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transmission as a newspaper.]

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'SYNTHETIC' BELLS.

Bells reproduced from gramophone records and broadcast through amplifiers from church towers are heard in these days in many places. Such imitations are deplored for many reasons, but we have not heard that there has yet been any application for an installation of this kind which has been challenged before a Consistory Court. The apparatus cannot be set up without a faculty, but there are now a number of churches where it is used. It was not until the installation of 'synthetic' bells was made at St. John's, Weymouth, about a year ago that ringing organisations took any serious steps to raise the question with diocesan authorities, and then the Dorchester District of the Salisbury Guild sent its protest to the Bishop. From recent information it appears that the question has received serious attention in the diocese. The Bishop investigated the subject with his Archdeacons and arrived at a decision which is, perhaps, a fair compromise as far as it goes. In future the Advisory Committee, we understand, will not advise a faculty for 'synthetic' bells if a bell or peal is already available in the church.

That, at any rate, is so much gained, but there are other dangers, the chief of which is that, in the design of future churches, architects, with an eye on cost, will content themselves with a shell of a tower, knowing that if the structure will carry a ring of bells the gramophone substitute may be employed. There is nothing, we believe, to stop this being done, because (we write subject to correction) until a church is consecrated the Advisory Committee have no official voice in its building, and the Chancellor has no veto upon such an installation. New churches usually go up in districts where there is no traditional interest in bells and no one to take any action in arousing interest. The only course open in regard to new churches is to endeavour to obtain the moral support of Bishops and Archdeacons, so that they may use their influence in securing, where a tower is part of the design of the church, that it shall be a structure sufficiently strong to take a ringing peal of bells, even if, for the time being, such a peal cannot be provided. In these days of economy, churches are too often designed without any tower at all, but where a tower is included it ought not to be too much to ask that it shall be built sufficiently strong to fulfil the original purpose of all church towers. Shams and imitations should not be encouraged in anything to do with the Church, least of all in the buildings in which worship is to be carried on, perhaps, for centuries. Real towers and real bells ought not to be replaced with brick shells and gramophone records. It savours of shoddy and make-believe.

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TWELVE BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Four Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR, SOUTHWARK,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 50 cwt. in B.

HORACE BELCHER Treble	RAYMOND G. COUSINS 7
HERBERT LANGDON 2	DANIEL D. COOPER 8
HENRY G. MILES 3	ALFRED B. PECK 9
R. CONGRAVE PRIDGON 4	JACK A. WAUGH 10
WILLIAM H. PASMORE 5	RICHARD F. DEAL 11
JACK M. CRIPPS 6	FRANK E. DARBY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by FRANK E. DARBY.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Three Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5018 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. 12 lb.

*GEOFFREY HARRISON Treble	HARRY BROUGHTON 7
W. ERNEST RAWSON 2	FREDERICK H. DEXTER 8
JOSEPH S. CARTER 3	ARNOLD BRUNTON 9
J. FREDERICK MILNER 4	JOSEPH A. FENTON 10
HARRY G. WAYNE 5	C. FERGUSON HOWITT 11
*RICHARD F. ROE 6	*ARTHUR DEBBENHAM Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER.

Conducted by A. BRUNTON.

* First peal on twelve bells. First peal as conductor on twelve bells.

KIDDERMINSTER, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5018 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

HOWARD HOWELL Treble	GEORGE W. HUGHES 7
HERBERT KNIGHT 2	FREDERICK N. G. RAINY 8
BARNABAS G. KEY 3	*NORMAN G. LEECH 9
CHRISTOPHER WALLATER 4	GILBERT HARDING 10
WILLIAM FISHER 5	THOMAS J. ELTON 11
HAROLD SMITH 6	CHARLES H. WOODBERRY Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by H. HOWELL.

* First peal on twelve bells.

TEN BELL PEALS.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH
SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 28, 1939, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5031 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

THOMAS W. TAFFENDER Treble	FRANCIS D. BISHOP 6
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER 2	E. RALPH MACKRILL 7
MISS OLIVE L. ASHEROOK 3	HARRY WINGROVE 8
ERNEST J. KING 4	F. DONALD BOREHAM 9
CHARLES W. OTTLEY 5	NORMAN H. MANNING Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 31, 1939, in Three Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER MANCROFT,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 37 cwt. 3 qr. 15 lb. in C.

*MISS G. E. M. TUNNADINE Treble	NOLAN GOLDEN 6
†MISS DOROTHY L. DITCHAM 2	ALBERT G. WARNES 7
CLIFFORD BIRD 3	†GEORGE SAVER 8
GEORGE MAYERS 4	BERTIE J. HOWCHIN 9
*CEDRIC CURSON 5	WILLIAM G. MAYER Tenor

Composed by JAMES GEORGE.

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal of Bob Royal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

APPLETON, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 14 3/4 cwt.

*FRANK WHITE Treble	FREDERICK MESSENGER ... 5
†FRANCIS A. WHITE 2	GEORGE HOLIFIELD 6
FREDERICK C. WHITE ... 3	RICHARD WHITE 7
ARTHUR H. WHITE 4	ERNEST CADEL Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE HOLIFIELD.

* First peal. † First peal on an 'inside' bell.

RUARDEAN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(SOUTH FOREST BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 28, 1939, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. C. D. P. DAVIES' ONE-PART. Tenor 16 cwt.

JOSEPH HARPER Treble	J. WEBB... .. 5
JOHN AUSTIN... .. 2	J. W. DAVIS 6
JOHN CLARK 3	WILLIAM BISHOP 7
GEORGE WILKS 4	HAROLD MEEK Tenor

Conducted by JOHN AUSTIN.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to Howard Reid, a much respected member of the Ruardean company.

NORTH ELMHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 30, 1939, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

JOHN A. GODFREY Treble	ROBERT MARSH 5
LESLIE W. PAGE 2	WILLIAM R. WEST 6
CHARLES E. COPEMAN... .. 3	WALTER C. MEDLER 7
ERIC DURRANT 4	ERNEST V. BLAKE Tenor

Composed by F. N. GOLDEN. Conducted by E. V. BLAKE.

DARTFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 30, 1939, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 3/4 cwt. in E flat.

HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... Treble	GEOFFREY V. MORPHY ... 5
HARRY HOSKINS 2	*JAMES E. BAILEY 6
DEREK M. SHARP 3	GEORGE H. CROSS 7
*JOHN WHEADON... .. 4	PHILIP A. CORBY Tenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN. Conducted by H. E. AUDSLEY.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.
A birthday compliment to the conductor and to Mr. J. M. Bailey, of Leiston, Suffolk.

SAWLEY, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 2, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 1/2 cwt.

W. RICHARDSON DRAGE ... Treble	GIRLING RIGBY 5
WILLIAM DAWSON 2	ERNEST MORRIS 6
CHARLES HUTCHINSON ... 3	CHARLES GEARY 7
WILLIAM H. T. KING ... 4	EDMUND C. CHASTY Tenor

Composed by CANON G. H. RIDOUT. Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS

NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 2, 1939, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

*HAROLD BROWN... .. Treble	FRANK BRADLEY 5
WALTER NICHOLS 2	J. ALFRED BARRATT 6
JOHN E. HOBBS 3	RALPH NARBOROUGH 7
FRANK W. BROWN 4	FREDERICK A. SALTER... .. Tenor

Composed by G. F. WILLIAMS. Conducted by FREDERICK A. SALTER

* First peal of Major and first attempt.

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 15 1/4 cwt.

*ALBERT L. PETTIGREW ... Treble	†ALFRED J. ALLEN 5
GEORGE F. SWANN 2	FREDERICK W. RISHWORTH 6
RONALD I. SHEPHERD ... 3	FRED PRICE... .. 7
WILLIAM PETTIGREW ... 4	ALLEN SHORT Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

* First peal away from the tenor. † First peal. Arranged and rung as a compliment to the Rev. Canon Swindell, 49 years Vicar of Erdington, on his 84th birthday.

PRESTWICH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

NORMAN BERRY Treble	WILLIAM BRAMMER 5
HERBERT A. MCKINNELL... 2	STANLEY N. HARRISON ... 6
*GEORGE A. BELL 3	JOHN HASSELL 7
FRANK REYNOLDS 4	CECIL RADDON Tenor

Composed by W. BERRY. Conducted by F. REYNOLDS.

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

BOURNEMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 1/2 cwt. in E

FRANCIS S. BEADMONT ... Treble	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5
F. FRANKLAND RIGBY... .. 2	WILLIAM E. CHEATER ... 6
GEORGE WILLIAMS 3	REGINALD A. REED 7
WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT... 4	FREDERICK W. ROGERS ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by FREDERICK W. ROGERS.
First peal of Major on the bells since recasting by Messrs. Taylor and Co., and first peal of Surprise rung in the tower.

DUNMOW, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes, 9
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 1/2 cwt.

*RICHARD PORTWAY Treble	HILDA G. SNOWDEN 5
RONALD SOCKLING 2	GEORGE SAUNDERS 6
*DONALD N. JENNINGS ... 3	LEWIS W. WIFFEN 7
*GEORGE SCHLUETER 4	H. WALTER SMITH Tenor

Composed by C. J. SEDGELEY. Conducted by LEWIS W. WIFFEN.

* First peal in the method.

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BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES.

A PEAL OF ZETLAND SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES Treble	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 5
HENRY HODGETTS 2	EDWIN JENNINGS 6
MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT ... 3	FRANCIS KIRK 7
FREDERICK W. BRINDELOW ... 4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

The first peal in the method.

ESCRICK, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5083 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb. in F.

*STEDMAN H. STEEL Treble	FRED TERRY 5
*WALTER LEACH 2	RONALD H. DOVE 6
HORACE S. MORLEY 3	*WILLIAM HAWLEY 7
*MRS. E. BRADLEY 4	EDWARD BRADLEY Tenor

Composed by T. LOCKWOOD.

Conducted by E. BRADLEY.

* First peal in the method.

HEADCORN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

PHILIP HODGKIN Treble	WILLIAM A. OLDFIELD ... 5
CHARLES H. SONE 2	THOMAS E. SONE 6
PERCY PAGE 3	ROBERT T. LAMBERT ... 7
WILLIAM WENBAN 4	LUTHER J. HONESS Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 408). Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE

GORLESTON-ON-SEA.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

ARTHUR W. BIRD Treble	ARTHUR G. KING 5
R. WILLIAM BARBER 2	ALFRED J. MOY 6
*STANLEY W. GALL 3	†JOHN DENTON 7
CLAYTON PARNELL 4	†DENIS A. BAYLES Tenor

Composed by B. ANNABLE.

Conducted by DENIS A. BAYLES.

* First peal of Bob Major. † First peal of Major. First peal of Bob Major on the bells.

WORTLEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 17 lb. in G.

WILLIAM A. WOOLER Treble	JOHN R. BREARLEY 5
ARTHUR PANTHER 2	JAMES H. CHARLESWORTH ... 6
WILLIE GREEN 3	ARTHUR GILL 7
ERNEST BROOKES 4	DANIEL SMITH Tenor

Composed by G. LEWIS.

Conducted by DANIEL SMITH.

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of peals of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

Large selection of Compositions included.

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64pp., 1/2 (6 copies for 6/-).

Obtainable only post free from Rev. E. S. POWELL,
Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

SIX BELL PEALS.

STISTED, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, January 22, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 St. Clement's, two 720's Kent Treble Bob, 1,440 Oxford Treble Bob and two 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt. in A.

RALPH BIRD Treble	REGINALD G. SIMMONDS ... 4
ALBERT L. DIXEY 2	RONALD SUCKLING 5
*GEOFFREY EVERETT 3	VICTOR MORLEY Tenor

Conducted by RALPH BIRD.

* First peal in more than one method.

CLIFFORD, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, January 22, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being six 120's of Canterbury Pleasure and 36 of Grandsire, 14 callings. Tenor 12½ cwt.

BERNARD H. DAVIES Treble	FREDERICK J. WATKINS ... 4
DAVID H. BENNETT 2	ALBERT E. JONES 5
JAMES P. HYETT 3	RICHARD J. GWATKIN Tenor

Conducted by D. H. BENNETT.

TENDRING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 23, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's. Tenor 7½ cwt.

GEORGE E. JENNINGS Treble	MISS VIOLET A. FROST ... 4
*ALBERT HALES 2	†HARRY LAITI 5
†CHARLES MARVERN 3	URBAN W. WILDNEY Tenor

Conducted by URBAN W. WILDNEY.

* First peal 'inside.' † First peal.

DARRINGTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 24, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being four 720's of Oxford Treble Bob Minor and three of Kent Treble Bob Minor. Tenor 13 cwt.

