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JOSHUA SHORT

AN observer on the tower of the Parish Church of Aston, Birmingham, gazing northwards over the wilderness of houses, factories and railways, intersected by power lines and set about with monstrous chimneys, may find it difficult to visualise the rural Witton of two centuries ago, or may even doubt that such a Witton ever existed. To-day the great industrial agglomeration stretches away in all its dreariness to where the rising mass of Kingstanding surges up the slopes of Barr Beacon, and old Perry Hall, Perry Church and even the River Tame itself are engulfed in these masses of brick, concrete and steel. Two hundred years ago the water meadows of the broad valley were dotted with trees and the roofs of cottages and farms, and lines of alders marked the leisurely course of the river dipping from Hampstead and turning north again to Witton on its sinuous course to Tyburn and Castle Bromwich.

In this quiet countryside, a mile to the north of Aston spire, was Short's Farm, close to the Yew Tree Inn and the ancient ford in Brookvale Road, and here Joshua Short and his family farmed and prospered for four generations. Joshua was born in 1765, and grew up to succeed to the business founded by his grandfather. Both his grandfather and his father were ringers and rang on the old five at Aston, and the boy had early acquaintance with this church. He was entered in the choir and later, together with William Hassell, he played in the church orchestra. Hassell played the flute and Short the oboe, and it was not unusual for them to practise together in the belfry. This early friendship was to continue for many years.

In 1775 the bells at Aston were made into eight, and the band practised Bob Major with great assiduity. Thirteen years later began a succession of four remarkable peals. The first, in 1788, was 10,080 Bob Major, conducted by William Bennett, in which Joshua and his father, John, both rang. This was followed by 14,224 in 1789 and 10,192 in 1792, both in the same method. Then came the crowning achievement, 15,360 Bob Major in 1793, conducted by Joshua himself. It is said that the composition was arranged so that it could be brought round at different numbers up to 20,160, and that it was allowed to come home at 15,360 because Hassell's hands were sore.

Together with Job Perrins, the Aston blacksmith, Joshua Short and Hassell were associated with the ancient parish church for the remainder of their lives. Largely through

the efforts of this trio the bells were increased to 10 in 1814. Each gave generously to the fund, and the new treble bell bore the inscription: 'The Treble Bell was presented to the Parish of Aston by the Interest of Job Perrins, Joshua Short and William Hassell, 1814. T. Mears of London Fecit.'

It is often for his social qualities and innate character that a ringer is remembered, even when his technical skill has been forgotten and his achievements blotted out by the performances of later prodigies. It was so with Joshua Short. He was highly respected by the ringers of his day, but he had a convivial turn that made him very popular, and the young men flocked to his office to enjoy his company and his hospitality. He was a stout-built man of great muscular strength, and he had a high-pitched effeminate voice of the quality not unknown among men of his build. Thomas Day knew him well and told many stories of him and his band. He was fond of 'lapping' changes, the mode of passing the bells from hand to hand, and he would say, 'Now, lads, I'll call you a touch of Bob Major all in the titlums.' This would usually come to grief owing to the old man missing a bob. He was fond of tapping changes and tunes on his handbells, and he would often end an evening by saying, 'Now, lads, I'll give you "God save the King" with all the thorough bass.' 'How he managed to do all this on only sixteen bells,' comments John Day, 'was, I suppose, only known to himself.'

Joshua's son, John Short, was of a somewhat different type. He disapproved of his father's conviviality and familiarity with the ringers and, while not an unkindly man, his natural austerity led him to look askance at what he thought his father's frivolity. John appears to have been busy restoring and increasing the family fortune, and he seems to have succeeded tolerably well. He was, however, a good churchman, and his granddaughter, Mrs. Parish, stated that he gave a bell for Aston Church. This latter fact cannot here be verified, but it is certain that John was not unmindful of the ringers, for at his father's death he presented them with the handbells in a box with Joshua's name on the lid.

John Day states that the family has died out. But recently it has come to light that Mr. E. A. Butcher, late of Bromsgrove, and now resident at Arthog, is great-great-grandson to Joshua Short, and it has been the good fortune of St. Martin's Guild to acquire from Mr. Butcher,

on permanent loan, a fine oil painting of the old worthy of Witton, together with a vellum giving particulars of the 10,080 Bob Major at Aston in 1788. This document reveals itself as an original print from the elaborately designed plate said to have been made by the Veiseys, the copper engravers of Moor Street, and used by the Society for the invitations to the annual feast. Steps are being taken to preserve this old document, and it is hoped that the portrait will find a natural home in the ringing chamber at Aston.

E. C. S.

TWELVE BELL PEALS

WOLVERHAMPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Sat., Feb. 12, 1955, in 3 Hours and 42 Minutes.

AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST PETER,

A PEAL OF 5280 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS

Tenor 33 cwt. 21 lb. in C sharp.

ANTHONY AGER Treble	TERRY R. HAMPTON 7
SHIRLEY V. RYMER 2	BRYAN D. A. WOOLLEY 8
MURIEL REAY 2	GEORGE E. FEARN 9
J. EDWARD CAWSE 4	*DAVID A. CARPENTER 10
JOHN PINFOLD 5	CLIFFORD A. BARRON 11
ARTHUR V. PEARSON 6	RALPH G. EDWARDS Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by ARTHUR V. PEARSON.

* First peal of Maximus.

BRISTOL.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 3 Hours and 47 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, REDCLIFFE,

A PEAL OF 5007 STEDMAN CINQUES

Tenor 50 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

JOHN PHILLIPS Treble	MICHAEL V. CHILCOIT 7
JOHN CHILCOTT 2	ROGER O. FRY 8
ALBERT M. TYLER 3	FREDK. E. COLLINS 9
ARTHUR H. REED 4	JOHN H. CRAMPION 10
SELWYN H. DEARDEN 5	WILFRED WILLIAMS 11
DONALD G. CLIFT 6	FRANK E. DARBY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by JOHN CHILCOTT.

WAKEFIELD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 4 Hours and 10 Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF 5280 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAXIMUS

Tenor 35½ cwt. in C sharp.

JAMES FERNLEY Treble	W. ERIC CRITCHLEY 7
FRED DUNKERLEY 2	J. FREDERICK MILNER 8
BASIL JONES 3	JOHN WORTH 9
JOHN E. BIBBY 4	PETER LAFLIN 10
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS 5	JOSEPH W. WHITTAKER 11
*THOMAS W. STRANGEWAY 6	EDWARD JENKINS Tenor

Composed and Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

* First peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus. A birthday compliment to Mr. John Worth.

TEN BELL PEALS

WALSALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Thurs., Feb. 17, 1955, in 3 Hours and 12 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF 5007 STEDMAN CATERS

Tenor 26½ cwt. in D.

JAMES S. EASTWOOD Treble	ARTHUR T. DUTTON 6
CHRISTOPHER WALLATER 2	*ROGER L. HAWKSWORTH 7
GEORGE W. HUGHES 3	WILLIAM DAVIES 8
ERNEST STITCH 4	HOWARD HOWELL 9
STELLA HUGHES 5	DAVID G. WOOLLEY Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by JAMES S. EASTWOOD.

* First peal on ten bells.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the Vicar of Walsall (Canon A. T. Jenkins, M.A.) and the conductor.

LINCOLN.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 3 Hours and 19 Minutes.

IN ST. HUGH'S TOWER AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 OAKHAM SURPRISE ROYAL

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb. in D.

CHARLES E. BROWN Treble	GEOFFREY PAUL 6
*NORAH M. BIBBY 2	DENIS A. FRITH 7
*GEOFFREY R. PARKER 3	SYDNEY A. CHAMBERS 8
JACK L. MILLHOUSE 4	H. LESLIE PASK 9
*GEORGE H. RANGLES 5	JOHN WALDEN Tenor

Composed and Conducted by JACK L. MILLHOUSE.

* First peal of Oakham Surprise Royal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

BIRMINGHAM.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Mon., Feb. 7, 1955, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes.

AT BISHOP RYDER'S CHURCH.

A PEAL OF 5024 DIGBETH SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb. in F sharp.

HENRY H. FEARN Treble	CLIFFORD A. BARRON 5
MURIEL REAY 2	TERRY R. HAMPTON 6
JOHN PINFOLD 3	MICHAEL G. MORTON 7
GEORGE E. FEARN 4	PETER BORDER Tenor

Composed by E. W. TIPLER.

Conducted by PETER BORDER.

The first peal in the method. (Tipler's A/15/1.)

BIRMINGHAM.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Thurs., Feb. 10, 1955, in 2 Hours and 51 Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PHILIP.

A PEAL OF 5184 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb. in A.

EVELYN M. FLETCHER Treble	J. EDWARD CAWSE 5
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD 2	GEORGE E. FEARN 6
MURIEL REAY 3	CLIFFORD A. BARRON 7
JEFFREY B. WEBB 4	MICHAEL G. MORTON Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by CLIFFORD A. BARRON.

BARKWAY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION

On Sat., Feb. 12, 1955, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF 5152 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 16 cwt.

ROGER B. MORRIS Treble	WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN 5
*BRIAN J. STAFFORD 2	J. HENRY FIELDEN 6
J. DESMOND PAINTER 3	CHRIS. M. P. JOHNSON 7
WILLIAM T. COOK 4	PETER BORDER Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by PETER BORDER.

* First peal in the method.

DARLINGTON, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Feb. 16, 1955, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-EVANGELIST.

A PEAL OF 5088 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 10 cwt. 10 lb. in G.

*MRS. W. MAUGHAN Treble	†THOMAS COOKE 5
DENNIS R. AIREY 2	*KENNETH LAWSON 6
*MRS. K. LAWSON 3	†W. NORMAN PARK 7
*WILLIAM MAUGHAN 4	ROLAND PARK Tenor

Composed by J. HUNT.

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

* First peal in the method. † 50th peal together.

Rung as a welcome to Kathleen Margaret, infant daughter of the Vicar, the Rev. R. Brown, and Mrs. Brown.

GOUDHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Feb. 16, 1955, in 3 Hours and 24 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5056 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR

Comprising 992 changes of London, 768 of Bristol, 1,664 Superlative and 1,632 of Cambridge, with 105 changes of method and with all the positions of the four methods for each bell.

THOMAS E. SONE Treble	ROBERT SWIFT 5
FREDK. G. HUCKSTEPP 2	ALBERT J. LANCEFIELD 6
*JOHN R. COOPER 3	MARK S. LANCEFIELD 7
*GEOFFREY PEARSON 4	THOMAS CULLINGWORTH Tenor

Composed by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

Conducted by MARK S. LANCEFIELD.

* First peal of four Spliced Surprise.

Rung in memoriam Frederick White, a vice-president, and for many years a trustee of the Kent County Association.

**NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**

On Thurs., Feb. 17, 1955, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF 5088 GLASGOW SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JOHN WORTH Treble	*LESLIE BOUMPHREY 5
FRED DUNKERLEY 2	*ROBIN G. TURNER 6
BASIL JONES 3	EDWARD JENKINS 7
*JAMES FEARNLEY 4	JOSEPH W. WHITTAKER .. Tenor

Composed by C. K. LEWIS.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal in the method.

BEXLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 7 cwt. 1 qr. in A.

*JUDITH COX Treble	JOHN L. MORRIS 5
†MARY R. ANDREWS 2	A. PATRICK CANNON 6
†D. MARY WARD 3	RALPH BIRD 7
IAN H. ORAM 4	PETER BERESFORD Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.

