

SOUTHGATE

Sir John Weld built the Chapel of Ease to Edmonton at the beginning of the 17th century, known as the Weld Chapel, demolished in 1863. The site for the new church and tower adjacent to the Chapel was donated by Mrs Walker and her eldest son, a well-known Southgate family. **The following sentences to finish this paragraph are very similar to the OTHER file, but are included in the HISTORY file.** The tower, mainly of brick construction, stands over the main entrance on the north side of the nave towards the west end. There is a spiral staircase to the ringing room. The Tower is capped with a hollow spire.

The turret clock is known as a flat-bed clock and incorporates a double three-legged escapement with Cambridge Chimes attached: the complete mechanism includes a five feet copper dial. The plaque recording the installation made by A K Lander, New Southgate, shows that the clock was given by the inhabitants of Southgate to commemorate the fiftieth year of Queen Victoria's reign, January 20th, 1887. It was converted to electric winding in 1962.

The bell from the Chapel, cast at Whitechapel in 1616, was, for many years after its re-location, the only bell in the present tower. Arthur George George of Southgate dearly wished for more bells but died before the Revd. J Bard placed the order with Mears & Stainbank in 1874 for six bells. As funds became available two more bells were cast in 1879 and the two trebles in 1920, given by the children of Arthur Rowland and Ada Barker as a thanks offering for their lives. The ring of six bells installed in 1874 was originally cast for Youlgreave, Derbyshire.

John Hitch was the first local ringer in 1880. Many peal boards on the walls of the ringing room commemorate various events and personalities. Members of the local band with those of the Middlesex County Association rang a peal on Saturday February 2nd, 1901 of 5040 changes of Bob Triples, Hubbard's Ten-Part in three hours sixteen minutes by: Harry Miller, Steven Ansell, Alfred Glasscock, John Armstrong, William Tegg, Sidney Jones, John E Miller - conductor, Henry Balaam. It was rung with the bells half muffled as a token of respect to Our Late Majesty Lady Queen Victoria who passed away on January 22nd of this year. The Revd. J Beardall was Vicar, and A R Barker and G Burrows were Churchwardens at the time of the peal.

Peal ringing was at its zenith in the late 1890's and early 20th century, mainly by the local band. Most of the ringers lived locally, near to each other. The present ringing society was formed on Monday September 17th, 1894 when John Miller was elected Captain and so he remained for fifty-four years until his death.

The burial customs were: a death-knell was tolled for old inhabitants and a muffled peal was rung on the evening of the funeral for residents, with the age of the deceased tolled.

Miss Abbot became Southgate's first lady ordinary ringing member of the Middlesex County Association in 1916.

Southgate was one of the several churches featured on the front of the *Ringling World* in 1972 when the Middlesex County Association celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Source: Dennis Willcocks, *A history of Christ Church Society of Bell Ringers 1874 to 1994* 1995, pp 2, 4, 6, 8 and 12; H B Walters, *Middlesex Parish Churches* LMAS Transactions Volume XI, p 143; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; S G P, *Ringing World* March 1, 1963, p 143 and June 14, 1974, pp 485-6' Association records.