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WHERE ARE THE PEAL RINGERS?

SOME TIME ago a prominent member of the Central Council said to the editor, 'There are far too many peals rung to-day.' That was at a time when 'The Ringing World' was handling between 50 and 60 peals a week. This year has seen a dramatic change; in many weeks there have been under 30 peals received, and the question does arise as to whether the art of peal ringing on tower bells is to go the same way as those 'in hand.'

Handbell ringing to the ability to ring a peal on eight, ten or twelve bells is becoming a lost art. There are hundreds of ringers who dabble with handbells and enjoy a touch, but sustained ringing, like that in the good old days told somewhat graphically a fortnight ago, is not a part of the ringer's programme. Perhaps it is that life is far fuller; the attractions of the outer world, such as wireless, television and the cinema, have too great a call on many individuals' time to permit of ringing to be an almost exclusive hobby. Handbells as such have not lost favour; the demand for second-hand sets is still heavy. Efficiency, as in tower bell ringing, however, will only be accomplished by regular practice. To quote an example: we heard of a case of four experienced ringers 'in hand,' with a number of peals to their credit, who have met on four occasions in an attempt to score a peal without success.

As to the drop in tower bell peals, not all are due to lack of interest. To-day there is a desire for variety among experienced ringers and, generally speaking, a wish not to tolerate for record purposes anything that does not strictly conform to good ringing. From what we gather, the code of ethics among most companies will not tolerate a long sorting out. Only a minor trip is corrected. This is as it should be. Peals worthy of counting should be good peals. Have we the lynx-eyed conductors as of old who nursed the weak members of the band with such consummate skill? While the art of conducting to-day is good, it is now far more widespread. The opportunity to conduct comes to most young ringers, but it should be noted

this does not always produce peals. We do not in any sense condemn these greater opportunities.

Is sufficient attention given to ropes to-day? Peal attempts that come to an abrupt termination through ropes breaking seem to be more numerous, and they are invariably a 'special occasion' peal, when there is a desire to perpetuate either the memory of an individual or a big event. It is easy to say that the ropes should be thoroughly inspected before an attempt is made, but this is not always possible. Judging by the reports we receive from outings and tours, the standard of maintenance of ropes has deteriorated.

We do not believe the precautionary methods advocated in the Central Council's handbook on the 'Preservation and Care of Bells, etc.,' are practised or observed. Ropes are expensive. A wise company will not only do its utmost to preserve the life of its bell ropes, but endeavour to build up a fund to supplement any grants made from the Parochial Church Council, and it should be remembered that in these days the maintenance of the bells is not the first consideration on a Council's funds. Best results are invariably obtained where the ringers are co-operative and in happy relations with other church workers.

The fact that the number of peals rung has diminished has resulted in more pages being available in 'The Ringing World' for general reading matter. The editor would appreciate articles of general interest to ringers, particularly on any new subject. Many an old ringer has a good story to tell, and if it can be improved by a journalistic touch, well the editor is there for that purpose! The essential thing is that the advantage of the extra page or two should be for the benefit of the general reader. Already we have received appreciative messages from correspondents regarding additional general news space. The success of 'The Ringing World' in its appeal depends on the individual contributor more than the editor. Bricks cannot be made without straw, and the straw is to be found in the towers and belfries of these islands and beyond the seas.

TEN BELL PEALS

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 23, 1955, in 3 Hours and 21 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5067 STEDMAN CATERS

Tenor 19½ cwt.

A. ST. JOHN BOYACK Treble	ERNEST W. FURBANK 6
MRS. R. F. DEAL 2	RICHARD F. DEAL 7
JOHN H. CRAMPTON 3	WILLIAM BIRMINGHAM 8
*ROBERT J. CHAPMAN 4	CHAS. E. WILLMINGTON 9
HARRY TURNER 5	FREDERICK C. TAYLOR Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM WILLSON. Conducted by JOHN H. CRAMPION.

* First peal and first attempt.

A 16th birthday compliment to Robert J. Chapman.

BEVERLEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Aug. 1, 1955, in 3 Hours and 42 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5021 GRANDSIRE CATERS

Tenor 34 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb.

*MRS. A. SIMPSON Treble	GEORGE E. FEIRN 6
†STANLEY E. BENNETT 2	*GEORGE W. MOODY 7
JACK BRAY 3	BERT SUTTON 8
CLEMENT GLENN 4	CHARLES BARKER 9
*ALLAN SIMPSON 5	LEONARD RODMELL Tenor

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON. Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.

* 25th peal together. † First peal of Gandsire Caters.

Rung with the best wishes of the band to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Hoodless, parents of Mrs. A. Simpson, on the occasion of their silver wedding.

PRESTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Aug. 1, 1955, in 3 Hours and 24 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF 5021 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB CATERS

Tenor 25 cwt.

G. ALEC DIMMOCK Treble	CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE 6
ARTHUR TOMLINSON 2	E. ROGER MARTIN 7
DOREEN DUTTON 3	RONALD KENRICK 8
THOMAS BARKER 4	JOSEPH RIDYARD 9
ERNEST J. GOWER 5	JOHN JOLLEYS Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE.

First peal in the method for all the band and for the Lancashire Association.

Rung to mark the centenary of the rebuilding of the church.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

SOUTH SHIELDS, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

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

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HILDA,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 9½ cwt.

MARGARET SOFTLEY Treble	KENNETH LAWSON 5
CHARLES MCGUINNESS 2	DENIS A. BAYLES 6
JOHN WALDEN 3	PHILIP G. DRAFFAN 7
CHARLES N. LEA 4	ROLAND PARK Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by DENIS A. BAYLES.

Rung to mark the ordination as deacon on Trinity Sunday of the Rev. J. G. Edgar.

TOTTERNHOE, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

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

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES

Tenor 9½ cwt.

JAMES G. NEWMAN Treble	†PETER SHIPTON 5
*STEPHEN J. IVIN 2	ANDREW C. SINFIELD 6
RONALD J. SHARP 3	JOHN W. SINFIELD 7
DENNIS KNOX 4	R. JOHN SCOTT Tenor

Arranged and Conducted by DENNIS KNOX.

* First peal of Triples. † First peal on eight bells. First peal of Plain Bob Triples by all the band.

GREAT BENTLEY, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., July 25, 1955, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5024 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 7½ cwt.

EDWARD E. DAVEY Treble	GEORGE A. BUTTON 5
MARIAN H. MILLS 2	ALLEN K. CANSDALE 6
MICHAEL A. MILLS 3	ROY DUESBURY 7
ANNE V. LEWIS 4	ALAN R. ANDREWS Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by ROY DUESBURY.

ST. IVES, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., July 25, 1955, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt.

MARIELLA MUNDY Treble	JOHN R. G. SPICER 5
E. JACK PARISH 2	FRANK W. LACK 6
R. FRANK BAKER 3	NORMAN MALLET 7
HAROLD S. PEACOCK 4	WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN.

EALING, MIDDLESEX.

LONDON COUNTY ASSN. & N. SOUTHWARK DIO. GUILD.

On Wed., July 27, 1955, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN,

A PEAL OF 5040 LITTLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt.

*PHILIP A. CARTER Treble	*A. ST. JOHN BOYACK 5
*THOMAS E. DAVIES 2	*SQUIRE CROFT 6
*MRS. OLIVE L. ROGERS 3	†WILFRID G. WILSON 7
†J. E. LEWIS COCKEY 4	*HAROLD W. ROGERS Tenor

Arranged and Conducted by WILFRID G. WILSON.

* First peal in the method. † 35th peal together. First peal in the method as conductor. First peal in the method on the bells and for the Association.

Rung as a farewell to Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lewis Cockey and to Robin Bruce Lyndon prior to their departure for Winnipeg, Canada, on August 10th.

WELLINGTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., July 27, 1955, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Dexter's (Second Observation).	Tenor 19 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb.
*DAVID T. NORTH Treble	*GEOFFREY J. GAMMON 5
ARTHUR H. REED 2	*†WALTER STEVENS 6
*WILLIAM F. SLOCOMBE 3	WILLIAM G. GIGG 7
STANLEY N. BRISTOW 4	GORDON WALFORD Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR H. REED.

* First peal of Triples in the method. † 25th peal.

Rung as a welcome to the Rev. R. J. C. Lloyd, M.A., who was instituted and inducted to this parish on June 29th.

**CHURCH & TURRET CLOCKS**

New Installations : Repairs : Maintenance

Estimates and Advice Free

JOHN SMITH & SON, Midland Clock Works, DERBY, LTD.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., July 29, 1955, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Holt's Ten-part.	Tenor 17 cwt. in E flat.
*LEONARD KEITH MOORE .. Treble	ARTHUR GAUNT 5
*GRAHAM S. FORD 2	ROBERT S. ANDERSON .. 6
*BRYAN RYLES 3	CHARLES H. PAGE 7
GEOFFREY C. BEECH 4	G. ARNOLD MOORE Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. PAGE.

* First peal. First peal since rehanging.

Rung on the 60th anniversary of the first peal on the bells.

CREWKERNE, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 30, 1955, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

F. H. Dexter's Variation No. 2.	Tenor 22 cwt.
WALTER H. POOLE Treble	GEORGE F. BURTON 5
HENRY G. KEELEY 2	ROGER KEELEY 6
*RAYMOND P. SELWAY .. 3	G. STEDMAN MORRIS .. 7
ARTHUR H. REED 4	WILLIAM G. GIGG Tenor

Conducted by G. STEDMAN MORRIS.

* First peal of Stedman Triples.

MARKET DRAYTON, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 30, 1955, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5056 LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 17 cwt. 2 qr. 3 lb.

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

Composed by C. J. SEDGLEY.

Conducted by ARTHUR PRITCHARD.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method in the county and for the Association.

THORNE, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 30, 1955, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF 5088 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR

In five methods, containing 1,088 London, 1,024 Cambridge and 992 each of Bristol, Superlative and Pudsey, with 101 changes of method. Full work of all the methods for each bell.

JOHN THORLEY Treble	W. ERIC CRITCHLEY 5
MILTON C. FOWLER 2	J. FREDERICK MILNER .. 6
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS .. 3	GIBSON JACKSON 7
HOWARD SCOTT 4	J. MARTIN THORLEY Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN.

Conducted by W. ERIC CRITCHLEY.

ASHFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Aug. 1, 1955, in 3 Hours and 6 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF 5024 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 23 cwt. in E flat.

*DAVID STAPLES Treble	*CRAWFORD T. HILLIS .. 5
THOMAS CULLINGWORTH .. 2	GEOFFREY PEARSON 6
REGINALD BEALE 3	HILDRD S. WICKENS .. 7
HARRY BAKER 4	A. PATRICK CANNON .. Tenor

Composed by REV. E. S. POWELL.

Conducted by REGINALD BEALE.

* First peal on eight bells.

THURCASTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Aug. 1, 1955, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,
AT THE LATIMER CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Bruerton's Twelve-part, transposed by E. Mottis.

Tenor 10 cwt. 7 lb. in G.

*GEOFFREY M. BREWIN .. Treble	†ARTHUR D. SAYER 5
MRS. A. D. SAYER 2	F. KEVIN THOMPSON .. 6
B. STEDMAN PAYNE 3	ROYSTON WILMORE 7
ERNEST MORRIS 4	FREDERICK T. BINDLEY .. Tenor

Conducted by B. STEDMAN PAYNE.

* First peal on eight. † First 'inside' to Grandsire Triples.

WITNEY, OXFORDSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Aug. 1, 1955, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF 5088 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 16 cwt. 3 qr. 11 lb.

JAMES G. NEWMAN Treble	JOHN W. SINFIELD 5
ANDREW C. SINFIELD .. 2	PHILIP MEHEW 6
RONALD J. SHARP 3	BRYAN F. SIMS 7
DENNIS KNOX 4	LEWIS H. BYWATERS .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by DENNIS KNOX.

CIRENCESTER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Aug. 2, 1955, in 3 Hours and 20 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, WATERMOOR,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Middleton's. Tenor 19 cwt. 2 qr. 22 lb.

S. ARTHUR READ Treble	JOHN THOMAS 5
A. GEORGE CLARE 2	ERIC NAYLOR 6
GEORGE W. MASSEY 3	RONALD G. BECK 7
MRS. JOHN THOMAS 4	DAVID HOARE Tenor

Conducted by RONALD G. BECK.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

ROTHLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(Syston District.)

