

methods with 1260 changes, a peal three hours with 5040 changes, and none of the sequences of the bells are ever repeated. To ring the twelve bells like the Cathedral's without repeating a sequence would take about 38 years with 479,001,600 changes. But we all started with rounds, which is simply the bells rung down the scale in order 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8 and repeated.

## The Castor Band

The Castor Band currently consists of around 10 regular ringers and in addition we have an Associate Group, whom we are able to call upon for the occasional help, when it is needed.

Our Tower Captain is William Baxter, Deputy Tower Captain and Secretary is Ginny Sheldon, and our Steeple Keeper is Stephen Reed. Our Hand Bell Captain and Treasurer is Maggie Noble.

We ring for the morning service every Sunday 9.30-10.15, and for special occasions, weddings and funerals. Our practice night is Monday, from 7.30 to 9.00, when anyone is welcome, afterwards we retire to the Royal Oak. We are usually joined at our practice by ringers from other towers around Peterborough. The ringers have an active social calendar.

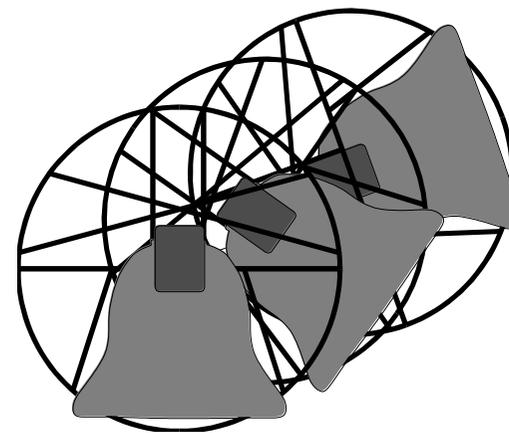
Our Millennium Project, to install 2 more bells to give us a ring of 8, was successfully carried out and by October 1999 we had rearranged and redecorated the Ringing Chamber. The major contributors to the fund and the Millennium Ringers are listed on the Commemorative plaques, which are mounted by the organ in the Church and in the Ringing Chamber.

Also mounted on the wall in the Ringing Chamber is the traditional set of Ringer's Rules, such as "Any Ringer bringing Ale to the tower shall be fined one shilling, and any ringer swearing shall be fined as the majority see fit. All fines to be spent on oil and candles", 4<sup>th</sup> March 1879. Visitors are welcome, but may only view the upper levels and the bells with a qualified guide.

You may notice the Angelus bell rings for the offices of the day, at 7.30, noon and 6.00. The bell strikes 3, 3, and then 9, that is for calling to pray, for the world, the church, the village, and themselves. The Sanctus bell is rung three times when communion is celebrated at the Prayer of Consecration, and 30 times for a Baptism. In the event of the death of a parishioner the tenor (the largest bell) is tolled, appropriately inscribed "I to the Church the living call and to the grave do summon all". It is tolled twice before and after the knell, thrice for a man, twice for a woman and for a child the same but on the Angelus bell. The knell is tolled for each year on this earth. When the ringers are requested to ring for funerals, the bells are "Half Muffled", that is one side of the bell's clapper has a thick piece of leather attached. This causes the bell to sound clear and loud on one strike, and the next will be a muffled sound which enhances the harmonics of the bell. The effect produced is an unusual sound which many find very moving.

With such magnificent bells and tower it is vital we have a continuous maintenance programme. Therefore we are always grateful for help and assistance and in particular donations. We are always on the look out for new ringers, so if you think you might like to have a go, or just come and see how bells are rung, then either come along on a Monday's practice night, 7.30-9.00 or telephone William, 01733 380597 or 380769, Steve 01733 239918 or Ginny 01733 380001 to arrange a time for a tour. We will be very happy to welcome you.

