clock and bells". Although the tower and bells survived the 1913 fire, the tower was afterwards found to be unsafe and so it was taken down. The tower was completely rebuilt with the rest of the church in 1922-3.

The present bells

The tower now contains a ring of eight bells in the key of G sharp (814Hz or G# minus 34.97 cents)

- | <i>Bell</i> | <i>Inscription</i> |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. | 663 148 / BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
<i>Waist:</i> ROWLEY REGIS RINGERS / 1684 – 1984 / GAVE ME
<i>Opposite:</i> GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO / 1887 / (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) / RECAST 1984 |
| 2. | 663 207 / BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
<i>Waist:</i> IN MEMORY OF / GERALD CHISWELL / 1906-76 / THE GIFT OF HIS FAMILY. / ALAN ROBERTS – TOWER CAPTAIN
<i>Opposite:</i> VICTORIA JUBILEE / 1887 / (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) / RECAST 1984 |
| 3. | 663 212 / BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
<i>Waist:</i> C.W. BARNARD M.A. VICAR. / 1887
<i>Opposite:</i> THOMAS P. JONES ESQ. / (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) / RECAST 1984 |
| 4. | 663 161 / HENRY (<i>arabesque border</i>) BAGLEY (<i>border</i>) MADE (<i>border</i>) MEE (<i>border</i>) 1684 (<i>border</i>)
<i>Waist:</i> IN MEMORY OF / G. DETHERIDGE SNR. / H. DOWELL / R. HACKETT / R. INGRAM / A. TAYLOR / A. TIMMINS
<i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) / RECAST 1984 |
| 5. | 663 245 / MATHEW (<i>arabesque border</i>) BAGLEY (<i>border</i>) OF (<i>border</i>) CHALCOMB (<i>border</i>) MADE (<i>border</i>) ME (<i>border</i>) 1684 (<i>border</i>)
<i>Waist:</i> REV. J.G. RUSSELL – VICAR. / JOAN WOOLVIN } / G.R. HARRIS }
CHURCHWARDENS.
<i>Opposite:</i> (<i>Taylor's circular mark</i>) / RECAST 1984 |
| 6. | THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1804. / ⁷¹⁰²
<i>Waist:</i> (<i>Gillett & Johnston shield</i>) / RECAST 1952 BY / GILLETT & JOHNSTON / CROYDON
<i>Below:</i> 4 |
| 7. | WILLIAM (<i>arabesque border</i>) EVERTVN (<i>border</i>) AND (<i>border</i>) WILLIAM (<i>border</i>) BENNET (<i>border</i>) CHVRCHWARDENS (<i>border</i>) 1684 (<i>coin</i>) (<i>border</i>) / (two bands of <i>arabesque border all round</i>) |
| 8. | 137 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1948 * |

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1984	23½	1622	3	0	20
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1984	24⅞	1524	3	1	10

belfry add their testimony to the “go” of the ring. I should add that the conduct of the workmen was irreproachable.

Signed, C.W. Barnard (late) Vicar of Rowley Regis

Barwell undertook further work on the bells when the tower was shortened in 1899 or – as indicated in the 1904 article in the “Our Church Bells” series in *Bell News* - in 1897.

When the church was rebuilt in 1923 the bells were rehung in a new cast iron frame with new fittings (including cast iron stocks and ball bearings) by J.E. Groves of Birmingham. The bells were rededicated on 29 September 1923 on the occasion of the opening of the new church.

By 1951 the fourth bell had become cracked, and on 21 January 1952 the parish obtained a faculty to recast it and carry out an overhaul of the bells. They accepted the estimate of Gillett & Johnston for £257 for work including the recasting of the cracked bell, adapting the fittings to the new bell, supplying a new girder headstock to the second bell, rebushing the clappers and generally overhauling the fittings. There is no contemporary record of the finished weight of the new bell.

Immediately prior to the 1984 restoration the old bells were as follows:

Bell	Inscription
1.	BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM <i>Waist:</i> GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO / 1887
2.	BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM <i>Waist:</i> VICTORIA JUBILEE / 1887
3.	BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM <i>Waist:</i> C.W. BARNARD M.A. VICAR 1887 <i>Opposite:</i> THOS. P. JONES ESQ
4.	THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1804. / ⁷¹⁰² <i>Waist:</i> (<i>Gillett & Johnston shield</i>) / RECAST 1952 BY / GILLETT & JOHNSTON / CROYDON <i>Below:</i> 4
5.	HENRY (<i>arabesque border</i>) BAGLEY (<i>border</i>) MADE (<i>border</i>) MEE (<i>border</i>) 1684 (<i>border</i>) / (<i>border all round</i>) <i>Waist:</i> (<i>five coins</i>) (<i>four coins</i>)
6.	WILLIAM (<i>arabesque border</i>) EVERTVN (<i>border</i>) AND (<i>border</i>) WILLIAM (<i>border</i>) BENNET (<i>border</i>) CHVRCHWARDENS (<i>border</i>) 1684 (<i>coin</i>) (<i>border</i>) / (two bands of <i>arabesque border all round</i>)
7.	MATHEW (<i>arabesque border</i>) BAGLEY (<i>border</i>) OF (<i>border</i>) CHALCOMB (<i>border</i>) MADE (<i>border</i>) ME (<i>border</i>) 1684 (<i>border</i>)
8.	WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS BIRMINGHAM <i>Waist:</i> RE CAST FEBRUARY 1881 / THOMAS WARD . VICAR / THOMAS DANKS } / EBENEZER PEWTRESS } CHURCHWARDENS

This version of the inscriptions has been pieced together from details of the two surviving bells, from an account of the 1923 restoration in the parish magazine, from the facsimile inscriptions on the recast bells and from details and photographs in a record book kept in the tower. The precise layout of the wording on the Barwell trebles and the Blews tenor is confirmed by a record of the old inscriptions in the Loughborough Bellfoundry archives.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Hz	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	James Barwell, 1887	26	--	4	0	0
2.	James Barwell, 1887	27	--	4	0	18
3.	James Barwell, 1887	28¼	--	4	3	14
4.	Gillett & Johnston, 1952	30½	1083	5	2	18
5.	Henry Bagley, 1684	32	992	6	1	9
6.	Bagley, 1684	34½	915	7	1	5
7.	Matthew Bagley, 1684	37	817	8	1	23

- Waist:* EGO SUM FRANCESCA
Low waist: E / 3
4. GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON 1932 (*CFJ monogram*)
Waist: EGO SUM MECHTILDES
Low waist: D# / 4
5. GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON 1932 (*CFJ monogram*)
Waist: EGO SUM MARIA MAGDALENA
Low waist: D / 5
6. GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON 1932 (*CFJ monogram*)
Waist: EGO SUM GABRIEL
Low waist: C# / 6
7. GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON 1932 (*CFJ monogram*)
Waist: EGO SUM AGNES
Low waist: C / 7
8. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4724
Waist: EGO SUM HELENA.
Low waist: 8
9. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4647
Waist: EGO SUM GUILIELMUS.
Low waist: 9
10. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4679
Waist: EGO SUM LUCIA.
Low waist: 10
11. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4680
Waist: EGO SUM ELISABETHA MARIA.
Low waist: 11
12. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4561
Waist: EGO SUM ANASTASIA.
Low waist: 12
13. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4562
Waist: EGO SUM PAPA PIUS X.
Low waist: 13
14. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4563
Waist: EGO SUM JOANNES DE NATIVITATE.
Low waist: 14
15. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4564
Waist: EGO SUM MARGARETA MATILDA.
Low waist: 15
16. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4565
Waist: EGO SUM ALPHONSUS PHILIPPUS.
Low waist: 16
17. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4566
Waist: EGO SUM JOSEPHUS FRANCISCUS.
Low waist: 17
18. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4567
Waist: EGO SUM MARTINUS MICHAEL.
Low waist: 18
19. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4568
Waist: EGO SUM JOANNES MARIA BAPTISTA VIANNEY.
Low waist: 19
20. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4569
Waist: EGO SUM ANNA.
Low waist: 20
21. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4570
Waist: EGO SUM THERESIA.

- Low waist: 21*
22. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4571
Waist: SANCTA MARIA ORA PRO MATRE NOSTRA MARIA POWER.
Low waist: 22
23. *Crown: 4572*
Inscription band: (border all round)
Waist: THIS CARILLON IS OFFERED / TO / GOD THE FATHER SON AND HOLY GHOST / TO / OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY / TO / THE LITTLE FLOWER OF JESUS / BY / THE POWER FAMILY IN THE 11TH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF POPE PIUS XI / THOMAS LEIGHTON WILLIAMS D.D. – ARCHBISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM / JOHN POWER, PARISH PRIEST OF SALTLEY. / A.D.1932-1933.
Opposite: (CFJ monogram) / GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON. / EGO SUM JOANNES.
Low waist: 23

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	12 ⁵ / ₈	2932	F sharp	0	1	23
2.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	13 ¹ / ₄	2764	F	0	2	0 ¹ / ₂
3.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	13 ¹¹ / ₁₆	2611	E	0	2	6
4.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	14 ³ / ₈	2457	D sharp	0	2	16
5.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	15 ¹ / ₁₆	2320	D	0	2	26
6.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	15 ¹⁵ / ₁₆	2192	C sharp	0	3	9
7.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	16 ⁷ / ₈	2068	C	1	0	9
8.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	18	1952	B	1	1	0
9.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	19	1840	A sharp	1	1	19
10.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	20	1740	A	1	2	20
11.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	21 ¹ / ₄	1640	G sharp	1	3	19
12.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	22	1548	G	2	1	22
13.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	23 ¹ / ₂	1464	F sharp	2	3	8
14.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	24 ⁷ / ₈	1380	F	3	0	14
15.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	26 ¹ / ₈	1304	E	3	3	4
16.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	27 ¹ / ₂	1228	D sharp	4	0	16
17.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	28 ⁷ / ₈	1160	D	4	3	8
18.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	30 ⁹ / ₁₆	1096	C sharp	5	2	6
19.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	32	1034	C	6	1	5
20.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	34	976	B	7	2	10
21.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	36	920	A sharp	8	3	7
22.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	40 ¹ / ₈	820	G sharp	12	1	3
23.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	44 ⁹ / ₁₆	732	F sharp	17	0	14

The bells are hung on three levels in a steel framework, each bell being secured to a pair of back-to-back channel irons spanning the entire width of the frame. Bells 1-8 occupy the top tier, nos 9-17 hang in the middle and the remainder (18-23) are hung at the bottom. They have carillon-clappers and transmission gear and they are played from a baton clavier in the room below the bells.

The clock (serial no.9458) was made and installed by Gillett & Johnston in 1933. The going train has a deadbeat pinwheel escapement. There are three separate striking trains, one for the hour (on the bass bell), one for the ting-tang quarters (on bells 15 and 20) and for the Lourdes Ave Maria before the hour (on bells 13, 15, 16, 18 and 20), and the other for the Angelus (on bell 21) at 6am, 12 noon and 6pm. The chimes use external clock hammers, with double hammers on bells 15, 16, 18 and 21.

As indicated by the inscription on the bass bell, the bells were installed as a gift of the Power family. The Powers were originally from Dublin, and the family had connections with the Powers whiskey distillery. Before coming to Birmingham to build the new church at

Saltley in 1930, Fr. John Power had served at St.Patrick's, Dumbarton, where a two-octave carillon by Gillett & Johnston was installed in 1928. He decided to install a similar instrument here at Saltley.

Visited: CJP, HEP, CJND 28 February 2003 and CJP (with AHS tour group) 9 July 2009: Thanks to Mike Boyd for allowing us to see the carillon and for providing much of the information in this account.

SALTLEY - Rosary Catholic Primary School, Bridge Road

In 1995 Taylors provided a small bell for this school. It hangs on a bracket on the north side of the enclosed turret visible above the roofline from the street side. Details from Taylors' records show that it is as follows:

Bell

Inscription

1. 916 106 / (*border*)
Waist: LOVE ONE ANOTHER / AS I HAVE LOVED YOU / JOHN 15 v 12
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 95

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Hz	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1995	15	2:2-2:3:2	2498	Eb+6	0	3	24

It is hung dead and sounded by an electro-magnetic hammer from an Angelus control unit.

Not visited: Information from John Taylor & Co

SALTLEY – St.Peter's College (former), College Road

St.Peter's College was opened in 1850 as a Church of England teacher-training college. The imposing Victorian Gothic buildings were erected in 1847-52 to the designs of Benjamin Ferrey. The main block was built in the collegiate style with a quadrangle inside the main entrance through an archway. John Cotton provided designs for a chapel in about 1875 but the scheme was abandoned, and it was not until 1912 that a chapel was built to the north of the original college buildings at a cost of £3000. The chapel is a round-arched building designed by J.L. Ball, dedicated by the Bishop of Birmingham on 2 November 1912. It cost £3000 The College closed in 1978 but the buildings have since been used for a range of educational and other purposes. The main block has now been adapted for residential use.

There is no sign that there was ever a clock or bell on the main college building, but the chapel has an open bellcote on the south side facing the Victorian block. The bell has been removed but the cast iron bearing housings remain in situ. The bell was probably provided when the chapel was erected in 1912.

Visited: CJP 9 July 2009

SALTLEY – St.Saviour, St.Saviour's Road

Standing on a prominent site, the south west tower of St.Saviour's church is a landmark in the surrounding area. The parish of Saltley was assigned from Aston in 1848. The church was built in 1848-50, the foundation stone being laid on 24 October 1848 and consecration taking place on 23 July 1850. The architect was R.C. Hussey and the cost of the building was £5413. Writing in about 1890 E.H. Lingen Barker recorded that the tower was added in 1871. Pevsner states that a spire was added in 1871 and later removed, but this seems to be incorrect as there has never been a spire in living memory. The church suffered wartime damage and a restoration took place between 1948 and 1951.

The tower probably contained one bell originally, but no details are available. The old bell seems to have been sold when the tubular bells were installed in 1904. A church inventory of 1926 just mentions "Bells: 8 tubular", but a typed list on the back also mentions "one odd bell". The latter may have come from one of the mission churches in the parish.

The tower now contains a set of eight tubular bells in the key of C sharp (the largest bell 93½" in length), given by Lord Norton and dedicated on 25 September 1904. They hang

In addition, the tower also contains the bell from St.Basil's, Deritend, which was installed here by Eayre & Smith in May 1979 at a cost of £830.52. It is hung for ringing between two steel joists, with a cast iron stock, ball bearings, independent staple, wheel, stay and slider etc. The bell is now without canons. It was not weighed in 1978-9.

1. BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM A.D. 1911

Visited: CJP 27 July 1988; DLC and SEA 4 September 1995

In the middle of the nineteenth century Joseph Wright established a large railway carriage works at Saltley. In the 1850s this firm bought some goods and castings from C & G Mears at Whitechapel, as shown by the following entries from the foundry daybooks:

£33

£25.0.0

SELLY HILL – *see* SELLY OAK, St.Stephen, Selly Park

This is a dual-purpose building fitted out for use as a church and hall. It is a plain brick building with a foundation stone in the street front inscribed "TO THE GLORY / OF GOD / THIS STONE WAS LAID / ON / OCTOBER 20TH 1928 / BY / JOHN BELLISS ESQ. / A TRUSTEE OF ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH / R.W. THORNHILL, VICAR / H. ROBERTS / W.R. COLEMAN / CHURCHWARDENS OF / THE PARISH CHURCH / S.H. WIGHAM, ARCHITECT." The church was licensed as a place of worship in the parish of St. Stephen, Selly Park, in 1929. There is neither a belfry nor a bell

SELY OAK – Lodge Hill Cemetery

The cemetery at Lodge Hill, Selly Oak, was laid out at a cost of £15,000 for Kings Norton and Northfield Urban District Council. The official opening took place in January 1895. The chapel was designed by F.B. Andrews and consecrated on 24 June 1895. It had a bell in a turret above the archway linking the two chapels. The bell was removed from the tower in

about 1956 and presented by the City of Birmingham Parks Department to St.Gabriel's, Weoley Castle, where it was hung in a new turret in 1957.

Bell **Inscription**

1. (blank)
Waist: "CHARLES CARR" / SMETHWICK. / 1895

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1895	23 $\frac{7}{8}$	2:2-2:3:2	F sharp	2	3	0*

Visited: CJP at Weoley Castle 7 August 1988 (ladders)

SELLY OAK – St.Mary (Parish Church), Bristol Road

An appeal for funds to provide a new church, vicarage and school at Selly Oak was issued in August 1857. The Lord of the Manor, J.F. Ledsam, gave the site, and the Ledsam family also contributed towards the cost of the building and provided funds for the interior furnishings. Mr G.R. Elkington and members of his family also gave generously towards the cost of the church. The foundation stone was laid on 12 July 1860. The church was consecrated on 12 September 1861 and a parish was assigned from Northfield in 1862. Edward Holmes was the architect, his plans having won the design competition in 1858. Samuel Briggs of Birmingham was the builder, and the cost of the church was £3897.

The church is built in Weoley Castle sandstone with Bath stone dressings in a Victorian Decorated style. It has a north west tower with a spire (125ft). The tower and spire were restored in the 1920s, and the bells – which had been declared unsafe in 1922 – were silent for some years before the new peal was installed in 1932.

Present bells

The tower now contains a ring of eight bells in the key of G natural (774Hz or G minus 22.2 cents)

Bell **Inscription**

1. RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4440
Waist: IN MEMORIAL FILIÆ ET S.M. VICTORIÆ / ANNUM QUINQUAGESIMUM
REGNANTIS / D D JOEL MERRITT
Low waist: 1
2. RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4441
Low waist: 2
3. RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4442
Low waist: 3
4. RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4443
Low waist: 4
5. On crown (*stamped*): 4444 / RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932.
Low waist: 5
6. RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932. (*CFJ monogram*) / 4445
Low waist: 6
7. On crown (*stamped*): 4446 / RECAST BY GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1932.
Low waist: 7
8. On crown (*stamped*): 4447 / (*CFJ monogram*) (*border all round*)
Waist: THESE BELLS WERE RECAST BY / GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON. /
JANUARY 1932. / REGINALD P. STEER, VICAR. / T.C. HUMPHREYS } / J.R. JOHNSON
} CHURCHWARDENS.
Opposite: + BEATUS POPULUS QUI SCIT JUBILATIONEM
Low waist: 8

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	1548	4	0	7
2.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	26	1451	4	0	18

3.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	27 $\frac{1}{8}$	1290	4	0	24
4.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	28 $\frac{3}{4}$	1161	4	3	20
5.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	31 $\frac{1}{8}$	1032	5	3	15
6.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	33	968	6	2	18
7.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	871	9	0	21
8.	Gillett & Johnston, 1932	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	774	12	1	17

The bells are hung in a cast iron H frame (*Bellframes* type 8.3.C.e, layout 8.3) on one level with ringing fittings of 1932 including cast iron stocks and ball bearings. The second was quarter turned and rehung with new gudgeons and bearings by Taylors in 1980 at a cost of £158.

Former bells and history

When the church was first built, a single bell was provided. This bell of 1860 became the fifth of a ring of six when five more bells were added in 1864. The tenor was given by Miss Ledsam and the remaining bells were purchased by subscription. The six bells were rung for the first time on Michaelmas Day, 29 September 1864, as reported in a contemporary paper:

A peal of six bells has just been cast for the new church of St.Mary, Selly Oak, by Messrs. John Warner and Sons, of London, which will be rung for the first time on Thursday next. There will be a service on the evening of that day. We believe this is the first instance for many years of a peal of bells being placed in any of the new churches of Birmingham or its immediate neighbourhood, and we commend the example of parishioners of Selly Oak for general imitation.

A more detailed report appeared in *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, 1 October 1864:

On Thursday last (St. Michael's Day) a new peal of six bells, cast by Messrs. John Warner and Sons, Cripplegate, London, were rung for the first time in St. Mary's Church, Selly Oak. The tenor bell of the note G sharp, and weighing more than 10 cwt., is the gift of Miss Ledsam, of Griffin's Brook; the others were procured by a liberal subscription of parishioners and friends. On every side of the church the peal was heard at a good distance, and its sweet and musical notes much admired. The ringers, members of St. Martin's Company, were highly pleased with the tone of the bells, and the skill with which they had been rung. In celebration of this joyful event a special service was held, in which a large congregation (chiefly parishioners) joined. The prayers were said by the incumbent; the lessons by the Rev. W. B. Benison, of Balsall Heath, and the Rev. H. Clarke, rector of Northfield. The sermon was by the Rev. P. Morse, of St. John's, Ladywood, from Psalm lxxxix. 15: "Blessed is the people which know the joyful sound." The collection amounted to £11.18s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. After service a supper was laid in the schoolroom, most tastefully decorated for the occasion, provided by the liberality of the churchwardens for the ringers and choir, at which most of the principal inhabitants of the parish were present. The festival was closed by a parting peal sweetly sounding over the village in the darkness of the night until ten o'clock.

The tenor seems to have been recast in 1884, and in 1887 two more bells – a treble and tenor – were added to make a ring of eight. At the same time, the old fourth bell of the sixth was recast a semitone lower as the fifth of the octave. An engraved brass plate in the church commemorates the augmentation:

To the Glory of God the peal of six bells placed in this church by voluntary subscriptions A.D.

1864 was further increased by the addition of two bells in honour of her Majesty Queen Victoria's Jubilee June 16th 1887

All eight bells were cast by John Warner & Sons of London. The completed octave was rung for the first time on 20 June 1887. A report in the Worcester Diocesan Church Calendar for 1888 notes that the treble was the gift of Mr. J. Merritt and the tenor and necessary fittings were provided by public subscription. The commemorative inscriptions of the 1887 treble and tenor have been repeated on their successors but the exact wording and layout of the full inscriptions on the old bells is not known. Details of the bells were as follows:

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Warner & Sons, 1887	26 $\frac{1}{4}$	F sharp	4	1	9

2.	John Warner & Sons, 1864	27	F	4	1	23
3.	John Warner & Sons, 1864	27½	D sharp	4	1	20
4.	John Warner & Sons, 1864	29	C sharp	4	2	26
5.	John Warner & Sons, 1887	32	B	6	0	8
6.	John Warner & Sons, 1860	34	A sharp	7	0	4
7.	John Warner & Sons, 1884	38	G sharp	9	3	11
8.	John Warner & Sons, 1887	41	F sharp	11	2	15

The weights given here are those recorded when the bells were taken down in 1932, but another source gives the original weight of the tenor as 12-1-13. It was later said that these bells "while not objectionable, were of poor tone".

The old bells were hung on two levels, with two of them (nos 2 and 6) hoisted. The six bells in the lower frame all swung north-south and those in the upper tier swung east-west. The bells were declared unsafe in 1922 and remained silent until repairs to the tower and spire and other essential work on the church had been completed.

Funds were raised for the restoration of the bells in 1931. At first it was proposed only to retune, clean and rehang the old bells in a new frame and a faculty for this was issued on 27 October 1931. Shortly afterwards, however, the parish sought a supplementary faculty for recasting and this was granted on 13 January 1932. Apparently the word "recasting" had been omitted from the original application, as there was some doubt as to whether the necessary funds could be raised. The notebook kept by Frederick E. Collins, a ringer who worked for Gillett & Johnston from 1926-1936, records that he removed the old bells and frame from the tower in November 1931. The entry reads "Selly Oak, Birmingham. Dismantle bells, two tier timber frame, clock, clock case, and weights. Remove floor. Send 8 bells to factory. Tenor - 13 cwt". The new bells were cast and installed early in the following year and dedicated on 19 March 1932. The completion of the work was reported in the *Ringing World* of 1 April 1932.

The clock was given by the family of the late Mr. B Walters and supplied in 1887 by Joyce of Whitchurch. It is a three-train flatbed movement with hour strike and Westminster quarters. It was reconditioned and converted to direct-drive by Smith of Derby in 1975.

