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## THE WORST BELL CHAMBER IN ENGLAND

**D**ISGUSTING sights greet anyone who visits the bell chambers of Pertenhall, Beds; Odell, Beds; Chellington, Beds; Galby, Leics; Showell, Leics; Braybrooke, Northants; Cottesbrooke, Northants; Claycoton, Northants; Chesterton, Hunts; Brooke, Rutland; Ryhall, Rutland; and Orton Waterville, Hunts.

But one worse than any of these (if not the worst to be found anywhere in England) is surely Swineshead, Beds! Here, a recent historic survey revealed conditions worse than to be found in many a pigsty or a marine store. Entry up a staircase had to be made over piles of twigs on every step by feeling—not one could be seen. In the bell chamber masses of twigs surrounded every bell—the fourth and tenor, in fact, could not be seen, and only the cannons and headstock of the tenor were visible.

Twigs were piled within 3 inches of the top of the old broken wheel to the fourth—something like three sacksful had to be forcibly moved aside from this bell alone to get down to its inscription, which, when found, showed it to be an old bell by John Dier, circa 1585. Dier of Itinerant (meaning a wanderer or person of no fixed place) cast all his bells on the spot by means of temporary furnaces, between the years 1580 and 1597. At nearby Bolnhurst are some of his, dated 1587. Others can be found at Maulden and several Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire towers.

Another mass of twigs, decomposed birds and rubbish of all description had to be moved to get at the date of the tenor, which showed it to be a bell by James Keene, of Woodstock, 1629. Its chiming hammer (like the poor old clock) hasn't moved for years! And the bells? It must be a lifetime since they were last rung. Every wheel was broken and wormeaten, pieces of rims and half wheels resting across the bells and the frame propping up piles

more of twigs and rubbish. Every particle of the old double-tier frame is rotten—at the joists one can powder it away with a touch of the finger.

The third bell is cracked, and only the very light treble is able to be moved at all—and that has about a third of a wheel. The five bells are hung treble, second and third above the fourth and tenor. Why in such a steeple it is difficult to imagine for such light bells. The tenor cannot be more than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 cwt. There is easily room enough to hang six bells (tenor 7 cwt.) all on one level. All the three trebles are little more than school bells. Like the tenor they are all three by Keene, dated 1629.

Dier's bells are getting rarer and rarer, a reason why care should be taken to see that what few remain to history should be preserved. But the Rector of Swineshead, who is also Rector of Pertenhall, 'couldn't care less'! To the question put to him, 'Do you know of and seriously appreciate the state of things in Swineshead steeple?' he merely replied, 'Well, the bells won't hurt anyone if they do crash.' A villager, commenting upon it, remarked, 'The Bishops think "any old thing" suitable for these country livings!'

One is left wondering what sort of a churchwardens' report upon the fabric and furnishings is given to the Archdeacon every year at the visitations. The word 'sacrilage' seems to me to be the only suitable description of these the most disgusting of all conditions the writer has ever seen in nearly 1,000 towers.

It is to be hoped that a fire never occurs at Swineshead steeple from a spark of some nearby fire entering its bell chamber. If it did, some very embarrassing questions might arise from any insurance claim.

And those interested in the work of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, too, would not feel very well impressed. In fact, such a sight might well harm its funds and impede its work. The conditions in Swineshead steeple are not just recent; they are the result of a long period of years of neglect (a lifetime) and are, therefore, inexcusable.

P. A.

**TWELVE BELL PEAL**

BIRMINGHAM.

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

*On Thurs., July 21, 1955, in 3 Hours and 27 Minutes,*

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PHILIP,

**A PEAL OF 5019 STEDMAN CINQUES**

Tenor 31 cwt, 21 lb. in D.

EDGAR C. SHEPHERD .. .. Treble	PETER BORDER .. .. 7
MURIEL REAY .. .. 2	RODNEY B. MEADOWS .. 8
ALBERT WALKER .. .. 3	JOHN PINFOLD .. .. 9
NORMAN J. GOODMAN .. 4	HENRY H. FEARN .. .. 10
ANTHONY AGER .. .. 5	FRANK E. HAYNES .. .. 11
RALPH G. EDWARDS .. .. 6	GEORGE E. FEARN .. .. Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

Rung as a token of respect to the memory of Harold Joseph Poole.

**TEN BELL PEAL**

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

*On Sat., July 23, 1955, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL**

Tenor 18½ cwt. in E flat.

JESSIE M. KIPPIN .. .. Treble	FREDERICK W. HOUSDEN .. 6
HAROLD N. PITSTOW .. .. 2	WILFRID WILLIAMS .. .. 7
ARTHUR G. MASON .. .. 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS .. 8
ROYDON DAVIS .. .. 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN .. .. 9
EDWARD G. TALBOT .. .. 5	FRANK E. DARBY .. .. Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYE.

Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

**EIGHT BELL PEALS**

BOURN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

*On Thurs., July 7, 1955, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. HELEN AND MARY,

**A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR**

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*EUSTACE W. BULLMAN .. Treble	†BRIAN PRATT .. .. 5
JOHN G. GIPSON .. .. 2	†HAROLD S. PEACOCK .. 6
†JOHN R. G. SPICER .. .. 3	CHRISTOPHER M. JOHNSON 7
T. REGINALD DENNIS .. 4	WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN .. Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN.

\* First peal on eight bells. † 50th peal together. ‡ First peal of Major 'inside.'

BIGGLESWADE, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

*On Sat., July 16, 1955, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

**A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES**

Heywood's Transposition. Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb.

STANLEY H. WALLIS .. .. Treble	JOHN W. SINFIELD .. .. 5
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON .. 2	LEWIS H. BYWATERS .. 6
ALAN S. SMITH .. .. 3	BRYAN F. SIMS .. .. 7
RONALD J. SHARP .. .. 4	CYRIL J. SMITH .. .. Tenor

Conducted by BRYAN F. SIMS.

Rung to commemorate the restoration of the church, which was re-dedicated on May 13th, 1955, after the disastrous fire of November 15th, 1953.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

*On Mon., July 18, 1955, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes,*

AT BISHOP RYDER'S CHURCH.

**A PEAL OF 5088 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR**

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

EVELYN M. FLETCHER .. Treble	JOHN PINFOLD .. .. 5
MURIEL REAY .. .. 2	NORMAN V. HARDING .. 6
CLIFFORD A. BARRON .. 3	GEORGE E. FEARN .. .. 7
NORMAN J. GOODMAN .. 4	PETER BORDER .. .. Tenor

Composed by NATHAN J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by PETER BORDER.

LEICESTER.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Tues., July 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,*

AT THE ROYAL FOUNDATION CHURCH OF ST. MARY-DE-CASTRO,

**A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES**

Dexter's Variation.	Tenor 16 cwt.
SAMUEL MARTIN .. .. Treble	E. ALAN JACQUES .. .. 5
JOHN A. ACRES .. .. 2	HERRICK B. BOWLEY .. 6
BRIAN MARTIN .. .. 3	PETER J. STANFORTH .. 7
SHIRLEY BURTON .. .. 4	FRANK CRANE .. .. Tenor

Conducted by PETER J. STANFORTH.

Rung half-muffled to the memory of Harold J. Poole, a former chorister and bell-ringer at this church.

WHITWICK, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Thurs., July 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,*

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

**A PEAL OF 5152 PLAIN BOB MAJOR**

Tenor 12 cwt.

HORACE O. OVER .. .. Treble	ERNEST MORRIS .. .. 5
WILLIAM WOODWARD .. 2	DEREK P. JONES .. .. 6
JOHN A. UNDERWOOD .. 3	JOSEPH W. COTTON .. .. 7
JOHN W. RAWSON .. .. 4	ROLAND BENISTON .. .. Tenor

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS.

Conducted by ROLAND BENISTON.

Specially rung half-muffled in respect of Harold J. Poole, late president of this Guild.

STONEY STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Hinckley District.)

*On Fri., July 22, 1955, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

**A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES**

Dexter's Variation.	Tenor 14 cwt. in F.
NANCY E. MARKLEW .. Treble	C. ROGER HAYWARD .. .. 5
JOHN A. SMITH .. .. 2	MICHAEL E. BROWN .. 6
CECIL E. CARR .. .. 3	ALFRED BALLARD .. .. 7
GEORGE A. NEWTON .. 4	JOHN VERNON .. .. Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED BALLARD.

Rung half-muffled as a tribute to Harold J. Poole from the members of the Hinckley District. It was on these bells that he rang his first peal (Stedman).

CHATHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*On Sat., July 23, 1955, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes,*

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

**A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES**

Parker's Twelve-part.	Tenor 25 cwt.
THOMAS BEAUMONT .. Treble	CHARLES E. J. NORRIS .. 5
BENJAMIN F. BAKER .. 2	RONALD E. NORRIS .. 6
WILLIAM R. MANSER .. 3	WILLIAM A. J. KNIGHT .. 7
LUTHER J. HONESS .. 4	FRANK THWAITES .. .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM A. J. KNIGHT.

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## GODALMING, SURREY.

## THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., July 23, 1955, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

## A PEAL OF 5024 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 24 cwt. in E flat.

MONICA E. COLLINS .. .. Treble	ROLAND W. MORANT .. .. 5
ANN M. COX .. .. 2	ROY COLLINS .. .. 6
EILEEN M. TURNER .. .. 3	JAMES F. DODSON .. .. 7
DUGALD M. MACPHERSON .. 4	E. JOHN WELLS .. .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by E. JOHN WELLS.

First peal on the bells since rehanging.

## HEPTONSTALL, YORKSHIRE.

## THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 23, 1955, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

## A PEAL OF 5056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lb. in E.

LESLIE W. G. MORRIS .. Treble	GORDON BENFIELD .. .. 5
THOMAS W. STRANGEWAY .. 2	ALAN N. BROWN .. .. 6
EDWARD JENKINS .. .. 3	LESLIE BOUMPHREY .. .. 7
ALEXANDER E. MARSH .. 4	J. MARTIN THORLEY .. .. Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

Rung as a compliment to the president of the Association (Archdeacon C. O. Ellison, B.Sc.) on the occasion of his induction as Vicar of St. John-the-Evangelist, New Briggate, Leeds.

## SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

## THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., July 23, 1955, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

## A PEAL OF 5016 SPICED MAJOR

In two methods, consisting of 4,224 Plain Bob and 792 Gainsborough Little Bob, with 132 changes of method. Each course rung P.P.G.P.P.

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lb. in F.

BRIAN G. WARWICK .. Treble	*G. HARRY BRAY .. .. 5
MRS. B. G. WARWICK .. 2	*ARTHUR E. BODYCOTE .. 6
*ERNEST J. JELLEY .. .. 3	*BRIAN S. CHAPMAN .. .. 7
ERNEST MORRIS .. .. 4	*JOHN M. JELLEY .. .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.

\* First peal of spliced. The seventh ringer has 'circled the tower.'

In memoriam Harold J. Poole, president of the Guild, who taught the conductor and his wife to ring. All are members of the Sunday service band except the ringer of the fourth.

## STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.

## THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., July 23, 1955, in 3 Hours and 14 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND MARY,

## A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Pritchard's.	Tenor 24 cwt. in D.
*ALICE E. LESTER .. Treble	WILLIAM G. DUNCAN .. 5
MAX P. PAGE .. .. 2	ROBERT E. LESTER .. .. 6
GEORGE E. CATTON .. .. 3	RONALD W. STEWARD .. 7
HORACE J. MANSFIELD .. 4	EDWARD E. DAVEY .. .. Tenor

Conducted by EDWARD E. DAVEY.

\* First peal of Major.

## CHISLEHURST, KENT.

## THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., July 26, 1955, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

## A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 17½ cwt. in E.

*D. MARY WARD .. Treble	A. ST. JOHN N. BOYACK .. 5
JOHN L. MORRIS .. .. 2	CHARLES E. WILLMINGTON 6
IAN H. ORAM .. .. 3	ALFRED J. HOUSE .. .. 7
RALPH BIRD .. .. 4	A. PATRICK CANNON .. .. Tenor

Composed by A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.

\* First peal in the method.

Rung as a welcome to the Ven. R. G. H. McCahearty, M.A., who was inducted to the benefice of this church on Thursday, July 7th.

## DITCHLING, SUSSEX.

## THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., July 27, 1955 in 2 Hours and 35 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

## A PEAL OF 5024 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 7 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in G.

ALBERT W. BOND .. Treble	LEONARD STILWELL .. .. 5
RAYMOND OVERY .. .. 2	JOHN W. EUSTON .. .. 6
JOHN DEARLOVE .. .. 3	FRANK H. HICKS .. .. 7
WILLIAM ROGERS .. .. 4	A. PATRICK CANNON .. .. Tenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS.

Conducted by RAYMOND OVERY.

