

## STEPNEY. Sources

19-4-1854 Parish of Stepney 4-1-14 Dead stock. Doesn't say where. WBF DB 69

3-6-1903 Rev A E Dalton of Stepney (assume St Dunstan as it speaks of ten bells) ordered a chiming apparatus, the gift of Miss Charrington WBF DB 202/97

Ten bells 31 cwt in 1807. *Bell founding from the Armada to the Great War*.

[Full details of measurements and weights] WBF DB 215/97

December 1952. 10 bells rehung in new fittings in new bell frame. Per R W Bowman Ltd. 13 Dempsey St E.1 WBF DB 240/97

Square battlemented tower with a pinnacle at each corner. C Hibbert *London's churches* p. 177

Richard de Wymbisshe cast a bell for Holy Trinity Priory in 1312. J. A. Trollope *Ringing world* March 17 1944 p. 112.

I am able to say what became of the bells in most of the larger monastic churches of London. Those of the Priory of the Holy Trinity at Aldgate were sold; four went to Stepney parish church (where some of the metal probably still is). J.A. Trollope *Bells and the Reformation*. *Ringing world* April 7 1944 p. 144.

The tower dates from the late fifteenth century... When the great Priory of the Holy Trinity Aldgate was dissolved in 1540 four of its bells were sold to Stepney. The present tenor has an inscription containing 188 words and 518 letters, recording its history. Originally given to the Priory by a Nicholas Chadworth in 1386, it was recast in 1604, 1764, 1799, and finally in 1806. Another casting not mentioned took place in 1899. ...at the end of the sixteenth century there was a heavy ring of five bells. J A Trollope *Ringing world* May 8<sup>th</sup> 1942 p. 215

Nine years later [i.e. 1806] the present ring was cast at the Whitechapel foundry, As the old tenor weighed 49 cwt and the new one 31 cwt, it is probable that no new metal was needed for the extra bells, and that there is today in Stepney steeple the metal of the bells that hung in the Priory of the Holy Trinity in Aldgate in the fourteenth century. J A Trollope *Ringing world* May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1942 p. 236

Number of bells increased to six during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and by 1734 had been augmented to eight when the Rambling Ringers visited with John Hayward and Thomas Clark ringing the tenor of 49 cwt. On September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1734 the College Youths rang the first peal in the steeple taking three hours and 39 minutes of Bob Major when again two men rang the tenor – John Cundell and John Trenell.

[Source?]

In 1806 the stucco was removed; so were the porches and the brick battlements. The little clock turret remained on the tower. Elizabeth & Wayland Young *London churches* 1986 p.90.

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| Treble | 7-0-20  |
| 2      | 7-1-7   |
| 3      | 7=2=12  |
| 4      | 8-1-14  |
| 5      | 9-0-26  |
| 6      | 11-2-6  |
| 7      | 13-3-27 |
| 8      | 17-0-16 |
| 9      | 23-2-16 |
| 10     | 31-1-7  |

All cast by T Mears & Son in 1897 [sic?]. *Among the bells* p. 26.

Consecrated 13<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> centuries

The fabric of the church underwent a dramatic restoration in 1808. After the Second World War the upper stage of the tower had to be taken down and rebuilt, and the corner pinnacles replaced. Gordon Barnes *Stepney churches: an historical account* 1967

Sir Thomas Audley inscribed on the late tenor of St Dunstan. He sold tenor and three other bells from the Priory of the Holy Trinity, Duke's Place Aldgate to St Dunstan Stepney c. 1540. J. R. Jerram.

Tower rebuilt late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Benjamin Ferrrey restored church 1847.

Newman & Billing did work 1872

Basil Champneys restoration work in 1885

Hugh Easton new window in 1952

Basil F. L. Clarke *Parish churches of London* 1966

Ten bells cast 1806 to replace a heavy ring of 8. The tenor was originally given to the Priory of Holy Trinity Aldgate in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and was sold with three others to St Dunstan Stepney about 1540. The upper part of the tower had to be rebuilt after damage by bomb blast in the Second World War, *Ringing world* December 19 1952 p. 809.

Junior Cumberland Society February 1<sup>st</sup> 1824. 5075 Grandsire Caters in 3h 30m.

Peter Hall, William Williams conductor, Benjamin Merrin, James Blacklock, Samuel Austin, John Merrin, John Harris, Thomas Betts, Stephen Wedge, Richard Haisell.

Rev T Barneby B.A., Rector. Messrs M Easum, I Williams, L Jolly, T Windle Churchwardens.

Peal board.

Junior Society of Cumberland Youths March 8 1807. Ten members of the Society rang on these bells the first complete Peal of Grandsire Cater, consisting of 5039 changes in 3 hours and 15 minutes.

Mr Thomas Ovenden, John Noonan, Joshua Ladley, William Williams, William Makee, John Haynes, James Blacklock, Francis Mathew, Peal composed and called by John Noonan.

G Harper B.D., Rector, Matthew Easum, Robert Turner, William Wade, William Thompson, George Everitt Churchwardens. **Peal board? Entry in *Bell news* vol. 29 p. 374 does not list ringers.**

|        |         |        |      |                   |
|--------|---------|--------|------|-------------------|
| Tenor  | 28-3-0  | D flat | 1806 | Thos. Mears & Son |
| 9      | 21-0-0  | E flat | 1806 | Thos. Mears & Son |
| 8      | 17-1-26 | F      | 1952 | Mears & Stainbank |
| 7      | 13-1-0  | G flat | 1806 | Thos. Mears & Son |
| 6      | 10-3-0  | A flat | 1806 | Thos. Mears & Son |
| 5      | 8-0-0   | B flat | 1806 | Thos. Mears & Son |
| 4      | 8-1-27  | C      | 1952 | Mears & Stainbank |
| 3      | 7-0-0   | D flat | 1806 | Thos. Mears & Son |
| 2      | 7-0-0   | E flat | 1806 | Thos. Mears & Son |
| Treble | 6-2-0   | F      | 1952 | Mears & Stainbank |

The treble, 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> bells were // recast and the peals hung in new // framework and fittings A D 1952 // The Whitechapel Bell Foundry // London

From notice board in tower. Noted 14.3.1987.