* First peal. † First peal of Major.

BORDEN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Parker's Twelve-part (7th Observation). Tenor 22 cwt. in E.

EMILY B. P. WALKER .. Treble	FRANCIS J. CHEAL 5
GEORGE A. NAYLOR 2	CYRIL S. JARRETT 6
*EDWARD C. BARTON 3	TREVOR A. CROSS 7
†HARRY SPRINGATE 4	GEORGE KENWARD Tenor

Conducted by TREVOR A. CROSS.

* 25th peal. † 75th peal. First peal in the method as conductor.
Rung as a welcome to the Rev. John L. Phillips, the new Vicar.

BURTON LATIMER, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 3 Hours and 1 Minute.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN.

A PEAL OF 5152 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 10 cwt. 13 lb. in F sharp.

ERNEST G. ORLAND .. Treble	ALBERT H. HINTON 5
VICTOR A. PERRY 2	PATRICK I. CHAPMAN 6
HAROLD HAYNES 3	BARRIE HENDRY 7
*DAVID W. JAMES 4	BRYAN PATTISON Tenor

Composed by JOHN REEVES.

Conducted by BRYAN PATTISON.

* First peal.

Rung as a birthday compliment to C. Henry Harding.

CHIDDINGSTONE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES

Tenor 19½ cwt.

ERNEST J. LADD .. Treble	*KEVIN S. HOHL 5
DORIS E. COLGATE 2	*JOHN W. MEADE 6
*GEORGE FRY 3	BERNARD V. COLLISON 7
*PETER N. BOND 4	ROBERT COLLINS Tenor

Composed by H. HUBBARD.

Conducted by ERNEST J. LADD.

* First peal in the method.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 3 Hours and 12 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 19 cwt.

FREDERICK G. BEDDOW .. Treble	JOHN F. BUTLER 5
BESSIE A. CARTER 2	HENRY DOUGLAS 6
CLIFFORD A. BARRON 3	JOHN N. LINDON 7
MOLLY P. FLYNN 4	ERNEST F. WILLCOX .. Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by CLIFFORD A. BARRON.

Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to Ernest F. Willcox and on the occasion of his engagement to Miss Sylvia Beddow.

DUFFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALKMUND,

A PEAL OF 5024 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 17 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb.

MARK HATCH Treble	GORDON A. HALLS 5
ROBIN G. TURNER 2	ALBERT E. THOMPSON .. 6
HAROLD TAYLOR 3	PHILIP H. WHITAKER .. 7
DENIS R. CARLISLE 4	REV. GORDON G. GRAHAM Tenor

Composed and Conducted by DENIS R. CARLISLE.

Arranged on the day of the Derbyshire Association Dinner and rung as a wedding compliment to Joan Bailey and Maurice Dalton.

HAWKLEY, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5376 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 7 cwt. 3 qr. 11 lb.

*JOY GUMBRILL .. Treble	NORMAN J. SMITH 5
ROGER BALDWIN 2	E. WINIFRED KEYS 6
S. KATHLEEN M. KNIGHT 3	BRIAN J. LUFF 7
ROBERT WAKE 4	FREDERICK W. BURNETT .. Tenor

Composed by E. WIGHTMAN.

Conducted by FREDERICK W. BURNETT.

* First peal of Double Norwich. First peal of Double Norwich on the bells.

MARKET DRAYTON, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5088 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 17 cwt. 2 qr. 3 lb.

*HAROLD F. WHITE .. Treble	F. HECTOR BENNETT 5
*BERNARD MADELEY 2	EWART H. EDGE 6
FREDERICK E. WILSHAW .. 3	CHARLES H. PAGE 7
*FREDERICK PRICE 4	ARTHUR PRITCHARD .. Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by ARTHUR PRITCHARD.

* First peal in method.

NORTON, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF 5088 NEW CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 9½ cwt.

CLAUDIA A. CRITCHLEY .. Treble	*COLIN HARWOOD 5
*EDWIN G. BUCK 2	*JACK S. DEAR 6
G. WILLIAM CRITCHLEY .. 3	C. MICHAEL ORME 7
*PATRICIA HUTTON 4	*R. THOMAS NEWMAN .. Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by G. WILLIAM CRITCHLEY.

* First peal of New Cambridge.



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PULFORD, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 3 Hours 2 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN.
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
 Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

*JOHN CLUTTON Treble	GEORGE F. SPERRING .. 5
JOHN W. GRIFFITHS .. 2	DENNIS H. B. MILLWARD .. 6
†JOHN HUGHES 3	*ROBERT W. HINDE 7
WILLIAM CATHALL 4	PERCY SWINDLEY Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.
 *First peal of Bob Major. †First peal on eight bells. First peal as conductor.

SOUTHPORT, LANCs.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes.
 AT CHRIST CHURCH.

A PEAL OF 5184 WATFORD SURPRISE MAJOR
 Tenor 12 cwt.

LESTER L. GRAY Treble	*JACK ASHCROFT 5
*MARGARET E. RIDYARD .. 2	PETER COXALL 6
†ERNEST GOWER 3	RONALD KENRICK 7
DOREEN DUTTON 4	JOSEPH RIDYARD Tenor

Composed by MAURICE HODGSON. Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.
 *First peal in the method. †100th peal.
 Rung as 21st birthday compliment to Miss Jean Fairclough and a 19th birthday compliment to Miss Buntly Marshall. Both are members of the local band.

SOUTHWOLD, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND, KING AND MARTYR,
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
 Tenor 12½ cwt. in F sharp.

*CLEEVE F. FINCH Treble	RICHARD S. PAYNE 5
MARGOT R. THOMPSON .. 2	C. JACK GIBSON 6
†RAYMOND PECK 3	†PETER S. BEDFORD 7
JACK PILGRIM 4	JOHN W. BLYTHE Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by JOHN W. BLYTHE.
 *First peal. †First peal of Plain Bob Major.

THURCASTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
 Tenor 10 cwt. 7 lb. in G.

BRIAN S. CHAPMAN .. Treble	BRIAN G. WARWICK .. 5
MRS. B. G. WARWICK .. 2	PETER J. STANFORTH .. 6
SHIRLEY BURTON .. 3	RICHARD J. WARRILOW .. 7
*CHARLES HONE 4	†JOHN MOORE Tenor

Composed by J. S. WILDE (C.C.C.8) Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.
 *First peal of Surprise 'inside.' †First peal of Surprise.
 A compliment to Samuel J. Haines and Annie E. Humberstone (both of All Saints', Wigston Magna, band) who were married this day at Wigston Magna.

WIGSTON MAGNA, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 3 Hours and 6 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF 5056 HUMBERSTONE DELIGHT MAJOR
 Tenor 16 cwt. 11 lb. in E.

CECIL H. F. KNIGHT .. Treble	RICHARD F. ROE 5
ANDREW R. CARTER .. 2	FRANK S. CHENEY 6
T. MAUREEN LLOYD .. 3	KENNETH A. ROE 7
THOS. EDWARD HARROLD .. 4	RICHARD J. CARTER Tenor

Composed by T. E. HARROLD. Conducted by KENNETH A. ROE.
 First peal in the method.
 Rung for the wedding of Samuel J. Haines and Annie E. Humberstone, who are both members of the local band.

WOODFORD, ESSEX.
LONDON COUNTY ASSOC. & N. SOUTHWARK DIO. GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN.

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
 Tenor 10 cwt 2 qr. 21 lb. in F sharp.

CHARLES A. HUGHES .. Treble	HAROLD W. ROGERS .. 5
A. ST. JOHN N. BOYACK .. 2	WILFRID G. WILSON .. 6
MRS. OLIVE L. ROGERS .. 3	LEONARD N. BULLOCK .. 7
SQUIRE CROFT 4	JOHN R. KETTERINGHAM .. Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.
 Conducted by JOHN R. KETTERINGHAM.
 First peal on eight bells as conductor.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

HAMBLEDEN, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 12, 1955, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5280 DOUBLES

Being 10 extents of Stedman, six of St. Martin's, six of St. Simon's, four of Reverse St. Bartholomew, six of Plain Bob, 10 of Grandsire and Morris's 240.
 Tenor 11 cwt. 25 lb. in F sharp.
 *MRS. C. WILKINSON .. Treble | WALTER LEE 4
 *DOREEN COKER 2 | ROLAND BIGGS 5
 *ANTHONY E. COX 3 | *CHRISTOPHER WILKINSON Tenor

Conducted by WALTER LEE.
 *First peal of Doubles.

ROTHERHAM, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
 (Sheffield & District Society).

On Mon., Feb. 14, 1955, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents Rung on the front six. Tenor 10½ cwt.
 *MARGARET MILLS Treble | W. ERIC CRITCHLEY .. 4
 *GORDON K. CHADDOCK .. 2 | †JOHN NUTBROWN .. 5
 FRED FISHER 3 | NORMAN CHADDOCK .. Tenor

Conducted by NORMAN CHADDOCK.
 *First peal of Bob Minor. †First peal.
 Rung on St. Valentine's Day and Old Candlemas Day

BELCHAMP ST. PAUL, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Feb. 15, 1955, in 2 Hours and 41 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW.

A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 10½ cwt.
 WILLIAM CUTMORE Treble | GEORGE WATERMAN .. 4
 SAMUEL J. TWITCHETT .. 2 | URBAN W. WILDNEY .. 5
 ROSEMARY SEABROOK .. 3 | THOMAS BIRD Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS BIRD.

DERSINGHAM, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Feb. 16, 1955, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Seven variations of extents. Tenor 9 cwt. 8 lb. in G.
 G. E. LARNER Treble | JOHN WILSON 4
 ERNEST A. SHIPP 2 | CHAS. F. TOVELL .. 5
 LESLIE HOUGHTON 3 | CECIL V. EBBERSON .. Tenor

Conducted by CECIL V. EBBERSON.

OWSLEBURY, HAMPSHIRE.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Wed., Feb. 16, 1955, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW.

A PEAL OF 5040 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR

Being seven extents (five callings). Tenor 9 cwt. 1 lb. in A.
 *CLIVE W. BARNES Treble | *RAYMOND E. FINCH .. 4
 *DERECK C. JACKSON .. 2 | *PETER NASH 5
 *MARGARET E. L. BEAMISH 3 | J. MICHAEL LAKIN .. Tenor

Conducted by J. MICHAEL LAKIN.
 *First peal of Kent Minor.

THORNTON CURTIS, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Feb. 16, 1955, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE.

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of London and Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Court, Single Oxford and Plain Bob.
 Tenor 17½ cwt.
 ARTHUR CROWDER .. Treble | GEORGE W. MOODY .. 4
 RONALD CHAFER 2 | JACK BRAY 5
 HARRY HALL 3 | PHILIP BARNES Tenor

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

DARLINGTON, CO. DURHAM.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Fri., Feb. 18, 1955 in 2 Hours and 37 Minutes.
 AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven 720's called differently. Tenor 6 cwt. 3 qr. 9 lb. in B flat.
 *RAYMOND W. BUSBY .. Treble | RICHARD BUSBY .. 4
 ROBERT T. SIMPSON .. 2 | W. NORMAN PARK .. 5
 FREDERICK W. COOKE .. 3 | ROLAND PARK Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.
 *First peal. In memoriam the Rev. E. J. Simpson, M.A., Vicar of this parish since 1947, who passed away Feb. 9th, 1955.

