

# **A Complete History of Bells and Bell Ringing at Crick**

*St Margaret of Antioch, Crick, Northamptonshire*

Research report - August 2026

*An evidence-led study of the bells, their changing configuration,  
ringing customs, restoration, augmentation and modern ringing life*

Source discipline: no unsupported reconstruction is presented as fact.  
Conflicting published dates and descriptions are retained and identified.

## Abstract

The bells of St Margaret of Antioch at Crick preserve an unusually legible sequence of local campanological history. Three bells cast in 1601, 1614 and 1616 survive in the present ring of eight; a fourth seventeenth-century bell, cast by Bryan Eldridge in 1656, is known from a manuscript inscription copied by John Bridges and printed by Thomas North; and a priest's or saint's bell dated 1632 was still remembered in the same manuscript tradition but had disappeared by North's survey of 1878. Thomas Russell's 1720 bell replaced the Eldridge bell and later formed the second of the four-bell ring. It survives today outside the full-circle ring as the separate clock bell. [1][2][3]

The nineteenth-century evidence is particularly valuable because it includes two independent published observations. Thomas Deacon described the church in 1828 as possessing four bells and a saint's bell. Fifty years later, Thomas North directly surveyed a ring of four, printed their inscriptions and dimensions, and recorded the local uses of the bells: the noon bell, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Bell, death-knell distinctions, Sunday morning ringing, service chiming, the Sermon Bell and the Parson's Bell. [1][2]

The twentieth-century transformation is best understood as a staged restoration and augmentation. Modern parish evidence states that, before 1996, the tower contained only four bells and they had not rung for many years. A restoration fund was in existence by 1995; a £7,000 heritage award is independently recorded in 1996, although two official sources give different award dates. Three new Whitechapel bells dated 1996 joined the three retained seventeenth-century ringing bells, while the 1720 Russell bell was retained as a clock bell. Dove then records the 1997 augmentation from six to eight, achieved by two further Whitechapel trebles. Peterborough Diocesan Guild sources describe the broader work as the restoration and augmentation of 1996-8. [3][5][6][7][8][9][10][12][13]

The resulting installation became not only a restored parish ring but an active change-ringing tower: it hosted Guild activity, has accumulated peals and quarter peals, has given its name to recorded Major methods, and after later tower works experienced a renewed local ringing programme from 2014 onward. The report also defines the limits of the digital evidence: the Crick History Society catalogue identifies additional archival holdings that have not been inspected because the underlying documents are not publicly exposed online. [11][14][18][19][20]

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## 1. Scope, method and evidential rules

This study is intended as a complete history in the sense of a synthesis of the bell and ringing evidence that could be directly verified in accessible printed and digital sources during August 2026. It does not claim that every surviving manuscript, parish paper, foundry document or private photograph has been inspected. The distinction matters at Crick because the Crick History Society explicitly catalogues further material - including a 'St Margarets Church, Bells and Rectors' collection, Bridges material, directory entries, newspaper cuttings and named local historians' archives - without exposing all of those underlying documents publicly. Those holdings are therefore identified as future archival avenues, not silently used. [14]

The evidence has been handled in layers. Contemporary or near-contemporary printed observations are quoted or paraphrased with their date. Surviving bells are treated as physical documentary evidence through their inscriptions, founders and dates as recorded by modern tower and Dove sources. Thomas North's 1878 account is used both as a direct nineteenth-century survey and, where he explicitly cites Bridges MSS, as a published witness to an earlier manuscript record. Modern institutional records - Dove, the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, the parish and the Heritage Fund - are used for the restoration and present installation. The Ringing World and BellBoard are used for restoration-index entries and performance evidence. [1][3][4][8][9][10][12][21]

No gap is filled simply because a sequence appears obvious. Where a change can be reconstructed only by combining several sources, it is labelled as a source-based reconstruction. Where sources conflict, both statements are recorded. This is especially important for the 1996 heritage award, for which the Heritage Fund project page gives 10 January 1996 while a Hansard table gives 14 February 1996. [6][7]

