



Bell Restoration Project

Ending 65 years of **silence**

St Faith's Dorstone today



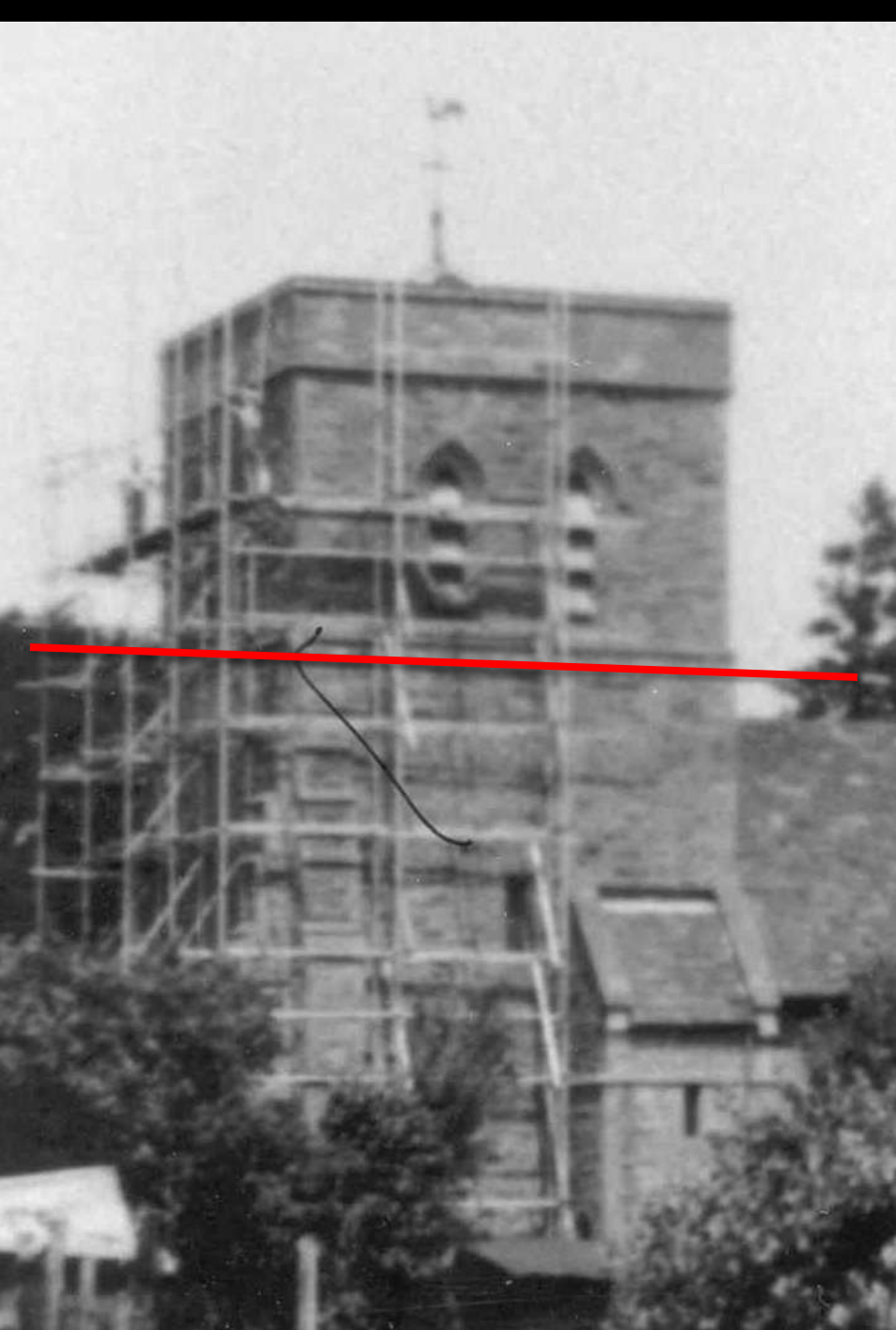
13th c. Church rebuilt in 1826

St Faith's in 1872



Rebuilt 1889





1950

Tower reduced in height

Bells were lowered
and hung on the
remains of the 17th c.
wooden bell frame.





The Bell Project all began with the East Window!

2011
Quinquennial
Inspection

13th c. stonework in
urgent need of repair

Restoration work began at the end of April 2013

- English Heritage
- Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust
- Lasletts Charities

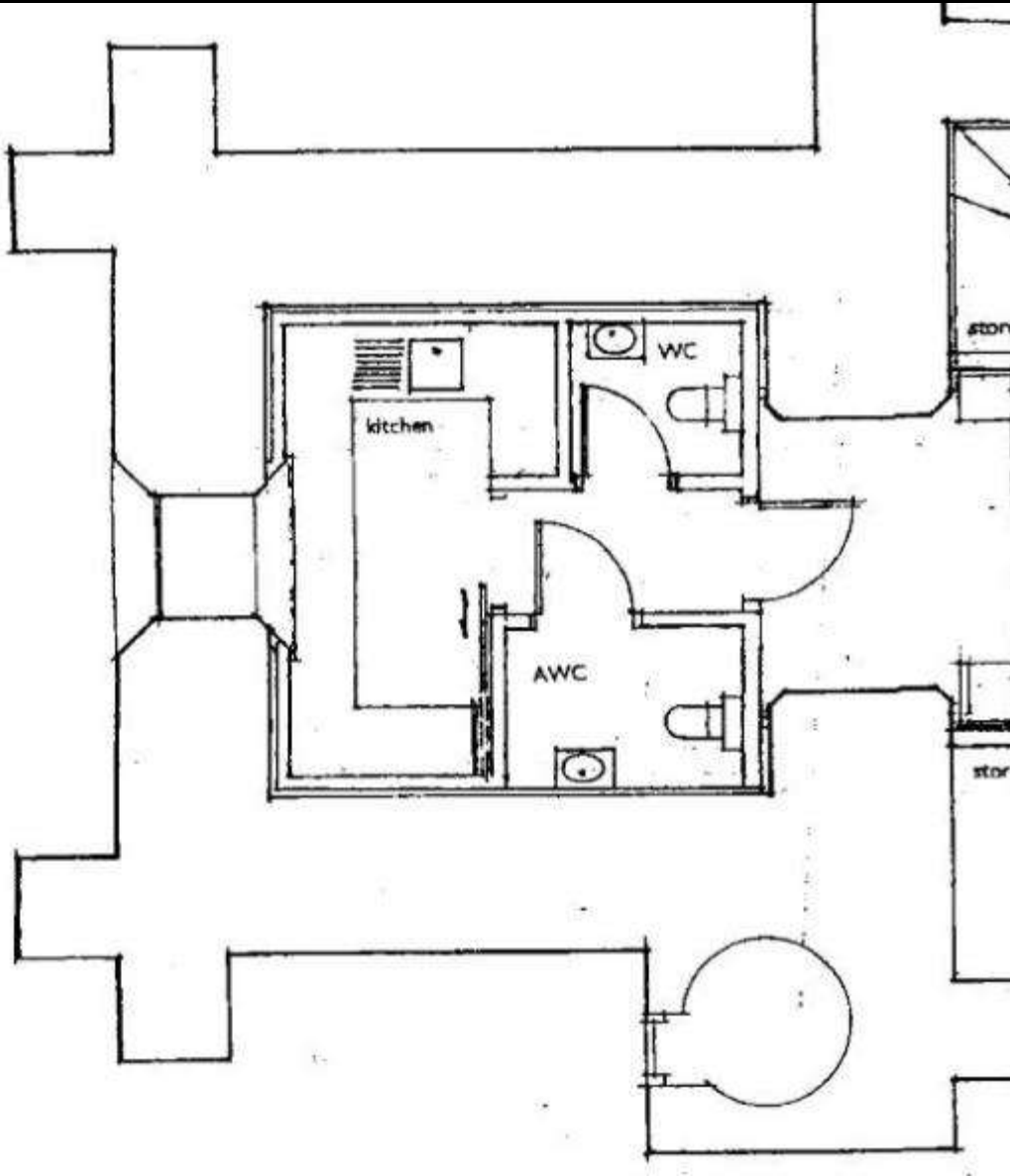
£72,000 was raised





Late Victorian
Clayton & Bell
glass cleaned and
replaced

19th c. St Faith's needs 21st c. facilities



Kitchen and
lavatories essential

Only suitable
place?
the tower base

But guess what was up above!





