

The Church Bells

The first bells to be mentioned in the church are the 'iiij bells in the steple with a sanctus bell' in 1542. The central tower was probably rebuilt to its present height between 1602 and 1610, and by 1732 it housed four bells:

Bell	Inscriptions
1	GOD SAVE THE CHURCH 1610 Founder's mark of Henry Oldfield
2	I SWEETLY TOLLING MEN DO CALL TO TASTE OF MEATS THAT FEED THE SOUL 1632 Founder's mark of George Oldfield
3	WILLIAM REVITT AND HENRY MUGGLESTON CHURCHWARDENS 1614
4	JOHN COOPER, JO. FISHER, D.W. AND J HEDDERLEY MADE ME 1732



During a general restoration of the tower in 1882 these bells were recast by Taylors of Loughborough and two new bells were added. As a memorial of Queen Victoria's Silver Jubilee, the octave was completed in 1887. They were rehung in 1897 and 1936.

In 1995 the bells and wooden frame were removed and a new metal twelve bell frame was fitted by Eayre & Smith. At the same time the internal masonry of the tower was repaired and sound control installed. The bells were rehung on new bearings and two new trebles added, bringing the ring up to ten. The two additional new bells provide Derbyshire with its first ring of twelve bells. All four new bells were cast by Eijsbouts of Astens in Holland and are not 'Simpson tuned' but made to the same 'sound profile' as the eight 19th century Taylor bells.

Details of inscriptions and weights (cwt-qr-lb)

Bell	Inscriptions	Weight
Treble	GIVEN BY STEVEN PEERS, DAVID AND JOANNE MARSHALL & THE DERBY CATHEDRAL BELLRINGERS IN THE JUBILEE YEAR OF THE DERBY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS	4-0-5
2	SAM GIVEN BY BOB AND RUTH SMITH IN MEMORY OF QUEENIE ALMA WATSON 1910-1995 ANNIE APPLEBY 1913-1992 'A WOMAN THAT FEARETH THE LORD. SHE SHALL BE PRAISED'	3-3-7

Both bells also have the following inscriptions:

Crown: EIJSBOUTS ASTENSIS ME FECIT ANNO MCMXCVI

Reverse: The Trade Mark of Eayre and Smith

THE REVD CANON F ROSS: VICAR

ROSALIND BELL & HENRY WILKINS CHURCHWARDENS

Bell	Inscriptions	Weight
3	I RING FOR EVER IN MEMORY OF LOUISE EARP, 1972-74. AND MARTIN EARP, 1976-83	4-0-4
4	IN MEMORY OF CHRIS EARP, 1935-1991 A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF MELBOURNE CHURCH: TOWER CAPTAIN, STEEPLEKEEPER, CHURCHWARDEN THE GIFT OF THE BELLRINGERS	4-0-2

Both bells also have the following inscriptions:

Crown: EIJSBOUITS ASTENSIS ME FECIT ANNO MCMXCV

Reverse: The Trade Mark of Eayre and Smith
THE REVD CANON F.ROSS VICAR
C. MURRAY-LESLIE
H. WILKINS CHURCHWARDENS

Bell	Inscriptions	Weight
5	OCTAVE COMPLETED IN THE FIFTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA 1887	4-1-21
6	OCTAVE COMPLETED IN THE FIFTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA 1887	4-3-18

Both bells also have the following inscriptions:

JOSEPH DEANS, VICAR

WILLIAM RICE, CURATE

W.J.WOOD

W.COOK CHURCHWARDENS

J.TAYLOR & CO. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH

Bell	Inscriptions	Weight
7	I SWEETLY TOLLING MEN DO CALL TO TASTE OF MEATS THAT FEED THE SOUL A.D.1882 J.TAYLOR & CO. LOUGHBOROUGH 1882	4-3-12
8	A.D.1882 J.TAYLOR & CO. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1882	5-3-7
9	A.D.1882 J.TAYLOR & CO. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1882	7-0-6
10	A.D.1882 J.TAYLOR & CO. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1882	8-0-20
11	A.D.1882 J.TAYLOR & CO. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1882	10-2-24
Tenor	JOSEPH DEANS, VICAR W.BRIGGS F.F.FOX CHURCHWARDENS A.D.1882 J.TAYLOR & CO. BELLFOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1882	15-1-24 in F#