Visited: CJP 7 October 1989

SELLY OAK – St.Paul's Convent (R.C.), Selly Park Road

The Convent here was founded in 1864, later supporting a number of daughter houses, churches and schools in and around Birmingham and beyond. The oldest building on the site is a large Georgian farmhouse – Selly Park Manor. This provided accommodation for the sisters when they first settled here and now forms part of an H-shaped range of buildings erected in stages between the 1860s and the 1930s. The middle block – including the clock turret – was begun in October 1880. The chapel at the back of the main block was built in 1914-6 to the designs of H.T. Sandy (according to *Building News* 1916 p.468) of Sandy & Norris of Stafford and Birmingham, architects. The chapel cost over £7000, and the builders were Henry Gough & Sons of Wolverhampton. It was opened in May 1916.

The Croydon foundry records show that Gillett, Bland & Co supplied a clock with three small bells in 1881 to Mr. W. Wray of Birmingham for St.Paul's Convent, Selly Park. The clock – costing £80 – was to strike on a bell of 1 cwt and ting-tang quarters on two bells of ½ cwt each. It was ordered on 3 Feb.1881. The records list three bells for Wray, as follows:

Bell no	Diameter	Weight	Date cast
No.488	11	0-1-0	23 May 1881
No.489	14	0-2-10	23 May 1881
No.320	19¼	1-0-20	16 July 1879

These bells are hung "dead" on two levels in an open bellcote overlooking the garden to the rear of the centre block of the main building. The hour bell is hung above the two smaller

bells used for the quarter chimes. The hour bell has a Doncaster head and the two smaller bells have flat tops or peg argents concealed in the supporting woodwork. The bells are inaccessible and cannot be viewed at close quarters, but examination through binoculars confirmed that these are the bells referred to above and enabled parts of their inscriptions to be read:

Bell **Inscription**

1. (No inscription)
2. GILLETT ...
3. GILLETT BLAND & C ...

The clock is a three-train flatbed movement with deadbeat escapement. It is signed on the setting dial by "W. Wray / 38 New Street / Birmingham" and the name of the actual maker is cast on the frame as "Gillett Bland & Co / Manufacturer / Croydon / AD 1881". The clock displays the time on a single 3ft copper dial just below the bellcote and bells. A night-silencer was fitted in about 1960 by Chas. H. Potts & Co. Ltd of Leeds.

The chapel bell is hung behind the louvred openings of the octagonal turret on the north side of the building. It is accessible by ladder from within.

Bell **Inscription**

1. Waist: STE PAULE / ORA-PRO-NOBIS / CARR'S MADE ME / 1915

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1915	29¼	3:2-2:4:2	C	4	3	0*

The bell has a flat top and it is of good tone, being an example of Carr's true-harmonic tuning. It is hung for swing chiming in a light wooden frame supplied by Carr in 1915. The frame rests on a wooden floor supported on two steel girders. It consists of sills (bolted to the floor), braces, long heads and endposts rising above the frame to form gallows-ends. There are iron spacers between the tops of the endposts. The fittings consist of a wooden stock, plate gudgeons, plain bearings with wooden covers, clapper and independent staple and an iron chiming lever. The iron plates for the bell bolts and the spacer bars in the frame are all marked "CARRS" / SMETHWICK.

Visited: CJP, HEP, RLJ, 23 June 2003

SELLY OAK – St.Stephen, Serpentine Road, Selly Park (or Selly Hill)

Plans for building a new church in the Selly Hill district of Selly Oak parish were formulated in the early 1860s and a building committee was formed in 1864. Martin and Chamberlain were commissioned to prepare plans as early as August 1864 and the contractor's tender was provisionally accepted in September 1868, but building work did not commence until 1870. Mr. C. Jones was the builder and the total cost of the church amounted to £3575. The foundation stone was laid on 30 March 1870 and the church was consecrated on 18 August 1871. A separate parish of Selly Hill (since renamed Selly Park) was formed from Selly Oak in 1892.

The church is built of brick, faced with stone. It has a south west porch tower carrying a broach spire. Shortly after construction began, the Building Committee asked the architects prepare plans for a larger tower and spire and in September 1870 an estimate from Mr. Jones, the contractor, for the extra cost of £300, was accepted. By April 1871 the upper storey of tower was finished and ready for the spire, and in June it was reported that Mr. Keyte had presented the four lower finials to the spire pinnacles.

The tower contains a single bell hung for ringing in a tie-rodged wooden frame (*Bellframes* type 6.A with end-posts). The fittings include a wooden stock, plate gudgeons, plain bearings in cast iron housings with hinged covers, wheel, iron wheel stay, wooden-topped clapper, curved stay and slider. The frame appears to be contemporary with the bell but the fittings were probably renewed by Barwell around the turn of the century.

Bell **Inscription**

1. J : B. 1870

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	James Barwell, 1870	29¼	2:2-2:3:2	E	5	0	0*

Barwell's printed testimonials include the following one relating to this bell:

Colmore Row, Birmingham,
March 26th, 1873.

I have much pleasure in certifying to the excellence of the bell you provided for our new church at Selly Hill, it gives general satisfaction to the Minister, Wardens, and Congregation, by its purity of tone, and is in every way all we could desire.

Signed, J. Harrison, Minister's Warden

Visited: CJP 26 July 1988

SELLY OAK – St.Wulstan (former church), Exeter Road, Bournbrook

St.Wulstan's was a brick church of 1905-6 by J.E.K. and J.P. Cutts, replacing a mission church opened in Dawlish Road, Bournbrook, in 1893. The area was in the parish of St.Mary, Selly Oak, until the separate parish of Selly Oak, St.Wulstan, was formed in 1911.

The foundation stone of the permanent church was laid on 19 January 1906 and the consecration took place on 6 October in the same year. The contract price was £4685 and the builders were J.A. Cole & Son of Selly Oak. A letter of 1 May 1906 shows that it was originally intended to place a bell turret or fleche over the chancel arch, but approval was sought from the Church Commissioners for it to be on the west wall – then constructed to the top of the window – instead.

The architects' specification states that the contractor was to allow "the sum of £20.10.0 (twenty pounds ten shillings) to be paid to Messrs. Warner & Sons Limited, 2 Jewin Crescent, Cripplegate, London, for a Bell fixed". The contractor was also to provide the necessary scaffolding and ladders for Warners to install the bell.

The bell has gone, but the fittings – including a wooden stock, strap gudgeons and iron chiming lever – remain *in situ* in the brick bellcote on the west gable. The bell had a Doncaster head and it was about 24 inches in diameter, weighing about 3 cwt. The building ceased to be a parish church in 1981 and formally declared redundant on 19 May 1981. Following an exchange of buildings, the church was formally taken over by the Elim Pentecostal church in 1983 and the Anglican congregation moved to the former Pentecostal church in Alton Road (*q.v.*).

According to Arthur Casey the bell from the original mission church of 1893 also remained at St.Wulstan's until its closure in 1981. It was stored in the cellar. Arthur recalls that "it was about 14 inches high and had an inscription".

Visited: CJP 7 August 1988 and 23 June 2003: Thanks to Arthur Casey

SELLY OAK – St.Wulstan, Alton Road, Selly Park

Originally built as a Pentecostal church in the 1960s, the present church of St.Wulstan was dedicated and licensed for Anglican worship on 16 June 1983 following the exchange of buildings between the two denominations during the incumbency of the Rev. Colin Bevington. It has no bell.

Visited: CJP 26 July 1988

SELLY PARK – See SELLY OAK, St.Stephen, Selly Park and Christ Church, Selly Park etc

SELLY OAK – see also WEOLEY CASTLE, St.Gabriel

SHARD END – All Saints, Ownall Road

This church, erected in 1954-5, is claimed to have been the first complete church built in Birmingham after the War. John P. Osborne & Son were the architects and C. Bryant & Son Ltd were the builders. The church and adjoining hall cost £59,522. The foundation stone

The church has a solid brick tower intended to be a focal point at the axis of several roads converging on the site. The tower stands over the cloister linking the church and hall and there is a carved figure of Christ over the archway on its east face. It is rectangular in plan, and carries a hipped roof surmounted by an open cupola. There is ladder access to the bell chamber.

Bell **Inscription**
1. 173 981 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1966 *

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co. 1966	27½	1162	D-18.76	4	0	7

SHAW HILL – St.Mary and St.John, Alum Rock road

There is a tall bell turret on south side of main front, at the west end of the south aisle. This contains a single bell hung for swing chiming. The bell is without inscription or marks and it has six small canons. It is fitted with elm stock, plate gudgeons, clapper with independent staple and an iron quarter wheel.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Unknown, c.1935	22	2:2-2:3:2	F	2	2	0*

Visited: CJP 27 July 1988 and (ladder) 11 August 1989

SHELDON – St.Giles (Parish Church), Church Road

Sheldon was once a small village in the Warwickshire countryside to the east of Birmingham. St.Giles is the old village church, first mentioned in 1291 but believed to be of twelfth-century origin or older. The nave, with its fine fourteenth-century timber roof, dates from around 1330. The embattled west tower was erected in 1461, as recorded in an inscription in the base of the tower which reads "In [the] year of our Lord M^oCCCLXI ye stepel was begon ye masson had thr[ee] and forti pond vj^s and viij^d for mak yng of the st'pel". The top of the tower was repaired by John Cheshire in 1821 (see below). The main Victorian restoration of the church took place in 1866-7. Slater and Carpenter were the architects, and the church was reopened after restoration on 31 October 1867.

Present bells

The tower now contains a ring of eight bells in the key of A flat (848 Hz or Ab plus 35.87 cents).

Bell *Inscription*

1. 104 267 / (*vine border*)
Waist: IN MEMORY OF / CHARLES P. HARRISON / 14.12.1911 – 4.1.2003 / (*Taylor's Eayre & Smith circular mark*) [2008]
Opposite: SING TO THE LORD / ALL THE EARTH / (*A.C. Berry's mark*)
2. 156 148 / (*vine border*)
Waist: IN LOVING MEMORY / MARY B. COTGRAVE / 11.11.1941 – 15.8.2007 / (*Taylor's Eayre & Smith circular mark*) [2007]
Opposite: SING TO THE LORD / PRAISE HIS NAME / (*A.C. Berry's mark*)
3. *Waist:* CARR'S OF SMETHWICK / MADE ME. / 1926.
4. 690 173 / A NEW SONG + (*vine leaf border*)
Waist: IN MEM: / RUTH WAUGH.
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 92
5. 690 161 / + SING TO THE LORD (*vine leaf border*)
Waist a: IN MEM: / TOM & BETT CHILDS.
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 92
6. IOHN (*coin*) RICHARDS (*coin*) CHVRCH (*coin*) WARDENS (*coin*) 1723 (*coin*) (*floral border*) / (*floral border*) (*two coins*) / (*Joseph Smith's mark*)
7. (*No inscription*)
8. + S M A R I A (*Thomas Newcombe's mark*)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Canons	Mouldings	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Taylor's Eayre & Smith 2008	23½	1700	None	2:2-2:3:2	3	0	24
2.	Taylor's Eayre & Smith 2007	24	1604	None	2:2-2:3:2	3	1	14
3.	Charles Carr, 1926	25⅞	1428	Removed	3:2-2:3:2	3	1	5
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1992	25⅞	1268	None	2:2-2:3:2	3	2	12
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1992	27½	1133	None	2:2-2:3:2	4	0	8
6.	Joseph Smith, 1723	29⅞	1070	Cabled	2:2-3:3:2	4	2	10
7.	Unknown, c.1380-1400	32⅞	953	Complete	2:1*1:3:3	5	1	22
8.	Thomas Newcombe, c.1580	36½	848	Complete	3:2-3:3:2	8	1	8

The dimensions of the seventh bell are as follows: diameter 32¼", tangent 22½", shoulder circumference 55¾", unworn soundbow thickness 2⅞", height to seat of canons c.24" and canons c.5". It has plain canons and a normal soundbow. There is a band of mouldings round the shoulder in place of an inscription band, with a rounded moulding above and below a fillet. The other moulding wires are plain.

The three old bells retain their canons and argents. They were quarter turned by Barwell in 1911 and turned again in 1996-7 when the present headstocks were fitted. The bells had not been tuned until they were machine-tuned in 1996-7. The Carr bell (now the third) has also been heavily machined to lower all the partials to fit the rest of the ring. The dates of the trebles (given above in brackets) do not appear in the inscriptions but have been included for clarity and to rectify the omission.

The bells hang in a cast iron lowside frame for six bells made by John Taylor & Co in 1986-7 and installed by Arthur Berry of Malvern in 1992-3. They are fitted with modern Taylor ringing fittings including cast iron stocks (canon retaining type on bells 4-6), ball bearings, wheels and traditional stays and sliders. The fittings date from 1987/92 (bells 2-3), 1997 (bells 4-6) and 1998 (treble). The frame was extended for eight bells when the fittings of the two trebles were also supplied. The components were supplied by Taylor's Eayre & Smith in 2008, and installed – some time later – in November 2010.

The old bellframe

The old frame remains *in situ* above the new one. It is supported on an offset on the north and south side of the tower, continued round the stair turret in the south west corner. The bell chamber floor sits on a set of north-south beams resting on plates on the offset with a bell hatch in the middle. The frame stands on the floor.

In its present form, the frame has three parallel north-south pits on the north side, and a transverse pit to the south. Until 1992 the tenor of the old ring of four was hung in the transverse pit and the three smaller bells occupied the parallel pits. The frame (*Bellframes* type 6.A) has sills, braces (mostly curved and probably reused from an earlier frame) and long heads with jack braces in some trusses (i.e. type 6.B trusses). Some of the joints are numbered in Roman numerals. In its present form, the frame dates from around 1660 but it contains earlier material.

The real interest lies in the members from older frames incorporated in the present structure. Two of the sills of the parallel pits have been heads and another has been a sill in a previous frame, and the sills of the return sections of these pits also belong to an older bellframe. The northern return sill is a full-length bearer, now on its side. The corresponding southern return sill was similar but it was shortened when adapted for its present use.

The mortises in the old sills and heads show that the frame had 9-10" king posts, end-posts and a pair of 12" braces, and there is also evidence that the long heads had braces to the end-posts. The heads (type 3) are cut to allow the bells to swing. These timbers clearly come from a first generation long-headed frame (type 5.H) of about 1600. Dovetail joints in the old bearers show that the frame had three parallel pits and there is no evidence of a transverse pit.

History

In 1552 there were "iiij^{or} belles and ij lytle belles" at Sheldon. The original second bell (now the fifth) of c.1380-1400 predates the tower of 1461, and the old third (now the tenor) was recast by Thomas Newcombe of Leicester in around 1580. As noted above, a new bellframe was installed in about 1600, apparently with pits for only three bells instead of four.

The tenor was recast in 1650 by John Martin of Worcester. It was one of a number of bells cast by Martin for Warwickshire churches in the years around 1650. He may have set up a temporary foundry at Coleshill for a while during the Protectorate. It was as follows:

Bell

Inscription

4. SOLI DEO GLORIA PAX HOMINIBVS I G W G 1650 (*vine border*) (*John Martin's large heart mark*) (*vine border*)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
4.	John Martin, 1650	38½	3:2-3:4:2	A flat (823Hz)	9	3	13

The letter G in the initials "IG WG" is inverted, and the letter N in HOMINIBVS is reversed. This bell was removed from the ring during the remodelling in 1992. It was afterwards retuned by Taylors for rehanging at St.Margaret's, Hawes, in North Yorkshire, as a tolling bell. It was installed there in 1996 by Arthur Berry. After retuning, the bell weighs 9-2-12.

The surviving Churchwardens accounts begin in 1714 and the volumes provides a detailed record of expenditure on the church, clock and bells to 1859. As well as recording minor repairs to the ropes and fittings, the accounts include payments for ringing and refer to "the Curfer bell" (e.g. in 1717) and "Ringing ye bell att 5 & 8 a clock" (e.g. 1720).

In 1723 Joseph Smith of Edgbaston recast the treble and carried out repairs to the fittings of the four bells. The work is documented in the account book where there is a minute dated 31 March 1723 giving details of the agreement with the founder. In addition, Smith's estimate, contract and receipt are preserved among the parish records:

The Casting of the first Bell	4.0.0.
ye Bell wt more than went in to Mr. Smith 16lb	0.16.0.
Four new wheels	4.0.0.

What weight is over when the Bell is new cast Mr. Smith to be allow'd 12d per pound , wt weight is under he agrees to allow the same

New hanging the Clappers

0.5.0.

A Sun Dial

1.1.0.

10.2.0.

I hereby agree to new cast the first Bell, to find the 4 new Wheels, to new hang the Clappers, and to make a Sun Dial at ye Prices above mentioned. The Church Wardens carrying the Bell backwards & forwards.

Witness my hand

Joseph Smith

Witnesses to the Agreement

J. Carpenter, Jn^o Richards Church warding, Wm Ward, John Allen, Samuel Dowler,

Richard Wells, Jude Moore

June ye 17th 1723 then Resd. of John Richards ye sum of Eight pounds In parte of ye Bells & welles

Res^d by me £ 8.0.0. Joseph Smith

The accounts for 1722-3 contain the following entries relating to the work:

13 June pd for two Locks for ye Stepell Doors	1s.8d.
17th Pd to Mr Smith in part for Casting ye Little Bell, 4 New Wheels & Sun Diall	£8.
Expences with Mr. Smith and his two Men when the Bells were Hanged	2s.
Mending the floors in ye Tower	6d.
Pd to Mr. Archer for the Carriage of the Bell backwards and forwards	11s.
Boards and more work abt. the Floors	2s.6d.
To pay to Mr Smith Bellfounder	£2.2.0.

In 1731-2 the parish spent substantial sums on repairs and improvements to the church.

This included the renewal of the windows in the nave, the erection of a buttress to support the north wall, and the construction of a partition wall "betwixt the steeple and the church".

The work was undertaken by Thomas Smith alias Clare. In 1732 the church was re-seated.

The leadwork on the tower roof was renewed in 1740 and in 1749 John Dowler was paid 10s.6d. "for wood and work stoping the Pigeons out of the Tower".

Further work on the bells became necessary in 1754 when Richard Brown attended to the headstocks and woodwork. John Moore repaired the ironwork, gudgeons and brasses. Details recorded in the accounts are as follows:

1754

27 July pd to John Moore for new Irons for the Bells weigd 54lb	£1.7.0.
for new Brasses for the Bells wd 49lb	£2.17.2.
For necking & turning 4 gugings	7s.
for 4 new Gugings weighed 15lb	10s.4d.
for mending the old Irons	10s.
pd for 1 Staple, 3 Scrupins, 3 Nutts and 1 Rench	5s.
for my work & loss of time abt the same	2s.
pd for Ale for the Workmen and for others for their assistance abt ye Bells	3s.6d.
27th pd to Richard Brown for a new Stock and for hanging the first Bell	10s.6d.
Hanging the other 3 bells at 7s.6d, per Bell	£1.2.6.
pd to him for Mending the Bell Wheels and for new stays for them	5s.
pd for new woods for the Bell Clappers	7s.

In 1762 the churchwardens paid £4.9.6. for four new bell wheels, and one of these was replaced in 1790 when Thomas Bragg received £1.9.8. "for New Bell Wheel for the third Bell &c". In 1805 Mr.Hunt was paid £25.8.3½. "for Repairing the Bells"

Extensive repairs to the tower were carried out in 1820-21 by John Cheshire, whose estimate dated 3 June 1820 survives among the parish records. The accounts show that payments totalling £103 were made to Cheshire for the work in November 1820 and January 1821. The work involved rebuilding the parapet, partially dismantling and rebuilding the west face down to the belfry window opening, repointing and the introduction of iron tie-bars and "chain bars" to strengthen the structure.

In 1911 the bells were quarter turned and rehung with new fittings by James Barwell of Birmingham. Some of the Barwell fittings – including wooden stocks, plate gudgeons, plain bearings in iron housings with hinged lids, wheels, stays and sliders – remain in the belfry. Barwell fitted reversing blocks for the clappers of bells 1, 3 and 4 and fitted an

independent staple in the second. The church accounts include the following entry relating to the work: "Barwell Ltd., for rehanging and Quarter Turning Bells, also relaying Floors in Ringing Chamber and Bell Chamber £65.13.6."

A new ringing floor was erected in the tower in 1960. A faculty for this work was issued on 12 November 1959.

From 1974 the parish and the ringers worked towards the restoration of the bells, eventually completed in 1998. The bells were rehung on ball bearings locally in 1978 and in 1986 the parish ordered a new cast iron frame from John Taylor & Co. Because of various difficulties in raising funds and obtaining approval for the proposed works, the restoration was completed in stages.

The new six-bell frame was built in 1987 but then put in store until the parish was ready to proceed in 1992. Two new bells were cast to make a ring of five in 1992 and the five bells were first rung in February 1993. At that stage the three old bells were still hung in the old frame, while the two new bells were hung in the new frame below. The three old bells were subsequently provided with new fittings and moved to their pits in the new frame. This was completed early in 1997. The treble came from St. Gregory the Great, Small Heath, and it was added to complete the ring of six in April 1998.

Two further bells were added as memorials, one to Charles P. Harrison (1911-2003) in 2008 and the other to Mary B. Cotgrave (1941-2007) in 2007. These were cast by Taylors Eayre & Smith of Loughborough, with the installation work being contracted to A.C. Berry Ltd of Malvern. Installation was completed in December 2010.

A clock is mentioned in the Churchwardens accounts from 1714. Thomas Smalebrook had recently carried out repairs, for which he received payment on 22 March 1714/5 of "one old coffer without iron w^{ch} is of noe use in our Church". William Hobday was paid 1s. "for iron he laid on our Clock hamber [hammer] & repaireing the same". From 1716 until 1741 Thomas Simons had a regular contract for cleaning the clock. He was succeeded from 1742 by John Luckman who continued to maintain the clock until 1794.

There are no payments for cleaning the clock between 1766 and 1770, suggesting that the clock may have fallen into disuse. Repairs are recorded in the accounts for 1771:

Paid for cleaning the clock	£3.3.0.
paid for making the Diall	£1.8.0.
Paid for making the Clock case	7s.4d.
Paid for Bringing the Diall and putting it up three of them two Days	11s.10d.
Paid for nails for the Clock case	11d.
Paid for painting the Diall	£2.12.6.
Paid for a hand and Spindle	14s.
And going to Birmingham for it	1s.6d.
Paid Luckman's Bill	10s.6d.

The later accounts refer to repairs to the clock face and "gilding and painting the Clock Dial" in 1805. Repairs to the clock were carried out at a cost of £6 in 1816, and further repairs were undertaken in 1829 after a few years (1820-1828) in which the clock is not mentioned. In 1857 William Leeson of Coleshill first appears in the accounts, when he received £7.5.0. for "Cleaning and Repairing Clock has per bill".

A new clock by Leeson & Son of Coleshill was installed in 1871. This was a two-train flatbed movement with Leeson's gravity escapement and maintaining power. It displayed the time on a cast iron skeleton dial on the west face of the tower. In 1966 the Leeson clock fell into disuse. It was replaced by a new synchronous clock by Thwaites & Reed with an electrically-operated hour-striking system. The new clock used the original dial motion work. When the bells were restored in 1992 the Leeson clock was removed from the clock room and sold to a private collector. The synchronous clock also fell into disuse. By 2003 the clock had been removed and the dial was stored in the base of the tower.

Visited: CJP 30 December 1977, 28 September 1985 and 1 March 2003; CJP, HEP and CJND 15 April 2003

SHENLEY GREEN - St.David

St.David's began as a house church ministering to the population of a new housing estate in 1958. A dual-purpose church hall was opened on 25 September 1962 and in November 1965 a district of Shenley Green was created from the parishes of Northfield and Weoley Castle. On 1 March 1969 the first turf was cut on the site of the new church, which was opened and consecrated on 9 May 1970. The church was designed by the Architect's Department of the Bournville Village Trust (Peter Carrick, project architect).

The church has a concrete bell turret at the junction of the narthex and the body of the church. The turret contains a single bell fixed to steel brackets at the top of the structure and sounded by trigger-action clapper. The bell was supplied in October 1969.

