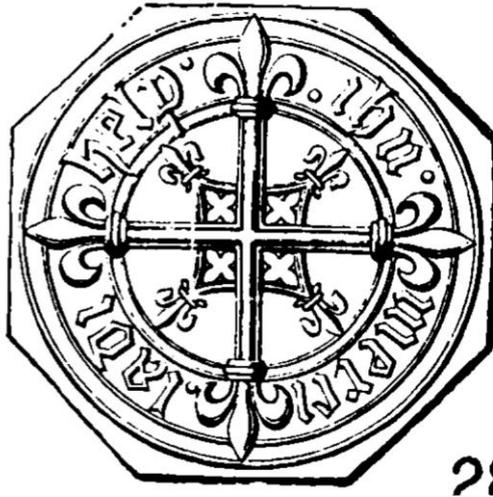


# The Bells

## St. Martin's, Welton le Wold

*Two of them are over 560 years old.*



St. Martin's at Welton-le-Wold has **three** ancient bells.

The **TREBLE** and **MIDDLE** bells were cast in London by William Chamberlain, whose foundry operated between **1426** and **1456**. The treble measures 31" (79 cm.) in diameter, and the middle bell 33" (84 cm.). By comparison with other similarly sized bells from the same foundry, they are thought to weigh around 5 and 6 cwt. (250 and 300 Kg.) respectively. The treble bears the inscription "Sancte Georgie Ora Pro Nobis" [Translation: St. George pray for us], and the second "Sancte Nicolae Ora Pro Nobis" [Translation: St. Nicholas pray for us]. These bells are particularly well-cast, and their fundamental pitches bear an excellent relationship to each other: only three cents of a semitone from perfection. Both bear three emblems reproduced above.\*

The **TENOR**, the heaviest bell, producing the lowest note, bears the simple and informative inscription "**DANIEL HEDDERLY CAST ME IN 1728**". It has a diameter of 34.5" (88 cm.) and weighs about 7 cwt. (350 Kg.)\* Although much newer than the lighter bells, the tenor is cast much more crudely. It was tuned by chipping metal away at the rim, and the fundamental pitch is nearly half a semitone flat.

The timber **BELL FRAME** was made locally in 1876, when the bells were re-hung on elm headstocks on plain metal bearings by **John Taylor & Co**, who now run the only bell foundry in the United Kingdom, at Loughborough. The headstocks had developed cracks by the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, and were replaced by new oak headstocks to the same design.

*Most of these facts and figures were extracted by permission from "Lincolnshire Bells and Bellfounders", compiled and edited by the late John R Ketteringham BA, MPhil, PhD.*