

Writtle Bellringers

Weekend away to Leicestershire

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 July



Husbands Bosworth (6)
10.30-11.15



Welford (8)
11.30-12.15



The Bell Inn, Husbands Bosworth (12)
12.30-13.55



Peatling Parva (6)
14.25-15.10



Stoney Stanton (8)
15.40-16.25



Sapcote (10)
16.30-17.15



Bitteswell (6)
17.45-18.30



**The Greyhound Inn,
Lutterworth**



**The Greyhound Inn
The Courtyard**



Shawell (6)
10.30-11.15



The Chequers, Swinford

Parking Arrangements

Writtle to Husbands Bosworth 105 miles 2 hrs

Husbands Bosworth

There is parking in the church hall car park, past the church (on your left) turn left (or turn right before the church if coming from Market Harborough) into Honeypot Lane and walk through to church.

Welford

On road parking in Church Lane or West Street.

The Bell Inn Husbands Bosworth

Pub car park to rear of pub off Bell Lane.

Peatling Parva

Off-road parking in front of the church

Stoney Stanton

Car park for library and shops at east end of the church for maximum 2 hours.

Sapcote

Large car park. Access the car park from All Saints Close, off Church Street, next to the library.

Bitteswell

Parking at east end of the church in The Nook.

Lutterworth

Enter Lutterworth from Bitteswell along Bitteswell Road. Turn left into Coventry Road and after approx 100 yards (don't follow the road round to the left) go straight on into Chapel Street where there is a car park. Parking is free after 6pm and on Sundays. At one end of the car park is an archway that leads to the Greyhound.

Writtle Ringers

2012 Weekend Away

to Leicestershire

Saturday 21 July

10.30 – 11.15	All Saints, Husbands Bosworth Ringing Master: Christina	12-2-20 in F# (6) (GF)
11.30 – 12.15	St Mary the Virgin, Welford Ringing Master: Andrew	12-1-26 in F# (8) (GF/T)
12.30 – 13.55	Lunch at The Bell, Kilworth Road, Husbands Bosworth	
14.25 – 15.10	St Andrew, Peatling Parva Ringing Master: Andy Champ	9-2-20 in Ab (6) (GF)
15.40 – 16.25	St Michael, Stoney Stanton Ringing Master: Chris Newton	14-0-0 in F# (8) (GF/T)
16.30 – 17.15	All Saints, Sapcote Ringing Master: Christina	9-1-26 in Ab (10)
17.45 – 18.30	St Mary, Bitteswell Ringing Master: Andrew	8-1-10 in Ab (6) (T)
18.40	Evening meal (7.45pm in The Grill) and overnight accommodation booked at The Greyhound Inn, Lutterworth.  01455 553307 Double/Twin £65, Single £60 inc breakfast	

Sunday 22 July

Check out of the Greyhound Inn by 10.15am, drive to Shawell (4 miles, 12 mins) and park by the church.

10.30 – 11.15	Ringing at All Saints Church, Shawell	8-2-22 in Ab (6)
---------------	---------------------------------------	------------------

Short drive to Swinford where we leave our cars in Stanford Road prior to a circular walk and a well-earned pint and lunch at the Chequers, High Street, Swinford (01788 860318). Tables booked for 2pm and then home.

Husbands Bosworth

The Church itself is built in the Early English and Decorated styles. Alterations and additions have obliterated most of the early features. The Gothic chancel arch and tower arch are both parts of the original building. Parts of the tower are also of great antiquity, dating from the 14th Century. Notice the 14th century broach spire rising directly from the tower with no parapet, a feature more characteristic of the previous century. Lightning damaged the steeple during a violent thunderstorm in 1755 and a picture on the wall near the south door illustrates this. The present choir vestry was added in the 15th Century as a chapel. It was restored in 1683 and this date is marked on the outside wall. It was used as the village school from 1707 to 1820, during which time it was blocked off from the rest of the Church. The original doorway can be seen on the outside of the building. There are records of complaints about noisy children playing and shouting!