The first peal of Yorkshire on the bells. The 300th tenor A. P. Cannon has 'turned in.'

## FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

## ROPLEY, HAMPSHIRE.

## THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., July 9, 1955, in 2 Hours and 49 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

## A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being an extent each of London and Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford Bob, St. Clement's Bob, and two extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 15 cwt. 23 lb. in F.

HARRY POYNER .. Treble	ADRIAN J. TUMBER .. .. 4
SYLVIA SHERWOOD .. .. 2	ALAN E. HARTLEY .. .. 5
PETER SHERWOOD .. .. 3	J. ALAN AINSWORTH .. .. Tenor

Conducted by J. ALAN AINSWORTH.

First peal in six methods as conductor.

## LITTLE ASTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

## THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Tues., July 12, 1955, in 2 Hours and 29 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

## A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 9 cwt. 13 lb. in A.

*COLIN GALL .. Treble	MICHAEL W. FAIREY .. .. 4
*JOHN DINENAGE .. .. 2	P. GEORGE GOLDER .. .. 5
*MARY WALLACE .. .. 3	DAVID W. BARR .. .. Tenor

Conducted by DAVID W. BARR.

\* First peal away from tenor. † First peal of Minor. ‡ First peal 'inside.' First peal as conductor. First peal of Minor on the bells by a local band.

## HOLLINGBOURNE, KENT.

## THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., July 20, 1955, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

## A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Comprising one extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Plain and Double Bob, Hereward Bob, Double Oxford Bob and St. Clement's, each called differently. Tenor 16 cwt.

HARRY BAKER .. Treble	JOHN R. COOPER .. .. 4
GEOFFREY PEARSON .. .. 2	MARK S. LANCEFIELD .. 5
ALBERT J. LANCEFIELD .. 3	THOMAS CULLINGWORTH .. Tenor

Conducted by MARK S. LANCEFIELD.

## GREAT TOTHAM, ESSEX.

## THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 23, 1955, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

## A PEAL OF 5040 STEPNEY BOB MINOR

Tenor 7½ cwt.

MARY DOWSETT .. Treble	PETER J. CAME .. .. 4
ERNEST E. S. JOHNSON .. 2	IVAN J. M. SAUNDERS .. 5
DENNIS A. S. SYMONDS .. 3	JOE E. G. ROAST .. .. Tenor

Conducted by JOE E. G. ROAST.

Believed to be the first peal in the method.

A birthday compliment of E. E. S. Johnson.

## MARKSBURY, SOMERSET.

## THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., July 15, 1955, in 2 Hours and 36 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

## A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Tenor 12 cwt.

JOHN H. SMITH .. Treble	ALAN A. HILLIAR .. .. 4
AUDREY TIBBOTS .. .. 2	ROGER O. FRY .. .. 5
RONALD E. G. SMITH .. 3	WILLIAM A. V. PRESCOTT .. Tenor

Conducted by ROGER O. FRY.

Rung on the occasion of the induction and institution of the Rector (the Rev. L. R. Brown) to the living of Marksbury with Stanton Prior.

## ST. BRIDE'S MAJOR, GLAMORGAN.

## THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., July 20, 1955, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BRIDGET.

## A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 42 six-scores.

Tenor 11 cwt.

JOHN HALE .. .. .Treble	HENRY GREEN .. .. .4
THOMAS E. HIDDINS .. 2	MALGWYN H. WILLIAMS 5
*WILLIAM T. PETTY .. .. 3	†DAVID L. HUGHES .. .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM T. PETTY.

\* 25th peal. † First peal of Doubles.

## NETHER ALDERLEY, CHESHIRE.

## THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., July 23, 1955, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

## A PEAL OF 5040 SPICED TREBLE BOB MINOR

Being seven extents in 35 methods: (1) Dover, Chepstow, Balmoral, Skipton and Fotheringay Delight; (2) Ely, Rostherne, Wilmslow, Knutsford and Bogedone Delight; (3) Abbeyville, Crowland, Combermere, Vale Royal and St. Werburgh Delight; (4) Marple, Newdigate, Old Oxford, College Bob IV. and Willesden Delight; (5) Baintree, Charlwood, Neasden, St. Albans and Wragby Delight; (6) Morning Star, Ockley, Duke of Norfolk, College Exercise and Norbury Treble Bob; (7) Oxford, Capel, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure and Kingston Treble Bob; 53 changes of method.

Tenor 13 cwt.

ALAN A. POTTS .. .. .Treble	C. KENNETH LEWIS .. .. 4
BASIL JONES .. .. .2	JOHN WORTH .. .. .5
JAMES FERNLEY .. .. .3	JOSEPH W. WHITTAKER .. Tenor

Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

## STOCKBURY, KENT.

## THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., July 24, 1955, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE.

## A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 14 six-scores each of Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury and Plain Bob Doubles.

Tenor 15 cwt.

JOHN CLARK .. .. .Treble	EDWARD C. BARTON .. 3
GEORGE A. NAYLOR .. .. 2	ALBERT J. DUNK .. .. 4

GEORGE KENWARD .. .. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE A. NAYLOR.

Rung in honour of the patronal festival and dedication of new east window by the Most Rev the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury in memory of Winifred May Filmer. Rung prior to the service.

## HANDBELL PEAL

## CAMBRIDGE.

## THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Fri., July 22, 1955, in 2 Hours and 18 Minutes.

IN JESUS COLLEGE.

## A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 13 in E.

Miss G. A. SMITH (Newn.) 1-2	W. T. COOK (Jesus) .. 5-6
C. M. P. JOHNSON (Selwyn) 3-4	W. J. RIDGMAN (Queens') 7-8

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

Rung to celebrate the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Threlfall.

## QUARTER PEALS

**ALDRINGTON, SUSSEX.**—On July 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Gwyneth Brown (first quarter) 1, Mary W. Turnbull 2, Valerie Mepharm 3, B. K. Turnbull 4, H. W. Brown (cond.) 5, A. A. Fitch 6. Rung in honour of the wedding of Beryl Reynolds to James Sexton and Hazel Stevenson to Arthur Craven, both brides being members of the local band, and both married on the same day.

**ANSTEY, LEICS.**—On July 22nd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: R. F. Elkington (cond.) 1, Miss J. K. E. Harris 2, Miss J. M. Simpson 3, Miss M. Disney (first quarter of Stedman) 4, B. Martin 5, G. H. Arguile 6, W. A. Lacey 7, A. Disney 8. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Mr. H. J. Poole.

**ARLESEY, BEDS.**—On July 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: M. Fox 1, Miss F. Smith 2, A. Simpson (cond.) 3, J. Livock 4, C. Turner 5, B. Pike 6. First quarter for 1, 5 and 6. Rung for Evensong.

**ASFORDBY, LEICS.**—On July 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (ten callings): E. Littlewood 1, J. H. Cook (cond.) 2, R. H. Cook (first quarter 'inside') 3, G. A. Bowcutt 4, R. Looker 5, T. Clayton (aged 14, first quarter) 6. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect from the Melton District to Mr. H. J. Poole.

**BECCLES, SUFFOLK.**—On July 20th, 1,260 Plain Bob Royal: R. C. Boggis 1, E. R. Goate (cond.) 2, M. Stokes 3, Miss K. Lewis 4, J. W. Forder 5, F. Gunton 6, Miss D. Constance 7, G. G. Walpole 8, R. Bickers 9, E. Newton 10. Half-muffled in memoriam W. S. Clark, Town Clerk of Beccles, formerly a member of the Beccles ringers.

**BICKER, Lincs.**—On July 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Bennett 1, R. Howard 2, J. P. Morris 3, A. H. Bennett 4, W. E. Clark 5, W. B. Dawson (cond.) 6, J. Petch 7, C. Stubley 8. First quarter for the ringer of the second. Rung for St. Swithin's festival at St. Swithin's Church.

**BILLINGSBURST, SUSSEX.**—On July 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Jane Langton (first quarter) 1, Audrey M. Trott 2, D. Mitchell 3, H. F. Wood 4, T. Newman 5, S. A. Paice 6, L. Stilwell (cond.) 7, P. Langton 8. Rung for the 15th birthday of Jane Langton. The ringers of treble and tenor are daughter and son of the Vicar of Billingshurst.

**BILTON, WARWICKS.**—On July 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: P. C. Taylor 1, Phyllis Wincott 2, Gillian Hardwick (first 'inside') 3, C. Underwood 4, D. G. Thrush (cond.) 5, D. R. Taylor 6. Rung for the wedding of Miss Elizabeth Burnell, a former ringer.

**BRAYWOOD, BERKS.**—On July 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: R. Twine 1, Miss M. C. Howe 2, J. Schofield 3, R. E. Waters 4, C. E. Slade (cond.) 5.

**BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.**—On July 24th, at St. Peter's Church, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: A. W. Bond 1, G. North (first quarter 'inside') 2, F. P. Mead 3, W. F. J. Cope 4, A. W. Gravett 5, H. W. Woolven 6, J. V. Lonsbrough (cond.) 7, W. H. Hargreaves 8. Ringers of 3 and 4 hail from St. Luke's Chelsea, and Bath Abbey respectively.

**CAMBRIDGE.**—At Great St. Andrew's Church, on July 21st, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Miss J. M. M. Boissard 1, Miss G. A. Smith 2, R. Beaumont 3, R. Charge 4, E. G. Hibbins 5, D. E. Latchford 6, W. T. Cook (cond.) 7, W. J. Ridgman 8. Rung for Confirmation service.

**EALING, MIDDLEX.**—At the Church of Christ-the-Saviour, on July 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Stephanie Bedborough 1, W. G. Wilson 2, W. E. Eveleigh 3, Jean Scrutton 4, F. R. Ranson 5, J. E. Lewis Cockey (cond.) 6, P. A. Carter 7, T. F. Victor Neil 8. Rung as a farewell to Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lewis Cockey and Robin Bruce Lyndon prior to their departure for Winnipeg, Canada, on August 10th.

**EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX.**—On July 3rd, at the Parish Church of St. Mary, 1,260 Stedman Triples: R. W. Pankhurst 1, P. Brooks 2, Mrs. B. Percy 3, O. Wood 4, H. G. F. Reynolds 5, J. Rollison 6, F. H. Dallaway (cond.) 7, J. Hayes 8. An 83rd birthday compliment to Richard Cowling, a ringer at this church.

**ELTHAM, KENT.**—On July 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: K. Small 1, E. B. Crowder 2, E. J. Coope 3, F. Richardson 4, J. Hurrell 5, F. Hurrell 6, G. Daynes (cond.) 7, P. Rablah 8. Rung for the Vicar's last Evensong before leaving for St. Mary's, Stafford. Also after Evensong 1,316 Grandsire Triples (Holt's Original): P. Rablah 1, E. J. Coope 2, C. Philpott 3, F. Richardson (cond.) 4, Miss B. Slark (first 'inside') 5, F. Hurrell 6, G. Hurrell 7, P. Down 8.

**GREAT BADDOW, ESSEX.**—On July 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: P. Green 1, G. Green 2, T. Faulkner 3, L. Ainger 4, P. J. Spencer-Phillips 5, E. E. S. Johnson 6, P. T. Spencer-Phillips (cond.) 7, F. Payne 8. Rung to commemorate the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Linn, respected parishioners of Great Baddow.

**HARLOW COMMON, ESSEX.**—On July 24th, 1,280 Bob Major: E. Elliott (first quarter) 1, Miss A. Bailey 2, V. Tipton 3, L. Whitby 4, W. Wheeler 5, S. Clark 6, R. Young 7, E. Rochester (cond.) 8.

**HORNCHURCH, ESSEX.**—On July 10th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: Miss A. Lowings (first of Treble Bob) 1, S. Penfold 2, J. Carrott 3, R. W. Stannard 4, D. W. Beard (cond.) 5, D. M. Salisbury 6, T. East 7, F. V. Gant 8.

**IXWORTH, SUFFOLK.**—On July 24th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: L. Sharpe 1, L. Pierce 2, A. Ballam 3, M. King 4, K. G. Brown 5, E. Bishop (cond.) 6. Rung as a compliment to the tenor ringer on the birth of a daughter.

**KILBURN, N.W.**—At St. Augustine's Church, on July 24th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: T. Herbert (first quarter) 1, Dorothy Watts 2, Audrey Barker 3, Jean Abercrombie (first quarter 'inside') 4, J. Maxwell (first quarter 'inside') 5, D. C. Birkinshaw (cond.) 6. Rung to celebrate the engagement of the ringers of the 4th and 5th.

**LONDON, S.E.**—On July 24th, at St. George's Church, Borough, 1,260 Stedman Triples: N. G. Hollingworth (cond.) 1, T. H. Taffender 2, J. A. Hales 3, C. W. Ottley 4, C. M. Smith 5, L. W. Bullock 6, W. D. Grainger 7, F. W. Wicks 8. Rung for Evensong, and a birthday compliment to T. H. Taffender.



