

## ISLINGTON, ST MARY

In 1751 the ancient church had to be pulled down but demolition of the tower of flint and rubble proved more difficult. Gunpowder proved to be unsuccessful so other methods had to be resorted to. The 'surveyor' Lancelot Dowbiggin, a Master Joiner, died 1759 and was buried in the churchyard. There are architectural decorations above the square brick tower which culminates in a stone spire. Access up the tower is by a timber, spiral staircase in the north-east corner.

There were six bells here in 1708. Upon these bells in 1734 William Laughton and the Rambling Ringers rang a funeral peal for William Ibbott - two lengths of Grandsire and 720 Plain Bob. It was the earliest muffled ringing of which there is any record.

The Cumberland Youths rang the opening peal of Bob Major on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1775. The next day the College Youths rang a peal of Oxford Treble Bob. For the period from 1789 to 1828 the peals were rung exclusively by the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths including the method Imperial Place Major produced by William Shipway and rung in 1802. All the bells plain hunt except that immediately before and after passing the treble a place is made: there is no dodging.

Source: Tom Hornsby, *St Mary Islington Parish Church* compiled 1970, pp 9 and 10; Roger Booth, MCI OB., MBIM *Report on a Survey of the Bells*, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1987; H B Walters, manuscript; *Ringling World* November 22, 1940 p 559 and August 4, 1944 p 329.