

STANWELL

The first stage of the tower is circa 13th century of flint rubble. At some time in the next century the next stage was added and the third stage was built in the late 14th century. The parapet dates from circa 1500 and the tower with its oak shingled spire rises to a total height of 138 ft. The spire is then topped by a weather vane showing the White Hart Crest, representing Lord Windsor. The spire hangs 20 degrees out of plumb.

The digits of the clock are in a cross formation, crafted in 1678 and affixed to an outside wall of the tower.

Records show that on August 25th, 1913 there was a performance of call changes of Bob Minimus in two hours which was “rung to spite those who dislike ringing (if any).”

The order for the new treble came from Mr. E G Sandels, builder, in 1937 and the first peal on these bells was rung by members of the Middlesex County Association of 5040 changes of Minor on Saturday February 5th, 1938 in two hours fifty-seven minutes by: Edward Lankester, J Armiger Trollope, George M Kilby, Thomas Collins, Ernest C S Turner - conductor and C Mayne.

The quarter peal in July 1976 was the last time the bells were heard for eighteen months whilst structural alterations were made to the tower.

Source: Charles Royal, Church guide, 2nd edition, 1959, pp 1 and 2; R J Macklin, *The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Stanwell* 1979; Nikolaus Pevsner, *Buildings of England: Middlesex* 1951, p 149; Hazel Warren; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records.