

St Nicholas' Bells – History

Source: <https://www.peterboroughchurches.com/glatton>

There are four bells in the ring here, with the first two of these being cast by Francis Watts of Leicester, with each dated 1595. The inscriptions on this founder's bells are always fascinating, and it is safe to say that my spell checker did not care for either of these inscriptions! On the first bell (1595) is carved 'Com Com and Preay' and on the second (1595) is inscribed 'Searve God and O Beay the Princ'.

The third is relatively modern, being cast by Taylor of Loughborough in 1863. The fourth is courtesy of Thomas Eayre I, who operated out of premises in Kettering. This bell is dated 1736 and is inscribed 'Omnia Fiant Ad Gloriam Dei Gloria Deo Soli, which translates as 'Let all things be done for the glory of God glory to God alone'.

Source: British History On-line:

There are four bells, inscribed: Com Com and preay 1595; (2) Searve God and O beay thy princ 1595; (3) J: Taylor & Co. Founders Loughborough 1863; (4): Omnia fiant ad gloriam dei . . . : . . . + . . . gloria deo soli: +: . . Tho: Eayre 1736. The treble and second are by Watts, of Leicester. There were four bells both in 1709 and in 1776, [\(fn. 59\)](#) but in 1748 the archdeacon records 'the first and second bells bad'; [\(fn. 60\)](#) possibly he meant what we should call the third and fourth. The bells were in bad condition for ringing in 1899, and were rehung in a steel frame in 1904, and a chiming apparatus added in 1919.

TB:

The tower of St Nicholas houses four bells. The first two bells were cast by William Watts of Leicester in 1595. The first of these bells is 29.18" in diameter and weighs approx 5 cwt and is inscribed "Com Com and Preay" whilst the second bell is 31.88ins diameter and weighs about 6 cwt, is inscribed "Searve God and O Beay the Princ". The third bell weighing circa 6 cwt was cast by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough in 1863 and is without inscription and the fourth bell, cast by Thomas Eayre of Kettering, is dated 1736 and is inscribed "Omnia Fiant Ad Gloriam Dei Gloria Deo Soli", which translates as 'Let all things be done for the glory of God glory to God alone'. This fourth bell is some 35.63ins in diameter and weighs approx. 7 cwt.

The bells were rehung in a steel frame in 1904 by Taylor & Co because the quality of their ring was deemed to be poor and a chiming mechanism was added in 1919. The bells today are operated manually to mark notable events & special occasions by four pull cords located at ground level.

For many years now, Doreen has been our fantastic church bellringer!