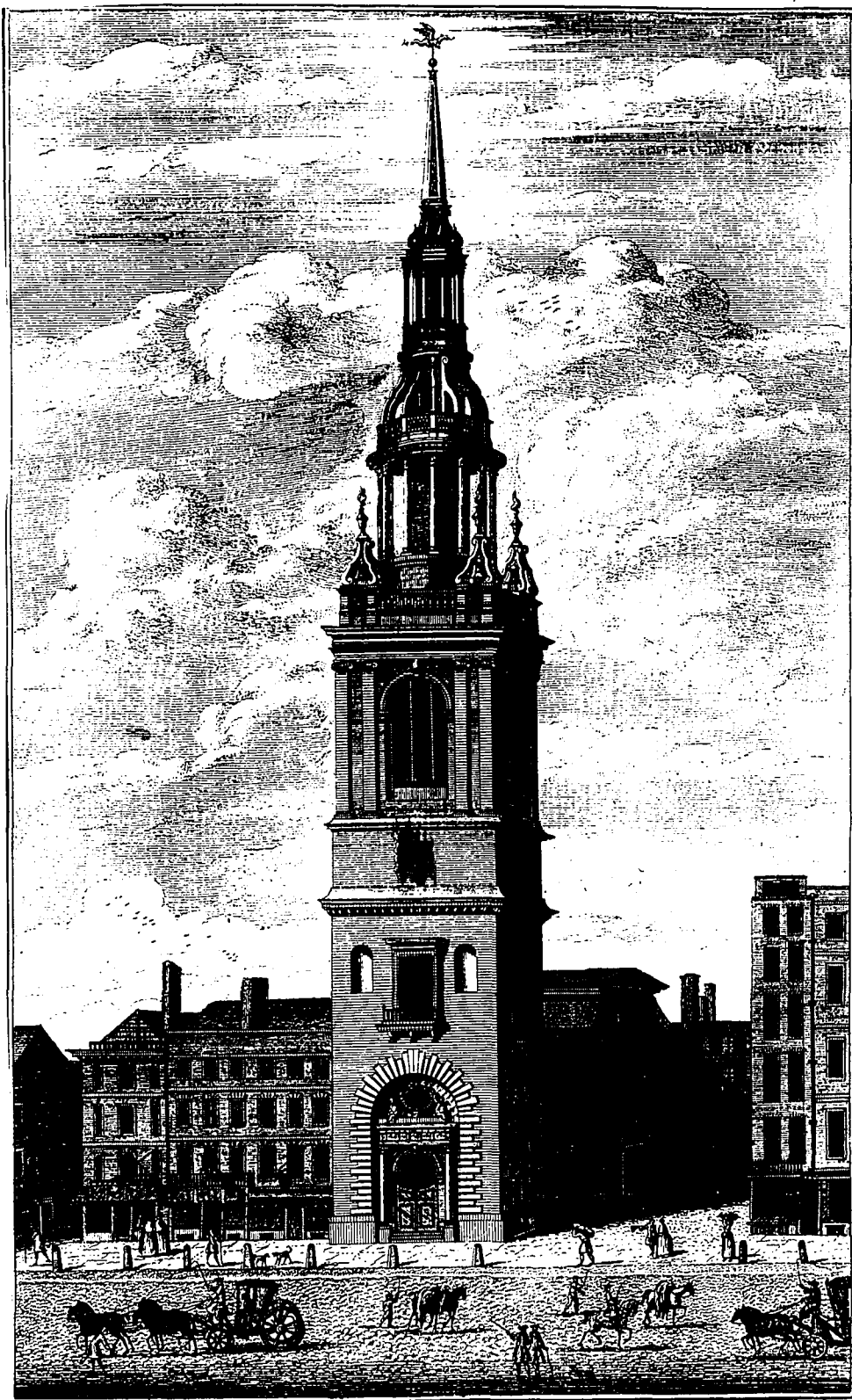


**London Ringers and Ringing in the  
Seventeenth and Eighteenth  
Centuries**

**Volume V**

**Trollope, J. Armiger**



*Bow Church.*

Photo by the British Museum.

By courtesy of the Trustees.

London  
Ringers and Ringing.  
in the  
Seventeenth and Eighteenth  
Centuries

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By J. Armiger Trollope

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Volume V.

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Chapter Eight  
Continued.

London  
Bells and Bell Towers.

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1938.

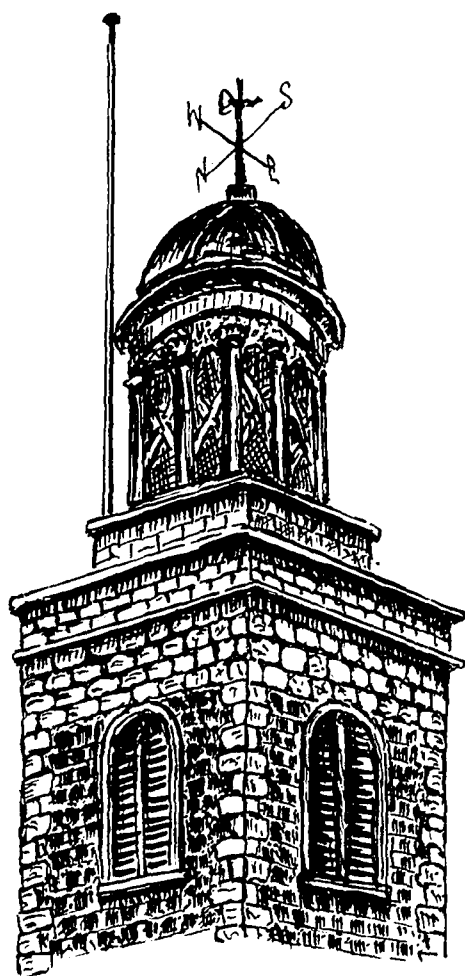
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69  
St. Katherine  
Creechurch.

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St. Katherine's  
stood alongside  
the great priory  
church of the Holy  
Trinity at Aldgate  
and in the course

of time disputes arose between the prior  
and the parishioners one of the grievances  
being that the parish bells interrupted  
the priory services In 1414 the Bishop  
of London made an agreement between  
them which was confirmed by the Pope





and among other clauses there was one which said that there was to be no ringing to the Office of the Resurrection in the Church or Chapel until such office in the Conventual Church at the usual time was finished. When the Priory was dissolved Sir Thomas Audley offered its Church to the parishioners in return for their small parish church but the parishioners "Having doubts in their minds of after claps refused the offer." (375)

The tower of the parish Church was rebuilt about 1504 and at the time of Edward VI there were "five bells hangynge in the steeple" (376) which may have been a ring of five or

(more probably) a ring of  
four and a paunce bell. How said  
that this Church seemeth to be very  
old, since the building thereof the  
high street hath been so often raised  
by pavements that now men are faine  
to descend into the church by divers  
steps seven in number. The building  
(except the tower) was pulled down  
and rebuilt on a rather larger scale  
in 1628, and in design is one of the  
most interesting in London or indeed  
in England marking as it does the  
transition from the gothic to the  
classic style. Inigo Jones is traditionally  
said to have been the architect. but

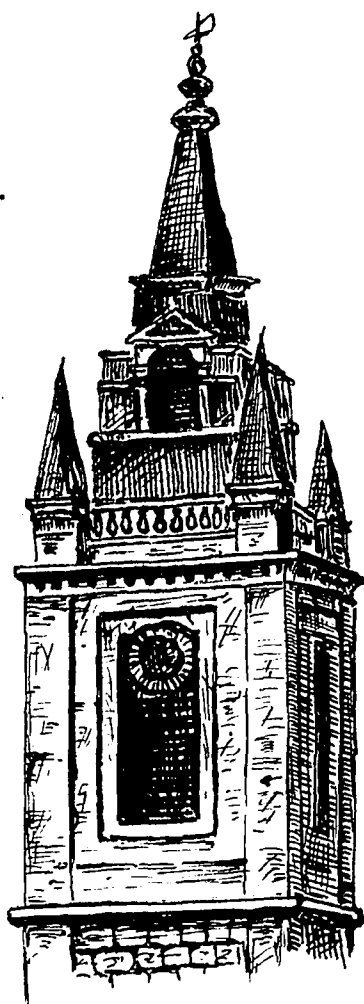
622

that is disputed. Bishop Land  
Consecrated the Church in 1631 and  
the elaborate ritual he employed  
gave great offence to the puritans.  
In 1733 there was a ring of five  
bells in the tower and the Rambling  
Ringers rang two pic-scores of  
Grandsire on them, but the bells were  
in such bad repair that they had  
much ado to make em answer.

In 1754 the ring of pic now in the  
tower was cast and supplied by  
Leslie and Pack of Whitechapel.

## St Lawrence, Jewry.

St Laurence's  
Church stands to  
the south-west of  
the Guildhall, in  
Cresham Street, or  
as it was formerly  
called Cate or Cateaton



Street. Very few particulars have been  
preserved of the mediæval building. Stow  
says that it was fair and large and in  
the Edwardian inventories it is returned  
as having "v grete belles and ij small belles"  
(378)  
Destroyed in the Fire it was rebuilt by Sir  
Christopher Wren between 1670 and 1686  
at a cost of £11,870-1-9. It was the

first of the new churches to have a full ringing peal of bells. In <sup>1679</sup>1687, James Parker cast an octave with a 32 cwt cwt tenor. The big bell had to be recast eight years later but nos. 3-7 are still in the steeple and the ring is not only the heaviest but probably the best eight in London.

The first peal on the bells was in 1728, 5040 Changes of Union Triples, rung by the College Youths and Conducted by Annable. So far as we know it was the first five-thousand ever achieved in the method, but as the claim is not made in the peal book it is possible that one had already been rung. <sup>(379)</sup> The next peal in the tower was also the first in the method. It was 5040 Changes of

Court Bob Major by the College Junths  
 with Richard Spicer as conductor, and  
 was William Laughton's last peal. The  
 method is that which is given in the  
 ringing piece books as Double London  
 Court. <sup>(825)</sup> During the Century and a half  
 which followed only one peal was rung -  
 5120 Oxford Treble Bob by the College  
 Junths on November 27 1762, Conducted  
 by William Underwood - and finally the  
 peal is completed by 5040 Grandfire  
 Triples rung in Queen Victoria's Jubilee  
 year and conducted by Richard French.  
 The silence of the bells in more recent  
 years was due to the state of dilapidation  
 into which they were allowed to fall.  
 Once every year at least on the ninth of  
 November the bells had to be rung

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and the tower was a stronghold  
 of the old type of scroff ringer. Fifty  
 years ago there were stories of some of  
 the bells being rung and the rest clocked  
 so that poor men could do the work (and  
 share the pay) of eight; of a hat being  
 put down with a request to the visitors  
 who came on to the Church roof to view the  
 procession, "to remember the ringers"; and  
 such like things. <sup>(380)</sup> In 1930 the ring was  
 restored and rehung by Sears and  
 Hambank.

Teals rung at St. Lawrence.

1728	Feb. 17	5040	Union Triples	College Juniors
1735	May 17	5040	Cant. B. Maj.	do
1762	Nov. 27	5120	On. T. B. Maj.	do
1887	Apr. 30	5040	Gran. Trip.	

St. Laurence, Poultry. This Church stood on the south side of Candlewick Street or Cannon Street as it is now called. A Chapel of Jesus founded by Thomas Cole was re-endowed and made a College for a master and seven chaplains by John Gouliney mayor in the reign of Edward III. The Church got its name from Gouliney and his College was one of the richest in London but it shared the fate of all the similar institutions in the reign of Edward VI. At that time there were in the steeple of the Church iiij bells and ij little paunce bells one of the latter <sup>(381)</sup> probably belonging to the Jesus College. In 1631-1632 the tower was new leaded and a new ring of five bells were hung



in a new frame at the cost and  
charge of the parish. The Church was  
burnt in the fire of 1666 and was not  
rebuilt, the parish being united with  
St Mary Abchurch.

St. Leonard, Eastcheap, stood on  
 Fish Street Hill at the corner of Eastcheap  
 in Bridge Ward, and was sometimes  
 called St. Leonard's Milkchurch from "one"  
 William Neeke an especial builder thereof.  
 It was one of the thirteen "peculiar" in  
 the City which were exempt from the  
 jurisdiction of the Bishop of London, and  
 directly under the Archbishop of Canterbury.  
 The Edwardian inventory is missing.

In 1618 the lead covered spire was  
 destroyed by fire and the tower being  
 very old and much decayed was  
 pulled down together with the west end  
 of the church and rebuilt not without  
 great charge to the inhabitants of the

30

parish who were all willing and ready to contribute towards the rebuilding and beautifying the House of God and the bells. They collected £198, but as the parish was small and the greater part of the parishioners poor they petitioned the King, James the First, for leave to collect in other parts of the County, and Letters patent were issued accordingly. (382)

The Church was destroyed in the fire of 1666 and not rebuilt, the parish being united with St. Benedict's, Gracechurch.

St Leonard, Foster Lane.

631

This was a small parish church, built for the use of the people living within the precincts of the great Priory of St. Martin-le-Grand. In the second year of King Edward VI there were "iiiiij bells in the steeple, wyth a nother litell bell". The churchwardens also record that they had received "vj<sup>d</sup> for a litell bell", (383) probably a small sacring hand bell, and various sums for obits and for knells. A quantity of old brass was disposed of to a founder showing that the same spoliation was going on here as elsewhere.

On the tomb of Robert Trapis, goldsmith, who died in 1526 was this epitaph -

When the bells be merily ringing,  
And the masse devoutly sung,  
And the meate merily eaten  
Then shall Robert Trapis, his wives  
And children be forgotten.

(384)

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This half cynical, half humorous inscription was probably fairly common in the mediæval times and at Colney in Norfolk is a variant of it dated 1281 which runs

thus -

When the bell is solemnly rung  
And the mass with devotion sung  
And the meal merrily eat  
Soon shall Sir Thomas Bettes be forgot.

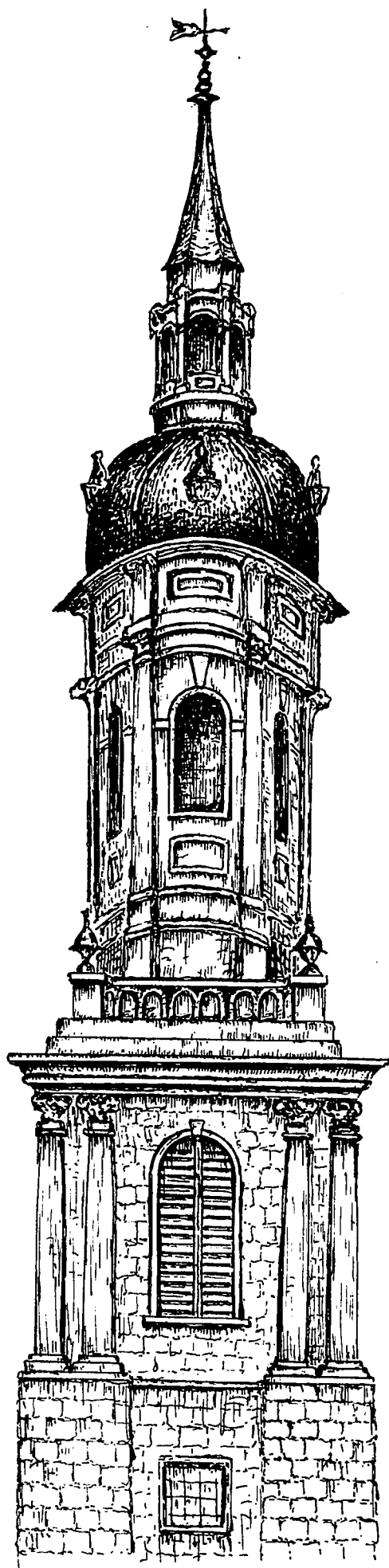
On whose soul God have mercy. (385)

The pulling down of St. Martins'-le-Grand, and the building of penements in its place added greatly to the number of the inhabitants of St. Leonards' parish, and so in 1631 the church was enlarged and repaired. It was destroyed in the great fire of 1666, and was one of those that were not rebuilt, the parish being united with that of Christ Church, Newgate Street.

St Magnus,  
the Martyr.

---

The church of  
St Magnus the  
Martyr, which  
today is almost  
hidden by the  
approach to  
London Bridge  
and the mass of  
Adelaide House  
formerly stood  
in one of the most



prominent positions in the City.

The main north to south thoroughfare which passing Shoreditch had entered the metropolis at Bishopsgate ran through the Grass Church Market down Fish Street Hill and straight over the old London Bridge. On the bank of the river and at the foot of the bridge stood St Magnus. It was of ancient foundation a fair parish church which contained the tombs of many men of good worship but whose monuments were at the time of Edward VI for the most part utterly defaced. There were then "vj" belles commonly used to be rung, & belonging to the chyme and a clock bell and a paunce bell." (386)

It was not far from St. Magnus 635  
that the great fire of 1666 started, and  
the church was one of those destroyed.  
The present building which is among  
Wren's best was finished in 1698 except  
for the steeple. The old tower was for a  
time left standing and was pulled down  
and rebuilt about 1705. When it was  
completed it stood right out into the  
street the footway passed underneath  
through arches, <sup>(387)</sup> and the whole was a  
striking object to the visitor who entered  
the town from the Surrey side. Even  
after the new bridge was built with  
its new and greatly raised approach  
the tower of St. Magnus and the Monument



beyond were the two most prominent objects which met the eye, but of late years they have been almost hidden by the bulk of Adelaide House, which has altered the scale of everything in the neighbourhood and whatever may be its individual architectural merits has not improved the general view of the City.

In 1714 Richard Phelps of Whitechapel supplied a new ring of ten bells, the two trebles being given by the two societies of Eastern Youths and British Scholars. Seven of Phelps's bells are still in the tower. <sup>(396)</sup> The tenor is 23 cwt.

The first peal on the bells was 5058 changes of Grand sire Gaters rung on February 15<sup>th</sup> 1725 by the College Youths.

It was a performance of more than usual historical interest for it was the first five thousand conducted by Benjamin Annable and it probably brought to the notice of ringers the charm of the pebbles music in Grandsons Caters.

The next recorded performance on the bells was a quarter peal of Caters by the Eastern Scholars in 1734 and was a preliminary trial for a peal of 6012 Changes which they rang ten days later. So far as we know this was the only peal longer than the usual five thousand ever accomplished in the tower.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Royal in 1759 and Double Grandsons Caters in 1762, and nearly a century later the first peal of Stedman Caters. In 1778

rang in the steeple the first peal  
of Real Double Grandfire Bells accomplished  
anywhere.

# Peal Boards in St. Magnus' Chy.

632

630

The College Youths on the 21<sup>st</sup> of Feby. 1762  
did ring in this Steeple a complete Peal of  
5128 Double Grandiose Caters in 3 hours 40  
minutes being the most ever performed in that  
method

John Underwood	Treble	Emanuel Crouch	6
Wilm Mills	2.	George Neakins	7.
William Hall	3.	Robert Pely	8
Jas Barquist	4.	John Lokes	9.
Rob: Butterworth	5.	Fras. Buckingham	10.

The peal was called by Mr G. Neakins.

The Society of College Youths, Established 1637.  
On Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1853 the Company  
rang a fine Peal of 5079 Stedman Caters  
in 3 hours and 13 minutes being the first in  
that method on these bells. Performers -

J. Nash	Treble	Wm. Lobb	6
Geo Mcenday	2.	Wm. Coolin	7
W. Hinds	3	C. E. Ferris	8
Jno. Bradley	4	Jas Wright	9
Wm. Banister	5.	H. F. Wood.	Tenor.

Conducted by Wm Coolin.

Upwards of forty years had elapsed since a Peal  
had been accomplished in this Steeple.

Peals rung on St Magnus' bells.

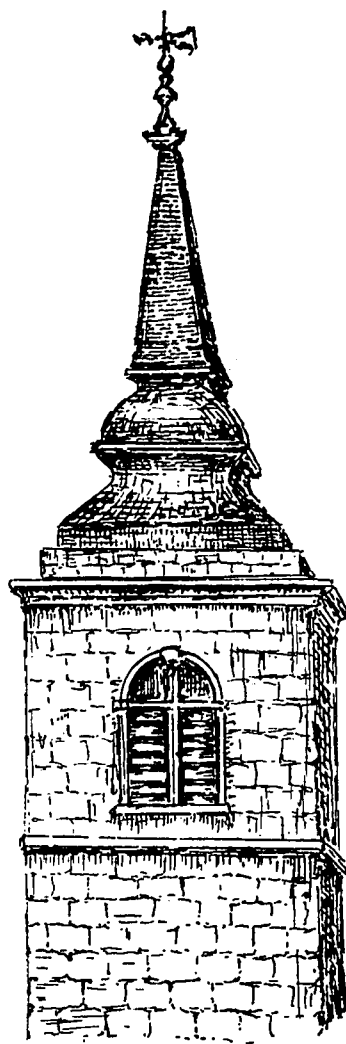
1725	Feb 15.	5058	Gran Caters	College Joints.
1734	Nov 23	6012.	do.	Eastern Sch.
1747	Dec 25	5040	Bob Triples	do
1759	June 5	5040	Gx. T. B. Royal	College Joints
1761	Dec 28	5180	Bob Royal	"ancient" Coll. Jths
1762	Feb 2.	5184	Double C. C.	College Joints
1775	Nov 1	5039	Gran. Caters	London Joints
1778	Dec 10	5165	Real D. Caters	Cumberlands
1795	Apr 9	5160	Gx. T. R. Royal	College Joints
1796	Mar 31	5327	Gran Caters	do
1797	Apr 20	5040	Gx. T. B. Royal	do.

St Margaret, Fish Street Hill,  
 was, says How, "a proper church, but  
 monuments it hath none." The Edwardian  
 inventory records that there were "in the  
 belfrye otherwysse the steeple iiij bells and  
 a pans bell," and also that there had been  
 "solde to Robarde Wood Item a pacing  
 bell, iijs." <sup>(388)</sup> The church was destroyed in  
 the fire of 1666 and not rebuilt. Its site  
 is now occupied by the Monument.

St Margaret,  
Lothbury.

---

The medieval  
building was, How  
tells us a "proper"  
parish church which  
had been newly  
re-edified and built



about the year 1440. It possessed, according  
to the Edwardian inventory "iiii bells and  
the payntis bell hangyng in the steeple." (389)

After the great fire it was rebuilt by Sir  
Christopher Wren in 1686-1695 at a cost  
of £5340-8-1 and two bells were placed

in the tower. When S. Glaves' Old

Jenny was pulled down in 1888 the three bells from that church were moved here and there are now three seventeenth century bells in St Margaret's steeple, cast by James Barile in 1682.

The following are extracts from the sixteenth century vestry minute book - (390)

1571. Item, the Sexton shall have for his wages & for ryngeinge the bell eveninge and morninge as he is accustomed, yearlye the some of 1 - 00 - 00.

more for candells to ringe with eveninge and morninge 00 - 00 - 08.

1583. The profit of the great bell and the charges is for the parishes.

Item, for ringinge one howers knell wth the great bell to the parishes xijs.



Item, for ringing the great bell a  
fore nowne or after nownes knell for the  
parish iiij s iiij a.

Item, the clarke shall have of the church  
wardens for ringing the great bell for one  
lowers knell ij a.

Item, the clarke shall have for ringing  
a fore nownes knell or after nownes knell  
of ye wardens viij a.

Item, the clark shall have for a fore  
nownes or after nownes knell as here after  
followeth,

For the fore bell, xiij a

For ye second bell, xviij a.

For ye third bell, xx a.

Item, the clerk shall find ropes and bawdricks  
and beare all charges of the iiij lesser bells  
and shall ringe a peale at the passage  
bye of the quenes majestie by water or land.

\* Excepted the beking of the belles,

Wheles, or frames, or Clapers with the  
parishes shall be the charges of.

Item, the clark shall have for Ringinge  
of every peale att a Buryall yf they will  
have it that pay the funeralls the some  
viijsd.

of 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1590. Also for our grett  
bell y<sup>te</sup> is agreed that the churche wardens  
& 3 others, to paye Edward Falkenar,  
Wm Lescler. & Walter Hurrent, shall confer  
with some bell founder or founder for  
the same & look what order they shall take  
therein. Y<sup>te</sup> is agreed y<sup>te</sup> shalbe good  
in all respects whether to have y<sup>te</sup> new Cast,  
amended, or changed as they shall thynke  
good.

28 November, 1619. ... it was agreed  
& concluded that Mr Francis Haddon &  
Mr Raphe Hough should assist the two

Churchwardens in vieweing & taking 646  
further order for the repaying of the frame of  
the bells & whatever els was decayed in the  
Steeple. And it was further referred to them  
together with the Churchwardens that they  
should agree with some sufficient & skillfull  
workman at the best rate they could & then  
signify the same to the Parish, that so further  
order might be taken for the collection  
of monye requisite & needfull for the finishing  
& perfection of the worke.

1643. five o'clock bell ordered to be rung as  
is accustomed.

October 28. 1666. That Mr Stonehill super  
Churchwarden of the said place shall take  
into his possession all the Bell metal that  
is left of the said parish Church and to  
keep it untill further order, for the good  
and benefit of the said parish.

1681. Ordered that Nicholas Agrie 64<sup>r</sup>  
shall have fourty shillings p: ann. added  
to his present salary for his paines in cleansing  
the Grate, ringing the Bell, and warding.

It is likewise ordered that the Bell shall be  
rung by the said Agrie from Lady Day to  
Michaelmas at 5 a clock in the morning and  
at nine at night, and in the winter halfe  
yeare at 6 in the morning and at nine  
at night.

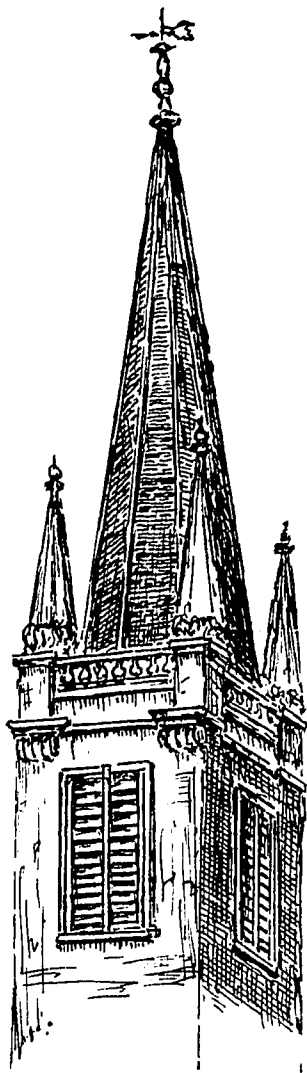
St Margaret, Moyses. This church stood on the east side of Friday Street, and was "so called, as seemeth, of one Moyses, that was founder or new builder thereof. In the inventory made in the sixth year of King Edward VI is this entry - "Item, iiij belles wt<sup>h</sup> a and a litle bell." (391)

The church was repaired in 1627 but was destroyed in 1666 and not afterwards rebuilt the parish being united to St Mildred's Bread Street.

## St Margaret Pattens.

---

This church stands  
on the east side of  
Rood Lane in  
Billingsgate Ward.



It got its name, so

How says, because of old time pattens (i.e.  
wooden shoes) were usually made and sold  
in the district. In the churchyard was a

rood and when the church was taken

down in 1538 the oblations made to it, were

devoted to the rebuilding fund, but one

right certain persons unknown but probably

Protestants broke it all to pieces  
together with the tabernacle on which it  
stood. Shortly afterwards a disastrous  
fire broke out in the parish which consumed  
more than a dozen houses and burnt  
to death nine persons. This caused the  
stoppage of the rebuilding of the Church which  
was nigh finished to the steeple and may  
have been the reason why in Edward VI.<sup>th</sup>  
reign there was only one bell. <sup>(392)</sup> The Church  
was repaired and beautified in 1614 at  
the cost of the parish but whether by that  
time it possessed any ringing bells, I  
cannot say. It was destroyed in the  
fire of 1666 and rebuilt by Wren in 1684-89  
at a cost of £4986-18-8. The whole stone

lower surmounted by a graceful  
lead covered spire is one of the most  
striking features of London architecture.  
but it contains only two bells. One of  
them, cast by Thomas Bartlet in 1624  
survived the fire.



St Martin-le-Grand, stood to the north of St. Paul's not far from Aldersgate and was a large Collegiate Church, founded for a dean and secular canons in 1056 and confirmed by charter of William the Conqueror in 1068. It acquired great rights as a sanctuary which were jealously guarded during the centuries, and even after the church was pulled down and the site secularized the inhabitants of the district claimed to be exempt from the processes of the law. The great bell of St. Martins was used as the City bell for a time apparently displacing the bell in the neighbouring clocktower of St. Pauls, and here the curfew was

rung to set the time for the other  
 churches in the city. The Guild of Saddlers  
 were granted by the Priory the privilege  
 of ringing the bells on the occasion of their  
 bi-weekly mass (*sonationem Campanarum*  
*nostrae ecclesiae*) but the Priory was  
 entitled to claim the sum of 8<sup>d</sup> for the  
 ringing at the obsequies of a deceased  
 member of the Guild, (*Campanarum pulsatione*)

It would seem from this document and  
 from the rules of the Guild of St Katherine  
 at Stamford <sup>(405)</sup> that the ringing was done  
 by the members themselves and not by  
 the employment of special ringers. With  
 the elementary ringing of the time which  
 did not require any particular technical  
 skill, such a thing, of course, would be

quite possible.

The dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII did not affect St Martins but after the drastic law of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Edward VI the College was surrendered into the King's hands, and the land and the buildings were granted to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and they "to make the best of the King's Declaration appointed by a Chapter held the sixth of July that the Body of the Church with the Choir and Isles should be leased out for fifty years at the rent of five marks per annum to one H. Keeble of London excepting out of the said grant the Bells, Lead, Stone, Timber, Glass, and Lead to be sold for the sole Use and Benefit of the said Dean and Chapter

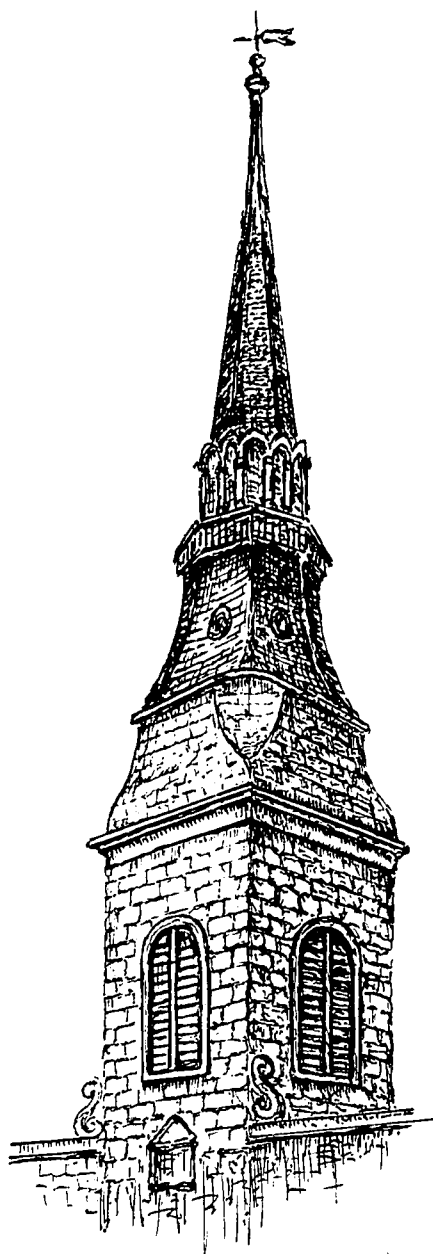
which full transaction being made, the Church was wholly pulled down. (406)

"In the east part thereof a large wine  
 Tavern was built, and withal down to  
 the west and throughout the whole precinct  
 of that College many other houses were  
 built and highly prized, letten to  
 strangers baw, and others such as claimed  
 privileges granted to the Canons serving  
 God day and night, for so be the words  
 in the charter of William the Conqueror,  
 which may hardly be wrested to artificers,  
 buyers and sellers, otherwise than is  
 mentioned in the 21st of S. Matthew's  
 Gospel." (407)

An inventory of the goods and  
 ornaments of the church was made on

February 7<sup>th</sup> in the second year of the  
reign of King Edward I, immediately before  
the secularization of the church. It contains  
this "item: - there is remaining in the  
Heple & bellis." (408)

657  
St. Martin,  
Ludgate.



In the year  
1437 John Michael  
Mayor and the  
Commonality granted  
to William Downe parson of St. Martin  
at Ludgate a parcel of ground of the  
Common soil of the City containing in  
length twenty eight feet and in breadth  
twenty four feet whereon to build a

belfry in the shape of a tower  
 the said Rector and parishioners paying  
 annually into the chamber the sum of 2/-  
 and a way to be provided through the  
 tower whereby the Mayor and Commonality  
 can pass through whenever and as often  
 as they will to do what they see to be  
 necessary

At the time of Edward VI the Church  
 possessed "v grete Bellis, a smalle  
 paunce bell and a Belle that the walsire(?)  
 of the cloke strike<sup>th</sup> on." (L10)

In 1601 one or more of the bells was  
 recast by Robert Nott or the ring  
 augmented. "At a full Vestry holden  
 one Tuesday being the xxij<sup>th</sup> December  
 1601 by Edward Underhill and William  
 Ensor Churchwardens it is agreed that

Robert Nole should be paid by 659  
the Churchwardens viij li js viij d. and to  
take a bonde of time to performe suche  
Covenantes as are agreed upon in the  
bonde to the use of the parische." 409

The church was destroyed in 1666  
and was rebuilt by Hren in 1677-1687  
at a cost of £5378-9-7 Two bells, one  
by William Wightman 1683, and the  
other by John Hodson 1672 were hung  
in the tower.



St Martin, Grogar. This church stood  
 in St Martin Grogar Lane by Candelunck Street  
 or Cannon Street as it now is called. In  
 mediæval times it was "a small thing", and  
 in Edwards' reign the churchwardens reported  
 that "there is at tyme present in the steeple  
 of o<sup>r</sup> parish Church four greaie bells and  
 one paine bell. (41) In 1630 the tower was repaired  
 The building was badly damaged but  
 not destroyed and after restoration was  
 was used as a church for French Protestants  
 the minister being episcopally ordained  
 and the services according to the use of the  
 Church of England. In 1824 all except  
 the porch was taken down and nothing  
 of the old church remains but the site is  
 marked by a modern red brick tower

Which contains one bell by Hodson.

St Martin.  
Gutwiche.

---



St Martins Church  
stood on the west side of Bishopsgate  
at the corner of Threadneedle Street. It  
was founded probably late in the twelfth  
Century and was rebuilt toward the  
end of the fifteenth Century. The  
Edwardian inventory states that there  
were "remaining iiij Bells in the Steple  
of a meane size & a pannes bell." (412)

Outside the church was a well  
 "with two buckets so fastened that the  
 drawing up of the one let down the other  
 but now of late" says Hinc "that well  
 is turned into a pump."

In 1545 the following scale of Charges  
 for the use of the bells was drawn up -

Hinc. for evy Kyll song with the first  
 bell other in the forenoon or at

afternoon

js.

Hinc. for an Owers Kyll w<sup>th</sup> the  
 same bell

iijs

Hinc. for a kyll song w<sup>th</sup> the seconde  
 bell

js viijs

Hinc. for a kyll song w<sup>th</sup> thirde bell

iijs. iijs

Peyle.

Hinc. for peylles at the buerung of a

Corpe in the afternoon and to ringe  
 in the morning at Masse

js. viijs

Hinc. for peylles when a Corpe is

buried in the morninge. Provided  
 that when any parsons do the dye

which is lykely to have the great  
bell that then no bargaine be made for  
any Knyll by the Clarke wthout the  
presens of one of the Churchwardens at  
the Ceyole

664

js.

Item. the Tescion shall take no more for  
the passing Knyll night or daye than

viijs

Item. the Tescion shall have at any hight  
Dirige

iiijs

Item at a lowe dirige

ijs.

Among the payments made by the churchwardens  
are the following -

Payd for rying the bells at y<sup>e</sup> Comyng  
of y<sup>e</sup> Kyng to Westmynster

iiijs

For ryingg a Knell & y<sup>e</sup> bells for y<sup>e</sup>  
Empress

xijjs.

In the account published by the Parish  
Clerks in 1733 the number of bells is given  
as five and the same in Styrpes Survey,  
but this perhaps is doubtful as Hutton  
in 1708 said that there were but four,  
Laughton does not mention the bells

among the rings of five in 1733,  
and when the Church was taken down  
there were (it is said) guides for four ropes  
only.

In 1765 a big fire broke out in  
Bishopsgate which burnt fifty houses  
and so damaged St. Martins that in  
1795 it was pulled down and rebuilt.  
The new Church was designed by Samuel  
J. Cockerill and was small, ugly, and  
heavy being absolutely devoid of  
ecclesiastical character. This building  
stood until 1873 when in accordance  
with an order in Council it was removed  
and the parish united to St. Helens. It  
had then five bells one of 9 cwt which  
was inscribed <sup>THOMAS</sup> JAMES BARTLET MADE ME IN 1623,

and is now at St. Andrews, Fifeham;

the other, the priest's bell, 3 cwt, which

was given to a church at Poplar. (413)

St Martin Pomary, was a small  
 parish church which stood in Ironmonger  
 Lane and was destroyed in the fire of  
 1666 and not rebuilt. In Edwards'  
 reign there were "iiij" belles and a  
 paunce bell in the Steple (414) Nearly in  
 Cheapside was the Hospital of St. Thomas  
 of Acon the bell of which was appointed  
 to set the time in the early morning.  
 After the dissolution it became the  
 Chapel of the Mercers' Company and its  
 successor still exists. It had a  
 great bell hung in the choir, which  
 was sold to Sir Ralph Harrew, who  
 gave it back to the Mercers' Company. (476)



St Martin-in-the-Vintry, sometimes

called St Martin-de-Beremand Church, stood  
in Thames Street at the south-west corner  
of Royal Street or College Hill. It was  
rebuilt about the year 1399 by the executors  
of Matthew Columbars, a stranger born, a  
Bordeaux merchant of Gasconne and French  
wines. A century later Sir Raef Austrie, a  
fishmonger re-roofed the church, covered it  
with lead and filled the windows with  
beautiful painted glass. In the  
Edwardian inventory the tower is said  
to have contained "1 bell of an accord  
and a lesser bell", <sup>(LIS)</sup> and no doubt these  
still remained, except perhaps in some  
instances, until 1666 when church and  
bells perished in the great fire. It was

suggested by Osborn that this may have been the church on College Hill" at which, according to Shipway, the College Jouths practised, and from which they got their name; and this suggestion has been repeated many times as if it were ascertained fact; but it is not at all a likely one. Osborn wrote that "it is said" that there were six small bells in the steeple, <sup>(LB)</sup> but though of course during the hundred years between Edwards' reign and the fire the ring may have been augmented, it is probable that he derived his information indirectly from the inventory, and that the six small bells were five ringing bells and one small bell.

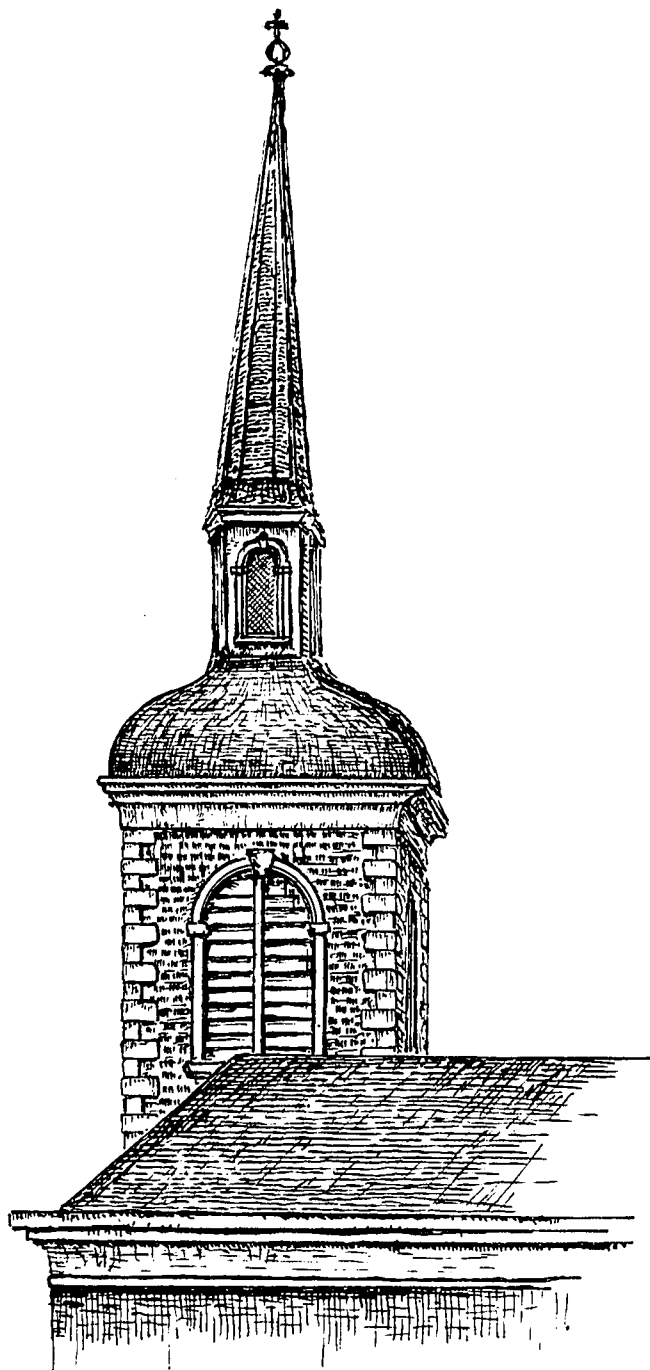
670

St Mary,  
Abchurch

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This Church  
stands on the  
west side of  
Abchurch Lane  
in Candlewick  
Ward. It was  
a "fair church",

and in 1553 possessed "vj belles in the  
stepull great and small", <sup>(47)</sup> of which no  
doubt five were a ringing peal and one  
a paunce bell. The building was

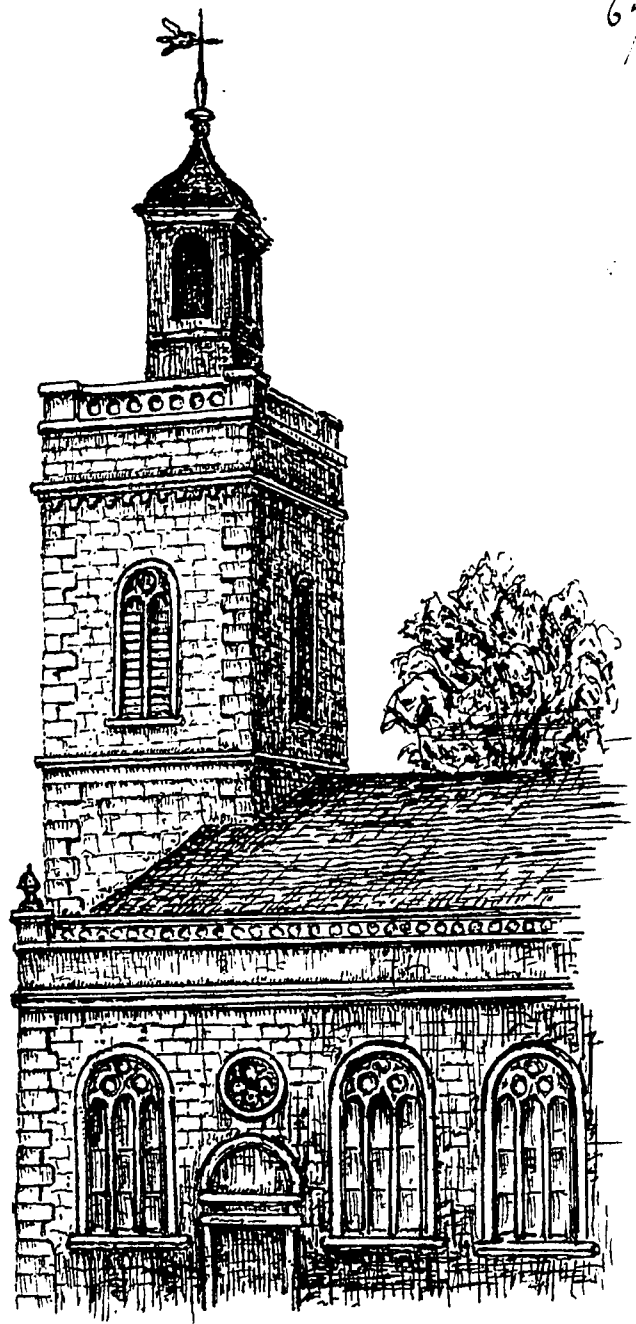


destroyed in 1666 and was  
rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren in  
1681-1687 at a cost of £4922 - 2.4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.  
One bell, cast by Anthony Bartlett in  
1675, was hung in the steeple. (L18)

St. Mary  
Aldermanbury.

---

Sir William  
Eustfield, Knight  
of the Bath,  
Mayor in 14  
was a great  
benefactor to



the church. He built the steeple and  
gave a new ring of five bells, and was  
after his death buried under a fair  
monument." In the inventory made  
in the reign of Edward VI is the item -

673

"V bells in the steeple one greater  
than another and a little pandius  
bell - vj belles greale and small." (419)

Henry Condell the companion of  
William Shakespeare and one of the men  
who collected and published his plays,  
was at one time a piousman of St. Marys  
and was buried in the church. There  
is good reason to believe that he was  
an ancestor of John Condell a leading  
member of the Society of College Youths  
in the middle of the eighteenth century. (453)

St Marys was burnt in the fire of  
1666. The vestry paid £8-2-6 for removing  
stones and rubbish and gathering up  
the lead and bell metal, and instead  
of keeping the latter as some parishes  
did with the idea of having new bells

67-

sold it for £ 41-10-0.

The new Church was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and on April 30<sup>th</sup> 1673 "fifty guineas were paid to Dr. Professor Wren and ten to Mr. Hooke that they may be encouraged to assist in the perfecting the building of the Church." The Cost was defrayed by a loan from the parishioners repaid by the City out of the imposition on Coals.

In 1675 a bell was hung in the new tower and there was -

paid for ye fribble bell	37-10-0
paid ye bell hangers	3-18-0

Its inscription is JOHN HARRIS CHARLES TODD  
CHURCHWARDENS 1675.

In the Lantern is a clock bell inscribed  
JOHN RUTTER JAMES BRYANT CHURCHWARDENS 1809  
T. MEARS & SON LONDON FECIT (420)

695  
St Mary,  
Aldermary.

---

Aldermary Church  
was so called because  
it was of an earlier  
foundation than any  
other of the same

dedication in the City, and especially to  
distinguish it from Our Lady of the Arches  
at the other end of Bow Lane. It was  
rebuilt by Henry Kelle grocer and mayor  
who died in 1518. and was buried in the  
Church in a vault which he had prepared  
with a fair monument over it on the





66

north side of the choir, but it did not escape the spoliation at the time of King Edward and, says How, though he gave a thousand pounds towards the building up of that church, yet was not permitted a resting place for his bones there. The tower was left unfinished but according to the inventory it contained "fve gret bellys and ij smaller bells" (42) It was completed in the early seventeenth Century by William Rodoway who died in 1626 and Richard Tienow. After being destroyed in the fire of 1666 it was rebuilt from the designs of Sir Christopher Wren largely through the bequest of Henry Rogers who gave money on

600

Condition that the new building should be copied from the old. It is probably the finest of Henry's gothic churches the plaster vaulting being very striking. The tower, 135 feet high is one of the most conspicuous in London but contains only two bells.

St Mary, Axe. "In St Mary Street  
had ye of old time a parish church of St.  
Mary the Virgin, St. Ursula, and the eleven  
thousand virgins, which church was  
commonly called St Mary at the Axe. of  
the sign of an axe, over against the east  
end thereof, or St Mary Gellfaw, of a plot of  
ground lying to the north side thereof, pertaining  
to the Skinners in London." "In the steeple  
were iiij belles and one paunce bell, with  
Ropes unto orle of them." <sup>(422)</sup> About 1565 the  
church was secularized and let to a  
merchant as a warehouse, the parish being  
united with St Andrew, Undershaft.

St. Mary, Bothaw. "On the south  
side of Wallbrook Ward from Candlewick Street  
[ Cannon Street ] in the midway betwixt  
London Stone and Wallbrook corner is a  
little lane with a pumpike in the midst  
thereof, and in the same a proper parish  
Church, called St. Mary Bothaw, or Boathaw  
by the Exbr. This Church being near unto  
the Downgate on the river of Thames, hath  
the addition of Boathaw or Boat Haw, of  
near adjoining to a haw or yard, wherein  
of old time boats were made and landed  
from Downgate to be mended, as may be  
supposed, for other reason I find none why  
it should be so called "

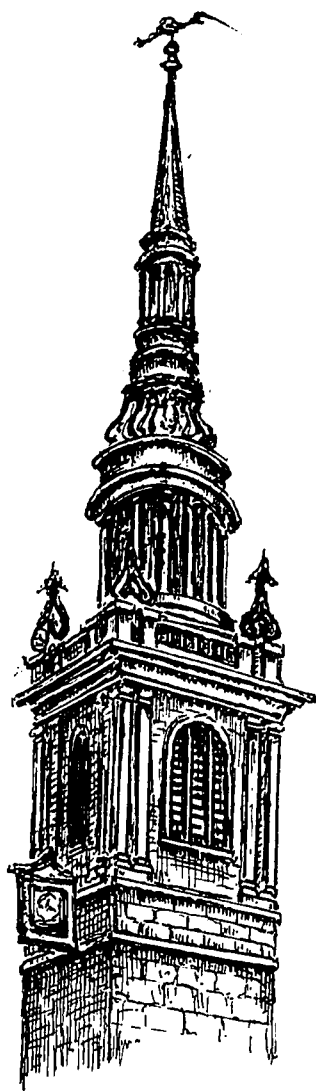
An inventory of the Church goods and  
ornaments, made in the reign of Edward VI  
is in the Public Record Office, but it is

defective and at present there is no  
entry relating to the bells. The church  
was destroyed in the fire of 1666 and  
was not rebuilt, the parish being united  
to St. Martin, London Stone.

68

## St. Mary-le-Bow.

The Church of Our Lady  
of the Arches is not only  
famous for its bells  
but "for divers accidents  
happening there hath  
been made more famous  
than any other Church  
of the whole City or  
suburbs". In 1900 in  
the reign of William II



the roof was blown off in a mighty tempest  
and several persons were killed. In the year  
1106 William Fitz Osbert a rebellious baron took  
the steeple of Bow and fortified it with  
munitions and victuals but it was assaulted  
and William and his accomplices were  
taken, though not without bloodshed, for

68.

He was forced by fire and smoke to forsake the church; and then by the judges condemned he was by the heels drawn to the Elms in Smithfield, and there hanged with nine of his fellows; where because his favourers came not to deliver him, he forsook Mary's son, as he termed Christ our Saviour, and called upon the devil to help him. Such was the end of this deceiver, a man of an evil life, a secret murderer, a filthy fornicator, a polluter of Concubines, and among other his detestable facts a false accuser of his elder brother. So says John Stow, but there is another side to the story. William Fitz Osbert called William with the Beard was a London demagogue who voiced the popular feeling against the taxes imposed by

682

Hubert Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury  
and Justiciar to King Richard I during  
his absence on the continent, He opposed  
the measures of the ruling classes, stirred  
up opposition with fiery speeches and  
approached the king in person. Then the  
Justiciar interfered by force, dragged  
him out of sanctuary and had him  
executed.

In the year 1271 a great part of the  
steeple fell down and slew many people  
men and women In the year 1284, Laurence  
Duckes, goldsmith having grievously  
wounded one Ralph Grepin in West Cheap  
fled into Bow Church, into which in the  
night time entered certain evil persons  
friends of the said Ralph. and slew the  
said Laurence lying in the steeple, and



684

there hanged him up, placing him  
so by the window as if he had hanged  
himself, and so it was found by inquisition;  
for the which fact Laurence Duckett being  
drawn by the feet was buried in a ditch  
without the city; but shortly after  
by relation of a boy who lay with the  
said Laurence at the time of his death  
and had hid him there for fear, the  
truth of the matter was disclosed for which  
cause Jordan Goodchape, Ralph Crefin,  
Gilbert Clarke and Geoffrey Clarke were  
attainted; a certain woman named  
Alice that was the chief cause of the  
said mischief was burnt and to the  
number of fifteen men were drawn  
and hanged. The Church was interdicted

68

the doors and windows were slipped  
up with thorns. But Laurence was taken  
up and honestly buried in the churchyard.

The damaged steeple was rebuilt little  
by little and by this time, as I have  
already mentioned, Bow bell was one of  
the four that was appointed to set the  
time for the ringing of the curfew. In  
1472 John Donne, mercer, by his testament  
gave to the parson and churchwardens  
two penements with the appurtenances, in  
Hosier Lane for the maintenance of the bell  
and the ringing. The curfew was the  
signal that the day's work was over  
and because the apprentices considered  
that the parish clerk was late with  
his ringing they made up the following  
rhyme against him -

180

Clarke of the Bow bell, with the yellow locks  
For thy late ringing thy head shall have knocks.  
and the clerk, entering into the spirit of the  
thing, replied in like manner -

Children of Cheape, hold you all still

For you shall have the Bow bell rung as you will.

The steeple was finished in 1512, and afterwards  
the open arches or "bows" which supported the  
central lantern were afterwards added. They  
were built of stone brought from Caen in  
Normandy and delivered at the Customs  
quay at a cost of 45 8d the ton. From this  
feature the Church is said to have derived its  
name and if so it must have been reproduced  
from the old steeple for the Church was  
called Our Lady of the Arches at least  
as early as the fourteenth century, and  
probably much earlier. William Copland  
a tailor, and the king's merchant, was

68

Churchwarden in 1515. He gave the great bell making the fifth in the ring and provided that it should be used as the nine o'clock curfew. It was first rung as a knell at his burial.

At the time of Edward VI the Church possessed "ffve greaie bells and two pancelus Bells." <sup>(424)</sup> These were added to from time to time there were twelve of which ten were a ringing peal and two the pancelus bells or their successors.

The inscription on the Tenor was as follows—

DUDUM FVNDABAR DOWBEL CAMPANA YOCABAR

SEXTA SONAT BIS SEXTA SONAT TER TERTIA PVLSAT

(425)

Church, tower, and bells were destroyed in the great fire. Work began to rebuild in 1671 and finished in 1680. The Cost of the Church was £8,071-18-1, and of

the steeple £ 1388-8. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ . the total 688  
being greater than that of any other of  
the City Churches. <sup>(1129)</sup> The steeple, 231 ft  
9 inches high is justly famous and is  
among the finest work of the distinguished  
architect. Dame Williamson of Hales  
Hall in the County of Norfolk gave £2000  
towards the cost of rebuilding and of  
new bells; she also contributed £2620  
to the building of St. Paul's Cathedral.

When designed the tower for a heavy  
ring of twelve bells and "on the seventh  
of September A.D. 1677 in the Reign of  
Charles II John Hodson Citizen and  
Carpenter of London and Christopher Hodson  
of the Parish of St. Mary Cray in the County  
of Kent Bellfounders had orders to make

and cast eight new bells," They 689  
were about as heavy as the present ring  
and in the opinion of John Shippe,

"surely for the number and melody of  
the bells Bow since the Fire surpasseth  
former times." The tenor however was  
not satisfactory and in 1738 was recast

by Richard Phelps assisted by Thomas  
Lester

The new bell her founders' masterpiece  
the famous old tenor of Bow weighed  
53 1/4 Cwt In 1758 the parish being

of the opinion that they had one of the  
best bells in existence and that the

others were not nearly so good determined

to have them recast and two trebles  
added to make a ring of ten. This

was done by Lester and Pack, and <sup>690</sup>  
the new bells were rung for the first time  
on King George's birthday June 4<sup>th</sup> 1762.  
Towards the cost Samuel Blackwell gave  
fifty pounds. Blackwell was Member of  
Parliament for Cirencester a member of  
the Society of College Youths and a great  
pation of ringing. (427)

The two pebbles to make a ring of twelve  
were added by Sears and Hainbank in  
1881, and in 1933 the bells were restored  
and rehung by Gillett and Johnson of (426)  
Croydon when eight of them were recast.  
They included the tenor, Phelps' masterpiece  
and an exceedingly fine example of eighteenth  
century bell founding. Unfortunately when  
she was examined at Croydon she was  
found to be cracked in the crown.

691

The first peal in the steeple was one of Bob Triples rung by the College Youths on January 12<sup>th</sup> 1731. Eleven men were needed - three for the tenor and two to the seventh. John Cundell was the Conductor and Annable was not in the band. This was on the original eight by Hodson, and so was the next peal one of Bob Major in 1734 also by the College Youths. It was the heaviest peal of Major that had been rung and indeed it has never been beaten, but eleven men were required three, including Richard Spicer and John Trenell, for the tenor and two Cundell and Robert Hobbs for the seventh.

After the tenor was recast the first peal on the bells was Oxford Treble Bob Major rung by ten College Youths in 1761 and



just over three years later the same 692  
society rang the first peal on the ten 5363  
changes of Grandire Calers. Again three  
men had to be put to the tenor and two  
to the treble. When the first peal of Royal  
was rung in 1782 five good men Samuel  
Muggenidge and William Lyford rang  
the bell but five years later the College  
Youths scored 5111 changes of Grandire  
Calers with ten men only, Philip Pelgiam  
being at the tenor. Samuel Muggenidge  
was not in the band. It was soon after  
the visit to Birmingham and the incident  
which ultimately led to the lapse of the  
original branch of the Society of College  
Youths (430)

In 1803 the Cumberland Youths with

James Skarllion at the tenor rang 693  
5200 Changes of Goscford Treble Bob Royal  
single handed. and in 1837 they repeated  
the performance with Augustus G. Frost. (428)  
To show that they were not exhausted they  
rang a Course of Hidman Caters before  
setting the bells. (431)

The Cumberlands rang the first peal of  
Hidman Caters on the bells (1808) and  
the College Juniors the first of Lingoes (1890)  
and of Treble Bob Masmines (1907). The latter  
society rang the only six-thousand achieved  
in the steeple (6048 Kent Treble Bob Masmines)  
but the longest was the 7392 Changes of  
Cambridge Surprise Masmines by the  
Middlessex Association with William Iye  
at the tenor. (432)

# Inscriptions on the Bells

694

- 1, 2. □ CAST 1881 □ MEARS & STAINBANK OF LONDON □ MARSHALL  
H VINE RECTOR RECAST 1933 CILLETT & JOHNSTON LTD  
OF CROYDON □ REV S GORDON PONSONBY MA VD RECTOR □
- 3 □ CAST 1762 □ LESTER & PACK OF LONDON □ RECAST 1933  
REV S GORDON PONSONBY MA VD RECTOR □
- 4, 5. WM CIBSON & JAMES PIERREPONT CH YARDENS 1762 □  
LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT □
- 6, 7, 8. CAST 1762 □ LESTER & PACK OF LONDON □ RECAST  
1933 □ CILLETT & JOHNSTON LTD OF CROYDON □ REV  
S GORDON PONSONBY MA VD RECTOR □
9. WM CIBSON & JAS PIERREPONT CH YARDENS 1762 □  
LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT □
- 10 CAST 1762 □ LESTER & PACK OF LONDON □ RT REV DR  
THOS NEWTON RECTOR □ RECAST 1933 □ CILLETT &  
JOHNSTON LTD OF CROYDON □ REV S GORDON  
PONSONBY MA VD RECTOR □
11. □ WM GORDON & JAS PIERREPONT CH YARDENS OF  
BOY □ LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1762 □  
SAML BLACKWELL ESQ □ CAVE L 50
- 12 □ BOY BELL □ CAST 1669 □ SAMUEL LISLE DD RECTOR □  
RECAST 1738 BY RICHARD PHELPS & THOS LESTER □  
AGAIN RECAST IN 1933 BY CILLETT & JOHNSTON LTD  
OF CROYDON □ THE COST OF THIS ENTIRE RESTORATION  
OF THE BELLS IN 1933 IS THE GIFT OF H GORDON  
SELFRIECE □ [Names of Rector and Gen Churchwardens]  
WEIGHT 2-14-0-12 ALDERMAN SIR LOUIS ARTHUR  
NEWTON BT Chairman of Restoration Committee.

Tablet on wall of the church

695

Lame Tijoris Williamson of Hales Hall in  
the County of Norfolk, Gave to the Inhabitants  
of this Parish 2000<sup>l</sup> towards the Rebuilding  
and Splendid finishing this Church and  
Steeple and furnishing the same with Bells  
&c which was demolished by the late  
Dreadful Fire anno 1666.

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## Tablets in Belfry.

695a

Society of Cumberland Tinklers rung in this  
Steeple on Monday Jan 3 1803 a fine and  
complete Peal of Treble Bob Royal Consisting  
of 5200 Changes in 4 hours and 7 minutes  
being the full extent of nine Courses and the  
first Peal in that method rung by ten men only

George Gross Junr	1.	John Hinds	6.
George Gross Junr	2.	John Hooding	7.
Thomas Reeves	3.	Anthony Cavalier	8.
William Herbert	4.	William Stephens	9.
James Barnard	5.	James Skarion	Tenor

The Peal was called by George Gross Junr.

Society of Cumberlands On Thursday March  
28<sup>th</sup> 1827 rung in this Steeple a fine Peal of  
Gxford Treble Bob Royal containing 5200 Changes  
in 3 hours and 53 minutes the extent of nine Courses  
the masterly manner in which this Peal was  
rung will ever reflect honour on the performers.

H. Hy Burwash	1.	Chas. Wilson	6.
Jno Fairbairn	2.	William Kellitt	7.
Chas. Goozee	3.	William Ludford	8.
Edw Giles	4.	Thomas Michael	9.
Jeremiah Miller	5.	A. G. Frost	Tenor

Conducted by H. Hy Burwash.

N.B. Previous to the bells stopping they completed  
a Course of Catens on Stedmans Principle.

Society of Cumberlands. On Monday 6956.  
 March 8<sup>th</sup> 1808 the above Society did ring in  
 this Steeple a true and complete Peal of Caters  
 on Headman's Principle, Consisting of 5049 changes  
 in 3 hours and 40 minutes being the only Peal  
 ever rung in that intricate method on these  
 bells. By the following persons

George Gross	1.	James Tichbury	5.	William Stephens	9.
William Shipway	2.	John Hunt	6.	Philip Selgins	10.
James Nash	3.	Thos. Freeth	7.		
Richard Jagger	4.	Anthony Cavalier	8.		

The Peal was composed and called by George Gross.

---

Society of Cumberlands. On Tuesday March 17  
 1840 rung in this Steeple a fine Peal of Caters on  
 Headman's Principle containing 5079 changes in  
 3 hours and 47 minutes

H. H. Burwash	1.	Frederick Miller	5.	Thos. Whiting	9.
Jno Fairbairn	2.	Chas. Wilson	6.	A. G. Frost	10.
Chas. Goozee	3.	Wm. Lobb	7.		
Edw. Giles	4.	William Lindfield	8.		

Ancient Society of College Youths. On Saturday  
 Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 1883 ten members of the Society achieved  
 on the grand bells in this Steeple a fine Peal  
 of Headman Caters comprising 5081 changes  
 in 3 hours and 42 minutes. A period of 23

years had elapsed since the last Peal. Performers  
 Henry Whaley 1. James R. Haworth 5. G. R. Musket 9.  
 Henry Boswell 2. Robt Jameson 6. Matthew A. Wood 10.  
 Edwin G. Langdon 3. James Dwight 7.  
 William Coolin 4. George E. Ferris 8. Wengli of Tenor  
 Composed and Conducted by Mr. H. A. ... 532

# Peals rung at St. Mary-le-Bow.

1731	Jan. 12	5040	Bob Triples	College Junths
1734	Feb. 11	5040	Bob Majors	do.
1761	Dec 13	5120	6x. F. B. Majors	do.
1765	Apr 14	5363	Gran. Caters	do.
1775	Feb 21	5111	do	Cumberlands
1777	Nov 4	5219	do	London Junths
1782	Dec 3	5040	6x. F. B. Royal	College Junths
1787	Feb 19	5111	Gran. Caters	do.
1794	Jan 2	5453	do	Junior Cumberlands
1803	Jan 3	5200	6x. F. B. Royal	Cumberlands
1808	Mar 8	5094	Med. Caters	do.
1837	Mar 28	5200	6x F. B. Royal	do.
1840	Mar 17	5079	Med Caters	do.
1863	Dec 19	5081	do.	College Junths
1890	Apr 7	5004	Med Cinques	do.

St Mary, Colechurch.

697

This church stood in the Pauling at the south end of Old Jewry. Henry IV granted a licence to William Marshall and others to found a brotherhood of St Katherine therein because St Thomas Becket and St Edmund, Archbishops of Canterbury were baptised there. At the time of Edward VI there were "iiij" <sup>(L34)</sup> bells in the steeple and a paunce bell. In 1616-17 the third was recast and rehung costing the parish the following

Charges:—

paid for Bread and Beare at ye  
takeinge downe and hanginge of ye  
Bell

1. 0.

paid for Smith for Iron worke for  
the bells

3. 10

paid for Castinge the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bell

wayinge 5. 1. 2 at 15s p.c.

3 19 0



paid for 0.1.9<sup>0</sup> m<sup>c</sup>lell of x<sup>d</sup>  
p. ll for all the bells 5.2.11

698

1. 11. 0

paid the Carpenter for taking down  
and hanging the same Bell and  
trimming the other Bells

1. 3. 0.

paid for four Kelishes for the Bells

2. 8.

paid Mr Sutton Carpenter for a  
new stocke for same Bell

5. 6.

paid the same for Irons and a  
Candrops for the same Bell

9 4

paid Mr Sutton Carpenter for a  
new wheele for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bell and  
other worke

16 7

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 1654 at a meeting  
of the vestry it was agreed that the bells  
should be mended and made firm.

The Church was burnt in the fire of 1666  
and was not rebuilt the parish being  
united with that of St Shildred in the  
Parish.

## St. Mary-at-Hill.

This church stands  
between St. Mary Hill  
and Love Lane, two  
of the narrow streets  
that run from Eastcheap  
to Lower Thames Street



Not much is known about the earlier  
medieval church but about 1490 it was  
rebuilt, among those who subscribed being  
Robert Rouell one of the Sheriffs who  
gave liberally towards the new steeple,  
and Sir John Homes, who with John  
Luckling paid for one of the arches. There  
had been three bells and a paucius  
bell in the old tower and after it was

700

rebuilt, the ring was increased to five at first by a bell given by John Duckling and then by another given by Glomer. Duckling was a fishmonger and a prominent parishioner, for Billingsgate had already long been the centre of the fish trade. His name was inscribed on the bell, and evidently he took a personal interest in the ringing, for in 1492 the churchwardens paid him twenty-one pence for 17 lbs of rope which he had procured for the bells. He died in 1499 and the parish received 6/8 for half-a-day's knell on the great bell for him. Glomer was created a Knight of the Bath on May 26, 1465 and evidently was a prominent citizen and an

important person. (435)

701

The five bells were not very tuneable and in 1508 the parish seems to have employed a man named William Smith to tune them. Smith was one of the Aldgate founders, but nothing else is known about him, (436) and none of his bells survives. Evidently he made a bad job of the tuning and seriously damaged the bells, for the parish paid a Master Green  $\frac{1}{8}$  for Counsel how to take action for the cutting of our three bells." As a result a plaint was entered and Smith was arrested. The parish accounts contain several items of payments of fees and expenses in connection with this suit - tenpence

for entering the plea and for the  
 arrest of Smith, fourteen pence for the  
 attorney, sixpence for "making our plea"  
 1/8 to Master Stevens the Counsel, four  
 shillings to the serjeant for two summonses  
 and fourpence as fees when the action  
 was tried. The parish was also charged  
 sixpence "for my dyner & Thomas Munders,  
 and fourpence was paid to the judge,  
 as a fee, it is to be hoped and not as  
 a bribe."

Although the matter was pleaded  
 to an issue, the result is not stated;  
 but evidently Truth was ordered to  
 recast at least one of the bells under  
 certain conditions, and a scrivener  
 was employed to draw up the indentures

of an agreement between him and  
 the parish under the direction of two  
 arbitrators, Mr Robins and Mr Jentyll.  
 The arrangement was satisfactory to  
 both sides and the churchwardens  
 paid for wine to celebrate the occasion.  
 The five bells were taken down from  
 the steeple and conveyed to Aldgate  
 at the charges of the parish. It was  
 necessary to purchase an hundredweight  
 of new rope to "strike" (i.e. lower) them,  
 and for twopence spent on drink some  
 of the Billingsgate porters lent a hand.  
 The cost of the carriage to Aldgate  
 was two shillings and a penny a piece  
 was given to ~~the~~ six porters who  
 lifted them on to the sledge. A certain

704  
man named Reeves was paid  
eightpence for his trouble in going from  
Ludgate to Aldgate to hear the fourth  
bell which Smith was to recast, and  
judge whether it was in tune or not;  
and a deputation from the parish, consisting  
of Mr Russell, John Althorpe, John  
Crendell, and the clerks of St. Anthony's  
with Mr Jentyll the arbitrator also went  
there for the same purpose. Afterwards  
they called at the house of one Skace  
and regaled themselves with beer  
and wine, at a charge to the parish  
of eightpence. Smith recast the fourth  
and added 1 cwt. 26 lbs of new metal  
to it, for which he was paid  $4\frac{3}{8}$ . He  
also received  $13\frac{1}{4}$  for putting on

inscription on the bell. The order 705

for the recasting of the tenor was given to William Culverden, and with him was associated Thomas Bullisdon either as partner or assistant.