CHEDDINGTON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF 5040 SPICED MINOR

Being extents of (1) Cambridge and Primrose Surprise, (2) Durham and York Surprise, (3) Beverley and Surfleet Surprise, (4) London and Wells Surprise, (5) St. Clement's and Childwall Bob, (6) Double Oxford and Thelwall Bob, (7) Double Bob and Plain Bob, with 125 changes of method.

ANGELA WILLES Treble	DENNIS KNOX 4
JAMES G. NEWMAN 2	JOHN W. V. SINFIELD 5
ROBERT L. PIRON 3	PHILIP MEHEW Tenor

Conducted by DENNIS KNOX.

First peal in 14 methods by all the band.

EDWINSTOWE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different 720's Tenor 6½ cwt.

*RAYMOND BULLIVANT (16) Treble	†HERBERT T. ROOKE 4
GEORGE CHALLANS 2	ARNOLD HILL 5
ALEC WILSON 3	†DOUGLAS H. ROOKE Tenor

Conducted by DOUGLAS H. ROOKE.

* First peal at first attempt. † 75th peal together.

GREAT WYMONDLEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being an extent each of Plain Bob, Oxford Bob, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Cambridge Surprise, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob.

JOHN CHURCH Treble	ALFRED C. HARRIS 4
*KENNETH C. TIMBURY 2	ALFRED W. CROFT 5
GEORGE CHERRY 3	PETER W. CROFT Tenor

Conducted by FRANK W. CROFT.

* First peal in seven methods.

Rung for the wedding of Miss Avril Virginia Waldock and Mr. Derek Edward Poulton.

HEENE, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 34 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 10½ cwt.

HAROLD C. PESKETT Treble	HENRY C. WEAVER 4
SHERLEY A. RICHARDSON 2	GEORGE FRANCIS 5
RICHARD J. WILSON 3	W. LESLIE WELLER Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE FRANCIS.

LAMBERHURST, KENT.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5040 PRIMROSE SURPRISE MINOR

Tenor 13 cwt.

ALBERT RELFE Treble	FREDERICK J. LAMBERT 4
*STANLEY J. PONTING 2	CHARLES A. BASSETT 5
WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE 3	ROBERT T. LAMBERT Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT RELFE.

* First Surprise peal 'inside.' The ringer of the third has now completed the circle of this tower.

MAIDS MORETON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND.

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Comprising seven extents in eight methods, viz.: (1) Cambridge Surprise, (2) Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, (3) Double Oxford, (4) St. Clement's, (5) Single Oxford, (6) Double Bob, (7) Plain Bob.

Tenor 11 cwt. approx.

*BARRY E. SAUNDERS Treble	*FREDERICK VICKERS 4
HERBERT H. ALEXANDER 2	*GEORGE W. HOLLAND 5
*WILLIAM A. YATES 3	ALAN R. PINK Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

* First peal in eight Minor methods. First peal on the bells.

Rung as a welcome to the new incumbent, Rev. A. C. Bliss.



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No matter in which corner of the country you happen to be, as likely as not you will come across Gillett & Johnston bells or tower clocks. Gillett & Johnston craftsmanship is embodied in an all-embracing service — as much in the preservation and restoration of old rings of antiquarian interest as in the installation of new.

BELL FOUNDERS AND CLOCK MAKERS

CROYDON



NEATH, GLAMORGANSHIRE.
THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 47 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Ten callings.			Tenor 8 cwt.
*LAWRENCE OLIVER Treble		HARRY BOYCE 4	
*JOHN GALVIN 2		EDMUND J. MORRIS 5	
GWYN I. LEWIS 3		*PAUL ASHER Tenor	

Conducted by EDMUND J. MORRIS.

* First peal. First peal of Doubles as conductor.

ORSTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 37 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents of 720.		Tenor 9 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb. in A flat.
ARTHUR E. HOODLESS .. Treble		CLARENCE F. BRIGGS .. 4
JOAN E. HOODLESS 2		ALLEN SIMPSON 5
WILLIAM L. EXTON 3		*F. WILLIAM MIDWINTER .. Tenor

Conducted by ALLEN SIMPSON.

* 50th peal.

A birthday compliment to the ringers of the treble and 4th.

REDBOURN, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

In seven methods, being one extent each of: Carlisle, Bourne, Beverley, York, Cambridge, London and Norwich. Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lb.

JOE HOBBS Treble		WILLIAM J. PUDDIFOOT .. 4
*JOYCE DODDS 2		AUGUSTIN V. GOOD 5
ALICK CUTLER 3		WALTER AYRE Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First of seven Surprise.

A pre-Lent peal.

ALDERTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Northampton Branch).

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET.

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being six extents each of All Saints, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, St. Colomb, Clifford's Pleasure, April Day, Old Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 7 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lb.

*JOHN E. KING Treble		*ANTHONY G. OSBORNE .. 3
†HARRY E. CURTIS 2		KENNETH D. PERKINS .. 4

ALAN C. COZENS .. Tenor

Conducted by ALAN C. COZENS.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.'

GRAFTON UNDERWOOD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Feb. 20, 1955, in 2 Hours and 6 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES.

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Comprising 10 extents each of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, St. Martin's, Plain Bob, and six extents each of Grandsire and St. Simon's. Tenor 7½ cwt. in B flat.

BRYAN S. COPE Treble		LEONARD G. TOSELAND .. 3
BARRIE HENDRY 2		PATRICK I. CHAPMAN .. 4

BRYAN PATTISON .. Tenor

Conducted by BRYAN PATTISON.

The fastest peal on tower bells to be rung for the Guild.

WANLIP, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Feb. 20, 1955, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY AND ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF 5040 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR

Tenor 7 cwt. 3 qr. 3 lb.

*ARTHUR YATES Treble		ERNEST MORRIS 4
*RICHARD BOWLES 2		†OWEN T. NORTHWOOD .. 5
*DAVID H. BAKER 3		PETER R. JOHNSON Tenor

Conducted by PETER R. JOHNSON.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor 'inside.' First peal in the method as conductor. First peal on the bells.

Rung to welcome the new Rector, the Rev. A. A. Lander, A.K.C.

OCKBROOK, DERBYSHIRE.

THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Feb. 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 23 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two extents each of Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob, and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

*JOHN F. MURFIN (13) .. Treble		JOHN S. HARRISON 4
ELISABETH GRIME 2		ALAN TAYLOR 5
MAURICE BAILEY 3		DEREK P. JONES Tenor

Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.

* First peal, including Treble Bob.

Rung to mark the wedding of Miss Joan Bailey, sister of Maurice Bailey, to Mr. Maurice Dalton. Also a 21st birthday compliment to David J. Marshall, of Bristol University Society.

WHITWICK, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Feb. 21, 1955 in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES

Forty-two extents, four callings. Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb.

*JAMES A. LORD Treble		JOHN HAWTIN 4
†REGINALD UPTON 2		JOHN A. UNDERWOOD .. 5
*DONALD WHITE 3		GEORGE HOWLETT Tenor

Conducted by JOHN A. UNDERWOOD.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.'

Rung as a wedding compliment to John Rex Witham, a ringer at this church.

HARDWICKE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

On Tues., Feb. 22, 1955, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 42 extents. Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lb.

*SIDNEY J. PUGH Treble		HARRY WORRALL 4
†PAUL WILLIAMS 2		R. GORDON CORBY 5
FREDERICK E. T. TRANTER 3		†JEREMY COBB Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK E. T. TRANTER.

* First peal away from tenor. † First peal. First peal as conductor.

WIGTOFT, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Eastern Branch).

On Tues., Feb. 22, 1955, in 2 Hours and 41 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL.

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being one extent each of Childwall, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 7 cwt. 3 qr.

ROBERT BAMBER Treble		DONOVAN R. WHITE 4
ARTHUR YOUNG 2		LESLIE TAYLOR 5
JOSEPH W. BAILEY 3		ALBERT E. FLATTERS .. Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT E. FLATTERS.

A birthday compliment to Miss Jean Bailey.

HANDBELL PEALS

CAMBRIDGE.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 15 Minutes.

IN QUEENS' COLLEGE.

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 13 in E

*J. D. PAINTER (Caius) .. 1-2		W. T. COOK (Jesus) 5-6
*J. H. FIELDEN (St. Cath's) .. 3-4		*B. J. STAFFORD (Queens') .. 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS (St. Cath's). Conducted by W. T. COOK.

* First peal of Major 'in hand.' First of Major as conductor.

NORTHFLEET, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Feb. 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 36 Minutes.

AT 51, DOVER ROAD.

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor size 15 in C.

*TREVOR A. CROSS 1-2		†GEORGE J. BUTCHER 5-6
*CYRIL S. JARRETT 3-4		†JOHN BURLS 7-8

Conducted by GEORGE J. BUTCHER.

* First peal of Triples 'in hand.' † First peal of Triples with an 'inside' pair. ‡ First peal 'in hand.' First peal of Triples 'in hand' as conductor.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION Lewisham District at Greenwich

After enjoying ringing of the reconstructed ring of ten bells at St. Alfege's Church, Greenwich, the congregation of 80 present at the service of the Lewisham District quarterly meeting admired the magnificently restored interior of the church. The pleasant service, conducted by the Vicar, will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to be present. The lesson was read by Mr. E. Barnett. The Vicar's address was short, apt and interesting and included a warm welcome to Greenwich.

High tea for a company of 71 was served in St. Alfege's Parish Hall. The culinary art of Mrs. Bullard and the efficient service by her assistants were very much appreciated.

The Vicar (the Rev. C. S. Nason) presided at the business meeting. Welcoming members to Greenwich, he thanked the Association for its aid to the Bell Restoration Fund and for assistance in training a band of ringers, especially, in this last connection, Messrs. J. Dafters, G. H. Daynes and the ringers of St. Mary's, Lewisham.

Fourteen ringers were elected members of the Association and one election was ratified.

Mr. A. J. Richards, District representative, read a report of proceedings at a general committee meeting held at Maidstone on November 27th, and moved its adoption. The report was adopted with a vote of thanks to Mr. Richards for his able composition. Cudham was chosen as the place of the next meeting, to be held on Saturday, April 30th. Cordial votes of thanks to the Vicar, Mrs. Bullard, her willing assistants and to local officials concluded the business.

Further ringing was ably superintended by Mr. J. Cannell.

AN AMBITION ACHIEVED

Ernest Morris, of St. Margaret's, Leicester, has—after 40 years' endeavour—achieved his ambition to ring a full peal in every possible tower with five bells and over in his native county. In Leicestershire there are 137 towers that fall into this category, and of these four are impossible for peal ringing in their present condition. At Church Langton (8) the folly of allowing a clock-making firm to hang a good ring is evident, for although the frame is strong, it is so constructed that it is impossible to ring the bells in full swing. Stapleford (6) bells hang 'dead.' Shawell and Skeffington (5 each) are quite impossible as they are at present. Therefore, Ernest Morris has—with the peal at Wanlip—rung a full 5,000 in 133 towers in his home county. The 137 rings are composed of 2 of 13; 4 of 10; 41 of 8; 56 of 6; 34 of 5. No one else has yet accomplished this number in one county, although practically all (save Rutland) must have many more towers available.

Gratefully Acknowledged

The Editorial Committee acknowledge with gratitude the following donations to meet the cost of producing 'The Ringing World':—

Personal.—W. A. J. K. 2s. 6d., Essex County Association £2 2s.

