

Our Church Bells

The following extract is taken from a pamphlet 'The Present Ring of Six Bells'

"In the sixteenth century there were
THREE GRETT BELLES IN THE STEPULL"

We now have a ring of six bells

1, [Treble] Cast by John Warner & Sons, London 1864

Weighing 4cwts 40lbs

Inscription - 'AND CHILDREN'S VOICES ECHO ANSWER MAKING ALLELUIA'

This bell was dedicated to the memory of a beloved daughter, the eldest child of T. Wardle ESQ.

2, Cast by John Warner & Sons, London 1862. V.R.

Weighing 4cwts 60lbs

Inscription - 'GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH'

This bell was added by public subscription.

3, Cast by Edward Arnold, Leicester. FECIT 1796

Weighing 5cwts 70lbs

Presented by John Hammersley, Church Warden.

4, Cast at the Henry Oldfield Chapel Foundry, Congleton.

Weighing 5cwts 80lbs

Inscription - 'IESVS BE OVR SPEDE' [Jesus be our Speed] 1632 P.H. the inscribed letters P.H. being those of Paul Hutton, foundry foreman.

Philip Hollins of Moseley presented the bell in 1632, this being the oldest bell from the Chapel foundry, also the oldest bell in the Cheddleton belfry.

5,

Weighing 6cwts 81lbs

Inscription - 'MR PHILIP WHISTON JN SUTTON CHURC WARDEN 1762'

Philip Whiston and John Sutton were churchwardens at this time.

6, [Tenor] Cast by John Warner & Sons, London 1862.

Weighing 11cwts 16lbs in F#

Inscription - 'I SUMMON ALL TO PRAY'

The bell donated by public subscription.

In 1921, it was decided that, due to general wear, the bells were in a dilapidated state and had reached the stage when major repair work was necessary.

In December 1921 the firm of John Taylor of Loughborough were approached and later engaged to remove the bells and fittings for refurbishing before rehanging. The work was completed in good time for the re-consecration service by the Bishop of Lichfield on 15th June 1922.

The total cost, which included the strengthening of the existing oak frame was £230. This was raised by public donations.