The clock is mediaeval and was restored in 1983 by Geoff Armitage, local resident, church member and bell ringer. The Church was restored to its present form between 1861 and 1867.

Gray and Davison of London built the present organ in 1877. In 1952 the instrument was rebuilt and enlarged. The best of the pipes of the former organ were retained. A major renovation was undertaken in 1989.

The Church has a peal of 6 bells. Five were re-cast by Taylors of Loughborough in 1907. One of the 5 original bells is undated but the others have dates indicating that they were originally cast in 1603, 1611, 1631 and 1703. The sixth bell, a new treble cast by Eijsbouts, was installed in 2002 in memory of a local benefactor and to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The Nave roof has interesting floral decoration stencilled onto a white background, executed by the popular "ecclesiastical decorator" (as he called himself), C J Lea of Lutterworth, in 1867.

Welford

Located on the River Avon border between the counties of Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. It is on the main A5199 road connecting Northampton and Leicester and, being halfway between the two, was formerly an important stagecoach stop. The A5199 is known as the 'Welford Road' for much of its length.

It is served by a short arm from the Grand Union Canal and has two marinas. The Jurassic Way long distance footpath passes through the village on a SW/NE axis; although it officially makes its way through the fields to the east of the village, many walkers prefer to walk along the High Street to make use of the village's facilities.

Peatling Parva

Peatling Parva is a parish and village in south Leicestershire. The village is recorded in the Domesday Book from 1086 and was known as Alia Petlinge with listed landowners Howard from Hugh de Grandmesnil and Leofric from Adelaide wife of Hugh de Grandmensil. The recorded population of the village has only risen from 159 residents listed in the 1841 census to 181 residents listed in the 2001 census.



The peal of five were augmented to six by Taylors in 2011 with the new treble hung in a steel frame.

Stoney Stanton

The village of Stoney Stanton was mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as 'Stantone' - a 'stony place' and it is built on a rocky outcrop of ancient grano-diorite, a hard stone much prized for roadmaking. Stoney Stanton, as it was later named, became a quarry village for many years. Those quarries have long since ceased and one is now known as Stoney Cove, now famous nationally as the National Inland Deep Sea Diving Centre.

The Domesday Book records 14 households and we can well imagine the population to be about 150 -200 people. In 1348, the 'black death' hit Stanton. Now, the population is around 3,500, and the village in a rural setting is now a popular commuter village.

The tower of St. Michael's is probably the earliest existing part of the building, described by Pevsner as 'Perpendicular' in style. This would indicate that it might well have been built in the early part of the 13th century, from stone quarried locally. The dressed stone spire would have been added later, during the 14th century.

Contained within the tower, above the ground-floor ringing-room is first a clock chamber, and then, on a higher level, the belfry, where the ring of eight is housed in a two-tier frame. Four louvered widows allow the sound of the bells to reach all corners of the village. From there, an ancient wooden ladder leads to a doorway giving access to the walkway at the battlemented base of the spire, which is surmounted by a gilded weather-cock.

In 1842, Taylor's of Loughborough added a new ring of 6 bells to the tower. As far as is known, the old bells were not incorporated into the new ring either as bells or metal. St Michael's has always prided itself on maintaining decent ringing for Sunday Service, the ebb and flow of ringers notwithstanding, and so in 1898 the ring was brought up to eight with the addition of two new bells, a tenor and treble. Also the bells were re-hung on a new iron 'Taylor 'H' Frame' which replaced the old timbers. The new frame incorporated a cat bracket and hammer for the clock to strike the new tenor bell.

Seventy years later, in 1968, three of the bells, the second, third and fourth were recast and the whole ring of bells re-hung on modern sealed bearings. Taylor's again carried out the work at a total cost of £1,060. The local band of ringers set to, and raised the bulk of the money required, assisted by a grant of £250 from the Barron Bell Trust. The treble is heavier than the 2nd and 3rd and 5th heavier than 6th.



