

HILLINGDON

The tower of four stages surmounted by a wooden cupola is situated at the west end of the church.

The first floor of the tower is where the previous ringing room used to be before 1911. Access to the second floor ringing room is by way of a wooden spiral staircase located in the south-west corner of the tower, followed by a straight section towards the south-east corner, through a trap-door. The straight section of the staircase dates from the 17th century and two persons only allowed at a time to use this staircase.

The ringing room is large with an 11 ft. high ceiling and has a window on the west wall. Also on the west side of the room is the mechanism for the clock, made by Tuckers of London, dated 1856. The clock necessitates to be manually wound, normally at the weekly practices.

On the east wall, there is an Ellacombe chiming apparatus. On the south wall, there is a set of 15 memorial handbells (with the largest handbell in the key of D) mounted in two wooden racks. In addition, there is another set of 19 handbells (with the largest one in the key of G) for general use.

The belfry is located on the third floor of the tower and is accessed through a trap-door mounted on the ceiling of the ringing room. There are windows on all four sides, which are bricked up halfway.

All the bells are on one level in a cast iron 'H' frame which takes up most of the space with easy access to walk around it. The bells have cast iron headstocks: they were quarter turned and rehung on ball bearings in 1969. The tenor bell has a clock hammer that strikes on the hour when connected to the clock mechanism.

The ten bells are rung in full circle.

In the cupola is the Sanctus bell. It was rehung for lever chiming in 1983: it is chimed from the ground floor: it retains its canons.