

The Organ at Haworth Church

The former Haworth Parish Church had an organ which was built in the time of Patrick Bronte as part of the improvements he accomplished during his ministry. Branwell Bronte played the organ for services from time to time and Charlotte described in her juvenile writings as 'the stupendous organ' called 'rollroarthunderandsqueakandotheroreimus'. A church in Lancashire now claims to have this organ.



The present church was built in 1879 and, when new, the music was provided by a harmonium. The present organ was built in 1883 by J J Binns of Bramley, Leeds and was opened on October 15th by William T Best. The console was situated underneath the organ behind the choir. Both Swell and Choir organs were enclosed. The organ was hand blown with mechanical action and the coupling facilities rather sparse. It has three manuals, 33 speaking stops, seven other stops and

2,064 pipes. The tone was described as "full and powerful".

Records of work done on the organ before 1966 appear to be none existent. During 1967-1968 Laycock and Bannister of Keighley provided electric action and re-sited a detached console to the right of the altar rail. The console, which originally had draw-stops, is from a Compton organ and came from Priory Church, Bridlington. This work greatly increased the coupling facilities and cost £2,100. In 1975 the organ was completely renovated by John Corkhill of Wigan. The removal of the choir 'box' left the organ un-enclosed. The blower was also re-sited in the organ chamber. This work cost £3,000.

Since then, the console has been moved twice. In 1991 Michael Fletcher of Shelf, Halifax moved the console to the front of the nave. It is connected to the organ by only 19 wires. The blower was moved back to its original site in the boiler house below to make way for the Pedal 'Trombone'. The organ was overhauled and several stops from St James, Bolton, Bradford were added. Most worthy of note is the Pedal 'Trombone' which along with the 'Trumpet' can now be played on the Great, Pedal and Choir organs. Solid slate coupling was fitted and the Choir organ was again enclosed. The cost of this work was £10,000.



Today, the console stands at the front of the South Transept. Tuning and maintenance of the organ is financed mainly by the sale of five hymn tunes composed by Jack Rhodes, former organist, to poems written by the Brontë sisters. The Church will be forever grateful to Mr Rhodes, who donated the copyrights to safeguard the future of the organ.

The Bells at Haworth Church

The tower contains a ring of six bells, cast in 1845 by C & G Mears of London and installed by Patrick Brontë with money raised by public subscription. The tenor bell which weighs nearly 11 cwt. (553 kg), bears an inscription to this effect.



The tower had an active and accomplished band of ringers and the bells may well have rung for Charlotte Brontë's wedding. Ringing continued until well after the Second World War but then gradually declined until the bells became unringable in the 1970's. The bells were restored in May 1988 with gifts from the Church and Brontë Society, friends and local businesses. The initial donation was given in memory of Charles Gordon Vestey. The restoration was carried out by John Taylor's of Loughborough and the bells have been in regular use ever since.

Treble:	4 cwts. 1 qtr.	16 lbs.	C & G Mears – London 1845
2:	4 cwts. 3 qtrs.	0 lbs.	C & G Mears – London 1845
3:	5 cwts. 1 qtr.	12 lbs.	C & G Mears – London 1845
4:	6 cwts. 3 qtrs.	8 lbs.	C & G Mears – London 1845
5:	8 cwts. 3 qtrs.	18 lbs.	C & G Mears – London 1845
Tenor:	10 cwts. 3 qtrs.	16 lbs.	C & G Mears – London 1845

These bells were raised by subscription A.D. 1845:

Rev P. Brontë. A.B. Incumbent
Mr G. Feather – Church Warden
Mr. J. Lambert – Church Warden

The bells are hung for change ringing so that each bell turns through a full circle when rung. This gives very precise control and the distinctive 'swirling sound' so characteristic of church bells in this country. This style of ringing dates from the beginning of the 17th century and the object is to ring as many different changes before any sequence is repeated. One particular feat is to ring in excess of 5000 changes without stopping and this is called a peal. Some of these performances at Haworth are recorded on boards in the ringing chamber.



We have an active and thriving band who ring regularly for Sunday Service at 10.00 am and practice on Monday evenings from 7.30 pm. We ring for weddings and other special occasions as required.