Peals.—Great Wymondley 2s., Walsall 2s. 6d., Orston 3s.

Quarter Peals.—Walthamstow 4s., Axbidge 2s., Kingsdon 3s., Dunmow 2s. 6d., Mitcham 3s., Payhembury 1s., Camberwell 3s., Burnham-on-Crouch 3s., Upper Clapton 2s. and 1s. 6d., Hawkey 2s., Walthamstow 3s. 6d., Long Sutton 2s. 6d., Isleworth 2s., Northiam 3s., Upwey 2s. 6d., Dover 2s. 6d., Heston 2s. 6d.

GUILD of DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

N.W. Branch at Ashwater

In spite of deep snow and icy roads, enthusiastic ringers from Bridgrule, Merton, Okehampton, Petrockstowe, Plymouth, Pyworthy, Stratton and those of the local tower attended the annual meeting of the branch on February 19th. We were all pleased to meet our old friend, Mr. R. H. Moon, who did so much for us.

The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. J. D. Newhouse, who in a very helpful address stressed that ringers are a part of the body of the Church and have a ministry. He gave the branch a hearty welcome. Mr. A. E. Moon (lay reader) read the lesson.

After an excellent tea, provided by the local ladies, including Mrs. Newhouse, Mrs. Moon and Mrs. Gubb, Mr. F. C. Smale took the chair. Mr. J. W. Sangwin reported that the balance in hand was over £7 and there were 38 members in the branch. The summer meeting at Holsworthy was a success. One new member was elected.

The Rev. W. H. Ravenhill was re-elected as chairman with Mr. J. W. Sangwin as secretary and treasurer (for the 25th time). Mr. C. Sangwin was made Ringing Master in place of Mr. Fred Sangwin, now living at Combe Martin. Messrs. R. Collacot, R. G. Pearce and W. H. R. Smale became representatives to the General Committee of the Guild. It was agreed that the summer meeting be held at Holsworthy in July and the annual in November at Petrockstowe. The Rector and the organist, Mr. Moon and the ladies were thanked for all they had done to make the meeting so successful.

F. C. S.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

'THE RINGING WORLD'

The Official Journal of the Central
Council of Church Bell Ringers

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Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

HON. SECRETARY AND TREASURER: E. A.
BARNETT, 26, Iron Mill Lane, Crayford,
Kent. Telephone: Bexleyheath 8689.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD (convener), 122, Lee
Road, Blackheath, London, S.E.3.

FRANK I. HAIRS.

JOSEPH T. DYKE.

HAROLD J. POOLE.

R. S. ANDERSON.

EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

In 1805 Richard Sharp, sen., rang the treble in the first peal on the bells at Borden, Kent. In the peal of Grandsire Triples on February 19th, the same bell was rung by his great-great-granddaughter, Miss Emily B. P. Walker, daughter of Mr. W. J. Walker, the well-known Kent ringer.

BELFRY

Mr. Walter Ayre's peal at Apsley was his 350th as conductor.

Miss G. Newcombe, of Edmonton, has been elected 'Ringing World' representative for the North and East District of the Middlesex Association.

Golden wedding congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. Harding, of South Ealing. Mr. Harding rang the tenor to a quarter peal in honour of the occasion.

Despite the heavy snow, Miss J. Armstrong rang the 'Pancake Bell' at Morpeth Watch Tower on Shrove Tuesday and so preserved an ancient custom.

We are informed that an order has been placed for the ring of five at Napton-on-the-Hill, Warwickshire (tenor 11 cwt.), to be overhauled. An order is shortly to be placed for another Warwickshire five, Honiley, to be rehung.

Mr. C. A. Hughes, Master of the Northern District of the London County Association, and Mrs. Hughes entertained the band who rang the peal at Woodford on February 19th, to tea. Their kindness was much appreciated.

The old brigade are carrying on with the London Counties Association. At the annual meeting on February 13th Mr. T. H. Taffender was re-elected Master, Mr. H. W. Rogers secretary, with Mr. Wilfrid G. Wilson and Mrs. Rogers as assistant secretaries. A report will appear in our next issue.

GOSSIP

Warborough, Oxford, is to be augmented to a ring of eight. In response to a hope expressed in the Parish Magazine last month that two new trebles would be added, the Vicar has been offered anonymously the two bells necessary to make the octave.

The tenor ringer of the peal of Grandsire Caters at Nottingham on February 5th (page 98) was Mr. A. E. Hoodless, and not Mr. A. W. Hoodless.

Mr. A. Pat Cannon has had a bad start in his peal ringing attempts this year. In nine weeks he has only scored two peals—two cancellations and three failures have been his lot.

Mr. Gordon K. Chaddock, aged 17, has now rung Plain Bob Minor, Major, Royal and Maximus to peals all conducted by his godfather, Uncle Norman Chaddock.

The recast ring of eight bells at St. Mary's, Deane, Bolton, was dedicated on February 12th. The contract was carried out by Messrs. John Taylor and Co.

Twelve College Youths met at Southwark Cathedral last Saturday to attempt a peal of Stedman Cinques in honour of the bi-centenary of the St. Martin's Guild. All were members of both Societies, and a composition of Henry Johnson had been chosen. Just before the half-way was reached it was noticed that the tenor rope was giving out below the sally. As the conductor called 'Stand,' the last strand parted, and so what promised to be a peal worthy of both Societies came to an untimely end. Those taking part were: J. Phillips 1, J. T. Smallwood 2, W. Williams 3, J. Chilcott (conductor) 4, F. E. Darby 5, G. W. Cecil 6, J. S. Mason 7, A. B. Peck 8, P. Chalk 9, J. Crampion 10, M. Chilcott 11, J. A. Prior 12.

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TOPIC FOR THE MONTH - II.

'Blue Book' and 'Register'

YOU couldn't be blamed if you failed to spot the topical subject implied in this title, for the phrase relates to the solution rather than to its related problem. It is closely allied, however, to last month's topic, which dealt with the relation between length and toleration of peals. It is, in fact, the much debated question of whether certain methods should find official favour for peal attempts, and what degree of recognition should be accorded to peals rung in such methods. The article seeks to provoke thought towards crystallising opinion on these matters.

As in most fields of interest and activity today, so in ringing, any realistic change or reform calls for fundamental rather than superficial consideration and treatment. It is all in keeping with the modern outlook—the trend of streamlining our work and our play. The Exercise will derive little satisfaction in these specific problems so long as we continue merely to argue about the merits and demerits of any particular method, or group of methods, in relation to peal-ringing. There is here a big and highly important job to be done, radically and comprehensively; so that, in reaching decisions, allowance must be made, as far as possible, for future trend and development. Far from the concept of finality having been reached in method design (and therefore also in composition), research in this field since the war has shown wide possibilities of novelty in structure. Of this, perhaps, more may be said in a subsequent article.

It may come as a shock to us, when we think about it, to realise that though the Exercise has an elected advisory body—the Central Council—to whom it looks for official pronouncements on guidance on ringing matters, yet:—

(a) There exists no comprehensive 'catalogue' of officially recognised methods, and of stage forms of each of those methods, duly classified and indexed; so as to be readily identifiable by say, an 'official' index number.

(b) While performances have to be 'acceptable' to the Central Council for inclusion in the Peals Analysis, the lack, as in (a) foregoing, persists and there remains no authenticated tally of all such peals rung.

As to (a) above, there are, of course, Central Council and other publications of 'Collections' of methods; but the logical issue seems to be that if the practice of 'exclusion' from the Central Council annual Peals Analysis is to be generally acceptable as 'legal and binding' and without equivocation, then, beyond the present rather arguable dicta about certain methods not being acceptable, there must be a more authoritative, and in some respects informative, kind of 'statute book' of methods; a Methods 'Blue Book,' if you like.

As to (b) above, it is true, of course, that peal performances are published in this paper and that peal records exist in the ringing Guilds and Associations; and it is right and necessary that they should be so recorded. But it seems a natural corollary that if there is a recognised authority for the approval of methods, in which may be rung peals that are to qualify for official record in summarised statistics, then there should be an official record (in main data only, perhaps) of all peals duly rung in such methods; a Peals 'Register,' if you like.

The more thought we give to these ideas the more certain will the majority of us realise that the longer the deferment of these compilations, the greater will grow the two main difficulties arising, namely:—

(1) The question of qualification of extant methods, and any extant or potential stage

variations of each, for inclusion in the 'Blue Book.' (New methods can be added as approved.)

(2) The initiation of, and the manner of maintaining, the 'Register.'

Still, the difficulties are by no means insuperable; and the advantages (one might almost say the essential uses) may be shown to be beyond question.

It is important, at this stage, to realise that the 'Blue Book' and 'Register' in their proposed formats (which are visualised as being mainly of the form of one-line entries), would not and could not supplant or replace the existing forms of publication and record. Rather would the latter be complementary to the former—the Central Council Collections of Methods to the Blue Book, and 'The Ringing World' and Association reports to the Register. The utility of each would enhance that of the other. Consider first, however, the question of compilation.

THE BLUE BOOK

Earlier, it was stressed that this important job calls for 'radical and comprehensive treatment.' Before the Blue Book could be compiled there would necessarily be preliminary work (arising from the controversial issues recently discussed by correspondents in these pages), and resulting in a review and restatement of the presently agreed principles of method structure. This would devolve upon the Methods Committee of the time, of course; but their proposals would have to be drawn in well defined terms, and logically and simply stated and published well in advance of the ultimate Central Council consideration; so that representatives could vote informedly and with complete satisfaction to themselves and their constituents. These decisions could then be set out in the preamble of the Book. A revision of method classification is necessary, too, preferably in the direction of simplicity. It is unnecessary and indeed impractical at this stage to attempt a detailed exposition of all this; although a satisfactory lay-out has been worked out on the 'loop-hole-proof' and intelligible lines.

The cataloguing of the methods, however, would be based on the revised classification, and the numbering of the methods would follow accordingly.

Only such methods, and such stages of each, as comply with the accepted principles would qualify for inclusion; and each would receive its specific 'Blue Book' official code number. The one-line entry for each method would indicate also the stage of its basic form and its other accepted stages. (The actual design or figures of the basic and other stages would not appear, these being given in the Central Council 'Collections,' as now.) A method, or any of its stages, not included, would not have any peal performance in it recognised as qualifying for entry in the Register; though such performances might still be published in 'The Ringing World' and in Association reports. In this way freedom of choice would remain to the individual band, to 'peal' whatever it pleased and publish it; but the collective decision of the whole Exercise in technical preferences as to methods would be exclusively maintained, and indeed endorsed, by the qualified entries in the Register.

All published methods would find an entry in the index of the Blue Book, either by name or collection number; and those not qualifying would be marked (say with an 'X') as 'excluded,' and would not appear in the one-line entries positions. Thus the intending conductor would have a sure guide as to the 'status' of his method. New methods and/or stages would be notified in 'The Ringing World' as acceptable or otherwise, and if the former, with the next serial number (according to class) allotted.

Correction leaflets, giving addenda, and deletions if 'Decisions,' so varied things, would be published annually, bringing held copies up to date. A reprint, to cover all amendments, might be published, say, every five or seven years. All District secretaries of Associations would be urged to hold a copy, and no doubt most conductors would require one for personal reference.

