

Ashford-in-the-Water

An insight into village ringing in Ashford-in-the-Water, written by Linda Pelc with contributions from Clive Thrower and Ian Pykett who also ring at Ashford.



Ashford-in-the-Water Holy Trinity Church

The Church and Bells

From Ashford Church Guide written by Rev. Norman, George Pace, Rev. Foster and Clive Thrower.

The Tower

Probably the oldest part of the church is the tower which is 12.2 metres high. It's walls at the base are up to 1m thick. The date of the two-light window in the west wall of the ground stage is not known, but the battlements and pinnacles were certainly built later than the main tower. When they were being re-pointed at the turn of the twentieth century, a stone fell and killed a young boy who was passing beneath.

There are seven bells in the tower. The oldest of them - dedicated before the Reformation - is the little Sanctus bell which used to hang in a bell-cote over the chancel arch (removed in 1870). It was found in the tower in 1893 and rehung.

In 1943 decay was found at the ends of the massive beams of the old oak bell frame of 1612. The sound part was removed and now stands in the north aisle, and as well as the date it bears the name of William Smith, one of the churchwardens at the time. A new cast iron framework was installed on a foundation of heavy rolled steel girders, leaving room to complete a peal of six.

The Tower Arch



The tower arch was built during the Decorated Period (1370-1440) and was unchanged when the church was rebuilt in 1869. Beneath it stands the octagonal, chalice-shaped font which is believed to date from the same period. There is, however, no trace of its original surface.

The Clock

The Church Clock has an electric movement which was installed by John Smith & Son of Derby in 1966 and the two clock faces are illuminated during the hours of darkness.

The Parish Council very kindly contribute to the electricity consumed in providing this amenity for the village.

The Font



**You can just see the tail on the above photo*

The font was sold by the churchwardens around the end of the 18th century and it was used as an ornament in a local garden. When it was restored to the church, the lower part of the shaft was found to be damaged and this was replaced by a new piece of stone. The body of a dragon or evil spirit can be seen "embedded" in the shaft, while the head and tail* emerge from each side, symbolising the influence of the sacrament of Holy Baptism over sin. Children and adults are still baptised here, either during the Sunday morning service or at private services held at other times.

Some notes regarding the bells of Holy Trinity Church,
Ashford-in-the-Water
Ian Pykett © 2021

The oldest bell in Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water, is a small pre-Reformation sanctus bell, known as the 'ting-tang' bell after its characteristic sound, and also called the 'pancake bell' because it was traditionally rung on Shrove Tuesday.



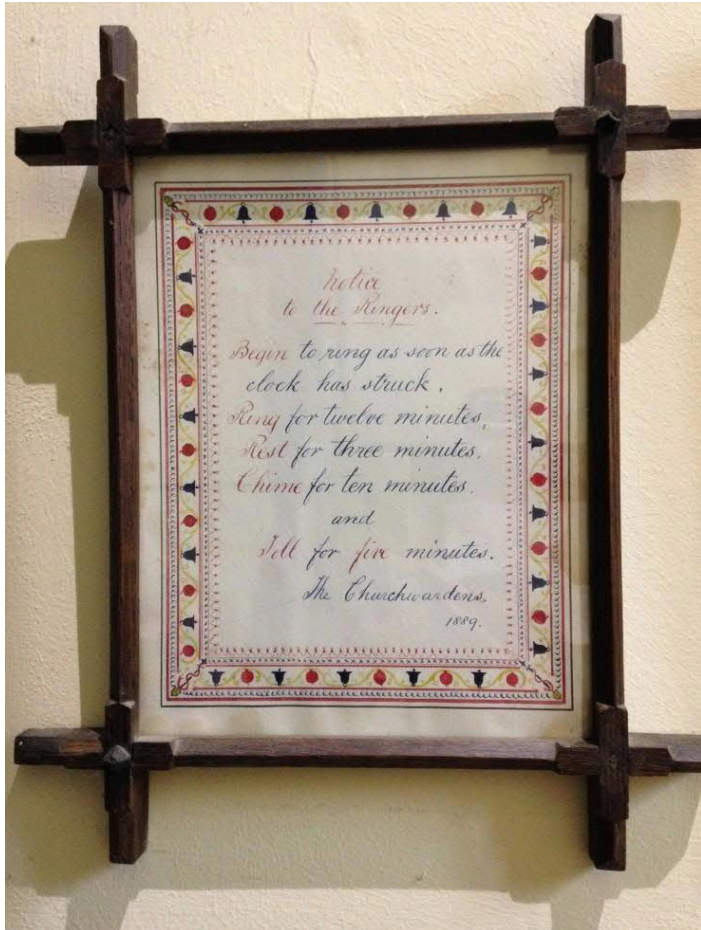
In 1864, the Ashford-born antiquarian and businessman Thomas Brushfield recounted the following custom, which even then had been of at least 60 years' standing:

