

DALSTON

With its 100 feet high brick tower begun in 1877, St. Mark's is known locally as "the cathedral of the East End". It has a turret barometer and a Victorian carillon, complete with several different cylinders with little spikes all over them, like an old-fashioned musical box.

The first peal on the bells took place December 17th, 1927 of 5056 changes of Cambridge Surprise Major in three hours twelve minutes rung by members of the Middlesex County Association:- William J Nudds, George R Pye, Charles T Coles, William R Madgwick, James E Davis, James Bennett, James George, William Pye - conductor, composition by Charles Middleton.

The bells fell into disuse, due to very little maintenance. They were patched up from time to time from approximately the 1960's, until it was made known that The Rt. Revd. Richard Chartres, Bishop of Stepney had been appointed Bishop of London and he wanted his farewell service to the Stepney area to be held at St. Mark's. Much time and effort was spent by the volunteers who had to overcome many obstacles but they succeeded in ringing the bells for the special service on November 26th, 1995 and for following festivals.

Source: Basil F L Clarke, *Parish churches of London* 1966, p 67; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; *Ringing World* April 29, 1996 p 433; Association records.