



# The Chandlers of Drayton Parslow

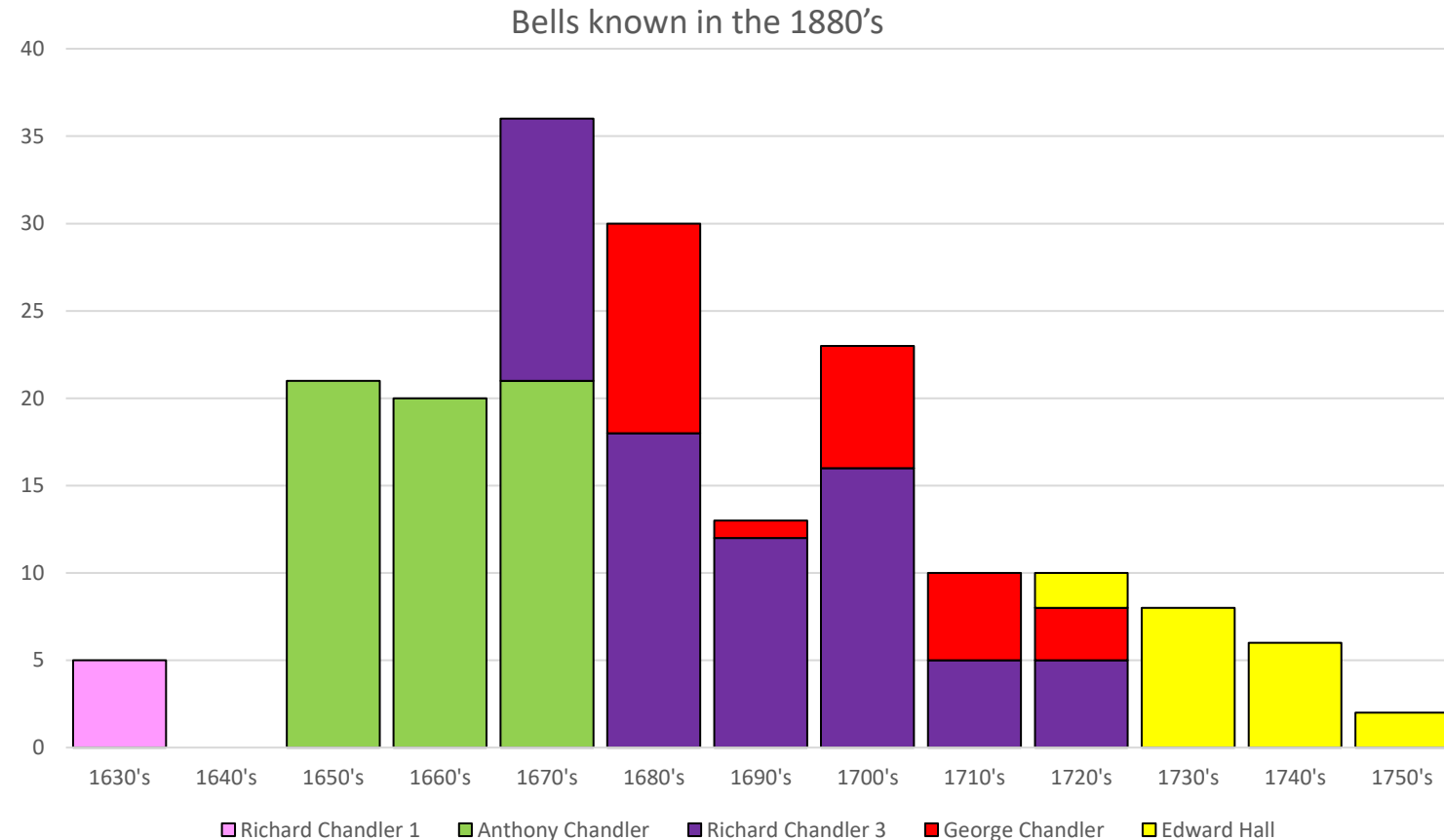
Their bells and their business

Doug Hird – Branch Archivist  
North Bucks Branch, Oxford Diocesan  
Guild of Church Bell Ringers  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020



# Bell Production in Drayton Parslow

- At its peak, the foundry produced at least 35 bells in a decade.
- That's only a few bells each year so the business would have found other sources of income.
- Towards the end production was less than one a year.



