

# The World War I Memorial Bells



Before transporting the recast Memorial Bells to Bradford, Taylor and Co lined up the peel of ten bells for a group photograph.

## The Sixth Bell

This was donated by Elizabeth Mitchell. She was a prominent member of the congregation and a member of the committee set up to organise the funding of the bells. The bell was dedicated to her nephew Captain Edward Alexander Shepherd, who never lived in Bradford. He served with The Black Watch Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland. He was killed on the 3rd September 1916 in France; his body was never found. Another memorial is dedicated to him in his hometown of Dundee. The dedication on the bell says:



*"He asked life of Thee and Thou gavest him a long life; even for ever and ever." Ps. 21:4. In memory of Edward Alexander Shepherd, Captain in 4th-5th Battalion of the Black Watch, Killed Sept. 3rd 1916 at Beaumont Hamel. Aged 41.*



## The Seventh Bell

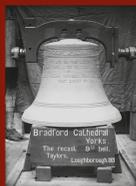


The Mothers' Bell. This bell is a poignant reminder of the effect that the war had on women; so many lost sons, fathers, husbands and other loved ones in the Great War. It was paid for by donations from the mothers of Bradford. The inscription says:

*"Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." St. John 15:13. To place on record our love and gratitude to the men of this Church and Parish who paid the supreme sacrifice in the war 1914-1918. Given by the Mothers of Bradford.*

## The Eighth Bell

The Eighth Bell is the Civic Bell and was paid for by the efforts of the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Anthony Gadie who was in office when the bells were commissioned. He tasked the people of Bradford with raising money for a civic or city bell in memory of the men of Bradford who 'gave their lives' in the Great War. The inscription on this bell reads:



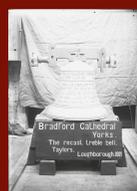
*"Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain." Psalm 127, 1. To commemorate the men of the city of Bradford who gave their lives for King and Country in the Great War 1914-1918. Anthony Gadie, Lord Mayor 1920/21 [on the reverse] King George*

## The Ninth Bell

This bell was donated by Arthur William Thompson Perowne, the first Bishop of Bradford, who was enthroned in 1920. The bell is in memory of the local men who laid down their lives in the war.

*Te Deum Laudamus. In memory of the men of the Diocese of Bradford who laid down their lives in the war 1914-1918, Arthur William T Perowne, DD, First Bishop of Bradford.*

*Te Deum Laudamus* is Latin and means 'Thee, O God, we praise', a phrase traditionally used in the consecration of a new Bishop. As the new bishop of the new Diocese of Bradford, one of The Right Reverend Perowne's first duties was to dedicate the bells and introduce them to the people of the City. He did this on the 1st October 1921.



## The Tenth Bell

This is the tenor bell. It is dedicated to the memory of all those who were killed in the First World War, and to one of the Cathedral's own, Captain John Alfred Emsley, only son of textile merchant John Emsley and his wife Emily. He survived the Battle of the Somme, where so many Bradford boys and men lost their lives, but sadly he died of flu in a military hospital one month after the end of the war; aged 28. There is also a plaque opposite the Memorial Window that bears Captain Emsley's name. The money for the bell was raised by the vicar The Reverend William Stanton Jones and church wardens Arthur Ward (chairman of the Bell Committee) and John Holdsworth (treasurer in charge of the collection for the bells), with an additional amount donated by the parents of Captain Emsley. The inscriptions on the bell reads:

*To the Glory of God, Bradford Cathedral 1921. This peel of ten bells was recast in the memory of the men who fell in the Great War, 1914-1918 William Stanton Jones, vicar Arthur Wellesley Ward, John Edward Holdsworth Churchwardens. In memory of Capt. John Alfred Emsley Adjutant West Yorkshire Regiment.*

The dedication to John Alfred Emsley was painted on after the bell was cast and sadly is no longer visible. However there is a plaque in memory of him beneath the bell tower, opposite the World War I Memorial Window.

The tenor bell is the largest of the World War I Memorial Bells weighing 1,300 kilograms.



This photograph, printed in the *Yorkshire Observer* (September 2, 1921), shows members of the Memorial Bells Committee welcoming the bells back to the Cathedral. The large bell in the centre of the photograph is the Tenor Bell. Left to right: Mr Wilfred Richardson, Mr Fredk., A T Mossman (Diocesan Registrar), Mr H Raistrick, Mrs Charles Killick, Mr J E Holdsworth (chairman of the Bells Committee), Mr A W Ward (treasurer), Mr B O Barwick and Mr P Higson. The names of Mr Holdsworth and Mr Ward are inscribed on the tenor bell.