c. 1350

**John of Gloucester
(Cast on site)**

**1639
John Finch of Hereford**





1650

John Finch of Hereford

1654
John Finch of Hereford



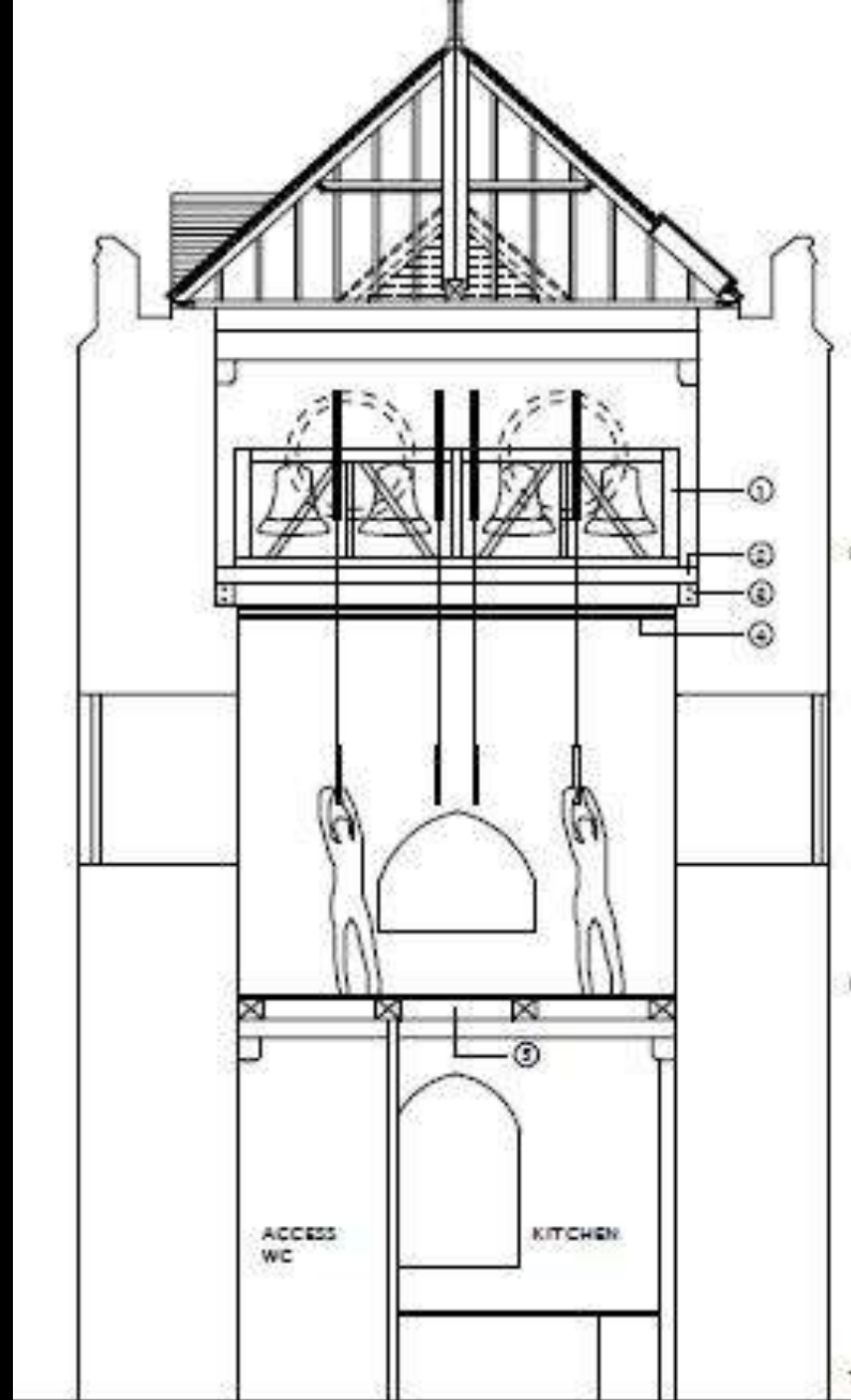
Urgent!

The frame was rotting, the headstocks rusting away and the ancient bells were at risk.

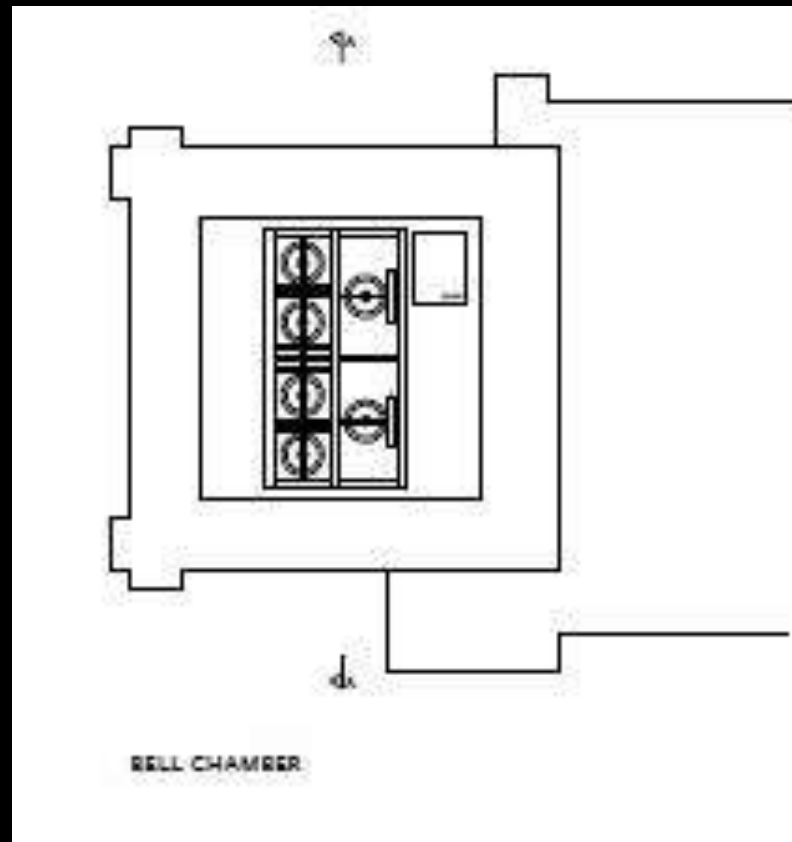
This had to be dealt with –
but why spend thousands to still
have SILENT bells?