# Typical Prices

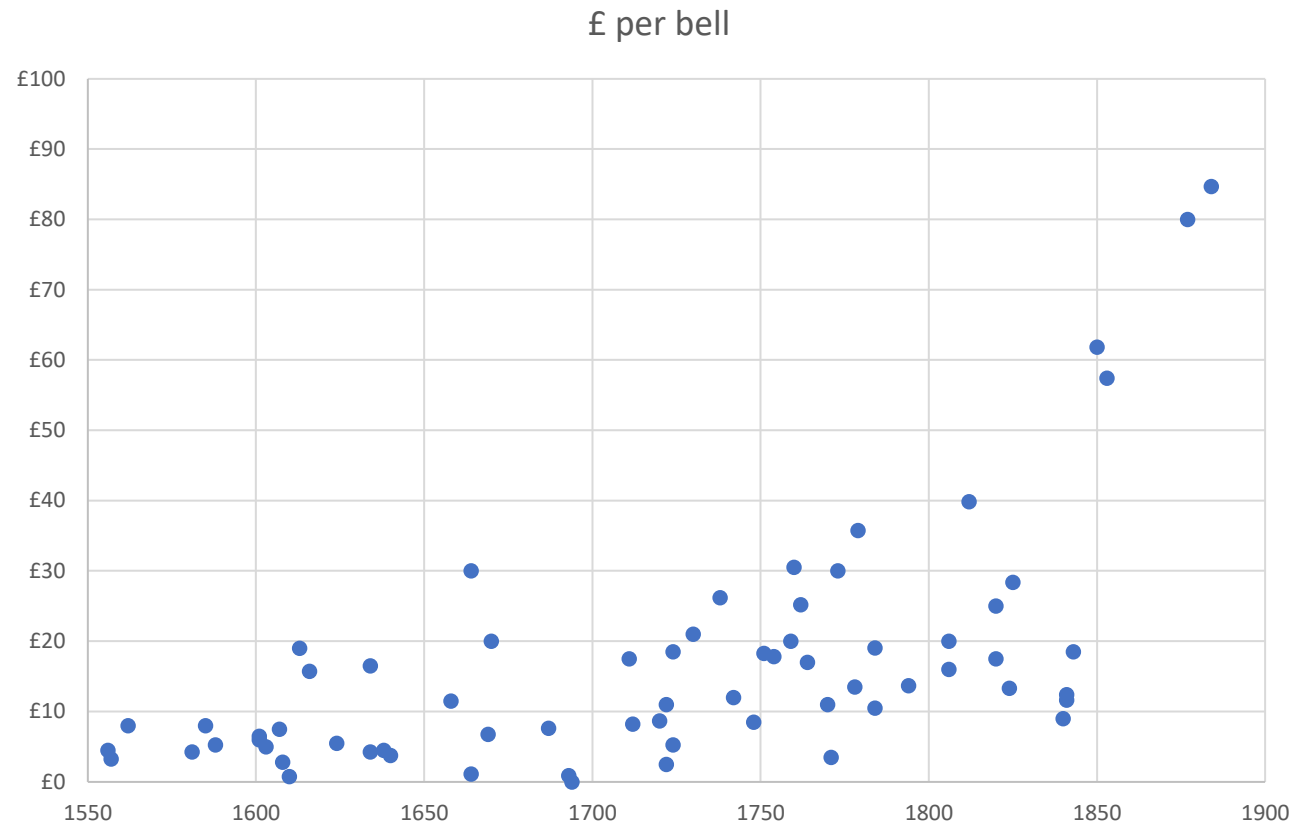
Using figures from churchwardens' accounts from Bucks, Beds, Northants and Leicestershire we can estimate the cost of an individual bell.