April 2005



# Bell Ringing at The Church of St. Kyneburgha Castor

Bell	Weight in Cwt-qr-lb	Dia. inches	Note
Inscription.	-	Symbol -O- indicates Coin set in Inscription Band	
Treble	4-0-16	25 ½	G
<b>OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI</b> (Let all be done to the Glory of God) <b>XP 2000 AD AΩ</b> (Christ - 2000 Year of our Lord – Beginning and End) <b>Rector William Burke, Ringers, William Baxter, Edward Baxter</b> <b>Diana Burke, Tony Evans Capt. Lis Freeman, Yvette Halewood</b> <b>MANTON &amp; DAVID BAXTER, SPEECHLEY FAMILY</b> <b>CHARLES WINFREY &amp; FAMILY</b>			
No.2	4-0-22	26	F#
<b>UNTOUCHED I AM A SILENT THING, BUT STRIKE ME AND I SWEETLY SING</b> <b>Church Wardens Brian Goode &amp; Theo Hensman. Ringers, Maggie Noble,</b> <b>Anna Reed, Stephen Reed, Beverley Rigby, Virginia Sheldon, Trevor Vercoe</b> <b>COOK FAMILY, CARLY &amp; BOBBY FREEMAN,</b> <b>GRIFFIN FAMILY, RP &amp; NM WINFREY</b>			
No.3	4-0-17	27 ¼	E
<b>HENRICVS BAGLEY -O- NOS -O- FECIT -O- 1700 -O-</b>			
No.4	4-0-21	28 ¼	D
<b>HENRICVS BAGLEY -O- NOS -O- FECIT -O- 1700 -O-</b>			
No.5	4-3-14	30 ½	C
<b>HENRY BAGLEY OF ECTON MADE ME 1700</b>			
No.6	6-0-16	32 5/8	B
<b>HENRY BAGLEY OF ECTON MADE ME 1700</b>			
No. 7	7-0-19	35 7/8	A
<b>CANTATE DOMINO CANTICTVM NOVVM</b> (Sing unto the Lord a new song) <b>HENRICVS BAGLEY DE ECTON NOS FECIT. 1700</b>			
Tenor	10-0-9	39	G
<b>I TO THE CHVRCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE GRAVE DO SVMMON ALL.</b> <b>HENRY BAGLEY MADE ME 1700</b>			

## The Bells.

The first mention of bells at Castor was in 1558, "Four great bells in the steeple, a Sanctus bell and two hand bells". In 1700 the village paid for a new peal of six bells. Earl Fitzwilliam wrote to the Rector promising to make up any short fall in funds. They were cast by the Master Bell Founder Henry Bagley at his foundry at Ecton near Northampton in 1700 and are known as a very fine example of the art of Bell Casting. There are very few complete peals of bells cast together of this age and in perfect condition that are still in use. Henry Bagley is famous for casting the fine peal of eight bells for Lichfield Cathedral in 1670. He trained his nephew, Henry Penn, who started his own Bell Foundry in Peterborough, where he cast the peal of 10 bells for the Cathedral in 1709, but due to vibration full ringing was stopped in 1831 and five were removed. Apart from the largest 27cwt chiming "City Bell" the remainder were removed in 1984 and one of them went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the state founded by the Quaker William, son of Admiral William Penn. The blood line to Henry is unproven. The Cathedral now has 14 bells.

In 1700 our new peal of 6 were hung in an oak frame, and remained there until 1900, when John Taylor of Loughborough re-hung them on cast iron frame supports on steel girders, with new ringing fittings. They removed the cannons and crown staples and fitted cast iron headstocks. During the next major modernisation in 1968 Taylors fitted the headstocks with self aligning ball bearings and the bells were quarter turned.

In the spring of 1999 the parishioners paid for two additional lighter bells, manufactured by Taylors, which were hung in an extended frame, supplied and fitted by Hayward Mills. The bells were baptised in July at the Patronal Festival, and installed in only three days for the Dedication on Oct 17<sup>th</sup> 1999. The ringers installed a computerised "Ringing Simulator" as a training aid, and the tower was elevated to a "Ringing Centre" for training under the guidance of our past Tower Captain Tony Evans. We also automated the Angelus and Sanctus ringing.

The ringing chamber, where the ringers practise their art is 23 feet above the choir stalls, and above that there is a false-floored clock room, put in after the ringers had a miraculous escape. They were about to ring for George II birthday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 1795 when the tower was struck by a huge ball of lightning. It struck the weathercock and travelled down to the clock which was destroyed. There was severe damage to the spire, tower, East window and to pews in the church. The repairs cost £84. The clock was replaced in 1818 by Thomas Reed, which now can be seen in the north isle. The bells are at 48 feet, in the tower just below the 1350 added spire (height 124 feet) where the tower was strengthened by plain rib-vault with ridged ribs.

## Bell Ringing

Full circle Bell Ringing was started in the early part of the seventeenth century. It is practised extensively in England with 5,278 ringable peals, Wales with 166, Scotland 16 and Ireland 35. There are a further 102 scattered around the world mainly in what was the Empire. In most parts of the World bells are swung a short distance and chimed, or fixed and struck with a hammer. A collection of bells hung for sounding in this way is known as a Carillon and used for playing tunes.

In England bells are generally hung for full circle ringing, which allows for accurate control of the timing of the bells strike enabling the art of Change Ringing to develop. A composition of ringing in known as a method, and a quarter peal takes about 45 minutes and consists of one or more