## 2. The church and tower as the setting for the bells

St Margaret of Antioch stands in the centre of Crick. The present church is an ancient fabric whose history long predates the earliest surviving bells. For the purposes of this report, the architectural point of direct relevance is the west tower and spire: a long-lived setting in which successive bells could be retained, replaced, rearranged and eventually expanded into the present eight-bell installation. Current tower records describe an upper-floor ringing chamber, a metal frame, metal headstocks, conventional stays and a separate clock bell housed above the ring. [3]

The tower's present acoustic and mechanical arrangement is therefore the outcome of several distinct historical layers rather than a single installation. Three early seventeenth-century bells remain full-circle bells; the 1720 Russell bell remains in the tower but no longer belongs to the full-circle ring; and five Whitechapel bells of 1996-97 complete the modern eight. [3][4][5]

## 3. The surviving early seventeenth-century bells

The oldest bell now ringing at Crick is the present seventh, cast in 1601 and attributed to Edward Newcombe. Its inscription is recorded as 'PRAISE THE LORDE'. The present tenor was cast by Hugh II Watts in 1614, and the present fifth by the same founder in 1616. Both Watts bells carry the Latin formula recorded in modern transcription as 'CELVVM CHRSTE PLATAT TIBI REX SONVS ISTE', translated on the Guilsborough Branch page as a prayer that the sound may be pleasing to Christ, King of Heaven. [3][17]

These dates are not simply antiquarian memories. The three bells physically survive within the present ring and are separately listed in modern bell registers. Dove gives the 1616 bell as the fifth of eight, 6-2-15 in B, with a diameter of 32.81 inches, and the 1614 tenor as 11-0-19 in F-sharp, diameter 40.38 inches. The 1601 Newcombe is the present seventh. [3][4]

| Present position | Cast | Founder         | Recorded inscription / identification          | Current weight |
|------------------|------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 5th              | 1616 | Hugh II Watts   | CELVVM CHRSTE<br>PLATAT TIBI REX<br>SONVS ISTE | 6-2-15         |
| 7th              | 1601 | Edward Newcombe | PRAISE THE LORDE                               | 7-2-27         |

| Present position | Cast | Founder       | Recorded inscription / identification             | Current weight |
|------------------|------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Tenor            | 1614 | Hugh II Watts | CELVORVM CHRSTE<br>PLATIAM TIBI REX<br>SONVS ISTE | 11-0-19        |

The survival of these three bells is central to the history of the 1990s project. The restoration did not replace the old ring wholesale: it preserved three of its four full-circle bells and incorporated them into an enlarged modern ring. [3][10][12]

## 4. The lost 1632 priest's bell and the 1656 predecessor

North's Crick entry preserves two pieces of evidence for bells that no longer survive. First, after describing the four bells he inspected, he states that the second bell had previously borne the inscription 'Bryanus Eldridge me fecit 1656'. Second, he records that a priest's bell, 'now gone', had borne the initials and date 'I.K. 1632'. His footnote attributes these earlier inscriptions to the Bridges manuscripts in the Bodleian Library (EE.i, 197). [1]

The 1656 Eldridge bell is therefore the documented predecessor of the 1720 Thomas Russell bell that later occupied the second place in the four-bell ring. Modern Guilsborough Branch material repeats this succession: an earlier second by Bryan II Eldridge, cast in 1656, was replaced in 1720. [3]

The identity of the 1632 priest's bell requires particular caution. The Guilsborough Branch Sanctus-bell page notes the initials I.K. and suggests that, if the 'I' represents 'J', James Keene might have been the founder. The page itself presents that as a possibility. No source inspected for this report establishes the attribution as fact, so this report does not convert the suggestion into a founder identification. [16]

A further question is whether North's lost 1632 priest's bell was the same object as the 'saint's bell' reported by Deacon in 1828. Chronology makes the identification possible, but the accessible sources do not explicitly connect the two descriptions. The point is therefore left unresolved. [1][2]

