

In common with most churches, the earliest information available is from the 1553 "Inventory of Church Goods". It was recorded then that there were three bells in the tower.

None of those bells survive and we have no information between that date and 1811, when John Pennington IV of Stoke Climsland, cast some bells for the church. It is recorded that at that time, a license was granted for the then peal of four bells, to be recast into five. We are not sure if this was carried out, because the next record we have is from a survey by the Revd. H T Ellacombe (Rector of Clyst St. George near Exeter) in 1864. He found only three bells remaining by John Pennington, but it seems likely that he did cast a new peal of five in 1811.

The Penningtons were a large bell founding company who were working throughout the Westcountry from about 1610 until about 1823. The various members of the family worked mainly from foundries in Exeter and Stoke Climsland, but also worked at times from Bodmin, Tavistock and Barnstaple.

In 1831 the third bell of the five was recast by W & J Taylor of Oxford. This foundry was at the time running a "branch" foundry at Buckland Brewer, and this bell will have come from that place. We can only presume that this was necessary because the original bell had become cracked. It was only 20 years old, but by then the Penningtons were no longer in the trade.

In 1847 the second bell was recast by Caleb Squire of Buckland Brewer. Mr Squire seems to have taken over the foundry there, when W & J Taylor ceased trading from Buckland. He did not cast many bells however, and there are probably only two of these left now. Again we have to assume that this bell's predecessor had also become cracked.

In 1891, the second and fourth bells were recast by Mears & Stainbank of the Whitechapel Bellfoundry in London. This foundry is still in existence and producing fine bells. The glorious new peal of ten bells recently installed at Crediton church are by this foundry.

Finally, in 1912, the whole peal was recast and augmented to six by John Taylor Bellfounders who were then, and still are, based in Loughborough. The frame was replaced by a new steel and cast iron structure at that time. In 1975 the bell bearings were replaced with self aligning ball races, as they are much easier to care for. It is not necessary to regrease them more often than every thirty years or so. It is necessary, however, to ensure that the frame is kept free of rust and other components receive regular care and attention.

The bells are known by all local ringers as a fine peal of bells, are a pleasure to ring and a credit to the church. Some parishioners may recognise old local family names from the inscriptions which follow.

The inscriptions on the bells are as follows, together with the diameters, notes and weights.

Bell no.	Inscription	Weight	Diameter	Note
1 st treble	To the Glory of God and to commemorate the coronation of King George V 1911. Given by Francis Southouse Morley Saunders of Bovacott. J H Snow, Rector. F S M Saunders & G Taylor, Churchwardens.	3cwts 2qtrs 5lbs	25.5 ins	E
2 nd	Recast from a bell by J Pennington of 1811	4cwts & 14lbs	27.5 ins	D
3 rd	Recast from a bell by Mears & Stainbank Inscribed Gloria Deo. J C D Yule, Rector. Mr Arscott & J Gilbert Churchwardens 1847	5cwts & 16lbs	30 ins	C
4 th	Recast from a bell by W & J Taylor of Buckland Brewer in 1831 Inscribed Lewis Risdon Heysett Esq. Chwdn. & Rev J Bampfield.	5cwts & 3qtrs	31.5 ins	B
5 th	Recast from a bell by Mears & Stainbank. Inscribed: Rev. Russell Rawes, 1891. Clervaux Morley Saunders & George Taylor, Churchwardens.	7cwts 2qtrs 14lbs	34.75 ins	A
6 th tenor	Recast from a bell by J Pennington in 1811. Inscribed: John Bampfield, clerk. John Ward & Abraham Isaac, Churchwardens.	10cwts 2qtrs 8lbs	38.75 ins	G

Information supplied by J M Clarke & Revd. Preb. J G M Scott (2005). Thanks to P Jones and Revd. G L Matthews.