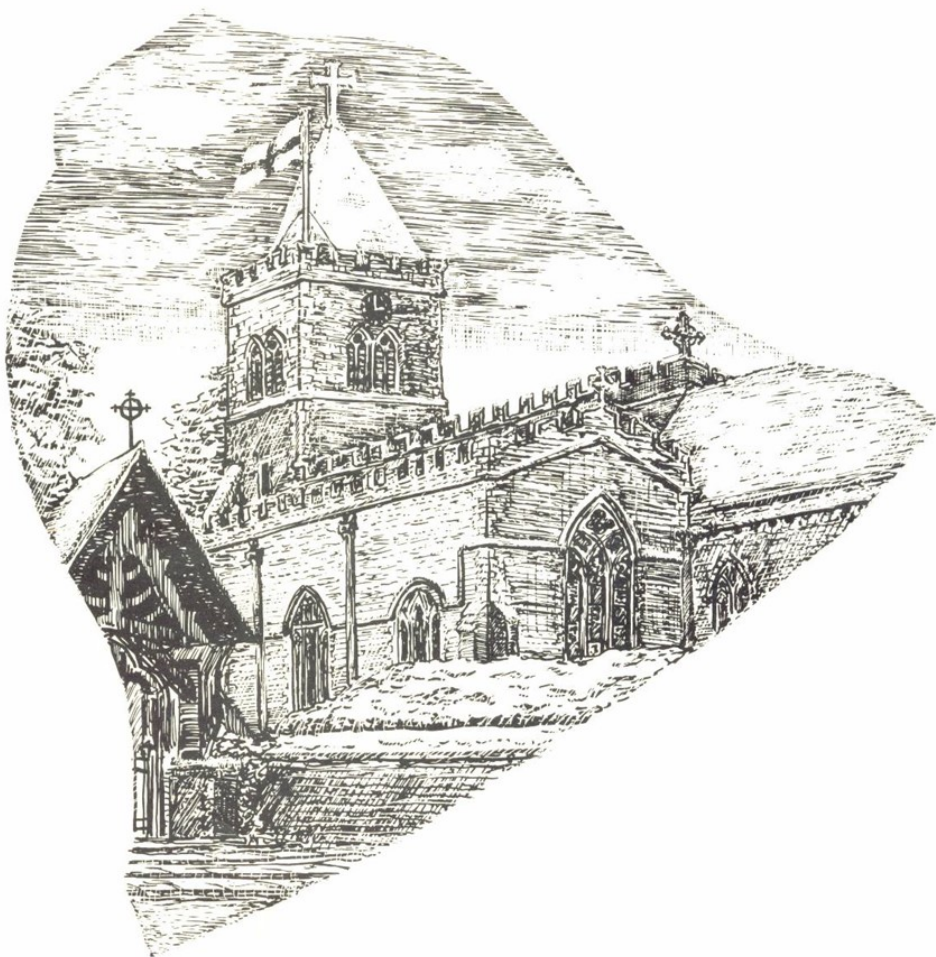


15p



TURVEY'S BELFRY

The Bells of All Saints' Church

Turvey Belfry.

Mode of tolling the Church Bells on the death of a Parishioner.

1. For a MALE, above 12 years of age, the *6th bell* is tolled; and at the close, *all the six bells* are tolled *nine times* each, beginning with the first.
 2. For a FEMALE, above 12 years of age, the *6th bell* is tolled as above; and at the close, the *first five bells* are tolled *nine times* each, beginning with the first.
 3. For a MALE, under 12, the *5th bell* is tolled; and at the close the *first five bells* are tolled *nine times* each, as above.
 4. For a FEMALE, under 12, the *5th bell* is tolled; and at the close, the *first four bells* are tolled *nine times* each, as above.
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Other Customs observed as to ringing or chiming the bells.

The First Bell is rung—

1. For 5 minutes before service commences, as the Priest's bell.
2. On Sunday morning at 7 o'clock, as the Lord's Day Bell.
3. At 12 noon, every day except Sunday, as a Dinner Bell. (This custom has been occasionally intermitted.)
4. At 6 a.m. as a Gleaning Bell during the close of Harvest. N.B.—(This custom has been discontinued since 1845.)

On Shrove Tuesday the 1st and 2nd bells are chimed together in indication of the approach of Lent.

Special peals are rung in the early morning of Christmas Day, Easter Day, and of the New Year. Also on the birthday of the reigning Sovereign.

W. FRANCIS HIGGINS, } Churchwardens,
G. P. DUNKLEY, } 1885.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, TURVEY.