## QUARTER PEALS

**LONDON, E.C.**—At St. Olave's, Hart Street, on July 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. F. Thirst 1, Miss M. Floyer (first of Grandsire 'inside') 2, Miss A. M. Cox 3, Miss M. Hawksley (first of Grandsire 'inside') 4, A. P. Cannon (cond.) 5, M. W. Harbott 6, E. J. Wells 7, H. S. T. Willson 8.

**LYME REGIS, DORSET.**—On July 25th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. L. Taylor 1, G. S. Morris (cond.) 2, Mrs. C. W. Powell 3, H. G. Keeley 4, Canon C. C. Cox 5, A. J. Scott 6, C. W. Powell 7, J. Rattenbury 8. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Harold J. Poole.

**OLD HEADINGTON, OXFORD.**—On July 12th, 1,260 Doubles (one extent each of Southrepps, Clifford Pleasure, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, Plain Bob, April Day and Reverse St. Bartholomew and 44 extents of Grandsire): A. Gammon 1, Christine Woodward 2, V. Green 3, M. Journeaux 4, R. Trebilcock (cond.) 5, David Woodward 6. Rung half-muffled on the day of the funeral of the Rev. G. E. Day, Vicar of Old Headington.

**PAULERSPURY, NORTHANTS.**—On July 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss B. Mansfield 1, J. Booth 2, P. Foster 3, W. A. Yates (cond.) 4, K. Sheldon 5, J. Foster 6. Rung for the diamond wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. H. Edwards.

**POULTON-LE-FYLDE, LANCS.**—On June 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss O. W. Barrett (cond.) 1, Miss D. M. Barrett 2, T. Nevin (first quarter) 3, B. Atkinson 4, P. S. Barrett 5, J. Nevin 6.

**REDDITCH, WORCS.**—At the Church of St. Stephen, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: A. Shrimpton 1, J. White 2, F. W. James 3, V. A. Hemming (cond.) 4, W. R. Jackson 5, T. Freeman 6. First quarter for 2 and 6.

**SANDHURST, BERKS.**—On July 17th, 1,272 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: W. Collins 1, Miss S. Revell 2, J. W. Wightman 3, L. Paice 4, C. Fennell 5, W. J. Parker (cond.) 6. Rung for evening service.

**SEAL CHART, KENT.**—On June 6th, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: E. D. Acott 1, G. T. Acott 2, G. A. Godfrey 3, A. Wenban (cond.) 4, S. S. King 5, F. Acott 6. A 70th birthday compliment to Mrs. F. Acott, mother of 1 and 2 and wife of the tenor ringer. Also birthday compliments for S. S. King and H. E. Woolley.

**STEPNEY, E.**—At St. Dunstan's Church, on July 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (ten callings): F. Furneaux (first quarter) 1, H. G. Weedon 2, T. G. Fox 3, L. J. Fox (cond.) 4, A. F. Lewry 5, J. M. Crowley (first quarter) 6. Rung as a welcome to Paul Michael, son and heir of Mr. and Mrs. H. Knauss, who arrived this day. H. Knauss is a ringer at this tower.

**STRETHAM, CAMBS.**—On July 16th, 1,344 Woodbine Treble Bob: A. Yarrow 1, H. Sharp 2, G. Walker 3, D. Knights 4, W. J. Ridgman (cond.) 5, S. Shipp 6. First quarter in the method for 3, 4 and 5. An 81st birthday compliment to the ringer of the second.

**SUCKLEY, WORCS.**—On July 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: L. Lloyd (first quarter) 1, J. Ranford 2, W. Huband (first quarter) 3, F. Merrick (first as cond.) 4, W. Cale (first quarter) 5, J. Cale (first quarter) 6. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Dr. William Wilson Cash, Bishop of Worcester, who was interred that day.

**THORNFORD, DORSET.**—On July 27th, 1,440 London Surprise Minor: Miss M. Baker 1, Mrs. M. M. Godley 2, Miss J. Denton 3, D. V. Gare 4, F. Priddle (cond.) 5, T. J. Setter 6. First in the method for all. Rung as a welcome to the Rev. C. G. Kerslake, who came this week from Pulham St. Mary, Diss, Norfolk, to be the new Rector of Thornford.

**THORPE-LE-SOKEN, ESSEX.**—On July 17th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: P. W. Mills 1, Marian Mills 2, F. Harvey 3, A. Brown (first quarter) 4, M. Mills 5, E. E. Davey (cond.) 6. Rung for Evensong.

**UPPER CLAPTON, E.**—At the Church of St. Matthew, on July 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. F. Neal 1, G. A. Parsons 2, Miss G. L. Friswell 3, Miss N. Hales 4, J. A. Hales 5, D. Neal (cond.) 6, R. K. C. Wilkings 7, D. K. Brady 8. Rung to congratulate ringing friends from Wimbledon, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sinden, on the birth of a son (Alan Jeremy).

**WAKEFIELD, YORKS.**—On June 26th, 1,277 Grandsire Caters: M. Cubitt 1, D. Banks 2, Miss M. Bryce 3, P. Woodward 4, W. Moreton (cond.) 5, D. Cubitt 6, L. Boumphrey 7, J. H. Kirby 8, J. E. Kirby 9, H. Naylor (first quarter) 10.

**WANLIP, LEICS.**—On July 21st, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: A. Yates 1, D. Baker 2, R. Bowles 3, G. Wakefield 4, P. Johnson 5, O. Northwood (cond.) 6. Rung muffled in memory of Mr. Ernest Shuttlewood, churchwarden for 20 years, who died on July 16th.

**WESTON FAVELL, NORTHANTS.**—On July 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: F. Rollings 1, Miss G. Ashby 2, Mrs. G. F. Roome 3, G. F. Roome 4, P. Amos (cond.) 5. Rung for the wedding of Mr. David Rockall to Miss Barbara Huck, both of Weston Favell.

**WIVELSFIELD, SUSSEX.**—On June 26th, 1,260 Doubles (720 Grandsire. 540 Plain Bob): M. Truran 1, S. W. Brown (cond. of Plain Bob) 2, H. W. Brown 3, Jean Pike (first in two methods) 4, Agnes F. Millam (cond. of Grandsire) 5, Edna Everest 6. Rung for the patronal festival and for the christening of Patricia Kaye Hammond, daughter of a local ringer. Conducted by two of the godparents. Also on July 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: D. Fagg 1, B. Harfield 2, S. W. Brown 3, Ann Harfield (first 'inside') 4, H. W. Brown (cond.) 5, Dilys Smith (first quarter) 6. Rung for the christening of Brian Thomas Harfield, brother of the ringers of the second and fourth. The ringers of the treble and fourth were two of the godparents.



# GILLETT AND JOHNSTON LIMITED

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





# THE CRAFT THAT IS SIX THOUSAND YEARS OLD

[Reproduced by permission of *Jenolite News*]

ONE of the oldest crafts known to man is the art of bellfounding. Few others have survived so many centuries with so little change, and though to-day the bell foundries are equipped with modern handling devices, lathes and lifting tackle of which the ancient masters of the craft knew nothing, fundamentally little has changed for literally hundreds of years.

Bell founding must surely be the oldest craft with which Jenolite products have been associated; its origins stretch back through the years to 4000 B.C. when, in China, large bells were being used in religious worship. In Great Britain, two or three great bellfounding firms survive, and the subject of this study, John Taylor and Co. of Loughborough, Leics., trace their descent directly from a business established in Leicester as long ago as 1360.

History and legend combine to give us the first (and necessarily incomplete) picture of the origin of bells. The Father of Percussion Instruments, Jubal, is supposed to have had the first conception of bells from listening to the ring of his brother's hammer on an anvil; and it is known that the earliest bells of which there is any trace to-day were Assyrian, discovered in the Palace of Nimrod.

The introduction of bells to Europe was brought about in the fourth century by Paulinus, Bishop of Nola, in Campania (by derivation, 'a flat land'—related to the Latin 'campus'), whence one has 'campana' (late Latin for 'bell'), and from it, in modern English usage, 'campanology'—the science and art of bellfounding and ringing.

It would be impossible to hazard a guess concerning the development of ecclesiastical architecture throughout the world had not bells inspired the creation of church steeples and buildings like the impressive and magnificent Campanile in the Piazza San Marco in Venice—the most noteworthy of the few remaining separate belfries that at one time were a feature of all Venetian churches. The increasing popularity of the carillon, particularly in the United States, is reviving the Campanile (or separate bell tower) and examples are to be found at Niagara Falls and at many Universities throughout America.

The earliest bells in this country were almost certainly imported; it was not until the tenth century that a bell was made in England at the instigation of St. Dunstan. In 1091 a Boston coppersmith made bells for Croyland Abbey. As the craft grew and flourished, so came into being the practice of adding inscriptions, either commemorating the donor, or perhaps echoing the thoughts of the craftsman who cast them. Consider for yourselves the thought behind this one:

'I Often Have Been Beat And Banged,  
My Friends Rejoice To See Me Hanged,  
And When My Friends Do Chance To Die,  
Then I For Them Aloud Will Cry.'

In passing, it is interesting to record that many bells were cast for monasteries, and the inscriptions, often in Latin hexameters, spread amongst simple folk to the belief in the power of bells over evil.

## BACK TO 1360

The history of the Taylor Bellfoundry goes back to mediaeval times when Johannes de Stafford (twice Mayor of Leicester) built a foundry in Leicester in 1360. For four hundred years this famous foundry carried on bellfounding under different ownerships until, in 1780, Robert Taylor, an apprentice of the previous owner, Edward Arnold, succeeded to the business. From that time to the present day, the art of bellfounding has been handed down through successive generations of the Taylor family.

To-day, members of the firm will tell you that the actual bell shape, as such, has not changed, but proportions, curves and thicknesses have altered considerably with the advent of tuning. Most pre-Reformation bells are long compared with the diameter, then came a period when the bell was shortened and the mouth flared.

The late John Taylor, when he introduced the tuning of bells just before the turn of the century, spent a great deal of time in studying the relation of bell shapes to the harmonics of bells, and found they were so closely inter-related that it was possible to generate the necessary curves very accurately. This brought about the modern shape, which is characteristic of the tuned bell of to-day.

Modern bellfounding begins on the drawing board, and the specifications laid down here are followed in the foundry. An inner 'core', rather resembling a giant thimble, is built of bricks, and a thick casing of loam applied by hand and shaped with a 'strickle board'—a sort of 'blunt, swinging scimitar', carefully designed from a huge selection of templates kept in stock. The mould of the outside of the bell is built up in a similar fashion with a strickle board on the inside surface of a cast-iron case, or 'cope', each layer of sand being stoved before the application of the next one. The cope is perforated for the expulsion of gases, and its coating of loam is skillfully embossed with whatever inscription, verse or donor's name is required.

The core is then lowered on a base-plate deep into the greensand floor of the foundry, and the cope carefully fitted over it in such a way that the two rims meet and a space is left between the moulds for the metal to fill.

## BELL METAL

Bell metal, which has changed little in composition throughout the ages, is composed of pure copper and tin in the approximate proportions of 13 to 4. It is a hard, crystalline and very durable metal, subject only to an initial surface corrosion, or verdigris, which forms a protective coating against further oxidation. The idea, which is sometimes aired, that a silver bell would have a purer tone is merely poetic fantasy! Sterling silver bells would be tolerable—a golden bell would be as resonant as one made of lead! When the pyrometer registers a temperature of between 900 and 1,200° C, according to the size of the bell, the furnace can be tapped. This calls for team-work of the highest order, and is usually performed by a gang that has worked together for years under the foundry foreman. The glowing molten metal runs into iron funnels mounted on top of the moulds, and in a few minutes the bell is cast. A smallish bell can be taken out of the mould on the following day, but larger bells must be left up to three weeks before they are sufficiently cool and naturally annealed. The metal must cool evenly otherwise there is a danger of the bell cracking, or of being too porous.

## TUNING A BELL

The tuning is an operation of such perfection that it would astonish the layman, who might popularly suppose it to be done with a hammer! Upturned bells stand in large clusters all over the floor, waiting to be lumped on to a revolving baseplate, where the cutting tool of a vertical boring machine pares off shavings of metal from the inner surface as the bell is rotated. Throughout this operation the bell is constantly tested for accuracy, and further cuts are made until the bell is perfectly tuned. If a mistake is made in the tuning operation it is almost impossible to rectify it. Taylor's claim their system of 'true-harmonic' tuning is the most scientifically accurate yet evolved.