'Shrove Tuesday – also called Goody's Tuesday – was held as a notable day in the village. At eleven o'clock in the morning of that day, a bell, called the 'pancake bell,' was rung in the church tower, and on the first sounding of that bell the children of the schools in the village were released from their studies, and had the rest of the day for holiday purposes – indeed it was a general holiday. The game of football was generally played during the after part of the day. These customs are still observed – the pancakes, the bell-tolling, and the football-playing – and there is no harm in them ...'

This bell – which is not hung for change-ringing – was exposed to the weather for many years when it was suspended in an exterior bell-cote above the chancel. At the time of major building renovations between 1868 and 1870, the architect, James Medland Taylor, designed a new sanctus bell turret. However, his suggestions were not adopted, and the bell was taken down and stored in the tower. It was forgotten for 23 years, until it was rediscovered and rehung in the tower, where it remains today. It is frequently still chimed during the consecration of the Eucharist.

Three other bells (now the fourth, fifth and tenor), which are rung full-circle, were originally installed in ca. 1600-1612, 1750, and 1612, respectively.

With only six changes possible on the three bells that existed in the 19th century, there was little opportunity for the ringers to practise the Exercise beyond a fairly rudimentary level. A century earlier, bell-ringers had begun to acquire a reputation for inebriation and irreverent behaviour, which may have been the reason that, in 1889, the Ashford churchwardens wished to restrict even further their freedom to practise their art, and instead adhere to a very specific set of ringing instructions:



Notice to the Ringers:

*Begin to ring as soon as the clock
has struck.*

Ring for twelve minutes.

Rest for three minutes.

Chime for ten minutes.

and

Toll for five minutes.

The Churchwardens 1889.

Access to a 40-seat west gallery, installed in 1735, had been via a winding staircase, which had filled up the space under the tower arch. Along with a wooden partition, this had cut off the tower from the nave. The only access to the tower during this time had therefore been via an exterior door on its south wall. However, the gallery and partition were removed at the time of the 19th-century renovations, and access to the tower was once more – as now – available from the nave.

In 1946 an unexpected donation from the family of a prior organist covered the cost of an electric blower for the organ, and the monies that had been set aside for this purpose were transferred into a bell fund.

This began an eight-year process of planning and further fundraising, so that in 1954 the three existing bells were recast; a new additional bell was cast in memory of Revd Henry Sherlock, vicar of Ashford for 27 years, who had died in 1943; and a 1612 oak bell frame (the 'good' part of which now stands in the north aisle) was replaced with a new cast-iron frame, made ready to accommodate two further bells.



The final two bells were added in 1966 to complete the current peal of six.

The above notes were taken from:

Pykett, Ian. *The Life and Times of John Reddaway Luxmoore (1829-1917), with Special Reference to his Renovation of Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water*. Country Books. 2021 (in press).

The Ashford Bells

1600 Tenor and Fourth

Two bells inscribed 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo' must have been hung in this tower from early C17. They were recast in 1954 and became what is now our Fourth and Tenor bells.

1750 Fifth

The bell which is now our fifth must have made a three in our tower from this date. It was inscribed 'Richard Bennett' and was recast in 1954.

I wonder if the name has any family connection with Bill Bennett whose family have been ringing in Longstone for some generations.

1954 Four Bells

The third, fourth, fifth and tenor bells were installed in 1954. The new frame was made to accommodate six bells. Two lighter bells were added later. The three bells already in place in Ashford were recast probably because they were in a bad condition and did not ring nicely. Another bell dedicated to 'Harry Ernest Sherlock vicar 1912-1939' was added to make four in all. The story of 'The boy in the bell' and Ian's notes tell a little more about collecting money for this project. There are many more methods that can be rung on four bells than on three.

1966 Six Bells

Great celebrations in 1966 when at last two more bells are installed. They were gifted by the families of Jean Whittaker and another donor.

