THE RINGING WORLD

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GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.

BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.

St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON. 4th March, 1913.

Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,
Architect Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK.

WAR AND PEALS.

The more one looks at the figures which we were able to publish last week relating to the peals rung during 1914, as compared with the performances of 1913, the more one is struck by the unanimous cessation of this part of ringers' activities, and we revert to it, even at the risk of being thought by some to dwell unduly upon what was, after all, only a duty to public feeling. We have never hesitated to express the opinion that, unless it has some very special object, peal ringing, which, let it be frankly admitted, is largely indulged in for the personal pleasure of the ringers, would be out of place in such a time of national stress and anxiety as the present, and nothing could be more striking than the way in which this appreciation of the spirit of the period was at once realised and acted upon by ringers throughout the country. As in larger things, so in this matter, there has been a complete sinking of personal desires. It was not left to the clergy to decide whether it was fitting or not for peals to be rung. With one accord the Exercise, which at all times through the voices of the bells, has the opportunity of interpreting national, as well as parochial feeling, called a "stand" to peals on our church bells, except where it has been desired to pay a tribute to the dead, or, under some exceptional circumstance, to honour the living. We believe that when the time comes once more for the bells to ring out for victory and peace—an enduring peace we hope—ringers will stand even higher in the estimation of the public for their present action.

If we take the last four months of the year—complete months of war—we find that only 101 peals were rung, or an average of only six per week, as against an average of 57 per week in the corresponding months of 1913, while, of course, it must not be forgotten that there was in 1914 a considerably larger proportion of handbell peals than in the preceding year during the same time. The most striking difference to be found in the figures are in those for December. In that month in 1913 the peals reached the total of 310, a number unapproached in any other month in the annals of ringing. In December, 1914, only 18 peals were rung. When we remember that the Christmas festival is included the figures are eloquent.

In many places, of course, practices as well as peals have ceased, and we notice that in this matter the ringers of St. Martin's, Birmingham, who were among the first to suspend their weekly practice night, intend to follow the resolution passed on the outbreak of war. Other towers, however, are now resuming their operations in this direction, and in this way hope to keep their men together; that is, those of them who have not undertaken sterner duties among the fighting forces of the Crown.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.

SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM

OPINION OF OUR MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,
CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs. C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to Inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your Contract,—we may be able to assist you.

BELLS

FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

FRAMES

IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines.

Best Workmanship and Satisfaction Guaranteed

FITTINGS

OF ALL KINDS.

ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON BRACKETS.

MALLEABLE IRON BRACKETS.
BEST BELL ROPES.
REPAIRS AND REHANGING IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to Inspect and report on Bells and Towers

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

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Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope Manufacturer,

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(Two minutes from Queen's Road Station, L.B. & S.C. Railway).

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Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Alban's, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester and Worcester Cathedrals etc., etc,

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

On Wednesday, January 13, 1915, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT ST. CHAD'S (R.C.) CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.
Tenor 15 cwt., in F.

†WALTER GOSSAGE ...	...*Treble*	CHARLES MACKENZIE ...	5
THOMAS MILLER	2	JOHN EATON	6
WILLIAM G. ELLIS	3	GEORGE F. SWANN	7
PTE. EDWARD LARGE ...	4	*THOMAS FEERICK ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

* First peal. † First peal away from the tenor. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last mark of respect to the late Lawrence Kelly, who was connected with the choir for 52 years; also to John Heeley, macebearer and server for 50 years at the above Cathedral, who died suddenly.

HANDBELL PEALS.

WEST EALING, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD

On Sunday, January 17, 1915, in Two Hours and Twenty-six Minutes,
AT "AUBURN," WIMBORNE GARDENS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

GEORGE E. HARBOUR ...	1—2	WILLIAM SHEPHERD ...	5—6
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ...	3—4	WILLIAM LAWRENCE ...	7—8

Composed and Conducted by J. A. TROLLOPE.
Umpire: ARTHUR H. HARBOUR.

The composition has the 6th the extent "right," and twenty times "wrong."

LONDON.
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, January 17, 1915, in Two Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,
AT 130, CLONMORE STREET, SOUTHFIELDS, S.W.,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

WILLIAM SHEPHERD ...	1—2	*CECIL J. MATTHEWS ...	5—6
JOHN D. MATTHEWS ...	3—4	MISS ELSIE MATTHEWS	7—8

Composed by FRANK BENNETT, and
Conducted by JOHN D. MATTHEWS.

* First peal; aged 16½.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

"HENRY JOHNSON" DINNER TO BE HELD AS USUAL.

The annual meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held at the Tamworth Arms Hotel, Moor Street, Birmingham, on Tuesday of last week, the presiding Ringing Master, Alderman G. S. Pritchett, M.A., being in the chair.

The whole of the officers were re-elected for the ensuing year, the Secretary congratulating the chairman, on behalf of the members, on the high honour recently conferred on him by the Freemasons, he having been appointed Steward of the Grand Lodge of England.

Messrs. R. Faux and W. Painter were elected vice-presidents, as a mark of appreciation of their long membership and many services to the Guild. Mr. Painter was unfortunately too ill to be present, but Mr. Faux suitably responded, thanking those present for doing him what he considered a very high honour.

The annual balance sheet, which is a very satisfactory document, showing a substantial increase in the Guild's bank balance over last year, was unanimously adopted. The most interesting item in this is, perhaps, the anonymous gift by a member who rang in it, of the sum of £5 15s. to defray the cost of erecting a marble tablet in the belfry of St. Martin's, to record the "century" peal of Stedman Cinques rung on the bells, and the Chairman proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the donor for his generosity. The tablet, which is a very fine one by Messrs. O. C. Hawkes, Ltd., of Birmingham, is now in the belfry awaiting fixing.

After full consideration, it was unanimously agreed to hold the annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner as usual, and arrangements will accordingly be made for this to be held on Saturday, February 27th next, at "Ye Olde Royal" Hotel.