## 5. The 1720 Thomas Russell bell

In 1720 the 1656 second was replaced by a bell cast by Thomas Russell of Wootton. Its inscription, still legible and repeatedly recorded, is 'THOMAS RVSELL OF WOOTTON MADE ME 1720'. It became the second bell of the old four and survives in the tower today as the separate clock bell, with a recorded current weight of 6-3-6. [1][3]

A later Ringing World article on coinage impressions records George I coin impressions on bells dated 1718 and 1720 at Crick and Cranford St Andrew among others. This provides a separate twentieth-century antiquarian observation about the Crick bell's decoration, although the article discusses several founders collectively and should not be stretched beyond what it states. [15]

The Russell bell's present status is historically significant. During the 1990s enlargement it was not destroyed or exported from the tower. Instead, it was withdrawn from the full-circle ring and retained as the clock bell, preserving all four members of the pre-restoration ring in the building - three as ringing bells and one as a stationary clock bell. [3]

## 6. The four-bell ring in 1828

Thomas Deacon's 1828 history of Willoughby includes a short description of nearby Crick. He describes St Margaret's as having an eight-sided pyramidal steeple 'with four bells, and a saint's bell'. The value of this notice is its date: it independently establishes a four-bell principal installation more than forty years before North's survey, while also recording a smaller additional bell. [2]

The four principal bells in 1828 are consistent with the later physical sequence documented by North and with the surviving bells: a 1616 Watts bell, the 1720 Russell replacement, the 1601 Newcombe and the 1614 Watts tenor. This sentence is a correlation of dated evidence, not a claim that Deacon himself supplied their individual identities. [1][2][3]

## 7. Thomas North's 1878 survey and Crick ringing customs

Thomas North's *The Church Bells of Northamptonshire* provides the fullest direct nineteenth-century account. His heading is unambiguous: 'CRICK. S. Margaret. 4 Bells.' He then records the inscriptions and approximate diameters of the four bells. The evidence fixes not only the ring size in 1878 but the identity and order of the bells at that date. [1]

| 1878 position | Cast / founder        | North's identifying inscription                   | Approx. diameter |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1             | 1616, Hugh II Watts   | CELVORVM CHRSTE<br>PLATIAM TIBI REX SONVS<br>ISTE | c. 32.5 in       |
| 2             | 1720, Thomas Russell  | THOMAS RVSSELL OF<br>WOOTTON MADE ME 1720         | c. 34 in         |
| 3             | 1601, Edward Newcombe | PRAISE THE LORDE 1601                             | c. 36 in         |
| 4 (tenor)     | 1614, Hugh II Watts   | CELVORVM CHRSTE<br>PLATIAM TIBI REX SONVS<br>ISTE | c. 40 in         |

North also recorded how the bells were used. A bell rang daily at noon. The Pancake Bell was rung at 11 a.m. on Shrove Tuesday. At a death-knell, thrice three tolls denoted a male and thrice two a female. On Sunday the first bell was rung at 8 a.m. For Divine Service, the first three bells were chimed and the tenor 'rung in'; the Sermon Bell followed, and then the 'Parson's-bell'. [1]

These customs show that the Crick bells were embedded in daily and weekly timekeeping, public notification and parish ritual, not merely in change ringing. The noon bell and Pancake Bell belong to a wider family of English customary ringing, but North's value is that he records their local operation at Crick at a specific date. [1]

North also recorded a local tradition that before the Battle of Naseby there had been only one bell at Crick, said to be the present tenor. Crucially, he immediately qualified the story, observing that it was 'not strengthened' by the inscriptions. The surviving dates 1601, 1614 and 1616 are all earlier than the 1645 battle, so the tradition cannot be used as a factual ring history without contradicting the bell evidence. It is nevertheless part of the history of how the bells were remembered locally and is retained here as a documented tradition. [1]