MRS. EDWARD BRADLEY Treble	WILLIAM HAWLEY 4
HARRY C. WALTERS 2	CHARLES BROWN 5
EDWARD BRADLEY 3	ALBERT T. STRANGWARD ... Tenor

Conducted by HARRY C. WALTERS.

TRYSULL, STAFFS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Wednesday, January 25, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 12 callings. Tenor 11 cwt. 17 lb.

*J. DENIS HOLDEN Treble	HAROLD SMITH 4
BARNABAS G. KEY 2	HOWARD HOWELL 5
†ROGER HAWKSWORTH 3	†JAMES DAVIES Tenor

Conducted by HOWARD HOWELL.

* First peal of Doubles. † First peal of Stedman. First peal of Doubles as conductor. Rung half-muffled as a last token of respect to Mr. Martin Burke, a ringer at this church for over 40 years.

SHIRLEY, WARWICKSHIRE.

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

On Wednesday, January 25, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES-THE-GREAT,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's. Tenor 6½ cwt.

DANIEL T. MATEIN Treble	SIDNEY O'C. HOLLOWAY ... 4
*GEORGE H. WILLIAMS ... 2	†ARTHUR MORRIS 5
*RONALD I. SHEPHERD ... 3	*NORMAN J. GOODMAN ... Tenor

Conducted by DANIEL T. MATEIN.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal of Minor away from the treble. First peal of Minor on tower bells and as conductor.

NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

Seven 720's each called differently. Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb.
 *HAROLD BROWN Treble | FRANK BRADLEY 4
 FREDERICK A. SALTER ... 2 | WALTER NICHOLS 5
 †HAROLD PARFREMONT ... 3 | RALPH NARBOROUGH Tenor

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

* First peal on tower bells and first peal of Minor. † First peal of Minor away from the treble.

DARLINGTON.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, January 27, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes.

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents, viz.: (1) Carlisle; (2) Canterbury and Newcastle; (3) London and Wells; (4) York and Durham; (5) Chester and Munden; (6) Surfleet and Beverley; (7) Cambridge. Tenor 7½ cwt.
 ROBERT JEFF Treble | GEORGE W. PARK 4
 WILLIAM OLIVER 2 | W. NORMAN PARK 5
 RICHARD BUSBY 3 | ROLAND PARK Tenor

Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. W. Norman Park.

BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes.

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 of Cambridge Surprise and two 720's each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.
 HARRY STEBBINGS Treble | FRANK C. MAY 4
 WILLIAM G. GRIDLEY 2 | ALBERT E. NORTH 5
 WILLIAM S. MAY 3 | FRANK B. LUFKIN Tenor

Conducted by FRANK B. LUFKIN.

HELLINGLY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes.

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's called differently. Tenor 12 cwt.
 FRANK H. HICKS Treble | LESLIE W. JARVIS 4
 ARTHUR T. LBWRY 2 | GEORGE BEENBY 5
 CHARLES A. BASSETT 3 | WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE.

DRAYCOTT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

At the Church of St. Margaret,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different callings. Tenor 14 cwt.
 CLIFFORD DOWNING Treble | HARRY HALL 4
 EDWARD STEELE 2 | JOHN G. CARTLEDGE 5
 WILLIAM PERKINS 3 | ANDREW THOMPSON Tenor

Conducted by ANDREW THOMPSON.

BARNBY-IN-THE-WILLOWS, NOTTS.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION AND THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes.

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents in 14 methods: (1) Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob; (2) College and Wavertree; (3) Double Bob and Fulbeck; (4) Double Oxford and Thelwall; (5) St. Clement's and Childwall; (6) Oxford Bob and Plain Bob; (7) Double Court and Court Bob. Tenor 6½ cwt.
 *ERIC WILCOCK Treble | *JOHN C. VESSEY 4
 MISS DOROTHY VESSEY ... 2 | *KENNETH W. MAYER 5
 *JOHN F. PEARSON 3 | JACK L. MILLHOUSE Tenor

Conducted by JACK L. MILLHOUSE.

* First peal in 14 methods. First peal in 14 methods as conductor. There were 103 changes of method.

LITTLE COMBERTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.
 THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
 (SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes.

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being four six-scores of Plain Bob and 38 of Grandsire, with ten callings. Tenor 14 cwt.
 SAM MCGORE Treble | CHARLES EDWIN 4
 JOSEPH E. NEWMAN 2 | EDWARD MOORE 5
 RALPH HARRIS 3 | ARTHUR RICHARDSON Tenor

Conducted by RALPH HARRIS.

MEARS ASHBY, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 28, 1939, in Three Hours and Two Minutes.

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 2 lb.
 *ARTHUR READER Treble | GROFFREY E. WATSON 4
 BERNARD J. SADDINGTON ... 2 | CHRISTOPHER G. HENDRY 5
 *WILLIAM G. CALLIS 3 | SIDNEY G. MUNTON Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY G. MUNTON.

* First peal.

OLD LEAKE, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes.

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents in 14 methods: (1) Duke of Norfolk, College Exercise, Norbury and Ockley; (2) Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston, Capel and Oxford; (3) Old Oxford; (4) College Bob IV.; (5) Willesden; (6) Newdigate; (7) Cambridge Surprise. Tenor 12 cwt. (approx.).

*DONALD FLATTERS Treble | ALBERT E. FLATTERS 4
 WILLIAM WILKINSON 2 | CYRIL WANDER 5
 ARTHUR YOUNG 3 | JOHN R. KEMP Tenor

Conducted by A. YOUNG.

* First peal of Minor. First peal in 14 methods by all except conductor. First peal as conductor.

EXHALL, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, January 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes.

At the Church of St. Giles,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's. Tenor 6½ cwt.
 *CHARLES GARDENER Treble | FRANK W. FERRENS 4
 ERNEST STONE 2 | JOHN W. TAYLOR 5
 †JOHN TAYLOR 3 | GEORGE GARDENER Tenor

Conducted by JOHN W. TAYLOR.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor on an 'inside' bell. First peal as conductor.

CLIFFORD, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 31, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Morning Star, Clifford, Porcy's Pleasure, Canterbury Pleasure, Reverse Canterbury, London Doubles and Grandsire. Tenor 12½ cwt.
 *EDWARD J. HILL Treble | DAVID H. BENNETT 4
 *FREDERICK J. WATKINS ... 2 | JAMES P. HYETT 5
 *ALBERT E. JONES 3 | *RICHARD J. GWATKIN Tenor

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

* First peal in seven methods. Rung as a farwell to R. J. Gwatkin.

SUTTON, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, February 2, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes.

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings. Tenor 11 cwt.
 *LEONARD ATTWOOD Treble | AUSTIN T. WINGATE 4
 ERNEST WILLIAMS 2 | ERNEST F. SALMONS 5
 GEORGE T. COUSINS 3 | WILLIAM E. HINSEY Tenor

Conducted by AUSTIN T. WINGATE.

* First peal.

CAPENHURST, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Three Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 7200 CHANGES;

Comprising one extent each of Canterbury, Carlisle, Chester, Beverley, Surfleet, York, Durham, London, Wells and Cambridge.

Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 15 lb. in G.

WILLIAM E. FLETCHER ... Treble	RALPH G. EDWARDS 4
LESTER L. GRAY 2	GEORGE LEDSHAM 5
FRANK VARTY 3	THOMAS ROGERS Tenor

Conducted by FRANK VARTY.

First peal in ten methods and longest length for all the band.

FULMER, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Beverley, Surfleet, Norwich and Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 7½ cwt.

T. JOHN FOWLER Treble	GEORGE MARTIN 4
KATHLEEN E. FLETCHER ... 2	GEORGE GUTTERIDGE 5
DOROTHY R. FLETCHER ... 3	HARRY WINGROVE Tenor

Conducted by HARRY WINGROVE.

KIRKBY MALLORY, LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of April Day, Canterbury and Plain Bob, and 1,440 each of St. Simon's and Grand sire. Tenor 9 cwt.

*MICHAEL E. RAZEY Treble	FRANCIS R. DRACON 4
MALCOLM E. BACON 2	NORMAN STATEHAM 5
E. AUBREY BURCH 3	JAMES PRESTON Tenor

Conducted by F. R. DRACON.

* First peal. First peal on the bells since augmentation to six. Rung as a farewell to M. Razez.

WYCHBOLD, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-DE-WYCHE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 11½ cwt.

*WALTER H. RAXTER... .. Treble	GEORGE E. LARGE 4
ALLEN MORGAN... .. 2	REGINALD WOODYATT 5
WILLIAM RANFORD 3	THOMAS W. LEWIS Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First seven-method peal.

HOPE VILLAGE, NORTH WALES.

THE NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

*FRED HOMAN Treble	JACK L. EVANS 4
†JACK DEAN 2	HORACE L. WAIZ 5
†JOE GRIFFITHS 3	†JAMES W. FULLER Tenor

Conducted by J. H. FULLER.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor and first attempt.

BRIGHTWELL, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 4, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AGATHA,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven differently called 720's. Tenor 11 cwt.

*J. RAYMOND PEASE Treble	†FRANK CASTELL 4
*JOHN CASTELL 2	WALTER V. WEBB 5
EDWARD V. NAISH 3	OLIVER G. BARNARD Tenor

Conducted by OLIVER G. BARNARD.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal. First peal of Minor on the bells. Rung on the eve of the patronal festival.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BELGRAVE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 26, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT THE BULL'S HEAD INN.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor, size 17½ in A flat.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS 5-6
EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 3-4	*WILLIAM BOTTRILL 7-8

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal 'in hand' and first attempt.

KELHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 5, 1939, in One Hour and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRID, KELHAM THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's called differently.

JAMES TRAINER 1-2	*T. BARLOW BROWN 3-4
ALBERT F. SARGENT 5-6	

Conducted by ALBERT F. SARGENT.

* First peal on 3-4.

KELHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 5, 1939, in One Hour and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE HOUSE OF THE SACRED MISSION,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's called differently.

*MICHAEL A. WIGGINS ... 1-2	PHILIP J. BOULSOVER 3-4
ALBERT F. SARGENT 5-6	

Conducted by A. F. SARGENT.

* First peal.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

KINGTON DISTRICT'S ACTIVITIES.

The Kington District Branch of the Hereford Diocesan Guild held their annual meeting at Lyonshall on Saturday, January 28th. Ringing took place in the afternoon, and the Guild's form of service was conducted by the Vicar of Titley (the Rev. A. S. Hutchinson), in the absence of the Rev. Ellison (Vicar of Lyonshall) through illness. The local captain of the ringers (Mr. Brown), who is also organist and Vicar's warden, presided at the organ. Tea, prepared at the Vicarage, was kindly given by the Vicar.

The business meeting was attended by 16 members. Reference was made to the death of Mrs. Edwards, wife of the Guild Ringing Master, and the chairman asked the members to stand in silence to her memory.

The district secretary reported that in the past year three meetings and five combined practices had been held. Four methods of Doubles and four of Minor had been rung at the meetings and practices. Eight peals of Doubles and two of Minor had been rung at six towers, two other peal attempts had been made, and members had rung in peals outside the district. The District Ringing Master conducted five peals and two other members one each, one his first on his 16th birthday. Five members rang their first peal, three their first of Minor and three their first of Triples. Three members had qualified for the certificates of membership, six new members had been admitted to the Guild, including four girls of 13 and under from one tower, and one honorary member.

The district officers were re-elected and a new district committee formed. The next meeting was arranged to be held at Weobley in May, if convenient, and combined practices at Eardisland and Staunton-on-Arrow.

Votes of thanks were passed to all who had helped in any way to make the meeting a success.

The tower was then again visited and ringing took place in various methods of Doubles and Minor. Owing to the wintry weather, the attendance was smaller than usual. There are six towers of six bells and one five-bell tower in the district in union with the Hereford Guild.

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SOFT AND PLIABLE IN HAND. ALL ROPES SENT
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DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, CRANTHAM

PEAL NOTES.

TWO HANDBELL PEALS AT KELHAM.

Another student at Kelham Theological College has scored his first peal, Michael Wiggins having rung 1-2 to a handbell peal of Bob Minor on Sunday. It was the second handbell peal rung at the college the same day.

The veteran Vicar of Erdington (Canon Swindell) celebrated his 84th birthday on Saturday, and a peal of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Barnabas' Church in his honour. He has been Vicar of Erdington for 49 years.

Albert L. Pettigrew, whose first peal this was, and Alfred J. Allen, who rang his first peal away from the tenor, are young members of the Aston band, still in their 'teens. They both rang well and show good promise for the future. Aston is developing the right sort of material.

The peal at Prestwich, Lancashire, on Saturday, was a birthday compliment to Mr. G. A. Bell, who rang his first peal of Bob Major.