Mr. W. H. Godden was re-elected as the Guild's representative on the Central Council, and, with other officers, received a hearty vote of thanks for his past services.

In accordance with the resolution passed on the outbreak of the war, the practice at St. Martin's will remain suspended until further notice.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

The following further subscription to the Prince of Wales' Fund has been received :—

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	64	12	0
Ringers of St. Peter's, Staunton-on-Arrow, Herefordshire (Messrs. A. Butler, A. Hamshire, F. Lane, J. Miles, C. Powell and Jb. Preece) (per Mr. Jb. Preece) ...	0	10	0
Total	£65	2	0

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following is a further list of ringers who have joined H.M. Forces:—

Corpl. James E Davis, of St. Margaret's, Westminster, Royal Engineers, now at Chatham.

Pte F. Berry, of Middleton, Lancs. 9th Batt. King's Own Lancashire Regiment.

Pte J. Arrowsmith, junr., of Middleton, 24th Manchester "Pals" Battalion.

Clifford Cooke, of St. Catharine's, Pontypridd, Army Service Corps, now at Aldershot.

Alfred Miller, of St. James', Taunton, Railway Engineers, now in France.

Jesse T. Dyke, of Midsomer Norton, 8th Batt. Gloucestershire Regiment.

The following from St. Dony's, Rotherfield, Sussex:—

O. Holmwood,
H. Hammond and
E. Baldock, Royal Sussex Regiment, stationed at Cooden, near Bexhill.
A. Harman, Royal Flying Corps, now in France.
Squadron-Sergt. Major L. C. Franklin, of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire Yeomanry.
Pte H. B. Smith, of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire Yeomanry.
Pte G. W. Newton, of Old Warden, Bedfordshire Yeomanry.

From Westbury-on-Severn:—

Pte W. T. Hart, 5th Gloucesters, now at Chelmsford.
Pte F. Allen, 3rd Gloucesters, at Woolwich.
Pte A. Poulson, 8th Gloucesters, at Weston-super-Mare.
Pte W. Gleed, 10th Gloucesters, at Cheltenham.
Tpr. A. Allen, Gloucester Hussars, at Gloucester.
Tpr. Ayland, Gloucester Hussars, at Gloucester.
Tpr. R. Preston, 3rd Hussars, at Bristol.
Tpr. A. Whiting, 3rd Hussars, at Bristol.
Lance-Corpl. C. J. Allen, Worcesters, at Fowey, Cornwall.
Pte S. Allen, R.E., Monmouth Reserves, at the Front.
Driver R. Hawker, Canadian F.A., at Salisbury.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Stroud and District Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Woodchester, when 29 ringers attended. The bells were rung to various touches of Grandsire, Doubles and Bob Minor till 5 p.m., when service was held in the old Parish Church. The Rector (the Rev. G. E. Watton) officiated, and Mr. S. W. Underwood, F.R.C.O., who is a member of the Association, presided at the organ. The association's special form of service was used, and the Rector gave an inspiring address. Friends at Woodchester entertained the party to tea at the Schools, the Rector and Mrs. Watton, Mr. E. Wise (churchwarden), Miss Wise and Miss E. A. Workman attending their needs.

A business meeting followed, at which the Rector presided. The Hon. Branch Secretary (Mr. W. Hale) presented the report for 1914, from which it appeared that eight meetings had been held with an average attendance of 23. Eight new members had been elected. The financial statement showed a balance in hand of £4 3s., which was considered most satisfactory.

All the officers were re-elected and thanked for their services.—One new member was elected, and Stonehouse was selected for the quarterly meeting in March, and Chalford and Frocester for the intervening meetings.

Votes of thanks were passed to all who had assisted, and regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. H. Workman, an old friend, through indisposition.

A portion of the ringers again visited the tower, and the bells were rung to various musical touches in the standard methods during the evening, whilst others enjoyed ringing Grandsire, Stedman and tunes on a splendid peal of handbells.

BURTON LATIMER, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, Dec. 20th, for evening service, 720 Double Court: J. Hedson 1, J. Hendry 2, A. E. Fourt 3, H. Saddington 4, J. Pettit 5, G. Lines (conductor) 6.

THE PICTURE AT ST. PETER MANCROFT.

PROBABLY NOT THAT OF SAMUEL THURSTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It will doubtless still be in the recollection of many of your readers that early last year a picture by Stannard was discovered in the belfry of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. You published at the time—in your issue of May 22nd—an interesting account of it, and of the circumstances connected with its being brought to light. It was only natural that the picture should have been taken as a portrait of SAMUEL THURSTON, and the following reasons seemed at the time to justify that conclusion:—

(a) It was taken from the tablet recording the peal of Norwich Court Bob Maximus of 1817, in which Thurston rang the tenor;
(b) The part Thurston took in this peal had been specially recognised by the gift to him of the silver-gilt clasp;
(c) It was thought the figure in the picture bore some likeness to his portrait;
(d) It was painted just at the time when Thurston's fame was at its height; and,
(e) It was found in the belfry.

But there seem good reasons for forming a very different opinion. It so happened that Dr. Mann, of Cambridge, paid a visit to St. Peter Mancroft in the early summer (1914), when he saw the newly-found picture, and at once claimed it as a portrait of JOHN CHARLES BECKWITH, a former organist of the church, who in his day was as great a celebrity in his profession, as was Thurston as a ringer. Dr. Mann is an undoubted authority on the history of music, and of Norwich musicians in particular, and what he does not know of these latter would not be worth knowing. In a letter to me in July he points out that:—

(1) The belfry picture is patently a copy of a well-known picture of the great composer Handel*;
(2) An artist painting a picture of a bell ringer would have somewhere introduced a bell or something connected with bell ringing, while on the contrary, the figure holds a scroll of music;
(3) John Charles Beckwith was the organist at St. Peter Mancroft in 1817;
(4) His father Dr. Beckwith, who was organist before him, had had his portrait painted before 1807, and thus it was the fashion for the Mancroft people to so treat their organists.
(5) The present belfry was at that time merely a large room behind the organ, and was most probably used as a music-room. The sacred oratorios of the original Norwich Musical Festivals were from 1788 to 1813 (and possibly later) performed at St. Peter's;
(6) When the organ was moved away from the west end of the church at the restoration of the interior in 1851, this picture was left behind, and ultimately got put on the top of one of the peal boards.