This can be converted into current figures using the Bank of England Inflation

Calculator:

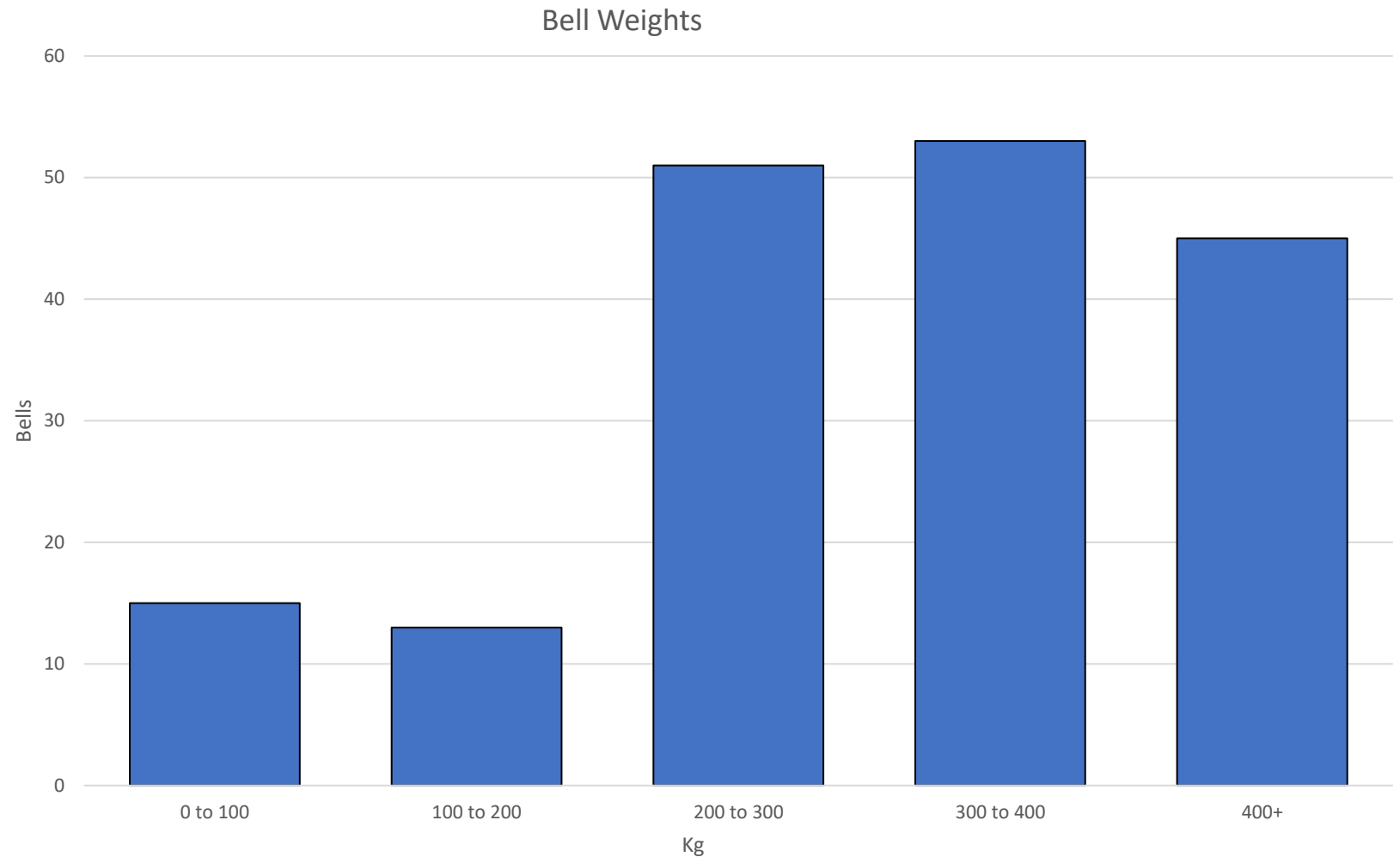
	Cost per bell	Equivalent 2019
1672	£7	£1,628
1690	£8	£1,957
1793	£23	£3,359

If an agricultural worker in 1700 was paid a shilling a day, the first two bells would be worth half a year's work each.



# Chandler Bell Sizes

- Most bells were “normal” church bell sizes – up to about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a ton and would have been delivered to small village churches.
- The largest were the tenors at Tring ( $\frac{3}{4}$  ton) and Wing ( $1\frac{1}{4}$  ton).
- Even with rural roads, that would have been possible with a large waggon.



