

KILBURN

In 1877 the order came from John Nicholas, 25 Priory Road, Kilburn to Mears & Stainbank for a single bell, 1cwt 1qr 6¾ lbs., 18 ins. diameter and with lever, for the temporary church. The present tower in Normandy Gothic style is crowned by a spire to 254 ft high, completed in 1898.

All eight bells are listed, even the 1922 casting by Taylors of Loughborough on account of being an exact replica. It was proudly stated that these bells are one of only two rings of bells cast in the same year by Van Aerschodt, hung for full circle ringing, hung on small wheels and having short handstrokes.

After the dedication on St. Augustine's Day, May 26th in 1900 the opening peal was rung by the Ancient Society of College Youths of Stedman Triples. Stedman Triples (Thurstans' Four-Part) was chosen to be rung on Whit Monday June 1st, 1914 in two hours fifty-four minutes by members of the Middlesex County Association:- William J Nudds, William Pye - conductor, Alfred W Grimes, Isaac G Shade, John H B Hesse, Reuben Sanders, Charles T Coles and William H Theobald. It was rung with the bells half muffled as a token of respect to the late Charles Crews, of Portland Square, donor of the bells and for many years Churchwarden.

On Coronation Day of His Majesty King George VI the ringing began at 6 a.m. and to synchronise with the floodlighting of the steeple in the evening a quarter peal was rung of 1260 changes of Grandsire Triples. Afterwards a royal salute of 21 'shots' was fired.

Source: *Guide to St. Augustine's Kilburn*, (n.d.); Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; Jenny Robinson; Christopher J Pickford; David Dearnley - peal records; *Bell news and ringers' record* June 2, 1900 p 55; *Ringing world* June 4, 1937 p 375; Association records.