Nunburnholme, St. James

The Church as it is seen today is mostly the result of the extensive restoration completed in 1873, although the tower was rebuilt in 1902. This tower replaced a small early 18th century tower which had itself replaced a Norman tower whose features are the walls of the nave and a small window which is now in the North wall of the nave but used to be in the West wall of the tower. This window is dated between 1100 and 1140. The first known Rector was appointed in 1240. The famous, or maybe infamous to bell ringers, Anglo-Saxon Cross infers that there was an even earlier Church on the site.

The stone column which stands in the centre of the ringing circle consists only of the upper and lower sections of the shaft of this cross. These stones were found when the entrance porch was re-built in 1873 and the middle portion and the head probably remain built into the wall or foundations of the nave. The cross was originally erected in the churchyard, but was moved to its present position in 1959. It did not initially cause ringers any trouble as the bells were rung from the first floor chamber until the late 60's, when Norman Chaddock arranged that they be rung from the ground floor.

In 1971 the Beverley and District Society scraped and painted the bell frame. This effort is recorded by an inscription on the bell chamber wall and also in the old visitors book which was presented to the church in remembrance of Sydney Sayer who worked on the frame and died in 1972. Very recent work by David Potter, of York, to rebush the clappers and refurbish the pulleys has also greatly improved the ringing circle.

The first peal on the bells was rung on 7th June 1947 by the Beverley and District Society and the Yorkshire Association as a compliment to Mr. F Wilkinson, Tower Master on completion of fifty years service to the church. This was the first peal rung by the Beverley and District Society. The 25th peal was rung on 13th October 1992, also by the B & D. The B & D have rung 10 peals, The YA have rung 4, and they have rung 8 peals jointly. The Coventry, Peterborough and York Colleges Societies have rung one peal each. Two peals were rung during the 1950's, 8 in the 1960's, 10 in the 1970's, 2 in the 1980's and 2 since then.

Frank Wilkinson, who farmed at Nunburnholme, ran a band which included his brother Charlie. Frank's sons Herbert and James, who died in 1992 also rang. Two other sons started to ring but Fran-cis "broke a stay", and Len "nearly hung himself" and bore the rope marks for the rest of his life. It was an achievement for such a small village to maintain a band. Eventually, sometime before 1948, Frank moved to Barmby Moor and later to Pocklington and it is said that he continued to ring until his late 70's, and he died, aged 90, in 1977. From the mid 60's to the mid 80's the Market Weighton band rang the bells for special occasions. In the mid 1980's two ex-Market Weighton ringers, Jane and Christopher Berridge, formed and taught a local band which included Frank's grandson Peter, and Peter's daughter Sara to carry on the family tradition. Unfortunately the band faded away when the Berridges moved house and were unable to continue to support it, although it is hoped that the band will reform in 1993.

It is a shame that the bells are not regularly rung as they are beautifully sounding bells and relatively easy to ring. However, they are in very good order and are reasonably available to visiting ringers.

They can be heard being raised and lowered in peal on the LP record "Rhythm of the Bells" - SDL 211.

On completion of the present tower in 1902, the treble and tenor were installed in a new iron frame for six bells. The remaining bells were installed in 1907-08. The bells and frame were made by Taylors of Loughborough, their details are:

Treble 3-3-1 dedicated to St. Francis

S. FRANCISCI CAMPANA VSQVE TVOS IMITABOR AYES, FRANCIS-CI, CANENDO A.D. MCMII I will always imitate your birds, Francis, by singing. Presented by Canon H E Nolleth of Beverley Minster in memory of Rev F 0 Mor-ris.

2nd 4-1-6 dedicated to St. Michael and All Angels

S: MICH: ET OMN: ANGL: CMPNA IN MEM: ANNE MORRIS A.D.1907 Given by Rev M C F Morris, Rector of Nunburnholme in memory of his mother.

3rd 5-0-17 dedicated to St. James

SCI: JACOBI CMPNA AERE MEO RESTO, SED VOCE ENITAR AD ASTRA A.D.1907 With my metal I stand fixed, but with my voice I will mount up towards the stars Given by the Parishioners and other subscribers.

4th 6-1-20 dedicated to St. John the Apostle

SCI: JOHANNIS CAMPANA. DOMINVM LAVDATE CONCORDIA A.D.1908 Praise the Lord by harmony Raised by subscription.

5th 8-0-12 dedicated to St. Peter

SCI. PETRI CAMPANA. IN MEM. ROSE TVRLE DVLCIS ERAT ROSA; DVLCE TVO, PETRE, CONCINE JESV A.D.1908 Sweet was the Rose; sweetly sing in harmony with thy Jesus(bell), Peter Given by Miss Mary Cornelia Morris in memory of her sister Mrs Rose Turle.

Tenor 12-1-5 dedicated to Our Blessed Lord

RAMC TIBI CAMPANAM SALVATOR CHRISTE DICAMUS A.D.MCMII we dedicate this bell to Thee, 0 Saviour Christ Given by Mrs Rose Turle

Although there is not much room to move around the bells a visit to the bell chamber is rewarding because of the exceptional quality of the castings and clarity of the inscriptions.

Mark J Lane

Acknowledgements:- Much of the above was obtained from "The Church of St. James, Nunburnholme, East Yorkshire; Historical and Archi-tectural Notes" by T B Cromwell 1973. This pamphlet is available for sale in the Church.