

## GREAT STANMORE

The old tower of 1631 is still standing, solitary, in the churchyard. Nearby in the same grounds is the present church, consecrated in 1850. The building of the new and battlemented tower of this church was begun in 1849, the year when Mears & Stainbank received the order from Henry Clutton, architect, on behalf of the Building Committee, for a new oak frame and the existing six bells to be transferred and rehung in their present home. The 17<sup>th</sup> century bells are listed. At ground floor level of the tower is the Tower Room in which are monuments to the Wolstenholme family. Special permission has to be given for the climb of ninety nine steps to the top of the tower to gain a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside.

Miss M Banwell became Great Stanmore's first lady ordinary ringing member of the Middlesex County Association in 1930.

The first peal on the bells was rung on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1907, of 5040 changes of Grandsire Doubles rung in two hours fifty minutes by:- G Langley, E Heading - the conductor, H Moxom, G Moxom, G Hughes and G Chalker. Not only was this the first peal on the bells but the first peal by all the ringers who rang at St John the Evangelist and were members of the Middlesex County Association.

On Monday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2000 the Hertfordshire Association rang a repeat of the first peal. This was the hundredth peal in the tower, rung for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the present stone church and on the 368<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the old brick church, in the Centenary year of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Source: Peter G Scott, M.Phil, AMIE, MCIT, MILT., *The parish church of Saint John the Evangelist, Great Stanmore, Middlesex: a brief history and guide* 2000, pp 21 and 23 and article in *Ringings world* September 15 2000, p 914; Christopher J Pickford; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; Association records.