All this seems to me very convincing. I should like just to add that previously to 1882 the ringing room was at a higher level—above the great west window, whither it was presumably raised in 1775, when the ring of twelve bells came. There can, I think, be no doubt that the peal tablets were re-arranged at the restoration of the tower in 1882.—Yours faithfully,

G. P. BURTON.

137, Newmarket Road, Norwich.
3rd January, 1915.

* A print of the original picture, "The Apotheosis of Handel," has now been secured for the belfry, and has been hung near the large painting.

FIRST SUNDAY RINGING AT CONISBORO'.

On Sunday week the churchpeople of Conisboro', Yorks, were glad to hear their recently installed ring of eight bells (by Messrs. Taylor and Co.) calling them to Sunday services for the first time. In response to an invitation from the Vicar, wardens, and congregation to entertain them for the day, the following members of the Yorkshire Association paid a visit to Conisboro', and rang for both services: J. H. Broadwell, J. Cottam, C. Glenn, and A. Hague (Rotherham), D. Brearley (Bolsterstone), A. H. Ward (Derby), S. Wesley (Nottingham) and R. Richardson (Surfleet). The party were met on arrival by Mr. S. Harrison, formerly of the Bolsterstone company, and now of Conisboro', who is instructing the newly-formed band. Touches of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Double Norwich were rung, the sound of the bells, now heard on Sunday for the first time, being enjoyed by all. In the afternoon Mr. Jones, the genial churchwarden, conducted the ringers over the remains of the historic Castle of Conisboro', built probably from 1086-9 by William De Warrene, Earl of Surrey, who married Gundrada, a daughter of William the Conqueror. The remains of William De Warrene and his wife are buried in Southover Church, Lewes, Sussex. Readers of Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe" will recollect that Conisboro' Castle figures prominently in the book. The lofty walls of the strong hexagonal keep, which occupy the crown of a hill, are still intact. On to the very topmost points of the walls four of the party climbed, and rang a short touch of Stedman Triples on the handbells, but being exposed to the full force of the wintry wind, were only too glad to clamber down again to a more sheltered and a safer position.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT KINGSTON.

The ancient borough of Kingston has had a close connection with the Surrey Association ever since the society was formed, and a specially cordial welcome to the members is always extended whenever they return for their annual meeting, for the Vicar (the Rev. A. S. W. Young) was the first secretary, and has remained from the foundation of the Association in 1880 its hon. treasurer. Various circumstances made the attendance last Saturday smaller than usual for the annual meeting, but it was, nevertheless, fairly representative. The unusual ringing of the bells caused quite a lot of excitement among the inhabitants, and when the ringing ceased for the service, it is said that some 300 or 400 people were assembled outside the gates. No one quite knew why they were there, but someone had seen an officer in uniform enter the church, and there was a motor-car waiting outside. This combination of circumstances, with the ringing of the bells, was quite enough to start a rumour—that there was a khaki wedding being solemnised. And so the crowd collected waiting for the bride and bridegroom who did not appear, and apparently ignorant of the fact that marriages in England cannot take place at as late an hour as 5 p.m. The officer in uniform was the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Cyril Johnston), who is serving as a Lieutenant in the Public School Corps, and who was able, to the delight of the members, to join them for their meeting, albeit he was relieved of his secretarial duties by his energetic assistant, Mr. C. Reading. Among the visitors were Mr. J. D. Matthews (Master of the Cumberland Youths), Mr. A. D. Barker, of Islington; Mr. A. W. Grimes, of Dalston; Miss E. L. Bennett and Mr. F. Hairs, of Clapham; Mr. T. Beadle, of Isleworth; and members of the Association from Christ Church and SS. Peter and Paul's, Mitcham, Reigate, Leatherhead, Horsham, Wimbledon, Epsom, Merstham, Molesey, Kingston, Croydon, Streatham, etc.

At the special service the Vicar gave an appropriate address based upon the words, "I had rather be a door-keeper in the House of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness," Ps. cxxxiv, 10. Tea was afterwards served in the Parish Institute, and was followed by the meeting, at which the Vicar presided, supported by the curate, the Master (Mr. J. D. Drewett), the hon. secretary (Mr. C. F. Johnston), the hon. assistant secretary (Mr. C. Reading), Mr. H. F. Ewins (hon. secretary Southern District), and Mr. A. F. Shepherd (hon. secretary Western District), etc.

THE MASTER'S REPORT.

In his report for the year, the Master stated that up to the end of July their practices and peal ringing went on quite normally, but owing to the war most of the ringing had been suspended. As to how the war had affected ringing throughout the country they would have seen from the very interesting article which had appeared in "The Ringing World" on the previous day. Proceeding, Mr. Drewett referred in sympathetic terms to the loss which the Association had sustained by the death of three of their members: Mr. Hoad, of Reigate, a member since 1888; Mr. Henry Brooker, who was formerly for some years their auditor; and Mr. Bashford, a promising young ringer, who went down on the "Good Hope" in the naval battle in the Pacific. Mr. Drewett also referred to the celebration during the year of the diamond wedding of Mr. Samuel Greenwell, one of the founders of the Association, and the oldest ringing member they had. He read out a roll of honour of members who have joined H.M. Forces (their names have appeared from time to time in "The Ringing World"), and said he thought it reflected considerable credit on their Association that so many had volunteered to fight for their country. As to peals, the Association up to August 4th rang 20 in the Central district and 13 in the Southern. Since the war commenced one peal had been rung in the Central district, and two muffled peals in the Southern, making a total of 36 for the year, as against 71 in 1913, 32 in 1912 and 20 in 1911. In the last report the membership was given as 158 in the Central district, 85 in the Southern, and 22 in the Western. During 1914 they elected nine new ordinary members in the Southern district, and three in the Western. Two honorary members had been elected in the Central district, and two in the Southern. In passing, Mr. Drewett called attention to the splendid manner in which the peals had been recorded in the peal books by Mr. Beams, to whom, he said, they owed a great debt of gratitude. The peals of 1914 would fill the last 20 pages of Vol. V, and the books would remain a memorial to the Association for all time.

