

Treble, second and third bells

The front three bells are the newest bells in the tower and were cast in 2010 by Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London. They were cast as part of a major restoration and augmentation project and were hung by Nicholson's Engineering.

Fourth bell

The fourth was cast in 1615 by John Brand II. He was a Norwich bell founder coming from a well known family of founders. He worked closely with his father, William, and they worked mainly in East Anglia. There are around 90 bells in Suffolk produced by his father, although fewer by John himself. It is not known when John was born, but he was certainly casting bells in the early part of the century right through to at least the 1650s. Locally some of the bells at Framlingham and Blaxhall were also cast by him. He is buried at All Saints Church, Westlegate, Norwich and his foundry was close by.



FOURTH BELL – 1615

This leaflet was produced as part of the Local Heritage Project. We hope you found it interesting and enjoyable.

The leaflet is free, but a donation to Church funds through the wall safe would be appreciated.

Our other leaflets:

Ash Row Heritage Trail
Blackstock Crossing Heritage Trail
Bell Ringing around Campsea Ashe
Young Person's Quiz

Discover more about our Church, including latest events and services at our website:

www.campseashechurch.org.uk

For all information about the bells contact the Tower Captain:

Glenys Fear – 01728 747177



THE BELLS OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH



Fifth and Tenor bells

These two bells were both cast by Thomas Gardiner of Sudbury. He was casting bells from 1709 - 1762, so our fifth bell was one of his earlier efforts. There are 82 of his bells in Suffolk, many more in Essex and he cast 259 bells in total. Originally Thomas worked for another bellfounder, Henry Pleasant, but after Henry's death he set up his own foundry in Sudbury on land between Burkitts Lane and Weavers Lane. He also had a foundry in Norwich. He was casting bells for over 50 years until his death in 1769.



FIFTH BELL – 1714

TENOR BELL – 1729



BELL	DIAMETER	WEIGHT	NOTE	DATE
Treble	23"	3 cwt	F#	2010
Second	25"	3 cwt 14lb	E	2010
Third	26 1/2"	3cwt 2qr	D	2010
Fourth	27 3/8"	3cwt 2qr	C#	1615
Fifth	29"	4cwt 3qr	B	1714
Tenor	33"	6 cwt	A	1729
Service	36"	8 cwt	G#	1601

Service Bell

The Service Bell is the oldest of the bells at Campsea Ashe and was cast by Richard Bowler who was founding in Colchester from 1557 to 1604. In 1598 Richard was in trouble with the law due to his cattle straying onto the land of Reginald Oldfield, but it is not known what the outcome of the case was. Then in 1600 he was seriously assaulted and injured by Ambrose Gilbert and was close to death. During his recovery period his bells were cast by Richard Holdfield. Usually Holdfield put Bowler's name on the bell, but with his own initials, but that is not the case with our tenor which simply has Richard Bowler's name on it. It looks likely that the bell was actually cast by Holdfeld in Richard Bowler's foundry.



SERVICE BELL – 1601