The peal of Bob Minor at Hope Village, North Wales, on February 4th, was arranged and rung as a birthday peal for the conductor's son, who was five that day, also to celebrate the christening of J. L. Evans' first grandchild. The peal was to have been rung by the Rhyll ringers, but one was prevented from taking part in it, and Mr. H. L. Wait, of Watford, who is working in the district, kindly stood in and was elected a member of the association before starting. The ringers were kindly entertained to tea after the peal by Mr. and Mrs. Fuller, sen.

The company at Ruardcan, Gloucestershire, has lost a much respected member by the death of Mr. Howard Reid. A half-muffled peal of Grandsire Triples as a last token of respect was rung on Saturday, January 28th.

The first peal of Minor on the bells at Brightwell, Berks, was rung on Saturday on the eve of the patronal festival. The church is dedicated to St. Agatha.

The peal of Superlative rung at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, on Saturday, besides being the first peal of Surprise ever rung in the tower, was also the first in the method by Messrs. F. S. Beaumont and A. V. Davis, both members of the local company. The bells were recast a year or so ago by Messrs. Taylor and Co.

A peal of Grandsire Triples, composed by Canon G. H. Ridout, of Johannesburg, South Africa, was rung at Sawley, Derbyshire, on February 2nd.

A peal in seven Doubles methods at Clifford, Herefordshire, on January 31st, was a farewell to Mr. R. J. Gwatkin, who was leaving the district. Previous to the peal the Vicar presented Mr. Gwatkin with a shaving outfit, in case, in appreciation of his services as a parish clerk and ringer, the subscribers being the Vicar, churchwardens and ringers.

PEALS IN 14 MINOR METHODS.

With 103 changes of method, 14 methods were rung in seven extents at Barnby-in-the-Willows, Notts, on January 28th. Four of the band rang their first peal in 14 methods, and Mr. Jack Millhouse called his first in 14 methods.

Another peal in 14 Minor methods was rung on the same day at Old Leake, Lincolnshire. These were all Treble Bob methods, but splicing was employed only in the two first extents. It was the first peal in 14 methods by all except Mr. Arthur Young, and it was his first peal as conductor.

After the peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major at Dartford, Kent, on January 30th, rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor (Mr. H. E. Audsley) and Mr. J. M. Bailey, of Leiston, Suffolk, Mr. John Wheadon was deservedly congratulated upon breaking fresh ground at an age when quite a lot of ringers are thinking of resting on their laurels. It was Mr. Wheadon's first peal of Yorkshire.

Another member of the family of White, of Appleton, has begun his peal ringing career. On January 28th Frank White rang the treble to a peal of Grandsire Triples and thus follows in the long tradition in this village, where Whites have been identified with the bells for over a hundred years.

A peal of Bob Minor on January 28th at Mears Ashby, Northants, was rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. R. Coleman, of Kettering, whose infant son, Graham Alfred, was baptised at All Saints', Pytchley, on the previous Sunday.

The peal of Bob Major at St. Peter's, Nottingham, on Feb. 2nd, was Mr. F. Bradley's 100th. He is a very greatly respected Sunday service member of St. Peter's, always ready to assist young ringers and to give every encouragement to less capable members in the tower, and the band heartily congratulated him on his achievement.

It is interesting to record that his first peal, rung in January, 1924, was Bob Major, also conducted by his friend, Mr. F. A. Salter, and they have now rung 78 peals together, Mr. Salter having conducted 33 of them.

The treble ringer, Mr. Harold Brown, rang his first tower-bell peal the previous Thursday, a peal of Bob Minor at St. Mary's, Nottingham, and the band also wish to express their appreciation of the capable manner in which he performed his part.

Two young ringers score a peal of Stedman Cinques to celebrate their 15th birthday, but Geoffrey Harrison, of Loughborough, has had this distinction. He took part in a peal of Stedman Cinques at Leicester Cathedral on Saturday, and it was a welcome return to ringing after his recent accident, when he broke an arm.

TEN EXTENTS OF SURPRISE MINOR.

At Capenhurst, Cheshire, on Saturday, ten extents in as many different Surprise Minor methods were rung, making, of course, 7,200 changes. It was the first peal in ten methods and the longest peal by all the band. It occupied two minutes under four hours. Mr. G. Ledham rang his 25th peal, 24 of which have been rung with the conductor, Mr. F. Varty.

The secretary of the Leicester Thursday band of P.G.'s being engaged, on January 26th, four of the company met at the Bull's Head, Belgrave, Leicester (where Mr. W. Bottrill, late of the Metropolitan Police, is 'mine host'), and rang a peal of Stedman Triples 'in hand.'

Members of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford swooped down upon St. Mary's Church, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, on February 4th, and carried off a peal of Stedman Cinques. It was a birthday compliment to Norman G. Leech, who rang his first peal on twelve bells.

Mr. Michael E. Razez, of Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire, has just joined the Royal Navy. Last Saturday, February 4th, prior to his departure, a farewell peal of Doubles was rung, and he will take away with him the pleasant memory of having scored his first peal. It was also the first peal on the bells since their augmentation to six.

Zetland Surprise has now been rung by the Watford band, who scored the first peal in the method at Bushey on Saturday. It was Mr. Maurice Hibbert's 150th Surprise peal.

Messrs. W. A. Wooler and J. R. Brearley rang their 50th peal together when they took part in a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Wortley, Yorkshire, on February 4th. The composition, rung for the first time, was one by Mr. George Lewis, which contains the 4, 5 and 6 their extent in 5-6, without the 2nd in 6th's.

THE KIDS.

The church at Wychbold, Worcestershire, where a peal in seven Minor methods was rung on February 4th, adjoins Droitwich transmitting station, whose giant masts make the church tower seem puny in comparison.

The peal was rung by the 'Kids'—so called because they will go peal snatching and tower grabbing when the 'men' of the branch are away. The chief 'kid' is young Bill Ranford, alias 'Father,' who has now rung 449 peals and is in his 70th year. Tom Lewis, another of the 'gang,' is nearing the two hundred mark, while the others, although a long way behind, have fairly respectable totals.

Mr. T. E. Sone, of Paddock Wood, Kent, rang his 200th peal as conductor, including 75 of Kent Treble Bob Major, when at Headcorn on February 4th he called another peal in this method by Arthur Knights, which was rung for the first time. The composition was a 6,336 reduced to 5,024.

Messrs. Frank H. Hicks and Arthur P. Lewry rang their 50th peal together on January 28th at Hellingly.

A half-muffled peal of Stedman Doubles was rung at Trysull, Staffordshire, in memory of the late Mr. Martin Burke, a ringer at the Parish Church for over 40 years. The peal was rung on Jan. 25th.

Mr. Victor Morley rang the tenor at Stisted, Essex, to seven 720's of Minor on Sunday, January 22nd, and thus completed a peal on all the bells in the tower.

The peal of Bob Minor at Tendring rung on January 23rd had several interesting features. Mr. George Jennings, who rang the treble, has been a ringer at the church for 45 years. Mr. Marvern, who rang the third, has been parish clerk and bellringer for 35 years. This was his first peal and first attempt, and also the first by Mr. Laitt, who, too, has been a ringer at Tendring for 35 years. The ringer of the second, Albert Hales, scored his first peal 'inside.' The conductor was the only one who did not belong to the local band. The village of Tendring, it is interesting to remember, gave its name to a family which produced one of the earliest of composers, John Tendring, Master of the College Youths in 1659.

The peal of Bob Minor at Draycott on Jan. 28th was the first in the method as conductor by Mr. Andrew Thompson, and was rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Harry Hall, the ringer of the fourth.

SUSSEX RINGER'S DEATH.

The tower of St. Mary Magdalene, Bolney, has sustained a great loss through the death on January 28th of its towerkeeper, Mr. William Wheeler, after a very brief illness.

A member of the Sussex County Association, deceased was one of a band formed at Bolney by the late Mr. George Walder 57 years ago, and was most regular and punctual at both Sunday service and practice ringing. He was at one period verger and sexton at Bolney Church and was also a member of the choir. He had taken part in a number of peals rung for the Sussex County Association.

The funeral took place on February 1st and was attended by several of his brother ringers, and among the floral tributes was a wreath from the ringers. In the evening touches of Grandsire Triples were rung with the bells deeply muffled.

AGE AND YOUTH.

The conductor of a quarter-peal at Mitcham, Surrey, on Jan. 22nd, was six times as old as the ringer of the second, who rang his first quarter-peal of Stedman Triples. Mr. Dave Wright is 78, J. R. Davison is 15. The ringers were D. Wright 1, J. R. Davison 2, W. H. Joiner 3, C. W. R. Grimwood 4, G. A. West 5, C. Potheary 6, W. S. Smith 7, W. Sparkes 8.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. OLD MEMBERS HONOURED.

A quarterly meeting of the Midland Counties Association was held on Saturday, January 28th, at Hugglescote. In spite of the severe cold and snowy weather, quite a good company assembled and the eight bells were kept going during the afternoon and evening to various methods. The committee met in the afternoon and decided to have the annual report printed as before, local secretaries being asked to include therein a short account of their district's activities during 1938.

Two long-standing members were placed on the honorary life members' list: J. E. Clarke (South Wigston) and W. E. White (Cotgrave, Notts). A special tribute was paid to the latter, who, during his long connection with the association, had so enthusiastically and conscientiously filled many offices—local secretary, chairman of the Notts District, Central Council representative, general hon. secretary and now hon. treasurer.

Tea was served at the Castle Inn, and members and friends from Burton, Derby, Loughborough, Leicester, Hinckley and Nottingham Districts assembled.

At the general meeting which followed, in the absence of Mr. J. Oldham (vice-president), Mr. William E. White was voted to the chair, and said how pleased they were to meet the Vicar of Hugglescote at the meeting.—The Vicar suitably replied, giving the members a hearty greeting and welcome.

The secretary (Mr. Ernest Morris) presented a long list of new members who had been proposed since the last meeting. No less than 38 ringers, seven rejoining, five life and six honorary members were thus duly elected, which speaks well for the association's continued activities.

Two auditors were chosen to check the accounts for 1938, viz., Mr. Paul L. Taylor and Mr. Colin Harrison.

It was reported that on the subject of special badges for Midland Counties Association members, a small committee would meet on Easter Monday before the usual committee meeting to decide exactly what should be done and choose a suitable design.

Hearty votes of thanks to the Vicar for use of the bells and the local committee for the arrangements made concluded the meeting. Handbell ringing on the association's handbells and further tower-bell ringing terminated a successful afternoon's work.

LADIES' GUILD.

EASTERN DISTRICT MEETING SPOILED BY FLOODS.

A meeting of the newly-formed Eastern District of the Ladies' Guild was held at Diss, Norfolk, on Saturday, January 28th. It was a very successful meeting, although only nine ladies attended; but their enthusiasm made up for their small numbers. Many, including the vice-president, Miss Hilda G. Snowden, were prevented from attending by the widespread floods and bad weather conditions. Those present were Miss Sylvia R. E. Bowyer (Ipswich) (hon. secretary of the branch), Miss D. F. Woolston (Ipswich), Miss Vera Gooderham (Stoke Ash), Mrs. L. Wright (Dedham), Miss E. Reeve (Ipswich), the Misses D. M. and E. G. Reeve (Hockwold), Miss M. Robertson (Norwich) and Miss A. F. Hillen (Stoke Ash).

In response to the cordial invitation extended to them, men attended in large numbers from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and one, in the person of Mr. A. Patrick Cannon, from as far afield as London.

The meeting began with ringing on the fine peal of eight (tenor 24 cwt. approximately). For the first time in history, a band of ladies rang Diss bells, although it was only to rounds and call changes.

A short service, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. L. Holt-Wilson, was held in the church, followed by tea at the Waveney Hotel, when a party of 37, including the Rector, was present.

At the conclusion of tea the secretary read a letter from the Bronllys Bell Fund, and a collection was made.

Following this the secretary accorded hearty thanks to the Rector, Mr. Charles Cowell (organist), Mr. A. G. Harrison (hon. secretary of the South Norfolk area) and to all who had helped to make the meeting a success.—In reply, the Rector said how pleased he was to see such a gathering, and hoped that Diss might before long produce a band of lady ringers.

A Ladies' Guild business meeting followed, Miss D. F. Woolston being elected to the chair in the absence of the vice-president. Four ringing members, the Misses D. M. and E. G. Reeve (Hockwold), Miss M. Grimsey (Ipswich) and Miss M. Jarvis (Hadleigh) were elected and one honorary member, Miss M. Bucke (Ipswich). It was decided to hold the next meeting at Colchester, if the bells were available, failing that at Braintree.

The ladies then returned to the belfry for more ringing. During the evening some of the ringers visited Palgrave, where there is a light peal of eight.

The ringing during the meeting included rounds, call changes, Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge and Superlative Surprise.

MUFFLED BELLS.

