

FINCHLEY

There were five bells in 1552 hanging in the mediaeval west tower. The weight of the tenor bell previous to the 1847 casting was 9cwt and 16lbs. When there were six bells the canons of the second and third were cut off in 1892 by order of W Howe, Churchwarden, Cyprus Road, Finchley

A fascinating parish history can be gained from the small ringing chamber walls which are endowed with benefaction boards, peal boards and commemorative cards. One of the boards gives details of the 720 changes of Plain Bob Minor rung on Thursday November 22nd, 1888 by the following members of the North Middlesex Association of Change Ringers:- H Martin, F Sparks, T Card, J Cornell, C Martin, and C Crampton. This was the first organised ringing for the Association. The Revd. S Bardsley, M.A., was Rector, H F Brooks and T T Sturtevant, Churchwardens, and Thomas Card was Steeplekeeper.

In 1918 Miss R Webb became the first lady ordinary ringing member for Finchley of the Middlesex County Association.

Two new bells to complete the octave were dedicated on Saturday January 28th, 1950. A fund had already been established for the treble bell due to the enthusiasm of Mr. B F Tubb, Captain of the local ringers, and efforts of the local band. The second bell was dedicated to Charles T Coles in recognition of one of the respected members of the Middlesex County Association and to the Ringing Exercise. The tower was chosen to house the memorial bell for two reasons: firstly, it was among the original towers to be affiliated to the Association when it was founded and secondly, the existing frame could accommodate the two bells.

Source: Nikolaus Pevsner, *Buildings of England: Middlesex* 1951, p 55; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; Christopher Hibbert, *London's Churches* 1988, p 114; J A Trollope; manuscript; *Ringing World* February 10, 1950 p 91; Association records.