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

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY-THE-VIRGIN AND JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb. in F sharp.

*ROGER A. BREWIN Treble	B. STEDMAN PAYNE 4
ARTHUR D. SAYER 2	ERNEST F. PAYNE 5
GEOFFREY M. BREWIN .. 3	ROYSTON WILMORE Tenor

Conducted by B. STEDMAN PAYNE.

* First peal of Minor.

Rung to welcome the new Vicar of Rothley (the Rev. J. G. Hunting).

SILK-WILLOUGHBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

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

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DENIS,

A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

Seven 720's: (1) Beverley; (2) York; (3) Norfolk; (4) Primrose; (5) Cambridge; (6) Ipswich; (7) Beverley, Berwick, Durham, York, Hexham and Surfleet.

RUTH MORGAN Treble	†LEONARD C. BLANCHARD .. 4
ALBERT E. SCOTT 2	JAMES W. HAW 5
*CECIL WADE 3	JAMES H. MUSSON Tenor

Conducted by CECIL WADE.

* 50th peal of Surprise. † 25th peal. The ringer of the 5th has now 'circled the tower.'

Rung in honour of the birth of a daughter (Beverley June) to Mr. and Mrs. James H. Musson.

ASHWICK, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., July 26, 1955, in 2 Hours and 32 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two 720's of Single Court, two 720's of Oxford Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob.

EDWARD J. CHIVERS .. Treble	†ROBERT E. BECK 4
*ADRIAN P. BECK 2	†ERNEST E. BRAY 5
DAVID HOARE 3	RONALD G. BECK Tenor

Conducted by RONALD G. BECK.

* First peal 'inside.' † First peal in three methods of Minor.

WOODEATON, OXFORDSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., July 26, 1955, in 2 Hours and 33 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY ROOD,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

42 extents.

Tenor 6½ cwt. in B.

*DAVID G. WOODWARD .. Treble	*MALCOLM JOURNEAUX .. 3
VERNON GREEN 2	ROBIN TREBILCOCK 4
ALEC GAMMON Tenor

Conducted by ALEC GAMMON.

* First peal. First peal of Grandsire Doubles for all. Believed to be the first peal of Grandsire on the bells.

FELKIRK, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., July 28, 1955, in 2 Hours and 36 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR

Seven extents (five callings).

Tenor 10 cwt.

DANIEL SMITH Treble	*GEOFFREY INGHAM 4
HAROLD B. SCHOFIELD .. 2	PHILIP H. SPECK 5
*DONALD R. MARSHALL .. 3	J. MARTIN THORLEY .. Tenor

Conducted by J. MARTIN THORLEY.

* First peal of Surprise Minor.

HUNTINGDON.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., July 28, 1955, in 2 Hours and 25 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 LONDON SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven extents.

Tenor 8 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb.

JOHN R. G. SPICER Treble	CHRIS. M. P. JOHNSON .. 4
*HAROLD S. PEACOCK .. 2	WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN .. 5
*GORDON D. WHITEHEAD .. 3	WILLIAM T. COOK Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN.

* First peal of London.

BUNWELL, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 30, 1955, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two extents each of Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob and three extents of Plain Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt.

WILFRED G. SAUNDERS .. Treble	DAVID VOKES 4
JOHN S. BARNES 2	FRANK C. J. ARNOLD .. 5
DR. PAUL H. A. JONASON .. 3	CEDRIC F. W. PHILLIPPO .. Tenor

Conducted by CEDRIC F. W. PHILLIPPO.

Rung as a wedding compliment to the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow and Miss T. Hook, married that day in Norwich Cathedral.

COUNTSTHORPE, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., July 30, 1955, in 2 Hours and 30 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in 16 methods: (1) Single Court and Double Court; (2) Amersham Alliance and Little Bob; (3) Fulbeck, Reverse Canterbury, Double Bob and Plain Bob; (4) Cambridge Surprise; (5) St. Clement's and Childwall; (6) Double Oxford and Thelwall; (7) Kent and Oxford Treble Bob. 49 charges of method.

Tenor 10 cwt. 17 lb. in G.

*†ERNEST J. JELLEY Treble	ERNEST MORRIS 4
*BRIAN S. CHAPMAN 2	*JOHN M. JELLEY 5
*MRS. B. G. WARWICK .. 3	*BRIAN G. WARWICK Tenor

Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.

* First peal in 16 methods. † 100th peal.

A birthday compliment to Ernest Morris.

DUXFORD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., July 30, 1955, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

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

Tenor 8½ cwt.

CHRIS. M. P. JOHNSON .. Treble	*WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN .. 4
T. REGINALD DENNIS .. 2	RALPH BEAUMONT 5
BRIAN PRATT 3	*WILLIAM T. COOK Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM T. COOK.

* 25th peal together.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., July 30, 1955, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents.

Tenor 6 cwt. 6 lb.

*ANTHONY TRICKETT Treble	BRIAN SCHOFIELD 4
MARGARET HALL 2	ALBERT CRAWLEY 5
IVOR JENKINS 3	SIDNEY HOUGH, JUN. .. Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY HOUGH, JUN.

* First peal. First peal of Bob Minor as conductor.

Rung as a farewell to Mr. G. Hickman, a lay reader, who is retiring owing to ill health.

IXWORTH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Mon., Aug. 1, 1955, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 20 extents (10 callings) and 11 240's (three callings).

Tenor 16 cwt.

KENNETH G. BROWN .. Treble	ARTHUR F. BALLAM 4
*LESLIE PIERCE 2	*ERNEST BISHOP 5
*HARRY KING 3	LEONARD S. SHARPE Tenor

Conducted by KENNETH G. BROWN.

* First peal in the method.

WOODHOUSE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Aug. 3, 1955, in 2 Hours and 41 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-IN-THE-ELMS,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents.

Tenor 12½ cwt. in G.

*MAURICE BISHOP Treble	ERNEST F. PAYNE 4
ERNEST MORRIS 2	FREDERICK T. BINDLEY .. 5
ROYSTON WILMORE 3	B. STEDMAN PAYNE Tenor

Conducted by B. STEDMAN PAYNE.

* First peal of Minor.

QUARTER PEALS

THAME, OXON.—On July 24th, 1,260 Doubles (480 Plain Bob, 780 Grandsire): W. Fulker 1, H. Badger 2, F. Godden 3, R. Tuckwell 4, F. Absalom (cond.) 5, R. Arnott 6. Rung on the occasion of the visit of the Bishop of Dorchester, who consecrated an extension of the churchyard on this day.

TOTNES, DEVON.—On July 30th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Rev. E. B. Wood 1, J. E. Lilley 2, A. L. Bennett 3, E. M. Atkins (cond.) 4, Rev. J. G. M. Scott 5, G. A. Uglow 6, E. J. Taylor 7, D. Cross (first quarter) 8. Rung as a wedding compliment to Mr. George A. Harvey and Miss Nita Bickford, of Totnes, who were married at Totnes Parish Church earlier in the day.

WEST RETFORD, NOTTS.—On July 24th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: J. Morris 1, T. Randall (first quarter) 2, R. Hobbs (first quarter) 3, H. Denman 4, D. Hinit 5, D. McNeil (cond., first quarter) 6. Before morning service. Also as a farewell to Alan Simpson.

WHATTON-IN-THE-VALE, NOTTS.—On July 22nd, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Mrs. J. D. Clarke (first quarter) 1, Mrs. A. Simpson 2, J. D. Clarke 3, T. G. Goodwin 4, A. Simpson (cond.) 5, T. O. Greasley 6.

WOKINGHAM, BERKS.—On July 30th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: B. C. Castle 1, Miss M. Cole 2, W. Hunt 3, W. J. Brooks 4, W. Pearce 5, W. J. Paice (cond.) 6, S. G. Day 7, J. Woodason 8. First quarter of Stedman for 2, 5 and 8. Rung as a token of good wishes to the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Vicar of Great Yarmouth, who was married that day to Miss Hook, daughter of the Dean of Norwich. Mr. Thurlow was at one time assistant priest at Wokingham. The quarter was rung after an unsuccessful peal attempt.

QUARTER PEALS

BARKING, SUFFOLK.—On July 30th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Mrs. R. E. Lester 1, Marion Mills 2, P. W. Mills 3, Michael Mills 4, U. W. Wildney 5, R. E. Lester (cond.) 6.

BRAMPTON, CUMBERLAND.—On July 28th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: S. Hodgson (first of Minor) 1, J. Butterfield 2, A. Hodgson 3, J. Ling 4, J. B. V. Porter 5, A. Forsyth (cond.) 6. A farewell by the Carlisle Cathedral band to A. Hodgson on his joining the Army. First of Minor on the bells.

CHARLTON-ON-OTMOOR, OXON.—On July 30th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: T. Miller 1, D. Woodward (first 'inside') 2, V. Green 3, M. Journeaux 4, R. H. Jones (cond.) 5.

CHERITON, KENT.—On July 30th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Shirley A. Martin (14) (first quarter) 1, B. Heppenstall (first quarter 'inside') 2, W. C. Chandler 3, J. F. Soles 4, M. J. Martin 5, J. Thorne (first quarter) 6. Conducted jointly by 3 and 5.

CLIFTON, BEDS.—On July 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Mays 1, Miss J. Mayes (first quarter 'inside') 2, A. S. Smith 3, A. W. Dilley 4, J. Church 5, B. F. Sims 6, L. H. Bywaters (cond.) 7, S. H. Wallis 8.

CREWKERNE, SOMERSET.—On July 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (7, 6, 8 covering): W. H. Poole (cond.) 1, G. Gaylard 2, Dr. L. E. Wear (first quarter) 3, J. S. Hacking (first quarter 'inside') 4, H. J. Gaylard 5, K. E. Pinney 6, S. Wills 7, H. Pike 8.

DURLEIGH, SOMERSET.—On July 30th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss P. Bird 1, G. Marchant (first as cond.) 2, D. Miller 3, M. Stone 4, C. Clarke 5, C. Dymant 6. A farewell to the curate, Rev. Lincoln Jones, who is leaving the district.

ELTHAM, KENT.—On July 31st, 1,316 Grandsire Triples (Holt's Original): Miss B. Slark 1, E. J. Coode 2, G. Daynes 3, J. Chilcott 4, F. Richardson 5, E. B. Crowder (cond.) 6, J. Hurrell 7, F. Hurrell 8. Rung for Evensong and Eve of Lammas. Also a welcome to the Rev. John Llewellyn, a former curate and now chaplain to King's College, Wimbledon.

GREAT STAUGHTON, HUNTS.—On July 21st, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: R. V. Beldom 1, G. Galley 2, W. A. R. Chamberlain 3, R. Chapman 4, F. W. Lack (cond.) 5, C. Clarke 6.

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS, HUNTS.—On July 24th, 1,440 Cambridge Surprise Minor: J. R. G. Spicer 1, F. L. Nicholls 2, G. D. Whitehead 3, G. Perkins 4, M. J. Dyer 5, H. S. Peacock (cond.) 6. For morning service.

HOLYWELL, HUNTS.—On July 10th, 1,440 Ipswich Surprise Minor: J. R. G. Spicer 1, E. J. Parish 2, G. D. Whitehead 3, M. J. Dyer 4, W. Ransome 5, H. S. Peacock (cond.) 6. For morning service.

PAKENHAM, SUFFOLK.—On July 31st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: L. Pierce 1, L. Sharpe 2, H. King 3, E. Bishop 4, K. G. Brown (cond.) 5. Rung to celebrate the birth of a granddaughter, Maureen June Tipple, to the ringer of the treble.

POWERSTOCK, DORSET.—On July 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. H. Poole (cond.) 1, W. T. Godfrey (first on five bells) 2, R. Gaylard (first on five bells) 3, H. J. Gaylard 4, A. J. Scott 5. First quarter ever rung on the bells. Rung as a farewell to the ringer of the second, who is leaving Powerstock to live at Milford-on-Sea, Hants.

PUCKLECHURCH, BRISTOL.—On August 1st, 1,320 Grandsire Doubles: C. B. Penfold (first quarter) 1, B. W. S. Angell (cond.) 2, L. Hammond 3, P. S. Overbury 4, D. B. I. Pennal 5, N. J. Smart 6. A birthday compliment to the ringer of the 3rd and Mrs. Pennal, a member of the band.

