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, 1915.
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.

REPORTS AND THEIR USES.

The reports presented to the various associations at the annual meetings usually make interesting reading, for in them we get an instructive summary of what has been done during the year, and, if it is put sometimes in a matter of fact style, it does not detract from the utility of the information, which is a guide to the activities of the organisation concerned. But in aiming at conciseness, the writers of these "official" reports sometimes lose valuable opportunity of enlarging upon the good and substantial work that has been done, when a more detailed statement might show that the accomplishments of the year are even more valuable than are generally known. On the other hand, some of the reports presented at annual meetings are very complete in detail, and set a capital standard which other societies might, perhaps, follow with advantage. The fuller the information which is given on points of real interest, the keener are the members on the doings of their society. But there is another side to the use of these reports, whether they come from a committee, a master, or a secretary, which is largely overlooked. Very few of these documents ever contain reference to anything beyond what has been done. That, admittedly, is the first object of a report, but there seems also a valuable opportunity, through this channel, of putting forward matters which would give members food for thought and ideas for action. If we may give an illustration of what we mean, we would point to the way in which the Hon. Secretary of the Herts County Association, in his report at the annual meeting, took up the very important and practical question of the care of bells. By bringing subjects like this to the direct notice of their members, association officials would render a great service to the organisations they serve and to the cause of ringing generally. They can point the way to improvements and probably stir into activity those who may have an inclination to let things drift.

Subjects which are really of vital interest to ringers could be brought before them and kept to the front by this means, while matters for actual discussion at district or branch meetings would be provided. As a rule the business at these gatherings is nearly always very brief and very formal. This may be to the liking of those who desire to spend all their available time in the belfry, but it is not always in the best interests of the organisation by which ringing societies are run. Subjects of interest ought to be discussed at these meetings, when there is more opportunity of getting representative opinion than at an annual general meeting, at which there is usually much to be done and little time to do it in. And it is in the direction of providing suggestive material for these discussions that the reports of committees and others could well be utilised.

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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JOHN NICOLL,

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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.

TEN BELL PEAL.

DUDLEY.

THE ST. THOMAS' GUILD FOR DUDLEY AND DISTRICTS

On Saturday, April 21, 1917, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt., in E flat.

JAMES E. GROVES*	*Treble*	MORRIS J. MORRIS	6
GEORGE PIGOTT	2	SAMUEL GROVE	7
HERBERT KNIGHT	3	BENJAMIN GOUGH	8
HARRY MASON	4	JAMES GEORGE...	9
WILLIAM FISHER	5	JOHN GOODMAN, JUNR. ...	*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

Rung as a compliment to Mr. Harry Mason, it being his first peal as Ringing Master of this Guild. The above band includes the Ringing Masters of five different guilds and societies.

Mr. Mason very kindly entertained the company to tea after the peal.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 14, 1917, in One Hour and Forty-nine Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF SS. PETER AND PAUL'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's called differently.

ARTHUR SYMONDS	1—2	*STANLEY SMITH	4
*FREDERICK BOREHAM ...	3	CHARLES POULSON ...	5—6

Conducted by A. SYMONDS.

* First peal.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Monday, April 16, 1917, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH HOUSE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor, 17 size in B flat.

FRANK W. PERRENS ...	1—2	JAMES E. GROVES ...	7—8
THOMAS RUSSAM	3—4	GEORGE F. SWANN ...	9—10
ALBERT WALKER	5—6	JAMES GEORGE	11—12

Composed and Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

Rung on the 60th birthday anniversary of Mr. Joseph Johnson (younger son of the late Mr. Henry Johnson), who acted as referee.

LONDON.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE SPITALFIELDS BELL FOUNDRY GUILD.

On Thursday, April 19, 1917, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE SPITALFIELDS BELL FOUNDRY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

JAMES HUNT	1—2	FRANK SMITH...	5—6
EDGAR WIGHTMAN	3—4	WILLIAM J. NUDDS... ...	7—8

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS, and Conducted by EDGAR WIGHTMAN

Witness: MR. W. A. GREENING.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Bedford District of this Association was held at St. Peter's Church, Bedford, on Saturday week, when there was a very satisfactory muster of ringers, including three of the ladies from Willington; Miss Smith, of Elstow; and Misses D. and E. Steel, of Bedford. The bells were raised at 6 p.m., and touches of Grandsire Doubles, Bob Minor, Kent, Cambridge, and London Surprise Minor, were rung.

Mr. H. L. Harlow was elected as secretary, in place of Mr. W. Stapleton, and it was decided that the committee should remain the same for another year. Willington was selected for the next meeting.

After the business, the handbells were brought into use, and a course of Grandsire Caters was rung by: L. Harlow 1—2, W. Stapleton 3—4, C. W. Clarke 5—6, Pte Widdowson 7—8, E. Tingey 9—10.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, April 19, 1917, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

WILLIAM H. LIDBETTER	*Treble*	CHARLES S. BIRD	5
HENRY C. CHANDLER... ...	2	*ALBERT BECKENSALE ...	6
CHARLES J. TRICKER	3	WILLIAM SHEPHERD ...	7
THOMAS BEADLE...	4	ALFRED SHEARD ...	*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM SHEPHERD.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to the Rev. J. H. Champion McGill, Vicar of Isleworth, who died, after a brief illness, on April 12th, and was buried at Shore, near Chippenham, Wilts, on April 19th. * First peal away from the tenor.

RINGING CLERGYMAN MARRIED.

On Wednesday, the 18th inst., at the Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield, the marriage took place of Miss Dorothy F. Barnard, only child of the Rector and Rural Dean of Sutton Coldfield (Rev. Canon Barnard), and the Rev. Alexander Cory, C.F., only son of the Rev. A. A. Cory, J.P., Rector of Yoxall.

For three years until recently the bridegroom was one of the curates of Portsea, but has just been appointed a Chaplain of the Forces. The reverend gentleman takes a great interest in the ringers and their work in the church, and on more than one occasion, when he has visited Sutton Coldfield, the ringers have been delighted with his presence in the tower, and the able manner in which he can place the 24 cwt. tenor behind Stedman Triples makes those who have had the privilege of ringing with him, feel that the ringing clergy have here an addition to their ranks worthy of the distinguished clergymen past and present, who have done so much for the Exercise, and assisted in raising the tone of our belfries to the recognised position they hold in the church to-day. The Rev. A. Cory has chosen for his bride a delightful lady, the daughter of parents to whom Midland ringers, and especially those of King's Norton and Sutton Coldfield, owe so much.

The ringers of the latter church decided that a peal suitable for the occasion should be rung, but unfortunately they have had the worst of bad luck. As the bridal party was leaving the church, a touch of 336 Stedman Triples was successfully brought round, conducted by Mr. F. Dickins. After the time-honoured "clanging" had taken place, a start was made for the late Sir A. P. Heywood's "Variation," and all went merrily for 1,850 changes, when the clapper broke out of the tenor. Not to be beaten, 1,008 Stedman Triples were rung on seven, conducted by Mr. G. F. Swann. It was also decided that if the repair could be completed by Saturday, another attempt should be made for the peal. Accordingly, Mr. Godden, of Birmingham, was "rung up," and the situation explained. The energetic Ringing Master of the St. Martin's Guild (Mr. J. E. Groves) was promptly on the scene, and repairs were completed by Friday, enabling another start to be made for the peal on Saturday afternoon. This, however, also ended in disappointment, owing, in the writer's opinion, to over-confidence. It was thought this particular band could not miss Stedman Triples, but (who would have thought it!) after one hour's good ringing, a bell was wanted in 4—5, at the same time another was being told to get out of the slow—the unexpected had happened, with the obvious result.

The ringers were the recipients of a very substantial present from the bridegroom, for which they desire, through "The Ringing World," to express their thanks, and tender the Rev. and Mrs. Cory the best wishes for many years of happiness, some of which, the ringers trust will be spent at Sutton Coldfield.

ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY.

The last quarterly meeting of the society's year was held at Wednesbury, on Saturday, April 14th. The attendance, although not large, was fairly representative. The bells were made good use of during the afternoon and evening, and among the methods rung was a touch of Cambridge Surprise Major. A short service was held in church, when the Rev. T. H. P. Hyatt (Vicar) delivered a helpful address, taking for his text, 'Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us by the way?" Luke xxiv., 32.

Tea was served in the Schoolroom, at which the Vicar presided.—A vote of thanks was accorded him for his address, the use of the bells etc., and to the ladies who assisted at the tea tables.