Although 'full' peal ringing now takes place very seldom in the tower, due to the proximity of shops and residential accommodation, there have been some notable peals rung on St Michael's bells. Of special note is the peal of 12,896 Cambridge Surprise Major rung on 28th April 1923 in 7 hours 35 minutes by a Midland Counties band, which is recorded on a peal-board in the ringing-room.

The eighteenth century Churchwardens' accounts tell us that from as early as 1715, a turret clock existed within the tower, which daily, within living memory, struck the hour upon the tenor bell. Sadly it fell into disrepair between the two world wars. It appeared to have no external face, although an account dated 1719 refers to a payment to a painter for 'drawing ye dial for ye clock'.

In 1974 a public subscription raised the funds for the installation of a modern electric clock mechanism in memory of Dr Mortiboys, a much respected village GP and churchwarden, and a clock face was at last fitted to the south wall of the tower, later being illuminated.

During the June of 1994, the old turret clock was finally removed from the tower and meticulously restored to working condition. It can now be seen in the SW corner of the church, close to the Parish Chest, a working exhibit almost three hundred years old, contained within some of its original casework. A full documentary and photographic record of the entire process of restoration, as well as a history of the clock, is available to view near to the clock itself.

The year 2001 saw the realisation of a long cherished dream, the installation of a screen between the ringing-room and the rest of the church. A generous donation provided the impetus for the project, the remainder of the cost being supplied by fundraising within the church. The ringers contributed the finishing touches of new carpeting, wooden ringers' boxes and other woodwork. The new screen has folding doors, for ease of movement should any future work be needed on the bells. The re-hanging, and re-casting of 1968 had thrown up a particular problem. When the bells were newly augmented in 1898, the workmen had so carefully sealed the bells into the belfry that the trapdoor allowing access proved too small for the bells to be removed. A considerable bill had to be paid in 1968 for the enlargement of the access in order that they could be lowered to the ground floor!

Sapcote

Sapcote is a small village with a population of approximately 2,700. It was mentioned in the Domesday Book as *Scepecote*. Its name came from the Anglo-Saxon *Scēapcot* = "shed or enclosure for sheep".

An early Bronze Age occupation site has been discovered here, and a Roman villa and bath house dating from the 1st century AD. Druids, Saxons, Romans and Normans have been known to have inhabited the area in and around Sapcote.

From the 12th-14th century the village was the home of the powerful Basset family. Ralph de Basset was High Sheriff of England and, possibly, the first Member of Parliament, being the first Lord to be called to the Barons Parliament by Simon de Montfort.

The oldest surviving building in the village is the 12th century All Saints Parish Church, an elegant well-proportioned building of Early English style. At one time all its windows had the Basset coat of arms, but these have now disappeared, except for a trace in one window. A chantry was added by Ralph de Basset in 1376 and is the present north aisle. The Wesleyans built their first church in Sapcote in 1805. In 1902 a square stone-built structure was erected. The stone was quarried by the men of the church and they made such a good job of it that the church remains as one of the best buildings in Sapcote. It opened in 1905 and is a fine example of the Arts and crafts period.

In 1806 a bath house was built by John Frewen Turner over the so-called Golden Well in Stanton Road, in an attempt to turn Sapcote into a Spa. In the building were cold and warm baths, and treatment was given for nervous rheumatic and scrofulous complaints. The building cost around £600, and Prime Minister George Canning, Duke of Wellington and Mr Lines all visited the baths. Other historical buildings include several thatched cottages, Park Farm, a timber-framed house in Stanton Road which is dated 1683, the Old School in Leicester Road which was built in 1819, and the Stanley Burrough's Almshouses in Cooke's Lane, erected in 1847.

Other historical figures to have lived in Sapcote include Claude Greengrass from Heartbeat and John Wood. John Wood was famously referred to in the Guardian Guide as providing '

contemporary acoustic vibes' at his sell out show in Leicester in 1998.

