

## The Bells of St Paul's Church, Woodhouse Eaves

By Evelyn Brown

When St Paul's Church was built in 1837, the bell tower housed only one bell. It was 25 inches (63.5cm) in diameter, bearing the inscription 'THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1837'<sup>1</sup>, showing that it was made by Thomas Mears, master founder at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London.<sup>2</sup> The cost of £35 5s 6d was paid initially by William Railton, architect of St Paul's, who was subsequently reimbursed by the Trustees of the Charnwood Forest Churches.<sup>3</sup> The present-day peal, which was installed in 1904, comprises six bells of which the treble (smallest) rings E and the largest (tenor) rings G.



*Figure 1. The Whitechapel Bell Foundry, 1906.<sup>4</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> T. North, *The Church Bells of Leicestershire: Their Inscriptions, Traditions and Peculiar Uses, with Chapters on Bells and the Leicester Bellfounders* (Leicester: 1876) p.306.

<sup>2</sup> 'Charles and George Mears of Whitechapel Bell Foundry', *Grace's Guide to British Industrial History*, (6<sup>th</sup> September 2016) [[https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Charles\\_and\\_George\\_Mears](https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Charles_and_George_Mears)] [Viewed 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018].

<sup>3</sup> Leicester Record Office: DG9/2163 (24), Receipts re: Woodhouse and Copt Oak churches (1837–1853), William Railton's claim for the purchase of the Thomas Mears's bell.

<sup>4</sup> C. Saumarez-Smith, 'Whitechapel Bell Foundry (3)', (2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017) [<https://charlessaumarezsmith.com/2017/02/02/whitechapel-bell-foundry-3/>] [Viewed 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018].

12. Regent Street.  
23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 1838.

My dear Sir,

I beg leave to enclose the  
Bellfounders Acc. & he having applied to me for  
the amount. Bought of Thomas Mears-

Bell for Capt Cook - 3.3.20 - } £ 50  
including Clapper Stock Wheel } 39.2.0.  
do complete —————

Bell for Woodhouse Lane - 3.1.18. } 35.5.6  
complete as above }  
£ 74.7.6

As Lord Stamford has kindly offered to pay for  
the Bell at Capt Cook the account for that will be.

For the Bell &c ————— £ 39.2.0 -  
Carriage from Leicester, hanging it &c 3.10.6  
£ 42.12.6

Believe me,  
very truly yours,  
Wm Railton

Thos Crossed Edge

Figure 2. William Railton's claim for the purchase of the St Paul's Church bell

## **The Origin of the Six-Bell Peal**

Plans to commemorate the life and reign of the late Queen Victoria by replacing the single bell with six bells, and emplacing a new clock that would chime the quarters as well as the hours, were underway by the summer of 1903. The John Taylor Bell Foundry, which had moved from Oxford to Loughborough in 1839,<sup>5</sup> was approached at the end of June and on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, Edmund Denison Taylor paid a site visit to assess the capability of the St Paul's bell tower to support six bells. Although unable to access the bell chamber, because the manhole was covered over by felt, Mr Taylor reported back favourably to church warden Francis (Frank) Lankester stating that he considered 'the tower well-built and amply strong enough, and to spare, for a nice ring of five or even six bells, total weight 30cwt (1 ½ tons) to ring in full swing, the tenor bell to be say about 10cwt.' However, hedging his bets he added, 'In many cases where the tower is really too weak for swinging bells, we have hung the peal stationary'.<sup>6</sup>

The estimated cost for five bells, at £6 13s per hundredweight, was £199 10s, with a further £120 to cover the framework, carriage and fixing.<sup>7</sup> Mr Taylor also advised Mr Lankester 'I have never heard of a set of tubular bells being satisfactory ... on no account have a set of these'. There is no doubt that the sound would have been inferior.

