



NICHOLSON ENGINEERING

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Church of St. Margaret Ipswich

THE BELLS

<u>bell</u>	<u>diameter</u>	<u>weight</u>	<u>note</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>founder</u>
Tenor	43 9/16"	14-0-11	F	1630	Miles Graye I, Colchester
Seventh	39 11/16"	10-3-17	G	1630	Miles Graye I, Colchester
Sixth	35 3/4"	7-3-20	A	1630	Miles Graye I, Colchester
Fifth	32 11/16"	5-3-8	Bb	1630	Miles Graye I, Colchester
Fourth	31 1/8"	5-2-4	C	2017	Eijsbouts, Asten, Holland
Third	28 3/4"	4-1-23	D	1630	Miles Graye I, Colchester
Second	27 11/16"	4-1-11	E	2017	Eijsbouts, Asten, Holland
Treble	26 11/16"	3-3-17	F	2017	Eijsbouts, Asten, Holland

The Edwardian return of 1553 states that the church then had four bells. In 1630, Miles Graye I recast the bells into a new peal of five bells and in 1655 a treble was added by Miles Graye III. A further two bells were cast in 1899 by Mears & Stainbank of Whitechapel and hung by Alfred Bowell of Ipswich. In 1925 Bowell recast the treble and fourth and rehung the whole peal in a new bellframe. Subsequently, the bells were tuned and again rehung with mainly new fittings by Mears & Stainbank in 1958.

It had long been recognised that the treble, second and fourth did not match well with the Miles Graye bells. Additionally, the bells were not particularly easy to ring, partly because of problems with the fittings but mainly because the bells were hung high up in the tower and with all eight bells swinging east-west. In 2017 Nicholson Engineering commenced a major scheme to replace the three poorly-matched bells and hang the whole peal with new fittings in a new bellframe lower in the tower and with the bells to be rung from a new ringing platform. Three new bells were designed by Nicholson's to match the Miles Graye bells and cast by Eijsbouts of Asten, the complete peal then being tuned by Nicholson's. A major feature of the project was the assistance given to the bellhanger's for all the site work by local ringers and friends led by local tower captain John Girt. The bells rang out for the first time on 16th March, 2018.