

HARROW ON THE HILL

The church and tower are built on top of Harrow Hill, 400 ft above sea level. The lower section of the tower survives from the late 11th century. Entry is by a large, ancient, wooden door before climbing a stone spiral staircase for access to the ringing chamber. Across the room is another door which leads out onto the top of the church roof - a marvellous view of the surrounding countryside. On the top of the tower is an octagonal lead spire surmounted by the warning light for aircraft.

Bells existed in the tower during the reign of King Edward VI. By 1780 some bells had been recast and augmented to eight.

A peal board records the first peal on Sunday May 7th, 1780 of 5040 changes of Bob Major in three hours twenty-five minutes rung by The London Youths. The ringers were: John Canna, John Reeves, Richard Wilson, John Anderson, Thomas Morris, Allen Grant, William Paris and Robert Donkin who called the peal. Other peal boards are 20th century and have various commemorations.

Miss A Elvy became the first lady for this tower as ordinary ringing member of the Middlesex County Association in 1916.

Source: Church guide (n.d.); Nikolaus Pevsner, *Buildings of England: Middlesex* 1951, p 97; *Bell news and ringers' record* October 18, 1884 p 342; *Ringings world* July 7 1944 p 285; Association records.