

THE HISTORY

OF THE

→ * BELLS * ←

OF

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, MARPLE,



EXTRACTED FROM

"THE HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF STOCKPORT"

BY

Dr. Heginbotham, J.P., of Stockport

(WITH THE AUTHORS KIND PERMISSION.)

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AND CONTAINING A LIST OF THE

SUBSCRIBERS

TO THE

Re-hanging Fund, 1886-1887.

*The History of the Bells of Marple Church,
by Henry Heginbotham, J.P., author of the
History of the Parish of Stockport.*

The Bells in the Tower of Marple Church were cast by Messrs. Rudhall, the well-known bell-founders of Gloucester, and were hung in the Parish Church of Stockport in the year 1731

They are six in number, and have upon them the following legends:—

1. Prosperity to the Town and Parish, A R. 1731 ; a figure of a bell being inserted between the initials.
2. There has been an inscription upon this bell, which has been chipped off, leaving only a floral wreath.
3. A. B. R. Rudhall, of Gloucester, Casters' Hall, 1731.
4. Harry Style, Rector. A.R. 1731, with the figure of the bell as before.
5. Thomas Robinson, Robert Lingard, George Whittaker, James Sellars, Churchwardens.
6. No inscription, the initials only and the figure of the bell.

The following is their weight:—

	Cwt.	Qr.	Lb.
1st	6	1	8
2nd.....	7	0	14
3rd	8	1	12
4th	8	3	10
5th	10	3	10
6th	14	1	4
Total Peal.....	55	3	2

These bells had replaced five others, the gross weight of which amounted to 44 cwt. 3 qr. 4 lb., thus the Marple Bells exceeded the weight of the original Parish Church Bells by 11 cwt., and their exchange cost the Churchwardens of Stockport £168 17s. 4½d.

They remained in the Parish Church Tower until it was taken down in the year 1810, when they were stowed away for some years, partly in the hearse house, and partly in an old factory in Portwood.

The successors of Messrs. Rudhall contracted for the new peal, and they were requested to report as to the best approved value of the old peal, when they offered to give seven guineas per cwt. for them.

Owing to their sweet tone a very strong desire prevailed that they should be retained in the Parish, and as Marple Church had been rebuilt with a tower adapted for a peal of six bells, the Trustees for rebuilding the Parish Church at a large meeting held in March, 1816, unanimously resolved that the Township of Marple should have the preference to purchase them at the price named. In consequence of that resolution, an appeal dated March 28th, 1816, was made:—“To the Inhabitants of Marple and its Vicinity. The Trustees appointed by Act of Parliament for the taking down and rebuilding the Parish Church of Stockport, having made the Township of Marple an offer of the Peal of Bells belonging to the former Edifice, it is earnestly hoped that a Subscription may be raised equal to the purchase of them. The sum required is four hundred pounds, being the price at which Mr. Rudhall, of Gloucester, a descendant of the original founder, has offered to take them from the Trustees. Little, it is hoped, need be urged to prevail upon the Inhabitants of Marple not to suffer these Bells to be conveyed away from amongst them for ever. The real excellence of their tone must be well remembered by them; and scarcely an individual is there that has not listened to them with feelings such as few but would wish to experience again.” The address says further: “The Site of the Chapel also is a consideration that ought to have its weight. On an eminence that commands an extensive view, as well of the bold and swelling hills of Derbyshire, as of the more fertile vales of Cheshire, no situation could be better adapted to give full effect to their uncommonly fine tone. From this hill, the sound of them will go forth far and wide; and it cannot be doubted but that the inhabitants of the other Townships, when they hear them, will rejoice that their neighbours did not suffer them to be removed for ever out of the Parish, and will applaud both the spirit and the liberality of the Township of Marple.”

The appeal, which urged many other reasons, had such an effect that Samuel Oldknow, Esq.; Nathaniel Wright, Esq., of Brabin's Hall; with the Rev. C. K. Prescott, then Curate of Marple, concluded the bargain, and became personally responsible for the amount. Their security was accepted, and on the same day, April the 29th, Mr. Oldknow sent his dray for the Tenor and the Treble, and Mr. Wright two carts for the remaining four.

They were opened on June 30th, 1816, and on that day Miriam Isherwood, of Marple Hall, was christened. Prizes were subsequently given, which were competed for by the surrounding ringers, and the day was kept as a gala day.

The cost was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
The Price of the Bells.....	407	0	0
Hanging and Expenses	324	13	0
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	£731	13	0
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The first list of Subscriptions amounted to £528 17s. 6d.

The inhabitants of Marple may be safely congratulated on having as sweet a peal of bells as is possessed by any church in the county.

It will be seen from the foregoing account that these bells have been cast 156 years, and have been in the tower of All Saints', Marple, upwards of 70 years.

The continual dropping of water wears away a stone, and the continual striking of the clappers of these bells in one place for such a long period has worn a "hollow" in each bell to such an extent that fears were entertained of their cracking.

In the year 1882, Messrs. Taylor, Bell Founders, of Loughborough, were requested by the Vicar and Wardens to overhaul them and report as to their condition, and to give an estimate of the cost of thoroughly repairing, turning, and re-hanging them on the modern principle. Their estimate of £70 was considered too large a sum to raise at that time, and the matter was allowed to stand over, until the early part of 1886, when they were again consulted, their estimate accepted, and after an appeal by the Vicar from the pulpit, the wardens commenced collecting subscriptions to defray the cost.

The liberal response of the parishioners resulted in a total subscription of £90 2s. 0d., short by a few pounds only of the total cost incurred. They were re-opened on Easter Sunday, 1886, by the Hayfield Ringers.

