

TOTTENHAM

The 14th century tower is of four stages, the fourth stage being of 18th century brickwork with battlements.

The great bell, before it was recast in 1612, was inscribed *Robertus Bacar et Christina uxor eius me fieri fecerunt in honorem beatae Mariae Virginis*. There were five bells here by 1631 and in 1696 they were recast and a sixth bell added. Two trebles were added in 1881 in recognition of the work of Prebendary Alex Wilson.

The vestry or saints' bell, originally from France, is supposed to contain a considerable portion of silver in its composition. This bell was used as the alarm bell of the French garrison of Quebec and was taken at the siege of that place by General Townsend, by some drunken sailors before the alarm could be given. Humphrey Jackson, Esq., MD., FRS., for many years an inhabitant of the parish, gave the bell to All Hallows in 1801, and apart from being lowered into the church for safety in 1941, has been rung for daily services.

One of the late 19th century peal boards records that members of the All Hallows Tottenham and St. James's Societies rang a peal of 5151 Grandsire Major in three hours ten minutes the ringers being:- Thomas C Grove, James Langran, Junr., Samuel Geo Bower, Joseph Waghorn, Junr. - the conductor, George B Lucas, Joseph Waghorn, Henry A Barnett and William Pye English. Alex Wilson was the Vicar and the Churchwardens were Samuel Fisher and R R Chapman

Source: Nikolaus Pevsner, *Buildings of England: Middlesex* 1951, p 155; H B Walters, manuscript; Stephen Coley; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; Association records.