

## DRINKSTONE BELLS: Project Update, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May we held the Dedication service for the new bells, led by the Dean of St Edmundsbury, the Very Revd Joe Hawes. The church was beautifully decorated by the church flower team and was packed with project supporters, Suffolk Guild ringers and Drinkstone residents. It was a memorable occasion for the project, All Saints' church and Drinkstone village.



L to R: Mark Campbell (churchwarden), Alan Moulton (Diocesan Bells Advisor), the Very Revd Joe Hawes (Dean of St Edmundsbury), Astrid Gale (Bells project), Nigel Gale (Bells project), Simon Adams (Taylors Bell Founders)

After the service everyone adjourned to the Village Hall for a reception to celebrate the successful completion of the project. Food, drinks and warm sunshine were enjoyed by all!

It is amazing that it has taken less than 18 months, since it was formally launched at the start of 2024, to complete this huge £150k project. This is a reflection of the generosity of Drinkstone residents, local grant trusts and Suffolk Guild ringers who helped the project in so many different ways: financial, voluntary labour and administratively. The project has succeeded in delivering all its original objectives, and added a few extra ones into the bargain. All Saints' church and Drinkstone village now has a lovely peal of six bells that will hopefully be heard for decades, if not centuries, to come: a lasting legacy for our small community.



Table made from the inscription ring of one of the former 1696 bells