



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News



(Produced fortnightly by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas. All contributions are welcome.)

Monday 17th October 2011

For this edition only, I'm including an extra page in this newsletter to include more photographs of the London Ringing Tour which took place on Saturday. It was such an excellent day – so well organized and with such brilliant weather, I thought it would warrant a 'supplement'. The next edition will be back to 'normal!' *Paul Lucas.*



St Giles update.

This press cutting was found recently by **Brian White** among his late Uncle Frank's papers. It shows the two trebles from St Giles, and must date from around 1927, when those two bells were cast and installed in the tower. The full inscription on the treble is: **Venite Exultemus Domino. / D.D. Henricus Wylie Hughes. / 1927;** and on the second: **Te Deum Laudamus / 1927.** Whites have recently reported that the weight of the tenor bell is now 14cwt 0qtr 1lb (21 lbs less than before it was tuned).

They have told us at St Giles that they intend to return the bells on the morning of Monday 7th November, and hope to have the bells ready to be rung on Sunday 13 November, before the open-air Remembrance Day service. *John Pusey.*



Iffley Branch Practice on Saturday 8th October.

Iffley residents had a treat this morning as the bells at **St Mary the Virgin (6)** 10cwt, rang out well struck minor methods. Eleven branch members were joined by Alison from North Leigh and Dave from Swindon, who helped to ring Norwich, Double Oxford, Double Bob, Kent, Cambridge, Single Oxford and Little Bob... among others! *Susan King.*

Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam on 07899-871079, or email: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](mailto:hugh.deam@btinternet.com)

- Saturday 5th November** 8 Bell Practice at Woodstock (8) 12cwt. 10.30am-11.45am
(Stedman Triples/Cambridge Major Practice shared with Witney & Woodstock Branch)
- Saturday 19th November** Branch AGM at Wolvercote (6) 8cwt. From 3.30pm onwards
- Saturday 3rd December** 10 Bell Practice at St Mary Magdalen (10) 7cwt. 6.30pm-7.45pm

Local Practice Nights:

- Mondays:** Cowley (6) (7.30-9.00), Garsington (6), (8.00-9.00), St Aldates (6) (2nd/4th week only).
- Tuesdays:** Headington (8), Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).
- Wednesdays:** Iffley (6).
- Thursdays:** Wolvercote (6), St Giles (8) (out of action until November), Stanton St John (5).
- Fridays:** Old Marston (6), Wheatley (6), North Hinksey (6) (6.45-7.45)

For full details go to the Oxford City Branch website: www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk

City of London London Ringing Tour – 15th October 2011

- St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside (12)** 41-3-21 (pictured)
- St Katherine Cree, Leadenhall Street. (6)** 9-3-18
- St Botolph, Aldgate High Street. (8)** 25-0-7
- St Botolph, Bishopsgate. (8)** 17-1-6
- Christ Church, Spitalfields. (8)** 17-1-10
- St Matthew, Bethnal Green. (8)** 13-3-23

What a successful outing on a perfect day of pure Autumn sunshine and a crisp blue cloudless sky. Twenty nine of us hit London for adventure...

Firstly we dropped into **St Mary-le-Bow** (a ring of 12 with 35ft draft). Thanks to Leon Thompson's hard work, we were ringing these famous bells which if heard at ones birth designate 'Cockney'! A very historic church designed by Sir Christopher Wren, destroyed by the Great Fire, then bombed in World War 2. Here the more experienced ringers rang Stedman Cinques with the great Tenor behind – the 41cwt bell that is tricky to handle. We were bemused watching the strong ringers ring it up, trying to stand it and to ring down! Walking the East London streets we came to **St Katherine Cree** with the only ringing at ground level in London. The church has no parish but dedicates its ministry to the world of finance. It has a beautiful interior, a long history escaping both the Great Fire and the Blitz.





St Katherine Cree

Ringers found the newly restored bells good to ring. A nondescript lunch at **the Crosse Keys** then more walking of London streets to the two churches of **St Botolph**, a Saxon Saint - one at **Aldgate** and one at **Bishopgate**. The bells at **Aldgate** are tuned to an old concert pitch. Both sets of bells were 'a bit of a challenge' - difficult - especially the tenors. Both towers moved as had St Mary-le-Bow. But at **Bishopgate** the movement was easily seen, with the crack between the tower and the church caused by damage from an IRA bomb. Next we moved onto the refurbished bells and new bell frame at **Christ Church Spitalfields**. Comments were unanimous 'beautiful to ring', 'a deep rich tenor', 'a great sound', 'absolutely lovely'. Finally after a very interesting long walk through the ethnic Bangladeshi street markets in Brick Lane, we arrived at **St Matthew's Bethnal Green** (a ring of 8 with a 25ft draft). Here a successful touch of Eight Spliced was rung. This is a standard ring for accomplished ringers, but they all seemed very pleased. A beautiful day... the excitement of ringing in new locations and a day of camaraderie of the greatest cities in the world. Thanks to all who organized such an impressive itinerary - especially Leon Thompson! *Margaret Marsh*