Over the next year plans for the bells and their installation were modified. It became clear that the St Paul's bell tower was not adequate for a six-bell, 30cwt peal and that alterations would be needed. Discussion between Taylor's and Stockdale Harrison, architect for the bell tower alterations, resulted in a recommendation (21<sup>st</sup> December 1903) for six bells, with the tenor weighing only 8cwt; the revised overall cost was £333. Without the alterations, the bells could be hung for [clock] chiming only, i.e. not ringing, at a reduced cost of £264, and refitted later when the tower was safe.<sup>8</sup> However, on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1904, having received confirmation that the bell tower would be adequately strengthened, Mr Taylor was able to confirm that the peal would have six bells, as 'six have a much brighter and more pleasing

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<sup>5</sup> P. Taylor, 'Two Hundred Years of History', *The Sound of Bells* (13<sup>th</sup> May 2001) [<http://www.hibberts.co.uk/taylhist.htm>] [Viewed 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018].

<sup>6</sup> John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, Archive. Letter Book, JT6/5/1/147, p.147.

<sup>7</sup> John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, Archive. Letter Book, JT6/5/1/147, 29<sup>th</sup> June 1903, p.567.

· The tubular bells of St James's Church, Riddings, Derbyshire, can be heard at 'Riddings Tubular Bells', <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7btMmFC7jA> [29<sup>th</sup> September 2010] [Viewed 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018].

<sup>8</sup> John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, Archive. Letter Book, JT6/5/1/149, 21<sup>st</sup> December 1903, pp.341–142.



effect' than five, and a 10cwt tenor bell 'for the depth of tone and musical quality'. The estimated total weight was now around 36cwt instead of 30cwt.<sup>9</sup>

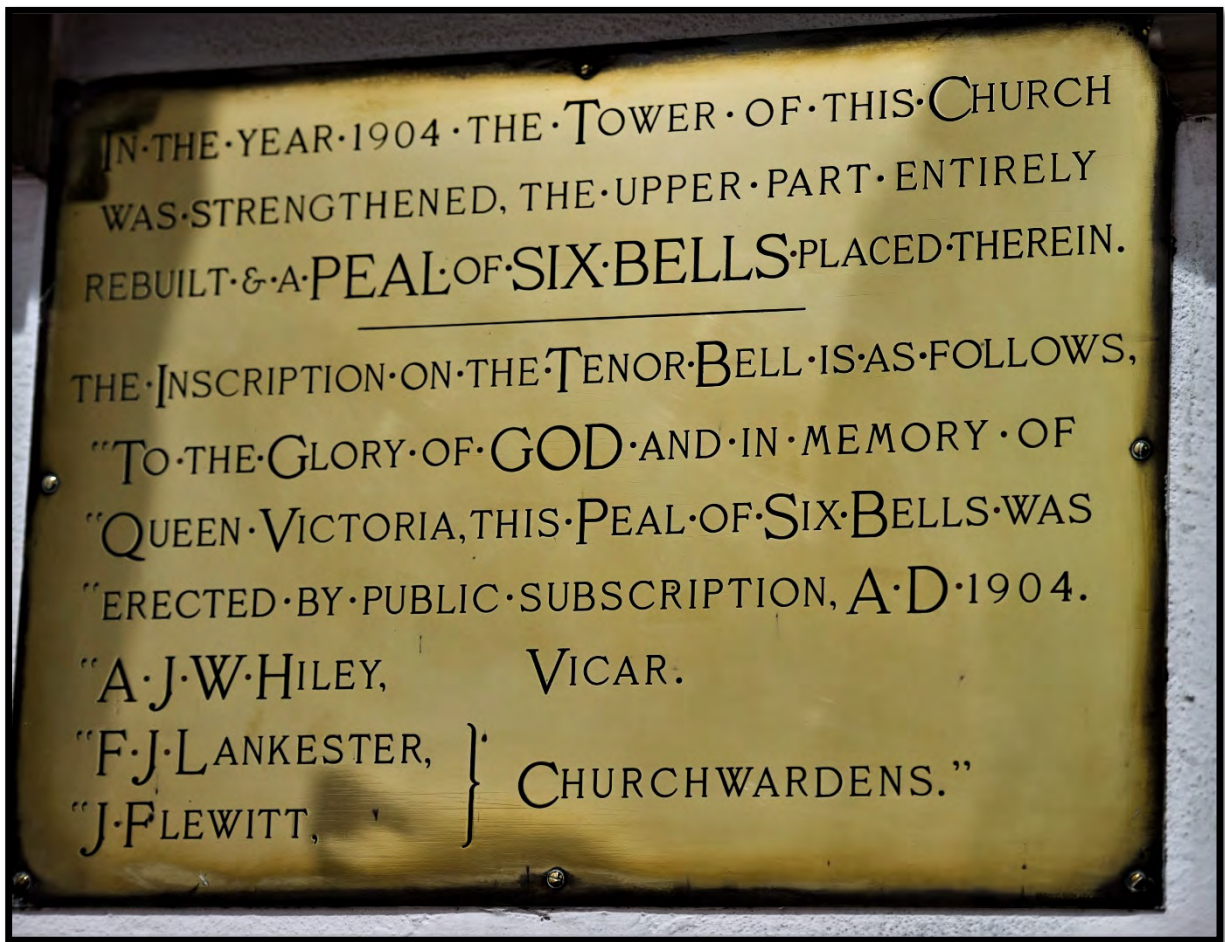
By 4<sup>th</sup> July 1904 work on the new bells was underway and an inscription for the tenor bell had been agreed. On one side it was to acknowledge the occasion for erecting the peal and how the money was raised; on the other were to be the names of the incumbent vicar and church wardens at the time.<sup>10</sup> A plaque commemorating the emplacement of the bells and recording the inscription can be found on the rear wall of the church nave (Figure 4).



