

HARMONDSWORTH

The south-west tower has Tudor brickwork but it is believed that fragments at its base date to the 11th century. The tower is topped by a cupola and weathervane. Inscribed on the tower timbers above the bells are the initials 'G B' and 'Erected 1839 Tillyer, Churchwarden and Jacob Sidwell, Nov. 16 1839.

The earliest mention of bells occurs in 1636 when bell ropes were purchased. Payment was made to Roger Greatrake who made the bell frame. There were many subsequent entries referring to bells in the Churchwardens' Accounts.

Thomas Swain the bell founder was buried here April 26th, 1782 and lies in an unmarked grave. It is not certain exactly where his foundry was situated, possibly on a site opposite the White Horse public house. For some unknown reason he moved to operate at Longford, a small hamlet within the parish, circa 1752. The registers of surrounding parishes contain entries for this surname.

The first known peal was rung on these bells on July 17th, 1920, of Minor. The first peal for the Middlesex County Association took place on June 26th, 1927 of 5040 changes of Grandsire Doubles in two hours forty-eight minutes by members from local towers who joined local ringer F. A. Lawrence – W. A. Lewis, J. H. Lucas, H. J. Lucas, P. E. Jones, and Frank Corke.

Source: Church guide (n.d.); Thomas Whipham, *A miscellany from Harmondsworth* 2002, p 6; Douglas Rust, *Our village bellfounder*, Parish magazine Feb.-March 1999; Nikolaus Pevsner, *Buildings of England: Middlesex* 1951, p 95; David Dearnley - peal records; Association records.