Bells & Weights

The weights and inscriptions are as follows:-

	Cwts	Qrs	lbs	Kgs	Inscription
Treble	2	2	23	137	Jean Whittaker 1907-1965
Second	3	0	14	159	Jean Whittaker 1907-1965
Third	3	1	10	170	Glory be to God on high 1954 God save the Queen. In Memoriam Harry Ernest Sherlock vicar 1912-1939
Fourth	3.	3	0	191	I H C Gloria in Excelsis Deo. GH. circa 1600-1612. Recast 1954
Fifth	4	2	0	229	Richard Bennett CW 1750 Thos. Hedderley founder. Ashford-in-the-Water Recast 1954
Tenor 6	0	6		308	I H C Gloria in Excelsis Deo. 1612 GH Holy Trinity. Recast 1954

The Early Days

In 1954 a new frame was installed that would accommodate six bells and four bells were installed. A dedication service was held and I have a photo. Many of you may recognise some of the people in this photo:

The service of Dedication 1954



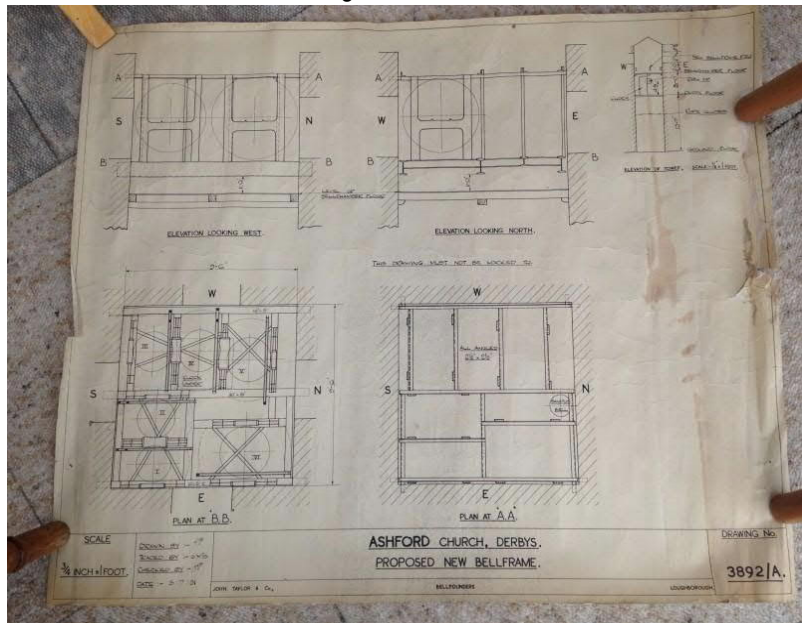
From left to right:

William Twelves, Kathleen Hurst, Herbert Bennett, Rev Thomas George, Rt Rev George Sinker Assistant Bishop of Derby, Audrey Greenhalch, Clifford Roberts, IDA Thorpe, Dora Eyre (nee Hurst), George Thorpe.

William Twelves and Clifford Roberts must have been church wardens. Other than the clergymen, the others would have been ringers. Dora and Kathleen were probably related. Dora lived in Ashford until she died in 2012. Herbert Bennett was the father of Bill Bennett who I knew as tower captain at Great Longstone. I believe his father had also been tower captain there. He must have taught the four Ashford ringers at Longstone for this special day.

These people must have worked very hard to raise money for such a big project that was not long after the end of rationing.

We even have the drawings for the frame from that date.



Below is a picture of the Chancel 1954 and a modern photo for comparison



The Good Old Days

The Good Old Days were gradually coming to an end as I joined. It felt as though the regime would carry on for ever but bit by bit ringers dropped out and I was left to keep Ashford going.

When I started, though, the tower had a band of friends united by ringing and going to Ashford church. I called them the octogenarians. They weren't quite that but they had a good twenty years on me. They were all men except for Eve and another woman, Serena, who only came on practice nights. The tower captain was called Ron Daybell. Say it in a little slurred way and you get 'Rung the bell'. That really amused me, enough to make me want to join. Mike had encouraged me to learn to ring; on Sundays he rang and left when the service started and pointed out that I could do the same.



From Left to right : Ron, Serena, Eve, Maurice, Linda, Stan.