The question of united practices was discussed, and it was ultimately agreed they should be held fortnightly, at various towers, on Saturday afternoons, beginning with St. Peter's, Wolverhampton (12), on May 5th; Coseley (8), May 19th; Christ Church, West Bromwich (12), June 2nd; Tipton (8), June 16th; all at 4 o'clock. Arrangements are being made for the annual meeting to take place on June 30th, at St. Peter's Wolverhampton.

AMONG MIDDLESEX TOWERS.

A BANK HOLIDAY EXCURSION.

Had you mounted the steps of Acton tower shortly after mid-day on Easter Monday you would have found a goodly number of ringers assembled. The occasion was a "trip" organised by a member of St. Stephen's band, West Ealing, where permission had been given to ring, but a case of serious illness quite close to the church prevented any ringing, both on the festival of Easter and the following day. A start was, therefore, made at Acton, where touches were rung in several methods; Grandsire Triples was conducted by R. Holloway (the leader in the tower), with Miss Winifred Cooper ringing the treble in fine style; Stedman by J. Evans (Hughenden), followed by some Bob Major, and Kent Treble Bob Major. After the ringing, at Acton, an inexpensive journey on the L.U.E.T. took the party to Christ Church, Ealing Broadway, where, by the kind intervention of Mr. C. Phillips, the use of the bells was obtained from the Rural Dean. Further additions to the company were made here—indeed, it reminded one of a river with its tributaries, for as each tower was visited, so did fresh arrivals appear upon the scene. We had now with us Messrs. H. Miles (Kensington) and J. Driver (Fulham), and the result was a good touch of Double Norwich, which was conducted by the last-named ringer. At this tower Miss Gudgin and the Misses Cooper (2) rang together, but as the ropes are a local production, they are very heavy and stiff, and have unusually large "sallies," so that it is not an easy matter for ladies to handle them.

Another short spin on a tramcar, and the "Iron Bridge," which spans the main Uxbridge Road, near Southall, was reached. There was at this point, until the spring of 1906, a bridge, or rather a complication of bridges, a clever design of the famous engineer Brunel. On the south side of the roadway stood three huge octagonal brick pillars, which were felled by the use of a powerful explosive, when the fine new girder bridge, which obliquely spans the roadway, was placed in position. Near by is a very curious and clever piece of construction which is known as the "Triple Bridge." Here the canal and roadway pass over at one point of intersection the railway line; for the canal runs under the roadway and above the G.W.R. branch line to Brentford. This was closely examined as it was passed during the short and pleasant walk to Norwood Green, where the light peal of six (tenor 7 cwt.) was soon afterwards going to Bob Minor and Kent Treble Bob.

After the ringing, and a short spin on "shank's pony," we reached a welcome part of the programme, for ringing and walking sharpen the appetite, and Host Norton, of the Rose and Crown, at Heston, had, as previously arranged, provided tea for the travellers. Thanks are due to W. Emmett for going on his "hike" to let the host know exactly how many to provide for. W. H. Fussell rang some excellent changes on the tea-pots and milk-jugs, and the cups and saucers hunted "up" and "down" the table in true form. Miss Jones arrived about tea-time, and although all the sugar and cakes were gone, she rang the tenor in the church tower just as well afterwards. The usual variety of methods were practised, and we were joined by Mr. S. Carter, of the local band, who conducted a capital touch of Stedman.

The company numbered twenty—good for war time—and included, beyond those already mentioned: Messrs. G. T. Leader and T. S. Smith (Slough), W. Henley (Farnham Royal), W. Horne (Wycombe), Sergt. Verrels (Tunbridge Wells), J. Fruin (Acton), A. Evans (Hughenden), C. Edwards, A. Harding, and W. Lawrence (West Ealing). We must not forget that the very best thanks are due to the Rural Dean, and the Vicars of Acton, Norwood Green and Heston, for the use of the bells at their respective churches. W. L.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A MEMORIAL UNVEILED.

On Saturday week a gathering of the Manchester Branch took place at Worsley, to do honour to the memory of the late Mr. Fred Derbyshire, by the unveiling of a tablet. The Rector (the Rev. C. B. Hulton, M.A.) opened the proceedings with prayers, after which he paid a fine tribute to the handiwork of Mr. Derbyshire, which was to be seen on the walls of St. Mark's tower.

The President of the Association (the Rev. H. J. Elsee, M.A.), having been introduced by the Rector, said he felt grateful in being asked to perform the duty of unveiling the memorial tablet to the late Mr. Derbyshire, and thought it was doubly fitting in Easter week, to look at the past with affection, but forward in hope of a sure meeting again.—Churchwarden Carr spoke appreciatively of Mr. Derbyshire's work, and Mr. Derbyshire (son) expressed the thanks of the family at the kindness shown to the memory of his father.