Question - Could they go back to full circle ringing?

Answer - Yes! The experts told us that there was room and it would strengthen the tower.



Six bells would fit and be
much better for ringing -
with 720 possible changes



The Keltek Trust gifted us two orphan Warner bells (1904) from Richmond in Yorkshire



So - this is what we aimed for!



October 2017

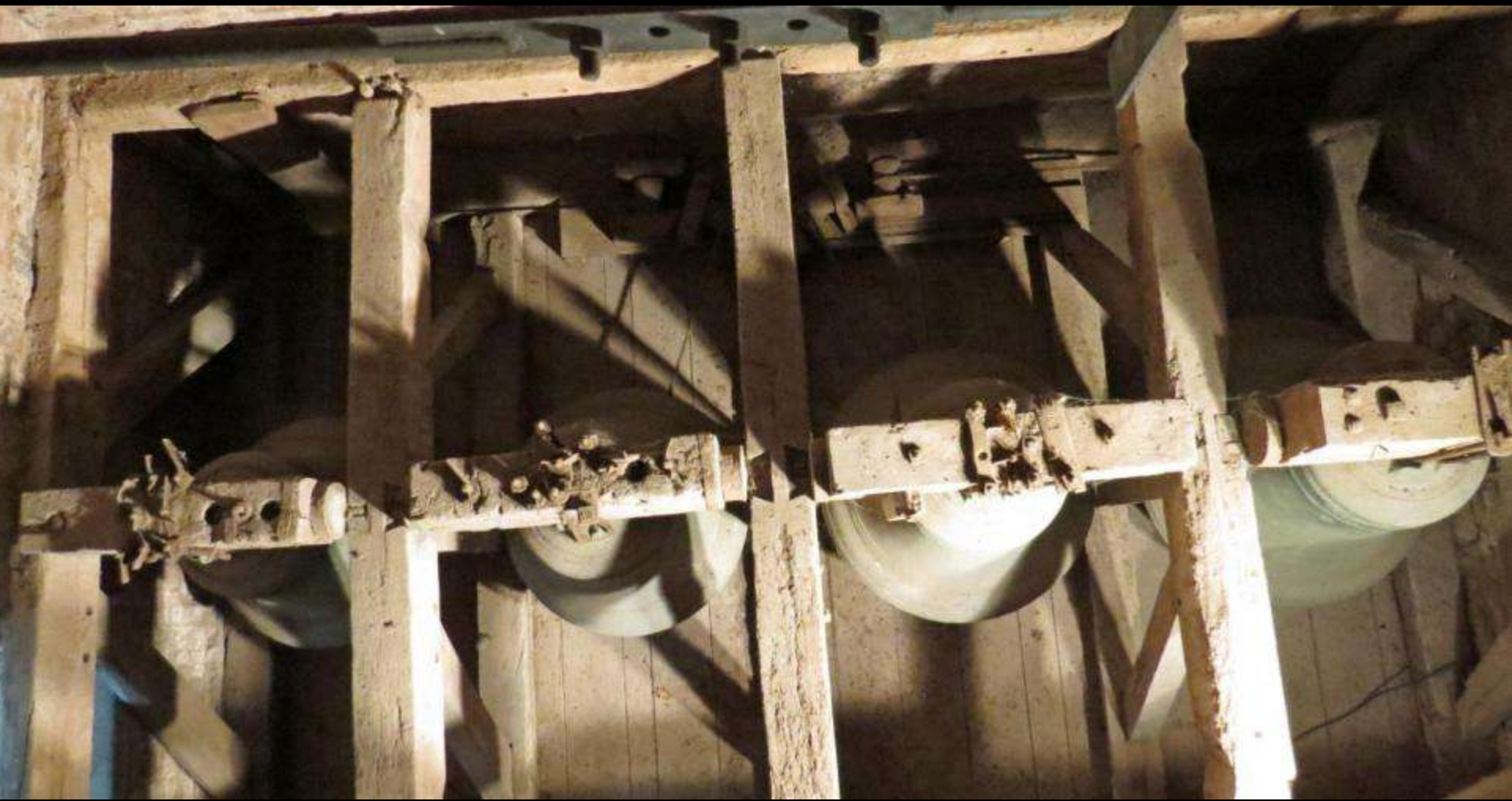
Appointed

Matt Pritchard Construction (Hereford)

to do General Building work – new louvres in roof, concrete ring beam, new upper floor, heating & lighting

Matthew Higby & Co (Church Bell Engineers)

Holcombe, nr. Bath to remove, restore and re-hang bells + two from Keltek Trust.



Matt Pritchard removes part of Bell Frame









Trap door – only way out for the bells





The bells come out



























The clappers



Frame is removed





Wood taken away





Work starts to build new Ringing Chamber and Bell Chamber





Old floor removed



A photograph showing the interior of a building under construction, focusing on the wooden floor joist system. The joists are made of light-colored wood and are supported by a central vertical post. The text "New floor built" is overlaid in yellow. The background shows the brick walls and the roof structure.

