

ISLINGTON, ST JAMES

On the south side of this church is the 10 ft x 10 ft tower with spire. The original bells were donated by Baroness Burdett-Coutts, an Honorary Member of Council of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, at that time the patrons of the living. The six bells were cast by John Warner & Sons, Spitalfields, London in 1875. Records show:-

| | Weight | Diameter |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| Treble | 3-3-0 | 25ins |
| 2 nd | 4-0-0 | 26ins |
| 3 rd | 4-1-0 | 27½ins |
| 4 th | 5-0-0 | 28ins |
| 5 th | 5-3-0 | 31ins |
| Tenor | 7-1-0 | 34ins in B flat |

These bells were sold to the parish church of Whittington, near Lichfield, Staffordshire.

The ringing room was occupied by the clock, many wires and chiming ropes. The removal of the Thwaites and Reed 3-train, flat-bed clock of 1875 made the chamber more spacious. The bells were placed high in the tower. Ringing the bells was very noisy as they were only 13 ft above the ringers.

A bell-shaped board commemorates 720 changes of Plain Bob Minor, rung in October, 1907. The first peal, of 5040 changes of Minor, was rung on Saturday September 27th, 1902, by members of the Middlesex County Association: Frederick G Symonds, Harry Miller, John E Miller, William Pickworth, Frank C Newman, Sidney Wade - conductor.

The new bells arrived from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry on the 15th August, 1989 and were blessed by the Vicar, the Revd Geoffrey Marlow. Voluntary labour assisted the Foundry in the dismantling and preparation for the installation of the new bells.

Source: Basil F L Clarke, *Parish Churches of London* 1966. p 97; *Ringing World* September 29, 1989 pp 874 and 892; Association records