

CITY, HART STREET

The Edwardian Commissioners reported, “iiij greate beles and a Saunce bell” in 1552, survived until 1662 when they were recast into five by Anthony Bartlet, the tenor inscribed with the names of Wm Garfeild and Wm Arnold, Churchwardens, augmented to six by James Bartlet in 1694 when The Revd. Thomas Copping was Rector.

After the top of the tower had been reconstructed in 1732, William Cole was paid £20 to rehang the bells in a new frame.

The octave was completed by the addition of two new trebles by Mears & Stainbank in 1929, the gift of Alderman Sir Charles Wakefield, Bart., at the time when the Revd. Tom Wellard was the Rector, D O Kerr and F H D Mann the Churchwardens.

Miss R Elms rang here. She became the first lady ordinary ringing member of the Association in the City of London in 1927.

In the third aerial attack in May 1941 the tower became a roaring furnace which brought down the bells in a molten mass. The metal salvaged was used in the new bells which were hung in a cast iron frame on a steel girder foundation.

St. Olave became the headquarters of The University of London Society of Change Ringers. At the time when St. Olave was being rebuilt, Mr. Albert A Hughes, J.P., of Messrs. Mears & Stainbank negotiated with the Rector for the bells to be replaced and for Sunday service ringing be provided by the Society during term time. Mr. Hughes conducted three courses of Stedman Triples on Christmas morning in 1953.

Source: Reverend A Powell Miller, T D., Rector 1943-59, *A short guide to the church of St. Olave, Hart Street City of London*; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; H B Walters, manuscript; ULSCR *Annual Report* 1963-4; Christopher J Pickford and Robin Churchill, *Ringing world* July 25, 1975 pp 601-2; Association records.