*Figure 3. Inscription on one side of the St Paul's tenor bell.*

<sup>9</sup> John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, Archive. Letter Book, JT6/5/150, 28<sup>th</sup> March 1904, p.328.

<sup>10</sup> John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, Archive. Letter Book, JT6/5/1/151, 4<sup>th</sup> July 1904, p.325.



*Figure 4. Commemorative plaque in the nave.*

Mr Lankester was invited to attend the casting on the afternoon of Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1904;<sup>11</sup> however, the casting was deferred until the following Monday ‘after 5 o’clock’, as this seems to have been more convenient for the Vicar,<sup>12</sup> who may have wanted to take advantage of the custom of blessing the bell as it was cast.<sup>13</sup> Whether the bell received its blessing is not known because Mr Lankester requested a further day’s delay, which Taylor’s declined to grant.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>11</sup> John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, Archive. Letter Book, JT6/5/1/151, 18<sup>th</sup> July 1904, p.461.

<sup>12</sup> John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, Archive. Letter Book, JT6/5/1/151, 20<sup>th</sup> July 1904, p.483.

<sup>13</sup> Personal communication, George Dawson, Archivist, John Taylor Bell Foundry, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

<sup>14</sup> John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, Archive. Letter Book, JT6/5/1/151, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1904, p.508.



## The Process of Bell-Casting at the John Taylor Bell Foundry<sup>15</sup>

When the St Paul's bells were cast at the John Taylor's Bell Foundry in 1904, the process used would have been basically the same as had been used for centuries, and which is still used today.



*Figure 5. The John Taylor foundry building, built 1876.*



*Figure 6. Heating the bronze in the furnace.*

Church bells are cast in bronze, an alloy comprising approximately 80% copper and 20% tin. This is the metal with the best resonance, allowing the bell to vibrate for a long period of time after being struck.

<sup>15</sup> Personal communication, George Dawson, op.cit.



*Figure 7. Pouring molten bronze into the ladle.*

The bronze is heated in a furnace for several hours until it reaches about 1,100 °C (Figure 6). The molten metal is then poured into a tub known as a ladle (Figure 7), and a willow-wood pole is inserted to help dissipate any oxygen dissolved in the melt. Solid impurities floating on the surface (dross) are skimmed off (Figure 8). Finally, the molten bronze is poured into the moulds (Figure 9). As the metal is poured into the moulds, and for up to half an hour

after pouring is finished, the filling box is stirred gently to ensure that the metal does not solidify in the box before it has all drained into to the mould (Figure 10). The moulds are buried up to their necks in sand to allow the metal to cool slowly over a period of four to five days (Figure 11).