RAINHAM, KENT.—On July 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: N. Humphries 1, Mrs. J. Carey 2, Miss E. B. P. Walker 3, G. A. Naylor 4, J. Hale 5, F. J. Cheal 6, T. A. Cross (cond.) 7, R. A. Admans 8. All local service ringers at this church. Rung for the patronal Evensong festival on St. Margaret's Day.

RAMSBURY, WILTS.—On July 27th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Dr. G. Roworth (first quarter) 1, Mrs. P. Wilton 2, C. V. Gardiner 3, F. G. Wilton 4, E. Sutton (cond.) 5, W. W. T. Daniell 6.

REIGATE, SURREY.—On July 30th, 1,316 Grandsire Triples: Miss J. Hanning 1, F. T. Hoad 2, Miss B. Sagers 3, G. F. Hoad (cond.) 4, C. S. Hoad 5, W. H. Inwood 6, A. T. Shelton 7, H. Coomber 8. A birthday compliment (for August 1st) to the ringer of the 7th. Rung after a wedding.

ROTHLEY, LEICS.—On July 27th, 1,260 Doubles (360 Plain Bob, 360 April Day, 540 Grandsire): R. A. Brewin 1, R. Wilmore (cond.) 2, A. D. Sayer 3, G. M. Brewin 4, B. S. Payne 5, P. Plowright 6. Rung before the service of induction to welcome the Lord Bishop of Leicester.

SOUTH WEALD, ESSEX.—On June 18th, 1,440 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Jean E. Race 1, Daphne A. Lodge 2, H. G. Goddard 3, B. W. Parke 4, F. R. Goddard (cond.) 5, D. V. Crouchman 6. Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to Mrs. D. S. Crouchman.

STOKE PRIOR, WORCS.—On July 30th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples (Holt's Original): F. Barnett 1, T. Sparkes (first in method) 2, A. O. Lewis 3, W. H. Raxter 4, D. J. Potter (first quarter as cond.) 5, V. Neal 6, F. Pugh 7, J. Nash 8. A wedding anniversary compliment for A. O. Lewis.



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CROYDON



FROM SUSSEX TO SOMERSET TOUR

NEARLY 1,100 MILES TRAVELLED DURING A HAPPY WEEK—32 TOWERS VISITED

THANKS to the splendid organisation by Miss Wyman, of Lingfield, a very happy week was spent by all who took part in the week's tour of nearly 1,100 miles with headquarters at Wells. Ringing reached a very high standard throughout the week, ranging from Grandsire Triples to six-spliced Surprise Major and Cambridge Royal. 1,532 steps were climbed to ring a total of 18,364 changes in 121 touches in 32 towers.

The party travelled on Sunday, July 3rd, from Horsham by coach through Hungerford, Marlborough, Devizes to Frome, where we met Mr. Massey and were given a welcome by the Vicar previous to ringing on the fine eight at St. John's for evening service.

On arrival at Wells we were accommodated at the Ancient Gate House Hotel. The Gate House itself is 700 years old, a Norman building once in the hands of feudal barons and now scheduled as an Ancient Building. A few members of the party were soon ready to believe this when they found themselves going up to their rooms via belfry-like stone stairs and being confronted with four-poster beds.

Monday, the 4th, started off on a sad note as Mr. Apps, a member of the party, was taken ill, eventually having an operation in Bristol Hospital, and consequently his relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Snelling, missed a good deal of the tour while visiting him.

Chewton Mendip was the first call; a lovely church and glorious tower containing a very melodious and easy-going eight (tenor 24 cwt.). Loath to leave them we went on to Chew Magna to find another fine eight. After lunch at beauty spot Barrington Combe, Wrington was reached, the first ten of the tour, where we were welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Knight, and excellent use was made of these very fine bells. Some of the party visited the grave of the late John H. B. Hesse.

Yatton, with its fine tower and quaint spire, has an eight of beautiful tone and 'go.' Yorkshire, Stedman and six-spliced were well struck. Some thought this the best ring so far.

Blagdon, another fine eight, took a bit more handling than the bells at Yatton. A dog sang (or protested) as the bells were got up. It is recorded that in 1512 William Taverer gave 6s. 8d. for a new bell.

On Tuesday the first call was Ditchat, a beautiful church in a lovely setting. Various methods were well rung, including a course of London on this easy-going eight.

'THE LANTERN OF THE WEST'

Next came Yeovil, its lovely 15th century church widely known as 'The Lantern of the West,' and a massive tower with one of the most harmonious rings of ten one could wish for.

At East Coker we found a very nice handy eight, the belfry entered through a door near the altar rails.

All were eager to climb the 90 steps to the belfry of Sherborne Abbey, and after the fifth rope was repaired below the sally the bells were soon going to Stedman and Cambridge. Mrs. Godley, of Yetminster, met us here.

We made a passing call at Queen Camel and heard the chimes strike six, so we were able to say that we had rung on the heaviest ten and eight and heard the heaviest six.

After dinner at Wells we were glad to go to St. Cuthbert's, a church founded by King Alfred after his victory over the Danes about 890 A.D. Good use was made of the Taylor eight (tenor 27 cwt.) and the ringing included a good course of Bristol.

On Wednesday we arrived at Curry Rivel very late so we were deprived of the full enjoyment of the good ring of eight. In the church there is a 17th century Jennings Brothers Memorial—two troopers dressed in jackboots and jerkins.

North Curry, with its central octagonal tower, has a nice eight which needed time to get used to. In the vestry is a marble slab inscribed with an interesting account of the Reeve's Feast.

Taunton St. James' has fine-toned bells but on ball bearings by Mears in 1954. Stedman and Double Norwich went well and also three leads of Bristol. The perpendicular tower is one of the finest in the county. In the ringing room there are 14 handbells acquired in memory of a ringer, James Hunt, and in the church a children's window showing children of 18 nations—a thankoffering of the donors for the safe return of 11 nephews from the 1939-45 war.

Wellington has an excellent Taylor eight, recast 1949, and included in the ringing was a course of Wellington Little Court. In the church there is a rare pre-Reformation 'Lily Crucifix' in the centre mullion of the east window in the side chapel.

A diversion was made to climb the Brendon Hills to Chipstable, where one of the party (Mr. Young) spent his boyhood.

Then on to Old Cleve with sweet-toned Mears bells (tenor 18½ cwt.), rather long draught and a bit springy, with fine views across the sea to Dunster, Minehead and the Welsh coast. A very good Somerset tea was enjoyed here, and a fine ride with glimpses of the sea to Bridgwater, 170 feet tower, ground-floor ringing, with long draught but not too difficult to handle.

EVERCREECH'S EXAMPLE

On Thursday we set off for Evercreech, with the fine ten so often broadcast. Everybody felt constrained to do their best and Stedman, Grandsire Caters and Cambridge Royal were rung. Group photographs were taken to form mementoes of the occasion.

The Vicar and Mr. Kynaston met us at Shepton Mallet, the oldest and finest tower in Somerset. The church has a Saxon font, a wagon-type roof with 350 panels all of different designs, and a pulpit chiselled from a single piece of stone. The bells (tenor 25 cwt.) were much enjoyed.

Lunch of chicken, strawberries and cream was taken at the Miners Arms, Priddy, associated since Roman times with lead mining, then on to Cheddar via the famous Gorge of breath-taking beauty causing everybody to wish the coach had no roof. There has been a church at Cheddar since the time of King Alfred. There is no east window, but an oil painting of the Last Supper at Emmaus by a 17th century Dutch artist. The ringers enjoyed the ringing more than the coach driver did, as when he went to the top of the tower to scan the scenery he quickly came down when he saw cracks in the masonry opening and closing with the swing of the bells!

After tea we travelled to Mark, where the north door is guarded by two red-painted stone lions. Unfortunately they have not prevented the church being completely infested with bats and woodworm. The two trebles were added as a war memorial, and an excellent course of Yorkshire was rung on the very pleasant and easy-going ring. A course of Somerset came to grief at the fifth lead end. The Vicar met us and was pleased to see three Welsh compatriots in the company.

Our last tower of the day was Wedmore, a cruciform church with central tower, scene of the peace of Wedmore between King Alfred and the Danes. We found a very good ring but four, five and six ropes go through wooden shutters causing the sixth to be quite silent to the ringers of it.

AT LYME REGIS

On Friday we changed direction into Dorset, and after being held up by a convoy of Army 'L' drivers, we arrived at Lyme Regis, where we met Dr. L. Taylor and Mr. George H. Cross. The eight bells were recast and rehung by Taylors in 1953, and the tone and 'go' are perfect. The tower is in such close proximity to the sea that protective measures have continually to be taken.

A packed lunch was enjoyed on the beach at Seaton, then along the coast road to Sidmouth (Devon), a fine massive tower, bells rehung and recast by Mears in 1922, a handy light eight.

A long run took us back into Somerset to Ilminster, with a tower further round than it is high, and the church containing a most beautiful modern reredos delicately carved—a sermon in stone. On the grand eight here a course of Somerset was accomplished.

From time to time we had noted Glastonbury Tor, and now we paid a visit to the church, which existed before 1144, and the tower built 1475. We were met by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thomas, and the ringing was thoroughly enjoyed on the notably fine ring.

On Saturday we were reminded by one of the party that we were leaving Wells to go to Wells to ring the bells. We were met by Mr. Nash. The lovely bells were got up in peal and a course of Ashted rung as well as Cambridge, Double Norwich, Stedman and Grandsire. Wells is associated with Little John Horner, and in the north-east chapel there is an equestrian statue in memory of Lt. Edward W. Horner, who fell in France in 1917.

Midsomer Norton was the next call, where a bridal couple were leaving the church as Stedman Triples were rung. We were pleased to meet Mr. J. T. Dyke, who rang the tenor to a good course of Superlative. Yorkshire was also rung. We also met Mr. G. Peters, who was on a cycling tour from Leatherhead.

Additional to the programme was Corston, with a musical Taylor eight (tenor 9½ cwt.) with very short draught. A course of Ashted and six-spliced Surprise was rung on this truly delightful ring. Noticed in the belfry was a framed exhortation to visiting ringers on Sunday to stay to service.

MEN'S BELLS AT BATH ABBEY

Bath Abbey was next on the list with 121 steps to climb. There is here a very good ten (tenor 35 cwt.), but they are 'men's' bells, reverse way round, the eighth being a handful as

(Continued next page)

Sussex to Somerset Tour—Cont.

the rope runs over double pulleys. Grandsire and Stedman Caters were good, but Cambridge Royal soon had to be given up.

On Sunday morning about 20 of the party attended 8 a.m. Communion in Wells Cathedral, impressively conducted by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The Taylor ten (tenor 56 cwt.) is a delight to listen to. The ringing was good and enjoyable both inside the tower and outside the Cathedral.

Before leaving Wells all members of the party heartily thanked Miss Wyman for all the hard work and worry involved in bringing such a venture to success, and as a small mark of appreciation she was presented by Mr. Trevor Roderick with a striking clock.

The outstanding recollections of the tour are the varied and beautiful countryside, including the wonderful Cheddar Gorge, the treasures to be seen in the churches, the magnificent towers and the fine bells, the friendly company and the blessing of a week's perfect summer weather.

After farewells were made the journey home was taken with a call at Swindon for lunch and a much appreciated pull before Sunday School on the Taylor ten with perfect tone and 'go.' Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey and Mr. Kynaston met us in the tower.

The final call was for tea at The Catherine Wheel at Henley, where conversation turned on recollections of this and prospects of another tour.

Our thanks are due specially to Mr. J. Dyke for all his help, Mr. R. O. Fry for making arrangements at Bath, and to the incumbents and all local ringers for their help and kindness in making us so welcome.

S. H. H.

**HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION
St. Albans District**

St. Mary's, Essendon, whose chancel was rebuilt after Zeppelin bombing in the first world war and whose bells have been rehung very recently, was chosen for the District meeting on July 16th. The bells are a rather plaintive ring of six, the old Chandler minor five having been augmented by a treble instead of a tenor.

With no District officers able to be present, the 15 or so at tea held no business meeting and soon returned to the tower, where from rounds to Cambridge were rung.

