

## SPITALFIELDS

A heavy ring of eight bells existed in 1730. The sixth bell was used singly each day, Sundays excepted, at 5.45 a.m. and again at 8.00 p.m. for fifteen minutes each time as a "factory bell" for the weavers in the parish. William Laughton and the Rambling Ringers' Club met here for their last ringing meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1735 when they rang the method known to them as Union Bob, otherwise Oxford Treble Bob Major. The bells were augmented to ten in 1789 and two trebles added in 1801. The bells were in the charge of Charles Purser, landlord of the Ben Jonson tavern in Booth Street. February 17<sup>th</sup> was Ash Wednesday in 1836 when the twelve bells, clock with chimes, the interior and the floor below were destroyed by fire.

By the end of 1837 enough money was raised to install eight new bells, tenor of 33cwt 2qrs 7lbs inscribed:-

CHRIST CHURCH MIDDX. 1837  
THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FOUNDER  
THE REVD. WILLIAM STONE A.M. RECTOR  
THOMAS BRUSHFIELD    ) CHURCH WARDENS  
WILLIAM SYKES            )

A peal board records the first peal on the bells on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1845 of 5040 changes of Grandsire Triples of 194 Bobs and 46 Singles, conducted by William Lobb from the treble. Rung by members of the Cumberland Society, other ringers were James Stichbury, Charles Goozee, Joseph Wright, Robert Perry, William Kellitt and Charles Wilson. It took Thomas Michael and James Batchelor to ring the tenor for three hours twenty-four minutes. Thomas Midwinter and Henry Parry were the Churchwardens at the date of the peal.

The 1837 ring became derelict and in 1970 the eight bells of St. Stephen, Clapham Park were bought and installed due to the staunch volunteers of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. The bells were rehung by John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough and dedicated on Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1972 by the Bishop of Stepney, the Rt. Revd. Trevor Huddleston, C.R., who also dedicated the tablet placed in the ringing chamber in memory of Thomas and Margaret Francis, two devoted members of the Cumberland Youths, tragically killed in 1970. The Bishop said a prayer of dedication for the clock chimes given in memory of Mrs. E A Grainger, mother of Mr. W D Grainger, who for 25 years voluntarily cared for the clock.

Source: Christopher J Pickford; J R Jerram, manuscript in the care of The Revd. D L Cawley; *Ringing World* October 11, 1940 p 484, May 14, 1943 p 211 and March 17, 1972 p 215.