

MONKS KIRBY

Notes on the bells of St. Edith's church, and selected extracts from the Churchwardens' accounts relating to the clock and bells etc.

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The accompanying notes are supplied by the compiler for the use of interested persons, and it is requested that suitable acknowledgement be made if extracts or quotations are used in any published work

MONKS KIRBY

St. Edith

The western tower of this church houses a ring of eight bells in the key of D natural, of which the tenor bell has a diameter of 52 1/2 inches.

Bell	Inscription	Cwt.	Qrs.	lbs.
1.	164 / (Floral border all round) On waist: 19 (Taylor's circular trade mark) 21	6	0	20
2.	133 / (Floral border all round) On waist: 19 (Taylor's circular trade mark) 21	7	3	0
3.	(Cable moulding all round) / (Floral border) (Fleur de lys) SOLI DEO .. SOLA GLORIA (Stop) (Floral border) (Shield) (Stop) (Shield) (Fleur de lys) 1640 / (Stop) MY NOBLE FOVNDERS THEY HAVE BENE SO MANY BECAVSE NOT AL I WILL NOT HERE (Fleur de lys) NAME ANY (Fleur de lys)	8	0	17
4.	IOSEPH (Coin) SMITH (Coin) IN (Coin) EDGBASTON (Coin) MADE (Coin) MEE (Coin) 1711 (Floral border) / (Floral border all round)	9	0	23
5.	+ E C C E (Stop) A G N V S (Stop) C I I (Stop) E T P V R C (Stop) P R O F E T A	12	3	10
6.	(Brasyer shield) IH ² :NAZARENVS (Acorn border) : REX IVDEORVM (Acorn border) : FILI:DEI (Acorn border) : MISERERE:MEI: (Acorn border) 1623	16	0	16
7.	OMNIA FIANT . AD GLORIAM DEI : ... (Three crowns) GLORIA PATRI FILIO ET SPIRITUI SANCTO : . / (Arabesque border all round)	19	2	17
8.	(Brasyer shield) IH ² :NAZARENVS (Acorn border) : REX IVDEORVM	24	2	7
9.	(Acorn border) FILI:DEI:MISERERE (Acorn border) .MEI: (Acorn border) 1618 (Acord border) / (Three groups of three coins on soundbow)			

The two treble bells were added to the ring in 1921, and are the work of John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough. The present third bell which cast in 1640, and in accordance with his declared intention of not naming any of the founders of the bell, the founder omitted to place his own name upon the bell. However, it is clear from the lettering and ornamental borders that the bell was cast by Henry Hagley I of Chacombe. The fourth bell is an example of the work of Joseph Smith of Edgbaston and was cast in 1711. Like most of Smith's bells, it is an excellent casting and its tone is very rich and clear. The fifth bell was probably cast at Worcester in the late fourteenth century. It bears the initial cross normally associated with the 'Royal Head' group of bells, but the lettering is not found elsewhere. The stop is a reversed S in a rectangular mount, and the lettering is of large gothic capitals, though the T is of Roman type. The sixth and tenor bells were both cast by Hugh Watts of Leicester in 1623 and 1618 respectively, and are among the largest bells cast by the founder to have survived. The tone of both bells is good, but the sixth is an excellent bell. The seventh bell was recast by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester in 1707, but it required to be recast again in 1741 when the work was carried out by Thomas Eayre of Kettering. It is a clumsy casting of rather mediocre tone. The canons have been removed from all the old bells, and the two twentieth century bells were cast without canons. Walters noted that the canons of the fifth bell had been removed, and it is likely that this was done in 1795 when the bells were rehung with new fittings by John Over of Rugby. The six largest bells have been quarter turned.

The bells hang in a cast iron lowside frame which was installed by John Taylor & Co. in 1921. The same firm also supplied the fittings which consist of Cast Iron Headstocks, Fixed Steel Gudgeons, Self Aligning Ball Bearings, Traditional type wheels, Hastings stay units and an Ellacombe Chiming apparatus.

Visited. C.J.P., 9.ii. 1976.

MONKS KIRBY, Churchwardens accounts.