*Figure 8. Skimming off the dross.*



*Figure 9. Pouring the bronze into the mould*



*Figure 10. Stirring the molten to prevent premature solidification*

*Figure 11. A mould, buried in sand*

## The Mould



*Figure 12(a). The outer casing of a bell mould.*

The outer casing of the mould is made of cast iron (Figure 12(a)). This is lined internally with sandstone blocks, which provide thermal insulation, and then plastered with a thick paste of loam and horse manure (Figure 12(b)). A thin metal silhouette of the bell,



*Figure 12(b). Lining the inside of the casing.*

called a strickle (Figure 13), is inserted and worked round the inside of the mould to ensure that the surface is smooth. A bell-

shaped plug, also made of loam (Figure 14), is placed into the bell

casing to form the inner mould, and the whole structure is kiln-dried slowly at 150 °C.



*Figure 13. Metal silhouette of a bell (strickle).*

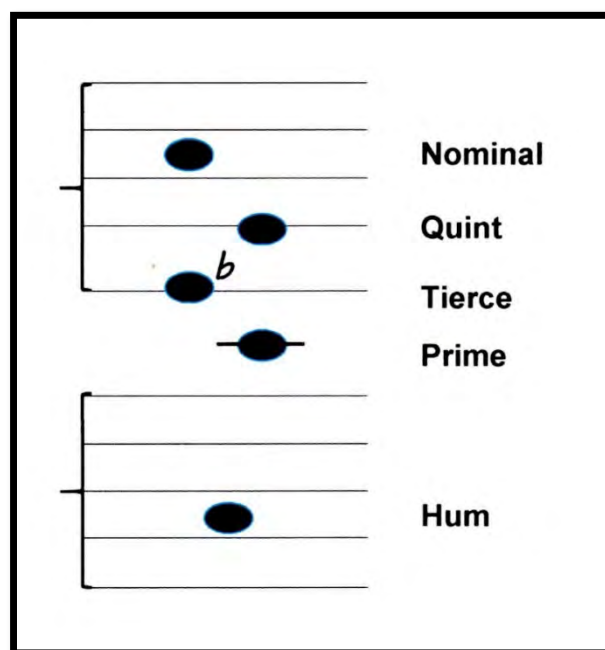


*Figure 14. The inner mould (courtesy of the John Taylor Bell Foundry).*

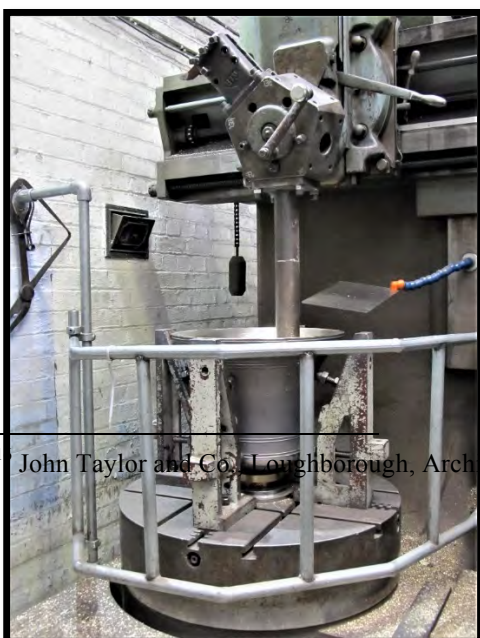
## Tuning the Bells



In 1896 it was Taylor's who first recognised that when a bell is struck, five notes (harmonics) can be heard, two octaves in span, not just a single note as was thought traditionally: the *hum*, the *prime* or fundamental (one octave above the hum), the *tierce* a minor third above the prime, the *quint* a perfect fifth above the prime, and the *nominal* an octave above the prime (Figure 15). Each harmonic is located in a different part of the bell, with the highest frequency at the rim of the bell, where the metal is thickest. The bell is only in tune with itself when the correct frequency of vibration is in tune with itself. This was what Mr Taylor promised for the St Paul's bells: 'in perfect tune with true harmonics'.<sup>16</sup>