New floor built



Framework for Concrete Ring Beam





Concrete arrives





**Hauled into tower – one bucket
at a time!**







Finished



**Bell Chamber
waiting for the bells**



Ringling Chamber waiting for the ropes and ringers



New louvres to let sound out











Looking good



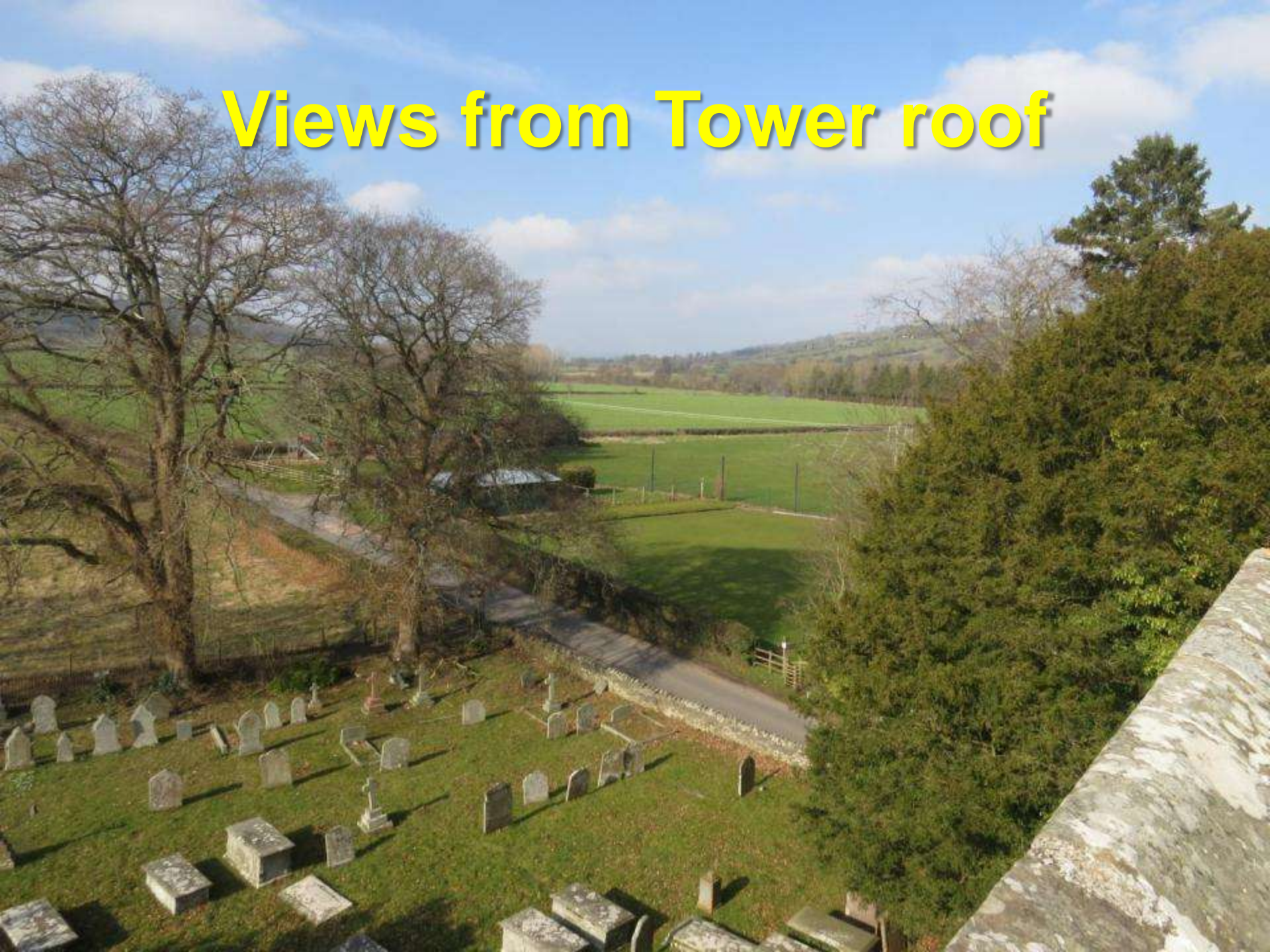


**Andrew Wright puts
in new door onto roof**





Views from Tower roof











Our bell ringers started practising in local towers











**New windows cover the
old louvres**





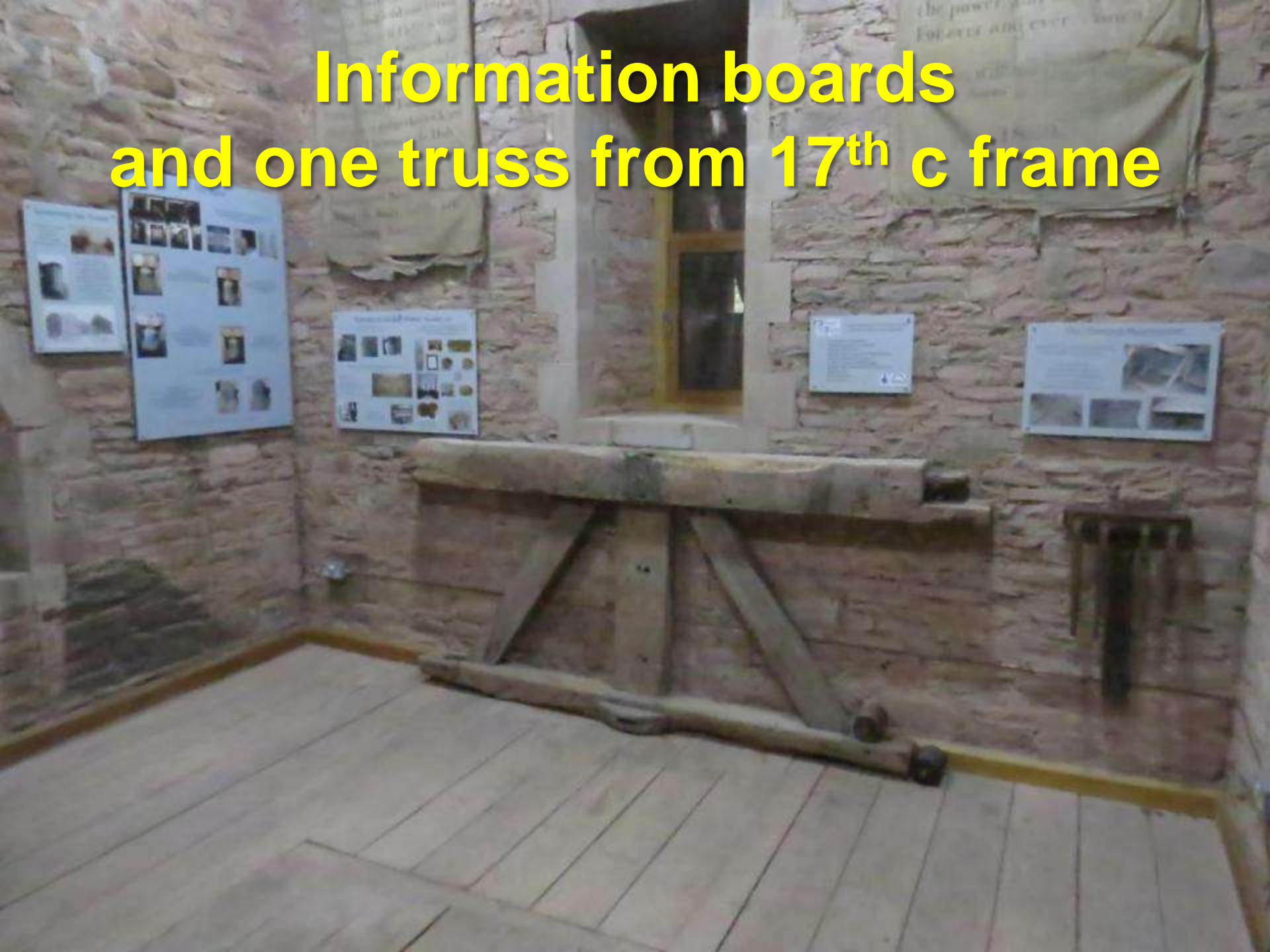
**Rope to help us up
the spiral staircase**



**Door at top of staircase
for warmth and safety**



Information boards and one truss from 17th c frame



The Congress of Sin...
Forgiveness of Sin...
and the Body, and
Living Amen...

Lowering the Tower

The original tower was built in 1870...
The tower was built in 1870...
The tower was built in 1870...



The Bells

Several bells were...
The bells were...
The bells were...



Removal of the Bell Frame - December 2017

During the winter of 2017...
The bell frame was...
The bell frame was...





The Bells at Higby's

were cleaned

And tuned





Friday 9th November 2018
The bells return -
delivered by Mark Corrick
& lifted by Sue Atkinson









THE BELL
CAST BY
THOMAS BIRD
SUBSCRIPTION
WILSON M.A. - Rector
1874
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH









One walked!

