

Chelsea, All Saints (Old Church). Sources

Tower built between 1667 and 1674, replacing an older one, and a cupola existed until 1815; bombed in 2nd World War. Elizabeth and Wayland Young: *London's churches*.

... 'had in the steeple three greate bells and one little saunce bell' in the year 1552. Thomas Janaway recast the bells and increased them to eight but when the new parish church of St Like's was built, all but the fourth were sold to help provide for the ring of ten in that church. During the 60 years the old church had a ring, only one peal is known to have been accomplished there. It was 5040 Bob Major in 1785 by College Youths conducted by James Worster. The tablet recording it still exists. Chelsea Old Church was one of the places which had an endowment for ringing the evening bell, but the ringing was discontinued in 1822, although the bell specially provided was still in the steeple. *RW* 25.04.1941.

Tower rebuilt by the end of 1674. There were bells here during the reign of King Edward V [or VI?] and it is believed bells were added to... one of which was the gift of William Ashburton [or Ashburnham?] who paid for the bell to be rung at 9 o'clock in the evening. The story goes that on one dark night he had lost his way and the sound of the bell enabled him to find his bearings and prevent his drowning in the River Thames. The ringing of this bell was discontinued in 1822 and the bell preserved. Thomas Janaway recast the other bells and augmented [them] to eight in 1762... *RW* 26.06.1944 p. 234

Outstanding information re: Draft Schedule:

Diameters

Treble	60 cm
Second	62 cm
Third	67 cm
Fourth	74 cm
Fifth	75.5 cm
Sixth	80 cm
Seventh	87 cm
Tenor	98.5 cm

Nave and tower rebuilt in brick in 1667-74. Mr Burt, bricklayer. Mr Wilcox, carpenter, Mr Lilley, plumber. H. H. Burnell, local architect in 1857-58. W.H. Godfrey, architect (c. 1949) after church was bombed in 1941. Basil F L Clarke: *Parish Churches of London*, pp 49-50

Streatham to Chelsea

Congratulations to all who are working towards the installation of a new ring of bells at Chelsea Old Church, utilising the metal from the redundant Warner ring at Streatham. R.J.C. is not quite right in saying that the previous bells at Chelsea Old Church were taken to the new church of St Luke in the 1820s (*RW* Jan. 14th). When St Luke's was built in 1820-24 it was equipped with a brand new ring of ten bells cast by Thomas Mears II in 1823. This not very glorious ring still exists there, having been rehung in a new composite "H" frame by John Taylor & Co about 1890 (I haven't the exact date); the same firm fitted ball bearing to the bells more recently.

Chelsea Old Church had a ring of eight bells, with the tenor weighing about 21 cwt., cast by Thomas Janaway in 1762. Seven of these bells were scrapped when it ceased to be the parish church. This left the old fourth, which was described in 1882 as being 'cracked in the crown' and was presumably lost when the church was blitzed in 1941. *Letter from Christopher Dalton, RW* 11.02.1977 p. 117

Immanuel Streatham

The tower at Chelsea is a new one, built to replace the original destroyed by a flying bomb. It transpired that Immanuel bells would be heavier than advisable so the bells will be recast into a new eight, probably of 10½ cwt. Hopefully, the new eight will be installed with the aid of volunteer labour in the summer of 1977, in good time to ring for the quin-centennial of the birth of Sir Thomas More with whom Chelsea Old Church is Associated. R.J.C. *RW* 14.01.1977 p. 22.

[Three slips remain. PN 2019]