Bell Inscription

1. 541 243 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1969 *

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1969	23 $\frac{1}{8}$	F (1384 Hz)	2	1	26

Visited: CJP (ladder) 7 August 1988

SHORT HEATH – St.Margaret, Jarvis Road

The original church at Short Heath was designed by E. Douglas Hoyland, architect. The foundation stone was laid on 26 September 1908 and the church was licensed for worship on 1 March 1909. It was opened as a mission church of Erdington. Short Heath became a separate parish in 1962, and in 1973-4 a new church was built alongside the old one which is now used as the church hall. The new church was designed by Batemans. The foundation stone was laid on 17 March 1973 and the building was completed by December 1974. It was licenced and designated as a parish centre for worship on 4 January 1975.

The original church of 1908 once had a turret containing a small bell, but the turret has now been taken down. According to the Vicar the bell was disposed of when the building became the hall. The new church of 1973-4 has an open brick tower by the porch but no bell.

There are two disused bells in the church hall, said by the Vicar to be from Perry Common. One (11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter - note G) is without inscription of marks but has a tapered peg argent with a squared hole (c.f. Stechford, All Saints) and may have been cast by Charles Carr of Smethwick. The other (11" diameter, note F) has the Barwell crest on the waist. The Barwell bell has a bar stock, iron lever and clapper.

The Vicar stated that the old Short Heath bell was larger than the two disused bells. He was sure that neither of the two bells now preserved in the church originally belonged to Short Heath, but he could not provide definite information on their origins.

Visited: CJP 22 July 1989

SMALL HEATH – Ada Street Schools

The school in Ada Road, Small Heath, was built for the Birmingham School Board and opened in 1885. After 1954 it became known as St.Andrew's County Primary School.

A catalogue issued by Joyce of Whitchurch in about 1892 indicates that the firm had supplied a turret clock for the Ada Street Schools. The date of the clock is not given but the catalogue indicates that it displayed the time on four dials. Smith of Derby carried out some work on the clock in 1953, and their records confirm that it was a two-train clock by Joyce dated 1885 with four 3ft 9in enamel dials. It evidently struck the hours on a single bell.

SMALL HEATH – All Saints (former church), Cooksey Road

The first church here was built in 1874-5 as a memorial to the late Dr. Joseph Oldknow of Bordesley, and shortly after its completion in July 1875 a new district of Small Heath was assigned from Holy Trinity, Bordesley. The temporary church was soon afterwards replaced, and a permanent church - to the designs of A.E. Dempster - was built in 1882-3 and consecrated on 28 July 1883. The builders were Messrs Barnsley & Sons. It had a tower and spire (120ft) at the north west angle of the building. The cost was largely borne by Hector

Richard Cooksey of Edgbaston and Newnham Bridge who had been a friend and supporter of Oldknow during his ministry in the parish.

The building was destroyed in World War II and never rebuilt, although the new church in the post-War residential area of Shard End (All Saints) is said to be its successor. The parish was abolished in 1949, but since 1996 – confusingly – the one-time daughter church of St.Aidan has been known as All Saints, Small Heath.

Tilley and Walters list a single bell at All Saints, Small Heath, as follows:

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	James Barwell, 1875	24	3	0	0*

There are no further details, and the bell was probably destroyed with the church. It was probably inscribed – like the contemporary bell from All Saints, Birmingham, now (1988) at Bishop Latimer's church – with the name of the founder and date, i.e. JAMES BARWELL FOUNDER. BIRMINGHAM 1875.

SMALL HEATH, All Saints (present church) – *see* SMALL HEATH, St.Aidan

SMALL HEATH – Good Shepherd (former Mission Church)

The Good Shepherd was the name of the original mission church (in the parish of All Saints, Small Heath) which was later replaced by the church of St.Gregory the Great (*q.v.*). It was an iron church of 1900, and the building was retained as a parish hall after the permanent church was completed. It remained in use until the 1950s. It may have had a small bell.

SMALL HEATH - Public Library, Green Lane and Little Green Lane

This is another of Birmingham's lavish and distinctive public libraries of the last decade of the nineteenth century. It occupies a corner site and conjoins the public baths. It was built in 1893, the architect being Henry Martin of Chamberlain and Martin. It is a red brick and terracotta building with gables and with a prominent circular clock tower over the main entrance. It was described at the time as "the largest and most complete of all the branch libraries" in the City. A marble tablet on the Green Lane side of the building is inscribed "THIS MEMORIAL STONE / WAS LAID 14TH JANUARY 1893 / BY / E. LAWLEY PARKER ESQ^{RE} J.P. / MAYOR OF THIS CITY / HENRY MARTIN, ARCHITECT. THOMAS ROWBOTHAM, BUILDER".

The clock tower was included in the architect's original scheme, but when the tenders were considered by the City Council's Public Libraries Committee in May 1892 some thought was given to omitting this feature for economy. In the event Thomas Rowbotham's tender for the full scheme (£5,600) was accepted and work began later in the year. The foundation stone was laid on 14 January 1893 and the library was opened by the Mayor on 31 December in the same year. The total cost amounted to £7057.

The clock was ordered in 1893, and on 31 July the Sites and Buildings Committee agreed to provide a larger clock than originally intended with a 5 cwt bell. An estimate of £130 from Messrs Evans & Sons was accepted. The accounts refer to "extra work on clock tower, to accommodate four dials instead of three, of increased diameter" £61.18.7, additional cost of clock with four dials and bell £45, Fixing clock and bell, wood platform, and glass casings, doors, and frames for clock weights £30.18.2.

The original clock was replaced by a synchronous electric movement by Smith of Derby – along with ten other public clocks in the City – in 1958. By 1973 the building had ceased to be used as a public library and it had become a community centre for the Asian population of the neighbourhood. By 2006 it still had signs on for the Jame Masjid and Muslim Community Centre but looked disused. The four openings in the tower for the clock dials are now filled with boards and the hands have been removed. In 2009 proposals for adapting the building for educational use and restoring the clock tower are under consideration.

Visited: CJP 25 February 2006

SMALL HEATH - St.Aidan, Herbert Road (known since 1996 as All Saints)

An iron mission room was provided for this district of the parish of All Saints, Small Heath, in October 1891. The present church was built in stages between 1893 and 1898 to the designs of Thomas F. Proud, architect. The foundation stone was laid on 2 September 1893 and the first portion consisting of an aisled chancel and two bays of the nave was built at a cost of £4000 by E.J. Charles of Moseley in 1893-4. The church was opened on 2 September 1894 and consecrated on 13 October 1896. A parish was assigned in February 1897. The church was completed by voluntary labour "without builder or contractor" in 1898. Later fittings included a fifteenth-century font from St.Stephen's, Bristol, and notable rood and screens of 1912 designed by F. Bligh Bond.

The portion of the church completed in 1898 has a western bellcote in brick with terracotta dressings with a single bell:

Bell Inscription

1. *Waist:* VOX CLAMANTIS IN DESERTO / DIRIGE VIAM DOMINI / CHARLES CARR LTD 1898

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1898	30	C sharp	5	1	24½

The bell was cast with a flat top, and it is hung from a bar stock with iron lever and plain bearings. The weight and diameter of the bell were noted by Tilley & Walters in 1910. The bell was rung for the first time on 11 December 1898.

The dedication of the church was changed from St.Aidan to All Saints in 1996 as part of a pastoral reorganisation scheme for Small Heath involving the closure of St.Gregory's and St.Oswald's and major reordering of St.Aidan's, completed in 1999-2000.

Visited: CJP (binoculars) 30 January 1988

SMALL HEATH – St.Gregory the Great (former church), Coventry Road and Oldknow Road

The original mission church here (in the parish of All Saints, Small Heath) was opened in 1900. This was an iron church (originally known at the Good Shepherd), which later became a parish hall and remained in use until the 1950s. The foundation stone of the permanent church was laid in 1902 but little progress was made in the first few years owing to a lack of funds. Parts of the church – the apse and three bays of the nave - were completed in 1910-12 and dedicated by the Bishop on 8 July 1912. The architect was J.L. Ball of Birmingham and the church was designed in the Romanesque style in brick. Consecration took place in 1916 and St.Gregory's became a parish church in 1924.

Work on the building continued until the outbreak of the Great War, and in June 1914 John Barnsley & Sons, the contractors, submitted an estimate for erecting a bell turret and hanging a bell. At the same time James Barwell Ltd quoted for a 20" bell weighing 1-3-14 with their 040 fittings (elm stock, plate gudgeons, bracket bearings in iron plumber blocks and oak wheel). The total cost would have been about £40 - £23.4.6 for the turret and £15.16.1 for the bell and fittings. This was not carried out.

The church was completed in 1928, following a further phase of building work in 1925-8 during which a bell was provided. The bell was hung in a brick bellcote or arched opening over the east end of the north aisle, on side of the church facing Oldknow Road. The bell had six plain canons and moulding wires 3:2-2:3:2. It was hung for swing chiming with wooden stock, plate gudgeons, independent staple, and iron lever. An Ellacombe chiming hammer was also fitted.

Bell Inscription

1. *Waist:* CARR'S OF SMETHWICK / MADE ME. / 1926.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1926	25½	3:2-2:3:2	G	3	3	12

The bell – one of the last products of Carr’s Smethwick foundry - was taken down on the closure of the church in 1995 and later installed (weighing 3-1-5) as the treble of six at Sheldon in 1997. The building has been sold to the Bethel United Church of Jesus Christ and remains in use.

Visited: CJP 30 January 1988 (binoculars) and 10 October 1989 (ladders); DLC and SEA 5 September 1995

SMALL HEATH – St.Oswald of Worcester (former church), Coventry Road

A mission of St.Andrew’s Bordesley was established in this district in 1889. A Peel District or parish was established in August 1889 and an iron mission room was opened on 10 October of the same year. Plans for a permanent church were drawn up soon afterwards by W.H. Bidlake and the building was erected in two stages between 1892 and 1899. The foundation stone of the first portion, including the east end and four bays of the nave, was laid by Mrs. Digby on 17 September 1892. The contractor was T. Rowbotham of Small Heath. The church was consecrated 27 September 1893. The west front and the two remaining bays of the nave were given by Charles Wriothesley Digby of Meriden Hall in memory of his wife who died in 1898. The work was completed in 1899-1900 and dedicated on 23 April 1900.

The planned tower and spire at the west end of the church were never built, and instead the architect placed an oblong wooden bell turret over west end of the nave. The turret is inaccessible without scaffolding and ladders, and the single bell cannot be seen clearly through binoculars. The bell is hung for swing chiming from a wooden headstock and appears to be about 18 to 20 inches in diameter. The turret – and presumably the bell – belongs to the portion of the church erected in 1899-1900.

The church was declared redundant in November 1996. The building was sold in 1998 and it is now a Islamic education centre, but the bell remains in the turret.

Church visited: CJP 27 July 1988 (binoculars); DLC 22 June 2002

SMETHWICK – Board Schools

A catalogue issued by Charles Carr of Smethwick in about 1891 shows that the firm supplied bells for the Smethwick Board Schools – apparently cast between 1885 and 1891. No further details are given.

SMETHWICK – Cape Hill Brewery (former)

The former Cape Hill Brewery of Mitchells & Butlers was opened in 1881 and remained in operation until its closure in 2002. The buildings were demolished in 2005 and the site has since been redeveloped for residential use. The brewery used to have a small Art-deco clock tower with a four-faced clock at the main entrance to Cape Hill. The original clock was a Pul-syn-etic system supplied by Gents - probably in the 1930s. Although demolished in 2005, the clock tower is to be re-erected in 2007 on a new position on another part of the site.

SMETHWICK – Cape House, Cape Hill

Built as a local branch of the Birmingham General Dispensary in 1907, Cape House has a clock tower over the main entrance on Cape Hill. The building was designed by Frederic J Gill of Smethwick, architect. The builders were Messrs J Barnsley & Sons of Birmingham whose tender (£5936) was accepted in April 1907. The clock tower forms a prominent local landmark. It has four illuminated dials, and the three bells in the open cupola above the clock are visible from below. The original clock was replaced by a synchronous electric movement by Smith of Derby in 1970. The clock originally struck the hours and quarters on three bells, the largest of which weighs about 7 cwt. The bells were cast by Charles Carr of Smethwick.

Site visited: CJP 13 September 2003 and 2 December 2003; Unfortunately, despite a friendly and helpful response from the owners of the building over several months, it nevertheless proved impossible to make arrangements to examine these bells.

SMETHWICK - Council House, High Street

The Council House was built in 1905-7 at a cost of £17,000. The foundation stone was laid by the Mayor on 2 November 1905 and the official opening took place on 19 June 1907. The architect was Frederic J Gill of Smethwick whose scheme won the design competition for the new municipal buildings in 1904. John Dallow was the builder and the Clerk of Works was Mr. Gee.

At the time, local manufacturers felt aggrieved that they were not invited to tender for the work or for the provision of fixtures and furnishings. A letter signed by the President and Secretary of the Smethwick Traders' Association appeared in the *Smethwick Telephone* of 22 June 1907, stating:

... whatever our Councillors may say to the contrary: by their recent actions they show very plainly that their private opinion is that Smethwick so far from being the world's provider, is not even able to supply its own requirements. We read with delight your very interesting description the making of our beautiful new Council House; our delight lasted until we noticed the absence of Smethwick traders from the list of those who were doing the work, and our delight gave way to other feelings when we learned that in several cases, notably the furnishing and floor-covering, no Smethwick trader had even been asked to give a price and, so far as we know, the order was given to a Birmingham firm, and no competitive price was asked for. The clock came from Derby, and the bells from Loughborough; we are led to understand that had proper specifications been sent out there would have been no need for this work to have left the town. ...

A letter from the Smethwick bellfounders appeared in the same paper of 13 July 1907, apparently confirming that the firm had been specifically excluded from tendering for the provision of bells for the clock:

Re Traders' Association and Council House contracts.

Sir, - With reference to the above, and the Mayor's remarks as reported in your issue of June 20th at the Council meeting (viz., that every opportunity was given to local traders to compete for the clock), we should like to ask the Council why they specified in each case to the clockmakers that the bells for the chimes must be procured from Loughborough? Yours &c,

Charles Carr Limited
A.R. Morgan, Secretary

The building has a slate-hung tower and cupola containing a chiming clock for which Taylors supplied three clock bells in November 1906. The bells hang in the cupola above the dials. Details are as follows:

Bell	Inscription
1.	278 / John Taylor & Co. * Founders * Loughborough * 1906 * / (<i>Vine leaf border all round</i>)
2.	173 / John Taylor & Co. * Founders * Loughborough * 1906 * / (<i>Vine leaf border all round</i>)
3.	208 / John Taylor & Co. * Founders * Loughborough * 1906 * / (<i>large vine leaf border all round</i>)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1906	22	1584	G + 17.6	2	0	26
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1906	27 ⁵ / ₈	1186	D + 16.63	4	0	16
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1906	39 ³ / ₄	790	G + 13.22	11	0	9

There are no special inscriptions on these bells. The lettering on the hour bell is larger than that on the two quarter bells. All three bells are hung "dead" from wooden beams in the

The clock was supplied by John Smith & Sons of Derby, with hour strike and ding-dong quarter chimes. It displays the time on four illuminated dials (6ft diameter). It is dated 1906. The clock is a three-train movement in a flatbed frame, with double-three-legged gravity escapement. It is still hand-wound. Smith's sales ledger shows that the total cost of the clock and bells, invoiced to Fred Gill on 28 January 1907, was £268.12.6.

Visited: CJP and HEP 2 December 2003 (clocks) and 27 February 2004 (bells)

This church was first built in 1837-8 and the first of the new churches in Smethwick, then in the parish of Harborne, in the nineteenth century. In its early days the church was known as Holy Trinity, North Harborne. The architect was Thomas Johnson of Lichfield. The church was consecrated on 4 September 1838 and North Harborne became a separate parish in 1842. The body of the church was rebuilt in 1887-8 under Francis Bacon of Newbury, but the original tower and spire of 1838 were preserved. The consecration of the rebuilt church took place on 5 January 1889. Following a pastoral reorganisation of the area in 1995 Holy Trinity is now the parish church of The Resurrection, Smethwick and a major reordering of the building was completed in 1998.

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
1	1
2	2
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92	92
93	93
94	94
95	95
96	96
97	97
98	98
99	99
100	100

- | Bell | Founder and date | Diameter | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|------|-----------------------|----------|------|------|------|
| 1. | Thomas Mears II, 1838 | 21 | 1 | 3 | 18 |

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
1903	A new bell was put up at this place

- Waist:* LAUS DEO / PRESENTED TO / THE PARISH CHURCH OF NORTH HARBORNE /
BY / CLARENCE ERIC AND WALTER PAGE MARCH / AUDLEY . SMETHWICK / OCTOBER
1905 / JAMES WHITELEY M A / VICAR

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1905	38	3:2-2:4:2	A	10	0	0*

The clock was given in 1877 under the will of the Rev. T.G. Simcox, the Lord of the Manor of Harborne and first incumbent of the church. Simcox died on 19 August 1876, leaving £100 for the purchase of a church clock. It was supplied and installed by John Smith of Derby. It is a flatbed movement – originally two-train – with a pinwheel escapement on the going train. The setting dial is inscribed “Smith / Midland Clock Works / Derby” but not dated and there is a plate with “J. Smith / Maker / Derby” on the frame.

Visited: CJP 10 September 1988

SMETHWICK – Lightwoods House, Bearwood

Lightwoods house was built for Jonathan Grundy in 1790. The house and estate were purchased by George Caleb Atkins in 1865, and after his death in 1887 most of the estate was sold for residential development. The house and remaining parkland were also put up for sale in 1902, but the intervention of Alexander Macomb Chance led to a campaign to save the house from demolition. It was purchased by the committee and afterwards presented to the Corporation as a public park.

There is a clock dial on the main building. The clock itself is said to be a timepiece by Evans of Handsworth, dating from c.1870.

Not visited: *Ex.Inf.* Smith of Derby

SMETHWICK - Old Church, The Uplands

Smethwick Old Church was founded by Dorothy Parkes of Birmingham (d.1728) and built shortly after her death with funds she had bequeathed for the purpose. She had created a trust for the purpose in 1719, strengthened by clauses in her will of 1723 and a codicil of 1725. It was specified that the chapel should be built within three years of her death. It is a brick building in the classical style with a west tower. It was duly consecrated on 13 September 1732 as a chapel of Harborne. Never given a dedication, it was first known as the Old Chapel, Smethwick Chapel or Parkes's Chapel. In 1842 it became the parish church of a new parish covering the southern half of Smethwick.

The present bells

The original bell was given under the terms of the donor's will. It hangs from the roof of the tower and it is now inaccessible without long ladders, but Lynam (p.26) states that it is inscribed:

EX (*coin*) DONO (*coin*) DOROTHY (*two coins*) PARKS (*two coins*) 1732 / (*border all round below*)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Joseph Smith, 1732	31	B	5	2	0*

This bell retains its canons. It is hung by long straps from the roof of the tower. It was probably placed in this position in 1897, and it was certainly hung like this in 1961 when John Oldham described it as it is now. Since 1964 it has been sounded by an automatic tolling machine supplied and installed by Messrs. Smith & Sons, clockmakers, of Derby

In addition, there is a ring of eight bells of 1977 – replacing the bells of 1897/9 (see below) – in the key of B natural (987Hz or B minus 1.34 cents)

Bell	Inscription
1.	525 242 / (<i>blank</i>) <i>Waist:</i> GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH <i>Opposite:</i> 19 (<i>Taylor's rectangular mark</i>) 77
2.	525 278 / (<i>blank</i>) <i>Waist:</i> ON EARTH PEACE <i>Opposite:</i> 19 (<i>Taylor's rectangular mark</i>) 77
3.	595 243 / (<i>blank</i>) <i>Waist:</i> GOOD-WILL TOWARDS MEN <i>Opposite:</i> 19 (<i>Taylor's rectangular mark</i>) 77
4.	595 267 / (<i>blank</i>) <i>Waist:</i> WE PRAISE THEE <i>Opposite:</i> 19 (<i>Taylor's rectangular mark</i>) 77
5.	595 298 / (<i>blank</i>) <i>Waist:</i> WE WORSHIP THEE <i>Opposite:</i> 19 (<i>Taylor's rectangular mark</i>) 77

6. 595 210 / (*blank*)
Waist: HOLY HOLY HOLY LORD GOD OF HOSTS
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's rectangular mark*) 77
7. 595 151 / (*blank*)
Waist: IN COMMEMORATION OF / THE SILVER JUBILEE OF / HER MAJESTY QUEEN
ELIZABETH II / 6 FEBRUARY 1977
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's rectangular mark*) 77
8. 595 202 / (*blank*)
Waist: TO THE GLORY OF GOD / AND IN MEMORY OF / DORIS EVELYN ADAMS /
1897-1974 / THIS RING WAS CAST / IN THE YEAR 1977
Opposite: (*Taylor's rectangular mark*)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1977	21	1996	2	1	11
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1977	22	1887	2	3	18
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1977	23 $\frac{1}{8}$	1676	3	0	2
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1977	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	1492	3	0	12
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1977	25 $\frac{3}{8}$	1324	3	1	14
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1977	26 $\frac{5}{8}$	1249	3	3	19
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1977	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	1112	5	0	21
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1977	32 $\frac{7}{8}$	987	7	1	1

The bells hang in a cast iron lowside frame of 1977-8 by John Taylor & Co, standing on the steel beams of the previous frame. The ringing fittings also date from 1977-8. Although the bells were cast in 1977 they were not installed until early in the following year.

Former bells

After the establishment of Carr's bellfoundry in the 1880s, the idea of installing a peal of bells at "one of the churches" in the town attracted growing support. The movement was, of course, fuelled by Carr's themselves who offered in December 1891 (*Smethwick Telephone*, Saturday 24 December) to donate the treble bell of a future peal to the church selected to receive the peal. In a later letter in the *Telephone* of 24 September 1892 J.J.W. Carr observed that it was "singular that so many peals are made in the town not possessing one itself, and for the populace to have to go outside to hear one except in the bell foundry".

Having a substantial tower, the Old Church was the obvious place for such a new peal to be installed. Eventually in 1897 a new ring of eight bells – cast locally at the Woodland works of Charles Carr of Smethwick – was erected as a permanent memorial of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. Carr's tender (£325) was accepted at a meeting of the Committee on 9 April 1897 at which the estimates from four other firms were also considered. The bells were dedicated by the Bishop of Shrewsbury on 18 June 1897.

They were considered unsatisfactory, however, and in 1899 the founders put up a replacement peal. This was reported in the local paper, which announced on 4 February 1899 that "Messrs. Charles Carr are placing eight new bells in the Old Church tower. It is expected that the first peal will be rung in a few days". It will be noted from the record of the inscriptions taken in 1963 – as given below – that the bells were all dated 1897 and not 1899.

The second peal was a ring of eight in the key of G natural (790Hz or G plus 13.22 cents), as follows:

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
--------------------	---------------------------

1. (blank)
Waist: PEAL OF EIGHT BELLS ERECTED 1897 / TO COMMEMORATE 60 YEARS /
REIGN OF QUEEN. VICTORIA. / BY PUBLIC. SUBSCRIPTIONS.
2. (blank)
Waist: GEORGE ASTBURY. M.A. CANTAB. VICAR / JOHN VENABLES. CURATE. / JOHN
NEWNEY } / GEORGE DORMAN } CHURCHWARDENS

3. (blank)
Waist: DIAMOND JUBILEE / SMETHWICK / 1897
4. (blank)
Waist: DIAMOND JUBILEE / SMETHWICK / 1897
5. (blank)
Waist: DIAMOND JUBILEE / SMETHWICK / 1897
6. (blank)
Waist: DIAMOND JUBILEE / SMETHWICK / 1897
7. (blank)
Waist: DIAMOND JUBILEE / SMETHWICK / 1897
8. (blank)
Waist: DIAMOND JUBILEE / SMETHWICK / 1897

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Hz	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1897/9	25½	1652	4	2	19
2.	Charles Carr, 1897/9	26⅛	1589	4	2	2
3.	Charles Carr, 1897/9	27¼	1401	4	2	6
4.	Charles Carr, 1897/9	28	1244	4	1	25
5.	Charles Carr, 1897/9	30½	1077	5	0	27
6.	Charles Carr, 1897/9	31¾	1027	5	1	20
7.	Charles Carr, 1897/9	34½	---	7	0	11
8.	Charles Carr, 1897/9	38⅛	790	8	2	2

These are the nett weights of the bells as recorded when they were received at the foundry in 1963 and 1978. The front six bells had canons but the seventh and tenor had flat heads. All were drilled in the crown for independent staples. The bells were in a key between G and A flat (790Hz = G plus 13.22 cents).