CULVERDEN'S TRADE MARK

Culverden was probably the leading founder of the day and several of his bells are still to be found in different parts of England. Five of Bullisdon's bells remain at St. Bartholomew's the Great. The cost of 2 cast 14 lb. of new metal was 59/6. and the other charges for recasting etc amounted to 29/4. For the new frame a contract was made with a carpenter at the Salutation. The



"obligation making" Cost fourpence, 706  
and sevenpence was spent in wine, for  
on such an occasion they were not content  
with the more homely beer. The Carpenter  
received forty shillings as "God's penny  
in hand," and when the work was  
completed a further five shillings in  
full settlement of his charges. Money  
paid in advance to seal a contract  
was called God's penny in hand because  
originally it was a token amount  
which according to Canon Law should  
be given to some pious object.

Various amounts were paid to different  
tradesmen for new fittings and repairs  
to the old. An interesting item is  
sixpence for twelve wedges for the

707

gudgeons of the bells, which tells  
us how the bells were hung. The gudgeon  
was a round piece of iron driven into  
the end of the stock and lightened up  
by means of wedges. Such an arrangement  
would be very liable to work loose  
and to be affected by changes in the  
weather. Unless the bell hanger was an  
expert craftsman it would be very  
difficult to get a true alignment  
of the gudgeons, and we can easily  
believe that ringing in those days  
was a job for strong lusty men. No  
mention is made of any brasses but  
some sort of bearing was a necessity  
when the bells were hoisted into the  
steeple no doubt several of the market

porters gave a hand, and enough 708  
ale could be bought for a penny to give  
them all a drink.

From time to time the scale of charges  
for knells was revised. In 1498 it was  
ordered that the fee for the use of the tenor  
should be 6d half of which went to the  
churchwardens and half to the clerk. This  
was for a full knell of half a day. For an  
hour ringing of the fourth the fee was  
one shilling to the clerk but if it were  
ring for half a day he took three shillings  
and four pence. When the "Cytill bell"  
(presumably the third) was used the  
clerk's fees were eightpence for a man  
and fourpence for a child. In all these  
latter cases the churchwardens' fees

700

are not mentioned so evidently they remained unaltered by the order. For the poor people of the parish Sir John Gommer's bell (the pebble) might be used and then the charge was only one penny; but this was a concession to those who really could not afford to pay more, and of that Gommer was to be the judge and after his death the seniors of the parish.

The fees covered other services than the actual knolling of the bell. When John Cundall, who was one of the party that went to Aldgate in 1510, buried his mayde (young daughter) he paid one and fourpence for the knell and the pyll (grave), and when Mr Russell,

another of the same party, died. the 710  
parish paid to the man who rang the knell  
8d. A solemn dirige and requiem was  
sung for him and at it all the five  
bells were rung at a cost of  $\frac{1}{4}$ . On  
this occasion it was necessary to spend  
one penny for repairs to the bell wheels.

As was the case with several other  
London churches there were endowments  
at St. Mary's for obits. One was for  
William Cambridge, grocer, and Mayor  
in 1420 and for this two clerks and  
the ringers received two shillings. Another  
was for John Cawston who died in  
1353 and in connection with this  
endowment the parish was involved in  
a law suite. The two judges who

711

presided at this case - my Lord  
Chief Justice and my Lord Briaunt - each  
received a fee of  $13\frac{1}{2}$  s, which makes the  
fee of fourpence paid to the judge in  
the other action seem very small.

Payments for the ringing on state occasions  
or for the visits of great persons, are few  
Compared with those in the accounts of  
some other parishes for royally never  
found many reasons for going to Billingsgate.  
But in 1493 the parish apparently was  
fined four shillings for not ringing in  
honour of the king. In 1502 Henry VII  
with his queen made a state visit to  
St. Pauls from Baynards Castle which  
stood on the banks of the Thames not  
far from Blackfriars and which he

712  
had lately lately rebuilt and fitted  
up as a royal residence. On this occasion  
all the bells of the City were rung, and  
St Mary's among them. So they were six  
years after when Henry VIII went to Westminster  
to be crowned. In 1524 there is an  
entry of eightpence paid to the ringers  
"for ringing of the bells at the triumph for  
the taking of the French King, and by  
commandment of the mayor." This throws  
a strong side light on contemporary  
national and European politics. The  
two powerful monarchs on the Continent at  
the time were Francis I of France and  
Charles V, Emperor of Germany, King of  
Spain and the Netherlands and Lord  
of the New World. Between them there

was intense rivalry and war, and Thomas Holsey who was then directing the policy of England was trying to advance the interests of his own country by playing off one against the other. He had decided to support France at least temporarily when the news came that Francis who had ~~been~~ invaded Italy had been utterly defeated and taken prisoner at the battle of Pavia. It was a bad blow for English diplomacy but the City of London did not think so. The merchants' interests were largely bound up with the trade with the Low Countries and then and for long afterwards they favoured friendship and alliance with Spain

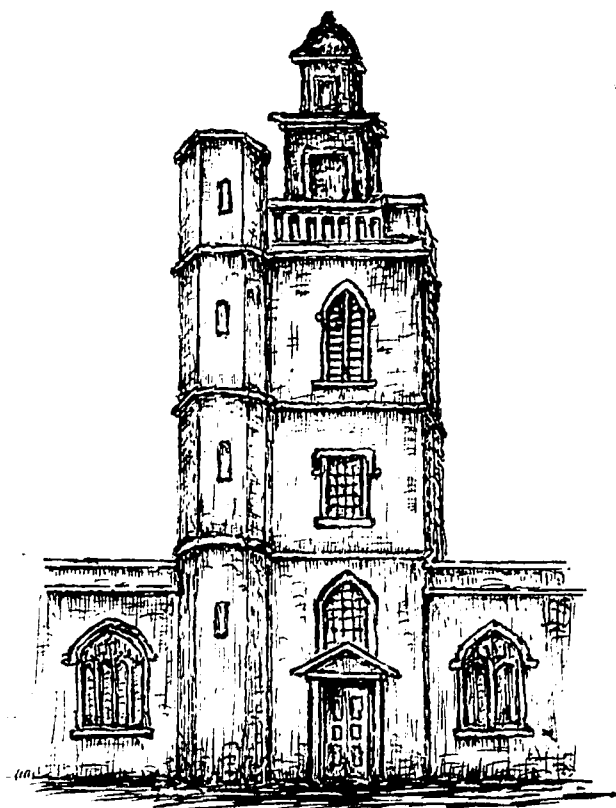


7/4

and so when the news came they looked  
on it as a triumph and by commandment  
of the mayor "all the bells were set ringing."  
In 1536 when Henry and his queen, Jane  
Seymour passed through London it  
was by order of the bishop that the bells  
were rung. The other payments to the  
ringers were for more parochial objects;  
on Lady Day, the patronal festival,  
for obits and for Cenfes; and we are  
interested to learn that "John Tiles  
wyff" received a shilling for bringing  
drunk to the church for the clerks and  
ringers on several occasions at the time  
of the great festivals.

After 1559 our detailed information  
about St. Mary's and its bells, comes

to an end. The Church was repaired in 1616 and was burnt in the fire of 1666. It was restored the building, but the old stone tower still remained until 1780. The



AD. 1700.

ring of five bells however was destroyed and was replaced by two bells. By the end of the eighteenth Century the steeple had become very much decayed, and, being considered unsafe, was replaced by the present brick tower. At the same time three new bells were supplied by the Whitechapel foundry. They are dated

1787.

Inventory  
of Church Goods, 1496-7.

Item v greie belles and a sanctus  
 bell. of which v greie belles the iiij<sup>th</sup>  
 great bell was clere of y<sup>e</sup> gift  
 of John Dreklynge. ffyshmonger  
 as is grased vppon y<sup>e</sup> bell.

Inventory 1553

Item. a bell called a sacring bell  
 Item in the steeple v greie belles &  
 one Sanctis bell.

Delivered a bell called a sacring  
 bell. (437)

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# Exciacts from the Parish Accounts

A.D. 1420 - 1559.

(1138)

717

## 1. Sundry repairs to the bells.

- |         |   |           |
|---------|---|-----------|
| 1427-8. | payd for iij bawdrykes to ye bell,  | xxviij d. |
| 1428-9  | for a bawdryk to ye myddyll bell,   | viiij d.  |
| 1470    | Item for nayles to amende the whele<br>of the Sanctus bell                                  |           |
| 1477-9  | for a Rope to the tyll bell   | iiij d.   |
|         | for viij fathom of Rope for the mydell<br>bells   | ix d.     |
|         | for making of a bawdryk and a<br>nywe bokyll to the tyll bells                              | viiij d.  |
| 1479-81 | Item for a bokyll to lunge ye clapper<br>of the tyll bell                                   |           |
| 1492-3. | Item to masteys docteryng for xvij<br>lb of Rope for the bells.                             | xxij d.   |
| 1494-5  | Item for ij grei leders for the clappers<br>& making of the welle                           | rs. ij d. |
| 1499-5. | Item for a Rope for the tyll<br>Lawse bell.   | iiij d.   |
| 1501-2  | Item for a rope to the Sans bell  |           |
|         | Summa   | iiij d.   |
|         | To buy the Lescion & Traison for<br>mending of the bawdrykes & clappers<br>of the iij bells |           |

- 1503-4 Paid for a gogyn to the pauns  
bell ijd.
- 1510-11 Paid for iiij bokylls for the  
bawdrykes of the belles vijd
- Paid for a bawdryke for the first  
bell and for mendyng of the olde  
bawdrykes xij d.
- Paid for xij wegis of Iron for the  
gogons of ye belles rjd
- 1511-12. paid for ij long quarters to kepe the  
bell Ropes from the wall of the steeple xjd.
- 1512-13. paid for mendyng of all the bell clapers  
for making ye. bottles of them newe vjs iiij d
- 1516-17 paid for mendyng of the Bawdrykes  
to Iohn Inowe xd.
- 1517-18 paid to Iohn Inowe for mendyng of  
the Bawdrykes this yere and for a lb  
of Candell & for Cromes xvij d.
- a bar of iron for the bell whele.
- 1519-20 paid to the clerke for mendyng of  
the Bawdrykes xvj d.
- 1523-24 paid for Cromys for the church &  
Grece for the belles ijd.
- 1524-25 paid for splisyng of v bell Ropes vd.

1555-56. payed to Tanner for greasyng  
the belles.

719

ij d.

## II. Charges Connected with the Consecration of the bells.

1563-4. Pay<sup>d</sup> for xij ellys of Bryssell to make  
browsers for the ballys

rs.

1520-21 Item, paid to Iohn Balahan for ij  
days to make cleene the Steple against  
the halowynge of the belles

viii d.

Item paid for ij burdens of Russhes  
to stawe under the belles

iiiij d.

## III Obits and Knells.

Testament of Iohn Heslon 1407 - "every  
yeare Dirige and placebo and a solemn Mass  
in the day of myne anniversary for my soule  
and other soules aforesaid" among other  
payments - "to the under Clerke ij d for ryngyng  
of Bells."

Testament of Iohn Mougheam "A solemn  
Obit for my Soule and for the soules of my

Father and Mother and all cristen  
 soules. To the clerke for dirige and  
 masse for ryngyng

xxd.

Oblit of H. Cambrig 1477-9. - To ij Clerkes  
 for thei labour and for Ringyng

ijs.

Nest year the same charge.

Oblites to be kept by the Churchwardens 1517-8.

First the xvj day of March a dirige to be  
 kept for Margret Nonclay and at this Dirige  
 to be spent for prestes, Clerkes, pore people, wax,  
 bells, trede and drynke the summa of xs.

And the Churchwardens to have every one of  
 them for thei labour in this .. xij d.

1498-9 This Accompt made the xvi day of  
 January 1498. \*\*\* It is agreed and Concluded  
 by this said parishons aforesaid that from  
 henceforth the Churchwardenynges and the  
 clarkes shall take everyche knell with the  
 great bell xjs iiij d that is to either of them xj d.  
 Also moreover it is Concluded for the

knayell with the second bell Ryngring  
no more but the Space of an hour the said  
Clarke shall take for it xij d & yet  
it be Ronge the space of halfe a daye  
he shall take xj only for hymself.

Also for the Cytyll bell for the Clarke for  
a man viij d and for a child iiij d.

1502. It is agreed ... That Sir John plommers  
bell schall serve for the poor people of this  
paryshe And for none other paym. jd  
for the Ryngring. And it schall be judged  
by the said Sir John plommer he that deserveth  
the bell whether he be a poor man or not.  
And after his discess by the advyce of the  
Seynours of the paryshe.

1479-81 - Cambriggge for Ryngringe the bellis

1487-88 - Him we Rescyved for the greates

bell ronge for hymself [John Clarke, Saller] iijs. iiij

1491-2 John Caustons obit - payment  
for ringing.



1494-5 of Larry Mershe for the grete

Belle for his wife

iijs. iiija.

1499-1500 Item of the goodwyff Mascall

for ye knell of ye grete belle dis a day

vjs. viija.

Item of John halhed for the grete belle  
for Masters Bins for di a day

iijs. iiija

Item of John Condall for the pytt &  
knell of his mayde

xvjd.

Item for the knell of the grete belle for di  
a day [Maister doklyng]

vjs viija.

### The Law Suite

1508-9 Item. payd to relayne master  
greene for counsell how to take ascion  
for entyng of our iij bellis.

js. viija

Paid for entyng the playnti & for ye  
arest of William Smyth

x<sup>d</sup>

for entyng of ye attourney & for his fees

xiiijs

for making of our plea & leyng in there

vjd

paid to ye looge

iiij<sup>d</sup>.

to Master pleyns for Council

xx<sup>d</sup>.

for my dyner & Thomas Kindens. And  
ye man that hew the belles & other mo.

vjd.

When the matter was pletid to an issue

for ij pomons paid to the sergeaunt

When the matter was put in dayng at  
ye palutacion

for an oblygacion at that tyme

summar.

1510-11 Paid to the skryver for making of  
ye Indentures betwixt William Smyth  
bell founder and the parish that tyme  
Arlyphators Mr. Robins and Mr. Lenthill  
& for wyne

### The New Bells.

1510-11 Paid for Reves labour & his  
Breakfast for comyng from Ludgate  
to Aldgate to here the iiij<sup>th</sup> bell in Teme  
Paid for wyne & peres at skrasis house  
at Aldgate for Mr. Lenthill Mr. Russell  
John Aethorpe, John Condall & the clerkes  
of Syni Antonys to go and see whether  
Smythes bell wer Temeabill or nat  
Paid for bred & drynke to hym that  
striake the belles

iiij d.

iiij s.

ij d.

vjd

xs.

xviij d.

vjd.

viiij d

ij d

Paid for pickyng of the iiij belles to the  
grounde

724

ij s.

Paid for a C of small Ropes for to  
strike the belles

x s.

Paid for Drynke to the Porters that helpe  
to strike the belles.

ij d.

Paid for the Carrage of ij belles to the  
pownders

ij s.

Paid to ij porters to helpe them on the sleds

vjd

Paid for brede, ale and wyne at ye fest  
of transfiguration

iiij d.

Paid for brede ale and wyne on all halow  
day in the vestry

vjd.

Paid for xl lb of rope for the belles at jd  
quarter the lb.

iiij s. ija.

Paid for wyne at the salutation at the  
bargayne making for the frame of the belles

vjd

Paid for the oblygacion making for  
that bargayne

iiij d.

Paid for the goddis peny in London

x/s.

Paid to the carpenter for his full bargayne

vs. d.

Paid to William Howlyng for a waynscot

xiiiij d.

- Paid for sawyng of that waynshol for the  
bell wheelis vj d.
- Paid for naylys for wheelis of the bellis jd.
- Paid for iiij square bolsters of Iron for the  
grete bellis weyng vj lb. & di xiiij d.
- Paid for Mending of xij harnes for the bellis ij d.
- Paid for making for bolles of Iron for your  
parish bell. xd.
- Paid for iiij bokylls for the bandrynes  
of the bellis iiij d.
- Paid for dressing of v staves for ye. bell  
wheelis xd.
- Paid for keys for the staples of a bell jd.
- Paid for jc grete Naylys for the bellis. xd.
- Paid for xij legis of Iron for the gorgons  
of ye. bellis. vj d.
- Paid for dressing of ye. harnes for the bellis vj d.
- Paid to William Smyth forwden for jc  
xxvj lb of new metall to ye. iiij<sup>th</sup> bell  
the C xxvj viiij d.
- Paid for mending & garnysshing of  
iiij bell clapers. rs. xd.

xliij s. viij d.

726  
Paid to Conventon Bel founder for ij C  
xiiiij lb New metall for the grei bell  
after xxviiij the C

lix s. ijd.

Paid to Bullisdon in Bates house in  
the presens of Mr. Smart for the Rest of the  
grei bell in money

xxix s. iiijd.

Paid for mending & garnysching of y<sup>e</sup>  
grei bell claper

ijd. iiijd.

Paid for ij New Bowdrykes for the belles.

xijd.

Paid for Drynke at the having upp of the  
belles

jd.  
~~xijd.~~

Paid for naylps for the whelys

ijd.

Paid to a Mason for making the wyndowys  
in the steeple by the belles and for stopping  
the holes at the cross beam ends & other  
places in the steeple for ij days & di  
workyng.

xxd.

Paid to William Smyth founder for  
making the Scripture alongh the bell

xiiij s. iiijd.

1524 Paid to Amend the bellis whelis  
ageynst Mr. Russells dirige

jd.

# Payments for Ringing.

727

1502-3 Paid for ringing of our bells  
when the kyng came from Baynards  
castell to powellis.

iiij<sup>d</sup>.

1508-9 Item pay<sup>d</sup> to seyn men that  
Rang the bells when the kynges grace  
whent to Westmynster to be crowning<sup>d</sup>.

js. ij<sup>d</sup>.

1523-4 Paid to the Ringers on our lady  
day for Rynnyng

viiij<sup>d</sup>.

1524 paid to Rynnyng of Iohn Taylors  
knyll & Mr. Russells knyll

vij<sup>d</sup>.

paid to Ringers that dyd Ringe at  
Mr. Russells dirige & Mas.

xiiiij<sup>d</sup>.

paid for Rynnyng of the bells at the  
Triumphe for the taking of the French  
kyng and by commandment of the  
Mayor.

viiij<sup>d</sup>.

Paid to Iohn Tiles wyff. for drynke  
fett to the church for ye Ringers &  
ye Clarkes at dyvers times at hight  
Heales

xij<sup>d</sup>.

1489 Paid ringers for John Cawston's  
obit (also in 1493).

1523-4 Paid to the Ringers on our  
Lady day for Rynnyng.

riij d.

1536-7 Item. payde to fyve rynners  
that ronge the same daye that the  
Kynge and the Queenes hienes came  
through London by commandment  
of the bisshop to rynge.

xxd.

1525-6. Paid for Rynnyng of Stone  
Curfew and day fele and  
Courfewe & other felis on our Lady  
day of the Assumpcion

xiij d.

729

St Mary Mountham.

This was a very small parish Church built originally as a chapel of the great house of the Mounthams a Norfolk family. The Edwardian inventory is missing but probably there were not more than one or two small bells for it is doubtful if the Church had a tower. It was partly rebuilt very much enlarged and beautified in 1609 but was destroyed in the fire of 1666 and was not restored, the parish being united to St Mary, Somerset.

In 1693 at a meeting of the vestry it was resolved that "Whereas a bell was purchased bearing date — of the



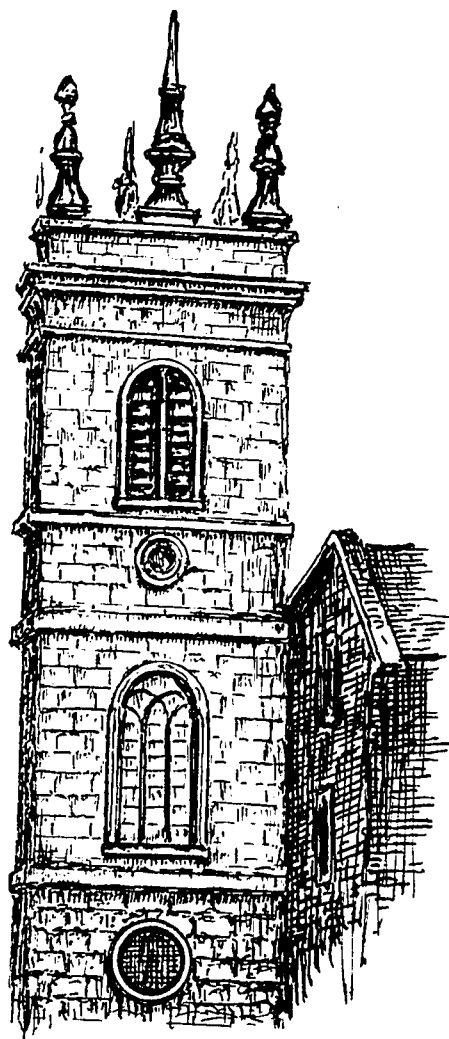
John Eldridge of Cherissey in y<sup>e</sup> County  
 of Surry and paid for by Way of Subscription  
 by y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants of S<sup>t</sup>. Mary Sommersett  
 and S<sup>t</sup>. Mary Mountshaw Parishes, and hath  
 bin made use of for y<sup>e</sup> Benefit and Profit  
 of both y<sup>e</sup> aforesaid Parishes till this time  
 y<sup>e</sup> Parish of S<sup>t</sup>. Mary Sommersett having  
 paid two thirds of y<sup>e</sup> charge and y<sup>e</sup> parish  
 of S<sup>t</sup>. Mary Mountshaw one-third part of  
 y<sup>e</sup> charge thereof, and whereas y<sup>e</sup> Parish  
 of S<sup>t</sup>. Mary Mountshaw is read and joyned  
 to the Parish Church of S<sup>t</sup>. Mary Sommersett  
 by Act of Parliament the Church and Steeple  
 now built at the Publick (sic) and whereas  
 the aforesaid bell is now hung up in the  
 Steeple belonging to both the said Parishes  
 it is hereby agreed and Declared by us  
 whose names are here unto written being

inhabitants of both, the said bell  
 be for ever continued for ye use and benefit  
 of both the aforesaid Parishes Distinctly  
 two Thirds of the Charge being allwaies  
 paid by the Church Wardens of St Mary  
 Sommersett, and one third part paid by  
 the Church Wardens of St Mary Mountthaw  
 for the time being." (439)

The bell which was dated 1678 was by  
 William Eldridge not John.

722.  
St Mary,  
Somerset.

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At the time of  
Edward VI there  
were "in the steeple  
v bells of a ringe  
and a pain'ts bell." (1140)

The church was destroyed in the fire of 1666  
and rebuilt by Hren in 1686-1694 at a  
cost of £6579-11-1 $\frac{1}{4}$ . In 1871 it was pulled  
down with the exception of the tower. It  
had but one bell which was by William  
Eldridge and was dated 1678.

733

St. Mary. Staining.

This was a small church in Aldersgate Ward which in Stow's time had newly been built. In 1553 there were "iiij smalle Belles and a Sanctus Bell in the Steepull." <sup>(440)</sup> The church was destroyed in the fire of 1666 and was not rebuilt.

## St Mary, Hoolchurch Haw.

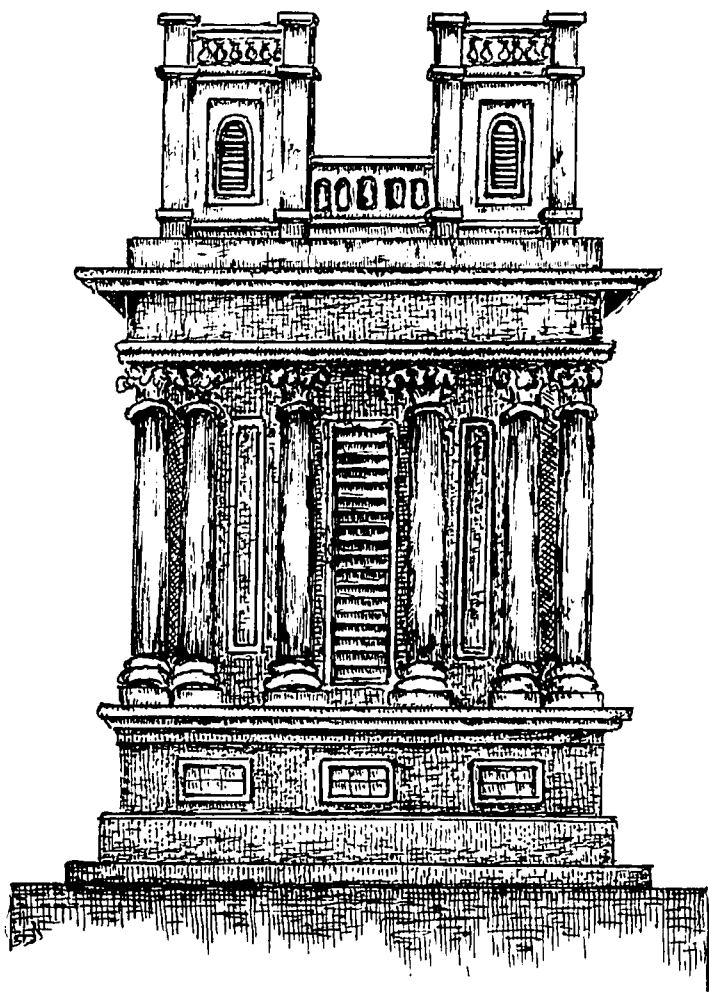
This church was rebuilt in the Perpendicular style by a licence granted in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Henry VI. It stood beside the Stocks Market which was the site of the present Mansion House. In the reign of Edward VI there were "Large belles in the steeple and a byle bell." (442)

The church was burnt in the fire of 1666 and was not rebuilt.

Among the Harleian manuscripts in the British Museum is a paper written by John Colyns giving the Orders made by ten elected parashioners of Hoolchyrche Hawe (whereof Colyns was one) touching payments for Bells and Burialls within that Church. (443)

St. Mary,  
Woolnoth.

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The Church of St. Mary, Woolnoth stands on one of the most prominent sites in the City of London at the corner of Lombard Street, and close to the Royal Exchange, the Mansion House and the Bank. It was founded not later than the 13<sup>th</sup> Century and was

rebuilt in 1438. Sir Hugh Price,

726

goldsmith and mayor in the first year of King Henry VIII built part of the church and the steeple. At the time of Edward VI there were "in the Steple fyve greatt bells and a litle bell w<sup>th</sup> a clock and a chyme and ropes for the same." <sup>(1444)</sup> In 1526 it was ordered

"the Clerke to have for pollynge of the passage belle for manne womanne or childe if it be in the day 0.4d. If it be in the night for the same, 0.8d. On the death

of Sir John Riddston Lord Mayor in 1531 three shillings and fourpence was paid for the session for knellyng of the bell at his departynge for God.

In 1666 the great fire destroyed everything that could be burnt, but only the north wall and part of the east wall were rebuilt. The rest was patched up as the parish was

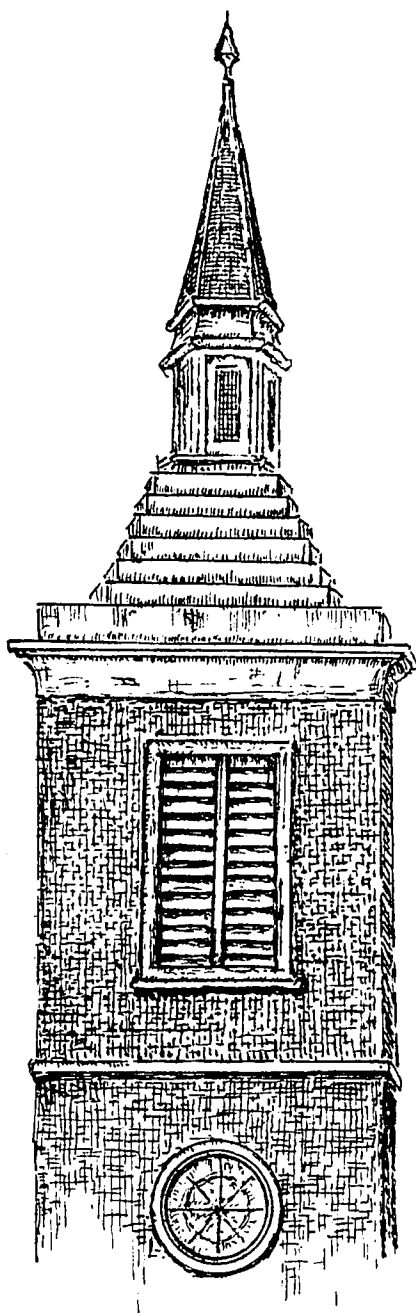
787  
eager to get the church ready again for  
divine service; but in 1711 the building was  
found to be very unsafe and as it was feared  
that it would fall it was pulled down and  
rebuilt. <sup>(445)</sup> Hawkesmoor was the architect, and  
the design has considerable merits. The  
steeple contains three bells. By William  
Eldridge, the treble and tenor dated 1670,  
and the second 1672.



St. Mary, Magdalen,  
Old Fish Hill.

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This was a small  
church with few  
monuments. In  
Edward's time it  
had "iij bells w<sup>th</sup> a  
saunce bell and  
a payre of organs" <sup>(1446)</sup>



Beautified in 1630  
at the charge of the parish, it was destroyed  
in 1666 but was rebuilt. "It is mostly of stone  
with Rail and Battlements round the outside  
in lieu of Battlements, the Roof is hipped and  
covered with Lead, and there is a handsome

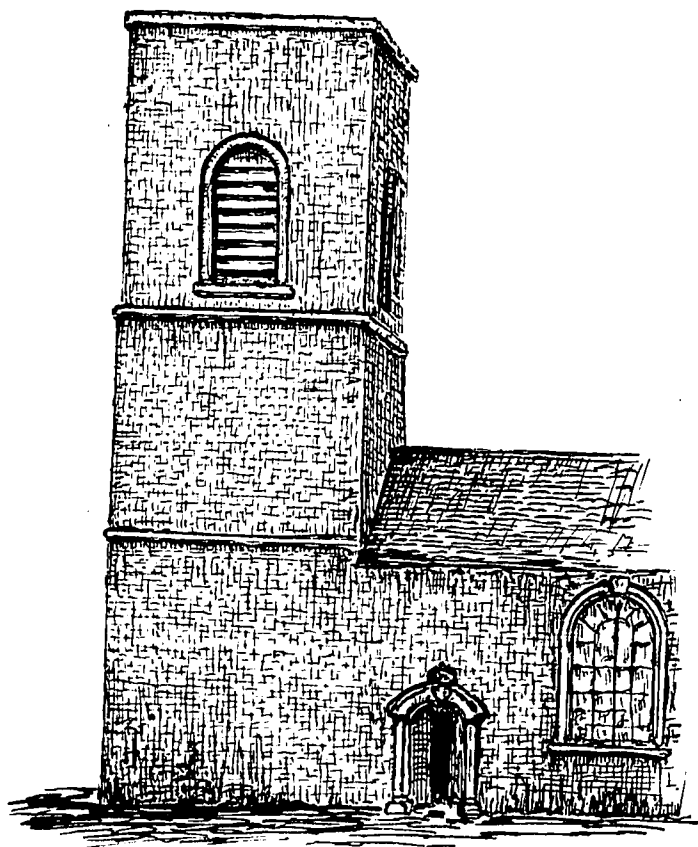
stone tower but the foundation thereof 722  
is brick which is one Reason why they do not  
store it with more Bells" (1147)

It contained two bells one dated 1686.  
The Church was destroyed again by fire in  
1886.

St Mary, Magdalen, Milk Street in  
 Cripplegate Ward, was a small parish Church  
 of which the Edwardian inventory says that  
 "in the steeple be iiij bells, not of the bigger  
 sort, and a small sandes bell." <sup>(448)</sup> The  
 building was repaired and beautified in  
 1619, but was destroyed in the great fire  
 and was not rebuilt, the parish being  
 united to St. Laurence, Jewry.

St. Matthew,  
Friday Street.

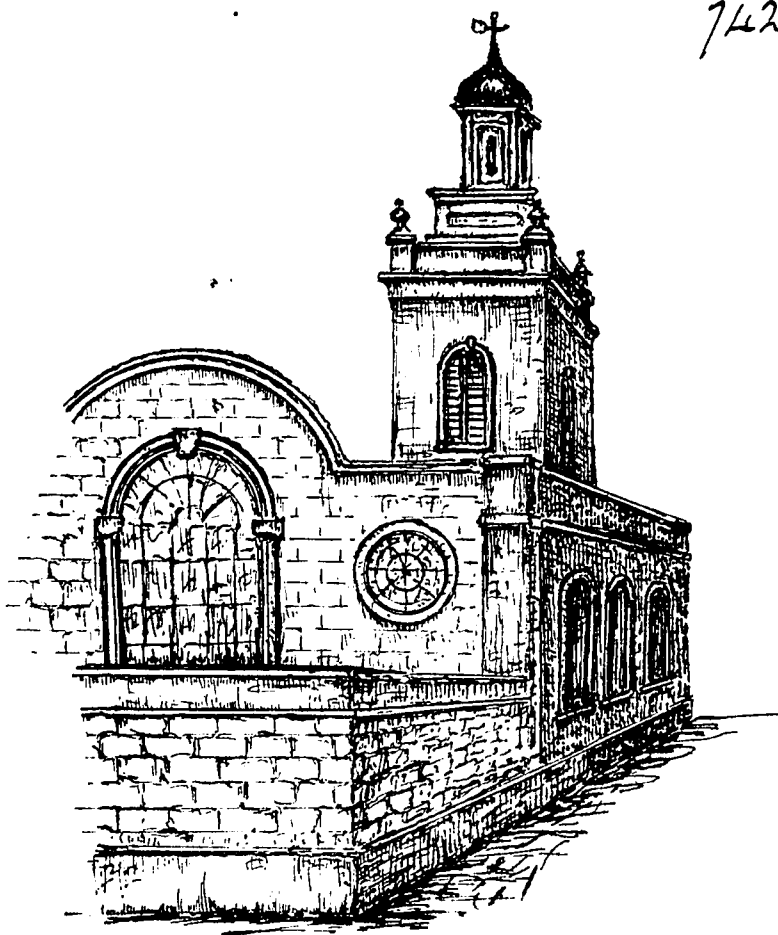
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At the time of  
Edward VI there  
were in the steeple  
of this church pyper  
bells. The paunce  
" (449)  
bell was hung at the quyer dore and was not  
as in most London churches with the other  
bells in the tower. The church was destroyed  
in 1666 and rebuilt by Wren. It was one of  
the smallest and humblest designed by  
him. It was ultimately pulled down under  
the Union of Benefices Act.

St. Michael,  
Bassishaw.

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This church which was sometimes called St. Michael at Basinghall, stood in Basinghall Street in Basinghall Ward. It was rebuilt about 1450 and at the time of Edward VI had "iii grete belles and a paunce bell." (450) Destroyed in the fire of 1666 it was restored in 1676-1679. The tower contained two bells, one of which by James Bagley is now at St. Ethelreda's Fulham, the other at St. Dionis.

Parson's Green. (452)

743

S. Michael's church was pulled down  
in

744

St Michael ad Bladium, sometimes  
called St Michael le Quern, stood in  
what is now the open street at the  
junction of Cheapside, St Pauls Churchyard  
and Newgate Street, and was first  
built in the reign of Edward III. In  
the eighth year of King Henry VI,  
William Eastfield, Mayor and the  
Commonality granted of the Common  
poth of the City, three feet and a half  
in breadth on the north part and five  
feet in breadth on the east for the  
enlarging thereof. The steeple contained  
in Edwards' reign "iiij great bells  
and a paunce bell." The Church  
"was repaired and with all things  
either for use or beauty richly

furnished and supplied at the  
sole Cost and Charge of the parishioners  
in the year of our Lord God 1617,"  
but it was destroyed in the fire of  
1666 and was not rebuilt.



746

Saint Michael  
the Archangel,  
Cornhill.

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Of all the City churches  
the two in olden times  
most famous for their  
bells were St. Mary-le-Bow  
and St. Michael Cornhill.



A.D. 1421.

The great bell of Bow was known all over the  
Country and it gave its name to the curfew  
ring in parish churches; while St. Michael's  
were accounted "the best ring of pipe, to be  
rung by pipe men, that was in England,  
for Harmony, sweetness of sound, and tune."  
St. Michael's was of ancient foundation, and

747

Like most of the other City Churches  
was rebuilt at different times. A new  
steeple was erected in 1421 and in it was  
placed "a fair ring of five bells", which  
in accordance with custom were dedicated  
to various saints and called by their  
names. The tenor was dedicated to St.  
Michael the patron saint of the Church;  
the fifth to St. Mary, partly perhaps because  
the principal chapel in the church was St.  
Mary's chapel. The third was called the  
Trinity bell, and had no doubt some  
such inscription as that on the old tenor  
at St. Giles, Norwich, cast about the same  
time - + Triplis Personae Trinitas □  
Nunc Gaudia donna.

This ring of five evidently was tuned

to the minor scale and about 1430 748  
John Whitiwell, Isabel his wife, and William  
Rus added a tenor to make a ring of six  
in the major scale. Who cast the tenor we  
do not know, but she weighed somewhat  
over 30 cwt and was a noble bell, the  
pride and treasure of the parish. She was  
named Rus after her donor who was an  
alderman and goldsmith and a great  
benefactor to the church. He was buried  
in St. Mary's Chapel and by his will he  
left money for the steeple and for the endowment  
of an obit for himself, his wife, his parents  
and Humphrey Duke of Gloucester his  
patron.

In an old morality play entitled  
the Three Ladies of London there is a  
reference to St. Michael's bells which shows

the high opinion people had of them -

749

You may thank God and good Company that you came this way.

The Parsonage of St. Michael; but Ladie if you have nothing els

You shall be sure of living beside a good ring of bells.

In the middle ages it was universally believed that Church bells had the power of allaying tempests and driving away evil spirits, but in spite of it, or perhaps because of it and to show his defiance, the Devil one day screwed up his courage and made a most violent attack on the ringers of St. Michael's when they were in the belfry ringing the bells. "I have often heard my father report," wrote John Spow "upon St. James' night, certain men in the loft next under the bells ringing of a peal, a tempest of lightning

and thunder did arise, an ugly  
shapen sight did appear to them coming in  
at the south window and lighted on the  
north, for fear whereof they all fell down  
and lay as dead for the time, letting the  
bells ring and cease of their own accord.  
When the ringers came to themselves, they  
found certain stones of the north window  
to be razed and scratched as if they had  
been so much butter, printed with a Lion's  
Claw. The same stones were fastened  
there again, and so remain till this  
day. I have seen them off, and have  
put a feather or small stick into the  
holes where the claws had entered three  
or four inches deep. \*\*\*\*\* One of the  
ringers lived in my youth, whom I

have oft heard to verify the same  
to be true." (859)

751

We need have no difficulty in accepting  
this as a true account, but the more  
critical and sceptical minds of the present  
day would probably consider that what  
happened was that the tower was struck  
by lightning and that the "ugly shapen  
sight" was the effect on the ringers'  
imagination. People did then really  
believe in a personal Devil.

The use of the word "cease" in this passage  
is interesting, for this was the technical  
term used for centuries by ringers for  
dropping or falling bells. It is almost  
obsolete now-a-days, but fifty years ago  
was common enough.

In the "Inventory of all the goodes  
 remaynyng in the church the xviij daye  
 of July, A<sup>o</sup> 1552" are given, "Item vii greate  
 belles. Item ii little belles." <sup>(464)</sup> In the  
 Churchwardens' accounts there are references  
 to these latter. In 1457 five shillings and  
 fourpence was paid "for two bawdricks for  
 the two little bells, in 1460 elevenpence for  
 two ropes for the small feriall bells", and  
 in 1466 sevenpence "for two ropes for the  
 small bells". They were called ferial bells  
 because they were used in the service of  
 the mass. <sup>(606)</sup> One was the pacing bell or as  
 it is termed in one place the houseling  
 bell, housel being an old English  
 name for the eucharist. It is also referred  
 to as the "little bell that ringeth afore

the sacrament." This bell was hung 750  
inside the church and in 1261 fourpence  
was paid for a piece of timber to make  
a "house" for the bell.

The other was the sanctus bell. In  
most London churches this bell was  
in the steeple as we learn from the  
Edwardian inventories, but at St. Michael's  
it is probable that it hung in a colt  
above the chancel. The sacring bell  
disappeared during the spoliation at  
the time of the Reformation, the sanctus  
bell remained but it got broken  
and in 1585 the vestry decided to  
sell it and use the money to build  
a shed in the churchyard to keep  
faggots in, subject to the consent of



the parson to whom the freehold 754  
of the churchyard belonged.

Whoever made the frame and hung  
the six ringing bells did his work  
well for How specially states that they  
were rung by six men only and that  
for the space of one hundred and sixty  
years this was not only rung single  
handed for curfew and knells but  
also in peals. When we remember that  
the ringing consisted of pulling the  
bell up and keeping her going at  
three-quarters height we can see that  
the bell must have gone exceptionally  
well. Not only then but long after  
it was no unusual thing to have  
a dozen or fourteen or even eighteen

men to ring six bells with a  
30 cut tenor.

755

In 1474 the bells were overhauled and  
rehung. A Carpenter was paid ten  
shillings for "mending the stocks" and  
a smith seventeen shillings and eight  
pence for repairs to the clappers and for  
half a hundredweight of great nails.  
William Flapp received eightpence for  
cleaning up the steeple and for helping  
the carpenters; and it cost threepence  
to clear away the dirt that came out  
of the tower. Having put all in order  
the Churchwardens had a new key  
made for the belfry door possibly to  
stop unauthorized persons going there  
to amuse themselves by ringing.

756

In 1567 one of the bells was broken  
and Robert Doddes was employed to  
re-cast it. Mr Wallers suggests that  
he was the predecessor of Robert Shot  
and the first in the long line of the  
Whitechapel bell-founders. Before having  
a bell re-cast the churchwardens were  
always careful to get a bond from  
the founder for the due performance  
of the work, and they were also careful  
to have the bell weighed before and  
after, any difference in weight being  
either paid for or allowed for. In  
this case for some reason the bell was  
weighed twice before it was broken  
up each time costing the parish three

767

shillings and three pence. The  
"obligation" cost one shilling, lawyers  
fee no doubt, and Doddes' bill was  
£4-14-0.

In 1581 the parish paid eighteen  
shillings and fourpence for nearly a  
hundredweight of rope for the bells.  
Evidently this was not bellropes, for  
at the same time Mr. Pigott was paid  
seven shillings and eightpence for  
"great ropes for the bells." Most likely  
the bells were being overhauled and  
the first lot of rope was for lifting them  
out of the pits. One new wheel was  
supplied at a cost of fifteen shillings  
and one new baldrick at a cost of  
three shillings. That seems a high  
price for what was only a leather

259

striap and in all old churchwardens  
accounts the cost of baldricks seems  
very high. Probably what had to be  
paid for was not so much the material  
but the pricing, which must have  
been an extremely awkward job.

The bell could not be raised and  
set for there were no slays and sliders,  
and the clapper had to be hung with  
the bell down.

In 1585 the pebble was broken and  
recast and two years later the parish  
suffered a disaster for thus the noble  
tenor bell was cracked. A founder  
named Laurence Wright was employed  
to recast her but whether through  
through misfortune or incompetence

his work was badly done and  
when the bell was hung it gave great  
dissatisfaction and generally "was not  
liked of" in the parish. Knight's charges  
were low but in the end they turned  
out pretty dear for the parish. The  
Churchwardens seem to have been  
undecided as to whether they should  
accept the bell and pay for it and  
the matter was discussed in vestry.  
In the end it was decided to pay  
Knight £3.17.0 for new metal supplied,  
and £9.6.9 for the recasting. That  
was as much as "his due is to be  
accounted justly", but the parish made  
the sum up to the pound £14 out of  
benevolence and promised "to consider

760

of him better, if the bell hold  
and be better liked of than it is now."

At the same time the vestry decided  
that the youngest churchwarden should  
have charge of the bells and that the  
clerk should have the fees for the use  
of the bells as set down in the table  
drawn up for the purpose. Out of the  
fees he had to pay for new ropes  
and baldricks and for that reason  
charges for those two items do not  
often appear in the churchwardens'  
accounts, the most frequent being  
for repairs to the clappers.

As time went on Wright's bell  
was not "better liked of." The parish  
was proud of its bells and the new

tenor spoilt the ring, and so  
in the following year "upon further advice  
of the parishioners" the vestry agreed  
that our bell Rins shall be new cast."

The work was entrusted to Robert Noth  
who was making a name as the leading  
bell founder of the time and establishing  
the reputation of the famous Whitechapel  
firm. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November the bell was  
taken to Noth's house and there weighed  
and two days later an agreement was  
signed for the recasting. When the new  
bell was ready the churchwardens and  
other leading men of the parish went to  
Whitechapel to view it and they took with  
them a muscman to pound the bell.



72  
Everything seems to have been done  
this time to ensure that the tenor should  
be in tune. The "waits of the City" took  
pains to take the note of our bells and  
to go to Mr Skotes to take the note of the  
new bell then cast for which they received  
eighteenpence and a shilling was paid  
to a Company of other musicians to  
take a further note of the same bell." It  
rather looks as if the parish refused to  
accept the first bell cast by Skott for  
it was inspected on the first of December  
1588 and it was not until the twenty  
second of the following June that Skott  
was paid £17-17.0 for the new tenor bell  
called Rus which was last cast weighing

33 Cwt. 42 lbs; and not until the  
twenty fifth of July that the trial was  
made in the steeple when the ringers  
received three shillings and fivepence.

Meanwhile the frame and fittings  
of the bells had become decayed and  
worn out. Gone were the days when  
only six men could ring the whole peal  
and when it took only one man to  
ring Bells for the nightly Curfew, for Knells  
and in peals. It now required says  
How four or five at once to "overhaul"  
her, and besides the <sup>ringing</sup> shook the tower  
so much that it was feared it might  
endanger the structure. Scott was  
consulted and he recommended a

744  
Carpenter named John Brissendon  
who met the vestry and offered to  
rehang the bells so that they could be  
rung with much more ease. Hereupon  
it was well liked of that such amendment  
should be and a Committee was appointed  
to deal with the matter. Brissendon  
was reported to be of good skill, but  
the Committee was to enquire into that  
and into his credit; they were to take  
the opinions of workmen and of others  
skilful in ringing, and then to make  
an agreement for the work; and what  
agreement is made this vestry alloweth  
of. "The reverend Churchwarden shall pay  
the charge and money agreed for and

75  
this shall be his sufficient warrant.

At the next vestry the Committee reported that they had considered the matter and had entered into an agreement with Brissendon in which he undertook to rehang the bells in such a way that the steeple should be very much eased of its shaking, that it should be possible for eight, nine, or ten men at the most, to ring the peal, and that the peal could be rung by himself & ring Peal for Curfew. The timber for the new frame was to be good, sound, and well seasoned oak, all the iron work was to be included in the Contract, and the whole guaranteed for one year. A rather curious clause is

766

added in which Brissendon undertakes  
"to make an engine that shall raise up  
and take down any of the said bells at  
pleasure with one or two persons". Exactly  
what that means is not easy to say,  
but raising up and taking down cannot  
mean raising and lowering the bells  
in ringing. No engine could at the time  
have been invented to do that. Most  
likely it was a system of ropes and  
pulleys by which the bells could be  
hoisted out of their bearings for repair,  
and perhaps it is specially mentioned  
in the agreement because it would have  
to pay lessen the amount the parish  
would have to pay for casual labour

to assist the bell hangers in their 75  
work.

The amount to be paid was £11 which shows that a thorough job was done, and if the work was "to the gratification of the parish" a further twenty shillings was promised. The Contractor had to enter into a bond for the due performance of the work and it had to be backed by a third party. When the bond was sealed four pounds was to be paid and "the rest at the finishing of the work and the sufficient trial and examination that he hath workmanly handled and performed as aforesaid." That was to give his word also that the said Carpenter shall perform as aforesaid but he

undertook no financial responsibility  
in the matter.

John Brissendon was a Whitechapel  
or Stepney man, and appears to have  
been associated with Not. In those  
days the bell founder did not do the  
bell hanging, the parish made separate  
contracts, but obviously it would be to  
the interest of two good tradesmen to  
work together and to recommend each  
other.

In 1598 Rens was again broken. The  
vestry had lately spent a lot of money on  
the bells and when a motion was made  
for the new casting it was decided to  
rest awhile and use it as it is until  
we see further occasion, but as broken

Rus was a disgrace to the parish  
and so at a vestry holden 2nd of February  
1598 it was agreed that Mr Skote shall  
have for the casting of the bell £18, Langb  
and set up and taken down all at  
his charges. When the new bell was hung  
in the tower with the others it proved to  
be a failure and on the first of November  
it was agreed that it shall be notified  
by the churchwardens to Mr Skote that  
the bell is not according to his agreement  
neither in weight nor goodness and  
therefore they will have a bell in the  
place or else have his bond. Skote had  
to submit and undertake to supply a  
new bell and on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August  
the vestry decided that he should



hang it up in the tower but if it did not agree with the rest of the bells to the liking of the parish then he should have forty shillings to cover the cost of taking it down and should go on casting until he did produce a bell that should satisfy the parish.

The broken bell weighed 33 cwt. 1 qtr. 14 lb. The bell finally accepted in its place weighed 30 cwt 3 qtr 28 lbs. so from the contract price of £18, £7-19-2 was deducted for the difference of metal and £1-0-4 added for the cost of a new clapper That made the amount £12-1-2 " and we are content to make it up £12 by reason he casted it so often."

But that is not the end of the story.

Mot at the time was doing work  
for Westminster Abbey. He cast the present  
fifth in 1598, and the next year he took  
the rejected Rues from S. Michaels and made  
her the pinov. No doubt the Dean and  
Chapter were less critical and more  
easily satisfied than the City parish.  
But she was a bad bell. Loughion  
heard her in 1734 and says she was  
"dull and melancholy", and four years  
later Leslie and Phelps were employed to  
recast her. The original inscription  
copied more or less from the first Rues of  
all is reproduced on the present bell which  
bids us remember John Whitwell, Isabella  
his wife and William Rues who first  
gave this bell.

It is usually said that how and why a

bell cast for St. Michaels got into the 77<sup>2</sup>  
(1154)  
Abbey tower is an unsolved mystery, but  
really the matter is quite clear. The  
inscription on the present bell says that  
it was new Cast in July 1599, and in  
April 1738. The St. Michaels vestry agreed  
to give Mott the order for a bell in February  
1599, and on the first of November the  
Churchwardens were ordered to notify him  
that the bell was not according to Contract  
and to demand a new bell which he  
in course of time supplied. Fortunately  
for him he was able to use the rejected  
bell for Westminster instead of breaking  
it up.

In the accounts of the Abbey bells the  
impression is generally given that the  
present tenor was once at St. Michaels

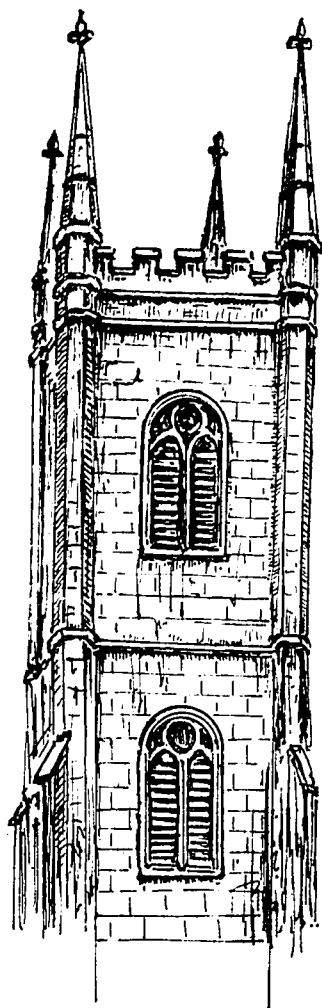
but that was not  
so. As mentioned  
above it dates from  
1738.

Sometime during  
the early years of  
the seventeenth  
Century the octave  
was completed at

St Michaels, and

Later on there were ten bells in the steeple  
but whether they were a ringing peal  
of ten is perhaps doubtful, for in Peter  
Munday's manuscript it is said that  
two were tolled and the rest rung.

St Michaels suffered badly in the  
fire of 1666. The body of the church



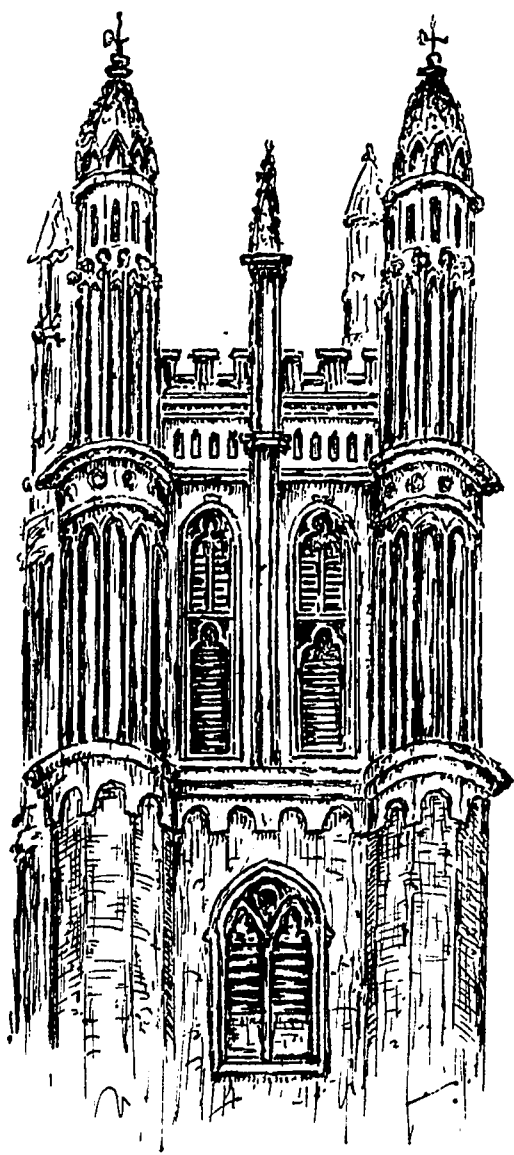
A.D. 1647.

was destroyed and was rebuilt in  
16 in the Renaissance style by Sir  
Christopher Wren at a cost of  
The tower still stood but was completely  
gutted and all the bells were broken and  
melted. A year later the vestry appointed  
two masons and such of the parishioners  
as cared to go with them to make an  
inspection and to report what could be  
done to secure the structure from falling,  
and as a result repairs were carried  
out at a cost of about £600. Nothing  
could be done at the time about the  
bells, but in 1669 the vestry ordered that  
the metal salvaged from the fire should  
be collected together, weighed, and  
handed over to a Mr. Nurse for safe

safe keeping. Some years later  
Nurse asked to be relieved of his charge,  
and as the metal was considered unfit  
for making new bells, the bishop was  
appealed to, and his consent having  
been obtained, it was sold and the  
money placed in a fund for obtaining  
new bells.

The old steeple stood for fifty years  
after the fire and then as it was condemned  
as unsafe it was pulled down and  
the present one erected from the designs  
of Sir Christopher Wren. To a large  
extent it is a copy of the old tower  
though the details are different and  
probably more ornate. A Committee  
was formed to collect money to provide

a heavy ring  
of ten bells, and  
as apparently  
there was no  
lack of money,  
on April 25<sup>th</sup>  
1728, the vestry  
authorized  
them to add  
two more to  
make a full ring of twelve.



Richard Phelps cast the bells at Whitechapel  
and they were rung for the first time  
on December 4<sup>th</sup> 1728, "the same evening  
that Prince Frederick came to England  
to St. James's." On the following February 4<sup>th</sup>.

777  
The London Scholars met at the  
Three Tuns Tavern in Cornhill where  
a handsome dinner was provided for  
them and afterwards diverted themselves  
by ringing St. Michaels bells which they  
reckoned very fine and musical and  
not inferior to any in the City or  
suburbs. The College Youths rang the

first peal in the tower, 5126 changes  
of Grandeine Cinques on November 7<sup>th</sup>  
1729 and a few days later the London  
Scholars started for a pisc-thousand  
but lost it after £200. A fortnight  
later they succeeded in ringing 6204  
changes in 4 hours and 44 minutes.

The penos did not go very well. The  
College Youths put three men to her



778

including Annable who called  
the bobs. The London Scholars had  
two tenor men and two "assistants"  
either of whom may have given a  
hand to the eleventh man.

Three years later the College youths  
rang 7018 of Grandsire Cinques, again  
with three tenor men, and it was not  
until 1783 that a five-thousand was  
accomplished with only thirteen men.  
Giving no doubt to the heavy going  
of the tenor the steeple was the least  
popular of the London twelve-bell  
towers for peal ringing, and these  
four are the only performances during  
the whole of the eighteenth Century.  
The first peal of Maximus on the bells  
was rung by the Cumberlands in 1839

and during the nineteenth Century <sup>700</sup>  
the most notable performance was the  
8580 of Spedman Cinques by the College  
Youths in 1861.

Exciacts from Vestry Minutes and  
the Old Book of Accounts (457)

780

1456. Item, pay<sup>d</sup> for amending of the  
 hoselyng bell ja.
1457. Item, payd for ij bawderykes for  
 ij litlel belles ijs. iiij<sup>d</sup>.
1458. Item, pay<sup>d</sup> for yotting of a claper xd.
1460. Item, for ij ropes for the small ferall  
 belles xjd.
1466. Item, pay<sup>d</sup> for ij ropes for the small  
 belles vjd
1461. Item for a pce of tymber for to  
 make an hose for the bell iiij<sup>d</sup>.
1469. Item for amending of ij crosses  
 and for a litlel bell that ryngeth  
 afore the sacrament rs. vjd
1470. for the mending of the belles of the  
 churche ijd
1474. Item, payde to a carpentye for  
 mending of the sickkys that the  
 belles hang in xs.
- Item. to a smyth for mending of  
 the clapers & for half a C of grete

nayle

xvijs. viij d.

81

Item, payd to Willm Flappe for making  
clew of the slepyll & for helping of the  
carpentiers

viij d.

Item, payde for carrying away of the  
dustie that cam oute of the slepyll

iiij d.

Item, payd for a new key to the  
slepyll door

iiij d.

1549. Item for mending ye clapper of  
the greale Bell

iiij d.

1556. For mendinge the Whellis of the Bells

xxij d.

1557. Paid for mendinge the clapp of the  
v<sup>th</sup> bell

iijs. iiij d.

1559. Paid for mendinge the clapper of  
the greatt Bell

x s.

1562. Item. for mending the clapp of the  
great bell

x s.

1570. Item. paide for mendinge of the  
greale bell clapper

iijs. iiij d.

1578. Paide for mendinge of ye Clapper  
of ye v<sup>th</sup> bell

vjs. viij d.

1567 Item, paide for the makinge  
of one obligacion for the bell, the

vij<sup>th</sup> of chaye

xijs.

Item, paide for the wayenge of the bell

the xxix of chaye

iijs. iijsd

Item. paide for weying of the same

bell the vij<sup>th</sup> of June

iijs. iijsd

Item. Paide to Robert Doddes for

casting of the same bell the x of June iijs<sup>li</sup> xiijs1581 Paide for iijs q<sup>r</sup> xiiij<sup>li</sup> Ropes for yeBelles at ij<sup>d</sup> ob. ye li

xvijs. iijsd

Paide for the Carriage of them to

the Church

ijsd

Paide to Mr Pigott for greale ropes

for ye Belles

vijs viijsd

Paide for one bandrook

iijs

Paide for one new wheele

xvjs.

Paide for mendinge of iron &amp; wheelles

of ye Belles

xxijsd.

1585. Sh<sup>d</sup> ye broken sauncebell shalbe

solde and that anewe some shalbe

bylleded for ye ffagotts in ye churchyard

by ye Consentie of ye pson.

It was agreed yt. the firebell bell whch is

broken shalbe newe cast againe.

1587 It is also agreed ye bellfounder

783

shall have xiiij<sup>li</sup> payd hym now and  
upon ye tryngge off it here afi ye juste  
wyll consider off hym better yff ye bell  
hold and be better tryed off than it is  
nowe so moche as his dewe is to be  
accounted justly and ye ou<sup>r</sup> plus is geve  
him off benevolence

It is ord<sup>d</sup> ye ye youngest Churchwarden  
shall have the tryngge off ye belles & the  
Clarke shall have the lowance set downe  
in ye libell for the belles as he hath had  
before & he is beare ye charges off all ye  
ropes & bawdrykes for ye belles so often  
as nede shall requyre at ye appoyntment  
off ye Churchwardene.

Paide to Laurence Wright bellfounder

for xxxc & xiiij<sup>li</sup> for new castinge of

Peso at vj ye c

ix<sup>li</sup> vjs. ix d.

Paide for more to hym for C & 8 q<sup>r</sup>

& xiiij of newe mittle at vj ye li

put into Peso

iiij<sup>li</sup> xvijs

Gaude more to hym granted by a  
Vestrye

xvijs iijs.

1588. Item, it is agreed that o<sup>r</sup> bell Ruse  
shal be newe caste uppon further  
advice of the fishioners.

Gaude the viij<sup>th</sup> of November 1588 amongst  
ye Laborers and others at the weyng of  
the greate bell at Mr Skottes House wch  
Lave byn insteade of Ruse and not  
lyked of.

xjd

Gaude the ix<sup>th</sup> of November 1588 at  
the agrementie makinge w<sup>th</sup> Mr Skott  
for the newe casting of Ruse p<sup>r</sup>nt  
Mr Brokebank, Mr Soda and y<sup>e</sup>  
Church ward<sup>ns</sup>.

iiii<sup>e</sup> iijs

Gaude the firste of December at  
the viewenge of a newe bell at Mr  
Skottes House at wch tyme we  
Lad w<sup>th</sup> us a musician to pounce  
the bell

xiijd

Gaude to Mr Dissons Brasyer for

Cwt of Copper for Ruo iiij li xij s.

Paide to Mr Hille of French Lane,

Paylor for iiij q<sup>t</sup> of a C Tryme at  
1vijs the C for the first Ruo 1xijs mdi

Paide to ye wayles of the Crittie that forke  
paynes to take the noie of o<sup>r</sup> belles & to  
goe to St<sup>r</sup> Moles to take the noie of the  
newe bell then cast xviijs

Spent upon a Company of other musicians  
to take a further route of the same bell xijs

Paide the xxj of June 1589 to his hole  
for the newe tenor bell called Ruo which  
was cast cast weyinge xxxiiij C xliij<sup>lb</sup> weight  
xviij li xvij s ob.

Paide xxv<sup>th</sup> of July 1589 amonge ye  
Ringers at ye pyall of the pleple iiij s. va.

1596. At this vestry a mocon was made  
touching the newe hanginge of the bells  
and to that end a Carpenter reported to be  
of good Skyle was here finte and offred to  
do the same that they shalbe poynt w<sup>th</sup> much  
more ease. Hereupon it was well liked of  
that such amenden<sup>t</sup> should be and therefore



196

was ordered and appointed that the  
same bells shalbe viewed and seene unto  
in that behalf by and Examinacon of the  
credit and skyle of the sd. Carp<sup>t</sup>. \* \* \* \* \*,  
the Churchwardens and Mr Taylor to take  
the opinions both of the workmen and others  
skillfull in ringing and to agree w<sup>th</sup> him  
about the same and what agreem<sup>t</sup> is made  
this vestry alloweth of by the said pie or  
by 4 of them and that the pnties Churchwardens  
shall pay the charge and money agreed  
for as aforesaid and this shalbe his  
sufficient warrant.

Whereas at the Last Vestry it was Committed  
to view the hanging of the bells and confer  
& agree w<sup>th</sup> John Brissendon a Carpenter  
who did offer to undertake by new hanging  
of them to ease the staple much of the shaking  
and the bells w<sup>th</sup> fewer men to be rung

since we fine those to whome  
it was Committed have accordingly  
conferred and agreed w<sup>t</sup> the said  
John Brissendon and so reported is  
this vesting we is as followeth, viz.

That he will so hang the bells that  
the piple shalbe very much eased of  
the shaking when the bells ar rung.

That the same bells shall be rung  
w<sup>t</sup> 8 9 or 10 men at the most

That at 8 of the clock the Tredion shall  
ring the bell alone for Curfew

That the same bells w<sup>t</sup> their frames and  
wheles shall continue in good & sufficient  
frame & order for one whole yere after his  
workmanships don and that all his said  
workmanshippes in the frames & wheles  
shalbe don well & substantially and w<sup>t</sup>  
good & sound & well seasoned oken tymber  
and that he shall fynde all maner of

From worke & oth<sup>r</sup> whatsoev<sup>r</sup> incident  
 to the said hanging of the bells, and that  
 he shall and will make an Ingen that  
 shall payse uppe and take downe any  
 of the said bells at pleasure w<sup>th</sup> one or  
 two persons.

In Consideracon of all w<sup>ch</sup> to be don &  
 finished at his owne pp Costes charges  
 as aforesaid it is granted that he shall  
 have xij li viz xj li and xxs for gratifreom  
 if it is well don to the liking of the fish.  
 To be paid in mann v<sup>z</sup> foure peronds  
 presently upon the ensealing of the bond  
 w<sup>ch</sup> Edward Harrys of Stepney joyne for the  
 pformance as aforesaid and the rest of the  
 money to be paid at the fynishing of the  
 work & the sufficient payall & examinaunce  
 that he hath workmanly handled and  
 performed as aforesaid and shall to give

his word also that the said carpenter  
shall & forme as aforesaid

1598. At this vestry was a motion made for  
the new casting of Rues they agreed that it  
should rest awhile and used it as it is  
untill we see further occasion.

At a vestry holden 2nd of Februarie 1598  
it is agreed that Mr Scott shall have  
for the casting of the bell xviiiij hangst &  
sett up & taken down all at his charges.

1599 1st November. That it is agreed that  
it shall be notified by the churchwardens  
to Mr Scott that the bell is not according  
to his agreem<sup>t</sup>. neither in wayle nor  
goodness & therefore they will have a bell  
in the place or els have his bond.

1600 29 August It is agreed that Mr  
Scott shall hang up the new bell if  
it agree not w<sup>th</sup> the rest of the bells to  
the likinge of the prioste then Mr Scott

to have 40s to the pakinge downe  
 of her & setting up an other sufficient  
 bell according to his graement in the bond.  
 Jan. 4. dd. to Mr Mott a bell weyng  
 xxxiiij C 19<sup>r</sup> xiiij lb wch. he new cast.

It was ordered for Mr Mott for casting  
 his bell his money shalbe paid & to conclude  
 w<sup>th</sup> him are appointed Mr Soda, Mr Kamy,  
 Mr Tasmore, Mr Robinson to joyne w<sup>th</sup>  
 Mr Deputy & Mr Harley & the churchwardens  
 & so to cleare w<sup>th</sup> him.

dd. to Mr Mott a bell weyng xxxiiij C  
 19<sup>r</sup> xiiij lb wch. he new cast & dd. backe  
 a bell weyng xxx C 39<sup>r</sup> & xxviiij lb. so  
 rest in mettall to the prishe iiij C 19<sup>r</sup> & xviiij lb  
 and we are to allowe him for casting and  
 all charges xviiij lb & he deductig for the  
 over plus of mettall at 5<sup>d</sup> lb is 7<sup>li</sup> 19s & ii<sup>d</sup>  
 & we allowe him for the clapper 20<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>

so he is paid in all xii li ijs. ij's &

so we are content to make it up xij li

by reason he Casted it so often.

1667, October 3rd. Ordered that Mr Thorhouse

and Mr. Cartwright, masons, and some of  
the Parashoners who are willing to goe up

into the Steeple shall view the state of it

and report to the next vesting that endeavours

may be made to secure the same from

weather and falling.

[ William Muller undertook to repair the floors  
and woodwork. On February 19<sup>th</sup> it was

agreed to raise a subscription to cover

repairs to tower estimated at £600.]

1669 It being Considered that the Bell Mettle

in the Church Lyeth subject to Casualty

and imbezzlement it is ordered that the

Churchwardens do remove it to Mr Nurses

house and weigh it and deliver it to Mr

792

Murse to be kept by him for the  
use of the Parish

Memorandum. That according to the order  
above the Bell Metal was removed to the  
House of Mr Edward Murse in Cornhill  
and there weighed and delivered to him.

The quality and weight thereof being as

followeth viz	C.	gr.	li
of Bell sides	17	1	11
of Metal new Cast	23	1	22
of Burnt Metal	27	3	21

1674. Mr Murse desireth to be released from  
the Care of the Bell Metal

1677. The Bell Metal ordered to be sold.

1728. April 4 A proposal being read which  
was made by Mr Phelps a Bell Founder  
in White-Chaple, ordered that it be  
referred to the Committee appointed by the  
Last Vesting to Contract with whom they  
shall think fit and upon the best terms

they can for the interest of the Parish.

[ Same day the belfry was ordered to be put in thorough repair ]

1728 April 25. Ordered by the vestry that the Committee should add two bells to the ten they had already contracted for if they thought it desirable.

### Payments for Ringing

1553. Pd for pyngyng at y<sup>e</sup> Coronation of the Queen ij s. iiij d
1554. Paide to the Clarkes for the pyngyng of the belles at the Kynges and Quenes Comynge in through the Citie ij s.
1555. Paide to vj Ringgars when the Kyng & the Queen came thorow the Citie ij s.
1557. Paid to Ringers for pyngyng at the Kynges retourne and when the Kyng and the Quene came thorow Londone ij s. iiij d
- [ March 21 1556 The same day at after noon came down that evere chyrche shalld in London



ryng To beum Laudamus by the  
 Commendement of my Lord Bysshope of London  
 and rynggryng alle that whyle to ryng with  
 grei presse to God - [Machyn's Diary]

1554. Paide the Clarkes for rynginge the  
 bells at the same tyme of [the Bishop's]  
 visitacion

js

1555. Paide for rynginge & other charges  
 in the chunche for the Popes soles (484)

ijs

Paide to Ringgers when worde was  
 broughi that the Quene was broughi  
 to bed (485)

ijs.