A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung half-muffled at St. Stephen's, Hampstead, on Wednesday, January 25th, as a last tribute to Mr. Francis: R. Harman (first quarter-peal) 1, T. Bevan 2, W. Norton (conductor) 3, T. Francis 4, E. Pryor 5, E. Barnett, jun. 6, T. Bannister 7, D. Harman 8.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

STOCKPORT BRANCH PEAL RECORD.

The annual meeting of the Stockport Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held on Saturday, January 28th, at St. George's Church, Stockport. The fine peal of ten bells was set going soon after three o'clock and touches in various methods were rung prior to the service, at which the usual Guild form was used. It was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. du T. Pownall), who also gave a very fine address, taking as his text a few words from the Gospel for the following day, 'Why are ye so fearful?'

Considerable time was spent after the service in examining the magnificent organ, which was installed about two years ago at considerable expense and which is considered to be one of the finest organs in the North of England. It is a most interesting instrument both from a musical and mechanical point of view, all the stops being electrically controlled, and it has a superb tone.

Tea was served in the adjoining Parish Hall under the supervision of the local ringers' wives and a very enjoyable meal was speedily disposed of. The business meeting followed under the chairmanship of the Rev. Frank Bonner (vice-chairman of the branch), the Vicar being unable to stay to the meeting owing to parochial activities.

The Chairman said he had been assured by the Vicar of a warm welcome to St. George's, and he was sure the ringers appreciated the opportunity of visiting this beautiful church. He referred to the presence during the afternoon and at tea of Mr. A. E. Pegler, of Bangor, and Mr. H. Parker, secretary of the Northwich Branch.

The annual report and statement of accounts were presented and showed a good state of affairs. Membership had increased by one. The number of peals rung in the branch was a record, 41, ranging from Stedman Caters and Bob Royal to Bob Doubles, and including the first peal of Rochester Surprise Major for the Guild and in the county, as well as the 84 Minor methods peal. An encouraging feature was the increase of conductors, these numbering eight, while eight members rang their first peal. The financial side of the branch was also very sound.—The report and statement of accounts were adopted and the secretary thanked for the trouble expended in preparing them.

THE BEESTON LIBRARY.

The Beeston Library report was presented, and an appeal was made for greater use to be made of this valuable collection of books given to the Guild by the late Rev. A. T. Beeston. The librarian, Mr. Laffin, was thanked for the very efficient way he is carrying on the work started by Mr. Beeston of keeping a record of all the new methods rung.

The election of officers for the year followed, and in view of his inability to be present at meetings, on the advice of his doctor, Mr. Wolstencroft did not wish to offer himself for election as chairman of the branch, and it was unanimously decided to elect the Rev. Frank Bonner, with Mr. T. Wilde as vice-chairman.

The secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Wolstencroft expressing their regret at the cause of his resignation and their best wishes for his speedy return to health. The remaining officers were re-elected.

Attention was drawn to the notice in 'The Ringing World' regarding non-resident members of the Guild, and members were asked to point this out to any non-resident member they might come into contact with.

Four new members were elected, Messrs. W. Barlow, H. Higginbottom (St. Mary's, Stockport), and S. Wyatt and S. Goulden, of New Mills.

It was decided to send a letter to Mr. Hough and Mr. Marshall, both of whom have served the branch in office and in other ways, expressing regret at their absence and hoping that they would soon be restored to health.

The secretary welcomed Mr. C. Edwards, Master of the Hereford Guild, who has come to live at Bowdon, and hoped that he would be very happy amongst them.—Mr. Edwards, in his reply, said he would do all in his power to help the Guild, and only requested that they should not ask too much of him.

Votes of thanks were accorded the retiring officers, the Vicar and wardens, the local ringers, the ladies who prepared tea, the organist and all who had in any way contributed to the success of the meeting.

Further ringing was enjoyed on tower bells and on handbells. The presence of many members of the Macclesfield Branch, amongst them the Ringing Master (Mr. J. Worth), was very much appreciated.

CHANGES IN CREWE BRANCH'S OFFICERS.

The annual meeting of the Crewe Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at Christ Church, Crewe, on January 21st. There was an excellent attendance, 64 members being present, representing Acton, Alsager, Barthomley, Wistaston, Nantwich, Crewe, Church Lawton, Kids Grove, Newcastle, Norton-in-Hales, Draycott, Market Drayton, Marbury, Lower Bebington, Bowden, Cheadle, Longton and Northwich.

In the unavoidable absence of the Vicar, the Rev. Sydney T. Stevens, the service was conducted by the Vicar of Marbury (the Rev. G. C. Dickson), and a most inspiring address on 'Unity' was given by the Vicar of Acton, the Rev. Charles Parry-Williams.

Tea was afterwards served in the Schoolroom, kindly given by the Vicar and wardens.

The Rev. G. C. Dickson presided at the business meeting. He explained that he was taking the place of the Rev. S. T. Stevens,

chairman of the Crewe Branch, who had suffered a great blow in the loss of both his mother and father in the same week. He knew that the whole of the branch sympathised with their chairman, and the secretary was asked to send a letter of condolence from all of them.

The Rev. S. T. Stevens was re-elected chairman, Mr. R. D. Langford hon. secretary, and Mr. W. T. Holding hon. treasurer.

The resignation of Mr. Albert Crawley from the position of instructor to the Crewe Branch was accepted with much regret, and Mr. R. D. Langford was elected in his place.

Mention was made of the fact that Mr. Crawley had only missed two annual meetings since he was made a member, in the year 1902, when he was away at the South African war, and this year; truly a wonderful record.

Mr. George Biddulph resigned from the position of Ringing Master, and Mr. J. Brough was elected to the office.

Ringings again took place after the business meeting, and touches of Grandsire Caters, Stedman Caters, Bob Major, Cambridge Major, Superlative and London Surprise Major were all enjoyed.

WIRRAL BRANCH CONGRATULATES ROCK FERRY BAND.

The annual meeting of the Wirral Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at Rock Ferry (St. Peter's) on Saturday, January 21st. In spite of the miserably inclement weather, there was a fairly representative number of members present and also a good sprinkling of ringing friends from Liverpool, to whom a hearty welcome to Chester Guild meetings is always extended. Ringing in various Minor methods took place in the afternoon, and service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. J. D. Pearson), who gave a very interesting and thought-provoking address based on the meaning of the word 'sincere.' Tea followed immediately after the service, when between forty and fifty sat down to a splendid repast kindly prepared by Mrs. Cooke and her daughter, and which was much enjoyed.

During the course of the subsequent meeting hearty congratulations were extended to Mr. J. Cooke and his band of ringers at Rock Ferry on their meritorious record for the past twelve months, details of which were published in 'The Ringing World' of January 20th. Two points worthy of more than passing interest in this record are that out of the 102 Minor extents rung during the year, 98 were rung as service touches, and that the average age of seven of the band of twelve is only 17! It was also stated at the meeting by the choirmaster of St. Peter's that all the younger element of the band were either choirboys or ex-choirboys—a truly splendid record!

After the election of officers and other routine business had been disposed of, further ringing took place, all tastes and capabilities from rounds to Surprise methods being amply catered for and a very enjoyable gathering brought to a close.

DEATH OF MR. JESSE BEAMS.

ONE OF SURREY ASSOCIATION'S OLDEST MEMBERS.

By the death of Mr. Jesse Beams, of Ewell, the Surrey Association has lost one of its oldest members and the Guildford Diocesan Guild one of its foundation members.

Deceased, who was 62 years of age, was pensioned from the Post Office only two years ago.

Mr. Beams had been a regular Sunday service ringer since 1893 until last July. Although he was suffering before that time he did not give in, but early in September he was admitted to St. Thomas' Hospital, London, and three weeks later was sent home again, his complaint being found to be too serious for operation.

Mr. Beams had rung 14 peals. He was laid to rest in Ewell Churchyard on January 19th, about 40 postmen lining each side of the pathway to the church, while four postmen acted as bearers. Many beautiful flowers were sent, and the Guildford Diocesan Guild and Surrey Association were represented at the funeral. The church bells were rung half-muffled on the following Sunday for both services, and on the practice night a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung with half-muffled bells by Miss Harrington (first quarter-peal) 1, F. G. Woodiss 2, J. E. Beams 3, J. Beams (conductor) 4, A. Hadley 5, H. E. Good 6, E. Grove 7, W. Poplett 8.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

ENCOURAGING MEETING AT JARROW.

The Eastern District of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association held a meeting at Jarrow on Saturday, January 28th, ringers being present from Fenham, Blaydon, Newcastle, Gateshead, Chester-le-Street, South Shields and West Hartlepool, and were well supported by the local ringers. Christ Church bells were kept going during the afternoon and St. Peter's after tea.

A short meeting was held, with Mr. R. L. Patterson (vice-president) in the chair.

After submitting the loyal toast, he said he was pleased there was such a good number present, and congratulated the local ringers in supporting the meeting so well. He went on to say these district meetings were a valuable help to all ringers, be they learners or experts.

Mr. W. Robson moved a vote of thanks to both clergy for use of the bells, which was carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be a joint gathering with the Western District at Chester-le-Street on March 18th.

Methods rung during the day were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor and Cambridge Surprise.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Despite an enlarged edition this week, we regret we are compelled to hold over a number of contributions.

Middlesex County Council have granted the use of the Middlesex Guildhall Council Chamber for the Central Council meeting in London on Whitsun Tuesday.

The meeting of the Kent County Association at Maidstone is to be held on Saturday, February 18th, and not on the 11th as advertised last week.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham have promised to attend the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner, which is to be held at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, on February 25th. Early application should be made for tickets.

Two centuries ago, on February 19th, 1739, a notable peal was rung at St. Saviour's, Southwark, when 'the first true and Complete Peal of Five Thousand and forty Bob Major Royal otherwise Ten In ever performed on these bells was completed in 4h. 10m.' It was rung by the Society of Union Scholars and called by John Denmead.

The tenor, which weighed 51 cwt. 2 qr. 9 lb., was turned in single-handed (for the first time) by Philemon Mainwaring, one of the greatest heavy bell ringers of all time. The bells had been cast in 1735 and two peals had previously been rung on them, one a six thousand of Caters, the other an eight thousand of Cimques. In both these three men had been put to the tenor.

THE DIOCESE OF DERBY. SUGGESTED NEW GUILD.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should very much like to bring to the notice of all bellringers in the Diocese of Derby the question of forming a Diocesan Guild, to embrace all towers in the diocese.

It has been suggested several times lately by more than one well-known ringer that a meeting might be held at some suitable tower where ringing could take place in the afternoon and the whole question discussed after tea.

Ringng at the moment is at a very low ebb, and it is the feeling of many ringers that the time is now opportune for such a step to be taken.

I myself attended what should have been a meeting at a local tower recently and was one of only three visitors, the only other ringer being one of the local band; consequently, the meeting did not mature. This occurred at a church where the new Rector personally attended to extend his welcome to the ringers, and I feel an apology is due to him for such a poor attendance.

This has been the case at several meetings in the last few years, and it is surely up to every individual ringer to do his utmost to improve this condition.

A very hearty welcome would be extended to all incumbents of parishes in the diocese who would be interested in such a move and whose help would be greatly appreciated.

I shall be extremely obliged if you will have this letter published in your valuable paper in order that it may be brought to the notice of all ringers in the diocese.

If those interested will communicate with me, suggesting date and place of meeting—this to be held as early as possible in the year—I will do all I can to make arrangements. SAM SCATTERGOOD.

797, Sheffield Road, Sheepbridge, Chesterfield.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of November 18th, 1938, you were good enough to publish a letter of mine, which raised some doubt as to whether or not Lord Grimthorpe did actually order a peal of twelve with a three ton tenor in *D flat*, as stated by Mr. F. E. Dawe.

I have now been able to get a sight of the eighth edition of 'Clocks, Watches and Bells' (1903), from which, in your issue of December 2nd, 1938, Mr. Dawe quotes as follows: 'All the five largest bells are only on the 14 scale of thickness, and they would have been better on the 13 scale, but the tenor inconveniently heavy to ring.'

Turning to the table of diameters and weights on page 346, I read that a three ton bell on the 13 scale of thickness would be in B with a diameter of 5ft. 7½in. On the 12 scale a bell having the same diameter would be in D flat and would weigh 66 cwt. On the same page I read: 'Single bells and especially small ones should always be on the 12 scale, or very near it; but the tenors of peals on the 13 scale.' Lord Grimthorpe was of the opinion that the 13 scale agreed more nearly in weight than any other simple proportion with that used by the old bellfounders in the large bells of peals.

