

## STEPNEY

The tower dates from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, battlemented with a pinnacle in each corner. The upper part had to be rebuilt after damage by bomb blast in the Second World War.

By the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century there was a heavy ring of five bells. Within the next hundred years these increased to six and by 1734 they were augmented to eight. When the Rambling Ringers visited, John Hayward and Thomas Clarke together rang the 49cwt tenor. At this weight it is believed no new metal was needed for the 1806 augmentation so the metal of the bells that hung in the Priory of the Holy Trinity in Aldgate in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and which were sold to the church c.1540 is still in service.

One of the many peal boards here gives details of a peal rung by the Junior Cumberland Society on Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1824 of 5075 changes of Grandsire Caters in three hours thirty minutes by Peter Hall, William Williams - conductor, Benjamin Merrin, James Blacklock, Samuel Austin, John Merrin, John Harris, Thomas Betts, Stephen Wedge and Richard Haisell, at the time when The Revd. T Barneby, BD., was Rector, and Messrs M Easum, I Williams, L Jolly and T Windle were Churchwardens.

Source: Christopher Hibbert, *London's Churches* 1988, p 177; *Ringing World* May 8, 1942 p 215, May 22, 1942 p 236 and December 19, 1952 p 809.