

CITY, BISHOPSGATE

The position of the square tower is unusual because it rises at the east end of the church in Bishopsgate and the lowest part forms the chancel. It is built of brick with balustrade, turret and cupola.

There were three bells in 1553 which increased to six by 1666. The curfew was rung in the evening at eight o'clock in 1848.

The bells were opened by the Society of College Youths on Friday February 7th, 1783 with a peal of Oxford Treble Bob, rung in three hours three minutes. After this peal, the Society of Cumberlands rang a peal of Grandsire Triples with William Castle and William Barnes on the tenor. This peal took three hours twenty-two minutes to ring and then, on the same day, another peal was rung by the College Youths, of Oxford Treble Bob, taking three hours twenty-nine minutes to complete.

The peal of 5088 changes of London Surprise Major was rung for the Middlesex County Association on Thursday December 7th, 1911 in three hours eighteen minutes, conducted by Miss Edith K Parker - the first peal in the City of London conducted by a lady.

During his inspection of the belfry upon the commencement of the Second World War, John Euston noted that with bells 4, 3, 7 and 8 along the north wall hung to swing E/W, the tower sway made them very unpredictable and, hung on plain bearings, the third and fourth in particular were very hard to control unless a regular beat was maintained. John Taylor Bellfounders Limited tuned and rehung this ring of listed bells, with new fittings in a new frame lower in the tower in 1992.

Ringling had to be suspended when damage was caused by an IRA bomb in April 1993 but the bells were rung joyfully to a quarter peal for the Carol Service that year.

Source: City of London Corporation, *City of London Churches* (n.d.), pp 11-12; J A Trollope, manuscript *History of London Ringers and Ringing*; Rev. George Hennessy, BA., *Novum Repertorium Ecclesiasticum Parochiale Londinense* 1898, p 110; Ernest Morris, *Ringling world* February 8, 1952 p 90, *Ringling world* January 31, 1992 p 99, July 3, 1992 p 652 and March 18, 1994 p 256