Discussing sizes of peals, Lord Grimthorpe, on page 340, 1874 edition, page 364, 1903 edition, says: 'If you will have 12 bells the tenor should not be higher than C. . . . A 'B' bell would probably be the best for such a peal'; and on page 354, 1903 edition: 'The tenors of Exeter and St. Paul's are B flat; but both would have been on a better scale of thickness if they had been B with the same weight, or more like the B bell at Manchester.'

This B bell at Manchester Town Hall was 5ft. 10in. in diameter and weighed 71 cwt.

Considering these facts, there can be no doubt that Lord Grimthorpe intended that St. Paul's tenor should be a B bell and not D flat as stated by Mr. Dawe.

Monkseaton.

H. WALKER.

LEADING CONDUCTORS—57.**ALBERT RELFE.**

A good deal of quiet, unobtrusive work in raising the standard of change ringing in the Kent and Sussex border towers has been done by Mr. Albert Relfe, of Lamberhurst, Kent. It is not an easy task, in what is mainly a rural area, but much of the interest which has been maintained in recent years in that neighbourhood has been due to Mr. Relfe's efforts and the enthusiasm he has been able to encourage in others.

Mr. Relfe is a native of Lamberhurst, where he was born on November 27th, 1889. He started his ringing career in 1909, in the six-bell tower of his village, and after the bells were rebung in a new frame in 1925, became leader of the local band.

His first peal was Bob Minor, rung at Lamberhurst on November 26th, 1911, while his first as conductor was rung in the same tower less than a year later. This was a peal in seven Minor methods on October 28th, 1912, the first by the local band. Since getting restarted after the war they have done some notable things.

Mr. Relfe was the first to conduct a peal in 32 Surprise Minor methods, but he had previously called the first peal in 14 methods and the first in 14, 21 and 26 Surprise methods and the first peal of Alliance and Little Minor for the Kent County Association; indeed, he was a pioneer of Spliced Surprise Minor ringing in Kent. He also took part in the first peals of St. Clement's Bob Major, Double Bob Major, Erin Caters and Canterbury Pleasure Royal rung by the Kent County Association.

He has rung in two peals of Grandsire Triples non-conducted, and in one peal of seven methods of Minor, in which each ringer called one 720 and one part of the last 720, which was Plain Bob.

Not the least meritorious feature of the peals of Minor specially mentioned above is that they were all rung at Lamberhurst by the service ringers at that church.

Mr. Relfe's peals total 223, of which he has conducted 112, and they range from Doubles to Royal. They have been rung in 62 towers in Kent and Sussex.

**MR. ALBERT RELFE.****BROADCAST RINGING.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—When I heard the excellent ringing from Croydon Parish Church, which was broadcast on Sunday morning, I wondered if it would be possible to arrange that the names of those taking part in this and similar ringing to be published in your paper. Many ringers know roughly who the ringers are, but it would be interesting to see if these broadcasts are by the same ringers on each occasion or if different ringers get opportunities to take part from time to time. If they do it shows the confidence which the more proficient place in the progress of others, as, very naturally, the best is required on such occasions.

But there is another side. We see so many names of those who ring peals or touches, but we do not hear the ringing. Having heard broadcast ringing, it would be nice to see the names of those who took part and the bells which they rang. Some bands might then ask the help of others to make their efforts more perfect when they send their ringing over the air.

Palmers Green, N.13.

A. S. ROBERTS.

PEAL BOARD UNVEILED AT BISHOP AUCKLAND.

At the invitation of the Vicar (the Rev. Canon A. B. Parry-Evans) eight ringers who took part in a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at Bishop Auckland on October 15th, 1938, visited the tower on Saturday, January 28th, on the occasion of the unveiling of a peal board commemorating the peal. The peal was rung in honour of the wedding of the Rev. C. J. Parry-Evans, son of the Vicar, to Miss C. S. Kingdom, organist and a former ringer at St. Andrew's Church.

After the unveiling ceremony, Canon Parry-Evans and his son thanked the ringers for ringing the peal, and they were supported by Mr. Jackson Pallister (churchwarden), who has been a member of the Durham and Newcastle Association for 54 years.

Mr. W. N. Park responded on behalf of the ringers.

The company were entertained to tea by the Vicar, and, after ringing several touches on handbells, the ringers returned to the tower and rang a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples. Those taking part were S. Bryant 1, G. W. Park 2, G. W. FEVERELL 3, J. T. TITT 4, R. B. ROBINSON 5, W. N. Park 6, R. Park (conductor) 7, R. BUSBY 8. This was the first quarter-peal of Stedman for the ringers of treble, 3rd and 4th.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**NORTHERN DISTRICT MASTER RESIGNS.****General Secretary Asked for Explanation of Letter.**

The annual meeting of the Northern District of the London County Association was held on Saturday, January 21st, in the City. Ringing took place at St. Lawrence Jewry in the afternoon, and the business meeting followed in the choir vestry.

After the cash statement for the year had been presented and accepted, the District Master (Mr. J. A. Waugh) gave his report for the year. He strongly criticised the central body of the association for the antagonistic attitude they were adopting towards other societies. Mr. Waugh said that it was quite useless to try to run the society on a territorial basis, with its present constitution. There was, he added, probably some justification for the extension of the old St. James' Society into the London County Association, but the fruits of the extension were far from being apparent. Short of a return to the St. James' Society status, nothing but a complete alteration of the type, scope and attitude of the society could preserve it from degenerating into a museum specimen.

After some debate the report was accepted. A lengthy discussion then took place regarding the general secretary's recent letter to 'The Ringing World' in reply to the leading article of December 23rd about the association.

The District Secretary (Mr. J. G. Prior) said that, in his opinion, Mr. Taffender's letter could have no other effect than to cause bad feeling against the society. The thinly veiled allusion to the Guildford Diocesan Guild and its late secretary was particularly regrettable. He had written a letter, which he proposed, with the consent of the members, to send to 'The Ringing World,' to the effect that the members of the Northern District wished to dissociate themselves from Mr. Taffender's letter.

In the debate that followed, it was found that none of the members were in agreement with Mr. Taffender's letter, but on a vote being taken as to whether the secretary's proposed letter should be sent, there was only a majority of one in favour. Those who were against the motion felt that to send the letter would cause unnecessary controversy.

It was decided that the district secretary should write to Mr. Taffender to ask him for an explanation of his letter, that the matter should be discussed further at the annual meeting of the association (which is to be held on Saturday), and to hold over the proposed letter to 'The Ringing World.'

The election of officers then took place. Mr. J. A. Waugh, who had been an officer of the district for ten years, two as secretary and eight as Master, declined to accept re-election, and Mr. C. A. Hughes was elected Master in his place. Mr. J. G. A. Prior (hon. secretary), Mr. R. G. Cousins (treasurer) and Mr. E. E. Holman (steward) were all re-elected. Mr. G. W. Cecil and Mr. L. J. Fox were elected to the committee.

It was announced that a monthly practice was to be held on the third Wednesday in each month at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, beginning on February 15th.

Leytonstone was chosen for the April meeting, with Holloway as the alternative tower.

Votes of thanks to the incumbents and to the steepkeepers brought the unusually lengthy meeting to a close.

Ringings in the evening took place at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East in methods up to London Surprise Major.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Southern District of the London County Association, held at St. Luke's, Chelsea, on Saturday, January 21st, was not well attended, there being only some 35 members and friends present during the afternoon and evening. This was not altogether surprising, as there was a counter-attraction in the same village in the shape of a football cup-tie, which accounted for 70,000 of the surrounding population, but it was extremely disappointing to the officers of the association, who take great pains to organise the meetings. There was, however, one consolation at tea time, when the 28 people who sat down found 50 substantial teas at their disposal. That the task was too much for them was not their fault, but what would have been said if there had been only four teas for the people who had sent postcards?

Ringings commenced at 2.45 p.m. and continued until 8 p.m., with a break for service, tea and business meeting, touches up to and including Cambridge Royal being rung with mixed success. In the absence of the Rector, a short service was conducted by the Precentor, the Rev. W. H. Wilson, who was afterwards a welcome guest at tea.

The business meeting resulted in the re-election of all the officers and the acceptance of the balance sheet.

The hon. secretary, Mr. N. H. Manning, in his annual report, commented favourably on the increase in the number of new members and attendances at the district meetings, but stated there was still room for improvement.

It was decided to apply for St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, for the next meeting on March 18th, and to leave the committee to prepare a rota of towers for the subsequent meetings. The secretary stated that this procedure, which was adopted last year, had proved very satisfactory, and as a result of early application for towers he had been able to obtain the necessary permission without any difficulty.

(Continued on next page.)

NATIONAL POLICE GUILD.

SURREY SUPERINTENDENT ELECTED PRESIDENT.

The annual meeting of the National Guild of Police Ringers was held in London on January 28th. Forty-five members and friends made the journey from Manchester and district, and they were joined by a further 17 members at Leicester. An interesting item was the presentation of a wrist watch to P.C. G. Pye, of Manchester, by his fellow police ringers on his retirement. The presentation was made by Supt. F. E. Williams with the best wishes of all for a happy and lengthy period of retirement.

On reaching London many of the party enjoyed the privilege of a conducted tour through the Houses of Parliament. This was kindly arranged by P.C. N. Bagworth, of London.

Lunch was then taken at the Euston Tavern, at which Capt. R. H. D. Bolton, superintendent of the 'E' Division, presided, and to which 84 members, friends and visitors sat down. A telegram was received from the Editor of 'The Ringing World' regretting that influenza deprived him of the pleasure of attending.

Capt. Bolton expressed his pleasure in attending and in a very happy speech welcomed the visitors to London and exhorted them to behave and enjoy themselves and to visit Bow Street if they wished, but not to occupy the accommodation, which was usually limited on Saturday nights. In reference to the bells, he expressed the hope that they would never have to ring again in any war atmosphere, but always in permanent peace.

He was heartily thanked by the Guild president (Supt. Williams, of Manchester) for presiding.

The business meeting followed, with Supt. Williams in the chair. He referred in sympathetic terms to the absence of the very efficient and worthy secretary of the Guild, Inspector Harold Poole, through indisposition. If the goodwill expressed on all hands can be of any help to him, then he is assured of a speedy recovery.

In his temporary absence, Sgt. Jenney undertook to keep the flag flying, but with serious doubt of maintaining the degree of efficiency displayed by the 'Man of the Guild.'

SUPT. WILLIAMS RETIRES FROM PRESIDENCY.

Mr. Williams came with his hardy annual in regard to honours going round, and so intimidated some of his ardent supporters on the journey up that he had his way without the difficulties of previous years, and Supt. C. Hilton, of Surrey, was unanimously elected president for the forthcoming year.

Mr. Williams, ex-Supt. and D.C.C. A. Wiggins and ex-Chief Inspector Bottrill were unanimously elected vice-presidents.

Mr. Williams assured the members that his interest in the Guild (for which he has done great things) would be fully maintained. He congratulated Sergt. Smith, of High Wycombe, on his promotion to Inspector, and P.C. Ford, of Manchester, on conducting his first peal. Good wishes on his recent retirement were also expressed to Mr. Wiggins.

Supt. Hilton thanked the members for the honour of being elected president, and said he would be glad to be of any service possible to further the interests of the Guild.

A discussion as to the venue of the next meeting brought suggestions that the annual meetings would be more successful in the summer, and it was eventually resolved that the next meeting be held at Banbury on May 25th, 1940.

During the meeting some of the party of weighty proportions made a determined effort to reduce by hiking from the Tavern to the heart of the West End and back. No tests were made as to the results, but in at least one case the effects were not too good the next day.

Ringling in the various towers, including the famous 'Bow Bells,' was carried on during the day with many distinguished ringers assisting.

A return to the Tavern was made in the evening for social entertainment, and the new president ably presided. Especially welcome during the day was the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, an old friend from Wales, Mr. J. W. Jones, hon. secretary of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Guild, Mr. Albert Walker (Birmingham) Mr. F. Pervin (Coventry), Mr. F. Dexter (Leicester) and other ringers from far and near whose help and encouragement were much appreciated.

The Manchester contingent arrived home about 5.40 a.m. on Sunday. There's enthusiasm for you, every member from that district being present. Will other members catch a little of this spirit before Banbury comes round? Mr. Norman Bagworth must be thanked for the work he put in in making the arrangements for a very enjoyable day.

H. C. J.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous page.)

Thanks were expressed to all who had so willingly helped with the arrangements for the meeting.

Efforts are made at these meetings to have as much ringing as possible and to reduce unnecessary 'frills' to a minimum. The practice of advanced methods is encouraged as well as facilities for the less experienced being provided, and it is hoped that the support which was given to most of the 1938 meetings will be renewed this year.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

BISHOP AND 'SYNTHETIC' BELLS.

Reply to Dorchester Branch Resolution.

