

## Newspaper Reports about the last restoration of Drinkstone's bells in 1891.

### DRINKSTONE, SUFFOLK.

On Wednesday, July 29th, a special service was held in the church of this parish to re-open the peal of bells, and the south porch, after extensive restoration. The fine peal of six bells, dating from 1695, had fallen into great decay; four out of the six were cracked, and the framework completely out of repair. The present Rector was very anxious at the time of the Jubilee to complete the work of restoring the belfry, which had been begun under his auspices so long ago as 1869, but sufficient funds were not at that time forthcoming. The surplus of the Jubilee fund, however, having been voted by the vestry to this purpose, the Rector and some members of his family, aided by kind friends in the parish and neighbourhood, have since made up the required sum within a few pounds, and had the work put in hand in the spring of the present year. It is sufficient to say that the work has been most successfully and conscientiously carried out, indeed all who heard the bells on the day of opening were loud in their praise, pronouncing them as complete and sweet a peal of six as can now be heard in Suffolk, which is saying a great deal, as the county is considered a land of bells. The Lavenham and Preston ringers were engaged to ring at the dedication service, and very well they performed their office. After a short choral service, commencing at four o'clock, the Ven. the Archdeacon of Sudbury, standing before the belfry, did in the presence of a large congregation solemnly dedicate the bells to the honour and glory of God, and the service of His sanctuary; and afterwards preached a most interesting sermon in connection with the subject.

The customary dedication service, with proper additions, was used; among the latter being the hymn—"Lift them gently," and the *Te Deum* immediately before the blessing.

The south porch has also undergone thorough repair, chiefly through the exertions of the Churchwardens—Mr. Clarke and Mr. Thomas Taylor. This work, which cost more than was at first anticipated, owing to the ravages of dry-rot through insufficient ventilation, has been completed in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, so that it is now a great ornament to the building. Our correspondent adds: "A large gathering of parishioners, and others in the neighbourhood, testified to the general interest taken in the beautifying of our beloved church."

### DRINKSTONE.

#### DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH BELLS.

On Wednesday a special service was held in the Church at Drinkstone, on the occasion of the re-opening of the peal of bells and the South porch, after extensive restoration. The fine peal of bells had fallen into great decay, four out of the six were cracked, and the framework was completely out of repair. These four bells were the oldest of the peal, and were probably the "Great bells iijj" spoken of in the return of 1533 often quoted in Dr. Raven's excellent work on Church Bells. This author gives the inscriptions on the bells which show that three of the bells were cast by Henry Pleasant, the Sudbury bell-founder, the earliest being inscribed "Reginald Saye, Thomas Cocksedge, C.W. (churchwardens), Henry Pleasant made me 1695," and the other two being cast in the following year. There are also bells in the neighbouring steeples of Bradfield St. George, Great Whelnetham, Haughley, and Wetherden, by the same founder who appears to have been of a poetic turn of mind. To one of his bells, at St. Cuthbert's Church, Thetford, he added the inscription—

Henry pleasant did me run  
In the year 1701.

while he was probably satisfied with the extent of his skill when he wrote, on the bell at St. Nicholas Church, Ipswich:—

Henry Pleasant have at last  
Made as good as can be cast.

The fifth bell was added in 1771, the name of Henry Plume, churchwarden, being inscribed on it, and the quartette continued to do service until the present Rector, the Rev. F. E. Horne, undertook the restoration of the belfry, and introduced in 1869 two new bells which were cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of London. The completion of the Rector's work has now happily been consummated by the re-hanging of the peal, the surplus of the sum collected as a Jubilee Fund having been voted by the Vestry for the purpose, and the remainder of the required amount being almost entirely made up by the Rector and some members of his family, aided by kind friends in the parish and neighbourhood. Messrs. Day and Sons, Eye, successfully carried out the work; indeed, all who heard the bells on Wednesday last were enthusiastic in their praise, pronouncing it as complete and sweet a peal as can be heard in all Suffolk, which is saying much, for this county of ours is considered to be "a land of bells." The Lavenham and Preston ringers were engaged to ring at the dedication service, which was held at four o'clock, when the Venerable the Archdeacon of Sudbury, after a short choral service, dedicated the bells, afterwards preaching a most interesting sermon in connection with the subject. The South porch has also been put in thorough repair, chiefly through the exertion of the churchwardens, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Thomas Taylor. This work, which cost more than was at first anticipated, owing to the ravages of dry rot, the result of imperfect ventilation, was put into the hands of Mr. Plummer, of Rattlesden, who has completed it in a most thorough and satisfactory manner, so that it is now a great ornament to the building. A large gathering of the parishioners and others in the neighbourhood testified to the general interest taken in the beautifying of the church.

GLEMSFORD