## 8. From the Victorian four to twentieth-century silence

The accessible sources do not presently provide a continuous year-by-year mechanical history of the four bells between North's 1878 survey and the late twentieth-century restoration campaign. The configuration itself, however, remained recognisable. Modern parish sources explicitly refer to the 'original four bells', and *A Church Near You* states that before 1996 the tower housed only four bells and that they had not rung for many years. It also states that the frame and fittings required renovation if full-circle ringing was to continue. [10][12][13]

The phrase 'had not rung for many years' is important but imprecise. No accessible source inspected here supplies a verified final date on which the old four last rang regularly before the restoration. This report therefore does not invent a closure date. [13]

## 9. The restoration campaign, 1995-1996

The Ringing World consolidated index places a Crick Restoration Fund item at 1995 page 161 and an augmentation item at 1996 page 582. The relevant post-1970 issue pages were not freely exposed in the archive during this research, so the index references can be cited but their unseen article text is not paraphrased. [8]

The financial history is independently documented by official records. The National Lottery Heritage Fund project page names the applicant as the Crick Church Bells Restoration Fund and records a grant of £7,000, giving 'Date awarded' as 10 January 1996. A Hansard table published in January 1997 also records a £7,000 heritage award to the same fund but gives the award date as 14 February 1996. The two official dates are both retained; this report

has found no source proving which field represents the underlying decision, announcement or payment milestone. [6][7]

The parish account emphasizes the breadth of support, thanking both the local and wider community for making restoration and a full ring of eight possible. Peterborough Guild material later credited Geoff Brown as one of the original team members who orchestrated refurbishment of the four and the eventual augmentation. [10][12]

## 10. Reconstructing the staged augmentation, 1996-1998

The evidence shows that the modern eight emerged in stages. The first stage is not described in one accessible source with the simple formula 'four to six', but the combined evidence establishes that sequence. Before 1996 there were four bells. Three old ringing bells - 1601, 1614 and 1616 - remain in the present ring; the 1720 bell was removed from the ringing circle but retained as the clock bell; and three present bells were cast by Whitechapel in 1996. The result is a six-bell full-circle ring composed of three old and three new bells. The Ringing World index independently labels a Crick 'augmentation' in 1996. This paragraph is therefore a source-based reconstruction from the surviving configuration and dated records, not a quotation from a single contemporary report. [3][8][12][13][17]

The second stage is directly stated by Dove. Its 1997 project entry says: 'The ring was augmented from six bells to eight.' The two present front bells are Whitechapel bells dated 1997. [3][5]

Peterborough Diocesan Guild's 2014 Spring Festival report describes the back six as bells 'restored and augmented in 1996-8'. That broader 1996-8 wording is compatible with a project whose physical augmentation occurred in 1996 and 1997 but whose commissioning, performance milestones or completion activity extended into 1998. The Ringing World index also points to 'first peal since augmentation' material in 1998. The sources should therefore not be flattened into one single project date. [8][9]

The index also contains a 1996 reference headed 'first peal on the bell' and 1998 references headed 'first peal since augmentation'. Because the actual indexed pages were not accessible in full during this research, those headings are preserved without guessing which newly added bell or which exact performance the first phrase describes. [8]

| Date / source                   | What the source establishes                                                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1995 - Ringing World index      | Restoration Fund item, p. 161.                                                              |
| 10 Jan 1996 - Heritage Fund     | £7,000 award; project page date.                                                            |
| 14 Feb 1996 - Hansard           | £7,000 award; different official date.                                                      |
| 1996 - bell evidence / RW index | Three Whitechapel bells dated 1996; RW index calls an augmentation.                         |
| 1997 - Dove                     | Direct statement: ring augmented from six to eight; two new Whitechapel trebles dated 1997. |
| 1996-8 - PDG 2014               | Guild retrospective describes back six as restored and augmented in 1996-8.                 |
| 1998 - RW index                 | First peal since augmentation indexed at pp. 134, 277-8.                                    |