*Figure 15: Example of the five harmonics in a C-minor chord)*



Bells are cast thicker than required, and so in order to achieve perfect tuning the thickness of the bell has to be reduced by shaving the relevant parts of the interior by slow degrees. Individual tuning forks are calibrated to each harmonic and will only resonate when the appropriate bell thickness, and so correct frequency of note, has been achieved. When

<sup>16</sup> John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, Archive. Letter Book, JT6/5/1/149, 21<sup>st</sup> December 1903, pp.341–142.

the St Paul's bells were cast in 1904, shaving would have been carried out laboriously using a hammer and chisel. Today it is carried out by a mechanical lathe (Figure 16).

**Figure 16. A bell being tuned by a mechanical lathe.**

### **Raising the funds**

Following a public appeal in January of 1904, a public meeting was set up and the 'Victoria Memorial Bells and Clock Committee' was elected to progress the installation of the new bells and clock, including the raising of public subscriptions (donations) to fund the project. The committee of local 'gentry' and tradespeople comprised the following:<sup>17</sup>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Occupation</i>
Revd Arnold J.W. Hiley	Vicar of St Paul's Church
Frances (Frank) Lankester (Churchwarden and Treasurer)	Dental surgeon living at 'The Oaks', Brand Hill
John Flewitt (Churchwarden)	Retired brewer
Capt. William H.B. Heygate	Army captain in the late Royal Artillery, living in 'Mapledene', Maplewell Road.
Alfred Adderly	A managing director, living at 'The Grange', Brand Hill
Robert E. Martin	Civil Engineer, 'The Brand'
William Pettitt	A former headmaster of St Paul's School
C. Prichard	

<sup>17</sup> Table made with data from: Leicester Record Office: DE1604/20. Circular from the Victoria Memorial Bells and Clock Committee, October 10<sup>th</sup> 1904; 1901 Census, Office for National Statistics.

No C. Prichard can be traced through the 1901 Census. However, a Charles Pritchard, who ran a building and joinery business, was living in Maplewell Road.





*Figure 17. Revd Arnold J.W.Hiley (collection of the late Brian Axon).*

By April 1904 almost £750 of the approximately £880 needed for the memorial had been promised, and so the vicar and churchwardens were able to ‘apply for the Necessary Faculty granting them permission’ to go ahead with the project.<sup>18</sup> £565 10s of the money (three quarters) was donated by just ten people:

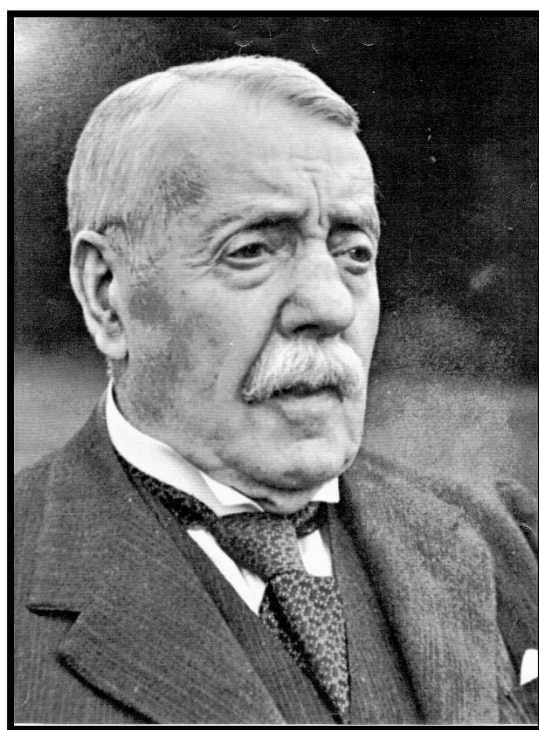
- Mrs Sophia Perry-Herrick, Beaumanor Park, Woodhouse (£150)
- Revd Arnold Hiley, donation of the new clock (£139 10s)
- Robert F. Martin, Esq: civil engineer and quarry owner, the Brand (£100)
- B.C.H. Fox, Esq: Maplewell (£50)
- The Countess of Stamford and Warrington (£25)
- Mr and Mrs Frank Lankester, churchwarden and dental surgeon, Brand Hill (£21)
- Mrs Heygate, Roecliffe (£20)
- Miss Alice Ellis, Maplehurst, Maplewell Road (£20)
- Col Thomas Henry, Justice of the Peace, Long Close, Main Street (£20)

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<sup>18</sup> Leicester Record Office: DE1604/8. Woodhouse Eaves Parish Records: Vestry Minutes 1899–1922, Report of the Easter Vestry Meeting.