There are few persons (if any) living who can remember the "gala day" which witnessed the coming of these bells to Marple—that their history may be handed down to succeeding generations is the object of this little publication.

This is the Queen's Jubilee Year, and all classes are vieing with each other to do honour to Her Majesty: may these bells ever summon a congregation who not only honour the King, but who fear God.

R. S. ADAMS, VICAR.

T. P. YOUNG,
JOSEPH TAYLOR, } WARDENS.

JOHN BOWDEN, } SIDESMEN.
W. WALMSLEY, }

Marple, Easter, 1887.



Subscriptions towards defraying the cost
of re-hanging the Peal of Bells in All Saints
Church, Marple.

	£	s	d.
Rev. R. S. Adams, Vicar.....	3	3	0
Jas. Shepley	5	0	0
Mrs. Turner.....	5	0	0
T. P. Young	3	3	0
W. Hampson	3	3	0
J. B. Isherwood.....	3	3	0
Jno. Bowden	2	2	0
F. W. Johnson	2	2	0
I. Winterbottom, (Torkington)	2	2	0
J. Wainwright.....	2	2	0
Dr. Bailey, Junr.	2	2	0
A. T. Bowden (Hyde) late organist	2	0	0
A. Hall	1	1	0
T. Hampson.....	1	1	0
T. Heighway	1	1	0
Mrs. Johnson	1	1	0
J. Tymm	1	1	0
W. B. Flowers	1	1	0
Mrs. Shirley	1	1	0
J. Penman	1	1	0
W. D. Adams.....	1	1	0
Jno. Jinks	1	1	0
J. Vaughan	1	1	0
A. Howe	1	1	0
Jas. Hulme	1	1	0
W. Tymm	1	1	0
Mrs. Saml. Taylor.....	1	1	0
S. Dixon	1	1	0
W. D. Kay	1	1	0
E. J. Le Mare	1	1	0
T. W. Johnson	1	1	0
Miss King	1	1	0
W. Kitchen	1	1	0
Mrs. Wright Cooper.....	1	1	0
W. Walmsley	1	1	0
Jas. Taylor	1	1	0
Wm. Sidebotham	1	1	0
John Shallcross	1	1	0

	£	s.	d.
Joseph Taylor	1	1	0
A. Taylor	1	1	0
Jas. Fidler and Sisters	1	1	0
J. W. Morgan	1	0	0
A Friend	1	0	0
D. Hadfield	0	10	6
Chas. Hague	0	10	6
A. Fergusson	0	10	6
Jno. Bickerton	0	10	6
W. Bradbury	0	10	6
Jas. Kelsall	0	10	6
Thos. Taylor	0	10	6
Jno Bailey (Birkenhead)	0	10	6
F. Howe	0	10	6
Mrs. Whittaker	0	10	6
Jno Moulton	0	10	6
J. W. Mostyn	0	10	6
Mrs. Walton	0	10	6
A. Cresswell	0	10	6
Mrs. Jones	0	10	6
Miss Gee	0	10	6
Thos. Waine	0	10	6
Alfred Cresswell	0	10	6
Joseph Tymms	0	10	6
Chas. F. Johnson	0	10	6
B. Higginbottom	0	10	0
S. Bebbington	0	10	0
Miss Naylor	0	10	0
E. Cross	0	10	0
A. Leigh	0	10	0
Joseph Robinson	0	10	0
A Parishioner	0	5	6
John Heathcote	0	5	0
John Taylor	0	5	0
George Pott	0	5	0
John Carrington	0	5	0
W. Hambleton	0	5	0
W. Torkington	0	5	0
Hy. Hough	0	5	0
Richard Jinks	0	5	0
E. Furness	0	5	0
Thos. Ashton	0	5	0
Jas. Westbrook	0	5	0
Geo. Ibbotson	0	5	0

	£	s.	d.
Hy. Taylor	0	5	0
J. Dowling	0	5	0
J. Barlow	0	5	0
P. Swindells.....	0	5	0
Miss Wayne	0	5	0
Chas. Marsland	0	5	0
Jas. Waine	0	5	0
G. Bradbury.....	0	5	0
Jas. Broadhurst	0	5	0
Jas. Pott	0	5	0
Edward Pott	0	2	6
W. Thornley	0	2	6
Jno- Hadfield	0	2	6
Mrs. J. Hadfield	0	2	6
Chas. Bickerton	0	2	6
Mrs. R. Fidler	0	2	6
Jno. Osbaldisten.....	0	2	6
Jno. Allsworth	0	2	6
Jas. Lee.....	0	2	6
S. Ardun	0	2	6
Thos. B. Barnes	0	2	6
Jas. Waterhouse	0	2	6
W. Moors	0	2	6
Thos, Ball	0	2	0
John Osborne	0	2	0
W. Oldacre	0	2	0
W. Vernon	0	2	0
Joseph Goodwin	0	1	0
Hy. Wyatt	0	1	0
Subscriptions Collected by Ringers—			
Joseph Thornley.....	0	12	0
Thomas Moss	1	12	0
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	91	3	0
Balance defrayed out of Churchwardens' Accounts..	2	3	1
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	£93	6	1
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Messrs. John Taylor & Co —re-hanging bells, &c....	83	17	6
John Bowden—strengthening beams, &c.....	4	17	7
George Collier—ironwork.....	3	6	9
Whitewashing and Cleaning Bell-pit and Belfry, &c.	1	4	3
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	£93	6	1
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