The official attitude of the authorities in the Diocese of Salisbury towards 'synthetic' bells was revealed at the annual meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild on Saturday, January 28th. This indicated that 'synthetic' substitutes would not be accepted in a church where bells were hanging in the tower. The meeting took place at Dorchester, and at the service at St. Peter's Church the Rector (the Rev. A. W. Markby) officiated and gave the address.

At the subsequent meeting, as chairman of the branch, he presided, supported by Canon D. F. Slemack, and Mr. C. H. Jennings (hon. secretary).

About 80 ringers were present and the following towers were represented: Abbotsbury, Bere Regis, Bradford Peverell, Charminster, Dorchester, Fordington, Frampton, Sydling, Stratton, Maiden Newton, Upwey, West Lulworth, Wool, Wyke Regis, Bovington, Iwerne Minster, Iwerne Courtney and Uckfield, Sussex.

Among the apologies for absence was one from the Rev. R. P. Farrow, of East Lulworth, owing to the illness of his wife, and a message of sympathy is to be sent to him with best wishes for Mrs. Farrow's recovery.

The Chairman made feeling reference to the death of Mr. R. N. Dawes, a keen supporter of the branch and chairman for many years, and read a letter from Mrs. Dawes thanking the members for the beautiful floral bell sent on the day of the funeral and for the special muffled peal that was rung.

VIEWS ON 'SYNTHETIC' BELLS.

The Hon. Secretary recalled the resolution passed by the branch in regard to synthetic bells, and said that not only was it reported in the London papers, but in others that had come from America and South China. He read a letter from the Bishop's chaplain, Canon W. J. Barton, stating that the question of synthetic bells came before the Bishop and his Archdeacons at a meeting held at the instance of the Advisory Committee. 'The general outline of the policy approved (wrote the Canon) was that synthetic bells should never be accepted in a church where bells were hanging in the tower. In the particular case under consideration it was stated that there was no peal of bells and that the tower of the church could not take a peal.'

The hon. secretary also read a letter from Mr. Josiah Oldfield, M.A., D.C.L., Oxford, senior physician to the Lady Margaret Fruitarian Hospital, Doddington, Kent, arising out of the protest made by the branch against synthetic bells. In his letter he wrote: 'At all costs mechanical prayer or praise should be left to the primitive savages. It is they who idealise and venerate praying machines and it will be a sad day for our ideals of the worship of God when we replace devotional praise, devotional singing and devotional summoning to worship by mechanical methods which enable us to sit and do nothing ourselves.'

INCREASED MEMBERSHIP.

In his annual report the hon. secretary said the branch had accomplished a year of good work, and was marked by a large attendance of members and friends at the meetings. He regretted that there was no restoration to report, particularly in regard to the tower of Wyke Regis, where the beautiful peal of eight—the only octave in the Weymouth deanery—had to remain silent until the necessary funds were forthcoming. The membership of the branch showed an increase of 20.

The golden wedding on March 21st last of Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Dawes was recalled in the report. In a personal tribute to the late Mr. Dawes, the hon. secretary mentioned that he was branch chairman for 20 years, and his efficiency, good humour and great interest in the Guild endeared him to the members.

On the financial side the receipts for the past year totalled £31 6s. 10d. and the expenditure £17 18s. 8d., leaving a balance of £13 8s. 2d., as compared with £9 2s. 6d. at the beginning of the year.

The quarterly meetings were fixed to be held at Maiden Newton, Upwey, Preston and Bere Regis, and the annual meeting at Dorchester. Besides the four quarterly meetings and the annual meeting, the hon. secretary said he hoped to arrange some practice meetings during the summer months, and it was asked if it was possible to hold a meeting at Milton Abbey.—The hon. secretary promised to do his best to obtain permission.

Officers were elected as follows: Chairman, the Rev. A. W. Markby; vice-chairman, the Rev. R. P. Farrow; Ringing Master, Mr. C. Smart (Upwey); deputy, Mr. P. Toocok (Bovington); hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. C. H. Jennings. Special thanks were accorded to Mr. Jennings, who said that he had now completed 25 years of actual service as hon. secretary.

The following new members were elected: Messrs. P. Johnson, L. V. Davis, W. Bird, Major and Brown (Dorchester St. Peter's); J. Brown and F. Amour (Frampton); Maxwell Mearns (Maiden Newton); Maurice Caines, aged 13 (Wool). Honorary members: Mrs. J. Sheridan, Mrs. E. Wyatt, Mrs. Heath (Frampton). Associate members: Mrs. Ivor Chaiker, Mrs. Chaney, Miss J. Chaney (Upwey), Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Tett (Weymouth).

The hon. secretary welcomed a keen ringer and churchman, Mr. George Osmond, of Upwey, who had been ill for a long time.

The usual votes of thanks were accorded to all who had helped in the arrangements and for the hospitality enjoyed.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

COST OF CENTRAL COUNCIL VISIT.

Support for New Surprise Methods Book.

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire Association was held at Leeds on Saturday, January 28th, but, largely on account of the prevalent inclement weather, the attendance was not as large as had been hoped for. By kind permission of the respective clergy, the fine rings at Leeds Parish Church, St. Michael's, Headingley, and St. Chad's, Far Headingley, were available and made good use of during the afternoon and evening.

Most of the members attended the service in the Leeds Parish Church, which was much appreciated, especially the fine rendering by the choir of the ringers' anthem, 'Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice.' The preacher was Canon C. C. Marshall, M.A., president of the association, who gave a most helpful address.

Afterwards tea was served in the St. Peter's Hall, following which an adjournment was made to the Day Schools, where the annual general meeting took place, presided over by Canon C. C. Marshall, supported by the general secretary (Mr. L. W. G. Morris), the hon. treasurer (Mr. S. F. Palmer) and the hon. peal secretary (Mr. W. Barton).

Before proceeding with the business, the President announced that they had lost by death during the previous week one of their oldest members in the person of Mr. Harry Lockwood. He had been a member of the association since 1878, and by his death the last link with the famous Lockwood family of composers was now lost.—As a tribute of respect, the members stood in silence.

A hearty vote of thanks to the respective clergy for the use of their bells was accorded on the motion of Mr. E. Hudson, seconded by Mr. S. F. Palmer.—Mr. J. A. Teale, replying, said that it had been a pleasure for them to have done what they could to entertain the association.

The President announced that they had an invitation from their Barnsley friends to hold the next meeting there.—Mr. P. J. Johnson said that considerable time had elapsed since they had held a meeting there, and the bells had in the meantime been restored. He was glad to move that the next meeting be held at Barnsley.—This was seconded by Mr. G. Lewis and carried, it being also decided to try and arrange it on May 20th.

FACTS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP.

In presenting the association's 63rd annual report, the President drew attention to the fact that the membership now stood at 1,287. This was a net decrease of six against last year's total. He wished to point out, however, that 75 new ringing members had been elected during the year, while 15 had lapsed and 13 had died. Careful revision had also been made of the list of out-county members, which had resulted in striking off a good many names.

In presenting the peal secretary's report, the President drew attention to the debt of gratitude the association owed to Mr. Barton. It was a skilled work which called for close attention to detail, and Mr. Barton had now completed 18 years' tenure of office. He felt he could not continue indefinitely, and asked for the members to consider appointing a successor. He was willing to continue in office until a successor could be found. Statistics from the report showed that 93 peals had been rung during the year at 52 different churches and one handbell centre. Twenty-three members had rung their first peal and four had scored their first peal as conductor.

The adoption of the report was moved by Mr. W. E. Lloyd, seconded by Mr. G. Horner and carried.

In presenting the balance sheet, the treasurer reported that there had been a net loss on the year's working of £39 13s. 6d., which was accounted for by the cost to the association of the Central Council meeting in Leeds. The total cost of the meeting was £50 13s. 9d., otherwise there would have been a gain during the year of £11 0s. 3d.

The balance sheet was adopted and the auditors thanked for their work and report.

After considerable discussion, an amendment to Rule 9 was carried in the following terms, on the motion of Mr. W. Barton, seconded by Mr. P. J. Johnson: 'Any proposition dealing with the disposal of the funds or with the constitution of the association can only be put to the vote at a general meeting after a notice of the intention to move such a resolution has been given at the previous general meeting, unless such a proposition has been considered and recommended for approval by the General Committee, in which case it may be put to the vote at the next general meeting following the committee meeting at which it has been considered.'

A £5 GUARANTEE.

A discussion then took place on the Central Council's contemplated book on Surprise methods. The General Secretary explained that it was the intention of the Council to publish a comprehensive book, but that the cost would be more than the Council could guarantee without the knowledge that they could readily dispose of a minimum number of copies. It had been suggested, therefore, that the various associations be approached with a view to undertaking to purchase a number of copies.

Mr. J. F. Harvey said he felt it was a work which was needed, and had pleasure in moving that the association guarantee to purchase a consignment to the value of £5.—This was seconded by the General

(Continued in next column.)

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

BASINGSTOKE DISTRICT'S SUBSTANTIAL GIFT TO BELL RESTORATION.

The annual general meeting of the Basingstoke District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Basingstoke on January 28th and drew a record attendance of ringers who were anxious to try the ring of eight at St. Michael's Church, which have recently been restored. The service was conducted by the Vicar of Basingstoke, and an address was given by the Rev. D. L. Board, Rector of Wolverton and a former secretary of the district. The church was the scene of a disastrous fire last autumn, when the roof, which was being repaired, caught fire and caused the destruction of the organ. The church was still in scaffolding, and temporary lighting and a miniature organ were in use.

There were 106 ringers present at the meeting, which was conducted by the district chairman, the Rev. G. H. Jeudwine.

The secretary (Major J. G. Stilwell), in his report, said that there had been a slight decline in membership during the year, but if there had been a decline in quantity there had been a corresponding increase in quality. The district had at last returned to the peal-ringing arena. Four peals had been rung by Basingstoke (mainly men from St. Michael's), and one, the first peal of Stedman in the district, by Yateley. The record of the St. Michael's men was interesting, for they had no tower of their own at the time, yet they could ring peals on tower bells and even provide a brass band (of handbells) to head a procession at a quarterly meeting. There seemed to be a moral to be drawn—to leave the ropes alone sometimes and study on the handbells.

A brief account followed of the steps leading to the decision to recast the treble, 3rd and 4th bells in addition to the 2nd and tenor, and how the district decided to adopt the 3rd in memory of Mr. Henry White and Mr. Frederick Wilson at the cost of £19 10s.

A collection was then taken towards the cost of the 4th bell and amounted to £2 2s. 6d. It is hoped that the Guild will make a contribution for the same purpose, as it is the Guild's jubilee year and its nursery was Basingstoke.

Quarterly meetings had been well maintained, with an average attendance of 38, and two combined practices with the Andover District had been held.

Quarterly meetings were arranged for April 22nd, July 8th and September 23rd at Yateley, Silchester and Overton respectively. The annual meeting will be held at Basingstoke on January 27th, 1940.

All the officers were re-elected and a number of new members were elected.

After the meeting further ringing took place at St. Michael's and All Saints' towers, and methods rung ranged from Grandsire Triples to a course of London Surprise Major, which, unfortunately, came to grief one lead from home. Nearly all the towers in the Basingstoke District were represented and there were many visiting ringers, including Mr. George Williams, the Master of the Guild. Those present expressed pleasure and satisfaction at the improved tone and 'go' of the bells at St. Michael's since the restoration, which was carried out by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough.

(Continued from previous column.)

Secretary, who said that the number of towers in the county where Surprise ringing was being taken up was steadily on the increase, and he felt sure that the book, when published, would find a ready sale in Yorkshire.—The proposition was carried.

On the motion of Mr. J. F. Harvey, seconded by Mr. W. O. Talbot, the following were elected representatives on the Central Council: The president (Canon C. C. Marshall), the general secretary (Mr. L. W. G. Morris), the treasurer (Mr. S. F. Palmer) and Mr. P. J. Johnson.

In moving that Canon Marshall be re-elected president of the association, Mr. P. J. Johnson paid warm tribute to the services that Canon Marshall had rendered to the association for over 20 years. This was a long time, and their thanks were due to Canon Marshall for the able manner in which he had steered them safely through the vicissitudes of so long a period.—The motion was seconded by Mr. G. Lewis and carried with applause.

The election of the peal secretary followed, and as was pointed out in the report, Mr. W. Barton found he had not the time to spare he formerly had, but as no successor had been found, he was willing to carry on for another year. His re-election was carried enthusiastically, several members voicing their appreciation of the work which Mr. Barton had so efficiently carried out for the past 18 years.

Miss M. Fisher, of St. Michael's, Headingley, Miss K. Marsh, of Bramley, Miss Elsie Brothwell, of Rotherham, and Mr. P. Woodhead, of Felkirk, were elected members of the association.

Mr. E. G. Sherwood, representing the sub-committee that had been set up to deal with the presidential chain of office, reported that a meeting had taken place and that the matter was proceeding.