## FIVE NOTES

So far from having one note, as many people imagine, a bell has five: the Strike note, the Nominal (an octave higher), the Hum (an octave lower), the Tierce (a minor third), and the Quint (a perfect fifth). In every bell these five notes must harmonise, and additionally, all five notes must be in accurate time with the five notes of every other bell in the ring or peal concerned. A 'carillon' is a group of bells comprising at least two chromatic octaves (25 bells) and 'ringing bells' form a scale of 5, 6, 8, 10 or 12 bells rung in full swing by means of wheels and ropes. The number of bells in a chime may be increased from time to time until the chime attains the dignity of a carillon. The Taylor Company supplied a chime of ten bells to an American college in 1899, which in 1929 was augmented by a further 26 bells, the installation now forming a carillon of 36 bells.

The final operation in the manufacturing process takes place at the hands of a sand-blaster, who applies a charge of small shot at a very great pressure. This gives the bell metal its exclusive and exquisite pale gold sheen.

John Taylor and Co. have, for very many years, been fighting a dangerous and powerful enemy, rust. Bells generally are exposed to wind and damp, and are often hung in industrial areas where there is a great deal of acid in the air. Timber, which was used for many years to build the bell frames, suffered severely from the death watch beetle and dry rot. Steel, on the other hand, is naturally prone to rust, and this it is liable to do very swiftly under the difficult atmospheres to which it is exposed.

Great satisfaction has been obtained by the use of Jenolite RRN and Chemical Sealer, which are now used on all steelwork on bell frames and fittings, followed by the application of bitumen paint.

Not all old bells are recast, and no pre-Reformation bells are subjected to this operation. These bells are kept as originally cast for their archaeological value, and great care must be taken when they are being handled. During a recent visit to Loughborough one bell dating from 1600 was in to be rehung—the oldest bell Taylors have rehung dates back to 1300.

Most of the bells they recast were originally cast between 1700 and 1890. Generally speaking, bells cast in the 1800's were not particularly good specimens of the bellfounders' art musically. The advent of scientific tuning and foundry technique have altered this state of affairs, and now many peals of mediocre bells are being recast into really tuneful rings.

## PITCH OF PERFECTION

Bells are often rehung, as for instance when a clapper has deeply indented the metal on the inside of the bell, and perhaps it needs retuning. Exact moulding are taken of the beautiful inscriptions on the original bell when it comes in for recasting, and these are reproduced with amazing accuracy in detail. In recent years the use of mechanical handling, simplified moulding, and the true harmonic system for producing overtones has brought bellfounding to a pitch of perfection which it is doubtful can ever be bettered.

Bells to-day are an investment—here at Loughborough was cast the largest bell in the British Empire—Great Paul—weighing over 16 tons and now hanging in the South Tower of St. Paul's Cathedral. From this foundry came such diverse items as the ships' bells for the Queen Elizabeth and the Queen Mary—the only ships' bells in the world to be tuned—and the famous carillon of 71 bells at the Singing Tower Bird Sanctuary, Mountain Lake, Florida.

**The Bishop of Leicester**

(The Right Rev. Ronald R. Williams)

The recent death of Inspector Poole in tragic circumstances is felt as a grievous blow to bell ringing in the Leicester diocese.

Ex-Inspector Poole was the founder in 1946 of the Leicester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and was still president at his death. He was also founder and later president of the Police Guild of Ringers. He was a member of the Central Council of Church Bell ringers and was busy in making arrangements for the meeting of the Council to be held in Leicester next Whitsun. In recognition of his activities for bell ringing he was made a Lay Canon of Leicester Cathedral.

As I have been Bishop of Leicester for only some two years my knowledge of Inspector Poole's life and work was naturally limited, but during this time I had come to trust his wise counsel and advice on all bell ringing matters. He was an indefatigable worker in the cause, and his keenness and commonsense were such that it was always a pleasure to work with him in this matter.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family and we must not fail to be grateful to God for all that Inspector Poole was able to do for the cause. The funeral service was held in Leicester Cathedral on July 18th. It was conducted by the Bishop, the Provost and other clergy and was attended by a very large and representative congregation, mainly composed of bell ringers.

**THREE LEICESTER  
TRIBUTES TO  
THE MEMORY OF  
HAROLD J. POOLE**

**The Provost of Leicester**

(The Very Rev. Mervyn Armstrong)

One of the first men I met when I came to Leicester some 17 months ago was Harold Poole. Within the first minute it was clear that Harold Poole had one overriding concern—bell ringing in general and the Cathedral bells in particular. But it also quickly became apparent that he had a real appreciation of spiritual values which stemmed a firm belief and trust in our Lord and a deep love of his Church.

Leicester Cathedral owes a very great deal to Harold Poole—not only for the standard of perfection he strove for in the belfry but for the many contributions he made to the life of the city and the Cathedral. His services to the Diocese were recognised in 1944, when he became a Lay Canon of the Cathedral; and over the years the indebtedness of Diocese and Cathedral to him increased steadily.

I shall miss Harold Poole as a friend and as a man. His advice was always worth listening to, for he gave it without reservation and without fear or favour. His kindness, his understanding and his Christian charity were qualities which made him so valuable a member of the community, and we are all the poorer by his passing. Our sympathy goes to Mrs. Poole and to her daughter, Jill, and her husband.

**The Chief Constable of Leicester**

(Mr. O. J. B. Cole)

When I became Chief Constable of Leicester in 1929, a young man who quickly took my eye was Harold Poole. He was then a constable with three years' service, and he had already come to notice as a conscientious and energetic police officer. He had been commended for smart work in arresting criminals.

The next few years proved his administrative ability; later, with the advent of war, his organising ability was used in Civil Defence to great effect and, finally, in the last twelve years before his retirement he earned unanimous praise for the way in which he carried out the onerous and responsible duties of police prosecuting officer at the Magistrates' Court. One felt sorry when he left, but, at the same time, glad of the services of such a loyal and efficient officer over so many years.

His hobby was responsible for the foundation, soon after the war, of the Leicester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and he became its first president. Later, he founded and presided over the Police Guild of Ringers, and his undoubted ability caused him for many years to be a member of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Perhaps his greatest joy was to be the Master of the Leicester Cathedral Company of Ringers, and he was proud to have been made a Lay Canon of the Cathedral some years ago.

His untimely end will not dim the minds of his friends when they picture him as one who wholeheartedly devoted himself to any job which he took in hand and one who, in his time, gave of his best to so many.

**John Taylor & Co.**

**LOUGHBOROUGH**

**The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS**



# 'THE RINGING WORLD'

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Council of Church Bell Ringers

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EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

A peal of Little Bob Major was rung at St. Stephen's, Ealing, on July 27th, as a farewell to Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey, who leaves England on August 10th to make his home in Canada. After the peal, ringing friends from Ealing and Isleworth, with the Vicar, two churchwardens, two former churchwardens and others, met in the ringing chamber to bid him Godspeed and to thank him for his work for ringing in Ealing for more than twenty years. The appearance of the ringing chamber and the condition of the bells and belfry bear witness to his efforts, and after many tributes had been paid to him he was presented with a travelling clock and Mrs. Cockey with a bouquet as a sign of their affection and esteem, and with best wishes for a safe journey and for their future happiness in Winnipeg.

Mr. S. Weeks, of Brislington, Bristol, sailed for Perth, Australia, last week. We wish him 'bon voyage.'

Aldrington, Sussex, had two brides from the local company on the same day — Beryl Reynolds and Hazel Stevenson. The complimentary quarter was duly rung.

Does the hanging of a ring of bells beneath a spire improve their tonal qualities when heard outside the church? Reader David Beacham asks for opinions on this subject.

The farewell quarter rung at West Retford to Mr. Alan Simpson, a master at King Edward VI. School, Retford, was rung by a band, with the exception of Mr. Harold Denman, who are members of the school.

Thirteen peal attempts are on the programme of Mr. A. P. Cannon's North Oxfordshire and Cotswolds ringing tour which starts to-morrow. The headquarters of the party are at Chipping Norton. One day is being devoted to a scenic tour and ringing at nine towers.

## BELFRY GOSSIP

An attempt was made at Wrotham, Kent, on July 23rd, to ring a peal of Superlative Surprise Major to the memory of Mr. H. J. Poole. Unfortunately, after 1 hour and 50 minutes' good ringing, the tenor rope broke. The band consisted of T. E. Sone (cond.) 1, C. Tester 2, P. Carter 3, R. E. Lambert 4, R. Collins 5, Miss D. Colgate 6, R. T. Lambert 7, T. Cullingworth 8. Miss Colgate and Messrs. Sone and Cullingworth are members of the Central Council.

With reference to the peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Isleworth on June 18th (see page 418), the name of the treble ringer was Thomas E. Davies and the fifth Wilfrid G. Wilson.

Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs, who are among the oldest friends of the late Mr. Harold J. Poole and Mrs. Poole, were among those who attended the funeral service reported in our last issue.

The peal at Little Houghton on May 30th, reported on page 404, was rung for the Peterborough Diocesan Guild (Northampton Branch). With apologies to all concerned from the conductor.

The bells of Aldrington (by the medium of a recording) welcomed the Archbishop of Canterbury at the church in Mbale, Uganda, on his recent visit to the diocese of the Upper Nile. Mr. Kenneth Sharpe, a former ringer at Aldrington, writes to say that in this land of drums the bells were much appreciated.

Miss June M. Clements, who has been studying in London for the past two years, desires to say a very sincere 'Thank you' to those ringers who have made her so welcome at towers and meetings (especially those of the Surrey Association).

# THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

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# OUT AND ABOUT IN NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

By EWART H. EDGE

STAFFORDSHIRE is not a county that finds its way into travellers' guides or those books that commend the beauties, either natural or man-made, of Britain; it is associated from lessons at school with the Black Country and the Potteries, and the geography book photographs that normally accompany such references do less than justice to the modern Potteries at all events; they portray it as a county to be passed through as rapidly as possible en route for somewhere else. It is quite true that although it is eighteenth in geographical area, it supports a population listed in the first ten in the same statistics. The manufacturing districts are by no means inviting; the industrial revolution developed too quickly to permit æsthetic planning, and the five towns that grew into the city of Stoke-on-Trent that straggles for ten miles down a valley, yet barely exceeds three miles at its greatest width, were no exception.

These conurbations (as we now choose to call them), however, in which are concentrated over a million of its 1,500,000 inhabitants, cover only a very small proportion of the county, those in the south being by far the larger. The far greater remainder of the county offers a variety of delightful countryside that is rarely found within the borders of a single shire. Staffordshire is divided by a broad belt of undulating pasture land which extends from the Shropshire Plain in the west to Derbyshire. North of this line lies a countryside quite different from that in the south, where a dialect is spoken quite unrelated to that in the southern part and, if it has any affinities, these are with Derbyshire to the east and Cheshire to the north.

From the central lowland, devoted to dairy farming, the land climbs up the pleasant wooded valleys of the Trent, Blythe, Hamps, Churnet, Manifold and Dove, to the hills and moors that become part of the Peak and the Pennines in the east and north and cease abruptly as a rampart overlooking the Cheshire Plain further west. These hills, channelled by the valleys which run north to south, drop gently down westwards through the potteries in wooded ridges to the Shropshire Plain beyond which can be seen the mountains of Wales.

## ST. EDWARD'S, LEEK

The moorlands are bleak; hedges give way to dry stone walls, the cliffs of the Roches stand out against the sky and the low stone cottages and churches of this part are defensive against the harsh elements of nature. The countryside is sparsely inhabited. Surrounded by its ranges of protective hills, and built on a lesser hill within the bowl, lies Leek, the centre of this region, a market and textile town. It is dominated by the majestic pinnacled 14th century tower of the Church of St. Edward. In its masonry and within its precincts are relics of earlier worship on the site. In its churchyard are graves of French naval personnel taken prisoner in the Napoleonic wars and a part of the town is still known as Petty France. The tower contains a fine ring of ten bells with a tenor of 18½ cwt. in E flat. Prince Charles, who is said to have stayed at the vicarage on his retreat from Derby in 1745, may well have heard the old six by Rudhall, installed in 1721. They were augmented to eight by John Warner and Sons in 1863, and the inscription on their treble bell is particularly appropriate to their ringing:—

'Our voices shall with joyful sound,  
Make hill and valley echo round.'

According to the old Accounts of the church, there was a ring of bells in this tower in 1663, but of these there is no trace. Eleven peals have been rung on the bells since the formation of the North Staffs Association, two of Grand-sire Triples before the augmentation to 10 in the 1920's, and among those rung since then are the first of Cambridge and Yorkshire Royal



ST. EDWARD'S, LEEK

for the Association. The tower also possesses a chiming apparatus which plays one of 14 tunes four times a day.

A mile and half to the north-west of Leek lies Rudyard Lake, running for two miles between the hillsides where woods stretch down to the water's edge. The fact that it is a reservoir for local canals in no way detracts from its natural beauty and it was this lake after which the poet Rudyard Kipling was named.