The Tower is 66 feet in height and appears to be slightly later than the body of the church, as it is formed of cut stones instead of the earlier rubble infilling. It appears to be of the Decorated period and the structure of tower and spire indicates that they were erected together. The spire was damaged in a heavy gale of wind 14 March 1757 and 16ft had to be rebuilt. The weathercock was replaced in 1909, the old one being suitably inscribed and preserved in the vestry.

Before 1611 there were only three bells, but in that year the great bell broke, and was re-cast into two. The catastrophe was duly chronicled on the cover of the register as follows: "*The great Bell of Sapcot was broke on ye feaste day of St. Michaell 1611, and cast into two Bells, on the ninth day of Novembar ye same, and hunge up on the ...*"

Also in this register we read: "*The bells of Sapcoate were newly hunge in a newe frame, the X1th day of Augустe, in the yeare of our Lord 1621.....*"

The bells were re-hung in August 1721, and again in 1809, when the broken second bell was re-cast. In 1895, two new bells were added, the smallest of the four re-cast, and all were re-hung on steel girders. The total remained at 6 until 1970, when two further bells were added. In November 1977, Sapcote became one of only two villages in the county to have a ring of 10 bells, when the Head Ringer, Michael Brown, donated two more. The oldest bell is the Tenor that carries the inscription: Thomas Newcombe of Leicester made mee 1611. The 3rd and 4th were added in 1970 and treble and 2nd added in 1977 by Taylors.

Bitteswell

Bitteswell is a small village and civil parish in the Harborough district of Leicestershire in England. It is close to Lutterworth, and situated just to the north of that town, and in the 2001 census had a population of 454. It was recorded in the Domesday Book as *Betmeswelle*. The village also had its own RAF station called RAF Bitteswell - Hawker Siddeley had a factory next to the airfield, where Vulcan bombers (and many other aircraft) were built and maintained. The bells are a 1908 Gillett peal of six.

Lutterworth

The name of Lutterworth is probably derived from the Old Norse name "Lutter's Vordig" meaning Luther's Farm. Lutterworth was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. The town was granted its Market Charter in 1214 by King John and continues to hold a market to this day.

John Wycliffe In 1374 this early church reformer was made Rector of Lutterworth as a royal reward for his diplomatic services. He appointed a curate to carry out his parochial duties while he preached sermons and wrote tracts, in Oxford and London that threatened the doctrines of the Roman Church. The first translation of the Bible into English was produced under his guidance. He spent the last three years of his life in exile at Lutterworth. He suffered a stroke when listening to a communion service on 27th December 1384 and was carried through what is now called Wycliffe's Door. He died on New Years Eve 1384. Following his death, the Council of Constance denounced Wycliffe as a heretic. In 1428, his bones were exhumed by order of the Pope and burned, a fate his living body escaped only through the influence of his patron, John of Gaunt. Wycliffe's work later influenced Martin Luther.

In the days of the stagecoach, Lutterworth was an important stopping-place on the road from Leicester to Oxford and London, and many former coaching inns remain in the town. The town also contains some historic half-timbered buildings, some of which date back to the 16th century.

The architect of Lutterworth Town Hall was Joseph Hansom, who took out the first patent of the horse-drawn Hansom cab. He built Lutterworth's town hall as a prototype for his later design of Birmingham Town Hall.

The Parish Church of St. Mary is a large church, essentially of 13th and 14th century construction, but much restored by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1868. The spire collapsed during the Great Storm of November 1703 and was replaced some sixty years later by four weighty pinnacles. The churchyard is extensive and secluded, with a fine array of slate headstones. Within the Church there are some exceptional wall paintings, and the more recent Millennium tapestry which hangs at the west end of the Church.



