

## ST GEORGE IN THE EAST

The structure of the tower survived the Second World War. It has spiral steps to reach the medium sized ringing chamber with medium length of rope draught, retuned and rehung in 1938 by Mears & Stainbank. The maiden tenor of 1820 was cast when Robt. Farington, D.D. was Rector and the names of the Churchwardens inscribed on this bell were John Whit(e)ley and W S Handasyde.

These bells were popular for peal ringing and many notable peals were rung at St. George by the London companies. In 1753 a new society called The London Youths was formed with its headquarters at The Three Goats' Heads in Whitechapel and St. George was one of its principal towers.

Records show there were only two boards, one recording a peal by the Junior Cumberland Society in 1824 and the other board, a peal by members of the Society of College Youths, rung on Monday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1822 of 5040 changes of Grandsire Triples in three hours twenty-five minutes by four fathers and four sons: Thomas Gross, George Gross - conductor, John and Benjamin Merrin, James Stichbury, Senior and Junior, Thomas Michael, Senior and Junior. The Churchwardens at that time were William Henry Hobbs and George Steadman.

St. George was the first tower in the London area to join the Middlesex County Association in 1903.

During excavations after the Second World War it was discovered that, 'Thomas Owen was ye First Bell Ringer and Grave Digger of this Parish'. The first burial took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1729.

Source: Church guide, p 19 and Day-Book of Burials; Harold W Rogers, Peter Rayner; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; *Church Bells* July 20, 1872 p 403; *Ringing World* June 27, 1941 p 307 and June 9, 1972 p 454.