THE REGISTER

Here a number of concomitant new ideas should make for easier and more efficient working of the machinery of recording peals. First it is suggested that a new office should be created within the Central Council—that of Registrar of Peals. He would hold and maintain the Register, which would be compiled in volumes, each covering, say, three- or five-year periods. The current volume would be started at the ensuing January, and those for the past made up gradually. Each volume would be identified by the numbers of the years to which it related. Entries would be made by the Registrar in order of receipt, receiving the next serial number. Each series starts afresh for each year, and each number in the series is prefixed by the year. Thus, towards the close of next year, for example, a typical registration number might be '1956/908.' This number then positively identifies this one peal among all other officially recorded peals ever rung. The next entry on the line would be the month, then the date; then, following across the double page, and possibly in this order—Parish, County, Tower, Association, Method Code Number (from Blue Book), Number of Changes, Composition, Conductor, and Notes. (The Code Number gives the stage also.)

The tie-up, in recording, from Conductor, through Association, to Registrar, and on to 'The Ringing World' publication, could be effected quite simply and surely in some such way as the following:—

Peal Report forms.—These should help everybody concerned. First the Central Council would have printed a number (say 5,000) in quite simple yet standard form, ensuring uniformity and completeness, with two entry-spaces that are new; one for the Blue Book number of the (acceptable) method, and the other for the Register entry number. The stock of forms would be held by the Registrar and obtained from him at, say, 3d. a dozen post free. The Conductor now simply fills up the spaces, and with a bit of carbon paper he does two copies at once. These he passes immediately to his Association Peals Secretary. The latter retains one for Association records. Each week, say, on Mondays, he sends off the other copy (or copies if more than one peal has come in) to the Registrar. The latter, if the method be in the Blue Book enters its number in the form, together with the next serial Register number. He then copies the essential particulars into the Register. Once a week, say on Thursdays, he sends on to 'The Ringing World' all forms he has received, whether he has transcribed them or not, and thus they get to the journal in standard form and marked as to whether they are registered peals or not. Thus all performances get published, even 'numbered versions' of extensions for instance; but only 'accepted' methods and their natural extensions are registered. The Registrar will thus have helped, too, the peals analysis officers in their task, since 'The Ringing World' publication will indicate the 'regular' peals at a glance.

Previous records.—As to the opening of the Register volumes for all time prior to the current volume, this large task would take considerable time, of course, and would be undertaken by others than the Registrar. It would no doubt be brought within reasonably easy grasp by access that might be kindly granted by the Rev. K. W. H. Felstead, to the results of his multitudinous labours of love, in checking all extant published records of peals to

(Continued next page)

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION

Matters Discussed by Southern Division

The annual meeting of the Southern Division took place at St. Mary's, Shoreham, on February 19th with an attendance of over 50, representing 17 towers. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. F. S. W. Simpson).

Tea was taken in the Church Hall, at the conclusion of which Mr. and Mrs. Pike, Miss J. Pike and other helpers were thanked for preparing such a delightful meal. Prior to the business meeting, at which the Vicar presided, the secretary stated he had received a letter from the Master (Mr. S. E. Armstrong) apologising for his unavoidable absence. He also expressed thanks to the Vicar for conducting the service, and to the organist for giving his services.

The balance sheet and secretary's report were adopted and the following officers were elected: Ringing Master, Mr. J. Dearlove; secretary, Mr. C. W. Linington; committee, Mr. S. W. Brown, Miss J. Pike; hon. auditor, Mr. H. Stalham. Seven new members and one non-resident member were elected to the Association.

Under 'Any other business' the question arose as to when the proposed badges for the Association would be ready. Mr. R. W. Percy (hon. general secretary) said he was awaiting the approximate numbers required by the Divisions, as the cost of making the badges depended entirely upon the number ordered.

'The Ringing World' was also discussed at length. It was reported that some members had withdrawn their subscription following the increase in price. The raising of the price from 4d. to 6d. was deprecated, and considered not to be the remedy to make the publication pay.

It was suggested that peals should be a secondary feature. To a learner it was rather frightening on opening his newly-acquired copy to be confronted with a formidable list of peals. It was agreed that more articles appertaining to towers and bells would be welcomed and, when possible, illustrated; also articles should appear on ringing which would be within the scope of the younger and less advanced ringer.

Mention was made of the recent operatic contribution to 'The Ringing World' by a young ringer of the Keymer band. He was heartily congratulated by all present. C. W. L.

Northern Division at Horsham

The Northern Division held its annual meeting at Horsham on February 5th with 40 members present. The Vicar (the Rev. R. C. O. Goodchild) conducted the Association form of service. Mrs. Rapley was re-elected secretary, and the Ringing Master for the coming year will be Mr. George Jennings. The committee and auditor were re-elected.

Under the heading of any other business a lengthy discussion took place on a motion made by Mr. Fosberry and seconded by Mr. Stilwell that the meeting deprecated the attitude of 'The Ringing World' towards articles of instruction for learners, as stated on the front page of the issue dated October 22nd last.

Also another lengthy discussion took place on the ringing of the bells at Danehill.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Vicar, organist, secretary and Ringing Master. E. R.

TOPIC FOR THE MONTH—Cont.

date. In compiling those volumes the acceptance or rejection of performances would be governed by the Central Council conditions ruling at the times of the peals; and peals would be identified by the name of the method applying or authorised at that time. A. Y.-B.

Brief comments welcome.—Ed.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION

North and East District Report Progress

Members and friends attending the annual meeting of the North and East District at Bishopsgate on February 12th became more enlightened in the history of London and of St. Botolph's Church as the result of an address by Prebendary Treacher. It was a successful occasion from all aspects, and thanks are due to all concerned who contributed to this factor. Ringing took place at Clerkenwell in the afternoon and at Bishopsgate in the afternoon and evening. Among the welcomed visitors were Miss F. Brown from Melbourne, Australia, and Miss V. Willard, who has recently returned from that country.

At the business meeting the chair was occupied by Mr. H. G. Hart, vice-president, who reminded the 44 members present of the recent death of the Rev. P. Gough, Rector of Acton and president in office. In addition, the deaths of the Rev. C. S. Durham, Vicar of Harrow Weald, B. F. Tubb, Finchley, and R. P. Crump, Hornsey, were referred to, and the meeting stood in silent tribute to the memory of these past members.

All the retiring officers received the confidence of the meeting in being re-elected, but owing to the departure of R. H. Begrie and P. J. Coward, Miss R. Foreman and J. R. Mayne were elected to the District Committee.

The hon. secretary, in his annual report, stated that twelve meetings had been arranged and ringing in various other towers had been organised. Attendance at meetings, however, had been greatly increased by ringers who reside outside the area of the Association, and greater support from resident members was called for. Five members had been lost through death. New members elected comprised one honorary life, seven non-resident life and 28 ringing members. A total of 94 quarter peals had been rung in the several towers, Harrow Weald leading easily—in quality and quantity—with 27. The report concluded by recording with pleasure that the new young band at Edgware, having received instruction from Mr. and Mrs. and John Mayne, had become members of the Association, and several new members at Edmonton, Harrow-on-the-Hill and Stepney had recently been elected.

The statement of accounts, which showed an improved balance, provided for a sum of £33 4s. 9d. to be carried to the Central Fund.

The election of the following 30 new members then took place: J. D. Duggan and R. Wood, St. Andrew's, Enfield; J. M. Bailey, W. Dorrell and the Misses C. Borst, S. H. Dorey, J. Gossling, J. Ransley and B. Woodward, Harrow-on-the-Hill; N. K. Solomon and Miss J. Baggott, Hendon; M. Chamberlain, G. Ellis, P. Flint, J. G. Morgan, D. Saunders, J. C. Taylor, J. Voss, Miss E. Little and Miss J. Smith, Kingsbury; Miss M. Tomlin, Stamford Hill; Miss W. Brindley and Miss D. Ward, Stanmore; H. A. A. C. and Mrs. H. A. Martin, A. P. Pearson, Willesden; W. Jarvis, Harringay, unattached, all as ringing members; and Miss B. Marks, Knebworth, and P. L. Baycock, North Mymms, as non-resident life members.

A programme of proposed ringing meetings as recommended by the District Committee was agreed to, and this included joint meetings with the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths and the Essex Association.

Miss G. Newcombe, Edmonton, was elected to be a representative of 'The Ringing World' in the northern part of the district, to replace P. J. Coward. Other business dealt with included three recommendations to the Central Committee, with proposals for consideration at the annual general meeting of the Association.

A vote of thanks to Preb. Treacher, the Rev. —. Browne, Mrs. E. Davis, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Prockson and all who had assisted in the arrangements was passed with acclamation.

DEDICATION ARDLEIGH, ESSEX

After being silent since last September, the bells of St. Mary the Virgin's, Ardleigh, were heard once again on Saturday, February 5th, when they were rededicated by the Bishop of Colchester (Rt. Rev. F. D. V. Narborough) in the presence of a large congregation of parishioners and ringers from Essex and Suffolk.

No major work had been done on the bells since 1892, when the present wooden frame was put in by H. Bowell, of Ipswich, who also had the fifth recast and added two trebles to complete the octave, and last winter it was decided that it was time Ardleigh had a more musical and better going ring after all those years.

The work was entrusted to Messrs. John Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, who decided that the fine-toned pre-Reformation tenor by Robert Burford, circa 1415, should be retained as the basis of a new octave; all the other bells with the exception of the third by John Darbie, 1676, were to be recast.

Thanks largely to the enthusiasm and energy of the tower captain, Mr. Felix Erith, the work of raising the large sum of nearly 1,200 required for the work proceeded steadily last year, and a very generous grant was obtained from the Trustees of the Barron Bell Trust, which removed any doubts that the work could be put in hand at an early date.

The eight bells have been rehung on new iron headstocks and ball bearings, the original frame was found to be in excellent condition and retained, but all other fittings have been renewed and the bell chamber thoroughly cleaned out.

All the old inscriptions on the bells have been reproduced; in addition, the seventh bears the names of the founder of the Barron Trust and of the three trustees, while the sixth has the names of the Vicar, churchwardens and captain of the ringers. The weight of the tenor is 13½ cwt.

The representative gathering at the service included Messrs. H. W. Eldred and J. R. Pennell (Barron Fund Trustees), Mr. R. C. Heazel (Master, Essex Association), Miss H. G. Snowden (Master, North Division), Mr. H. J. Millatt (Master, North Division), Mr. C. W. Pipe (general secretary, Suffolk Guild), Mr. J. Gould (secretary, North-East Division), and many others, while Mr. John Fidler represented the bell founders.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. G. D. Leonard), the Rev. Mr. Biddlecombe (Rector of Polstead) acted as Bishop's chaplain, and the lesson was read by Mr. R. C. Heazel. During the singing of the hymn, 'Unchanging God, Who livest,' the Bishop, clergy and choir proceeded to the tower, where the Bishop was handed the ropes and blessed the bells in the following words: 'In the faith of Jesus Christ and to the Glory of God, we bless and dedicate these bells. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.'

After the dedication prayers the bells were rung to rounds by members of the local company, while immediately after the service the opening touch of 216 Stedman Triples was rung by a representative band, followed by a course of Plain Bob Major by the local ringers.