1559. Paide to Ringers when the Quenes  
 grace was proclaimed (486)

ijs.

Paide to Ringers when the Quene came  
 to the Tower

ijs.

Paide to the Ringers at the Coronation

ijs.

1564. Paide to Sexten for rynginge the  
 belles the xxvj<sup>th</sup> of July A<sup>o</sup> 1564 when  
 the Quene came to my Lorde Treasurers  
 and for bredd and drynke

iijs.

1584. Paide for ringing upon the Quenes

Matie's day of Coronation ijs.

795

1572. ffyrste pade for the Ringinge of the  
bells at the overthrowe given to the  
Turke (1187)

xija

1598 Id for help to ringe the bells  
as the Bischopp passed by

js iiija

1602 Pade in Maie to the Ringers  
and the Coronation &c

ijs. iija.

### Ordinances of the Bells, 1521.

Imprimis for a knyll of vj oures of  
the great bell called Rus with the all  
ye fealyes of all ye belles to ye Dirige  
and Masse

vijjs. viija

Item, for a knyll of vj oures with the  
bell called Myhill with all the fealles  
of all the belles to the Dirige and Masse

vijjs. rja

Item for a knyll of vj oures with the  
Mary bell and all the fealles of all the  
bellies to the Dirige and Masse

ijs.

And for an oure knyll with the same  
Mary bell with a felle of all the Bells

To lrynge the Corse to Chyrche xxd.

796

Item, for an ouer knyght with the bell  
called Trinitye and a felle with  
iij belles to lrynge the Corse to Chyrche xij d.

Item, for an ouer knyght of the bell  
nest it downeward with a felle of  
iij belles to lryng the Corse to Chyrche viij d.

Item, for an hower knyght of the Ceste  
and a felle with ij belles vjd.

And the Clerkes to paye for ropes, Cawdrakes  
and grece to ye same bellis when nede shall  
require.

Item, for the passyng bell Called the Charge  
bell for lollyng or ryngyng for every hower  
by daye fyve iiij d.

And it happen by the same passinge  
bell to be fowled and rounge by ryght  
for euer ouer viij d.

And the Secion of the Chyrche for to have  
the proffet of this bell when it is so occupied  
or elles he that ryngeth it or lollythe it.

# Inscriptions

797

1. THOMAS LESTER MADE ME 1746.
2. THOMAS LESTER MADE ME 1746
3. MAGNIFICAT ANIMA R: PHELPS FECIT 1728
4. JUBILATE DEO R: PHELPS FECIT 1728
5. CAST 1795 THE REV<sup>d</sup> THOMAS ROBERT WRENCH MA  
RECTOR MESS<sup>rs</sup> LUCAS BIRCH PHILIP CRUBB JOSEPH  
NORVILLE CHURCH YARDENS THOMAS MEARS OF  
LONDON FECIT
6. EXULTATE JUSTI R: PHELPS FECIT 1728
7. CANTATA (sic) DOMINO R: PHELPS FECIT 1728
8. JOHN SMITH EDMUND WAYTE JOHN HUNT CHURCH  
YARDENS THOMAS LESTER LONDINI FECIT 1740
9. SI DEVS NOBISCUM QUIS CONTRA NOS R: PHELPS  
FECIT 1728
10. TO PRAYERS WE CALL: ST: MICHAELS PEOPLE ALL: WE  
HONOUR THE KING AND JOY TO BRIDES DO SING:  
TRIUMPH WE LOUDLY TELL AND RING THE DEAD MANS  
KNELL: R: PHELPS FECIT 1728
11. MESS<sup>rs</sup> ALEXANDER CLEYE JOHN WOOD THOMAS RILEY  
JOHN SHIPSTON WILLIAM HIDE RICHARD ROYCROFT  
WILLIAM MARSLAND TRUSTEES FOR BUYING THESE 12  
BELLS R: PHELPS FECIT 1728
12. THIS BELL RECAST ANNO DOMINI 1795 THE REVD  
THOMAS ROBERT WRENCH MA RECTOR OF ST  
MICHAEL CORNHILL MESS<sup>rs</sup> LUCAS BIRCH PHILIP  
CRUBB JOSEPH NORVILLE CHURCH YARDENS  
THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT

Peal Board formerly in the Belfry

(468)

798

The Society  
of London Youths  
rang in this Belfry a complete peal of  
6204 Cinques

November 24<sup>th</sup> 1729.

William James	Treble	Robert Powell	8.
Josh. Knill	2.	Sam <sup>l</sup> . Moore	9.
Jona <sup>m</sup> . Broadhurst	3.	Wm. Gordon	10.
Wm. Underwood	4.	Lanc <sup>l</sup> . Bland	11.
John Bishop	5.	Wm. Saunders	} Tenor
Wm. Thompson	6.	Tho <sup>s</sup> . Warburton	
Nich <sup>s</sup> . Smith	7.	Wm. Price	} Assistant
		John Merygants	

# Peals rung at St Michael's Cornhill

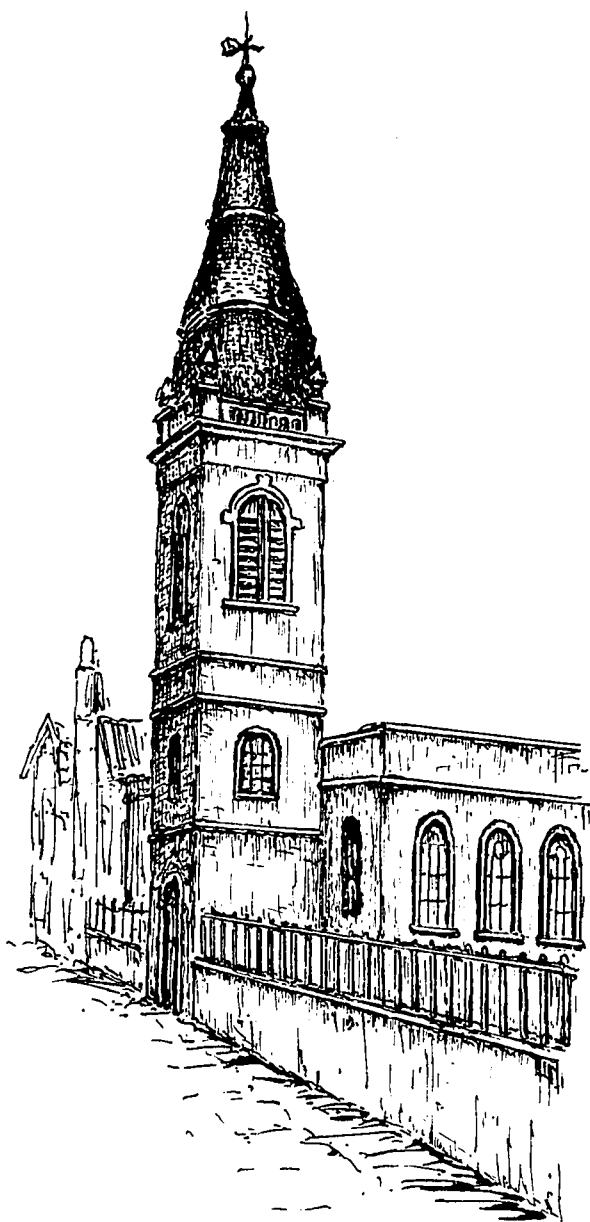
799

729.	Nov 7	5126(?)	Gran. Cinques	College youths
	Nov 27	6204	do	London Scholars
732.	Feb 14	7018	do	College youths
783	Jan 18	5214	do	do
839	Apr 11	5015	do	Cumberlands
853		5232	Kent T. B. Sax	College youths
861	Apr 27	8580	Stedman Cinques	do.

St. Michael,  
Crooked Lane.

---

St. Michael's  
stood on what is  
now the open  
space where King  
William Street  
Gracechurch Street  
and Cannon Street meet



at the northern foot of London Bridge. It  
was next door too to that famous tavern  
in Eastcheap sometime kept by Mistress  
Quickley where you might often meet a fat  
old knight and his red faced man and

occasionally, so people said, the young  
 Prince himself. There is nothing now left to  
 remind us of the Boar's Head and the only  
 relic of it is I think a loving Cup now  
 preserved at the neighbouring Church of St  
 Magnus the Martyr which was given to  
 St Michael's vestry by Francis Withens in  
 15 or thereabouts. Withens was born in  
 the parish, lived there and died there, and  
 was buried in the Church in 1633. It is  
 an uncommon name and we wonder  
 whether he was the grandfather of the Francis  
 Withens who was born in the following  
 year and in time became a College Youth  
 and several other things beside (459)

St Michael's Church was at first, says  
 Shaw, but a small and homely thing



802  
Culi was rebuilt and made a "fair"  
Church by John Lopkin, stock-fishmonger  
who was four times mayor and was buried  
there with images of himself and his wife  
in alabaster. William Walworth servant  
at first to Lopkin, and himself a fishmonger  
added a choir and side chapel and  
endowed a College. Walworth is known  
in history as the man who, as mayor, in  
the presence of King Richard II struck  
down Wat Tyler the leader of a very  
serious popular rising.

The inventories of the goods and ornaments  
belonging to St. Michaels' made in the  
reign of King Edward VI, have not been  
preserved and we do not know how  
many bells there were in the steeple, Culi

in the early seventeenth Century there were some fow in 1628 the vestry ordered that they should be repaired and put in order and a new rope bought. There was also a clock and a bell on which it struck. This was ordered to be mended in 1630 and eight years later the vestry resolved that the Churchwardens do weather bind the funnel wherein the clock bell hangeth.

In 1630 one of the bells was broken evidently in the Canons and the opinions of two workmen were taken as to what should be done with it. One of them recommended recasting but Robert Turner the bellhanger said it could be bored and after debate it was determined

that it should be bored, and that  
he should be paid £3-10-0 for the work.

"His agreement is to make good the  
wheels and stock, but the parish to have  
the metal which is broken off. He is  
to hang it again in the steeple, and to  
find all things, a rope only excepted." (841)

St Michael was burnt in the fire. The  
walls of the tower stood, except that part  
of the east wall next the church  
collapsed. The church was rebuilt by  
Hew and finished in 1688 at a cost of  
£4511, 5.4 the tower and spire being  
completed ten years later. Two bells were  
hung in the steeple.

St Michael was pulled down in 1831  
when the approaches to the new London  
Bridge were made. (460)

## St Michael, Paternoster Royal

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This church has a  
special interest for  
the ringing Exercise

as it was here that

according to tradition and a widely spread

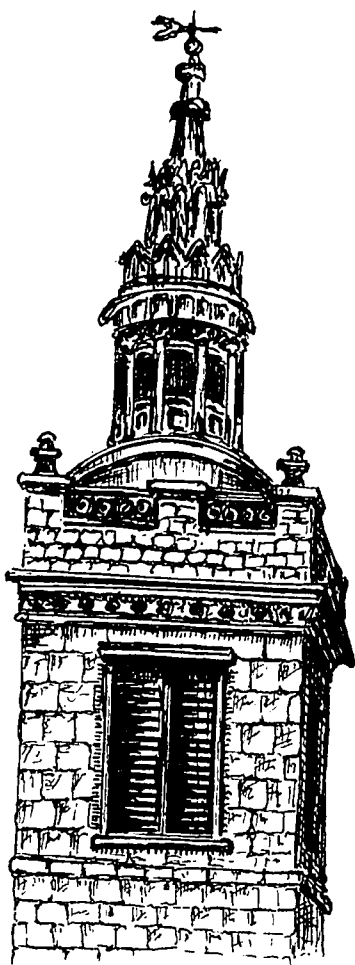
belief that the Society of College Youths

was founded. Actually there is no real

evidence for the tradition and it is not in

the least likely to be true.

In the year 1409 a licence in mortmain  
was granted to Richard Whitingstone, Henry  
Londone and John Chamberlayne, chaplain,



of a certain parcel of land lying  
 in the street called Riols in the parish of  
 St. Michael de Paternosterchurche to John  
 White parson of the said church and his  
 successors for the purpose of rebuilding a  
 certain parish church in honour of God  
 and St. Michael the Archangel together  
 with a churchyard; and this was witnessed  
 by the king Henry IV at Westminster.

Alongside the church, by his will, <sup>(461)</sup>Whittington  
 founded a College of the Holy Ghost, <sup>(469)</sup>and  
 St. Mary for a master and four fellows, who  
 were to be Masters of Art, with clerks, Conductors  
 Chorus etc; and a hospital called God's  
 House for thirteen poor men, one of whom  
 was to be prior and have pence  
 a week, the other twelve each to have

fourteen pence a week, for ever with other necessary provisions. They were bound to pray for the good estate of Whittington and Alice his wife and for other relatives and patrons of the founder. The foundation was confirmed by parliament in the tenth year of Henry VI. Under the act of Edward VI the college was suppressed and the buildings sold and pulled down, but the hospital was suffered to remain. (263)

The Royal, on the east side of which the college stood was a narrow street running northward from Thames Street to a building called the Tower Royal or the Queen's Wardrobe from which it took its name. This street with all the houses in it including the church and almshouses

was destroyed in the Fire, and after it was rebuilt the name was changed to College Hill. Osborn thought that the alteration was abruptly made - until the fire the name was the Royal and after the fire the name was College Hill - and gives it as a reason for disbelieving the tradition relating to the College Junks. But it is not likely; and there is evidence that at least the south end where the street ran sharply down into Thames Street had long been called College Hill, and now that the Tower Royal was gone ~~its~~ the name was used for the whole street.

No information as to the bells in the

809

tower of St. Michaels before the Fire has  
Come down to us: Stow says nothing about  
them nor does Strype or any of the other  
authors of Surveys of London written in the  
17<sup>th</sup> Century. There are no parish records  
esclams, and the Edwardian inventory  
relating to the church is missing. As so  
many of the other churches had rings of  
three or five bells it is probable that there  
were some at St. Michaels, but it seems to  
be certain that we shall never know  
definitely.

The present building was erected in  
1686-1694 from the designs of Sir Christopher  
Wren at a cost of £7455. 7-9. The tower  
with its elaborate lantern was not  
completed until 1713. It contains one bell,

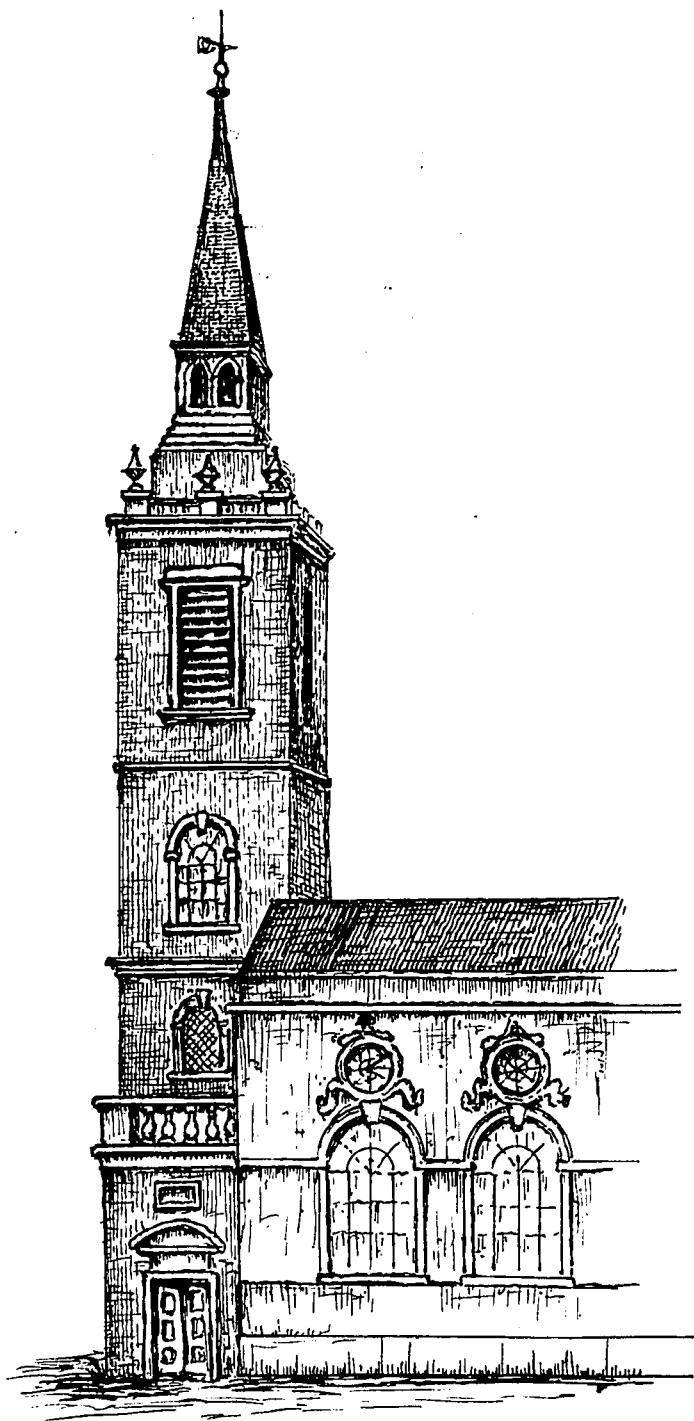


Cast in 1892, which replaced an  
older one supplied by John Hodson in  
1674.

St. Michael,  
Quenchethe.

---

St. Michael's  
was in Thames  
Street and a  
church had  
stood on the  
site from at  
least 1150.

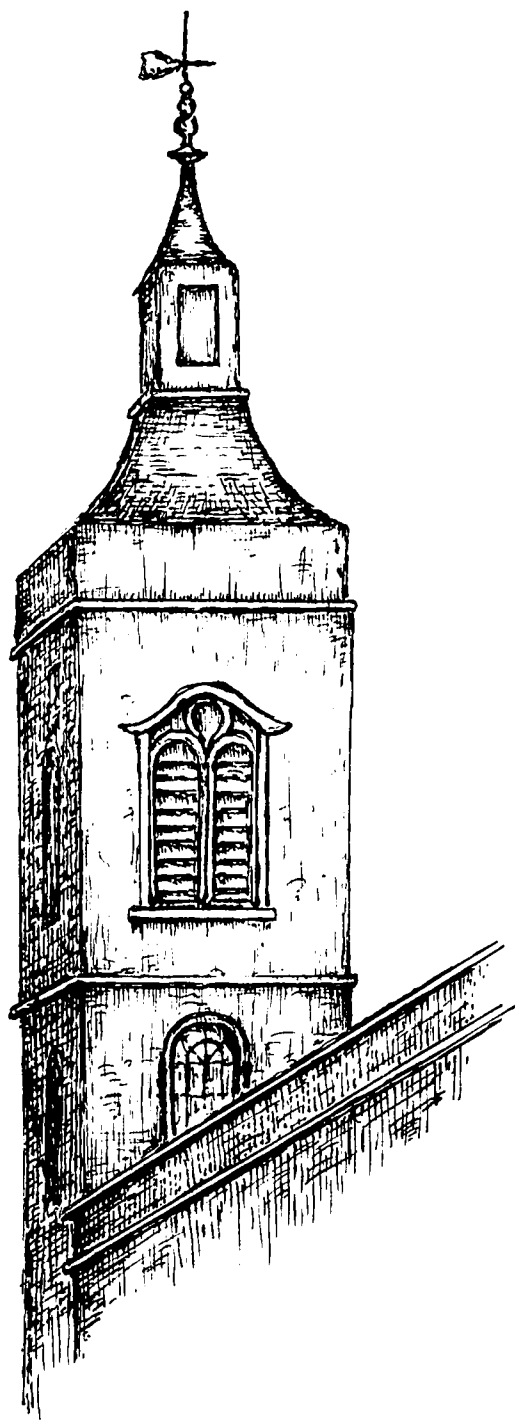


The manuscript of the  
inventory made in the sixth year of King  
Edward VI is defective and we cannot say.  
How many bells there were then in the

511.  
steeple. The building was repaired  
and beautified in 1615, much money  
being spent on the roof, and the east  
and west windows being rebuilt and  
reglazed, but it was destroyed in the  
fire of 1666. Sir Christopher Wren  
restored it at a cost of £4354, and  
the new tower had a spire about 135  
feet high, with a ring of three bells and  
a clock bell. The church was pulled  
down in 1876, and one of the bells, cast  
in 1700 by Philip Wightman, is now at  
St. James's, Garlickhithe.

St. Michael,  
Hood Street.

---



This church was  
sometimes called  
in olden times, St.  
Michael Hoggan  
Lane or Huggin  
Lane, of one Hogen  
that sometime dwell

in the lane that ran beside the church. At

the time of King Edward the Sixth there were  
in the steeple "iij bells" and "a paunce bell." (116)

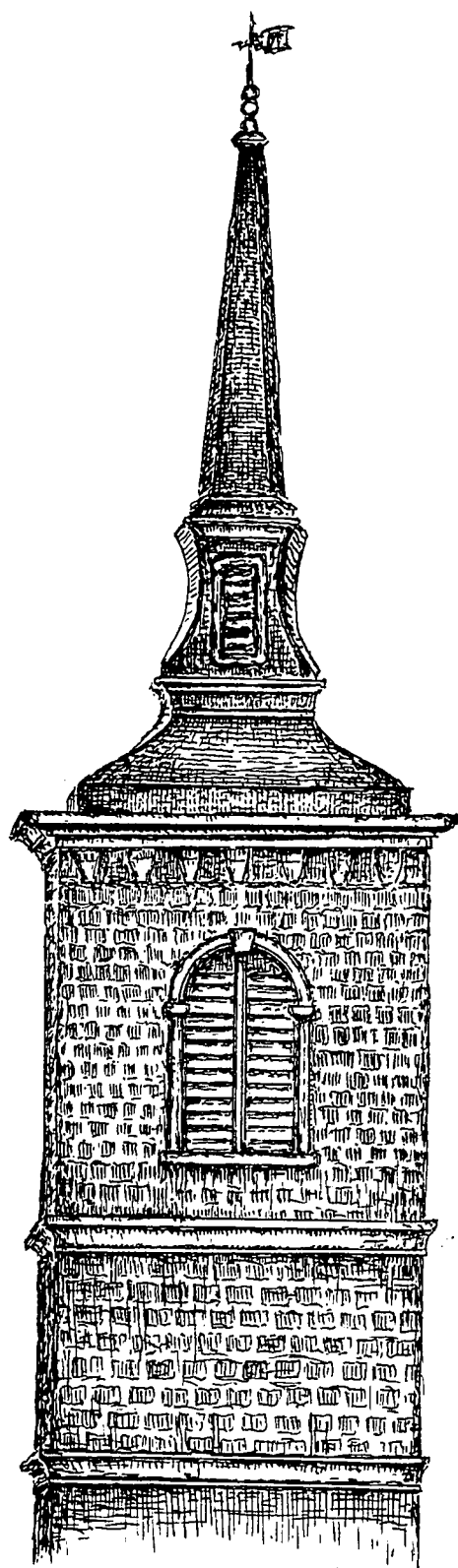
The building except for the tower was

destroyed in the fire of 1666, but was  
restored by Sir Christopher Wren, and completed  
in 1675. It was pulled down at the end  
of the nineteenth century.

St. Mildred,  
Bread Street.

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St. Mildred  
was a saint  
who became  
the head of a  
nunnery which  
her mother  
had founded  
at Munster  
in Kent. Many



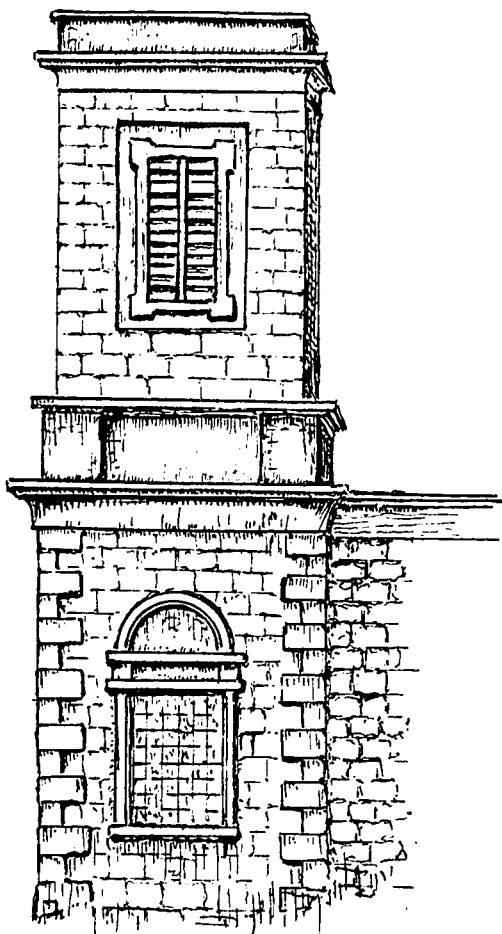
miracles were reported to have been wrought  
at her tomb, and several churches were  
dedicated to her in Kent and other

816  
parts of England including  
London.

The date of the founding of the original  
Church is unknown, but at the time  
of Edward VI it had "four bells and  
a paunce Bell" (467) It was destroyed in  
1666 and rebuilt by Christopher  
Wren in 1681-1687 at a cost of £3705.  
One bell by Anthony Bartlet, 1673.  
was hung in the steeple. At present  
there are five.

St Mildred,  
Poultry.

This church stood  
 at the east end of the  
 Poultry on the bank  
 of the Walbrook, the  
 stream that runs



through the midst of  
 the City to join the Thames. It was rebuilt  
 in 1457 and at the time of Edward VI it  
 possessed "in the steeple iiij greacie bells  
 and one small painte bell." <sup>(468)</sup> Destroyed in the  
 fire of 1666, it was re-erected by Wren at



a Cost of £4654-0-0.

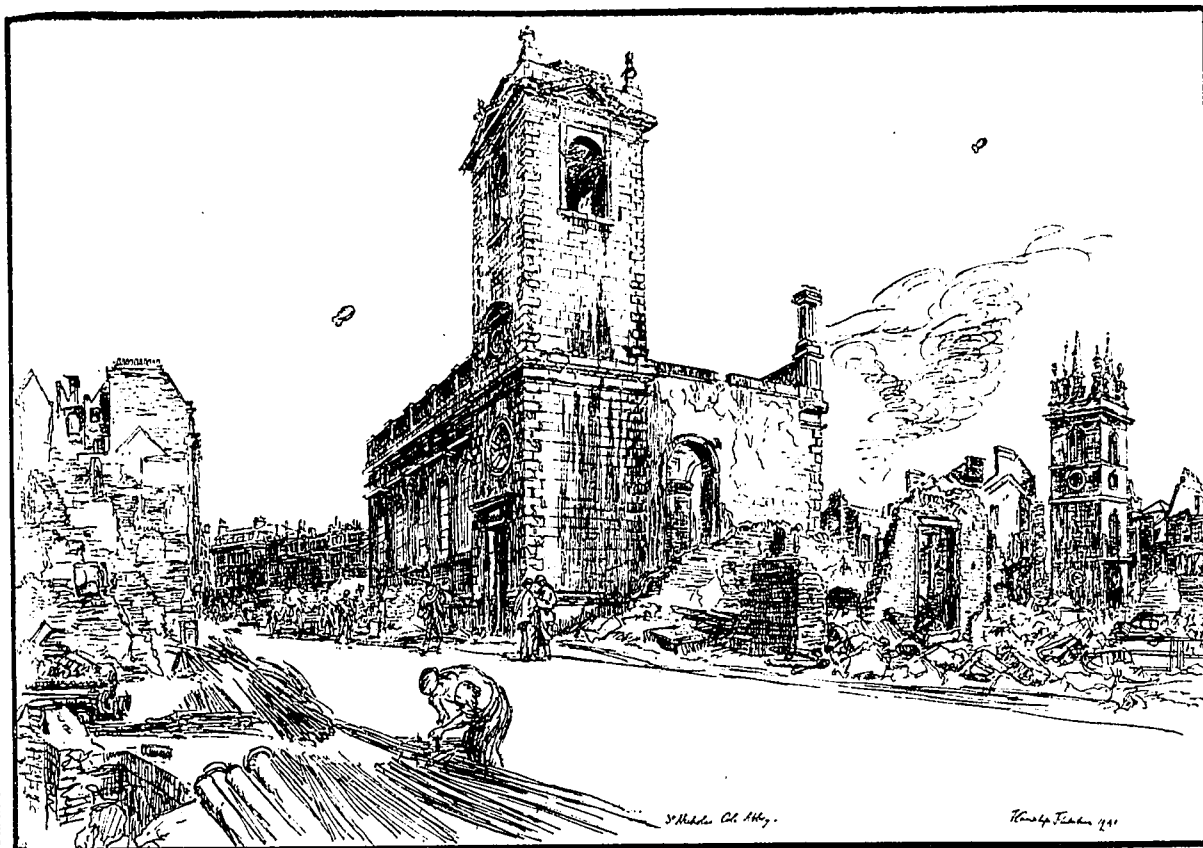
On October 1666 the vestry resolved that m<sup>r</sup>. Raeph Bosc receive of m<sup>r</sup>. Pochin the Bell metall & to pay him ffteene shillings for the charges of recovering all the materials belonging to the church in the Custodie of m<sup>r</sup>. Usher and m<sup>r</sup>. ffleicher

Two bells, a great bell and a priest's bell appear to have been hung in the new steeple and in 1717 it was reported that the latter was broken. It was referred to the Churchwardens of both parishes to buy a new one. Whether it was done is perhaps doubtful for on May 4 1762 a joint vestry agreed that the little bell should be recast and rehung, and in the following year that the great bell should be repaired and rehung (519)

The Church was ultimately pulled down  
in 1872. It had then only one bell,  
without date or inscription, which  
now at St. Paul's Goswell Road.

THE SUNDAY TIMES, DECEMBER 20, 1942

# BOMBED LONDON



Mr. Hanslip Fletcher's drawing shows the damaged church of St. Nicholas Cole Abbey, Queen Victoria Street, and the scene of desolation around it.

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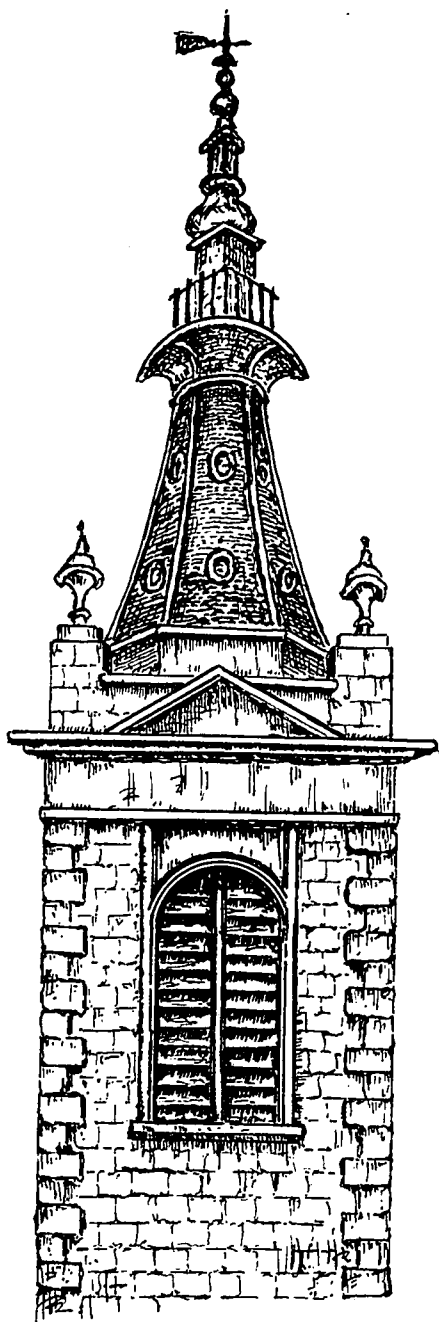
BEIGH DASSES | DANGER OF

St Nicholas, Acons. This church  
was in Lombard Street and is said to  
have been built in 1084. The Churchwardens  
reported to the Royal Commissioners in  
Edward VI<sup>th</sup> reign, "We have in our  
Steeple five bells and a Sanctus bell." (488)  
The church was destroyed in 1666 and  
not rebuilt.

St Nicholas,  
Cole-Abbey.

---

This in How's  
time was a proper  
church, somewhat  
ancient as  
appeareth by  
the ways raised  
thereabout so  
that men are forced  
to descend into the body of the church



The steeple or tall tower, with the  
south aisle have been of a later building  
to wit the first of Richard II when

it was meant the whole church  
 should have been new built" The  
 Edwardian inventory gives "Item  
 vj bells w<sup>th</sup> the paunce bell in the  
 steeple." Item iiij smale handbells  
 of latyn for the quare." <sup>(189)</sup> It is not  
 clear whether this means that there  
 was a ring of six in addition to the  
 pauncis bell, or including the pauncis  
 bell, but probably it was the latter.

The church was burnt in 1666 and  
 was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren.

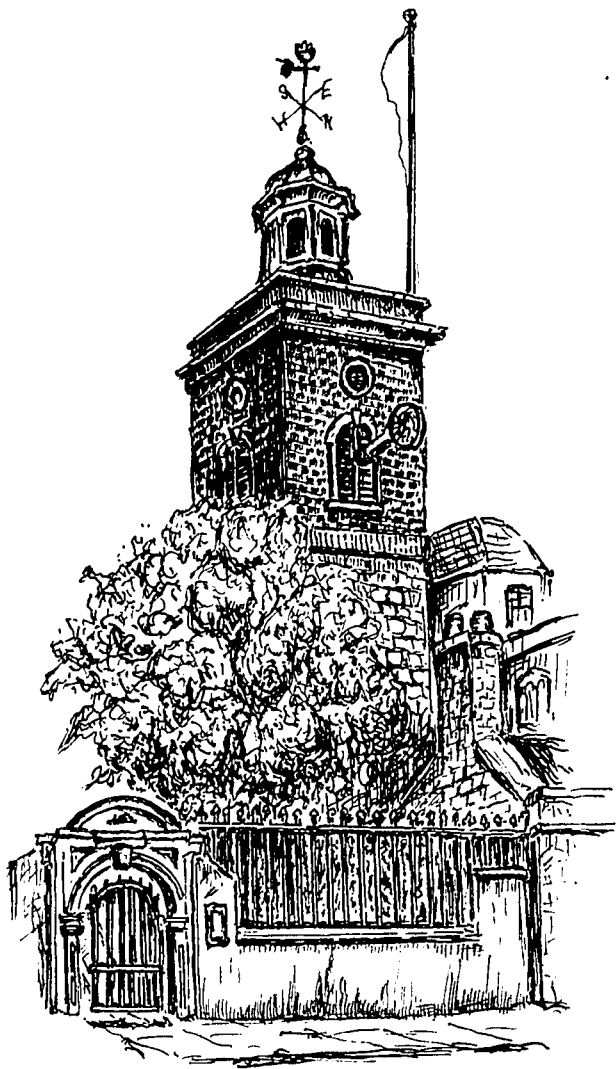
St Nicholas Glave stood in Bread  
 Street Hill leading down to the river in  
 Queen Hithe Ward. How describes it  
 " " "  
 as a Convenient Church and in the  
 inventory of church goods and ornaments  
 made in the sixth year of King Edward  
 the Sixth there is - "Item, fyve grate  
 bells & one small." <sup>(1490)</sup> The Church was  
 destroyed in the fire of 1666 and was  
 not rebuilt the parish being united  
 to St Nicholas Cole Abbey.

St. Nicholas, Thambles, was in  
Newgate Street. In 1546 the parish was  
united with St. Ewines Newgate & and  
the Church of the Grey Friars priory was  
made the parish Church of the two parishes.  
No account of any bells is extant.



225  
St. Clave,  
Hart Street

---



St. Claves is  
one of the smallest  
but one of the  
most interesting  
of the city churches.

It was built in the fifteenth Century and the  
Edwardian inventory records that "there  
remayneth in the steeple iiij greale belles, and  
a paunce bell" (1491) It was Samuel Pepys's parish  
church, and within it he was buried. On the  
30<sup>th</sup> of January 1666 he made the following

826

entry in his diary - This is the first time I have been in the church, since I left London for the plague, and it frightened me indeed to go through the church more than I thought it could have done to see so many graves lie so high upon the churchyards where people have been buried of the plague. I was much troubled at it, and do not think to go through it again a good while.

Anthony Bartlett of the Whitechapel foundry supplied a new ring of bells in 1662. Either a peal of six or a minor five. The tenor was recast or added by James Bartlett in 1694. The Church escaped the fire but narrowly, and in recent years two bells have been added to complete the octave.

# Inscriptions on the Bells.

---

1.

2.

3-7 ANTHONY BARTLET MADE ME 1662

Tenor ROBERT FULLER RICHARD TILDEN

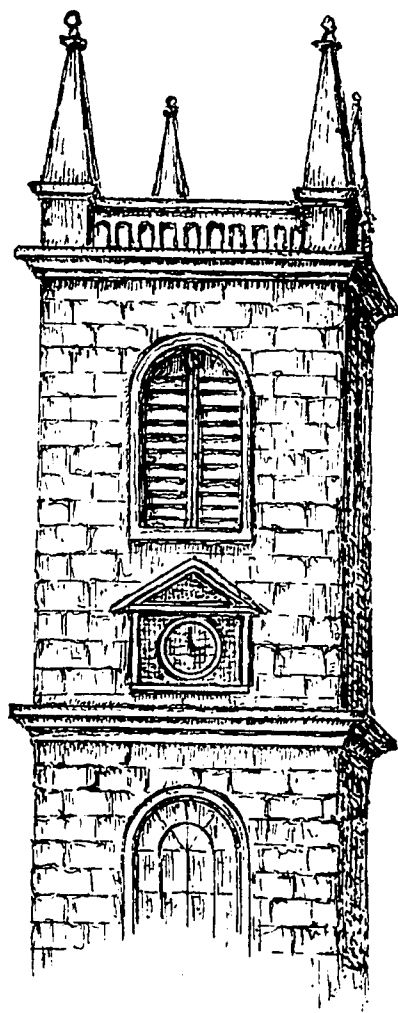
CHURCHWARDENS THO COPPING RECTOR

JACOBUS BARTLET ME FECIT 1694.

A small bell the successor of the medieval paunce bell is hung in the turret at the top of the steeple.

The crown on the top of the vane is said to commemorate the visit of Queen Elizabeth (then princess) when she returned thanks after her release from the Tower. She is said to have presented a set of silken bellropes to the church, which, however, hardly seems likely.

St Clare, Upwell,  
Old Jewry.



The old church in the  
 reign of Edward VI had  
 "v bells & a bytell pauns  
 bell." <sup>(493)</sup> Destroyed in the  
 fire of 1666 it was rebuilt  
 by Wren at a cost of £5580  
 and three bells were hung in the new tower.  
 In 1888 the building was pulled down except  
 for the steeple and part of the west front  
 which are now included in the vicarage of  
 St. Margaret's Lothbury. The three bells (two  
 of them dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century) are  
 now in that tower.

St Olave, Silver Street, was "a small thing and without any noteworthy monuments." The inventory of the goods and ornaments made in the reign of Edward VI, is much dilapidated and the part referring to the bells is destroyed. (494)

St Pancras, Soper Lane was a small church which at the time of Edward VI had "ij bells hanging in the steeple." (495) Fifty years later How refers with disapproval to the church authorities who "not regarding the order taken by her majesty the least bell in their church being broken have rather sold the same for half the value, than put the parish to charge with new casting." The Church was destroyed in the fire and not rebuilt.

631

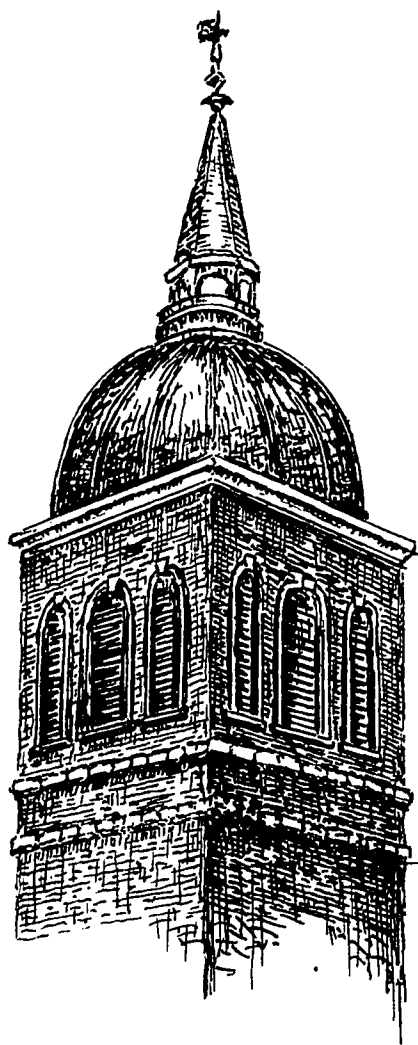
Saint Peter,  
Cornhill.

---

Traditionally this  
church had the  
earliest foundation  
of any in London.

Legend said that it

was first built in the year 179 by Lucius  
King of Britain to be an archbishop's see  
and that it so endured for four hundred  
years. Without going so far as to believe  
that we may be sure that it was very  
ancient and that in the course of years  
several buildings had succeeded one



another, one of them being in the  
Perpendicular style except for the tower which  
remained from earlier times. In Edwards'  
reign there were "in the steeple of the same  
churche five bells and the sainte bell." (496)

St. Peter's was badly damaged in the great  
fire and after some attempts at restoration  
was rebuilt according to the designs of  
Sir Christopher Wren partly at the cost of  
the City Corporation and partly by  
subscription. Begun in 1679, the new church  
was opened in 1682. Two bells were hung  
in the steeple.



St Peter Parva, Pauls' Wharf in Queen

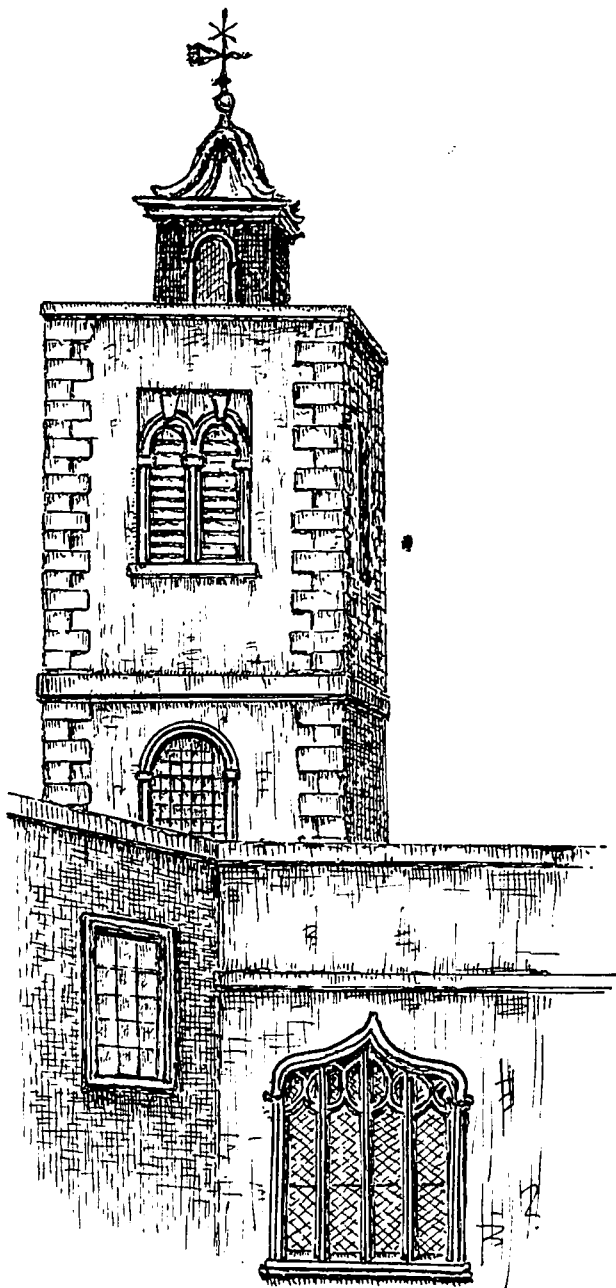
Hithen Ward was a small parish church  
 of no particular interest. It had "iiij"  
 bells and a paunce bell hanging in  
 the steeple." (497) It was burnt in the  
 great fire and not rebuilt.

St Peter, -  
le-Poor.

---

This church stood  
in Broad Street and  
was founded in the  
fifteenth century or  
earlier. The Edwardian  
inventory is defective  
and makes no mention

(198) The church was enlarged or rebuilt  
in 1615 and in 1630 supplied with a new  
steeple new gallery and new bells. It escaped  
the fire of 1666 and in 1733 had a ring of five



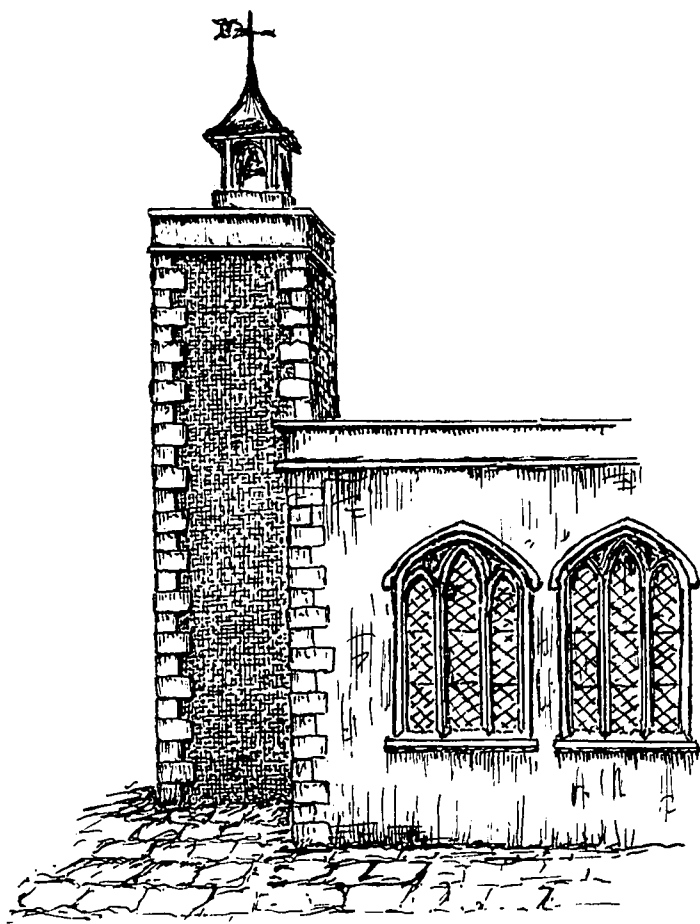
885

Laughton and the Ramblers rang here  
in January 1734. He calls the bells a "horrid  
peal." In 1788 an Act of Parliament was  
obtained for taking down the building and  
shortly afterwards a new church, designed  
by Jesse Gibson was built. It was a poor  
ugly affair. At the same time the bells  
were recast by "old" John Warner.

The Church was finally pulled down  
soon after 1899 and two of the bells recast  
are now in the steeple of St. Mary's, Willesden.

St. Peter,  
ad Vincula.

---



The church of  
St. Peter is famous

for the men and

women who have been buried in it, for it  
stands on Tower Green and hard by where  
once was erected the scaffold on which fell  
the heads of so many people who bore a  
part in the history of England. The steeple  
contains a ring of three bells cast at the  
Whitechapel foundry in 1854, and a small bell  
in the cupola, by John Hodson, 1659.

63

St. Peter, Westchepe.

Probably the best known piece in the whole of London is the one which stands in Cheapside at the corner of Hood Street. It marks the site of the old parish church of St. Peter which disappeared after the fire of 1666. It was one of the many rebuilt in the Perpendicular period. According to How, John the goldsmith and mayor who died in 1508 left by his will money for the rebuilding of the church and steeple but another goldsmith Thomas Wood was generally accounted the principal benefactor. In the tower were "iiij" bells and a saunce bell." (499)



St Sepulchre,  
Holborn.

---



The church of  
St Sepulchre in  
the Bailey was  
built in the early  
part of the fifteenth century probably on the  
site of an earlier Saxon church and was  
rebuilt in the early Perpendicular period  
It had some connection with the priory of  
St Bartholomew Smithfield which owned  
the patronage and when the latter was  
dissolved in 1537 its ring of six bells  
"in a tune" were sold to St Sepulchres.

220

The inventory and "accompt" of  
— Churchwardens of the parische Church  
of Saynt Sepulchre wiche Newgate  
London from the ffeste of Saynt Michell  
Tharchangell in the fyrst yere of the  
rayne of our Sovraigne Lorde kyng  
Edward the Sixt by grace of god Kyng  
of England France and Ireland Deft  
of the faythe & of the church of England  
& also of I[reland] in yearthe the supreme  
head unto the ffeste of saynte m[ichael]  
Tharchangell in the thrid yere of the  
rayne . . . . Sovereyn Lord kyng Edward  
the Sixt " states that there were " In  
the steeple of the saide church Item  
one greaie bell callyd Baynaide Castell  
that servythe the clocke and ryse.



other bells in one ring and one  
panties bell." (500)

These six were a heavy ring and it  
was on them that we have the first  
recorded ringing with the names of the  
performers. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1631  
a band consisting of men all of whom  
had held the office of General in the  
Society of Cheapside Scholars rang the  
bells. The pebble was rung single handed  
two men were put to each of the second  
and third, four to each of the fourth  
and fifth and five to the tenor. (501)  
What was rung is not stated but probably  
it was raising round-ringing and  
ceasing in peal.

241

St Sepulchres was badly damaged  
in the fire of 1666 but was not destroyed  
and the parish set about the work of restoration  
with commendable promptitude. Some  
of the bells but not all had been melted  
and on October 30<sup>th</sup> the vestry ordered  
that Edward Webster of Whitecross  
Street, founder, clear and cleanse the  
bell metal melted in the fire, and  
upon delivery of the same to Mr Carter  
so cleared Mr Carter to pay him after  
the rate of 12s for every cwt of bell-metal.  
Neither Webster nor Carter is known as  
a bell founder. Carter may have been  
a relative of William Carter who some  
years previously owned the Whitechapel  
foundry. The order was not carried

out and in the following December  
 it was ordered and agreed by the vestry,  
 " That the Churchwardens do forthwith  
 Cause all pieces of broken metal to be  
 taken up and weighed with the metal  
 cleaned out of the dust and that they  
 deliver the same to John Hodson of  
 Bishopsgate Street, London, Carpenter  
 he giving his Bond to Case the same  
 into three pound and tunable bells  
 of such weight as shall be agreed on  
 and to carry away the bell metal  
 and deliver the bells at his own charge  
 before Easter day next the bells to  
 weigh the full weight when cast  
 and delivered as the bell metal shall  
 contain which is to be delivered to

845

him, and that in consideration  
thereof the churchwardens pay Mr. Hodson  
after the rate of 20s for every Cwt the  
bells shall weigh; to be paid him when  
the same shall be hanged up and  
approved of for sound tunable bells."

In the following February the vestry  
took steps for the re-roofing the steeple  
"and for the making of floors, providing  
of wheels and other necessaries for the  
rehanging of the bells against they be  
brought in from the bell founders"; and  
on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. 1667 the Churchwardens  
were directed "to be very careful as to  
the weighing of the bells and for bringing  
them into the church."

At the time not only had the parish

[2-]

the task of rebuilding the Church  
on its hands but also a great number  
of the parishioners had been ruined by  
the fire. That in those circumstances  
the vestry should have found the money  
to restore the bells or even the time  
to think about them shows <sup>how</sup> much they  
were valued.

Hodson's bell apparently did not  
agree very well with those that  
had been saved from the fire and on  
March 21 1671 it was ordered "that  
the Deputy Common Council and Church-  
wardens, or any five of them, treat  
with Hodson the bell founder concerning  
the bells that are faulty and make  
some agreement with him as they

shall think fit.

What was done does not appear but shortly afterwards a Mr Darby a bell founder was called in by the vicar and apparently the ring was increased to eight. Darby was paid £ 67. 7. 0, and a Mr Allen a bell hanger £ 12. 13. 6. About the same time a Mr Hysc was given an order to make a clock and chymes, the iron band to be for eight bells.

Mr Darby the bell founder was evidently John Darbie of Ipswich who in this same year cast a ring of six for the neighbouring church of St Vedast, Foster Lane, and not as is usually supposed the rather notorious Michael Darbie.

216

In 1678 five pebbles were added to make a ring of ten, and towards the close the funnel at the top of the tower which apparently was in a dangerous condition was ordered to be taken down and the materials with the lead and a bell to be sold. This bell was the successor of the medieval paunce bell which as in many other churches had been hung in a funnel after it was used as the priest's bell so it could be heard all over the parish.

Darke's bells were not satisfactory.

On August 5<sup>th</sup> 1678 the vestry ordered that he be paid no more money till he hath made good the first bell." He recast one bell and then

52

The Churchwarden was told "to pay  
him what is due to him on the former  
account for casting the two Last bells, and  
also what metal he hath added to the  
bell last cast, and as for his recompense  
for new casting the said bell, the Vestry do  
suspend the same till the same bell be  
better approved." In other words the vestry  
did not see why they should pay him  
for putting right his own faulty work  
Especially as they were still not quite  
satisfied.

The ten bells at St. Sepulchres were  
almost certainly the first on which  
batter changes were rung. There were  
ten at St. Michael Cornhill before the  
fire but at that time Triples and Major



8-2

had scarcely been thought of till  
alone Calers and Royal. There were twelve  
at York Minster and ringing appears to  
have been popular there <sup>(521)</sup> but there is no  
reason to suppose that the art of change  
ringing had been much developed or  
practised there. Lichfield Cathedral bells  
were recast into a ring of ten in 1671  
and Christ Church bells at Oxford  
were made ten two years after St  
Sepulchres. The Loyal Yowths at Lichfield  
so far as we know did not do very much  
in the way of change ringing, and though  
Grandeur Calers was much practised  
in Oxford that was not until the  
next generation.

In 1680 the steeple was repaired  
and in 1685 James Barlett of Whitechapel  
recast one of the bells which however  
seems not to have been satisfactory  
and the Churchwardens were instructed  
to make an agreement for a new bell.

In 1695 the tenor was cracked and  
it was ordered by the vestry that notice  
be given to the noted bell casters in  
the City to bring in their proposals  
for recasting the bell. The order was  
given to Thomas Covey upon his  
sealing such articles and giving such  
security as ~~such~~ should be approved  
by the Churchwardens.

The tower was now the principal

Change ringing Centre in London.

The College Youths met there and no doubt also the London Scholars, and in 1684 the former society sang what are said to have been the first Touches of Grandsons Triples. A few years later they scored the five-thousand of Bob Triples which I have discussed in my third Chapter and need say nothing more about here.

In 1699 the ninth was cracked. It is possible that the parish was slow to put the matter right and so the College Youths rather than go without their Grandsons later decided to do it themselves. Anyhow after Consulting the Churchwardens, Richard Castleman

Peter Bradshaw, and Elisha Mason  
appeared before the vestry and offered  
to take down the bell, recast it, bring  
it home and set it up again in  
six weeks time all at their own charges  
Castleman and Mason were that year  
the stewards and Bradshaw one of  
the leading members of the Society.

The vestry accepted the offer and referred  
it to the churchwardens "to see the  
bell taken down and delivered to the  
paid persons weighing the same out  
and in; they, the churchwardens  
then taking security from the said  
persons for the performance of the matter  
proposed; and that they be obliged

to return the said bell of the same weight and goodness and metal as it now is or better. If any of its weight should be wanting they should pay to the Churchwardens, the value thereof and take care they do no damage to the other bells."

Today if a man offered to restore the bells or other church property at his own expense it would seem a rather off-handed and discourteous thing to ask him to give security, but in the seventeenth and eighteenth Centuries it was the custom. The church and its fittings were the property of the parish; the churchwardens were the trustees, they could be held personally

responsible for anything that might happen and might find themselves involved in financial liability should anything go wrong. There was no pretence on the part of the College Youths that their act was to benefit the parish. They wanted the bell so that they could ring Grandfire Bells.

In 1701 Elisha Mason, again we may suppose, acting for the College Youths, saw to the recasting of the second but this time the parish paid £5.3.6 for the job.

About this time the steeple had got into a bad state of repair and the winder of the Castle Tavern hard by complained that stones were falling from

from it and had damaged and were likely to damage his house. In 1705 a Committee was formed to raise money and have the necessary repairs completed.

In 1712 the seventh was recast and the whole ring overhauled and rehung. Whether the great bell called Baynard Castle "that serves the clock" had escaped the fire is not clear, but it seems probable and it or its successor was still hanging "by itself in the loft next the ringing-loft", that is in the chamber between the belfry and the ring of ten. It was now taken down and sold and the proceeds devoted to the repairs of the bells and

and Church Richard Phelps

cast the new seventh at a charge of £22-10-0 and was also paid £30 for rehanging the ring. (838)

Apart from the doubtful peal of 1690 only one five-thousand is known to have been rung on the old bells. This was 5046 Grandire Calers by the College Youths in 1731. It was conducted by Annable and the peal book claims it as the first that was rung in that steeple which may mean the first peal of Grandire Calers or the first peal of any sort. Probably the ~~first~~ latter is meant.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> 1739 the vestry passed a resolution that all the old bells



850

(except the old treble) being  
nine bells in number be taken down  
out of the steeple and new cast and  
also that a new bell be cast to make  
up the said nine bells to ten bells  
to be rung together in peal." The  
new ring was cast by Samuel Knight  
and as the inscription on the ninth  
bells is was hung by Robert Catlin.  
The treble was recast by Thomas Meares  
in 1807; the sixth seventh and tenor  
in 1830. The rest of Knight's bells are  
still in the tower. They are a very  
fine ring, one of the best of the old  
style. (502)

The first peal on Knight's bells  
was 5200 Oxford Treble Bob Royal

85

by the Eastern Scholars rung on  
April 7<sup>th</sup> 1741 the first ever accomplished  
in the method. Little more than a  
month later the College Youths rang  
5000 Changes in the same method.

In the same year the College Youths  
rang the first Touches of London Court  
Bob Royal but apparently did not  
think enough of the method to ring  
a peal. <sup>(503)</sup> Another interesting performance

was 5040 Eastern Bob Royal by the  
Eastern Scholars on February 19<sup>th</sup> 1750  
the only peal ever rung in the method.

The only length on the bells of over  
six-thousand Changes was 6390

Grandeur Caters by the College Youths  
in 1752 This was one of the five peals

Conducted by John Holt when  
he was with that society.

Fifty years ago the board recording  
the Eastern Scholars peal of Treble Bob  
was still in the belfry though in a  
dilapidated condition. The College  
Youths' board is the only one remaining  
but in the base of the tower there is a  
board recording 5111 Changes of Grandmere  
Caters by the Junior Society of Cumberland  
Youths, and three nineteenth century  
boards hung so high on the walls  
that they cannot be read. Two record  
peals by the St. James's Society - 5055  
Wedman's Caters on January 24 1857  
the first in the method on the bells,  
and 5000 Kent Treble Bob on November

850

6<sup>th</sup> 1869 - and one by the Cumberland  
Yowths - 5001. Gledman Calers in 1880.

The most recent label is for a peal in  
the same method by the Middlessex County  
Association.

### Inscriptions on the Bells.

Treble, - THOMAS MEARS AND SON OF LONDON FECIT 1807

2, 3, 4, 5, 8. S† K† 1739.

6. THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT

7. THOMAS MEARS AND SON OF LONDON FECIT  
1830.

9. SAMUEL KNIGHT CAST US ALL AND ROBERT  
CATLIN MADE THE FRAME AND HUNG US ALL

Tenor. T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT JOSEPH HEARN  
THOS HENRY FENTON AND CHARLES THOS  
DUPREE CHURCHWARDENS RECAST 1830

Diameter  $56\frac{1}{2}$  inches, Weight 31 cwt 14 lb, Note D.

Board formerly at S. Sepulchres' (65)

260

1741. Tuesday, April ye. 7<sup>th</sup> was rung by ye  
Society of Eastern Scholars a compleat Peal  
of Oxford Treble Bob containing 5200 changes  
in 3 hrs 57 mts. being ye first ever done  
in this Steeple Performed by

Josh Dickenson	1.	Wm. Roman	6.
John Sharp	2.	Wm Phillips	7.
Wm Sims	3.	Thos. Bennet	8.
Wm. Lovell	4.	Thom Mainwaring	
John Blake	5.	called bots and	
		R. Wendleborough	10.

---

Board still in being.

On Saturday ~~March~~ May 30<sup>th</sup> 1741 the  
College youths in this Steeple rung compleatly  
Five Thousand Union Bob Royal in 3 hours  
45 minutes.

When merits justly due a little praise then  
serveth;

A good peal needs no frame, a bad one  
none deserveth.

---

851

## Peal Board in Base of Tower

The Junior Society of Cumberland Youths  
Rang in this Splee on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December  
1793 a complete Peal of Grandire Caters  
Consisting of 5111 Changes in 3 hours and  
35 minutes by the following Persons.

Mr Williams	Tulle	Mr Thurley	6.
Mr Baker	2.	Mr Porter	7.
Mr Noonan	3.	Mr Fryer	8.
Mr Symondson	4.	Mr Marlton	9.
Mr Ladley	5.	Mr Plover	Tenor

Composed & Called by Mr Wm Williams.

---

St. James's Society. On Saturday January  
24<sup>th</sup> 1857 rung in this tower a fine Peal  
of Caters upon Shedman's principle containing  
5056 Changes in 3 hours 32 minutes being  
the first Peal in this method rung on these  
bells. Performers -

Wm <sup>m</sup> Cooter	1.	John Helms	6.
Alfred Jones	2.	George E. Ferris	7.
Matthew A. Wood	3.	Henry Booth	8.
George Hockham	4.	James R. Haworth	9.
William Green	5.	Charles Matthews	Tenor

Conducted by William Cooter.

# Yeals rung on S. Sepulchres Bells.

655

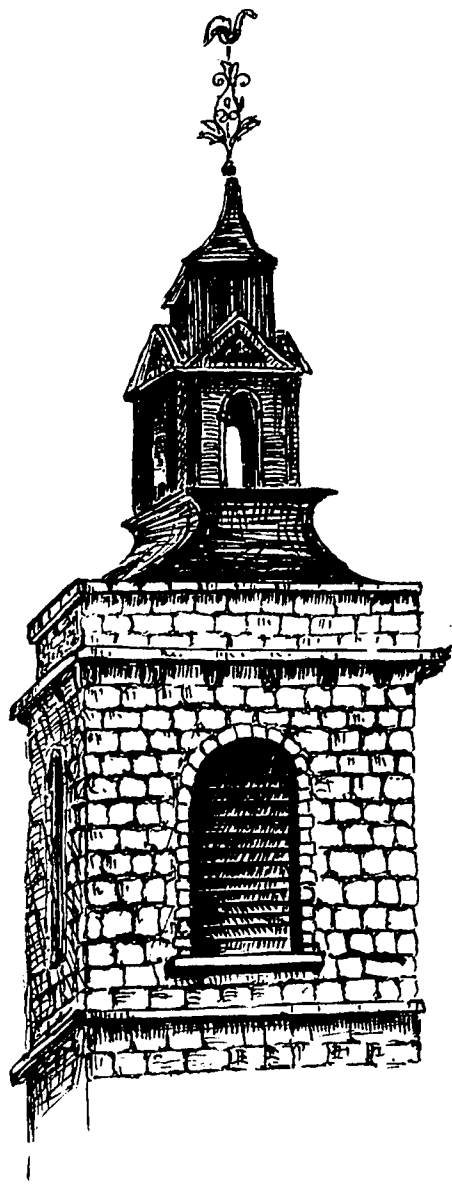
1690	Jan 7	5040	Bob Triples	College Jths.
1731	May 15	5040	Gran. Calers	do
1741	Apr 7	5200	Gx. T. B. Royal	Eastern Sch.
	May 30	5000	do	College Jths.
1749	Dec. 5	5040	Bob Major	Union Sch.
1750	Feb. 2	5166	Gran. Calers	Eastern Sch.
	Feb. 19	5040	Eastern B. Royal	do
1751	Jan. 28	5094	Gran. Calers	Union Sch.
1752	Dec 31	6390	do	College Jths.
1776	May 13	5075	do	"ancient" C. J.
1777	Feb. 19	5232	Gx. T. B. Royal	College Jths
	Feb 11	5280	Bob Royal	London Jths.
1793	Dec 10	5111	Gran Calers	Jr. Cumberland
1837	May 8	5040	do	S. James's Sch.
1844	Jan 29	5021	do	do.

Jan 28. 1750 5094 Gran Calers  
Union Scholars

853  
St. Stephen,  
Coleman Street.

---

St Stephen's Coleman  
Street was originally  
a chapel in the parish  
of St. Olaves Jewry,  
and was incorporated  
a parish church in



the 7<sup>th</sup> year of King Edward IV. It then  
possessed three or four bells for in some statutes  
drawn up in 1467 the duties of the clerks  
and rector in ringing them are carefully  
defined. These statutes are entitled -  
Statuta De officio Clericorum et quomodo



864

se habebunt erga Curatū presbiteros et  
pochianos omnes. The clerkes duties include  
the following - Item. they shal be redy  
to mynister Potys, vestments, Chalys, and  
all other thyngs necessary to the Curate  
in the morn masse psie, and to alle other  
psie of the saide chirche that is to pay \*\*\*\*\*  
to ryngge iij pulys w' the Last Bells to the  
morne masse and be for the Last fel warme  
the morn masse psie and ask hym if  
shal ryngge alle in. And so to do to the  
Curate or his Deute on sondays and holidays  
after the gode custom of London. Item, they  
shall open the Chirche dores in pome at  
vj of the belle and orden fresh water, &  
wyne and bredde. And ryng to morn  
masse i pome at v of the belle in wynter  
at halfe hower be fore vj, so that the

265

masse be payd at vij. Item, thei shal  
help the morn masse pste to paye masse in  
a purpelis and at hye masse dayly. \* \* \* \*  
Thei shall be pedy to ryng to all man of  
divine puse at dewe our assygned of  
the Curate or his debite, affter the use and  
the custom of London the Cite of. And  
not to ryng the Caste pste unto the Curate  
or his debite be p'sent.

The Scolers devtee - \* \* \* \* And he shal  
Rynge Curpe whan it go rounge wt one  
bell and call foo help whan it go rounge  
wt moo. " (504)

When Holy Trinity Priory at Aldgate  
was pulled down five of its bells were sold  
to St. Stephens and the inventory of the goods  
and ornaments of the latter church, taken  
in the sixth year of King Edward the Sixth

255

shows that it then possessed "8 bells  
and a paunce bell" (505) They were added to in  
following years but all were destroyed when  
the Church was burnt in 1666.

In 1674-81 the building was restored by  
Sir Christopher Wren at a cost of £4020-16-8.  
St Stephens was one of the first of the new churches  
to have a ringing peal, and in 1693 James  
Bartlett supplied a ring of eight of which the  
treble, second, third, fifth and sixth are  
still in the tower. John Weylett a little  
known founder who at different times worked  
in various parts of south England recast  
some of the others. (506) The present clock bell  
was by Anthony Bartlett in 1672 and  
was probably the bell that was used temporarily  
while the Church was rebuilding

857

The first peal on the bells was 5040  
Changes of Bob Triples, rung by the College  
Youths on August 21 1731 and Conducted  
by William Laughton who at the time  
held the office of steward. The next  
recorded peal was 5040 Changes of Bob Major  
by the Eastern Scholars in 1742, and a  
rather curious <sup>work</sup> of this performance was cut  
by some one on the lead roof of the church.

"Laurence Kempton Steeple keeper 1761.

Tuesday \*\*\* 12 1741 was rung in this  
steeple by the Society of Eastern Scholars a  
Complete peal of 5040 Bob Major. I. Hamwaring  
R. Butterworth 2 I Newell 3 W. Goodman 4  
T. Bennett 5 W. Lovell 6 Jn Bradshaw 7  
H. I \*\*\* Tenor Completed in 3 hours and  
10 minutes (507) This account is confirmed  
by the entry in the peal book, but close

218  
by is scratched, "This is a lye as pure  
as ever the performers lived". Whether this  
is an echo of some dispute regarding the  
truth of the feat or merely an idle or spiteful  
remark by some unknown person, we  
cannot tell. Laurence Kempton's name  
is probably of later date and has no  
connection with the other writing.

In 1747 the Eastern Scholars rang another  
feal of Bob Major in the Tower and after  
that there are no more recorded feals  
on the bells until the early years of the  
nineteenth century when the St. James's  
Society rang four or five feals of Grandine  
Triples. Of more recent performances the  
most interesting was the first feal of  
London Surprise Major in the City of London

862

It was rung by a band from Brighton  
belonging to the Sussex County Association  
and conducted by George Williams. The  
date was January 12<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Copy of Peal Board (652)

SOCIETY OF ST. JAMES'S YOUTHS.

On Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1827 was rung in this  
Steeple by the above Company a true and complete  
Peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES consisting of  
5040 changes in three hours and 11 minutes  
being the first Peal rung in this Tower for  
80 years.

Performed by

JAS PLATT	1.	THOS TOLLADAY	6
JOSH LADLEY	2.	GEO. SMITH	6
GEO POTTER	3.	W.B. WHITE	7
WM. ATHERTON	4.	WM. HOLWORTHY	Tenor

Conducted by the above WM. ATHERTON.