## 11. The present installation

The present full-circle ring comprises eight bells with a tenor of 11-0-19 in F-sharp. A ninth bell in the tower - the former 1720 second - serves the clock. The current Guilsborough Branch page records the bell-by-bell weights below. [3][4]

| Bell       | Cast | Founder                   | Weight  | Historical note                       |
|------------|------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Treble     | 1997 | Whitechapel Bell Foundry  | 3-2-21  | Added in six-to-eight augmentation.   |
| 2          | 1997 | Whitechapel Bell Foundry  | 4-1-1   | Added in six-to-eight augmentation.   |
| 3          | 1996 | Whitechapel Bell Foundry  | 4-3-0   | First restoration/augmentation phase. |
| 4          | 1996 | Whitechapel Bell Foundry  | 5-1-21  | First restoration/augmentation phase. |
| 5          | 1616 | Hugh II Watts             | 6-2-15  | Old treble; survivor of four.         |
| 6          | 1996 | Whitechapel Bell Foundry  | 6-3-26  | First restoration/augmentation phase. |
| 7          | 1601 | Edward Newcombe           | 7-2-27  | Old third; survivor of four.          |
| Tenor      | 1614 | Hugh II Watts             | 11-0-19 | Old tenor; survivor of four.          |
| Clock bell | 1720 | Thomas Russell of Wootton | 6-3-6   | Old second; retained separately.      |

The later Whitechapel bells also carry short identifying inscriptions recorded by the Branch: AVE on the treble, GRACE on the second, THANKSGIVING BELL on the third, JACK on the fourth and MARGARET on the sixth. The accessible tower page does not explain all of those names, so no donor or commemorative identities are inferred here. [3]

Mechanically, the Branch records a metal frame and headstocks, conventional stays, an upper ringing chamber and a separate clock bell. The parish describes the bells as having been rehung in a new frame in the mid-1990s. [3][12]

## 12. Ringing after restoration: peals, methods and Guild use

The enlargement changed what could be rung at Crick. An eight-bell tower supports Major and Triples as well as ringing on six and fewer. The post-restoration performance record accordingly includes both ordinary repertoire and methods carrying the village name. [18][19][20][21]

Complib records Crick Surprise Major with a first peal on tower bells at Crick on 30 December 1998. It also records Crick Major - known as Crick Hybrid Major until 31 May 2019 - with a first peal on tower bells at St Margaret of Antioch on 31 December 2002: 5,056 changes, Peterborough Diocesan Guild, conducted by Paul M. Mason. A separate Complib method record for Crec Surprise Major records a 5,152-change first peal on tower bells at Crick on 23 September 2000, conducted by Murray A. Coleman. [18][19][20]

The naming of a method after Crick demonstrates the tower's place within the technical culture of change ringing, but the method records alone do not establish who chose the names or why. The report therefore confines itself to the recorded performance facts. [18][19][20]

The tower has also served Guild activity. At the Peterborough Diocesan Guild Spring Festival on 26 April 2014, the six-bell striking competition was rung on the back six at Crick. The Guild report specifically links those bells to the 1996-8 restoration and augmentation. [9]

Modern BellBoard records demonstrate continuing peal and quarter-peal use. Examples include 5,088 London Surprise Major on 10 May 2014; 5,088 April Surprise Major on 5 April 2022; 5,088 February Surprise Major on

28 February 2024; and numerous quarters and general ringing. These examples are illustrative, not an assertion that the list is exhaustive. [21]

Crick has also hosted visiting bands. On 8 April 2025 a Guild of Devonshire Ringers band rang 1,250 Tintern Abbey Surprise Major in 45 minutes, recorded as the first quarter peal in the method on the tower bells. [23]

### **13. Tower work and the ringing revival, 2011-2014**

The restored bells were later affected by a further period of tower work. The September 2011 Peterborough Guild newsletter reported that work on Crick tower was 'now in full swing' and that the bells would soon ring again, adding that ringers were needed to join Geoff Brown. This establishes both a temporary interruption associated with building work and the concern to rebuild a local band. [11]