Manchester Cathedral was chosen as the next meeting-place, on May 5th.

Ringers were present from the many towers of the branch, and also from the neighbouring branch of Bolton, to pay a last tribute to their departed friend.

Ringing was indulged in afterwards, touches of Grandsire, Kent, Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Superlative, being rung.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector and local ringers for the use of the bells, etc., and the Rector suitably replied

MEARS & STAINBANK,

Foundry Established A.D. 1570.

Bellfounders & Bellhangers,

32 & 34, Whitechapel Road,

LONDON, E.

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

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rehanging, Retuning and Recasting.

Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

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

SERGT. S. A. WRIGHT'S DEATH.

BRILLIANT CAREER CUT SHORT.

We regret to have to record the death, from pneumonia, of Sergt. Sidney Arthur Wright, whilst on active service on the Western front, on the 1st March last; and the sympathy of members of the Kent and Surrey Associations especially will go out to Mr. David Wright, who not only thus loses his only son, but who has just sustained a further bereavement in the death of his wife.

Sergt. Wright was born at Aldershot on June 20th, 1882, and was, therefore, in his 35th year. He learned to ring under his father's tuition, at Westerham; but on becoming a student at St. Mark's College, Chelsea, became a member of St. Mary Abbot's Society, Kensington, where, under the guidance of Mr. Garrard, he soon became a first-class ringer, and rang many peals with that excellent company. Soon after leaving college, he was appointed a science master at Morpeth Grammar School, Northumberland, of which he also became head music master, and he was also organist at St. George's Presbyterian Church, Morpeth.

He had been for some years a cyclist in the 25th Middlesex Territorials, attaining the rank of colour-sergeant, and consequently on the outbreak of war he became engaged in dispatch riding for the military authorities. Subsequently he was employed at the War Office, where his linguistic ability found scope for some time. Eventually he joined the regiment of Scots Guards, in which his territorial experience soon gained for him non-commissioned rank; and, after serving in an administrative capacity for some time, he was drafted to France in October last. He leaves a widow and three young children.

The following is a summary of the peals he had rung, so far as they can be ascertained, one of which (Stedman Triples) he conducted: Kent Treble Bob Royal 2, Kent Treble Bob Major 3, Double Norwich Caters 3, Double Norwich Major 4, London Surprise Major 1, Superlative Major 2, Stedman Caters 4, Stedman Triples 9, Grandsire Triples 2: total, 30.

Mr. David Wright desires to thank his many ringing friends who have so kindly sent him messages of sympathy.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

Christ Church, Erith, band, have lost a fellow member, in Pte Barton Young, who died of wounds on April 10th. Deceased was also a member of the choir, and had just made a start with ringing when he had to "join up." A memorial service was held on Sunday evening, and afterwards a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung, with the bells half-muffled, by: R.S.M. G. Harris 1, J. Cullum 2, H. Holden 3, F. J. Cullum, junr., 4, G. Cullum 5, J. Lowry 6, F. J. Cullum, senr. (conductor), 7, E. Martin 8.

WOUNDED.

Corpl. L. H. Moore, of Pill, near Bristol, and serving with the 1st Lincoln Regiment, was wounded in France on the 11th inst. He is now in hospital at Bradford.

RINGING WYKEHAMISTS.

To the change ringing Wykehamists, mentioned in our paragraph last week, should be added the names of the following: The late Rev. F. E. Robinson, the late Dr. A. B. Carpenter, the Rev. A. Du B. Hill, and Mr. F. A. Milne, hon. treas. of the Middlesex County Association.

WRITTLE BELLS DEDICATED.

AN ESSEX RING RESTORED.

The dedication of the bells at All Saints' Church, Writtle, took place on Saturday, April 7th, by the Lord Bishop of Chelmsford, but owing to the event falling in Holy Week, there was no ringing except a few rounds immediately following the dedication.

The service was very impressive, consisting of shortened evensong, and part of the service as set out in the Essex Association service paper. During the singing of the hymn, "Lifted high within the steeple," the Bishop and the choir proceeded to the west end of the church below the bells, and the Vicar's warden (Dr. R. N. Arnold Wallinger) handed the ropes to the Bishop, requesting him to dedicate the bells to the Glory of God and for the use of the church. The Bishop, receiving the rope, then dedicated the bells, and while the choir and clergy were returning to their places, the bells were rung in rounds by members of the local company. The Bishop then delivered an address, following which the hymn, "Hark on high the joyful music," was sung.