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85

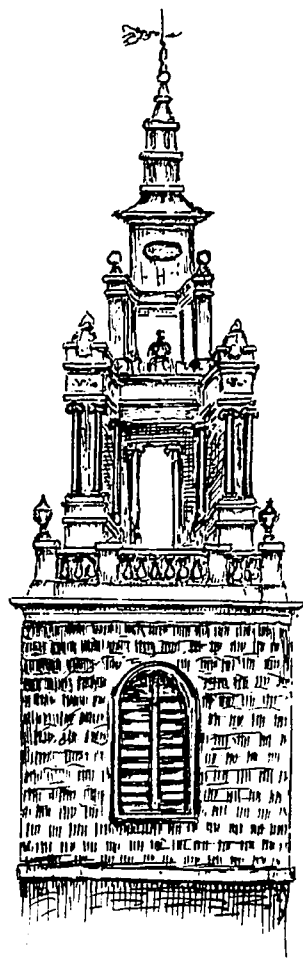
Peals rung at St Stephen's, Coleman Street

1731	Aug 21	5040	Bob Triples	College Yths.
1742	Jan 12	5040	Bob Major	Eastern Sch.
1747	Oct 4	5040	do	do
1827	Apr 2	5040	Gran. Trip.	St James'
	Dec 3	5040	do	do.
1829	Apr 1	5040	do.	do.
1830	June 9	5040	do	do.
1839	Oct 29	5040	do.	do.

87.

St. Stephen,  
Halbrook.

---



The old church  
which was built on  
a new site in 1439  
contained "four bells  
and one small bell in  
the steeple" (508) It was burnt in the fire of 1666  
and restored by Wren in 1672-1679 at a cost  
of £7652-0-0. It is one of the most beautiful  
and characteristic of his churches. In the  
steeple is a bell cast by Robert Shott  
which survived the fire. (509)

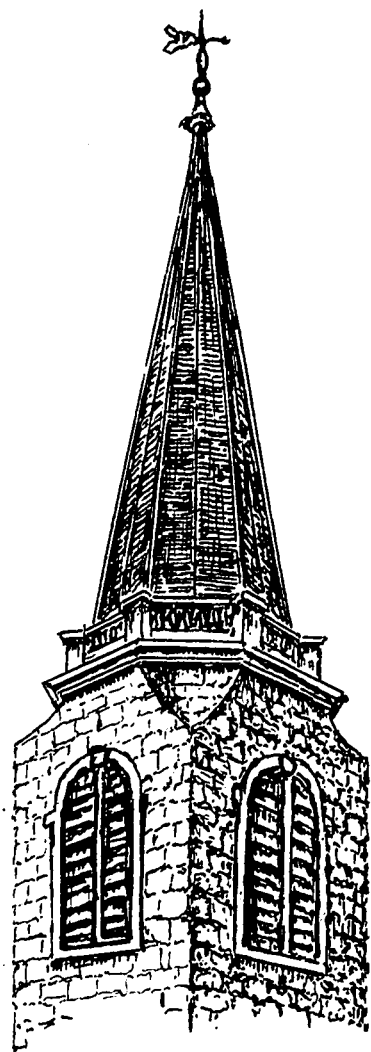


816

St Swithin,  
London Stone.

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This church stands  
in Candlewick Street  
or as it is now called  
Cannon Street, and  
is of very ancient  
foundation. It was



enlarged and the steeple rebuilt in 1420,  
and at the time of Edward VI possessed  
"iiii; foure bells and a paunce bell."

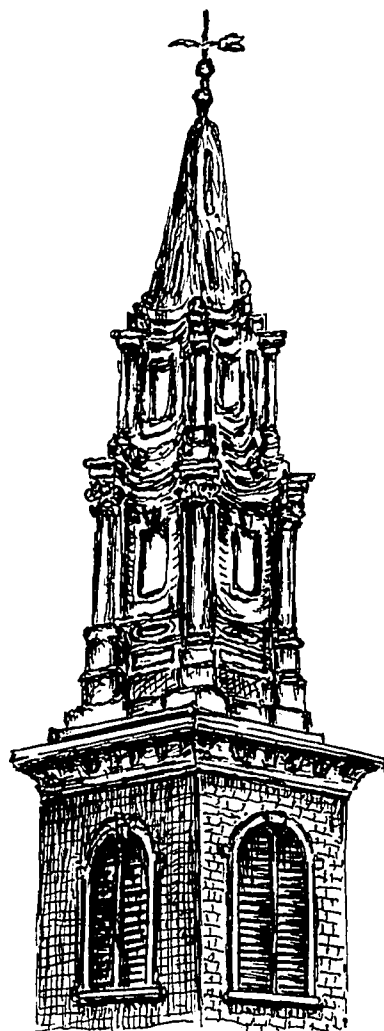
Destroyed by the fire in 1666 it was rebuilt  
by Wren in 1677-87, at a cost of £4687-4-6,

and now contains five bells, one  
of them by James Bartlet being dated  
1680.

St Thomas Apostle. This parish church stood in Knightunder Street. An early benefactor was Sir William Littlebury a paller and merchant of the staple who filled the office of mayor in 1487. How says that King Edward IV re-named him Horne "because he was a most excellent blower in a horn" When he died he was buried in the church and by his will provided for "four new bells of good tune and pound", but his bequest was not carried out. There was however in 1552 a ring of five and a sanctus bell. <sup>(514)</sup> The church was destroyed in the fire of 1666 and was not rebuilt.

895  
St. Vedast,  
Foster Lane.

---



This church which  
was also called St.  
Faustiers was rebuilt  
in the early years of the  
sixteenth Century. Only  
a fragment remains  
of the inventory of the goods and ornaments  
made in the reign of King Edward the Sixth  
and that fragment contains no reference to  
the bells. <sup>(515)</sup> The church was badly damaged  
in the great fire of 1666 but was repaired  
and rebuilt, for the greater part on the old

by Wren. The steeple remained standing until 1694 when owing to the injury it had sustained it had to be taken down and re-erected. The present tower, 160 feet high and 20 feet square was finished in 1697, and is one of the most graceful in London. It contains a ring of six bells, tenor 18 cwt in E, cast by John Darbie of Ipswich in 1671 some of which have since been recast

Inscriptions.

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Treble. | GLORY TO GOD ON HIGH 16                             |
| 2.      | FEARE GOD HONOR THE KING                            |
| 3.      | PETER PICKORING IOHN DARRVNT<br>CHVRCHVARDENS 1671. |
| 4.      | THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1777                   |
| 5.      | IOHN DARBIE MADE ME 1671.                           |
| Tenor   | R: PHELPS FECIT 1726.                               |



B.

## The Churches of the City of Westminster.

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The City of Westminster originally was the district round the Abbey and the royal palace. It was all included within the parish of St. Margaret from which later on St. Martin's parish was separated. Between Westminster and London lay the parishes of St. Clement, Dances, and St. Mary's, the Temple, the liberties of the Savoy, and Whitefriars, the latter an Alsatia or sanctuary of criminals and broken men, where the king's law and the judges' writ did not run. St. Mary's Church was

pulled down in the sixteenth Century  
 by the Duke of Somerset to make room and  
 material for his new palace. It stood on  
 a different site from the present St. Mary's -  
 in the Strand and we have no information  
 as to what bells it possessed. At the Savoy  
 there evidently was a ringing peal for in  
 1553 a grant was made by the Council of  
 all implements and utensils of the house  
 of Bridewell and hospital of Savoy, reserving  
 one great bell and one little one to the  
 Chapel of the hospital. <sup>(526)</sup> No doubt St. Clement's  
 also had some bells but all the Edwardian  
 inventories for the Westminster Churches have  
 perished.

In the eighteenth Century several important  
 Churches were built such as St. John's, St.



George's, Hanover Square, St. Anne's  
 Soho, and St. James's Piccadilly but as none  
 of them has a ring of bells, they do not  
 concern us here. <sup>(517)</sup> Nor do the many Churches  
 erected in the nineteenth Century, although  
 four of them - St. Gabriel and St. Barnabas,  
 Gimlico, St. John Wallion Road, and St. Stephen  
 Rochester Row have bells.

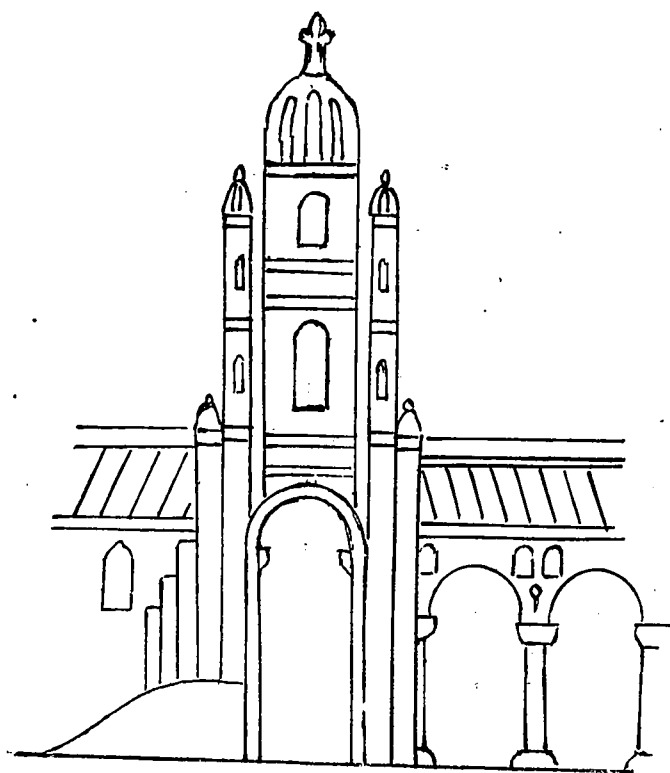
## Westminster Abbey.

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The great abbey  
church which

King Edward  
the Confessor

built on the Isle of Thorney had a  
tower at the crossing and two at the  
west end; and one of the latter (probably  
the northern) contained bells. In  
1245 Henry III pulled down the eastern  
part of the church and by 1269 the  
choir and one bay beyond had been



From the Bayeux Tapestry.

rebuilt as we see it now; but the old nave and its towers stood for many years longer. In 1375 the reconstruction of the nave was begun, but it was not until 1505 that it was completed.

It is very remarkable that though the building was spread over so long a time the original design was adhered to, and before the nave was completed in almost the earliest Gothic style, Henry the Seventh's Chapel at the east end of the building was being built in almost the latest Gothic style. The lower part of the north west tower was finished in 1523 by John Islip, the last of the great pre-reformation abbots, who

Carried it up to the top of the  
 clerestory, but it seems that the Norman  
 towers were still standing until shortly  
 before that time and contained the abbey  
 bells; for in 1492-3 the Chief Carpenter  
 Richard Russell was employed "about  
 the repairs to the great bellwheel in the  
 small bell tower" <sup>459</sup><sub>450</sub>

From the time of its foundation the  
 Abbey possessed bells worthy of its importance  
 and Pimeonis Simon a travelling monk  
 who visited London and Westminster in  
 1322 remarked that "here are five bells  
 the first in the world for size and of  
 admirable sound." <sup>(520)</sup>

The first definite account we have  
 of the bells is in the Close Rolls of Henry III

for 1230 which records instructions given to Edward Odorn or Odson to provide for the Abbey Church of Westminster a bell bigger than any previously cast at his foundry. In the following year a further Commission instructed Edward of Westminster (probably the same man) to make a small bell that shall be in tune with the great bell. Twenty years later in 1252 he was instructed to cause a great bell to be hung to celebrate the eve of the approaching Feast of St. Edward.

The importance that was attached to the bells is shown by an illustration by Matthew Paris in an illuminated manuscript in the British Museum where

four great bells are shown in front  
 of the Church; and also by a grant  
 dated March 8, 1255, to the Brethren  
 of the Guild of Westminster appointed  
 to ring the great bells of Westminster  
 that they and their successors shall  
 receive yearly 100s at the Exchequer  
 for the ringing until the king provide  
 for them in land or rent to that  
 yearly value. And that they have all  
 the liberties and free Customs which  
 they had from the time of Edward the  
 Confessor. (530) (839)

It is a pity that we have no further  
 information about this guild. Evidently  
 from the last sentence it was an old one

though perhaps we need not take  
 it as conclusive evidence that it was  
 founded as far back as Edwards'  
 reign. It has been assumed by writers  
 that it was one of many such guilds  
 of ringers in medieval times, but that  
 is very doubtful. I have found no  
 evidence of any other guild whose duties  
 or privileges primarily included ringing.  
 The privilege granted to the Guild of  
 Saddlers of ringing the bells of St. Martin's  
 le Grand at the obsequies of a deceased  
 brother was a different thing altogether;  
 for though the members probably rang  
 the bells themselves on those occasions  
 they were not otherwise interested in

ringing. It was rather as if a 887  
modern club was allowed the free use  
of the organ of a parish church at the  
funeral of one of its members. (849)

There are several instances of regulations (533)  
in churches for the ringing of the bells  
but they concern persons who were the  
servants of the parish or monastery. 534  
We have been told that in medieval  
times the bells were regarded as such  
sacred objects that only men in clerical  
orders were allowed to ring them, and  
that sometimes the ringers had to be  
vested in surplices. (804) (535) (854) There is little evidence  
for this view and it is not at all  
likely. We must remember that almost



Everyone who held an office, even the humblest, connected with the Church was in some minor orders. The "dekyne" who in 1462 were ordered to ring the bells at Holy Trinity Coventry <sup>(33)</sup> were no more than the equivalent of the post-reformation parish clerks and the directions regulating their service are similar to the almost exactly contemporary orders relating to the clerks of St. Stephen's Coleman Street.

In the fifteenth century the general custom was for the clerk to be responsible for the ringing of the bells at the proper times. He or his assistant performed that duty at the daily services. He

looked after the bells, oiled them,  
 saw to the ropes and bauldricks and engaged  
 the ringers when the bells had to be rung  
 in peal. Later on these duties were shared  
 by the pesson. In status and duties there  
 is practically no difference between them  
 and the steeple keepers who existed down to  
 modern times <sup>(539)</sup> (541)

We have no information about the  
 custom prior to the fifteenth century, but  
 we may assume that it was not dissimilar.  
 In the monastic houses the ringing would  
 naturally be done by some of the monks  
 or lay brothers and neither in abbey  
 cathedral nor parish church was there  
 any need or room for a special guild

of ringers. It was of the essence of  
a guild that it should have a corporate  
and independent existence, and be subject  
to no other authority than its own rules.  
We may assume therefore that the Westminster  
Guild was unique, that it was not part  
of the ordinary monastic establishment,  
but arose and existed in peculiar circumstances.  
Most likely it had nothing to do with  
ringing the bells for the abbey services but  
was a royal foundation, paid by the  
Kings exchequer and was concerned solely  
with ringing done to celebrate royal events,  
triumphs, coronations, funerals, obits and  
the like. It may even be that it had

nothing whatever to do with the Abbey bells and that the "great bells of Westminster" were those which hung in the great clochard or bell tower which once stood on the site of what is now the Middlessex Guildhall. But all is guess work. We do not know when the guild was founded or how long it lasted; what its duties were or who were its members. There is just this one entry in the Patent Rolls, and the rest is silence.

Writers generally have assumed that the clochard was part of the Abbey buildings and contained the Abbey bells until they were removed to the north-west tower by Abbot Islip. But the fact

892

appears to have been otherwise. The  
bells which hung in the clochard to the  
north-east of St. Paul's, belonged not to  
the cathedral but to the Jesus Chapel,  
and the Westminster clochard and its  
bells, though they were within the Abbey  
precincts, belonged to St. Stephen's Chapel  
and <sup>were</sup> in effect appurtenances of the royal  
palace. How says that King Edward III  
in the year 1347 <sup>(542)</sup> rebuilt and endowed the  
chapel and also built to its use, "though  
out of the palace Court, some distance west  
in the little panceynary a strong clochard  
of pline and timber covered with lead  
and placed therein three great bells." The

542 893  
tower however is earlier than that,  
though Edward probably reconstituted it.

It is mentioned in a charter of the first  
Edward dated December 3rd 1290 and  
may be assumed in an entry in the  
Close Rolls of Henry III. Where an order  
is given to Edward of Westminster to  
make four bells out of the metal remaining  
from the great bell of Westminster, for  
the chapel at Windsor. Two of the bells  
were to be similar to two in the royal  
Chapel of St. Stephen and two larger. The  
great bell mentioned had evidently just  
been cast by Edward the bell founder  
and is the lineal ancestor of the present  
great bell of St. Pauls.

A description of the  
belfry has survived  
though the reconstruction  
of the upper part and  
the spire is conjectural

It was a most  
massive structure  
seventy two and a

half feet square

and only sixty feet

high. It was divided into two stories

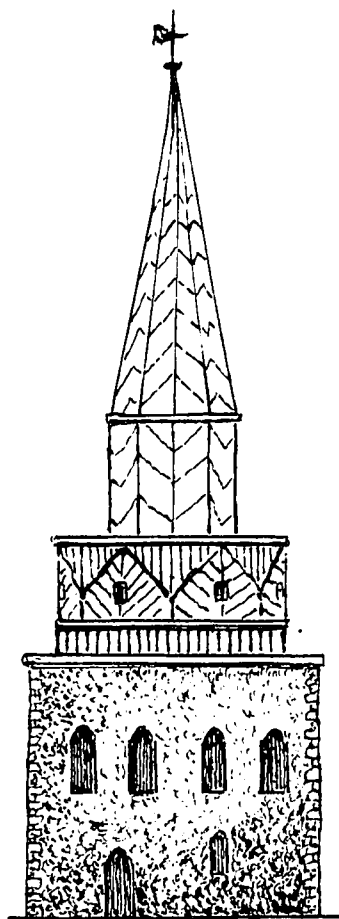
the walls in the lower being twenty-five

feet thick and in the upper three feet.

At the top was a wooden structure lead

covered and surmounted by a spire; the

whole something like the old bell-tower



895

at Salisbury. There was but one door, and four windows in the upper storey.

Here according to Hinc, Edward III hung three great bells which were usually rung at coronations, triumphs, funeral of princes and their obits. Of these bells men fabled that their ringing soured all the drunks in the town, and that about the biggest was written -

King Edward made Me  
Thirtie thousand and three  
Take me downe and vrey me  
And more shall ye find me.

" But says Hinc, "these bells being taken down indeed were found all three not to weigh twenty thousand"



No doubt, as I have suggested, this was all largely fable, but there certainly were some big bells in the tower and John Norden says that the biggest was taken down and sold by Henry VIII before his expedition to Boulogne. - A very old ancient and old building and strong now made a dwelling place. Sometime a tower wherein was a bell of wonderful bigness weighing as is reported, <sup>33,000</sup> lbs. and was rung only at coronations, which bell King Henry VIII employed to other uses at his going to Boulogne. (543)

Here again there must be some fable for whatever happened to the smaller

80-

bells it seems certain that the big  
one either that cast by Edward of  
Westminster in 1250 or its successor.  
remained in the clochard until 1698  
when it was sold to the Commissioners  
for building and adorning S. Pauls.  
On its way to the City it was broken  
by a fall and was recast by Philip  
Wightman. Its inscription was -

TERTIVS APTAVIT ME REX EDVARDVS  
VOCAVIT. <sup>522</sup>

About this bell several legends were  
told. "Call to mind" wrote Anthony  
Munday in *Sundry Examples*, "the  
grievous and sudden earthquakes  
happning heer in London. The great  
bell of Westminster tolled of itself.

Whitehall shook. A piece of  
 Temple Church fell downe." And John  
 Gee in The Foote out of the Snare - "When  
 Father Campion came an apostle into  
 England there was an earthquake.  
 Nay the great bell of Westminster filled  
 of itself." But he adds "that I think  
 is a loud ringing eye." <sup>545</sup>

In the reign of William the Third  
 a soldier on sentry duty was charged  
 with sleeping at his post at Windsor  
 Castle. His defence was that he could  
 not have been asleep because he heard  
 the Westminster bell strike thirteen  
 instead of twelve at midnight. Evidence  
 was produced that the clock did strike

once too many and the man was  
 acquitted. <sup>(805)</sup> It is pointed out that though  
 the truth of the story has often been  
 doubted the striking thirteen is,  
 mechanically, quite possible. <sup>(547)</sup> But whether  
 it is easier to believe that a bell at  
 Westminster could be heard at Windsor  
 than that an earthquake could cause  
 any bell to sound without laying the  
 the steeple and every building in the  
 district in ruins, is another matter.

The belfry was pulled down in 1750. <sup>(548)</sup>  
 The upper steeple and the spire which  
 Alexander the carpenter and William  
 the plumber had erected in 1248 were <sup>(549)</sup>

900

Long since gone and the building  
had degenerated into a store for a tavern.  
Just before it was destroyed William  
Spinkely made a survey of it and his  
description is printed in the first  
volume of Archaeologia. <sup>502</sup> "They were 'he  
says' a long time demolishing it with  
great labour and expense. It consisted  
mostly of rag-stone from Lussac. The  
mortar made of the same burnt into  
lime. No rock could be harder. And  
sometimes they attempted to blow up  
parts of it with gunpowder." <sup>(56)</sup>

When the Saddlers Guildhall was  
built the foundations of the belfry were

Laid bare.

901

To return to the bells in the Abbey itself. In 1388 an inventory was taken and it shows that there were then two bells called Saint Dunstan's bells. *Altera vero magna de Calign Campanae autem sunt due vocate Campanae sancti Dunstani.* These evidently were not hung in the tower with the ringing peal, but were used as sacring bells and since they are said to have been made of Latten may have been large hand bells. In 1540 when the monastery was dissolved there is a record - "sold ij bellys called Saynt Dunstons"

bells." (551)

Until the last restoration of the peal in 1919 the pebble of the ring of six was a bell cast by Richard Wymlish about 1300 and so was one of the ring that hung in the Norman tower of Edward the Confessor's Church. When the octave was completed it was found impossible to tune it to the new bells, and so it was taken down from the tower and placed in the Abbey museum in the Undercroft. It bears the inscription  
XPE : AUDI : NOS.

Richard Wymlish was one of a family of founders who lived at Aldgate and as we have seen, he cast bells for the neighbouring Holy Trinity Priory in the

reign of King Edward the Second. 1312 1313

Abbot Islip completed the lower part of the western front in 1523. The southern tower was built only to the height of the aisle roof, the northern to the height of the clerestory, the bell chamber being below the pitch of the nave roof. To this day the windows of this bell chamber have courres.

Henry the Seventh's Chapel was finished in 1519 and except for the western towers the whole fabric of the church was completed about 1530. Ten years later the monastery was dissolved and its treasures seized by the crown. A year before the blow fell an agreement was



made "between William Abbot of 90/4  
Westminster of the one partie and John  
Whyle and John Saunders of Ryding <sup>(861)</sup>  
bellfounders of the other partie for the  
new casting of ij belles of the ryng of  
the said monastirie that ys to say the  
thirde belle and the fyfthe belle of the  
same ryng." Evidently there was already  
a ring of six in the tower.

During the Reformation period nothing  
seems to have been done to the bells,  
but when the great revival of bellfounding  
came in Elizabeth's reign the Abbey  
under Dean Goodman employed Robert  
Axt to put its ring in order. Axt  
recast Saunders five bells, the third in

in 1583 and the fifth in 1598; and <sup>295</sup>  
in the following year he replaced the tenor  
with the Rus bell which had been  
rejected by the parish of St. Michael's  
Cornhill, as I have already related. <sup>(1598)</sup>

The thought strikes us whether the  
contract with Saunders was actually  
carried out. It may have been broken  
by the catastrophe of 1540 and the two  
cracked or bad bells may have hung  
in the tower until the time of Dean  
Goodman.

Throughout the seventeenth century the  
ring as left by Abel hung in the unfinished  
Abbey tower. A manuscript dated  
about 1685 by W. Boghurst says "of

Bells in ye Abbey slepe 6 belles,  
ye bigest is 5 yards in compas wanting  
2 inches." <sup>56</sup>

In the early days of the eighteenth  
Century extensive repairs to the whole  
church had to be undertaken with  
Sir Christopher Wren as architect. Wren  
wished not only to complete the western  
towers but also to add a central spire  
and a wooden model made to his  
designs is preserved in the Abbey museum.  
His actual work however was confined  
to thorough repairs to the vaulting and  
the practically entire recasing of the  
exterior.

Langhlon and the Ramblers visited

the steeple in 1734 and he wrote his <sup>own</sup> impressions of it. He said that "they are about to care and raise the towers above the roof if they can raise up money enough." It was strange that for such a space of years they should have stood unfinished. The bells were an ancient peal of six, the fifth ranting and jolly the tenor dull and melancholy, and some of the other bells very dull and as bad as the tenor. But when the towers had been raised higher they were to be recast and made into a ring of ten. The Ramblers rang 720 of Plain Bob and eighteen score of College Single, and attempted a touch of Treble Bob when

the fifth rope broke. Until the bells 298  
were put in order Loughlin declared he  
did not intend to go there again.

It is likely this was the only change  
ringing that was done on the bells for  
many a long year, but they were rung  
regularly for there was plenty of paid  
ringing. The ringers bill for 1704 is  
preserved in the Abbey muniment room  
and was printed by Sir Frederick Bridge  
in his book of reminiscences. (170)

Nicholas Hawksmoor succeeded  
Wren as surveyor and drew up an  
elaborate plan for the completion of the  
west front which fortunately was not  
accepted. He died in 1736 and after

900

that the present towers were built  
by John James, and finished in 1745. It  
is not known who actually designed them -  
Wren, Hawksmoor, and James have each  
had the credit - and they have been severely  
criticised. But though the "gothic" details  
are decidedly eighteenth century the  
general proportions are excellent.

As stated by Loughlin an augmentation  
of the ring of bells was considered and  
it is said that a heavy peal of twelve  
was contemplated but actually little  
was done. In 1738 a chapter order  
was issued to Richard Phelps directing  
him to construct a new frame of.

sufficient dimensions to contain <sup>(559)</sup> eight bells at a cost of £109-3-6, and in the following year Phelps and Lester recast Robert Skot's Rus bell, and the sanctus bell. In 1743 Lester recast the pebble.

For the nearly two centuries there is nothing more to say about the Abbey bells. They were rung regularly on certain days in the year and no doubt were patched up now and then. But the ringers who visited the steeple went only for the money they got, the Dean and Chapter and the lesser officials neither cared nor thought about the bells and by the beginning of the present century

911

the belfry was in a filthy and dangerous Condition, a by-word and a reproach to the most famous Church in England. (558)

In 1919 the ring was restored and the octave completed by Shears and Hainbanks who cast the present four smallest bells.

At one time a small bell hung in the gable of the south transept and was regularly used. It is now in the museum.

The service use of the bells has come down from little altered from very early times. In the nineteenth Century it was as follows. On Sundays half an hour before 10 A.M. and 3 P.M. the fourth and fifth were chimed for



five minutes. Then if there were a <sup>sermon</sup> forty strokes were tolled on the tenor, and at fifteen minutes to the hour the small bell in the gable was chimed until the hour.

On Week days the bell in the gable was tolled from 7-30 to 7-45 A.M. and for Celebrations of Holy Communion; The same bell was tolled daily at 8-45 and 1-30 for three minutes after which forty strokes were given on the tenor. The great bell was never tolled for deaths or funerals except for a member of the royal family or for the dean.

The bill for the paid ringing at the  
Abbey during the year 1704, copied from  
a manuscript in the Abbey muniment room  
by Sir Frederick Bridge. (25)

---

The Ringers' Bill begun in February y<sup>e</sup> 6.  
for ringing for queen Anns  
birthday ordered by my Lord 00 06 08  
March 8. for ringing for queen Anns  
proclamation day ordered by  
my Lord 00 06 08  
April 23 for ringing for queen Anns  
Coronation day ordered by  
my Lord 00 06 08  
May 29 For Ringing for King Charles  
restoring him the Crowne 00 06 08  
July 2 For Ringing for the great newes  
for the taking of Downmaworth  
ordered by my Lord 00 13 4  
Aug 15 For Ringing for the great newes  
for the taking of Count Pallard  
ordered by my Lord 00 06 08

- 914
- Aug 14 For Ringing for the taking of  
gibraltow ordered by D. Guley 00 06 08
- Sep. 7 For Ringing for the Thanks  
giving day ordered by D. Cranoll 00 06 08
- Sep 14 For Ringing for S. georg rocks  
taking the french fleet ordered  
by D. Cranoll 00 06 08
- Oct 10 For Ringing for the taking of  
ulme ordered by D. Cranoll 00 06 08
- For Ringing the 5 of November  
ordered by my Lord 00 06 08
- Nov 14 For Ringing for queen Catholines  
birth day ordered by my Lord 00 06 08
- 7 For Ringing on quean Elisabeth  
birth day ordered by my Lord 00 06 08
- Nov 28 For Ringing two dayes together
- Nov 29 For the taking of Landon by  
my Lordes order 00 13 04
- Dec 14 For Ringing for my Lord  
Skolburow coming home  
from Flanders 00 06 08

Jan'y 7<sup>th</sup> 2  
1704

Received then the full  
contents of this bill for Ring  
by me  
Giles Jones.

015  
05. 13. 04.

The year 1704 was a great year in the history of England. It was the time of the War of the Spanish Succession, and Marlborough's great march to the Danube which led to the capture of Donauwörth on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and the victory of Blenheim on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Almost at the same time the fleet under Admiral Sir George Rooke captured Gibraltar and fought the French off Velez Malaga. There was cause that year to ring the bells.

The "my Lord" who ordered most of the ringing was the dean who was

also Bishop of Rochester. "D. Cranoli" 216.  
was D. Brevall one of the canons, as was also  
Onley.

# Inscriptions on the Bells.

1. THANKS BE TO GOD WHICH GIVETH US THE VICTORY  
+ FAITH + 1919 + RUTH. MEARS & STAINBANK
2. THERE IS NONE OTHER THAT FIGHTETH FOR US  
1919
3. THE LORD OF HOSTS IS WITH US 1919.
4. DEUS CANTICUM NOVUM CANTABIS TIBI
5. CAMPANIS PATREM LAUDATE SONANTIBUS ALTUM  
O GABRIEL GOODMAN DECANUS WESTMON: 1583
6. THOMAS LESTER OF LONDON MADE ME AND WITH THE  
REST I WILL AGREE 1743
7. CAMPANIS PATREM LAUDATE SONANTIBUS ALTUM  
O GABRIEL GOODMAN DECANUS: 1598.

Tenor REMEMBER JOHN WHILMELL ISABELLA HIS WIFE  
AND WILLIAM RUS WHO FIRST GAVE THIS BELL 1430  
NEW CAST IN JULY 1599 AND IN APRIL 1738.  
RICHARD PHELPS T LESTER FECIT

Old Treble (5 rings of Six) recast T. LESTER MADE ME 1743

Old second XPE : AUDI : NOS :

Sanctus RICHARD PHELPS T LESTER FECIT 1738

Bell formerly in gable of S. Transept, now in Undercroft  
THO<sup>s</sup> LESTER MADE ME 1749

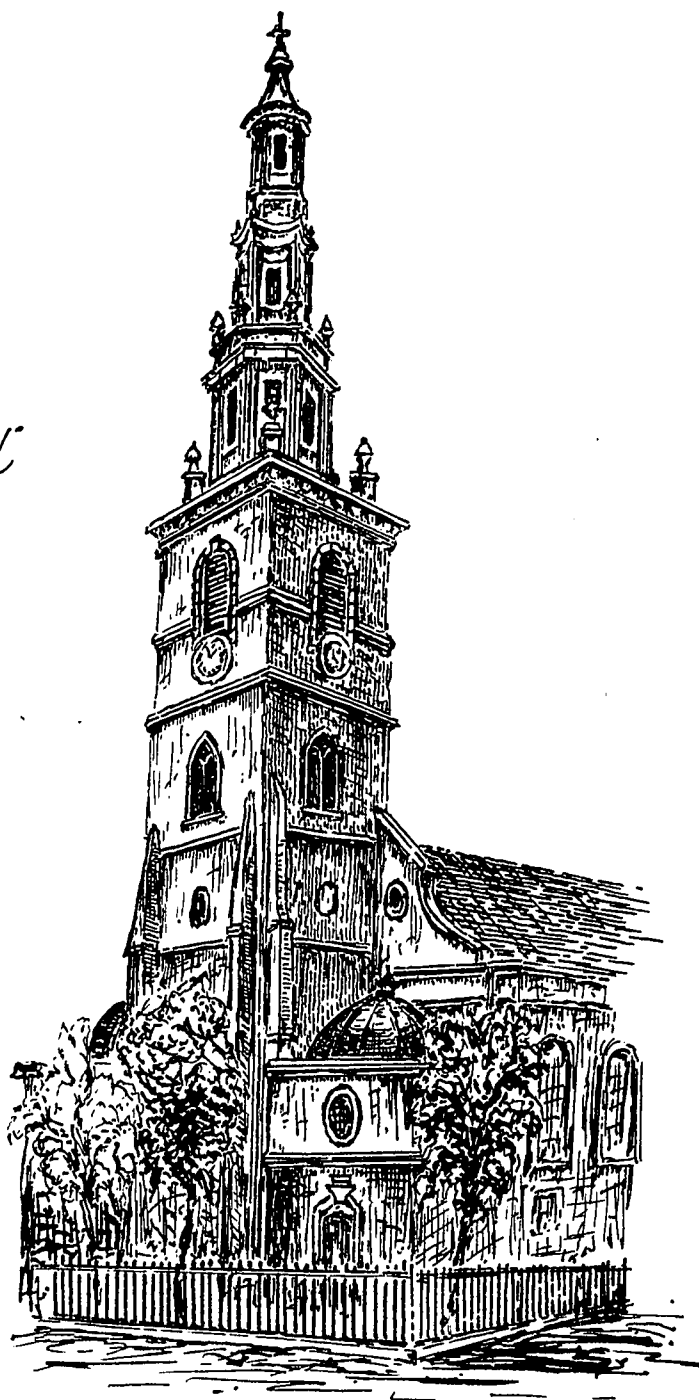
# St Clement Danes.

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The church  
of St Clement's  
was of very  
ancient  
foundation

and is said

to have got its name because Harold, the  
Dane, son of Canute, and others of his  
Countrymen were buried there. In the late  
middle ages the whole of the district between



the cities of London and Westminster including the parish of St Clements, was within the liberties of the Duchy of Lancaster. The dukes' house, the Palace of the Savoy was one of the noblest in the land but during the troublous reign of Richard II it was burnt and utterly destroyed by the London populace in their hatred of John of Gaunt, the king's uncle and leader of one of the political factions of the time. In later years on the site was built the Hospital of the Savoy which was suppressed in the reign of Edward VI, when all the goods including the bells of the chapel, save two, were granted to the citizens of London, towards the furnishing of the Bridewell as a



(562)  
 poor house. The  
 chapel afterwards  
 served as a parish  
 church and still  
 survives.

What bells were  
 in the old church of  
 St Clement's we cannot

say. Towards the end of the seventeenth  
 century the building had become very  
 much dilapidated and in 1680 it was  
 pulled down. Two years later the present  
 church designed by Sir Christopher Wren  
 was finished. The lower stages of the  
 fifteenth century were left standing but



Saxoy Chapel.

were entirely recased with Golland <sup>921</sup>  
stone and in 1719 James Gibbs added  
the spire.

In 1693 William and Philip Wightman  
cast a ring of eight bells for St Clement's  
with a tenor of 24 Cwt. They are the  
best ring by their founders, and the  
writer of the continuation of Stow's Survey  
published in 17 was fully justified  
when he described them as "eight noble  
bells." The Wightmans had just supplied  
a bell for Kensington Palace and on  
the strength of that they called themselves  
"their Majesties' founders." (563)

In 1843 a man named Oliver  
(521)  
added five trebles, the fifth has been

recast, but otherwise Wighams' 922.  
bells are still in the tower. The sanctus  
bell was cast by Robert Mot in 1588.

Although they are one of the earliest  
octaves in London, the bells of St.  
Clement's play a very small part in  
the history of eighteenth century ringing.  
It may be that they did not go very  
well, or it may be that some band  
or society whose records are lost had  
possession of the tower. Probably the  
latter is the more likely, for when  
the College youths rang the first peal  
of which we have any knowledge,  
they did not claim it as the first peal

or even the first feat in the method 923  
in the tower. It is at least likely that  
this was one of the belfries where the  
London Scholars practised.

The College Youths' feat was one of  
Oxford Treble Bob Major, rung on Feby.  
12<sup>th</sup> 1733. Annable Conducted from the  
tower and the band included Gickard,  
Denmore, Laughton, Trenell and Spicer.

The next recorded feat is ten years  
later almost to the day. On February  
13<sup>th</sup> 1743 the Eastern Scholars rang  
Bob Major, and then we have no other  
account until 1760 when the College  
Youths rang another feat of Treble Bob.

In 1839 the head quarters of the St.

924.

James's Society were moved to  
St Clement's and since that time the  
chapel has been one of the most important  
meeting places of the London Exercise.  
This in the first instance was mainly  
due to two men, Thomas Tolladay and  
George Stockham, the latter of whom  
was for many years steeplekeeper.

Yeal Boards at St. Clement's. (652)

924a

St. James's Society. On Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup> 1829 eight members of the above Society rang in this Steeple a true and complete Yeal of Grandfire Triples containing 5040 changes in 3 hours and 12 minutes. Performed

Cy - Thos. Melbie	1.	Thos. Tolladay	5.
Thos. Pollitt	2.	Edw. Lansdell	6.
Sam <sup>l</sup> . Collins	3.	Wm. Dunn	7.
Geo. Smith	4.	Wm. Holdsworth	8.

Conducted by Thos. Tolladay.

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On Thursday Dec<sup>r</sup>. 17<sup>th</sup> 1829 was rung in this Steeple by the Society of College Youths a Triple Yeal of 5120 Changes of Oxford Treble Bob in 3 hours and 32 minutes being upwards of 40 years since a Yeal was rung in this method. The performers were.

James Slickbury	1.	John Newbury	5.
William Dunn	2.	William Bull	6.
James Shasford	3.	Francis Mathew	7.
Daniel Beasley	4.	Samuel Thurston	8.

Conducted by Samuel Thurston.

9246

St James's Society. On Tuesday  
March 1. 1836 the parochial ringers of St  
Clement Danes rung a Peal of Grandsire  
Triples 5040 Changes in 3 hours and 10  
minutes by the following persons

G. Stockham	1.	C. Googee	5.
Chas. Clary	2.	R. Turner	6.
J. Rogers	3.	T. Tolladay	7.
C. Randall	4.	J. Fairburn	8.

Conducted by Mr Thomas Tolladay.

---

St James's Society. On Monday April  
1st 1840 eight members of the above society  
rung in this Steeple a true and complete  
Peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major consisting  
of 5280 Changes in 3 hours and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  minutes  
The performers were -

H. H. Burwash	1.	G. Stockham	5.
T. Britten	2.	H. Lobb	6.
J. Fairbairn	3.	C. Wilson	7.
C. Googee	4.	A. G. Frost	8.

The peal was Conducted by H. H. Burwash.

924C

St James's Society. On Monday  
 Jan'y 3<sup>rd</sup> 1844 was rung a Complete Shuffled  
 Deal of Grandeur Triples Consisting of 5040  
 Changes in memory of Mr T. Tolladay who  
 died October 18<sup>th</sup> 1843. The Deal was performed  
 in 3 hours and 10 minutes by.

J. Rogers	1.	T. Burion	5.
C. Clay	2.	P. Symondson	6.
G. Hockham	3.	R. Hayworth	7.
C. Nelson	4.	A. G. Frost	8.

Conducted by G. Hockham. Being the first  
 time of ringing the bells since the new frame  
 was fixed and the recasting of the third bell.

St James's Society. On Easter Monday  
 March 24<sup>th</sup> 1845, ten members of the above  
 Society rang in this Steeple a fine and  
 complete Deal of Grandeur Catens Consisting  
 of 5039 Changes in 3 hours and 30 minutes.

The performers were

J. Pratt	1.	J. Fairbairn	6.
C. Clay	2.	J. Crane	7.
J. Rogers	3.	W. Dunn	8.
T. Burion	4.	R. Haworth	9.
G. Hockham	5.	A. G. Frost	Tenor.

Conducted by G. Hockham. N.B. This being the  
 first Deal on the ten bells.



924d

The College Youths. On Wednesday  
May 14<sup>th</sup> 1845 a fine Peal of Stedman Caters  
Consisting of 6485 Changes was rung in 4  
hours and 25 minutes. This was the first  
Peal in that intricate method ever rung  
upon these bells. The performers were

J. Cox	1.	R. Haworth	6.
A. Ansell	2.	J. Bradley	7.
G. Menday	3.	E. Lansdell	8.
J. Nash	4.	H. Rice	9.
G. Stockham	5.	J. Turner	Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by J. Cox.

The College Youths. This is to Commemorate  
the first Peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal  
Comprising 5000 Changes which was rung  
in this Steeple on Wednesday December  
15<sup>th</sup> 1847 in 3 hours and 35 minutes. The  
performers were

J. Nash	1.	R. Jameson	6.
H. Coolen	2.	J. Bradley	7.
G. Menday	3.	H. Littlechild	8.
J. Cox	4.	E. Lansdell	9.
G. Stockham	5.	R. Haworth	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by George Menday.

9240

St James's Society - On Monday,  
 April 5<sup>th</sup> 1852. The following members rang  
 a fine and complete Peal of Grand sire  
 Bells Consisting of 7127 changes which was  
 accomplished in 4 hours and 41 minutes  
 being the greatest number of changes ever  
 rung on these bells. Performed by

J. Robinson	1.		J. Pratt,	6.
J. Rogers	2.		H. Day,	7.
G. Hockham	3.		J. Crane	8.
F. Marshall	4.		R. Haworth	9.
J. McGill	5.		C. Medlow	Tenor.

Conducted by Geo. Hockham.

---

College Youths. On Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> 1853  
 the undermentioned persons rang on these  
 bells a Peal of Grand sire Bells, comprising  
 5112 changes in 3 hours and 32 minutes

By -

J. Sessions	1.		G. Hockham	6.
T. Pearce	2.		J. Dwigli	7.
R. Jameson	3.		J. Rusion	8.
M. A. Wood	4.		G. E. Ferris	9.
W. Lobb.	5.		J. Beezley	Tenor

Conducted by G. Hockham.

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College Youths. - On Wednesday, March  
23<sup>rd</sup> 1859 was rung a Peal of Stedman  
Caters comprising 5001 changes in 3 hours  
and 27 minutes by,

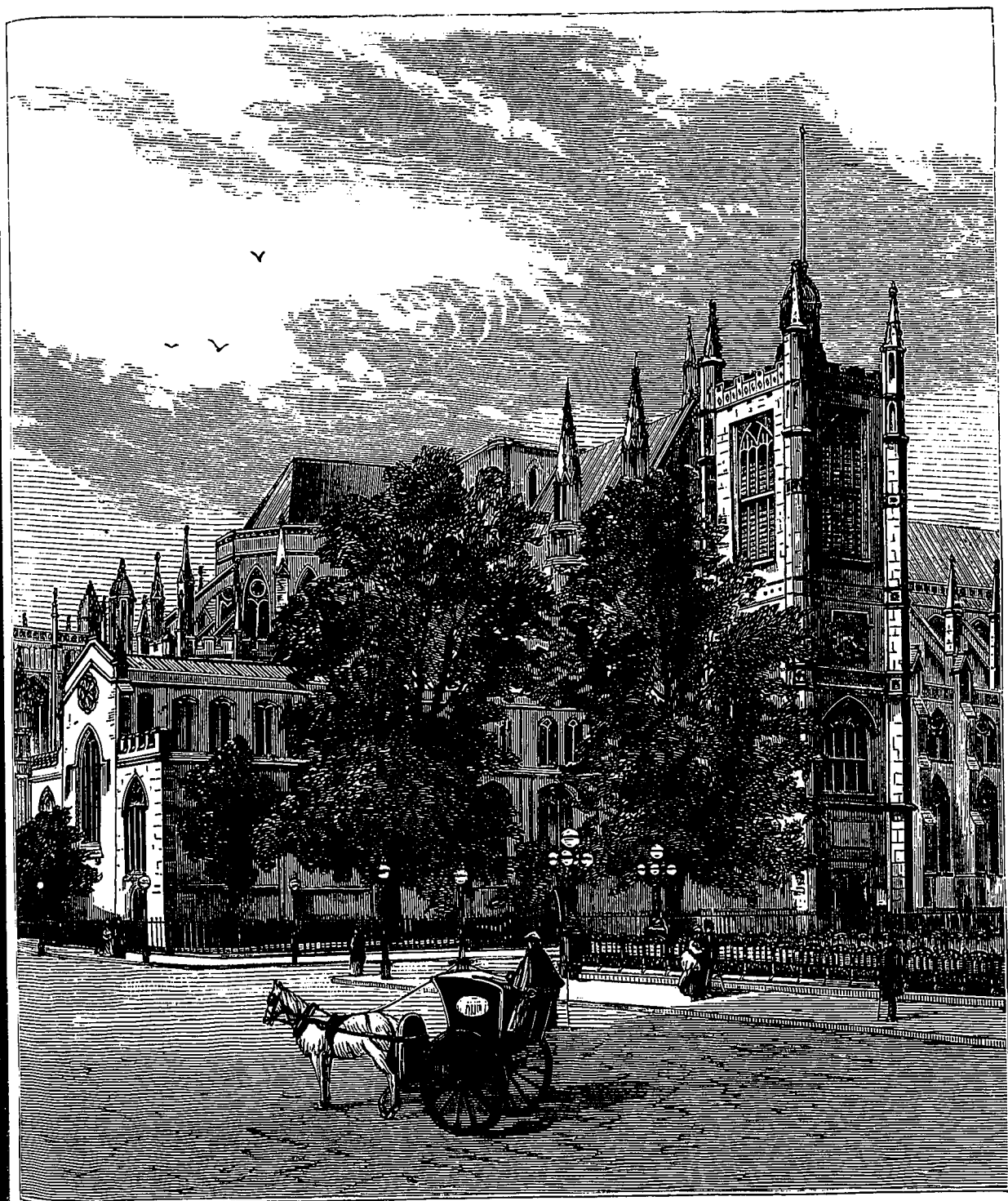
W. Green	1.	T. Denton	6.
R. Jameson	2.	M. Wood	7.
G. Stockham	3.	E. Lansdell	8.
G. Muskeil	4.	J. Dwight	9.
G. Menday	5.	J. Horton	Tenor

Conducted by W. Green.

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Peals rung at S. Clement, Danes.

1733.	Feb 12.	5120	Gx. T. B. Major	College Junths.
1743.	Feb. 13	5040	Rob Major	Eastern Sch.
1760.	Jan 20	5120	Gx. T. B. Major	College Junths.



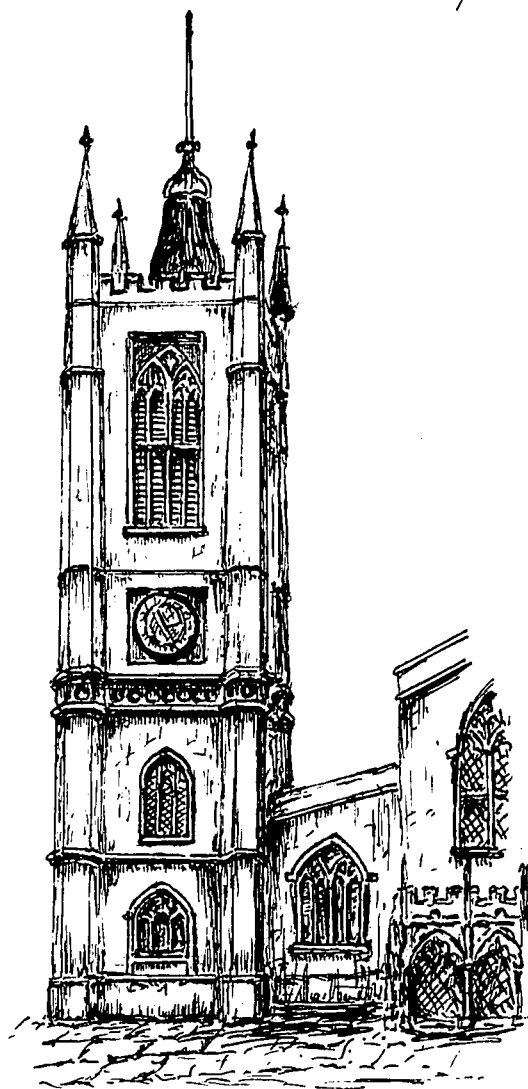
ST. MARGARET, WESTMINSTER.

St. Margaret,  
Westminster

---

According to a  
tradition referred  
to in a fifteenth  
century ~~MS.~~ MS.

in the Abbey muniments



St. Margaret's was founded by Edward the  
Confessor. How relates that there was  
formerly a parish church within the old  
Abbey Church and as this was somewhat  
to the annoyance of the monks, for their  
ease and commodity the king caused it  
to be new builded without. Doubt is

however thrown on this tradition  
by the fact that so far as can be ascertained  
the name and fame of St. Margaret of  
Antioch were unknown in England  
before the time of the Crusades, and it  
was not until the fifteenth Century that  
churches were dedicated in her honour. (564)

In the reign of Edward I the church  
was entirely rebuilt by the parishioners  
and the merchants of the staple except  
the chancel which was rebuilt by the  
Abbey as rector. This church in time  
became ruinous and at the end of the  
fifteenth and the beginning of the  
sixteenth Centuries, when so many of  
the London churches were rebuilt in  
the Perpendicular style, the present

building was erected.

The old tower contained three bells and evidently stood at the west end of the church as was usual in medieval churches. In 1516 the first stone was laid of a new tower, which was also to be a porch, and at the ceremony Master Verdon, Walter Gardiner and other worshipful and well-disposed people of the parish of their charity and good mind gave £6-4-7 towards the cost.

This was the time that parishes all over England were, when they could afford it, increasing the number of their bells to five. One bell was given by Master Tomfrey; and, for the second, gifts of money and metal were collected in the parish.



The old metal collected was by the Commandment of the worshipful of the parish delivered to William Smith founder, in part payment of the new bell, two crasses, and a clapper. It was William Smith (or perhaps his father) who (it will be remembered) was sued by the parish of St Mary-at-Hill on account of a bell he had cast for them. (565)

The old tower evidently was still standing, and payments were laid out for the taking down of the bells and frame, and for setting up of the old frame in the new steeple, and hanging of the bells there, and also for making of the new frame for five bells and for new hanging of the bells."

The normal position of the porch  
in English parish Churches was at the south  
side, and of the tower at the west end.

In the smaller churches of the fourteenth  
Century it <sup>is</sup> unusual to find any door

at all on the north side, and even in  
the large Perpendicular <sup>churches,</sup> where there are both

north and south porches, the latter is  
almost always the principal entrance.

Why St. Margaret's is an exception to  
this rule is easy to see, its position in  
front of the Abbey decided the matter.

But it is not easy to see why the tower  
also was built on the north side. There  
were other churches which had the same  
feature, St. Mary-le-Bow and St. Michael

930

Coventry, for instance, in London,  
and St. Mary Redcliffe in Bristol; but  
in those cases the matter was decided  
by the restricted site. At St. Margaret's  
there was plenty of room to build the  
tower at the west end. Today people  
would object that such a tower would  
obstruct the view of the Abbey, but that  
would hardly be a consideration in the  
fifteenth century. It may be that the  
parishioners wished to use their bells  
without any break, and so kept the old  
tower standing until the new one was  
ready, but that does not strike me as a  
very likely reason.

Although I have no direct evidence  
on the point I suggest that the most

931

likely explanation may be found  
in the relationship between the Abbey  
and the parish church. St. Margaret's  
originally had been built by the monks  
as a humble dependent on the Abbey,  
and they claimed and largely exercised  
rights of control. But, as was usual  
in the many similar churches throughout  
the County, the parishioners resented  
the assumption of inferiority and  
resisted the control. To own and use  
bells was the sign of independence in  
a church and there are many instances  
of disputes between monastic and  
parochial churches over the ringing of  
bells. Nearly always the abbey asserted

that its services were disturbed  
 by the parish bells. <sup>(566)</sup> If this were so at  
 Westminster then we can see why the  
 position of the tower was altered from  
 the west end to the north west corner,  
 for that would put the whole body of the  
 church between the bells and the Abbey  
 choir. <sup>(567)</sup>

The weights of the new five bells at  
 St. Margaret's are given in the churchwardens'  
 accounts for 1527 as follows - the treble,  
 500 lbs; the second, 621 lbs; the third,  
 856 lbs; the fourth 1010 lbs; and the tenor  
 1614 lbs. There was also a pealing bell  
 which after the changes in the ritual  
 of the mass was hung in a turret at  
 the top of the tower probably as at St

(568) 933

Bartholomew the Little and other places, so it could be heard further, and all the people in the parish might know the times of divine service. This turret was erected in 1565, and for the making of it the parish paid John Barrowell £3-6-8.

In 1511 the church possessed "a sacring bell pcelle gilt" which disappeared in the reign of Edward VI, when so much church property was alienated. At that time St. Margaret's narrowly escaped destruction. The Duke of Somerset, Lord Protector of the Realm, intended to build for himself a great mansion on the site of what is now Somerset House, and to provide the ground and materials he confiscated and pulled down

more than one church. <sup>(514)</sup> "Having 934  
cleared the place and projected the intended  
Fabric, the Workmen found that more  
Material would be wanting to go through  
with it than the demolished Church and  
the Houses would afford unto them.  
He therefore resolves for taking down  
the Parish Church of Saint Margaret  
in Westminster and turning the Parishioners  
for the celebrating of all Divine Offices  
unto some part of the Nave or main body  
of the Abbey Church which should be  
marked out for that purpose. But the  
workmen had no sooner advanced their  
Scaffolds when the Parishioners gathered  
together in great Multitudes with Bows  
and Arrows, Slaves and clubs, and

other such offensive weapons,  
 which so terrified the workmen that they  
 ran away in great amazement, and  
 never could be brought again upon that  
 employment." (569)

In 1565 Mr Wysher bestowed of his  
 benevolence, being church-warden,  
 the re-casting of the second bell, and  
 in 1592 Valentine Trevor was employed  
 to recast the bells or some of them. But  
 he did the work "falsely and deceitfully,"  
 so that Robert Norton had to be called in  
 to cast them again. The Churchwardens  
 "received of dyvers worshipfull frishners  
 and others towards the charge of the newe  
 Bells iiij li xij s." The weights of the bells  
 before they went away to be recast



and after they came back again  
 were carefully noted and recorded  
 in the accounts. Four Years Later  
 the fourth was broken and "Mr Shoal"  
 was paid £10 for the recasting and for  
 a new Clapper.

At some time during the earlier  
 part of the seventeenth century the ring  
 was increased to six (570) and in 1670 the  
 octave was completed. The founder was  
 "Mr. Darbie" who was paid £47-10-0  
 for the two bells. It is usually assumed  
 that this was the somewhat notorious  
 Michael Darbie. Such a thing is not  
 impossible, for Michael was a London  
 man and was still alive though  
 nearing the end of his career. (His will

is dated 1672). The likelihood  
however is that the bells were cast by  
John Darbie of Ipswich, a much better  
craftsman, who in the next year supplied  
the ring of six to St Vedast's Foster  
Lane, and (probably) some bells to  
St Sepulchres, Newgate (571)

The ring of eight remained in the  
tower until 1739, when Samuel Knight  
who had already cast the grand ring  
of twelve at St Saviour's, Southwark,  
and was then casting the ten at St Sepulchres  
was employed to recast them. Knight  
died in the same year and before the  
job was completed. He had cast the  
front four, but the fifth and it may  
be the three larger bells were cast by his

him and successor Robert Catlin.

Catlin was a carpenter and bell-hanger by trade, and a first class workman as his frame at Southwark shows, but as a founder he was not the equal of his master, and that may be the reason why the three largest bells at St. Margaret's have been recast.

In 1761 the ring was increased to five by Leslie and Packer who also recast the tenor. That bell bears the name of Dr. Thomas Wilson Curate of the parish from 1753 to 1784 under the Abbey as rector. He was the son of a very famous bishop and himself the author of a book of some reputation.

St Margaret's was not only a prominent Church with a large and important parish; it was the parish Church of the royal palace and Court and of the Houses of Parliament. There was therefore naturally a lot of paid ringing in the steeple. A large part of it was on the days that the King or Queen arrived at or left Whitehall, or on royal birthdays, or the Coronation day. This last was a special ringing day and in 1626 the vestry agreed to pay the ringers £1-0-0 which probably means that the bells were rung off and on for the whole of the day. The same sum of money was paid on that day in every succeeding year right down to 1648 a few months before

940

the execution of King Charles 1,  
and was resumed after the Restoration  
in 1660.

An early and interesting entry in the  
accounts records the receipt by the parish  
"at the burying of William Gascon for iiij  
pitches vs viij d. Item for the bells at the same  
burying vjd."

The fees for the bell in connection with  
deaths and burials form a considerable  
item in the parish revenue at St. Margaret's  
as well as at most other places. They  
were for passing bells and for knells and  
we seldom find an entry <sup>for</sup> ~~to~~ a funeral peal  
rung by all the bells yet they were common  
enough. The parish paid for bell ringing  
at the funerals of both Henry VIII and  
Elizabeth.

941

In 1586 when Babington's plot was discovered the bells were rung and in the next year when the news came that Mary Queen of Scots had been tried and beheaded. In 1612 her body was removed from Peterborough to the Abbey and again the bells were rung but this time as a mark of respect.

There was ringing in 1588 when Queen Elizabeth went to the camp at Tilbury where the English army was waiting for the expected landing of the Spaniards, but no mention in the accounts of any when the news came that the Armada had been defeated. No doubt the ringers did not wait for any official orders or promise of pay.

St Margaret's was not merely the Church of the parish in which the Houses of Parliament were situated it was also from 1614 ~~it~~ "as it were a National Church for the use of the House of Commons (573)" and this was the cause of a certain amount of ringing. In 1605 as soon as Guy Fawkes plot was discovered the bells were rung. In 1628 when Charles I accepted the Petition of Right. In 1640 when the Triennial Act was passed. In 1651 when the Scots were beaten at Worcester. In 1653 when Oliver Cromwell was installed Lord Protector. And always when a new Speaker was elected.

The tower was reconstructed, refaced, heightened and given its present appearance in 1735 the cost being partly

by a grant from Parliament. (575) 943

The churchwardens did not deal directly with the ringers but employed a steeple keeper, probably the parish pesson, and he provided the ringers when they were needed. In the early seventeenth Century the steeplekeeper was Michael Stockdale and his wages for attending to the bells for a year was six shillings and eight pence. Later on Edward Rogers was steeplekeeper. In 1674 a boy of fourteen was dragged up by one of the ropes and killed. An enquiry was held and it was proved that the steeple keeper had been very negligent in the discharge of his duties and instead of being constantly in the



944

bellry when a knell was being rung, he had left a number of boys there and absented himself "on no occasion of the parish." Other misdemeanors being proved against him he was dismissed from his employment. (576)

From ancient times the morning bell was rung at five o'clock and the curfew at eight. When the custom ceased is unknown.

Besides the paid ringing there was a lot of "pleasure" ringing by people like the College Youths or the Esquire Youths. The latter especially probably made St. Margaret's their chief practice place. When the octave was completed in 1670, the vestry, at the instance of the Curate and some of the neighbouring

945

parishioners ordered that there should be no ringing in peal before seven in the morning or after eight at night.

No record has survived of any peal rung on the first octave. The first known peal on Knight's bells was 5040 Double Bob Major on February 12<sup>th</sup> 1742 by the Eastern Scholars. No claim is made in the peal book that this was the first five-thousand in the tower and quite likely one had already been scored by some other company.

From that time until the present day a steady succession of peals has been rung some of them of more than ordinary interest. In 1751 Annable

946  
called a peal of Reverse Bob Major  
for the College Youths. It was claimed as  
the first that was done in that steeple,  
which suggests that one had already  
been rung elsewhere, but if so, no account  
of it survives. (577)

In the same year John Holl called the  
Original for the first time, and in the next  
year the Eastern Scholars rang their peal of  
Double Eastern Bob Major. George Watkins  
called the first peal on the ten bells, 5040  
changes of Grand sire Gaters, rung by the  
College Youths in 1761. The longest peal in  
tower during the eighteenth century was 6000  
of Bob Major by the Union Scholars in 1749  
composed and conducted by John Holl. In  
1805 the Westminster Youths rang 6011 of  
Grand sire Gaters, which was beaten in 1814

by the Junior Cumberlands who rang 947  
6101 changes in the same method, and again  
in 1823 with a peal of 7002 changes.

Exciacts from the Churchwardens'  
Accounts (578)

948

1496. Item Henry Abington for the bell 6.  
1498. Item for the knell of John Grey of  
Willon for the great bell 6  
1499 Item. for the knell of my Lady Billing  
with the great bell.

[ many other similar entries ]

- 1517 Item received the last day of February  
of Mrs. Elizabeth Legh and Robert  
Flegg executors of the last will and  
testament of Mr. Anthony Legh. Esq.  
of his bequest to the steeple 6. 13. 6.

1522. The Receipt of gifts and bequests towards  
the making of a new frame, a new fourth  
bell, and for the hanging of the bells, and  
also of money received towards the  
hallawing of the Church and at the  
offering of the hallawing of the bell that  
Master Tompette gave to the Church

First received of Charles Tompette  
at a quarter of our great Lady  
Brotherhood of Surplusage remaining  
in his hands of the offerings at the

949

hallowing of the Church and a  
bell; which Church was hallowed  
the ix day of April in the year of  
our Lord God mccccxxiii and in  
the xiiij<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our  
Sovereign Lord King Henry the  
viij<sup>th</sup> as it appeareth more plainly  
by a book of account then and  
there given up to the Churchwardens  
in the presence of Master Oxenale  
and divers other worshipful of the  
parish

14. 11.

Item gathered and received in  
going about the parish toward  
the making of a new fourth Bell  
in old metal these pcells following  
xxx which by the Comandment of  
the worshipful of the pesser was  
delivered to William Smith founder  
in full payment of the said  
Bell ij trannes and a Chaffer  
Item received of divers persons the  
same time the metal was gathered

to make of the said Bell in ready  
money

950  
3. 10.

Then follow the names of seventy one subscribers  
of amounts ranging from 68 to one penny.

1522. Item recd. for the knell & peal  
at the Burial of Abbot Islupe 18d.

1527 The weights of the Bells.

Item, the first bell weith ccccc lb.

Item the second cccccxxi

Item the third dccclvi lb.

Item the fourth mxx lb.

Item the fyfth mccccccxiiij

Sum of weght of all the bells mmmmdccij lb.

1537 Item of Mr D. John Appewell  
for the bells 1-6.

1538 Item at obsequy of Myles Lord  
for the bells 1-6.

1545 paid to the ringers when the King's  
Grace came to Parliament house 3.

1547 Paid to the four men that  
did bear the Copes and other  
necessaries to Knightsbridge  
when that King Henry the Eighth  
was brought to his burial at

Windsor and to the man that  
did rynge the bells.

3s.

Also paid to the Ringers at King  
Henry the Eighth his charge in  
the Parish Church

8d.

1548 Also paid to the Kings ammen when  
he would have sealed up the  
church doors at the departure  
of the Kings Majesty the 2<sup>nd</sup> day  
of July because the bells were  
not rung.

2. 4.

1558 Item of William Goodwyn one of  
the Queens kitchen in reward  
for the bells.

4

Paid to the tinkers for mending  
the second bell

8. 0

1565 Item paid to John Barrowell  
for making of the Turret in the  
Church Steeple and for timber  
thereunto belonging wherein  
the panel bell now hangeth

3. 6. 8.

1566 Paid to the ringers when the  
Queens Majesty went from St.  
James's to upon Thames

6.



1568. Item paid to the ringers for  
ringing for the prosperous reign of  
the eleventh year of Queen Elizabeth 6.
1569. John Ryall Lesson for his whole  
years wages & for keeping the eight  
and five a clock bell 3. 6. 8.
1570. Item for ringing when the Queen's  
Majesty went to the Purse (579) 4  
Item for ringing when the Queen's  
Majesty went to Sir Thomas Gresham  
and came home again 8.
- 1571 Item payde to the Ringers for  
ringynge for joye of the greate  
victory that the Christians hadde  
gotten of the Turkes (580) 2. 6.  
Item paid for ringing for the  
most prosperous reign and long  
continuance of our most gracious  
Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth 2. 6.
- 1574 Item payd for ringynge when  
the quenes maiestie cam from  
Seyne James to Whyte Hall to  
the Shroude (581) 1. 6.

Item paid to the ringers for ringing for  
the prosperous reign of our gracious Sovereign  
Lady Queen Elizabeth long to Continye

2. 0

1579 Item paid for ringing for the Queen's Majesty  
burthe the 7<sup>th</sup> of September

1. 0

1583 Item paid to the ringers the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October  
when the Queen's Majesty came from Orlando  
to St. James

1. 8

1585 Item paid for ringing when the Queen's Majesty  
came from Greenwich to Lambeth on Friday  
being the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March

6

Item paid the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March for ringers  
for the Queen's Majesty when she came from  
Lambeth to the Parliament House

6.

Item paid the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March for ringing  
when the Queen's Majesty went from Lambeth  
to Greenwich

6.

Item paid to the ringers for ringing on the  
19<sup>th</sup> day of November when the Queen's Majesty  
came to my Lord admirals house from  
and back again to Richmond

4

Item paid to the ringers for their offering  
at Christmas

1. 0

1586 Item paid for ringing the 16<sup>th</sup> day of

August for joy of taking the playfours  
 Item paid for ringing for the Queen's  
 Majesty when she came from Richmond  
 to my Lord Bourges

1-0

6.

Item paid for ringing at the beheading of  
 the Queen of Scots

1-0

1587 Item paid for ringing for the Queen's  
 Majesty when she went from the Lord Admirals  
 House to Richmond

6.

Item paid the 25<sup>th</sup> of January for ringing  
 when the Queens Majesty came from Kennington  
 to the Lord of Canterbury's

6.

1588 Item paid the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July for ringing  
 when the Queen's Majesty came from Greenwich  
 to my Lord of Canterbury's House to dinner

6.

Item paid the 25<sup>th</sup> day of July for ringing  
 when the Queen's Majesty came from Richmond  
 to St. James's

1-0

Item paid the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August when the  
 Queen's Majesty went from St. James's to  
 the camp

1-0

Item paid the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1588 to  
 the ringers for ringing when the Queen's

Majesty removed from St. James's to  
Greenwich

955

1-0

Item the 20 day of December 1588 for  
ringing when the Queen's Majesty came from  
Greenwich to Lambeth

1-0

Item paid the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December for  
ringing when the Queen's Majesty went from  
London to Richmond

1-0

Jan'y 1. 1588 when the Queen came from  
Whitehall to the College Church and so  
to the Parliament House

1-0

1589 Item for ringing the 26 of May when the  
Queen's Majesty went from Whitehall to  
Barn Elmes to her Secretary's

6.

Item paid the 28<sup>th</sup> of May for ringing when  
the Queen's Majesty came from Barnes  
Elmes to Whitehall

6.

Item paid to the ringers for ringing the  
11<sup>th</sup> of June 1589 when the Queen's Majesty  
came from Highgate

6.

Item paid the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June for the Queen's  
Majesty when she went from Whitehall to  
Norwich

8.

Item, paid for ringing the 15<sup>th</sup> day of  
November when the Queen came to Somerset's  
House 6.

Item paid for ringing when to Richmond  
from Somerset House 6.

Item paid for ringing when the Queen's  
Majesty went to Lambeth 6.

Item for ringing when the Queen's Majesty  
came to Whitehall 6.

Item paid for ringing when the Queen's  
Majesty came from Whitehall to Greenwich 6.

1590. Item paid the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 1590

to the ringers for ringing when the Queen's  
Majesty came from Hackney to my  
Lord Chancellors 6.

Item for ringing the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February  
1590 when the Queen's Majesty came  
from Richmond to Lambeth 6.

Item paid for ringing the 13<sup>th</sup> of February  
when the Queen's Majesty went from  
Lambeth to Greenwich 6.

1592 Item paid for ringing the 7<sup>th</sup> of April

When the Queen went from Whitehall 6.

1593 Item the broken pennon waied MDCXXI lb weight, the new pennon that came in her place waied MCCC and a half.

Item, the weight of the greatest bell ys MMC and a half.

Item, the weight of the treble delivered was CCC III quarters and XVII lb

Item the weight of the fourth bell last brought in ys MDCC and a half and XIV lb weight, the weight of the fourth bell taken away as is before expressed is MCCC and a half.

Item, the weight of the second bell carried away DCCC III quarters The new bell brought in her place waied just DCCC and a half.

1596 Item, paid the bell-ringers the 7<sup>th</sup> for joy of victory against the Spaniards 7.6.

Item paid for ringing when her Majesty came to the Lord Burrows 8.

1597 Item paid to the shoal the first of November for new casting of the fourth

bell weying MDC III quarters, for  
a new bell clapper weyging XLVIII lb. 10. 0. 0

1605 Item paid the ringers for ringing  
at the time the parliament-house  
should have been blown up. 10. 0

Item paid the ringers for ringing  
when the King came from Oaking 3. 0

1606 Item, paid for ringing the 16<sup>th</sup> day  
of May when the King and Queen  
went to Greenwich 2. 6.

Item, paid for ringing the 27<sup>th</sup> day  
of May 1606 when the King came  
to the parliament-house being the  
last day of the parliament 2. 6

Item, paid for bell ringers on the  
birth of the Kings child 2. 6

Item paid for ringing when the King  
of Denmark came to the Abby the  
4<sup>th</sup> of August 2. 6.

Item, paid for ringing when the King  
came from Hampton Court to the  
parliament House the 28<sup>th</sup> day of November 2. 6

- 1607 Item, paid for ringing the 3<sup>rd</sup> of  
June at the Kings remove to Greenwich 2.6  
Item, paid to the ringers when the  
King came to Whitehall the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2.6  
Item, paid for ringing when the King  
and Queen removed the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2.6.  
Item, paid for ringing on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
day of September when the King came  
to Westminster 2.6
- 1608 Item, paid to the ringers the 15<sup>th</sup> of  
July when the King came to Westminster 1.0  
Item paid to the ringers the 5<sup>th</sup> of  
August for Sours'-day (582) 5.0  
Item, paid for ringing the 20<sup>th</sup> day  
of December when the King came from  
Royston 2.0
- 1609 Item, paid to the ringers when the  
King came to Town the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2.6  
Item, paid to the ringers when the  
King, Queen, and Prince came to  
Whitehall the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2.6  
Item paid for ringing for the King  
the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. 2.6.