A hearty vote of thanks to the president for presiding at this busy meeting was moved by Mr. H. N. Ineson, seconded by Mr. E. Hudson and carried unanimously.

Further ringing followed, bringing to a close a successful and enjoyable meeting.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

CHANGES IN NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT OFFICERS.

The annual meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held at All Saints', Edmonton, on Saturday, January 28th, and although other important meetings took place in and near London the same day, the attendance reached the satisfactory figure of fifty.

Service was conducted by the Rev. J. G. Stevens, in the regretted absence of the Vicar (the Rev. E. C. Evill) through illness. The Rev. A. S. Roberts read the lesson. During his address the Rev. J. G. Stevens welcomed the association to Edmonton on behalf of the Vicar and referred to the excellent work done by the ringers at that church and elsewhere.

An excellent tea was prepared by Mrs. G. W. Fletcher and friends. Prior to the commencement of the business meeting, Mr. G. W. Fletcher (vice-president) thanked the Rev. J. G. Stevens for taking the service and for his interesting address, and requested him to convey to the Vicar their regrets at his absence and their best wishes for his speedy and complete recovery.

Mr. Fletcher also expressed thanks to Messrs. Barrett and Edmunds (churchwardens), Mr. Grove (organist) for passing on many choirboys as recruits for the belfry, and to Mr. Streeter (verger) for keeping the belfry tidy. Thanks were also accorded to the Rev. A. S. Roberts for assisting at the service, and a special vote of thanks was given to Mrs. G. W. Fletcher and her friends for the excellent tea provided.

Mr. Stevens replied for the Vicar, whilst Mr. Edmunds spoke of their appreciation of the work done by the bellringers.

The more formal business of the meeting was then proceeded with. An exceptionally large number of new members was admitted. The total of 35 included two provisionally elected prior to a handbell peal in December; also nine from Enfield, eight from Upper Clapton, five from Edmonton, and four from Stepney, the latter being described by Mr. A. A. Hughes, who proposed their election, as well-known College Youths, and by Mr. C. T. Coles as members of a band which had already made a name for itself in London. It was stated that the number of members admitted was, if not a record, the highest at one meeting for very many years.

The statement of accounts was submitted by Mr. W. H. Oram. It showed an income from all sources of £28 15s. 6d. and a total balance of £60 4s. 6d., which, under the new rules, was now transferred to the Central Fund. A note was appended stating that the £73 13s. 8d. of 3½ per cent. War Loan Stock had also been transferred to the Central Fund. Amongst the items on the credit side was an amount of £2 2s. voted by the district to the St. George-in-the-East Bell Fund. The accounts were adopted.

NEW DISTRICT SECRETARY.

Consequent upon the resignation of Mr. G. R. Goodship (district secretary) during the autumn, some changes in officers took place. Mr. T. J. Lock, who had been District Master for three years, was proposed for the office of secretary by the chairman, and was unanimously elected amid applause.

Mr. G. A. Parsons was elected assistant hon. secretary. Mr. Alick Cutler, of Willesden, the only nominee for the Mastership, was unanimously voted to that position.

Messrs. E. M. Atkins and H. Kilby and the Rev. A. S. Roberts were elected as representatives on the Central Committee, after Mr. G. B. Lucas had expressed a wish to retire in favour of a younger man.—Mr. G. W. Fletcher was appointed auditor.

A vote of thanks to the retiring members of committee, Messrs. G. B. Lucas and R. E. Geare, was carried with acclamation. It was pointed out that Mr. Lucas had been on the committee in one capacity or another since the association was formed.

Reference to the attendances at meetings was made by Mr. C. T. Coles (general secretary). He said that there had been a considerable improvement during the year, the average being 43, against 33 in 1937, but they had not reached the high average (48) of 1938. He suggested that further effort was needed.

To test the feeling of the meeting, the chairman proposed that the selection of a special method for practice at meetings should be discontinued. This was seconded by Mr. E. B. Hartley. An amendment that they be continued was proposed by Mr. T. J. Lock, seconded by Mr. A. W. Coles, and, after being supported by Messrs. Atkins and Holman, it was carried by a large majority.

St. Mary's Church, Finchley, was chosen for the next meeting, to be held on March 18th. Double Court Minor was chosen as the special method for this meeting.

St. Giles-in-the-Fields was selected for the next annual meeting of the district in January, 1940.

The chairman gave a hearty welcome to the treasurer of the Ancient Society of College Youths, Mr. A. A. Hughes, whom they were all pleased to see. This was loudly applauded.

Mr. Hughes, rather taken aback at the welcome, reminded Mr. Fletcher that he had long been a member of the association, and stated that he was very glad to be able to come that day. He thanked them for their welcome.

A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr. C. T. Coles for acting as hon. secretary since the retirement of Mr. Goodship.

It was announced that a combined meeting of the association would take place at Acton on March 4th at the invitation of the Rector (the Rev. W. P. Gough); whilst the annual meeting would be held at Bishopsgate on April 22nd.

ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

A NEW SECRETARY.

Society's Successful Year.

The annual meeting of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths was held at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Saturday, January 28th. In the absence of the Vicar (the Rev. Pat McCormick), the ringers were welcomed to the church by the senior curate (the Rev. G. L. Davey), who also joined the party at tea, which was served in the Crypt. He was, however, unable to preside at the business meeting, which followed in St. Martin's Parish Room, and the Master (Mr. G. H. Cross) took the chair.

Before business commenced Mr. Cross informed the meeting of the unavoidable absence of the Vicar through ill-health, and it was resolved to send a letter expressing the society's deep regret and to wish him a speedy recovery.

Greetings were received by radiogram from Mr. L. H. Baybut, now resident in India. A letter of apology for absence was received from Mr. J. Parker.

The hon. secretary (Mr. N. H. Summerhayes) presented a report in which he referred to the satisfactory year the society had enjoyed. Twenty-five new members had been elected and 14 peals rung, the most prolific conductor being, as usual, Mr. G. Gilbert, who had called six of that total.

Reference was made to the death of Mr. Frank Smith, a trustee of the society, and the company stood in silence as a tribute to his memory and other members who had passed over during the year.

A word of congratulation was expressed on the celebration of two golden weddings by members of the society—Mr. and Mrs. James Parker, of Enfield, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Neale, both gentlemen having done ycoman service for the society over a great number of years.

The report of the treasurer showed that the balance had increased by nearly £8 on the previous report.

The following new members were elected: Mr. T. Taylor, Miss K. Butcher, Mr. B. Weaver and Mr. W. Peck.

TREASURER ELECTED SECRETARY.

Mr. Norman Summerhayes resigned from the secretaryship, on account of business ties, and names proposed to succeed him were Messrs. F. G. Symonds, R. Heazell and G. W. Steere, the last named being elected as the result of a ballot.

The post of treasurer thus becoming vacant, it was, after discussion, decided to run the two posts by one person, in order to facilitate the working of the society. The newly-elected secretary told the meeting he would only accept the dual responsibility on the understanding that it would be for one year, in order to see the result of the experiment.

The other officers were elected or re-elected as follows: Master, Mr. G. H. Cross; trustees, Mr. A. Hardy and Mr. G. J. Matthews; auditors, Mr. A. J. W. Hughes and Mr. F. G. Symonds; stewards, senior Mr. T. Bevan, junior Mr. R. Heazell; representatives on Central Council, Messrs. J. Parker, G. H. Cross, G. Gilbert and G. W. Steere.

The Master, in reviewing the past year, spoke highly of the achievements of Mr. Ralph Bird in calling a peal of Spliced Minor in 14 methods, with 270 changes of method, and Mr. Cyril Burgess in conducting his first peal, one of Minor, in several methods.

An announcement was made that the society's annual dinner would be held at the Old Bell, Holborn, on March 18th at 6.30 p.m. The price would be 6s. per head, and particulars of towers open for ringing on that date would be published in 'The Ringing World' shortly, together with the names of those from whom tickets will be obtainable. To ensure the continued success of the function, it was hoped members would support it as readily as they had in previous years.

Mr. Alfred Pye proposed a hearty vote of thanks to all the officers for their good work during the past year, and said he hoped they would long be spared to continue their efforts for the benefit of ringing in general and the Society of Cumberland Youths in particular.

On the motion of Mr. G. Radley, it was decided to send letters of appreciation to the authorities of St. Martin-in-the-Fields and St. Olave's, Hart Street, for the use of their bells during the afternoon.

Among the many friends from afar who visited either the towers or the business meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson (Surfleet), Messrs. A. Walker (Birmingham), F. Pervin (Coventry), W. Boftrill and F. Dexter, of Leicester, and many others.

After the meeting the bells of St. Martin's were kept going as long as time permitted, when those with further time at their disposal made their way to a hostelry in the neighbourhood of King's Cross, where the members of the National Guild of Police Ringers were putting the finishing touches to a perfect day.

LATE NOTICE

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Grappenhall Branch. — The next branch meeting will be held at Daresbury on Saturday, February 18th, commencing at 3 p.m. Please advise me not later than 15th if requiring tea.—J. E. Ashcroft, Post Office, Grappenhall.

THE BELLS OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME.

MAYOR'S GIFT OF ALE TO THE RINGERS.

Mutton, Turnips and Apple Dumping.

Under wintry conditions a meeting of the North Staffordshire Association was held at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, January 7th. Thirty members were present from Burslem, Crewe, Draycott, Cheadle, Fenton, Hanley, Longton, Leek, Newcastle, Stone, Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent and Wolstanton. After tea had been partaken of, the Rector of Newcastle (the Rev. C. J. Watkins) extended a hearty welcome to all present. The usual vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. A. W. Hall, supported by Mr. T. Hurd, and Mr. E. Steele thanked the ladies for their help in preparing tea. The Rev. Father McDonald, of Cheadle R.C. Church, was elected an honorary member.

The New Castle to which the borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme in the county of Stafford owes its name, and probably its existence, was built by Ranulph Gernons, Earl of Chester, in Stephen's troubled reign. The obvious security which the castle afforded against the prevalent rapine and disorder induced several families of traders to make their homes by its walls, and between the feasts of Michaelmas 1172 and 1173 they were given a charter by Henry II. At this time they numbered about 160, and it was these people who, in this reign, built themselves a new church on the neighbouring hill, and dedicated it to St. Giles, the patron saint of the woodland. Of this their church only the tower survives to-day, and it is to this, the finest specimen of mediæval architecture in the district, that I would turn your attention in this monograph.

The tower was built, together with its church, and probably replacing a small Norman building on this site, in the 13th century, and in the style known as Early English. It still survives after nearly 700 years as the base of the present tower. In the 14th century the tower was raised, perhaps when the new church in the 'Decorated' style of architecture was built. The middle courses of the tower now standing are made up very largely of 14th century masonry. It is in this church that we first hear of bells, the actual date being 1503. It is recorded that the ropes for the bells were supplied by craftsmen as part payment for acquiring the freedom of the borough. At the Reformation the inventory of the church goods was made, and under the date 'the Vth of May Anno Septimo Edwardi Sexti' is to be found:—



THE RINGERS' JUG.

NEWCASTLE.

'Fyrste iijj belles in the Stepull and a Sanctus bell,' and 'iijj bells in the Stepull and a Sauce bell safely to be kepte untill the Kinges Majesties pleasure be therein furder knowen.'

I, as a ringer, was particularly gratified to find that the Commissioners had introduced their reference to the bells with the word 'Fyrste.' The church clock was mentioned in 1589, and in 1664 there were chimes in the tower. The bells were increased to five in 1665. It is remarkable that no alterations were made to the tower when in 1721 a building in the style typical of that decadent period was erected, and perhaps it is even more remarkable that it is to this period of spiritual stupor that we owe the recasting of the old five bells into a fine peal of eight, which now form the heaviest eight of the present peal.

The ring was cast in 1732 by Abraham Rudhall, one of the famous Rudhalls of Gloucester. The bells were brought from Gloucester to Bridgnorth by the River Severn and from Bridgnorth to Newcastle by road—a difficult task in the days when roads were mere tracks. In 1873-6 Sir Gilbert Scott built the present church, the fifth one to be erected on the present site, one corresponding in style and character to the tower, and formed the edifice which we now see. In 1894 Sir Francis Stainer completely recased the tower, and Mr. Turner rehung the bells. In 1928 the bells were overhauled and retuned and two new trebles were added by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon.

The dimensions of the plan of the tower are considerable. It measures 32ft. by 32ft. 8in. externally at the base, exclusive of buttresses, is five storeys high, and measures 110ft. from the level of the ground at the western entrance to the parapet.

