

## DRINKSTONE BELLS: Project Update, October 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.

Unfortunately, the bell project has been at a virtual standstill for the past 3 months due to 'Bats in the Belfry'!

Early in 2024 the PCC engaged a company to do a survey in the church to assess whether there were bats in the tower. It was known there were some in the church (as evidenced by droppings) but it was not believed there were any in the tower as such spaces are open to the elements and considered by experts to be too draughty and cold for them to roost.

However, the company recorded a bat emerging from the tower during an inspection and therefore all work in the tower has been suspended until a Bat Licence is obtained. The licence has been applied for, but is not expected to be issued until the middle of November. Work can then recommence as soon as Taylors are able to fit us in to their work schedule.

On the positive side, two visits were paid to Taylor's Bell Foundry in August by groups of bell donors, supporters and local bell ringers to watch our six new bells being cast, and to have a tour of the Foundry. The visit was fascinating and greatly enjoyed by everyone. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> visit a local ITV News team was present to make a news item about the Foundry and the bell casting process. Their interesting report was broadcast earlier this month and can be viewed on the ITV website at

<https://www.itv.com/watch/news/grade-ii-listed-foundry-that-has-made-25000-bells-is-now-the-last-in-the-uk/l7tlmcc>



Since August we have been teaching some new learners to ring. This has been undertaken in Woolpit church tower pending the installation of Drinkstone's new bells. They are all making very good progress. We expect to start teaching more learners once the new bells are installed in Drinkstone.