

## The Wonersh Bells

The peal of eight bells were cast in 1958 by Mears Whitechapel bell foundry in London. They are a very fine, tuneful and easy-to-ring peal with a tenor of 11½ cwt. Before 1958 there were six bells, five cast by Richard Phelps (at Whitechapel) in 1727 and the sixth a gift of the 2nd Lord Grantley in 1804 bore the inscription "Thomas Mears of London fecit 1804. The gift of the Rt Hon. Lord Grantley". The earliest record of bells in the tower is in 1552 when there were three bells, with a tenor of 16cwt plus a sacring or sanctus bell. These were no doubt confiscated by the Crown at the time of the reformation, except for one bell for future use. The first two stages of the tower date from the thirteenth century and its height was raised in 1751 when a third tier was added, but some of the thirteenth century spire beams were reused and remain as part of the roof today. Before 1751 the bells were rung from the ground floor and grooves made by the bell ropes are still clearly visible in the arch between the tower and the Lady Chapel. The present ringing chamber in the tower was created in the 1901 reordering.

For those who like details, the dimensions and inscriptions of the current bells are:-

Bell	Diameter	Note	Weight Cwt- qtrs-lbs	Inscription
Tenor	3'-4"	G	11-2-25	Messeiures Henry Denyer James Weale Churchwardens R Phelps made me 1727. Recast 1958 Mears London. The Rev Hugh G.B.Anthony Vicar. Mr W G Brett & Mr P M Rees Churchwardens
7th	3'-0"	A	8-2-17	R Phelps Fecit 1727. Mears London Recast 1958. The Rev Hugh G.B.Anthony Vicar. Mr W G Brett & Mr P M Rees Churchwardens
6th	2'-8 7/8"	B	6-2-27	R Phelps Fecit 1727. Mears London Recast 1958. The Rev Hugh G.B.Anthony Vicar. Mr W G Brett & Mr P M Rees Churchwardens
5th	2'-6 7/8"	C	5-2-9	R Phelps Fecit 1727. Mears London Recast 1958. The Rev Hugh G.B.Anthony Vicar. Mr W G Brett & Mr P M Rees Churchwardens
4th	2'-4 7/8"	D	4-3-18	R Phelps Fecit 1727. Mears London Recast 1958. The Rev Hugh G.B.Anthony Vicar. Mr W G Brett & Mr P M Rees Churchwardens
3rd	2'-2 7/8"	E	4-0-24	Mears of London Fecit. A Gift of the Rt Honourable Lord Grantley. Mears London Recast 1958. The Rev Hugh G.B.Anthony Vicar. Mr W G Brett & Mr P M Rees

				Churchwardens
2nd	2'-1 ¼"	F#	3-2-17	Mears & Stainbank made me 1958. The Rev Hugh G.B. Anthony Vicar. Mr W G Brett & Mr P M Rees Churchwardens. Mears London
Treble	2'-0 1/8"	G	3-2-4	Given in 1958 by the band of ringers of Womersh Church tower under their captain Mr W Enticknap in memory of all past ringers of Womersh Church. The Rev Hugh G.B. Anthony Vicar. Mr W G Brett & Mr P M Rees Churchwardens. Mears London

Unfortunately the hanging of the bells was not as good as the casting and tuning of them. The heaviest six bells are well hung and are easy to ring well but the two lightest bells present problems for all except the most experienced bellringers. For many years the front two bells were rung very rarely which meant that the parish did not enjoy the wonderful sound of the full octave of bells. Today we have eight experienced local ringers and you often hear all eight bells rung for services and weddings.