

Willoughby Church Bells.

1552. First record of church bells at Willoughby. There were three bells and a "sauce" bell (a kind of handbell which the priest could ring before services or at such other times as required.)

1713. Six bells, cast by Joseph Smith of Edgbaston.

1781. Largest bell (Tenor) was cracked - recast by William Chapel of London (Whitechapel Bell Foundry) Chapman

was a very good and famous bell-founder. But in 1781 his partner died and it was not certain that William Chapel would carry on. Only four bells were cast at Whitechapel

(1781) that year. So Willoughby tenor bell is a very rare bell. However Chapman did take another partner and the Whitechapel Bell Foundry continued.

Henry Bagley.

No bell at Willoughby was cast by H.B.

Nearest Bagley bells - Clifton, Monks Kirby, Bilton.

Bagley family originated at Chacombe near Banbury.

Oldest bell in this area - at Wolfhamcote - 1430.