The work of restoration has been carried out by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and the following inscription on the tenor bell gives the details of the work:—

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo."

"This bell and the 6th were recast in 1811, and again during the great war in 1916, when the other six bells were quarter-turned and rehung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, London."

E. S. Grover, Vicar; R. N. Arnold Wallinger, Thomas Williams, Churchwardens.

The inscription on 6th is:—

"This bell was recast in 1811, and again in 1916.

"The cost of the belfry work in 1916 was defrayed by accumulated interest from the Church Lands and Mrs. Stackpool's Funds."

THREE BELLS RECAST AND OLD ONES TUNED.

The work, carried out by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank in a manner that fully maintains the great reputation of the famous firm, and is a happy augury for the future, under the direction of Messrs. A. A. and L. Hughes, includes the recasting of the 2nd, 6th, and tenor, and the tuning of the old peal under the tuning machine. In addition the five old bells were quarter turned, and the whole peal rehung with entirely new fittings. The headstocks are of cast iron, and the bearings on the two tenors are self-lubricating. The old frame, which is of massive construction, has been fitted with vertical bolts, and angle plates have been fitted to the corners of each pit. Steel girders have also been placed under the belfry floor beams as additional support. The excellent manner in which the restoration has been carried out has given the greatest satisfaction to the authorities and all the ringers who have since tried the bells.

On Easter Sunday morning, for the early service, a short touch of Grandsire Triples was rung, and for the 11 o'clock service a long touch of Stedman Triples, whilst for evensong, at 6.30 a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung, by: R. Wood 1, F. W. Edwards 2, T. Lincoln 3, F. G. Radley 4, Pte C. Sharples (2/4 Yorks) 5, A. Head 6, W. Lincoln (conductor) 7, W. Emery 8. All of these, with the exception of Pte Sharples, who hails from Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire, are members of the local company.

On Easter Monday the district meeting of the Essex Association, South-Eastern Division, was held, and there was a very good attendance, members attending from Boreham, Braintree, Great Bentley, Chelmsford, Kelvedon, London, Great Totham, Leytonstone, Rayne, Rettenden, Widford, and all the members of the local company. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening included: Double Norwich, Superlative, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob Major, and Stedman and Grandsire Triples.

Service was held at 5 o'clock, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. E. S. Grover), who gave an instructive address on the bells.

The tea and business meeting followed, at which Messrs. S. H. Auger and T. B. Fairhead were elected as probationary ringers to the local company.

Great Waltham was selected as the place for the next meeting to be held in July.—Mr. C. H. Howard explained that so far as he could see, the annual meeting would be held as usual, but due notice would be given in the "Ringing World."

BELL FOUNDERS CONGRATULATED.

The Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, General Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar for allowing the use of the bells, for his excellent address, and for presiding at the tea and meeting.—In reply, the Vicar said he was glad to welcome the ringers to Writtle, especially as they were unable to come on the last occasion, owing to the absence of the bells. It was a fitting occasion on which to come, and he trusted they had found the bells the better for the work which had been done to them. He proposed a vote of congratulation to the firm of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank for the excellent manner in which they carried out the work, which was a great success. The bells had been recast in 1811 by the same firm, and since that time nothing had really been done to the bells, which for the past forty years had been in continual use.

Mr. A. A. Hughes, representing the firm, in thanking the Vicar for his remarks, said he was very sorry that the bells had been so long in hand, but this had been due to war work. He was glad that they were satisfied with the bells, and that the work was a success.

Mr. C. H. Howard, J.P., Master of the Association, proposed a vote of thanks to the churchwardens for their presence. He said it was not often they were able to get them to attend those gatherings. He also endorsed what the Vicar had said regarding the bells and the founders. These bells had always been reckoned as one of the best peals in the county, and Writtle as a place to come to if they wished to improve their ringing. He (Mr. Howard) had often walked over to Writtle on a Sunday evening, and felt it an honour if he had been allowed to ring a few rounds, and anyone was always sure of a hearty welcome. The success of the company was due to the manner in which they had pulled together, and to Mr. W. Lincoln in his ability to instruct the recruits. Writtle had been the birthplace of the Essex Association, and he was glad that such a good muster had been got together on that occasion. The bells were a fine peal of eight, and would make a splendid peal of ten, and the tenor bell would stand two trebles being added, so that if anyone wished to perpetuate their memory, there was a splendid opportunity.

