



The Bells of North Marston

At North Marston there were originally 5 Bells and a small Sanctus bell
the origin of the five being:

- 1 - James Keene 1627 (Keene was based at Woodstock)
 - 2 - James Keene 1627 (Keene was based at Woodstock)
 - 3 - James Keene 1627 (Keene was based at Woodstock)
 - 4 - Richard Chandler 1699 (Chandler was based at Drayton Parslow)
 - 5 - Lester & Pack 1763 (Lester & Pack was based in London)
- Sanctus - Circa 17 century – Unknown founder

According to one of the church reports, in 1911, the Bell Ringers at North Marston were paid £1 0s 0d per year for their services and £- 14s 6d were spent on the Church flag and bell ropes.

Between 1911 and 1924, the bells at North Marston had fallen into disrepair: 3 of the bells were cracked and all five of them were out of tune. (The bells are tuned to the key of F). Experts were called in and recommended that all five of the bells were recast and a new treble should be added to make a ring of six bells.

In 1924, the church launched the Bell repair fund, it's committee being: The Vicar, T.B. Biggs, H.W. Cheshire, A.E. Cheshire and F.M. Holden. They started with a sum amount of £180. By 1925, £450 had been raised for the bells, but the church still needed £150, the bells were taken away to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London, owned by Messrs. Mears & Stainbank where they were recast and the new treble was also cast. The lightest 4 of the old five bells had some extra weight added to them to put them in harmony with the tenor. After the bells had been rehung, Rev'd A. H. James said that the bells have beauty of "music and beauty of tone." A local newspaper said; "The village now boasts of a peal, second to none in beauty of tone and ease of manipulation"

They were rehung in a Cast Iron frame with modern fittings and the Second bell is hung in the Second tier of the Bell Frame. The Sanctus bell is hung up high in the belfry on an old beam of the original Bell frame. The bells were not rung regularly for a number of years. most probably due to a lack in number of ringers. The bells were overhauled in 2010 by Whites of Appleton, Church Bell Hangers.

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