

SOUTH MIMMS

The parish transferred from Middlesex to the county of Hertfordshire in 1965, and from the London Diocese to the St. Albans Diocese in 1981.

The church has a 14th century west tower with diagonal buttresses, battlemented parapet and a stair turret higher than the parapet in the south-east corner.

There were four large bells in 1552. The tenor cast by T Mears in 1812 was inscribed with the names of the Rev. F Bates, Vicar and the Churchwardens Danl. Carpenter, George Byng, M.P., and John Roberts. The present treble was given by Mrs. Lane in memory of her husband Charles.

Each bell required 60 ft of rope as St. Giles was a ground floor ring until 1966 when the ringing chamber floor was constructed.

The names of the ringers circa 1881 are: P Penkett, G Pickett - Captain, L Powell, T Ansell, A J Sherbourne and H Pickett.

The first peal was rung on Saturday November 4th, 1899 of 5040 changes of Minor for the Middlesex County Association by six ringers from Southgate:- Alfred G Glasscock, John Armstrong, Ernest W Marshall, John E Miller, Arthur Miller, Sidney Wade - conductor.

The bells are rung from 6.30 a.m. for half an hour on Ascension Day.

The Bruce Robinson Trust was founded from a bequest to the church in 1929. The finance from this provided for a Dinner for the ringers. To qualify, the ringers had to be members of the St. Giles' Guild, regular Sunday Service ringers, to ring out the old year on half muffled bells and to welcome in the New Year. This Dinner was to be held near St. Thomas's Day (December 21st) at which the Ringers' Health was to be drunk from a George I silver tankard bought from the savings of Robinson's daughter Joan, who died aged ten years and was buried in the churchyard. On the Sunday nearest to the Dinner, the Vicar, in company of the ringers, said prayers over the grave of Joan Robinson. Ringing ceased in the 1920's when the Vicar declared the tower unsafe and no further ringing took place until a new band was formed in 1963.

Source: Nikolaus Pevsner, *Buildings of England: Middlesex* 1951, p 142; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; Theo Crowder; *Ringing World* February 18, 1972 p 136; Association records.