The bells were hung in a frame on two levels, with the second being hung in a wooden frame above the others. The other seven bells were hung in a tall cast iron frame (type uncertain). Two bells (nos 5 and 6) swung north-south, and all the others swung east-west. The frame and fittings were all of 1897.

The bells were regularly rung up until World War II and between February 1898 and May 1938 some 61 full peals were accomplished at the Old Church. By 1950, however, the bells had fallen silent and in that year a local writer commented "they have become out of tune and need re-hanging, and are never used now".

On 4 March 1963 the parish obtained a faculty for various works on the church including the removal of seven of the bells. It was stated in the faculty application that the bells "are no longer wanted and are not considered a particularly satisfactory installation or of any great musical value". In September 1963 seven of these bells were removed and sold to Taylors for scrap, leaving the old seventh as a service bell hanging in its original pit in the old frame. This bell was refurbished by Taylors. It remained in use until it was taken down in March 1978 prior to the installation of the present ring.

A faculty for the installation of the new bells was issued on 24 March 1976 and the inscriptions were authorised by a supplementary faculty dated 16 January 1978.

A clock was given by Sir John Edwin Mitchell of Hallfield, Ledbury, and of the Cape Hill Brewery. A faculty for the installation of the clock was issued on 5 June 1928, but according to the directories the clock was put up in 1932. It was made by Evans of Handsworth. The original movement has since been replaced and the present clock – with hour strike and going train – is a synchronous movement of 1964 by Smith of Derby. It has cast iron skeleton dials on all four side of the tower.

Visited: CJP 25 August 1988; Taylors (GAF) 5 October 2004 (old bell)

SMETHWICK - St.Alban the Martyr, Devonshire Road

A mission room served from Holy Trinity was opened in this part of West Smethwick in 1904, and in 1905-6 a new church was built to the designs of F.T. Beck of Wolverhampton,

architect. Dallow & Sons of Blackheath were the builders and the total cost amounted to £4000. It is a red brick building with dressings of stone and terracotta in a late Gothic style. The foundation stone was laid on 21 October 1905 and the church was consecrated on 28 June 1906. St.Alban's became a separate parish in 1909.

It has an open bellcote on the west gable for which the old bell from Holy Trinity was provided in 1905. The bell was as follows:

Bell **Inscription**

1. THOMAS MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1838

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Thomas Mears II, 1838	21	1	3	18

The old bell was replaced by a new one in 1983. Supplied by the Whitechapel foundry, the new bell is hung dead from a steel deadstock and sounded by electrically-operated clapper. A brass plate in the church records "SAINT ALBAN'S BELL / RECAST IN 1983 / IN LOVING MEMORY OF / FRANK HORTON / ORGANIST 1974-1982". The bell itself was supplied from stock and has no special inscription:

Bell **Inscription**

1. *Waist:* 19 (*Whitechapel mark*) 83 / WHITECHAPEL

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Whitechapel Bell Foundry, 1983	18	B	1	1	16

The parish was reunited with Holy Trinity in 1983 and the church became a chapel of ease. The building was refurbished as a dual-purpose community centre with a worship area in 1984. St.Albans was formally declared redundant for worship and appropriated for use as a parish hall in March 2000.

Visited: CJP 10 September 1988 (binoculars)

SMETHWICK – St.Andrew (former mission church), Oldbury Road and Bridge Street West

The building which became St.Andrew's Mission church in 1898 was originally a separatist chapel. It was bought from the Chance Trustees and licensed as a mission room in 1898. It was a red brick building consisting of an aisled hall with porch, vestries and organ chamber. It was closed in 1928 and sold by auction in December 1929. It is not known if it had a bell or, if it did, what became of it.

SMETHWICK - St.Chad (former church), Shireland Road

This church was built in 1900-1, replacing a mission church opened in 1882. The cost of the new church was borne chiefly by Mitchells & Butlers Ltd of the Cape Hill Brewery. It was a Gothic building of brick with stone dressings, built to the designs of F.J. Gill of Smethwick with a bellcote at the north east side of the building. It was consecrated on 1 July 1901 and a parish was formed in 1902. The church was closed in 1968 and demolished in 1971. The parish was united with St.Matthew's in 1970.

St.Chad's had a single bell, which was stored at St.Matthew's church from 1971 until 1989 when it was given to a church in Montego Bay that had been badly damaged by hurricane Gilbert. A faculty for its disposal was issued on 20 November 1989. It was as follows:

Bell **Inscription**

1. MADE AND PRESENTED BY
Waist: CHARLES CARR LTD / SMETHWICK / CORONATION YEAR EDWARD VII / 1902
Opposite: REV JOHN VENABLES VICAR / H POWELL } / C BROWN }
 CHURCHWARDENS / GOD SAVE KING EDWARD

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1902	18	2:2-2:3:2	C	1	2	0*

The bell had a tapered peg argent with a squared hole. It was hung for chiming with a bar stock, iron lever and a clapper suspended from a false staple. The gift of the bell to St.Chad's by the founders was reported in the *Smethwick Telephone* of 27 September 1902.
Visited: CJP (at St.Matthew's) 10 September 1988

SMETHWICK – St.Dunstan (former mission church), Marlborough Road

St.Dunstan's was built at a mission church in 1911, intended as the future parish church of an area of Bearwood parish. It was a brick building designed by S.N. Cooke, with a single bell in an open bellcote. The *Smethwick Telephone* of 20 May 1911 reported that Mr. J.J.W. Carr (of Charles Carr & Co) had provided and given the bell. St.Dunstan's closed in about 1926 and the building was sold for secular use in 1936. By 1971 it was being used by a furniture removal company.

SMETHWICK - St.Mary, Bearwood

The church at Bearwood was built in 1887-8 to a design by J.A. Chatwin. Barnsley & Son were the builders. Construction work began in January 1887 and the consecration took place on 5 May 1888. A separate parish was created from Smethwick in 1892. The church was largely paid for by John Round Tilley of Edgbaston, the founder of J.R. Tilley & Sons, leather manufacturers in Dudley. His son, the Rev. H.T. Tilley was the first Vicar of Bearwood, and the co-author of *The Church Bells of Warwickshire* published posthumously by H.B. Walters in 1910. Tilley left to become Vicar of Claverdon in 1902 but he suffered from ill health and died on 12 December 1905. After his death, the altar – with decorative features based on woodwork in old Warwickshire churches - choir stalls and a stained glass window were erected in Bearwood church to his memory.

St.Mary's is a brick building in the Early English style, with a small bellcote rising from the roof by the south vestry over the base of the proposed south east tower which was never completed above the first stage. The bellcote is now empty, the single bell having fallen from its hangings in 1988, causing damage to the roof below. At the time of my first visit in August 1988 the old fittings were still in the turret. The bell had been hung for swing chiming from a bar stock with an iron chiming lever.

By 2003 the bell had still not been rehung, but it remained at the church. It has a tapered peg argent with squared hole and it is a brass-foundry casting without full moulding wires. The failure of the argent – now repaired with steel plates – probably caused the bell to fall.

Details of the bell are as follows:

Bell	Inscription
1.	<i>Waist:</i> CARR. 1888

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1888	16	E	1	0	0*

The Bearwood parish records include quotations by Charles Carr Ltd, Woodlands Works, Smethwick to Messrs. Ham Baker & Co of Langley Green, for bells and fittings for an unspecified location. The first estimate of 2 Dec.1938 was for bells of 5cwt or 10 cwt, with or without fittings. The second estimate of 8 Dec.1938 was for bells of 1-4 cwt. It is not clear whether this information was sought on behalf of the parish or if these papers just happened to end up among the church records.

Visited: CJP 24 August 1988, 7 October 1989 and 13 September 2003: Thanks to the Revd. Brian McQuillen (1988) and the Revd. Anthony Perry (2003)

SMETHWICK - St.Matthew, Windmill Lane

This church was built in 1854-5 with funds from the Commissioners for Building New Churches. It is a stone building in the Decorated style with a double bellcote over a central buttress in the west wall of the nave. The architect was Joseph James of London. The builder was Samuel Briggs whose tender of £2260 had been provisionally accepted in 1853 before sufficient funds had been collected. The site was given by J.W. Unett of The Woodlands. The church was consecrated on 24 July 1855 and a parish was assigned from Smethwick Old Church in 1856.

Both apertures of the bellcote are now empty. The formal record of the consecration in 1855 states that the building had been furnished with "... a bell ...". At least one bell was provided for the "Smethwick new church" in 1855, as is shown by the following entry from the Whitechapel foundry daybook for 16 January 1855:

W.B. Ramsay for the New Church, Smethwick, near Birmingham
To a Bell 2-2-9
Clapper
Ironwork and Man's time fixing Bell as per Estimate
Total £18.18.0

The account was settled on 24 October 1855. Ramsay was a member of the building committee and his name appears in the minute books. The bell was as follows:

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	C & G Mears, 1855	23*	2	2	9

In 1891 a new bell was hung as a memorial to Charles Carr (d. 16 January 1891), the Smethwick bellfounder whose works were situated in the parish. Details of the bell are as follows:

Bell	Inscription
1.	GOODWILL. TOWARDS. MEN. [<i>space</i>] TO. THE. GLORY OF. GOD. <i>Waist:</i> AND. IN. MEMORY. OF. / CHARLES. CARR. BELLFOUNDER. / WHO. DIED. JAN. 16. 1891 / GIVEN. BY. THE. FIRM. / &. FAMILY. OF. THE. / SAID. CHARLES. CARR / [<i>on soundbow below</i>] FEB. 1891 <i>Opposite:</i> JOHN. WOLLASTON. VICAR / W.E. KENWAY / EVAN JONES. CHURCHWARDENS / [<i>on soundbow below</i>] FEB. 1891

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1891	24	2:2-2:3:2	G	3	0	0*

A contemporary press report in the *Smethwick Telephone* of 14 February 1891 states that the inscription "Good will towards men" was "a very favourite motto of the late Mr. Charles Carr, and was inscribed by his instructions upon many church bells manufactured by the Woodlands Bell Foundry". The gift of the bell was noted in the minutes of the vestry on 2 April 1891 that "the family & firm of the late Charles Carr had presented a new bell to S. Matthew's Church in his memory"

The church minutes for April 1891 also record that the parish received £8.7.9. from the sale of the original bell, indicating that the new bell replaced the old one. Some accounts suggest that there were once two bells, but by 1946 there was just one bell hung for swing chiming in the northern aperture of the bellcote. In the other aperture there was just a wooden block (still present in 1988) between the stone corbels. The second bell is said to have been taken away because the combined weight of the two was dangerous.

The Carr bell was taken down for safety in about 1985. It was stored in the church at the time of my visit in 1988. It has a flat crown drilled for the staple and bell bolts. Its fittings included a wooden stock with plate gudgeons for plain bearings and an iron chiming lever.

Visited: RHD 20 Nov.1946; CJP 26 August 1988; DLC January 1994

SMETHWICK – St.Michael and All Angels (former church), Crockett's lane

This church was built in 1891-2 to replace a mission church first opened in 1886 in a disused bedstead factory in Brook Street. It was in the Old Church parish. The new church was designed by A.E. Street. The builder was H. Willcock and the total cost amounted to £5600. It was built in brick in the Early English style without a tower. The foundation stone was laid on 26 June 1891 and the consecration took place on 24 May 1892. In 1893 a separate parish was created from parts of the surrounding parishes

The church had one bell, "probably of 1892" according to the Pastoral Measure report of June 1979. A bell is also listed in an inventory prepared on 31 August 1979. No other details are recorded.

The last service in the church took place 30 September 1979 and a faculty for the disposal of the contents was issued on 12 November 1979. The church was formally declared redundant in 1981 when the parish was united with St.Stephen's. It was subsequently demolished.

SMETHWICK - St.Paul (former church), West Smethwick

A mission was established in West Smethwick in 1850 in the schoolroom at Chance's glass-works in Spon Lane. The church was built in 1857-8 and consecrated on 26 July 1858, a parish being formed from North Harborne in 1860. The architect was George B. Nichols of Nichols and Morgan, West Bromwich, and the builder was John Parnell of Rugby. It cost £2500, towards which Messrs Chance Bros contributed £1000. It was a gothic building in white Stourbridge brick with Bath stone dressings, with a tower and spire over the porch at the NW angle. A new fibre-glass spire was erected on top of the original tower in 1961 to replace the previous one which has been taken down in 1959. This was designed by Peter Falconer of Stroud and constructed by Bryn Plastics Ltd.

The original church was destroyed by fire on 3 February 1963 but the tower and bells were unharmed. It was afterwards rebuilt on a reduced scale within the ruined shell of the old church, with the steeple remaining at the entrance to the site. The new church was built in 1965-6 to the designs of Denys Hinton & Associates, architects, by W. Neenan (Contractors) Ltd. It was consecrated on 15 October 1966.

There were originally three bells, of which nothing else is known apart from the fact that they were in place at the time of the consecration in 1858. In 1889, however, Lynam noted two small bells of 15" and 17½" diameter without inscriptions. These may have been replaced, as by 1923 there was only one bell of 3 cwt with a diameter of 24 inches. This was probably cast by Charles Carr in 1891 as on 20 June of that year the *Smethwick Telephone* reported that Carrs were "supplying for St.Paul's Church a new bell, similar to the one supplied to St.Matthew's, a short time ago". This bell is also mention in a list of recent work a letter from Carr's to the church authorities at Castle Bromwich dated 5 September 1893 which mentions "West Smethwick [St.Paul], by order of J. Foster Esq, C.W., New bell, Frame &c complete, 4 cwt". The single bell was taken down and sold for £12 in 1923-4 when a chime of eight small bells was installed in the tower.

Taylor and Gillett & Johnston were invited to tender for the new bells. The original estimate from the Croydon firm, dated 14 April 1924, was for a light chime of six (tenor 3½ cwt in E) to form the middle bells (nos.3-8) of a set of twelve with a tenor of 8½ cwt. By May, it had been decided to have eight bells but with a clavier allowing for the future addition four more bells to complete the twelve along with a semitone bell to substitute for the second of the light eight. A faculty for the new bells was issued on 30 July 1924. The cost of the bells (£214) and associated work amounted to £344.11.3.

Cast between 23 June and 3 July 1924 (numbers 912 to 919) the bells were a chime of eight in the key of E natural (1336Hz or E plus 22.81 cents), as follows:

- | Bell | Inscription |
|-------------|---|
| 1. | GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1924. / (<i>arabesque border all round</i>)
<i>Waist: (CFJ monogram)</i>
<i>Low waist: 1</i> |
| 2. | GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1924. / (<i>arabesque border all round</i>)
<i>Waist: (CFJ monogram)</i> |

- Low waist: 2*
3. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1924. / (*arabesque border all round*)
Waist: (CFJ monogram)
Low waist: 3
4. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1924. / (*arabesque border all round*)
Waist: (CFJ monogram)
Low waist: 4
5. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1924. (*CFJ monogram*) / (*arabesque border all round*)
Low waist: 5
6. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1924. (*CFJ monogram*) / (*arabesque border all round*)
Low waist: 6
7. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1924. (*CFJ monogram*) / (*arabesque border all round*)
Low waist: 7
8. GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 1924. (*CFJ monogram*) / (*arabesque border all round*)
Waist: I.M. / ISAAC PITT. JULY 1924.
Low waist: 8

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Gillett & Johnston, 1924	13½	2672	0	2	8
2.	Gillett & Johnston, 1924	14⅝	2528	0	2	22
3.	Gillett & Johnston, 1924	16	2256	0	3	18
4.	Gillett & Johnston, 1924	17⅛	2008	1	0	1
5.	Gillett & Johnston, 1924	18⅞	1792	1	1	17
6.	Gillett & Johnston, 1924	20	1688	1	2	21
7.	Gillett & Johnston, 1924	21⅞	1512	2	0	21
8.	Gillett & Johnston, 1924	25½	1336	3	1	18

The bells were hung for chiming from a clavier set out for thirteen bells and with a plate marked "Gillett & Johnston / Croydon / Bellfounders & Clockmakers / 1924". They were fixed to two steel beams – with bells 1-5 on one beam and nos 6-8 on the other – and sounded by carillon-type clappers. The arrangement of the batons of the clavier was for a chromatic octave, but the bells were sounded using the eight "white notes" marked C-c.

There was a brass plate in the porch commemorating the installation of the bells. It was inscribed: "In memory of Isaac Pitt MRCS, LRCP etc for upwards of 60 years a Practitioner in this parish, these bells were installed by public subscription in recognition of his eminent services & dedicated on 12th July 1924".

Following the closure of the church the bells were removed from the tower in November 1993. They have since been rehung as a light ring of eight at Holy Trinity, Clifton, in Nottinghamshire, installation being completed towards the end of 1999. The clavier is now preserved in a display of materials about bells and ringing at the Swan Bell Tower in Perth, Western Australia. The church was declared redundant in 1994 and demolished in 1996-7. The fibre-glass spire has been re-erected at Avoncroft Museum at Bromsgrove.

Visited: CJP 11 September 1988

SMETHWICK - St.Stephen (former church), Cambridge Road

This church was built in 1901-2 to replace a mission church opened in 1882 and served from North Harborne. The architect of the new church was F.T. Beck of Wolverhampton. John Harley & Son, Rolfe Street, Smethwick, were the builders. The total cost amounted to £5045. The foundation stone was laid on 28 September 1901 and the church was consecrated on 25 July 1902. A separate parish was formed in 1903.

It was a brick building with a bellcote and bell over the junction of the chancel and nave, in which it was hung for swing chiming with a wooden stock and an iron chiming lever. The Building Committee minutes show that the bell was given by Mr. W.E. Farrer and hung free of charge by Messrs. Carr's Ltd of Smethwick (as also reported in the *Smethwick Telephone* of 2 August 1902). The contractor had allowed £7 in his tender for the bell, and this was deducted in Harley's final statement of account. Details of the bell were:

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1902	25*	3	2	16

The church was declared redundant in January 1973 and demolished in 1974. In November 1974 the adjacent church hall became the centre of worship for the parish. For some years after 1974 the bell from the church was stored in the vestibule of the worship centre. It was sold to Taylors for scrap in the autumn of 1984 and the metal was used in a cast on 8 October of that year.

The parish was merged with St.Michael's and St.Stephen's worship centre became the parish church in July 1981. In 1995 the area became part of combined parish of the Resurrection, after which the building was no longer needed. The last service in the church took place on 12 July 1998. The building and site were sold to the Smethwick Bangladeshi Youth Forum in November 1999.

Visited: CJP 10 September 1988: Thanks to George Rollings, Churchwarden, and *ex.inf.* Taylors

SMETHWICK - Unidentified

The Croydon foundry records show that Gillett & Johnston cast a small bell (no.3560) for an unspecified location in Smethwick on 6 February 1930. It was as follows:

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Gillett & Johnston, 1930	16 $\frac{7}{8}$	C (2068 Hz)	1	1	25

Ex.inf. Gillett & Johnston (not visited)

SMETHWICK – Uplands Cemetery, Manor Road

The Uplands Cemetery in Manor Road was opened in 1890 and the Church of England portion was consecrated by the Bishop of Lichfield on 14 March of that year. The cemetery chapels (Anglican and Nonconformist) were built soon afterwards by Messrs. Harley & Son for the Borough Council at a cost of £1250. They stood in the middle of the grounds, with a central spire over the link between the two chapels. The Church of England chapel was consecrated on 18 April 1891. There was a bell in the tower and the Table of Fees for 1904 laid down the charges for tolling it at funerals. The Anglican chapel was de-consecrated in June 1995 and both chapels have now been demolished.

A catalogue published by Charles Carr of Smethwick in about 1891 shows that they supplied a bell of about 2½ cwt for "Smethwick Cemetery Chapels, opened 1891". The description alongside an engraving of the cemetery chapel indicates that the bell was hung "dead" from a wooden stock secured to the masonry and sounded with a spring hammer mounted on the stock.

Site visited: CJP 25 April 2003

Smethwick - Victoria Park, High Street

The decision to create a public park in Smethwick was taken by the Board of the Smethwick Urban District Council on 8th October 1886. It was agreed to purchase part of "the Pool Farm situated in Bearwood Road" - a site of some 34 acres - from W.E.J. Studd for the purpose". The Council took possession of the land in September 1887 and not long after this it was decided to name the amenity as Victoria Park to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The Park was first opened to the public at Easter 1889.

The tower now contains a ring of twelve bells in the key of E flat, with a semitone bell (flat 6th) to give a light octave (tenor 9-2-11) in the key of A flat

Bell**Inscription**

1. 267 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH *
Waist: GIVEN BY / CHARLES AND BESSIE BRAGG / TO COMMEMORATE HIS 50 YEARS AS A RINGER / 1968
2. 328 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH *
Waist: GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF / ELIZA WRIGHT 1874-1967 / BY HER SON WILLIAM AND DAUGHTERS ELSIE AND TRIXIE / 1968
3. 210 / BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
Waist: (*Barwell's mark*) / 1894 / RING OUT THE FALSE
Opposite: (*Taylor's rectangular mark*) / RECAST 1932
4. 173 / BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
Waist: (*Barwell's mark*) / 1894 / RING IN THE TRUE
Opposite: (*Taylor's rectangular mark*) / RECAST 1932
5. 195 / HENRICVS (*arabesque border*) GRESWOLD (*border*) RECTOR (*border*) DONO (*border*) DEDIT (*border*) 1685 (*border*)
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1932
6. 213 / CANTATE (*arabesque border*) DOMINO (*border*) CANTICVM (*border*) NOVVM (*border*) 1685 (*border*)
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1932
- 6b. 136 182 / (*vine border*) 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 96
Waist: IN LOVING MEMORY OF / JAMES EDWARD CAWSER, 1902-1982 / AND / ELLEN CAWSER, 1900-1990.
Opposite: GIVEN BY / OWEN AND MAY CAWSER / AND THEIR DAUGHTERS / LOUISE, CATHERINE AND ELIZABETH / 1996
7. 276 / BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
Waist: (*Barwell's mark*) / 1894 / GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO
Opposite: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1932
8. 236 / HENRY (*arabesque border*) BAGLEY (*border*) MADE (*border*) MEE (*border*) 1685 (*border*)
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1932
9. 201 / BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
Waist: (*Barwell's mark*) / 1894 / SANCTE SANCTE SANCTE / DNE DEUS SABAOOTH
Opposite: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1932
10. 188 / HENRY (*Floral border with cabled surround*) BAGLEY (*border*) MADE (*border*) [blank space] (*border*) 1686 (*border*)
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1932
11. 249 / (*arabesque border all round*) / FEARE GOD AND HONOR THE KING 1685
Waist: (*Large coat of arms with motto HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE*)
Opposite: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1932
12. 226 / THE FORMOR TENOR WAS MADE M^R WILLIAM BAINTON AND THOMAS HAW (*arabesque border*) CW 1659 I (*border*) T (*border*) R (*border*) C (*border*) C (*border*) W 1685 / (*arabesque border all round*)
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1932

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1968	24	1846	3	3	11
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1968	25	1644	4	0	14
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1932	26½	1557	5	0	19
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1932	27½	1386	5	0	25
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1932	28⅞	1232	5	1	25
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1932	30	1162	5	2	5
6b.	John Taylor & Co, 1996	30⅝	1101	5	3	26
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1932	31½	1026	6	1	5
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1932	34	923	7	2	16
9.	John Taylor & Co, 1932	36⅞	821	9	2	11

10.	John Taylor & Co, 1932	39	776	11	0	3
11.	John Taylor & Co, 1932	43	692	14	0	9
12.	John Taylor & Co, 1932	48 $\frac{7}{8}$	616.5	21	1	11

The new ring of ten bells was dedicated on 1 October 1932. They are hung in a composite cast iron and steel frame (*Bellframes* type 8.2.A.a, original layout 10.3 now altered), with standard Taylor ringing fittings including cast iron stocks and ball bearings. They were originally fitted with Hastings stays but traditional stays and sliders were fitted to bells 3-6 of the twelve when the bells were augmented to twelve in 1968. The frame was extended to accommodate twelve bells in 1968. This involved the addition of three cast iron lowside pits to the south of the 1932 frame. The rearrangement also allowed for the future addition of a semitone bell in a vacant pit in the original frame. The extra bell was installed in 1996 and dedicated on 19 April 1997.