Item, paid for ringing the 24<sup>th</sup> of March  
being the Coronation day.

5.0

1610. Item, paid for ringing when the  
Citizens met the Prince

2.6.

Item paid for ringing when he was  
created Prince of Wales, and for ringing  
when the fire works were made

5.0.

Item, paid for ringing the 9<sup>th</sup> of June  
when the Queen came from Greenwich  
and the King came from Cocklands the  
8<sup>th</sup> of July

3.0

Item paid for ringing the same 5<sup>th</sup>  
of August for his Majesty's preservation, etc.

5.0

Item paid for ringing the 19<sup>th</sup> day of  
December 1610 when the King came from  
Roxton, and for oyl

2.8.

Item, paid for ringing on the 19<sup>th</sup> day  
of February being the Prince's birth day

3.4

Item, paid to the ringers when the  
King and Queen came to Whitehall  
the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> days of March 1610

2.6

Item paid to the ringers on the 24<sup>th</sup>  
day of March being the first day

- of his Majesty's 9<sup>th</sup> year then begun
- 1611 Item paid on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> day of  
April A.D. 1611 for oyle and for ringing  
at the dedicating and Consecrating of  
the new ground enclosed within the  
Church-yard wall of S. Margaret's for  
the buryal of the dead 2 2
- Item paid 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1611 for ringing  
for the King and Queens remove from  
Whitehall to Greenwich 2 6
- Paid to the ringers on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of  
February 1611 at the King and Queens  
Coming to Whitehall from Royston  
and Greenwich
- 1612 Item paid to Michael Stockdale for  
ringing when the Queen of Scots was  
buried in S. Peters Church (583) 2 6
- Item paid to the ringers at the Lady  
Elizabeth her Graces marriage 2. 6
- 1613 Paid for ringing when the King  
removed to Whitehall the 30<sup>th</sup> of  
November 1613 2. 6
- Paid for ringing the 8<sup>th</sup> of January

- 1613 When news came that the Lady Elizabeth was brought to bed 962 2. 6.
- 1614 Item, paid for ringing when the King of Denmark came to London 2. 0
- Item, paid for ringing when the King came to Whitehall the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, 1614. 2. 6
- 1615 Item paid for ringing when the King came to Whitehall, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2. 6
- 1616 Item paid for ringing at the Kings coming to Whitehall, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November and at the Prince his creation on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1616 5. 0
- 1617 Item, paid for ringing when the King came out of Scotland 6. 8.
- Item, paid for ringing at the King and Queens coming to Whitehall the last day of October 1617 2. 6
- Item, paid for ringing at the news of the birth of the Lady Elizabeth her Graces child 2. 6
- 1618 Paid for ringing on the Kings birth day, the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 1618. 3 0

- 963
- 1619 Item paid for ringing at the Kings  
Coming to town in September 1619 2. 6
- 1620 Item paid for ringing at the Kings  
remove in September, 1620. 2. 6.
- Item paid for ringing at the Kings  
remove in October, 1620. 2. 6
- 1621 Paid for ringing at the Kings  
remove in September 2. 6
- 1623 Item paid for ringing when the  
Kings Majesty feasted the Spanish  
Ambassador in July 1623. 2 6
- Item, paid for ringing at the  
Kings Coming to Whitehall in September 2 6
- Item, paid for ringing at the Prince  
his Highness coming out of Spain 5. 0
- Item, paid for ringing the 30<sup>th</sup> of  
October when the Prince came from  
Roxton to St. James's 2. 6
- Item, paid for ringing at his  
Majestys Coming to Whitehall in  
December 2 6
- 1626 Paid to the ringers on Coronacion  
day 1626 by Consent and allowance

- of the vestry 1.0.0
- 1627 Item paid for ringing the 27<sup>th</sup>  
of March, being the day of the King's  
Majesty's Coronation 1.0.0
- 1628 Item paid to the ringers for ringing  
the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March being the  
King's Majesty's Coronation day 1.0.0  
Item, paid to the ringers when his  
Majesty granted the petition of right 5.0  
Item to the ringers at the news of  
the Queen's Majesty being with child 5.0
- 1629 Item paid to the ringers on his  
Majesty's Coronation day, the 27<sup>th</sup>  
of March 1729 1.0.0  
Item for ringing the 19<sup>th</sup> of November  
being his Majesty's birth day 2.6.
- 1630 Item to the ringers for ringing  
on Prince Charles his birthday  
and his Christening day (584) 9.0.  
Item to the ringers for ringing  
on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October in memory  
of the King's happy return from  
Spain 5.0

Item for ringing the 5<sup>th</sup> of December  
when there was proclamation  
made of the Conclusion of the  
peace with the King of Spain

2.6.

1631 Item paid for ringing on Prince  
Charles his birth daie being  
the 29<sup>th</sup> of May

5.0.

Item paid for ringing at a  
remove to Whitehall Oct. 15.

2.6.

Item paid for ringing when wee  
heard that the Queen was delivered  
of her daughter the Lady Marie

5.0

Item paid for ringing on the  
Kings birth day November 19

5.0

1632 Item paid for ringing at his  
Majesties remove from Theobalds  
to Whitehall primo Novembris 1632

5.0

1633 Item for ringing on the Kings  
Majestys Coronation daie 1633

1.0.0

Item paid for ringing at the  
Kings Majestys coming home

out of Scotland July 1633	5 0.
Item, for ringing at the Duke of Yorke his Graces birth	5 0
Item, for ringing on the Kings Majestys birth day	5 0
Item, for ringing on the Duke his Graces Christening day	5 0
1634.	
Item, for ringing at the Kings Majestys remove from Hampton Court on the 30th of October 1634	5 0
1635. Item, for the ringers for ringing at the Queens Majesties happie delivery in Child-bed	5 0
1636. Item, for ringing on the Lady Maries birth day	5 0
Item for ringing on the Ladys turnes birth daie	5 0
1637. Item paid for ringing the 16 <sup>th</sup> of March 1637 when the Kings Majestie came from Newmarket to Whitehall	2 6
1638. Item for ringing on the third of November for the Queene Mother her arrival	5 0.

Item, for ringing on the Lady Charles  
birth day

5.0

Item, to Edward Rogers for ringing  
on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January for the Queen's  
safe delivery

5.0

1639. Item for ringing on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>  
days of August 1639, being the time  
of his Majesties safe return from  
the North

1640 Item, for ringing at his Majesties  
return from York

5.0

Item for ringing on that day which  
the Triennial Parliament was agreed  
upon in the House of Parliament

5.0

1641. Item, given to the ringers that  
day [when there was a Thanksgiving  
for our unity with the Scots]

5.0

Item paid to the ringers for ringing  
the 5<sup>th</sup> of October in Commemoration  
of his Majesties happy return  
from Spain that day

5.0



Item paid for ringing the 16<sup>th</sup> of  
November being the Kings Majesties  
birth day

5.0

Item, paid for ringing at his  
Majesties retourne from Scotland

5.0

1642 Paid for ringing on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March  
being the Kings Coronation day  
To the Bell-ringers for ringing at  
several tymes, viz.

1. 0. 0

Item. on the Princes birth day, 5.0.  
on the day that the King came  
out of Spain, 5.0., on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November  
5.0., on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, being  
the Kings birth day 5.0., on the  
Coronation day, 20.0.

1643. Disbursements to bell-ringers  
Item the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 5.0., the 5<sup>th</sup> of  
October, 5.0., the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 5.0.  
the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 5.0.

1644 Item, the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, 20.0. the  
29<sup>th</sup> of May, 5.0.

Item to them (the ringers) for the 19<sup>th</sup>  
of November, the Kings birth-day

5.0

1645. Item to the ringers for ringing  
the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, being a day of publick  
thanksgiving for Dartmouth Hereford and  
the West 5. 0
1646. Item, to the ringers for ringing on  
the Princes birth day 5. 0.  
Item, to them for ringing on the Kings  
birth daie 5. 0  
Item, to them for ringing on the Kings  
Coronation day. 1. 0. 0.
1647. Item, to the ringers for ringing on  
a thanksgiving day 5. 0  
Item, to the ringers for ringing on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
of October 5. 0  
Item, to them more for ringing on his  
Majestys birth day 5. 0
- 1648 Item, to the ringers for ringing on the  
27<sup>th</sup> of March being the day of the Kings  
Majestys inauguration 1. 0. 0.  
Item, paid to the ringers for ringing on  
the 29<sup>th</sup> of May being the Princes birth day 5. 0

Item, paid to the ringers for ringing on  
the Kings Majestys birth day

970

5. 0.

1651. Item paid to the ringers for ringing  
on the fourth of September upon intelligence  
of the overthrow of the Scottish army at  
Worcester

6. 0.

Item, paid to the ringers for ringing on the  
four and twentieth day of October being  
a day of thanksgiving for the victories  
over the Scots at Worcester

7. 0.

1653. Item, paid to the ringers for ringing  
on the 23d daie of June 1653 being  
a daie of thanksgiving

5. 0

Item, paid to the ringers for ringing on  
that day when the Lord Protector was installed

3. 0.

1654 Item, paid to Francis Day, Carpenter  
for building the turret upon the  
steeple as appears by his bill and  
receipt

7. 15. 0

Item, paid to Richard Paruck, smith  
for making the vane and other iron

work upon the Church steeple as by  
bell

4. 14. 0

- 1660 Item to the ringers for ringing on  
the day that the King landed and on  
the day that his Majesty came to Whitehall 11. 0  
Item, paid for ringing on a Thanksgiving  
day the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 5. 0.  
Item paid for ringing at the Queen's  
return 3. 6.  
Item paid for ringing on the coronation  
of King Charles the Second 1. 0. 0.  
1661 Item for ringing on the day that  
the King's Majesty rode to Parliament 1. 0. 0.  
1662 Item for ~~for~~ ringing on the Queens  
landing 0. 5. 0  
Item to the ringers for the Queens  
coming to town. Ringing all day. 10. 0.  
Item for the ringers for ringing on  
the Queens birth day 0. 7. 0  
1665. Item to the ringers at the Duke  
of Yorks return 0 16 0  
Item to the ringers upon Thanksgiving

day for the Calé victory 0. 6. 0.

Item for the ringers at the Queens return 0. 5. 0.

Item for the ringers on St. Georges day 0. 15. 0

Item for the ringers at the Kings return  
to Westminster 0 10 0

1666 Item paid for ringing at a victory  
obtained against the Dutch 0 15 0

Item for the ringers more at a victory  
obtained against the Dutch 0 10. 0

Item for ringing the 14<sup>th</sup> of August  
being a thanksgiving day 0. 10 0

1667 Item for the ringers on the 24<sup>th</sup> of  
August when the peace was here proclaimed 5. 0

There is a bell appointed to be tolled by which  
the parishioners have notice and thereupon  
do repair unto the Church to see the Church  
wardens which be going out of their office  
do deliver up their accounts and ballance  
money.

1669 Item for the ringers upon the day of Union  
of both Houses of Parliament 0. 3. 4

1670 Item for Mr Darbie bell founder  
for two new bells as by &c. 47-10-0

Him, ringing when the Prince of Orange  
landed

0. 5. 0

1671 Him to the ringers at his Majestys  
return from Norwiche and Newmarket  
the 20<sup>th</sup> of October

0. 5. 0

Him to the ringers on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November  
being the Queens birth day

0 10 0

Him, to the ringers at the Kings returne  
from the fleete the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 1672

0 5 0

1674 Him to the ringers on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April  
at his Majestys returne from Newmarket

0. 6. 0

1677 Him to the ringers on the day that the  
Prince of Orange was contracted to the Lady  
Mary and on the Queens birth day

0 10 0

1682 Him to the Bell-ringers at the Kings  
Coming from sea

0. 5. 0

Him to the ringers on the thanksgiving  
day for the discovery of the plot

0. 10. 0

Him to the ringers on the happy arrivall  
of Prince George

0. 10. 0

974

Further extracts not transcribed  
by Nichols.

1475. Item at the day of Burying of  
Nicholas Speman for iiij torches, iiij  
papers & for his knyll with the greie  
Bell viij s rjd

Item at the day of burying of  
John Haden and for his moneth  
mynde for iiij torches and iiij papers  
and the knyll w<sup>th</sup> the greie bell  
and ij papers standing on his grave  
w<sup>th</sup> out for the churches yard xijs.

1478-80

Item paide for a Rope for the Lyell  
Bell iiij s

Item paide to Harry Selyste for  
making of a Dore at fote of the Steple  
beneath and ij hinges and a  
Locke for the same Dore Spring  
and a new plate ijs.

1515-16

Item received of Master Verton

and Walter Gardiner and other  
 worshippful and well-disposed people  
 of this pisse of their charly and  
 good mind at the laying of the  
 first stone in the foundacon of the  
 Steple and porch late begun vj<sup>e</sup> iijs vjd  
 Item paid for the costs and  
 charges of the foundacon of the  
 Steple as well for Rag stone chalk  
 Lyme and sand as for wages of  
 Masons laborers and other necessary  
 charge for the same vjs. 1d

1522-3

Payments laid out by the said  
 accomptians of and for the taking  
 down of the bells and frame and  
 for setting up of the old frame in  
 the new steple and hanging of the  
 bells there and also for making  
 of the new frame for five bells and  
 for new hanging of the bells



1557. Item of Sir Henry Chole  
Cmrat for the belles iijs iiij<sup>d</sup>
- 1559 Item of Sir Oliver Lyngard  
Cmrat for the belles iijs iiij<sup>d</sup>
- 1562 Item to ryngers the same  
daie [perambulation of the friends]  
at the retourne of the said paragoners  
unto the Church vj<sup>d</sup>.
- 1565 At that m<sup>r</sup>. Wysher bestowed  
of his benevolence being church  
warden the casting of the second  
bell and the burying of all the dede  
mens bones in the year of the reigne  
of o<sup>r</sup> sovereyne Ladie Elizabeth  
the seventh.
1555. Item pay<sup>d</sup> to the Ryngers at  
the Reconciliation of the Church viij<sup>d</sup>.
- 1586-8 Item received for ringinge for  
the Douches grace in benevolence vjs viij<sup>d</sup>
- 1592-3 Received of dyvers worshipfull  
peshmors and others towards the  
Charge of the newe Bells iiij li xij<sup>d</sup>.

1594. An order taken in the Vestry  
for the fuses and rates of the belles and  
certaine pewes the xij day of January  
1594 regulated the charges for the  
knells of the greate and seconde belles

1598-9. Item payd to the bell ringers  
upon holy Thursdaze

xij d

1602-3. Item payd for ringinge at  
the funcrall of the Queene

xij d

1604-5 Item to Mitchell the bell-

ringer for his attendance when the  
Kinges footemen was buried

vij d

Item for Three Ropes waying 52 pound  
at iij<sup>d</sup> the pounde

xvijs iiij d

Item for Grease for the Bells

ij d

1606-7 Item for Ringing the fyfth  
of November

xs

Item to the Ringers on the Coronation  
daze


xs.

1611-1612 Payd to Michael Hockedell

for lookinge to the Bells for one whole  
yere

vj viij d

# The Inscriptions on the Bells.

1. LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1761
  2. LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1761
  3. S .:. K .:. 1739.
  4. S .:. K .:. 1739.
  5. S .:. K .:. 1739
  6. S .:. K .:. 1739
  7. ROBERT CATLIN FECIT 1739 ~~exa~~ \* ~~cod~~ \*.
  8. MR THOS HATCH & GEORGE STUBBS ESQ  
CHURCHWARDENS 1773 T JANAWAY FECIT
  9. THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FOUNDER 1834  
JAMES WEBBER DD MINISTER OF ST MARCARETS  
WILLIAM FORTY ROBERT BRYAN CHURCHWARDENS
- Tenor. DR THOS WILLSON MINESTER SAML PEIRSON  
& Wm IELFE CH: WARDENS LESTER & PACK OF  
LONDON FECIT 

# Peal Boards at St. Margaret's' 576 979

Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup> 1751 the Society of Union Scholars rang in this Steeple with five singles the first true and compleat peal of 5040 Grandine Triples, which peal was performed in 3 hours and 15 minutes by the following persons

James Davis	1	James Vickers	5.
James Albion	2.	James Newby	6.
Jacob Hall	3	John Lloyd	7.
Thomas Jackson	4	Geo Fleury & Ed Davis	Tenor.

This peal was Composed and Called by John Holt.

On Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> 1779, was rung in this Steeple by the Society of College Juniors 5165 Grandine Calers in 3 hours and 45 minutes by the following persons viz

Archibald Fraser	True	James Inville	6.
George Harris	2.	Ralph Vaughan	7.
Charles Fraser	3.	Joseph Rose	8
George Oliff	4	John Fraser	9.
Thomas Forley	5	Paul Webb	Tenor

The peal was called by John Fraser and brought round at hand.

## Westminster Youths.

On Sunday Dec: 29<sup>th</sup> 1805 Ten of yr above Society under Named Rang in this steeple a fine & complete Peal of Grandure Colors, containing 6011 Changes which was completed in 4 hours & 7 mts being yr Greatest Performance ever Achieved on these bells —

Ed. Griffiths	Table	Wm. Shaker	6.
Thos. Humphries	2.	Wm. Shander	7.
Chs Bright	3.	Thos. Thomas	8.
Jos: Ladley	4.	Geor: Earle	9
Jn: Hints	5.	Jn: Leach	Tenor.

Composed & called by N. J. Hints.

Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> 1814, was rung in this steeple a fine and complete Peal of 6101 Grandure Colors in the short space of three hours & fifty-five minutes by the following members of the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths, viz.

Ed. Griffiths	Table	Robt. Shierfield	6.
Thos Humphries	2.	Wm. Shander	7.
Jos Ladley	3.	Robt Bates	8
Ed Chambers	4.	Jos Haynes	9.
Jas Polley	5.	Jos Kingsbury	Tenor.

this peal was composed and called by Jos Ladley.

Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> 1822 was rung  
in this Steeple a True and Complete Peal in that  
Intricate method Stedman's Calors by 8 of the  
Society of College Youths and 2 Juniors consisting  
of 5079 Changes In 3 hours 20 minutes.

Performed by

William Nokes	Treble	Henry Symondson	6
John Bates	2	George Cole	7
Joseph Ladley	3	William Peate	8
Leholes Bamford	4	Joseph Lubbock	9
John Cooper	5	Edward Handnote	Tenor.

Composed & Called by Mr George Cole The first complete  
round with five Cobs from a 9x7x8.

Thursday Dec<sup>r</sup> 11 1823 was rung in this Steeple  
By the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths, a  
True & Complete peal of Grandfire Calors consisting  
of 7002 Changes, in 4 hours & 47 minutes By the  
following persons

Edw <sup>d</sup> Griffiths	Treble	Jos Bradley	6.
Jos Taylor	2.	Thos Cuming	7.
Jos Ladley	3.	Edw <sup>d</sup> Sawyer	8.
Jas Nash	4.	Elyah De Ville	9.
Dan <sup>l</sup> Beakey	5.	Wm <sup>m</sup> Church	Tenor.

Composed & Called by Jos<sup>l</sup> Ladley

The above is the greatest number of Changes ever  
Rang on these bells.

982

Pearly rung at St. Margaret's,  
Westminster

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1742.	Feb 12	5040	Double B. Maj.	Eastern Sch.
1743	Jan. 23	5040	Bob Major	Coll. Yths.
1747	Oct 25	5040	do	Eastern Sch.
	27	5040	do	Union Sch.
1749	Feb 19	5040	do	Cumberlands
	July 9	6000	do	Union Sch
1750	Apr 10	5120	Exc. T. B. Maj	Coll. Yths.
	July 8	5040	Double B. Maj	Union Sch.
1751	Jan 22	5040	Rev. B. Maj	Coll. Yths.
	Mar 14	5120	Exc. T. B. Maj	Union Sch.
	July 7	5040	Gran. Trip.	do
1752	Jan 12	5040	Eastern B. Obl.	Eastern Sch.
	Feb 16	5040	Court B. Maj	Union Sch
	May 31	5040	Bob Major	Eastern Sch
1754	Oct. 10	5040	Bob Triples	do
1758	Apr. 9	5120	Exc. T. B. Maj	Coll. Yths.
	Aug 5	5056	do	do
1760	Mar 23	5040	Bob Maj	do
1761	Mar 5	5040	Gran. Calers	do
	Nov 22	5040	Rev. B. Royal	do
	Dec 22	5040	do	do
1762	June 27	5076	Gran Calers	do
1766	Sep. 14	5040	Bob Royal	London Yths.

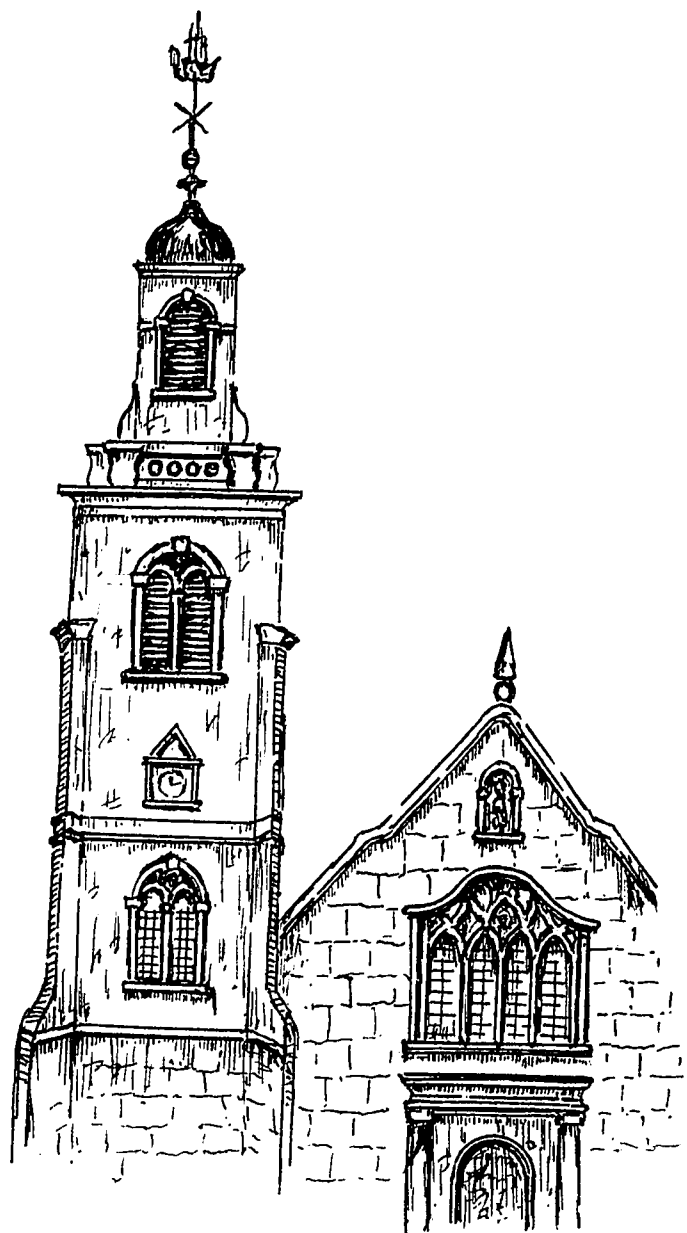
1777	Jan. 19	5200	Gr. T. B. Royal	Coll. Jtho.
1779	Nov. 17	5765	Gran. Batens	"ancien" Coll. Jtho.
1781	Feb 11	5432	do	Coll. Jtho.



St Martin -  
in-the-Fields.

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St Martins  
was made a  
separate parish  
in 1542 by  
letters patent  
of Henry VIII,



and the tradition was that it was done  
because the king objected to funeral  
processions passing down Whitehall on  
their way to St Margaret's. We do well  
however to mistrust such traditions.

985

There had been a chapel of St Martin from early times and it was only natural that, as the district developed it should become a parish church.

There were then three bells besides the sanctus bell and the sacring bell. The latter is referred to as the mass bell and hung in the chancel, within the church on the screen or on the wall.

In 1530 John Brooke was paid for his days' work muzzing the great bell at the rate of eightpence a day. This will give us some idea of the money earned by workmen at the time. Brooke was, of course a skilled artisan, and probably would have to pay the labourer who

helped him

986

The church was rebuilt about 1544, and three or four years before that the bells were recast and rehung in a new frame the cost being partly defrayed by gifts from the parishioners. John Young the saddler who regularly supplied the Baldricks made a gift of three for the new bells. About the same time a parishioner gave a new paunce bell.

We may assume that sometime after the bells were hung the stock of the pinor began to shrink and the bell to become loose. This necessitated "winding up the great bell", and shutting (i.e. welding) the stirrup or iron by which it was hung.

987

In 1544 a new pebble was added  
by a founder who had his foundry at  
Hounsdenich <sup>(587)</sup> but cannot be identified;  
in 1572 the fourth was recast and  
made heavier; and in 1581 the penon  
was recast by Hugh Walker <sup>(588)</sup>. The first  
time he did the work it was unsatisfactory  
and the bell had to be recast a second  
time.

In 1584 the whole ring was recast by  
Robert Holt the cost being defrayed by  
subscription. The list of 67 names  
includes those of Sir Thomas Bromley,  
the Lord Chancellor of England, the  
Earl of Rutland, and Sir Francis Knowles.

In 1586 Hugh Walker recast Holt's  
pebble and added another bell to increase

the number of the bells to five.

A good deal of work was done to the bells at the same time, the total cost being £17-9-11. "So," say the wardens "we have laid out more than we received 495 11d."

Only five years later Laurence Wright recast the tenor at a cost of £10, and a year later still the fourth at a cost of £8. These changes were met by public subscription, and as 90 persons contributed it is evident that the bells were very popular.

The payments for ringing are similar to those in other churches, but as at St Margaret's, a large proportion of them is for occasions when royalty passed

989

The earliest on record is in  
1538, a payment of fourpence for ringing  
when Henry VIII passed by. Tenpence was  
paid in 1555 when Queen Mary came  
to Whitehall and sixteen pence when  
Philip of Spain and Mary arrived in  
London. When Mary died eightpence  
was paid for ringing her knell and  
the same amount to welcome her successor.  
All through Elizabeth's reign there  
was ringing whenever the queen came  
to or left Whitehall or St. James's Palace  
until the 21st of January 1602 when  
she removed to Richmond where she  
died. Two months later the bells  
were rung "at the proclaiming of our

king", and as the large amount of five shillings and eightpence was paid there was probably a full day's ringing.

There is no record of any payment when the Spanish Armada was defeated but as at all the other London churches the bells were rung for the Battle of Lepanto and for the execution of the Queen of Scots.

In 1663 the tower of St. Martin's Church was rebuilt. The weather vane on the top marks some traditional connection between the church and the Admiralty. It was long the custom and perhaps still is for the latter to supply the flag that is flown on festivals.

991

All through the seventeenth  
Century there was still a ring of five  
bells and in after years a tradition  
grew up that Nell Gwynn, Duchess  
of St. Albans and mistress of Charles II  
had left in her will money to provide  
the ringers with a weekly leg of mutton &  
supper. The editor of Thomas Pellerin's  
History of the English Stage published  
in 1741 says that "among her donations  
was a sum of money for a weekly  
entertainment of the ringers at St. Martin's  
which they enjoy to this day." <sup>(590)</sup> It writes  
in "The Champion" of June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1742,  
referring to the fraudulent practices of  
parish vestries and particularly of that



992

of St Martin-in-the-Fields,  
says - " I cannot forbear mentioning  
one action more laid to the charge  
of these honest men. Nell Gwynn,  
player, left a handsome income  
yearly to St Martin's on Condition that  
on every Thursday evening in the year  
there should be six men employed for  
the space of one hour in ringing, for  
which they were to have a roasted  
shoulder of mutton and ten shillings  
for beer, but the legacy is of late  
diverted and no such allowance is  
now given. " (600)

Actually no such legacy was ever  
left by Nell Gwynn or anyone else.

993

The explanation of the tradition  
given by the Master is that it was the  
custom of the ringers after their practice  
to adjourn to the Nell Gwynn public  
house, near the Adelphi Theatre  
where the Landlord reserved a private  
room, and provided a hot leg of mutton  
supper at an inclusive charge of one  
shilling per head for the bellringers  
and any friends belonging to the  
different societies of bell ringers that  
used to attend the weekly practice. (580)

Whether there is any more truth in  
this explanation than in the original  
legend may perhaps be doubted.

9914

By the early years of the eighteenth century the church had become altogether inadequate and in the reign of George I an Act of Parliament was obtained to enable the parishioners to rebuild. The design was supplied by James Gibbs, the first stone was laid on March 19<sup>th</sup> 1721 and the new building was consecrated on October 20<sup>th</sup>, <sup>1726,</sup> by D<sup>r</sup> Edmund Gibson the Bishop of London. A rate was levied on the parish, but money poured in so liberally that a gift of £500 towards the enrichment of the altar was declined.

It was decided to recast the old bells which were then six in number. On

November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1724 Eight new

995

Bells were ordered to be hung; on the following December 8<sup>th</sup> it was resolved that five bells be added to the number agreed on; and in the next year it was decided to have a full ring of twelve. (601)

The order was given to Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester then at the height of his career, and the cost "including old and new metal," was £1264-18-3.

Rudhall apparently had some difficulty in casting the pebbles and they were not ready at first for when the College Youths rang the first peal in the steeple three days before the church was

Consecrated, it was one of Grandsire 996  
Caters<sup>(602)</sup>; and in 1758 they were replaced  
by five new bells. One of the old bells  
went to All Saints, Fulham where it  
blends perfectly with the other bells  
there.

In March 1728 a match was held at  
St Martins between the London Scholars  
and the College Youths. The former  
rang "Six Thousand Lingues" and  
the next day the others capped the  
performance with 6314 changes. In  
both peals five men were needed for  
the tenor, and five months later one  
of the gudgeons broke during the ringing  
and the bell came down with a crash.<sup>(604)</sup>

The scared ringers left their flying  
ropes and ran to the windows and door,  
but the <sup>bell</sup> lodged in the pul and no further  
damage was done.

The first peal of Bob Maccimus on the  
bells was rung by the College Youths in  
1731, and the first peal of Treble Bob by  
the "ancient" Society of College Youths  
in 1785. The tower after 1757 was the  
meeting place of this Last Company, and  
in 1771 they rang on the bells the first  
peal of Real Double Bob Maccimus.  
Other notable performances were 6204  
Changes of Stedman Cinques by the  
College Youths in 1788. (the first in the  
method), and 7325 Changes of Grandure  
Cinques by the St. James's Society (the

longest in the method at the time)

998

Extracts from the Churchwardens'  
Accounts. (605)

999

1525-1530

- It. Received of the same John [Hale]  
for his knyll xij d
- It. for his [Mr Humphrey Books wif]  
knell xij d
- Itm. for hys [George Habian] knyll xij d
- Itm Rec<sup>d</sup> the iiij<sup>th</sup> day of February  
at the buryall of my lady Kertym  
for her knyll iijs iiij d
- Itm paid to Mr Hyncole for Bell  
Ropes weyng liiiij lb at jd  
vj lb lb sm iijs vijd
- Itm paid to hym for A smale Rope  
for the litle bell, p<sup>ce</sup> [price] xd.
- Itm paid to John Yong Saddler  
for Bawddryks for the bells ijs. viiij d
- Itm to John Myller, Son, for  
making of a bell Clap' p<sup>ce</sup> iiij s.
- Itm to hym for mending of the Locke  
of the Steple dore iiij d
- Itm, paid to John Yong for  
Bawddryks for the bells xs iiij d.



Item to John Brooke to ring the grette  
bell, ij dayes at viij d the day sm xvj d

1532-1534

Item, receued for Sir Willm Targyiers knell xij d

Item, receued for George Lemers knell xij d

Item, receued for the Strangers knell xij d

Item, receued for master Wilsons knell xij d

[and recepis for other knells]

Item, payed for too new belopes for  
the chunche xxij d

Item, for Another Belope xd.

Item, payed for mending of the claper  
of the middell bell xvij d

Item, for A Lyn for the mare bell iiij d

Item, pay<sup>d</sup> for A Corde for the pantie  
bell ijd

1534-1536.

Item, Receued for the knyll of the  
said Elizabeth Skale iiij d

Item, Receued for the knell of the  
same childes [Harkes childes] iiij d

[other knells]

Item, paid for vij<sup>th</sup> of bell rope at jd  
of the pounde sm x<sup>d</sup> ob.

Item, paid for vij lb of Cordes at 1<sup>d</sup> ob'  
the pounde for the bels 2<sup>m</sup> 1<sup>x</sup>d

Item, paid to Henry Remyne for  
mending of the clasp of the grete bell ijs.

Item, paid to Henry Remyne for  
mending of a bell clasper ijs.

Item paid to John young for lawdryes  
for the bells for this ij yeres ijs.

1536 - 1538

Item, payd for a bell Roope for the  
Church, weing vij lb xij d

Item, payde for a bell rope weing  
vij lb at ijd the lb. xiiij d

Item, payde for the mending of the bell  
wholes, nayles & clamps of Iron iijs.

Item, paid to Hayson for ij bell  
clappers vij s.

Item, payd for a bell rope weing x lb. xxjd

Item, payd for a bell rope xvjd.

Item paid for the frame of o<sup>r</sup> belles  
to the Carpenter Cxiijs iiij d

Item payde for the casting of our  
bells xiiij li.

Item, paid for nayles for the belle wheels xij<sup>d</sup>  
 Item, paid for xxv lb d'g bell rope at  
 ij<sup>d</sup> the lb. iiij<sup>s</sup>. iiij<sup>d</sup>

Cyffles in worke given to the church [included]

John Yong for thre Cawdrykes for the  
 belles at xij<sup>d</sup> the pee iiij<sup>s</sup>.

1538-1540.

Item paid for new worke made for the  
 bells by hym that made the frame vj<sup>d</sup>

Item. paid to the Ryngers that Rang  
 against the kyngs coming by iiij<sup>d</sup>.

Item, for Certeyn bell ropes xxij<sup>d</sup>

Item, paid for iiij bell ropes iiij<sup>s</sup>.

Item. paid to John Adney for nayles  
 and mending the wheels of the bells xd

Item. paid for viij gadum of Cyne to Ryng  
 the Laurens bell viij<sup>d</sup>

Item, paid for wyndyng up the great bell  
 and for shuting the Skyrpes and  
 nayles for the same xd.

Item, paid to John Adney for mending  
 the bell viij<sup>d</sup>.

Cyffes given to the Church provided  
in our hyme by the help of Mr. Russell.

In primis, A saunce bell.

1540-1542.

[Several receipts for knells, great bell at 12d]  
Item, Paied for mending of the bawdricks  
of the thirde bell yd.

Item, Paied fo. xix lb di of bell rope at  
1d of the lb. sm ijs. viij d.

Item, paied for mending of a bell Rope jd.

Item, paied for ij new bawdricks for the  
bells on Alhalonday xxd.

Item paied for mending of a bell  
clapper to Master Romario xiiij d.

Item paied for hanging vp of the litell  
mase bell and for makes of the  
frame and for the plom' and for  
all man' of stuf belonging to  
the same ixd.

Item paied for mending of the frame  
of the bellis and for stuf and  
workmanship iiij s viij d.

Item paied for mending the great

bell rope two lynes ij d.  
 Him, paid for xvij lb of new rope for  
 the bells at jd ob' the lb. Sim ijs jd  
 Him, paid for mending of the bell  
 house and \*\*\*\*\* rs.  
 Him, paid for mending of the bell ropes rd.  
 Him, paid to Thase for the frame of  
 the saintes bell and setting the  
 same hyher iij s riij d  
 Paid for the said bell Crj footie  
 of quarter boarde ijs riij d

1542-1544

Him, pd. for iij bell ropes ijs. riij d  
 Him, pd for mending three bell ropes iiij d.  
 Him Received for the great lightes, knell,  
 peale, and clothe xjs. ijd  
 Him for iiij bell Ropes ijs riij d  
 Him for iiij sawdyes xxd.  
 Him pd for the mending of the bell  
 Ropes iiij d  
 Him. pd. for the saintes bell Rope rjd

1544-1546.

1005

Memorand Item of the gyfte of  
m<sup>r</sup>. Carden the casting of the tyll bell xs.

Item, payd for fiv bell ropes for the Church ijs

Item, to John Adney for mendyng of  
the bell stocke xijd

Item, payd for bred and drynke at the  
taking downe of the bell. iij d

Item, paid for bred and drynke for  
the Carler and ye bell founder iiij d

Item, payd to the Tolles of London

Item, payd for bred and drynke at  
Howndsdycche about the Casting  
of the bell viij d

Item, payd to the bell founder for Casting  
of ye bell xls viij d

Item, payd to a labourer for one  
days worke viij d

Item, payd for the Carage of ye bell  
from ye founders hyther xij d

Item, payd for bred & these and drynke  
at the reling up of the bell xv d

Item payd for one bell Rope v d.

Item, payd for iiij bell Ropes iijs viij<sup>d</sup>  
 Item, payd for mending of the bawdenicks  
 of ye grete bell ijd.  
 Item, payd for mending of A bell  
 Clapper and for the laying on of  
 new yerne xxd.

1546-1548

Item, payd for two Bell ropes at x<sup>d</sup>  
 the peece Summa xxd.  
 Item, payde for a pynt of oyle ijd  
 Item, payde to the Ryngers and holders  
 of Torches when ou<sup>r</sup> Late Loueraygn  
 Lorde King Henry the yghth went  
 to buryall ijs.  
 Item, payde ffor Creade and Drynke  
 for the payde Ryngers ijd  
 Item, payde to Ryngers at the buryall  
 of wyllm Hobson iiij<sup>d</sup>.

1548-1550.

Item, payde for a bell rope xd  
 Item, payde for iiij bell ropes iijs. iiij<sup>d</sup>  
 Item payde for a baldrycke for  
 the grete bell xij<sup>d</sup>.

1550-1552.

Item, payde for a Bawdryke for A bell

iiij<sup>s</sup> d

Item, payde for Bell ropes xxv pounds

weyght of hemp at thre pence

the pounce the xij days of December

vjs.

1552-1554

Item, payde for three newe Bawdrykes

iijs. viij<sup>d</sup>

Item, payde for two bell ropes

ijs. id

Item, payde for two newe Bellropes

ijs. iiij<sup>d</sup>Item, payde to Ryngers when the  
quene came to Whyte Hawke

xd.

Item, for mendyng of the Bell whele

xiij<sup>d</sup>

Item, payde for two new Bawdrykes

ijs. viij<sup>d</sup>Item, payde for mendyng of a  
Bawdrykeiiij<sup>d</sup>Item, payde for a Bellrope weinge  
vij li and a half

xvd.

Item, for mendyng of a Bawdryke

iiij<sup>d</sup>Item for Rynginge of the Bells vpon  
Ascowedens dayeiiij<sup>d</sup>

Item payde for a bellrope of vij li

xij<sup>d</sup>.

1554-1555

Item payde to Ryngers at suche  
tyme as the Quene came bye

xd.



Him for a new bawdrycke for one  
of the bells

xvj<sup>d</sup>

Him paide for mending of Another  
Him paid for vij<sup>li</sup> and D<sup>d</sup> off bell  
rope at ij<sup>d</sup> the pounce

ij<sup>d</sup>

xrd

Him for a bawdrycke for a bell

xvj<sup>d</sup>

Him for mending of A bawdrycke  
of a bell

viij<sup>d</sup>

Him paide to the Ringers when the  
Kynge & Quene came to London

xvj<sup>d</sup>

Him paide for xiiij<sup>li</sup> of bell rope at  
ij<sup>ob</sup>. the li

iijs. j<sup>ob</sup>.

Him for greas for the bells

ij<sup>d</sup>

Him for xvij<sup>li</sup> of Bell Rope at iiij<sup>d</sup>  
the pounce

iijs. vj<sup>d</sup>

Him paide to the Ringers when the  
Kynge and Quene went by.

iiij<sup>d</sup>

Him paide for iiij bell ropes wayeng  
xxviiij<sup>li</sup> at iiij<sup>d</sup> the pounce

vijs.

Him paid for two bawdryckes

xij<sup>d</sup>

Him paide for a boorde to mende  
the pounce bell

vj<sup>d</sup>.

1555-1557

1000

Hem paide to John Barnes Coller  
maker for bell ropes <sup>(607)</sup>

rs. rjd

Hem to hym [the clerk] for the Ringers  
when the quenes grace cam to St Jamys

iiija

It' to Gyllam Watyer for mendinge  
the greates bell

ijs. rjd

It' paide to the Carpenter for mendinge  
of the bells

ixs.

Hem to Barnes the Coller maker  
for xxvij lb of bell rope and for a  
bell bawdryk

vijjs.

Hem paide to the Ringers when the  
quene cam

iiija

It' for greas for the bells ijd and for  
nayles for the bells ijd Sm

iiija

It' to the Collar maker for xxvij lb of  
bell rope

vijjs.

Hem to two Carpenters for mendinge  
of the greates bell xijd for ij plaits  
vijd and for a quarter 1<sup>d</sup> and for  
nayles iiija Sm

ijs.

1557-1559.

1010

It paid for xx<sup>li</sup> of Bell rope at iijs  
the pounce

iijs. xd

It paid for a bawdryke for one of  
the bells

xxd

It paid for A bell Rope wayeing vij<sup>li</sup>  
a thre pence the pounce

xxja

It paid for Ryngyng at the knyell  
of Quene Marye

vijja

It paid for the Ryngers at the Commynge  
in of the Quene

vijja

It paid for ix<sup>li</sup> of Bell rope at thre  
pence the pounce

ijs. ijja

It paid for tenn pounce of Bell Rope  
at iijs the pounce

ij vja

It paid for Ryngyng when the  
quene cam to westmynster

vijja

1559-1561

Lockes and fivo keyes and yeron  
worke for the same vij<sup>s</sup> and for nayles  
for the bellis ijs.

Itm payd for the psection for Ryngers  
and thre peneral tymes when the

quenes cha<sup>tie</sup> went abroad from  
the house

1011

ijs.

Item for Lycker for the bells

ja

Item payd for mendinge three collers  
for the bells and peeing of the bell  
ropes

xixd

Item payd to the pession for Ringers  
at iiij pondry tymes when the  
quene went abroad

ijs.

Item for Lycker for the bells

ja

Item for making one new collar  
and for mendinge of three other  
collers for the bells (608)

iijs.

Item payd for peeing of the bell  
ropes this quarter (609)

ja

Item payd for Lycker for the bells

ja

Item payd to the Ringers at the  
Commynge of the quene

viijs

1561-1563

Item the vij of Aprile a bell Rope  
wayng vij pounde

xvijs

Item payd for Lycker

ja

Item iij pynes Ringing when the  
Quene came from this and home  
Item payd for ij bell Ropes waying  
xx<sup>li</sup> and a halfe  
for mending the clapper of the Lance  
bell

10<sup>12</sup>

ijs.

ij rja

iijs

1563 - 1565

for grese for the bells  
for Ringinge when the quene went  
At prograce and at her Comyng  
Againe to St James  
Item payd to George Carpenter for  
two C of y<sup>e</sup> bowd to cover the  
Lance bell in the steeple  
for Ringinge at the Quenes Removinge  
from St James to Whitehall  
ijs. iijs for a Bell rope for the Great  
Bell - ijs for a Colles to hang  
the Bell by (610)  
viijs for Ringinge at the Comyng  
of the quene from grenew<sup>ch</sup> to westm<sup>ter</sup>  
iiij for Ringinge at the Remove of

ijs.

x<sup>s</sup>.

viijs

the quene from westm<sup>r</sup> to Richmonde  
 viija for At Baldricke for the grei  
 bell - ija for grese for the Bells.

Item paid to m<sup>r</sup>. Keyne smythe for  
 the new pessinge a grei bell clapper  
 w<sup>th</sup> a newe Ringe Abowle the Bowle vs.  
 for grese for the Bells.

At bell roppe for the greaie Belle

ja

xxija

1567-1569

Item payed for ringinge at the quenes  
 removinge from Whitlaule to Grenewyche

viija

Item fo<sup>r</sup> grease fo<sup>r</sup> the Bells.

ja

Item paid the same daye fo<sup>r</sup> an  
 hundred and a quarter of boordes  
 fo<sup>r</sup> mendinge the wyndooes in the  
 steeple

vjs. viija

Item pd fo<sup>r</sup> ringinge at the quenes  
 remove from grenewich to St James

viija

Item p<sup>d</sup> for ringinge at ye quenes  
 remove from Rychemonde to Whitlaule

viija

Item for gresse fo<sup>r</sup> the Bells

ja.

Item p<sup>d</sup> fo<sup>r</sup> a bell rope fo<sup>r</sup> the  
fore bell

xxij<sup>s</sup>.

Item paid the 16 daie of January fo<sup>r</sup>  
ringinge at the remove of the queen from  
White haule to Croydon

viij<sup>s</sup>

Item paid the firste Daye of February  
at the cominge of the queene from m<sup>r</sup>  
gressames to White hawell fo<sup>r</sup>

Ringinge

viij<sup>s</sup>

Item paid for a bell rope for the  
great bell the 4 of February

ijs. iiij<sup>s</sup>

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> ringinge the 15 daie  
of June at the removinge of the queene  
from Whitvaull to Rychemonde

viij<sup>s</sup>

Item p<sup>d</sup> fo<sup>r</sup> a bell rope for the middell  
bell the 10 daie of June

xxij<sup>s</sup>

Item paid for ij Baldricks fo<sup>r</sup> the  
great bell & litell bell

ijs. viij<sup>s</sup>

Item fo<sup>r</sup> grease fo<sup>r</sup> the belles

js

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> a belrope fo<sup>r</sup> the  
Launce bell wayenge v<sup>li</sup> at iiij<sup>s</sup>  
a ponde

xv<sup>s</sup>.

Item for grease for the belles 1<sup>d</sup>

Item paid for mending the belles  
and for foure wegges of Iron for  
an ascalie and nayles

viij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid for ringinge at the quenes  
remove from Hampton Court to

Whyte Halle the 22 daye of Decembre

viij<sup>d</sup>

Item for grease for the belles

iiij<sup>d</sup>

1568-70.

Item paid for ringinge at the quenes  
remouinge from whithall to grenewiche

viij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid for grese for the belles

jd

Item for grece for the belles

jd

Item paid to Carines for a baldricke

& a bell rope

iiijs.

Item grece for the belles

jd

Item for a baldricke for the greates bell

xxd

Item for grece for the belles

jd.

1570-1572

for a baldricke for the greates bell ijs. iiij<sup>d</sup>.



Item payde for timber for the Crosse  
over the steeple and for the frame of  
the Bells

10/16

iijs.

for iiij dayes worke of a Carpenter aboute  
the same at xiiij the daye iiij s. viij d. &  
for nayles viij d.

Item payde to Glyver Depinge rescione  
for a Beell Roppe

ijs. vjd.

for a baldricke for one of the bells  
for grease for the bells.

iijs

for Ringinge for the quene the xxij of  
November 1569  
& for Candles

xija

vjd

1572

Item payde for a new Roope for the  
greate bell

xvjd.

Item payde for a new bell clapper for  
the greate bell w<sup>th</sup> the Exchange (612)

xs.

Item payde for cariage of the Clapper  
of the newe bell

iiij d

Item payde for greese for the Bells

iijs

Item payde to Hewghe Mathewe for  
mendinge the Clape<sup>r</sup> of the greate bell

xvjd.

Item payde for a newe baldricke for  
the thurde bell

10<sup>17</sup>  
ijs.

Item payd for mendinge of iiij olde  
baldricks

ijs

Item payde to the Bell ffounder for  
the newe castinge of the fforthe bell  
and puttinge more newe melle to it

iiij*li* ijs. iiij*d*

Item payde for brede and dryncke  
for the Ringers at the overthrowe of  
ye torkes (613)

viiij*d*

1573

It p<sup>d</sup> the xj<sup>th</sup> daye of Februarye for  
mendinge the fore bell whele

xx*d*

Item p<sup>d</sup> the pascion the x<sup>th</sup> daye of  
June at the quenes ma<sup>ty</sup> removinge  
from White hall to grenewyche

viiij*d*

Item p<sup>d</sup> to the pascion for ringinge  
the xvj<sup>th</sup> daye of June at the quenes  
removinge from Grenw<sup>ch</sup> to S. James

viiij*d*

Item p<sup>d</sup> to the pascion for ringinge  
the xx<sup>th</sup> daye of June at her graces

remouinge from S. James to White  
Hall.

viijs

Item p<sup>d</sup> at the quenes remove the xx<sup>th</sup>  
of Julie from White hall to Enfelde.

viijs

Item p<sup>d</sup> for a bawderyche for the great  
bell

xxd

Item p<sup>d</sup> for ringinge at the quenes ma<sup>tie</sup>  
Chaunginge of her raign

iiijs.

Item p<sup>d</sup> for greise for the belles for  
the hole yere

iijs

Item p<sup>d</sup> for a balderyche

ijs.

It for ringinge the last of February  
at the quenes mat<sup>ie</sup> remove from  
Tom' pett house to Grenewyche

viijs

Item p<sup>d</sup> the xxij<sup>th</sup> of Marche for mendinge  
the gre bell whele & foyces

xd.

Item p<sup>d</sup> the same daye for mendinge  
of the great bell

viijs

Item p<sup>d</sup> for a rope for the paunce bell

xd

Item p<sup>d</sup> for greise for the bells

iijs

Item p<sup>d</sup> for a bell rope

xxjd

Item paid the xviii<sup>th</sup> of November for  
ringing when the quenes shal<sup>ie</sup>  
changed her reign unto xvj<sup>th</sup> line  
yeres.

1019

iiij<sup>s</sup>.

Item paid the xix<sup>th</sup> of december for ringinge  
at the quenes shal<sup>ie</sup> removinge from  
Somerset house to Whyt hall

vij<sup>d</sup>.

1573-1575

Item paid the eighte daie off

February for Ringing at the quenes  
shal<sup>ie</sup> remove from Whitehall to Hampton  
Court

vij<sup>d</sup>.

Item paid for ringinge at the quenes  
shal<sup>ie</sup> remove from Lambeth to  
Greenwyche

vij<sup>d</sup>.

Item paid for a Bell rope

xvj<sup>d</sup>.

Item paid for Ringinge the xvij<sup>th</sup>  
daie of Novemb at the reigne of the  
Quenes shal<sup>ie</sup>

vij<sup>d</sup>.

Item for grease for the bell this o<sup>r</sup>  
next yeare

ij<sup>d</sup>.

Item paid for Ringing the xx<sup>th</sup> daie  
of March for the Queens Maie her  
Carrying from Richmond to St. James  
place

1020

viijs

Item paid for five badrugges for the  
bell

iijs. iijs

Item paid to the Lescler for Ringing  
at the p<sup>r</sup>clamation of the Quenes  
Maie her raigne

iijs.

Item paid for a pound of Candells

iijs

1575 - 1577

Item paid for a bandrudge

ijs. ijs

Item pd. for a bell rope that wayd  
iijs<sup>li</sup> and q<sup>ts</sup>

xxjs

Item pd for ringers at the Quenes  
Maies remove from Hampton Court  
to Whitehall

viijs

Item pd for ringinge at the Quenes  
remove from Whitehall to Greenw<sup>ch</sup>

viijs.

Item pd for mendinge of the bell wheels

xxjs

Item pd for a pinne of a bandrudge

ijs

Item pd for a bandrudge

ijs. ijs.

Item paid for ringinge of the  
Hugbnes remove from Greenwich to  
St James.

viij<sup>d</sup>

Item pd for ringinge at the Quenes  
remove from St James to Whitehall

viij<sup>d</sup>

Item pd for ringinge at the Quenes  
remove from Whitehall to Haverunge

viij<sup>d</sup>

Item for a rope for the forebell

xviij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid for ij baldridges

iiijs. iiij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid for ringinge on the xviij<sup>th</sup>  
of November in memorie of the Quenes  
ma<sup>ties</sup> Coronac'on & for Candles and  
a basquet

iiijs. vj<sup>d</sup>

Item pd for grease for the belles

iiij<sup>d</sup>

1576-1577

Item pd for ringinge at the Quenes  
remove from Hampton Court to  
Whitehall

viij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid for ringinge at the Quenes  
Comunge from Essex. iiij<sup>d</sup> of marche

viij<sup>d</sup>

Item pd for a baldridge

ijs. iij<sup>d</sup>

Item for ringing at the Quenes  
remove from Whitehall to Greenwich

1022

viijs

Item pd for ringinge at the Quenes  
Com'inge from Leeces<sup>e</sup> house the ix  
of maie and for ringinge at her  
dep'ture thence the x<sup>th</sup> of Maie

xvjs

It paid Lindforde for a wheele  
for the forebell

vjs.

Item paid for a pyne for the seconde  
bell

ijs

Item paid for ij bell ropes

iijs. vja

Item paid the same tyme for a Bawdridges

ijs. ija

Item pd for ringinge on the xvij<sup>th</sup> of  
Novemb<sup>r</sup> in memorie of the Quenes  
Coronacion for a pounde of Candles  
and a basket

iiijs. vja

1577-1579

Item for ij Baldrecks

iiijs.

Item pd for A new bell rope

xxd

Item pd for ij Baldrecks

iiijs

Item pd for Rynginge for the quene  
the xix<sup>th</sup> of February

viijs.

- Item pd for iiij ropes for the bells vjs viij<sup>d</sup>  
 pd for a Baldreche ijs  
 Item pd for nayles to mende the belfrey xd  
 Item pd to the Lesclon for rynge  
 for the queene the xvij<sup>th</sup> of November iijs. iiij<sup>d</sup>  
 Item paid for a Bell rope xxd  
 paid for rynge for the queen the  
 xvij<sup>th</sup> Daye of January at her Comynge  
 to Whitehall viij<sup>d</sup>  
 Item pd for a Baldreche for the forebell ijs.  
 Item pd for a rope for the fore bell  
 an other for the Lance bell and  
 one for the clocke weynges in all  
 xx<sup>li</sup> vs.  
 Item pd for ij Baldriches iijs.  
 Item pd for rynge for the queene  
 at her goinge to wyneor the xxviiij<sup>th</sup>  
 of Aprill viij<sup>d</sup>  
 Item pd for rynge for the queene  
 the ij of Maye at her Comynge from  
 Transled to Whitehall viij<sup>d</sup>.



Item pd for a rope xxd  
 Item pd for greese for the bells iija  
 Item pd the xxvj<sup>th</sup> of June for ringinge  
 for the queene at her comyng from  
 Wandisford to Whitehall viija  
 Item pd for ringinge for the queene the  
 ij of July at her goinge awaye from  
 Whitehall to grenewich viija  
 Item pd for A baldricke and a rope iij s. viija  
 Item pd for a baldricke ijs  
 Item pd for iij ropes rs.  
 Pd for A bald rope vpon Symon &  
 Jude Daie ijs.  
 Item pd the xvj of November for iij ropes iij s. iija  
 Item pd the xvij<sup>th</sup> of November for ringinge  
 for the queene iij s. xd  
 Item pd the xxij<sup>nd</sup> of December for ringinge  
 for the queene her com'ng from grenewich  
 to Whitehall viija

1579-1581

Item for a baldricke for the great bell ijs  
 Item paid vnto Ledford the xx<sup>nd</sup> day  
 of May for the mendinge of the wheels  
 of the belles xvj d  
 Item paid vnto him the xxiiij of May

fo. pluf & mendinge of ye belfry  
flower and fo. a forme fo. a fewe and  
nayles as appeareth by his bill thereof  
mad

rs.

Item fo. takinge downe of ye great bell  
& fo. hanginge of it upp againe fo.  
carrage & recarrage of the same vnto  
the bell founders the first tyme

rs. rd. ob.

Item paid vnto Lesce fo. Iron worke  
and nayles fo. ye same bell

ijs.

Item paid vnto Mathewe Clarke for  
ballinge of three Clappers And fo.  
Attieringe of them

iij s. iiij d.

Item paid for a new baldridge

ijs.

Item paid fo. A newe bell rope ye. iiij.  
day of October Weyinge vij li At iiij. ob.  
the pound

xxjd

Item paid ye third day of November fo.  
carrage of the great bell to ye belfounders  
& fo. bringinge of ye same the seconde  
tyme

ijs. iiij d.

Item paid for weyinge of the same bell ye.  
first & seconde tyme

ijs. vjd.

Item paid unto Ledford fo<sup>r</sup> helpinge  
twoo dayes fo<sup>r</sup> the same bell

1026  
ijs.

Item paid unto men fo<sup>r</sup> helpinge of  
the bell up & down And fo<sup>r</sup> Drinke  
fo<sup>r</sup> them

xxd  
iiij<sup>a</sup>

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> Gyle fo<sup>r</sup> ye same bell

Item paid untolesc fo<sup>r</sup> nayles & fo<sup>r</sup>  
mendinge ye Iron worke of ye bell

xij<sup>a</sup>

Item paid vnto Hughe walker ye

belfounder fo<sup>r</sup> Chaunginge of our dde

bell wch wayed 1xc one q<sup>ter</sup> And

vj li at vjs viij d c

iiij li ijs.

Item paid unto him for iiij quarters

of a C of newe mettle Ati v<sup>d</sup> the pound xxxvjs. iiij<sup>a</sup>

Item paid vnto his men fo<sup>r</sup> ij ye they  
sette vppon ye bell

ijs.

Item paid vnto Nicholas Bedworth

ye scriven<sup>r</sup> fo<sup>r</sup> one obligacon wherein

ye said Hughe walker stood bounde

unto vs fo<sup>r</sup> ye new castinge of ye same

if any faulle should be

vj<sup>a</sup>

Item paid for ye makinge of ij bellwheeles vjs.

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> Ringinge the xxvij<sup>th</sup>  
day of November beinge y<sup>e</sup>. Chaunge of  
her Ma<sup>tie</sup> coronacion

iijs.

Item fo<sup>r</sup> ij<sup>li</sup> of Candles the same day  
Item paid the vij<sup>th</sup> of December fo<sup>r</sup>  
ringinge At he<sup>r</sup> Ma<sup>tie</sup> Comynge to  
Whit hall

Vd

viij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid vns Bellows the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> day  
of December fo<sup>r</sup> Mendinge of A bell  
wheele & y<sup>e</sup>. fewe in y<sup>e</sup>. Chauncell

ijs.

Item fo<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup>. Ringinge At he<sup>r</sup> Ma<sup>tie</sup>  
Remove from Whit hall to Saint  
James y<sup>e</sup>. xx<sup>th</sup> day of Marche

viij<sup>d</sup>

Item paid y<sup>e</sup>. xx<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill fo<sup>r</sup>  
Pynginge At he<sup>r</sup> Ma<sup>tie</sup> Remove  
from St James to Whit hall

viij<sup>d</sup>

Item pd y<sup>e</sup>. xx<sup>th</sup> day of June fo<sup>r</sup>. Ringinge  
At he<sup>r</sup> Ma<sup>tie</sup> remove from Whit hall  
to Grenewiche

viij<sup>d</sup>

Item pd for a stirroppe <sup>6/14</sup> fo<sup>r</sup>. y<sup>e</sup>. bell whele

iiij<sup>d</sup>

Item pd for a ball rige fo<sup>r</sup>. y<sup>e</sup>. fo<sup>r</sup> bell

ijs.

Item pd fo<sup>r</sup>. greese fo<sup>r</sup>. y<sup>e</sup>. belles.

iiij<sup>d</sup>.

Item paid for A bell rope xvd  
 Item paid ye xij<sup>th</sup> of November for ij baldinges. iij s.  
 Item for a rope for one of ye great bells  
 & one for ye paineds bell iij s. vja  
 Item paid unto ye iij Ringers ye xvij  
 day of November iij s  
 Item paid ye same day for i li of Candles iij d  
 Item paid for Cumes oyle for ye clocke  
 & grese for ye bells ix d.  
 Item paid unto Sec for mendinge one  
 of ye Irons of the great bell viij d  
 Item paid the xxx<sup>th</sup> of July for ringinge  
 At her matie Remove from grene<sup>we</sup>  
 to Oatelandes viij d  
 Item paid for Ringing the V of October  
 At her matie Conynge to Sec James viij d  
 Item paid for Ringinge ye xvij day  
 of November At ye Chaunge At  
 her matie Rayne iij s  
 Item for A pound of Candles iij d  
 Item paid for Ringinge ye xxx<sup>th</sup> of  
 November when her matie went  
 to Hampton Court viij d And At  
 her Retorne backe Againe ye.

xxix<sup>d</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> same month viij<sup>d</sup>.

1020

Him paid the xx of December fo<sup>r</sup> Ringinge  
at y<sup>e</sup> Quenes ma<sup>tie</sup> Remove from

S<sup>t</sup>. James to Whitehall

vij<sup>d</sup>

Him fo<sup>r</sup> A pint of oyle fo<sup>r</sup> the bells

ij<sup>d</sup>

1683-1685

List of 67 subscribers for the new bells including  
Sir Thomas Bromley K<sup>t</sup> Lord Chancellor of  
England, Earl of Rutland, and Sir Francis  
Knowles. Total = xxv<sup>li</sup> iiijs. vjd.

Him. Card out y<sup>e</sup> xvij<sup>th</sup> of mch fo<sup>r</sup>  
y<sup>e</sup> Carriage of o<sup>r</sup> bells to the Bellfounders

ij<sup>s</sup>. vjd

Him for weyinge of the bells y<sup>e</sup> same  
day and unto ij porters for their  
helpe

ij<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>

Him paid fo<sup>r</sup> o<sup>r</sup> Drinckage and fo<sup>r</sup>

those that went w<sup>th</sup> us to see o<sup>r</sup>

bells wayed

vjd

Him Card out at the first casting  
of o<sup>r</sup> bells And unto ij porters fo<sup>r</sup>  
their helpe

ij<sup>s</sup>.

fo. oyle for y<sup>e</sup> Clarke & belles vjd  
 Item pd fo. Drawinge and ingrossinge  
 of y<sup>e</sup> bell founde<sup>r</sup>. obligacon unto  
 Nicholas Bedworth.

xvd

Item Card out to maken y<sup>e</sup> Carpent<sup>r</sup>  
 Drunck & other thynges when we went  
 to flich home o. belles

rs. viija

Item Card out to ffrauncis joules to  
 make y<sup>e</sup> ringers Drunck

xviij<sup>d</sup>.

Item pd unto Robert Hole the Bell  
 founder y<sup>e</sup> vj q may fo. y<sup>e</sup> castinge  
 of o. belles and fo. the ow<sup>r</sup>. weighte of  
 y<sup>e</sup> newe Metall as by his bill appeareth. xiiij li vijs.

Item paid unto Thetle the Carpenter  
 fo. mendinge the frame of the bells  
 by y<sup>e</sup> m<sup>r</sup>. a greame<sup>c</sup>.

vli

Item paid unto westley y<sup>e</sup> first of  
 June fo. ropes and bauldriges as  
 appears by his bill

xiijs. vjd.

Item pd to y<sup>e</sup> Carpenter fo. new stockinge  
 to the great bell

xviij<sup>d</sup>.

Item paid for oyle for ye clocke &  
bells & for bones

xd

Item paid to Tex for Iron worke aboute  
ye bell

xvijs

Item paid for ij bell ropes weyng vij<sup>li</sup>  
a pece

iijs.

a dayes worke in setting of ye hammers  
to ye fifte bell

viij<sup>d</sup>

for settinge ye hammer of ye iiij<sup>th</sup> bell

Item paid to westley for his paynes taken  
aboute the tiewinge of the bells

xs.

Item pd. for stockinge of the great bell

xvijs

Item pd. for iiij bell ropes weyng vij<sup>li</sup>  
& a half a pece

rs. iijs

Item paid for bread And bere for ye

Ringers the vij<sup>th</sup> day of Septemb<sup>r</sup> beinge

her mat<sup>r</sup>s birthday

xijs

Item Card out when we went to ye Lord

Chawncello<sup>r</sup> to ye Court for his fordwall

for ye bells for o<sup>r</sup> boole hire And

dyner ij per all tymes

iijs.

Item paid for a Double bell rope

ijs. viij<sup>d</sup>.



Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> A baldricke for y<sup>e</sup>  
saunce bell

xd

Item fo<sup>r</sup> oyle for y<sup>e</sup> clocke & bells &  
for cromes

viija

1584

Item paid vnto Edward Balcard fo<sup>r</sup> }  
a sturpe & a bull fo<sup>r</sup> the iiij bell

xviij s

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> ij bell ropes wayinge viij<sup>e</sup>  
& a half A pece

iijs. viij d

Item paid y<sup>e</sup> xvij of November At the  
chaunginge of her mat<sup>e</sup> saigro fo<sup>r</sup>  
ringinge to sixe men

rjs.

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> ringinge at her mat<sup>e</sup>  
Comynge to See James

xd

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> ringinge at her mat<sup>e</sup>  
remove from See James

xd

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> ringinge y<sup>e</sup> v<sup>th</sup> of February  
at her mat<sup>e</sup> Comynge to Tom'sete house

xd

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> ringinge y<sup>e</sup> xiiij<sup>th</sup> day of  
y<sup>e</sup> same moneth At he<sup>r</sup> mat<sup>e</sup>  
remove frome y<sup>e</sup> same house

xd

Item paid vnto Richard Leadford  
fo<sup>r</sup> mendinge of y<sup>e</sup> whele of the treble  
bell

1033

ijs. vjd

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> mendinge y<sup>e</sup> Iron pynges  
of y<sup>e</sup> same whele

xij<sup>d</sup>

1585

Item paid vnto Henry westley for  
clappers ropes and baldriges as Appereth  
vnde<sup>r</sup> his hand

xxvjs. xa

Item paid the thrid of July fo<sup>r</sup> A  
baldrige

iijs. iijs

Item paid y<sup>e</sup> v<sup>t</sup> of July for a pancelis  
bell rope

xra

Item paid for ringinge y<sup>e</sup> same day  
the mat<sup>r</sup> then passinge by to nonsuiche

vijja

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> ringinge the vij of Septembe<sup>r</sup>  
beinge the mat<sup>r</sup> birth day

vijja

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> iij bel ropes weyunge  
xxij<sup>d</sup> at iij d a pound

rs. ix d

Item paid the same day for A newe  
baldricke

iijs. iijs

1586

Item paid at Gullyns the vij<sup>t</sup> of

may 1586 to make Walker the  
Bell founder. Drincke when he agreed  
w<sup>th</sup> ye m<sup>r</sup>

xxj<sup>s</sup>

Item paid ye xxv<sup>s</sup> of ye same moneth  
fo<sup>r</sup> ye carriage of o<sup>r</sup> Treable bell to the  
founders

xijs

Item paid for wayinge of it ye same  
tyme

vijs

Item paid ye xxj<sup>s</sup> of June for wayinge  
of both Bells

vijs

Item paid vnto his port<sup>r</sup> fo<sup>r</sup> their helpes

xijs

Item paid for Drunckinge ye same tyme ijs. viijs

Item pd for Carryinge home of ye bells

xvijs

Item pd vnto Walker the Bell founder  
for ye newe Treable Bell & fo<sup>r</sup> ye newe  
Castinge of ye old fore bell as by his  
acquittance appeareth

xiiij<sup>li</sup> vijs.

Item paid vnto Forlington for xvj  
foote of Tymber fo<sup>r</sup> ye mendinge of  
ye frame of ye Bells at viij d a  
foote

xs. viijs.

Him fo<sup>r</sup>. sawnge of the same  
Tymbers

xij<sup>d</sup>

Him paid vnto Richard Baker fo<sup>r</sup>.

lix foote of peelinge bound at jd

the foote

iiijs. xjd

Him paid for ij quarters

xa

Him pd fo<sup>r</sup>. a bound and fo<sup>r</sup>. nayles

viijs

Him pd vnto ye Carpent<sup>r</sup>. fo<sup>r</sup>. mendinge

of ye same frame and for hanginge

the Bells

xxxs.

Him paid vnto w<sup>m</sup> Colbecke for

Carriage of ye Tymber

iiij<sup>d</sup>

Him fo<sup>r</sup>. iiij li of ijd nayles fo<sup>r</sup>. mendinge

the wheeles

vj<sup>d</sup>

Him pd fo<sup>r</sup>. a newe clapp<sup>r</sup>. fo<sup>r</sup>. ye

second Bell weyinge xxiiij li at

vjd the pound

xjs vjd

Him fo<sup>r</sup>. mendinge of the Treable clapper

xij<sup>d</sup>

Him pd fo<sup>r</sup>. ij plate peeces of Iron fo<sup>r</sup>.

treable bell and fo<sup>r</sup>. ij boulties weyinge

ix li at iiij the pound

ijs. iiij<sup>d</sup>.

Item fo<sup>r</sup> makinge longer ij

boullies

xviijs

Item fo<sup>r</sup> newe Iron and fo<sup>r</sup> mendinge  
of ye flatt bandes to ye fireable

xxjs

Item fo<sup>r</sup> great nailes to pynte ye  
belles to ye stockes

xviijs

Item fo<sup>r</sup> iiij great spickes ij boullies

& boultiers & fo<sup>r</sup> ye fore lockes to

them and fo<sup>r</sup> an other flatt peece

of Iron weying in ye whol xviijs li

& a haef at iijjs ye pound

iiijjs vijs ob.

Item paid fo<sup>r</sup> an obligacon wherein

walkeu standeth bound fo<sup>r</sup> ij yeares

fo<sup>r</sup> ye warrantise of ye same belles

xijjs

Some of the paymentes is xvij li ix xj ob.

So we have laid out more thap we  
receyvid xlix s. xjd ob.

Paid unto Fellowes for makinge ij

Cottrells & fo<sup>r</sup> mendinge of a seat

& a fewe more

vjd.

Item paid ye second of September

1037

for a pece of timber beinge vij footie  
& A haefe for a newe stocke for the  
vth bell

iijs ix d.

Item paid for sawinge of it and for  
Carnage

xjd

Item paid for iij dayes worke to Charles  
ye Carpenter.

rs.

Item paid for ij days worke to his  
man at xvjd a day

ijs. viij d.

