

UXBRIDGE, ST MARGARET

The church was a chapel of ease to St. John the Baptist, Hillingdon until it became a parish church in 1843. The late 14th century north tower is not in axis with the rest of the building. The tower was rebuilt in 1820. A call bell of 17 in. diameter, cast in 1808 by Thomas Mears, was hung in the cupola.

No record exists of the bells before 1716. Voluntary subscriptions defrayed the cost of the previous bells:-

	Diameter	Inscription
Treble	28½ins	LORD PAGET EARL OF UXBRIDGE BENEFACTOR TO THESE SIX BELLS R : P FECIT 1716
2 nd	30¼ins	LORD OSULSTON EARL OF TANKERFIELD BENEFACTOR TOWARDS THESE SIX BELLS 1716
3 rd	33¾ins	THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1808
4 th	35ins	THE HONOURABLE IAMES BERTIE ESQ: MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR MIDDLESEX BENEFACTOR R: P FECIT 1716
5 th	38ins	R : PHELPS FECIT 1716
Tenor	43ins	J:WOOLFE M:A VICAR OF UXBRIDGE NIC : BROWNE) CHAPPELL WARDENS J:IAQUES M:A LECTURER MIC : RAVIS)

D:NORTON GAVE THE CARRIAGE OF THE OLD & NEW BELLS TO & FROM LONDON

Two trebles were added to make up the octave in 1902, cast by Warners of Cripplegate to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII. The first peal on the bells was rung on Tuesday October 28th, 1902 by members of the Middlesex County Association.

Miss H Tomlinson was St. Margaret's first lady ordinary ringing member of the Middlesex County Association in 1914, the year when Rifleman H Hailey, King's Royal Rifles, Pte. R White, Middlesex Regt., and Pte. W Cornish (National Reserve) ringing members of this tower, went forth, "to serve their King and Country in time of need."

Part of the cost of the work for the present bells was borne by business colleagues of Norman Reeves, as a memorial to him. The first peal was rung in 1955 and controllable sound proofing was installed in 1979. Five local ringers rang in the 100th peal in this tower in 1983.

In the last decade of the 20th century, modernisation work was carried out in the church and now the ringers can leave the ringing room onto a carpeted area enclosed by glass and look down into the main body of the church.

Source: Nikolaus Pevsner, *Buildings of England: Middlesex* 1951, p 168; H B Walters, manuscript; *Ringing World* September 28, 1984 pp 821 and 829.