Sir Frank Whittle Lutterworth's other claim to fame is that Frank Whittle, inventor of the jet engine, developed some of the world's first jet engines at the British Thomson-Houston works in Lutterworth, and in nearby Rugby, during the late 1930s and the 1940s. The engine for the UK's first jet aeroplane, the Gloster E.28/39, was produced in Lutterworth. A statue of the plane stands in the middle of a roundabout just south of the town as a memorial. For many years there was a pub on Leicester Road called "The Frank Whittle". It was demolished in the 1990s and replaced with a car show room. During 2010 that showroom has also now been replaced with residential apartments. In the centre of the town on the Greenacres estate, the public house previously known as "The Balloon" has been renamed as "The Sir Frank Whittle" so the connection of the name to the town is intact.

Another of the Established Landmarks of the town centre is the Thatched roof & timber framed building now known as 'The Shambles' This former abattoir and butchers is the oldest timber-framed building in Lutterworth dating back to the 16th century, it was first used as a public house in 1791 until 1840 it was then converted back to a home and butchers shop. In 1982 it was converted back into a public house and named the Shambles.

Lutterworth also houses the British Isles headquarters of Gideons International.

On the first day of Spring 1989, Robert Eggleston the present owner, bought what was then a ramshackle, condemned coaching inn which still kept a number of horses in the old stables. The renovation and refurbishment of the facilities was completed within a year and on 2nd April 1990, the new Greyhound opened its doors as a traditional coaching inn and hotel once more.

Shawell

It lies less than a mile from the M1 and M6 motorways. The site of the Roman town of Tripontium is on the A5 (Watling Street), west of the village.

Near to the church are the earthwork remains of a motte and bailey castle.



The Great Central main railway line, the last main line to be built from the north of England to London, was opened on 15 March 1899 and ran just to the west of Shawell, mainly in a deep cutting where an important signal box was also sited. Although there was never a station at Shawell, one was proposed a little way to the south-west where the line crossed over the A5 and would have been named "Watling Street". The station, which would have lain roughly at the mid-point between Rugby and Lutterworth, was never built however, and the line closed on 5 May 1969, the cutting now being partly filled in. Shawell Castle is a damaged 12th century earthwork motte and bailey fortress, founded during the Anarchy, in the reign of King Stephen. The low circular flat-topped motte, retains part of its surrounding wide ditch and some distance to the south, stands a small circular earthwork mound. This mound was part, of a series of defensive bailey earthworks that are known to have existed.

Shawell's church of All Saints is of medieval origin but only the 15th century west tower remains, the rest is entirely the result of Victorian rebuilding. The interior as a result isn't too exciting, being nearly all Victorian work, with a mixture of 19th century stained glass (the Crucifixion in the east window suffers from badly deteriorated paintwork).

The bells were augmented to six by Whitechapel in 1990. The oldest bell is the 5th dated around 1480.

Swinford

The village of Swinford is a compact village at the head of a small tributary of the River Avon. The Anglo-Saxon name would have been "*Suin Heaford*" meaning "*the head or source of the Swin Stream*". In time it was shortened to "*Swin-ford*", but has nothing to do with swine!

There are indications that the village may have a history stretching well back before the Anglo-Saxon period into the Iron Age (800-600BC), but it is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, where seven separate manorial estates are mentioned (more than anywhere else in the County). There is no reason to doubt that Swinford had its church, following the conversion of Saxon England in the 7th century AD and we certainly know from Domesday that *Erneberg* a Saxon priest held land here (2.5 ploughlands) of King William. Although there are no visible signs of a Saxon church here now, it is possible that parts of the first two bays of the nave walls could still retain some remains of an earlier stone structure.

The old Saxon church was either enlarged or rebuilt in the early part of the 12th century AD in the current Norman style. A small building, with a nave extending from the tower arch only as far as the end of the first two bays of arcading, and then (almost certainly) a chancel with an apsidal end. Around 1150-60 a narrow north aisle was added, and the north wall opened up to form the present surviving two-bay arcade in the Transitional Norman style with round piers and pointed arches.



Three of the four bells in the tower are dated: 1598 (1st), 1599 (3rd) and 1631 (2nd), the fourth being undated, was probably cast in the late 16th century. They were rehung as a stationary chime by Taylor's of Loughborough.