BELFRY RULES.

The Belfry is a part of the Church, and is consecrated to the service of Almighty God.

The Bells are instruments of sacred music, and should be to the Parish at large what the Organ is to the congregation assembled in Church. They should tell forth the praises of God, and awaken solemn thoughts in the hearts of all that hear them. The office, therefore, of a Ringer, is a holy office, and should ever be performed in a reverent manner.

RULES.

- I. There shall be eight Stated Ringers and two or more Deputy Ringers.
- II. The Stated and the Deputy Ringers shall be appointed by the Rector and Churchwardens, and no other person shall assist in Chiming or Ringing at any time without the Rector's, or the Churchwardens' permission.
- III. All the regular Chiming and Ringing shall be done by the Stated Ringers, and the duty of the Deputy Ringers shall be to supply the place of the Stated Ringers, when they are necessarily absent.
- IV. No person, except the Ringers, shall be allowed to be present in the Belfry during the Ringing or Chiming without leave of the Rector, the Churchwardens, or the Captain of the Belfry. *See Rule X.*
- V. No Ale, Beer, or other liquor shall on any pretence be brought into the Belfry or Churchyard, and smoking shall on no account be permitted.
- VI. Should any Ringer or Deputy Ringer, through misbehaviour or neglect of duty, become, in the opinion of the Rector and Churchwardens, unfitted for his post, he will render himself liable to dismissal.
- VII. The Ringers shall be expected to attend (not fewer than three at a time) at the Chiming on every Sunday, and to be present at Divine Service at least once on that day; also they shall be present, whenever possible, on Christmas Day, Good Friday, Ascension Day, and at other times as their services may be required.
- VIII. The Ringers shall be expected to Ring at Christmas, Easter, the New Year, the Feast, & at other times as the Rector & the Churchwardens may appoint.
- IX. The Salary of the Ringers shall be due at Easter; and each Ringer shall be paid a sum proportionate to his attendances throughout the year.
- X. One of the Ringers shall be appointed as leader, and shall be styled the Captain of the Belfry. His duty shall be to provide for the chiming on Sundays, and other days when required; and he shall be responsible for the Rules being kept and for due order being preserved in the Belfry.
- XI. The Captain of the Belfry shall be provided with a book, in which the attendances of the Ringers shall be registered, and 5s. a year shall be paid for this extra trouble.
- XII. Whenever there is a vacancy among the Stated Ringers, one of the Deputy Ringers shall be taken on trial for six months; and if approved of, he shall be appointed to fill the vacancy.
- XIII. In case of any dispute arising among the Ringers respecting any matters connected with the Belfry, a reference shall be made to the Rector, whose decision thereon shall be final.

CHURCH BELLS.

What do they say?

THE CHURCH BELLS are the CHURCH'S VOICE, by which the Church speaks to the world outside; just as the pulpit is that by which she speaks to those that come within.

The Church is "the Body of Christ," and must only speak that which is according to the mind of Him who is her Head.

Church Bells must never ring for anything that we cannot bring before God in praise or prayer. When the Bells sound on THE LORD'S DAY, or on any CHURCH FESTIVAL, or at any hour of PUBLIC WORSHIP, it is to remind the world of the great things God hath wrought in Christ Jesus for us men and our salvation, and to call men together to worship Him and give Him thanks.

When year by year the Bells ring out at a HARVEST FESTIVAL, it is *not* to add merriment to a mere feast, *not* to sanction revelling or excess, but to "make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob," who has again "visited the earth and blessed it."

If they "ring the OLD YEAR out and the NEW YEAR in," it is to bid the forgetful world thank God for having borne with its worldliness for another year of grace, and "to teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

When they announce to us the BIRTH of some first-born son of Christian parents, whom God has put in a place of power or honour, like the king of the country or the squire of the parish; or when they ring out to welcome the coming or the returning of such a one in health and peace,—it is the Church's Voice of thanksgiving to God Who has given or preserved a life that is precious to us all.

When it is for a BAPTISM, it is to welcome into the Family of God a new member, a younger brother or sister in Christ.

When it is for a CONFIRMATION, it is to send up a sound of joy, because more young soldiers of Christ have pledged themselves to fight, by the grace there given, the great warfare against sin and Satan.

When the bells ring out merrily at a WEDDING, they are calling us "to rejoice with them that do rejoice," because earthly love has been sealed and sanctified by the Blessing of God in *Holy Matrimony*, "which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified by His presence and first miracle that He wrought."

