

## CRANFORD

Formerly known as Cranford St. John, it was rededicated to St. Dunstan in 1310 and became the parish church. The lower part of the tower at the west is 15<sup>th</sup> century. The top storey of brick was built in 1716.

It has been said that the Earls of Berkeley, when they needed to travel to London, could travel from their estates in Gloucestershire almost the length of the journey on their own land.

The Revd W H E R Jervis placed the order for the recasting of the present fourth bell with Mears & Stainbank in 1884. The old bell (pre-Reformation) weighed 4cwt and 17lbs., and had the rare inscription of: (cross) Amice Xpi Iohannes (shield). This firm honoured the contract entered into before the Second World War for the casting of the bells in the 1940's.

On Easter Sunday 1943 the restored and augmented bells were rung for the first time as the war-time ban on ringing tower bells had been lifted. The first peal took place on Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup> for the Feast of the Assumption and was the anniversary of the death of Dr. Thomas Fuller, Rector in 1658. Fifty years on, on the same day and date, a repeat of this peal was rung.

Source: *Notes on the Parish Church of St Dunstan in Cranford Park, Middlesex* (n.d.); Nikolaus Pevsner, *Buildings of England: Middlesex* 1951, p 38; H B Walters, manuscript; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; *Ringing World* September 3, 1993 p 871