

The bells of All Saints, North Moreton

Statement of Significance

The current ring of six bells comprises bells cast at various dates in history from circa 1350 to 2014. As such they form a well-tuned and fine toned, medium weight peal. The original five bells are mounted in an early model cast metal frame by Alfred Bowell of Ipswich, Norfolk. No records have yet been found, but it seems highly likely that the bells were rehung around 1905 when the tower was underpinned to secure its stability. This underpinning has proved entirely successful and no tower movement or stability issues have been reported since.

The decision of 1905 to rehang the five bells in a metal frame designed for six showed great vision for the future. Unfortunately it was to take almost 110 years for that vision to be accomplished with the addition of a new treble bell. By the early 2000s, the old five bells had become extremely hard to ring, with a very long ground floor rope draft and worn out bearings and pulleys. Indeed it would not have been very long before the condition of bells would have deteriorated to a point where they would have become silent. The new treble bell was one of the last to be cast by the historic Whitechapel foundry, which is sadly now defunct. The 2014 restoration and augmentation formed part of a significant reordering of the church. The project included the installation of a toilet, kitchen and servery, and the creation of a vestry and oak screen beneath a new elevated ringing gallery, and a new access path. This has transformed the functionality and comfort of the church for worship and community use, is all well used and much appreciated.

The 2014 bell restoration made use of the good metal frame. New wheels, pulleys, bearings, ropes and clappers were provided for all six bells. At the same time, the opportunity was taken to tune the bells so that they are all musically aligned with the oldest two bells (the current fifth and tenor). It was very fortunate that these two ancient bells, which could not be tuned for conservation reasons, are actually very accurately in tune with each other. The result of this work is a very easy going and fine ring of bells, which are rung regularly by an enthusiastic team for weekly worship, practices and other occasions. In addition to the augmentation, a new Sanctus bell was also cast by the Whitechapel foundry and installed to replace the old poor toned bell. This old Lester and Pack Sanctus bell is retained in the tower but is not rung.



Bell Installation November 2022



Alfred Bowell Frame of 1905

The Bells

Treble

Founder: Whitechapel 2014
Monarch: Elizabeth II
Weight: 4 - 1 - 27
Note: E
Inscription:
IN MEMORY OF
MARTIN AUKLAND
1970 – 2004
AND
JAMES AUKLAND
1973 - 1988



Second

Founder: Ellis I Knight 1641
Monarch: Charles I
Weight: 4 - 3 - 19
Note: D
Inscription:
LOVE GOD 1641



Third

Founder: Thomas II Mears 1817
Monarch: George IV
Weight: 4 - 1 - 17
Note: C
Inscription:
T MEARS OF LONDON
FECIT 1817



Fourth

Founder: Richard Keene 1684
Monarch: Charles II
Weight: 6 - 1 - 20
Note: B
Inscription:
RICHARD SLADE AND
FRANCIS LEAVER
C W 1684



Fifth

Founder: Wokingham Foundry c1350
Monarch: Edward III
Weight: 9 - 1 - 7
Note: A
Inscription:
SANCTA MARIA



Tenor

Founder: Joseph Carter 1591
Monarch: Elizabeth I
Weight: 13 - 0 - 18
Note: G
Inscription:
Blessed be the name of the Lorde
Joseph carter 1591



Sanctus (old – retained)

Founder: Lester & Pack 1757
Monarch: George II
Weight: 0.5 cwt
Note: E
Inscription:
1757



Sanctus (new)

Founder: Whitechapel 2014
Monarch: Elizabeth II
Weight: 0 - 1 - 16
Note: G
Inscription:
LOVED BY MANY
ALICE KATHERINE RUNDALL
25 MARCH 1982