"When the solemn DEATH-BELL tolls," and when it repeats its knell at the FUNERAL, it is the warning voice of the Church, saying to the thoughtless, "Prepare to meet thy God"; "In the midst of life we are in death"; and bidding all of us "to weep with them that weep."

In old and careless times Church Bells came to be rung on occasions where there was no thought of God,—at sales, at fairs, at wakes or feasts, where drinking and swearing and lust and all ungodliness and folly prevailed, as they do sometimes still. This cannot be right; the Voice of God's Church must never join with the voice of sin,—must never chime in even with the sounds of mere worldly pleasure.

It is to prevent this wrong use of Church Bells that the care of them is entrusted to the clergyman of the parish, and he will gladly allow them to be rung on any occasion which is to the honour and glory of God.

Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

DEPOSITORY—77, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S-INN FIELDS, W.C.; 48, PICCADILLY, W.; & ROYAL EXCHANGE, E.C.

The three documents reproduced here can be seen hanging in the Ringing Chamber of Turvey's belfry. Only one is dated but it is likely that they were all printed during the second half of the 19th Century.

The Tower of All Saints, Turvey

The tower of All Saints' Church, Turvey, is very old.

Quite how old has been a matter of lively debate between Bedfordshire historians across the years. There is ample evidence that the tower's stonework below and at ground level is of Saxon origin and that it supports five "layers" of development. The first three of these are traced to various parts of the 13th century, while the fourth was added in the 15th century. The fifth development can be accurately dated 1864, when the embattled parapet and the pyramided roof with its surmounting cross were added. The clock was presented to All Saints in 1893 by Mr. George Sargent in memory of his parents, who lived opposite the Church. Until 1818, when it was struck by lightning, the tower supported a spire topped by a weathercock pierced with the date 1630 and still to be seen on the west wall above the vestry door. Finally, visitors may notice the date 1593 above the door of the tower, which is 5 metres (16 feet 4 inches) square and 21.5 metres (70 feet 10 inches) high.

So much for established fact. Perhaps the unsubstantiated speculation of our even longer history is even more fascinating? We know that a community has lived in Turvey since at least the period 1800-1600 B.C., when the Beaker people had a settlement here. The finding of an almost perfect decorated beaker of that period in the grounds of Turvey Abbey earlier this century establishes that as fact. It is now in the British Museum.

Henry L. Longuet Higgins of Turvey Abbey, who wrote a history of All Saints' Church years before this discovery, believed that the tower was intimately connected with the name of the village, which he suggested had the original meaning "The Tower-Village", so named by a Ligurian tribe who settled here before Roman times. He thought that this tribe had reached Turvey via Tours on the Loire in ancient Gaul, a town famed for its towers. Thus, he argued, the Turones would have built a tower to guard the ford across the Great Ouse and this tower was later incorporated by the Romans into a temple, probably dedicated to Numa. From this temple dedicated to an ancient faith has grown our beautiful Parish Church with its handsome and ancient tower, according to Henry L. Longuet Higgins.

More recent historians discount Mr. Longuet Higgins' theory concerning the origin of the name, favouring the belief that the name denotes "the farm (land) in the bend of the river".

The Belfry

The belfry of All Saints boasts a ring of eight bells, the oldest dated 1682. Their details are as follows:

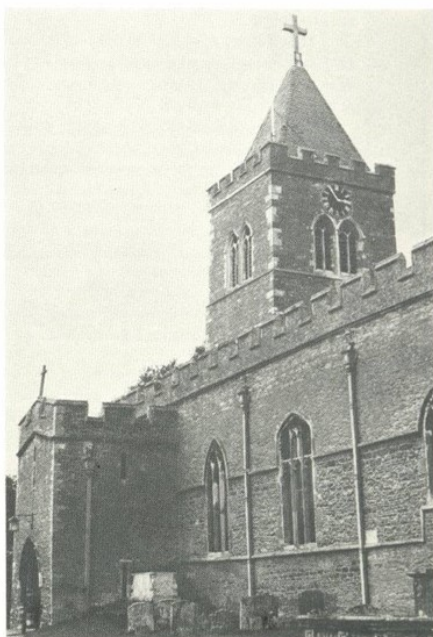
Bell	Date	Maker
1st (Treble)	1900	Mears & Stainbank, London.
2nd	1900	Mears & Stainbank, London.
3rd	1864	G. Mears & Co., London.
4th	1682	Henry Bagley, Chacombe and Ecton, Northants.
5th	1682	Henry Bagley, Chacombe and Ecton, Northants.
6th	1750	J. Eayre, St. Neots.
	(recast 1954)	
7th	1839	W. J. Taylor, Oxford and Loughborough.
8th (Tenor)	Recast 1815	R. Taylor, St. Neots.