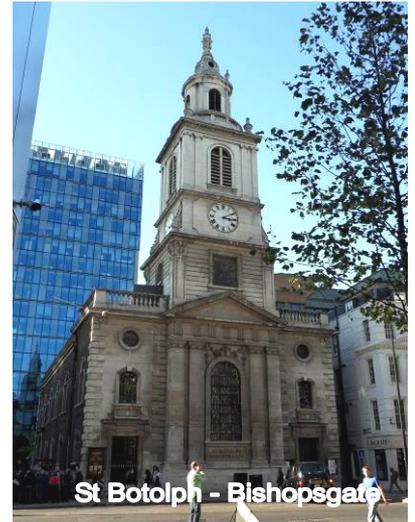


The Crosse Keys

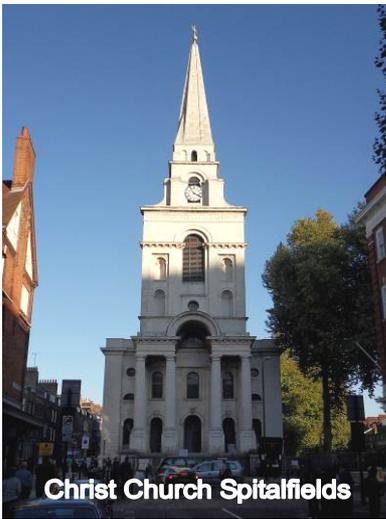
and positive experiences in one of the greatest cities in the world. Thanks to all who organized such an impressive itinerary - especially Leon Thompson! *Margaret Marsh*



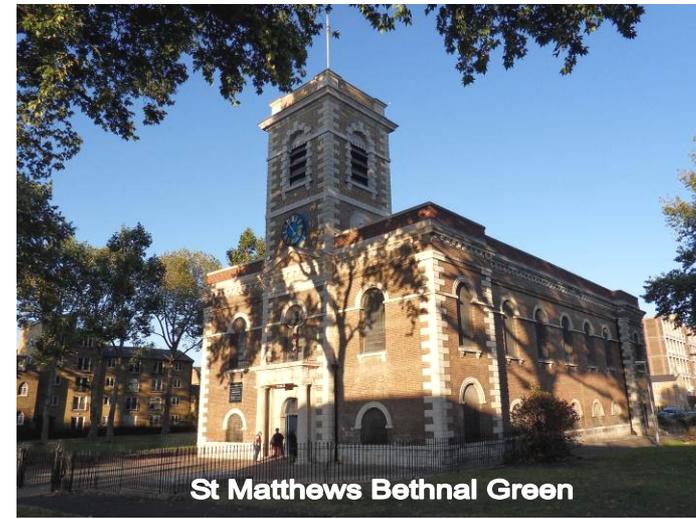
St Botolph - Aldgate



St Botolph - Bishopgate



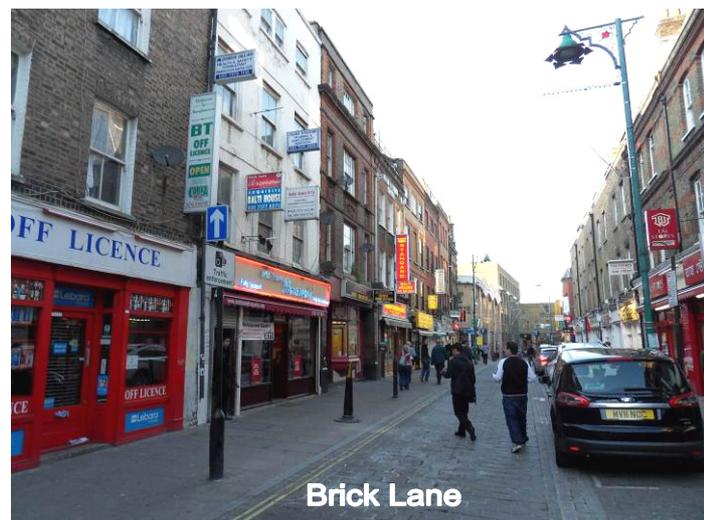
Christ Church Spitalfields



St Matthews Bethnal Green



Leadenhall Market



Brick Lane

Any information or photographs for inclusion in *Hugh's News* please email me: paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk