

## HESTON

The tower is built on 11<sup>th</sup> century foundations while the present building is mainly 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was restored in 1935 with newel turret and battlemented parapet. From the roof of the tower it is possible to see Windsor Castle to the west, Harrow-on-the-Hill to the north, the Nat-West and Canary Wharf towers to the east and the North Downs to the south.

The floor of the ringing chamber is visible from inside the church. Entry is by two ancient wooden doors made with hand forged nails. The door in the church guards access to the very narrow stone spiral staircase while the other gives access to the ringing chamber itself. Part way up the staircase is a bricked up doorway which used to lead out onto the balcony in the church for the choir. A few steps further up are the remains of wooden door frame whose door prevented the choir going further up the tower.

Sandwiched between the ringing and bell chambers is the clock chamber for the mechanism of the 1768 clock.

The former ring of bells was by Phelps in 1712/16: the tenor was 13cwt 3qrs 6lbs in F sharp. This ring was recast in 1856 by C & G Mears.

The first recorded peal took place on Monday December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1900 of 5040 changes of Bob Minor taking two hours forty-five minutes to ring. The peal included Heston Bob, a new method by J J Parker of Farnham Royal, Slough. The peal was rung for the Middlesex County Association by the band of parish church ringers: Thomas Barker, Ernest Gladman, George Gladman, Henry Chandler, Charles Edwards, and Sydney Carter - conductor. It was the first peal for Messrs. Barker, E & G Gladman.

Sources: Nikolaus Pevsner: *Buildings of England: Middlesex* 1951, p 110; Charles J Ginn *Heston Church* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1965, p 9; Visitors' Guide and information leaflets; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; H B Walters, manuscript; Association records.