If not the oldest churchwardens account series in the county, these can claim to be amongst the most interesting to have survived. The earliest extant volume begins in 1673 and the accounts are thereafter complete, in three volumes, from 1898. In addition, several contracts for work at the church were entered into the account books, and the recording of work done is also remarkably complete. The volumes are held at the W.R.O at DR. 155 and are as follows DR. 155/22
Churchwardens Accounts 1673-1757, 23. 1758-1838 24. 1838-1898.

1674.	It. paid to Smith of Catthorpe for six bell ropes	01	00	00
	It. for mending the second bell tackle & other work	00	01	00
	It. for two new roals for the fiveth & sixth bells	00	01	00
	It. for one days work on Christmas Eve and to set the bels in order	00	00	06
1684	Item for mending the second Bell twice work wood & nails	00	01	06
	Item for mending the great Bell the Irons being looss and the Guggins I was forced to take it up to doe it	00	01	06
	Item for 2 ferrells & a key that was last of the second Bell	00	00	03
	Item for a Cotter for the fifth Bell A Stare for ye Belfry Staires	00	00	09
	Item 5 dayes work me & my sonn the great bBell being taken up the Guggings being taken out and made round, & the second Bell being made new & the little Bell Guggings being taken out and made round & I did pay a Shilling to them that did helpe to draw them up and let them downe, if you had been there it would have cost you 5d to the helpers	00	08	06
	It for mending the 4th bell weel one day worke me & sonne worke wood nales	00	03	00

1687	Ite for making 2 Guggings GO and for rounding 4 more It paid for a new clock	0 7	02 0	09 0
1689	memorand.- ... we doe hereby declare that for ye Future we shall not think fit to allow any mony given by ye Churchwardens ... for ringing but upon publicke days allowed by Act of Parliament or approved by ye parish !			
1690	It paid for 6 bell matts	0	10	0
1693	paid for 3 Ropes for ye biggest belles	00	11	0
1704	It : To Tho : Baggott for 6 new Bell-Matts making	00	09	6
1706	Item paid to Tho: Baggott for 6 new mats for ye bells	0	9	0
1707	It spent with ye Bellfounder of Eassone about setten ye bell It spent at Robert Goodmans when wee set the Bell It paid for casting the 5th Bell It spent when wee paid the bellfounder It given to the workemen at Gloster It paid for 3 post letters from Gloster It for carying the bell to Stratford and fetching it agan It Spent when wee tooke ye bell down and hung it up againe It for seeing the Bell wayed before and after Casting at Gloster	0 0 2 0 0 0 2 0 0	2 5 7 3 2 2 0 2 16	6 0 10 0 6 4 0 0 0

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1710	Ite Spent when the parish met about Casting the Bell It paid to Mr. Towers for wrighting the contract with ye Founder	0 0	05 00	00 06
1711	Ite Spent a bout meeting ye belfounder & paing of him It paid & Spent about ye chargis of ye bell waing Item Paid to Will Genaway for Carreying ye Bell Paid to ye Bellfounder in Part	00 00 1 4	02 03 10 8	0 0 0 0
1712	It. Pd: for two Bell-Brasses & hanging	0	18	2
1729	Spent att Takeinge up ye Great Bell when ye Gudgeing broke	00	06	00
1733	Spent upon ye Workemen & founder & men to take up ye bells	00	03	06
1741	Spent at a Parish meeting agreeing with ye: Bellfounder Paid Mr. Earyes for casting for the 5 th . Bell Paid for carriage of the 5 th . Bell to and from Kettering Paid for writing the Article between the Bellfounder and the Parish and several Letters Paid Mr Earyes's Charge & his man's whilst he chipt the 2d. Bell Gave the Bellfounder's Man for work at the other Bells Paid the Ringers for ring... to try the bell Gave Geo: Smith for going to Kettering Spent with the Bellfounder and the parish when we met to See and hear the Bell at four nights Expences Spent when we met about the Bell	0 25 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	17 16 0 1 14 2 3 4 14 5	0 0 0 6 0 0 6 0 2 0

