

CITY, SMITHFIELD

Each bell retains its cannons. The bells are hung on ball bearings on one level. A great quantity of timber used for the construction of the frame which does not conform to the modern meaning of an 'A' or 'H' type. The frame is pegged and it is believed to date from 1628 when the tower was built. In present times the tower louvres are blocked up on the south and west sides and only the hour is struck on the clock in consideration for the occupants of St. Bartholomew's Hospital next door. In July 1891 the bell fittings were repaired by J. Warner & Sons and put into ringing order. This firm also installed a chiming apparatus which was included in an inventory of 1906 but does not now exist. The bells were rehung by Mears & Stainbank in 1953.

This is the only complete ring of pre-Reformation bells in the London Diocese cast by one founder still in service. Not only are the bells rung in full circle but is the only tower in the Diocese where they are rung anti-clockwise in service. The numbers on the face of the clock in the ringing chamber are also anti-clockwise.

Most dictated by Steve 11.11.2004-11-12 Internal entrance, stone staircase in the west walls of the church, this leads up to the landing of the west end where the organ console, turn right through the metal door in the tower. The cramped ringing room is on the first floor of the tower shared by electric organ blower.

Access to the bells is via a long wooden ladder in the middle of the ringing room, going to a central trap door, a switchback staircase on the east wall of the tower. One of the bells swings 45 degrees to those of the others. The short wooden frame of unique design bearing the date of the bells.