Mr. T. Williams, on behalf of his brother warden and himself, thanked Mr. Howard for his kind words, and endorsed what he had said regarding Mr. Lincoln, and the local company.

The members then adjourned to the tower for further ringing.

Cigarettes were kindly provided for the ringers by Mrs. Grover.

ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

The spring quarterly meeting was held at St. Mary Magdalene, Holloway, on Saturday last, when a good number of members turned up, despite the many other calls on the time of those still left behind to hold the bells in readiness for the return of the "boys." The Vicar, who takes a great interest in the tower of his church, gave a look in shortly after the commencement of ringing, and cordially welcomed the members. Ringing comprised touches of Stedman, Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Superlative, and London.

At the subsequent meeting, held in the Vestry, it was decided to make application for Heston tower for the summer meeting.

A long discussion took place on the rules, dealing with the financial side of the society's operations, and eventually, on the motion of Mr. B. Foskett, seconded by Mr. Bevan, it was decided to defer the matter till the next annual meeting.

Votes of condolence were passed in the usual way with the widow and relatives of the late Mr. Brightman, of Highgate, and the parents of Lance-Corpl. Dewey, of Redhill.

The secretary having to "join up" early in May, the members were hard put to it to find a capable substitute for what is hoped will prove but a short and temporary absence. Eventually Mr. J. Parker, of Edmonton, was prevailed upon to accept the office pro tem.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar for the use of bells, and Mr. F. Smith for having everything in readiness, terminated another successful "war quarterly."

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

There was a very meagre attendance at the meeting of the Swindon Branch, which was held at Stratton St. Margaret last Saturday. Nevertheless those who were present spent a most enjoyable time.—The Vicar, the Rev. S. Denton, gave the visitors a hearty welcome and was much interested in the ringing, which took place during the afternoon. An excellent tea was provided at the Church Institute, and was greatly appreciated.

A short business meeting followed, Mr. F. W. Selby presiding.—One new member was elected, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Chippenham, on May 19th. It was also arranged to visit Lechlade or Bishopstone on Saturday, May 5th, provided permission to ring is granted.—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar for his kind welcome, and to Mrs. Moulden, Miss Moulden and Mrs. Sperring, for their kindness in arranging such a splendid tea.

ST. MAGNUS' RESTORATION.

The well-known peal of ten at St. Magnus-the-Martyr, London Bridge, have just been overhauled by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank and the result is that the bells are now in first-rate going order. The tenor, 4th, 3rd and treble, have been rehung with entirely new fittings, and the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th have been lifted out, and their gudgeons and bearings turned afresh, and refitted. A trial run was given to the bells last Saturday evening, when a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters was rung by the following band of College Youths: E. Horrex 1, C. H. Horton 2, W. T. Cockerell 3, T. Walker 4, H. R. Pasmore (conductor) 5, T. Langdon 6, A. A. Hughes 7, C. Burden 8, R. Sanders 9, A. S. Pettitt 10.

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.—Oxford Guild.—At the Parish Church, on Easter Day, for evensong, 1306 Stedman Cinques, in 62 mins.: F. Hayes (conductor) 1, C. C. Mayne 2, Gunner G. Hinton, R.F.A., 3, G. White 4, J. W. Wilkins 5, F. K. Biggs 6, E. Markham 7, W. Phipps 8, W. Horne 9, J. Blackmore 10, J. Gransbury 11, A. J. Hoing (first quarter-peal on twelve bells) 12.

THE BELLS OF CLUN.

RESTORATION FUND COMPLETED.

At the Clun (Shropshire) Vestry meeting last week, the most interesting part of the proceedings was the presentation of the accounts and balance sheet of the restoration of the church tower, clock and bells completed in 1914. The total expenditure had been £1,235 18s. 6d., which included several improvements and a new clock in the Vestry, and also one for the ringing room. The total income from all sources was exactly the same amount as the expenditure, so that the debt of several hundred pounds which remained when the work was finished has now been completely cleared off.

