

## HOLLOWAY, ST MARY MAGDALENE

Consecrated in 1814 as the chapel of ease to St Mary, Islington, it became the parish church of St Mary Magdalene in 1894. The brick tower, built unusually at the east end of the church, was finished with a stone balustrade and a small urn at each corner. Staircases to the north and south of the tower give access to the ringing chamber.

The bells were opened in November 1879 by parochial ringers. One of the peals rung on these bells took place on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1912 of 5040 changes of Grandsire Triples, Parker's Twelve-Part by eight members of the Middlesex County Association in three hours four minutes by: Walter Darlington, Ernest Brett, Arthur W Barkus, Charles G Jane, William Bottrill, Cornelius Charge, George Charge and Alfred Crane who were members of the Metropolitan Police Force. The peal is believed to be the first ever rung by a band of policemen.

When the 1991 restoration took place the band wished to associate the name of Frank Akers who rang here from the 1920's. Frank was one of the founder members of the National Police Guild formed on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1931 at Leicester. Frank's widow continued to be a stalwart member of the band.

Source: Mervyn Blatch, *A guide to London's churches* 1979, p 341; Whitechapel Bell Foundry records; Peter Sippitt; Denis Hall, *Family tree magazine* Volume 6, No 7, p 39; *Ringing World* April 9 1965 p 255 and July 19 1991 p 689; Association records;