There will be no meeting in August; the next meeting is hoped to be at St. Michael's, St. Albans, in September.

G. D.

**Maidstone Grammar Schools'
Change Ringing Society**

We were made very welcome by the local ringers when we held our fourth meeting at Yalding on July 23rd. Ringing started at 3 p.m. and a service was held at 4 p.m., which was attended by some of the villagers as well as ringers. An excellent tea was prepared by Miss Ann Howlden and Miss Jean Langley, who are members of the Society. This was particularly enjoyed by some junior male members.

The business meeting followed with the Rev. W. L. Howlden in the chair. One new member was elected. One name was withdrawn from the membership list because the ringer concerned is no longer able to ring. More ringing followed and the meeting closed at 8 p.m. Method ringing was not very successful as there were not enough who could ring any one method. There were some Plain Bob ringers and some Grandsire ringers, but not enough of either.

P. J. B.

**ENGLISH BELL WANTED FOR
SINHALESE CATHEDRAL**

Plans are being prepared to build a Cathedral in the comparatively new diocese of Kurunagala in Ceylon. The Bishop of Kurunagala (the Right Rev. H. L. J. De Mel) is anxious for the building to contain some visible link with England, and has asked if any church or cathedral in this country can provide a bell.

The diocese of Kurunagala was created in 1950 and is the second diocese of the Church of Ceylon. Bishop De Mel, who trained for the ministry at at Keble College, Oxford, and Cuddesdon Theological College, and served his first curacy in Kennington, is the first Sinhalese Anglican Bishop.

Suggestions would be welcomed by the Secretary, Church Information Board, Church House, Westminster, S.W.1.

**5,088 Double Norwich Court Bob
Major**

BY GEORGE J. HAWKINS (BATH)

23456	1	4	5	6
63524	S	—	—	—
32564	—	—	—	3
52463	—	—	—	—
24563	—	—	—	—
34265	—	—	—	3
24635	—	—	—	2
34526	—	—	—	—
42536	—	—	—	3
23546	—	—	—	3
53426	—	—	—	2
32456	—	—	—	3

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EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

While ringing for the Queen Mother's birthday on Thursday, Mr. H. Langdon was responsible for one of those gracious little actions so typical of him. The second touch, one of two courses of Stedman Caters, was rung at his request, as a compliment and farewell to Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey, those present wishing the latter happiness for his future in Winnipeg. This action was very much appreciated by Mr. Cockey. Those taking part were: J. E. Lewis Cockey 1, H. Langdon (conductor) 2, H. Belcher 3, T. H. Taffender 4, J. Philips 5, A. B. Peck 5, G. E. Cecil 7, W. J. Rawlings 8, R. Deal 9, J. H. Crampion 10, Mr. W. Langdon kindly giving over his bell for the touch.

Mr. F. Skidmore has retired from the secretaryship of St. Ambrose Guild, Bristol, a position he has held for 28 years.

The peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus at Sheffield Cathedral on August 1st was J. Martin Thorley's 100th peal for the Yorkshire Association, and 100th peal of Surprise.

A new organisation is introduced to readers this week in 'Friends of the Exercise.' Their correspondent is C. Savage, c/o Edenhurst, Tutshill, Chepstow, Mon.

By ringing in a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Mary's, Beverley, on August 1st, Mr. Stanley E. Bennett completed the Grandsire range from Doubles to Cinques.

As a memorial to Mr. Charles Mead, who for many years called the villagers to worship, the Parochial Church Council of Great Parndon have decided to have the bells of the Parish Church put into good ringing order at a cost of about £250. Those who wish to share in this memorial can send their gift to the Rev. Alban Rabson, Rector of Great Parndon, Essex.

BELFRY

GOSSIP

It is many years since the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow was a young curate at Wokingham. The occasion of his marriage on Saturday, July 30th, was, however, remembered by the local ringers, who attempted a peal in honour of the event. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful. It was followed by a complimentary quarter.

A very fine peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus was rung at Sheffield Cathedral on August 1st, conducted from the 40 cwt. tenor by Mr. Wilfred Williams.

Mr. David A. Carpenter, of Coventry, rang his first peal of Cinques at Evesham on July 23rd, an in memoriam peal to Dr. Cash, late Bishop of Worcester.

Bedfordshire Young Ringers are on tour this week in Somerset. Their programme includes visits to 29 towers. This is the Young Ringers' sixth tour. They have no officers and no constitution—an ideal democracy.

Three ringers from Teignmouth joined three local ringers at Townstal to ring the quarter peal reported on page 454. Much satisfaction is felt at this step on the ladder to establish change ringing in this part of Devon.

Mr. Alfred J. Wallater, after 43 years' residence in San Francisco, is on a visit to his old tower, St. Giles', Walsall. A complimentary peal of Stedman Caters was conducted in honour of the event on July 30th by Miss Stella Hughes.

Those on holiday in Cornwall should note that combined practices are being held during the summer in central eight-bell towers organised by the Ringing Master, Mr. D. Burnett. The secretary of the Guild is the Rev. W. H. R. Trehwella, Penheola, Crantock, Newquay, Cornwall.

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OUT AND ABOUT IN NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

By EWART H. EDGE

(Continued from page 490)

THE six towns that federated to form the city of Stoke-on-Trent stretch almost in line north, north-west, and each possesses its ring of bells. The most southerly is Longton, affectionately known locally as the Neck-end, the centre of the china manufacturing industry. In the shadow of the railway bridge which crosses the square in front of the Town Hall lies the brick Church of St. John the Baptist, Lane End (Longton), its tower now floated separately from the church on a concrete raft to minimise the effect of mining subsidence, which was gradually destroying it. The bells are eight in number (15 cwt.), augmented by Taylors from a ring of seven installed by T. Mears in 1815. A curious feature is that one bell, when rung on its own, sounds in the belfry dead and quite unmusical, but appears to gain in quality as it is rung and blends well when the eight are turning.

Fenton, the sixth town, omitted in Arnold Bennett's novels, possesses another brick church with a tower of fine proportions. The first peal on this modern ring of eight (14 cwt.) was in 1901. The Rev. E. V. Cox, a welcome resident in the district, was curate here from 1905 to 1907, and took part in many peals for the North Staffordshire Association.

ST. PETER-AD-VINCULA

The city is famous the world over for its pottery, and in the Church of St. Peter-ad-Vincula, Stoke-on-Trent, are remembered the men who raised this primitive craft to a high art—the Spodes, Wedgwoods, Adams and Mintons. The church is modern, built in the last century on the site of an earlier edifice. Two arcades in the churchyard, now pleasantly laid out in flower gardens and lawns, are the remains of the earlier church. The tower possesses a sonorous ring of eight bells (20 cwt. in E flat), cast and installed in the reign of William IV. by William and John Taylor. Fourteen of the 36 peals rung here for the Association have taken place since 1944, and of these only one has been of Triples (Stedman, 1950), seven have been of Surprise Major, including one of Pudsey fully muffled for the passing of King George VI., three of Double Norwich and the other three of Treble Bob.

COINS IN HANLEY BELLS

A mile and a half from Stoke is Hanley, the shopping centre of the city and birthplace of Arnold Bennett. The Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist, on a hill-top overlooking the old Port Vale football ground, was erected in the middle years of the 18th century. The ten bells (tenor 18 cwt. in E) cause a noticeable sway to the tower which, like the body of the church, is built of red brick. Eight of the bells date from 1790, being the work of Edward Arnold of Leicester; several of them, in addition to the founder's marks, bear coins from the reign of George III. The ascent to the ringing chamber used to be quite a difficult and, on dark winter evenings, dangerous experience, entailing the descent of an unguarded flight of steps to the boiler room beneath the tower followed by a tortuous ascent to the ringing room. More direct access has since been made.

Burslem church is undistinguished—a classical body retaining its 15th century tower in which is a ring of six bells (11½ cwt. in F sharp) by William Dobson, of Downham, Norfolk (1828).

The slender spire of Christ Church, Tunstall—the most northerly of the pottery towns—con-

tains eight bells (tenor 10½ cwt.), six originally by C. and G. Mears, augmented by Taylors at the turn of the century. The ringing room is open to the gallery at the west end of the church. It was here that J. W. Washbrook and his sons rang from 1910 to the early 1920's.

BUCKNALL'S SQUAT TOWER

Down the bank, east of Hanley, lies Bucknall with a squat, short-spined tower abutting the north aisle of the church. The present ring is a six by Taylors (1880), with a tenor 11 cwt. in A. There is said to have been an earlier bell in the tower dated 1609, but this is reputed to have disappeared some time in the 19th century. This tower has a remarkable record of peal ringing in the closed hand-stroke fashion traditional among the six-bell

C. and G. Mears. The bells were rehung by Taylors in 1946. The louvres in the tower are bricked up and the sound escapes through the spire lights, four on each of its four faces.

Further north is Biddulph Moor. Here are strange legends of Vikings, Saxon warriors and Crusaders, the tragedy of Francis Biddulph who carried the plague over the moor and who lived at the now ruined hall. It takes its name from the village of Biddulph with its ancient church dedicated to St. Lawrence. The six bells (10 cwt. in F sharp), cast by Mears and Stainbank in 1873, were the gift of Robert Heath, of Biddulph Grange. All are inscribed, but the third is somewhat unusual:—

'Prosperity attend old England's shore,
Let Biddulph flourish now and evermore.'

Numerous peals have been rung on these bells, including one of Biddulph Double Surprise Minor.

The border between Staffordshire and Cheshire is marked by a ridge which rises suddenly and steeply from the Plain and marks the limit of hills and moorland of Biddulph and beyond. Its highest point is marked by Mow Cop castle, a 19th century artificial ruin whose tower walls, on at least one occasion, have echoed to Grandsire Triples on handbells. At the foot of this escarpment and just in Staffordshire is the modern township of Kids Grove, its brick-built church nestling in a wooded clough alongside the railway and canal as they emerge from the mile-long Harecastle tunnel. The tower possesses a light musical ring of six bells (11 cwt.) by Thomas Mears, 1836.

AUDLEY'S LOCAL BAND

On the Newcastle to Nantwich road lies Audley, a mining township built in the first instance on the Roman road that runs across the county to Uttoxeter. Its church with a squat embattled tower is on the lee-side of the hill-top. The body of the church has been rebuilt, but still contains many interesting features. A brass to Sir Thomas Audley recalls his father, the bravest knight of Poitiers, who fought with the Black Prince. Three of the eight bells date from 1697 and further bells were added by Abraham Rudhall in 1730 and 1756 and a sixth by William Dobson in 1828. The bells were rehung and augmented to eight (tenor 15 cwt. in F sharp) after the last war. The first peal was rung on these bells in 1924 and was in seven Minor methods, and the tower records include the first of London Surprise Major for the North Staffs Association by an entirely resident band.

A landmark for many miles around is the tower and fine spire of the Church of St. Margaret, Wolstanton, a village with Saxon origins and considerable importance judging by its mention in the Domesday Book. The church suffered considerable rebuilding in the 19th century when, among other alterations, the roof was restored to its original pitch. The tower with its Saxon base (attached to the north aisle) has, however, remained almost unchanged over the centuries, the only additions being a turret and pinnacles to the parapet. It houses a fine ring of eight tenor 14 cwt. in F, rehung on ball bearings by Taylors in 1948.

Six of the bells, bought from Trentham at 9d. per lb. in exchange for one large bell on the same terms, bear the date 1714, five of them being new bells by Rudhall, the other being recast by him from the metal of an older

(Continued next page)



ST. PETER-AD-VINCULA, STOKE-ON-TRENT

towers of the district. Forty-four peals have been rung on the bells and all the first 36 between 1891 and 1934 were in seven methods, including the first 'band conducted' peal in North Staffordshire (1896) and the first 'silent' peal of Surprise in the county (1897). Only one peal of Doubles has ever been rung on these bells (1947). Here in 1950 was rung the first peal of Woodcock's Victory Treble Bob Minor.

North of Bucknall, high on a wind-swept ridge commanding magnificent views on either side, is the Church of St. Bartholomew, Norton-le-Moors. The original six were by William Dobson in 1826, who inscribed his treble with the, one would have thought, superfluous legend, 'Give no offence to the church.' These were recast by Taylors in 1930 and augmented by them to eight (12½ cwt. in F sharp) in 1949. The six-bell ringing was, as at Bucknall and as witnessed by the peal boards, in a great variety of methods, many long since forgotten or disallowed! Surprise Major is now regularly rung at this tower by the Sunday service band.