A splendid buffet tea had been arranged in the Vicar's room by Mrs. F. Erith, assisted by other ladies of the parish, while during the evening coffee and cakes were served to all who required them. The bells were kept going until 9 p.m., under the direction of the Master (Mr. H. J. Millatt), who arranged a wide variety of ringing to suit all tastes, ranging from call-changes to London and Bristol Surprise Major.

The unanimous opinion of all who tried the bells was that Messrs. Taylor's had done an excellent job in blending the old tenor with the new bells, and Ardleigh now possesses an octave which for tone and 'go' are equal to any in North-East Essex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CATERING FOR BEGINNERS

Dear Sir,—Following the annual meeting of the Western Division of the Sussex County Association on February 12th, 1955, I have to convey to you and your Editorial Committee the following resolution which was passed unanimously at that meeting:—

'That this meeting, while it appreciates the good work carried out by the Editor of "The Ringing World" and his committee, cannot agree with his attitude towards articles of instruction for learners as stated in "The Ringing World" dated October 22nd, 1954, and earnestly requests him to consider such articles to be a very necessary part of "The Ringing World" if it is to fulfil its function of being a magazine for all ringers.'—Yours faithfully,

W. LESLIE WELLER.

Hon. Div. Sec., Western Division.

[Note.—In 1952 and 1953 we published a series of 36 articles for beginners. A reasonable lapse of time must take place before the series can be repeated. We always welcome short hints that experience has proved to be helpful, and have hopes that a reader would provide us with a weekly hint. The editorial referred to as a treatise in the form of a text book.—Ed.]

BOB TRIPLES

Dear Sir,—Paragraph (a) of Mr. Felstead's letter in 'The Ringing World' of February 25th reminds me that no one responded to the invitation contained in my letter (published in your issue of October 15th last) and claimed that he was the brains behind the suggestion that the Analysis Committee should cut out Bob Triples.

I now note with interest that the Methods Committee (as a committee apparently) disclaims any hand in the matter. This disclaimer and the silence of the individual concerned strengthen my suspicion that his motives were not entirely altruistic.—Yours faithfully,

G. L. GROVER.

East Clandon, Surrey.

[Note.—A peal in this method is recorded on page 131, in which a member of the Central Council participated.—Ed.]

NEW SURPRISE MAJOR METHODS

Dear Sir,—In view of the recent spate of new Surprise Major methods, would it not be possible for conductors to include the figures of the method (in Carter's notation) in the footnotes of the peal? This would be of great assistance to those who, like myself, keep records of Surprise Major methods.

Incidentally, can anyone supply the figures of Evington and Imberhorne Surprise Major, neither of which have I seen published in 'The Ringing World'?—Yours faithfully,

DENNIS KNOX.

Dunstable, Beds.

[Note.—We cannot entertain extending our footnotes unless the number of peals rung drops considerably. We would be able to find room for new methods in Carter's notation in the same issue.—Ed.]

WHOSE COMPOSITION ?

Dear Sir,—In 'The Ringing World' published February 4th, 1955, on page 68 is a composition of 5,040 Spliced Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Royal by C. Kenneth Lewis. Now I have in my records a composition by F. E. Darby which is identical and which I am in the near future going to call to Oakham Royal. Please would either Mr. Lewis or Mr. Darby let me know who claims this composition?—Yours sincerely,

W. ROGERS.

Rotherfield, Sussex.

BELLS OF RADNORSHIRE

Dear Sir,—I sincerely hope that in due course Mr. Felstead will write an article on 'Peal Ringing in Radnorshire' and that Presteigne will be included. If the towers are few, they are worth recognition.

May I remind Mr. Benson that there used to be NINE rings of bells of five and upwards in his county—viz., two eights, Knighton and Presteigne; four sixes, Old Radnor, New Radnor, Nantmel and Llanfihangel Rhydythion (sometimes spelt Rhyd Ieithon); and three fives, Clyro, Llanbadarn Fawr and Gladestry—the last mentioned are unringable.—Yours sincerely,

LESLIE EVANS.

Eardisland, Herefords.

ST. ANDREW'S, RUGBY

Dear Sir,—I feel the readers of 'The Ringing World' may be interested to learn that the ring of eight at St. Andrew's Church are soon to be available again for ringing.

In 1948 the ringing of the eight in the new tower was discontinued owing to the very poor 'go' of the bells, and since that date regular ringing has been continued on the five bells in the old tower at the west end of the church—Rugby Parish Church is unique in having two separate rings of bells.

The work in the new tower comprises the fitting of the 2nd, 5th and tenor on ball bearings and the lowering of the whole frame 20ft. in the tower. This will considerably decrease the sway of the tower and also reduce the volume of sound in the main street below.

It is hoped that this work, which is to be carried out by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, will be completed by Whitsun.—Yours faithfully,

D. J. PITSTOW.

Rugby.

JOSHUA SHORT

Dear Sir,—Early last year I had a communication from Mr. E. A. Butcher, of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, referring to an article of mine in 'The Birmingham Post.' He informed me that he had in his possession a vellum setting out the account of a long peal of Bob Major at Aston in 1788, and that he also possessed a portrait in oils of Joshua Short, the old Aston ringer. You may imagine that I was greatly interested, especially in the picture, and after some correspondence and negotiation, during which time Mr. Butcher moved to North Wales, I secured the portrait and the vellum on permanent loan to St. Martin's Guild. I also found out that Mr. Butcher was great-great-grandson of Joshua.

The portrait is a fine one, and shows a large-faced, genial but shrewd old gentleman, one whose appearance well confirms his reputation for great physical strength and conviviality.

The vellum is an interesting survival. It is a print from the elaborately designed plate used by the Society for printing its invitations to the annual feast. It is inscribed as follows:—

'On the 29th day of September, 1788, was rung at Saint Peter and Paul's Church, Aston, a peal of Bob Major consisting of 10,080 changes in 6 hours and 31 minutes by the undermentioned persons:—

'Benjn. Baylifs Treble. Willm. Gibson Second. John Black Third. Joshua Short Fourth. John Short Fifth. Job Perrins Sixth. Joseph Rogers Seventh. Willm. Bennett Tenor. Colled by William Bennett. Weight of Tenor 20 cwt.'

We know, of course, of this performance, but I do not think we have any previous record of the band. We are taking steps to preserve the vellum, and we hope to present the portrait to Aston belfry.—Yours sincerely,

EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

Solihull.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL BELLS

Dear Sir,—Our ringing may be a bit rough at times, but not bad enough to cause movement in the transept walls of our Cathedral as your unknown contributor to 'Belfry Gossip' states.

The facts are that the south wall of the south transept has for some time shown a tendency to move outwards at the top. Underpinning was decided upon, with the addition of a steel foundation grillage, and this work, which has been in progress for some time with a minimum interruption of ringing, is now completed.

Reinforced concrete bracing is now being put in above the vaulting, and the walls are weakened because a lot of the stonework has been taken out to get an effective bond between the old work and the new. While the concrete is being poured and stonework replaced, the architect and contractors consider it prudent not to ring.

Those with knowledge of the massive construction of the Cathedral will not take the statement seriously, and I only write because a published statement to the effect that the bells are a danger to the stability of the building ought not to go uncontradicted.—Yours faithfully,

A. W. DAVIS,
Ringing Master,
Hereford Cathedral.

ST. DUNSTAN'S DOUBLES

Dear Sir,—I have noticed in 'The Ringing World' published February 11th and 18th peals of Doubles rung on handbells at Sherburn-in-Elmet, Yorkshire, containing what is, I believe, if my memory serves me correctly, the illegitimate method of St. Dunstan's Doubles. This was condemned a few years ago by the Central Council for the reason that there was not the same number of leads in the plain course as there are working bells in the method. I am all for Mr. Alan Sheppard's peals on handbells, but I don't suppose he wants them 'thrown back' from the Peal Analysis Committee through what I presume is an accidental oversight. Can anyone else throw any light on this?

I should also like to take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. William Butler and his band on their peal of 18 Spliced Doubles, especially as all the methods ARE different and it was rung at a five-bell tower.—Yours sincerely,

CLIVE M. SMITH.

Lichfield, Staffs.

ANOTHER TASK FOR MR. BLAGROVE

Dear Sir,—Congratulations to Mr. Blagrove on the splendid catalogue of c.p.s. methods you published last week.

As he seems willing to devote his time to the advancement of the Exercise, dare I suggest that he should give us a list of Surprise Major methods with no backward places and Plain Bob coursing order in 7-8?

When I examined 'Nechells,' as it proved, about six months ago, I was surprised to find that it had not been rung before. It seemed such an advantageous variation of 'Hitchin,' reducing the liability to falseness, simply by substituting Painswick for the Superlative front of the former method.

May I, too, plead for the use of place notation in publishing new methods: perhaps then the methods could appear in the same issue as the peal report. It would also be helpful to know the false course ends, so often omitted.

Thank you, Mr. Roe, for your cry for reforms in method construction.—Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN IVIN.

Bedford.

SOCIETY OF ROVING RINGERS**Annual Reunion at Leicester**

The seventh annual reunion of the S.R.R. was held in Leicester on February 5th and was attended by 39 members and friends.

The party assembled at St. John-the-Divine's and, after ringing on this fine ten, went to St. Margaret's, where, with numbers almost complete, ringing ranged from rounds to Cinques. Tea drinkers and tower grabbers then went their various ways; the latter to All Saints' to enjoy ringing on the new eight, whilst the former, greatly fortified by refreshments, raised the Cathedral bells. The afternoon's ringing concluded with a well-struck bob course of Stedman Cinques for service, and the party then proceeded to the Royal Hotel for dinner.

Mark White took the chair at the meeting which followed. He extended a warm welcome to all present and particularly to Mr. and Mrs. Poole. Apologies for absence were received from several members, including two serving abroad with H.M.F., but happily four other National Service members were able to attend.

The secretaries reported a christening, a wedding and two engagements which had taken place in the Society during the year. Tony and Iris Oliver had received a coffee table as a wedding gift from the Society. Several members took part in the three peals rung for the christening and engagements.

The 1954 tour had been very successful and free from accidents, apart from the usual punctures. Seventeen members, including three new members, supported the tour, and 13 others were present at Sherborne, where a most enjoyable Bank Holiday week-end was spent. The secretaries apologised for the non-publication of the report of the tour, explaining that it had only been received from the author on the previous evening.

Letters were read from the Earl of Shaftesbury, who had met the Society during the summer, and from Mr. A. Macdonald. These acknowledged Christmas greetings, and it was decided to place the Earl of Shaftesbury's letter in the records of the Society.

The following new members were elected: Monica Fray, Farmborough, near Bath; Jean Powell, Blackwood, Mon.; Christine Ford, Loughton, Essex; and Richard Harbour, Banstead, Surrey. Honorary membership was conferred upon Mr. T. Setter, Yeovil, and Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Poole, Leicester.

In accordance with the tradition of the Society, a new Ringing Master is elected annually, and Mr. N. J. Diserens was elected to hold this office for 1955. Other officers were re-elected as follows: Joint secretaries, Miss J. M. Winchester, Miss K. E. Weller; treasurer, Mr. R. Parsons; and recorder, Miss A. Bailey. A vote of thanks was given to the Retiring Master and all other officers for their hard work during the past year.

The rest of the evening passed all too quickly, interspersed with handbell ringing and the usual social activities.

Members took part in service ringing on Sunday morning at St. John-the-Divine's, the Cathedral and St. Mary-de-Castro's. Most of the party left for home after lunch, but several remained in Leicester until the evening, ringing on the back six at St. Saviour's in the afternoon and at the Cathedral and St. Margaret's in the evening.

