

THE RINGING WORLD

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL
OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

The Parish Church of East Farleigh with Coxheath, Kent

THE parish consists of Coxheath, a village of about 4,000, which has a small chapel in the hospital grounds, and East Farleigh, population about 1,000 which contains the parish church.

There are six bells in the tower, the tenor being 7 3/4 cwt. in A. The bells were originally a ring of three, cast by Joseph Hatch of Ulcombe between 1610 and 1615. In 1674 the treble was recast by John Hodson of London, and in 1891 Mears & Stainbank cast three new trebles to augment the ring to six. Mr. S. Snelling of Sittingbourne hung them with new framework and fittings and Alfred Bowell recast the tenor in 1928. The last repairs, until the present work commenced were carried out in 1952 by Mears & Stainbank, when all the frictional parts were renewed.

In 1967, Whitechapel Foundry recommended a new iron frame and all new fittings, the total cost of which would have been around £1,700. The church could not afford this at the time, and as the bells were not often rung the project was shelved.

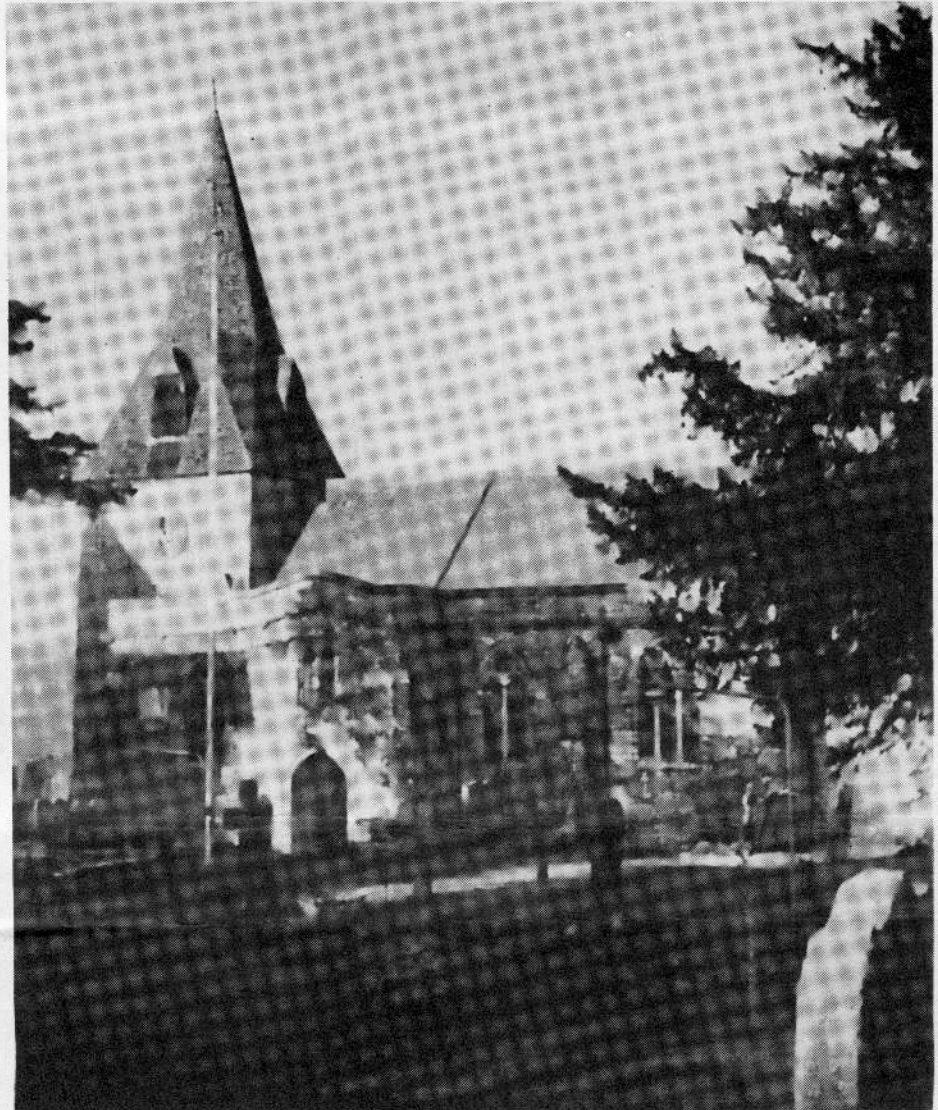
The present band started life in early 1974, since when the bells have been rung regularly, and in 1976 the PCC decided to rehang the bells to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee. The total cost over nine years had risen to around £6,000, but with a co-operative PCC, fund raising was started in earnest.

Following a report from the Central Council Towers and Belfries committee it was decided that the replacement of the foundation beams was the first priority, and it transpired that the frame was not in as bad a state as had been thought. The PCC accepted a recommendation to replace the beams, strengthen the existing frame, and to secure the whole installation with vertical tie bolts.

VOLUNTEER LABOUR

Mr. Stuart Taylor was requested to carry out this work, with local volunteer labour. Work was commenced early in October 1978, when the ringers stripped the frame and lowered the bells. Mr. Taylor then strengthened the frame, raised it, replaced the old beams with RSJs and has now lowered the frame on to the new beams.

As this work will cost about half the original estimate, the PCC have agreed to look at the installing of two new trebles, and Mr. Taylor is at present adapting the frame to accommodate them. It is hoped to have all eight on the same level.



There have been some 50+ peals on the bells including the first by a local band (1953) and one in 1976 by the present local band.

DETAILS OF THE BELLS

Treble	3-3-16	F sharp	4-3-13	D
	Mears & Stainbank		Mears & Stainbank	
	Whitechapel Foundry, London. 1891		Whitechapel Foundry, London. 1891	
	Gloria in Excelsis Deo		Venite Exultemus Domino	
	4-0-16		5-1-00 (approx.)	C sharp
2nd	Mears & Stainbank	E	CII John Hodson made me 1674	
	Whitechapel Foundry, London. 1891		Thomas Sumes John Fuller Church W	B
	Hora Fugit Ora		6-0-00 (approx.)	
			Joseph Hatch made me 1610	A
			Joseph Hatch made me 1615	
			Recast by Bowell of Ipswich 1928	
			(Photo of ringers overleaf)	