## A LEGEND OF HORTON

Close by is the pleasantly inaccessible village of Horton with its 16th century church and a musical ring of six, cast by Rudhall in 1753 (tenor 11 cwt). An enterprising band from Norton-le-Moors in the 1920's quite often visited Horton, and the story goes that the bells were so used to being left during the 'drop' for the ringers to run to catch the last train home, that they could lower themselves in peal.

Two miles along the valley of the Churnet to the south of Leek is Cheddleton, whose church, standing on an escarpment, commands a wonderful view of the pleasant hills through which the river winds, where the swans glide and the fishermen sleep on hot summer afternoons. Part of the church dates from the 14th century, and a mediæval brass eagle is preserved on the lectern. It has some fine stained glass, including windows by Rossetti and Burne-Jones. The tower is 16th century and the belfry is reached by a staircase remarkable for its steepness and decreasing depth of its steps. The six bells (tenor 12 cwt.) blend well despite the fact that the work of four founders, since improved by Taylors, have gone into them. The treble (1864) second and tenor (1862) are by Warners, the third by Edward Arnold, of Leicester, 1796, the fifth 1762 (unknown). The fourth with a diameter of 33 inches bears the mark of Paul Hutton, of Congleton, and the inscription, 'Jesus be our spede 1632' (3 reversed).

High on a hillside a few miles to the south is Kingsley with the rebuilt Church of St. Werburgh retaining the original tower at the west end of the south aisle, its ringing gallery open to the church. Four of the six bells (tenor 12 cwt.) came from the Gloucester foundry in 1725. Here the moorland traditional six-bell ringing is carried on, and methods now uncommon, such as Wragby and Duke of York, are still rung as a matter of course. One of the peals recorded here was a welcome home to the Rector's daughter who had served as a volunteer nurse in the Spanish Civil War.

## CHEADLE'S TWO CHURCHES

Not far away is Cheadle with its steep, narrow streets clinging to the edge of the moorland, with a history going back to the Roman occupation. It possesses two churches both dedicated to St. Giles. The parish church is a 19th century building with six bells (tenor 13 cwt.) bearing the usual inscriptions of the Rudhalls, who cast the first five bells in 1722 and the tenor in 1730. The Roman Catholic church with a heavily decorated interior dates from the 19th century and is the work of Pugin. It possesses an extremely slender and graceful spire which, rising to a height of some 200ft., is a landmark clearly visible for many miles to the south. It contains an excellent ring of eight bells (tenor 15 cwt.) by Taylors. Beneath Cheadle are rich coal seams and many of its inhabitants are colliers. It is fitting that here should have been rung a muffled peal to the memory of the men entombed in the Creswell Colliery disaster in 1950.

On the eastern borders of North Staffordshire by the valley of the Dove, which flows southwards parallel with the Churnet, are a series of delightful villages. There is Sheen to the north, overlooking the Dove, with its six bells (7 cwt.) cast in 1851 and inscribed in Latin, Iam with its ancient heritage, its association with the Congreves who lived at the hall and where William Congreve wrote his comedy, 'The Old Bachelor,' and with Dr. Johnson, who used Iam as the setting for his only novel. The church was restored in the last century and its most ancient part is the 13th century gabled tower which houses a ring of five bells cast by Taylors in 1856, and the gift of J. Watts-Russell, who renovated the old hall and much of the village.

(Continued next page)



## OUT AND ABOUT IN NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE—Continued

### 'EVENING BELLS'

On the banks of the Dove close to Ashbourne lies the village of Mayfield: here for a time lived Thomas Moore the poet, who is said to have found inspiration for his poem, 'Evening Bells,' from the music borne over the river from the Derbyshire town. Mayfield, however, has its own ring of six (tenor 12 cwt.), which includes two old bells, one with an ornamented inscription, 'Huius sci larenti,' and the other inscribed, 'Jesus be our Spede 1624.'

Ellastone, too, has literary connections, for here is the setting of 'Adam Bede.' Rousseau also spent some time in the nearby Wootton Hall. There has been a ring of six at this 16th century church since 1788 when Hedderley, of Nottingham, installed the treble and second. The tenor is by Rudhall, 1740, and the 4th and 5th are of unknown date, but the ornamental inscriptions on them are believed to be those of a Nottingham founder. They read as follows:—

4. ihs SCA MARIA OPN.

5. ihs SCA TRINITAS DEUS M.N.

Alton with its five bells (12 cwt.) is renowned for the great palace of Alton Towers, built in the last century by the 15th Earl of Shrewsbury, its magnificent grounds laid out by Capability Brown. The village lies at the end of the gorge through which the River Churnet flows and, with its convent built on the cliff top originally occupied by a Norman castle, is often likened to the Rhineland.

### ROCESTER BELLS

Rochester on meadow lands, where the valley of the Dove broadens as it leaves the dale for which it is so famous, is a quiet village which, as its name implies, has a history which goes back to Roman times when it lay on the Ryknield Way which ran from Chester to Derby. It once possessed an abbey, but this has long since vanished. The church, marked by its graceful spire, has a ring of eight bells (tenor 13½ cwt. in F sharp), which are a delight to ring. Three of the bells are dated 1774, others 1796, 1830, 1871, the two remaining being of more recent date. Unfortunately a local band no longer exists to ring them.

The south-eastern extremity of this region is reached at Uttoxeter, for centuries renowned for its market and the centre of a rich agricultural area. The church is a fine edifice with an ancient tower and later spire, containing a majestic ring of bells (20 cwt. in E), six of which were cast by Abraham Rudhall in 1729, bearing his mark and familiar inscriptions: the treble and tenor by John Warner and Sons in 1874. Twenty-six peals have been rung on these bells for the North Staffs. Association since its foundation in 1884, including the first on the bells and the firsts of Staffordshire and New Cambridge Surprise Major for the Association by resident bands.

On the border of Derbyshire a few miles from Uttoxeter, the village of Marchington stands on the Dove, near the verge of the Needwood Forest. The church is in classical style and the tower is strangely domed. Three of the six bells (10 cwt. in G) date from 1626 and another from 1765.

Returning north-west along the main road to the Potteries are three ringing towers—the first, Leigh with six bells in an ancient tower, the two older bells being by Rudhall and dated 1710. Thomas Rudhall cast the next in 1762 and John a fourth in 1810. On the Tean lies Checkley; much of its church is of Norman

workmanship, including the tower which houses six bells (tenor 12 cwt.) by Rudhall in 1761.

### DRAYCOTT-IN-THE-MOORS

Some three miles beyond, squat on a hill top and approached by a grass-grown lane, stands the church of Draycott-in-the-Moors. The most striking feature of the church is the chapel of the Draycotts, where, in clothes of centuries ago, the Draycotts sleep in carved alabaster. This family, whose seat can be seen on lower land a mile away, worshipped here for seven centuries, gaining both fame and notoriety. A low door at the west end of the nave gives access to the ground floor ringing chamber. The bells now number eight (11 cwt.), having been augmented from six in 1939 and



ST. MARY'S, UTTOXETER

earlier from five to six. The oldest bell is dated 1607 and is inscribed, 'I sweetly toling men do call to taste on meats that feede the soole,' bearing the mark of Henry Oldfield, founder, of Nottingham. Two others dated 1636 are by Paul Hutton, of Congleton. The old treble bears a curious crest and the legend:

'ihs Nazarenus Rex Iudeorum Fili Dei Misere  
RN WC Wardens 1678  
PHIL DRAYCOTT ESQ.'

Twenty-eight peals have been rung on these bells to date and are a popular ring despite the fact that one or two are at present odd-struck.

Not far from Draycott, nestling in a well-wooded valley, lies Dilhorne, unique in that it possesses the only completely octagonal tower in Staffordshire. The bells in this asymmetric tower are a good ring of six (tenor 9 cwt.), aug-

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## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

### President Inducted Vicar of Famous Leeds Church

An event of wide local interest, and in particular to members of the Yorkshire Association, took place on July 21st, when the president, the Ven. C. O. Ellison, B.Sc., was inducted Vicar of the 17th century Church of St. John the Evangelist, New Briggate, Leeds. The Association was well represented among the large congregation.

In the course of his address, the Bishop of Ripon, Dr. G. A. Chase, said that in some ways it was a very strange service. One reason for this was that the Archdeacon, who was being instituted, was usually assisting him at similar services in that part of the diocese; another was the character of the Church of St. John. He was used to performing institutions at huge parishes in Leeds or small parishes in the heart of the country. Here, however, was a parish with a small population situated right in the centre of the city. It nestled in the shadow of great shop and office buildings, with the busy Headrow on one side and a new bus station planned on the other.

'John Harrison, at whose expense the church was built and completed in 1634, would have loved to have been here to-night,' went on the Bishop. 'He would have found the surroundings very different, but he would have loved that because he was an industrialist. He was a man interested in Leeds, in business and in politics, but in it all he was a churchman. To-day the church has to play its part in social life, in business, in industry and in politics. All these things must be brought into the ambit of the church if it is to perform its duty.'

Before the institution, the Archdeacon was presented to the Bishop by the Lord Mayor of Leeds (Alderman Sir James Croysdale), who is one of the five patrons of St. John's. The induction which followed was by the Vicar and Rural Dean of Leeds (Canon C. B. Sampson).

Immediately following the ceremony a course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells by the following members of the Association: W. O. Talbot 1-2, W. Barton 3-4, P. J. Johnson 5-6, L. W. G. Morris 7-8, J. Ambler 9-10. Members will join in congratulating their president on his new incumbency, and wishing him Godspeed in his new calling.

### Gratefully Acknowledged

The Editorial Committee acknowledges with gratitude the following donations:—

Personal.—Mr. Shepherd, Cape Town, 5s., Gamston Ringers 1s. 6d.

Peals.—Dursley 2s., Rye 3s., Marksbury 3s., Biggleswade 2s. 6d., Chatham 4s.

Quarter Peals.—Bolton 3s., Seal Chart 3s., Sandhurst 1s. 6d., Thorpe-le-Soken 1s., Brighton 2s., Lyme Regis 2s.

(Continued from previous column)

mented by Taylors from a five by Edward Arnold, of Leicester (1796). As far as is known, only six peals have been brought round on the delightful ring, silent now for lack of ringers.

(To be continued)



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## LAVENHAM TENOR

Dear Sir,—Mr. Pipe is certainly trailing his coat. Miles Graye's masterpiece embodies perfection of proportion and tonal quality in a maiden bell, and since perfection cannot be improved upon, the claim made for this bell is completely justified.

There is no myth to explode, sir, in connection with Lavenham tenor, but if Mr. Pipe will look up Æsop some time he will find a story about a frog which DID explode, and the reason therefor.—Yours sincerely,

OLIVER G. BARNARD.

Stowmarket.

Dear Sir,—I can see if you do not end the controversy, the Lavenham tenor argument will be as long-winded as the Everton-cum-Tetworth controversy.

Does it really matter if Lavenham tenor is a finer bell than Grundisburgh, or vice versa? Never will it be unanimously agreed that a particular tenor is the finest in the country, nor should it be. Unless two bells are hung side by side, who is in a position to judge? Opinions vary as do bells. Who could compare the bells at St. Peter Mancroft with those of St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, both magnificent rings, but different types entirely.

Mr. Ernest Morris only last week claimed Howden (Yorks) his favourite eight. One will not have to go far before Chewton Mendip and Ditcheat enter the conversation. A few months back a well-known Bedfordshire ringer was swearing (not literally) by Ebbw Vale.

Whichever we prefer, it should be remembered that if all bells were as near perfection as possible, ringing would become much more monotonous, and probably no outings would be arranged. It certainly is not worth arguing over and the risk of losing friends taken for the sake of one unimportant opinion.—Yours, etc.,  
Burton Latimer. B. S. COPE.

Dear Sir.—The letter in 'The Ringing World' of July 15th regarding the tone of Lavenham tenor is a statement of opinion with which I agree. It is only an opinion, however, and though we are all entitled to our opinions they will vary from person to person as in all things.

In forming our opinions on the tonal qualities of bells, several factors must be considered. Firstly, I think it is only fair to compare the tones of bells in the same weight range, which also means having nearly the same note. Then it must be remembered that some bells are Simpson tuned and others are not and there are some ringers who do not like Simpson tuned bells.

Another factor, which I think is most important, is that many people visit a new tower and state their opinion of the tone without having heard the bells outside. Quite often I find that bells that sound rather poor inside are really worth listening to outside the tower. I have, in fact, rung in several towers where the bells, generally Simpson tuned, absolutely 'howl' at you because they are hung in a steel frame and the ringing chamber is too close to the bells and the false floor is not sufficiently soundproof. Outside the bells are a joy to hear.

Another point which may have some influence on the outside effect of the bells is that I find many of my favourite rings are hung beneath a spire. Whether or not the bells would be so pleasing if taken out and hung in an ordinary tower seems difficult to prove. (Has anyone any experience of this?)