- Henry Humphreys, Esq., estate agent, Woodhouse (£20).

Other donors included Capt. Heygate of Mapledene, Capt. and Mrs Childers of Maplecote, Dr and Mrs Tuckett, the village surgeon and his wife from Main Street (Figure 18), and Maurice Levy, MP, the Liberal MP for Loughborough. Walter Tuckett, after whom Tuckett Road, Woodhouse Eaves is named, was the village's physician and surgeon for more than 40 years from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.



*Figure 18. Dr Walter Tuckett, in his later years (collection of the late Brian Axon).*

Local tradespeople, for whom the standard donation was usually either a pound or a guinea (21 shillings), were also well-represented and included: the Squire family (bakers), the Reeves (publicans, Bull's Head pub), Joseph Stubbs (blacksmith), Victor Flewitt (butcher, Main Street), Frederick Armson (tailor and draper, Main Street), Thomas Lester (Fountain coffee house, Beacon Road), the Hicklins (boot and shoe makers, Maplewell Road) and Mrs Vesty (a grocer of Main Street). Even the choir boys of St Paul's clubbed together to raise ten shillings, while the Woodhouse Eaves Band contributed one pound. The sale of the old clock brought in £4 10s, and the original Thomas Mears bell was sold for £20. But who was the Countess of Stamford and Warrington, and what was her connection with Woodhouse Eaves?

### **The Countess of Stamford and Warrington: The Mystery Benefactor**



The Countess (Figure 19) was the second wife of George Harry Grey (1827–1883), who succeeded to the title of 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Stamford and Warrington on the death of his grandfather in 1845, his father having already died. George was something of a maverick, with scant regard for 19<sup>th</sup> Century social conventions, because in 1848 he married Elizabeth Billage, the daughter of John Billage, who is thought to have been either a Cambridge shoemaker or a college servant.<sup>19</sup> She died childless in late October 1854 but only ten months later, George married Catherine Cox (sometimes referred to as Katherine Kocks) at Clewer Church, Windsor in Berkshire.<sup>20</sup>



**Figure 19. Catherine, Countess of Stamford and Warrington, second wife of the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl.<sup>21</sup>**

Like her predecessor, Catherine had humble origins. Her father may have been an agricultural labourer, and she herself was an equestrian performer at Astley's Circus in London.<sup>22</sup> Consequently, when they went to live at the Earl's Dunham Massey estate, the couple was ostracised by Cheshire society; even Queen Victoria refused to sit in the box adjoining the Greys' when at the opera. Subsequently, the Greys turned their backs on Dunham Massey, and Catherine never set foot there again.

When the Earl's father died in 1835, George succeeded to the title Baron Grey of Groby and also inherited the Bradgate estate. He had close links with the neighbourhood as Master of the

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<sup>19</sup> Office for National Statistics, 1841 Census.

<sup>20</sup> 'Papers of George Harry Grey (1827–1883), 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Stamford, and of Katherine, Countess of Stamford and Warrington: Administrative/Biographical History', *Archives Hub* [<https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/data/gb133-egr4-13/egr4/5>] [Viewed 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017]; *The Belfast Newsletter*, Tuesday Morning, September 4, 1855: Marriages [Viewed 6/12/17 via Ancestry.co.uk]

<sup>21</sup> 'Durham's Lost Years', *National Trust* [<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunham-massey/features/dunhams-lost-years--spring-2017>] [Viewed 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018].