Former bells

In 1552 there were "iij belles and clock and ij sacring belles". Some information on these bells is available from the Churchwardens' accounts, which survive from 1533, when a sanctus bell is also mentioned. One of the bells was recast and rehung in 1534. A document of September 1566 refers to a levy for the repair of the church and bells and the accompanying accounts indicate that the steeple was pointed at a cost of £4 at that time. The following payment for work on the bells is also recorded:

First ye mending and turning of ye middle Bell and for mending a clapper of the second bell xxj^s.

One of the bells was recast in 1581. Another – possibly the third – was recast in about 1600 by Gawin Baker of Henley, who agreed to cast a new bell warrant it tunable for one year for the sum of £6.13.4. This bell was again recast in 1618 by Paul Hutton of Nottingham whose new bell weighed 15-1-6.

The tenor was recast in 1659 by John Martin and its inscription – with the names of the churchwardens of the time – was reproduced on its successor when Henry Bagley cast a new ring of eight for Solihull in 1685-6. John Tandy and Richard Cole, whose initials "IT RC CW" appeared in the new tenor of 1685, were churchwardens when the eight bells were installed. Samuel Scattergood and his band tried these bells on 27 August 1686.

The eight bells were hung in a frame – evidently of 1686 – which was placed at a slight angle diagonally in the tower. It was arranged on the quarter plan, with pairs of bells swinging side-by-side, as shown in sketch plan made by E. Denison Taylor of Loughborough when he inspected the bells in May 1891. The rope-circle was anti-clockwise.

The inscriptions of the Bagley bells were as noted below, apart from the third (recast in 1894) inscribed "Henricvs Bagley me fecit" and the fifth (recast in 1753) for which the original inscription is now lost.

In 1753 one of Bagley's bells – the fifth – was recast by Lester & Pack of Whitechapel at a cost of £18.2.0. The new bell – about 37 $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter and around 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt – was inscribed:

THO^s : LESTER & T PACK OF LONDON FECIT (*stamp of a head*) EDWARD SMITH & BENIAMIN HEDGES CH: WARDENS 1753

In 1757 the spire was badly damaged in a hurricane. It was reported that "the 8 bells accapt well but all the wheels and guggins was broke to peses". The great bell had to be rehung, and the churchwardens spent £1.7.6. on "... raising up the greet bell into its place".

Tilley and Walters record that the bells were retuned in 1858 and the belfry repaired in 1867. In 1874 Tilley noted that the fifth bell was cracked, a large piece being broken out of the soundbow and one of the canons being missing. In 1891 John Taylor & Co of Loughborough fitted a chiming apparatus, the work being completed on 20 June. The cost of the work, invoiced on 27 June, was £20.

In 1894 James Barwell of Birmingham added two trebles to make a ring of ten, recasting the third and fifth bells of the old octave. Barwell seems to have had to make two bells for the second, as a bell of the same size with an identical inscription – presumably a

'reject' - exists in a chime of five in Bristol. The bells were hung in a composite frame (*Bellframes* type 7.B.a) with all new fittings and dedicated on 6 July 1894. As completed by Barwell, the bells were as follows:

- | Bell | Inscription |
|-------------|--|
| 1. | BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
<i>Waist: (Barwell's mark) / 1894 / RING OUT THE FALSE</i> |
| 2. | BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
<i>Waist: (Barwell's mark) / 1894 / RING IN THE TRUE</i> |
| 3. | HENRICVS (<i>arabesque border</i>) GRESWOLD (<i>border</i>) RECTOR (<i>border</i>) DONO (<i>border</i>)
DEDIT (<i>border</i>) 1685 (<i>border</i>) |
| 4. | CANTATE (<i>arabesque border</i>) DOMINO (<i>border</i>) CANTICVM (<i>border</i>) NOVVM (<i>border</i>)
1685 (<i>border</i>) |
| 5. | BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
<i>Waist: (Barwell's mark) / 1894 / GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO</i> |
| 6. | HENRY (<i>arabesque border</i>) BAGLEY (<i>border</i>) MADE (<i>border</i>) MEE (<i>border</i>) 1685
(<i>border</i>) |
| 7. | BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM
<i>Waist: (Barwell's mark) / 1894 / SANCTE SANCTE SANCTE / DNE DEUS SABAOOTH</i> |
| 8. | HENRY (<i>Floral border with cabled surround</i>) BAGLEY (<i>border</i>) MADE (<i>border</i>) [<i>blank space</i>]
(<i>border</i>) 1686 (<i>border</i>) |
| 9. | (<i>Arabesque border all round</i>) / FEARE GOD AND HONOR THE KING 1685
<i>Waist: (Large coat of arms with motto HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE)</i> |
| 10. | THE FORMOR TENOR WAS MADE M ^R WILLIAM BAINTON AND THOMAS HAW
(<i>arabesque border</i>) CW 1659 I (<i>border</i>) T (<i>border</i>) R (<i>border</i>) C (<i>border</i>) C (<i>border</i>) W
1685 / (<i>arabesque border all round</i>) |

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	James Barwell, 1894	27	G	5	2	1
2.	James Barwell, 1894	28½	F	5	3	0
3.	Henry Bagley, 1685	30	E flat	6	0	2
4.	Henry Bagley, 1685	30⅞	D	6	2	23
5.	James Barwell, 1894	32⅞	C	7	2	4
6.	Henry Bagley, 1685	35½	B flat	8	3	0
7.	James Barwell, 1894	38	A flat	9	3	2
8.	Henry Bagley, 1686	39⅝	G	11	0	12
9.	Henry Bagley, 1685	42⅜	F	12	2	21
10.	Henry Bagley, 1685	48½	E flat (618Hz)	19	1	21

The front six were complete with canons (those of the three Barwell bells being of Doncaster pattern), and the back four were hung without canons (the new seventh of 1894 being cast with a flat top). They were fitted with wooden stocks, plate gudgeons, plain bearings etc.

The recasting and rehung of the bells in 1931-2 took place alongside a major restoration of the tower, which was underpinned with new foundations and strengthened with a reinforced concrete frame. The work is commemorated on a bellmetal tablet in the ringing room, inscribed:

THE BELLS IN THIS TOWER WERE RECAST / AND REHUNG IN A STEEL FRAME IN 1932 BY /
JOHN TAYLOR & C^o. OF LOUGHBOROUGH / C.O.R. WORMALD M.A. RECTOR. / HOWARD
HEATON J.P. } / ROBERT BRAGG J.P. } CHURCHWARDENS. / G.A. MARTINEAU. RINGING
MASTER. / ROLAND BRAGG. DEPUTY RINGING MASTER.

Clock

There has been a clock here since at least 1533 and payments for maintenance occur in the parish accounts. Unusually, the clock is specifically mentioned in the 1552 inventory. Humphrey Hadley made a new clock for the church in 1724. This was overhauled in 1766 and in 1802 it was taken down and rebuilt. The Wells family had the care of the clock from

The present clock is a large three-train movement in a wrought iron frame, with a single dial on the north face of the tower. The clock strikes the hours and ting-tang quarters. The movement carries a setting dial on which is painted "Rev'd. / Chas. Curtis, Rector / Thos. Chattock, Bailiff. / Thos. Harborne Senr. & / Chas. Allcock, Wardens. Jas. Wells. Fecit / 1819". It was converted to electric wind by Hartshorn of Daventry in about 1975.

SOLIHULL – St.Augustine of Canterbury (R.C.), Station Road

Bell	Inscription
1.	BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM 1895 <i>Waist: (Barwell's mark)</i>

In June 1986 this bell was sold to Taylors for scrap and the church obtained a new bell originally cast in 1983 – but not used – as a treble for St.Mary's, Luton. The new bell was hung dead and fitted with a trigger-action clapper. There is no special inscription on the new bell (not examined), which is believed to carry just the founder's name and date, i.e.:

The exchange of bells was completed within a fairly short space of time while the turret was scaffolded for repairs.

SOLIHULL, St.Francis – see ELMDON HEATH, St.Francis

SOLIHULL – Solihull School Chapel

Not visited: *Ex.inf.* Whitechapel Bell Foundry

SOUTH YARDLEY, St.Michael & All Angels – *see* YARDLEY, St.Michael & All Angels, South Yardley

SPARKBROOK – Christ Church, Grantham Road

This church was designed by Medland, Maberley & Medland of Gloucester and consecrated on 1 October 1867. Christ Church became a separate parish church when a parish was assigned out of Aston in 1867. It is a large stone or rock-faced church in the Gothic style, with gables and polychromatic roof tiles. It has a south west tower which originally carried a tall broach spire, removed following wartime damage by a bomb blast in December 1940. A faculty for taking down the spire and placing a new parapet on the tower was granted in April 1948.

The original bell was supplied for the church when it was first built in 1867. It was examined by J.P. Fidler of Taylors in September 1948, and he reported finding one bell (26" diameter with a note between F and F sharp) dated 1867. According to his notes, the bell bore only the date with no inscription or founder's name. It had canons, but was of poor shape, a rough casting and of poor tone. He thought it "not a product of a recognised bell founder". It was hung with ringing fittings in a timber frame. This bell might just possibly have been one of those cast by George Dowler at the Plume Works in Nechells, as described in his letter in the *Birmingham Daily Post* of 8 April 1867.

Taylors quoted in 1948 for rehangng the bell with new ringing fittings, also recommending that the bell should be recast. In October, the Vicar wrote to say that owing to the state of church finances no decision could be taken for a while. By the time Taylors wrote again the old bell had been replaced by a bell and fittings from another Birmingham church. The present bell came from St.Stephen's, Newtown, when that church was demolished in 1950 and it was erected at Christ Church under a faculty granted on 24 November 1953. Details are as follows:

Bell Inscription

1. BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM

Waist: CAST 1842 / RECAST 1910 / BLESSED MARY AND S. STEPHEN / PRAY FOR US

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	James Barwell, 1910	22	2:2-2:3:2	A flat	2	1	7

It hangs in a wooden frame (*Bellframes* type 6.B) built for a larger bell and narrowed (from 35" to 28") to provide support for the bearings. It swings east-west. The fittings – including a cast iron stock, plain bearings, wheel, stay and slider – were provided by Barwell in 1910.

There is no clock.

The church was badly damaged by the tornado that ripped through the southern suburbs of Birmingham on 28 July 2005. It was subsequently closed as unsafe, and in 2005-6 proposals for demolition were under consideration. The bell was removed from the tower in May 2006 and taken to Loughborough – where it was weighed - for storage pending a decision on relocation to another church. After various local possibilities had been exhausted, the Christ Church bell eventually sold late in 2007 to St.Mary's (R.C.), Morecambe, Lancs.

Visited: CJP 28 December 1977 and 10 October 1989; Also at Loughborough (after removal from Sparkbrook) 2006-7 *passim*

SPARKBROOK – Emmanuel (former church), Walford Road

Emmanuel was built in 1900-1901 as a daughter church of Christ Church, Sparkbrook. Fund-raising began in 1898 and the foundation stone was laid on 24 September 1901. It was intended to be built in stages, the first stage being erected at a cost of £5500 by J. Moffatt & Sons, builders. As completed the church consisted of a chancel with vestries etc and a short aisled nave. The debt on the original building was not cleared until 1922, and the rest of the nave and south aisle were never built. The church was consecrated on 23 November 1901 and a separate parish was created in 1928.

The bell is uninscribed but dates from the thirteenth century. It is a clean casting with a smooth surface. Its dimensions are as follows – mouth diameter $19\frac{13}{16}$ " to $19\frac{3}{4}$ " (i.e. slightly elliptical at the mouth), shoulder circumference $34\frac{1}{2}$ ", lip to shoulder tangent $16\frac{3}{4}$ ", height to seat of canons c. $18\frac{1}{4}$ ", head-mould diameter 7", height of canons c. $3\frac{1}{2}$ " and height of argent c. $5\frac{1}{4}$ ". It has six plain canons. The lip is tapered at an angle of 10 to 15 degrees and has a flat of approximately $1\frac{3}{4}$ ". The moulding wires – all of square section – are 1:1-1-1:1*1:2. The cylindrical shape, tapered lip, square-section mouldings and the prominent join at the head-mould are all early features.

The church was declared redundant in February 1990. It was initially intended to sell the building to the United Pentecostal church, but the scheme fell through and in 1993 the church was sold to a housing association for conversion for residential use.

Visited: CJP 31 December 1977 and CJND and RLJ 27 January 1990; DLC (at St. John's) 21 November 1992

St.Agatha's, Sparkbrook, was built by the Birmingham Churches Trustees in 1899-1901 with funds from the sale of the former city church of Christ Church, Birmingham. It was designed by W.H. Bidlake, and Bowen & Son were the builders. The foundation stone was laid on 21 October 1899 and the completed church was consecrated on 20 July 1901. A parish was assigned out of Christ Church, Sparkbrook, and St.Paul, Balsall Heath, in 1902. The church was badly damaged by enemy action in 1940 and the interior suffered fire damage in 1957.

The tower contains the single bell from Christ Church, Birmingham, installed here in 1900 by James Barwell of Birmingham. Barwell provided a composite frame (*Bellframes* type 7.B.a) and ringing fittings. The fittings included a wooden stock, plate gudgeons, gunmetal bearings in iron housings with hinged covers, wheel, stay and slider. The supporting ironwork was renewed in about 1984 and the wheel (still in the tower) was removed at about the same time. The bell is now tolled using the clock hammer.

1. JOHN RUDHALL GLOCESTER FEC^T. J8J3 (*border*)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Rudhall, 1813	36¼	A	8	2	0*

The bell retains its canons and has not been quarter turned.

The clock is a two-train flatbed movement with gravity escapement and hour-strike, showing the time on iron skeleton dials on the north and south faces of the tower. It was made by Gillett & Johnston of Croydon and supplied at a cost of £115 through Swinden & Sons of Birmingham, as is clear from an entry in the Croydon firm's book for 30 October 1900. The name of Gillett & Johnston is cast on the frame, along with the date 1900. The setting dial carries the name of "Swinden & Sons / Temple Street / Birmingham". It is a no.2 striking clock with gravity escapement and compensated pendulum and two 6ft skeleton iron dials. The clock was restored and converted to auto-wind by Gillett & Johnston under a faculty dated 1 May 1984, thanks to a legacy from Beatrice Ida Northall (1899-1983).

The clock also carries a small brass plate with the names of the Vicar and Wardens of Christ Church in "A.D. 1816 The third year after the consecration of the church", being a memento of the original Christ Church clock of 1816 by Samuel Allport of Birmingham.

Visited: CJP 28 July 1988

SPARKHILL – English Martyrs (R.C.), Evelyn Road

This mission was established in 1908 and the present church was completed and opened in 1923. It was consecrated on 11 July 1946. The church was built to the designs of Sandy and Norris, architects. It is a brick building in the Italian Romanesque style, with a south west tower. As originally completed, the church had a single bell. This was scrapped in June 1946 prior to the installation of the present bells. Taylors' records show that it was a 29" bell in B (1008Hz) weighing 4-0-23 (nett), cast by James Barwell of Birmingham in 1913.

The tower now contains a chime of eight bells in the key of A natural (872Hz or A minus 15.81 cents).

Bell

Inscription

1. 317 / AVE MARIA (*loop border*)
Waist: 19 (*Taylor T-bell mark*) 46
2. 311 / LAUDATE DOMINUM DE CAELIS (*loop border*)
Waist: KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE:- / R.A.F. CYRIL EDMUND JOHNSON
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor T-bell mark*) 46
3. 305 / S. JOANNES FISHER, O.P.N. (*loop border*)
Waist: 19 (*Taylor T-bell mark*) 46
4. 196 / S. THOMA MORE, O.P.N. (*bell and pomegranate border*)
Waist: DIED THROUGH ACTIVE SERVICE:- / THOMAS HAMES / PATRICK TOLLAND /
FREDERICK C. WHITEHOUSE
Opposite: (*Taylor's rectangular mark*) / 1946
5. 150 / B. MARGARITA CLITHEROW, O.P.N. (*bell and pomegranate border*)
Waist: (*Taylor's rectangular mark*) / 1946
6. 186 / B. ANGLIAE MARTYRES, O.P.N. (*Birmingham ornament*)
Waist: KILLED IN AIR RAIDS OVER THIS PARISH 1939-45:- /
MICHAEL & MARY BRENNAN JAMES GIBBS
MONICA BUTLER JOHN GRADY
EDWARD BYRNE RICHARD HANNON
FREDERICK CALLAGHAM RICHARD HOWARD
RONALD CROMPTON JEREMIAH NOLAN
JAMES CROSS VIOLET SMITH & BABY
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 46
7. 276 / TUIS FIDELIBUS VITA MUTATUR NON TOLLITUR (*Birmingham ornament*)
Waist: R.A.F. EDWARD DOYLE / .. LAURENCE LEA / .. SAMUEL PALMER / .. BERNARD
BARRY } / .. MICHAEL DOWDING } NEPHEWS OF THE PARISH PRIEST
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 46
8. 140 / REQUIESCANT IN PACE (*Birmingham ornament*)

Waist: PATRICK BIDDLE: KILLED IN ACTION IN TUNISIA / GEORGE DAWSON:
 BELGIUM / ERNEST HARRISON: TUNISIA / JOHN MADDEN:
 NORMANDY / MARY RAWLINS & CHILD .. BY TORPEDO RETURNING FROM IRELAND
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's circular mark*) 46

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1946	19 ⁵ / ₈	1744	1	2	13
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1946	20 ⁵ / ₈	1644	1	3	12
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1946	22 ¹ / ₂	1465	2	1	16
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1946	24 ¹ / ₂	1305.5	2	3	22
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1946	26 ⁷ / ₈	1163	3	3	18
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1946	28 ¹ / ₂	1098	4	2	6
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1946	31 ¹ / ₂	977	6	0	0
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1946	34 ⁷ / ₈	872	7	3	26

The bells are hung on two tiers in a steel framework at the level of the belfry windows. Bells 1-3 hang from a steel girder in the upper level, with the remainder below – bells 4-6 on one girder and bells 7-8 on another. They are hung stationary and sounded from a baton clavier by carillon-type clappers. The mechanical action was refurbished by Taylors in 1990, when the firm also fitted an electronic tolling unit which sounds the Angelus on no.8 bell at 8, 12 and 6 o'clock daily. The cost of this work was £14,500.

Visited: DLC and SEA 7 September 1995; CJP and HEP, 1 March 2003 and *ex.inf.* Taylors

SPARKHILL – Public Library, Stratford Road

The building now used for the Library was built in 1900-1902 as the offices of the Yardley District Council. The architect was Arthur Harrison. His plans were adopted in 1898 but difficulties over funding led to delays in the commencement of building work. The tender of William Bishop of Kings Heath (£7694) was accepted in October 1899, but it was not until late in 1900 that construction work finally began. The building was completed by November 1901 and furnished soon afterwards.

The Council minutes show that the erection of the clock tower was the subject of much discussion. The tower was included in the architect's original scheme but at an early stage it was suggested that it be omitted to save money. It was eventually decided by a narrow majority (6 votes against 5) on 12 September 1899 that the tower should be included as "its omission would deprive the buildings of that distinction and character which should stamp the public offices of so large & important a district as Yardley". In January 1901 it was agreed that the purchase of a clock should be deferred, but Harrison was instructed to complete the tower "leaving the necessary space for a clock". On 26 February 1901 it was agreed "that four dial frames (6 feet diameter) be purchased at a cost of £10 each and fixed before the scaffolding is removed" but on 21 May a motion "to erect a clock with four illuminated opal dials and Cambridge quarter chimes at a cost of £300" was lost (by 8 votes to 7).

The public offices were formally opened on 15 January 1902. The clock seems to have been put up at about the same time, as on 28 January the Council minuted a vote of thanks to Mr. W.H. Barber "for his great kindness in presenting a clock for the tower of the Council House which this Council very much appreciate and regard the gift as a public boon to the neighbourhood". The donor was William Henry Barber (d.1927), a Birmingham solicitor and property developer who made his fortune in the expanding suburbs of Birmingham. He was knighted in 1924 for political services to Birmingham, and he is best known today as the founder of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts at Birmingham University.

The Library building is built in red brick and terracotta with a tall clock tower to the right-hand side of the main street frontage. The original clock of 1901 was by Evans of Handsworth, a deadbeat striking clock in a flatbed frame. It was removed in 1958 when the present synchronous movement (no.9584) by Smith of Derby was installed with an electro-

mechanical striking unit. The clock shows the time on four illuminated dials and strikes the hour on a large bell. It is maintained by Birmingham City Council.

The clock movement is positioned at the level of the dials, and the bell hangs immediately above in the chamber below the roof. The bell is:

Bell

Inscription

1. *Waist:* CAST BY / CHARLES. CARR L^{TD}: / SMETHWICK / 1901

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1901	45 ⁵ / ₈	E	15	0	0*

The bell is not fully accessible, and it is possible that there could be a further inscription on the opposite side of the waist. The bell was probably cast without canons, and it is suspended from a girder by bolts through the crown. It is sounded only by an external clock hammer.

Visited: C.J.P., R.L.J, 3 January 2003

SPARKHILL – St.Bede, Warwick Road, Greet

St.Bede's at Greet opened as a mission church of Sparkhill in 1907. The building appears to have been first erected in 1894, a site having been acquired for the mission church in 1893. The complex now consists of four separate buildings either attached or linked together, but all of a very functional kind. There is no bell.

SPARKHILL – St.Christopher, Springfield Road, Springfield

Plans for erecting a new church at Springfield took shape in 1902 when a site was given for the future church and vicarage of the proposed new parish. Not long afterwards a conditional promise of £1700 towards the cost was made with the intention that work on the western portion (the nave) should commence once £3000 had been raised. The foundation stone on the west wall was laid on 20 October 1906 by Mary T. Mackenzie, the donor of the site, and the consecration took place on 25 September 1907. A parish of Springfield was assigned from Sparkhill in 1911.

St.Christopher's is an incomplete red brick church of 1906-7 by Arthur Harrison, with western baptistery, aisled nave and porches. The chancel was never built and there is no tower, although a view of the proposed church in the *Worcester Diocesan Church Calendar* for 1904 gives an idea of the architect's original intentions which included a tower over the south porch and a turret between the chancel and south chapel. The building is in a free Perpendicular style with a gabled clerestory and sculptured panels over the main entrance on the south side of the church.

A bell from St.John the Evangelist, Sparkhill – probably dating from 1888 - was promised to the new church in 1906. A faculty for its disposal was granted in February 1906 after a set of tubular bells had been provided for the newly complete spire at St.John's and the faculty papers indicate that the old bell was to be given to Springfield. However, there is no bell now and there are no signs that the church has ever had one. The space for details of bells in the church inventory dated 2 July 1915 is left blank.

Visited: CJP 10 June 1988 and 6 March 2004.

