

HARROW WEALD

An order was placed by W Butterfield of 4 Adam Street, Adelphi, London on behalf of client Thomas Blackwell (of Crosse and Blackwell fame) who bore a large proportion of the cost for six bells cast in 1890. They were hung in an English oak frame fixed only in two walls.

The 1920's saw a new band of young recruits formed under the leadership of Gilbert Goodship which included Elsie K Fulton and H George Hart. This band originally had two practices, one for girls and one for the boys. The girls learned Stedman while the boys learned Plain Bob. The names of the ladies who became ordinary ringing members of the Association in 1927 were the Misses F Clayton, G Darvell, J I Fagg, D Lyford and M Mellor.

By the 1930's the bells were difficult to ring. The Parochial Church Council paid for the rehanging in 1935 and the ringers paid for the two new bells to complete the octave. The ringing chamber floor was raised in the early 1950's by approximately 4 ft above the original stone floor to shorten the draught of rope.

As part of the 1981 Patronal Festival the tower was open to visitors. A closed-circuit television camera was set up so visitors could view simultaneously from a set in the ringing room, the motion of a bell being rung and the ringer.

The Sanctus bell was originally cast for Harrow Weald School. It was rescued by George Hart during the demolition of the school and was hung for chiming in a wooden frame above the eight bells in 1976.

Source: Nikolaus Pevsner *Buildings of England: Middlesex* 1951, p 103; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; R A Partridge *Ringing world* March 28 1980, p 268; *Ringing world* July 23 1971, p 630 and November 27 1981 p 1035; Association records..