



KCACR Rochester District & Friends
Tower Outing
Saturday 20th May 2017



Organiser: Doug Davis (07732 368270)

10.00 – 11.00 Stepney, St. Dunstan
Stepney High Street (E1 0NR)

10, 28³/₄cwt in Db
(T)

St Dunstan's present 10 bells were cast in 1806 by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Three were recast in 1952 (treble, 4th & 8th), when all were rehung in a new frame. But Stepney's bells go much further back in history to the nursery rhyme 'Oranges and Lemons', with the line 'Pray, when will that be, say the bells of Stepney'! Prior to 1806 it was believed that the tenor weight was close to 49cwt, and at one point it 'fell to the floor'.



12.00 – 12.45 Christ Church, Spitalfields
Commercial Street (E1 6QQ)

8, 17-1-6 in E
(T)

In 1734 a ring of 8 bells with a tenor of around 44cwt were installed here, and these were augmented to 10 in 1786/87. In 1802 another two trebles were added to make a ring of 12, but in 1836 a fire ripped through the building and damaged both tower & bells. Soon afterwards a new ring of 8 with a tenor of around 33¹/₂cwt were cast and hung, and these continued to be rung up until the 1920's at which point they fell into disrepair. In 1970 a ring of bells from Clapham Park became available and were transferred to Spitalfields and hung in a new frame by Taylor's.



13.00 – 14.15 Lunch – The Hoop & Grapes
47 Aldgate High Street (EC3N 1AL)

2.30 – 3.15 St. Olave, Hart Street
(EC2V 6HH)

8, 11-3-23 in G

St. Olave's is the home tower of the University of London Society of Change Ringers (ULSCR) where they practice on a Thursday evening. The original ring of 8 bells were destroyed during the 2nd World War, the current ring being installed during 1953 and rung for the first time on Christmas Day. Much of the church fabric did however survive the bombing, making St. Olave's a rare example of a mediaeval church from before the Great Fire of London in 1666. The tenor had to be recast by Whitechapel in 1972 as it had become cracked.



3.45 – 4.30 **St. James Garlickhythe**
Garlick Hill (EC4V 2AF)

8, 9-1-25 in G#
(T)

For those of you who came on the District Outing in 2014, you will know that we were unlucky to miss out on ringing here due to a sheared gudgeon on the 7th bell. Fingers crossed nothing untoward happens this time to stop us!

The bells of St. James Garlickhythe were cast in 2012 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, and hence are named 'The Royal Jubilee Bells'. They were first hung for ringing on a barge which led the pageant along the River Thames on 3rd June 2012 and were transferred to the tower here afterwards. Each bell is named after a member of the Royal Family, the tenor of course being named Elizabeth II R.



5.00– 5.45 **St. Clement Danes**
The Strand (WC2R 1BL)

10, 21-1-23 in E
(T)

As early as 1693 there were 8 bells in the tower here. By 1844 they had been augmented to 10, but like many other churches in London major damage was sustained during bombing in WW2 and the bells were destroyed. The current ring of 10 were cast in 1955 by Whitechapel and hung lower in the tower, whilst at the same time the ringing chamber was moved up to the level below the bells. In 1979 the tenor was recast after it was damaged when it was rung after the tolling hammer had been interfered with. The most recent work to the bells was in 2004 when all bearings, runner boards and pulleys were replaced and 4 of the clappers had their tops refitted by Whitechapel.

