

Church bells have been ringing out across Lanivet since the reign of King Henry VIII



The dissolution of the monasteries in 1538 allowed many of their treasures to be sold. There is a record of a receipt made out on 27th July that year, for £36 13s 4d (£36.67p) as payment for four of the five greatest bells from Bodmin Priory by the village of Lanivet.

Five bells had been re-cast by 1727 according to the Rector of Lanivet at the time.

In 1808 the Pennington family of bell-founders from Stoke Climsland, re-cast all five once more and in 1869, a new bell was added, cast by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough in Leicestershire, to make a peal of six.



This last bell was the tenor, the largest bell, weighing over 13 cwt or 680kg, and it has the lowest musical note. All these bells were hung on a wooden frame, but that too had to be replaced in 1924. Using cast iron and steel, Taylors were able to fit in two small bells, which they also cast. The smallest, the treble, has the highest note and weighs a mere 3½ cwt or 190kg. Cast into the metal of the treble are the names of the Rector and churchwardens of the time plus the date.

The fifth bell cracked in 1988 and had to be re-cast. At that time, Taylors reported that the Pennington bells probably contained too much tin, and that the molten alloy was allowed to cool before it was poured into the mould. This often led to eventual cracking.

Early in 2018, the seventh bell was found to be cracked beyond repair. It was hoped to raise the money, almost £14,000, and have the bell re-cast in time to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. However, it was a few weeks after Remembrance Sunday when the newly cast bell was installed. It was hallowed by the Bishop of St Germans in December 2018.