SPARKHILL – St.John the Evangelist, Stratford Road

The present church at Sparkhill replaced a temporary iron church. It is in the Early English style, executed in red brick and terracotta, built between 1888 and 1905 to designs by Martin and Chamberlain. The foundation stone was laid on 30 May 1888. The first part was built by Messrs. Sapcote & Son and consecrated on 30 November 1888. A parish was assigned from Yardley in 1894. The second stage of the church was built soon afterwards, again by Sapcote & Son, and the completed nave was consecrated on 28 September 1895. The spire was added in 1905.

The church had a single bell – probably dating from 1888 – which was disposed of a set of the tubular bells was installed in 1905. A letter dated 7 December 1905 among the

faculty papers states that "it is proposed to hand over the old bell to the new church of St.Christopher's, Springfield, when the latter is ready to receive it". It is uncertain whether this was done, and there is no bell at Springfield now.

At the time of the completion of the spire in 1905 a set of eight tubular bells was installed in the tower. The installation is recorded on a tablet in the church inscribed:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF GEORGE TIMMINS THE SPIRE OF THIS CHURCH AND BELLS WERE ADDED BY HIS WIDOW IN THE YEAR 1905

The work was reported in the *Birmingham Diocesan Calendar* for 1906 which stated that the church had been "completed by the addition of a spire, with eight tubular bells" at a cost of £1500. The tower and spire stand to the south of the main entrance on the west front of the church fronting the Stratford Road.

The bells are in the key of C natural. They are hung in a tall wooden frame in two rows of four, with bells 1,3,5,7 on one side and 2,4,6,8 on the other. They are struck by hammers and played from a manual – roped left to right- in the north west corner on the first floor of the tower. The bells, frame and fittings do not carry any maker's mark, but they were undoubtedly manufactured and installed by Messrs. Harrington, Latham & Co of Coventry who were the main advocates and makers of such bells at the time. They were overhauled in 1925, 1966 and 1978.

The dimensions of the bells are as follows:

Bell	Length	Diameter		Bell	Length	Diameter
1.	63 $\frac{1}{8}$ "	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ "		5.	78 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
2.	65"	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ "		6.	80 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
3.	68 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ "		7.	86"	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
4.	73 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ "		8.	93 $\frac{3}{8}$ "	4"

Although the commemorative inscription and contemporary report indicate that all eight bells were installed in 1905, the Rev. D.L. Cawley wondered if some of the bells may have been installed earlier. He found five rope-holes in the first floor of the tower, suggesting an arrangement previous to the present chiming manual of 1905. Alternatively, the bells may have been rung from the ground floor prior to the creation of the kitchen area there in 1967 and the number of rope-holes (in the same position as the present manual) could have been reduced by the replacement of a floorboard.

Since 1990 the mediaeval bell (originally from Ullenhall) from Emmanuel, Sparkbrook (*q.v.*), has been kept here. It was stored in the church for some time, and eventually installed in the tower by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in 2002 and hung for swing chiming.

The bell is uninscribed but dates from the early thirteenth century. It is a clean casting with a smooth surface. Its dimensions are as follows – mouth diameter 19 $\frac{13}{16}$ " to 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (i.e. slightly elliptical at the mouth), shoulder circumference 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", lip to shoulder tangent 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", height to seat of canons c.18 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", head-mould diameter 7", height of canons c.3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and height of argent c.5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". It has six plain canons. The lip is tapered at an angle of 10 to 15 degrees and has a flat of approximately 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The moulding wires – all of square section – are 1:1-1-1:1*1:2. The cylindrical shape, tapered lip, square-section mouldings and the prominent join at the head-mould are all early features.

Visited: CJP 27 July 1988; DLC 21 November 1992

SPRING HILL, St.Peter - see BIRMINGHAM, St.Peter, Spring Hill

SPRINGFIELD, St.Christopher – see SPARKHILL, St.Christopher, Springfield

STECHFORD – All Saints, Albert Road

The present church replaced an iron mission room built in 1877 to serve the Stechford area of Yardley parish and known as All Saints church from 1892. A new church was built in 1897-8 to the designs of J.A. Chatwin, architect. It is a brick building with terracotta dressings in the decorated style, dedicated on 3 November 1898. Stechford was separated from Yardley to become a parish in 1932 and the church was consecrated on 13 February 1932. Additions were made to the original building in 1935-7.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Unknown, c.1898	17 ³ / ₄	D	1	1	0*

Visited: CJP 28 July 1988 and (ladders) 10 October 1989

Bell **Inscription**
1. 150 / GIVEN BY M. ASHLEY * 1945 (*Birmingham ornament*)
Waist: (Taylor's circular mark)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co. 1945	27	D (1164 Hz)	3	3	18

Bell	Inscription
1.	<i>Waist (incised):</i> VOX CLAMANTIS IN DESERTO <i>Low waist:</i> 19 (<i>Whitechapel mark</i>) 73 / WHITECHAPEL

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Whitechapel Bell Foundry, 1753	23	G	2	1	8

The bell was supplied and installed in April 1973. The intended waist inscription was inadvertently omitted, but it was subsequently engraved on the bell after casting.

Visited: CJP (binoculars) 26 July 1988

STIRCHLEY – *see also* HAZELWELL, St.Mary Magdalen

STOCKLAND GREEN – St.Mark, Marsh Hill and Bleak Hill Road

The original mission church at Stockland Green was opened in 1908 and served from Erdington. This mission room became St.Mark's church in 1920 and in 1933 a new parish of Stockland Green was created from Gravelly Hill. The present brick church was built in 1933-4 to a design by Anthony Gray of Gray & Cooper, architects.

The roof at the west end of the church has been extended to form a tiled canopy or belfry containing a single bell hung in a steel bracket fixed to the wall. The bell (11¾" diameter, note F, weighing about 35lbs) has a peg argent and carries the Barwell crest on the waist. It has a bar stock – extended through the wall – and an iron chiming lever. A bell of this type is illustrated in the Barwell catalogues (type 050), so the bell and its fittings were doubtless supplied by Barwell in 1908 or 1934.

Visited: CJP (ladders) 12 November 1988

STREETLY (Staffs) – All Saints, Foley Road, Streetly

In their book on *The Church Bells of Warwickshire* (p.xii) Tilley & Walters state that "the new church of All Saints, Streetly, near Sutton Coldfield, has one bell by Barwell put up on 27 May 1909". The church is in Lichfield Diocese and in Staffordshire, but details are included here for the information of readers wishing to follow up the reference in Tilley and Walters.

The church was built in 1908-9 as a district church in the parish of Great Barr. The architect was F.T. Beck, and the foundation stone was laid on 5 December 1908. The bell is hung dead in a turret over the south porch and sounded with chiming hammer.

Inscription

BARWELL BIRMINGHAM

Waist: ALL SAINTS STREETLY / 27TH. MAY 1909

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	James Barwell, 1909	21¼	F	2	1	0*

The parish obtained a faculty in 1951 to install electronic bells in the tower, the work being paid for by Charles Howard Bond in memory of his mother, Jane, who died in 1946. The equipment was supplied by the Magenta Time Co. Ltd of London and Birmingham at a cost of £180. It was operated from a turntable in the vestry, and the equipment consisted of "a Model S.61 Polished Cabinet with Single Turntable Gramophone Unit containing Model S.47 50 watt Amplifier, model S.78 Horn Type Loudspeakers" in the belfry. A faculty was granted on 13 February 1951 on the condition that the cabinet be kept locked when the apparatus was not in use and "provided that only records of church bells or hymn tunes may be played".

Visited: EES 21 October 1980 and RWMC 20 October 1985

STREETLY (Staffs) – Westwood (stables)

In 1923, John Smith & Sons of Derby supplied a striking clock for W.F. Norton Esq of Westwood (or West Wood), Streetly, at a cost of £96 10s. It was installed in the stables along with a 2 cwt bell for striking the hours. It displayed the time on a single 3ft dial. The building is illustrated in Smith's catalogues of the period.

SUMMERFIELD – Christ Church (Lea Memorial Church), Summerfield Crescent and Gillott Road

Summerfield church in north Edgbaston was built as a memorial to the Rev. George Lea, perpetual curate of St.George's, Edgbaston, from 1864-1883. J.A. Chatwin was the architect, and he designed a substantial stone church in the Perpendicular style. William Sapcote & Sons were the builders and the cost of the building was £10,000. The foundation stone on the north transept was laid on 27 November 1883 and the church was consecrated on 30 April 1885. A parish was assigned from St.John's, Ladywood, Birmingham, in 1885.

The planned north west tower was never built. The church has no belfry, but there is a small bell in an iron bracket on the east side of the chimney by the south transept and vestry roof. It has an iron bar stock, lever and clapper. The bell is not visible from outside the church. Details are as follows:

Inscription

Waist: J BARWELL

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	James Barwell	14¾	F	0	3	0*

It has a peg argent and brassfoundry mouldings. The church building accounts show that on 4 June 1885 James Barwell was paid £9.15.0 for the bell and fixing, and that the stonework was prepared for it by William Sapcote & Sons, the contractors, whose bill included a charge for "making template for ironwork to bell and masons time cutting holes and assisting to fix same".

Visited: RLJ 13 November 1977 and (church only) CJP 7 August 1988

SUMMER HILL, St.Mark - see BIRMINGHAM, St.Mark, Summer Hill

SUTTON COLDFIELD, All Saints - see FOUR OAKS, All Saints

SUTTON COLDFIELD - Bishop Vesey's School

Taylor's records show that a bell from Bishop Vesey's Grammar School was refurbished in March 1949. The old staple was drilled out and Taylors fitted a new clapper. The cost was £3, invoiced on 9 March 1949. While at the foundry the bell was found to weight 0cwt 1qr 6lbs. No other details are recorded. The School bell was taken down in 2006 during repairs to the cupola in which it hangs. Stuart Hutchieson examined it at the time and reported that it has no inscription.

Visited: Stuart Hutchieson, March 2006

SUTTON COLDFIELD, Emmanuel - see WYLDE GREEN, Emmanuel

SUTTON COLDFIELD – Fire Station

The records of John Taylor & Co of Loughborough show that the firm supplied a bell for the Sutton Coldfield Fire Station in July 1897. It was 16" in diameter, weighing 0-3-11. The daybook entry dated 22 July 1897 relating to the exchange is as follows:

Sutton Coldfield Fire Brigade, Fire Engine Station, Town Hall, Sutton Coldfield (Chas. E. Browning, Captain)

To one new bell 16" diameter nett weight 0-3-23 (with clapper 6lb) according to quotation 1 July 1896

£4.15.0.

C'. By the old bell nett weight 0-3-11 at 5½d per lb

£2.3.6.

[Total] £2.11.6.

Settled 2 Oct 1897

SUTTON COLDFIELD – Holy Trinity (R.C.), Lichfield Road

The first Roman Catholic church in Sutton Coldfield was a simple gothic building opened on 21 October 1834. The original building still stands on the east side of Lichfield Road, closer to the town centre, but it is now used as offices. The present church was built in 1933-4 to the designs of George Bernard Cox, architect, by J.R. Deacon of Lichfield and it has an oblong "west" tower on the main façade fronting the Lichfield Road.

The tower contains a single bell, which is hung for swing chiming between two wooden beams on the "south" side of the tower at the level of the belfry window openings. The bell is uninscribed and undated. It has six plain canons and stepped mouldings on the shoulder. It has a diameter of 18 inches, its note is B flat and it weighs about 1½ cwt. It probably dates from the mid to late nineteenth century. It is fitted with a wrought iron bar stock, traditional ironwork, iron chiming lever, plain bearings and hook-over clapper.

The new church was built on the site of a former school, and the old school building behind the church is now used as a parish hall. It is a small brick building with an open bellcote over a date-stone inscribed "ST. JOSEPH'S / CATHOLIC SCHOOL / 1872". The bellcote is lined with wood and contains a single bell hung for swing-chiming. The bell is uninscribed and undated but it has the letters "T.E" incised on the crown. It is a brassfoundry casting with six plain canons, probably dating from 1872. It is 17½ in diameter, its note is C sharp, and it weights about 1¼ cwt. The fittings include a wooden headstock, strap gudgeons, stock hoops, plain bearings, iron chiming lever and clapper.

In 2005-6 the possibility of installing a ring of bells here was under discussion, based on the idea of using some of the former chime bells from Grainger's Lane Methodist Church at Cradley Heath. These bells were cast by John Taylor & Co in 1939 and were a chime of eight in the key of G with a bass bell weighing 12 cwt. Early in 2007, however, the church opted to install an electronic bell system which was operational by the early summer.

Visited: CJP and HEP (ladders to bell in Parish Hall) 27 February 2004: Thanks to Fr. Gerald Breen and Fr. James Neilly

SUTTON COLDFIELD – Holy Trinity (Parish Church), Church Hill

Holy Trinity is the mediaeval parish church of the ancient town of Sutton Coldfield. Sutton is a Domesday manor and there may have been a church here in pre-Conquest times, but the present building originated in the thirteenth century. There are portions of masonry of this period in the east wall of the chancel, but the church dates mainly from later mediaeval times. The west tower was built in the fifteenth century. The aisles and their chapels date from the sixteenth century, these later embellishments being made through the generosity of Bishop Veysey of Exeter (d.1554) who was born at Sutton. There is a monument to Veysey in the chapel on the north side of the chancel.

The body of the church was extensively repaired in 1760 after part of the nave collapsed, and the building underwent substantial restoration in the Victorian period. The chancel was restored in 1863-4, the interior was reordered in a general restoration under Yeoville Thomason in 1875-9 and the outer north aisle was added in 1878-9. The western gallery of 1708 was removed and the tower arch opened up during the work of 1878-9. The church was reopened on 2 May 1880 after the completion of these works.

The present bells

The tower now contains a ring of eight bells in the key of E flat (619Hz or E flat minus 9.08 cents)

Bell

Inscription

1. J : TAYLOR AND C^O. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1884.
2. J : TAYLOR AND C^O. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1884.
3. THO^S. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1795 (*border*)
4. THO^S. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1795 (*border*)
5. J : TAYLOR AND C^O. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1884.
Waist: GIVEN BY THE CORPORATION 1795. / RECAST 1884.
6. J : TAYLOR AND C^O. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1884.

7. J : TAYLOR AND C^o. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH LEICESTERSHIRE 1884.
Waist: GIVEN BY THE CORPORATION 1795. / RECAST 1884.
8. J : TAYLOR AND C^o. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH LEICESTERSHIRE 1884.
Waist: GIVEN BY THE CORPORATION 1795. / RECAST 1884.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Hz	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1884	28¾	1224	Eb-29	5	1	9
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1884	30	1159	D-23	5	3	5
3.	Thomas Mears, 1795	33⅞	1033	C-22	7	0	22
4.	Thomas Mears, 1795	36½	921	Bb-21	8	1	7
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1884	38½	821	Ab-20	10	1	10
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1884	41¼	775	G-20	12	3	10
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1884	44⅝	690	F-21	16	1	19
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1884	50½	619	Eb-9	23	1	18

The bells are hung in a cast iron lowside frame (*Bellframes* type 8.3.A.h, layout 8.3) with modern ringing fittings by Taylors, dating from 1972-3. A faculty for the restoration and retuning of the bells was issued on 3 May 1972. The work was completed in April 1973 and the rededication took place on 6 May.

Former bells and history

In 1552 there were four bells and a saunce bell here. In 1556 Richard Veisey bequeathed 3s.4d. "towards the castynge of the fyrste bell and making it consonant with the other bells". Little is known of the subsequent history of the bells until the late eighteenth-century, although a writer in 1778 tells us that Sutton then possessed "six deep & not unpleasant bells". The catalogue produced by George Hedderley of Nottingham in 1787 lists Sutton Coldfield among the places for which he and earlier members of his family had cast bells, but neither the date of the work nor the number of bells is known.

In 1784 the Corporation voted 100 guineas towards the cost of a new ring. Papers at Lincolnshire Archives Office include an estimate from Edward Arnold of Leicester for a new peal of bells at Sutton Coldfield, 30 August 1784, and a letter from William Ludlam to the Rev. Mr. Ryland, Sutton Coldfield, dated 20 July 1785 recommending Arnold for the work. Robert Turner, the Whitechapel bellhanger, also submitted an estimate. In the event, however, the new bells were cast by Charles and John Rudhall of Gloucester in 1786.

Rudhall's 1804 and 1830 catalogues indicate that the firm had cast 6 bells (tenor 27cwt) for Sutton Coldfield. The Rudhalls' bill is dated 12 October 1786. The total cost of the work was £243.2.6, including £160 for "recasting 6 bells new Stocks Wheels &c", £68 for 16 cwt of extra metal, £12.12.0 for making the frame and £2.10.6. The parish registers record that a twelve-year old boy lost his life while the new bells were being installed. The burial entry dated 23 September 1786 gives an account of the accident, noting that William Hughes "...was killed by a casual Blow from a Piece of Timber thrown from the Steeple South Window when the Workmen were preparing to put up the new Bells".

The Rudhall bells were evidently unsatisfactory, and less than ten years later they were replaced by an entirely new ring of six cast by Thomas Mears of Whitechapel in 1795. Two of these bells survive as nos. 3 and 4 of the present ring. The diameters of the bells are recorded in the Whitechapel foundry records, but no weights are given. The four largest bells were weighed in 1884 and the two trebles in 1972, however, and from the combined sources it can be established that the details of the 1795 ring were as follows:

Bell	Diameter	Weight	Bell	Diameter	Weight
1.	34"	7-2-15	4.	41⅜"	11-0-14
2.	36⅜"	8-3-6	5.	44⅝"	15-1-21
3.	38½"	11-0-11	6.	50⅜"	21-3-21

A band of ringers from Erdington visited Sutton Coldfield in January 1884 and found the bells in poor condition. They found they "could not get through more than two 120s of Grandsire Doubles, owing to the bad state of the bells", but they were informed "that this was more than had been accomplished here for some years". A full restoration was clearly overdue.

In 1884 the bells were restored and augmented to eight by John Taylor & Co. They recast the back four, added two trebles, and rehung the bells in the old frame with a new top frame for the trebles. After the reopening in July it was reported that the bells still went badly and an attempt for a peal was lost. The first peal on the bells was rung later in the year, on 29 November 1884. As restored, the bells were:

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	H _z	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1884	29½	1255	Eb+15	5	2	18
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1884	30	1175	D+1	6	0	14
3.	Thomas Mears, 1795	34⅞	1055	C+14	7	2	0*
4.	Thomas Mears, 1795	36¾	930	Bb-4	9	0	0*
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1884	38⅞	828	Ab-5	10	3	12
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1884	41¾	778	G-13	13	1	25
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1884	45	690	F-21	16	2	17
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1884	51	619	Eb-9	23	1	17

Bells 7 and 8 were cast with flat tops, but the other bells had canons. The two remaining bells of 1795 were not taken to the foundry and so their exact weights were not noted. The tuning figures given above come from later records. The costs of the work undertaken in 1884 are recorded in Taylors' daybook:

The Rector & Churchwardens of Sutton Coldfield 1884, July 12.	
To recasting four bells 10-3-12, 13-1-25, 16-2-17, 23-1-17 [Total] 64-1-15	
at £6.6. per cwt	£405.12.4½.
By old bells 59-2-11 at £4.4.	<u>£250.6.3.</u>
	[Sub-total] £155.6.1½.
Inscriptions 140 letters at 3d per letter	£1.15.0.
Taking down as per estimate May 20/84	£12.0.0.
Carriage ditto	£18.0.0.
Reversing clappers of old bells and new hangings for the 4 new ones ditto	£72.0.0.
Two new treble bells 5-2-18, 6-0-14, [Total] 11-3-4 at £6.6. per cwt	£74.5.0.
Fittings frame & fixing ditto	<u>£37.0.0.</u>
	[Total] £370.6.1½.

As already noted, the old frame was reused. Clearly there were problems soon after the new bells were installed, and in September Taylors returned to fit 22 cast iron brackets, 40 bolts and 6 long bolts to stiffen the structure. This was invoiced on 15 September 1884 at a cost of £11.14.6.

Taylors fitted new wheels to bells 3 and 4 in 1927, and in 1929 the bells were rehung with new gudgeons and ball bearings by Mears & Stainbank of Whitechapel at a cost of £151. The frame was strengthened and repaired at the same time. The work was invoiced on 3 May 1929.

Before their rehunging in 1972-3 the bells were hung in a two-tier wooden frame. The lower frame (*Bellframes* type 6.I) was of X-braced construction and dated from 1786, containing the six largest bells. The two trebles were hung above, swinging east-west in parallel pits, in a wooden frame (*Bellframes* type 6.A) of 1884. The ringing fittings were mainly of 1884 with later ball bearings of 1929, and included elm stocks, plate gudgeons, ball bearings, and traditional wheels, stays and sliders. There was also an Ellacombe hammer on the third for chiming, fitted in 1929.

There is no clock. In about 1830, however, it was noted that there were six bells "together with a clock and chimes newly erected by an Eminent Workman in that business

Visited: RWMC 10 December 1966; CJP 22 July 1989

SUTTON COLDFIELD – Midland Bank

SUTTON COLDFIELD – Moor Hall

SUTTON COLDFIELD – New Hall

William Jacot of New Hall gave a bell for Walmley Church (q.v.) in 1844 and the Whitechapel foundry records show that he purchased a second bell - perhaps for New Hall - in the following year. The daybook for 8 March 1845 records a bell of 1-1-10 invoiced to Jacot for £9 4s. 0d, including 9s. for the clapper.

SUTTON COLDFIELD – St.Chad, Hollyfield Road, Whitehouse Common

The church has a single bell on the flat roof of the space over the vestry which is extended upwards to form a low tower. The bell is hung between steel girders placed diagonally in the angle between the walls in the north east corner of the structure. It is inaccessible without long ladders.

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
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- | Bell | Founder and date | Diameter | Note | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
|------|-------------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. | Mears & Stainbank, 1927 | 21½ | G | 1 | 3 | 23½ |

Although this bell does not bear the usual foundry mark, it is clear from the lettering, mouldings and true-harmonic tuning that this is a Mears bell. "J.H.A." was probably the

donor, and may have been a member of the Ansell family who gave the site for the church and contributed towards the cost of the building. The bell was cast without canons.

The fittings – recently refurbished during repairs to the roof of the vestry and tower in 2001 – include a channel iron stock, ball bearings, clapper and iron chiming lever. The bearings and chiming lever evidently date from 1927 but the supporting girders and the remainder of the fittings were provided by C.J. Bishop Ltd of Birmingham in 2001.

An entry in the Whitechapel daybooks for 11 March 1927 refers to a bell weighing 1-3-23½ supplied to J.E. Groves, the Handsworth bellhanger, for an unspecified location. The bell cost £20 7s. 10d including 10s for the inscription (20 letters). This entry almost certainly refers to the bell for St.Chad's.

Visited: CJP 15 May 1988 and 7 October 1989; CJP and CJND (ladders) 28 February 2003: Thanks to Richard Pearce (former churchwarden) and Chris Thomas (architect).

SUTTON COLDFIELD – St.Columba, Banners Gate, Sutton Coldfield

The new parish of St.Columba was created from Boldmere in 1954. The church was erected in 1959-60 to a design by N.F. Cachemaille-Day and built by T.Elvens & Sons Ltd at a cost of £48,245. The foundation stone was laid on 28 February 1959 and the church was consecrated on 22 October 1960. It is a square building with a domed roof and it has a small bell turret rising above the roof near the main entrance at the south west corner. The turret contains a steel beam designed to carry a bell, but there is no bell. Taylors submitted proposals for a bell in 1960 but the scheme was not carried out.

Church visited: CJP 10 June 1988

SUTTON COLDFIELD, St.James, Hill (or Mere Green) – see HILL, St.James

SUTTON COLDFIELD, St.John the Evangelist, Walmley – see WALMLEY, St.John the Evangelist

SUTTON COLDFIELD – St.Peter, Maney

An iron mission church at Maney (in Sutton Coldfield) was built in 1877-8 and licensed for worship on 26 September 1879. It had a bell turret and "an unmelodious bell". The original building was later replaced by the first stage of a permanent church, designed by Cossins, Peacock and Bewlay and built on a new site by Thomas Elvens in 1904-5. The foundation stone was laid on 22 June 1904 and the church was consecrated on 28 June 1905 – the first new church completed after the creation of the new Diocese of Birmingham. Maney became a separate parish in 1907.

