

CITY, ST KATHARINE CREE

This church was known as St. Katharine de Christ Church at Alegate in 1280. The 80 ft high tower was built in 1504 at the cost of Sir John Percivall, merchant tailor, at the west end of the south aisle. A spiral staircase in the north-west corner gives access to the ringing chamber. A small bell hangs in the cupola built 1776. This bell and the front five bells are listed. The gilded cock weather-vane is possibly from the previous church. There is a Renaissance sundial of 1662 on the south wall of the tower.

Bells were in existence during the reign of King Edward VI. There was a ring of five bells when the Rambling Ringers rang two six-scores of Grandsire in 1733 but they proved difficult to ring. In 1754 the frame was rebuilt and the bells were hung so as to produce an anti-clockwise circle. In 1842 a bell was recast by Thomas Mears II - old bell 11cwt and 21lbs.

Meat and poultry were sold in the nearby Leadenhall Market in the 1600's when the women wore white aprons hence the inclusion in the 'Oranges and Lemons' rhyme as, Maids in White Aprons.

Source: K E Campbell, *A brief history and account of St Katharine Cree church* revised 1999; Charles W Pearce, *Old London City churches their organs, organists and musical associations*; Basil F L Clarke, *Parish churches of London* 1966 p 22; Mervyn Blatch, *A guide to London's churches* 1979, pp 93-4; City of London Corporation, *City of London churches* (n.d.), pp 14-5; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; Christopher J Pickford; W T Cook, *Ringing world* March 2, 1973, p 163; *Ringing world* March 23, 1945, p 119. Michael Royalton-Kisch, *Ringing world* March 14, 2008, p 282