

# The World War I Memorial Bells



There are ten World War I Memorial Bells. Each bell bears an inscription, sometimes it is the name of a person or group of people that the bell commemorates, or an extract from the Bible, or an inscription that details those who collected or gave money. Sometimes it is a combination all of these. The bells are listed below in order of size and pitch starting with the treble bell (the highest pitched) and finishing with the tenor (the lowest pitched).

## The First Bell

The treble bell was donated by Lady Mary Elizabeth Godwin in memory of the first Lord Mayor of the City of Bradford Sir J. Arthur Godwin. The inscription reads:



*"For unto you Paradise opened. A city builded and rest allowed." Book of Edras. From his desolate wife, in memory of her beloved husband. Sir J. Arthur Godwin, Kt., First Lord Mayor of Bradford. Died April 29th 1921. Aged 68.*

## The Second Bell

This is the Choir Bell which was paid for by members of the choir. The Cathedral has a proud tradition of music and continues to have an accomplished choir today. The inscription on the bell reads:

*"Praise to the Holiest in the Height" In reverent thanksgiving to our immortal dead, from members of the Cathedral Choir. Henry Coates, Organist and Choirmaster.*



The Cathedral choir lost members during the First World War, including George Arthur Beaumont. George and his wife, Amy, were married in the Parish Church of Saint Peter on the 24th April 1915. He served in the 6th King's Own Light Infantry and was killed in 1917.

## The Third Bell



Sarah Billson donated money for a bell dedicated to her husband, Edward Billson, who died on the 17th April 1919. Edward didn't serve in the war, he was a Cathedral sidesman and the People's Churchwarden. The inscription from John 21.15 states:

*"His servants serve Him day and night in His Temple" In memory of Edward Billson, died 17th April 1919. Presented by his devoted widow Sarah Billson.*

## Bradford Cathedral War Memorial. Re-Casting and Re-Hanging of the Bells, 1921.

### INSCRIPTIONS.

**TREBLE BELL.**  
"For unto you in Paradise opened, a city builded and rest allowed."—Book of Edras. From his desolate wife in memory of her beloved husband. SIR J. ARTHUR GODWIN, Kt., First Lord Mayor of Bradford. Died April 29th, 1921. Aged 68.

**SECOND BELL.**  
"Praise to the Holiest in the Height." In reverent thanksgiving to our immortal dead, from the MEMBERS OF THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR. HENRY COATES, Organist and Choirmaster.

**THIRD BELL.**  
"His Servants serve Him day and night in His Temple." In memory of EDWARD BILLSON. Died 17th April, 1919. Presented by his devoted widow, SARAH BILLSON.

**FOURTH BELL.**  
"Lovest thou me? Feed my lambs."—St. John XXI., 15. The offering of THE TEACHERS AND SCHOLARS of the Cathedral Sunday Schools in gratitude for the heritage of Freedom won by our splendid men.

**FIFTH BELL.**  
"Laborers together with God."—1 Cor., III., 9. This bell was given by THE SIDESMEN OF THE CATHEDRAL, in thanksgiving for the blessings of Victory and Peace.

**SIXTH BELL.**  
"He asked life of Them, and Them gave him a long life: even for ever and ever."—Ps., XCII., 4. In memory of EDWARD ALEXANDER SHEPHERD, Captain in 4th Bn. Sherborne of the Black Watch. Killed Sept. 3rd, 1916, at Beaumont Hamel. Aged 41. Presented by ELIZABETH MITCHELL.

**SEVENTH BELL.**  
"Greater Love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."—St. John, XCV., 13. To place on record our love and gratitude to the men of the Church and Parish who made the supreme sacrifice in the War, 1914-1918. Given by THE MOTHERS OF BRADFORD.

**EIGHTH BELL.**  
"Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman watcheth but in vain."—Psalm CXXXV., 1. To commemorate the men of the City of Bradford who gave their lives for King and Country in the Great War, 1914-1918. ANTHONY GADIE, Lord Mayor, 1920-21. On the opposite side of the bell KING GEORGE V.

**NINTH BELL.**  
To Duan Ludorum. In memory of the MEN OF THE DIOCESE OF BRADFORD who laid down their lives in the War, 1914-1918. ARTHUR WILLIAM THOMSON PARSONS, D.D., First Bishop of Bradford.

**TENOR BELL.**  
To the Clergy of God. Bradford Cathedral, 1921. This Peal of Ten Bells was re-cast in memory of the men who fell in the Great War, 1914-1918. WILLIAM STANTON JONES, Vicar. ARTHUR WALLESGAY WEALE, J. Churchwarden. JOHN EDWARD HOLDSWORTH, J. Churchwarden.

### Weight and Cost of the Bells.

	ew. lbs. lbs.	fl. s. d.
TREBLE BELL ...	5 0 0	56 6 4
2ND ...	5 0 3	55 1 8
3RD ...	5 1 8	53 7 6
4TH ...	6 1 26	70 5 9
5TH ...	7 0 7	75 12 2
6TH ...	8 1 21	91 17 5
7TH ...	11 2 30	136 5 2
8TH ...	14 0 9	147 19 1
9TH ...	18 0 21	187 11 6
TENOR ...	35 3 21	261 1 8
(The Tenor Bell is presented by Mr. JOHN FAULKNER in memory of his son, CAPTAIN BRISLEY.)		
	100 0 0	1123 8 2
Alterations in Tower, Re-hanging Clock, Memorial Tablets in Cathedral, &c.		1100 0 0
Probable Cost about ...		2223 8 2

Hon. Treasurers:  
THE VICAR AND CHURCHWARDENS.  
Bankers:  
BARCLAYS BANK, LTD., BRADFORD.

The poster above used to hang in the ringing chamber.

## The Fourth Bell

The fourth bell is the Sunday School Bell. This was given by the teachers (mainly women) and pupils of the Cathedral Sunday Schools and its inscription includes a quote from John 21.15. It says:

*"Lovest Thou Me, Feed my Lambs." The offering of teachers and scholars of the Cathedral Sunday Schools in gratitude for the heritage of freedom won by our splendid men.*



At the time of war there were two Cathedral Sunday Schools close by, one on Captain Street and one on Jermyn Street. In total about 370 children attended in the morning or afternoon. Many of these children would have attended day school as 'half timers'. Sunday school was another opportunity to learn to read and write and to learn more about the Bible and the Christian faith. Like women, boys and girls were all affected by the war and often involved in the war effort. They helped to knit socks, scarves and mittens for soldiers at the front and they raised funds for the Sunday School Bell by collecting money from family, neighbours and friends, and holding bazaars.

## The Fifth Bell

This is the Sidesmen's Bell which was given by the sidesmen of the Cathedral. These are members of the congregation who greet other church goers, arrange seating and take the collection (gifts of money for the upkeep of the Cathedral). Today sidesmen can be women, but at the start of the First World War all the sidesmen were men and three of them, George H Müller, Norman Lynn, and Lewis Spencely enlisted to fight. Both Norman and George returned home to Bradford, but Lewis Spencely did not, he was killed in November 1917.

The sidesmen agreed with the Memorial Committee to "make themselves responsible for one bell in memory of Mr Spencely." The inscription on the bell says:

*"Laborers together with God." Cor. III. 9. This bell was given by the Sidesmen of the Cathedral, in thanksgiving for the blessings of victory and peace.*

