

ISLINGTON St Mary. Sources

There was a ring of six bells here in the eighteenth century, which were recast in 1774 and augmented to eight by W Chapman. The tower and bells survived the Second World War. *Ringling world* August 4th 1944 p. 329.

1775. Cumberlands rang Bob Major: First peal on the bells. [Names not given]. *Bell news & ringers' record* May 10th 1884 p. 65.

8 bells 16 cwt in 1775. *Bell founding from the Armada to the Great War*.

The tower of 1751 survived bombing in the 2nd World War. Tower square octagonal balustrade open circle of columns conical dome and rusticated obelisk spire. C Hibbert *London's churches* pp. 147-8

Middle of 15th century... The new church with battlemented north-west tower with a little bell cupola on top. New church 3-stage square brick tower with stone quoins, topped with an octagonal balustrade and 4 corner urns. There is an open stage with rusticated colonettes on an octagonal base, followed by a conical bulging dome with large openings, topped with an obelisk. Portland stone used for upper stages. Mervyn Blatch *A guide to London's churches*.

1	30 ½"	5-1-2
2	32"	5-3-24
3	33 ½"	6-3-3
4	35 ½"	7-2-23
5	36 ½"	8-2-1
6	39"	9-3-3
7	42 ½"	12-1-16
8	46 ½"	16-1-26 in E

Six bells here in 1708. H B Walters manuscript. VP: My notes S of A 19-3-96-4

New church begun 1751 and opened 1754. Lancelot Dowbiggin architect, citizen and joyner of London died 1759 aged 70 and is buried here. Samuel Steemson builder. B F C Clark *Parish churches of London* pp. 86-87.

War damaged churches. *Ringling world* November 22nd 1940 p. 559. [Copy in suspension file](#)

St Mary's Islington. *Ringling world* August 4th 1944 p. 329. [Copy in suspension file](#)

Wednesday March 16th 1813. Society of Cumberland Youths. 5040 Grandsire Tripples in 3h 6m. William Chaplin, Richard Bates, James Polley, Thomas Harris, Tc Fruth, William Williams, William Shipway, SI Smith, called by W Williams. William Heath [Vicar?] Thomas Griffith John Tibbut Churchwardens. J R Jerram's notes.

1

ALTHOUGH I AM BUT LIGHT AND SMALL: I WILL BE
HEARD ABOVE YOU ALL. THOMAS MEARS & SON
OF LONDON FECIT 1808

2

AT PROPER TIMES OUR VOICES WE WILL RAISE
IN SOUNDING TO OUR BENEFACTORS PRAISE
THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT 1808

3

IF YOU HAVE A JUDICIOUS EAR: YOU'LL OWN MY
VOICE IS SWEET & CLEAR
THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT 1808

4

TO HONOUR BOTH OF GOD AND KING: OUR
VOICES SHALL IN CONCERT RING. THOMAS MEARS
& SON OF LONDON FECIT 1808

5

WHILST THUS WE JOIN IN CHEERFUL SOUND:
MAY LOVE AND LOYALTY ABOUND. THOMAS MEARS
& SON OF LONDON FECIT 1808

6

IN WEDLOCKS BANDS ALL YE WHO JOIN WITH
HANDS YOUR HEARTS UNITE: SO SHALL OUR TUNEFUL
TONGUES COMBINE TO LAUD THE NUPTIAL RITE
THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT 1808

7

YE RINGERS ALL WHO PRIZE YOUR HEALTH
AND HAPPINESS: BE SOBER MERRY WISE AND
YOU'LL THE SAME POSSESS. THOMAS MEARS & SON
OF LONDON FECIT 1808

8

CAST 1808. PRESENT EDWARD FLOWER CHURCH
WARDEN THOMAS WHITMORE JOHN BLOUNT EDWARD
MANTON. THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT

The tenor has been recast since the rest, and weighs 16 cwt. J R Jerram *Church bells of the City of London and the suburbs*. 1902. [Serious query dates and founders]

1	28"	5-1-25	F*	Although I am but light and small // I will be heard above you all
2	30"	5-3-23	G*	At proper times our voices we will raise // In sounding to our benefactors praise
3	32"	6-3-3	A*	If you have a judicious ear // You'll own our voices sweet and clear
4	34"	7-2-23	B flat*	To honour both our God and King // Our voices shall in concert <u>sing</u> [sic]
5	36"	8-2-11	C*	Whilst thus we join in cheerful sound // May love and loyalty abound
6	38"	9-3-3	D*	In wedlock's bands all ye who join // With <u>hand</u> [sic] your <u>heart</u> [sic] unite // So shall our tuneful tongues combine // To laud the <u>mystical</u> [sic] rite
7	41"	12-1-16	E*	Ye ringers all that prize your health and happiness // Be sober, merry, wise and you'll the same possess
8	46 ½"	16-1-26	F*	Cast 1808. Present Flower, Churchwarden // Thomas Whittamore, John Blaunt, Edward Manton // Thomas Mears & Son, of London, Fecit

* Error: More than one source, like this one, gives notes in reverse order

Report to church by Roger Booth, Bell Restoration Officer of the London County Association, 2/11/1987.

Bells 1 – 7 inclusive by William Chapman 1775

1	28"	5-1-21	
2	29 5/8"	5-3-20	
3	32"	6-3-3	
4	33 11/16"	7-2-23	
5	35 1/2"	8-2-1	Cracked
6	37 3/4"	9-3-3	Cracked. All [??] by Pack & Chapman in 1774.
7	41 11/16"	12-1-16	T Mears I in 1799 [but compare headnote] Cracked
8	46 11/16"	16-1-26	T Mears & Son 1808.

Schedule of bells

Before 1751 the tower had six bells: the tower proved to be a tricky task during demolition and gunpowder had to be used. "In the new spire-topped tower there was now appeal of eight bells, six from the old church recast and two smaller ones paid for by public subscription". "£210 spent on the bells". Sonia Roberts *The story of Islington*.1975.

All slips transcribed. PN 2020.