Everyone had their own bell: Ron on the treble, Eve on the two, me on the three, Stan on the four, Mike on the fifth, and Maurice on the tenor. When Mike left to live on a narrow boat, we moved around. Ron still on the treble, another ringer, who had rung with the band previously, rang the two, Eve moved to the three, me now on the four and Stan was delighted to be on the five and Maurice on the tenor. It was a real promotion for Stan to move to the five. It was the coveted bell because you could sit on the seat behind the bell during pauses in the ringing. Nowadays ringers choose not to be at that bell because the seat can rub the back of legs. Maurice was blind and had to ring on the tenor so that he rang with the font immediately behind him. He had a piece of washing line cut to the right length that went round his waist and onto the handle of the font lid. You can see it on the photo. This kept him in the right position to be able to catch the sally. His guide dog, Arnie, was always there too. He sat quietly while the ringing was on but he was quite naughty too. One time when I had a sandwich in the pocket of my coat which was hanging on a peg, Arnie went straight to it and tried to chew through the pocket.

They were a friendly crowd and welcoming. They were all from Ashford village and walked to practice. They never went to other practices and hardly knew other ringers. Keeping themselves to themselves they had enough people to ring for weddings. They didn't practice other than once every three weeks when this young man from Matlock would come to teach them. I discovered that several people in the village had learnt to ring at some time or other. They had learnt, rung for a while, and given up. The ringing at Ashford had been kept going over the years by locals. Now we rely on people to come in from neighbouring villages, Longstone, Taddington, Roseley Bakewell and so on. For weddings ringers often come from Buxton, Tideswell, Stanton, Darley and Matlock as well.

There was always a bit of banter between Ron (on the treble) and Maurice (on the tenor). They were neighbours in their houses and neighbours in ringing. The treble is quite light at Ashford and Ron's style was such that every now and again the rope would fly out. Then, Maurice next to him on the tenor, had a wide sweeping style so that, being blind, he could catch the sally. The combination was that every now and then he would catch the treble by mistake. Each would blame each other. If you didn't know them you could be excused for thinking that they were being nasty to each other, but no, that was their Derbyshire way.

Maurice made many wooden things for the tower. He made a plank that fixes to the bottom of the wall ladder that discourages anyone from climbing into the belfry. We still use that. He also made a model bell with stay and slider and wheel. It actually worked, in that if you pulled the little string it would stand at backstroke and pulling again it would stand at hand stroke. The bell, though, was made from a turned piece of wood so it makes no sound. He also made a spider for the ropes. How he did these things with no sight is quite remarkable.

Ron would make jokes. Many were about the choir. He was a member of the choir as well as a ringer. He teased the sopranos for being like corncrakes. Some of the ladies were quite formidable but they took it all from him. He would cut cartoons about bell ringers out of the Church Times and pin them up in the belfry.



He would tease me that I heard Maurice ringing the tenor and then rush to join the ringing. Little did he know how right he was. One time when I had at last progressed to ringing on Sunday mornings, I rushed in as Maurice finished ringing up the tenor. In Ashford it is a ground floor ring and you come through the body of the church to get to the tower. Ron said: 'Here she is. She's heard your bell, Maurice, and jumped out of bed.' 'Oh' said Maurice 'Is she still wearing her nightie?'

So continued the 'Good Old Days' but anyone who enjoys good method ringing would not call them that. The only thing rung was Called Changes, and that they did in a rather haphazard way. Maurice could call them but Ron was the tower captain and he could not. Instead there were large cards placed on each wall of the tower. On these cards were rows of numbers preceded by a letter.



A	1	2	3	4	5	6
B	1	3	2	4	5	6
C	1	3	2	5	4	6
D	1	3	5	2	4	6
E	1	3	5	4	2	6
F	1	3	4	5	2	6
G	1	4	3	5	2	6
H	1	4	3	2	5	6
I	1	4	2	3	5	6
J	1	4	2	5	3	6
K	1	2	4	5	3	6
L	1	2	4	3	5	6

