

## ENFIELD, St Mary Magdalene

Georgina Hannah Twells, widow of banker and City of London M.P., J.P., planned the church as a memorial to her husband and donated the bells. She personally laid the foundation stone on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1881. The church was consecrated on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1883 by the Bishop of London, The Rt. Revd. Dr. John Jackson.

The church is built on a hill 250 ft above sea level. The 12 ft square, brick tower housed eight bells cast by John Warner in 1883, hung in a two tier wood and cast iron frame. The tenor weighed 19cwt 1qr 3lbs in E and, beginning with the treble bell, a line from the 150<sup>th</sup> Psalm was inscribed between moulding wires around each soundbow.

On the day of Consecration the bells were opened by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths: Messrs. H C Haley, G Muskett, R Jameson, E Gibbs, G Marshall, J M Hayes, E Horrex and W Greenleaf, who, with the local ringers, were entertained to dinner and tea at the residence of Mrs. Twells in Enfield.

Miss R Armitage became the first lady ordinary ringing member of St Mary Magdalene of the Middlesex County Association in 1930.

The bells were placed at a great height in the tower and the weight began to cause structural damage. These bells went to Grace Church, Charleston, S.C. in the U.S.A. The new bells were tried on Tuesday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999 - two years and a day since the old bells were rung. Volunteer labour was supplied by members of the Middlesex County Association's Bell Restoration Committee. The bells were dedicated on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1999 and the first peal was rung on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2000 to the appropriately named method chosen - Enfield Surprise Major.

Source: *St Mary Magdalene, Enfield: a visitor's guide* (n.d. c.1999), pp 5 and 7; *Bell news and ringers' record* July 28, 1883 p 201; *Ringing world* August 16 1996 p 844, May 14 1999 p 472 and March 10 2000, p 253; Association records.