St.Peter's is a striking building in a free Perpendicular style with Arts and Crafts details. The south-west tower was added in 1934-5 by Peacock and Bewlay and built by Strethers Ltd of Four Oaks when the west end of the church was completed. The enlarged building was consecrated on 29 September 1935. The tower was built as a memorial to John Watson, the funds being provided by his widow Emily Ann Watson (*c.f.* St.Luke's, Kingstanding) who left £2500 for the purpose. It is in three stages with a stair turret in the south-west corner.

The tower was designed to house a ring of bells, with a ringing room on the second floor and a bell chamber at the level of the belfry windows. In 1935 both Taylors and Gillett & Johnston made contact with the parish in the hope of securing a contract for the bells, it having been indicated to them that money was available for the purpose. It became clear, however, that the available funds only covered the cost of building the tower and completing the church.

Nothing was done until 1955 when the present small bell was erected in memory of Preb Percival Howard Howard MA, Honorary Priest at Maney 1947-1955. The bell – possibly the one from the original iron mission room - is a brass-foundry casting without inscription or marks. It is 16" in diameter and its note is E natural. It has a peg argent. It hangs in a tall wooden framework with fittings for swing chiming including bar stock and iron chiming lever. Taylors supplied the bellrope on 14 December 1955 to the order of G.T. Stephens &

Sons Ltd, builders, who may have been responsible for making the wooden frame and hanging the bell.

Visited: CJP 15 May 1988

SUTTON COLDFIELD – Town Hall, King Edward Square

The present Town Hall was opened in 1906 to replace the previous one in Mill Street (*q.v.*) which was sold for use as a bank. The building is in two sections. Part is a Victorian Gothic hotel building of 1863 converted for municipal use, with an extension of 1905-6 alongside. The architect for the extension was A.R. Mayston of Mayston and Eddison of London who won the design competition in 1903. Mayston was assisted by the Borough Surveyor – W.A.H. Clarry – as Clerk of Works. The builder was Thomas Elvins of Birmingham. The total cost of the new building was £8000. The foundation stone was laid on 25 May 1905 and the work was completed in September 1906.

The Town Hall is a brick and stone building with an asymmetrically placed tower. The original clock was supplied by Evans & Sons of Birmingham in 1906. The present clock is a Synchronome electro-mechanical master clock with four heavy duty impulse slave movements and illuminated dials. It is now maintained by Birmingham City Council.

Not visited: *Ex.inf.* Andrew Nicholls, June 2003 (from notes made in 1995)

SUTTON COLDFIELD – Town Hall (former), Mill Street

The Old Town Hall in Mill Street was built in 1859 to the designs of George Bidlake of Wolverhampton. It is a brick building in the Italian gothic style, originally supporting a 64 foot clock tower crowned by a steep French pavilion roof. It cost £3300. It was noted in 1884 that the Town Hall in Mill Street had a clock "quite adequate for the whole town".

In 1942 the building was being used as a Masonic Hall. At that time it possessed an undated two-train clock by Smith of Clerkenwell, with a 39½" bell of 1865 by Mears. The Whitechapel daybooks for 15 March 1865 list a bell of 10-1-9 supplied to Smith & Sons of Clerkenwell, the clockmakers, at a cost of £75.18.7. The index book states that this bell was for "Maney, near Birmingham" and it was evidently the clock bell for the old Town Hall. The clock was a cage-frame movement with deadbeat escapement and hour strike, showing the time on four 3ft.9in. illuminated dials.

By 1979 the tower and clock had been removed, but the building remains.

In 2006 the Keltek Trust acquired a second-hand bell Mears bell of 1865 at a sale at Richardson's Auction Rooms at Bourne, in Lincolnshire. It is now (2007) destined to replace the existing tenor bell at Much Cowarne, in Herefordshire. The provenance of the bell is unclear, but according to the vendors it was believed that to have come from an old mill in Lancashire. However, the inscription:

G MEARS & CO FOUNDERS LONDON 1865 / SMITH & SONS CLERKENWELL suggests that it may well be the old bell from the former Sutton Town Hall building. Its size (diameter 39⅞ inches) also tallies with what is known of the clock bell. The bell has no internal clapper indentation marks and it has only been used in connection with a clock. A search of the Whitechapel foundry daybooks and indexes for 1865 suggest that the bell supplied to Smith & Sons was the only single bell of this weight supplied that year.

Visited: RHD 12 May 1942; Thanks to Matthew Higby (Jan 2007)

TILE CROSS – St.John (former mission church), Cook's Lane

This church was opened as a mission served from Sheldon in 1924 and closed in 1962. A small bell from St.John's was sold to Taylors in May 1967 to provide metal towards the new chime of six bells for St.Peter's, Tile Cross. The Loughborough foundry records indicate that it was a small bell of 14" diameter, weighing 0-1-18 (nett) as received at Taylors' works. Its note was C (2084Hz). It was a flat-topped bell fitted with a square iron stock and iron chiming lever.

Not visited: *Ex.inf.* Taylors

TILE CROSS – St.Peter (former mission church), Haywood Road

The mission church to the south of the present parish church was built in 1951-2. The building is now used as a church hall. It was designed as a dual-purpose building by John P Osborne & Son, architects, and built by T Elvins & Sons Ltd. at a cost of £11,345. The foundation stone was laid on 5 October 1951 and the dedication took place in 1952.

When used for worship, the mission church had a second-hand bell, believed to have been obtained from St. Matthias, Birmingham when that church was demolished in 1952. According to Taylors' records, the bell was as follows:

Bell **Inscription**

1. C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1856

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	C & G Mears, 1856	22½	G (1559Hz)	2	2	9

This bell was later used as scrap metal towards the chime of six provided for St. Peter's new church in 1968. The weight given above is as received (nett) at Loughborough in 1968.

Not visited. *Ex.inf.* Taylors

TILE CROSS – St. Peter (new church), Haywood Road

Tile Cross became a separate parish, formed from Marston Green, in 1956. For ten years or so the old mission room served as the parish church, until the opening of the present church in 1968. The new church was designed by John P Osborne & Son (Keith Wainwright, project architect) and built in 1966-8 by William Street & Sons Ltd at a cost of £56,650. The consecration took place on 13 November 1968.

The main façade has a plain wall with six bells in apertures in the brickwork. As seen from the street below, bells (left to right) 3, 1 and 2 hang in the upper level with 4, 6 and 5 below. The bells form a chime of six in the key of D (1163Hz of D minus 17.27 cents)

Bell **Inscription**

1. 240 338 / [blank]
Waist: 19 (Taylor's rectangular mark) 68
2. 241 338 / [blank]
Waist: 19 (Taylor's rectangular mark) 68
3. 242 338 / [blank]
Waist: 19 (Taylor's rectangular mark) 68
4. 278 338 / [blank]
Waist: 19 (Taylor's rectangular mark) 68
5. 240 338 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1968 *
Waist: TE DEUM LAUDAMUS
6. 173 338 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH *
Waist: NON NOBIS DOMINE
Opposite: A.J. DRAPER, VICAR / M. AUSTIN } / R. GREEN } CHURCHWARDENS. / 1968

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1968	17	1956	1	0	7
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1968	19	1742	1	1	17
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1968	21⅞	1552	1	3	13
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1968	22	1465	2	0	19
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1968	24½	1305.5	2	3	9
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1968	27⅝	1163	4	0	9

The bells incorporate the metal (total weight 5-2-21) of bells salvaged from other churches in the area including St. John's, Tile Cross (an uninscribed 14" bell), St. Peter's, Tile Cross (a 23" bell by C & G Mears 1856 - believed to have come from St. Matthias, Birmingham), St. Cuthbert's, Winson Green (a 25" bell of c.1885-6 by Charles Carr) and a bell (22½" diameter) from a scrap metal dealer.

Visited: CJP 9 July 1988 and (ladders) 28 July 1989

The first mission church at Tyseley, then in the parish of Sparkhill, was opened in 1895. This was replaced by an iron church in 1913 and a second iron building – later retained as the church hall – was erected in 1932. Tyseley became a separate parish in 1931, and the foundation stone of the permanent church designed by H.W. Hobbiss was laid by Philip Walter Marshall on 21 January 1939. The church was consecrated on 30 September 1939. The tower was completed in 1946 and an apsidal East end was added in 1960.

Bell **Inscription**

1. 242 / (*bell and pomegranate border*)
Waist: PRESENTED BY PHILIP WALTER MARSHALL / 1939
Opposite: (*Taylor T-bell mark*)

This bell was supplied by Taylors through the Non-Ferrous Casting Co (Birmingham) Ltd, Smethwick. This company had been bought up by Charles Carr Ltd of Smethwick in the 1930s. The bell was cast with tall angular canons as required by the client and it has a cast-in staple and hook-over clapper. It has true-harmonic tuning.

It is hung from timbers strapped to the underside of the main girders supporting the roof of the tower and fitted for swing chiming with a wooden stock, strap gudgeons, iron chiming lever and plain bearings. The fittings were evidently provided by the contractors and not by Taylors. The bell may not have been hung in its present position until 1946.

WALMLEY – St.John the Evangelist

A new church was built at Walmley in 1844-5 to serve an area on the eastern side of the parish of Sutton Coldfield. The church was designed by D.R. Hill and built in the neo-Norman style in blue engineering brick with stone dressings. The church was consecrated on 2 September 1845 and Walmley became a separate parish in 1846.

The church has an open bellcote on the west gable of the nave. This originally contained a single bell hung for swing chiming with a wooden stock, strap gudgeons and stock hoops and an iron chiming lever. According to Taylors' records, it was inscribed:

Bell **Inscription**

1. C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON
Waist: PRESENTED TO WALMLEY CHURCH / BY / WILLIAM JACOT OF NEW HALL
1844

The Whitechapel daybooks for 10 October 1844 record that a bell of 1-3-24 was supplied, with a clapper, to W. Jacot of New Hall, Birmingham, at a cost of £13.5.2. The scrapping weight of the bell was recorded as 1-2-27 (nett) when it was recast in 1930.

The present bell was put up in December 1930 to replace the original bell of 1844. It was installed by Mr I. Langley of Birmingham with swing-chiming fittings supplied by Taylors including with a wrought iron stock, ball bearings and iron chiming lever.

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
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100	100

- | Def. | Enscription |
|------|---|
| 1. | 243 / (<i>Bell and pomegranate order all round</i>) |

Waist: IN MEMORIAM / WALTER E. SHOWELL / DIED 27TH FEB. 1929.

Opposite: (Taylor's rectangular mark) / 1930

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1930	22 $\frac{7}{8}$	F (1424Hz)	2	1	23

In 1986-7 the original church was converted for use as a series of community rooms and a new worship centre was built alongside. The architect for this development was K.C. White of London.

Visited: CJP (binoculars) 15 May 1988

WARD END – Christ Church, Burney Lane

A large housing estate was developed in this area of Ward End between the two World Wars and in 1930 an appeal was launched to raise money for a new church for the district. A site was acquired from the Education Department and in 1933 plans for the church building were prepared by Holland W. Hobbis. The foundation stone was laid on 12 May 1934 and the church was consecrated on 29 June 1935. William Deacon & Son of Lichfield were the builders. A separate parish of Burney Lane was created from Ward End in 1966.

The building stands on one of the highest points in the City, marked by the massive western tower of the church. The church and tower are built in brick with tiled roofs, in a simple round-arched style. The tower stands over the main entrance. It is rectangular, with a large stone cross on the main façade and pairs of louvred openings on the north and south sides.

There is just one small bell which hangs in a metal bracket resting on a makeshift wooden framework by one of the louvred openings in the bell chamber. The bell has no inscription or marks. Its diameter is 10½ inches and its note is G sharp. It has a bar stock and iron chiming lever.

Visited: CJP 28 July and 7 August 1988

WARD END – St.Margaret, Ward End

Ward End is one of the ancient hamlets of the parish of Aston. A chapel was built here at the expense of Thomas Bond, a Coventry merchant and lord of the manor, in about 1517 after the Vicar of Aston had agreed in the previous year that the inhabitants of Ward End should have their own chapel and chaplain. The mediaeval chapel was in ruins by 1730 and by the early nineteenth century the building was being used as a barn.

A subscription for funds to rebuild the chapel was opened in 1833 and the present church was built shortly afterwards to the designs of a local architect, John Frith. The work is documented in the building accounts which show that the builder was John Bennett. The woodwork was executed by John Hiley, carpenter and joiner, whose bill survives among the parish records. The church was apparently completed in 1834 and opened on 29 April 1835. The consecration did not take place until 23 October 1841 when the church was given its full name of the chapel of the Holy Blessed and Undivided Trinity, the Blessed Virgin and St.Margaret (in Aston Juxta Birmingham). Ward End was established as a separate district in 1841 and it became a parish in 1870.

The church is a simple "Commissioners' gothic" building, built in brick but stuccoed all over. The west tower originally had an embattled parapet and pinnacles, now removed. It now contains two bells hung for ringing and two small chiming bells for the clock. The two bells hung for ringing are:

Bell Inscription

1. THE * ROYAL * HOSPITAL * AT * GREENWICH * 1716 *
2. THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FOUNDER 1834.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	James Bagley, 1716	21½	A	2	1	0*
2.	Thomas Mears II, 1834	26	G	3	2	0*

The larger bell was supplied for the new chapel by Thomas Mears of Whitechapel, who was paid £27.15s.0d. "for bell" on 8 January 1835. The smaller bell was cast by James Bagley of London in 1716 and – as discussed below - evidently came from the Royal Hospital at Greenwich.

The wooden bellframe was probably constructed in 1834 by John Hiley, the carpenter, whose total bill for the woodwork in the church amounted to £344. The frame is of fairly slight construction, with sills, long heads, and irregular posts and braces. It has pits for six or more bells but the space in the middle is now taken up by the clock. The two existing bells hang on opposite side of the tower, both swinging east-west, the treble in the north-east corner and the tenor in the south-west corner.

The bells have fittings of similar type although clearly by different makers. These consist of wooden stocks, strap gudgeons, stock hoops, open brass bearings with wooden covers, and wheels. The wheel of the smaller bell is of non-standard type. The larger bell has a traditional wheel, and it is also fitted with a stay and slider. The fittings of the larger bell were evidently supplied by Mears, and so the payments to Hiley for "4 feet of cubed oak framed & fitted to Bell £1.2.0" and "fitting bushes & hanging bell including pullies 10s" may refer to the fittings of the smaller bell.

The two clock bells are fixed to a wooden beam. They are uninscribed, but they both have three moulding wires on the soundbow. The smaller bell has four plain canons and the larger has a peg argent. The details are as follows:

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Unknown, c.1820	9¾	G sharp	0	1	0*
2.	Unknown, c.1820	10	E	0	1	0*

These bells are of uncertain date but they were clearly supplied for use with the clock.

A plate on the old clock (now disused but still *in situ*) indicates that it was "Repaired by John Moore, Clerkenwell, London 1821". Moore's published list shows that he supplied a chiming clock with three dials for "... Hutton Esq of Bennett's Hill, Birmingham" in 1821. The house at Bennett's Hill in nearby Washwood Heath was built for William Hutton (b.1725-d.1815) in the late eighteenth century and restored after being badly damaged in the Priestley riots in 1791. There is a memorial to Hutton in the church, along with a commemorative bust executed by Peter Hollins in 1848. His heirs later sold the property and the clock and bells were evidently given to the church. The date is not known, but it may have been as early as 1834-5.

The clock itself is a three-train movement in a plate and spacer frame with extended barrels. It has an anchor escapement, hour-strike and ding-dong quarter chimes. As noted, the mechanism carries a plate inscribed "Repaired by / John Moore / Clerkenwell, London / 1821". The *Worcester Diocesan Church Calendar* for 1905 records that "the church clock, with its chimes, [was] put into thorough working order" in 1904, and a second plate on the clock states that it was "Repaired by / The Globe Clock Co. Ltd / Birmingham 1912".

It seems possible that Moore reconditioned the old Greenwich Hospital clock – possibly the one originally made by Thwaites of London and supplied through a Mr. Holmes in 1785 – for Hutton and installed it at Bennett's Hill in 1821, along with a second-hand bell of 1716 from Greenwich and two small quarter chime bells. The clock and bells were later moved from Hutton's house to the church at Ward End, probably in 1834-5.

A new synchronous clock movement by Smith of Derby was installed in 1984.

Visited: CJP 28 July 1988

WARLEY – Our Lady and St.Hubert (R.C.)

This church was built in 1934 with funds provided from the estate of Hubert Galton of Hadzor House, near Droitwich. A tablet inside the west end records that the church was opened on 3 November 1934 and consecrated on 18 June 1935. G. Drysdale was the architect. The church has a tall brick SE campanile. The single bell hangs in the top stage of the tower:

Bell ***Inscription***

1. MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1934. (*Whitechapel mark*)
Waist: (large cross)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Mears & Stainbank, 1934	34	B	7	2	20

The bell was cast by Mears & Stainbank whose daybook entry for 9 November 1934 shows that it was supplied through Messrs. J. Whittall. Mears & Stainbank supplied the fittings including clapper and staple, a steel joist headstock and an all electric chiming unit. The bell cost £64.10s, the chiming unit cost £32.10, and the total cost was £103.12.0.

The bell is hung direct from a steel beam which is supported by two further beams running along the north and south sides of the tower. The original chiming unit has been removed, though the hammer and bracket remain. A new internal solenoid clapper was fitted by Taylors in 1963, but this is now disused.

Visited: CJP 8 November 2003

WARLEY WOODS – St.Hilda, Abbey Road

Warley Woods was originally in Quinton parish and a mission church was opened here in 1898. An ecclesiastical district was created in 1930 and the present church was built in 1938-40 to a design by E.F. Reynolds of Wood, Kendrick & Reynolds, architects. The builders were C. Bryant & Son Ltd of Small Heath. The foundation stone was laid on 5 November 1938 and the completed church was consecrated in the early days of World War II on 29 June 1940. On consecration, Warley Woods became a separate parish.

The church is a brick building in the early Christian or Byzantine style with a tall tower at the west end. There is no bell in the tower, but the Vicar informed me that there *might* be a small bell "connected with the navy" in the basement. He commented that it may have been intended for the tower but never hung.

Visited: CJP 26 August 1988: Thanks to the Vicar

WARSTONE LANE CEMETERY - *see* BIRMINGHAM, Warstone Lane Cemetery

WASHWOOD HEATH – St.Mark, Washwood Heath Road

St.Mark's chapel of ease at Washwood Heath, in the parish of Saltley, was licensed and opened for worship on 19 April 1890. The foundation stone of a permanent church was laid on 26 November 1898 by Lord Norton, the donor of the site and contributor to the building fund. The church was designed by J.A. Chatwin and built in red brick with stone dressings. It was consecrated on 24 June 1899, and a parish was assigned from Saltley in 1907. The baptistery was added in 1919.

The church has a south-west porch tower over the main southern entrance to the building, with an octagonal stone spire. It contains a small service bell and a separate clock bell, and another disused bell is stored in the base of the tower.

The service bell is a small brass-foundry casting with a peg argent, without inscription or marks. Its diameter is 12 inches. It hangs between two wooden trestles fixed to the floor of the bell chamber and it has swing-chiming fittings including a bar stock and an iron chiming lever. This bell was hung like this when J.P. Fidler visited the tower in March 1931 and noted "no founder (looks like a sand casting)".

A brass plate in the base of the tower records that the clock was given by Mrs. Lincoln Tangye of Maxstoke Castle and set in motion by Lord Norton on Coronation Day, 22 June 1911. The clock itself is a second-hand movement, probably from the Victorian stable block at Maxstoke Castle. It is signed on the barrels of the striking train by Alexander Simmons of Warwick and dated 1855. The setting dial records that the clock was restored in June 1927 by Samuel Stenberg & Sons of 642 Washwood Heath Road, Birmingham. The clock is a cast-iron four-poster two-train movement with pinwheel escapement and maintaining power, showing the time on dials on the south and west sides of the tower.

The clock and clock bell belong together, the latter being almost certainly the 18" bell invoiced to Alexander Simmons by C & G Mears for £10.0.10 on 3 November 1855, as noted in the Whitechapel foundry daybooks.

Bell **Inscription**

1. C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1855

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	C & G Mears, 1855	18 ³ / ₈	C	1	1	1 ³ / ₄

The clock bell hangs alongside the movement. It is hung from a wooden stock supported at one end by one of the beams carrying the clock and at the other on a small trestle. A large piece of metal is missing from the lip on one side and the tone of the bell has almost gone.

There is also a small disused bell of unknown provenance. The bell is dated 1815. It has an argent forming a pair of single canons. Its moulding wires are 2:1-2:2:1. The diameter is 12¹/₈" and the note is F.

Visited: CJP 28 July 1988

WASHWOOD HEATH – Thornton Road School

The Thornton Road Council School was built for Birmingham County Borough Council and opened in 1930. It was damaged by enemy action in 1940. In 1954 it was renamed as the Thornton County Primary School. In July 1930 John Smith & Sons of Derby supplied an electrically-wound timepiece for the school with four skeleton dials (4ft diameter) at a cost of £100. The original clock was exchanged (like that at Gunter Road School at Pye Hayes, Erdington) in March 1938 for a new synchronous movement.

WEOLEY CASTLE – Our Lady and St. Rose of Lima (R.C.), Gregory Avenue

The mission at Weoley Castle was established in 1933 and from 1936 to 1960 mass was said in the school hall. The new church was built in 1959-60 to designs by Adrian Gilbert Scott. It is built in light red brick in a modern gothic style, with a west tower over the main entrance.

The tower contains a single bell hung dead and sounded by an overhead tolling hammer and angelus. There is also a clock on the west face of the tower. The bell was supplied through the contractors, Parsons & Morrin Ltd, who went into liquidation before the church was completed.

Bell **Inscription**

1. 202 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH *
Waist: ROSA / CHURCH OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA / WEOLEY CASTLE / 1960
Soundbow: (seven crosses, spaced evenly).

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1960	32 ³ / ₄	B flat (924 Hz)	6	3	0

Not visited: *Ex.inf.* Taylors

WEOLEY CASTLE – St. Gabriel, Shenley Lane

The Corporation housing development at Weoley Castle was laid out in the 1930s and St. Gabriel's was built in 1933-4 to provide church accommodation for the new estate, a site for a new church at Northfield having been provided under a bequest in the will of James Goddington Ledsam in whose memory the church was built. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs. Neville Chamberlain on 9 September 1933 and a new parish was assigned from Northfield and Selly Oak in the same year. The consecration took place on 30 June 1934. E.F. Reynolds was the architect, and the church is a plain rectangular brick building in the Romanesque style.

The church was originally intended to have a tower, but this was never built. There was no bell here until 1957 when the present enclosed bell turret was erected over the south porch to contain a bell presented to St. Gabriel's by the City of Birmingham Parks

Department. Until stolen in July 2011 this contained a single bell hung 'dead' by its canons from a pair of steel beams and clocked by a rope attached to the clapper.

Bell **Inscription**

1. (blank)
Waist: "CHARLES CARR" / SMETHWICK. / 1895

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Charles Carr, 1895	23 ⁷ / ₈	2:2-2:3:2	F sharp	2	3	0*

The bell came from the chapel at Lodge Hill Cemetery at Selly Oak (*q.v.*), consecrated on 24 June 1895. It was hung here in 1957 in a turret designed by Cyril A Hughes of Swansea, architect, whose brother was churchwarden at Weoley Castle at the time. A faculty for the turret and bell was granted on 6 March 1957.

