

between 1592 and 1714, and supplied many bells to Sussex.

And so to GRAFFHAM. No. 1 bell goes back to the late 1400's. It had originally a Royal Arms and an octagonal medallion 'ihu merci ladi help'. It also bore the stamp of a Brede bell founder who operated between 1470 and 1486. The bell was re-cast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in 1897, but unfortunately, the inscriptions were not retained. The inscription was SANCTA KATERINA ORA PRO NOBIS. No. 2 bell has on it 'I F I E ROGER TAPSIL THOMAS WAKFEILD 1621'. Tapsell founded at Tarring. This bell was probably cast on the spot. The old No. 3 bell, with the inscription BRYAN ELDRIDGE MADE MEE 1642, was lost during the reconstruction of the tower in 1885-1887. It sat in the churchyard in Parson Lascelles time while the tower was being attended to, and lo! one day it vanished. Did the old couplet apply:

The parson was poor, and so were the people;
So they sold the bells to repair the steeple.

That probably does not represent what happened. More than one of the older inhabitants have their decided views on why the bell disappeared. A recent 'lost' notice in 'Sussex Notes and Queries' has produced no result.