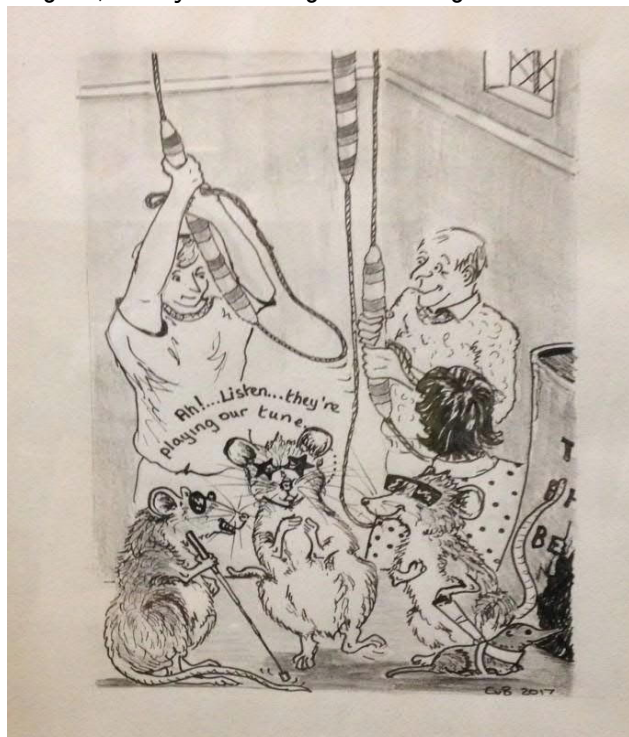
You can see from the photo that they were all the rows for called changes. Instead of calling a change Ron would shout a letter. Ringers would refer to a card to see where to ring. Since the letters all sound quite similar, B is not unlike C or D or E, especially with ringing going on behind, it was difficult to know exactly where we were. Sometimes he would have to repeat a letter or decide to go back instead of forward and coupled with the fact that he often called it a bit late or was it too early, meant the result was often mayhem.

At a certain age guide dogs are retired. When Arnie was deemed to be at retirement age, Maurice was too old to receive a new guide dog. Consequentially he left the village to live with his daughter elsewhere. His departure seemed to herald the end of this era ringers. Ron, Maurice and Stan have been dead some years now. The others are too elderly to ring and I run the practice now.

Nowadays

We still have good times at Ashford. Gone are the notices around the walls and our ringers swap bells happily.

We still have our humour and cartoons. I hope you enjoy this one illustrated by one of our ringers, Cheryl Van Burgh. The ringers are obviously playing 'Three blind mice'.



We ring lots of different methods and I am still hoping to ring 'Trinity Sunday Treble Bob' with an Ashford band for our patronal festival but we haven't quite managed it yet. We now have weekly practices and often have ringing at other times during the week too. The church goers are very supportive and encouraging of our ringing. The church warden and everyone were really delighted when we had 'proper' ringing again for service a month ago.



Three years ago, our local vicar nominated me for a 'Bishop's Badge' for services to the church and community. Since I don't attend church this was a big compliment to myself and our ringers and shows how much we are appreciated.

We often have quarter peals at Ashford. In winter I try to organise them when the heating might be coming on for another service. For several years we had regular quarters on a Wednesday afternoon and we were in 'Ringing World' magazine as one of the top fifty quartered towers in England. Achieving good, even ringing is hard and takes a good deal of practice so ringing quarter peals with experienced ringers who produce the right rhythm is the only way to get that practice. I try to get my new ringers into quarters but it is quite hard to find a suitable time for them and for when there are also ringers available to help.

Teaching

The bells at Ashford are clear to hear, light and easygoing to ring and so we are an excellent tower for training new ringers. They are suitable for learning handling being light and with good bearings, and the circle is good for ringing methods. Quarter peals here are achievable by even a novice band. When I took over as tower captain I went on an ART course for teaching bell-handling and discovered a method of teaching bell handling that not only encouraged a good style from the beginning but also took a great deal of pressure off the teacher by making flailing ropes much less likely. With this method of teaching handling, if a stay is broken, it is the teacher's fault not the learner's.

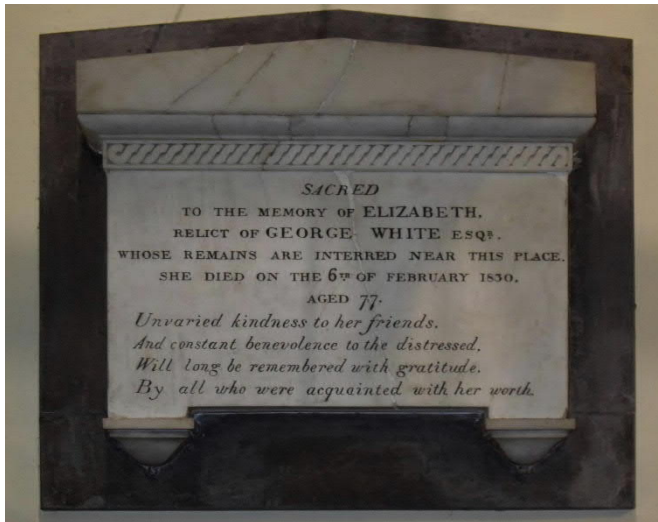
I have taught many groups since I've been captain. We were very proud to win The Arthur Ashby Cup in 2009. It is a competition for bell striking that encourages teams with at least three new ringers to enter.



