

CITY, ST ANDREW, HOLBORN CIRCUS

The 15th century tower was heightened and refaced in 1704: it housed four bells and a “lyttell” bell in 1552 until 1587 when Robert Mot recast all the bells, augmenting them to eight with the tenor 28cwt 2qrs 7lbs plus a new saunce bell. It is believed this was probably the first complete octave in England.

The eight bells were recast by Richard Phelps in 1731, the diameters ranging from 31¼ ins to 54 ins for the 28cwt tenor in D flat, at the time when The Revd. Ieffery Barton, LLD was Rector and Messrs. Robert Waddilove and Joshua Co were the Churchwardens. It is also believed that two men were required to ring the tenor but only John Trennell rang it to a peal of 5040 changes of Bob Major with William Laughton and the Rambling Ringers in 1734.

The bells were rung up to the time of the ban on ringing bells in the Second World War. The bells were badly cracked during this war but the metal was salvaged for the present ring which was hung in a new cast iron 8-bell frame.

Source: St Andrew Holborn: a short history. (n.d., after 1992); Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; J R Jerram, manuscript in the care of The Revd. D L Cawley; Dr. D E Sibson and Mr W T Cook, *Ringing world* May 5, 1972, p 372; *Ringing world* September 27, 1940, p 460.