<sup>22</sup> M. Kennedy, 'Couple Snubbed by Victorian Society are Celebrated in Old Home', *The Guardian* (23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016) [<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2016/feb/couple-snubbed-victorian-society-celebrated-old-home-dunham-massey>] [Viewed 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016].

Quorn Hunt (1856–1863) and builder of the magnificent new Bradgate House at Groby. His grandfather, the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl, was one of the Trustees of the Charnwood Forest Chapels, which oversaw the building of the churches in Copt Oak and Woodhouse Eaves.<sup>23</sup> Bradgate House, where the Greys lived during the hunting season, was demolished in 1926.<sup>24</sup>



*Figure 20. Bradgate House, Groby, in late 19<sup>th</sup> C. (David F. Thorpe, Ulverscroft).*

Catherine outlived her husband by 22 years, dying in 1905, the year after the St Paul's bells were installed. Her generous donation of £25 (equivalent to half a year's wages for a labourer) was consistent with her reputation for having a kind heart and being lavish with her charity.

## **The New Peal is Ready**

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<sup>23</sup> Leicester Record Office: DG9/2163, Agreement between the Trustees of the Charnwood Forest Chapels and William Kirk, builder.

<sup>24</sup> 'Bradgate House', *Leicester Mercury* (2004) – text reproduced on 'Groby Village, Leicestershire' webpage [[https://www.groby.org.uk/history/bradgate\\_house.html](https://www.groby.org.uk/history/bradgate_house.html)] [Viewed 13th January 2018].



The final specifications of the bells were as follows:<sup>25</sup>

Bell	Weight			Note	Diameter (inches)
	cwt	qrs	lbs		
Treble	3	3	6	E	26
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4	1	9	D	28
3 <sup>rd</sup>	5	0	2	C	30.13
4 <sup>th</sup>	5	2	19	B	31.56
5 <sup>th</sup>	7	1	22	A	35.06
Tenor	10	0	19	G	38.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>		

The overall cost for the work by Taylor's was £386 7s 4d, which included £242 6s 2d for the bells (at £6 13s per ton), £2 6s 8d for the inscription on the tenor bell (at 4d per letter), £2 10s for transport and 12s 6d for taking down the original bell, and packing and despatching it to a buyer in Ireland.<sup>26</sup> The remaining costs were for fixtures and fittings.

	WEIGHT			Price per Cwt	AMOUNT			
	cwt	qrs	lbs		L	s	d	
The new ring of six bells								
Treble	3	3	6					
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4	1	9					
3 <sup>rd</sup>	5	0	2					
4 <sup>th</sup>	5	2	19					
5 <sup>th</sup>	7	1	22					
Tenor	10	0	19					
	36	1	21	£6.13	242	6	2	
Inscription on the tenor bell						2	6	8
				Carriage & Cartage	244	12	10	

<sup>25</sup> G. Dawson, 'Woodhouse Eaves, Leics. St Paul's', *Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers* (22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017), <http://dove.cccbr.org.uk/detail.php?DoveID=WOODHOUSEE> [Viewed 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018].

· · Weight conversions: 28 pounds (lbs) = 1 quarter ≈ 6.5kg; 4 quarters (qrs) = 1 hundredweight (cwt) ≈ 51kg; 20 hundredweight = 1 ton ≈ 1,000kg.

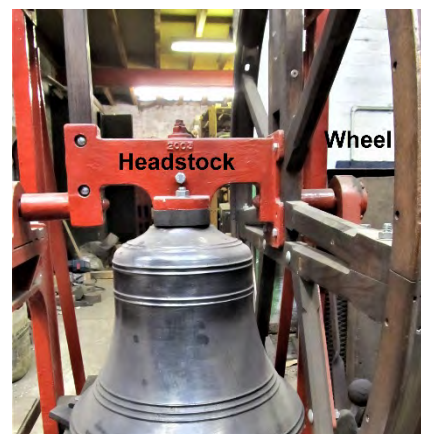
<sup>26</sup> John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, Archive. Day Book, 12<sup>th</sup> October 1904, p.386.