The Borderlink Benefice

*Blakemere, Bredwardine w. Brobury, Clifford, Cusop, Dorstone,
Hardwicke, Moccas & Preston on Wye*

Remembrance Day Service

on the centenary of the end of World War One

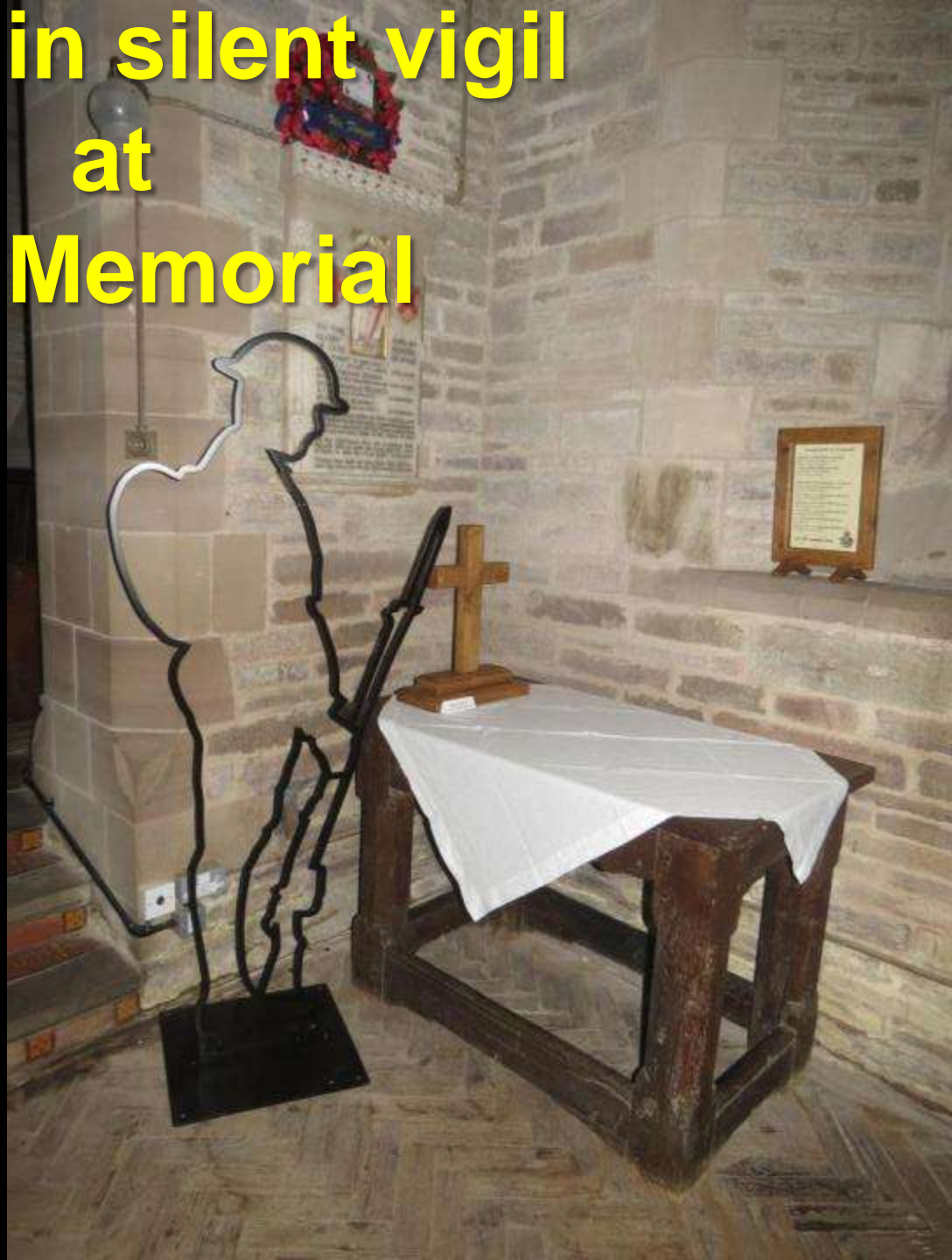


Sunday 11th November 2018

Led by Rt Revd Richard Frith,
Bishop of Hereford

With the rededication of St Faith's Church Bells

Tommy in silent vigil at War Memorial



The church is decorated with 500 poppies all made locally





Window displays by each of the Borderlink Parishes



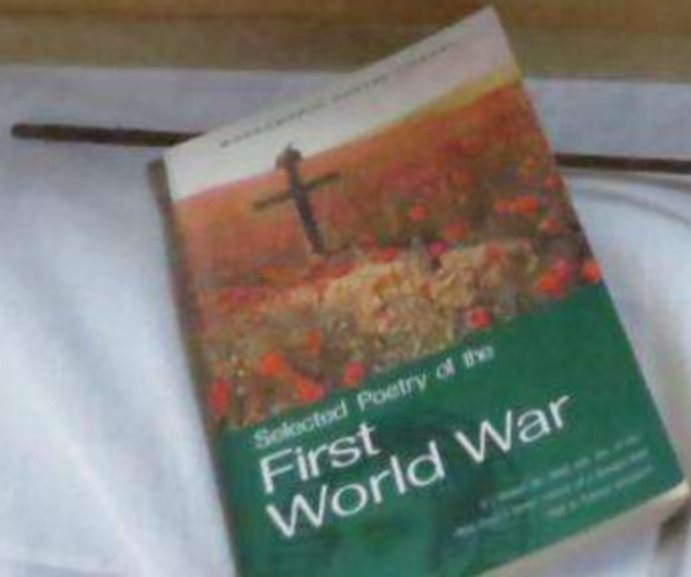


Brethwadre
with Bostury





Display of Memorabilia



Dead Man's Penny



Issued to
family of all
who died in
World War I



Darwin World War II Memorial

Major Walter Douglas Robert Long, VC
 1914-1918, 1914-1918, 1914-1918
 1914-1918, 1914-1918, 1914-1918
 1914-1918, 1914-1918, 1914-1918
 1914-1918, 1914-1918, 1914-1918