A resolution was passed, placing on record the Association's appreciation of Mr. Beam's services.

The Assistant Secretary threw out the suggestion that the Association might do something more than merely record in their report the names of those members now with the colours. He thought they might make them free members while they were away.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Leatherhead, an amendment in favour of Croydon being lost.

Messrs. A. D. Barker (Islington), J. Deacon (Mitcham) and F. J. Mann (Epsom) were elected members of the Association.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The Bishop of Southwark was re-elected president by acclamation and the Rev. A. S. W. Young, hon. treasurer. The latter, in replying, said the Association had a balance in hand in the bank of £17 4.

Mr. J. D. Drewett was unanimously re-elected Master, and Mr. C. F. Johnston, hon. secretary, despite his expressed desire to be liberated from office on account of his military duties. Mr. C. Reading was re-appointed hon. assistant secretary, and the district secretaries were also re-elected (Messrs. F. Ewins, Southern, and A. F. Shepherd, Western). Messrs. A. Gower and A. Gear were re-elected auditors, with the addition of Mr. F. Brown, of East Molesey, to represent the Western district. Messrs. C. Dean and C. F. Johnston were re-appointed representatives of the Association on the Central Council. The following hon. members were elected on the committee, which also includes a member from each affiliated tower: The Revs. T. G. Longley (Betchworth), and R. I. Woodhouse (Merstham), Messrs. C. E. Malin (Norbury), A. A. Johnston (Croydon) and C. Dean (Croydon).

A vote of thanks to the Vicar of Kingston for presiding, for the service, and for the use of the bells, and to the steeplekeeper (Mr. J. Howes), and all those who had helped to make the arrangements, concluded the meeting.

The members afterwards returned to the tower, where during the afternoon and evening a variety of 8 and 10-bell methods were rung. Ringing history goes back a long way at Kingston, and boards in the belfry record peals rung before the end of the 18th century, while in 1803 a peal of 10,368 Grandsire Caters was rung there. The ring is a mixed lot as to quality, but is capped by two fine bells in the 9th and tenor.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT HALESOWEN.

The first meeting of the year, in connection with the Northern branch of the Worcestershire and Districts Association, was held on Saturday last at Halesowen, and, under all the circumstances, including the weather, was in every way satisfactory. The service in the Parish Church was well attended. In his address the Rector (the Rev. C. W. Wordsworth) gave a hearty welcome to the Association on their first visit since he had been there. Speaking of the work ringers are doing throughout the country, he said it reminded him of the watchman on the tower, for the ringing of the bells from Sunday to Sunday told them that the work of God was still going on. The bells had to them that afternoon told of the passing away of one of their number. The bells were foremost to sound out victory partially won, and he hoped they would all be spared to ring, when, please God, victory was complete. The bells at present, and in the future, would be very much in men's minds. Their duty as ringers was one of very high office. Ringers should realise how much the tone of the bells depended upon the tone in the belfry. Those of them who came of a ringing stock could call to mind the tone of the belfry in times gone by, and the very great improvement which was to be seen to-day. Let the tone in the belfry be of the best, and the ringing also would be bound to follow.

After the service, a splendid tea, which was provided by the local band, was partaken of in the schools and greatly enjoyed, about 60 sitting down. At the business meeting which followed, in the absence of the Rector, who was suddenly called away, the Rev. C. Chavasse presided. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Elmley Lovett, in June. Owing to the crisis through which we are passing, it was decided not to attempt the quarterly peal until some future date.

The Rector then arrived, and he had much pleasure in being elected an hon. member of the Association. Eight performing members were also elected.—The Rector, in responding to a vote of thanks, said how delighted he was to be present, and he thanked them very sincerely for their kind and sympathetic remarks with reference to the loss of his brother at the front.

While tune and change ringing were being indulged in in the school, the grand peal of eight in the church tower were being rung, and some well-struck touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Double Norwich and London Surprise were brought round. While the ringing was taking place, four Belgian refugees were brought on a visit to the tower. One of their number comes from Malines, whose famous tower and bells have been destroyed by the Germans. The celebrated carilloneur, M. Josep Denyn, belonged to Malines, and a few weeks back gave a selection on the carillon at Bournville Schools, where Mr. Harry Withers is in charge. Mr. Withers has met Mr. Josep Denyn on several occasions, and happened to be present at Halesowen, and, despite the disadvantage of language, endeavoured to compare notes with the visitors. Rubbing shoulders with men who had seen their own homes blown up, and had had to flee their country to save their lives, brought home very forcibly to all the horrors and the close proximity of the war.

WEST EALING.—For evening service, at St. Stephen's Church, on January 17th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins.: C. Edwards 1, G. Harbour 2, Miss Edith Jones (first quarter-peal with a bob bell) 3, C. R. Walker 4, H. W. Lidbetter 5, W. Shepherd (Hersham), conductor, 6, J. A. Trollope 7, Wm. Lawrence 8.

ROTHERFIELD, SUSSEX.—At St. Denys Church, for morning service, on January 17th, and also for the birthday of the conductor and the wedding day of Mr. E. Bishop, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: F. Cornford 1, E. Bishop, junr., 2, H. Butcher 3, H. Smith 4, F. Hammond 5, C. Brasier (conductor) 6, E. Bishop 7, W. Hammond 8.

THE BELL OF RUGBY SCHOOL CHAPEL

(Weight 64cwt. 2qrs. 20lbs.)

DEDICATED 21st JULY, 1914.

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Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

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Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

At the Handbell Contests, held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also

UNIQUE FOR PRESENTATION.

