

CORPORATION OF LONDON

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INFORMATION OFFICE,
GUILDHALL,
LONDON, E.C.2.

Restriction: For immediate release.

Date: 16th July, 1956.

Issued at the request of the Rector of St. Mary-le-Bow,
The Rev. H.E. Hopkins, O.B.E., M.A. Tel: CITY 5139

CASTING OF "BIG BELL OF BOW"

The casting of the "Big Bell of Bow", the great Tenor Bell of St. Mary-le-Bow, and its naming ceremony by the Rector and Churchwardens, will take place on Friday, July 20th at 3.0 p.m. in the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road.

This bell is the direct descendant of the old Curfew Bell, first time-signal of London. In 1334 it was ordered to be rung at 8.0 p.m., and its sound is said to have been heard on Highgate Hill by Dick Whittington in 1375. It was destroyed in the Fire of London, 1666, recast in 1669, and destroyed again in 1941. It is now being cast again from the old metal and will be named "Bow" by the Rector (The Rev. Hugh Evan Hopkins) to commemorate its long history.

On its 'shoulder' will be inscribed the words from the evening Canticle "Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace for mine eyes have seen thy salvation". Round the "soundbow" there is, as with all the new bells, a decorative border of "London Pride".

London should be proud of her new Curfew bell, the largest of the 12 Bow Bells, waiting now the chance to ring again from a restored Church and steeple.

The ceremony will be attended by the Lord Mayor who will pay a tribute to the long association of Bow Tenor with the City, and with his predecessor in office, Dick Whittington. The Masters of the Turners' Company and the Founders' Company, both of which have contributed generously to the cost of the casting, will be associated with the Lord Mayor in casting coins into the furnace at the ceremony.

The following Inscription will appear on the completed

Tenor Bell—

On the waist—

THE BELL OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY-LE-BOW.

RUNG FOR CURFEW 1334. DESTROYED BY FIRE 1666.

RECAST 1669. RECAST 1738.

DESTROYED BY ENEMY ACTION 1941.

RECAST 1956.

HUGH EVAN HOPKINS, O.B.E., M.A., Rector.

HOWARD GEORGE HICKLENTON

JULIEN FREDERICK CHARLES BENNETT, D.L.

JOHN H. L. TRUSTRAM, M.B.E., M.A., Vestry Clerk.

} Churchwardens,

NAMED ME

"B O W."

Round the Soundbow—

A DECORATIVE BORDER OF LONDON PRIDE.

THE

WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY



CEREMONY OF

RE-CASTING AND NAMING

THE TENOR BELL

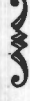
OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-BOW

(“The Big Bell of Bow”)

in the presence of

The Rt. Hon. THE LORD MAYOR

(Alderman Sir Cuthbert Ackroyd, Bart.)



FRIDAY, JULY 20th, 1956

At the same time the

SECOND BELL

will be named "FABIAN" by the

Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, ringers of

"BOW BELLS"

since the year 1637.



Order of Ceremony

The Master Bell-founder invites the Lord Mayor, the Master of the Worshipful Company of Turners and the Master of the Worshipful Company of Founders to cast a coin into the furnace.

The Bell is then cast, followed by the Second.

The Rector invites the Lord Mayor to speak.

The Rector, with the Churchwardens and Vestry Clerk, names the Tenor—"Bow."

The Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths names the

Second—"Fabian."

The Rector offers a prayer and gives the Blessing.

The following are the names of each bell with the passages from the Psalms inscribed on them. It will be noticed that the initial letter of each text makes an acrostic spelling D. WHITTINGTON:—

Treble KATHARINE

Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people.

Second FABIAN

Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me.

Third CHRISTOPHER

His name alone is excellent His glory is above the earth and heaven.

Fourth MARGARET

In His temple doth everyone speak of His glory.

Fifth MILDRED

The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever.

Sixth FAITH

They shall sing in the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

Seventh AUGUSTINE

I will speak of the glorious honour of Thy Majesty and of Thy wonderful works.

Eighth JOHN

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory.

Ninth TIMOTHY

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Tenth PANCRAS

Thy saints shall bless Thee. They shall speak of the glory of Thy Kingdom and talk of Thy power.

Eleventh CUTHBERT

O Lord my God, I will glorify Thy name for evermore.

Tenor BOW

Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.