

## MONKEN HADLEY

The church and tower are situated just inside the historical county boundary. It has a square 60 ft high tower of three stages with a battlemented top. There are 82 steps up the turret staircase at the south-west angle to the top with the very rare and unique copper cresset surmounting the turret. This is believed to have been used in the chain of beacons at the time of the Spanish Armada and is still used for special national and royal occasions.

Bells were recorded here in the time of King Edward VI's reign, four large bells and one Sanctus bell dated 1419. The larger bells were replaced successively in 1681, 1702, 1711 and 1713. The 1681 bell was cast by James Bartlet. In 1876 two new bells were added and one bell recast to make six bells which were augmented to eight in 1921. They were donated by Frank A Milne in memory of his parents and his son who was killed in action in 1917. All the bells were recast in 1956 in memory of Francis Norman Thompson, Baronet, of Monken Hadley. The frame and fittings were attended to in 1876 and the ringers were Messrs. Dell, Juiett, Roberts, Godfrey, Abbotts, Sumpter and Knightley.

The earliest peal board in the ringing chamber records a peal rung in 1898, the ringers being drawn from the surrounding area. The Middlesex County Association records show that the peal rung on Monday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1913 of 5040 changes of Grandsire Doubles in two hours forty-eight minutes was by the only ringing members listed for Monken Hadley in 1913 and it was the first peal for all the band: W Parker, W Davies - conductor, J Tarling, G Varney, J Wicks and T Lilley.

Source: Mr. H J Butcher, church guide, revised 1959; Tricia Narracott-Wales, *Ringling World* August 23, 1963 p 565; Association records