Current church material states that bell practice was reintroduced in 2014. Contemporary Guild reporting that year describes the restored/augmented bells in use for the Spring Festival, showing that the tower had returned to active ringing and could host a Guild striking competition. [9][13]

The accessible sources do not provide a single precise start and finish date for the tower-building interruption. It is therefore safer to document the dated observations - work in progress in 2011 and an active practice/competition environment by 2014 - than to manufacture a continuous closure period. [9][11][13]

### **14. Bell ringing at Crick in the twenty-first century**

By August 2026 Crick again had an active local ringing life. The parish describes a regular Sunday group, open Saturday morning learner practices and the use of a ringing simulator for additional training. The current Guilsborough Branch page lists regular practice and service-ringing arrangements and identifies Nick Hiams as tower captain. [3][12][25]

BellBoard records show the bells being used for worship, personal occasions and public commemoration. In 2019, for example, Peterborough Guild records at Crick included quarter peals, a Plain Bob Triples quarter rung in memory of Toby Peter Edward Nieland, and seven minutes of tolling on 18 April as part of a wider response to the Notre-Dame fire. [22]

More recent records include national commemorations. Crick ringing was recorded for the Coronation of Charles III in May 2023, for the eightieth anniversary of D-Day in June 2024, and for VE Day commemorations in May 2025. Such entries demonstrate the continuing civic as well as ecclesiastical role of the bells. [21]

The educational emphasis is equally important to continuity. Current church listings advertise structured learner sessions with experienced helpers. In historical terms, this is the modern counterpart to the recruitment problem explicitly noted in 2011: a ring of bells can be restored mechanically, but its long-term survival as a ringing instrument depends on people learning to use it. [11][12][25]

### **15. People and stewardship**

The surviving documentary record identifies several people associated with the modern stewardship of the tower. A 2017 Peterborough Guild newsletter states that the Parochial Church Council appointed Rob Palmer as steeple-keeper; that he already assisted with mechanical aspects alongside tower captain Nick Hiams; and that retiring steeple-keeper Geoff Brown would remain responsible for the clock and its mechanism. [10]

The same Guild report explicitly remembers Geoff Brown as one of the original team members who orchestrated refurbishment of Crick's original four bells and eventual augmentation to eight in the mid-1990s. This is the clearest accessible institutional attribution of individual involvement in the restoration project. [10]

The current Guilsborough Branch and parish pages continue to identify Nick Hiams as tower captain and contact for ringing and training. These sources establish office and involvement at their publication/access date; they should not be projected backwards into periods for which no evidence has been found. [3][12]

### **16. Source conflicts, unresolved questions and limits**

A rigorous history should expose its unanswered questions. The principal ones identified in this research are as follows.

**The 1632 small bell:** North, citing Bridges MSS, calls it a priest's bell and says it was gone by 1878. Deacon in 1828 reports a saint's bell. The sources do not explicitly prove that these are the same object. [1][2]

**Founder of the 1632 bell:** Only the initials I.K. are documented in the cited material. A modern Branch page suggests James Keene as a possibility if I is read as J; this remains a suggestion, not an established attribution. [16]

**The Heritage Fund award date:** The Heritage Fund page gives 10 January 1996; Hansard gives 14 February 1996 for the same £7,000 award. Both are official records. [6][7]

**Exact mechanics of the 1996 first-stage augmentation:** The 4-to-6 sequence is established by combining the pre-1996 four-bell statement, surviving bell identities, three 1996 Whitechapel bells, the clock-bell transfer and the RW index's 1996 augmentation heading. No single accessible contemporary text inspected here states the entire sequence in one sentence. [3][8][12][13]

**Project end date:** Dove directly records 6-to-8 in 1997. The Guild retrospectively uses 1996-8, and the RW index carries first-peal-since-augmentation items in 1998. These dates describe different parts of a staged project and its ringing aftermath. [5][8][9]

**The old four's final years of regular ringing:** The church says they had not rung for many years before 1996, but no exact last-regular-ringing date has been verified. [13]

**Early inventories:** No 1552 Crick bell inventory was identified in the accessible published sources examined in this research pass. That is not evidence that no such document ever existed.