Thanks are accorded Mr. H. J. Poole, Mr. S. A. Jesson and all friends in Leicester who helped to make this week-end so enjoyable.

LATE NEWS

We regret to record the death of Mr. Joseph B. Fenton, aged 84, a founder member of the Warwickshire Guild. He died at Rugby on February 20th.

We regret to announce the death at Marlow on Sunday of Mr. James F. Smith, aged 74, a well-known Minor ringer.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION**Watford District**

The A.G.M. of the Watford District was held at the Parish Church of St. Mary on February 5th and was well supported by District members and visiting ringers. Tea was taken in the nearby Old Free School and enjoyed by a company numbering 47. The two ladies who assisted in providing this excellent tea are to be congratulated.

The business meeting was presided over by the Vicar (Canon A. St. John Thorpe). The secretary (Mr. R. G. Bell) gave a very satisfactory report on the past year's work in the District, and the outlook was very encouraging with so many young members in evidence.

Officers elected were:—Secretary, Mr. K. R. Dunstan (in succession to Mr. R. G. Bell, who was thanked for his work during the past three years); Ringing Master, Mr. S. H. Hoare; representatives on County Committee, Mr. S. H. Hoare and Mr. G. W. Seaman. District Committee, en bloc with one exception. 'Ringing World' representative, Mr. K. R. Dunstan, Brinklow.

The meeting carried unanimously the nomination of Mr. C. W. Woolley as president of the Association for this year, as recommended by the District Committee. Eight new ringing members were elected.

During the afternoon and evening a good standard of ringing was maintained, which ranged from rounds to Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Royal. K. R. D.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION**Great Chart Bells To Be Inspected**

On February 19th some 40 members of the Kent County Association attended a meeting at High Halden. Despite the very cold weather 18 towers were represented.

Canon Swan took the service, assisted by Mrs. Knight at the organ. A very homely tea was kindly arranged by Mr. and Mrs. J. Burden in the Village Hall. At the business meeting which followed, the main points mentioned were:—The arrangement for a representative of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank to inspect the bells of Great Chart, which were reported by Mr. P. Jarvis to be in a very bad condition; the next meeting to be at Hythe on March 26th. S. G. W.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD**Leatherhead District**

Despite the foggy conditions and other meeting attractions the attendance at the annual District meeting was up to standard. The Guild's service was taken by the Vicar, Canon F. Page.

Since the temporary church has been available the wives and friends of the ringers have helped Mrs. Harman in providing teas for meetings there, and this has proved a very satisfactory arrangement. This year their optimism was justified, 48 sitting down for tea.

Mr. H. N. Pitstow took the chair for the business meeting. The accounts showed a balance in hand (£40) for the first time. The report mentioned that the local captain, Mr. G. Marriner, had just completed 50 years as a ringer at Leatherhead and that the captain of Christ Church, Epsom, Mr. G. F. Oakshott, had been awarded the B.E.M. in the New Year's Honours, and, later, someone discovered that this was the secretary's 25th annual District meeting as secretary. There was no change in the District officers elected for 1955.

In proposing the votes of thanks for all who had made a successful meeting possible, Mr. Pitstow said a special one was due to Mrs. Harman and helpers for the grand tea provided.

Ringing was resumed until about 8 o'clock with a quiet interlude when the lights in the belfry fused. A. H. S.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION**Bristol Rural Branch Now 216 Strong**

The annual meeting of the Bristol Rural Branch was held at the Parish Church of St. Ambrose, Bristol East, on January 29th, with over sixty members attending.

Ringing commenced at 3 p.m. and the eight bells were kept going to Stedman and Grand-sire Triples and Bob Major until 4.30 p.m. when the branch service was held, which this year was in the form of Holy Communion, and was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. M. Hocking. Some of the local ringers' wives prepared tea in the Parish Hall, and this was followed by the annual business meeting, with Mr. C. R. Harding in the chair.

The secretary and treasurer, in his report, stated that the branch had another successful year, and that its membership had now reached 216, of which only two members were in arrears with their subscriptions, and that only one tower out of the branch's 22 'live' towers was unaffiliated. During the year 11 meetings had been held, with an average attendance of 45, and there was evidence at these meetings that the younger members are taking an active interest in the branch's activities. The towers of Doynton and Iron Acton had rejoined the branch after an absence of many years, and it is hoped to see new members come from these towers in the coming year.

The balance sheet showed an income of £43 3s. 0½d., of which £37 had been paid to the general treasurer. Both report and financial statement were accepted.

The following branch officers were re-elected: Chairman, Mr. C. R. Harding; secretary and treasurer, Mr. W. F. Scudamore; representative on Management Committee, Mr. C. Baker; Ringing Master, Mr. R. G. Hooper.

It was proposed that the next annual meeting be again held at St. Ambrose, with quarterly meetings at St. Werburgh's, St. George's and Henbury, with the first monthly meeting at Stapleton.

One of the items on the agenda was the visit of the Central Council to Bristol in May, and three members of the branch were elected to join a committee formed for the reception of the Central Council.

When the meeting closed the bells of St. Ambrose and St. George were available for ringing. W. F. S.

BARNSELEY & DISTRICT SOCIETY

Although wintry conditions prevailed, a very happy and successful meeting was held at Penistone, near the Pennines, on February 12th. Ringing commenced at 3 p.m. and continued until 4.30, when tea was served by the ringers' wives in the nearby schools, and a good square meal was enjoyed by all.

The Vicar (the Rev. R. H. Peace) acted as chairman for the business meeting, at which the following were elected new members:—Sheila Brooker, Tony Brown, Keith Darwin and Bruce Jones, all of Ecclesfield.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Ossett on March 19th. On the motion of Mr. N. F. Moxon, the Vicar was thanked for his services.

The Vicar, in reply, said that was the first time he had met the ringers. He had enjoyed it very much and assured all of a hearty welcome at any time. The best thanks were also given to the ladies for their splendid tea.

Good use was made of the bells, a splendid octave, during the afternoon and evening. It was very pleasing to see the curate taking part in rounds. D. S.

OBITUARY

MR. GEORGE JEFFS

The funeral took place at Tichmarsh, Northants, on February 12th, of Mr. George Jeffs, who died in the previous week in his 90th year. He has left behind a remarkable record of faithful service to the church, which included chorister and bellringer for about 70 years, sexton for 40 years and parish clerk for 30 years. In 1946, in recognition of his work for the church he was presented with an inscribed walking stick and a pipe.

He retired about ten years after being for 60 years a woodman on the Lilford Estate, and went to live in Peterborough with his younger daughter, Mrs. E. W. French. He leaves a son, Mr. G. W. Jeffs, of Thrapston, and another daughter, Mrs. H. W. French, of Kidderminster.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rector (Canon A. M. Luckock). Members of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild present included the Master (Mr. E. E. Whitmore), the secretary (Mr. L. Witten) and Mr. L. Groom (Master of the Thrapston Branch). At the graveside Mr. Jeffs' handbells were rung to a course of Grandsire Triples by L. Groom, E. E. Whitmore, P. I. Chapman and J. King. The bells of the Parish Church were also rung half-muffled to a course of Cambridge Surprise Major, a touch of Stedman Triples and a 720 Plain Bob Minor.

A memorial service was held the following day. In a tribute the Rector said: 'Deeply devoted to the church, the bells, the choir, the churchyard, he did indeed serve in all ways right well. Skilled as a ringer, he taught many with infinite patience. As sexton, parish clerk and chairman he never failed in his duties. Last Easter Day he was able to take his accustomed place in the choir, so it was literally true that in every one of the four score years since he joined the choir as a small boy he sang in it.'

THE REV. E. J. SIMPSON

The death took place with tragic suddenness in church on February 9th at the early age of 44, of the Rev. Edward James Simpson, M.A., Vicar of Holy Trinity, Darlington, for the past eight years, after a period of indifferent health. Mr. Simpson, who also had two brothers in the ministry, was born at Kidderminster, Worcestershire, the son of the late Canon Allan Simpson. He was educated at Rugby, Corpus Christi, Cambridge, and Cuddesdon Theological College, and was ordained in 1932 in the Diocese of Southwark, his first appointment being assistant priest of St. Andrew's, Catford, London. In 1938 he was appointed Principal of Queen's College, St. John's, Newfoundland, where he remained until his appointment to Darlington.

On going to Holy Trinity he immediately sought out the ringers and expressed his pleasure at being appointed to a church with bells. He became a member of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association and attended meetings, whenever the duties of working a large parish single handed permitted. He was frequently with his ringers in the belfry, however, and was able to ring plain methods. Of a shy and retiring nature, he never sought the limelight, but those who had his friendship valued it as a privilege. The parish misses him greatly and will long remember the beautiful sermons he preached, the lucidity and brevity of their presentation being an art he had mastered.

The funeral service (which was followed by private cremation) was conducted at Holy Trinity Church, Darlington, by the Bishop of Durham, assisted by the Archdeacon of Durham and the Rural Dean of Darlington. A large number of robed clergy from Durham and the North Riding of Yorkshire were present.

The bells were rung half-muffled by his service ringers before and after the service; they also rang a memorial peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor on February 18th.

MR. FRANK YEOLES

The passing of Mr. Frank Youles, of St. Anne's-on-Sea, on February 19th, at the age of 70, is a great loss to Lancashire ringing. For 53 years he had rung at St. Anne's Church and for 30 years he had been captain of the band.

Four of his grandsons took part in the fully-muffled ringing by the local band following the funeral service. The Lancashire Association was represented by Mr. J. Foster (Branch secretary) and Mr. E. Baldwin, both of St. John's, Blackpool.

NOTICES

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ENGAGEMENTS

BARRON—FLYNN.—The engagement is announced between Clifford A. Barron, of Birmingham, and Molly P. Flynn, of King's Norton, Birmingham. 5917

MALLET—MUNDY.—The engagement is announced between Norman Mallett, of 20, Castle Street, Barnstaple, Devon, and Mariella E. Mundy, of 44, Wellington Road, St. Thomas, Exeter. 5945

MORANT—KEMP.—The engagement is announced between Roland William, son of the late Mr. C. Morant and Mrs. Morant, of 39, Joseph's Road, Guildford, and Gwyneth Rose, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Kemp, of 4, Auckland Road, Scunthorpe, Lincs. 5916

DEATH

WALKER.—On February 23rd, 1955, peacefully at 14, Crescent Road, Wokingham, Alice Houldsworth Walker, formerly Oxford Diocesan Sunday School organiser and lecturer in education at Reading University College, member Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, daughter of the late Colonel J. B. Walker. 5927

HANDBELLS FOR SALE

FOR SALE.—Complete set of 25 musical handbells, 'Mears.' Nos. 4—18 excellent condition. Also 11 G handbell. Seen by appointment. £60 or near offer.—Davis, Netherby, Monks Road, Virginia Water, Surrey. 5923

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WANTED.—A good secondhand set of handbells.—Write: Stooke, Somerset Blind Association, 28, Park Street, Taunton. 5879

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WHY NOT spend your holiday at Combe Martin? Accommodation for ringers at moderate terms at: Mrs. L. G. Walters, 1, Statters Cottage, Castle Street, Combe Martin, North Devon. No vacancies for August Bank Holiday fortnight. 5918

PUBLICATIONS

'BY WANDERING TEMPEST,' a Journey to New Zealand in verse. Contains some verses on bells. A new pen for lovers of poetry. 7s. 6d. post free from the author, A. J. Lancefield, 4, Boys Hall Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent. 5860

EVERY TOWER should have a copy of the Central Council's Handbook on the Installation, Preservation and Repair of Bells, Bell Frames and Fittings and other kindred matters. Fourth edition just published. Price 2s. post free from Miss P. J. Ayris, 10, Sherwood Close, Launton, Bicester, Oxon.