BROWN EDGE

Winding through a cleft in a moorland ridge, a stone's throw from Norton, is the mining village of Brown Edge with its church dedicated to St. Anne standing on an outcrop of rock. The tower with its stumpy spire, built in 1854, ten years after the body of the church, carries six bells (10 cwt. in G), the gift of one Hugh Henshall Williamson in 1855 and cast by

OUT AND ABOUT IN NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE—Continued

bell (1623), the gift of a blacksmith whose mark, hammer and tongs are still on the bell. All bear the mark of Rudhall. Two other bells were added in 1884, half the cost being raised by the local ringers. More peals have been rung for the North Staffs Association on these bells than at any other tower in the district, 46 in number, 41 being rung before 1913. The first peal for the Association, the first of Triples and Treble Bob Major for the Association were rung on these bells.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME

A tree-lined road across Wolstanton Marsh leads to Newcastle-under-Lyme, an ancient borough which arose round the castle built by John of Gaunt. The spacious and imposing Parish Church of St. Giles in neo-Gothic architecture was designed by Sir Gilbert Scott and replaces an older building in classical style. The massive 13th century tower alone remains of the original church on this site, and in it hangs a ring of ten bells (tenor 16 cwt. in E).

The original eight were by Abraham Rudhall in 1732, being augmented by Gillets in 1935. The two new trebles were hung over the old oak frame. The tower ultimately cracked, possibly due, in part, to the considerable and alarming movement of the old frame. When repairs were commenced on the tower in 1954 the bells were rehung 17ft. lower in the tower, but as the ringing chamber was dropped by an equal amount, there is still a considerable draught of rope to control. Pits were added for two further bells. Thirty-four peals have been rung on the bells, including one for the Ancient Society of College Youths.

A mile from Newcastle and some mile and a half from Wolstanton lies the mining village of Silverdale, a straggling and dilapidated township, broken by the ravages of mining subsidence which is preventing any new building in or near its centre. Over-shadowed by pithead shafts, the pleasant but unpretentious modern church stands in its wooded churchyard. The tower at the east end of the south aisle carries a short spire and contains an eight (tenor 9 cwt. in A flat) by John Warner and Sons, 1908, since rehung. Some 30 peals have been rung here, including one of Stedman Triples in 1910, in which J. W. Washbrook, the conductor, rang both 3rd and 4th, and the first peal of Burslem Surprise Major (1951). In order to be up in time to ring for the first service on a recent church festival, two members of the local band spent the night in the belfry!

KEELE SPIRE A LANDMARK

High on a wooded ridge above Silverdale and, as it seems, in a country village quite remote from industry, the tall spire of Keele stands out as a landmark. The church was rebuilt in the 19th century, the old church possessing only a small squat tower. The oldest bell, the 5th, bears the inscription:—

'Ora Pro Nobis Sancte Iohannes Baptista,'

and a patera with a king's head embossed on it. The 3rd and tenor (1638 and 1647) appear to be by Paul Hutton, of Congleton. The trebles were added by William Dobson in 1829. Several peals have been rung on these bells, including one on Coronation Day, 1953. The bells have not gone well for some years and are temporarily silent. The old Elizabethan hall, for centuries the home of the Sneyd family and more recently of the Grand Duke Michael of Russia, is now the centre of the new University of North Staffordshire.

Travelling westwards from Keele the road forks, the left-hand road leading to the village of Madeley, now fast increasing in size with estates of prefabricated and Council houses round its fringe. The centre of the old part, however, remains unchanged and much as Izaak Walton knew it. The half timbered Tudor hall with its inscription, 'Walk knave: What Lookest At,' overlooks the mere, the haunt of swans and wild fowl. Beyond stands the church on a knoll, approached through an avenue of yew trees. Part of the church is 13th century, although the tower with its projecting staircase, unusual in this part of the country, is somewhat later.

The ringing chamber, a gallery over the west door, is open to the church, a natural hazard when peal ringing as the writer had occasion to notice particularly one winter's evening when severe competition was encountered from the organist and choir participating in a rehearsal of a Nativity play. (This had been arranged



ST. JOHN'S, HANLEY

after permission for the peal had been granted.) After one unheard bob and subsequent restart, the peal won. Another hazard is the west window, which reaches from floor to ceiling and is without blinds. The exceedingly musical six bells (tenor 11 cwt.) are by Rudhalls, four dating from 1711, one from 1753 and the tenor 1808, when all were recast at the same foundry. They have since been rehung by Taylors. There is no local band to ring these delightful bells.

The Rudhalls also cast five of the bells (8½ cwt.) at Betley on the northerly road from Keele. Four date from 1711 (God Save Queen Anne) and the other, 1784, by Charles and John Rudhall. Only three peals are known to have been rung on these bells, the tenors responding only to considerable physical effort. The church itself has a half-timbered clerestory and is remarkable for its interior woodwork. Not only does it possess a fine pulpit and screens, but the arches also are of wood and the octagonal columns of the arcade are hewn out of single trunks of English chestnut. These, alas, are now in need of considerable attention.

On the Shropshire border is the village of Muckleston with a 14th century church. Four of the five bells (tenor 11 cwt.) are by Abraham Rudhall (1742) and the fifth by T. Mears (1839); unfortunately these are no longer ringable. It was from this tower that Queen Mar-

(Continued foot of next column)

OUTINGS

LYME REGIS

Favoured with a lovely, very warm day, Lyme Regis ringers and some friends made Southampton their objective on July 23rd. Calling at Blandford for coffee about 9 a.m., the picturesque village of Wimborne St. Giles—the seat of the Earl of Shaftesbury—was first visited. The nice going eight (tenor 17 cwt.) provided an hour's good ringing.

A very pleasant run to Fordingbridge and then over open country into the New Forest brought the party to Romsey. Here the fine eight (tenor 24 cwt.) were much enjoyed, but a funeral service necessitated a break of twenty minutes in the ringing and threw the time-table a little out of shape. However, it enabled some members to view the bells in the wooden octagon and see the town from the roof. The Vicar, Canon W. E. Norris, most kindly invited the party into his shady garden for their picnic lunch. Then on to Southampton, some half an hour late, where the Rev. K. W. H. Felstead welcomed all to St. Michael's and joined in some creditable touches on the ten good going lightish bells.

Notwithstanding the spate of traffic through the Forest, Lyndhurst was reached dead on time, and after a substantial tea a move was made to the tower, where the eight bells (tenor 12 cwt.), especially the trebles, called for considerable mastery. Some good striking, however, resulted, including a course of London Major.

Veteran Mr. George Preston was awaiting the ringers at Christchurch Priory, and it was a disappointment that he could not venture as far as the belfry to join in the ringing. Rounds on the 12 bells (tenor 27 cwt.) were enjoyed as well as touches of Caters and Royal, the highlight conclusion of the day's ringing being a finely struck course of Bristol Major on the back eight.

Methods rung at the various towers were Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Kent Royal, Cambridge, Yorkshire, London and Bristol Surprise Major.

Allowing some time for a supper halt at Wimborne Minster, home was reached soon after 11 p.m. leaving memories of another highly pleasurable trip. C. C. C.

STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK

One June 25th the Stowmarket company, augmented by friends and ringers of the district, made a tour of their 'home' country on the occasion of their annual outing.

Ringing took place at St. Mary's, Bungay, Beccles, St. Margaret's, Lowestoft, Pakefield, Southwold, Halesworth and Stradbroke, with lunch at Lowestoft and tea at Southwold.

Ringing ranged from rounds and call-changes for the learners to Cambridge Major and Grandsire Caters, and regret was expressed on all sides at the absence of Mr. H. D. Lister, who is still indisposed but progressing favourably. A feature of the day was the excellent progress shown by the younger generation.

To all incumbents, local ringers, in particular Eddie Goate, John Blythe and the two young ladies who had raised the bells at Lowestoft, and finally Mr. O. G. Barnard for so ably arranging everything, a very hearty thank you from us all. R. E. L.

(Continued from previous column)

garet watched the defeat of a Lancastrian force under Lord Audley at Blore Heath in the Wars of the Roses and, preserved in the churchyard, is the anvil used by the blacksmith who reversed the shoes of her horse to cover the tracks of her escape to Ecclesham.

(To be continued)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR IN SEVEN METHODS

'Dear Sir,—Since reading the comment in page 409 of 'The Ringing World' regarding Mr. Eric Critchley conducting my three compositions of Spliced Surprise Major from 'inside' bells, and inquiring about the possibilities of compositions in seven or eight methods, I have gone into the question of adding further methods to the six methods, and up to the present I have managed to include Dorchester Surprise Major, so making seven with the full work of each method for all bells by some rearrangement of the methods. I send enclosed a copy of the composition as arranged. I must sincerely congratulate Mr. Critchley and other conductors on having called my difficult compositions and wish them further success.—Yours faithfully,

Port Talbot.

A. J. PITMAN.

23456 M B W H					5,280 Methods
23564	2		2	1	LBD BL
52364				1	PWW
65324			1		PSPDW
35264			2	1	WPBL
63254			1	(3)	LPDDDBB
45236	1		1	1	DDDLPL
24536		3	1	1	LDSLLBCSP
32546			1		LDL
24365	2		2		LBCBL
53462	1			1	LDL
45362	3		1		PSCBLLSDL
64352		1	3		LCWBB
34562		2	1		LSBW
65243	1		1		SPPDW
25463		2	1		WCBL
42563			1		PDCCL
32465	X	1			SDBBBW
56423	1		1	1	CSCCW
45623			1		SCSS
64523			1		SSLCS
25346	1		1		WCCSC
54326	X				WBBDS
54263	2		2	1	LBWWWWWBL
62345	1		1	(3)	WCWBB
43526	1		1		WCW
63425	2				LBCW
52436	1		1	1	WDPPS
62534	2		3		WBSLBB
35426	1		1		WCCDP
42356		1	1		LCL
62453	2				LBPW
34256	1		1		WDSPSP
23456			1		WWP

All the work of the seven methods for all bells. Contains 960 London. 928 Watford, 896 Bristol, 672 Cambridge. 608 Dorchester, 640 Superlative, 576 Pudsey. To reduce, omit three Bobs Home (3) and the Bristol leads between at one or both places.

LYME REGIS BROADCAST

'Dear Sir.—Through the medium of 'The Ringing World' I should like to thank all who have so kindly expressed, in various ways, their appreciation of the broadcast ringing from Lyme Regis on Sunday, July 17th.

It is most gratifying to all concerned to know that despite many difficulties, their efforts to maintain a high standard of striking, especially for Sunday service ringing, has been so widely noted.

May we hope that this may spur on our many friends, especially in the West Country, to keep the flag of 'Good Striking' flying in their respective towers.—Yours faithfully,

G. S. MORRIS.

Lyme Regis.

FIVE-BELL TOWERS

'Dear Sir,—I wonder if any of your readers can suggest reasons for the small number of five-bell towers in the North of England. There appear to be only nine fives in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Durham, Cumberland, Westmorland, Northumberland and Scotland. Nine out of a possible 362 towers with five or more. Whereas in Northamptonshire there are 93 fives out of a possible 198.—Yours faithfully,

GEORGE L. C. LUNN.

Gainsborough.

TONAL QUALITIES OF BELLS

'Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. David Beacham's query (page 488), I suggest that the best tonal qualities from a ring of bells is obtained by hanging 6ft. to 12ft. below the louvers with as much head height above as possible. Most rings would be hung below a spire, but the important point would be keeping bells from shouting out of the window.—Yours, etc.,

H. A. PRICE.

Yalton, Somerset.

ST. DIONIS', FENCHURCH STREET

'Dear Sir,—If I may, I would like to comment on one or two letters in 'The Ringing World' of July 29th. I fear Mr. Botting, in Australia, has not realised that the 'period' I write about is from 1881 onwards (although I frequently mention it). There were no peals at St. Dionis', Fenchurch Street, in that time, as I said. I had 'collected' the five peals he mentioned and also another one which, I think, must have been the last peal on the bells there—Kent Treble Bob Royal, on December 8th, 1877.