**Local archive material:** Crick History Society catalogues additional material that has not been inspected because the underlying documents are not publicly exposed. A genuinely archival second edition should consult that material directly. [14]

**Post-1970 Ringing World pages:** The consolidated index supplies valuable page references for the 1995-98 restoration and peal history, but the relevant full issue pages were not openly accessible in this research environment. Index headings are therefore quoted as index evidence and not expanded into unseen article content. [8]

## 17. Conclusions

Crick's bell history is a history of retention as much as replacement. The modern ring still contains bells of 1601, 1614 and 1616, while the 1720 Russell bell - itself the replacement for a documented 1656 Eldridge bell - remains above them as the clock bell. The tower therefore preserves a physical sequence spanning more than four centuries. [1][3][4]

The nineteenth-century documentary evidence adds a rare layer of social history. Deacon's four bells and saint's bell in 1828 and North's four-bell survey in 1878 bracket a stable principal ring, while North's customs reveal bells that structured noon, Shrove Tuesday, death, Sunday worship and the ordering of Divine Service. [1][2]

The mid-1990s restoration did more than return silent bells to use. It converted an old four into a modern eight while retaining the three oldest full-circle bells and the Russell bell in the tower. The evidence indicates a first stage in 1996, a directly documented six-to-eight augmentation in 1997, and a wider project/performance horizon extending into 1998. [3][5][8][9][12][13]

Finally, the history did not end with the engineering work. Later tower repairs, recruitment, teaching, Guild events, peals, quarter peals and civic ringing show a continuing social institution. The most important unfinished work is archival rather than mechanical: the Crick History Society catalogue signals further local records that should be examined directly for a future expanded edition. [9][11][12][14][21]

## Appendix A. Chronology

| Date | Evidence / event                    |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| 1601 | Edward Newcombe bell, now 7th of 8. |
| 1614 | Hugh II Watts tenor, still tenor.   |

| Date        | Evidence / event                                                                                              |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1616        | Hugh II Watts bell, formerly old treble, now 5th.                                                             |
| 1632        | Priest's bell I.K. recorded in Bridges MSS via North; gone by 1878.                                           |
| 1656        | Bryan Eldridge second documented in Bridges MSS via North.                                                    |
| 1720        | Thomas Russell replaces the 1656 second; survives as clock bell.                                              |
| 1828        | Deacon: four bells and a saint's bell.                                                                        |
| 1878        | North: direct survey of four bells; local ringing customs recorded.                                           |
| Before 1996 | Parish source: only four bells, not rung for many years; frame/fittings needed renovation.                    |
| 1995        | Ringling World index: Restoration Fund, p.161.                                                                |
| 1996        | Heritage award £7,000; three Whitechapel bells dated 1996; RW index: augmentation.                            |
| 1997        | Two Whitechapel trebles; Dove: six augmented to eight.                                                        |
| 1998        | RW index: first peal since augmentation; Crick Surprise Major first peal on tower bells 30 Dec.               |
| 2000        | Crick Surprise Major first peal on tower bells, 23 Sep.                                                       |
| 2002        | Crick Hybrid Major first peal on tower bells, 31 Dec.                                                         |
| 2011        | PDG: tower work in full swing; expectation that bells would soon ring again.                                  |
| 2014        | Practice reintroduced; PDG Spring Festival striking competition at Crick.                                     |
| 2016        | Charity Commission later records transfer of funds from Crick Church Bells Restoration Fund to PDG on 21 Sep. |
| 2017        | PDG: Rob Palmer appointed steeple-keeper; Geoff Brown and Nick Hiams roles recorded.                          |
| 2026        | Active eight-bell tower with learner training, service ringing and separate clock bell.                       |

