



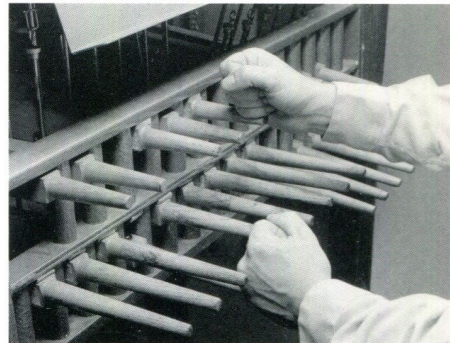
chimed on evenings preceding market days; and crowds of the 'country folk' would repair to the church in order to witness the operation of ringing..."

The bells were regularly rung for church services and state celebrations. On July 8, 1776, they rang with the Pennsylvania State House Bell, subsequently known as the Liberty Bell, for the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Acting on orders from the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania of September 14, 1776...to remove all the city's bells and convey them to safety before the British occupation...Colonel Benjamin Flower, Commissary General of Military Stores, and a handful of trusted men secretly removed the Christ Church bells, the State House Bell, and two bells from St. Peter's Church. The bells were taken by farm wagons to Allentown, Pennsylvania, and hidden in the basement of Zion Reformed Church. The British occupation of the city ended in June, 1778.

View of bells and change ringing frame from tower ceiling, 3 additions on upper right and upper left.

By August of that year, all the City's bells had been returned and re-hung.

In the winter of 1834, the largest, or tenor bell, cracked. It was returned to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, and recast. Its tone was reputed to be superior to that of the old bell.



Bell clavier, situated 30 feet below the bells within the tower, played with clenched fists.

From England, the great showman Phineas T. Barnum brought five Lancashire handbell ringers to Philadelphia. Billed as The Society of Cumberland Youths, four were actually skilled tower bell ringers. On June 9, 1850, aided by ringers from the parish, America's first

change ringing peal* was completed. Holt's "Grand-sire Triples" took three hours and fifteen minutes of continuous ringing.

Ringing continued until World War I and then, sporadically, until the ringing floor was removed in the mid-1930's for the enlargement of the organ. During this time the bells continued to be chimed. In 1953, three bells cast by the Paccard Bell Foundry in Annecy, France were added to the original eight. The #5 bell of the original peal was also recast by Paccard.

At present, the bells are chimed manually by means of a small carillon clavier; this is directly connected to the internal clappers of the bells by a system of wires. Played every Sunday, before and after services, and on national holidays and other celebrations, the bells of Christ Church continue to ring out the Church's presence to congregation and visitors alike.

**Change ringing: traditional practice in English churches of ringing bells in mathematical series, one ringer for each bell*

(Back Cover)
Largest or tenor bell, still within its original 1754 frame.

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