Concerning Bob Triples at Leiston Mr. Stannard is quite right—I have recorded three peals there—on November 6th and November 20th, 1886, and January 3rd, 1887 (he gives another peal instead of this one). There have been none there since in the method. I wonder if the original peal board has been painted out and re-used, as sometimes happens! The first peal on the bells was on December 26th, 1884, and the peal rung in January this year was the 301st I have recorded. I shall say more about this popular tower when I get to 'Peal Ringing in Suffolk'.—Yours faithfully,

K. W. H. FELSTEAD.

Southampton.

A PRESIDENT'S THANKS

'Dear Sir,—I should be grateful if you will allow me to express my thanks to Mr. L. W. G. Morris and the members of the Yorkshire Association who kindly rang a peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major at Heptonstall on July 23rd in honour of my institution and induction as Vicar of St. John the Evangelist, Leeds, which had taken place two days beforehand. As one who has sometimes been critical when frivolous 'excuses' have been given for peal-ringing, I feel that coals of fire have now been heaped on my head, and must confess before all the (ringing) world that my only sensations on hearing of this graceful compliment were those of modest pleasure.

May I also thank the five senior members of the Association who attended the institution and induction ceremony and rang a course of Grandire Caters on handbells during the service. This spontaneous and kindly gesture was much appreciated not only by myself, but by the Bishop, and by many others who were apparently hearing change-ringing on handbells for the first time, and have since told me how much they enjoyed it.—Yours sincerely,

C. O. ELLISON,

President, Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers.

PEAL RINGING IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

'Dear Sir,—I contend that the Rev. K. W. H. Felstead is trying to bite off more than he can chew in his record of peals rung since 1881. Others in the past have tried to do this, including the late Thomas North, with the result that what they have handed on to posterity contains a number of inaccuracies and omissions. Several such instances have been noted by myself and others in North's works on Bedfordshire, Dean being a typical case, where he accounts for only three bells, whereas there have been four since 1677.

Now a few words about these alleged 'virgin or unconquered towers.' My own tower, Weston Favell, for example, has had five bells since 1707. How can Mr. Felstead, or any other living person, say with accuracy what number of peals have been rung there? The first might have been in 1707, who can say it was not? No one living then is here to tell us otherwise and there is no record of any peal prior to 1908, in which year the bells were last rung. In the belfry there is recorded 'The first peal on the bells,' which I contend should read 'May be the first peal on the bells.'

There must be hundreds of similar towers up and down the country where five or more of the bells date back beyond living memory, or beyond the time when territorial Guilds or ringing newspapers came into being, and therefore in the absence of a peals register the only known peals prior to that time are those recorded on old peal boards, and even some of these may have disappeared years ago. I remember giving a framed card of my first peal (in 1924) rung at Hardingstone, conducted by Harry Clarke, who is to-day still living at 88 years to tell of his experiences. A few years later this card disappeared—nobody knows where! The year 1924 is comparatively recent, and there may be others similar of a century or more ago in many towers. How, therefore, can Mr. Felstead, or anyone else truthfully state 'to hand on to posterity' which are virgin towers?

I know at least two such towers where he is definitely wrong about them being unconquered. And where does he get his 96 five-bell towers in Northants from? I make the number 92, and that includes Barnack, which he claims is a ring of six, which it never has been! Barnack has a minor five, hung in a frame for five only. The sixth bell is a clock bell, hung dead on its own, and never has rung.

He might just as well claim St. Matthew's, Northampton, as an unconquered ring of 12, Great Houghton as an unconquered ring of six, and Duddington as an unconquered ring of six! This brings down the true total of six-bell towers to 72, not 73.

As to where he gets his 96 fives from, I am still at a loss to know. I do know that Adstone, with only one bell in a cote, is wrongly given in 'Dove' as a church with five bells—but there isn't even a tower! So much so, that still leaves four 'imaginary rings of five,' not counting Barnack.—Yours sincerely,

P. AMOS.

Weston Favell, Northants.

Gratefully Acknowledged

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

Personal.—Anon. 6s., Hunts District Tour 5s., Sussex tour 15s., Leatherhead Ringers' Outing 2s., G. S. Deas 3s., G. L. Geary 1s.

Peals.—Stockbury 2s. 6d., Ditchling 4s., Ashwick 3s., Wellington 4s., Wood Eaton 2s. 6d., Newcastle-under-Lyme 4s., Huntingdon 1s. 6d., Crewkerne 4s.

Quarter Peals.—Reigate 4s., Crewkerne 2s., Charlton-on-Otmoor 2s., Puckchurch 3s., Thornford 2s. 6d., Bicker 2s. 6d., Powerstock 2s. 6d.

PEAL RINGING IN OXFORDSHIRE

By The Rev. K. W. H. FELSTEAD

PEAL ringing in Oxfordshire 70 years ago was very largely influenced by the activities of the Rev. F. E. Robinson and his cronies, for, living on the borders of the county, many of his peals were rung there. This is shown in the fact that many towers recorded more peals in his day than they have done since (he died just before the first world war). Thus the tower with most peals—Caversham (8)—had 135 of its total of 154 rung between 1885 and 1915. These included many in the most advanced methods then practised (the now 'standard' Surprise methods). There was a brief activity after this war, for 11 peals came from the years 1919 to 1922, but then the number dwindled to seven in the 14 years from 1924 to 1937. This year has heard the only peal rung there since then. Thus the glory of this tower is certainly in the past.

Its pre-1914 total is almost as many as the score of the second tower on the list—Kidlington (8). The average per year before 1914 is the best in this church also, although recently (with 29 peals from 1944 to 1954, but volume now diminishing) it has picked up again. From 1890 to 1915, 82 peals were rung, and after a couple more in 1918 and 1919, a burst of activity which produced 28 from 1922 to 1932. There was only one more before the last war, in 1936. Grand total 142, then.

ST. EBBE'S POPULARITY

The only other centenary in the county since 1881 is Oxford, St. Ebbe's (8). This has been easily the most popular tower of recent years, for 74 of its 109 peals have been rung since 1944. The first peal recorded there was when it had six bells, in 1919, and it had only registered seven when the trebles were added, in 1925. Then came 28 peals in the next 14 years until the war put an end to activities.

Witney (8) will soon be celebrating the 100 mark. The peak periods here have also been early on and in recent years with few between the wars. Sixty of the 97 peals were rung from 1887 to 1915 and there have been 26 since 1943.

Dorchester's (8) peals are more evenly spread over the years. Out of 89 rung, 33 were prior to 1914, 25 between the wars and 31 in the past ten years, which is the most in any tower since the war except for St. Ebbe's. The only 12-bell tower in the county, Oxford Cathedral, is sixth on the list with 81 peals. Only ten peals were rung from 1900 to 1930, but there had been 47 in the last 20 years of the 19th century, and there have been 24 since 1930 (14 since the war).

BANBURY'S ATTRACTION

It is obvious that the 8-bell towers have been most popular in the county. Five of the above six are in that category, and we find that the first 10-bell tower is 13th on the list in number of peals rung. This is Banbury, with 33. It was an 8-bell tower until 25 years ago, and only five peals had then been rung there (in 1897, 1901, 1906, 1909 and 1927). After augmentation, 15 peals were rung in the 1930's and there have been 14 since 1945. Thus it seems that adding the trebles was well worth while from the ringer's point of view. Perhaps this is because the other two 10-bell towers are in Oxford colleges and so are not available to the same extent as most church rings. Thus New College has had 15 peals since 1885—the last in 1950, and Magdalene College only ten—the first in 1919 and five since the war.

To return to the 8-bell towers in order of popularity, we find Shipton-under-Wychwood

coming next with 60 peals (although not heard of much these days), 53 of these were rung from 1893 to 1912, so only seven have come in the past 40 years (four since 1945). This completes the towers with more than 50 peals, for Bicester, next on the list, has 48—nine from 1883 to 1914, 13 from 1922 to 1939, and 26 since 1946. Woodstock's 41 are spread evenly over the years from 1885. Ten of Goring-on-Thames' 40 came when it was a 6-bell tower between 1896 and 1924. The first peal on the eight was in 1930 so 30 peals have come in 20 ringing years since then.

Towers with peal totals in the 30's are Burford (38), Southleigh (36—only four since 1925), Kirtlington (31) and Chipping Norton and Ship-lake (30). All the 8-bell towers have had peals rung at them, Bloxham's one and only being in 1908. Oxford, St. Peter's, has the longest silence. The 26 peals rung there were all between 1891 and 1897! Merton College very nearly beat this for the peal rung there in 1945 is the only one since 1896. Apart from the one just mentioned Great Milton is the only tower which has not appeared in the peal lists since the war. The last of its seven peals was in 1931.

SIX-BELL RINGING

Only three six-bell towers have reached double figures—all of them through welcome post-war activity. Cassington and St. Thomas' Oxford, both have 14 peals. In the case of the former, 11 since 1946, and at the latter, 13 since 1945 (only previous peal in 1889). Cowley is the third tower with double figures—10. All have been rung since 1949. Chastleton and Launton each have eight peals. In both cases the last one was rung nearly 25 years ago. Thus 6-bell ringing has never been very popular here. Actually 22 of the 70 6-bell towers have had just a single peal (17 of them since the war) and eight towers remain to be conquered—Ascott-under-Wychwood; Cuddesdon; Horspath; Northleigh; Oxford, St. Aldate's; Oxford, Carfax (a peal rung in 1945 was, apparently, false); Wardington; Wolvercote.

Of the 5-bell towers, 17 out of 27 have not had a peal yet. Eight of the ten which have, have only had one peal. Of the other two, Bodicote has had two since the war, but Marston has been doing very well. It is one of the very few 5-bell towers which have reached double figures. All its ten peals have come since the war and have included record peals of Doubles in 21, 22, 25, 30 and 42 methods. May it long carry on this good work.

One final point about this county. I think I expected to find more peals rung than has actually been the case. I suppose this was because it is a large county and diocese and so near London. I find I was, to some extent, mistaken. Peal totals include all published to July 22nd, 1955.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Golden wedding congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Reeves, of 2, Green Street, Totterdown, Bristol. The happy anniversary took place on August 5th, when they received the best wishes of a wide circle of ringing friends. Their marriage took place near Newbury, Berks, and they have a son and daughter, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. 'Alfie,' who is now 76, has been ringing since the age of 16. He is still regarded as one of Bristol's steadiest ringers, and many would be pleased with half his abilities. For 52 years he was employed on the Great Western Railway, and retired in 1947.

MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD

First Meeting at Swebstone

Under present-day transport conditions ringers frequently find that a meeting at an isolated tower is a doubtful venture, but thanks to a 'shuttle service' of cars the Guild was able to 'invade' for the first time the pleasant Leicestershire village of Swebstone.

The recently-installed ring of six bells was rung to a variety of methods before the Vicar (the Rev. G. Malcombe) conducted shortened Evensong and extended a welcome to the ringers before delivering an inspiring address.

Following tea in the Church Room, the secretary (Mr. J. W. Cotton) referred to the loss the Leicester Diocesan Guild had sustained by the death of their president (Mr. H. J. Poole). In paying tribute to his memory Mr. Cotton spoke of his greatness as a ringer and conductor and gave a few instances when his brilliance excelled. The members stood in silence as a tribute to his respected memory.

The next meeting, a joint one with the Derbyshire Association, will be at Melbourne on August 27th. Thanks were accorded to the local ringers' wives who had prepared tea.

Towers represented were Burton, St. Modwen and St. Paul's, Repton, Winhill, Netherseale, Overseale, Measham, Packington, Ibstock and Lullington.

BEVERLEY & DISTRICT SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the Beverley and District Ringing Society was held at St. Peter's Church, Hutton Cranswick, on Saturday, July 9th, at the invitation of the Vicar, the Rev. G. S. Storer. The occasion was also the fifth anniversary of the dedication by the Archbishop of York of the restored bells at this church.

Forty members attended the meeting from York, Patrington, Sutton-on-Hull, Market Weighton, Hessle, Hull, Bridlington, Beverley, Eastington, Rise, Driffield and Barrow-on-Humber. The bells were rung to various methods and a service was conducted by the Rev. G. S. Storer.

