

Bells of St Magnus consecrated

Tuesday, 3rd March saw the consecration of the first new ring of 12 bells in the City of London since the bomb-damaged bells at St Mary-le-Bow were replaced in 1956.

At 5.30pm the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres presided over a solemn High Church service at St Magnus-the-Martyr, Lower Thames Street, that harked back to the Middle Ages.

The 26cwt ring was consecrated in an elaborate ritual that was founded on the



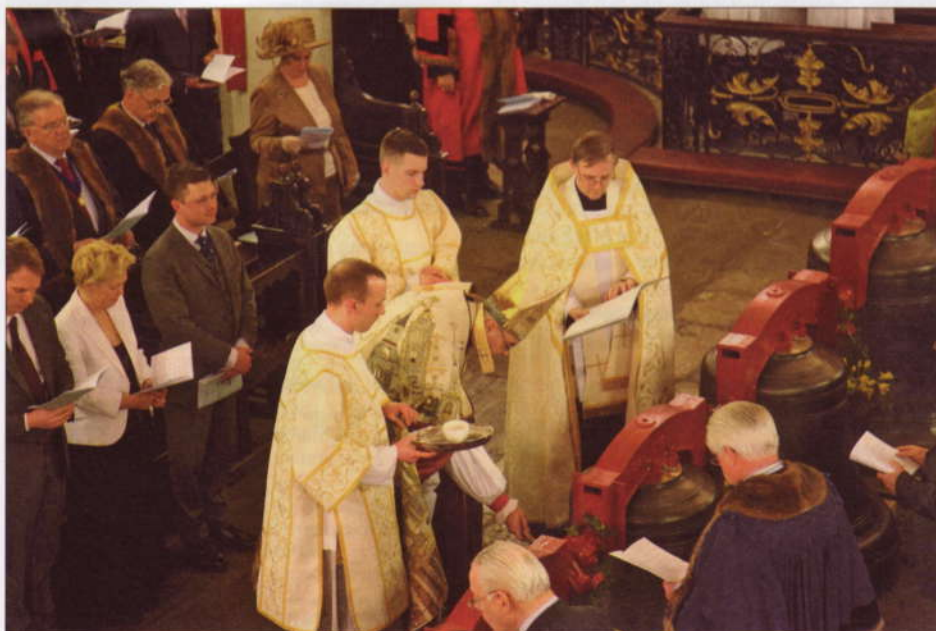
The Bishop of London with Tower Master Dickon Love and Parish Priest Fr Philip Warner



(photo by Chris O'Neill)

pontifical blessings of the old Roman service books, It incorporated five stages: washing, anointing, baptism, incensation and the chanting of the Gospel. No one present was left in any doubt that each of these new Whitechapel bells – ranged spectacularly down the central aisle of the Church – had been well and truly blessed and christened!

The congregation comprised of civic dignitaries, led by the Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Ian Luder, together with representatives of most of the ringing societies that operate within the bounds of the City. All of the bell donors were



The solemn consecration in progress (photo by Chris O'Neill)



Janet Gayler and Simon Fraser with the tenor bell, which they donated (photo by the Editor)

represented and there were some well known faces in the pews, including the musician and television personality Jools Holland. We hope to give further details regarding the provenance and specification of the bells in a future article.

After the service the Lord Mayor hosted a reception at the Mansion House.

The bells will be installed in the refurbished tower during the next few weeks and it is hoped that they will ring out for the first time on Easter Day.

R.A.L.



The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Ian Luder (photo by Chris O'Neill)



Prudence Jay and Paul Williams at the Mansion House reception (photo by the Editor)