

## CITY, ST VEDAST

There were five bells here from 1553 until 1694 when the tower was found to be unsafe. The present tower was erected three years later at the south-west corner of the church. It is 20 ft at the base and rises to 90 ft. Above this are three stages, the lowest being unusual in that its walls are concave, whilst the next is convex.

In this tower there used to be a clock bell cast by John Waylett in 1706 and hung in a corner of the frame was a disused bell from St. Matthew, Friday Street, City, cast by S Newton and I Peele in 1704.

Christopher Wren was interested in the rebuilding of the church which took place 1670-1673, but Robert Hooke probably carried out most of the work, making this one of the first churches to be restored. The stone for the steeple was cut at Greenwich.

The re-opening of the six bells which had been in a dilapidated state for many years took place on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1882. They were put into thorough ringing order by Mr. G R Banks, of Kennington Lane.

All the bells were victims of an air raid December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1940.

Source; City of London Corporation, *City of London churches* (n.d.), p 23; Mervyn Blatch, *A guide to London's churches* 1979, p 169; Christopher J Pickford; *Bell news and ringers' record* August 26, 1882 p 166; *Ringing world* May 12, 1944 p 197 and April 21, 1972 p 326.