In concluding, then, I feel that one should not say, 'Best bells (or tenor) in the country' (and have they rung on all of them?), but rather the finest toned FOR THEIR WEIGHT that they have rung or heard. Now the claims will be coming in!—Yours faithfully,

DAVID BEACHAM.

Barnstaple, Devon.

## PETERBOROUGH GUILD DIFFERENCES BLOWN OVER

Dear Sir,—May I congratulate the Rev. K. W. H. Felstead on his most interesting article on 'Peal Ringing in Northamptonshire'? His articles undoubtedly are the result of a large amount of research work.

I was very sorry to read that Mr. Felstead has been the recipient of a letter from Mr. P. Amos written in a fiery vein. While I am not going to 'stir up muddy water' regarding Mr. Amos' differences with the Peterborough Guild in the past, I agree with Mr. Felstead that any peals rung and not published would be negligible and would not, I think, create a wrong impression regarding peal ringing activities in the county.

I am happy to say that the differences which existed some years ago have now blown over, and I hope that there will be no recurrence from any source whatsoever.

As Master of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild my principal aim is to encourage Sunday service ringing with an emphasis on good striking. I hope that this may lead to a revival of peal ringing of the standard set up by some of the stalwarts of the old Central Northants Association. This can only be achieved by adopting a 'team spirit' and mutual understanding one with another.—Yours sincerely,

B. P. MORRIS, Master,  
Peterborough Diocesan Guild.

## A BOLTON RINGER IN AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir,—I received a letter from Ronald Edge, formerly a ringer at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton, and Cambridge University. Some months ago his profession took him to Australia. In his letter he describes attending a ringers' meeting and competition near Sydney. We here cannot be surprised at the progress and interest which is developing in that country, when we learn of the enthusiasm there. Mr. Edge informs me that to attend the event he flew over 200 miles and then completed the journey from Sydney to Turramurra with a half-hour train ride. He was not the only one how had travelled far; there were several who had covered over 140 miles and some from Tass.

For the competition he joined the St. Mary's Society of Sydney. They lost in the 'Doubles' contest, but won the 'Minor' with a very narrow margin from the home tower, viz., 30 points against 30.5. They now hold the shield. After the competition there was the annual dinner, followed by speeches and films.

He said the Turramurra bells are a very light ring of six by Taylors. A ringer very kindly put him up for the night, and the following morning he rang at St. Jude's, Randwick, a ring of eight steel bells which were cast by Vickers before they became Vickers-Armstrong. After a ride along the Coogee beach (a beautiful spot) and lunch, they went back to the church and rang a quarter peal.

Mr. Edge experienced a very unpleasant time when the plane he was travelling in began to descend from 7,000 ft. He had a hollow tooth and he suffered what has become known as 'airpressure' toothache, and it is very severe whilst it lasts. He had to seek a dentist's aid immediately upon landing. On account of this he decided to take the long journey home by train.

Some of the West Maitland ringers related their experiences in the floods. One said she still had 6ft. of mud in her house.—Yours, etc.,

PETER CROOK.

Bolton.

## COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD

### Quarterly Meeting at Rugby

The summer quarterly meeting was held on July 16th at Rugby, where the octave in the north-east tower, recently rededicated after overhaul, was the attraction. The bells have been lowered 20ft. and hung on ball bearings and are now much easier to handle.

Ringling in the afternoon was curtailed to one service touch on account of weddings, then at 4.30 a short service was conducted by the Rector, followed by tea in local cafes. Ringling continued after tea until a halt was called for the business meeting to take place in the ringing room.

The Master (Mr. R. J. Edden) presided, and apologies were read from the president (the Rev. W. C. Maggs), vice-presidents (the Rev. R. R. P. Rigby and Mr. F. W. Perrens) and Messrs. F. C. Lyne, H. C. Burt, J. Ford, W. Wyatt, H. Allen and Mrs. Carpenter.

It was announced that the annual dinner arrangements were well in hand and would take the same form as last year. It was decided by a majority vote to engage professional entertainers again. The next quarterly would be held in Coventry prior to the dinner on Oct. 15th.

A discussion arose on how best to cater for diocesan towers in the fringe areas. A letter from a Leamington member was read suggesting that application be made to the County Council for a grant to hold a course of instruction in campanology. Further investigations are to be made by the committee and a report made at the next meeting.

Competition ringing was then brought to the notice of the members, and after a discussion it was decided to ask all members to consider the matter and vote on it at the annual meeting in April.

New members elected were: Miss Pat Houston (Bilton), R. W. Sheriff and T. G. Hill (Southam), P. D. Howitt (Rugby), T. K. Farrow and R. M. Andrews (Harbury). Ratifications: P. and D. Beresford (Lichfield) and E. Malin (Penkridge).

Members stood for a few moments before the meeting closed to the memory of Mr. J. W. Taylor, captain of the Allesley band for many years, who had recently passed on, and also to Mr. H. J. Poole, whose tragic death had been reported the day before.

The church collection of £2 1s. was given direct to the Rugby Bell Fund.

## SOUTH HACKNEY BELLS REHUNG

An East End ring that has been silent for many years—St. John of Jerusalem, South Hackney—have been rehung on ball bearings by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. This ring of eight with tenor approx. 20 cwt. was originally installed by the Whitechapel firm in 1848.

On July 20th, at the invitation of the Rector, the Rev. R. Parsons, members of the London County Association rang for thanksgiving service for the 107th anniversary of the dedication and the restoration of the church after extensive bomb damage.

Members from as far afield as Isleworth, Chelsea and Romford rang Grandsire, Stedman and Cambridge before and after the service. For the bells Messrs. Mears and Stainbank have done a fine job; the only objection is that the bells are rather noisy in the ringing room.

On July 22nd the foundation stone of the new school building was laid by Lord Amhurst of Hackney. After the dedication by the Lord Bishop of London, 1,260 Stedman Triples was rung by Mrs. E. Merrett 1, T. H. Taffender 2, J. A. Hales 3, J. Merrett 4, W. D. Grainger 5, J. Barrance 6, L. W. Bullock (cond.) 7, J. McPhail 8.

The Rector, thanking the ringers for their services, said Dr. Wand remarked on how well the bells sounded and the great pleasure it gave him to hear them rung. J. A. H.



## TOPIC FOR THE MONTH - VII.

### Comes the 'Dawn'?

The recently accepted revision of the Central Council's 'Decisions' cannot fail to have some impact on the Exercise at large—not so much by what the Decisions include (we'll come to that in a later article, perhaps), but rather by the spirit of widened outlook and broadened toleration of what may be rung; that is to say, rung with the benign acceptance of official approval.

#### YET A NEED

But there is still something lacking; something of a degree of importance still generally unrecognised; something which, when it does come, will illumine our ringing path like the light of dawn after the uncertain gloom of night.

Extravagant words? Then consider for how long we have endured the 'ban,' recently lifted. (The writer recalls his first peal as one of Grandsire Minor!) Or again, consider the protracted and mainly futile arguments, over the last 30 years, on the subject of 'extensions.' The root cause of all the trouble is largely the failure to distinguish between conventional 'regulations' on the one hand and 'natural laws' on the other.

But if this sounds like criticism, either of the hard-working sub-committee revising the Decisions or of the Council members who accepted the revision, let it be said at once that none such is intended. Indeed, the changing spirit manifested in these recent happenings may well be the herald of such a 'dawn.' What, then, is needed?

#### THEORY—BUT HOW MUCH?

Consider the issue from first principles. Most pursuits embrace both a theory and a practice; or, if you like, a science and an art. What of ringing? One of the difficulties here is that its science is not entirely 'natural,' being, in fact, in part artificial or man-made. So that, while its fundamental principles are certainly amenable to mathematical analysis, yet some of its accepted conventions are, to say the least, somewhat arbitrary if not inconsequential. I think it may be agreed. The reason for this is not far to seek. The science of ringing, such as it is, has developed somewhat sporadically, locally and traditionally; and, be it admitted once again, with little regard to the essential distinction between 'laws' and 'regulations.' In ringing, the latter are fairly arbitrary, while the former are mathematical truths—the real theory of ringing.

How much, then, of the theory of what is rung has been set forth in scientific fashion? In fact, how much of this is necessary to be set down? To answer this rightly we must first be clear as to what constitutes 'that which is to be rung?' Is it simply the result of what is recognised as the all-important business of composition—the setting out of touches and peal-lengths? Certainly, we couldn't get far in practical ringing without the splendid work of our composers. But even they can't get busy until the method builders have produced something to provide the scope for composition; in other words, until our method designers have produced the methods themselves.

And it is here, right at the root of all ringing, that we find so little of scientific bibliography; most of the science of ringing that has been written up indeed, relates mainly to composition; so that little will be found of its precursor—'method structure.' Let it be clear that books on methods, as we know them, excellent as they are for setting out the individual methods, and necessary as they always will be for learning them, do not fill the gap.

### GENERAL THEORY OF METHOD STRUCTURE

It is at this point that many a practical ringer will say that the various publications on methods themselves are good enough for him. So what?

Well, he puts himself in the position of a bandsman who says, 'Theory of music be blown! I've got, and can read, my band parts and they're good enough for me.' Quite so! But of course, he ignores the simple fact that before a piece of music can be presented to him someone has to study theory of music and learn how to write it; and an 'arranger' also, who has studied 'orchestration,' has probably arranged the band parts.

In ringing, the job of the 'composer' (of touches and peals), is analogous to that of the 'arranger' in music. The latter, of course, takes the originally designed piece of music and, unless it be already orchestrated, sets it for small or large orchestra, or maybe even for piano only if the composer of the music has stopped short at the melody. Some music composers, of course, do the whole thing.

To the composer of music his opposite number in ringing is not, of course, the composer of peals and touches; he is, in fact, the method designer. The point here is that just as in music there is a theory of design or composition, scientifically set forth, but open to artistic development according to rule, so also in ringing the building of methods rests upon scientific principles—a science of method structure if you like—artistically to be developed into the individual methods, in their respective groups or classes.

The recognition of this vital fact has been widening rapidly in the past few years; so that the need is becoming more obvious for a comprehensive set of 'Decisions' on method structure, in other words, a standard work on the subject. This, then, is that 'something lacking,' referred to in the opening paragraphs of the article.

Space here is limited, but even one example is better than extended precept. On page 395 of issue No. 2,308 of 'The Ringing World' we find (middle column) phrases introduced to cover the extending range of stages now being rung; i.e., 'Sextuples' and '14-in.' relating, of course, respectively to changes on 13 bells and 14 bells. At the moment such ringing is confined to 'extensions' of methods, on handbells. Yet no definition has hitherto been accepted of what constitutes an 'extension' of a method. Incredibly, the need for such a definition was officially denied, at the time the 'Report on Extension' was being compiled!

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF 'EXTENSION' IN METHOD STRUCTURE

The true significance of what is generally understood to be an 'extension' is not yet fully appreciated. Detailed discussion on this signal point is here impracticable, but its importance can be put briefly, as viewed by those of us who have been studying it since the first world war, thus:—

A method subsists in one or more stages, according to the nature of its design, in which design such stages are, *ab initio*, inherent absolutely. The lowest of such stages to exhibit all the prime features of the design is the 'basic stage,' those above it being 'extensions.' Any below it, omitting one or more design features but otherwise conforming to the method's specification, are 'contractions.' From the fact of inherency, given any stage not being a contraction, all other applicable stages of the method can be derived from the given stage, by a mathematical process known as 'stage variation.' The process is rigid, and

admits of no 'versions,' producing only the inherent form for each stage, or none at all. The inherent family relationship of all admissible stages of the method is unique and invariable.

#### METHOD SPECIFICATION

From the foregoing it follows that any stage not being a contraction, i.e., the basic stage or any of the admissible extension stages, can be the 'parent' stage, i.e., 'parent' in the sense of the particular stage in which the method is first devised and/or published. These conclusions were not reached without considerable investigation, in the course of which it became obvious that no new method should be published without its 'specification,' as already mentioned, and as now briefly explained:—

In the early days of method building the design was 'simple,' i.e., contained few or no place-makings and dodgings within the 'lead' or division. The designer simply gave it out by figures, as applying in the one stage in which he had conceived it. Ambitious bands, wishing to try the method on higher stages, found it to 'extend' without much trouble to them. The custom of neglecting to publish anything other than the figures (and of the 'parent' stage only) thus became established; and resulted in the 'wonder-if-it-will-go-higher' attitude of mind to methods as they came out. Later, when 'complex' methods were evolved, i.e., those with numerous place-makings and dodgings within the 'lead' or division (thus constantly reversing the mode of hunting), there resulted the tragedy of endless and futile argument as to 'extensions'; while the wonder-if-it-will-go-higher seekers found their own 'versions.'