The balance sheet contained several interesting features, among them being the sum of £7 10s. 9d., the proceeds of the sale of "The Story of the Bells," a booklet written by Mr. W. Mead, head ringer and churchwarden, to help the fund, and also £3 6s. 6d. profit on sale of picture post cards of the charming welcome of the bells, an account and illustration of which appeared in our columns at the time. There were about 290 individual donations, not including those of 2s. and under, and donations had come in from all parts of the country. Following the example of their late Vicar (the Rev. C. Warner), who restored the church at a cost of over £7,000 about forty years ago, the parish had raised the amount required without having one penny from bazaars or other amusements.

The Vicar, in expressing his great pleasure on the completion of the work, heartily thanked all who had helped so much in different ways, the farmers in the parish who had carted some hundreds of tons of materials free of charge, the collectors who had done so well. To Mr. Short, their hon. secretary, and Mr. Mead (the retiring warden) they owed a great debt of gratitude for the large amount of time given in getting the debt cleared off. Their energy had never flagged from start to finish, and the completed restoration was their reward. For himself he was almost sorry the work was completed. It had been so very interesting, and the help and encouragement he had received all through was wonderful. There was hardly a day when a donation did not come in from someone.

On Sunday evening special mention was made of the debt being extinguished, and the special bell hymn, "Unchanging God, who livest," and the Te Deum were heartily sung at the close of the service. The bells were also rung for an hour before and after service.

On Sunday evening a special service of thanksgiving was held in the church, and there was a large congregation. The service was intoned by the Rev. F. S. Dutton, and special psalms and hymns were sung, including the bell hymn, "Unchanging God, who livest."

The sermon was preached by the Vicar, who took for his text, "They helped everyone his neighbour, and everyone said to his brother, Be of good courage. So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith and he that smootheth with the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It is ready for the sodering: and he fastened it with nails, that it should not be moved" (Isaiah xli. 6—7). In the course of his address, he said they were that evening thanking God especially for three things: first, for Easter; secondly, that America had now joined the Allies in the war, and for the glorious progress made during the week in France and also that the debt on the restored tower and bells was now completely cleared off. He said how thankful they all were that the debt which had been upon them three years was now a thing of the past. It was not well that there should be a debt on their noble old church, and he very much appreciated the help given by their Nonconformist friends, whose ancestors had worshipped in that ancient church.

At the conclusion of the service the "Te Deum" was sung with the choir round the altar, and the bells pealed forth before and after the service, which was of a most impressive character.

CAVERSHAM RINGER'S DEATH.

It is with deep regret that the St. Peter's, Caversham, band, have to report the death of their respected and dear old friend, Mr. J. F. Tarrant, who passed away on Good Friday, within a few weeks of his 70th birthday. The funeral took place on Thursday, the 12th inst., at Tilehurst, and in the evening a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung, muffled, at Caversham, in 55 mins., by: W. Hibbert 1, G. Essex 2, R. T. Hibbert 3, J. Hands 4, A. Wiggins 5, E. J. Menday 6, E. W. Menday (conductor) 7, H. Simmonds 8.

The deceased, who started ringing well in middle life, was never keen on taking part in peals, but had rung several of Grandsire Triples, also one each of Stedman Triples and Double Norwich Major. A staunch Churchman, a man of strict integrity and upright character, he will be much missed by the St. Peter's company, for he had been, until deafness came upon him, one of the most regular attendants for service ringing, rarely having missed for some twenty years. May he rest in peace.

WOLVERLEY.—Worcestershire Association.—On Easter Day, at the Parish Church, in 47 mins., a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1260 changes): F. Shaw 1, Keith Salter (age 14 years), first quarter-peal in the method, 2, T. J. Salter 3, W. H. Porter 4, H. Martin (conductor) 5, A. Morris 6.

