

EAST BEDFONT

A small wooden turret to house the bells was added to the church in 1500. The present tower was built in 1864 to replace this turret. It cost the parish £1.14s., paid to Mr. Swain for a Brass to hang one of the bells in 1754 and £1.1s.8d. for a 'sett' of bell ropes that year.

After the six bells had been unringable for several months they were restored by Gillett & Johnston and rededicated by the Archdeacon of Middlesex on Sunday December 16th, 1934.

A free-standing four feet high round pole with floor standing bell shaped base has six hooks around it near the top upon which are placed slim strips of wood with numbers painted on them to indicate the changes to the ringers. As far as it is known, no other such system of ringing the changes (believed to date from about the 1920's) has survived in the London Diocese.

Source: F. Clive-Ross, *The church of St. Mary the Virgin, East Bedfont* 3rd revised edition 1984, p 5; *Ringing world* December 14th 1934, p 798 and December 28th 1934, p 828; Association records.