

X BELLS!

Two men who stole a village's 300-year-old church bells were jailed for two years each. The bells of Hemsby, Norfolk, were recovered intact after being sold to a scrap merchant for £117, Raymond Chance, prosecuting, said at Norwich Crown Court.

Their scrap value was £300 — but their antique value could not be assessed.

X BELLRINGERS

A tribute to the unique dedication of Limerick's Mount St Alphonsus Bellringers Society was paid last Sunday when a record breaking six members received Bene Merenti

medals from the Vatican in recognition of their services to the Church.

Patrick Hanley, secretary of the Society, explained that this was the first time so many people received those medals at one time - certainly in Ireland and England.

They are Liam Benson, 38 years service; his brother Patrick Benson, 35 years; Patrick Hanley, 32 years; Hugh O'Brien, 27 years; and Liam Hickey, 32 years.