Following the theft, a second-hand Taylor bell was acquired. This was installed in the turret by Simon Adams, of John Taylor & Co, on 14 December 2012. The bell was originally the larger of two bells supplied *via* Smith of Derby for the Manor Park Hospital at Romford, Essex, its smaller companion being 15", 0-2-26 and 2134Hz or C+35. These bells were later acquired by the Earl of Essex pub at Romford from where they were obtained in 2011. The larger bell, now at Weoley Castle, is as follows:

Bell **Inscription**

1. 242 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1902 * / (*Blackberry leaf border all round*)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Hz	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1902	21	2:2-2:3:2	1600	G+35	1	3	12

The bell is hung dead from the original steel beams in the bell turret, which now has additional protective caging. It is sounded by a trigger-action clapper.

Visited: CJP 28 July and (ladders) 7 August 1988; and *Ex.inf.* Simon Adams, December 2012

WEST HEATH - St.Anne, Alvechurch Road and Lilley Lane

The original mission church at West Heath in Kings Norton was built in 1900 at a cost of £750. The memorial stone was laid on 11 August and the church was opened by the Bishop of Worcester on 1 December 1900. The builders were James Moffatt & Sons. This building is now used as a hall. A separate parish of West Heath was created from Kings Norton and other parishes in 1966. A new church designed by Harvey and Wicks (H.M. Wright, project architect) was opened alongside the old one in 1975. It was built by C.L. Holding & Sons and consecrated on 4 October 1975.

There is a single bell in a brick belfry in the east wall of the church. The bell is hung from a double steel beam and sounded by an electrically-operated tolling hammer.

Bell **Inscription**

1. 241 / J. TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1900 * / (*border all round*)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1900	18 ¹ / ₈	B flat (1844Hz)	1	1	23

The bell was originally supplied through Smith of Derby as the larger of two clock bells for the sports pavilion clock tower at Apsley Mills, John Dickinson & Co's paper mill near Hemel Hempstead (Herts) in 1900. Taylors bought it back in January 1953 when it was no longer required and sold it to West Heath in October 1953, hanging it with a lever clapper. Taylors rehung the bell in its present position in March 1975 at a cost of £255.

Visited: CJP 28 July and (ladders) 23 August 1988

The Roman Catholic mission at West Heath was established in 1956. An octagonal church with an open belfry over one of the wings was built in 1962-4 to the designs of E. Bower Norris of Sandy and Norris (Stafford), architects. The church was opened in April 1964 and consecrated in 1972.

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>
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1. 182 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH *
Waist: ANNO DOMINI 1963
Soundbow: (seven crosses - evenly spaced)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co. 1963	30 ⁵ / ₈	1036	C-17.46	5	2	2

Visited: CJP (binoculars) 23 August 1988 and *ex.inf.* Taylors

WITTON – *see* **ASTON**, All Souls, Witton

The Kynoch Works was an ammunition factory established by George Kynoch (1834-1891) in 1862. Originally called the Lion Works at Witton, the factory grew as Kynoch & Co prospered. Among the developments was the erection of a new office block - apparently with a clock on the main façade - in 1904. After a number of mergers and amalgamations following the end of the Great War, the company eventually became part of the newly-formed Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd in 1926. The Lion Works was renamed the Kynoch Works in 1929 and improvements in the plant - including the erection of a new strip mill - took place in 1930-1932. At about this time, Gents of Leicester supplied a Pul-syn-etic clock system for the works. By 1939 the associated companies within ICI's Metal Group, and especially Kynoch Works, were ready for the outbreak of war. The post-war period saw the factory remain in use for a range of functions as part of the IMI group until 2004 when the Kynoch Works was finally closed and the site sold for redevelopment.

This is a modern multi-purpose church centre of a licensed ecumenical partnership run from Bartley Green. The Anglican congregation shares joint worship with the Methodists in the hall of a nursery school. There is no bell

Church visited: CJP 7 August 1988

The site for a new church at Wylde Green, then in Boldmere parish, was given by Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1907. The church was built in stages from 1907 to the designs of W.H. Bidlake, the first portion of the church being consecrated on 11 December 1909. The nave was built first, with the apsidal chancel following in 1926. The proposed central tower was never built. Wylde Green became a separate parish in 1923.

There is a brick bellcote with a single bell hung for swinging chiming. A faculty for the erection of "a bell turret at the south east end of the church above the vestry to contain a new bell of three hundredweights" was issued on 4 June 1954. The bell is inaccessible, but the Whitechapel foundry records indicate that it was supplied in 1954. It was invoiced on 12 October 1954, being described as "24 inch bell. Steel stock, clapper & staple, Gunmetal

bearings, lever and rope, delivered at church £115.12s." There was an extra charge of £4.7.6. "for special extension to headstock and further bearing".

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Mears & Stainbank, 1954	23 $\frac{5}{8}$	F sharp	3	0	0*

There is no inscription on the side of the bell that is visible from below. The bell is fitted with fabricated steel stock, plain bearings and an iron chiming lever fixed to the end of the gudgeon extended through the masonry on the west side of the turret.

Visited: CJP (binoculars) 15 May 1988

WYTHALL – St.Mary

There was a chapel here in mediaeval times. The area was in the parish of Bromsgrove, which then included Kings Norton and Wythall. The old building fell into decay and the roof was reported to be "out of repair" in 1737. It was rebuilt in 1777 as a small brick church with a tiled roof and a wooden bell turret at the west end. Funds for this were raised by brief in 1774. Writing of this building on 2 August 1826 Dr. Prattinton noted "There is only one small bell with WG MB 1689". This bell is described below

Wythall became a separate parish in 1853 when a district was assigned from Kings Norton (itself given parish status in 1846) and parts of other adjacent parishes.

A new church was built in 1860-62 and consecrated on 11 August 1862. The architect was Frederick Preedy and the builder was Isaac Clulee of Kings Norton. Preedy's intended central tower was never built, and the existing tower was completed in 1907-8 to the designs of W.H. Bidlake. The cost of this improvement was borne by the Misses Mynors as a memorial to their parents. Faculties for the tower and for a set of eight tubular bells were granted on 18 March and 14 September 1908 respectively, and the tower and bells were dedicated on 24 October 1908.

The tower has a saddleback roof with a central fleche and tall open belfry windows. The tubular bells (now removed) were hung in the open belfry stage of the tower. They were in the key of C natural and the longest bell was 91 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long. The lengths of the others were 60 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", 62", 66 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 83". Each bell had its number and note stamped on it (e.g. 7 D) and "HARRINGTONS PATENT / TUBULAR BELLS". They were hung in a tall wooden frame in two rows of four, with bells 1,3,5,7 on one side and 2,4,6,8 on the other. They were struck by hammers and played from a manual in a lower floor in the tower.

There was also a disused bell in the vestry. Before it was taken down, it hung in a wooden frame in the belfry (alongside the tubular bells) with ringing fittings supplied in 1908 by James Barwell. The fittings included a wooden stock, plate gudgeons, plain bearings in iron housings, wheel, stay and slider. The bell is thought to have come originally from Kings Norton (*q.v.*) and to have been given to Wythall (a daughter church) in 1889. However, as noted above, it is clear from Prattinton's notes that the bell was already at Wythall by 1826. Moreover, it is too small to have belonged to the former Bagley ring at Kings Norton. So if it came from Kings Norton at all then it can only have been a separate chiming bell there, rather than one of the ring. Perhaps the "W C" in the inscription refers to Wythall chapel, in which case it is the chapel bell. It was cast with four canons instead of six.

Bell *Inscription*

1. W (*arabesque border*) C (*border*) M (*border*) B (*border*) 1689 (*border*)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Mouldings	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Matthew Bagley, 1689	22 $\frac{7}{8}$	3:1-2:3:2	2	2	0*

At the time of my visit in 1988 the church had been closed owing to fears for the safety of the building. It was formally declared redundant in 1992 and afterwards sold to a property company in 1998 for redevelopment. In 2001-2 the church was finally repaired and

converted into offices after many years of neglect. The tubular bells have been removed and in August 2000 the Bagley bell was taken to Kings Norton church, where it was on display in the base of the tower. More recently, however, it has been returned to Wythall to be displayed in the converted church

Visited: CJP 10 September 1988 and (at Kings Norton) 11 July 2009: Thanks to Ray Aldington

YARDLEY, All Saints – see STECHFORD, All Saints

YARDLEY – Cemetery and Crematorium, South Yardley

Yardley Cemetery was opened in 1883 by the Burial Board for the Parish of Yardley, and taken over from Yardley Rural District Council by Birmingham City Council on the extension of the City in 1911.

The cost of laying out the cemetery and erecting the necessary buildings in 1883 was £8000. This included a chapel. The Church of England section of the cemetery was consecrated on 30 October 1883. A second chapel was built in 1934 to the designs of J.A. Swan of Birmingham.

The Crematorium was opened in 1952 by the Birmingham City Council and is situated in the grounds of the original Yardley Cemetery. The Crematorium buildings were erected in 1952. There is no bell.

Not visited

YARDLEY – St.Edburgha (Parish Church)

The parish of Yardley was originally in Worcestershire until it became part of the City of Birmingham in 1911. The mediaeval church is situated in what remains of the old village, engulfed in the inter-war years by the spread of suburban residential development. Yardley is an ancient settlement and the earliest parts of the church date from the thirteenth century. The building was enlarged in the fourteenth century and the west tower and spire were added in the fifteenth century.

The church was repaired in 1850 and repewed with other internal improvements under Yeoville Thomason in 1860. The spire – previously repaired in 1776 and again by John Cheshire in 1822 - was restored in 1889 at a cost of £600, and the Victorian improvements to the building were completed in 1892-3 when the west end of the church was opened out, a new vestry and organ chamber built, and stained glass placed in the west window by Hardman under the supervision of J.A. Chatwin. The bells were rehung and a new clock placed in the tower at about the same time.

The present bells

The tower now contains a ring of eight bells in the key of F sharp (733.5Hz or F# minus 15.25 cents)

Bell	Inscription
1. 298	JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1950 * <i>Waist:</i> IN MEMORY OF / THOMAS E. HUGHES / OBIIT 1949
2. 210	JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH * 1950 * <i>Waist:</i> PRESENTED BY / PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF / THE YARDLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
3. 245	BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM <i>Waist:</i> THE GIFT OF THE PARISHIONERS IN / COMMEMORATION OF THE CORONATION OF / KING EDWARD THE SEVENTH JUNE 26 1902 <i>Opposite:</i> (Taylor's circular mark) / RECAST 1950
4. 213	(arabesque border all round) / (Brasyer shield) THE (border) REQUEST (border) OF (border) AYLMER (border) FOLLIOTT (border) ESQVIRE (border) 1638 (border) / (border all round) <i>Waist:</i> (Taylor's circular mark) / RECAST 1950

5. 237 / + ALL (*vine border*) PRAISE (*border*) AND (*border*) GLORI (*border*) BEE (*border*) TO (*border*) GOD (*border*) FOR (*border*) EVER (*border*) 1653 (*border*) / I (*border*) A (*John Martin's heart mark*) (*shield*)
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1950
6. 153 / RICHARD (*border*) WHITVS (*border*) GEORGE (*border*) BISSELL (*border*) CHVRCHWARDENS (*border*) WILLIAM BAGLY MADE MEE 1691
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1950
7. 201 / (*Brasyer shield*) IHS:NAZARENVS (*acorn border*) REX.IVDEORVM (*border*) FILI:DEI (*border*) MISERERE:MEI: (*border*) 1638 (*border*) / (*arabesque border all round*)
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1950
8. 177 / (*arabesque border all round*) / (*Brasyer shield*) HVMFREY (*arabesque border*) HOBDAY (*border*) AND (*border*) RICHARD (*border*) BISSELL (*border*) CHVRCHWARDENS 1638
Waist: (*Taylor's circular mark*) / RECAST 1950

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1950	25½	1466.5	3	3	7
2.	John Taylor & Co, 1950	26½	1384	4	1	3
3.	John Taylor & Co, 1950	28⅞	1234	4	2	19
4.	John Taylor & Co, 1950	30	1097	5	1	10
5.	John Taylor & Co, 1950	32⅞	979	6	1	11
6.	John Taylor & Co, 1950	33⅞	924	7	0	23
7.	John Taylor & Co, 1950	37	823	9	2	9
8.	John Taylor & Co, 1950	41⅞	733.5	12	2	16

The bells are in a cast iron lowside frame (*Bellframes* type 8.3.A.h, layout 8.3) with standard ringing fittings of 1950, including cast iron stocks, ball bearings and Hastings stays. The weights given here are corrected versions of those normally quoted, in which the weights of the treble was inflated by 20 lbs and those of several other (nos 1, 4, 5 and 8) were each inflated by 10 lbs.

Former bells and history

In 1552 there were "Hangynge in the steple ij belles". One of these was probably by Nicholas Greene, the Worcester bellfounder, whose probate papers of 1541-2 refer to a debt owed by the churchwardens of Yardley, almost certainly for casting a bell for the parish c.1540.

The subsequent history is unclear, but it seems likely that Hugh Watts of Leicester provided a new ring of five bells in 1638. The treble was given by Aylmer Folliott of Blakesley Hall. Three of the old bells were of this date, including those that would have been the treble and tenor of a complete ring. The bells of 1653 (by John Martin of Worcester) and 1691 (by William Bagley) were almost certainly recast – rather than added – at these dates.

The parish records include detailed churchwardens' accounts from 1715 and these give some information on the bells. There are few references to significant repairs, however, apart from the rehangng of the fourth bell by Charles Bingham of Birmingham in 1821 (*see* below where extracts are quoted in connection with his work on the clock at the same time).

Until 1851 the bells were rung from a gallery or ringing platform below the present ringing room or clock chamber. On the walls there was a set of ringers rules written in 1779 by J. Waldron, the Parish Clerk. These were as follows:

1779 J. WALDRON P.C.

If that to ring you do come here,
You must observe both hand and ear:
Keep stroke and time and go not out
Unless you forfeit without a doubt.
If that you ring with spur or hat

A jug of beer must pay for that.
 If that a bell you overthrow,
 Fourpence you pay before you go.
 Ours laws are so concluded here;
 For every fault a jug of beer.

The original five bells were rehung in 1891-2 by Henry Bisseker of Birmingham (the successor to William Blews & Sons) at a cost of £80. In the same year a new clock was installed for £87.10s. by William Leeson & Son of Coleshill. A sixth bell was added in 1902 to make a ring of six. It was cast and hung by James Barwell of Birmingham.

The inscriptions of the old bells have been reproduced exactly on the new bells. They were as follows:

Bell	Inscription
1.	BARWELL FOUNDER BIRMINGHAM <i>Waist:</i> THE GIFT OF THE PARISHIONERS IN / COMMEMORATION OF THE CORONATION OF / KING EDWARD THE SEVENTH JUNE 26 1902 / (<i>Barwell mark</i>)
2.	(<i>arabesque border all round</i>) / (<i>Brasyer shield</i>) THE (<i>border</i>) REQVEST (<i>border</i>) OF (<i>border</i>) AYLMER (<i>border</i>) FOLLIOTT (<i>border</i>) ESQVIRE (<i>border</i>) 1638 (<i>border</i>) / (<i>border all round</i>)
3.	+ ALL (<i>vine border</i>) PRAISE (<i>border</i>) AND (<i>border</i>) GLORI (<i>border</i>) BEE (<i>border</i>) TO (<i>border</i>) GOD (<i>border</i>) FOR (<i>border</i>) EVER (<i>border</i>) 1653 (<i>border</i>) / I (<i>border</i>) A (<i>John Martin's heart mark</i>) (<i>shield</i>)
4.	RICHARD (<i>border</i>) WHITVS (<i>border</i>) GEORGE (<i>border</i>) BISSELL (<i>border</i>) CHVRCHWARDENS (<i>border</i>) WILLIAM BAGLY MADE MEE 1691
5.	(<i>Brasyer shield</i>) IHS:NAZARENVS (<i>acorn border</i>) REX.IVDEORVM (<i>border</i>) FILI:DEI (<i>border</i>) MISERERE:MEI: (<i>border</i>) 1638 (<i>border</i>) / (<i>arabesque border all round</i>)
6.	(<i>arabesque border all round</i>) / (<i>Brasyer shield</i>) HVMFREY (<i>arabesque border</i>) HOBDAY (<i>border</i>) AND (<i>border</i>) RICHARD (<i>border</i>) BISSELL (<i>border</i>) CHVRCHWARDENS 1638

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Hz	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	James Barwell, 1902	29 $\frac{1}{8}$	1215	4	3	10
2.	Hugh Watts II, 1638	29 $\frac{7}{8}$	1104	5	1	21
3.	John Martin, 1653	32	991	6	0	1
4.	William Bagley, 1691	34 $\frac{7}{8}$	940	6	2	12
5.	Hugh Watts II, 1638	35 $\frac{5}{8}$	820	8	2	0
6.	Hugh Watts II, 1638	40	728	12	1	19

These are the nett weights of the bells as received at Loughborough on 20 March 1950. The bells were in the key of F sharp (728hz = F sharp minus 28.28 cents).

According to Taylors, the bells were hung in a five-bell frame – probably of 1638 – with four parallel pits east-west and one transverse pit north-south on the west side of the tower. This arrangement is also shown in drawings made by a student architect at the Birmingham School of Architecture in 1947 which also shows that the frame was of king-posted construction with long heads, diagonal braces and jack-braces (like *Bellframes* 5.C but with straight braces, jack braces and corner posts). An extra pit had been inserted for the treble in 1902. This stood on the heads of the old frame at the north end of the tenor pit and it had a paid Barwell composite trusses The fittings of the five largest bells were older than those of the treble. The treble had a flat head, and the single canons had been removed from the other bells. The fifth and tenor bells had been skirted.

In May 1949 ringing at Yardley was stopped "owing to ravages of death-watch beetle". A faculty for removing bells and bellframe, re-tuning and rehunging the bells, and repairing damage to spire caused by erosion was issued on 10 December 1949. The bells and frame were dismantled by local ringers, and in the *Ringling World* of 17 February 1950 it was announced that they were to be recast and rehung in a new frame with two trebles to

make eight. The work was carried out by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough and the new bells were dedicated on 9 September 1950.

Clock

There has been a clock here for over three centuries, the clock dial on the south face of the tower being shown in early illustrations of the church. A clock is mentioned in the accounts from 1715, and the earliest surviving records indicate that it was a striking clock with at least one dial. Later volumes record repairs and improvements. In 1736-7 the parish spent money in "going to speak to Hadley to clean the Clock and about the Dyal". By 1796-7 John Luckman was looking after clock and in 1804 it was repaired by Mr. Wells. In 1805 the churchwardens paid "John Sheldon's bill for a new hand for the clock £2.2.0., for repairing the old one and a new bush to the dial 5s", the total cost being £2.7.0. At the same time John Brooks was paid "for painting and gilding the clock dials with hands, mouldings &c £11.5.0."

In 1821 Charles Bingham of Birmingham was paid £16 for "repairing the Church Clock, making new minute fingers to the South and North Dials, rehanging the 4th Bell &c". In the following year his son Thomas received over £20 for repairing the clock and in 1823 he was paid £3 for "fitting new wheel to the Church Clock repairing cleaning and regulating same". From that date he received a quarterly salary for the upkeep of the clock.

The present clock mechanism stands on a platform on the north side of the ringing room. It is a flatbed movement with a cast iron frame inscribed "Leeson & Son / Makers / Coleshill / Birmingham / England". The setting dial is engraved with "Erected / 1892". Although the frame is made for three trains, only the going train and hour-strike trains are fitted. The clock drives two 6ft skeleton dials on the north and south sides of the tower. It has a double-three-legged escapement. A plate fitted to the frame records "Electric winding by / Wm Potts & Sons Ltd. / Leeds / 1975", a motor-drive being fitted to the striking train at the same time.

In 2000 Richard Blackwall of English Clockmakers, Derby, overhauled the clock and put in a new auto-wind unit to replace the one installed in 1975.

Visited: CJP 7 October 1989

YARDLEY – St.Michael & All Angels, Rowlands Road, South Yardley

A mission church was opened here in 1912. It was served from Yardley, from which a separate parish was created in 1956. The building - with its roof extended over the porch to form a bellcote - is now used as a church hall, having been enlarged in 1930. A new church was built alongside in 1964-6 to a design by Denys Hinton & Associates. J.R. Deacon Ltd. were the contractors and the cost of the building was £35,190. The church was consecrated on 7 May 1966.

There is a small bell in a simple wooden frame over the flat roof of the link between the two buildings. It is hung with swing-chiming fittings, including a wrought iron bar stock (one end extended through the wall into the vestry), plain bearings, chiming lever and clapper. The bell is 13¾ inches in diameter, note B, and weighing about ½ cwt. It has an argent of the type used by Charles Carr of Smethwick, who probably cast it in 1912.

In January 2003 the parish obtained a second-hand bell through the Keltek Trust. This bell - a former Trinity House buoy-bell - is to be hung for chiming. It has a button head. Details are as follows:

Bell

Inscription

1. 267 692 / [*Blank*]
Waist: TRINITY HOUSE, LONDON
Opposite: 19 (*Taylor's rectangular mark*) 77

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co, 1977	23½	F (1403.5Hz)	3	0	3

Visited: CJP 28 August 1988, DLC 18 May 2003 and CJP (ladder) 27 February 2004:
Information on the new bell from Matthew Smith (Eayre & Smith), 23 May 2003

YARDLEY – see also ACOCK’S GREEN, St.Mary the Virgin; HALL GREEN, The Ascension; HAY MILL, St.Chad; HAY MILL, St.Cyprian; YARDLEY WOOD, Christ Church

YARDLEY WOOD – Christ Church, School Road

This church was built in 1848-9 to serve a new district formed in 1849 from the parishes of Yardley and Kings Norton. The cost was chiefly borne John Taylor Esq., of Moor Green Hall, whose sister Miss Sarah Taylor endowed the benefice. The foundation stone was laid in April 1848 and the church, designed in the Early English style by A.E. Perkins, was consecrated on 28 March 1849.

The church has a stone turret and spirelet over the west end of the nave with a clock and bell. The turret is only accessible from the ridge of the nave roof. The bell was inspected in 2002 by representatives from the firm of J.B. Joyce & Co of Whitchurch who reported that the bell is of standard design without markings or decorations and that it does not have a bellfounder's name or date on it.

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	Unknown	21½	2	1	0*

The bell is hung for tolling and also used as a clock bell.

According to local sources the church clock and bell were completed in 1896, and this is confirmed by John Smith & Sons of Derby whose records show that the work was invoiced for £77.10.0. on 20 July 1896. As well as providing the clock (costing £65) Smiths also provided a new bell in exchange for the old one (at an extra cost of £12.10.0). The original clock movement was removed some years ago leaving only the three cast iron dials. As part of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations in 1999, the clock was reinstated. The work was done by Joyce of Whitchurch who replaced the original dials and fitted three separate synchronous movements with an auto restart unit and an electro-magnetic hammer for the bell.

Church visited: CJP 7 and 10 October 1989; Bell inspected by Keith Cotton (J.B. Joyce & Co of Whitchurch), October 2002

YARDLEY WOOD – Our Lady of Lourdes (R.C.), Trittiford Road

This mission was established in 1931 and from 1935 mass was celebrated in a temporary church in a school hall. The present church was built in 1965-6 to a design by Harrison and Cox. It has a single bell hung for swing chiming with balanced fittings.

Bell **Inscription**

1. 232 / JOHN TAYLOR & CO. * FOUNDERS * LOUGHBOROUGH *
Waist: (Taylors' circular mark) / A.M.D.G. / SANCTUS BELL / CHURCH OF / OUR
 LADY OF LOURDES / BIRMINGHAM. 14. / REV. DENIS MURPHY P.P. / 1965
Soundbow: (seven crosses – spaced evenly)

Bell	Founder and date	Diameter	Nominal	Note	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1.	John Taylor & Co. 1965	37 ⁵ / ₈	822	G#-18.04	9	2	18

Not visited: *Ex.inf.* Taylors

YARDLEY WOOD – *see also* BILLESLEY COMMON, Holy Cross