Item paid vnto him for a newe  
breable wheele

vijs.

Item paid for iiij hoopes for the bell wheeles xvjd.

Item for mendinge of ye clapper to  
ye second bell & for mendinge of  
ye bolles nailes & othe Iron  
worke Aboute ye iiij<sup>th</sup>

iijs.

1586

Item paid ye same day for ringinge  
afte<sup>r</sup> the execution of ye Queene of  
Scottes

xd.

Item paid ye xxviij<sup>th</sup> of mche to Abbot

ye Carpenter fo<sup>r</sup> mendinge ye  
south windowe of the steeple wherein  
ye bells hange wch was throwne  
downe with ye violence of ye wind  
and for mendinge of ye 1<sup>st</sup> bell

rs. ijd

1587

Item paid vnto Bellows ye xv<sup>th</sup> day  
of July fo<sup>r</sup> ij dayes worke in mendinge  
the second and 1<sup>st</sup> Bells

ijs.

1592

Item pd vnto Laurence Wright ye bell  
founder for newe castinge of ye great  
bell as by his Acquittance appears

xli

1593

Item paid vnto Laurence Wright ye  
bell founder for ye exchange of the  
iiij<sup>th</sup> bell beinge crackt & for ye exchange  
of ye pebble bell

viij li

[ A list of 90 persons who weare Contributing  
to ye bells ]

1599

Item paid vnto him [the pson] for

Ringinge of the Exchequer of the Clocke  
& of the Clocke bell

1039

iijs.

[ After this entry this Charge appears at  
regular intervals ]

1602 Item for ringing at her Ma<sup>ties</sup>  
remove from Whitehall to Richmond the  
xxij<sup>th</sup> of January 1602.

xij<sup>d</sup>

Item for ringing the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> of March at  
the proclaimyng of our King

ijs. viij<sup>d</sup>

### Inventories

1598. Item, in the Steeple. v bells one Sainct's  
bell & a clocke.

1599. Item in y<sup>e</sup> Steeple v bells one sainct's  
bell & a clocke.

1604. Item in the Steeple five bells and a  
Sainct's Bell.



# The Inscriptions on the Bells.

1040

Treble. RECAST BY A B R 1758.

2. M: HART & W: CHAPMAN CHURCHWARDENS 1770 :  
: T A R :

3. RECAST BY A B R 1758

4. AND IN EARTH PEACE 1725

5. GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN 1725

6. ABR: RVDHALL OF CLOYCESTER CAST YS ALL  
1725

7. PROSPERITY TO THE CHVRCH OF ENGLAND 1725

8. PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD 1725

9. PROSPERITY TO THE PARISH OF S<sup>T</sup> MARTINS 1725

10. FEAR GOD HONOVR THE KING 1725

11. JOHN WALKER & JOHN SAWCER CHVRCHWARDENS  
1725

Tenor. ZACHARIAH PEARCE D:D: VICAR 1726 WALTER  
TYRNER & WM HOVSE CHVRCHWARDENS

Sanctus A B R 1725 .

old Second (now at Fulham) THE GIFT OF THE YESTRY  
BY SUBSCRIPTION

old Third GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST.

## Peal Boards.

1041.

The two most valuable and interesting peal boards at St. Martin's are not now in the belfry, but have been hung on the walls of the crypt which was once a place of sepulchre and is now used partly as a chapel and partly as a night refuge for destitute persons. Previously the boards had hung for some years on the staircase leading to the gallery of the church. One of them records the peal of six thousand Cinques rung by the London Scholars in 1728, the other records the 6240 Spedman Cinques rung by the College Juniors in 1788.

In the belfry is a board which through

1042

dirt and the discolouration of the  
varnish has become unreadable. <sup>(617)</sup> It probably  
records the Spedman Cinques rung in 1792.

There is a small tablet elaborately  
carved and written which commemorates  
the 5184 of Spedman Calers, rung at  
St. Leonards' Shoreditch by the Cumberland  
Youths in 1788. It has been restored and  
rewritten and is now in a very excellent  
condition. Probably it was brought to  
St. Martin's when the Cumberlands abandoned  
St. Leonards' as a practice tower. Another  
board, almost unreadable, came from  
Shoreditch. Of the Caler boards the most  
valuable is one recording 7325 Changes  
of Grandeire Cinques rung by the St.  
James's Society in 1837.

Thursday March 14 1727  
 The Society of London Scholars  
 Rang in this Steeple  
 the first Compleat peal of  
 Six Thousand Cinques

Performers Names.

William James Treble		Arch. Smith	7.
William Underwood	2	Thos. Warburton	8.
Jos. Winzell	3.	Rob <sup>t</sup> Powell	9.
Wm. Kendall	4	Wm. Gordon	10
Jno. Bishop	5	Lan <sup>c</sup> Bland	11.
Jas. Preston	6	Wm. Saunders	} Tenor.
		Wm. Price	

The Society of College Youths did ring on  
 October 6<sup>th</sup> 1788 a Complete peal of 6304  
 Cinques on Stedman's Principle in 4 hours  
 and 47 minutes; this great performance  
 being the first in this method on twelve  
 bells, is an instance of that unrivalled  
 merit only to be equaled by a similar  
 assiduity and perseverance. The performers were

Thomas Blakemore	1.	James Hammett	7
Robert Tye Donkin	2.	Nathaniel Williamson	8
John Dovey	3.	William Lyford	9
Christopher Wells	4.	Samuel Laurence	10
James Wooller	5.	Edmund Pye Lester	11
John Inville	6.	Thos. Pilgrim	Tenor

Composed and called by Thomas Blakemore.

# Peal Boards in St. Martins Belfry.

1044.

On Monday, Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 1837 was rung  
in this Steeple by the Society of St. James's  
Youths a fine and complete peal of  
Grandsire Cinqes, containing 7352  
Changes in 5 hours and 35 minutes  
which was executed in a masterly  
manner by the following persons, -

J. Fairbairn	Tells	J. Harrison	7.
C. Clay	2.	C. Hockham	8.
J. Nash	3.	T. Clayton	9.
T. Toleaday	4.	C. Wilson	10.
H. Burwash	5.	H. Smith	11.
R. Turner	6.	A. Frost	Tenor.

Conducted by Mr Frost. Toleaday.

The Cumberlands Society. On Tuesday 1045.  
 Jan'y 3<sup>rd</sup> 1854 the following members rang  
 in excellent style 5151 Changes of Stedman's  
 Cinq'es in 3 hours & 56 minutes.

John Cox	1	Edmund Stokes	7.
Thomas Britten	2.	Edward Sawyer	8.
Isaac Fairbairn	3.	Henry Wheeler	9.
Thomas Towell	4.	John Howe.	10.
Jeremiah Miller	5	William Nelson	11.
Charles Andrews	6.	George Hand	Tenor

Composed & Conducted by John Cox.

The above being the first peal of Stedman rang  
 on these bells for 63 years.

On Monday Novbr. 10<sup>th</sup> 1862 in Honor of  
 H. R. H. the Prince of Wales attaining his  
 majority a fine peal of Calers on Stedman's  
 principle containing 5050 Changes was rang  
 in this Steeple in 3 hours 28 minutes by the  
 following members of the London Society of  
 Cumberlands

John Kelms	1.	Peter Coole	6.
John Rogers	2.	George Hamble	7.
Emanuel Stokes	3.	Charles Wilson	8.
Jeremiah Miller	4.	William Ansell	9.
Robert Ross	5.	George Morris	Tenor

Composed & Conducted by J. Kelms.

Society of Cumberlands. On Friday  
March 10<sup>th</sup> 1865 the following members of  
the above Society rang on the bells in  
this Steeple a true Peal of Cinques on  
Stedman's principle containing 5019 changes  
in 3 hrs. & 47 mins.

John Nells	1.	Henry Swain	7
Emanuel Stokes	2.	William Howard	8
Isaac Rogers	3.	George Hammett	9
Robert Ross	4.	George Turl	10
Jeremiah Miller	5.	John Rogers	11
John Cox	6.	William Baron	Tenor

Also on Friday Janry 1867 a true peal  
of Grandire Cinques containing 5103 changes  
in 3 hrs & 55 mins.

John Nells	1.	Henry Swain	7
John Cox	2.	Peter Coole	8
Isaac Rogers	3.	John Howe	9
Robert Ross	4.	George Turl	10
William Baron	5.	William Howard	11
Jeremiah Miller	6.	George Morris	Tenor

The above peals were composed and Conducted  
by John Nells.

Society of Cumberlands. On Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> 1868 was rung in this Steeple on the small 8 bells a fine peal of Grandmere Triples Consisting of 5040 Changes in 2 hrs. 47 minutes by the following members.

Isaac Rogers	1.	Robert Beaumont	5.
Robert Ross	2.	John Cox	6.
George Furl	3.	George Banks	7.
William Howard	4.	George Morris	8.

Conducted by Isaac Rogers.

S. James's Society. On Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> 1870 the following members rang in good style their first peal of Kent Treble PB Maximus Containing 5040 Changes in 3 hrs 49 minutes being the first peal of Maximus rung on these bells for 42 years.

John Cox	1.	Robert Haworth	7.
William Green	2.	Isaac Howe	8.
George Newson	3.	William Barrow	9.
Robert Rose	4.	John Rogers	10.
James Hewitt	5.	William Howard	11.
Peter Cooke	6.	Henry Booth	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by John Cox.



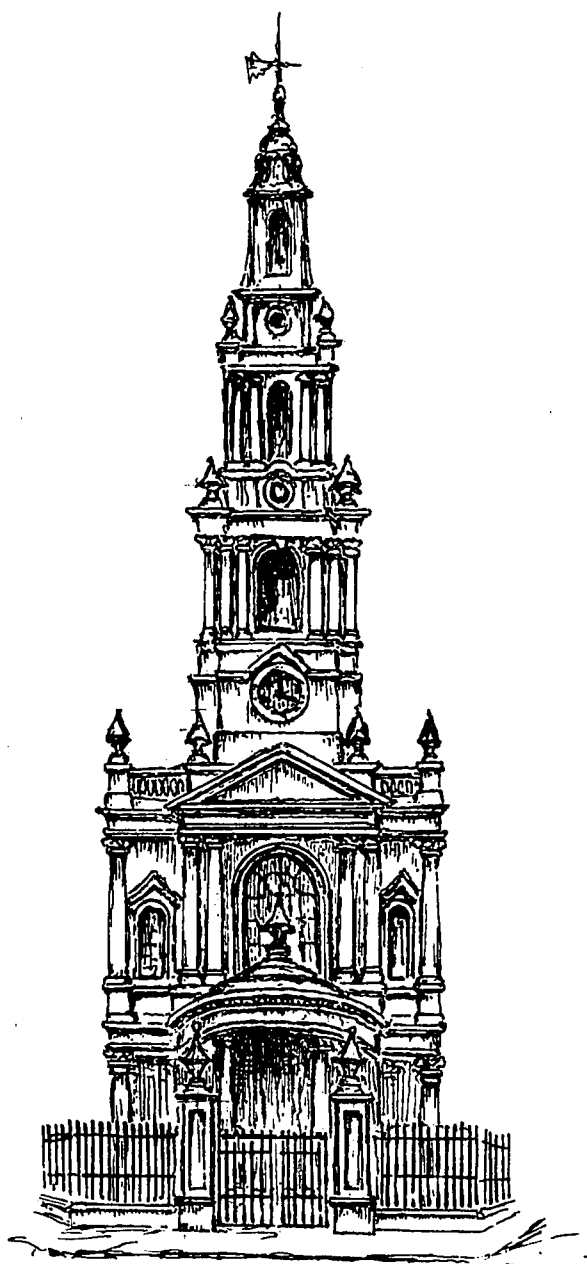
# Pearly rung at St Martins in the Fields

1726	Oct. 17	5076	Grand. Calers	College Junths
1728	Nov 14	6000	Gran. Cinqes	London Sch.
	15	6312	do	College Junths
1731	May 8	5280	Bob Mascinus	do
1734	Dec 4	5600	Gran. Calers	Eastern Sch.
1738	May 20	5040	Bob Triples	Union Sch.
1748	Dec 9	5040	Bob Majors	do
1749	Aug 8	5040	Bob Triples	do
1751	Feb 19	5112	Gran. Calers	do
1771	Nov 4	5280	Real D. Bob Masc.	"ancient" Coll J.
1784	Nov 13	5040	Gran. Cinqes	College Junths
1785	Jan 6.		Gr. F. B. Masc.	"ancient" Coll Jths
1788		6204	Spedman Cinqes	College Junths.

St. Mary,  
in the Strand.

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The original  
Church of St. Mary-  
le-Strand was  
pulled down in  
the sixteenth  
century by the  
Duke of Somerset  
to find room  
and materials for



Somerset House. The present fine building  
was consecrated in 1723. It has never had  
a ringing peal of bells.

St Barnabas Pimlico. This Church  
which is famous for the part it played  
in the Catholic revival in the Church  
of England contains a ring of ten  
bells cast in 1850 at Whitechapel.

They were subscribed for by ten parishioners  
and were supplied to the order of W. J. E.

Bennett. The first peal on them was  
5079 Changes of Shedman Caters rung  
on Monday May 26<sup>th</sup> 1851 by the Society  
of Cumberland Youths and Conducted  
by Charles Goosie. The tenor weighs  
20 cwt.

There has been little ringing  
in the tower for many years and the  
bells are now out of order. (615)

## St. Gabriel, Pimlico.

1049

The nineteenth Century Church of St. Gabriel, Warwick Square, contains a ring of eight bells cast at the Whitechapel Foundry in 1854. They are inscribed -

1. ST GEORGE CLORY TO THE FATHER HIGH
2. ST MICHAEL TO THE SONS DREAD MAJESTY
3. ST BARNABAS TO THE SPIRIT ONE AND THREE
4. ST PAUL BLESSING HONOUR CLORY BE
5. ST PETER EVER ASERE THE WORLD BEGUN
6. ALL SAINTS EVER AS NOW WHILE AGES RUN
7. BLESSED VIRGIN MARY EVER SHALL BE FOR  
EVERMORE
8. ST GABRIEL WHEN THIS WORLD OF CHANCE  
IS OER.

made, C & G MEARS LONDON 1854.

St Gabriels' is sometimes cited as a parish in which aggrieved parishioners have procured by legal means the cessation of bell ringing but actually the case did not come into Court. The facts seem

to be as follows. Certain of the parishioners and especially one man who acted as their leader strongly objected to the bells being rung and threatened to apply for a legal injunction to restrain the ringing as a nuisance.

Whether application actually was made I cannot say, but the parish authorities took up the sensible attitude that they did not wish anyone to be caused annoyance or to have a sense of grievance and a law suit, whether successful or not, was not likely to do the parish any good. So without surrendering any rights, or giving any undertaking, they announced that the bells in future would not be rung, and for many years they were silent.

On Monday, August 24 1855 the new  
peal of eight bells in this tower were  
rung for the first time by the following  
eight members of the College Youths  
Society

F. Marshall	John Bradley
Israel Johnson	Joseph Robinson
Chas. Balls	Joseph Ruston
J. R. Hawthorn	John Austin

On which occasion several touches were  
well rung. The bells cast by Messrs. Mess  
of Whitechapel. Weight of tenor 5 Cwt.  
3 qrs. 10 lbs in the key of E.

Israel Johnson was probably a son or  
grandson of the Israel Johnson who had  
been a prominent College Youth fifty or  
sixty years earlier.

St. Stephen's, Westminster.

The foundation stone of St. Stephen's  
Rochester Row, was laid on July 30<sup>th</sup> 1748  
by Miss Angela Burdett Coutts, daughter  
and heiress of Mr Burdett Coutts, the banker,  
and afterwards in her own right Baroness  
Burdett Coutts. The church was built and  
endowed at her sole cost. It contains a  
ring of eight bells with a tenor of 24 Cwt.,  
cast at the Whitechapel Foundry in 1850.

## C. The Churches in the Borough of Southwark.

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The Borough of Southwark which occupied the extreme north east corner of the County of Surrey opposite the southern end of London Bridge was from very early times a part of the City. It formed one of the wards - Bridge Ward Without - and was governed by a Steward under the Lord Mayor. Originally it contained six parishes, St Mary Magdalen, St Margaret's, St Thomas's, St George's, St Olave's, and St Mary Magdalen at Bermondsey. The most important ecclesiastical buildings were the



Priory of St. Mary Overie at the foot  
 of London Bridge, and the great Abbey of  
 St. Saviour's at Bermondsey at the extreme  
 south end of the Borough.

The latter was dissolved in the thirtieth  
 year of the reign of Henry VIII, and  
 granted to Sir Thomas Pope who pulled  
 it down and in place thereof built a  
 goodly house of stone and timber. (619)  
 Through the good offices of Bishop Stephen Gardiner  
 the church of St. Mary Overie was saved  
 and was united to the parishes of St.  
 Margaret and St. Mary Magdalen which  
 now became one parish, under the title  
 of St. Saviour's.

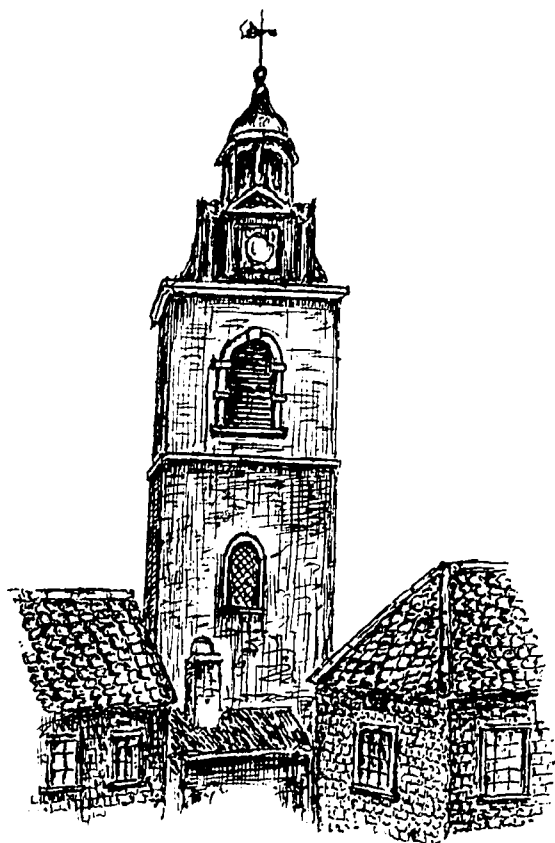
Christ Church parish was formed from  
 St. Saviour's in the seventeenth century,

and St John's Horsleydown in the eighteenth. In more recent years St. Claves' and St. Thomas's Churches have been pulled down.

The borough contained three or four rings of bells of historical importance. That at St. Saviour's is second to none in the country. The ten at St. Johns are famous for the first peal of Liedman Calers, the first true peal in the method. The rings of eight at Christ Church, St. Claves, and St. Georges' also were the scenes of early peals.

Christ Church,  
Southwark.

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Christ Church  
was a parish taken  
out of St. Saviour's.

The first church was built at the cost of  
a Mr John Marshall in 1671 and a  
tower and spire 125 feet high were  
added in 1695. In 1700 James Parker  
supplied a ring of eight bells. <sup>(649)</sup>

The church was badly built upon  
insecure foundations and by 1737 had  
become ruinous. Marshall's trustees  
therefore applied to Parliament for leave

to spend £2.500 which had accumulated in their hands, and the present church was built.

Robert Catlin recast the seventh in 1741, and John Warner & Son the tenor in 1796.

The first peal on the bells was 5040 Bob Major by the Eastern Scholars in 1742. In 1749 John Holli called a peal in the same method for the Union Scholars, and in 1760 William Underwood called 5120 Oxford Treble Bob Major for the "ancient" Society of College Youths.

1057

## Peal Boards at Christ Church.

On Wednesday March 8 1820 Eight men rung in this Steeple a fine and complete Peal of Grandring Trebles, consisting of 5040 Changes, in 3 hours and 15 minutes, being the only Peal of the kind ever rung on these bells. The performers were.

Jas Shask	1. Josh Ladley	4. Ed Sawyer	6.
Ed. Underwood	2. Jas Hichbury	5. Robt Simpson	7.
Wm Kirk	3.	Wm Bolles	8.

The peal contained 108 Cobs and 2 singles and was called by Mr Joseph Ladley.

---

Junior College Society. On Monday Feb 27 1826 was rung by Eight members of that Society a fine and complete Peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major containing 5280 changes in 3 hours and 15 minutes being the only peal in that method on the bells during the last 40 years.

Performed by

Ed Griffiths	1	Josh Ladley	4.	Ed Savage	6.
E Poller	2	T. Tolladay	5.	St Thomas	7.
Jn Taylor	3			Ge Smith	8.

Conducted by Thomas Tolladay.

# Peals rung at Christ Church Southwark.

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1742	Jan 27	5040	Bob Major	Eastern Sch.
1749	Oct 15	5040	do	Union Sch.
1760	Feb. 3	5120	Gx. F. B. Maj	College Yths.
1777	Dec 8	5200	Bob Major	Cumberlands
1787	Mar 3	5088	Gx F. B. Maj	J. Cumberlands.

## Inscriptions 620

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1-4	.I. B. FECIT 1700
5-6	JAMES BARTLET ME LIDJ 1700 O.
7.	ROBERT CATLIN FECIT 1741
Tenor	JOHN YARNER & SONS FOUNDERS LONDON 1796 GILBERT HANDASYDE & JAMES WEBBER CHURCHWARDENS.
Sanctus Bell.	ROBERT CATLIN FECIT 1742.

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# St George, Southwark.

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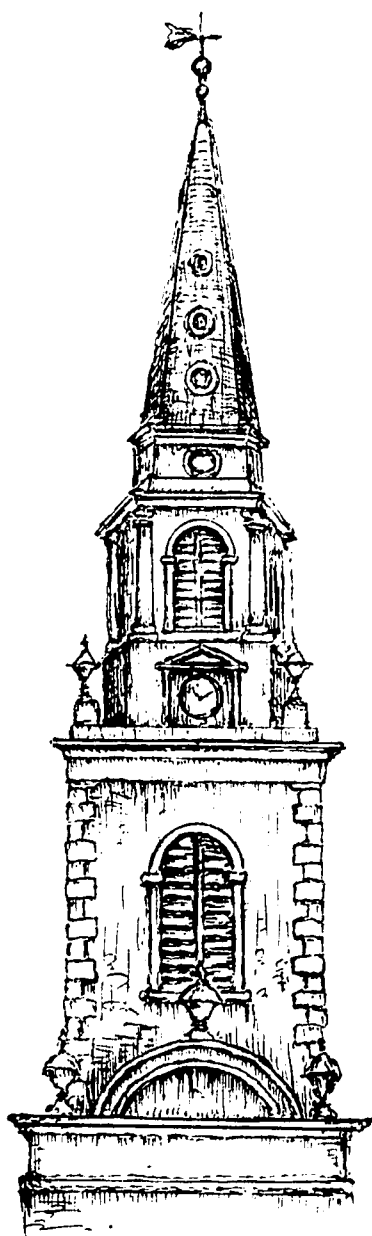
St George's in the  
Borough is of very  
ancient foundation,

as old as 1122,

perhaps older,

and is said originally

to have pertained to the great Abbey of  
Bermondsey. The present church was  
built in 1734-1736 under an Act of



Parliament and cost £6.000.

1060

Abraham Rudhall supplied in 1718 a ring of eight bells which still remains.

The first peal in the steeple was rung on July 25<sup>th</sup> by the Union Scholars; 5040 changes of Bob Major, conducted by John Denmead. In 1750 Annable called a

peal of Bob Major L. George for the College Youths. It was a rather poor variation of Plain Bob. <sup>(621)</sup> The London Youths in 1768 rang 5012 changes of Tichbornes Invention.

The peal consisted of one course of Bob Triples and forty-four of Bob Major, and is interesting as the first spliced peal ever accomplished. In 1772 the Cumberlands rang 5071 Cumberland



Eight-in. The figures are not  
exactly, but the method was probably  
Grandson Major, and if so the performance  
was the first feat in the method.

# Inscriptions on the Bells.

627

1952.

- Treble. A.R. 1718
2. PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD 1718 A.R.
3. PROSPERITY TO OUR BENEFACTORS A.R.
4. GOD PRESERVE THIS CHVRCH A.R. 1718.
5. PROSPERITY TO THIS PLACE A.R. 1718.
6. MR WILLIAM BRIDGER CHVRCHYARDEN  
A.R. 1718.
7. ABRAHAM RUDHALL OF CLOUCESTER  
BELLFOUNDER 1718
- Tenor. THE LIVING I TO THE CHURCH DO CALL  
& TO THE GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL
- Sanctvs THE REV<sup>d</sup> J COOKSEY RECTOR Y<sup>m</sup> HILL  
CHURCHYARDEN APRIL 1738 RICHARD  
PHELPS T LESTER FECIT  
MY VOICE AT PROPER TIMES ILL RAISE  
AND SOUND TO MY SVBSCRIBERS PRAISE.

652 1953

## Teal Boards at St. George's Southwark.

Westminster Youths. On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 1805 the above Society rang in this Splee a complete Teal of 5040 Grandure Tripples in 3 hours, being the greatest performance on these bells for a period of 20 years.

Ed. Griffiths	1	Ed Rane	4.	Wm. Williams	6
John Ladley	2	Wm Shandy	5.	John Hints	7
Wm. Shaker	3			T. B. Harris	8

The Teal was conducted by Mr Hints.

1859. On Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, <sup>1859</sup> the ancient College Society, established 1637 rung a fine and complete Teal of Triples on Stedman's Principal containing 5040 Changes, in 2 hours and 52 minutes being the first Teal in that intricate method rung on these bells. The performers were

Wm Green	1.	Wm Coolen	4.	Wm Dugworthy	6
John Bradley	2.	Geo. A. Musket	5.	Jas. Dwight	7.
George Hockham	3.			Edw. Drury	8.

Conducted by Wm Coolen.



# Peals rung at St. George's.

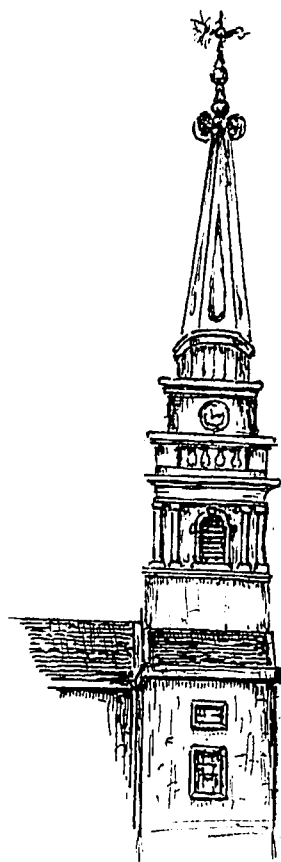
1065

1736	June 25	5040	Bob Major	Union Sch.
1750	Aug 27	5040	B. Major St George	College Yths
	Sep. 9	5040	Bob Triples	Union Sch
1751	Jan. 20	5040	Bob Major	do
1753	Jan 4	5040	do	Eastern Sch.
	28	5040	Obt B. Maj	do
1763	Apr 10	5040	Bob Major	Coll. Yths.
1766	June 4	5040	Obt Gran T.	do
1768	Apr 17	5012	Tichbornes Invention	London Yths.
1769	May 16.	5120	Gr. T. B. Maj	Cumberlands
1772	Oct 11.	5071	Cumberlands Eight Im.	do
1774	Sep. 25	5088	Bob Major	do
	Dec 13	5152	do	London Yths
1779	Oct 10	5040	do	College Yths.

St John the Evangelist  
Horsleydown.

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St John's church was  
built in 17 and a  
new parish formed out  
of St. Clare's Southwark.



The tower is a very small one but ten bells  
were hung in it by Chapman and Shears in  
1782. The tenor which weighs 19 cwt. was cast  
in the following year and by that time  
Chapman had retired from the firm. The  
bells were opened on January 19<sup>th</sup> 1784. The  
Cumberlands started with a peal of Grandring  
Caters 5399 Changes, Composed and Conducted  
by George Gross, and the College Juniors followed.

1067.

it with 5040 Oxford Triple Bob Royal  
conducted by John Dorey. The "ancient" Society  
of College Youths were at the time very active  
and it is quite likely that they also rang  
a peal but if so the record is lost. Three  
years later they achieved an outstanding  
performance by ringing the first peal of  
Wedman Caters, the last five-thousand  
they rang before the society broke up.  
The "junior" College Youths had previously  
rung on the bells 5040 of Bob Royal in  
1785 and 5885 Grand sire Caters, six  
weeks later. Since these early peals  
the most notable performance on the  
tower was 10,421 Grand sire Caters by  
the Surrey Youths on December 15<sup>th</sup> 1800.  
For many years St. John's bells have  
been out of order and unringable, and

this is one of the belfries where a  
 clean sweep has been made of all the  
 peal boards. In recent years one of  
 the bells has been cracked through  
 allowing boys to chime them with ropes  
 on the clappers.

### Inscriptions

1-6. CHAPMAN & MEARS LONDON FECERUNT 1783

7 JOHN COX ESQ JAMES WHIEN & RICHARD  
 THORNTON CHURCHWARDENS CHAPMAN &  
 MEARS FECERUNT 1783.

Tenth THE GIFT OF THOS HACCARTH ESQ TO THE PARISH  
 OF ST JOHN SOUTHWARK WM MEARS OF  
 LONDON FECIT 1784.

Since St. Olaves was pulled down, St. Johns  
 has been the parish church of the united  
 parishes.



Yeal Boards formerly at St. John's.

1059

Horsleydown. In Honour to a most noble performance by the ancient Society of College Youths, who on Monday May 28<sup>th</sup>. 1787, did ring, in an excellent manner, the first complete yeal of Calers, upon Hedman's Principle, 5076 Changes in 3 hours and 27 minutes. May this panel transmit their names to posterity with that of the ingenious Mr W. Jones on whose abilities his invaluable Commentaries so happily concludes with 'Here the Cynic and the Panegyrist stop and join in elogiums to such distinguished merits.

John Reeves,	Treble	Nathaniel Williamson,
John Anderson,	2.	Allen Grant,
Daniel Jenkins	3	Christopher Wells
John Inville	4	William Loundes
Thomas Heap.	5.	Paul Webb.

Composed and called by Mr John Reeves

---

St Johns Horsleydown.

Dec. 15 1800 The Society of Purry Juths  
rang 10.421 Changes Grandsire Caters  
in 6 hours & 34 minutes.

James Palmer Treble

John Hints 6.

William Palmer 2.

Charles Langton 7.

Thomas Clark 3

Robert Suggsridge 8

Thomas Gekford 4

Vincent Ballard 9

George Harris 5

Joseph Bradman Tenor

The above peal was composed & called by  
Thos. Clark.

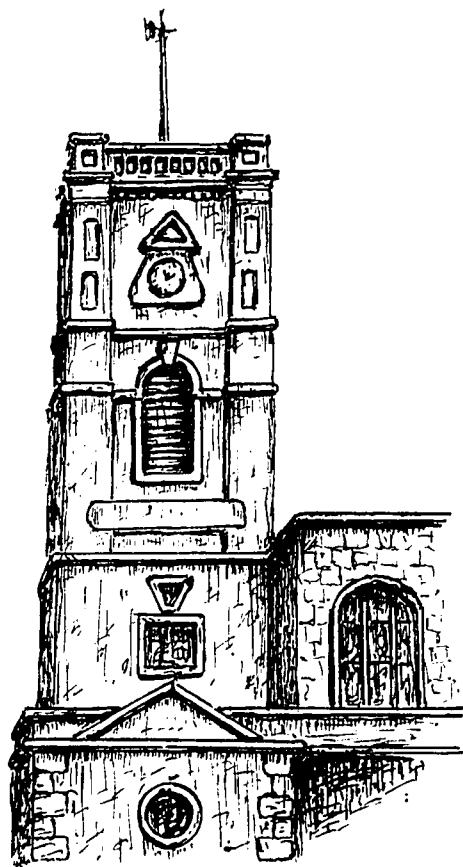
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# Peals rung at St. John's.

1784	Jan 19	5399	Grandsire Caters	Cumberlands
		5040	Exc. T. R. Royal	College Yths.
1785	Jan. 14	5040	Pob. Royal	do
	Feb 27	5885	Grandsire Caters	do
1787	May 28	5076	Hedman Caters	"ancient" C. Yths.

## St. Claves Southwark.

St. Claves at the foot  
of London Bridge in  
Tooley Street, stood on  
the site of a very old  
church which is



mentioned as far back  
as 1281. At the time of Edward VI there  
were "five great bells hanging in the steeple"  
Before 1719 there were six and in that  
year they were increased to eight. In 1736  
part of the church collapsed owing to  
the foundations having been undermined  
by grave digging; and the other part  
being in an unsafe state powers were

obtained from Parliament and £5000  
 was raised by annuities to build a new church.  
 In 1843 a great fire which broke out in  
 an adjoining wharf spread to the church  
 which was entirely destroyed with its bells.  
 The church and tower were rebuilt but  
 only three bells (by C and S. Mears) placed  
 in it. In 18 the church was pulled  
 down and the tower which for long was  
 a familiar feature of the Thames side  
 has in more recent years suffered the  
 same fate.

On Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1728, Annable  
 called a peal of College Triples in the tower  
 for the College youths. It was claimed  
 as the first ever rung in the method and  
 the first true peal on the bells, so

evidently, at least one other five-thousand had been achieved in the steeple.

Very likely it was the false Grandiose Triples from the J.D and C.A Campanalogia.

It was not until after more than forty years that the next peal was rung on the bells and when in 1769, George Meakins called 5056 Changes of Bob Major the College Juniors looked the performance as the first peal in the tower. In 1780 the same society rang 5280 Oxford Treble Bob with John Tovey as Conductor, and in the following year George Cross called a 14-Course peal in the method for the Cumberlands.

# Inscriptions on St. Clare's Bells.

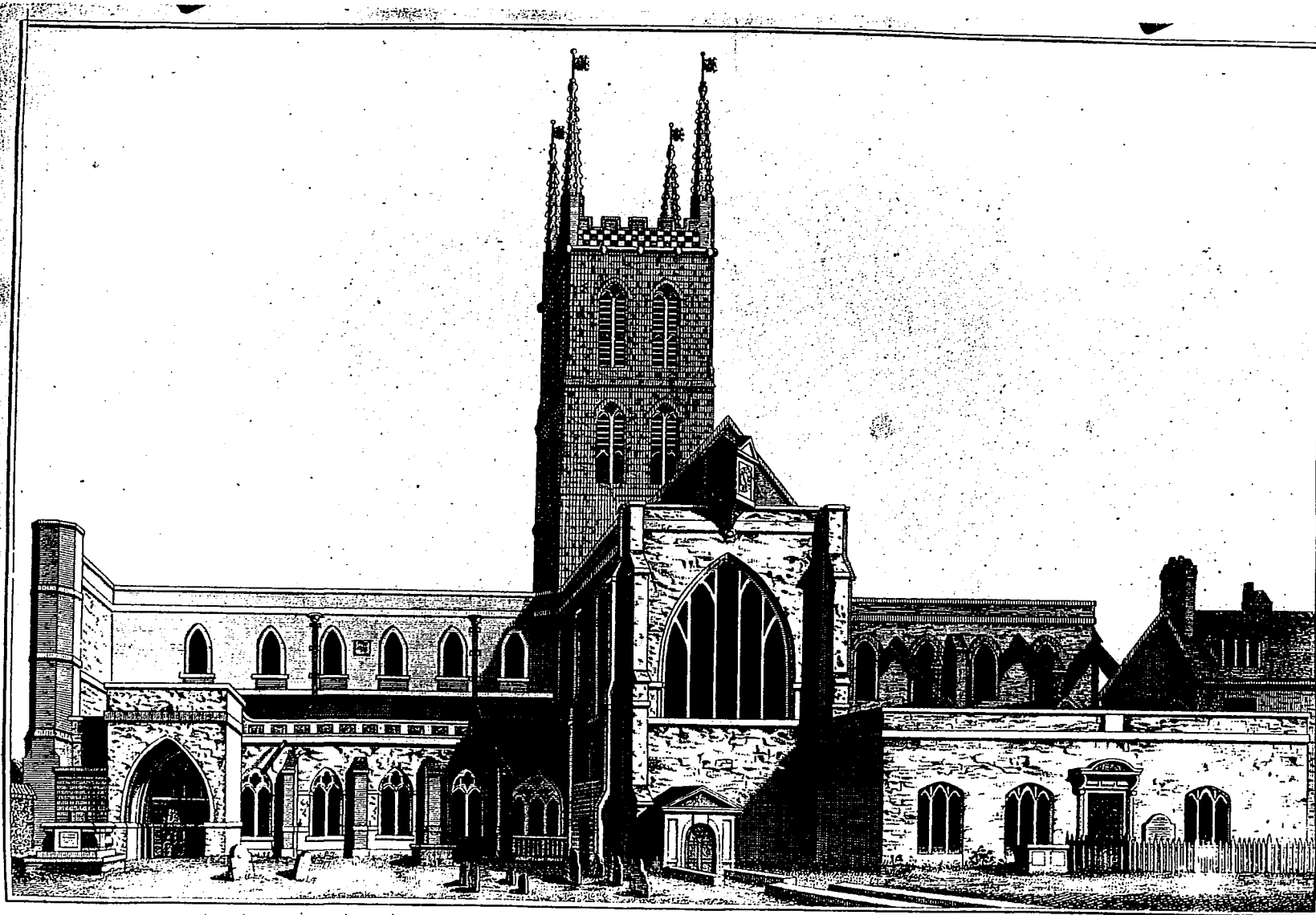
1, 2, 3. C. & G. MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1844.

Sanctus Bell. MR. NICHOLAS FLOWER CHURCHYARDEN

1719.

## Years rung in the Steeple

1. No particulars but said to have been false
2. 1728 March 23 5040 College Triples Coll. Yachts.
3. 1769 March 26 5056 Bob Major do
4. 1780 Nov. 17 5280 Gx. T. B. May do
5. 1781 Nov. 9 5376 do Cumberlands.
6. 5120 do Mixed



*The South Porch of the Church of St. Saviour in Southwark.*

*H. Cole sculp.*

*Photo. by the British Museum.*

*By courtesy of the Trustees.*



# St Saviour's Southwark

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The story of  
St Saviour's goes  
back for more than a thousand years  
into the region of legend. "The Church  
or some other in place thereof was of old  
time long before the Conquest, a house  
of sisters founded by a maiden named  
Mary, unto which house and sisters  
she left as was left to her by her  
parents the oversight and profits of a  
cross ferry over the Thames, there kept

(625), 1077  
before that any bridge was built.

Reliable history begins in 1106 when Bishop Gifford built a priory church for Augustinian Canons the foundation of William Pont de la Arche and William Dauncy, knights. This church was destroyed by fire and replaced by another built in 1207-13 of which the chancel and Lady Chapel still remain. In succeeding years many alterations and additions were made. The lower part of the tower dates from 1310 and the upper two stories from the early days of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The two transepts were built in 1400. (626) The priory was dissolved

1078

on October 27 1539 and through  
the influence of Stephen Gardiner  
Bishop of Winchester in whose diocese  
Southwark then was and whose  
palace stood nearly, the parishioners  
of the two parishes of St. Margaret  
and St. Mary Magdalen were enabled  
to lease from the Crown, the Church  
at a rental of £50 a year and to  
turn it into a Church for the united  
parishes under the name of St. Lawrence. <sup>(627)</sup>  
Previously it had been called St. Mary  
Overy, a name which was alternatively  
used down to modern times. The  
lease first granted in 1540 was  
renewed from time to time until

1614 When the parish purchased the Church and rectory for the sum of £800. There were six Churchwardens who were granted a charter of incorporation and who took over all the rights and property of the rectory and who appointed two Chaplains to conduct the services. Of the two old parish churches, St Margaret's was secularized and turned into a Court of justice. St Mary Magdalen stood on the south side of St Savours and was originally one of its Chapels. It continued to be used as a part of the Church until 1822 when it was pulled down. The roof of the old nave fell in 1469 and

was replaced by a wooden one.

During the course of time this part of the church got into a very ruinous condition and at length in 1838 the roof again collapsed. The whole

nave was then pulled down and a new one built which is said to have been of surpassing ugliness.

This in 1899-7 was replaced by the present building which is a careful copy of the original medieval nave.

In 1905 the church became the cathedral of the new diocese of Southwark.

S. Savours has always been famous for its bells <sup>(628)</sup> and one of the vicars was the bell-warden whose duties

duties were to look after the bells and their use. In the early days of the 15<sup>th</sup> century there were seven bells in the tower which in 1424 are said to have been recast with additional metal and made into a heavy ring of eight. Henry Herkeworth was then the prior and one of the bells with his name on it was still in the steeple in the early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This would be the first octave ever hung in a London Church and one of the first in all England, but perhaps there is a mistake here and there never were before the Reformation in the tower more than six bells to ring in peal. When the priory was dissolved the new parish bought of the king six bells and a

sanctus bell and when the  
 inventory was made in Edwards' reign  
 there were then "vj belles hangenge in  
 the steeple with a litell bell". The wardens  
 were careful to point out that the belles  
 were bought of Kinge Henry the vij<sup>th</sup>  
 for the saide church. A later Edwardian  
 inventory gives "Item vj bells of accords  
 and one small bell. Which belles the  
 parryshe bought of the late kinge of  
 famousse memory King Henry the eight  
 at the purchesinge of the hole church.  
 An old "Leger Book" which survived  
 until the 18<sup>th</sup> Century but apparently  
 has since disappeared gave the names  
 and weights of the first ring of ring,  
 and of Prior Werkeworth's ring. These

were copied by Concanen and  
Morgan as follows -

1084

The first ring (1424)

	T.	C.	Lbs.
Augustine	0.	38.	7.
Maria	0.	27 $\frac{3}{4}$ .	13.
Stephen	0.	19 $\frac{3}{4}$ .	7
Anna Maria	0.	15.	19.
S. Laurence	0.	13.	8.
Vincent	0.	12.	21
S. Nicholas	0.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ .	9.

Prior Wetherworth's ring.

	Cwt.	Lbs.
S. Trinity	M.iiij	9
Mary	3M.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 10
Augustine	2M.	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ 21
S. Laurence	19	4Score 13.
Gabriel	12.	35.
All Saints	10.	24
S. John the Evangelist	6.	4Score 9
Christ	5.	28.

These weights seem to indicate a ringing  
peal of eight but the evidence of the  
inventories seems to show that one was  
a panders bell (the little bell) and another



which had been used for some other purpose and being no longer required for the parish was disposed of.

During the seventeenth Century the octave was completed and at various times most of the bells were recast, but one at least of the old ones survived for Aubrey writes that in his time there were in the Tower eight tunable Bells, on them several modern Inscriptions of the Times of their being new Cast; but on the fifth is this old one put on a Bell placed here by Prior Wentworth. Consonat ecce pia campana vocata Maria Quam Prior Henricus Wentworth pater fecit amicam About the fourth anno.

Domini MCCCCXCIV." The fifth at that time weighed C 15.2.21 and is probably the same as the one called Anna Maria in Boncanen's list; but it is difficult to reconcile Aubrey's statement with the account from the Leiger Book.

In 1735 one of the Churchwardens was a man named Thomas Gardner who one would like to think was the same as the Thomas Gardner who joined the Society of College Youths in 1713 and the father perhaps of William Gardner the donor of the two pebbles at Richmond. Thomas Gardner and his family evidently were interested in the bells and whether started by him or not a scheme was set on foot

to recast them and hang a heavy  
ring of twelve in the tower. The work  
was entrusted to Samuel Knight who  
set up his foundry at Winchester Yard  
hard by the church. The parish itself  
bought the new metal needed, perhaps  
because Knight had not the requisite  
capital. The following is the balance  
sheet of the total cost.

To Cash Collected of subscribers	496 - 13 - 6.
To 8 cwt. 2 qrs. 2 lbs new metal sold to Messrs. Knight and Co. at £5 per cwt.	43 - 9 - 8
To 1 cwt. 2. 26 lbs of Copper to John King at 11 <sup>d</sup> lb.	8 - 17 - 10
Balance due to the Wardens	80 - 0 - 9.
	<hr/> 629 - 1 - 7. <hr/>
By William Skelton for charge of a faculty (631)	8 - 17 - 0.
Sundry charges at taking security at Contracting	5 - 9 - 10.

By Thomas Briggs for copper to  
make new metal

1088  
125. 12. 0

By Mr. William Clarke for 8 cwt.  
1 qr. 11 lb fine tin at £4 per cwt.

33. 8. 0

By cartage to weighing

4. 6

To labour, &c.

5. 0.

For one Chauldron Coals to heat  
the new metal

1. 11. 0

By Copper Company for 4 cwt of  
metal low.

16. 1. 7

By ditto 4 cwt. 3 qrs. 13 lbs fine  
new metal

202. 12. 8.

By Knight and Co for Contract  
for casting and hanging the  
new bells

235 0. 0.

---

629. 1. 7

---

Knight's bells though excellent in <sup>(632)</sup> fine  
are said to be very rough castings and  
he evidently was not very successful  
with his larger bells. Although he  
supplied several heavy rings the tenors  
in every case have been recast. <sup>(633)</sup> It  
was so at St. Sepulchres, St. Margaret's

1089

Canterbury Cathedral and West Ham, and it was so at St. Saviour's. The eleventh was recast by Thomas Shears in 1820, the tenth by Cand. G. Shears in 1844 and the tenor which is still remembered for its badness, by Shears and Stainbank in more recent times.

To give a full account of the change-ringing at St. Saviour's would be largely to tell the story of the London Exercise in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and for that the reader is referred to the other chapters of this book. The first account we have of any ringing in the tower was in 1684 when the College Youths rang a 720 of each Oxford Treble Bob College Bob and Single Oxford Bob. The only peal on the old

Eight was in 1730 when Annable  
 conducted his well known peal of Plain  
 Bob Triples. Three men were needed for the  
 tenor. The College youths rang the new  
 twelve for the first time on August 2.  
 1735, <sup>(634)</sup> but the Eastern Scholars scored the  
 first peal on them in the following November.  
 This was Grandine Calers and six weeks  
 later the older society rang 8008 Changes  
 of Cinques. Philemon Mainwaring was  
 the first man who turned the tenor in  
 to a peal single handed and since  
 then several famous heavy bell performances  
 have been accomplished in the tower.  
 Whether because of the excellence of the  
 frame, the solidity of the tower or the  
 luck of the bellhanger. Southwark tenor  
 has almost always gone well, and

1091

of the <sup>seven</sup> ~~xxx~~ peals of more than 6000  
Changes which have been rung single  
handed with a 50 cut tenor, five have  
been rung in this steeple.

## Bell Dues.

1092.

For the great bell in the Church or Churchyard &c.

	Old Table 1709	New Table 1792.
Churchwardens	5 - 4.	5. 4
Bell ringer for passing bell	6.	6.
An hours knell	1. 0.	1. 0
Afternoons knell	1. 4	0. 0


All persons buried in the Church to pay the  
duty for to the Churchwardens for the great bell.

For the Lady Bell in the Church Yard.

Churchwardens	2. 10.	2. 10
Bell ringing for passing bell	6.	6.
An hours knell	1. 0	1. 0
Afternoon knell		0. 0.

Every person buried in either of the Churchyards  
or other burying places belonging to the parish  
except the new burying ground (now so called)  
shall pay the duty of the third bell, viz -

To the Churchwardens	1 - 2.	1 - 0
Bell ringer for passing bell	2.	2.
For the knell	4	4

 Since the above, ~~above~~ Regulations of  
Vestry, the duties on marriages Christenings  
and burials have been repealed.



# Inscriptions on the Bells.

1093

1. S. K 1735
2. S K 1735
3. SAMUEL KNIGHT FECIT 1735
4. S K 1735.
5. MAY LOVE & UNITY BE WITHOUT LIMITATION  
S. KNIGHT FECIT
6. THE PEAL OF TWELVE BELLS BECUNTO BE  
CAST IN ANNO DOM 1734 & COMPLETED  
IN AD 1735.
7. SAMUEL KNIGHT FECIT 1734.
8. JAMES & ELIZABETH GARDNER  
SAMUEL KNIGHT PERFORMED RIGHT WELL  
WHEN HE RECAST ME DOWSABELL 1735.
9. JOHN KENT THOS GARDNER JOHN PILLON  
HENRY FARMER FRANCIS HALL CHARLES  
WHARTON CHURCHWARDENS 1735
- 10 C & C MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON RECAST  
BY SUBSCRIPTION AD 1844.  
REVEREND W CURLING & REVEREND S. BENSON  
CHAPLAINS  
W. WATERS J. CLOVER  
J. DREWITT J. SUTTON  
R DOWNS J MONNERY WARDENS.

11. JOHN SMITH BELL HARDEN WILLIAM DENBEIGH  
 GREAT ACCOUNT JAMES PARSLEY GENERAL POOR  
 JOHN JEPHSON COLLEGE HARDEN JAMES  
 BRADMAN NEWCOMES EDWARD SANDELL  
 YOUNG SPRATT & JACKSON T. MEARS OF  
 LONDON FECIT 1820.

Tenor. SAMUEL KNIGHT FECIT 1734.

## The weights of the old and new bells

	Cwt.	qr.	lb.		Cwt.	qr.	lb.
1.	8	- 2	- 2.	1.	7	- 1	- 20
2.	9	- 2	- 18.	2.	7	- 3	- 20
3.	9	- 2	- 10	3.	7	- 3	- 0
4.	11	- 1	- 7	4.	9	- 0	- 10
5.	15	- 2	- 21	5.	10	- 0	- 14
6.	23	- 0	- 4	6.	11	- 0	- 16
7.	30	- 2	- 21	7.	13	- 2	- 4
8.	46	- 3	- 21	8.	17	- 1	- 21
	155	- 1	- 20	9.	19	- 0	- 21
Allowed 3 lb per cwt for waste in melting	4	- 0	- 18	10.	25	- 3	- 21
	151	- 1	- 2.	11.	34	- 1	- 2
New metal	64	- 0	- 7	12.	51	- 2	- 0
	215	- 1	- 9		215	- 1	- 9

## Peals Boards at St. Saviour's

1095

The Society of College Youths rung in this steeple on March 12<sup>th</sup> 1758 a complete peal of tripple bob, twelve in being the greatest performance ever done before on twelve bells.

John Underwood	1.	William Lovell	7.
James Coscon	2.	Stephen Pickhaver	8.
Robert Butterworth	3.	William Moss.	9.
George Meakins	4.	Robert Pley.	10.
James Barguile	5.	Robert Mortimer	11.
Thomas Bennett	6.	Joseph Montg Tenor.	

The Peal was called by Mr. G Meakins

Monday April 10<sup>th</sup> 1758 The Society of Old London Youths rung in this steeple a complete peal of 6336 bob maximus in five hours and thirteen minutes being the most ever rung in this method.

William Hall	1.	Thomas Jones	7.
Edward Manning	2.	John Jennett	8.
Thomas Ward	3.	Henry Young	9.
James Vickers	4.	William Scott	10.
James Davis	5.	Edward Thomas	11.
John Clark	6.	Samuel Chuggerdge	12.

N.B. The peal was called by John Jennett

[This board has long since disappeared]

(635)

1096

The Society of Cumberland Youths did ring in this steeple on Monday November 10 1766 a complete peal of Gosford Tupples Bob maximus containing 5136 changes in four hours eight minutes being the greatest performance ever done on twelve bells. Their names -

George Partick	1.	John Furlement	7.
George Gross	2.	Francis Wood	8.
Thomas Drummore	3.	Samuel Wood	9.
John Reeves	4.	William Jakins	10.
Charles Purser	5.	William Scott	11.
Isaiah Bray	6.	Samuel Muggenidge, Sr.	}
		William Lister	

N.B. The peal was called by Mr. George Partick.

The Society of College Youths rung in this steeple on Wednesday March 10 1784 a complete peal of 7008 Tupples Bob twelve in in six hours five minutes being the greatest performance ever done on twelve bells. Their names

Winstanley Richardson	1.	James Horsley	7.
William Hall, Senr.	2.	William Lyford	8.
William Hall, Junr.	3.	Joseph Monts	9.
John Povey	4.	Joseph Holdsworth	10.
James Darquell	5.	Edmund Lyles	"
George Scarbrooke	6.	Samuel Muggenidge, Jr.	12.

N.B. The peal was called by Mr. John Povey.

Deal Boards at St. Saviour's

1097

Junior College Society. On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of December 1836 was performed by the above Society a fine and complete Deal of Calers on Hedmans Principal (being the first Deal in that method on these Bells) containing 5001 Changes in 3 Hours and 52 minutes. Performed by -

Jas Mash	Treble	Jno. Whiting	6
Ed. Sawyer	2	Jno. Cose	7
R. Thimbleby	3	Jos. Harper	8
Jos. Stickleby	4	Ed. Lansdell	9
Jno Bradley	5	Jas Furrein	Tenor

Composed and Called by Mr Jno. Cose.

Tuesday January 7<sup>th</sup> 1846 the Society of College Youths rung on these noble peal of Bells a fine and complete Deal of Kent Treble Bob Masenius Consisting of 5088 Changes in 4 hours and 20 minutes and was the first Deal in the above method ever rung in London on twelve bells.

John Sherin	Treble	Robt. Haworth	7.
John Cose	2.	Edw. Sawyer	8.
George Strockham	3.	Jos. Harper	9
James Mash	4.	John Bradley	10
George Menday	5.	Edw. Lansdell	11
James Hughes	6.	Augustus G. Frost	Tenor

Composed and Called by Mr John Cose

# The Junior Society of College Youths.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of January 1837 was performed by the above Society 5116 Changes on Stedmans principal being the first Peal in that method on these Bells. It had been for many years the wish to compose and call a peal in this method on the twelve bells but the honour remains for the undermentioned persons who in 4 hours and 17 minutes brought this labour to

a conclusion <sup>(830)</sup> Performed by -

John Cox	1.	Jno Bradley	7.
R. Kimfield	2.	Jas. Nash	8.
Jos. Harrison	3.	Jno. Whiting	9.
Ed. Sawyer	4.	Jos. Harper	10.
R. Thimbleby	5.	Ed. Lansdell	11.
J. Stinchbury	6.	Jas Furrein	Tenor

Composed and called by Mr. John Cox

On Monday June 17. 1848 was also rung an excellent Peal of Kent Treble Bob Masenius, consisting of 5136 Changes which was completed in 4 hours 5 minutes by the following persons

H. Lobb.	Treble	H. Perry	7.
J. Hewitt	2.	T. Michael	8.
H. Haley	3	A. A. Wood	9.
J. Miller	4	J. Whiting	10.
C. Goosce	5.	C. Wilson	11.
J. Stinchbury	6.	W. Golding	Tenor

Conducted by H. Lobb.

# The Society of College Jovials.

1099

Established 1637. This Peal was erected to perpetuate two excellent Peals which were pronounced by skilful auditors to be masterpieces of ringing. On Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1849, 5184 changes of Kent Treble Bob Mascerus in 4 hours and 10 minutes. Performed by -

John Cox	Treble	Robert Haworth	7.
William Cooley	2.	John Bradley	8.
John Menday	3.	Edward Lansdell	9
William Bannister	4.	Henry Littlechild	10
James Stickbury	5.	James Dwight	"
Robert Jameson	6.	Edward Sawyer	Tenor

And on Wednesday Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 1849, 5126 Nedman's Cinques in 4 hours and 9 minutes Performers -

John Cox	Treble	Robert Haworth	7.
William Cooley	2.	Matthew Wood	8.
James Nash	3.	John Bradley	9.
William Bannister	4.	Edward Lansdell	10.
George Ferris	5.	James Dwight	"
Robert Jameson	6.	Edward Sawyer	Tenor

Both peals were composed and conducted by John Cox.

# Seals rung at S. Saviour's Parthway

1100

1730	Dec 19	5040	Bob Triples	College Junths
1734	Jan 25	2560	Gran. Cinques	Eastern Sch.
1735	Nov 28	6012	Gran. Caters	do
	Dec 15	8008	Gran. Cinques	College Junths
1739	Feb. 19	5040	Bob Royal	Union Sch.
	Dec 17	5082	Gran Cinques	Eastern Sch
1740	Mar 24	5016	Double B. Masc.	College Junths
1757	Apr 19	5280	Bob Masc.	do
1758	Mar 12	5040	Gx. T. B. Masc	do
	Apr 10	6336	Bob Masc.	old London J.
1766	Nov 10	5136	Gx T. B. Masc	Cumberland do
1774	Jan 24	5258	Gran. Cinques	do.
1776.	Feb. 26	5236	Cumberland Cgo.	do
	Nov 9	5236	Gran. Cinques	London Jths.
1777	Apr 17	6000	Gx. T. B. Masc	College Junths
1784	Mar 10	7008	do.	do
	Mar 26	6048	Double B. Masc.	ancient C.Y.
1785	Nov 14	5184	Gran Cinques	Jr. Cumberland do.





1126.

St Thomas, Southwark.

The Hospital of St Thomas was founded in 1215 as a college of Canons Regular. and was surrendered to Henry VIII. in the 30<sup>th</sup> year of his reign. It was refounded and endowed by the benevolence of the citizens of London and in the nineteenth Century was removed to its present situation in Lambeth.

The chapel of the hospital served as a parish church and in 1702 it was pulled down and rebuilt. It was a plain brick building with a tower and five bells, but when Stahlschmidt wrote there were only two the larger by Thomas Mears in 1843. The building has since been destroyed.

D.

## The Churches in the County of Middlesex.

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The County of Middlesex (excluding the Cities of London and Westminster) contains about sixty parishes in which there are churches whose foundations go back to medieval times. Almost all of them have been wholly or partially rebuilt, usually several times over, and none is of any outstanding architectural interest.

Notwithstanding its closeness to the metropolis the County was sparsely populated, the villages were small, and

and there were but two towns, -  
Brentford and Uxbridge - neither of any  
size. They had grown up where the five  
main roads from London to the west  
crossed the rivers Brent and Colne, and  
each had been at first a hamlet in  
another parish, Brentford in Hanwell,  
and Uxbridge in Hillingdon.

At the end of the fifteenth century  
and the beginning of the sixteenth there  
was a great increase in the national wealth  
mainly among the new middle classes,  
and due to the rise of trade and manufacture.  
This led to the building of those magnificent  
Perpendicular churches which still stand

1195

The glory of towns and villages in many parts of the Country and especially in East Anglia; but Middlesex was almost entirely unaffected. There the small and humble churches of earlier years still remained and they continued altered and patched up from time to time until in the eighteenth and nineteenth Centuries most of them became dilapidated or inadequate and were rebuilt.

The great parish of St. Benet which occupied most of the eastern end of the County had a large church and tower which still survives though much altered and restored and there after

the dissolution of the monasteries was one of the heaviest rings of bells in England.

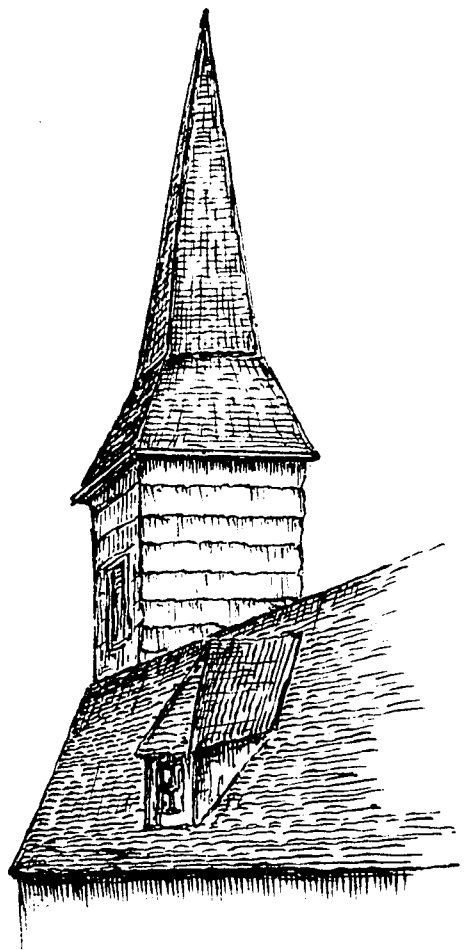
Several of the churches in the Thames valley had fourteenth or early fifteenth century towers of no great size but sufficient to carry a ring of bells. and in several cases these towers still stand, though the bodies of the churches have been rebuilt more than once. Such are Fulham, Chiswick, Brentford, Isleworth, Twickenham and Heston with Richmond just across the river in Surrey. At Kensington and Ealing, too, the medieval towers stood long after the naves and chancels had been

1107  
replaced but now they have  
been rebuilt.

At Ickenham, Bowley, Perivale,  
Greenford and Northolt the old buildings  
remain; restored and altered in many  
of their details  
but giving a good  
idea of what the  
smaller Middlesex  
churches were like.

The towers were  
little more than  
bell piercings of  
wood and surmounted

by low spires similar to that shown in



Norwood Green

The old bell turret

my sketch. It is in such places that ancient bells and those by the rarer makers are usually found.

Meddlesc is not very rich in old bells but in that respect is better off than London City. In all it possesses ten pre-reformation bells, two of them being the clock bells at Hampton Court Palace. The oldest are the treble at Kingsbury old church, cast about 1350 by Peter de Weston and the undated bell at Greenford. Bowley has a late fourteenth century and another which came from Hatford in Berkshire is at St. Pauls, Finchley. The <sup>third</sup> tenor at Brentford and the third at Greenford are by William



Culverden, the tenor at Ickenham  
 is by Thomas Bullesden and the sixth  
 at Turkenham is said to be by J. Saunders  
 of Reading. All date from the early 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Century. The larger of the two Hampton  
 Court bells is by Thomas Harrys of London  
 cast about 1480; the other is by William  
 Culverden and bears the inscription -  
 Stella Maria Maris Succurre Pissima Nobis. (638)

A large proportion of the seventeenth  
 Century bells in the western part of the  
 County were founded at Chertsey by one  
 or other member of the Eldridge family,  
 or by the Knights of Reading

The towers which figure most in the  
 history of ringing are those within walking

distance of London such as Fulham,  
St. Giles in the Fields, Hackney and Bethnal  
Green where the members of the metropolitan  
societies could meet without much  
difficulty. There were also good local  
companies in early times at Hillingdon  
and Trickentham. Later in the eighteenth  
century the bands at Kensington and  
Isleworth supplied much of the peal ringing  
energy of the College youths. On the north  
and east outskirts of the City a number  
of churches was built and furnished  
with bells, and these though actually  
in Middlesex can be reckoned among

1111

the metropolitian towers. Such  
are Christ Church, Spitalfields, St. Georges  
in the East, St. James Clerkenwell, and  
St. Mary's Islington. St. Leonards,  
Shoreditch was for nearly a century the  
head quarters of the Society of Cumberland  
Youths and the place where many peals  
were rung by all the leading London  
Companies.

# Ancient Bells in Middlesex

(656)

1112

Action	6th	James Bagley	1712
	7th	Ellis Knight	1637
Ashford	1st	Bryan Eldridge	1620
	2nd	Willm. Eldridge	1668
Bedfont	1-4	Rd. Phelps	1713
Brentford	3rd	Wm. Culverden	c 1510
Chiswick	3-7	Knight (Reading)	1656
Cranford	1st	W. Purford (probably).	c 1380
	3rd	Bryan Eldridge	1636
Drayton West	Three	Wm. Eldridge	1710
	Sandius		1704 c
Enfield	sandius	Wm. Highman	1680
Finchey S. Paul			c 1380
Greenford	1st		14th cent
	2nd	Wm. Culverden	c 1510
	3rd	Wm. Eldridge	
Harefield	1st	Bryan Eldridge	1629
Harmondsworth	2, 3, 5, 6.	Bryan Eldridge	1658
Harrow	3rd	W. Whitmore	1654
	6th	Wm. Eldridge	1683
Hendon	3rd	Knight (Reading)	1638
	5th	James Partee	1690
Ickenham	1st	Robert Mol	1589
	2nd		c 1600
	3rd	T. Bullesden	c 1510

Kingsbury	1st	Peter de Weston	C 1350
	2nd	James Butler	1604
	3rd	Samuel Newton	1708
Littleton	3rd	William Eldridge	1666
Northolt	1st	Wm Whitmore	1656
	2nd	Wm Land	1617
	3rd	Thos. Bartlet	1624
	Sanctus	Thos. Bartlet	1636
Perivale	2nd	Wm Eldridge	1699
Southgate	Sanctus	W. Carter and T. Bartlet	1616
Hammore	3, 4.	Jas Bartlet	1684
	8th	Bryan Eldridge	1682
Teddington	3rd	Bryan Eldridge	1620
Tottenham	3-8	Thelp Wighman	1696
Twickenham	1-2	Wm Eldridge	1695
	3rd	Wm Eldridge	1669
	5th	R. Thelps	1703
	6th	J. Saunders (probably)	16th Cent.

There are also five ancient bells at Hampton Court one by T. Harrys and the other by Wm Culverden.

## St Mary, Acton



In the reign  
of King Edward  
the Sixth there  
were at Acton  
parish church

"iiii Bells and a paunce bell in the steeple  
and a cloke<sup>(651)</sup>" They were increased first  
to five and then to six; the first augmentation  
being probably in 1637 when Ellis Knight  
of Reading cast the present seventh which  
for many years was the tenor of the ring.  
The next oldest bell in the tower is the sixth  
which was supplied by James Bagley in  
1712.

In 1865 the old church which during the  
ages had already been much altered and

rebuild was replaced by the present building of red brick, the tower being added in 1877. John Warner and Son added a tenor and treble and recast one of the bells. At the same time the medieval sanctus bell was broken up.

The first peal on the bells was rung by the Cumberlands on June 15<sup>th</sup> 1878.

### Tablet in the Belfry.

Cumberland Society. On Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> 1878 the following Members Rang upon these Bells Hollis original one part Peal of Grandfire Triples Consisting of 5040 Changes in 2 hours 50 minutes

Performers	
H. Baron, Treble	J. Cattle 5.
C. Hopkins, 2.	H. Hopkins 6.
W. Coppage, 3.	F. Knipe 7.
J. Gosc, 4.	G. Hsley Tenor

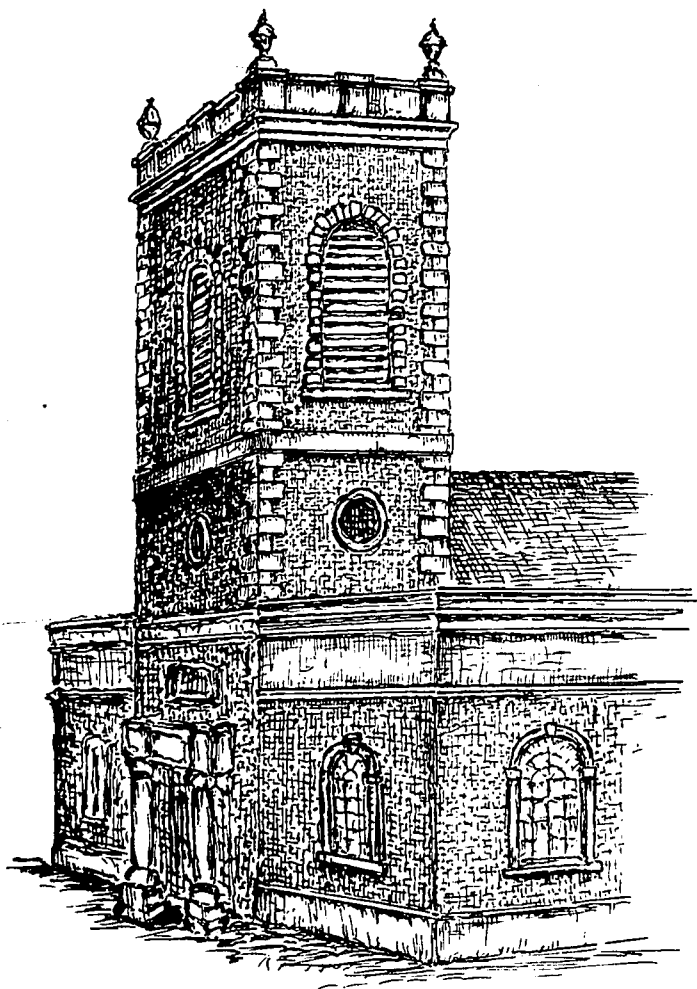
Conducted by H. Baron.

The Above was the First Peal on these Bells & the First in the Parish of Acton.

St Matthew.  
Bethnal Green.

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Bethnal Green  
was originally  
a pleasant hamlet  
in the parish of



Stepney. It was made a separate  
parish in 1743 and St. Matthew's church  
designed by George Dance, was opened  
in 1746. I have no particulars of the  
first bells that were hung in the tower  
but evidently there was a ring in 1752, for  
in that year Francis Wood was appointed



117

steeple keeper. In 1785 there were eight bells. They may have been installed in that year, but it is probable that they had been in the steeple for some time, but Wood who had quarrelled with his old friends of the Cumberlands had denied their use for peal ringing. His son who succeeded him was more accomodating and on May 7<sup>th</sup> 1785 the Junior Cumberlands rang the first peal in the tower, 5040 Changes of Grandfire Triples. In the same year the senior society rang Oxford Treble Bob and the juniors five other peals, one of Plain Bob and one of Treble Bob.

In the next year the Junior Cumberlands rang 5440 Changes of Double Norwich

Court Rob Major. George Gross rang  
the tenor and conducted, his son rang <sup>600</sup>  
the fifth, and William Shipway the third.

It was the first peal in the method  
achieved in London, but it probably was  
false either in the composition or in the  
ringing, for when, two years later, ~~the~~ John  
Reeves called 5040 changes for the senior  
society the peal was claimed as the fine  
one "ever rang in London in that method."  
One man, Anthony Cavalier took part  
in both performances.

