



## Tower History

# St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry



This fine Cathedral has a square tower at its west end, upon which is erected an octagonal spire. This tower was built in 1802, and the spire added twenty years later. There were previous towers and spires, in which bells were hung. The Society immediately planned for the building of a church in Derry, and in that same year sent over a chalice and paten of silver-gilt, inscribed with the arms of London and the Words "Ecclesia Dei in Civitate Derriensi" (to the Church of God in the City of Derry).

From them also came the two oldest bells. The date and origin of these had been lost sight of for many years, owing to the omission of the old inscriptions at their recasting in 1812. Recently, however, in a volume of the Parish Registers compiled between 1732 and 1776 the original inscriptions on all the bells were discovered written on a spare leaf at the end. These showed that the oldest of the two bells had been "recast for Londonderry steeple" in 1614 and the other provided in 1630. As the building of the Cathedral was not completed till 1633, these formed part of its original equipment.

In 1812 the Corporation which, from an early date, had often contributed towards repairs to the maintenance of the bells, bore a large portion of the expense of recasting seven bells and rehanging the peal. Their minutes record a payment of £402 ordered to John Rudhall of Gloucester, for recasting, the Corporation to undertake the charges of bringing them to Derry and of erecting them in the Cathedral. In the "Derry Journal" of August 3, 1813, it is mentioned that the bells were first rung after this recasting, on the proceeding Sunday (August 1) by a team of 8 ringers from Lincolnshire Militia.

Mears and Stainbank of London carried out a rehanging job on bells in 1895 but a major restoration was necessary in 1929, when Gillett & Johnston of the Croydon Bell Foundry recast all of the eight bells and added five more to give a ring of ten bells, providing various combinations of "eight", "six", and lesser numbers. They include a light eight having 23 cwt Tenor, as well as a heavy eight with a 32 cwt Tenor. The entire ring of bells was equipped with steel fittings and hang in a steel frame.

### **Link to tower on web site**

<https://bellringingireland.org/tower/londonderry-st-columbs-cathedral/>

### **Bell Weights & Inscriptions**

<https://dove.cccbr.org.uk/detail.php?tower=12649>

**Below are the weights of St Columb's Cathedral bells Londonderry**

Original Eight

	<b>CWTS</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Founders</b>
<b>Treble</b>	5 ½	F	John Rudhall Gloucester 1812
<b>2</b>	5 ¾	E	John Rudhall Gloucester 1812
<b>3</b>	6 ½	D	John Rudhall Gloucester 1812
<b>4</b>	7 ½	C	John Rudhall Gloucester 1812
<b>5</b>	9	B Flat	John Rudhall Gloucester 1812
<b>6</b>	10	A	John Rudhall Gloucester 1812
<b>7</b>	12 ½	G	John Rudhall Gloucester 1812
<b>8</b>	17	F	John Rudhall Gloucester 1812

Present day 10 with 3 flats

	<b>CWTS</b>	<b>QRS</b>	<b>LBS</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Founders</b>
<b>Treble</b>	5	1	21	F#	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929
<b>2</b>	5	2	8	E	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929
<b>Flat 2</b>	5	2	27	D #	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929
<b>3</b>	6	0	14	D	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929
<b>4</b>	6	2	18	C#	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929
<b>Flat 4</b>	7	1	14	C	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929
<b>5</b>	8	0	6	B	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929
<b>6</b>	10	0	0	A	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929
<b>Flat 6</b>	11	3	7	G#	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929
<b>7</b>	13	2	10	G	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929
<b>8</b>	16	0	20	F#	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929
<b>9</b>	23	0	4	E	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929
<b>Tenor</b>	32	0	5	D	Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929

**Below are the inscriptions of St Columb's Cathedral bells Londonderry**

Original Eight

same inscription on 1, 2, 5, 6, 7

	(IB) John Rudhall Gloucester 1812
<b>3</b>	This bell was cast at the expense of the Citizens of Londonderry 1671 Recast by John Rudhall Gloucester 1812
<b>4</b>	<i>Recast by Warner 1865 after being Retained in 1812 by Whitechapel Bell Foundry</i> Gloria in Excelsis Deo This bell was recast the Liberality of the Hon, The Irish Society A.D. 1865 by John Warner & Sons, London William Anderson Rose. Governor
<b>Tenor</b>	The five larger bells were presented to the city of Londonderry by King Charles 1st in 1638 Recast at the Expense of the Citizens of Londonderry in 1812 by John Rudhall of Gloucester

Present day 10

		Inscription
<b>Treble</b>	IB	Cast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	+ Be Thou Faithful unto Death + To the ever Glorious Memory of Captain Browning of the Mountjoy killed in the moment of victory at the breaking of the boom July 28th 1689 the apprentice Boys of Derry Browning Club and its Branches in Belfast Ardstraw. Portadown, Magheafelt and Bangor gave me 1929
<b>2</b>	IB	Recast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	+ Fear God Honour the King + Recast for Londonderry Steeple 1614 Recast 1812
<b>Flat 2</b>	IB	Recast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	Dies Super Dies Regis Adjicies Annosque Super Annos Usque Generationem Generationes 1630 Recast 1812
<b>3</b>	IB	Cast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	+ Goodwill Toward Men + In Affectionate Remembrance of Annie McConnell Rutherford her Father Robert Rutherford of his city Gave me 1929
<b>4</b>	IB	Recast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	Carolo Secundo Magnae Britanniae Rege Restitutocampanae Vi Militari Confracta Restitutae 1671 Recast 1812
<b>Flat 4</b>	IB	Cast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	+ God Loveth A cheerful Giver + This bell has been given in Memory of ou Firt worshipful mistress Mrs F E Corscadden. O.B.E UNDER THE Auspices of W.L.O.L.No 26 1929

<b>5</b>	IB	Recast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	Carolus Magna Britannias Rex Quinque Majores Campanas Deo ET Ecclesiae Dedicavit 1638 Recast 1865
<b>6</b>	IB	Recast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	Carolus Magnae Britanniae Rex Quinque Majores Campanas Deo ET Ecclesiae Dedicavit 1638 Recast 1812
<b>Flat 6</b>	IB	Recast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	Same as 6
<b>7</b>	IB	Cast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	In loving memory of John Farland 1st Baronet of Aberfoyle Four Times Mayor of this City his only child Basil gave me 1929
<b>8</b>	IB	Recast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	Same as 6
<b>9</b>	IB	Recast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	Same as 6
<b>Tenor</b>	IB	Cast by Gillett & Johnston Croydon 1929.
	W	+ Glory to God in the Highest + The honourable the Irish Society of London Founder of this Cathedral and Donors of its two most Ancient Bells GAVE me, A.D. 1928 Colonel Sir Louis A Newtown.Bart. Alderman Governor Frederick Whittingham CC Deputy Governor Leslie C Landragin Secretary