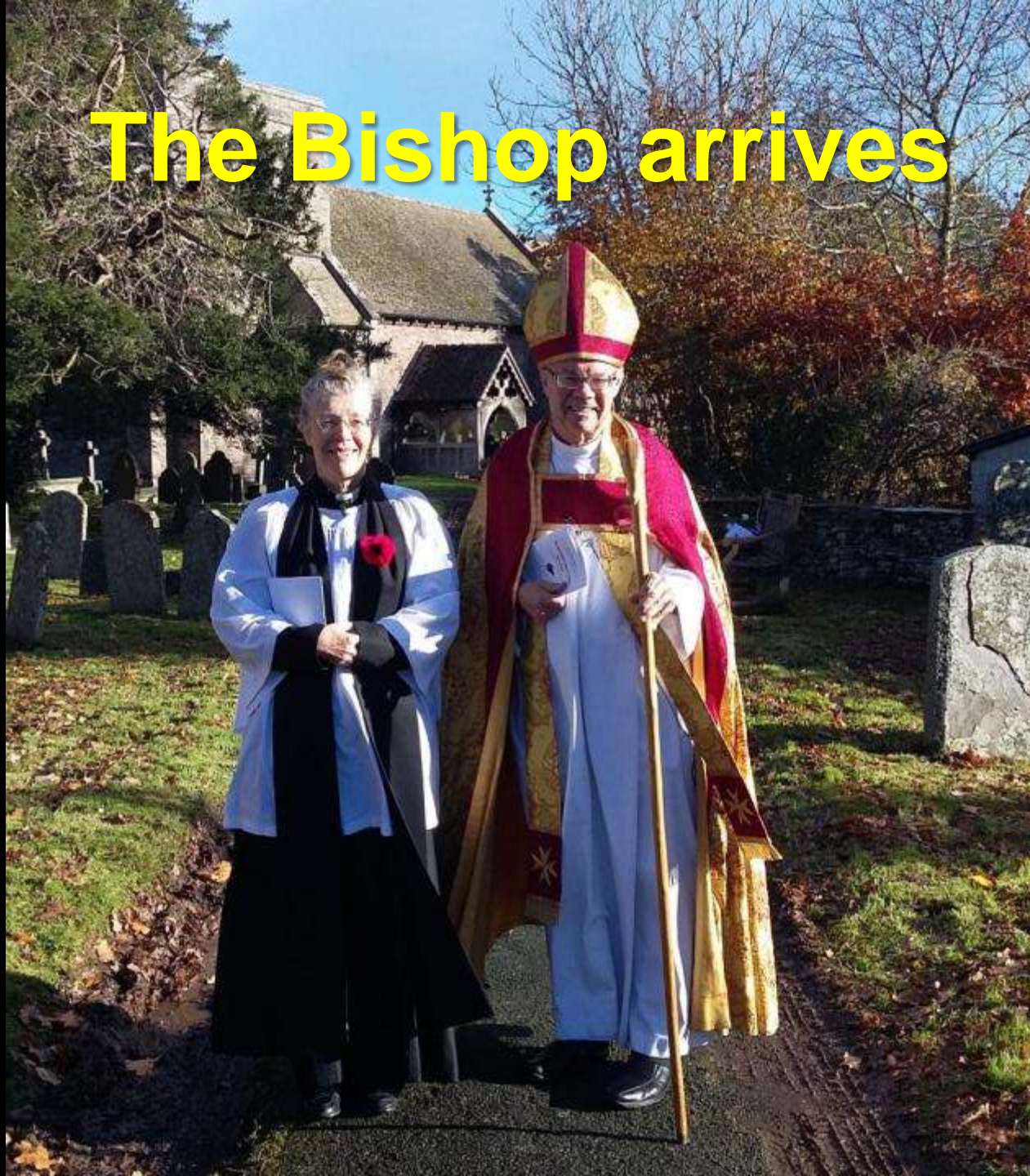
We will remember them




220 attend the service



The Bishop arrives







**Rt. Revd. Richard
Frith Bishop of
Hereford
rededicates
Dorstone Bells**

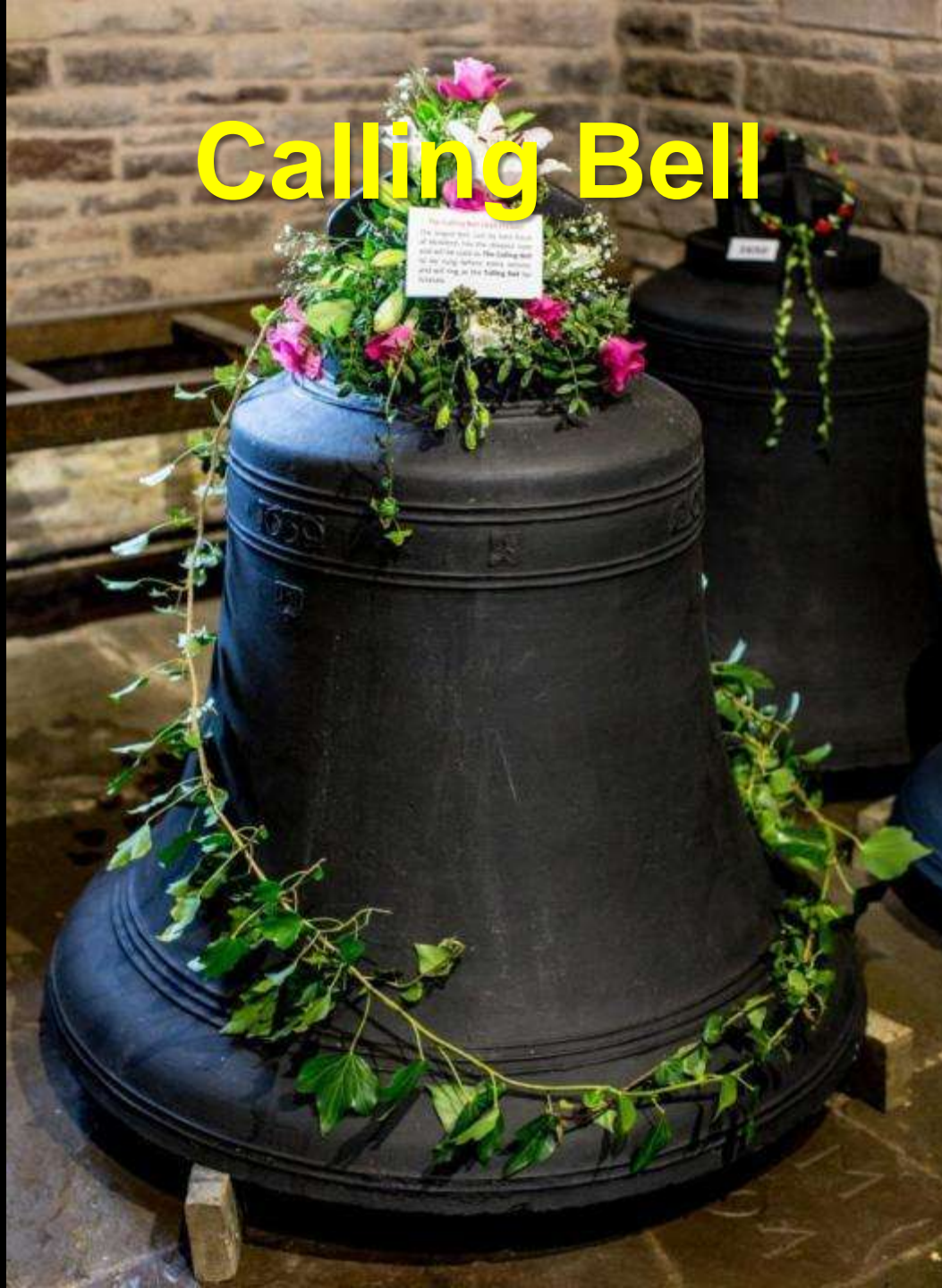
Our refurbished bells



Armistice Bell



Calling Bell



The Calling Bell (1871-1872)
The original bell was the first bell
of its kind, and was the first bell
to be used in the calling room.
It was rung before every session
and will ring on the Calling Bell for
the future.



Our ringers

Ray Birchenough with his memorabilia



Betty Lane with her Land Army badges



Ernest Morgan – veteran of the Arctic convoys



Ernest Arthur Morgan

"A Cold Coming We Had" - Ernest Morgan's Arctic Convoys



Ernest's father persuaded him during the 1930s to join the St John Ambulance, essentially because his father had experienced the trenches in World War I and did not want Ernest to go through a similar experience. At the start of World War II, Ernest volunteered for the Navy and he became a sea going paramedic.

Ernest started an officer training programme which included 6 months of sea training. He was drafted to HMS Norfolk in October 1943.

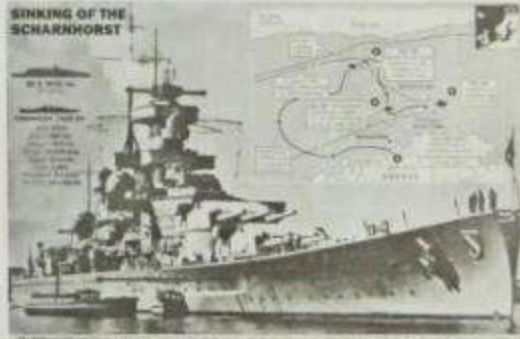


He joined the Norfolk at Scapa Flow. Arctic Operations were from Scapa Flow to Murmansk. It was a tough operation, with continual attacks from JU 88s, Heinkel torpedo bombers and U-boats.

