

CITY, ALDGATE

In the mediaeval period this parish was the headquarters of the London founders; one Henry Jordan, died circa 1470 and, at the direction of his Will, was buried here beside his wife Johanne.

First record of a bell here was of one cast by Robert Burford in 1418. By 1553 there were four bells. The tower received silken bell ropes from Queen Elizabeth I when she was on the throne because she did not forget that she heard the bells when she was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

By 1740 the number of bells had increased to six and when the present tower was opened in 1744 it is believed it had a complete ring of eight bells cast by Thomas Lester. No canons remain on any of the bells.

Prior to the Second World War the bells fell into disuse. A great deal of work was carried out by Mears & Stainbank in readiness for the rehallowing of the church on November 8th, 1966 by the Bishop of London in the presence of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and a distinguished congregation. Among those who represented the Foundry was Mrs. Hughes, widow of the late Mr A A Hughes, a churchwarden of St. Botolph.

Source: Keith Barber; *Ringing world* March 17, 1944 p 112 and November 25, 1966 p 770