**Figure 21. Part of the invoice for the new peal of bells.**

Before the new bells could be hung, the upper part of the church tower had to be taken down and rebuilt, raising it several feet (Figure 22). The architects for the work were Messrs J. Stockdale Harrison and sons of Leicester, and the rebuilding was carried out by Messrs Henry Herbert and Sons of Millstone Lane, Leicester. James Stockdale Harrison went on to win competitions to design De Montfort Hall, Leicester and the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, so it was nothing but the best for St Paul's Church.<sup>27</sup>



*Figure 22. The original St Paul's Church tower (left) and the tower after the rebuilding of 1904 (right).*



*Figure 23(a, left) Aerial view of one of the St Paul's bells.  
Figure 23(b, right) Demonstration of how a bell is hung  
(John Taylor Bell Foundry).*

<sup>27</sup> James Stockdale Harrison: DSA Architect Biogr  
[http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect\\_full](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full)



## **The Bells Ring Out**

The service of dedication for the new bells and clock was held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 1904, by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough. On 17<sup>th</sup> September the Revd Hiley appears to have consulted the bell foundry on the form the service should take and was sent a reply enclosing ‘the form of dedication service as used at Hugglescote’ but it is not known whether the vicar followed the Hugglescote model.<sup>28</sup> Certainly some of the words of the first hymn were appropriate for the occasion:

Each bell, in size and tone apart,  
Doth its own tale repeat;  
And all attuned in order form  
One harmony complete.

The climax of the service was the act of dedication of the bells and clock by the bishop who declared, while holding one of the bell ropes:

By virtue of our sacred office we do solemnly set apart from all profane and unhallowed uses these Bells, and do dedicate them and also this Clock to the Glory of God, to the pious memory of Queen Victoria, and for the benefit of this Church and Parish.

Immediately after the dedication a short peal was rung on the bells, and during the singing of the final hymn of the service a collection was taken ‘in aid of the bells fund’, which was still in deficit.<sup>29</sup>

## **The Bell Ringers**

Although there is no information (to date) on how the bell ringers were recruited or who they were, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) Minutes for 12<sup>th</sup> December 1904 recorded that they were trained by a Mr John Cook, and a set of bell ringers’ rules had been obtained from another (unnamed) parish, amended and approved.<sup>30</sup> However, they must have proved unsatisfactory because the ringers submitted a ‘more suitable’ set of rules to a PCC meeting

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<sup>28</sup> John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, Archive. Letter Book, JT6/5/1/152/133, 19<sup>th</sup> September 1904, p.133.

<sup>29</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Leicester Record Office: DE1604/11. Woodhouse Eaves Parish Records: PCC Minutes 1904–1917.

four years later, on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1908, and these were approved at the PCC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1909. The bell ringers' remuneration was also discussed. They were being paid an annual salary of £9, raised by subscription, plus a Christmas Box from separate funds. At the January meeting their salary was formalised when it was agreed that it should be taken from the General Church Expenses Fund.

### A Matching Set of Hand Bells



*Figure 24. Some of the St Paul's Church hand bells*

In his letter to Mr Lankester of 28<sup>th</sup> March 1904, Mr Taylor from the bell foundry advised that 'A peal of [eight] hand bells would be very useful for the ringers to begin to learn the rudiments of change ringing.' The suggestion was taken up because on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1905 Revd Hiley was invoiced for a peal of hand bells, but for 19 rather than eight, with the 'tenor N: 18 [in the] key of G', at a cost of £29 8s 5d. Revd Hiley informed the PCC at the December 1905 meeting that he had advanced the money, and it was proposed to have a concert the following month 'to help defray the expenses.'

The hand bells (Figure 24) have continued to be rung over the years, most recently under the direction and tutelage of Bertil and Cathy Schou (Figure 25, first and second from the right).



*Figure 25. Group of St Paul's Church hand-bell ringers in 2008.*

## **The Bells Fund Closes**

At the PCC meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> September 1907, it was reported that the bells fund had been closed with a deficit of 30 shillings (£1.50 in decimal currency) which would be made up from the church's General Fund.

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Leicester Record Office

John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, Archive

Office for National Statistics

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