The belfry at Bethnal Green was for  
very many years associated with the  
family of Wood. Francis was steeple-  
keeper from 1752 to 1784, his son held

1119

he post for fourteen years and  
his grandson, Matthew, for almost the  
whole of his ringing career. Consequently  
St Matthews takes a prominent place  
in the history of London ringing especially  
during the nineteenth century. The  
Woods were of Huguenot extraction,  
and weavers by trade. They lived in  
a house, which they owned, in Church  
Row, hard by the church. In the same  
street was the Whittington and Cal  
for very many years a favourite meeting  
place of ringers and where several  
hand-bell peals both capped and in  
hand, were rung.

Among the more important peals  
rung at St Matthews during the nineteenth

Century were 5152 Changes of  
 Double Norwich Court Bob Major and  
 8448 of Kent Treble Bob Major in 1848,  
 and 5600 Changes of Superlative Surprise  
 (the first peal of Surprise in London) in  
 1850. These were by the St. James's Society.  
 In 1868 the College Juniors rang 15,840  
 changes of Treble Bob Major, at the time  
 the longest peal of any sort, and still  
 the longest rung in the Metropolitian  
 district. In more recent years a  
 band of the same society rang one of  
 the first peals of Spliced Surprise Major  
 (four methods)

In 1859 St. Matthew's Church was  
 destroyed by fire and the bells and peal  
 boards perished. It was restored and  
 given its present appearance, and a

new ring of bells with a tenor 14 1121  
Cwt. was supplied by the Whitechapel  
foundry in 1861.

# Peals rung at St. Matthews', Bethnal Green.

1124

1785	May 7	5040	Grand sire Trip.	J <sup>r</sup> Cumberlands
	July 7	5152	Gx. T. B. Maj	Cumberlands
	Sep <sup>r</sup> 11	5488	Bob Major	J <sup>r</sup> Cumberlands
	26	5248	Gx. T. B. Maj	do
1786	Apr 11	5440	D. Norwich C. B. Maj	do.
1788	Jan 7	5040	do	Cumberlands.
	Dec 31	5056	Bob Major.	J <sup>r</sup> Cumberlands
1801	Dec 15	5120	Ox. T. B. Maj	Cumberlands
1811	Feb 10	5248	do	do.
1812	Dec 28	5856	Bob Major.	do.
1813	Apr. 12	5024	Gx. T. B. Maj	do
1815	May 13	5040	Gran. Triples	do.
1819	Sep 26	5056	Gx. T. B. Maj	do.
	Dec 27	5120	do.	do.
1820	Jan 9	5120	do.	do
1822	Dec 15	5056	do	do
1827		5088	do	College Youths
1831	Dec 12	5040	Gran. Triples.	Cumberlands
1845	Oct 22	5280	Kent. T. B. Maj	do.

## St. Laurence, Brentford.

Although Brentford was at one time reckoned the county town of Middlesex it is not an original parish. St. Laurence in New Brentford was a chapelry to St. Mary's Hanwell. Its tower which dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century (119) contains a ring of six cast at various times in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries at Whitechapel or by Trainers. The third is a pre-reformation bell by William Culverden of Aldgate and dates from about 1570.

St. Georges, Old Brentford, formerly a chapel in the parish of St. Mary's Ealing has a modern ring of six cast by Mears and Stainbank and not hung for ringing.

# Inscriptions on the Bells.

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1126

Treble PROSPERITY TO ALL OUR WORTHY BENEFACTORS.

2. THOMAS LESTER AND THOMAS PACK FECIT  
DOCTER WM CHILCOTT MINISTER THOMAS  
HARDWICK AND LEWIS TURNER CHURCHYARDENS  
1755.

3. Sancta Anna Ora Pro Nobis.

4. J. LE HUNT B.A. WM STUBBS WM SHACKLES  
CHURCHYARDENS R PHELPS MADEE ME 1718.

5. THOMAS MEARS AND SON OF LONDON FECIT 1801

6. THOMAS MEARS FOYNDERS LONDON 1840  
REV JOHN STODDART D.D. VICAR MR WILLIAM  
BUNBERY MR THOMAS HOPKINS CHURCHYARDENS.

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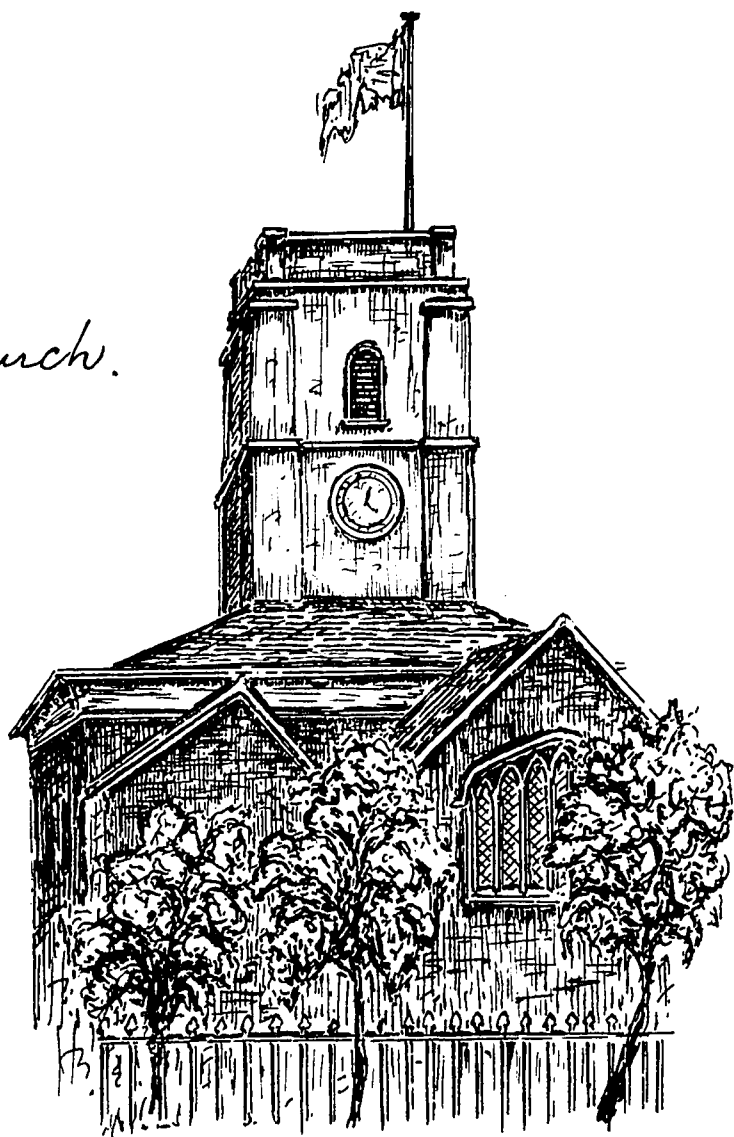
These are the inscriptions as given by Thomas  
Faulkner in 1845. The <sup>second</sup> ~~third~~ has since been  
recast by Warners. Faulkner gave the  
inscription of Culverdens' bell (the third) as  
on the tenor, and there may be other mistakes.



All Saints.  
Chelsea Old Church.

---

The church by  
the riverside  
was the parish  
church of  
Chelsea until  
1819 when the



new church of St. Luke was built and the  
old became a chapel of ease. The original  
dedication was to All Saints, but towards  
the end of the seventeenth century it began  
to be called St. Luke's, the alteration it is  
supposed having been suggested by Dr.

Adam Littleton at the time rector  
 as a compliment to a physician, Dr. Baldwin  
 Hamer, a prominent man in the parish,  
 who gave a bell to the church tower. The  
 eastern part of the building is pre-reformation  
 and includes the chapel built by Sir  
 Thomas More to be the place of his sepulchre  
 though where his body actually lies, no  
 one knows. During the seventeenth  
 century the nave and tower were pulled  
 down and the present structures erected  
 the tower being finished in 1674. At  
 the time of Edward VI there were "in the  
 steeple three greaie bells and one lytlyll  
 saunce bell." <sup>(6th)</sup> These may have been  
 added to in the following years and  
 when the new tower was finished the  
 ring of bells was restored Besides

1129

the bell given by D. Hamer,  
another was the gift of William Ashburton  
who endowed it with money so that it  
could be rung every night at 9 o'clock.  
The addition is that he had lost his way  
one dark night and was in danger  
of falling into the river when the sound  
of the bell from Chelsea Church, striking  
the hour warned him of his whereabouts.  
This bell is still in the tower but the  
ringing was discontinued in 1822.

In 1762 Thomas Janaway recast the other  
bells and made a ring of eight which  
hung in the steeple until 1824 and then  
when the new church was built, all but  
the fourth were sold and a new ring  
of ten was supplied to St. Luke's by  
Thomas Mears      During the piscary years

They were in existence only one  
 peal is known to have been rung on  
 Janaway's bells. This was a 5040 of  
 Bob Major in 1785 Conducted by James  
 Norris and rung by a band of College  
 Youths who belonged to the towers in  
 the western suburbs of London. As the  
 Tablet refers to it as the first "true" peal  
 on the bells the presumption is that another,  
 false either in composition or performance,  
 had already been rung. The Tablet  
 is on the north wall of the tower by the  
 entrance <sup>(642)</sup>. A photograph of it is reproduced  
 in the Survey of London issued by the  
 the London County Council. It is  
 surmounted by a row of eight bells and  
 is lettered as follows -

## COLLEGE YOUTHS

THIS SOCIETY RUNG FEBY THE 18<sup>th</sup> 1785 5040  
 BOB MAJOR IN 3 HOURS AND 15 MIN<sup>TS</sup> BEING  
 THE 1ST TRUE PEAL EVER RUNG ON THESE BELLS

JAS WORSTER	True	WM HALLETT	5 <sup>th</sup>
EDM <sup>d</sup> SIMMONS	2 <sup>d</sup> .	RICH <sup>d</sup> MILLARD	6 <sup>th</sup>
CEO PLOWMAN	3 <sup>d</sup>	THOS YERREN	7 <sup>th</sup>
ISEL JOHNSON	4 <sup>th</sup>	WM FAULKNER	Tenor.

CALLED BY JAMES WORSTER.

The Ashburton bell is inscribed as follows -

THE GIFT OF THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM ASHBURTON  
 ESQUIRE COFFERER OF HIS MAJESTIES HOUSEHOLD  
 1679.

The first seven of Janaway's bells had simply  
 the date and the founders name but the  
 tenor reproduced the inscription from Dr.  
 Baldwin Hamer's bell. -

DIVO LUCAE MEDICO EVANGELICO BALDWINUS  
 HAMEY PHIL EVANGELICUS MEDICUS DDD 1678  
 RECAST IN THE YEAR 1762 ROBERT YATES AND  
 RICHARD DAVIS CH YARDENS THOMAS JANAWAY  
 OF LONDON MADE VS ALL.

On Wednesday December 29<sup>th</sup> 1824 was rung at this Church by the Society of College Youths a fine and complete Peal of Excelsa Treble Bob Royal Consisting of 5040 Changes in 3 hours and 30 minutes being the first peal ever rung on these bells. By the following persons

John Cooper	1.	Jas. Sticklebury	6.
Danl. Beakley	2.	Geo. Cole	7.
Jn. Bradley	3.	Jas. Lubbock	8.
Jn. Thiaford	4.	Thos. Matthews	9
Mr. Makee	5.	Mr. Cullum	Tenor.

Called by John Cooper.

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Tuesday Nov. 21. 1826 was rung in this Steeple by a Friendly Society ringers of this parish a fine and complete Peal of Grandeur Tripples Consisting of 5040 Changes in 3 hours and 30 mts. The first ever rung on the Large 8 bells. Performed by the following persons.

Richard Beake	1.	H. Brunnell	5.
Thos. Tollitt	2.	W. Young	6.
Jas Fleet	3.	Isrl. Johnson	7.
Mr. Williams	4.	Jn. Gunter	Tenor.

Conducted by W. Williams.

March 4<sup>th</sup> 1828 was sung by the  
Society of College Youths a fine and complete  
Peal of Grandfire Bells Consisting of 5039  
changes in 3 hours and 29 minutes by the  
following persons

Richard Blake	1.	Jas Lubbock	6.
Jno Newbury	2.	Thos. Dorsett	7.
Jas	3.	Thos. Brook	8.
Jno. Canning	4.	Isrl. Johnson	9.
Danl. Beakey	5.	Jno. Gunter	Tenor

Conducted by John Canning.

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Dec 26 1828 was sung by the Society of  
College Youths a fine and complete Peal of  
Grandfire Bells Consisting of 5039 changes  
in 3 hours and 28 minutes by the following  
persons

Rich <sup>d</sup> . Blake	1.	Thos. Mathews	6.
Jno. Cooper	2.		7.
Jno. Clayton	3.	Thos. Brook	8.
Jas. Lubbock	4.	Isrl Johnson	9.
Jno. Newbury	5.	Jno. Gunter	Tenor

Conducted by Jno. Cooper.

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## St Nicholas, Chiswick.

1134

Chiswick Old Church which stands by the side of the River Thames is said to be one of the oldest foundations in the Diocese of London. There is no record of the first building but in 1181 the Domesday Book of St. Paul's mentions a Church already many years standing. The present building is modern except for the tower which dates from before 1435. <sup>(715)</sup> The Edwardian Inventories have the following -

"Item, in the steeple fyve greate bells  
one of them [serveth] a clock

Item, a paunce bell

Item, a hande bell. " <sup>(716)</sup>

In 1656 Knights of Reading recast the ring and made them into six. <sup>(717)</sup> Five of them still remain but the inscription

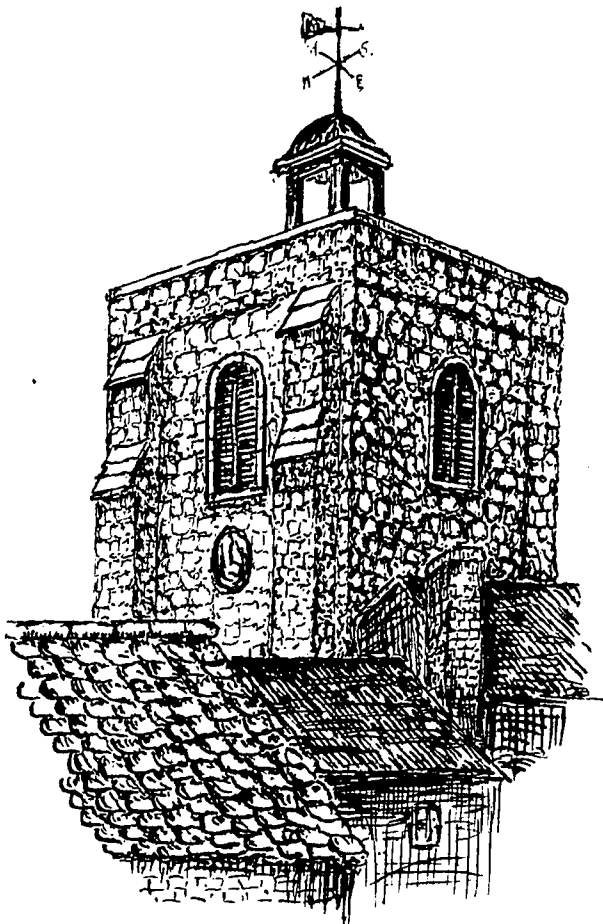


on the tenor records that "this  
bell was cast December 1843 in lieu  
of the former tenor which had been  
broken and useless many years." It  
is a Whitechapel bell by Thomas Shears. (718)

The octave was completed in 1900-1901.

St. James  
Clerkenwell.

---



On the left  
side of St John's  
Street which

runs northward from

Smithfield stood the Priory of St. John of

Jerusalem Founded about 1100 it was the  
chief house in England of the

Burnt by the rebels in the troublous times  
of Richard II it was rebuilt, the church

being finished by Prior Thomas Docwry  
in 1504. The priory was suppressed in

the reign of Henry VIII, but so

long as that king lived the buildings were preserved and were used as a store house "for the kings' foils and tents for hunting and for the wars." The great bell tower was "a most curious piece of workmanship graven, gilt and enamelled, to the great beautifying of the City, and," says Plow, "passing all other that I have seen." When the Duke of Somerset built his great House in the Strand, St. Johns priory was used as a quarry for material and Church and tower were undermined and blown up by gunpowder. As I have related elsewhere the stone porch and the bell frame went to the Church of

All Hallows in Lombard, and so, (643)  
 but for a mischance, wound the bells. The  
 remains of the priory church, consisting of  
 the crypt and part of the walls of the choir,  
 are now included in the parish church of  
 St. John.

St. James's church stands on the site  
 of what was a Benedictine nunnery. This  
 was suppressed in Henry VIII's time and  
 passed into private hands, but the church  
 continued to be used for parochial services  
 and was leased from the owner by the parish.  
 It was not until 16 that the parishioners  
 bought the building outright.

About 1623 the steeple fell down having  
 stood some out of mind without reparation.  
 The next year the parish was rated at

Eighteenpence in the pound to pay for rebuilding, but when the job was nearly finished, the tower again collapsed, owing to faulty workmanship. It was again rebuilt, in the style shown in my sketch, and stood until 1788, when an Act of Parliament was obtained to erect an entirely new church, and the present building was begun.

In 1734 when Laughton and the Ramblers visited the belfry there were five bells. Sometime later a pebble was added and in 1791 the lot were recast and made into a ring of eight by Thomas Mears of Whitechapel. The church was not consecrated till July 10<sup>th</sup> 1792 but nearly a twelvemonth before then, on

Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> 1791 the 1140  
Cumberland ands rang the first peal on the  
bells 5120 changes of Bob Major Conducted  
by William Jones

One of the old  
bells had the in-  
scription -

O PRESUL PIE NICOLAE NOBIS  
MISERERE



WM. DAWES' STOP.

It was cast by William Dawes a fourteenth  
Century bellfounder whose work is still to  
be found all over the country.

In the nineteenth century St. James's  
Church gave its name to the St. James's  
Society which still exists as the London  
County Association. It was however for  
more than fifty years a regular meeting

Inscriptions (658)

Treble. THOMAS MEARS MADE ME 1791.

2. THOMAS MEARS CAST THIS BELL IN 1801  
THOMAS WOOLCOTT THOMAS SHARWOOD CHURCH  
WARDENS

3. THOMAS MEARS MADE ME 1791.

4. THOMAS MEARS MADE ME 1837 JAMES  
HEYWOOD JAMES HALTER CROPLEY.

5. As the Treble

6. do

7. do

Tenor. THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1791  
REV JAMES DAVIS MINISTER WILLIAM  
PARDOE ALLET AND THOMAS GIBBARD  
CHURCHWARDENS JOHN CARTH PARISH  
CLERK.

In recent years these bells have been recast  
by Gillee & Johnston of Graydon.

At the time the Edwardian  
inventory was taken there were "iiij"  
in ye steeple one pounce bell without  
a clapper, and iiij small packeringe bells.  
(659)  
Osborn gives the inscriptions on some of the  
old bells as follows, -

WILLIAM DYE EDWARD LOVE CHURCHWARDENS  
1681 JAMES BARTLET MADE ME

O PRESUL PIE NICHOLAE NOBIS MISERERE  
WILLIAM FFOYNDER ME FECIT

WILLIAM CARTER MADE ME 1615 GEORGE TRAPPES  
AND NICHOLAS DAY CHURCHWARDENS

THOMAS BARTLET MADE ME 1621



# Deal Boards formerly at St. James's Clerkenwell (652)

Monday Dec: 8 1800 The Westminster Youths rang in this Steeple a Complete Deal of Grandeur Tripples Consisting of 5040 Changes in 3 Hours & 15 minutes by the following persons.

Richard Hills	Tells	William Williams	5.
Thos. Humphries	2.	John Hints	6.
Jno. Freeman	3.	John Jagers	7.
Wm. Palmer	4.	John Looce	Tenor

Called by the above Mr. John Hints with 103 Bobs and 2 singles.

Society of Cumberland Youths. On Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup> 1829 the above Society rang in this Steeple a true Deal of Grandeur Tripples Consisting of 5040 Changes in 3 Hours and 14 minutes.

Jno. Poole	Tells	H. H. Burwash	5.
Wm. Shipway	2.	Jno. Whiting	6.
John Oldfield	3.	John Norton	7.
R. Jagers	4.	Thos. Sharp	Tenor

Conducted by H. H. Burwash.

Society of Cumberlands. Eight members  
of the above society rung in this Steeple on  
Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1840 a fine and  
complete Peal of Double Norwich Count Bob  
Major Containing 5040 Changes in 3 hours  
and 14 minutes.

Jas. Hewitt	Treble	William Lobb.	5.
Jer. Miller	2.	Chas. Wilson	6.
Charles Googee	3.	W. H. Burwash	7
Josh. Wright	4	Wm. Brett.	Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by Mr. J. Miller.

Cumberland Society. On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of  
Jan'y. 1858 the following members of the above  
Society rung on these bells a fine and complete  
Peal of Triples on Stedman's principal, Consisting  
of 5040 Changes in 2 hours and 56 minutes

John Cox	Treble	Peter Cook	5
Robert Rose	2.	John Rogers	6.
Henry Booth	3.	Wm. Antill	7
Wm. Chusolfeld	4.	George Kenip	Tenor

Conducted by J. Cox.

## Spunford, St. Dunstan's

In the tower is an ancient bell frame in which hang three bells. The steeple probably by W. Spunford dates from about the year 1380, and is inscribed -

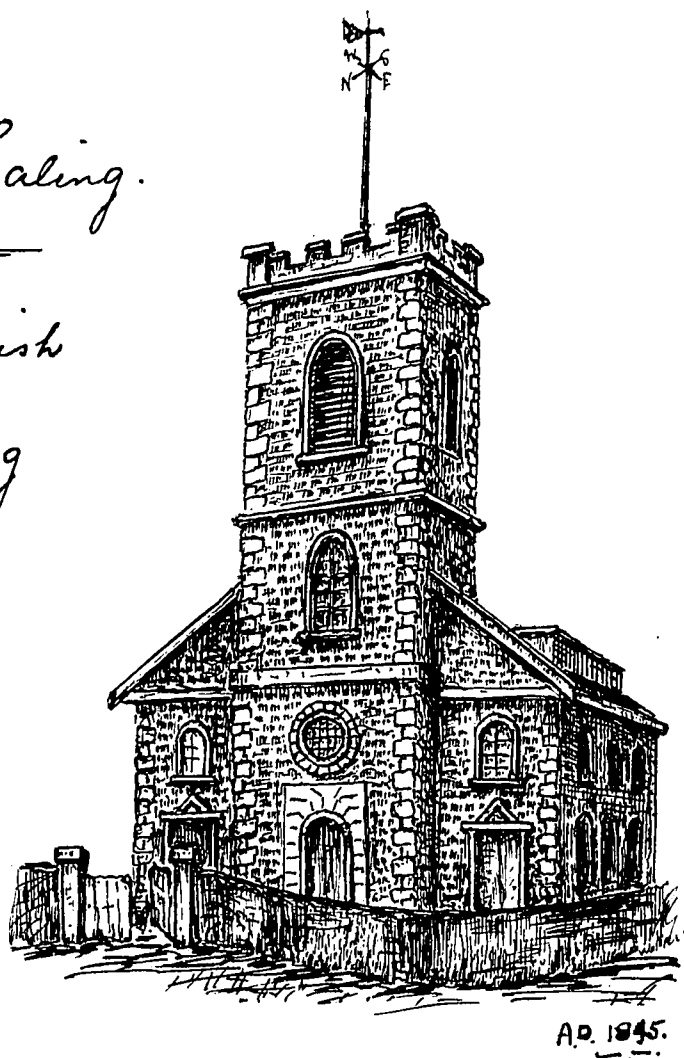
Xpe pie flos Marie

The tenor is by Bryan Eldridge, 1636. (725)

In the church is buried Thomas Fuller the author of Good Thoughts in Horre Times, and many other books, whose writings I have quoted more than once in this history.

## St Mary's, Ealing.

There was a parish church at Ealing from very early times, but all details of what it was like are lost.



In 1552 the steeple contained five great bells and a small bell and there were also in the church five hand bells and five sackyn bells. Soon afterwards these latter were sold with some other goods "all of latten and copper." During the 17<sup>th</sup> Century the church got into a very ruinous condition and on September 10<sup>th</sup>

1718 the vestry agreed to sell to Mr.

Tho: Fells and Mr. Wm Jones ye. present churchwardens to repair ye steeple of the Taryscho Church as they shall think most fitting." The tenor bell was also broken and a Contract was made with James Bagley the founder who undertook to recast it for fifteen pounds and to make good any damage he might do to the other bells and fittings in taking it down. He was also to supply a new clapper at 9<sup>d</sup> per lb. with an allowance of 2<sup>d</sup> per lb for the old one. Twelve years earlier the wardens were instructed to have the porch repaired and (presumably to meet the expense) they were to dispose of the bell which was formerly

the Saints' bell is the best advantage.

Fells and Jones evidently carried out extensive repairs, for in the following March it was ordered and agreed that the present churchwardens be empowered to sell and dispose of all the lead and all the iron work which belonged to the steeple and tower of our Taryshe Church lately taken down to the best and most benefit and advantage which can be got for the same and to accomplish from all moneys arising from the same

The state of the fabric continued to cause anxiety to the parish and the wardens were empowered to take down the bells now standing and being in ye steeple or tower adjoining our Taryshe

Churches and also they are empowered <sup>1149</sup>

to employ two or more able workmen to survey and view the defects in or about the steeple or tower of the Parishes. " A year later they were ordered to employ Mr Reeve and Mr John Grace of Turckentham and other persons they think fit to inspect and view the present state and Condition of the Church and steeple and certify their opinion on the same. " The vestry received the report in 1722 and agreed that the building was in a very dangerous Condition, so much so that the Church-wardens were ordered to look out for some temporary place in which to hold services and a wooden structure was erected for use while the parish considered

What could be done. In 1729, while they were considering, the old church collapsed and a new building became necessary. (666)

During the seventeenth Century there are several instances of medieval churches falling down. This can hardly have been from neglect or decay from age though they may have been contributory causes. It was probably due mainly to the custom of digging graves in or near the church and so undermining the foundations which would only be a few feet deep.

The work of rebuilding had now to be taken in hand and trustees were appointed who erected the church



which stood for a hundred and  
fifty years. It was a brick building  
with a square embattled tower in  
the style of the time and had very  
few architectural merits. The bells  
were among the first things provided  
for, and the sum of £200 was agreed  
upon as the sum for recasting and  
re-hanging. On June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1739 this was  
increased by £80 so that the parish  
could have a full octave and an agreement  
was entered into with Knight and  
Cairn by which they were to provide  
and set up a new frame for eight  
bells with new stocks, wheels, pulleys,  
and iron-work, new clappers and  
cranes, ropes, etc. They were to take

1152

away the old five bells and bring  
down the new ones, all for the sum of  
£76. The old five were to be recast  
at a charge of eighteen shillings per  
cwt. and sufficient new metal added  
to make a ring of eight bells of as deep  
a tone as those of Fitcham. The whole  
weight was not to exceed 85 cwt, nor  
to be less than 75 cwt. and the charge  
for the new metal was to be at £5-12-0  
per cwt. The work was to be guaranteed  
for one year.

Samuel Knight died before the work  
was completed and Robert Gallin carried  
out the Contract. On May 10<sup>th</sup> 1740 the  
new bells were delivered and weighed  
in the presence of the trustees as follows:-

	C.	q.	ll
1.	6.	2.	7
2.	7.	1.	15
3.	7.	0.	23
4.	7.	3.	19.

5.	10.	2.	15.
6.	11.	1.	3
7.	14.	2.	15.
Ten	19.	0.	9
	84.	2.	22.

1153

old metal 56 - 0 - 10  
new metal 28 - 2 - 12.

The vestry minute records that during the time the church was being rebuilt and while the old five bells were standing on the ground some persons in the village carried off the pebble and used it as a punch bowl during the festivities held in connection with the wedding of Frederick Prince of Wales. Frederick was the brother of that Duke of Cumberland from whom the London society of ringers took its name and the father of King George III. He was married on April 26<sup>th</sup> 1736.

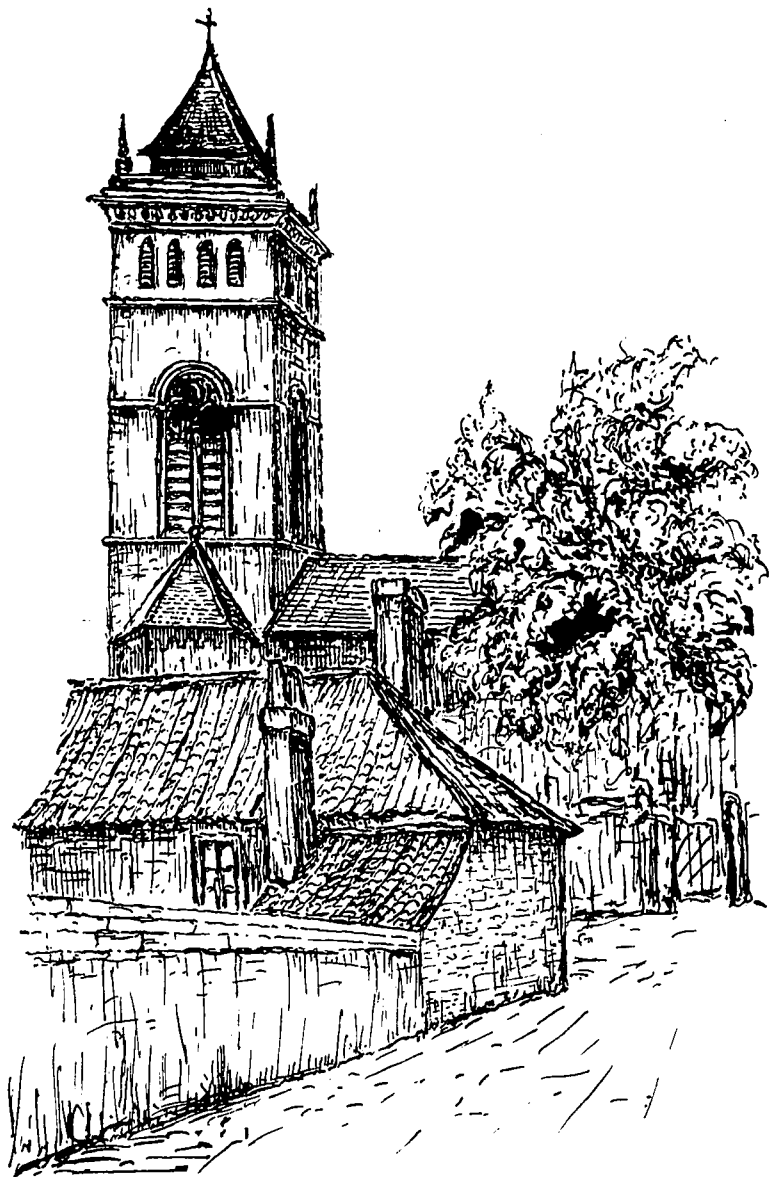
Whether the Churchwardens had actually sold the old saunce bell as directed is not clear for the parish was using a similar bell in the temporary church and when in 1754 a Cupola was added to the new tower it was hung there and used for the clock to strike on. It now hangs in the present tower among the other bells.

The Cupola is shown in eighteenth Century Engravings of Ealing Church but rather curiously it is absent from the illustration given by Faulkner in his book published in 1845. I have followed this illustration in my sketch.

The opening peal on the bells was rung by the Eastern Scholars. It

was one of Bob Major, 5040 changes  
 and was conducted by John Sharpe from  
 the fourth. The next was by the band  
 of ringers formed of members of the two  
 societies of Eastern Scholars and College  
 Youths after the death of Benjamin  
 Annable, the band from which the  
 present Ancient Society of College Youths  
 is descended. It was their second peal  
 and was conducted by Thomas Bennett.  
 The method was Oxford Treble Bob Major  
 and it was rung on May 22, 1757. Thirty  
 years elapsed before the next peal which  
 was one of Grandfire Triples rung in 1787  
 by a band of College Youths who belonged  
 to Hammersmith, Notlake, Kensington  
 and adjoining towers. H. Cole was  
 the Conductor.

In 1866 the  
Church was  
rebuilt. The  
old walls were  
mostly left  
standing, but  
by recasing  
and additions  
the character  
of the whole



building was entirely altered. The result is  
but a qualified success and the reconstructed  
tower, built of brick and without buttresses,  
is not sufficiently rigid to carry a ringing  
peal of bells properly.

Inventory made on the tenth day of  
 March in the thyrde yere of the reyne of  
 our mooste drede Sovereyn Kyng  
 Edward the Sixth by the grace of God,  
 of Ingland, Fraunce and Ireland the  
 Kinges, Defendor of the Faithe and of England  
 and Irelande the supreme hede cmedyately  
 under God, of all such goods as ar in  
 the parryshe churches of Yelynge in the  
 Comptye of Myddlessex.

Item, five great bells and a small bell.  
 in Steple.

Item, two hande bells and two  
 sakaryne bells. (661)

# The Inscriptions on the Bells.

1. RT CATLIN FECIT 1747 JOSEPH SKIDMORE JOHN  
ANDREWS CHURCHWARDENS
2. RT CATLIN FECIT 1747 JOSEPH SKIDMORE JOHN  
ANDREWS CHURCHWARDENS
3. THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1804 JOHN  
BONSY & RICHARD ALLEN CHURCHWARDEN
4. WILLIAM MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1785 THE REV  
CHARLE STURGES VICAR MESSRS EDWARD EUSTACE  
& CHARLES EZARD CHURCHWARDENS
5. R C FECIT 1739 SAMEUL ANDERSON THOMAS  
BARRETT CHURCHWARDENS
6. AS. NOS
7. AS. NOS
- Tenor. THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON 1795 JOSEPH  
DRUCE & JAMES MILLETT CHURCHWARDENS

Sandus Bell



# Tablet in St Mary's Chapel Ealing

1159

Sunday Jan 18, 1798.

on the bells in this tower

6048

Changes of Bob Major was Completed in  
3 Hours 45 Minutes with the Treble at  
Home 12 times Wrong & 12 times Right in  
54 Courses by the Society of  
College Juniors

Jas. Bartlett	1	Jon <sup>r</sup> Longley	5
Jas Brown	2	Jno Thairford	6
Will <sup>m</sup> Kirk	3	Cha <sup>s</sup> Barber	7
Will <sup>m</sup> Jones	4	Will <sup>m</sup> Paris	Tenor

The Deal call<sup>d</sup> by J. Bartlett.

On Sunday May 2 1841

Was rung in this steeple by  
a Friendly Society

A fine and complete Deal of Grandine  
Tripples Consisting of 5040 Changes which  
was performed in 3 h<sup>rs</sup> 1<sup>mi</sup> this being  
the only complete Deal rang upon these  
bells for upwards of 30 years and  
was performed by the following Persons.

R. Haworth	1	H. Jeffrey	5
G. Hockham	2	T. Tolladay	6
C. Balle	3	F. Phelps	7
R. Graham	4	J. Durrant	} Tenor
		W. Hill	

Conducted by T. Tolladay.

Sunday October 1 1800 the  
Company of Isleworth Youths performed a  
Complete Deal of 5040 Grandiose Tripples  
in 2 Hours 45 Minutes

John New	Table	Jo <sup>n</sup> Bates
Ed McNamee	2.	Ge <sup>o</sup> Cole
Ja <sup>s</sup> Cole	3.	Jo <sup>n</sup> Peatt
Bar <sup>n</sup> Harris	4.	T. Nescomb.

Call'd by Mr George Cole.

The St James's Society

Established 1824

On Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup> 1879 was rung on  
the Bells in this Tower by Members of the above  
Society Mr John Hollis' 10 Part Deal of  
Grandiose Triples Consisting of 5040 Changes in  
3 Hours & 2 Minutes. And was Performed by  
Eight Members As follows

H. Butler	Table	R. Kelly	5.
H. Collings	2.	J. M. Hayes	6.
F. Weare	3	H. J. Tucker	7
L. Hayes	4	C. Atlee	Tenor.

Conducted by J. M. Hayes.

This being the First Deal rung for 38 Years.

Pearly rings at St. Mary's Galing.

1740	June 1	5040	Bob Major	Eastern Sch.
1757	May 23	5120	Gx. T.B. Maj.	College Youths
1787	May 12	5040	Gran. Trip.	do.
1798	Jan 18	6048	Bob Major	do.
1809	Oct 1	5040	Gran. Trip.	Isleworth Youths
1841	May 2	5040	do	Friendly.

## All Saints, Edmonton.

An inventory of the goods and ornaments at Edmonton in the reign of Edward VI survives, but it is defective and contains no mention of any bells, and the first account of the bells in the tower that I have is in 1788 when on May the 8<sup>th</sup> the present ring was opened by a band of the Cumberland Youths with a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major. It was composed and conducted by John Reeves, who had recently left the "ancient" Society of College Youths during the quarrels which had led to the break up of that company, and who was now for a time the conductor of the rival society.

Four days after Reeves's peal the junior Cumberlands rang a peal of Grandine Triples and two months later the College Youths rang 5440 Changes of Oxford Treble Bob.

During the next twenty years the Cumberlands rang several peals in the tower, one or two of more than ordinary interest. In 1795 they scored 10080 Bob Major, and in 1800 10112 Oxford Treble Bob Major. The latter was at the time the longest composed or rung in the method and the peal book speaks of it as "unrivalled in the annals of Campanistanean fame." It was composed and conducted by George Gross. <sup>(816)</sup> The figures are lost, but though we have not much evidence of how far Gross was a safe and competent composer we may assume that

it was fine, for Shipway mentions it and at the time he he was interested in the composition of the method with the penous partied. (817)

In 1795 the society rang 5120 changes of Cumberland Treble Bob and in 1798 the same number of Court Treble Bob. The figures of neither have survived, but the society was in the habit of making some small alteration in one of the standard methods and giving their name to the variation. Shipway did not think it worth while to give either and there is some reason to suppose that the peal of Court (in which he took part) was false.

On September 17<sup>th</sup> 1798 George Gross called 5011 changes of Grandeur Triples "being the first rung without a single."

Here again the figures are lost  
 but we have a good idea of what was  
 rung. If in the first half of Holt's Ten-  
 part peal a certain bob is omitted the  
 bells are put into the second half which  
 can be rung in its entirety but at the  
 conclusion the starting point in the  
 first half cannot be regained. That  
 means that you can produce the 5040  
 changes of Grandine Triples by common  
 bobs only but not in round blocks  
 form, and so not as a peal. Some of  
 the early composers tried to get over  
 the difficulty by using a special call  
 or an irregular start. Stephen Hill of  
 Kidderminster had produced the 5012  
 which is given in Shipway's book and  
 John Noonan had but recently brought

it to London. It contains a special single in which the bells in 2nds, 3rds, 4ths and 7th lie still and which does not turn the course of the bells. Gross left that out and, instead, evidently adopted an irregular going off or coming home lead. But it is perhaps significant that though Shipway included Hill's 5012 in his book, he left out Gross's 5011.

One more performance at Edmonton deserves mention, not for any intrinsic merits it possessed but because it was rung by the St. James's Yowths. This was not the same as the St. James's Society which was not established ~~for~~ until nearly thirty years later, but in a sense it was its ancestor. John Hunt's was



1167

closely connected with the bellry  
of St. James's Clerkenwell and there he  
got around him a number of young  
ringers some of them his pupils. The tower  
was a regular meeting place of the old  
Society of Cumberland Youths and in  
addition there was this young band who  
held independent practices and were  
sometimes joined by members of the leading  
societies like William Williams whose  
love of ringing was great enough to  
make them break the traditional rule  
that the members of one company must  
not ring or associate with the members  
of another company.

Southgate is a modern parish  
formed out of Edmonton. In the  
bellry of Christ Church there is a fine

ring of eight cast at Whitechapel

1168

in 1874 and increased to ten in 19

The pandius bell dates from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was also from Whitechapel

and bears the names of both William Carter and Thomas Bartlett.

Cumberlands Society. On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1788 these bells were opened by ye above Society who rung a compleat Teal of Gscford Treble Bobs Consisting of 5280 changes which was performed in 3 hours and 40 minutes by

ye following persons

Jno. Reeves	1.	Thos. Reeves	5.
Jno. Long	2.	Jas. Purser	6.
Anth. Cavalier	3.	Skellie Channon	7.
Willm	4.	Willm. Stephens	8.

The Teal was Composed and called by Jno. Reeves.

Cumberlands Society. On Monday ye 15<sup>th</sup> of September, 1794, the above Society rung in this Steeple a compleat Teal of Bob Major Single Consisting of 5264 changes with 66 Bobs only with 7-8 together Performed in 3 hours and 28 minutes by ye following persons

George Gross	1	Stephen Collins	5
Jno Darby	2.	Wm. Brown	6.
Thos. Reeves	3.	Wm. Stephens	7
Jas. Furcoat	4	Skellie Channon	Tenor

The Teal was Composed and call'd by G. Gross.

The Society of Cumberland Youths.

Monday Nov: 23 1795 the above Society rung in this Steeple a complete Peal Consisting of 10080 Changes of Bob Major being the most ever rung on these bells and was performed in a masterly manner in 6 hours 29 minutes by the following persons.

George Gross senr.	1.	Stephen Collins	5.
George Gross junr	2.	Wm. Gibson	6.
Wm Shipway	3.	Henry Lymondson	7
Wm. Channon	4.	Geo. Harris	Tenor

The Peal was composed and called by Mr Geo Gross, senr

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On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feby 1797 the Saint James's Youths rung in this Steeple the first Peal of Grandfire Triples Consisting of 5040 Changes in 3 hours and 7 minutes by the following

performers

Robt Clark	Tulle	Wm. Williams	5.
Wm. Chaplin	2.	Jas Hichbury	6.
Thos Burlmer	3	John Hinto	7
Thos. Wenden	4	Robt Jagers	Tenor

The Peal called by John Hinto.

Cumberland Society. Tuesday May  
26<sup>th</sup> 1798 the Society rung in this Steeple a  
Complete Peal Consisting of 5120 Changes  
Court Treble Bob 8 in being the first ever  
rung in that method on these bells and  
was performed in 3 hours and 23 minutes  
by the following persons

Geo Gross senr.	1.	Jno Tassion	5.
Jno Darby	2.	Wm. Brown	6.
Wm Tyler	3.	Jas Truscoat	7.
Wm. Shipway	4.	Geo. Harris	Tenor

The Peal was Composed and Called by Mr  
Geo Gross senr.

---

# Peals rung at All Saints, Edmonton.

1788	May 8	5280	Ox. T. B. Maj	Cumberlands
	12	5040	Gran. Trip.	St. Cumberlands
	July 12	5440	Ox. T. B. Maj	College Youths
1789	May 18	5040	Bob Major	Cumberlands
1794	Sep 15	5268	do	do.
1795	May 26	5120	Cumberland T. B. Maj	do.
	Sep 14	5040	Bob Major	do.
	Nov 23	10.080	do	do.
1797	Feb 7	5040	Gran. Trip.	St. James's Youths
1798	Sep 17	5011	do	Cumberlands
	May 26	5120	Court. T. B. Maj	do.
1800	Apr. 28	10112	Ox. T. B. Maj	do.
1807	July 6	5040	Bob Major	do.
1812	Nov. 23	5040	Gran. Trip.	do
1830	Nov 29	5040	do	St James's Society.

St Andrew, Enfield.

1173

Enfield parish church is an ancient but much altered building of no great architectural interest, with a western tower built probably in the late fourteenth century. <sup>(794)</sup> It contains a ring of eight bells cast at Whitechapel in 1724, <sup>(795)</sup> and a sanctus bell by William Wrightman dated 1680. There seems to be no record of any peal rung in the tower during the eighteenth century and the first on the bells was in 1809, one of Grandsire Triples by the Junior Cumberlands. There were local ringers, but it is fairly certain that never once has ~~the~~ the tower had a change-ringing band. Our knowledge of the lesser bands throughout the country

is very small, indeed practically non-existent, but it is evident that not everywhere in the seventeenth century did the Plain Changes develop into Cross Gales and so into modern Change ringing.

In many towers, perhaps in the majority, the older system survived as stoney with its own unbroken traditions and void of its purely mathematical features. It would be a mistake to suppose that stoney has arisen as a mere makeshift adopted by change-ringers when for some reason or other they cannot get anything better or as a step to higher things.

The modern Church of St Mary Magdalene has a ring of eight by Warner with a tenor of 19 Cwt.



Peal Boards at St. Andrews, Enfield. 1175

Junior Society of Cumberland Youths. On Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 1809 was rung in this steeple by eight of the above, the whole, time, and complete Peal of Grandure Tripples, containing 5040 changes in the short space of 3 hrs. 8 minutes being the first peal on these bells. Performed by

Wm. Williams	1.	Henry Symondson	4.	Wm. Fletcher	7.
Thos. Ovenden	2.	Wm. Skander	5.	Wm. Vincent	8.
Thos. Thomas	3.	Jno. Haynes	6.		

Called by Wm. Williams

---

Junior Society of Cumberland Youths. On Monday July 10<sup>th</sup> 1809 was rung in this Steeple by eight of the above Society a time and complete peal of Oxford Treble Bob containing 5088 changes in the very short time of 2 hrs and 58 minutes being the greatest performance achieved on these bells. Performed by

Wm. Williams	1.	Thos. Ovenden	5.
Jas. Ludley	2.	Thos. Thomas	6.
H. Symondson	3.	Jno. Haynes	7.
Robt. Balis	4.	Wm. Fletcher	Tenor

Called by Wm. Williams

S. James Society. On Sunday,  
Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 1829, eight members of the above  
Society rung in this Steeple a true and  
Complete Peal of Grandfire Triples containing  
5040 Changes in 3 hrs and 3 minutes.

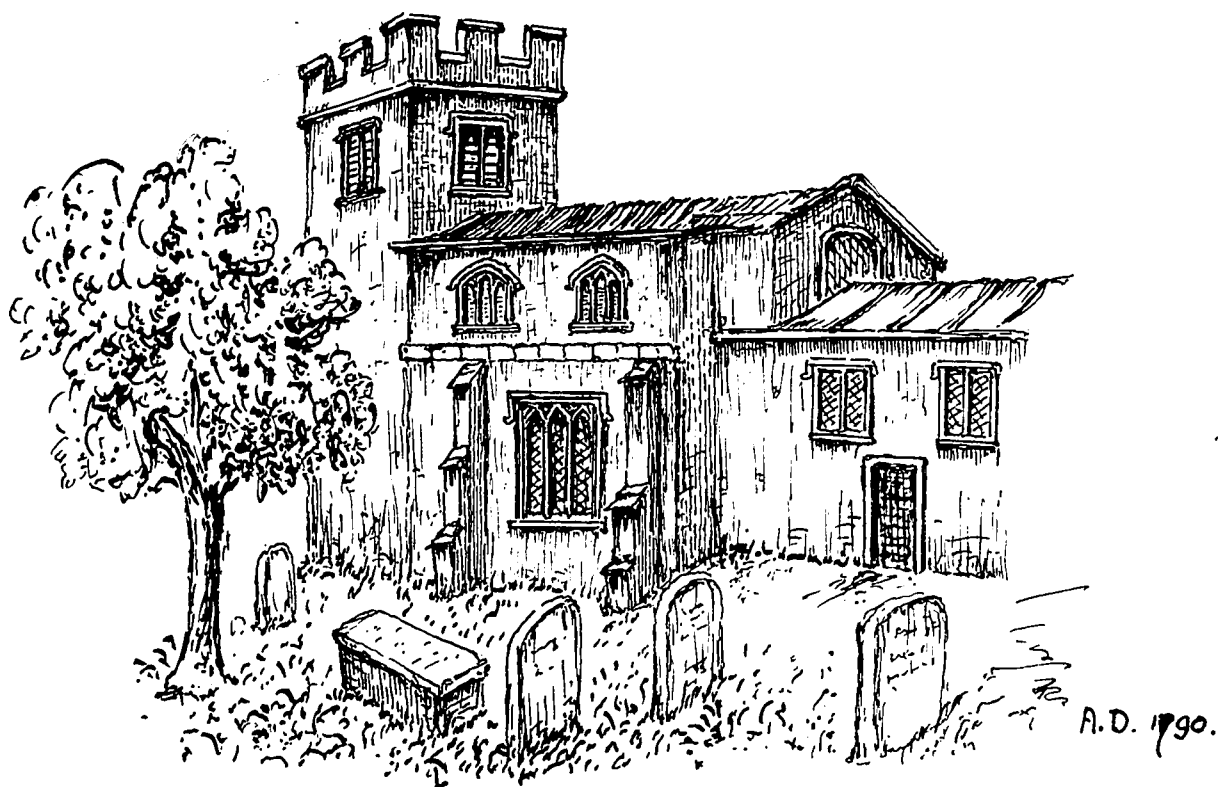
J. Peat	1.	Josh Harper	5.
Thos. Toller	2.	Lam <sup>r</sup> . Thomas	6.
Geo. Smith	3.	Wm. Owen	7.
Thos. Tollerday	4.	Wm. Bulgin	Tenor.

Conducted by T. Tollerday.

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### Inscription on the Tree.

DOES BATTLE RAGE DO SANGUINE FOES CONTEND  
WE HAIL THE VICTOR IF HE'S BRITAIN'S FRIEND  
MAY GEORGE LONG REIGN WHO NOW THE SCEPTRE SWAYS  
AND BRITISH VALOUR EVER RULE THE SEAS.



A.D. 1790.

## St Mary, Finchley.

In the reign of Edward VI there were at Finchley 5 bells w<sup>th</sup> a Lylell bell<sup>(62)</sup>. The six at present in the tower were cast at Whitechapel in 1770.



## DEATH OF MR. C. W. CLARKE.

### A LEADING BEDFORDSHIRE RINGER.

We regret to announce the passing of yet another well-known figure from the Exercise; one who did yeoman service for the Bedfordshire Association, of which he was one of the earliest members. Charles William Clarke died at St. Peter's Hospital, Bedford, on January 9th, at the age of 77 years.

In the period just before the present war advancing age somewhat restricted his activities, but ringers of an older generation will recollect the energy and enthusiasm he displayed, mainly in and around Bedfordshire. He was a fine all-round ringer, but he excelled most of all on six bells, having a complete mastery of Minor ringing and conducting in the days before 'splicing' came to the fore. He was something of a martinet in the belfry, but it was all well intentioned and he raised the standard of six-bell ringing in Bedfordshire to a high level.

Mr. Clarke was born at Oundle, Northants, on May 8th, 1864, and rang his first peal before he was 20 years old. His first peal as conductor was the first peal by the Bedfordshire Association. This was seven different 720's of Minor and was rung at Biddenham.

From this point Mr. Clarke gave much attention to Minor ringing and eventually his peals in seven methods alone numbered over 360, of which he conducted more than 250. In addition, he called two peals of London Minor, four peals of Cambridge Minor and 16 peals in less than seven methods. His performances also included peals in 10 and 14 extents, and on one occasion, before such performances were frowned on by the powers that be, a peal of Minor in 14 methods rung in 360's.

On higher numbers Mr. Clarke rang peals which extended from Triples to Cinques, among them one peal of 10,176 Treble Bob Major, as well as 66 peals of Surprise Major and Royal. Altogether he rang no fewer than 720 peals, of which he conducted over 430. The peals were rung in 131 towers for nine associations.

Mr. Clarke had lived in Bedford for the greater part of his life and for many years was associated with the six-bell tower of St. Peter's.

He was buried at his native Oundle on January 12th.

## THE LATE EDWARD MURRELL.

### FUNERAL AT WHITCHURCH.

The funeral of the late Edward Murrell, who, as announced in our last issue, died on Sunday, January 11th, took place on the following Thursday afternoon at St. Lawrence's Church, Whitchurch, Canons Park, Middlesex. Mr. A. A. Hughes represented the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Mr. Murrell, who was 53 years old, was born at Thurnby in Leicestershire. He had been a company sergeant-major in the 1st Battalion of the Grenadier Guards and won the Distinguished Service Medal in the retreat from Mons. He was a first rate all round athlete and was skilled in rowing, football and swimming.

He was musical and a leading member of the choir of St. Lawrence Jewry. That brought him into contact with ringing and he adopted it with enthusiasm, though naturally he was hampered by coming to it fairly late in life. He had rung one or two peals.

Mr. Murrell leaves a widow and a son.

## PATRONAL FESTIVAL.

A quarter-peal of Bob Major was rung recently at St. Mary and All Saints', Beaconsfield, in honour of the patronal festival of the church: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, W. Lee 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, Miss V. Look 7-8.

**THE BELLS OF ENGLAND.**—There are sweet bells in France, in Italy, in Belgium; but the English country is their true home. And it will never do for England to listen to the fretful fuss of those who would silence her church bells, whether over her fields or over the noisy towns in which they are the only music. — The Times, March 23rd, 1934.



THE LATE MR. C. W. CLARKE.

## DEATH OF THE REV. W. C. PEARSON.

### RECTOR OF HENLEY, SUFFOLK.

We much regret to announce the death of the Rev. William Carter Pearson, which took place suddenly on Tuesday, January 13th.

Mr. Pearson, who had been Rector of Henley, near Ipswich, for 47 years and was 82 years old, lived alone. He was found by his woman helper on her arrival in the morning at the foot of the rectory stairs in a dying condition. He had a torch in his hand and it is assumed that he collapsed as he was about to go upstairs to black-out.

Mr. Pearson was a man of great determination. Although he had a serious illness last summer, and was incapacitated for a time, he recently walked from Henley to Ipswich and back, in compliance with a wish he had expressed to one of the parishioners that before he died he proposed going the five miles between Henley and Ipswich on foot.

He carried out the full morning service at his church on the Sunday before his death, and preached a sermon, although there was only a small congregation.

Mr. Pearson was laid to rest on Saturday in a spot selected by himself at the foot of the steeple.

The Revs. C. W. Wordsworth (Rector of Coddanham), J. R. Chapman (Rector of Redfield) and L. B. C. Newell (Rector of Claydon) took part in the service, which included the hymns, 'Jesu, lover of my soul' and 'Abide with me,' the 23rd Psalm and the Nunc Dimittis.

The principal mourners were Commander Pearson (brother) and Mr. H. S. Gotelee.

Before the service a course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells by Messrs. C. E. Mee, Charles Mee, C. J. Sedgley, E. Rivers and F. Rolfe. There was a large congregation.

Mr. Pearson learned to ring in his early days, and when he went up to Cambridge in 1879 he, with the help of some friends, founded the Clare Association of Ringers, which shortly after became the Cambridge University Guild.

At Henley he restored the bells and completed the octave, and very many peals in numerous and advanced methods were rung with the help of the Ipswich men. Mr. Pearson rang 229 peals for the Norwich Diocesan Association, but he did not approve of the changes which led to the formation of the Suffolk Guild, and thereafter Henley bells and the Rector disappeared from peal records.

Mr. Pearson was for many years a diligent and successful collector of books dealing with bells and ringing, and his collection of early and rare works is unrivalled outside the British Museum. In some respects it is the finest of all, for while all the British Museum copies have been rebound and 'cut,' some of Mr. Pearson's are in the original bindings with uncut edges. He had also the copy of the 'Tintinnalogia,' which for long was supposed to be the only one extant. Mr. E. H. Lewis has now a rather better copy.

Some years ago Mr. Pearson, referring to his books, wrote: 'The "Tintinnalogia" formerly belonging to Mr. Lukis is in my possession. I have a nice clean and perfect copy of Stedman's "Campanalogia," published in 1677. In 1677 J. White published "A Rich Cabinet with a Variety of Inventions," in which is an article on ringing cribbed more or less from the "Tintinnalogia." White also published the same article about 1700, under the title of "Tintinnalogia." I have an imperfect copy of this and a good copy of the former.'

'The "Campanalogia" by J. D. and C. M. went through five editions, 1702, 1705, 1733, 1753 and 1766, the last corrected by J. Monk. I have copies of all these five editions. I have copies of the 1788 "Clavis," one of the so-called second edition, and three of the third. I have two copies of Shipway's book, 1816, one of which is in the original paper boards with rough uncut edges. I have the first and fourth editions of Hubbard's book, 1845 and 1876. I have J. W. Snowdon's copy of B. Thackrah's book. I have two copies of Sottan-stall's book, one of which was formerly J. W. Snowdon's and contains a photo of the author published in 1874. Also "The Bell News" reprints, and the later books by Snowdon, etc.; J. P. Powell's "Stedman Triples" and Thompson's "Grandsire." Also I have all the county volumes that have been published on bell inscriptions, etc.'

Mr. Pearson at one time owned a large and handsomely bound manuscript, folio size. It is entitled, 'The Peal Book of the Union Scholars of Newport, Isle of Wight,' but actually is a collection of miscellaneous records of early performances in different parts of the country. This volume Mr. Pearson presented to the British Museum.

From time to time Mr. Pearson contributed articles on various historical subjects to the pages of 'The Bell News.' They included an account of Theodore Eccleston and a transcript of the book just mentioned. He also published a little book giving a list of the rings of eight, ten and twelve bells in the Eastern Counties with the founders and weights.

## ST. PETER'S TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

The band at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, are among the many who are doing what they can to tide over these difficult times and keep the spirit of the Exercise alive. Under the inspiration of their captain, Mr. B. Collison, they hold fortnightly Wednesday practices with lashed clappers. They have now six fully qualified ringers, and two others are in training. Two of the six qualified ringers are women, and so is one of the learners. The other is the Rev. F. F. Yorke, Vicar of St. Peter's.

24th day of July, Anno Domini 1728 pursuant to due and legal notice for that purpose, it was unanimously agreed and order'd that the whole peal of six bells be recast, it appearing that the tenor was broken, the third crack'd, and ye rest untunable, and that a rate should be made and levied at four pence in ye pound to defray ye expense of casting and hanging ye said bells and other necessary repairs in and about ye same.'

A leading man in the parish at this time was William Skelton, a skilled ringer and a member of the Society of College Youths. I have already told how his father came to the notice of the Bishop of London by detecting an attempt to poison the bishop, and how the latter educated him and set him up in life. William Skelton was an Oxford graduate and for many years held the office of registrar to the Bishop of London. He now became the prime mover in the scheme to restore the church bells and was the leading man in the committee appointed to deal with the matter.

The vestry found that the proposed rate of fourpence was insufficient, so they raised it to eightpence, and if that were not enough, to tenpence, but it seems this was rescinded. The committee decided to instal eight bells and applied to the Bishop for a faculty to recast the old six and supply two trebles by voluntary subscription; accordingly at the next vestry meeting Skelton, as registrar, presented the parish with the 'Bps Licence for ye new bells, which was read and thanks returned him.'

The response to the appeal for subscriptions does not appear to have been very lively, and in the end Skelton, who had made himself responsible for the money, had to bear the bulk of the cost, and the vestry decided that two bells should bear his name.

The order was given to Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, then at the height of his fame. It was the of the five rings he cast for London churches, the others being St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, 1702, St. George's Southwark, 1718, St. Bride's, Fleet Street, 1710, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, 1726.

From Gloucester the bells were brought overland the Thames and then by water; and as the barge passing under the bridge at Oxford it sank. It was a week before the bells could be hoisted out of the river but at length, in January, 1730, they arrived at Fulham none the worse for their adventure.

The supervision of the tuning was entrusted to J. Harrison, who is famous as the inventor of a clock determining the longitude at sea. For this he received (though after long delay) the sum of £10,000 which Parliament had offered for such an invention. He made other improvements in clocks and escapements. He had a musical ear and made experiments in sound with a curious monochord of his own invention, from which he constructed a new musical scale or mechanical division of the octave according to the proportions of the radius and diameter of a circle have respectively to the circumference.'

(To be continued.)

J. A.  
TROLLOPE'S

## 'COLLEGE YOUTHS' A History of the Society

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## LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

### THE

# LEADING BELL FOUNDER

## THE BELLS OF FULHAM.

### RUDHALL'S FAMOUS RING.

(Continued from page 41.)

The opening of Fulham bells was made an occasion of much rejoicing among the townfolk, and leading ringers took part—probably the College Youths, and certainly the London Scholars, then nearing the end of their distinguished career.

Several professors of music listened to the ringing, some of the company went along the towing path on the Putney side of the river, others along the Bishop's Walk, and others to different parts of the town where they could best hear the bells. It was characteristic of the times that there was no religious service in the church and no dedication of the bells, but afterwards a dinner was held at the King's Arms, where the opinion was freely expressed that for its weight the peal was one of the best in England.

Since then ten generations of ringers have endorsed that opinion. Even those who have little good to say about bells which are not cast and tuned in the modern style; will usually make an exception in favour of the Fulham ring. The older and more unsophisticated opinion is given by J. T. Smith in his 'Book for a Rainy Day' (Smith died in 1833)—'Next evening away I truged to take water with George Heath at Strand Lane. "I find the Swan to be your usual sign on the river," said I. "Why, yes," replied George, "I don't know what a coach, or a wagon and horses or the high mettled racer have to do with our river. Bells—now bells—we might have bells, because the Thames is so famous for bells." "You like bells, then?" "I was a famous ringer in my youth at St. Mary's, Ovaries. They are beautiful bells, but of all the bells give me Fulham. St. Margaret's are fine bells, and so are St. Martin's; but, after all, Fulham for my money."'

George Heath, the waterman, was a well-known character at the time and the original of a popular theatrical sketch. His claim to have been a famous ringer in his youth was perhaps a bit of pardonable exaggeration, but he was for some years one of a number of ringers who without ever getting into the really leading bands were active among the London belfries. It was he who gave to the ancient Society of College Youths the book which was damaged in the fire raid and about which Mr. E. A. Young wrote in 'The Ringing World.'

Heath rang one College Youths peal, not with the men from headquarters, but with a band made up from the villages of Middlesex. It was in 1791 at Battersea and one of Union Triples. He also took part about the same time in another interesting performance, a peal of Oxford Treble Bob upon St. George's Day by eight men all named George. The attempt was made first at St. George's-in-the-Borough, but after rotten ropes had caused a breakdown the band adjourned to St. Olave's, Tooléy Street, and rang the peal there. The elder George Gröss was the conductor and this was probably the first name peal ever rung. It was a non-society performance and no board was put up to record it. It would have been clean forgotten, but that George Heath, who was a genial chatty sort of person, loved to talk in his old age about what he had done in his youth.

The old man was quite right when he claimed that the Thames is famous for its bells. It is remarkable

how many well-known towers stand on its banks within a few score yards. Leaving aside the towers Oxford and many others upstream, Twickenham, Isleworth, Brentford, Mortlake, Chiswick, Battersea, Fulham, Putney, Lambeth, St. Saviour's, St. Magnus', St. Olave's, Rotherhithe, and Greenwich are all on the river bank, and there are a dozen or so others very close. St. Olave's and its bells were destroyed by fire.

William Skelton was a member of the Society of College Youths, and it was only natural that he should invite them to ring the first peal on Fulham's new bells. They did so on August 24th, 1730, ringing a peal of Double Bob Major.

The band was an interesting one. At the time the rivalry which existed between Benjamin Annable and John Cundell had led to the temporary exclusion of the former from the society's peal ringing band. Cundell called the peal at Fulham from the tenor, and his friend John Hardham, the celebrated tobacconist, of Fleet Street, rang the treble. Laughton rang the second; and William Thompson, who had left the College Youths for the London Scholars, came back for this peal, perhaps because Annable was not in it.

A local band was formed in the parish, but we have no account of any early peals, and the next we know of in the steeple was also by the College Youths. It was one of Union Triples on July 16th, 1733, and Annable conducted. Hardham rang the tenor.

By January, 1736, the local men, who called themselves the Fulham Youths, were far advanced enough to rang 10,080 changes of Bob Major. It was the fifth peal that so far had been rung of over ten thousand changes, and was a notable performance; so much so that we must suppose that they had already rung shorter peals now forgotten. The name of none of the band appears elsewhere, but among them were two men of the name of Hudnott, a family which supplied several ringers during the eighteenth century.

For many years a member of the family held the office of beadle and sexton to the parish, and that carried with it the control of the bells and ringing. In the belfry there is a large oil painting of an elderly man in a red coat, holding a quart pot in one hand and smoking a long churchwarden pipe. It represents John Hudnott, who was beadle in 1690, and since his portrait was painted, evidently an important person in the parish. Who the painter was and what are the artistic merits of the painting I cannot say. It is hung high on the wall and needs cleaning.

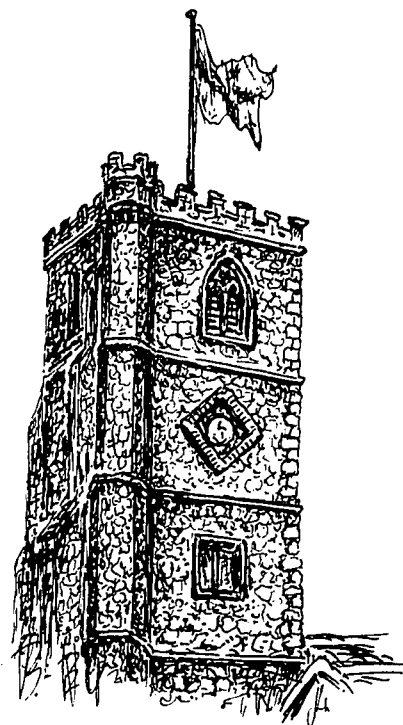
The College Youths rang Double Bob Major at Fulham in 1739 and the Eastern Scholars the same method in 1740. The Union Scholars rang Bob Major in 1733 and in 1741; and the Eastern Scholars Oxford Treble Bob Major in 1741.

Fulham bells were increased to ten in 1746, and through the generosity of Theodore Eccleston and William Skelton. The details of the transaction are somewhat obscure, but what happened appears to be this. Eccleston, who was a wealthy young man and a keen ringer, lived at Mortlake, and also had an estate in Suffolk. In that county he gave a ring of eight bells to Coddensham and one of ten to Stonham Aspal, and at Mortlake in 1741 he added two trebles to the old six.

(Continued on next page.)

# All Saints, Fulham.

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When the first church  
was built at Fulham  
no one knows. The

present building is modern having been  
erected in 1881, but the tower dates from 1440

In the Edwardian inventory of 1549 it is  
stated that there were then "v greate belles

and a Cythell bell in the steeple and iiij  
Hande belles." <sup>(663)</sup> The latter were peering bells

and being no longer required were sold.

There remained "in the steeple v greate belles  
and a pounce Bell." During the seventeenth  
Century the churchwardens' accounts



1179

Contain many entries relating to repairs which are interesting as showing the cost of such things at the time. In 1638 a set of bellropes cost 18/6. Two years later a set cost £1-2-6. It rather looks as if the churchwardens had gone in the first instance to the cheapest market and had got rubbish for their pains. In 1649 Pastors of Hammersmith was paid 18/ for "a new Clapper for the great Bell, the old one being unserviceable and endangering the bell." In 1650 Robert Turner, bellhanger received £4-12-6 for Taking down and new hanging of the Bells (the crasses, goorgions and Baldricks being decayed and worn out) and for new casting the sd. Crasses and Goorgions and adding to them five pounds

more of mettall and for new Baldricks  
 and Rools, and other worke appearing by  
 Bill." In that same year some soldiers  
 had damaged one of the bells; how it  
 happened does not appear. It may be  
 that they wanted to show their joy at  
 the execution of King Charles and their  
 zeal far exceeding their technical skill  
 as ringers they had thrown the bell over.  
 It does not seem to have been wanton  
 damage. <sup>(190)</sup> Here is the entry "To him  
 more, (that is to Robert Turner) "for  
 Taking downe and new hanging the  
 second Bell over throwne by the Soldiers  
 and for locks and Nayles, 6s. 8d."

In 1652 the bells had fallen into a  
 bad state of repair. The parish elected  
 as Churchwarden a certain Colonel

George Langham a republican  
 soldier of Parsons Green, but Langham  
 was anxious not to serve and the  
 vestry minutes record how the matter  
 was settled. "At the sd. Vestry, Coll.  
 George Langham did voluntarily give  
 to the parish of Fulham on Fulham side  
 the summe of five pounds, and the  
 inhabitants did Consent to excuse the  
 said Ed Langham from all offices  
 for the repaire of ye Bells wch are now  
 in decay." (819) Mr Thomas Crooke was  
 elected in Langham's stead and he  
 forthwith set about the restoration of the  
 peal. This was at the time of the Commonwealth  
 and is one more proof that bells and  
 ringing were not then neglected. The  
 work was entrusted to Bryan Eldridge

of Cherisey and then there happened  
 a rather curious thing. Brooke and his  
 Co-warden or successor John Shorecroft  
 had entered into a bond with Eldridge  
 "in y<sup>e</sup> penall sum of 120<sup>li</sup>" for the payment  
 of the Contract amount of £60. of this  
 Brooke was supposed to have paid part  
 and Shorecroft to have discharged the  
 balance, but Eldridge did not return  
 the bond disputing the payment. He  
 sued Brooke who had judgement passed  
 against him and was himself taken  
 in execution. He appealed to the vestry  
 and the minute book contains a  
 detailed account of the matter. According  
 to him when he paid Eldridge the  
 latter said that the bond was not then

in his custody, but promised to deliver it up in a short time to be cancelled; but nevertheless "ye said Eldridge putt ye aforesaid Bond in suit, and although the said Thomas Crooke made a legal defence and proof of ye aforesaid sums paid yet judgement went against him." The vestry believed Crooke and reimbursed him the money, but we should like to have Bryan Eldridge's version of the matter. The Eldridges were a family of founders who apparently were held in high repute, and the original sum may not have been paid.