It was bitterly cold and ice build-up on decks, rigging, guns etc was a constant hazard.



On Christmas Day 1943 the dreaded Scharnhorst left Norway with 5 destroyers to intercept a Russian bound convoy. HMS Norfolk, HMS Belfast and HMS Sheffield set out to intercept the Scharnhorst and on Boxing Day they made contact. The Norfolk was badly damaged in the battle but fortunately did not sink. She did take out the Scharnhorst's radar. Ultimately the Scharnhorst was sunk by HMS Duke of York.



The sinking of the Scharnhorst and the huge loss of men obviously had a lasting effect on Ernest and those who served with him.

After the events of Christmas 1943, Ernest continued his officer training. On January 23rd 1945 he was commissioned, as sub-lieutenant, to the Farnham Castle, which was a gunnery training ship.



For the rest of the war the Farnham Castle worked on the Arctic Run between Scapa Flow and Mermansk.

On VE Day they crossed the Arctic Circle, heading South.

The Arctic Star Medal and pin



The Ushakov Medal – awarded by decree from President Vladimir Putin



Commemorative Medal marking the 70th Anniversary of VE Day – awarded by decree from President Vladimir Putin



**Joe Catterall – currently
a serving Naval officer**



A few of the poppies



A day we all 'Remembered'



Monday 19th November 2018
Bells lifted into Ringing Chamber





Wednesday 20th February 2019

the metal frame arrives



**Piece by piece
it is hoisted
into the
Bell Chamber**











The long beams need the help of Sue Atkinson to lift them



Julian & Neil from Higby's



Sue
Tig & Mark

**Lifting the long beams was a
work of art**







Beams & Bells put into their places in the Bell Chamber



New wheels



New clappers



Headstocks









Everything fitted into place





Fixing the clapper



Our first Ding - or is it Dong?



Wheels & headstocks fitted



**All fastened to the
concrete ring beam**



Nearly ready.....



The ropes are connected





Handwritten text on a parchment scroll, likely a historical document or letter.

Informational panel with multiple images and text, possibly detailing historical events or artifacts.

Informational panel with multiple images and text, possibly detailing historical events or artifacts.

Handwritten text on a parchment scroll, partially visible on the right side of the image.

So the ringers are ready



The bells are ready





Friday 1st March at 2pm

Our bells ring full circle for the first time since 1950



Saturday 16th March



Our official Bell Ringing Day

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a grey blazer, is speaking into a microphone. She is holding a green folder and a white ribbon. The background shows a church interior with stone walls and arched windows. Other people are visible in the foreground, slightly out of focus.

Cathy (Chair of the Project Committee) opened the proceedings



Betty cut the ribbon with Ernest and Ray looking on

Cathy shows of our Tower Donations Box -

a scale replica of the tower
made by Rob Morgan



Items made from the 17th c oak on sale



We celebrated with wine



us to ring our bells again
er 65 years of silence!



ave four bells
ok like this

ey date from
1300, 1620,
1800 & 1904



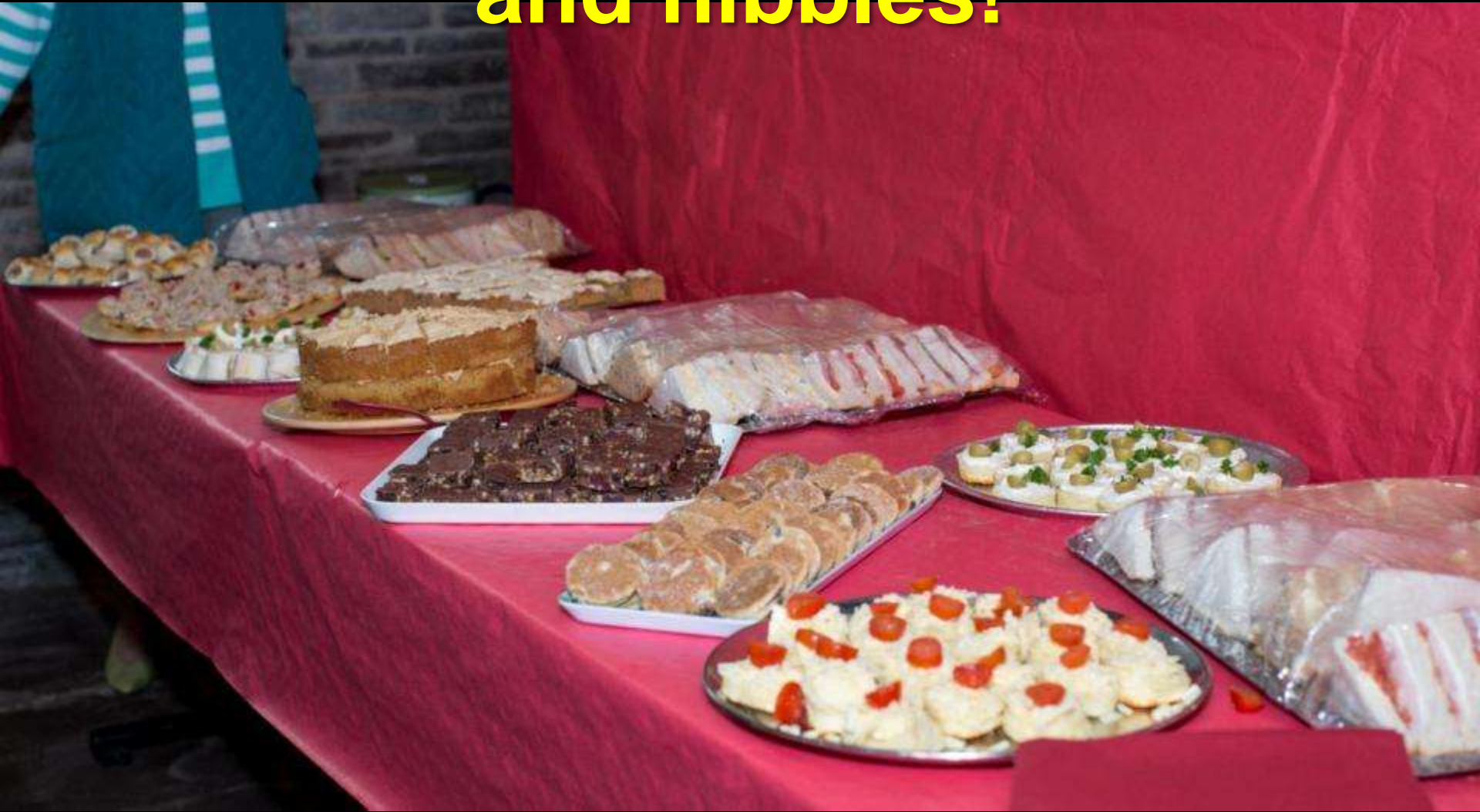
The plan is to
restore them to
full circle ringin

Please support the
Dorstone Bell Project

www.affaithdorstone.wordpress.com



and nibbles!











**There was even a bell-shaped
cake made by Cressie**



Thanks to Alistair we can see the bells are up and ready



Everyone outside is ready!



Let the bells ring



Ringling Day was a wonderful way to celebrate our bells being restored to full circle ringing after so many years of silence.

Thank you every one who helped, donated and to our new bell ringers.