From left to right: Ian, Clive, John, Linda, Alex, Ian.

Photo by Roger Lawson

For a while we had a lot of young learners. One of them is now living in Taddington and still joins us for ringing.



We had a near miss in the tower one time. A stone plaque came down from the wall above a seat where a little girl was sitting. Fortunately an older boy nearby was quick thinking and knocked it to fall away from where she was. So no-one was hurt. The vicar put the plaque back up on the wall and behind it, in the wall, he put a piece of paper telling the story. Should it be removed again someone might know this little history.

Now, many houses in Ashford village are rented as holiday cottages so the permanent residents are fewer and my new recruits are rarely from Ashford. I still seem to get a steady flow of new ringers from nearby.




I have now moved to Bakewell which is only a couple of miles away from Ashford so I still run the tower there.

Teaching policy

Over the years I have developed a teaching scheme to encourage method ringing. I am not interested in teaching someone just to make a noise. I am aiming for good even ringing. I no longer introduce beginners to Called Changes. Instead we ring Kaleidoscope. (See a Central Council publication written by Gordon Lucas.) The name makes it sound very grand but it starts off simpler than Called Changes with exercises that give plenty of practice to the learner of moving one place in the row and back again and makes them use listening as their way of correcting themselves. This is an extremely musical way of teaching ringing and the exercises build up in small steps that are directly applicable to plain hunting and covering. Thus learners are on the way to becoming a method ringer. More experienced ringers can enjoy it too because they can practice, say, 'Yorkshire places' while the beginner is doing something simpler at the beginning of the row. Since beginners haven't been introduced to Call Changes until they can plain hunt, they can't get stuck on them and not progress, which is often what happens.

Equipment

In order to teach we have installed various pieces of equipment that allow us to ring more.

SIMULATOR	
	<p>Using a tiny piece of electronics and a magnet on the wheel, a sensor picks up the movement of the tied bell (the clapper doesn't swing or strike) and relays the sound that would have happened to the ringer below via a computer speaker. The outside world are not listening and the learner can ring whatever they like. I can have as many ringers ringing as I like and I could even choose for the bells to sound like Worcester Cathedral should I be bothered. Mostly we have the bells sounding like our own. I often start ringers using three bells so they can hear their own bell easily. This is best done using our simulator since it is rather dull to listen to for neighbours</p>
AUTOMATIC SILENCER	
	<p>Our tenor bell has an automatic silencer. I can press a button from within the ringing room at the bottom of the tower and when the rope is pulled the bell does not sound. This saves me from climbing up a wall ladder and then up another ladder and then squeezing under a bell to get into the belfry. The simulator make the sound for that bell. A ringer can ring from this bell and the computer makes the sound for the other bells. It is a great way of practicing on your own. I can set the computer to ring as if there are twelve bells and learn how to fit in with that number.</p>
AUTOMATIC SHUTTERS	
	<p>We have four louvred windows in the tower at Ashford. When the shutters are closed we can ring the six bells and they sound louder inside the church than outside. If you are outside and close your eyes it sounds like there is are some bells ringing in a church up the hill and far away. Up the street 200 yards from the church the bells are hardly audible. These shutters have actuators on and can be operated from within the ringing room. I often use this mechanism rather than going up the ladders to silence bells</p>

Boy in the Bell – 60 years ago

'The Boy in the Bell' is not just a poem or just a photograph but a story special to Ashford. In 1954 the three bells that had been unusable were recast and a fourth one added. On 20 October 1954 the bishop came to a special service and dedicated the bells. On 18 October 2014 ringers from Ashford held an Open Day to commemorate the event. It was in preparing for the Open Day that the story of 'The Boy in the Bell' emerged

For the Open Day the church was open to all visitors and visiting ringers for the afternoon. Tea and scones and jam and cream were guzzled and, not to be forgotten, so were the delicious cakes that the ringers had made. There was demonstration ringing with a camera in the belfry so that you could see the bells turn while watching the ringers pull the ropes. There was a video of a young student's first steps in deciding and learning to ring. There was a computer playing a new release DVD for ringing 'improvers'. There was also a practice bell nick named the 'Wombel'. It is a miniature bell, supported on a metal frame, that you can stand under and ring like a tower bell. Most visitors had a go on the Wombel and were delighted by how quickly they could learn to ring it. Many went home to find out if they could learn to ring. There was also a notice board display about our bells and their history and one board about our 'Boy in the Bell'.