Eldridge cast a peal of six but by 1728 they had become cracked and

and out of tune. " At a Vestry held  
 ye 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, Anno Domini, 1728,  
 pursuant to due and legal notice for  
 that purpose it was unanimously agreed  
 and order'd that the whole peal of six  
 bells be recast, it appearing that the Tenor  
 was broke, the third crack'd and ye rest  
 untunable, and that a rate should be  
 made and levied at four pence in ye  
 pound to defray ye expense of Casting and  
 hanging ye said bells and other necessary  
 repairs in and about ye same. " (664)

A leading man in the parish at the  
 time was William Skellin a skilled  
 ringer and a member of the Society of  
 College Youths. His father had achieved  
 fortune in a rather romantic way. He  
 had been foot boy in the service of

Bishop Compton at Fulham Palace;  
 the bishop had left a legacy in his will  
 to some of his servants including a cook;  
 and the cook thinking the bishop was  
 likely to live for many years and being  
 anxious to handle the money, mixed  
 some poison into the broth he had  
 prepared for his lordship. Young Skellion  
 was the means of detecting the attempt  
 and as a result the cook was discharged  
 and Skellion given a start in life at the  
 law. By diligence and good fortune  
 he arrived at considerable property in  
 the parish and built himself a substantial  
 house in Church Row. <sup>(665)</sup> His son William  
 graduated at Oxford became an  
 ecclesiastical lawyer and for many

years was registrar to the Bishop of London. It was he that issued the faculties under which more than one of the rings of bells in London were installed or recast including as we have seen that at St Saviour's Southwark. He had learnt to ring either at Gosford or on the old five at Fulham and now he took a leading part in the restoration scheme. A Committee was appointed consisting of Skelton and seven others who were to get estimates, and the vestry finding the proposed rate of fourpence inadequate raised it to eightpence or to tenpence if that were not sufficient. The Committee decided to install eight bells and applied to the Bishop for a faculty to



recast the old six and supply two  
 pebbles by voluntary Contributions; accordingly  
 at the next vestry meeting Skellon as  
 registrar presented the parish with the "Bells  
 Licence for y<sup>e</sup> new Bells which was read  
 and thanks returned him."

The response to the appeal for subscriptions  
 does not appear to have been very lively  
 and in the end Skellon, who had made  
 himself responsible for the money, had to  
 bear the bulk of the cost and the vestry  
 directed that the two bells should bear  
 his name.

The order was given to Abraham Rudhall  
 of Gloucester then at the height of his fame.  
 It was the last of the five rings he cast  
 for London Churches, the others being St  
 Dunstan's in the East 1702, St George's

1188

Southwark 1718, St. Brides Fleet Street  
1710, and St. Martins in the Fields 1726. From  
Gloucester the bells were brought overland  
to the Thames and then by water and as  
the barge was passing under the bridge  
at Oxford it sank. It was a week before  
the bells could be hoisted out of the river,  
but at length in January 1730, they  
arrived at Fulham none the worse for  
their adventure. <sup>(666)</sup> The pining was entrusted  
to John Harrison who has made a name  
as the inventor of a clock for determining  
the longitude at sea. For this he received  
(though after long delay) the sum of £10,000  
which Parliament had offered for such  
an invention. He also made other  
improvements in clocks and escapements.  
" He had a musical ear and made  
experiments in sound with a curious

monochord of his own invention, from which he constructed a new musical scale or mechanical division of the octave, according to the proportions which the radius and diameter of a circle have respectively to the circumference." (667)

The opening of the bells was made an occasion of much rejoicing among the townsfolk, and leading ringers took part, - probably the College Youths (of which society Skellin was a member) and certainly the London Scholars then nearing the end of their distinguished career. Several professors of music listened to the ringing some of the company went along the flowing path on the Putney side of the river, others along the Bishop's Walk and others to different parts of the town where they

1190

could best hear the bells. It is characteristic  
of the times that there was no religious service  
in the church and no dedication of the bells,  
but afterwards a dinner was held at the  
Kings Arms where the opinion was freely  
expressed that for its weight the peal  
was one of the best in England. Since then  
ten generations of ringers have endorsed  
that opinion <sup>(815)</sup> Even those that have little  
good to say about bells which are not cast  
and tuned in the modern style, will  
usually make an exception in favour of  
the Fulham ring. The older and more  
unsophisticated opinion is given by J. F.  
Smith in his Book for a Rainy Day -  
"Next evening away I pinged to take  
water with George Heath at Strand Lane.  
"I find the Swan to be your usual sign  
up the river," said I. "Why, yes," replied

1191

George, "I don't know what a Coach,  
or a waggon and horses, or the high mettled  
racer have to do with our river. Bells - now  
bells, - we might have bells; because the  
Thames is so famous for bells." "You like  
bells then?" "I was a famous ringer  
in my youth at St. Mary's, Overies. They  
are beautiful bells, but of all the bells  
give me Fulham. St. Margaret's are fine  
bells and so are St. Martin's, but after all  
Fulham for my money." (668)

George Heath the waterman was a well-  
known character at the time and the  
original of a popular theatrical sketch.  
His claim to have been a famous ringer  
in his youth was a bit of pardonable  
exaggeration, but he was for some years  
one of a number of ringers, who without  
ever getting into the first-class bands,

were active among the London Belfies.

In 1791, he took part in a College Youth peal of Union Triples the band being made up not from Headquarters, but from the Thames valley powers. W. Cole was the Conductor. About the same time he rang in another peal, of more than passing interest.

George Cross had quailed with the Junior Cumberlands and gone back to the old Company in 1788, but his position there was at first not quite comfortable. Others had succeeded to office and influence and as Cross was not the man to play second fiddle to anyone he found himself outside the regular Cumberland peal-ringing band. He tried to do the same thing as he had done some four or five years before and make

1193

up a Company out of those ringers  
who, so to speak, hung on the skirts of  
the big societies; only this time there  
was another idea as an extra motive.  
He suggested a peal by a band all of  
whom were named George, at St. Georges  
in the Borough and upon St. Georges Day.  
Thirteen men met, eleven of them being  
called George, and out of them eight  
were picked to start for a peal of Oxford  
Treble Bob Major. After they had rung  
a short time one of the ropes broke,  
and having examined the others and  
come to the conclusion that they were  
not likely to last for three hours, they  
went to St. Olaves in Tooley Street, and  
rang the peal there.

This was one of the first, if not the

very first "name" peal sung, but as  
 it was a non-society performance, it  
 was recorded in no peal book, neither  
 was there a board put up for it. <sup>(669)</sup> It  
 would have clean passed from the  
 memory of man but that George Heath  
 who was a genial, chatty sort of person  
 loved in his old age to talk about what  
 he had done in his youth.

The old man was quite right when  
 he claimed that the Thames is famous  
 for its bells. It is remarkable how

many well known towers stand on its  
 banks or within a few score yards.

Besides many further up stream,  
 Tricketham, Isleworth, Brentford, <sup>Chertsey</sup> St. Mary's,  
 Battersea, Fulham, Putney, Lambeth  
 St. Saviour's, St. Magnus, St. Olaves,



Rotherhithe and Greenwich, are on 1195  
the river banks and there are a dozen  
or so others very close.

In 1746 William Skellion and  
Theodore Eccleston of Northlake decided  
between them to increase Fulham ring  
to ten. Eccleston was a wealthy man,  
a keen ringer, and a generous donor  
of bells, <sup>(670)</sup> and probably, since so far  
as we know he had no personal interests  
in Fulham parish, he was induced by  
Skellion to give the bells while the  
other undertook to pay the cost of  
the hanging, the parish to be at no  
expense whatever for the same or any  
part thereof. The vestry on January  
29<sup>th</sup> 1746 decided to accept this generous  
gift. I do not think we shall be

1196

doing Eccleston and Skellion any injustice if we class this gift with others made by ringers to Church towers - the two pebbles to St Brides the two pebbles to St Magnus, the recast with at St Sepulchres - they were generous gifts but the givers expected themselves to benefit by increased facilities for practising their favourite sport of change-ringing.

The order for the two new bells went to Robert Catlin, Samuel Knight's foreman who had succeeded him in the business. As an active change-ringer and a member of the Society of College Youths, Catlin would be personally very well known both to Eccleston and to Skellion, which is probably the reason why he and not Abel got the order. Catlin was not so good a bell founder as his master - he had made his reputation as a bell hanger -

his bells were bad and had to be recast before they were hung in the tower. Even then they were not satisfactory, and in 1760 they were exchanged for five others which had been the pebbles of the ring of twelve at St Martins in the Fields. In their first home they were not a success but they fitted perfectly into the Fulham peal. Mrs Rudhall who then owned the business received £12-15-9 for the exchange. One of these five bells has since been recast.

The Churchwardens' accounts contain as usual numerous entries of payments for ringing. Usually it is for some royal anniversary such as the King's birthday or Coronation day; or for some national event such as Gunpowder Treason day the signing of peace (at Utrecht) or

1198  
naval or military victory; or it was on  
one of the many occasions when the king  
passed by on his way to Hampton Court.  
Easter Day and Christmas Day were two  
of the occasions on which the bells were  
rung. Time and again the vestry  
decided to restrict both the amount of  
ringing and the amount paid for it. On  
May 6<sup>th</sup> 1672, it was decided "for ringing  
on Gunpowder Treason, ten shillings and  
no more. And on the king's Coronation,  
ten shillings, and on the king's birthday  
the like sum of ten shillings and not  
to exceed more in the particulars aforesaid."

In 1731 the vestry decided that no more  
than ten shillings should be paid on any  
day and that there should be nine  
ringing days and no more.

Fulham was one of the several places where the ringers claimed the right to an annual supper. In some cases there was an endowment. In some it rested on an ancient custom. It usually took the form of a leg of pork but at Fulham it was a shoulder of veal eaten on Easter Tuesday. (671)

Fulham bells figure largely in the story of eighteenth century London ringing and I need now refer to only one or two peals. The first was by the College youths on August 24<sup>th</sup> 1730. It was 5040 B or Major conducted by John Crundell who rang the tenor. John Hardham rang the treble and William Laughton the second, but Benjamin Annable was not in the band.

The second recorded peal was one of Union Triples rung by the College Youths in 1733 but it is not unlikely that about this time others were accomplished for there was an excellent local company who called themselves the Fulham Youths. (1793)

In 1736 they rang 10.080 of Bob Major, and it seems they also scored a peal of Fulham Triples, a method composed by Annable. (1791)

The Eastern Scholars rang the first peal in the tower of over six-thousand changes <sup>(escape the 17080)</sup> and since then several interesting long lengths have been accomplished on the bells. In 1762 the "ancient" Society of College Youths rang 10.098 of Grandmere Calers, the first time that a ten thousand

of Caters had been rung single handed, though only seven months later it was beaten by a band belonging to the "junior" Society. William Underwood called both peals.

On Whit Monday 1837 the St. James's Society, who later in the year scored the then Congest peal of Grandine Cinques, rang at Fulkham 12096 Grandine Caters, and claimed it as the "greatest amount of changes ever performed by ten men only" but actually 12,312 changes had already in 1817 been rung under those conditions at Fainswick. At Norwich in 1737, 12,600 changes had been rung with the tenor double handed. A previous attempt by the London men was lost after they had rung over nine thousand changes.

On Rosing Day, 1877, the Cumberlands attempted at Fulham to beat the Painswick peal but failed after ringing 11. 4. 12 Changes through a shift Course. The Composition afterwards turned out to be false.

In 1883 a band of the Society of College Youths started for a record length of Nedman Caters, but lost it after nearly ten thousand changes. Later in the year however they successfully rang 11, 111. Next year the Cumberlands attempted Cox's Composition with the 120 Altum Course ends but failed through a shift Course after ringing six hours and thirty three minutes.

Among the other notable performances at Fulham was the first peal of London Surprise Major rung in the London district.



It was accomplished by a band from Burton-on-Trent, on December 8<sup>th</sup> 1888, and it was not until ten years later that one of the metropolitan societies (792) was able to ring a peal in the method.

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In the belfry there is an oil painting of an elderly man in a red coat, holding a quart pot in one hand and smoking a long churchwarden pipe. It represents John Hudnott, beadle and sexton of the parish in 1690, and his descendants seem to have held the same offices for several generations. Edward and William Hudnott rang in the Long peal of 1735 and another Edward was a prominent ringer in the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

Note. - With reference to the two trebles it should be mentioned that there was a tradition that Theodore Eccleston intended them in the first place for his own parish church at Northlake, but that when they were delivered it was found that there was no room for them in that tower so he offered them to Fulham. The parish accepted them but they had to be recast before they could be fitted to Rudhall's ring.

The story hardly seems a likely one for surely Eccleston and the founders must have known when the order was given whether or not the Northlake ring could have been made into ten. Traditions of this sort are very untrustworthy. There was for instance a very circumstantial

account of the sinking of the bells  
at Fulham as they were being landed,  
whereas we know from a contemporary  
newspaper that the accident happened  
at Gocford. At the same time Eccleston  
may have given the parish two bells  
which had come into his possession  
possibly from one of his Suffolk churches.  
The vestry minute is as follows - 26 May  
1746, it was agreed that the Churchwardens  
do deliver the new small bells to Mr.  
Robert Callin the bell founder to be  
new cast, Mr Theodore Eccleston by  
letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> instant having desired  
the same, and Mr Holland (present at  
the vestry as well as Mr Eccleston by  
letter) having engag'd to redeliver the  
same with all convenient speed as

the property of this parish. (843)

1206

Two entries in the churchwardens' accounts are of more than usual interest having regard to the political situation of the times. In 1636 ten shillings had to be paid to "the king's footmen" for not ringing, <sup>(821)</sup> and in 1642 the year in which the civil war broke out although nine shillings was paid on the king's Coronation day it was ordered that "it was not to be allowed for tyme to come." The bells however were still rung on the king's birthday.

John Powell Powell who gave the elaborate tablet recording the long lease of Caters was the squire of Quex Park. His family had a long connection with the parish of Fulham where he

had a residence, Park House.

On the front of the gallery in the old church was painted this inscription among others - 1773. John Powell Powell Esq paid £100 for a piece of Land taken from the Common called Eel Brook the interest arising thereof to be equally divided between Fulham and Hammer-smith and distributed in bread and meat to the poor. (822)

# Inscriptions on the Bells

1208

- Treble. RECAST BY A B RUDHALL 1759.
2. THE GIFT OF THE VESTRY BY SUBSCRIPTION 1727 \*
  3. EX DONO GYLIELMI SKELTON CENT 1729
  4. EX DONO CYLIELMI SKELTON CENT 1729
  5. PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD A B R 1729
  6. A B RUDHALL OF CLOCESTER CAST VS ALL 1729.
  7. PROSPERITY TO THE CHVRCH OF ENGLAND 1729
  8. PROSPERITY TO THIS PARISH 1729
  9. FRANCIS CONVERS CHVRCHWARDEN 1729
- Tenor. I TO THE CHVRCH THE LIVING CALL  
AND TO THE GRAVE I SYMIXON ALL 1729. 1921.

\* From St Martins in the Fields.

## Peal Boards in the Belfry. (672)

January the XXVI 1735 The Society of Freetown  
Youths rang in this steeple. a Compleat peal  
of ten thousand and eighty Bob Major in  
Six Hours and Forty Minutes.

Thomas Warland	Treble	Henry Dennis	Fifth
Edward Hindnote	Second	Wm Hindnote	Sixth
John Farlow	Third	Henry Holland	Seventh
Niles Beni	Fourth	Samuel Hallion	Tenor
Wm Lark Churchwarden			

The Society of College Youths did ring in this steeple on Monday March 29<sup>th</sup> 1762 a Complete peal of <sup>10048</sup> Grandeine Calers in 6 hours and 53 minutes. The performers were:-

William Underwood	1.	John Buckingham	6
William Scott	2.	Edward Thomas	7.
Richard Moore	3.	John Clarke	8
Mrs. Richardson	4.	Robert James	9
Chris. Wells	5.	Samuel Murgendge	10.

The College Youths

This Society did ring on the 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1776, a Complete Peal of 5040 Oxford Treble Bob Ten in 3 Hours 45 minutes with the 6<sup>th</sup> at home twelve times wrong and twelve times right

Mrs. Richardson	1	James Darguill	6.
Charles Tuser	2.	William Lyford	7.
William Hall	3.	Robert Bly	8.
Ed. Lylwester	4	Jos. Monk	9
John Pavey	5	Jos. Holdsworth.	Tenor

The peal was composed and called by Mr Tuser

College Youths

On Sunday March 23 1783 this Society did ring in this steeple 5220 Old Double Calers in 3 Hours and 32 minutes being the first Peal ever rung in that Method.

Ed. Hindnott	1	Ed. Simmons	6.
Jas Horster	2	Geo. Plowman	7.
Wm Lyford	3	Wm. Paris	8
H. Johnson	4	Wm Faulkner	9
Wm Halli	5.	Jas. Lyford	10

Called by Edw. Simmons.

Sunday, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 1819, 5031 Caters  
on Nledmans Principal was truly and well  
performed in 3 hours 11 minutes by the  
following persons of the Society of College Youths

John New	1.	John Cooper	6.
John Bates	2.	George Cole	7.
Charles Barber	3.	William Plate	8.
Scholes Bamford	4.	John Plate	9.
John Stratford	5.	Edward Handout	Tenor

Composed and called by G. Cole.

Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> 1820 was sung in this  
Steeple by the Junior Society of College  
Youths a true and complete Teal of  
Grandsire Caters Containing 5003 Changes  
which was performed in 3 hours and 10  
minutes this being the first Teal since the  
formation of this Society. viz.

H. y. Symondson	1.	Daniel Beakley	6.
H. y. Symondson, jun.	2.	Thos. Welsh	7.
Robt Inwood	3.	Thos. Edwards	8.
Francis Marshall	4.	Elyah De Ville	9.
John James	5.	Henry Smith	Tenor

Conducted by Henry Symondson. This Tablet is the  
gift of John Powell Powell, Esq. of Parkhouse, Fulham.



This Tablet is the gift of John Powell Powell Esq. Park House Fulham to Record an extraordinary performance by the Young Men of St. James's Auxiliary Society, who on Whit Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 1837 rang in this Spire a fine and complete Peal of 12096 Changes of Grandeur Calors in 7 Hours and 50 minutes being the greatest number of Changes ever performed by 10 men only the truth of which is attested by several of the ablest judges of the Art who witnessed the whole performance and which can only be equalled by the same ability and persevering exertions.

The Performers were -

T. Tolladay	1.	Charles Randell	6.
James Rogers	2.	George Clayton	7.
John Fairbairn	3.	Richard Turner	8.
Joseph Harrison	4.	John Bradley	9.
George Hockham	5.	Robert Burgess	10.

The Peal was composed by T. Brooke, and Conducted by T. Tolladay.

The Rev R. G. Baker Vicar

Wm. Maljean and Wm. Flicker  
Churchwardens

S. James Society. On Monday May 16<sup>th</sup> 1843 was rung in this Steeple to Commemorate the Long Teal of 12,096 Changes by the above Society a fine and complete Teal of Calers on Stedman's principal Containing 5079 Changes in 3 hours and 35 minutes which can only be equalled by many years study and persevering exertion.

Performed by -

H. Haley	1.	G. Hockham	6.
J. Fairbairn	2.	W. Lobb.	7.
C. Goozee	3.	W. Holding	8.
Jas. Chasch	4.	T. Tolladay	9.
R. Haworth	5.	J. Pratt.	Tenor.

Composed and Called by H. Haley.

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## All Saints Fulham.

On Saturday December 8. 1883 ten members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, Esd 1637. sang a fine and complete Teal of Medman Calers, Consisting of 11,111 Changes and was performed in a masterly style in 7 Hours and 12 Minutes.

James Pettit	1	Edwin Gibbs	6.
Francis E. Dawe	2.	William Greenleaf	7.
George Nash	3.	Edwin Hovess	8.
John W. Rowbottom	4.	John M. Hayes	9
Challis F. Hinney	5.	Walter Trime	Tenor

Composed by Henry Johnson Senior (of Birmingham and Conducted by Mr James Pettit.

The above is the greatest number of Changes ever completed in this method.

Rev F. H. Fisher Vicar.

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# Bells rung at All Saints, Fulham.

1214

1730	Aug 24	5040	Bob Major	College youths
1733	July 16	5040	Union Triples	do.
1736	Jan 24	10080	Bob Major	Fulham youths
1739	July 1	5040	Double B. Maj	College youths
1740	May 18	5040	do.	Eastern Sch.
1741	June 21	5120	Gr. T. B. Maj	do
	Sep. 10	5040	Gran. Trip.	Union Sch.
1743	Sep. 25	6160	Bob Maj.	Eastern Sch.
1746	Nov 16	5076	Gran. Calers	College youths
	Nov 31	5886	do.	Eastern Sch.
1749		5040	Fulham Trip	
1754	Mar 12	5040	Bob Maj	Union Sch.
1756	July 18	5040	Bob Royal	Eastern Sch.
1759	July 17	5075	Gran. Calers	ancient Cy.
1760	May 26		do	College youths
1761	Feb 22	5040	do	ancient Cy.
1762	Mar 29	10098	do	do
1776	Oct. 6	5040	Gr. T. B. Royal	College youths
1777	Nov. 9	5039	Gran. Calers	do.
	Dec 7.	7002	do	do
1780	Nov 26	5360	Gran. Royal	do
1785	Sep. 11	5111	Gran. Calers	do
1787	May 28	5399	do	Cumberlands.
	Oct 7.	5219	do	College youths.

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Gr. Calers

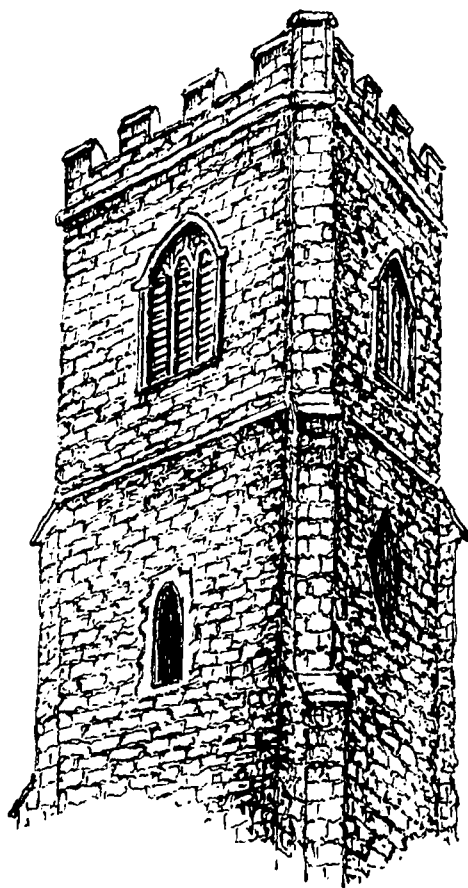


# St John's, Hackney.

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John Styrpe  
writing in the  
early years of the  
eighteenth century

calls Hackney a pleasant and healthful  
town, and William Laughton who with the  
Rambling Ringers, visited it in 1734, grows  
quite dithyrambic in praise of the situation  
of the church and its surroundings. "No  
steeple," he thinks, "near the town, stands



incompass'd with such delightful  
ground. There's orchards, gardens, and  
cornfields and meadows which charming  
prospects yields; and other delights  
including the Downs and a stream  
where one could fish and listen to  
the bells.

The dedication of the church originally  
was to St Augustine, but after the Knights  
of St John of Jerusalem had acquired  
a mill and other property in the parish  
it was sometimes called St John's; and  
by 1660 the old pile had entirely  
disappeared. The building itself stood  
until the early days of the last century  
but in 1780 an Act of Parliament was  
passed to pull it down and build



another. The new Church was begun on an adjoining site in 1781, but progress was slow. Twice funds ran short, and in 1803 the trustees had to apply to Parliament for powers to raise funds to



1213  
build the tower, which somehow  
or other had been overlooked in the  
original estimate. When the old church  
was finally pulled down, the tower  
was left standing because it was thought  
that the new tower was not strong  
enough to carry the heavy ring of bells  
and the parish was unwilling to lose  
its peal. <sup>(673)</sup> Some years later however  
the bells were moved to the new steeple  
and there they are now. The old  
tower still stands.

In Loughion's time there were six  
bells but he complains that they were  
in bad repair and very difficult to  
ring. On November 24<sup>th</sup> 1743 a faculty

1220

was issued by the Bishop of London  
which recounted that "the old six bells  
Having been cast many years ago,  
and by length of time much worn  
on the striking part of the bell, and  
one of them having some time since  
fallen out of its Cannons, and thereby  
become broken and useless", the parish  
in vestry assembled had resolved in  
case a sufficient sum of money could  
be raised by subscription, to recast them  
into a peal of eight; and permission  
was given to take down the bell in the  
Cupola on which the clock struck, and  
the parish bell and to add them to the  
metal available for the new bells. This

facully was signed by William  
Skellion as Registrar.

1221

Who cast the new bells is uncertain, but  
probably they were not very satisfactory  
as forty three years later they were recast  
into the present ring. The latter bear  
the name of Robert Patrick. It is doubtful  
however if Patrick ever cast so heavy a  
ring of bells by himself and it is suggested  
that they actually were founded at  
the Whitechapel foundry. <sup>(1744)</sup> It is certain  
that a ring of eight for Hackney was  
cast there during the eighteenth century  
but there is a possibility that it may  
have been the bells of 1743.

The first peal rung in the steeple was  
one of Bob Major on December 27<sup>th</sup> 1743,

by the College Youths, Conducted by 1225  
Arrable. Two months later the same society  
rang 5040 Changes of Double Bob Major.

In all eleven peals are recorded as  
having been rung on the first ring, the  
most interesting being 5056 changes of  
College Exercise Major by the College Youths  
in 1760; and 5040 Simon's Triples (1749)  
and 5040 Reverse Grandeur Triples (1782)  
by the Cumberland Youths. The first and  
last of these were the first peals in the  
methods, but it is pretty certain that the  
College Exercise was false in the composition. (675)  
The first peal on the new bells was 5120  
Oxford Treble Bob Major by the Cumberlands  
on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1786.

The Church of St. John of Jerusalem,  
South Hackney, possesses a ring of

eight bells, cast in 1848 at  
the Whitechapel foundry. On November 21<sup>st</sup>  
in that year the Cumberlands rang  
5280 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major.

Peal Board from the old Tower of St. 1223a  
John's Hackney, now in new Tower. (761)

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Saturday March the 9<sup>th</sup> 1782 in this  
Steeple was rung by the Society of Cumberland  
Youths a true and compleat Peal Consisting  
of 5040 changes of Grandeur Tripples  
reversed being the first ever performed  
in this method and Completed in three  
hours and twenty one minutes by the  
following persons, viz

Saml Wood	1.	Alm Smith	5.
Francis May	2.	George Gross	6.
Jno. Larney	3.	Jno Jackson	7.
Isaiah Gray	4.	Peter De Lussinguea	8.

The peal was Composed and Conducted by  
Mr George Gross with the Bobs behind.

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## Peal Boards at St. John's Hackney.

12236

Ancient Society of College Juniors. Established 1637  
On Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> 1868, the following  
members of the above Society rang a true and  
complete peal of Grandine Triples containing  
5040 changes in 3 hours & 11 minutes being  
the quickest peal yet rung on these bells.

Performers.

J. Pettit	1.	C. Page	5.
C. Harrison	2.	C. Lee	6.
T. Page	3.	M. A. Wood	7.
C. H. Jessop	4.	J. M. Hayes	Tenor.

Conducted by M. A. Wood.

Ancient Society of College Juniors. Established A.D. 1637.  
February 8. 1869 eight members of the above  
Society rang upon these bells St. John's Hall's  
ten part peal of Grandine Triples consisting  
of 5040 changes in 3 hours & 10 minutes.

Performers

W. E. Fidler	1.	C. Lee	5.
T. Page	2.	H. Page	6.
C. H. Jessop	3.	M. A. Wood	7.
J. Pettit	4.	T. Jackson	Tenor

Conducted by James Pettit.

# Peals rung in the old tower Hackney.

1224

1743	Dec 27	5040	Bob Major.	College Youths
1744	Feb 25	5040	Dbu. Bob Major.	do.
1746	Dec 1	5040	Bob Major	Eastern Sch.
1747	Jan 20	6160	do	do.
1749	Aug 7	5040	Simons' Triples.	Cumberlands
1760	Dec 26	5056	Coll. Exercise Maj.	College Youths
1763	Dec 5	5040	Bob Major	Eastern Sch.
1772	Apr. 22	5040	do	Cumberlands
1780	Nov 19	5040	Grand. Trip.	do.
1782	Mar 9	5040	Ref. Grand. Trip.	do
1784	Dec 7	5184	Bob Major	Jr. Cumberlands
1786	June 21	5120	Gx. T. B. Major	Cumberlands.
	Aug 8	5040	Grand. Trip.	Jr. Cumberlands.
	28	5184	Gx. T. B. Major	do
1787	Mar 11	5152	Bob Major	Cumberlands.
	Nov. 18	5040	do	Jr. Cumberlands.
1790	Nov. 29	6160	do	Cumberlands
1792	Nov 1	5040	Grand. Trip.	do
1793	Feb 19	5040	Bob Major	Jr. Cumberlands
1796		5040	Grand. Trip.	College Youths
1797	Nov 21	5040	do.	Cumberlands.
1800	Oct 1	5040	do.	do.
1803	Dec 5	5040	Bob Major	do.
1809	Feb 7	5040	Grand. Trip.	do.
1811	Mar 26	5168	Bob Major	do.
1813	Feb 25	6272	do	do
1827	Apr. 5	5040	Grand. Trip.	do.



1827.	Apr. 30	5120	Ox. T. B. Maj	Cumberlands
	Nov. 27	5040	Grand. Trips.	do.
1828.	Mar. 25	5040	do	do.
	Oct. 15	5280	Ox. T. B. Maj	do.
1829	Jan 20	5040	Grand Trip	do.
	July 22	5040	do	do.
1830	Feb 16	5040	do	do
1831	Sep. 20	5040	do	do.

1801 Feb 17 5040 Cumberland Imperial Place  
 Tripples on a new principle that revises the  
 present system. The principle of this peal  
 being by place making, and it is the first peal  
 ever rung in that method. The Society to  
 commemorate the Union of Great Britain and  
 Ireland entitled it CUMBERLAND IMPERIAL  
 PLACE TRIPPLES. Composed and called by  
 W. SHIPWAY.

(761) 1225a

Deal Boards at St. John's South Hackney.

The Society of College Youths. On Friday May 2nd 1856 the undermentioned members of this Society rang on these bells a true and complete Deal of Grand sire Triples containing 5040 changes in 3 hours.

Robt Peacock	1.	Matthew A. Wood	5.
William Crisfield	2.	Geo. A. Muskett	6.
William Dagworthy	3.	James Dought	7.
Henry J. Wood	4.	John Mayhew	Tenor

Called by Matthew A. Wood.

---

Hackney Society. On Monday April 25<sup>th</sup> 1859 the following members rang on these bells a true and complete deal of Grand sire Triples consisting of 5040 changes in 3 hours and 12 minutes. By -

Jm Dawson	1.	Hy. Booth
Hy Graft	2.	Ge. Marriott
C. Jervis	3.	Ed. Smith
Ge. Thorpe	4.	Rd. Griffiths

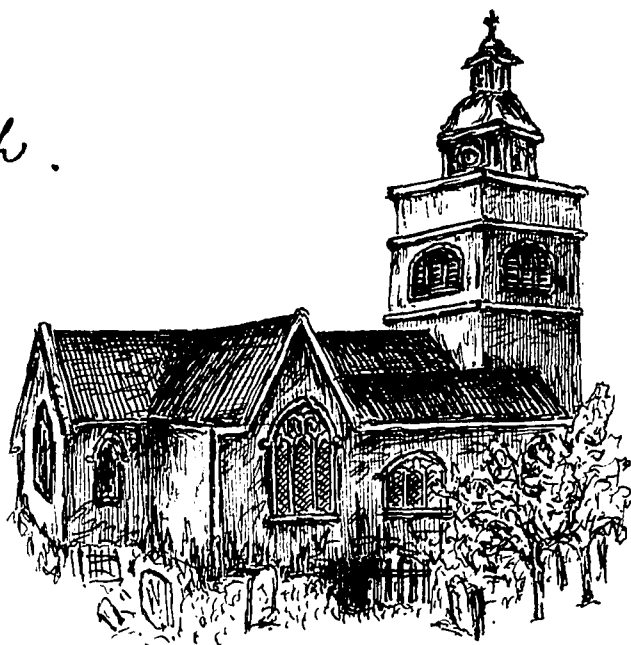
Conducted by Mr. Ge. Marriott.

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# St Paul, Hammersmith.

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The old parish  
of Fulham  
stretched from  
the Thames to the  
borders of Hillesden. At the extreme  
south were the village and church, and  
from them a road ran northward until  
it joined the great road from London to  
the West and here a large hamlet had  
grown up with several gentlemen's houses  
nearby. To meet the needs of this district  
St Paul's Hammersmith was built in 1631  
as a chapel of ease on land given by the



Bishop of London (William Land),  
and at the sole cost and charge of the  
inhabitants. A number of leading  
parishioners signed an undertaking, in  
which they acknowledged their liability  
to be rated for the repairs and maintenance  
of Fulham parish church and recognized  
the rights of the vicar. Every inhabitant  
of Hammersmith was bound to  
communicate at Easter time at the  
parish church and had the right to  
do so at any other time he chose, and  
also to the benefit of other sacraments  
and ministrations. But no charges for  
the upkeep of the new chapel were to  
fall on the parish funds. (676) Among

The leading subscribers was Sir Nicholas Crispe a wealthy London citizen who had built himself a lordly mansion on the banks of the Thames at Hammersmith, on which he is said to have spent nearly £25,000. During the Civil Wars he was a prominent royalist and suffered much for his loyalty. Largely through his generosity a ring of five bells was hung in St Paul's tower, and four still remain which bear his name although the tenor has since been recast. In 1657 a pebble was added and in 1813 the octave was completed.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth

Centuries the bells were rung  
regularly, and the following are among  
the entries in the Churchwardens' accounts;—

(677)

1656. Nov. 5— Spent upon the Ringers  
on Gunpowder Treason Day, 00. 17. 00.
1657. Mar 7— Payd for a new sett  
of Belleropes weighing forty-two  
pounds at ninepence the pound 01. 01. 06.
1658. Paid for the ringers and on  
Legg of Torke at the benches 0. 13 07.
1659. Id. for Southey the Shoemaker  
for goatherd for the bells 00. 12. 00.
1667. April 23.— Given for the Ringers  
at fivise when ye King past be 000. 04. 00
1672. April 23.— Laid out on the ringers  
on S. Georges Day 000. 08. 00.
1681. Spent on the Ringers on Queen  
Elizabeths birthday 0. 06. 00
1685. May 20.— Gave to the Ringers and  
other Christians in meale and Drinke  
being the Kings restoration and  
birthday 00. 15. 00.

1685. July 8 - Gave to ye Ringers upon  
ye News of ye Rebels routinge in  
the west 00. 08. 06.
1685. July 10. - Gave to ye Ringers, and  
other expences upon ye news of  
Stommouth beeing taken 00. 04. 06.
- 1688 When the Queen dined at Hammoeth 08. 00  
When the king returned from his progres 08. 00  
When ye king returned to London 08. 00  
When ye king Dined at Queen Doyeres 08. 00
1696. - Ye 28 day of July paid to ye  
Ringers for ye taking of Namour 00. 07. 00
- 1702 The thanksgiving day for taking  
Vigo for ringing 00. 15. 00.  
Paid for ringing when Prince Eugene  
beat ye French 00. 06. 08.
1706. May 25. Paid for Ringing for  
ye Victory of Ramiles 00 02. 6.

Towards the end of the eighteenth Century  
there was a number of young ringers  
connected with the power who called

themselves the Hammersmith Joints  
and in 1774 they rang seven different  
120's of Bob Minor. James Horsley was  
the Conductor and he and some of the  
others were afterwards prominent members  
of the London Excercise.

The first peal on the bells after they were  
increased to eight was rung in 1814  
by a band of College Joints made up of men  
from Kensington and Isleworth in addition  
to two local ringers, Hallett and Paris.

The method was Grandring Triples and  
so was every peal known to have been  
rung in the old tower. William Hallett  
and William Paris rang in a five thousand  
in December 1826 nearly fifty-three years  
later than the peal of Minor in which  
both had taken part.



In 1820 the attempt of George IV to procure a divorce from his wife, Queen Caroline, caused a great amount of excitement in the country and nowhere more so than at Hammersmith where the Queen was living. When the House of Lords decided in her favour the bells were rung for four days and on one of them nine bottles of wine were drunk in the belfry in honour of the event. There were nine ringers but we may suppose that they had others to help them to consume the wine including Mr James Gomme, the churchwarden, Mr James Moody the landlord of the Lion Bell who presented the wine, and Mr Thomas Nescombe, the plumber who paid for the board which still records the ringing

1236

and the drinking. Either Hescome, or  
(more likely) his son of the same name was  
a ringer, and rang the tenor to a peal  
of Grandsea Triples in 1841.

After 1848 apparently no more peals  
were rung in the tower and in 1882 it  
was pulled down. When the present very  
fine church and tower were erected  
the bells were rehung and the old boards  
placed in the new belfry. The first peal  
in the new tower was one of Double  
Norwich Cant: Bob Major by the  
Society of Cumberland Junks.

# Inscriptions on the Bells. (678)

1. BY SUBSCRIPTION OF THE INHABITANTS  
1813 THE PRINCESS OF WALES. T MEARS  
OF LONDON FECIT
  2. BY SUBSCRIPTION OF THE INHABITANTS  
FIELD MARSHAL THE MARQUIS WELLESLEY  
T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT.
  3. 1657.
  4. EX DONO NICOLA CRISPE ARMICER DEO  
ECCLESIA 1639
  5. as on the fourth
  6. THE TOWN BELL 1639
  7. as on the fourth
- Tenor. THE GIFT OF SIR NICHOLAS CRISPE ANNO  
1639 RECAST BY SUBSCRIPTION ANNO  
1870 JAMES CONNELL MA VICAR  
EDWARD BIRD EDWARD B POPE CHURCH  
WARDENS MEARS AND STAINBANK  
FOUNDERS LONDON.

The tenor had been recast in 1747 by Richard  
Carlton.

# Boards in the Belfry of St. Paul's Hammersmith. (652)

1238

On Sunday  
April 21<sup>st</sup> 1774  
The Hammersmith Joints  
did ring in this steeple  
a peal of 5040 Plain Bob  
in 3 Hours and 25 Minutes  
in Seven Different Seven  
Hundreds and Twentys.

By.

Wm. Lewis	Treble
Thos. Harris	2.
Wm. Hallett	3.
Frans. Beale	4.
Called by. Jas. Horsley	5
Wm. Parris	Tenor.

April 21. 1814 was rung in this steeple  
5040 Grandine Triples in 3 Hours and 8  
Minutes

C. Barber	Treble	Wm. Hallett
Jno. Spierford	2.	Wm. Parris
Jno. New.	3.	Geo. Cole
Jas. Cole	4.	Edw. Hurdnot
Called by G. Cole.		

In Commemoration of the Glorious  
Victory of our Gracious Queen Caroline  
over her vindictive and unrelenting enemies  
the bells in this steeple was rung on the  
10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of Nov. 1820. By  
the following Persons, viz:

Wm. Hallett	Treble	Wm. Paris	5.
Cornelius Lea	2.	J. De Ville Senr.	6.
Wm. Sadler	3	Chas. Duckrell	7.
Henry Beget	4.	Ben Spencer	Tenor

Samuel Whitticks, Assistant-Ringer. Mr. James  
Gomme Senr Churchwarden. N.B. Nine Bottles  
of Wine, the gift of Mr. James Moody was drunk  
here on the 13<sup>th</sup> in honour of the Victory. The  
Gilding the gift of Mr. T. Westcombe. Plumber.  
God save the Queen.

May 21 1824 was rang in this steeple 5040  
Grandfire Trebles, with 108 bobs and 2  
singles in 2 hours and a minute by 6  
Senior Cumberlands and 2 of Hammermith

Jos. Ladley	1.	Wm Hallett	4.	Jas. Sticklebury	7.
Edw. Chambers	2.	Robt. Menfield	5.	Ben. Spencer	8.
		Edw. Sawyer	6.		

Conducted by Joseph Ladley

The College Youths did ring in this steeple  
1st Dec. 1826 the whole Peal of Grandsire Tripples  
Consisting of 5040 Changes in 2 Hours and 59 minutes  
Performed by -

Jas. Hewitt	Treble	Thos. Phillips	5
Wm. Davis	2.	Hy Regent	6.
Geo. Gough	3.	W. Jefferys.	7.
Wm. Hale	4.	Wm. Fells	Tenor

The peal was conducted by Wm. Jefferys.

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Monday, November 12 1838 a fine and  
Complete peal of Grandsire Tripples Consisting of  
5040 changes was rung in this steeple in 3 hours  
& 5 minutes by the following performers -

John Wales	Treble	Henry Regent
Jno. Fairbairn	2.	Geo. Stockham
Thos. Tolladay	3.	Thos. Phillips
Benj. Spencer	4.	Jas. Mason.

Conducted by T. Tolladay.

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On Wednesday, Feb 10 1841 in Commemoration of  
the first anniversary of the Wedding Day of Her  
Majesty Queen Victoria and Prince Albert also the  
Christening of the Princess Royal a fine and Complete  
Peal of Grandsire Tripples was rung in this steeple  
which was performed in 2 hours and 59 minutes

James Hale	1.	Benj Spencer	4.	Thos. Phillips	7.
Charles Barber	2.	Wm. Jefferys	5.	Thos. Westcombe	8.
Geo Gough	3.	Henry Regent	6.		

The peal was conducted by Mr. W. Jefferys.

On Wednesday Dec 22 1841 was rung  
in this Steeple by the following ringers in 3  
Hours and 5 minutes a fine and complete  
peal of Grandring Tripples containing 1488 Bobs  
and 2 Doubles in the Last 4 Leads being  
the original peal composed by Mr. John Holt

Robert Beget, Treble	William Jefferies	5.
James Hale 2.	Henry Beget	6.
George Gough 3.	Thos. Phillips	7
Bgn Spencer 4.	J. Spencer	Tenor.

Friday Jan'y 25 1842 in Commemoration  
of the Christening of His Royal Highness the  
Prince of Wales a fine and complete Peal of  
Grandring Tripples was rung in this steeple  
consisting of 5040 changes which was well  
performed in 3 hours and 5 minutes by the  
following persons who met purposely to celebrate  
that auspicious event.

Robert Beget Treble	William Jefferies	5.
James Hale 2.	Henry Beget	6.
Geo Gough 3.	Thos. Phillips	7
Benj Spencer 4.	Thos Nescombe	Tenor.

1242

On Tuesday, September 28, 1843 a fine and Complete Peal of Grandside Triples, containing 5040 Changes was rung in this Steeple by the following persons in 3 hours and 8 minutes

C. Begent	Treble	H. Jeffereys	5.
T. Tolladay	2.	T. Phillips	6.
J. Hale	3.	R. Begent	7.
B. Spencer	4.	J. Stephens	Tenor

The peal was called by T. Tolladay being the last peal he rung as Conductor.

Dec. 11. 1843 a whole Peal of Grandside Triples Consisting of 5040 Changes was rung in this Tower in 3 hours and 3 minutes by the following Ringers

C. Begent	Treble	H. Jeffereys.	5.
J. Wale	2.	H. Begent	6.
R. Begent	3.	T. Phillips	7.
B. Spencer	4.	F. Taylor	Tenor

Conducted by H. Jeffereys being the last peal he rung as Conductor

### St James's Society

On Thursday November 21. 1846 a fine and Complete Peal of Grandside Triples Consisting of 5040 Changes was rung in this Steeple in 3 hours & 8 mts.

by the following members of the above society

R. Kelly.	1.	R. Begent	4.	H. Begent	7.
J. Canning	2.	C. Begent	5.	F. Taylor	Tenor.
J. Wale	3.	B. Spencer	6.		

The Peal was called by B. Spencer.



On Monday. Feb. 27 1848 a fine  
and Complete Peal of Grandeire Tripples  
Consisting of 5040 Changes was rung in  
this Splee in 3 hours and 3 minutes by  
the following persons, viz:

Jas Barber	Treble	Henry Beget	5.
Chas. Beget	2.	Thos Pearce	6.
Jno. Canning	3.	Rob: Beget	7.
Jas. Hale	4.	Jno. Stephens	Tenor

Conducted by Mr. C. Beget.

### Royal Cumberland Youths.

On Saturday Decr. 19<sup>th</sup> 1891 the following  
members rang on these bells in 3 hours and  
10 minutes 5120 Changes of Double Norwich  
Court Bob Major

B. Foskett	Treble	H. Shori	5.
H. Davis	2.	A. Gittam	6.
E. F. Cole	3.	A. Jacob.	7.
H. A. Hopkins	4.	G. Newson	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by G. Newson.

This is the first peal in this method on these  
bells and the first peal in the new tower.

Rev: Treby. Snowden Vicar  
W. Muscard, G. Wells. Churchwardens.

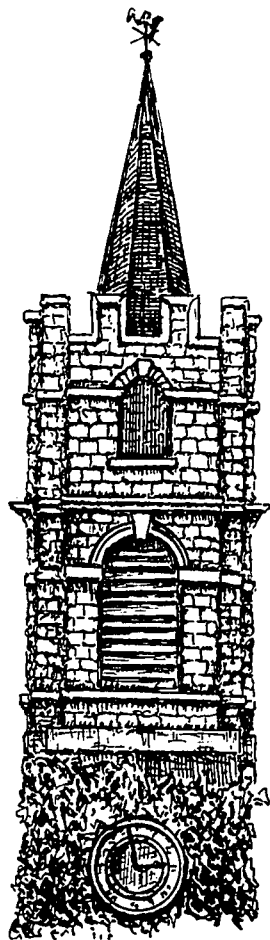
Peals rung at St. Paul's, Hammersmith.

1774	Apr. 24	5040	Bob Minor	Hammersmith Yths
1814	Apr 21	5040	Grand. Trip	Mixed.
1824	May 21	5040	do	do
1826	Dec 1	5040	do	College Youths
1838	Nov 12	5040	do	Mixed
1841	Feb 10	5040	do	Local
	Dec 22	5040	do	do
1842	Jan 25	5040	do	do
1843	Sep. 28	5040	do	Mixed
	Dec 11	5040	do	Local
1846	Nov 26	5040	do	St. James Society
1848	Feb 27	5040	do	Local
1891	Dec 19	5120	D. Norwich C.B. May	Cumberlands.

# St John Hampstead.

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Hampstead was  
originally a Chapelry  
in the parish of  
Hendon and became



a separate parish in or about 1598. At  
the time of Edward VI the church  
possessed "two hand bells and three bells  
for the people." (679) The present building was  
erected in 1745.

*St Mary,  
Harrow-on-the-Hill*

---



*In the reign of Edward VI there were in  
the ancient tower of Harrowe church & great*

1247

(680)  
bells and a paunce bell." They  
were recast and added to at various times  
in the following Centuries and by 1780 they  
were a ring of eight. Two old bells still  
remain in the steeple, the third cast  
by W. Whitmore of Watford in 1654, and  
the sixth by William Eldridge of Chertsey  
in 1683. (681) The first peal on the bells was  
by the London Yowths, 5040 of Bob Major  
rung on May 7<sup>th</sup> 1780 and conducted  
by Robert Iye Donkin. This was the last  
performance by this company before they  
joined the "ancient" Society of College  
Yowths to begin the last period of activity  
by that society and ultimately to cause  
its final extinction.

At the beginning of the nineteenth  
Century there was a number of ringers  
living at Hatford and Rickmansworth  
who were members of the Society of Cumberland  
Youths. On April 20<sup>th</sup> 1810 they rang a  
peal of Grandire Triples at Harrow,  
Conducted by Daniel Lope. These seem  
to be the only peals known to have been  
rung in the tower in early times, with  
the exception of 5088 Oxford Treble Bob  
Major by the College Youths in 1806.

1249

Peal Board at St. Mary's Harrow.

Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> 1780 the London  
Youths completed 5040 Rb Majors in  
3 hours 25 minutes being the first peal  
on these bells, viz.

Robert Donkin	1.	John Anderson	5.
John Canney	2.	Thomas Morris	6.
John Reeves	3.	Allen Grant	7.
Richard Nelson	4.	William Paris.	Tenor

Called by R. Donkin.

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St John  
Hillingdon.

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A.D. 1717.

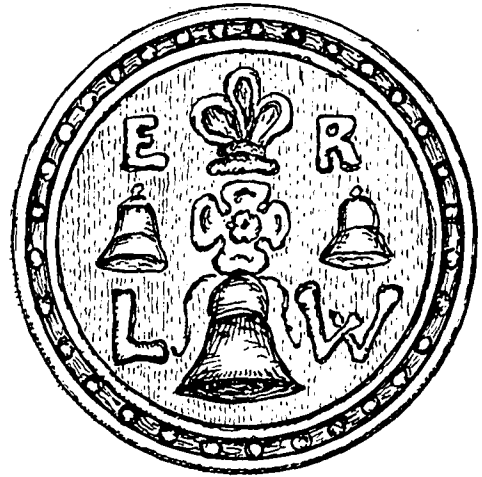
St John the Baptist, Hillingdon, the mother church of Uxbridge town is of ancient foundation though it has been much altered from time to time through the ages. The Edwardian inventories



are missing but  
there probably were  
four or five bells

and in 15

Laurence Wright:



LAWRENCE WRIGHT'S  
TRADE MARK.

was employed to cast a new tenor. We  
have already come across Wright in  
connection with St. Michaels Cornhill  
and here, as there, his work was bad  
so that the parish refused to pay his  
bill, and he entered an action in law  
against the churchwardens. In reply  
they petitioned the Court of Requests for  
an injunction calling on him to show

Cause why his bond should not  
be cancelled.

" To the Queens most excellent majestie  
In humblewise Complayning sheweth unto  
your excellent majestie your subjects,  
Rayland Rayner, Thomas Rayner and  
William Mountsage of Hillingdon in the  
Countie of Midd<sup>x</sup>. yomen that where about  
fivoo yeres pence or more one Laurence  
Knightie of London Beffownder did faithfullie  
~~fast~~ promise and undertake fo and with  
yo<sup>r</sup>. paid subjects that he wold within  
shute time next ensuinge the said promise  
new Castle and substantially make a great  
bell for your paid subjects and the rest  
of the parashoners there which bell so fo  
be made and hanged up in the bell frame



unconscionable minde hath or  
 meaneth to sue yo<sup>r</sup> said subjects upon the  
 said Deedes obligationene intending there  
 greatlie to vse trouble and charge your  
 said subjects having no just<sup>e</sup> cause  
 or Consideracon so to doe; and therefore  
 the petitioners asked for a writ of Privy  
 Seal directed to Wright and summoning  
 him to appear before the Court of Requests  
 to shew Cause why the bond should not  
 be cancelled.

In his reply Wright stated that about  
 fower years paste there passed speeche  
 and Comyncacon betwixt this defend<sup>t</sup>.  
 and the said Complaynents about the  
 newe castinge and makeing of a bell to  
 be hanged upp in the bell frame at

Hyllingdon aforesaid and that  
 he has delivered to the said Compt<sup>r</sup> one  
 great bell wayinge fiventye hundred  
 weighte or thereabouts, and that by his  
 Contract he undertooke to take the bell  
 down and replace it if it was not and  
 did not continue of a true fine good  
 sounde and agreeable to and with the  
 residue of the bells that did then hange  
 in the saide steeple or do not break or  
 crack by or through default of workmanship  
 during the space of one year and one  
 day. And the defen<sup>t</sup> saith that he  
 did newe cast and newe make the  
 saide bell and hanged the same in the  
 said bell frame accordinge to the true  
 entent and meaninge of the Contracte

and agreement aforesaid." (682)

1256

What was the result of the dispute I cannot say and apart from this incident and that at Cornhill we cannot tell whether Houghi was a competent bell founder or not, for it seems that only one of his bells is still in existence and that only a small one. (683)

By the end of the seventeenth Century the bells at St. Johns had been increased to a ring of six and a few years later change ringing was very popular in the parish. In 1731 Richard Ashley Baker and William Harrington, yeoman made themselves responsible for casting the ring into a peal of eight tuneable musical bells. They entered

into a bond and found security  
 to the amount of £500 undertaking to  
 indemnify the parish for any charges in  
 connection with the work to have as much  
 metal returned in the new bells as was  
 in the old six, to hang the eight in a  
 workmanlike manner and to do no  
 damage to the tower. <sup>(684)</sup> Ashley was  
 probably the leader of the ringers, and  
 although we have no direct evidence we  
 may assume Harrington was a local  
 farmer and also a member of the band.  
 The bells were cast at Whitechapel and  
 when they were hung the ringers made  
 good use of them. In 1733 they thrice  
 performed the whole peal of Grandeire  
 Tingles evidently the false composition

from the J.D.C.M. Campanalogia.

Ashley and two members of his family probably sons took part in the performance which is recorded on a tablet on the wall of the tower but since the old belfry floor has been removed it is in a position where it cannot be read. Four years later on February 6<sup>th</sup> 1737 the band rang 5120 Oxford Treble Bob Major.

In 1741 the Eastern Scholars rang 6160 changes of Bob Major in the steeple and in 1751 the Union Scholars with John Hollis as Conductor achieved a notable performance, ringing 5800 Double Bob followed immediately by 5040 Bob Major the whole time being 7 hours and 30 minutes. Later on



in the year the same society paid  
another visit and rang 5040 of Double  
Bob Major.

In 1779 Pack and Chapman recast  
the second and third, in 1787 William  
Sears bell founder of White Chappel  
was ordered to recast the four largest  
at a cost of £80-9-0; William Sears  
recast the fourth in 1828; and C.  
Sears & Co the pebble in 1864. There  
was therefore none of the original eight  
in the steeple in 1926 when the whole  
ring was recast and increased to  
ten by Gillett and Johnston at the  
expense of Mr John F. Hillwell.

From the Penny London Post No 37  
August 19<sup>th</sup> 1733 -

Last week the young ringers of  
Hillingdon, near Uxbridge, rang the  
whole peal of Grandine Triples being  
5040 Changes in 3 hours and about  
8 minutes to the great satisfaction of  
all that heard them.

# Inscriptions on the Bells.

1. REV. C.M. HARVEY, VICAR. MESSRS JOHN F. STILWELL  
C. FANE DE SALIS, CHURCHYARDENS.  
GILLET & JOHNSTON FOUNDERS 1911
2. As treble.
3. C. MEARS & CO FOUNDERS 1864  
RECAST BY GILLET & JOHNSTON, 1911.
4. PACK & CHAPMAN FACIERUNT  
JOHN WEST AND JOHN HANNINGTON CHURCHYARDENS  
RECAST BY GILLET & JOHNSTON, 1911
5. As the fourth
6. THE VERY REV R. HODGSON VICAR T. MEARS OF  
LONDON, FECIT 1828  
RECAST BY GILLET & JOHNSTON, 1911
7. MESSRS ALLEN & SHACKLE CHURCHYARDENS 1788  
W.T. MEARS OF LONDON  
RECAST BY GILLET & JOHNSTON 1911
8. As the seventh
9. do. do.
- Tenor. do. do.

Tables on the wall of the Tower.

1262

The whole peal of Grandeur Triples of 5040 changes was thrice performed by these persons hereafter mentioned in ye year 1733.

Richard Ashley jun.; Jas Munday; Richard Ashley sen; William Smith; Jno Christmas; Richd Smith; Mal Ashley; Rich: Brown; Jno. West; Rich: Ferris; Rob: Cox.

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Tables formerly in the Belfry.

July ye 6<sup>th</sup> 1737 was rung a Compleat Peal of 5120 Oxford Treble Bells in 3 hours and 26 minutes by these men

Charles Dodwell	1.	Jno Christmas	5.
W. Munday	2.	Rich: Inett sen	6.
Rich: Inett	3.	Malw. Ashley	7.
Thos. Taylor.	4.	Jno. Fredaway	Tenor.

---

On Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup> 1826 was rung  
 in this Steeple by the Society of Hatford Union  
 Youths, a true and Complete Peal of 5040  
 Changes of Grandsire Triples Composed by  
 Mr John Halli Consisting of 98 bars and 2  
 singles and was performed in 3 hours 12  
 minutes by the following persons viz

Thomas Grenden	1.	William Cole	5.
James Tonkins	2.	George Pope	6.
Robert Bygrave	3.	Richard Rush	7.
John Clarke	4.	Henry Renthwell	Tenor

The peal Concluded by J. Tonkins.

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# Peals rung at Hillingdon.

1733. The whole peal of Triples thrice performed.
1737. Feb. 6. 5120 Gx. T. B. Maj. Local
1741. May 18 6160 Bob Major Eastern Sch.
- 1751 Apr 9 5040 Bob Major }  
                     5800 Dbl. B. Maj } Union Sch.
- 1754 Apr 15 5040 Bob Major do  
           July 28 5040 do Eastern Sch.
- 1762 May 31 5120 Gx. T. B. Maj College Yths.

## St. Mary, Hornsey.

All that is at present left of the old church at Hornsey is the tower, which was built about the year 1500, although the top part is modern. The body of the church had been much altered and rebuilt in the course of the years and was finally pulled down in 1927. The parish in olden times was sometimes called Haringey, and appears under that name in the Edwardian inventories, which state that there were then "iiii<sup>j</sup> bells and the paunc bell." <sup>(783)</sup> The tower has now a ring of six.

## St Mary, Harmondsworth.

This Church contains a ring of six of which the 2nd, 3rd, 5<sup>th</sup> and tenor were cast by Bryan Eldridge in 1658.

## St Mary, Hendon.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Century tower of this Church has a ring of six. The third was cast by Knights of Reading in 1638; and the fifth by James Parlett in 1650.

## Ickenham.

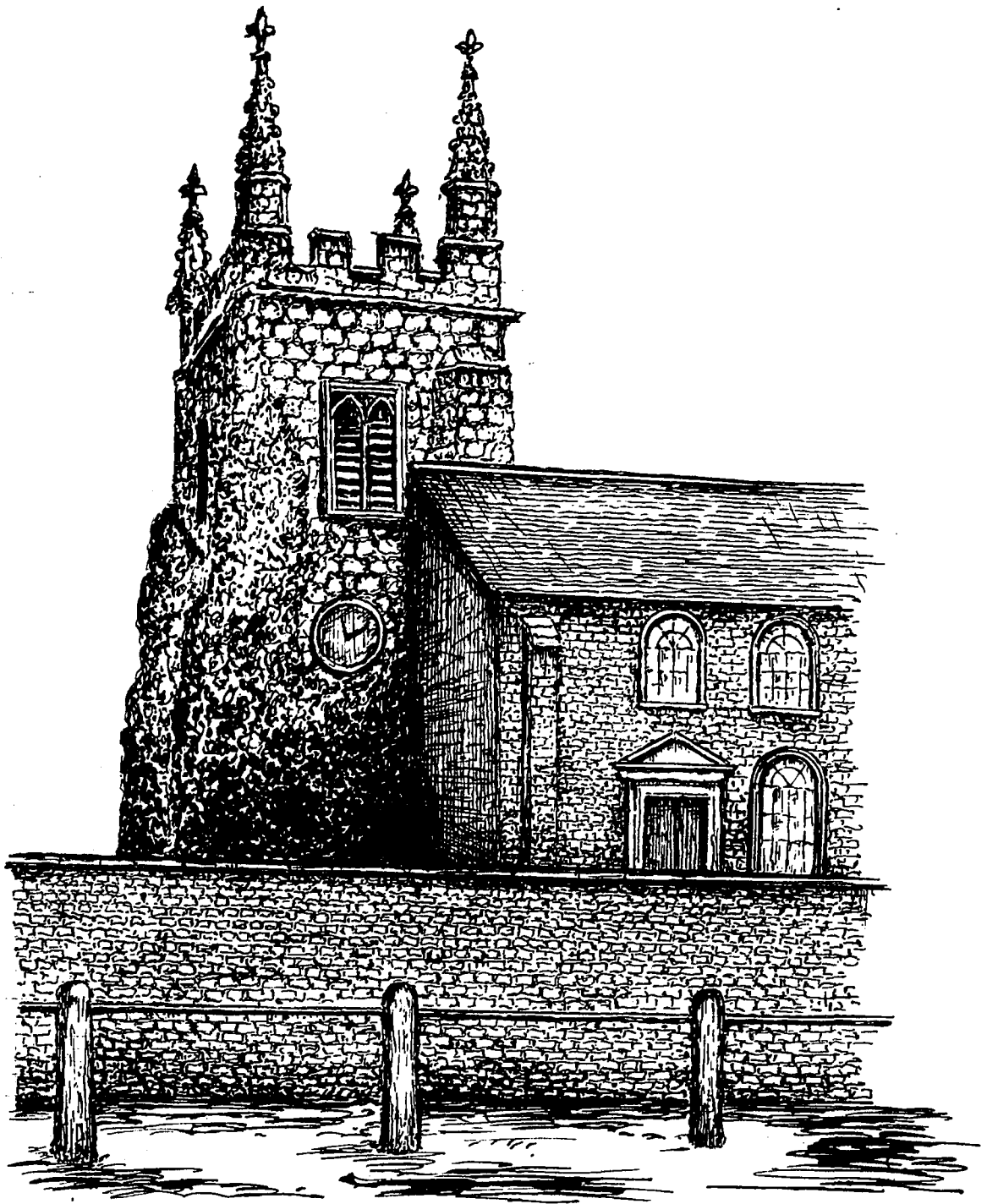
Here are four small bells of considerable archaeological interest :-

1. By Robert Noel 1589.
2. Cast about 1600.
3. By T. Bullisden Cast about 1510

Sancte Nicolae Ora Pro Nobis.

Sanctus By R. Phelps. 1711.





All Saints  
Isleworth.

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The Edwardian inventories for Isleworth have not survived and I have no account of the bells until the year 1767 when Leslie and Pack hung in the medieval tower a ring of eight with a tenor of 18 cwt. <sup>(1796)</sup> In the following year the College Juniors rang the first peal one of Bob Major. It was conducted by Joseph Monk and Robert Holmes, who was the most influential man among the ringers of the district, rang the fourth.

At the time there were many skilful ringers at the neighbouring towers of Trickenhaw, Richmond, and Mortlake; and probably Isleworth had a good band from the first. In 1770 they rang 6400 of Treble Bob Major which no doubt was one of several peals and the records

1269

of the rest are lost. Robert Platt  
who rang the sixth was the first of a  
family which in the following years produced  
several good ringers. Four years previously  
he had rung the tenor at Richmond  
to a peal of Double Grandshire Triples;  
which was called by Charles Burt who  
rang the second to the Isleworth peal. The  
conductor of the latter was also in the  
Richmond band.

In 1785 a band of College Youths  
with John Povey as conductor scored  
5280 Oxford Treble Bob. John Cole who  
rang the third seems to have been the  
father or elder brother of George and  
James Cole whose names appear on  
several peal boards. George was afterwards  
for long the leading conductor in the  
district and indeed for sometime in

1270

the Society of College Jousts. It seems probable that both the families of Platt and Cole lived in the parish of Isleworth.

William Walker rang the fourth in the 1785 peal and the name raises a problem which I am unable to solve. As early as 1742 a William Walker rang the seventh in a peal of Richmond Triples by the Richmond Society and probably called it. He was one of the men that Theodore Eccleston took down to Suffolk to make a band for his new ring of ten at Norwich Aspal<sup>(197)</sup>. In 1751 he took part in 5040 Double Bob Major there and in the following year called Hollis Original. This was the second time it had been performed and Walker followed the example of Hollis

1271

and sat in the tower and called  
the peal from manuscript. A little more  
than a week later the same band rang  
6160 Bob Major, Walker ringing the tenor  
but John Sharp calling the Cobs.

In 1761 Walker had returned home  
and was now the Conductor and Leading  
ringer at Northlake, Eccleston's Surrey  
residence. There he composed and called  
a peal of Bob Triples. In 1767 he took  
part in the Double Grandine Triples at  
Richmond. In 1775 the name appears  
in the records of peals of Bob Major by  
the College Youth at Northlake, and in  
1785 of peals of Treble Bob at Northlake  
and Isleworth. Two years later in 1787  
William Walker rang the sixth to a  
peal of Grandine Triples at Ealing; in

1812 and 1813 he rang two peals 1272  
at Twickenham and in 1816 a peal of  
Real Double Bob Major at Richmond.

The dates of these performances cover a  
period of seventy-five years, and so there  
must have been at least five and probably  
were three men called William Walker;  
but when we try to distinguish between  
them there is nothing to guide us.

Usually when a man and his father  
are both ringers their careers overlap and  
they appear together in the same peals,  
but this did not happen with the Walkers.

The most probable explanation is that  
William I was the Conductor and Leader  
at Richmond; that he had a clever  
son who as a young man was taken  
down to Suffolk by Theodore Eccleston

1273

to help to make the band at  
Spionham Trefall, and who when that  
band was dispersed, settled at Northlake,  
still through the influence of Eccleston, to  
become the leader of the band there; and  
that for many years he was one of the  
best known ringers in the Thames Valley.  
William II may have rung in all the  
peals from the Bob Triples at Northlake  
in 1761 to the Grand sire Triples at Ealing  
in 1787 when he would be about sixty  
years old. William III was probably the  
grandson of William II.

Of the later peals at Isleworth the  
most interesting is one of Stedman  
Triples conducted by George Cole and rung  
in 1825. In the previous year Cole had  
called a peal in the method at Richmond

with a band which contained  
 six of the same men, and another, at  
 Whitechapel for the College Youths. These  
 were the first peals of Nedman Triples  
 rung in the metropolitan area since  
 Barber called Edwards Composition at  
 St. Mary Abbots in 1803

The peal at Isleworth is said to have  
 been the composition of Joseph Clark of  
 Kingston on Thames and to have consisted  
 of "240 singles 158 bobs and 22 doubles  
 being the first ever rung with the least  
 calls on this system." In my book on  
 Nedman referring to this peal I say  
 that the figures have disappeared and  
 it cannot be said how far the peal  
 was original but when passing the final  
 proofs too late for alteration, I saw



the explanation of the matter. The 1295  
peal was really the transposition of Thomas  
Davy's Composition which appears under  
Clark's name in Shipway's Broadsheet  
and the apparent reduction of the number  
of bobs from 180 (as in Davy's peal) to 158  
was done by not counting those which  
were made in the same Lisc as a Hollis  
single. (198)

We know nothing of Clark which would  
lead us to suppose that he was capable  
of composing an original peal of Nedman  
Triples or even of producing an improved  
variation of an old peal. His name  
appears on several boards at Kingston  
and he composed and conducted two  
or three peals of Grandeur Galers on  
the bells.

After the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century ringing began to decline in the Thames Valley towers and very few peals were rung for many years. But there probably never has been wanting a band of some sort at Isleworth. For some time the Coles and the Glatts still belonged to the tower and as late as 1853 George Cole rang the peal to a peal of Grandire Triples with a band made up partly of local men and partly of visitors from London. John Cole called the bobs. Cole must by that time have been a very old man. (799)

About this time it was a very usual thing for publicans to provide a set of handbells on which their customers amused themselves by playing tunes

and Capping changes. The Isleworth men seem to have been experts in the latter and in 1848 they Capped a peal of Grandine Bells at The London Apprentice a house by the river side opposite the church. For this they put up a tablet on the wall of the room in which they rang it and it remains there to this day.

In 1931 the ring at Isleworth was increased to ten by the addition of two bells cast by Shears and Plinbark at the Whitechapel Foundry.

# Inscriptions on the Bells. (869)

1278

1. SANCTUS, SANCTUS, SANCTUS DOMINUS DEUS  
SABAOth
2. PLENI SUNT COELI ET TERRA GLORIA TUA.
3. AT PROPER TIMES OUR VOICES WE WILL RAISE  
IN SOUNDING TO OUR BENEFACTORS PRAISE
- 4.

## Peal Tablets at Isleworth.

1279

A.D. 1770 On Tuesday Dec: 11<sup>th</sup> Was Rung in this Steeple a Complete Peal of Six Thousand Four Hundred of Oxford Tripple Bob in four Hours & Eighteen Minutes. By the following Men

Rich <sup>d</sup> Small	1.	Jo <sup>n</sup> Dean	5.
Cha <sup>s</sup> Burt	2.	Rob <sup>t</sup> Platt	6.
Tho <sup>s</sup> Richards	3.	Jo <sup>n</sup> Goose	7.
Rich <sup>d</sup> West	4.	Cha <sup>s</sup> Thornbery	Tenor

Call<sup>d</sup> by Cha<sup>s</sup> Thornbery.

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On Sunday March 13 1825 was rung on these Bells a Complete Peal of 5040 Triples on Hedman's principle composed by Mr Jos Clark of Kingston-upon-Thames Consisting of 240 singles 158 bobs and 22 doubles being the first ever rung with the East calls on this system and was performed in 3 hours by the following

men - George Cole	1.	Richard House	5.
Scholes Bamford	2.	William Winsor	6.
John Bates	3.	John Platt	7.
William Platt	4.	George Platt	Tenor

The Peal was Conducted by G. Cole.

On Sunday Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 1853 was rung 1280  
in this Belfry a complete Peal of Grandring  
Tripples consisting of 5040 changes in 2 hours  
and 56 minutes by the following persons

G. Cole	Tulle	W. Wilson
Jno Cox	2.	T. Powell
P. Giles	3	W. Nowell
H. Nicholls	4	W. Hamblen

Conducted by Jno Cox.

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On Friday Aug 12<sup>th</sup> 1825 was performed on  
Linc of these Bells by John Honley of Turickenham  
a complete 720 of Court Bob in 31 minutes  
which is believed to be the best ever done by  
one person.

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### Tablet at the London Apprentice

Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 1848 was rung in this Room a  
true and complete peal of <sup>5093</sup> Grandring Caters  
in 3 hours and 20 minutes by the following  
persons

Charles Buckland 1-2 Thomas Wentworth 5-6  
William Nowell 3-4 William Hamblen 7-  
John Carter, 9-10.

Conducted by William Nowell.

# Peals rung at Isleworth.

1768	Mar. 7	5040	Bob Major	College Youths
1770	Dec. 11	6400	Gx. T. B. Maj.	Local
1785	Mar. 28	5280	do	College Youths
1787	Mar. 11	5040	Bob Major	do.
	Dec. 18	5120	do	do.
1788		6176	Gx. T. B. Maj.	do.
1804		5040	Grand. Trip.	do.
1824		5088	Gx. T. B. Maj	do.
1825	Mar 13	5040	Stedman T.	Local
1853	Nov 6	5040	Gran. Trip.	do.