	Spent on the Towns Acct. about the Bells	0	2	0
	Spent with the Bellfounders Man	0	1	0
1742	Gave the Workmen for taking up the Bell	3	0	0
	Gave ye Workmen for laying down the Bell	0	3	0
1746	Gave the Ringers on the Thanksgiving Day, for the Victory obtained over the Rebels by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, at the ever memorable Battle of Culloden in the Highlands of Scotland	0	5	0
1751	For taking up the 3d. Bell and fastning ye gugin for the iron work	0	5	0
	Making a stay for ye Great Bell	0	3	0
	Mending ye wheels and fastning the frame and ye Bares of little Bell		2	0
	For a puley wheel		1	0
1753	Paid the Clerk and Sexton cleaning the Bell Floors	0	6	0
1757	Paid the Sexton for cleaning the Walk & burying a Skeleton that was found on the Butts	0	1	6

(At the back of this volume there is the agreement between Thomas Eayre of Kettering and the parish for recasting the fifth bell in 1741. It is as follows:

Know all whom it may Concern, That it is Covenanted and agreed, Between Thomas Eayre of Kettering in Com, Northn. of one part, And the Churchwardens of Monks: Kirby or their Successors, for the Time Being of the other part; That the said Thomas Ayres, or his Heirs Executors Administrators or Assigns, Shall and will Cast, prepare, and Deliver to the said Churchwardens or their Successors, a New Bell at or before the feast of the Nativity of our Blessed Lord next ensuing the Date hereof, and upon the Receipt of an Old Bell which is to be delivered to him, Shall cast it well & tueably and tuneable, according to the Rules of Musick when Rang with the rest of the Bells in the place of a fifth Bell, And shall demand no more than twenty Shillings a Hundred Weight for casting the same (be the same more or less) And it is also further Covenanted and agreed that if they the said Churchwardens, can & do produce by fair & lawful Methods, any person professing the Art of Bellfounding, who has or will do it at less Rate by the Hundred weight then shall he submit to such payment but casting the said Bell and further, if when it is delivered it is not according as above specified, then shall the said Church=Wardens or their Successors Chuse two Skillful Men, & the said Thomas Ayres one, by whom all Differences relateing to it shall be decided. And also the said Churchwardens do bind themselves and their successors to make full payment according to the weight at Easter next ensuing, which will be in the year 1742. In witness whereof either parties have mutually before witnesses set their Hands this 29th: of October 1741. And further it is agreed to allow the said Tho: Ayres One shilling for every pound of Metal he shall add to it, And the sd. Tho : Ayres to uphold the Bell good for twelve months after the fixing it up.

Witness
(3 names)

Tho : Eayre
John Downing)
William Binley) Ch.

(At the front of the second volume there is a receipt from John Over of Rugby for £50 paid to him for rehanging the bells in 1795:

March 29 1795

Rece'd of the Churchwardens of the Parish of Monks

Kirby the Sum of Fifty Pounds for New Hanging
the Bells at the Parish Church According to Agreement

1795	Paid Mr Over for New Hanging the Bells &c	50	0	0
	Paid Carrage of Bells Wheels &c	1	1	0
1796	Paid Clockman for shifting the Clock hammer	0	1	0
	Paid Ringers at a Meeting when the Bells were Opned	0	2	0
1796-7	Paid John Over 1 Years Sallary for Keeping the Bells & Ropes in repair (This item occurs annually until 1814)	2	0	0
1799-1800	Paid Saml. Jones for 6 Matts for the Bellropes to fall on	0	10	6
1803-4	Paid John Over for Paint Oil & Turpentine for Bell Wheels	0	12	0
1804-5	Paid Valantine Hanbury for a New Church Clock	50	0	0
1813-14	Overs Salary 2. 0. 0 and one pound as a present on his promising to fulfil the agreement made with his late Brother, and the parish	3	-	-
1814-15	Agreed with Mr. Over to keep the Bells & Ropes and weels in Repare for 10 years at £2 per year and Paid £2 Down Wm. Over (This sum was paid in 1815-16, but not thereafter)	2	0	0
1822-3	Paid Over for Repairing Bells	2	18	-
1823-4	Paid Cort and Co. for New Iron Gates	8	8	-
1847-8	Astley & Co for Bell-rope &c		13	-