Tea provided by the Vicar and ladies of the church was served in the Schoolroom.

At the business meeting which followed, the president (Mr. A. E. Sellers, of Beverley) presided, and the secretary (Mr. H. Parker, of Bridlington) reported on the 12 successful meetings held during the year.

Officers elected were:—President, Mr. A. E. Sellers; vice-president, Mr. G. Braithwaite; secretary, Mr. H. Parker; assistant secretary, Miss A. Davie; Ringing Master, Mr. L. Rodmell; Assistant Ringing Master, Mr. C. Barker; committee, Messrs. A. Taylor (Beverley), W. Tyson (Bridlington), F. Wilkinson (Pocklington) and R. Ducker (Sutton).

Further ringing concluded the meeting

NORTH SHIELDS

Ringers from Christ Church, North Shields, accompanied by friends, held their annual outing on June 26th. Travelling by coach, the first halt was at Wooler, where an excellent lunch was served at the Rycroft Hotel.

During the afternoon the route was via Ford and Etal to Bamburgh. A stop was made at Ford for the party to visit the Schoolroom to see the paintings by the late Marchioness of Waterford.

On arrival at Bamburgh tea was enjoyed at the Mizen Head Hotel and the ringers then went to the Church of St. Aidan to ring for Evensong. The bells were a pleasure to ring, and the younger members are to be congratulated upon their handling of the bells.

The homeward journey was via Seahouses, Workworth (a short halt) and Amble and was a delightful run down the coast on a summer's evening.

New Experiences on some of this Summer's Tours

ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL

This year the outing for the St. Albans Abbey ringers and friends, on July 9th, was enlivened by a high proportion of young beginners, all of whom have started to ring since last summer. This section, naturally, occupied the rear of the coach.

With a 7 a.m. start, the first call was at Guildford, where the fine octave at the pro-Cathedral of Holy Trinity was rung. It was a pleasure to be met by the editor of 'The Ringing World' and his son, Mark. Next was Godalming with a central tower and spire. The belfry was found to be very close and warm, the only ventilation being two small 'holes' in the walls.

After passing the lovely 'Devil's Punchbowl,' Portsmouth was reached for lunch. It is very inspiring to see the splendid new Cathedral of St. Thomas of Canterbury rising here in a bold, new design, incorporating the old Parish Church and west tower as a choir and central tower. The ringers here are well justified in taking pride in their bells. It was certainly a pleasure to ring here. The fine late-Victorian church of Portsea was next visited, with its tall tower (143 feet against St. Albans' 144 feet) and fine bells. Several made the long journey to the roof, where the fine view was admired.

After tea, the journey home, and a visit to Haslemere, with its light ring of ten. Quite a good course of Cambridge Royal was achieved along with touches of Stedman Caters and rounds. At the final call it was surprising the number of '18th birthdays' there were amongst the younger lads. Home was reached all too soon after such an enjoyable day.

G. D.

LEATHERHEAD, SURREY

Accompanied by visiting ringers from Cobham, Clandon, Dorking, Ditton and Banstead, Leatherhead's annual outing on June 25th was to East Kent and Romney Marsh.

By starting at 6.30 a.m., Maidstone was reached for coffee just after 8 a.m. and then to the first bells of the day, Leeds (10), immortalised by the feat of James Barham in 1761, when the bells were rung to the complete number of changes on eight bells. There is an association between Leatherhead and Leeds as it was a prior of Leeds who in the 15th century built the Surrey church.

Ringing followed at Lenham and Wye with its large ringing chamber with plenty of light, and good bells in good going order. The unspoilt village of Chilham with its half-timbered buildings and very good ring of bells was a delight to all the company.

After lunch at Ashford the journey was made across Romney Marsh, which is still famous for its sheep. New Romney Church, despite the term 'new,' is an ancient building with a Norman nave, aisles and tower. The bells were rung here for 25 minutes before leaving for Lydd, with its lofty tower and war-damaged church. A good ring of eight bells and a nice ringing chamber were enjoyed for the full time. The Sussex border was crossed to visit the ancient seaport of Rye, with its narrow, cobbled streets. Rye Church is reputed to be the largest parish church in Sussex, and with several local ringers we spent a happy 45 minutes. Tea followed at the Flushing Inn. In the evening a pleasant hour was spent at Salehurst, and Leatherhead was reached at 10 p.m.

Methods rung during the day included Grandsire Caters and Triples, Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Superlative, Yorkshire, Ashted, London, Bristol and Spliced Surprise Major and Cambridge Surprise Royal.

ASH, SURREY

Last year it was the pouring rain, this year the blazing sun which accompanied the ringers and friends of St. Peter's, Ash, on their annual ringing tour on July 16th.

By 8.15 the party were on their way westward. During the morning stops were made at St. Mary's, Chilton Foliat, St. Michael's, Aldbourne, and to ring the six bells of St. Mary-the-Virgin's, Marlborough. Lunch was taken at the Georgian Restaurant, Marlborough, before going on to the well cared for belfry of St. Mary-the-Virgin's, Calne. On to St. Nicholas', Bromham, then to that much needed cup of tea, served at the Cheesecake Cafe, Devizes. Another tower visited was that of St. Mary Magdalene's, West Lavington, before the band set out on the wonderful drive back to the eight bells of St. Peter's, Yateley. A grand finish to the day was when some of the party joined in singing hymns with the organist.

The tour had been arranged by Mr. S. Russell and Miss A. Goodchild, and on behalf of the ringers Mr. R. Mills and Mr. F. Cherryman expressed their thanks.

Throughout the day the ringers and their friends much appreciated the welcome they received at each tower and they give their grateful thanks.

M. A. C.

WEST RETFORD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

On July 16th the newly-formed band of St. Michael's, West Retford, held their first annual outing. They were accompanied by friends from St. Swithun's, East Retford, who have been their instructors since the band was formed, just over two years ago.

Leaving Retford at 8 a.m. the first stop was at Taylor's Foundry, Loughborough. The ringers were met by Mr. Paul Taylor, who conducted them round the foundry. There they saw a light ring of six (tenor 4 cwt.) destined for Preston Candover, Hampshire. These bells were mounted on a frame for testing, and at Mr. Taylor's invitation the visitors had a short ring on them. They found difficulty in handling such a light ring, but enjoyed the experience of seeing the bells swinging above their heads while ringing.

An enjoyable and interesting visit to the foundry ended with a ring on the foundry bells. The party then made their way to All Saints', Loughborough, where they enjoyed ringing the magnificent bells of that church.

After lunch in Loughborough the next stop was at Quorn (8), where an unsuccessful attempt was made to ring Major. Much difficulty was experienced owing to several bells being odd-struck and the bells being loud in the belfry.

At 3 p.m. the party left for Waltham-on-the-Wolds, but the bus driver missed a dodge and had to do some plain hunting before the right road was found. As a result Waltham was reached at 4.15 instead of 3.45. A short ring on the delightful bells was enjoyed by all, and some of the best striking of the day was achieved.

Croxton Kerrial, the next tower, was missed as the ringers had heard from two sources that the bells were unsafe. In any case the outing was running behind schedule so the party proceeded to Grantham for tea. After tea the ringers met at St. Wulfram's (10) for a most enjoyable ring, ending in an excellent drop of all ten bells, in which the treble was rung by a member of the local band.

After concluding the day's ringing at Balderston (6) the party arrived home at 10 p.m. tired but happy. During the day several methods

(Continued foot of next column)

GAINSBOROUGH AND DISTRICT ADVENTURES IN YORKSHIRE

By eight o'clock on the beautiful morning of July 2nd the first members and friends were aboard the bus for their annual outing.

The first ringing call was at Hutton Cranswick, but ignorance of the local roads literally took us across the fields with six gates to open and shut! Very late, we were made most welcome by the Rev. Storrer and were impressed by a welcome and the details of who we were, etc., on the church notice board. The bells are a fine, heavy six, augmented from three five years ago. The 25 miles to our next tower, Wykeham, near Scarborough, saw the order 'bring your own lunch' well and truly carried out!

This tower is unique in that it has the only five in the North Riding. It is also detached from the church and built as a gateway to the churchyard. Here we found a nice five (tenor 9 cwt.).

From here to our next call, Fylingdales (Robin Hood's Bay), the road follows roughly the coast line and provides magnificent scenery, to say nothing of hair-raising experiences as the coach climbed and descended hills of gradients up to one in three and negotiated every kind of bend. On one occasion it was even suggested that the quickest way to get round would be to lift the back end of the bus over a yard or two! Nevertheless, belated but safely we arrived, and first put an excellent tea out of the way! Whilst most of the non-ringers descended the 99 steps to the sea, the ringers climbed about half that number to the ringing chamber of St. Stephen's Church. The church is modern with a mid-south tower, and contains a ring of eight (tenor 12 cwt.), which sound much nicer outside than in. Slipping into the realms of fantasy, the writer thought of the tower as a pirate's boat on the sea (it rocks alarmingly!), and the bells as eight snarling men. The touch of Grandsire must have been a more successful trip than the Major which followed. They cursed and fought until the attempt had to be abandoned! Nevertheless they showed that kindly streak which even pirates have, by a good lower in peal.

Next on to Whitby and thence across the moors to Pickering and Malton. More hills and more bends, but superb scenery.

Very late in arriving at St. Leonard's, Malton—we apologise to the local people who were to meet us—we found the belfry locked. Inquiries, and still more inquiries, and the Vicar was found. He was most considerate and is probably a stock car driver, but he certainly gave two of us some of the thrills as he sped through Malton seeking the steeple-keeper, collecting keys and depositing us at the church. These bells are a grand eight and we were sorry to have to cut the amount of ringing very short. Refreshments of various kinds followed, the keys returned, and course set for home. Just for good measure the driver got lost in York and circled the city twice, nearly ran out of petrol, and finally got back about two a.m., having done over 300 miles.

It was a grand outing, all agreed, and if it was hectic and more than a day, well, it only happens once a year!

(Continued from previous column)
had been rung including Plain Bob, St. Clement's, Single Court, Single Oxford, Kent Treble Bob and Grandsire.

Thanks are extended to Mr. Taylor for an enjoyable visit to the bell foundry and to the incumbents and ringers of the various towers visited.

D. M.

Various Notations used in setting down Touches and Peals

By D. BEACHAM

(Continued from page 477.)

CATERS

GRANDSIRE: Grandsire Caters is set out by course ends, but the calling positions are described in a manner peculiar to Grandsire Caters and Cinques.

Unlike Major, it is usual to ring Grandsire Caters and Cinques with the big bells in other than the plain course position. The two positions almost always used are the Tittums and Handstroke positions. In the former, the big bells course in the order 7, 8, 9 and strike 978 at the course end. In the latter position they course 7, 9, 8 and strike 879 at the course end. These two positions are usually used in the same touch or peal, the first half being rung in the Tittums and the last half in the Handstroke, which brings the touch round at hand.

The course which moves the bells from the plain course into the required position is called the starting or going off course. The course which moves them into the second position is called the turning course. The bobs which produce these course ends are indicated in the composition by figures indicating the number of the lead from the previous course end.

When the bells are in the required position, calls are made so that the coursing order is not affected except at the actual leads at which the calls are made. These calls are described in a peculiar way: '9 in 3' means that the 9th is called into the hunt, out at the next lead and another bob at the next lead—three bobs in all. '9 in 3S' means that the third call is a single instead of a bob. '9 in 3S, 78' means that after the first three calls—the 9 in 3S part—a bob is called at which 78 dodge behind, i.e., at the course end. From these explanations, the meanings of the callings encountered should be easily seen. One other point is that a course having only one call in it will contain six leads and is known as a long course as opposed to a short course having three or four calls and therefore five or four leads respectively in it.

An example showing the calls is given: 557

23456789	* Starting course
42356978	1, 4 *
32654	89
63254	9 in 3
23465	1S, 89
42365879	1, 3, 4S †
34265	8 in 3

Two final points: the handstroke position differs from the Tittums in that 8 and 9 are changed over, so that 8 in 3 in the handstroke is effectively the same calling as 9 in 3 is in the Tittums. Also some composers write '9 in and 2' instead of '9 in 3,' and so on.

STEDMAN: Stedman Caters is usually rung with the big bells in the same positions as in Grandsire. The compositions will thus again contain a starting course, courses with the big bells in the required positions, a turning course, more courses in the second position and a homing course in which the bells are brought round (actually at handstroke).

