

HENDON

The present tower built in 1450 housed five bells by 1552. These were probably confiscated by Henry VIII. The first bell for a new ring was cast in 1637. By 1802 there were six bells. The bells were restored in 1924, having been unsafe to ring for some years. They were augmented to eight in 1959 to mark Hendon's Millennium. The clock mechanism placed in the tower in 1658 was replaced one hundred years later by Thomas Chilton. It is still in use even though it needs to be wound by hand twice a week.

One of the boards in the tower records that on Wednesday January 9th, 1889, the following members of the North Middlesex Association of Change Ringers rang 720 changes of Plain Bob Minor in twenty-seven minutes:- H Martin, F Sparks, T Card - conductor, F Pratt, C Martin and Steeplekeeper C Crampton.

The Misses D and E Englestaff were Hendon's first lady ordinary ringing members of the Middlesex County Association in 1929.

Hendon Week and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Middlesex County Association was celebrated during the week commencing June 3rd, 1972. As St. Mary's is a ground floor ring the opportunity was taken for an exhibition and models to be displayed and every one of the ninety visitors was under close supervision as they ascended every stage of the tower to see the bells at the top.

Source: Hendon St. Mary Restoration Appeal leaflet; Ruth M Foreman; *Ringling World* August 5 1977 p 671 and July 14 1972 p 571; Association records.