NOTICES.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Edgbaston Old Church, Saturday, April 28th. Bells available from 4 o'clock. The Vicar and Churchwardens are kindly providing tea in the Church Room at 5.30. — A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Woolwich on Saturday, April 28th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service and address by the Rev. Arthur N. Pickering (Rector), at 5.30 p.m. Business meeting to follow tea. I shall be glad to receive all outstanding subscriptions.—T. Groombridge, Hon. District Sec., 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Finchley on Saturday, April 28th. Bells available from 2.30 till 9 p.m. Tea, 4.45 p.m., 6d. to members who notify me by April 24th. Short service with address by the Rector (the Rev. W. St. Hill Bourne). Business meeting to follow. A good attendance is essential. Subscriptions for 1917 are now due.—W. H. Oram, Hon. Sec. pro tem., 25, Crown Street, Harrow.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—A quarterly meeting of the Portsmouth District will be held at St. Thomas's, Portsmouth, on Saturday, April 28th. Bells available 3 p.m. Tea will be served at Madden's Temperance Hotel, Station Street, at a time convenient to the members present. Subscriptions for 1917 are now due.—E. J. Harding, Dist. Sec., 76, Carnarvon Road, Portsmouth.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Midsomer Norton and Frome Deanery Branch.—Annual meeting of this branch will be held on April 28th at Midsomer Norton. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. All ringers heartily welcome. Service at 4.30 p.m. — I. B. Holmyard, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on May 3rd, 17th and 31st, for handbell practice, and on the 8th and 22nd for general business; all at 8 p.m. Also at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on Sunday the 13th, at 6 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W. 4.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The next meeting of the above Society will be held at Guiseley on Saturday, May 5th, 1917. Bells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting at 7 p.m. — Wm. Barton, Hon. Sec., 10, Carlisle Road, Pudsey.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The annual meeting will be held at Ranmoor, Sheffield, on Saturday, May 5th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Business meeting in the Parish Room at 6 o'clock.—Sam Thomas, Hon. Sec., 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery Branch. — The quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Mark on Saturday, May 5th. Service, 5 o'clock; tea and meeting to follow. Bells (6), afternoon and evening.—G. Chamberlain, 35, Oxford Street, Burnham-on-Sea.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—A meeting of the above will be held at Wye on Saturday, May 5th. Bells available at 2 o'clock. The usual evensong will be held in the church at 7 o'clock, at which all members will be welcomed. The usual travelling allowance will be paid to all members attending, providing their subscription for 1917 has been paid. Owing to a difficulty in catering members will make their own arrangements for tea on arrival.—C. Tribe, Hon. Dist. Sec., British School Villas, Tenterden.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, May 5th. Bells available, 3.30. Divine service, 5 o'clock. Tea in the Church Hall at 5.30. Business meeting to follow.—George Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Llanfrechfa, Mon. (Ponthir Station), on Saturday, May 5th, at 4 o'clock. Bells (6) available. Tea provided.—Rev. Connop L. Price, M.A., J. W. Jones, Hon. Secs., 29, Barrack Hill, Newport, Mon.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—THE WILLIAM SNOWDON MEMORIAL.—Subscribers and those interested are asked to note that the Committee have decided to postpone the opening ceremony of the above until after the war.—H. Williams, Hon. Gen. Sec., *pro tem.*

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.

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

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

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION AT HESTON.

Members and friends, to the number of 24, attended the meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex Association, held at Heston on Saturday, and they rang Grandsire, Oxford Bob, and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob.—The President (Mr. A. T. King, I.S.O.), was present, as well as ringers from Brockley, Burton-on-Trent, Camberwell, Croydon, Harrow, Heston, Hounslow, Isleworth, Norwood Green, Tunbridge Wells, Twerton (Somerset), and West Ealing.

It was pleasant to have visitors from places so far distant as Burton-on-Trent (Mr. W. Worthington), Twerton, Somerset (Mr. Tom King), and Croydon (Messrs. W. Wise and C. Dean).

Tea (the donors forming a quartette) was partaken of in the Parish Hall; and with kind ladies and an energetic juvenile to assist them, the time proved most enjoyable.

Mr. A. T. King was obliged to leave somewhat early, so the District Master (Mr. T. Beadle) occupied the chair.

Staines was selected as the next tower to visit, and Mr. Hubert Chaffey (of Acton) was elected as a member.

A most hearty welcome was extended to the company by Mr. A. V. Clark (churchwarden), who told how, some years ago, he had looked in at the open door of a small belfry in Suffolk. The conductor was peculiar in appearance, and had a very large beard, and an unusually stentorian voice: when he made the calls Mr. Clark thought it would be wise in the "extreme" if the "course" he adopted was a "double." Further, he referred to the fact that in his travels he had often heard the Continental chimes, but, after all, the good old change-ringing of England nipped the very heart of every true Englishman, and it was good that such fellowship existed amongst the ringers of our land.

Mr. Sydney Carter said he was pleased to see so good a meeting for "war-time," and he hoped that ere long we should be ringing the "peal of peace."

The District Master proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar (Rev. F. W. A. Wilkinson) for allowing the use of the bells, to the donors of the tea, and to the ladies who had so kindly assisted.

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