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| Tenor  | 56 ½"   |
| 9      | 50 7/8" |
| 8      | 45 ¾"   |
| 7      | 43"     |
| 6      | 41"     |
| 5      | 37"     |
| 4      | 34 5/8" |
| 3      | 32 ½"   |
| 2      | 32 1/8" |
| Treble | 30"     |

Inscription on all the bells – check with Tower Captain – but details of the tenor are given:

Shoulder: The Late Tenor weight 49 cwts was given to the Priory of the Holy Trinity Duke's Place Aldgate by Nicholas Chadworth

1<sup>st</sup> line Renewed by Thos Marson 1386, was sold with 3 others by Sir Thomas Audley to the Parish of St Dunstan's Stepney.

2<sup>nd</sup> line

MCALDG *Stepney Branch newsletter* [Which issue?]

All slips scanned except two. Those two scanned to PDF as STEPNEY-S-2 Copies in suspension file.  
PN 2021

The following text taken from Walter C Pepys and Ernest Godman, 'Registers, vestry records and church fittings', in *Survey of London Monograph 6, St Dunstan's Church, Stepney* (London, 1905), pp. 48-56. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/bk6/pp48-56> [accessed 18 February 2021].

## THE BELLS.

There is a peal of 10 bells, hung in the Belfry, inscribed as follows: (fn. 3)

### *Tenor.*

The late tenor, wt. 49 cwts, was given to the Priory of the Holy Trinity, Dukes Place, Aldgate, by Nicholas Chadworth, and renewed by Thomas Marson 1386, was sold with three others by Sir Thomas Audley to the Parish of St. Dunstan's, Stepney, about the year 1540—recast 1602, 1764, & 1799. The late peal of 8 bells were recast into 10, by Thos. Mears & Son 1806, in the presence of George Harper, D.D., Rector; Revd. Thos. Thirlwell, Lecturer; Mr. Mattw. Easum, Robt. Turner, Wm. Wade, Wm. Thompson, Geo. Everitt, Church Wardens; Jno. Curtis, Esq.; Jno. Edwards, Esq.; Jeremh. Snow, Esq.; Ths. Paulin, Esq.; Mr. Jas. Barnfield; Wm. Simons; Mattw. Warton, Surveyor; Jno. Salter, Vestry Clerk.

### *Ninth.*

To the honour of Sir. Chas. Wager Knt., First Lord of the Admiralty 1729, Patron of the Stepney or Cockney's Feast, instituted at Ratcliff in the year 1674, and discontinued 1784. John Matthews, Esq., Treasurer, T. Mears & Sons fecit. 1806.

### *Eighth.*

To the honour of the Volunteers of the Parish of St. Dunstan, Stepney—The Ratcliff Corps commanded by John Boulcott, Esq., Major. The M. E. O. T. by Wm. Thompson, Esq., Lt. Col., Poplar & Blackwall by John Walls, Esq., Lt. Col., 1806.

### *Seventh.*

The following inscription was upon the 6th Bell of the late Peal: Virginis Egregiar Vocor Campana Mariæ 1603 T. Mears & Son fecit, 1806

### *Sixth.*

To the pious memory of Mrs. Prisca Coborn, a liberal benefactress to the Seamen's widows of this Parish. T. Mears & Son fecit, 1806.

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Fifth. Fourth. Third. Second.</i> | (Same inscription on each bell)<br>Geo. Harper, D. D., Rector. Matt. Eason, Robt. Turner, Wm. Wade, Wm. Thompson, Geo. Everitt, Ch. Wardens. T. Mears & Son, Whitechapel fecit, 1806 |
|--------------------------------------|--|

*Treble.* Geo. Harper, D.D., Rector. Matt. Eason, Robt. Turner, Wm. Wade, Wm. Thompson, Geo. Everitt, Ch Wardens. T. Mears & Son, of London, fecit—1806

Particulars of the Bells from the old books at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, from Messrs. Mears & Sons' old records:—

|       | <i>Diameter.</i> |                                | <i>Weight.</i> |     |      |
|-------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----|------|
|       | Ft.              | in.                            | Cwt.           | qr. | lbs. |
| Tenor | 4                | 8 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  | 31             | 1   | 7    |
| 9th   | 4                | 2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  | 23             | 2   | 16   |
| 8th   | 3                | 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> | 17             | 0   | 16   |
| 7th   | 3                | 7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>  | 13             | 3   | 27   |
| 6th   | 3                | 4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>  | 11             | 2   | 6    |

|        |   |            |     |   |    |
|--------|---|------------|-----|---|----|
| 5th    | 3 | 1          | 9   | 0 | 26 |
| 4th    | 2 | 11         | 8   | 1 | 14 |
| 3rd    | 2 | 9½         | 7   | 2 | 12 |
| 2nd    | 2 | 8½         | 7   | 1 | 7  |
| Treble | 2 | 7          | 7   | 0 | 20 |
|        |   | Total Cwt. | 137 | 1 | 11 |