# Bell Distribution

Richard Chandler 1 1635-1638



Anthony Chandler 1650-1678



Richard Chandler 3 1674-1723



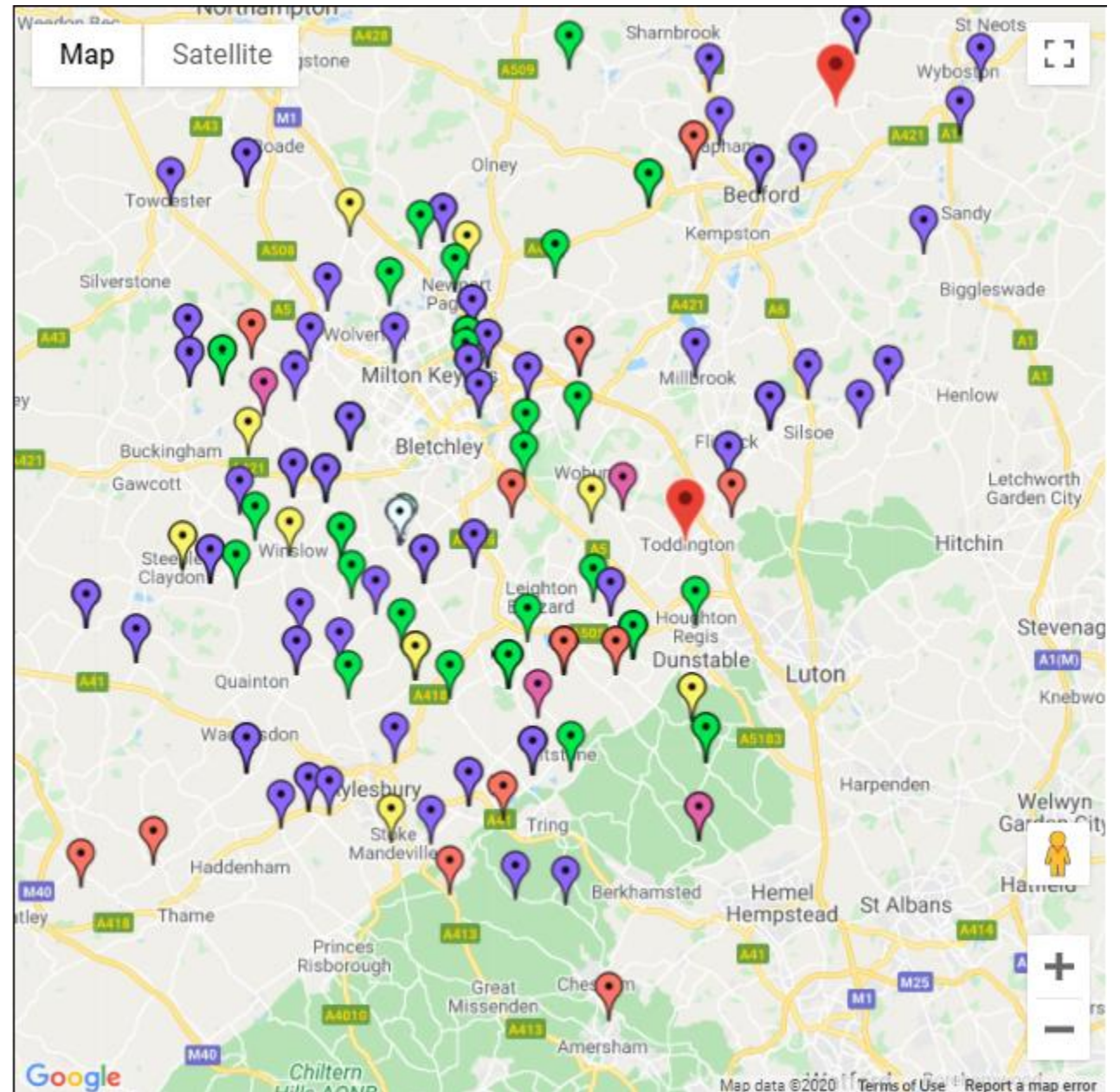
George Chandler 1681-1726



Edward Hall 1726-1754



- Most Drayton Parslow bells can be found in North and Central Bucks, Beds and Northants.
- There are a few in more distant counties.
- Who else was casting bells at the same time?



