

## Daniel Spraggon

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**From:** Howard Smith <khsbelring@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** 21 May 2023 13:40  
**To:** Daniel Spraggon  
**Subject:** Darlington St. John

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Hi Dan – up to date info on St. John's bells.

They were installed in 1848 as a ring of six cast by Charles & George Mears of the Whitechapel foundry in London.

In 1893, Mears & Stainbank also of the Whitechapel foundry, recast the tenor and added two trebles.

The Whitechapel foundry started in 1570..

In 1914 Gillett & Johnston of the Croydon foundry overhauled the fittings and retuned the bells.

Bell	weight	nominal	note	diameter	date	founder
Treble	3-3-24	1560.0	G	24.50"	1893	Mears & Stainbank
2	4-0-12	1470.5	F"	26.00"	1893	Mears & Stainbank
3	4-2-25	1308.0	E	27.50"	1848	Charles & George Mears
4	4-3-18	1174.0	D	29.50"	1848	Charles & George Mears
5	6-0-02	1040.0	C	31.50"	1848	Charles & George Mears
6	6-2-13	980.0	B	32.75"	1848	Charles & George Mears
7	6-2-18	880.5	A	34.25"	1848	Charles & George Mears
Tenor	10-0-10	782.0	G	38.50"	1893	Mears & Stainbank

As a ring of bells they do not offer any particular qualities that would make them important.

If they were transferred elsewhere it is likely that the tenor would be recast.

Currently the seven lightest bells ( assuming that the roof has not collapsed ) would be ringable.

The tenor however should not be rung as its headstock is rotted by water ingress.

I hope this is of use to you

Regards - Howard Smith – Diocesan bell advisor