To help prepare for this celebration day, I was given a file containing a 1954 photograph of the bishop with the ringers after the commemoration service for the four bells. It also contained a thin piece of paper with carefully typed words including a poem. I saw and read the poem and thought it was quite good, but I didn't see the significance to our bells until recently when I read the paragraph with it. John Mc Crindle who was well known locally as a good amateur photographer (certainly by 1990s when I came to the village) had written as follows:

In the winter of 1953 the bells of Holy Trinity, Ashford-in-the-Water were removed from the tower and 'grounded' in the churchyard whilst awaiting their removal to Loughborough for recasting. One very cold morning with snowflakes in the wind I took a photograph of my three-year-old son, Alistair, sheltering in one of the bells. It was certainly the chance of a lifetime for him for it was the first time one of the bells had been down for more than three hundred years. The picture was published in the Church Times and inspired a reader to write the following charming verses:

Bell to Boy

Come Boy, all's well,
Shelter in my grounded Bell.
I, Christened like to thee,
Served a triple century.
Ringing through the changing years
Changeless message in men's ears.

Come now, here apart,
To God lift your heart.
Seek here his Son the King,
For whose sake I ring.

Boy to Bell

Like the Church, oh shelt'ring Bell.
From things which hurt, you house me well.

Now I hope when I am old,
And my span of service told,
I may too have rung as true,
Sweet and willingly as you;
And hear at length when I arise,
The princely peals of Paradise.

A British soldier serving in the Middle East saw both picture and verse and sent a donation to the church.

John McCrindle

There was no sign of the original photo of the boy and it was Rev Clive Thrower that suggested I look on the web for The Church Times. At first that seemed a hopeless task because all you find on the web is a layout of pages where you can't read more than the larger titles. Since I did not know which edition it was in I was rather unhelpful but as I was looking for a picture and not words, I had some chance of spotting that. Eventually I found what I was pretty sure was the right picture. It was quite small and somewhat blurred but it had to be it. So, with the help of John Thorpe, we paid to view a more legible copy and that led to finding more mentions of Ashford. The photograph, unfortunately, is still not clear and certainly would be worse again if we attempted to reprint it. So I have made a

sketch. The following is what we found in 1954 in The Church Times. Searches are difficult but we have found no further references to Ashford or the bells other than these in 1954.



First there was the photograph published Friday 21 January 1954. The words that went with it were very much the same as those I found typed but without names and written by a third party and with no acknowledgement to the photographer other than as 'a reader'. Then about 4 weeks later came the poem. It was initialled 'A. P.' and again referred to as 'sent in by a reader', so we do not know who was the poet.

Then, as a complete surprise, the on the front page no less, was a photograph of Ashford as an 'idyllic setting':

CHURCH TIMES

No. 4,753.—Vol. CXXXVII. LONDON, FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1954 (Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.) PRICE 4d.

KNOW THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH

BE PREPARED AS ITS FIRM DEFENDER

PRIMATE'S LENTEN ADVICE

"An intelligent understanding both of the Bible and the faith of our Church," is urged by the Archbishop of York in a pastoral letter read in all churches in the diocese of York, last Sunday.

"Through the Bible," said the Primate, "God still speaks to us as he did to our forefathers. It is a lantern given to guide our feet, and we stumble in the darkness when its light is neglected. But the Bible is no longer read in our country as once was the case. To many it is an unknown book. Their neglect of it is partly due to the fact that when they abandoned mistaken

DERBYSHIRE SUN AND STREAM



BISHOP OF OXFORD RECALLS THIRTY GOOD SERMONS

SOUTH AFRICAN CANON

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

	PAGE
OUT OF SLAVERY INTO FREEDOM	
Reparation to West Indies	201
PARISH BEHIND BARBED WIRE	
By the Rev. S. J. Davies	198
IT HAPPENS NOW	
Ministry of Prison Chaplains	196
"STARS APPEARING"	
By Mrs. Sibyl Harton	199
LENTEN REFLEXION	
Of Charity Towards All Men	195
GOOD MANNERS	
By J. A. B.	196
ADVOWSONS	
On Presentation	195
CORRESPONDENCE	
From the Bishop of London and others, the Bishop of Mashonaland, the Bishop of Accra, Canon F. J. Edmund, Chancellor J. W. James, Dr. C. B. Moss, the Rev. Layton Spurgin, and others	201