# The Competition

Looking North, between 1635 and 1754,  
the main competitors were based at:

Chacombe, near Banbury



Woodstock \*

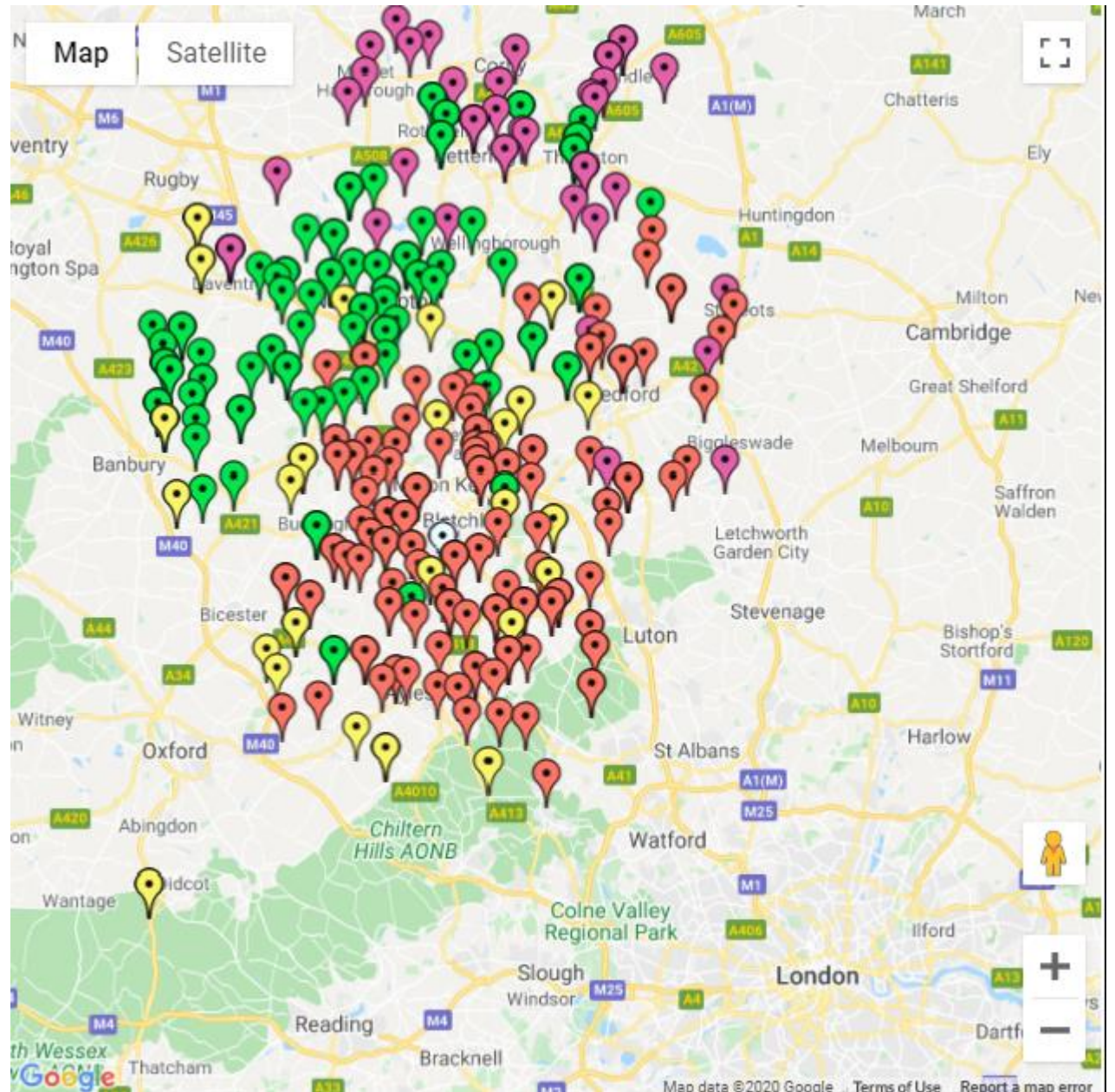


Stamford



\* It is possible that James Keene, of  
Woodstock was more itinerant and less  
based at a single foundry.

To complete the picture, several more large  
books will need to be investigated.





# Sources

- Bell and founder listings:
  - Church Bells of Bucks – Cocks - 1897
  - Church Bells of Northants – North - 1878
  - Church Bells of Bedfordshire – North - 1883
  - Buckinghamshire Bells & Belfries – Smith - 2019
  - The Dove Database: <https://dove.cccbr.org.uk/>
  - The Bellfounders Database: <http://bellfounders.net/>
- Geocoding:
  - The Dove Database: <https://dove.cccbr.org.uk/>
  - Google Maps