Either of two things could have prevented all that: (a) the patiently deduced knowledge that we have to-day of stage variation, as already mentioned; or (b) the publication by the designer of his specification for the design. This latter is simply a scientific statement for the production of the method in all stages to which the designer has found his plan to apply. It is positive, unequivocal and generic, and sets out the inherent features in the basic design. The figures of a half-lead (or the 'shorthand' way of setting them out) can never define a method for all its admissible stages. The most they can do is to identify the method for that particular stage. Further data are required for stage variation. But the specification is all-sufficient.

This one aspect is but exemplary of what the theory of method structure has to tell us. To the average practical ringer it may not have great interest, at the moment; but it is of practical interest to, indeed essential for, the modern designer or builder of methods in the wide field of design as yet untouched;—after him, to the composer of touches and peals in those new methods and—after him, to the conductor who selects both the method and its compositions.

#### FUTURE OUTLOOK

New methods can no longer be conceived as for one stage only, if they are to satisfy towers with varying rings of bells. The number of rings of tower bells in the higher stages has increased considerably, and handbell peals on even higher stages are beginning to enter the records. The more important it is, therefore, that the science of ringing, at its foundation, i.e., method structure, be set forth in clear and logical form. The longer the delay the more difficult, protracted and corrective in nature will be the task.

Once again, however, let us take initial satisfaction in the recent acceptance of the revised Central Council Decisions. And let us occasionally recall that without well-founded theory there can scarcely develop universally successful practice.

A. Y-B.



## GUILD of DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

### Branch Meeting at Kingskerswell

In perfect weather, the Mid-Devon Branch held a quarterly meeting at Kingskerswell on July 23rd, amongst those attending being visitors from Beeston (Notts) and Farnborough.

Ringings took place throughout the afternoon to suit all tastes, this being followed by a service in church, conducted by the Rev. A. C. F. Rowe (Vicar), who extended a very hearty welcome.

After tea at the Whitpot Mill Tea Gardens, the usual business meeting followed with Mr. J. E. Lilley in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, the secretary reporting on matters arising, and apologies for absence were received from the Rev. N. F. D. Coleridge, of Dartmouth, and Mr. Paul Field, of Langport.

The election of three non-resident members prior to starting for a peal was confirmed, and it was resolved to hold the next meeting at Paignton, with Babbacombe, on October 15th, subject to the usual permission being obtained.

The meeting also decided to send a letter of congratulations to the Rev. and Mrs. Coleridge on the birth of a son, and it was also resolved to send to Mrs. H. J. Poole, of Leicester, the sympathy of the branch at the tragic death of her husband.

The usual votes of thanks were proposed by the chairman, who welcomed the visiting ringers, after which a visit was paid to Coffinswell.

## TWO BRIDES FROM ONE TOWER

Aldrington, Sussex, ringers had the unusual experience of ringing wedding bells for two of their young lady ringers who were married within a quarter of an hour of each other.

On Saturday, July 9th, at 1.45 p.m., Miss Beryl Reynolds and James Sexton (a ringer from Seaford) were married at St. Leonard's, Aldrington, and the local handbell ringers rang the bride into church.

The ringers then dashed to St. Nicolas' Church, Portslade, and rang handbells for the wedding of Miss Hazel Stevenson and Mr. Arthur Craven, while the remainder of the local band were ringing tower bells at Aldrington for Beryl and Jim.

Both brides were regular members of the Aldrington band and their fellow-ringers presented them with wedding presents to remind them of the many enjoyable times together and to wish each happy couple every happiness in the future.

It is very encouraging to know that Beryl and Jim will soon be ringing in Lancashire, while Hazel and Arthur are to take up the art in Bedfordshire.

## HORNCHURCH, ESSEX

Good weather, good food, good bells and good timekeeping were the main contributory factors to a very fine day spent in Kent on July 9th.

Missing from the party this year was Dr. C. E. Wright, now on National Service in Hong Kong, and Mr. J. Macdougall, recovering from an operation.

Stops were made at Headcorn, Biddenden, Salehurst, Marden and Eynsford. Ringing was much enjoyed at all these towers. Congratulations on your ringing chamber, Biddenden!

Ringers in general will be pleased to know that in this garden of England the 'crops' are looking fine.

Thank you very much, Kent—you did us proud, and if 'earth hath anything to show more fair' than the view, set in the rays of the setting sun, than that from Wrotham Hill, then we have yet to see it.

# STORIES OF THIS YEAR'S OUTINGS

## BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE

After many weeks of careful planning and eager anticipation, the day of the annual outing of the Bolsover ringers and friends, June 25th, again came and passed all too quickly. The last Saturday in June has now become almost an automatic choice for the date and we were again favoured with really lovely weather. The improvements in road travel conditions and modern coaches make it possible to venture much further afield, and although the journey to Worcester proved to be very tiring all felt it well worth while and the excellent opportunities for ringing were ample repayment for the extra effort required.

A slight hitch delayed the start from Bolsover and the stay at the first tower, Northfield, near Birmingham, had to be curtailed because of arrangements for a wedding. The narrow staircase approach to the ringing chamber caused some amusement, and touches of Bob Major, Double Norwich, Cambridge and Kent Treble Bob were rung on the easy-going bells.

The second tower, Dodderhill (Droitwich) was considered by most people to be the best of the day. The spacious ringing chamber and first-class ropes made for excellent ringing conditions, and the tone and 'go' of the bells was really grand. Mr. Raxter, of the local company, was obviously very proud of the bells and enjoyed listening to a well-struck course of Superlative Surprise Major.

Despite the great heat all the party did justice to an excellently-prepared luncheon at the Deansway Restaurant, Worcester, and later high tea at the same establishment was fully enjoyed by all.

At All Saints', Worcester, Mr. T. W. Lewis met the party, and the organiser was able to thank him personally for all his help in connection with the arrangements for the outing and suggestions of towers for ringing. The effect of the lunch and intense heat seemed to upset the ringing of the heavy ten and for many of the party it was their first experience of Royal. The striking was much better in courses of Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Major. Mr. Lewis joined the visitors in an excellent 'fall'.

The short walk across Worcester, past the famous cricket ground, made a welcome breather and ringing was continued on the musical light octave at St. John-the-Baptist's. Several of the younger ringers and the non-ringers made good use of a free period in the programme and spent some time on the river. Most people visited the Cathedral, but it was decided in advance that no arrangements would be made for ringing the Cathedral bells. Being accustomed to light and quick-going bells, it was felt that the party might not do justice to this heavy ring.

The evening ringing was at Stoke Prior, an extremely light but musical eight. The ringing chamber is immediately below the bells and there is no insulation, but the 'go' and tone of the ring far outweighed the discomfort from the excessive noise.

Mr. H. Nicklin met the party and was obviously very pleased to hear his bells so well rung. During the opening touch of Double Norwich the tenor rope became untucked, but the bells went so well that the writer was able to continue ringing one-handed and the touch was considered to be the best of the day. The

ringing at this tower was extended somewhat beyond the original programme but all seemed happy to stay.

The long journey back to Bolsover was accomplished without mishap and various people reached home shortly after midnight. Grateful thanks are accorded to all who assisted in any way with the arrangements for the outing, and to our friends from Chesterfield, Warsop and Worksop, who again ensured some excellent ringing of the standard normally expected on such a tour.

A. B. C.

## DARTFORD AND DISTRICT

On June 25th Dartford and district ringers toured part of Kent and Sussex for their annual outing. After a good start, Edenbridge's eight were set going to everyone's delight and proved a good omen for the rest of the day. Then on into Sussex and to Uckfield, where again the eight bells were put to good use.

Lunch was followed by two touches on handbells at Ye Maiden's Head Hotel. The journey to Burwash was through a very pleasant countryside and the delightful sights here were enjoyed. Then on to Wadhurst with its recently-augmented bells, and once again full marks were accorded.

Tea was taken at the Queen's Head before leaving for Frant, where, unfortunately, a call change band occupies the tower and the ropes needed adjusting. However, time would not allow of this, so a few touches were brought round on the six bells and the journey continued back into Kent to Tonbridge with its fine eight, and the heaviest of the day's selection. For the last call of the day Seal St. Lawrence, with its six, was visited, and these were kept going until 9 p.m.

The ringing was of a very high standard and touches in standard methods up to Cambridge were brought home, in some cases with local ringers joining in. At all towers a reception committee awaited us, and our thanks are due to clergy and towerkeepers for an exceptionally fine day's ringing on some grand bells.

R. G. R.

## BURY ST. EDMUNDS

Bury St. Edmunds ringers selected Kent for their annual outing on July 2nd. Leaving Bury by coach at 7 a.m. the journey to London was via Epping Forest, and the Thames was crossed by the Blackwall Tunnel. Maidstone was reached at 12.10 p.m., about ten minutes late. Here after the long journey the company were disappointed to find the tower door locked and they were unable to ring.

After lunch at Maidstone the company went to St. Nicholas' Church, Leeds (10), a massive tower of short height, and here ringing included Grandsire Caters, Stedman Caters and Bob Royal. Mr. A. E. Moore, who had been to Leeds during the 1914-18 war, escorted the party to the gravestone of James Barham, who died at the age of 93, and rang in the long peal which lasted 27 hours.

The next tower was Rochester Cathedral (10, tenor 30 cwt.) and before ringing we heard the large choir of 500 singing at the festival service. Ringing was fairly good as our back-enders are used to heavy bells. All were ready for a cup of tea at 6 p.m.

When we arrived at our coach we found that the driver had wheel trouble. This delayed departure by about two hours. A tired but happy party reached Bury St. Edmunds at 12.30 a.m.

A. W. R.



# GLORIOUS SUNSHINE MADE THESE OUTINGS MEMORABLE

## CHECKENDON, OXON

Members of the Checkendon band, with friends from Shiplake, Mapledurham and Reading, had a most enjoyable outing into Hampshire on July 23rd.

The journey to the first tower, the eight at Liss, took longer than expected, and we arrived nearly half an hour late. Ringing was enjoyed on this musical octave (tenor 12½ cwt.) but the long draught proved the undoing of some of the less experienced.

Next came the heaviest ring of the day, Havant (8, 18½ cwt.), with a pleasant belfry full of creaking timbers. Our youngsters deemed themselves here, and methods up to Stedman Triples and Bob Major were rung before the party dispersed for lunch.

Afterwards the coach ran along near the coast to Titchfield, the only six of the day. Nobody complained of the heat, however, until we started ringing at Titchfield. An external stone staircase leads to the small ringing chamber, which soon became stifling; these bells are not renowned for their 'go,' and the sweat poured off everyone.

We found it a little cooler in the ground-floor ringing chamber of the rather disappointing eight at SS. Peter and Paul's, Fareham, after which the party had an excellent and well-earned tea at the Old Vine, just outside the town.

The last tower we visited was Petersfield. This glorious octave (tenor 16½ cwt.) was voted the best of the day and some good touches were brought round. The end came all too soon with a good fall soon after 8 p.m. Home was reached for most of us at 11 p.m., after a stop at Alton.

We hope that the young lady from Havant, who was in attendance for most of the day, enjoyed herself, and we were all sorry that Ben Wakefield was unable to be with us. The party express their thanks to Mr. George Hearn, the organiser, those who met us at the towers (with apologies to Liss), and others who helped to make the outing a success.

R. K. R.

## RICHMOND, YORKS

Accompanied by ringers stationed at Catterick Camp, the Richmond, St. Mary's, ringers left Richmond at 8.30 a.m. on July 9th for a tour in West Yorkshire and North Lancashire. The first call was the mellow eight at Sedburgh, where coffee was taken. Crossing the border into Lancashire, the next stop was the six at Cartmel, where we were greeted by the Rector and Miss Margaret Snowdon. After ringing, the party travelled to Holker Hall, about a mile away for lunch.

Some of the party then visited Flookburgh, with a heavy six (tenor 18 cwt.), whilst the remainder looked round the Hall. We found these bells to be the best of the day. The next stop was the rather cramped light eight at Morecambe, where Grandsire Triples and Kent Major were rung.

After an excellent tea the journey back to Richmond was via Lancaster and Ingleton.

Methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent and Cambridge Minor, Grandsire Triples and Kent Major.

M. P. H.

## DURLEIGH, SOMERSET

Durleigh ringers, accompanied by friends, including three ringers from Wembdon, held their third annual outing, in glorious weather, on July 16th.

Leaving Durleigh at 9.30 a.m. the party proceeded via Bridgwater and Somerton to Bruton (6, 26cwt.), where an enjoyable 40 minutes was spent. The next tower on the list was Nunney (6, 12cwt.) and from here the party went on to Frome for lunch.

St. Mary's, Devizes (6, 17cwt.), in Wiltshire, was the next objective and was reached after a pleasant run through delightful country. Tea was also taken here and afterwards the party re-entered Somerset, to Chilcompton (6, 20 cwt.), the last tower of the day. Ringing here had to be cut short due to the party having lost the way and arriving late. A good 'lower,' however, ended a very pleasant day.