READING VICAR PREPARES TO BUILD HIS FIFTH CHURCH

COUNCIL ESTATE TENANTS COLLECT MONEY

In six hundred out of eight hundred houses already completed on the new Southcote estate at Reading, collections

Ashford-in-the-Water, Derbyshire, keeps its ancient peace, although, not far away, lies the London-Carlisle road. The old church is seen beyond the sparkling sunlit river

No reference to boys or bells. It is a view taken from across the river over a field and looking at the tithe barn and church. You can't see this view any more because a bungalow has been built on the field which with its boundary foliage, completely blocks the line of site. Like the 'Boy in the Bell' the copy is too blurred to reproduce well. The caption below the photograph reads:

Ashford-in-the-Water, Derbyshire, keeps its ancient peace, although not far away, lies the London-Carlisle Road. The old church is seen beyond the sparkling sunlit river.

This must also have been a surprise to the vicar at the time, Rev Thomas George, for you can read the anguish and outrage he was feeling in the next item we found. Published in March 1954 the vicar sent in this notice:

Here is a transcript of the words:

ASHFORD-IN-THE-WATER
BAKEWELL, DERBYSHIRE

"KEEPING ITS ANCIENT PEACE"
said the caption about our church (front page Church Times March 12) showing tower almost hidden by old yews. Too peaceful altogether – no bells now.

"THE BOY IN THE BELL"
(another Church Times photo) means that the bells, not rung since 1938, have been taken down. Children cannot cry "PILTO is coming" when CURFEW rings. The SANCTUS is silent.

800 VILLAGERS
have been chasing prices and now need £1,100. They have raised £800. Tired now.
If you can help, please write to:
Rev T.D.W George,
Ashford Vicarage, Bakewell.

26 March 1954

you a mis-cre: Chambers, Der

BROTHERHOOD OF THE HOLY CROSS.

Hope you will get the Quarterly by Easter. Time flies! Wish someone living near would help by addressing envelopes. (If you worry about the souls of Postmen and Sorters, we have a typewriter!!) We cannot send our Index away, as we refer to it daily. Thanks for all you do.
Fr. GEORGE POTTER.
66, Linden Grove, Nunhead, S.E. 15.

ASHFORD - IN - THE - WATER,
BAKEWELL, DERBYSHIRE.

"KEEPING ITS ANCIENT PEACE"
said the caption about our Church (front page, Church Times, March 12th), showing tower almost hidden by old yews. Too peaceful altogether—no bells now.

"THE BOY IN THE BELL"
(another Church Times photo) means that the bells, not rung since 1938, have been taken down. Children cannot cry "PILTO is coming" when CURFEW rings. The SANCTUS is silent.

800 VILLAGERS
have been chasing rising prices, and now need £1,100. They have raised £800. Tired now.
If you can help, please write to:
Rev. T. D. W. GEORGE,
Ashford Vicarage, Bakewell.

HOLY TRINITY, HOXTON, N. 1.

IN THIS POOR PARISH WE SHOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR, BEDDING, CURTAINS, ETC.
We are now more than ever in need.
Please address parcels to:
KENNETH LOVELESS, R.N.V.R. (Vicar),
3, Bleichley Street, Hoxton, N. 1.

OF

THE UN
(DEPARTME
RESI
ASPECTS I
SOCIAL I

C
CLOUGHT
AUG. 30
Che
PROFESSOR S

The Rev. PR
The Rev. P

The Rev. E.
The Rev. P
Inclusive fee fo

Applicati
The University
Adult Educatio

B

BURSARII
SCHOOL
Entrance and c
Northbank Sch

From this we have found how important the bells were to the vicar and village. I wonder what PILTO is. We have also found how much the bell replacement project cost and a little bit about how the project went, or rather, nearly floundered. It must have been after all these publications that the anonymous soldier, mentioned by John McCrindle in his note in the file, gave his donation. And, thanks to that, and much work of many others, and thanks to the 'Boy in the Bell' we have our bells today.