An Inkstand in the — design of a — Well-shaped Bell.

This charming model in Solid Hall. Marked Silver will make a most appropriate and useful Gift.

It can be supplied in the following sizes:—

Diameter	2½in.	2¾in.	3½in.	3⅝in.	4in.	4⅝in.	5 in.
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KILLED IN ACTION.

WRENTHAM RINGER'S LAST FIGHT.

The death, in action, is now confirmed of Pte. Frederick C. Johnson, of Wrentham, Suffolk, who was serving in the 2nd Batt. of the Grenadier Guards. Previously Pte. Johnson was reported as missing, but as nothing was heard of him for some months his friends began to feel that the worst must have befallen. His mother has now received an official statement that he was killed while fighting in France on September 4th, and was buried in a large tomb at Rond de la Reine, Villers Cotterrets.

One of his comrades has written home stating that he was quite close to Private Johnson when he fell, shot through the head. About 250 Guards had been placed in a wood to check the Germans while the main body retreated. They were, however, hopelessly outnumbered, and very few of them came out of the wood alive, but there remains the mournful satisfaction that they, and Pte. Johnson among them, died fighting like British soldiers, of whom their country has cause to be proud.

Pte. Johnson was a first class shot, both with rifle and machine gun, and his section won the machine gun challenge cup for the Aldershot Command in 1913. He served for three years in the 1st Batt. of the Grenadier Guards, and then joined the Great Yarmouth Police Force. He was called to rejoin the colours at the commencement of the war, and was attached to the 2nd Battalion.

As a ringer Pte. F. C. Johnson could ring the treble splendidly, and was just beginning to pick up the inside work when he joined the Army, after which his ringing career was somewhat handicapped, and he never rang a peal. He was a member of the Wrentham company and the Norwich Association, joining the latter in 1911. Of a happy disposition, it was always a pleasure to meet him, and he will be missed by his brother ringers of Wrentham Church, where he was always a welcome figure. Deep sympathy goes out to Pte. Johnson's widowed mother in her sad bereavement.

HERE AND THERE.

REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE.

A paragraph in another column gives the details of no fewer than 106 720's of Minor rung at St. Peter's Church, Bedford, during 1914. As most of these 720's were rung for the Sunday services, it speaks much for the attention of the ringers to their duties. But perusal of the record will show much more than this. These Minor extents were rung in no fewer than 67 different methods (46 Surprise, 16 Treble Bob and Delight, and five Plain)—eloquent testimony to the ability of the company, which includes two ladies, and proof, if it were needed, of what may be done by practice. There were several Sundays when illness near the church necessitated the cessation of ringing, while practice nights have been abandoned since the outbreak of war. Is there any other tower which can boast a better record than this?

* * *

POPULAR LONDON STEEPLEKEEPER ENLISTS.

By-the-way, Mr. Grimes is acting as deputy for the steeplekeeper of St. Margaret's, Westminster, Mr. Jim Davis having joined the Royal Engineers, with which corps he is now stationed at Chatham. Mr. Davis is not new to Army work and campaigning, for he served in the South African War.

DEATH OF MISS MARGERY SAMPSON.

FIRST LADY RINGER IN SCOTLAND.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Miss Margery Fletcher, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Sampson, of Edinburgh, who passed away at the residence of her parents, 21, Craighouse Terrace, on Thursday of last week, at the early age of twenty-four years.

To Miss Sampson belonged the distinction of being the first lady ringer in Scotland, and this is the first gap, we believe, which death has made in the ranks of the Ladies' Guild. The demise of this talented young lady will be a source of sincere sorrow not only in the Guild in which she took such a keen interest, but in Midland ringing circles generally, where Miss Sampson was well known and had many friends. Indeed her greatest activity in connection with ringing was while she was living in that part of England, for she was a member of the band at St. Barnabas', Erdington, near Birmingham, and rang many peals in the district.

She could claim an exceedingly good peal record for a lady, being in fact one of the best exponents of the Art among the fair sex. Her peals ranged from Grandsire Triples to Stedman Cinques, and in July, 1913, she achieved the noteworthy performance of three peals on three successive days, viz., Stedman Cinques, Grandsire Triples and Stedman Triples, while a week or so later she rang her first peal of Major. When she left the Midlands for her home in Scotland she was the recipient of a charming little token of esteem from the Erdington ringers.

As recently as three weeks ago she visited Birmingham again, and the news of her death came as quite a shock to her friends there. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents.

The funeral took place on Monday last.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Preliminary notice has just been issued of the first meeting of the ninth Council (25th annual meeting) to be held on Whitsun Tuesday, May 25th, at The Church House, Westminster. Notices of motion, reports of committtees and other official matter should reach the hon. secretary (the Rev. C. D. P. Davies) not later than April 24th, and Associations who have not yet elected their representatives are requested to do so without delay.

REFUGEES AT OLD YEAR RINGING.

Belgian refugees were among interested spectators of the ringing of the Old Year out and the New Year in at Painswick, Glos.—a belfry which figures prominently in the annals of ringing. Doubtless, the bells reminded the Belgians of the carillons of their own once fair land, and probably stirred again within them—if indeed it had ever died down—their hatred of the "cultured" barbarians who have ravaged their country and destroyed many of their famous bell towers. There is, of course, nothing in common between the operation of tune playing on the bells of Belgium and change ringing on the bells of England, but we feel sure their sounds at Painswick, and, indeed, at all other places where bells were rung, were heard by refugees with very mixed feelings.

UNIQUE PERFORMANCE COMMEMORATED.

UNVEILING OF A PEAL TABLET AT COSELEY.

An exceptional meeting of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford was held at Coseley on Saturday week, when upwards of 150 ringers and friends attended, representing the Stafford and Worcestershire Associations, and St. Martin's (Birmingham) and Dudley Guilds. During the afternoon various methods were rung upon the bells, ranging from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major. New members were enrolled at the committee meeting, including, as an honorary member, the Rev. E. Molloy, Vicar of Shenstone.

