

KINGSBURY

The church and tower was first built in Wells Street, one of the streets out of Oxford Street in the West end of London, consecrated in 1847. The bells were given in 1880 by Mrs Imbert Terry, of Regent's Park, in memory of her daughter and dedicated by Dr. Jackson, Bishop of London on the Eve of St. Andrew, November 29th, 1880. The bells were opened by members of the Society of College Youths, peals also rung by other Societies.

Sadly the leaflet stating the rules for the ringers of the "S. ANDREW'S GUILD OF BELL-RINGERS" to abide by, is not dated. Rule No. IV - That Communicants of St Andrew's, who make a donation of £5, or who pay annually 10s. towards Belfry expenses, may be enrolled as "Honorary Members." Rule No. XVIII and the last rule states, "That no refreshments be at any time brought into the Tower." On St. Andrew's Day in 1895 the St. Andrew's Guild rang six course of Grandsire Doubles, conducted by W J Chittleburgh. On Saturday September 17th, 1921, eight members of the Middlesex County Association rang 5024 changes of Bristol Surprise Major, composed by Nathan J Pitstow, in three hours seven minutes:- George B Lucas, senior, George R Pye, Isaac G Shade, Charles T Coles, Arthur Mason, Reuben Sanders, James E Davis, William Pye - conductor. This was the first Surprise on the bells.

Dismantled in 1931, every stone was numbered in readiness to be re-erected at Kingsbury, consecrated October 13th, 1934.

A single bell existed before the installation of the present eight bells cast by Thomas C Lewis, organ builder, of Shepherds Lane, Brixton and the only surviving ring of his bells. Known as a 'maiden' ring - they are said to have been chosen from at least twenty bells cast, and to be untuned by mechanical methods.

The Association's Annual Meeting was held at Kingsbury in 1941. Due to the ban on tower bell ringing at this time, service ringing was on handbells rung in the choir gallery. Over fifty persons were present for tea and the Meeting.

Source: *The Church in Kingsbury* (n.d.), p 2, and church guide; Service of Consecration in 1934; *Ringing world* May 16, 1941 p 235; Association records