Ringing included rounds, Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman Doubles and Bob Minor. Thanks are due to the organisers and to those who met the ringers at the towers. G. M.

## RUNCORN, CHESHIRE

Six churches in the counties of Cheshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Lancashire were visited by the Grappenhall Branch of Ringers on their annual outing on July 16th.

An early start was necessary and the Runcorn party met their colleagues from the rural areas at Hathersage. It was in this very old country church that the day's ringing started, and while this was in process the visitors found the grave of Little John, of Robin Hood fame.

The journey to St. George's, Doncaster, led through Sheffield and Rotherham. In climbing the 137 steps to the ringing chamber the older ringers kept up with the younger members of the party. Ringing included touches of Cambridge Surprise, Stedman and Plain Bob Major. Doncaster Parish Church has also, according to the head verger, the largest organ in any church in the country. After these exertions the party was ready for lunch.

The Church of All Saints', Pontefract, a very beautiful building inside, was the next objective. Later St. Giles', in the centre of the town with its ring of ten bells, was visited. This was another long climb to the ringing chamber; nevertheless, the message of the bells was sent out to the hundreds of people in the shopping centre. Tea was, indeed, welcome. Pontefract was left at 6 p.m. for Ossett, the route being via Wakefield, where the Cathedral could be seen in the distance. Perhaps the villagers wondered why their bells were ringing, never dreaming that these strangers had travelled so many miles.

To reach Marsden, the industrial town of Huddersfield was passed. In this ancient church some of the local band were waiting to join in the ringing. It was 9.15 when the bells were dropped and then came the long journey home.

The outing, the tenth since the war, will go down as one of the best. Thanks are due to Mr. Cecil Raddon, the organiser, for the tremendous amount of work he put in and also to the clergy and belfry masters of the churches visited.

## EMMANUEL CHURCH, PLYMOUTH

The ringers of Emmanuel Church, Plymouth, with their wives and families, set off at 7.30 a.m. sharp on July 16th for their annual outing. The weather was ideal and the early morning run took us to Torpoint Ferry through Liskeard and to Lostwithiel, where we enjoyed coffee and cakes, some even having 'Cornish pasties'—greatly appreciated, as most of the party had had their breakfast at 6.30 a.m.

The first real business was at Laniverry, a village just two miles from Lostwithiel, where there is a ring of eight which has recently been renovated. The next church was St. Sampson-by-Fowey, standing on the slopes of the River Fowey and affording an excellent view of the river. The visit here created a precedent, as in the 130 churches visited by the Society since the war this is the first five-bell tower (tenor 4½ cwt.). There was, however, a special reason, as one of our company, Mr. Owen Thomas, was born in the parish (as also was his wife), and christened and married in the grand old church. Mr. Thomas started his ringing there some 40 years ago.

Then on to Fowey, where the ring of eight must rank high amongst the eight-bell towers in Cornwall, and where we had some excellent ringing before seeking lunch. Fowey is a lovely spot, the home for many years of the late Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, and across the river at Bodinnick Miss Daphne Du Maurier spent her childhood. We later passed near to Miss Du Maurier's home, where she now resides with her husband, General Browning, and family. Later we saw Jamaica Inn, from whence her book 'Jamaica Inn' took its name, and afterwards to Altarnun, where the niece in that story went to the Vicar for advice and help.

Leaving Fowey we wended our way amongst to Clay Pits to St. Denys, where the Rector awaited us, then on to the Goss Moor, through Bodmin and over the Bodmin Moor for an excellent high tea at the King's Head Hotel, Altarnun. At Altarnun the Vicar (the Rev. Mr. Kneebone) not only gave us a welcome, but we rang some call changes for him to join in.

Stoke Climsland has a lovely ring of eight and although our ringing (Grandsire and Stedman Triples—Doubles at St. Sampson's without a tenor—and rounds for the less experienced) had been very good indeed during the day, we really excelled ourselves here, so much so that one of the local ringers said, 'Our chaps cannot ring them like it.'

After a short break at Tavistock we arrived back in Plymouth at 10.15, having spent a most enjoyable day. At tea Mr. J. P. Sims, our captain, thanked the 'chara' driver, the hotel proprietors and Mr. H. H. Thomas (hon. secretary) for arranging this circular trip of S.E. Cornwall, and had a special word of thanks for Mr. 'Bill' Collier for his work in the belfry, his latest act being the preparation of a peal board, which has now been lettered and is ready for dedication. H. H. T.

Mr. Frank K. Measures, the Hinckley District secretary, was unfortunately unable to take part in the district's in memoriam peal to Harold J. Poole at Stoney Stanton. All the other district officers rang.

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Notices must be received on the Monday preceding publication.

## ENGAGEMENT

HEIGHTON—MUTIMER. — The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Heighton, of 113, St. Leonard's Road, Norwich, and Bridget, only child of Mrs. and the late Mr. H. F. Mutimer, of Saxlingham Nethergate. 6722

## GOLDEN WEDDING

TOMLINSON—ARRANDALE.—On August 10th, 1905, at the Church of St. John, Blackburn, Arthur Tomlinson to Ellen H. Arrandale. Present address: 370, Whalley New Road, Blackburn, Lancs. 6727

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

From August 10th next, the address of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lewis Cockey will be 29, Inkster Avenue, Winnipeg 4, Manitoba, Canada. 6721

## HANDBELLS FOR SALE

SET OF 8 HANDBELLS in first-class condition and excellent tone. Been used for tune ringing in and around the borders of Romney Marsh. Reason for parting with them is my age, just on 79. Can be seen any evening at 58, High Street, Appledore, Kent. Will accept £30 or near offer. Would also part with figure tunes to go with them.—Harry Balcomb. 6739

## MISCELLANEOUS

YORKSHIRE TOUR.—August 13th–20th. A few spare seats available. Details obtainable from A. H. Everett, Cornerway, Plantation Road, Boreham, Chelmsford. 6682

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.—There will be no practices during August. 6702

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—There will be no ringing at St. Michael's, Cornhill, during August.—A. B. Peck. 6736

ST. ANN'S CHURCH, TOTTENHAM.—No ringing from Aug. 8th to Sept. 3rd owing to holidays. Ringing will recommence Sunday, Sept. 4th. Visitors welcome.—A. Robson, Sec., Dongola House, Dongola Road, N.17. 6740

BEVERLEY AND DISTRICT R.S.—Meeting at Bridlington Priory Church, Saturday, Aug. 13th. Bells available 2.30 to 9 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in Schoolroom 5.15 (price 4s.). Names for tea, by Thursday, to Mr. J. A. Parker, Higher Waterworks, Mill Lane, Bridlington. 6735

PEAL CARDS & QUARTER PEAL CARDS can now be ordered at 5s. a set of 12, post free (minimum charge). Order and remittances must be sent with peal report. For quarter peals write separate copy in same style as peals.

## PUBLICATIONS

'TOWERS AND BELLS OF BRITAIN.'—This beautifully produced book will soon be out of print. Obtain your copy now, before too late. Direct from the author: Ernest Morris, F.R.Hist.S., F.R.G.S., M.R.S.L., Verger's Lodge, St. Margaret's Vicarage, Leicester. Price 21s. net.

'CHURCH BELLS AND RINGERS OF NORWICH,' by A. G. G. Thurlow, 5s. 6d. post free from the author, St. Nicholas' Vicarage, Great Yarmouth. 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.

## MEETINGS

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ely District.—Meeting at Cottenham on Saturday, Aug. 6th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—R. J. Housden. 6696

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Hunts District. — Evening meeting, Holywell (6) Saturday, Aug. 6th. Bells available at 6 p.m.—H. S. Peacock, Dis. Sec. 6729

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Meeting at Grayshott (8), Saturday, Aug. 6th, from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—G. S. Joyce, Hon. Dis. Sec. 6684

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Brislington (6). Aug. 6th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Vicarage meeting follows. Please come and help.—A. Bennett. 6720

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Ashford District.—Meeting at Cheriton (8), Aug. 6th. Bells 2.45. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15.—W. P. G. 6629

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Horsmonden on Saturday, Aug. 6th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Please bring own tea. 6690

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Harrow-on-the-Hill, Saturday, Aug. 6th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business to follow.—T. J. Lock. 6725

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Isle of Wight District.—Quarterly meeting, Godshill, Aug. 6th. Bells from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5.—Mrs. A. M. Guy, Hon. Sec. 6731

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Northern District.—Practice meeting All Saints', West Ham (10), Wednesday, Aug. 10th, 6.30–8 p.m. Everyone welcome.—L. W. Bullock, Dis. Sec. 6728

BARNSELY AND SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETIES.—Joint meeting, Bolsterstone, Aug. 13th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Those requiring teas must notify Mr. J. R. Brearley, Frank Hillock Field, Deepcar, near Sheffield, not later than Aug. 10th.—D. Smith and J. Seager, Hon. Secs. 6705

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting at Brancepeth, Aug. 13th. Bells available 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; please bring own food.—E. P. Rock. 6715

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD. — Hartfield (6), Aug. 13th. Tea at the Anchor Hotel. Please notify the proprietor by p.c. or on arrival at Hartfield. Method for practice: Woodbine T.B.—C. A. Bassett. 6730

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Eastern District.—Watton, Aug. 13th, 3 p.m. Tea 5. Datchworth after tea. Names for tea, by 11th, to W. J. Milton, 12, Station Road, Watton-at-Stone, Hertford, Herts.—T. W. Southam. 6709

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Gloucester Branch.—Practice meeting, Moreton-Vale (6), Saturday, Aug. 13th, 6 p.m.—A. Lynall, Branch Sec. 6726

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Swindon Branch. — Highworth (8), Aug. 13th. Tea. — Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon. Tel. 3926. 6712

HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting, Horsmonden, Saturday, Aug. 13th, 2.30 p.m. (not Aug. 20th). Names for tea, by Aug. 10th, to G. Billenness, 3, Grasmere Terrace, Hawkhurst. 6717

LADIES' GUILD.—Sussex Division.—Meeting at Christ Church, Eastbourne, on Saturday, Aug. 13th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m., followed by bybusiness meeting. Ladies, please support. Gentlemen cordially invited. Names for tea by the 10th, please.—B. Percy, Esperance, Oldfield Road, Willingdon, Eastbourne. 6688

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Preston Branch.—Meeting at Penwortham, Saturday, Aug. 13th. Light refreshments provided.—L. Walsley. 6664

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting with ESSEX ASSOCIATION at St. Dunstan's, Stepney (near Stepney Green Station), Saturday, Aug. 13th, at 3 p.m. Service and tea.—T. J. Lock. 6724

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Reading Branch.—Monthly practice, Aug. 13th, at Bradfield, 4.30 and 6.30: at Englefield and Theale from 6 p.m.—R. G. Burton. 6718

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Furness and Lake District Branch.—Practice meeting, Kirkby-in-Furness, on Saturday, Aug. 13th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m. Tea 4 p.m. Names for tea to F. Moorhouse, Suncrest, Kirkby-in-Furness.—N. M. Newby, Branch Sec. 6738

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Fylde Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Bispham on Saturday, Aug. 13th. Bells 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—J. H. Foster. 6733

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Summer meeting, Tettenhall, Aug. 13th. Bells (8) 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Picnic tea in Vicarage garden 5.15. Bring own food; cups of tea provided. Names not required.—F. C. A. Bennett. 6723

SOUTHWELL GUILD.—North Notts District.—Meeting at Gamston (6), Saturday, Aug. 13th. Please bring own food; cups of tea provided.—H. Denman. 6714

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION. — Western Division.—Quarterly meeting, Goring, Aug. 13th, 3. Names for tea, please, by previous Tuesday, to W. L. Weller, Sunnyside, Itchingfield, Horsham. 6719

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Northern District meeting at Bamburgh on Saturday, Aug. 20th. Private bus hired, leaving Newcastle Central Station at 1.30 p.m. Picnic tea (bring own). Names for bus, by Monday, Aug. 15th, to G. S. Deas, 65, Elsdon Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne 3. 6711

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Southern District.—Quarterly meeting, Ecclesfield, Aug. 20th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. in the Gatty Hall. Names, by 18th, to Mr. L. E. Smith, 3, Park Crescent, Ecclesfield, near Sheffield.—J. J. L. Gilbert. 6734

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Gainsborough District.—The next meeting will be at Willingham on Saturday, Aug. 28th. Bells afternoon and evening. Service 4.15. Tea for those who notify me by Tuesday previous.—George L. C. Lunn, Hon. Sec., Crow Garth, Lea, Gainsborough. Tel. 2623. 6741

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual dinner. The annual dinner will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1st, at the Old Bell Restaurant, Holborn, at 6 for 6.30 p.m. Tickets, price 13s., from the undersigned. Early application is advised, as numbers are limited.—P. N. Bond, Hon. Sec., Gaywood, Stocks Green Road, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent. 6680



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