

## Fabian Stedman 1640-1713



Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013 – a very significant date in the Stedman Cousins Year. The 300<sup>th</sup> centenary of Fabian's burial was celebrated by campanologists all over United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and USA, and particularly in the City of London. His special peals were to be rung in five churches within the square mile of the City:

St Mary le Bow, Cheapside

St Katherine Cree, Leadenhall Street

St Dunston in the West, Fleet Street

St James Garlickhythe, Garlick Hill

St Magnus the Martyr, Lower Thames Street

Cousins who live near to London decided to go and listen to the ringing. These were Sandra and Stephen Lee, Lydia and Alberto Luzi, Peter Burlton, Pauline Wheatcroft and friend Geoff Burton. Sadly the day before Sandra had problems with her back, so she and Stephen did not make it.

We started the day with a visit to St Andrew's Undershaft, where Fabian is buried.



Not always open for access, but fortunately it was today. His memorial plaque is pictured above. This is on the wall just inside the main door.

Next stop was to St Katherine Cree. Bells here are rung from just inside the main door.



St Katherine Cree  
Where a full peal of Stedman Doubles were rung on six bells



Ringers, including Dickon Love preparing to ring at St Katherine's

A group of the ringers were gathered, waiting for Dickon Love, the leader who was giving an interview to Timandra Harkness, who is working to prepare a programme for BBC Radio 4 about campanologists, and in particular, Fabian Stedman.



Pauline being interviewed by Timandra Harkness



Whilst looking around the church, one of the ringers, John Pladdys came to have a chat, explaining the rings to us and how Fabian had made the sounds more melodious to the ear. John came up from Cornwall to ring. He is based at Truro Cathedral. He told us that he has rung 3,011 Stedman peals, which is quite a record, and was thrilled that the Stedmans had made the effort to be there.



John Pladdys with Pauline, Lydia and Peter

Dickon Love took photos of us with John and said he would let Sandra know where and when they are to be published. The bell ringers in St Katherine Cree rang a special peal of Stedman rings for us. It was very moving.

We then moved on to St Mary le Bow, Cheapside, where we had to stand outside to listen, as it's a closed tower only for the ringers.



St Mary le Bow, Cheapside where Stedman Cinqs were rung

Then for a lunch break we found our way round to the Old Watling Pub in Watling Street, behind Cheapside, where the bell ringers recharged their batteries for the next three hours of ringing.





Then we went down to St James Garlickhythe in Garlick Hill. This was still a closed tower for ringers only.



St James Garlickhythe where a full peal of Stedman Triples on 8 bells were rung

The next stop was to St Magnus the Martyr in Lower Thames Street. This tower had a very small door for access to the bells. While waiting a young chap came into the churchyard. He also was a ringer named Liam, who had travelled from Cambridge, where he rings at St Edwards. He was thrilled to meet people who had a family connection with Fabian.



St Magnus the Martyr where Stedman Cinques (12 bells) were rung and bell ringer Liam



As you can see, people travelled a long distance to pay their respects to the Campanologist and 'Father of Change Ringing' – Fabian Stedman.

The day was a huge success, we felt, and well worth the early start we all had. We missed our two special cousins Sandra and Stephen. Lydia and I did our best to give the right info to the lady from Radio 4 !

*Pauline Wheatcroft 17 November 2013*