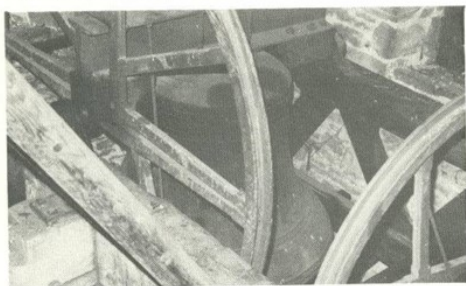
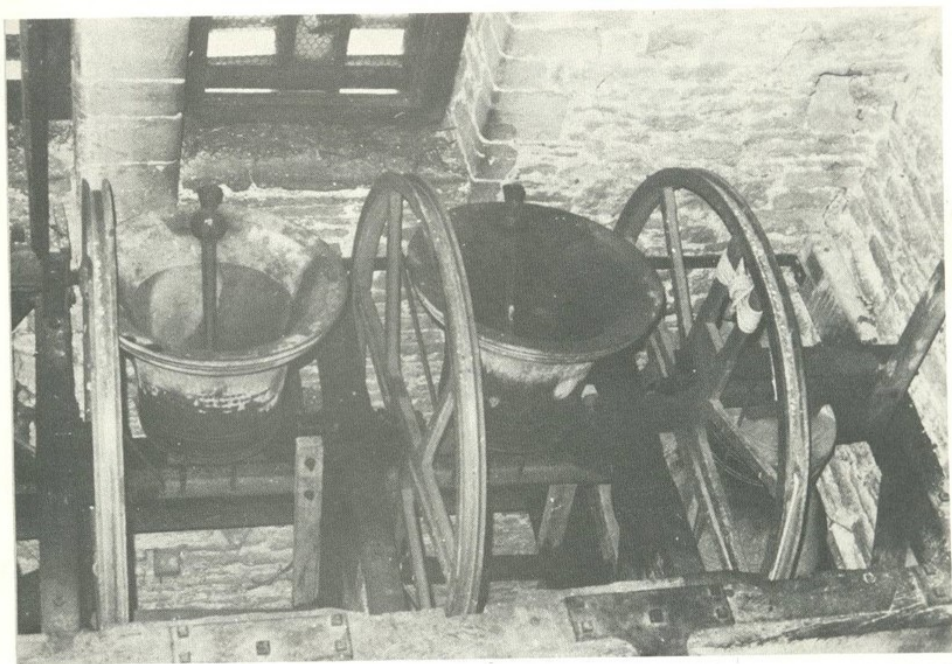
Below the belfry, where the bells hang on ancient oak beams as stout now as the day they were shaped to construct the magnificent frame, is the clock chamber. The bell ropes pass through its floor to the ringing chamber,

decorated with the proud dedications to bell ringing teams who have rung Turvey's bells across the years. Here too are located the framed documents reproduced in this leaflet. The eight bell ropes, each clad near its end with a fluffy red "Sally" to protect the hands and neatly looped when not in use, form a circle which comes to life not only before Matins and Evensong each Sunday, but also on Friday evenings, when a nucleus of "experienced" ringers, both young and not so young teach the ancient art of campanology to new groups of ringers, drawn from all age groups. It is refreshing to see the appeal that bellringing has for the younger generation particularly.

Turvey's bells have marked the great events of history and the local events of the Parish through the years: the birth of Princes, the death of Kings; the honouring of the military departed and the welcoming of a peace returned; the marriages and the funerals of the people of Turvey. When Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in 1887, the day-long festivities were heralded by "the merriest peal of bells"—at 4 o'clock in the morning! A threat to follow tradition with a similar early peal for Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee celebration in 1977 was unfulfilled, though the bells were rung with equal enthusiasm later in the day!

Turvey's Church is part of our heritage, the basic fabric of our society. Your purchase of this leaflet has contributed a few pence towards its upkeep. If you feel able to make an offering to help us hand on this Church, to the next generation in a condition that glorifies Almighty God, in Whose honour All Saints and its bells are dedicated, we will promise to use your contribution wisely.





The Tenor Bell, seen in the second picture left, is the only one which is always "down" because it is used to strike the hours shewn by the Church Tower Clock. The other seven bells in Turvey's Belfry are set at the handstroke position when ringing is not in progress.

The Ringing Chamber provides plenty of room for the Ringers, and everyone is "on the mat" unless lack of inches calls for improvisation!

ALL SAINTS, TURVEY

One of Bedfordshire's fine Churches