'CHURCH BELLS AND RINGERS OF NORWICH.' by A. G. G. Thurlow, 5s. 6d. post free from the author, 67a, The Close, Norwich. An account of the bells of one of England's most historic cities, well illustrated with plans, cross sections and pictures. Second edition, much improved; no increase in price.

MISCELLANEOUS

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Please note that the new hon. District secretary is Mr. Peter J. Shipton, of 16a, Kimbolton Road, Bedford (Tel. 5417), on the resignation of Mr. Bryan Pattison. 5942

COMING-OF-AGE.—Congratulations and best wishes to Brian Tomlinson, of Blackburn and Manchester University, for March 6th. from Mother, Father and all ringing friends. Blackburn—Manchester districts. 5952

ST. MARGARET'S, RAINHAM, KENT.—Please note.—Practice night changed to Wednesday evenings from March 9th. All visitors welcome.—Emily B. P. Walker, Sec. 5938

WANTED.—Secondhand books: 'Bells of the Church,' by H. T. Ellacombe; 'English Bells,' by T. North; 'The Bells of England,' by Rev. J. J. Raven.—Write Rev. P. J. Nix-seaman, Northill Rectory, Biggleswade, Beds. 5894

EXTRA COPIES.—It is an advantage if those requiring extra copies will send their orders at the time copy of peals or quarter peals is submitted.

MEETINGS

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual meeting at Dudley, March 5th. Bells (10) available 3 p.m. Service, tea and business meeting in St. Thomas' Hall 4 p.m. Names for tea to R. A. Peakman, Hon. Sec., 47, High Street, Kingswinford. 5901

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South Eastern Division.—Meeting at Sandon (6), Saturday, March 5th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. 5950

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Christ Church (City) (10), March 5th. 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Please attend.—A. Bennett. 5944

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Meeting at Aldenham (8). March 5th. 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. 5884

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Ringing arrangements, March 5th: St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral (8) 1-2 p.m.; Bishop Ryder's Church (8) 2-3 p.m.; St. Martin's (12) 3-4.15 p.m.; Cathedral (12) 4.30-5.30 p.m.—G. E. Fearn. 5886

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Salisbury Branch.—Practice meeting, Codford St. Peter (6), March 5th. 2.30. Tea 5. Chit-terne (5) and Wylve (5) after tea.—Miss Eloie, 66, Hamilton Road, Salisbury. 5891

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual meeting, Ranmoor, Sheffield (10), March 5th. 3 p.m. Committee meeting 2.30 p.m. For tea notify Mr. F. B. Ditcher, 19, High Storrs Drive, Ecclesall, Sheffield 11. Subscriptions for 1955 now due.—N. Chaddock, Hon. Sec., 17, Herringthorpe Grove, Bromm, Rotherham 5847

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Mickleton, Saturday, March 5th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business. 5895

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Western Branch. — Quarterly meeting, Dodderhill, Saturday, March 5th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. 5903

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION. — Practice meeting at St. Giles-in-the Fields, Holborn (near Tottenham Court Road tube station) on Monday, March 7th, 7 p.m.—T. J. Lock. 5926

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Ship, Talbot Court, Saturday, March 12th, 6 p.m. Ringing, St. Giles', Cripplegate, 4 p.m.—A. B. Peck. 5947

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Taunton Branch.—Meeting at Trull, Saturday, March 12th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Names for tea.—A. H. Reed, George Street, Taunton. 5914

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Arlesey on Saturday, March 12th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. A good attendance is requested.—L. H. Bywaters, Hon. Sec. 5925

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Joint meeting of the Grappenhall and Northwich Branches at Daresbury on Saturday, March 12th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Names for tea to W. S. Booth, The Square, Daresbury, near Warrington. 5051

CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Hilda's Parish Church, Middlesbrough (8), at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 12th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m.—P. W. B. Semmens, Hon. Sec. 5950

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Chesterfield District.—Monthly meeting, Eckington (8) Saturday, March 12th. 3.30 p.m. Names for tea to W. Robinson, 13, Pevril Road, Eckington.—A. B. Cooper. 5935

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Cowden (6), March 12th. Tea at the Crown. Names by March 11th. Hammerwood not available.—C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Sussex. 5921

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Great Easton (6), Saturday, March 12th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea, by Wednesday, the 9th, to H. Elliott, Battles Cottage, Great Easton, Dunmow. 5892

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Gloucester Branch.—Meeting, Cathedral, March 12th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. at Saracen's Head, Eastgate Street. St. Mary-de-Crypt bells available after meeting. Names for tea, please.—A. Lynall, Branch Sec., Marlyn, Ermin Park, Brockworth, Gloucester. 5912

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—St. Mark's, Swindon (8), March 12th. Tea.—Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon. Tel. 3936. 5915

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge Branch.—Meeting, Stone (6), March 12th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Notify for tea by March 9th.—Mary Drew, Bibstone Farm, Cromhall. 5948

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Eastern District.—Meeting, Broxbourne, Saturday, March 12th, 3 p.m. Names for tea to Miss N. Radley, Wallbury, St. David's Road, Broxbourne.—T. J. Southam. 5937

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District. — By-meeting, Chilham, March 12th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea at 2s. 3d. per head. Numbers for tea, cash please, to me, not later than Wednesday, March 9th.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury. 5888

LADIES' GUILD.—West Midland District.—Next meeting at Netherton, near Dudley, Worcs, on Saturday, March 12th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d. per head) at 4.45. Names for tea, by Tuesday, March 8th, to Stella Hughes, 3, Delves Road, Walsall, Staffs. Everyone welcome. 5897

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District. — The annual meeting will be held at Yatton on March 12th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Names for tea to Mrs. Knight, Woolners, Cleeve, near Bristol.—M. J. de Jong, Hon. Sec. 5924

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Furness and Lake District Branch.—Annual meeting will be held at Parish Church, Ulverston, on Saturday, March 12th. Bells (6) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Meeting after tea. Names for tea to me at 19, Union Place, Ulverston.—N. M. Newby, Branch Sec. 5954

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leicester District.—Whetstone, March 12th. Ringing 3. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting in Church Rooms at 5. Names, by March 8th, to B. Endall, 90, Edward Avenue, Narborough Road South, Leicester. 5928

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Syston District. — Thurnby, March 12th. Usual arrangements. Names for tea, by the 10th, to H. L. Wykes, 4, Council Houses, Bushby. Special methods: Double Oxford and London Surprise. 5941

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Central Bucks Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Dinton, Saturday, March 12th. Bells (6) 2.45. Service 4. Tea 4.45. Names for tea by March 9th.—E. F. Gibbard, 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks. 5934

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Reading Branch.—Monthly practice on Saturday, March 12th, at Caversham (8) 6.30 p.m. — R. G. Burton. 5922

ST. DAVID'S GUILD.—Quarterly meeting at Llanelly on Saturday, March 12th. Bells (6) 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—C. H. Hawkins, 2, Embankment Road, New Dock, Llanelly, Carmar. 5911

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Dorset Branch.—Meeting at Iwerne Minster, Saturday, March 12th. Visitors welcome.—Write Rev. William Uphill, Stour Provost Rectory, Gillingham, Dorset. 5910

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Stanton-on-Hine Heath, March 12th. Bells (6) 3. Service 4.30. Tea at 5. Names for tea to Mr. R. P. Leighton, Church Farm, Stanton, Shrewsbury.—E. V. Jones, Hon. Sec. 5862

SOUTHWELL GUILD. — North Notts District.—Meeting at Everton (6), Saturday, March 12th. Names for tea, by 9th, to Mrs. D. Bunney, the Sun Inn, Everton, near Doncaster.—H. Denman. 5919

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION. — Western Division.—Practice meeting, Washington, Saturday, March 12th. Names for tea, please, by previous Tuesday, to W. L. Weller, Sunnyside, Itchenorfield, Horsham. 5920

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD. — Christchurch District. — Quarterly meeting at Milford (8) Saturday, March 12th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Tea 5.15. Meeting fol-

lows. Names for tea, by Wednesday, 9th, to Arthur Davis, 116, Alma Road, Bournemouth. 5936

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD. — Southampton District. — Quarterly meeting at Fawley on March 12th. Usual arrangements. Names for tea, by March 8th, to M. J. Butler, 8, St. Peter's Road, Southampton. 5929

LADIES' GUILD. — Yorkshire District. — Quarterly meeting at Thrybergh, near Rotherham, March 19th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. For tea at 5 p.m. notify Miss D. Shaw, Deer Park Farm, Doncaster Road, Thrybergh. 20 minutes bus service from Sheffield, Rotherham and Doncaster. Other ringers welcome.—E. D. Kelly, Dis. Sec. 5953

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Quarterly meeting at Lutterworth on March 19th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting in Town Hall 5. General Committee meet in Hall at 3.30. Names for tea, by 16th, to W. A. Wood, Fosseway, Croft, near Leicester. 5933

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Lincoln District. — Meeting at Bardney (6), Saturday, March 19th. Names for tea, by Wednesday previous, to C. Brown, 3, Altham Terrace, Lincoln. 5949

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD. — Meeting at Christ Church, West Bromwich March 19th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Names for tea, not later than Tuesday, 15th, to Mr. D. C. Jinks, 5, Raleigh Street, West Bromwich. 5940

SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD. — Newark District.—Meeting at Bingham (8) on Saturday, March 19th. Bells 2.30. Service. Tea (2s.) at 5. — S. L. Barley. 5909

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting, Reigate, March 19th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Notifications for tea, by March 16th, please, to Miss B. Saggars, 28, Clarence Road, Redhill.—W. F. Oatway, Hon. Gen. Sec. 5932

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Western District.—The quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19th, at Leeds Parish Church. Bells (12) available from 2.30 p.m. Committee meeting 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea, no later than Wednesday, March 16th, to Mr. R. H. Dove, 26, Sycamore Avenue, Leeds, 8.—A. E. Marsh, Hon. Dis. Sec. 5946

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — 75th anniversary meeting, Maidstone, Easter Monday. Service, All Saints' Church, 12 noon. Lunch at Star Hotel (Queen's Hall) 1. Further details later.—E. S. J. Hatcher, Hon. Sec. 5939

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—The annual meeting will be held at Tewkesbury on Saturday, April 16th, at 2 p.m. Names for nomination as Master, together with names of proposer and seconder, to reach me by March 19th.—F. Skidmore, 80, Carlyle Road, Greenbank, Bristol 5. 5943

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—75th anniversary dinner, Saturday, May 21st, 1955, at the Greyhound, Croydon. Tickets (price 15s.) now available from W. Parrot, 30, Hamilton Avenue, North Cheam; C. Champion, 1, Rectory Lane, Buckland; or W. F. Oatway, 233, Thornton Road, West Croydon. Ringing arrangements later. 5931

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