At evensong, at which the Society's form of service was used, the Rev. E. V. Cox (clerical secretary) read the lesson, and the Rev. J. Arthur Price (Vicar) gave an eloquent address, taking for his text: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life," Psalm xxiii, 6. During the singing of the hymn, "Be thou my guardian and my guide," the choir, clergy, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Cheshire and six of the band, who rang in the under-mentioned peal, proceeded to the west end of the church, where Mrs. Cheshire unveiled a marblette tablet, framed in oak, recording a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, rung on Monday, November 24th, 1913, it being one of the many rung in honour of Mr. Jas. George's 60th birthday, and also on the 20th anniversary of the first peal of Treble Bob on the bells—on Friday, November 24th, 1893—by the same ringers, the same composition being called, and the peal accomplished the same time. — Mr. W. Rock Small presented the tablet, on behalf of the band, to the Vicar and churchwardens. After the dedication, the hymn, "All people that on earth do dwell," was heartily sung. The service concluded with the singing of a verse of the National Anthem.

The tablet is inscribed as follows:—

The Midland Counties Association and the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham.

On Monday, Nov. 24th, 1913, in 3 hrs. 11 mins., eight members of the above Association and Guild rang upon the bells of this Parish Church.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

5088 Changes, in the Kent Variation.

Benjamin Gough (Coseley)	Treble	John Carter (Birmingham)	5
Harry Mason (Old Hill) ...	2	William Rock Small	6
James Jones (Aston)	3	(Tipton)	
James E. Groves	4	James George (Rugby).....	7
(Birmingham)		John T. Perry .....Tenor	
		(Birmingham)...	

Composed by William Sottanstall, and conducted by John Carter.

This peal was rung on the 20th anniversary of the first peal of Treble Bob Major rung on these bells on Friday, Nov. 24th, 1893, in 3 hrs. 11 mins., by the same ringers and standing in the same order, the composer and conductor also being the same, and these are the only two peals of Treble Bob rung on these bells. It was also rung as a compliment to Mr. James George in honour of his 60th birthday. —J. Arthur Price, M.A., Vicar; W. H. Hawthorne and W. E. F. Marsden, Churchwardens.

The tablet is one of Caspar's special black marblette peal tablets, size 42in. by 25in., the lettering being deeply engraved and gilded, as are also the edges, and polished, and it is framed in a massive oak Oxford frame. It is a most handsome tablet, and worthy of the very unique performance.

A bountiful tea was provided in the schoolroom through the kindness of those who took part in the peal, after which presentations of several oak framed peal cards were made, including one each—photographs of the tablet—to those whose names are engraved on the tablet: one to Mr. and Mrs. John Price, recording a peal of Bob Major rung to celebrate their silver wedding; one to Mrs. J. Arthur Price of a peal of Grandsire Triples rung on the first anniversary of the Vicar's induction; also one of Bob Major, in honour of the dedication festival. The musical portion of the programme was contributed by the Sedgley handbell ringers, with pleasing effect; and by Mr. Harry Withers, in his renowned style, on the dulcimer.

A more detailed report of the interesting proceedings reached us too late for insertion in this week's issue.

ANNIVERSARY.

Last Friday was the 144th anniversary of a peal of 6720 Court Bob Major (probably Norwich Court Bob) rung by the Society of Norwich Scholars at St. Michael Coslany, on January 15th, 1771. Last Wednesday was the 153th anniversary of a 6240 of Oxford Treble Bob Royal rung by the Cumberland Youths at Shoreditch. This peal was the first of that series of long lengths by the rival London Societies in their endeavours to wrest the laurels from one another. The 6240 on January 20th, 1777 was followed by 10,000 by the College Youths on February 19th, 10,200 by the Cumberlands on May 10th, and 11,080 by the College Youths on May 19th, all at Shoreditch. The rivalry in this direction terminated in 1784 with the Cumberlands' 12,000, which stood until last year.

* * *

ALL HONOUR TO THEM.

The feature of our Roll of Honour this week is the inclusion of the names of no fewer than eleven members of the Westbury-on-Severn band, who have given their services to their King and country. Is there any company of ringers who can show a better record than this?

CHRISTMAS RINGING IN AMERICA.

Members of the Boston (Mass.) Guild of Ringers, after having obtained permission, rang at the Church of the Advent, Boston, on Christmas Eve.

These bells have quite recently been overhauled, and prior to this, have not been rung for some years. When Dr. A. H. Nichols returned to America, after having become interested in change ringing while in England, he obtained one or two English ringers in the locality, and several "green" hands, to ring on this peal of bells, with the result that permission was refused for the bells to be rung again. At last, however, arrangements were made to once more ring the bells, but with the available material in and around Boston, it is still very difficult to get good striking.

The condition of the ropes helped to make ringing hard work when the band met there on Christmas Eve, and only rounds were rung. On Christmas morning, however, the ringers again met in the same tower, and a very well-struck 120 of Grandsire Doubles was rung by: J. Goodhead 1, E. E. Randall (conductor) 2, W. Bashford 3, P. J. Allfrey 4, J. F. Laker 5, R. Newton 6. On the Thursday evening, Mrs. Margaret H. Shurtliff and D. F. Gibbons also rang, in addition to the above.

Hingham was visited in the afternoon, but no good ringing was obtained. The Hingham tower is very exposed to the weather, and after a heavy fall of snow, and the glass working towards zero, the bells seemed to go anything but well. Ringers know that bells require constant care, and except when the tower is visited by the ringers from Boston these bells get little attention. A well-struck course of Bob Major was rung on handbells, and also a course of Grandsire Triples, the following ringing in each case: E. E. Randall 1—2, P. J. Allfrey 3—4, R. Newton 5—6, J. F. Laker 7—8. D. T. Gibbons also rang on the tower bells.

KEIGHLEY BELLS RECAST.