There are eighteen sixes in a course, and the calls are indicated by the number of the six in which they are made, not by the number of sixes between them. It must be remembered that, though the call is made at the first change of the six, it is called in the previous six. Thus, a bob at 16 is called at the fifth change of the 15th six.

Example:
639

231456789	
215463978	1, 4, 6, 7, 10S, 12, 13, 14
213564	16
214365	16
215463879	2, 9S, 16
213564	16
214365	16

Note: Rounds is the fourth row of a quick six, the six-end being 231456789.

In the body of the touch, when it is not required to disturb the fixed bells, calls are only made at the 4th, 5th or 16th six.

ROYAL, CINQUES AND MAXIMUS

Compositions of methods on these numbers are set out similarly to those for Major and Caters. In these cases, of course, the observation bells will be different. Thus in Royal, W, M and H will refer to the tenor when it is an 8ths, 9ths and 10ths place bell respectively.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

Bramley was the tower visited by the Leeds and District Society for their July meeting. A very hot afternoon and the fact that July 30th was the Saturday of the Bank Holiday week-end may well have been responsible for the small attendance. However, those present made full use of the bells, keeping them going in a variety of methods from Plain Bob to Cambridge.

Tea was at 5.15 in the Bramley Institute, and very welcome were the cups of tea provided by the local ladies.

At the business meeting which followed, five new members were elected—two from St. Chad's, Far Headingley, and three visiting ringers from Accrington, Gamston and West Tanfield. In replying to the customary votes of thanks Mr. S. Helliwell said how much he wished the bells of St. Peter's rang out week by week as they had done that afternoon.

The business concluded, some members stayed behind for handbell ringing, others made their way back to the tower where ringing continued until shortly before 9 o'clock.

History of the County of Leicester

'The Victoria History of the Counties of England' (edited by R. B. Pugh, M.A., F.S.A., of the University of London Institute of Historical Research) has just issued Vol. III, of 'The History of the County of Leicester.' The price is £4 4s. net. This volume completes the general history of the county. Several articles are devoted to local industries, and others on Leicestershire arts and artists. There are also chapters on primary and advanced education and a section on sport. This ponderous volume contains an article on bellfounding with Appendix I. on Leicester Bellfounders, and II. Leicestershire Bells, written by Ernest Morris, of St. Margaret's, Leicester, and is a condensed version of his 'History of the County Bells,' which is now complete and ready for publication if and when means to do so can be found.

As is well known, Mr. Ernest Morris has written several books on the Art, including the 'History and Art of Change Ringing,' 'Legends of the Bells,' 'Bells of All Nations' and others, all of which are now out of print and difficult to obtain. His latest book, 'Towers and Bells of Britain,' is selling well and is a beautifully illustrated volume.

NOTICES

Scale of Charges

The charge of Notices for meetings is one penny a word, minimum 3s. For additional insertions with no change of type one half of the above charge for each insertion.

Other Notices one penny per word, minimum 3s. 6d.

All Notices must be prepaid.

Notices must be received on the Monday preceding publication.

ENGAGEMENT

BLACKMAN—CURTIS.—The engagement is announced between Peter Richard, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Blackman, of Lednura, 25, Turnbull Road, Chichester, Sussex, and Jean Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Curtis, of Woodway, Nightingale Lane, Storrington, Sussex. 6770

RUBY WEDDING

KNIGHTS—DEFFLEY.—On August 14th, 1915, at St. Barnabas' Church, Highfield, Sheffield, by the Rev. St. Leger Blakeney, Arthur Percival to Winifred Margaret. 6749

HANDBELLS FOR SALE

FOR SALE.—Set of 15 handbells by William Dunn. Can be inspected at Crondall Lodge Children's Home, Crondall, Hants. 6747

HANDBELLS WANTED

Set of 12 handbells wanted urgently, must be in good condition. State size and prize to Kenneth G. Spavins, 8, London Road, Woburn, Bletchley, Bucks. 6772

MISCELLANEOUS

REQUIRED. GRAMOPHONE RECORDS of 6 to 8 bells of change ringing. Details to F. Huckle, Fulwood Place, Barham, near Canterbury. 6742

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

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.

PUBLICATION

'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.

MEETINGS

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Northill on Saturday, Aug. 13th. Bells 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—L. H. Bywaters, Sec. 6755

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.—T. W. Southam. 6709

HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting, Horsmonden, Saturday, Aug 13th, 2.30 p.m. (not Aug. 20th). 6717

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

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

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting, Clapton-in-Gordano, 4 o'clock Aug 20th.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton. 6768

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Crewe Branch.—Marbury, Aug. 20th. Bells (6) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea must be received by Aug. 17th.—W. Kerr, 102, Moreton Road, Crewe. 6751

COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Kenilworth, Saturday, Aug. 20th, at 3 p.m. Tea available.—J. L. Garner-Hayward. 6767

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

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Monthly meeting, Aug. 20th, to be held at Crich. Bells 3 p.m. Own tea; cafes near.—B. A. Sollis, Hon. Sec. 6750

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—Meeting, Saturday, Aug. 20th, at Somersham (6). Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. A farewell meeting to our president. Good attendance, please.—H. S. Peacock, Dis. Sec. 6763

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Lancaster Branch.—Monthly practice meeting at Burton-in-Lonsdale (6 bells), Aug. 20th. Ringing 2.30-7.30. Bring own tea.—R. F. Eccles, Branch Sec. 6766

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Ringing meeting at St. Michael's, Mottram, 3 p.m., Aug. 20th. Teas provided. All welcome.—R. Benson. 6764

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—Meeting will be held at Whitefield on Saturday, Aug. 20th. Tower open for ringing at 3. Cups of tea at 5. Members and non-members are cordially invited.—J. Porter, Branch Sec. 6762

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hinckley District.—Market Bosworth, Aug. 20th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in cafe 5 o'clock. Names, please, by Aug. 17th, to Mr. R. Proudman, Market Place, Market Bosworth, Nuneaton. 6756

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Loughborough and Syston District.—Joint meeting, Saturday, Aug. 20th. Ringing at Quorn 2.15 p.m. to 4 p.m. Service at St. Peter's, Mountsorrel, 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. followed by meeting. Ringing at Mountsorrel after meeting. Please send names for tea, by the 18th at the latest, to Mr. R. Wilmore, 80, Hawcliffe Road, Mountsorrel. All are welcome.—B. Stedman Payne. 6761

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Melton District.—Meeting at Ashby Folville (8), Saturday, Aug. 20th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting 5 o'clock. Names must be sent, by the 18th, to Miss Betty Smith, The Hollies, Barsby, Leicester.—J. H. Cook. 6758

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Gainsborough District.—The next meeting will be at Willingham on Saturday, Aug. 20th. 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

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cranford (6), Saturday, Aug. 20th, at 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and business to follow. Names for tea, please, by Aug. 17th, to P. J. Woodgyer, 225, Brabazon Road, Heston, Middlesex.—J. D. Rock. 6752

SALISBURY GUILD.—Calne Branch.—Meeting, Bremhill (6), Aug. 20th, 3 p.m. Names for tea essential.—G. Freegard, 30, Bremhill, Calne, Wilts. 6754

SALISBURY GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—Meeting, Preston, Aug. 20th. Bells 2.30. Service 4. Tea and meeting follow. Names by Aug. 17th, to Mr. H. Corben, South View, Sutton Poyntz, Weymouth.—J. H. Hayne, Sec. 6744

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Practice meeting, Keymer, Aug. 20th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify by Wednesday, Aug. 17th.—C. W. Linington, 11, Queen's Drive, Hassocks. 6737

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

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Gestingthorpe (6), Saturday, Aug. 27th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Names for tea by Wednesday, Aug. 24th.—H. A. Pratt, 6, Council Houses, Black Notley, Braintree. 6753

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Northchurch (8), Saturday, Aug. 27th. Names for tea, by the 23rd, to Mr. R. Ashby, 38, High Street, Northchurch, Berkhamstead, Herts.—R. L. Shutter, Dis. Sec. 6760

LADIES' GUILD.—Kent Branch.—Meeting at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday, Aug. 27th at 3 p.m. Evensong 4 p.m. Tea at Patricia's Pantry 4.30. Names for tea, not later than Aug. 24th, to Mr. T. Beaumont, 7, Prospect Avenue, Frindsbury, Rochester, Kent. All ladies welcome. Gentlemen cordially invited.—Jill Haffenden, Hon. Sec. 6757

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at Newchurch, near Warrington, on Saturday, Aug. 27th. Bells 2.30. Ex-eighth. Tea 5 p.m. free. Business 6. No names, no tea.—J. Leatherbarrow, 43, Wigshaw Lane, Culchett, near Warrington. 6745

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Joint meeting with **LADIES' GUILD** at Blankney (6) on Aug. 27th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. for those who notify me by Tuesday previous.—C. Brown, 3, Altham Terrace, Lincoln. 6743

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Scarning, Sat., Aug. 27th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 followed by business meeting. Numbers for tea to S. H. Waterfield, 6, Station Road, Holme Hale, Thetford. Look up Hereward.—C. F. T. 6769

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at Aldermaston on August 27th. Usual arrangements. Names to me by the 24th.—J. Coper, 35, Henwick Lane, Thatcham, Berks. 6771

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Rutland Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Cottesmore (6) on Saturday, Aug. 27th. Names for tea by Aug. 23rd.—E. E. Gibson, Hon. Sec., Thistleton Road, Market Overton, Oakham. 6748

SWANSEA AND BRECON GUILD.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting, Gorseinon on Aug. 27th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Names for tea to J. A. Hoare, 6, Gendros Crescent, Swansea. 6715

DEVON GUILD.—Aylesbeare Branch.—Meeting, Aylesbeare, Saturday, Sept. 3rd. Service 4.30 p.m. Number for tea by Aug. 29th.—R. T. Perry, Redcliff, Lympstone. 6746

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.—Annual meeting, Northampton, Saturday, Sept. 17th. Ringing from 10.30 a.m. Details later. Own arrangements for lunch. Business meeting 3.30 p.m., Lecture Room, Borough P.H.Q., Campbell Square. Dinner at Angel Hotel, Bridge Street, 6.30 p.m., followed by social evening. Tickets (9s. each) from P.C. C. H. F. Knight, Hon. Sec., 51, Oadby Road, Wigston, Leicester. 6765

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual dinner.—Preliminary: The annual dinner will be held in the Guildhall, Worcester on Saturday, Oct. 22nd, at 5.45 p.m. Tickets (7s. 6d. each) obtainable from committee or J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Sedgeberrow, Evesham. 6759

WEDDING OF MISS F. E. WARDEN

A well-known ringer in the Coventry Guild area, Miss Florence E. Warden was married to Mr. George Birtles, of Coventry, at St. James' Church, Bulkington, on Saturday, July 30th. 'Florrie,' as she was known to ringers and friends, started to ring in 1928, and was always at her place for Sunday service ringing and practice until the death of her parents. Then circumstances prevented her regular attendance, but she attended whenever possible. Her father, Mr. Joseph Warden, was a ringer.

The bells were rung before and after the service by the local band with Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Beamish and Miss Beamish deputising for ringers who were on holiday. At the reception Mr. A. J. Hinde, captain and secretary of the Bulkington band wished the newly-married couple every happiness in the years to come. A very pleasant surprise for all was the handbell ringing by Mr., Mrs. and Miss Beamish, and the local band thank them very much for their assistance and entertainment.

A quarter peal of 1,260 Grandsire Triples was afterwards rung by Miss Joan Carter (first quarter) 1, Miss M. E. Bailey 2, Miss R. Ashley 3, Miss M. E. Beamish 4, Mrs. D. E. Beamish 5, A. H. Beamish (conductor) 6, A. J. Hinde 7, K. F. Haswell (first quarter) 8.

RINGING DURING SERVICE

Dear Sir,—The bells of St. John's Church, Clevedon, are usually chimed, but when a band is available they are rung for the Sung Mass at 11 a.m., while morning prayer is being said, and I have never known anyone object.—Yours faithfully,

EDWARD G. CAPLE.

Clevedon, Som.

'THE WORLD'S BEST BELLROPE'S'

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