

## BETHNAL GREEN. St Matthew. Sources

Bethnal Green is so called from Bathon Hall, the residence of the Bathon or Bathonia family. [*Novum Repertorium*, p.414]

Built 1743-6. George Dance architect. T E Knightley restored after fire in 1859, re-opened 1861; top added to tower. [Basil Clarke *Parish churches of London*, p.161]

8 bells 16cwt in 1861. [*Bell founding from the Armada to the Great War*]

Bell details Whitechapel Foundry day book 223/97

13/02/1861

Treble	4-3-3
2	4-3-16
3	5-1-24
4	6-1-3
5	6-3-18
6	8-0-21
7	10-0
Tenor	14-1-5

Whitechapel Foundry day book 95

George Cecil rang at his old parish church of St Matthew, Bethnal Green on Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup> 1887 for the completion of the 50 years of the reign of Queen Victoria. He had also rung for her accession and coronation. He was a hale and strong little man. He felt that his strength was failing to take part in any more ringing. *Bell News & Ringers' Record* 25/08/1887, p.168. [Accuracy of text?]

It is assumed there was a ring of bells in 1752 at which time Francis Wood was appointed steeplekeeper. The family of Wood were associated with St Matthew Bethnal Green for over one hundred years. The first peal was rung here on May 7th, 1785 containing 5,040 changes of Grandsire Triples by members of the Junior Cumberland Youths. The church, the bells, the peal boards all destroyed by fire in 1859. The new ring of eight bells, tenor weighing 14 cwt or so, was cast by [name of founder] Whitechapel. *Ringing World* 20/09/1940, p.452.

[All slips have been transcribed. PN 2019]