**Whatever happened to those
dusty, worm-ridden beams?**



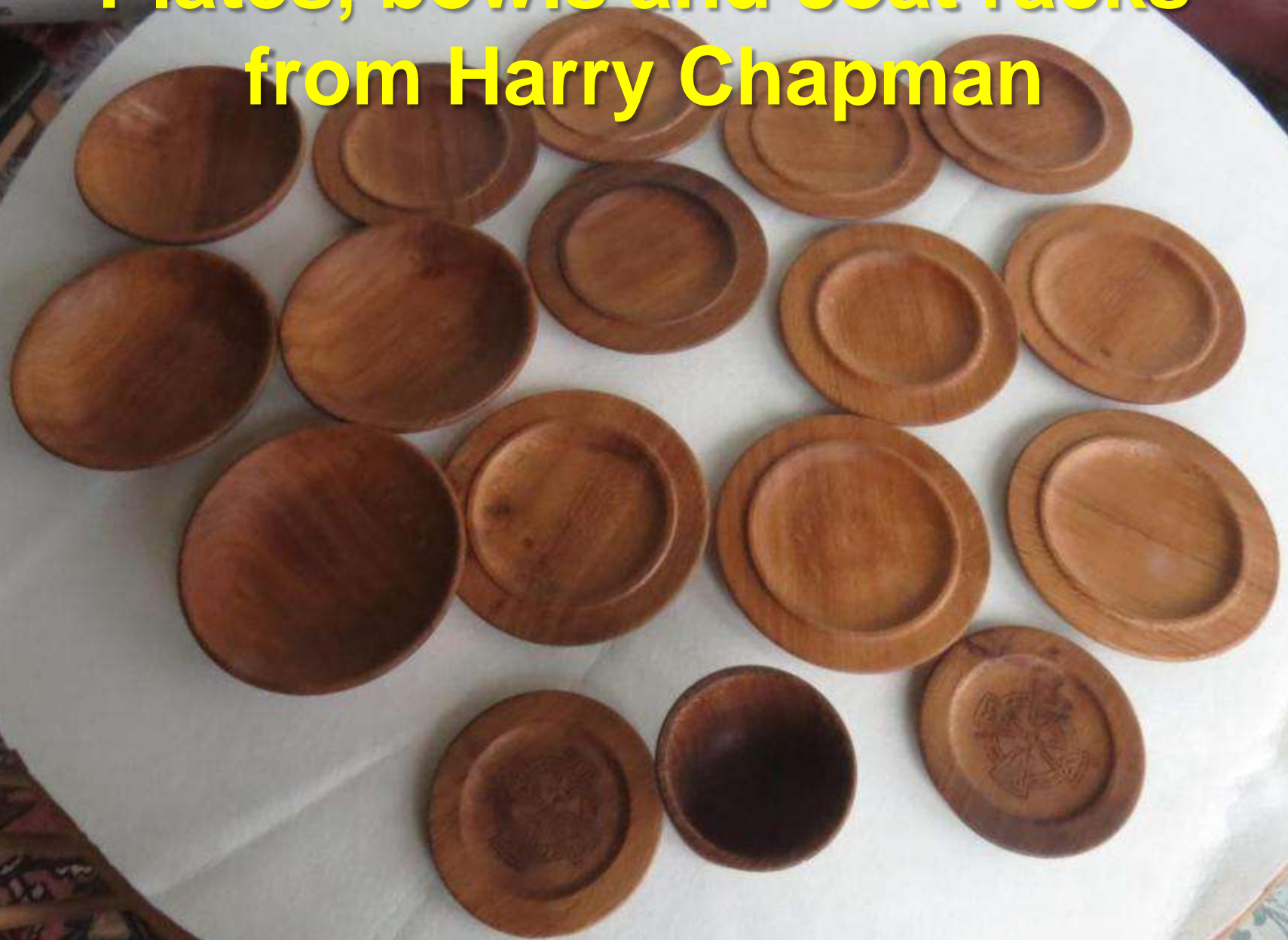


Transformed by Dorstone's craftsmen into these items - and lots more. We sold over £2,500s worth

**Lamp bases
from
Bob Barnard**



Plates, bowls and coat racks from Harry Chapman





Chalice & Paten for Holy Communion in St Faith's



Boot scrapers and Doorstops from Louise Wright



**Dozens of picture frames –
and so many other items –
from Rob Morgan**

10" x 8"
(25.3cm x 20.2cm)
Oak Frame
From Bell Frame
With Mount For
8" x 6"
(20.2cm x 15.2cm)
Picture
Finished With
Medium Oak
Black Bison Wax

**BATTLE'S
OVER**

1918-2018

Certificate of Grateful Recognition
11th November 2018

Who shared words for your contribution to Battle's Over
the international commemoration of the centenary
of the end of World War 1.



Thomas Cook

Book 085 2018/18/18
Church of St Cynidr and St Peter,
Glasbury, Dorset, UK
11th November 2018

THE CHURCH OF ST CYNIDR AND ST PETER, GLASBURY
IN PARISH OF WYSE
THE CHURCH OF ST FAITH, DORSTONE



*The following took part in commemorative
ringing during the evening at
The Church of St Cynidr and St Peter, Glasbury
in support of the Battle's Over initiative marking
the Centenary of the Armistice
11th November 2018*

- Alton Alcock*
- Michele Jenkins*
- Cathy Nelson*
- Nick Gethin*
- Cressida Gethin*
- Sue Atkinson*
- John Platts*
- Anne Stacey*

** These seven were all new ringers from Dorstone,
Herefordshire, where a new set of six bells was being
installed (restoration of the existing four and augmentation
to six). Unfortunately, delays in the project meant that the
new ring was not completed in time for the WW1 Armistice
Centenary. Instead, members of that band were invited to
provide Glasbury's contribution towards the national
Battle's Over evening commemoration. In doing so, they
rang together for the first time.*

MATTHEW HIGBY & COMPANY LTD
BELL FOUNDERS - BELL HANGERS - ENGINEERS

Unit 16, Churchcote Farm, Holcombe, Radstock, Somerset, BA3 5PX
Tel 01751 223737 or 01757 441042 Email matthew@higbyandco.com
Website: www.higbyandco.com

Company no. 04492811 VAT Registered number 791 486 47

Church of St Faith, Dorstone

Details of the bells

Bell	Weight (Cwt/lb)	Note	Date	Founder
1	5-3-23	F	1904	John Warner & Sons, London
2	4-0-13	D	1904	John Warner & Sons, London
3	3-0-6	C	1630	John Finch, Hereford
4	6-2-22	B	1330	John of Gloucester
5	8-1-0	A	1654	John Finch, Hereford
6	10-5-0	G	1639	John Finch, Hereford

In 2018 two of the original four bells were retained and two additional bells, which formerly hung at St Mary's Church, Richmond, North Yorkshire, were donated by The Kethick Trust to create a six-bell peal. The augmented peal were hung with all new fittings at a new steel bellframe by Matthew Higby & Company Ltd, Holcombe, Somerset.

St Faith's
Dorstone

Ringling Stands





Clock for the Ringing Chamber

Plaques for our donor boards

St. Faith's Dorstone
Bell Restoration Project 2018
Donation

In loving memory of Ben Goring
1963 - 2018

**We finish where we started –
with a picture of St Faith's.
This time with working bells!**



You can find the full history of this project
on St Faith's website

www.dorstonechurch.org

