

HANWELL

The church is built on the brink of a steep hill leading down to the river Brent so the message of the bells can be heard across the small valley, the adjacent municipal golf course and park. The 1841 brick, flint-faced tower with broach spire is at the south-west corner of the church.

Isambard K Brunel built the Wharncliffe Viaduct which crosses the valley and one of the stories handed down the generations is that Queen Victoria took pleasure in viewing the church from her railway carriage when the royal train passed by*. At this time there were two 18th century bells cast at Whitechapel.

The present eight bells were paid for from the William Hobbayne Charity. To reduce costs in the construction of the new ringing chamber, volunteer labour was used from the Churchmen's Club, the "Umbrella Club", under the expert guidance of Percy S Venn. Access into the ringing chamber from the church gallery level is by a wrought iron spiral staircase, originally at the old Brentford Market, purchased in 1974 when the market was dismantled.

Voluntary labour was used again when in 2002 the manually operated sound control was installed.

Source: John Barrance *Ringing World* September 26 1975 p 800.

*Text much altered: she was said to have *stopped* the train to admire the view.