## Appendix B. Bell-by-bell succession

| Historical function   | Earlier bell          | Replacement / present outcome               |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Old treble            | Hugh II Watts, 1616   | Retained; present 5th of 8.                 |
| Old second            | Bryan Eldridge, 1656  | Replaced in 1720 by Thomas Russell.         |
| Old second after 1720 | Thomas Russell, 1720  | Retained in tower; now separate clock bell. |
| Old third             | Edward Newcombe, 1601 | Retained; present 7th of 8.                 |

| Historical function   | Earlier bell                                         | Replacement / present outcome                                                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Old tenor             | Hugh II Watts, 1614                                  | Retained; present tenor.                                                             |
| Priest / saint's bell | I.K. 1632 in Bridges MSS; saint's bell reported 1828 | Gone by North's 1878 survey; identity linkage between the two descriptions unproven. |
| 1996 additions        | Three Whitechapel bells                              | Present 3rd, 4th and 6th.                                                            |
| 1997 additions        | Two Whitechapel bells                                | Present treble and 2nd; Dove records 6-to-8 augmentation.                            |

## Appendix C. Selected performance chronology

This is deliberately a selected chronology. BellBoard and The Ringing World contain many more routine and commemorative performances; inclusion here is for historical illustration, not as a complete peal book.

| Date        | Performance / event                                                | Historical significance                                       |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30 Dec 1998 | Crick Surprise Major - first peal on tower bells (Complib).        | Early eight-bell method milestone.                            |
| 23 Sep 2000 | 5,152 Crec Surprise Major, PDG, conducted Murray A Coleman.        | First peal on tower bells of the method.                      |
| 31 Dec 2002 | 5,056 Crick Hybrid Major, PDG, conducted Paul M Mason.             | First peal on tower bells; method later known as Crick Major. |
| 26 Apr 2014 | PDG Spring Festival, six-bell striking competition on back six.    | Guild use; retrospective 1996-8 restoration statement.        |
| 10 May 2014 | 5,088 London Surprise Major.                                       | Example of resumed post-building-work peal ringing.           |
| 18 Apr 2019 | Seven minutes of tolling.                                          | Solidarity after Notre-Dame fire.                             |
| 5 Apr 2022  | 5,088 April Surprise Major.                                        | Modern peal example.                                          |
| 6 Jun 2024  | 1,260 Minor for D-Day 80 / Ringing Out for Peace.                  | Civic commemoration.                                          |
| 8 Apr 2025  | 1,250 Tintern Abbey Surprise Major by Guild of Devonshire Ringers. | First quarter in method on tower bells.                       |

## Appendix D. Evidence matrix

| Claim / topic                        | Source type                     | What is actually established                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Four bells + saint's bell, 1828      | Published topographical history | Deacon explicitly states the count.                |
| Four bells, 1878                     | Direct bell survey              | North heads Crick as 4 bells and records all four. |
| 1656 predecessor; 1632 priest's bell | Bridges MSS as printed by North | Earlier inscriptions and lost-bell notice.         |

| Claim / topic       | Source type                   | What is actually established                                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1990s old four      | Parish / Guild retrospectives | Pre-project four; three retained in ring; Russell retained as clock. |
| £7,000 grant        | Heritage Fund + Hansard       | Amount/applicant agree; dates conflict.                              |
| 1997 six-to-eight   | Dove historical project       | Direct statement of augmentation.                                    |
| 1996-8 project span | PDG newsletter                | Retrospective wording on restored/augmented back six.                |
| Modern ringing      | BellBoard, PDG, parish        | Dated peals/quarters, Guild events and current training.             |

## References

All web sources were checked during August 2026. URLs are supplied so that the evidence can be re-examined. Where a source is a digitised historic publication, the bibliographic date refers to the original publication, not the date of digitisation.

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