

## STAINES, ST MARY

The 1631 west tower by Inigo Jones was built of brick in three storeys. The top storey also was heightened in 1828. The tower and bells were left unharmed when the church suffered a fire in the early 1800's.

The practice for burials was tolling 3 x 3 for a man, 3 x 2 for a woman, and 3 x 1 for a child before and after the burial.

It was reported in *Bell News & Ringers' Record* March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1884 page 568, "these bells do not ring at all well in peal owing to the frame oscillating so much and being old cause the bells to drop." There is no record of remedial work for this period, but this did not deter the Revd. F E Robinson from conducting the first peal of 5040 changes of Stedman Triples on the bells in February 1898 in two hours forty-two minutes for the Reading Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

Most of the names of those in the 1890 photograph in the ringing chamber are listed as Middlesex County Association members: A Wicks was the Captain with the Reverend J Armstrong, Vicar and Reverend A J Judson, Curate, grouped with Messrs. J Phillips, T Couch, S W Greenwood, W Prangley, W E Butler, W Poole, H Salmon, A O Collard, W Wooden and A H Bates.

Miss De la Motte was St. Mary's first lady ordinary ringing member of the Middlesex County Association in 1905-6

Source: Nikolaus Pevsner, *Buildings of England: Middlesex* 1951, p 143; David J Atkins; Cathy Hall; H B Walters, manuscript; *The Ringing World* June 9, 1972, p 454 and June 16, 1978, p 494; Association records.