The peal of eight bells at Keighley, Yorks, have been recast and rehung, and, to the delight of the parishioners and ringers they are again fulfilling their exalted duty "Midway 'twixt the earth and sky." Some of the bells were cast over 150 years ago, and others were added at different times. Now they have all been into the melting pot, and have come out with a tenor of 16 cwts. 3 qrs. 20 lbs. in F, the total weight of the peal being 64 cwt. 2 qrs. 25 lbs. The work of restoration was entrusted to Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, who, in addition to recasting the bells, have hung them in cast-iron H frames erected on steel girders, the cost having been close on £500. The bells were dedicated by the Rector (the Rev. L. S. Robinson) at a largely attended service, at which he preached an appropriate sermon.

On a recent occasion a cordial invitation was extended to the ringers of the district to try the bells, and about 60 were present from Silsden, Kildwick, Skipton, Gargrave, Bingley, Shipley, Guiseley, Ilkley, Haworth, Oxenhope, and Queensbury. The visitors were entertained to a knife and fork tea, kindly provided by the churchwardens, and the opinion was expressed, after the afternoon's experiences in the belfry, that the tone and easy "go" of the bells could not be improved upon. Mr. Johnston, senr., was present, and the warm praise that was passed upon the workmanship must have been extremely gratifying to him. During the day—the bells were open from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.—touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major were rung.

The bells, which are tuned on the Simpson five-tone principle, and are supplied with all new fittings throughout, have the following inscriptions:—

Treble.—John Spencer, Geo. Richardson, Wm. Newsholme, Wm. Smith, Churchwardens. Thomas Mears and Son of London, Fecit. Church Rebuilt, 1805. Recast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1914.

2.—John Spencer, Geo. Richardson, Wm. Newsholme, Wm. Smith, Churchwardens. Thomas Mears and Son of London, Fecit. Steeple Raised 1806. Recast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1914.

3, 4, 5 and 6. Lester and Pack of London, Fecit, 1761. Recast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1914.

7.—The Rev. Theodore Dury, Rector. Wm. Laycock, J. Cawood, L. Calvert, S. Wood, Churchwardens. T. Mears of London, Fecit, 1816. Recast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1914.

Tenor.—Chapman and Mears of London, Fecerunt, 1783. Recast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1914. The peal of eight bells was recast at the expense of the parishioners, 1914. Ludovick Stewart Robinson, Rector. Joseph Emmott, William Beecroft Naylor, Newman King, John William Darling, Churchwardens

A GOOD PERFORMANCE.

It is a distinctly good performance for a youthful ringer of 16½ years to score his first peal by ringing an "inside" pair to a peal of Bob Major "in hand," and Mr. Cecil J. Matthews, son of Mr. J. D. Matthews, is to be congratulated upon his achievement. The peal is the more interesting, in that the young man's father and sister took part in it, and it was called by the former. There is another boy in the family, and from what we have heard we expect to see a family peal soon, for father, daughter and two sons have already rung well over half-way. Here's "to the day"!

TORONTO TENOR BELL.

Note A. Weight 60 cwt. 1 qr. 9 lbs.

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The above is the largest bell of the carillon of 21 bells which is now being erected by our men at the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto, Canada. The weight of the smallest bell is 1 cwt. 1 qr. 8 lbs, Note A. and the total weight of the 21 bells is 265½ cwt. The "WARNER" self-aligning headstock for chimes is fitted to all the bells, with the exception of the Tenor, which has a ringing headstock and special balanced clapper and also the "WARNER" self-aligning, self-lubricating, oil ring bearings, Type G (Patent No 18896).

NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Ringing for Divine service at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields the first Sunday in the month, and at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, the third Sunday, both at 10 o'clock. Meetings for practice at Shoreditch every third Monday at 8 p.m.—H. J. Bradley, Parish Church, Shoreditch.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society, Established 1824).—Southern District.—The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, at St. Mary's, Rotherhithe. Tower open from 4 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Business Meeting at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Room adjoining church.—F. A. Smith, Hon. Sec., 86, Gaskarth Road, Balham Hill, S.W.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (Established 1824).—North District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, 1915, at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, E.C. The tower will be open for ringing from 5.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Business meeting at 8.15 p.m. at the "Citizen," Houndsditch. All ringers and friends cordially welcomed. — L. Porter, Honorary Secretary, 1, Canonbury Mansions, N.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual meeting at Shoreditch, January 23rd. Tower open 2.30.—H. J. Bradley, Shoreditch Church.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Bromley (SS. Peter and Paul) on Saturday, January 30th. Tower open at 3.30 p.m. Divine service at 5.30 p.m. and address by the Rev. Canon Donald Tait, who will also provide tea for those who send their names to me not later than Tuesday, January 26th; business meeting to follow. Subscriptions are now due and should be paid at this meeting. —T. Groombridge, Hon. District Secretary, 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Tonbridge on Saturday, January 30th, 1915. Tower open at 3. Committee meeting at 4. Service in church at 5. Tea at 5.45, followed by the general meeting. All members intending to attend must notify the district secretary not later than Tuesday, January 26th.—W. Latter, Hon. District Secretary, 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late the St. James' Society, established 1824). — The Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 30th. The Tower of St. Dunstan's, St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, Eastcheap, City, will be open for ringing from 4.45 p.m. to 7 p.m. The business meeting will be held at 7.30.—T. H. Taffender, Master, for General Secretary, 10, Northlands Street, Camberwell Street.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. —Axbridge Deanery Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Weston-super-Mare on Saturday, January 30th, bells available 2 p.m. Service at Parish Church at 4 p.m. Tea at Glass's Restaurant, Regent Street, at 5 p.m. Meeting to follow.—J. Harris, 10, Eton Road, Burnham, Hon. Local Secretary.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A meeting for practice will take place at Pershore, on Saturday, January 30th. Bells available. St. Andrew's (6) from 3 p.m. till 5.30; The Abbey (8) 7 p.m. till 8.30.—J. Hemming, Branch Secretary.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Bridgwater Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Bridgwater, on Saturday, January 23rd. St. Mary's bells available from 2 p.m. Service at Holy Trinity Church, 4 p.m. Tea, Holy Trinity Parish Hall at 5, meeting to follow.—W. G. Sellick, Branch Secretary.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — A quarterly meeting will be held at the Bell Foundry, Loughborough, on Saturday, January 30th. Committee meeting at 3.30, tea and general meeting at 4. The Foundry peal will be available for ringing until 6 o'clock, after that handbell ringing only. Messrs. Taylor & Co. are generously providing the tea for those who notify them not later than January 23rd of their intention to be present.—W. E. White, Hon. Secretary.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual meeting will be held at Southgate (by kind permission of the Rev. C. F. Peploe), on Saturday, January 30th. Bells available from 3.30. Short service at 5.30. Tea at the Cherry Tree at 6 o'clock, 6d. to members who inform me by the 27th inst. of their intention to be present.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Secretary, 49, Wood Street, Walthamstow.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. – The annual meeting will be held at Halifax on Saturday, January 30th. For particulars see circular sent to each local branch. Important to life members: There is now no distinction between "single" and "double" star members, and all life-members are now entitled to a Report on payment of 1s. (postage 2d. extra). Application should be made to the District Secretary. Non-residents may, if desired, apply to me.—Clement Glenn, Hon. Gen. Secretary, 11, Fisher Road, Sheffield.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Grantham on Saturday, January 30th. The bells of St. Wulfram's Church (10) are available for ringing from 1 to 7.30 p.m. Short service in the church at 4 p.m. Tea will be provided at the Dairy Company's Cafe, Westgate, at 4.45, tickets 1s. 6d. each. Business meeting to follow tea. Visitors and friends will receive a hearty welcome. Will all those requiring tea please notify Mr. W. G. Thorpe, 25, Manners Street, Grantham, not later than Wednesday, January 27th.—S. Proctor, Branch Secretary.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wraxall on Saturday, February 6th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30. Tea at 5.15. Business meeting to follow.—George Yeo, Hon. Local Secretary.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held, by kind permission of the Vicar (Rev. J. H. Champion McGill) at Isleworth, on Saturday, February 6th. Bells available from 3 o'clock, tea in the Hartlands Road Mission Hall at 5 o'clock, by kind invitation of Mrs. Gill. Members and friends heartily welcome. Members are reminded that all outstanding subscriptions should be paid by the date of meeting. — H. C. Chandler, Hon. Secretary, Heston, Hounslow.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual general meeting will be held at Bray on Saturday, February 6th. Service 4.45. Tea and business to follow. Bells will be rung before and after service. Tea will be provided only for those sending their names to me not later than February 1st.—Rev. P. Gordon Levy, 49, All Saints' Avenue, Maidenhead.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

DEATH.

SAMPSON.—At 21, Craighouse Terrace, Edinburgh, on the 14th inst., Margery Fletcher, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. B. Sampson.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.—Splendid set of 12 bells in C with extra bell (size 18 in G), just overhauled, equal to new.—W. Page, 37, St. John's, Worcester.

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

VISITORS TO BRISTOL will find every convenience and moderate charges at Mr. Ponton's, Admiral Duncan, Nicholas Street, Bristol. Headquarters of the Bristol Ringers.

RINGERS and visitors to Matlock will find every comfort and convenience at Mrs. H. Paulson's, Beech House,

ANNUAL DINNER AT SALEHURST.

The Salehurst (Sussex) Society, following their usual custom, rang the bells of St. Mary's Church, at intervals throughout New Year's Day, concluding with a well-struck quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 48 mins.: J. Goodsell 1, F. Morgan 2, W. Cramp 3, W. Hoad 4, W. Thomas 5, W. Franks 6, P. Booth (conductor) 7, C. Peacock (first quarter-peal) 8.

At the annual dinner, which followed, the chair was taken by Mr. F. Hudson, in the unavoidable absence of the Vicar (the Rev. C. E. Ward), and the churchwardens (Mr. F. T. Willsher and Mr. L. J. Hodson). An apology for absence was also received from Mr. W. Taylor.

After ample justice had been done to an excellent repast provided by Host and Hostess Kirby, of the Old Eight Bells Inn, the Chairman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were duly honoured.

The Chairman also proposed "The Bell Ringers," and said how much the parishioners were indebted to them for the way in which they carried out their duties. Bells, he continued, were used for nearly everything in our national life. All were sorry for the dreadful war in which we were taking part, and would be pleased when the bells rang out the tiding of "Peace."—He coupled with the toast the name of Mr. P. Booth, who said it had been a pleasure to him to have been able to keep the ringers together, owing to the great number of men who had entered the Army. He hoped those ringers who had joined would be spared to return safely.

"The Visitors" was submitted by Mr. T. Booth, and, in response, Mr. F. Franks (Battle) said he thought he felt more like one of the company than a visitor, for he had been with them for many years. He was pleased to think that there existed such a happy union between the ringers of Salehurst and Battle, and hoped that all the members of both bands might be spared for many years to come.

The "Host and Hostess" was next given by Mr. F. Hudson, and the toast was received with three hearty cheers, Mr. Kirby responding.

During the evening songs were contributed by Messrs. W. Franks, G. Peacock, T. Booth, J. Goodsell and F. Morgan, while Mr. F. Hudson gave selections on his gramophone, and the Salehurst handbell ringers and W. Thomas (Battle) tunes on their handbells.

The National Anthem brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

LEWES, SUSSEX.—At Southover Church, on December 27th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: G. Slark 1, R. Hyde 2, G. Piper 3, F. Sturt 4, A. J. Turner 5, R. J. Dawe 6, J. S. Goldsmith (conductor) 7, G. W. Moppett 8. Also two courses of Bob Major, with G. Richardson 1.

MIDSOMER NORTON.—At St. John the Baptist's Church, on Sunday, December 27th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins.: I. B. Holmyard 1, S. Freke 2, J. Hambleton 3, E. Chivers (first quarter-peal as conductor) 4, F. Chivers 5, R. Jones 6, F. Speed 7, W. Keevill 8.

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