In the well-kept ringing chamber are a set of handbells, 54 in number, and a set of 'RULES to be observed by RINGERS in this steeple':—

'If that to Ring you do come here,
You must Ring well with hand and ear,
And if a Bell you overthrow,
Four pence is due before you go,
And if you ring in Spur or Hat,
Sixpence you pay, take care of that.
But if you either swear or curse,
Twelve pence is due, pull out your purse,
And for a pledge to make it sure,
Your Hat shall be the forfeiture.
Our Laws are old they are not new,
Therefore the Clerk must have his due.'

The belfry belongs to the early 15th century, the great belfry building era, and the bell framing is of old timber and, together with a small steel frame, holds the ten bells.

The older bells have the following inscriptions:—

- Treble.—Peace and Good Neighbourhood.
- 2nd.—We were cast at Gloster by A. Rudhall.
- 3rd.—John Ridgway and Edward Vernon, Churchwardens.
- 4th.—John and Thomas Ridgway, Baliffs.
- 5th.—Thomas Fenton, Esq., Steward.
- 6th.—Rev. Robert Fenton, Cvrate.
- 7th.—John Fenton and Ralph Avdley, Justices of the Peace, Gentm.
- Tenor.—James Taylor, Esq., Mayor, Gentm.

And two bells cast in 1928:—

- Treble.—Two trebles added by Churchfolk and townspeople, December, 1928. R. Beresford, Mayor. L. J. Baggott, Rector. G. Eccleston, C. H. Bayley, Wardens.
- 2nd.—We two were cast at Croydon, 1928, Gillett and Johnston, Croydon.

But perhaps the most singular thing about Newcastle-under-Lyme from a ringer's point of view is the extraordinary relationship which existed between the borough and the Parish Church ringers. From very early times the Mayor and Corporation had almost complete management of the church, and so of the bells. It was the Mayor and Corporation who, in 1732, had the 'back' eight cast; and it was from the tower that the tenor tolled what was called 'Rump's Passing Peal'—the signal to begin the demolition of the Nonconformist meeting house in 1715, a riot aided and abetted by the Mayor, town clerk and many of the burgesses.

There are several references to the bells and the bellringers in the town records. Of these I give the most interesting:—

- 1528 June 10th. Also it is agreed that Thomas Harrison the Church Clarke shall not suffer any Peal to be rung upon the pain of twelve pence without the consent of Mr. Mayor or his Deputy for the time except to Prayers and Burials and that sparingly.
- 1657 November 7th. Isak Harrison at this Assembly was chosen Clerke for this Borough by the consent of the Company and Mr. Hall and he is to pay Widow Sillote 40/s and enter at Christmas next and that the Bell Ropes shall be found and provided for by the Town and 33/s 4d deducted out of the Clerke wages for provision thereof yearly.
- 1725 November 1st. Agreed that Thomas Collier have the night bell at Christmas next and that in consideration of his taking care of the Boys in the Galleries whipping the Dogs out of the Church and attend to walk the Fairs that he have 20/s quarterly paid to him by the Receiver.
- 1732 November 1st. Ordered and agreed that the Articles made with Mr. Rudhall of Gloucester for new Casting the Bells be sealed with the Common Seal.
- 1733 February 20th. Ordered that John Sneyd the Bell Hanger be paid his Bill for repairing the Floore where the 8 new bells are to be hung being £7 and that Ralph Boulton and Thomas Lounds be paid their Bill of £11.15.0 for work done at the Roofe under the new Leads on the top of the Steeple and that both be paid by the Receiver.
- 1737 July 22nd. Ordered and agreed that for the future the Ringers Fees shall be as hereinafter follows that is to say For ringing the Passing Bell 6d. The Bell to the House 6d. and 4d, an Hour for every hour they have orders to toll and if any person will have chiming in the morning and before the Corpse are to be interred to pay 2/6 to the Churchwardens towards the repair of the Ropes and 2/6 to the Ringers.

In common with other Newcastle ringers I long for those days not much more than a hundred years ago (i.e. prior to 1825) when our predecessors received from the Mayor, the Sunday after he was elected, 48 quarts of ale, a leg of mutton, turnips and apple dumping. On the Monday they received about a quart of ale each, and when the Mayor went out of office on the Sunday the ringers had 48 quarts of ale, followed by 24 quarts next day. They also received 32 quarts of ale on November 5th. The photograph shows the 'Mayor's jug' which held the ale.

To-day Newcastle-under-Lyme is wholly modern in appearance, its streets broad and busy, and all that remains of its 'new castle' is a grassy mound: yet in the midst of her changing life is still to be seen a reminder of the age when men, with but little thought for change or hurry, built such glorious houses for the worship of God. QUAM DILECTA!

KENNETH THACKER.

NORWICH ASSOCIATION'S RECORD. SOME SIGNIFICANT FACTS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Corrigan's letter makes interesting reading, but I am afraid he has drawn largely on his imagination in leading your readers to believe that the area covered by this association is a ringers' paradise. The Norwich Association is in as bad a plight or worse than most others, a good deal of the trouble being, as elsewhere, lack of recruits.

The huge peal total of this association can be definitely attributed to its heyday, when a large part of Suffolk (including Ipswich) was within its area.

I find affiliated to the association are 39 towers, viz., 2 twelves, 2 tens, 14 eights, 15 sixes and 6 fives. There are a very large number of towers with no ringers and consequently unaffiliated. The two twelves are seldom heard, the two tens are moribund, and I can call to mind ten eight-bell towers in ringing order without ringers. These bells are occasionally used by the comparatively small number of peal enthusiasts.

The membership attached to the 39 towers is 291; there are 51 unattached resident members and 10 unattached non-resident members. These members, together with 25 life members non-resident, rang 108 peals, roughly .3 of a peal per member.

The peal ringing is confined mainly to a comparatively few attached members of the North and South Branches; in the North Branch there were 52 peal ringers who rang an average of 5.77 peals each; East Branch 25 peal ringers, who rang an average of 2.78 peals each; South Branch 23 peal ringers with an average of 10 peals each; and West Branch 24 peal ringers with an average of 2.45 peals each, a total of 127 ringers who took part in peals, which represents only 36 per cent. of the resident membership. Seventeen resident unattached members rang an average of four peals each, four unattached non-resident members averaged five peals each, and 2 life members averaged 1.8 peals each.

Mr. Corrigan's statement that unattached ringers ring no peals in Norfolk is obviously incorrect, also the statement that Norfolk ringers keep their own bells fully occupied is very far from the fact.

There is no disguising the truth that ringing in Norfolk is not in a stronger position than other parts of the country, but is much worse than in many.

Get to it, Norfolk, and show how it can be done!

'NORFOLK DUMPLING.'

THE 5,000th PEAL.

The annual meeting of the North Norfolk Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at the Abbey Church, Wymondham, on Saturday, January 21st. Various methods from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major were rung during the day, and the association service was conducted by the curate (the Rev. — Holmes). Tea was served in the Vicarage Room.

At the business meeting which followed, the Rev. — Jarvis (Vicar of Wymondham) was voted to the chair.

The Rev. E. W. Blyth, Rector of Northrepps, was elected branch chairman, Mr. H. Tooke was re-elected branch secretary, and Messrs. G. Bailey, W. Clover, W. C. Duffield, G. Mayers and W. R. West were elected to the Branch Committee. Messrs. G. Bailey and W. C. Duffield were appointed to the Standing Committee of the association.

Mr. Albert Barber, of Gressenhall, was re-elected a performing member.

Mr. F. Nolan Golden (general secretary and treasurer) gave a detailed account of the association's work during the past year, and referred to the 5,000th peal rung by the association. He announced that that peal was rung at Winterton on December 17th and was conducted by the association's youngest conductor, Mr. Denis Baylis, of Acle.

Mr. Golden, on behalf of the members, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar of Wymondham for allowing the members to visit Wymondham once again for their annual branch meeting, also for the use of the bells.—In replying, Mr. Jarvis referred to the excellent support the church received from the Wymondham ringers. The ringers not only rang the bells when they wanted to do so, but were always willing to ring when the church wanted the bells rung.

Members attended from Attleborough, Burton, Banham, Burgh Apton, Diss, Gressenhall, Garboldisham, Hethersett, Norwich, Shelvington, Winfarthing, Great Yarmouth and the local company, and Suffolk friends from Yaxley. Members of the North Norfolk Branch wish to convey their deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. W. Clover and family, of Wymondham, in their recent bereavement.

The next meeting of the branch will take place at Northrepps on Saturday, April 29th.

FORTY YEARS MEMBER OF LECKHAMPTON SOCIETY.

The St. Peter's Society of Leckhampton and the Cheltenham Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association have lost by death one of their most respected members in the person of Mr. Arthur Caudle. He had been a member of Leckhampton Society for 40 years and had taken part in 14 peals of Grandsire Doubles, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major.

The bells of St. Peter's Church were rung half-muffled on January 25th for the funeral as a last mark of respect, also on the following Sunday evening for divine service.

NOTICES.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, February 11th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 5, tea and business meeting following at the Duke's Head.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—London District.—Meeting at Leyton Parish Church, Saturday, February 11th. (Leyton station, L.N.E.R., from Liverpool Street.) Nice light peal of eight in a beautiful and historic church. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting.—J. R. Housden, Hon. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at East Grinstead (8) on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, 5.15 p.m., by kind invitation of the President of the Guild (the Rev. Dr. G. Golding-Bird). Business meeting to follow.—B. Saunders, 18, New Road, Ridge-wood, Uckfield, Sussex.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Central Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (d.v.) at Chatteris on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., and please advise Mr. A. J. Abrams if you ARE coming. Bells available 2.30 p.m., methods up to London Minor. If attendance at this meeting is not better than of late the amalgamation with Wisbech and Ely branches will be advised. Suggestions, advice, members all welcomed.—F. Warrington, Dis. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Botolph's, Boston, on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells available from 2.15. Service 4.15. Tea in the Memorial Hall at 5 p.m. Business meeting afterwards.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., Park House, 90, Norfolk Street, Boston, Lincs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The Burton District will hold its first meeting of the year at Newhall on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Tea and meeting in Church Room at 4.45 p.m. Any visitors will be welcomed, and it is hoped all members will make a special effort to be present.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting will be held at Harworth (6), near Bawtry, on Feb. 11th. Rounds to Surprise. All ringers welcome. Please send me a card for tea. — R. Towler, 69, Ordsall Road, Retford.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting Feb. 11th. Ringing, St. James', Clerkenwell, 2.30 to 3.30; St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, 2.30 to 3.30; St. Clement Danes, Strand, 3 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. (New Service Book). Tea, Perdy's Restaurant, 5 p.m. Business meeting, Parish Room, 7.30 p.m., followed by handbell competition. Names for this and tea as soon as possible to T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec., 26, Southway, Raynes Park, S.W. 20.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The annual meeting will be held at Derby on Saturday, Feb. 11th. By kind permission of the Provost, the bells of the Cathedral (10) will be available from 4.30 p.m. till 8.30 p.m. Business meeting, for the election of officers for the ensuing year and other business, will be held in the belfry at 4 o'clock, and for the convenience of those who care to attend earlier, handbells will be provided. All ringers welcome. — George Freebrey, Local Hon. Sec., 81, Roe Street, Derby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The monthly meeting of this branch will be held at St. Francis Xavier's, on Saturday, Feb. 11th. The tower will be open at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4. Tea and meeting to follow. There will be further ringing in the evening. A hearty invitation is extended to all ringers.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—The spring meeting will be held at Walmer on Saturday, February 11th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., tea following (1s. per head). Subscriptions for 1939 are now due, and may be paid to me at this meeting.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The adjourned annual meeting of the West Norfolk Branch will be held at Swaffham on Saturday, Feb. 11th, not on Feb. 4th, as first arranged. Service at 4.30. Tea, 1s. each, at Messrs. Lane's Café at 5 o'clock.—W. J. Eldred, Branch Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Higher Walton (8 bells) on Saturday, February 11th. Tower open 3 o'clock. A good attendance will be much appreciated.—A. Blogg, Branch Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Martock on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells available all the afternoon. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Meeting to follow. Please notify for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock.

TO-MORROW, February 11th, Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association is holding a ringing meeting at Desford. Usual time. There is just time for the usual postcard for tea addressed to Mr. G. Dale, Church Lane, Desford, near Leicester.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Southill on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All will be welcome. Please come and let us have a good company.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—A meeting will be held at Bury St. Edmunds on Saturday, February 11th. Bells available at St. Mary's, 2 to 3.30; St. James' 3.30 to 5. Tea 5.30 p.m., at Sharpe's, Brentgovel St.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' (City) on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells (10) from 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow at Princes Cafe, 5 p.m.—A. M. Tyler, Branch Sec., 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Service, 5 p.m., at St. Mary's Church. Tea, 1s. per head, at St. Mary's Church House, Chain Street, fol-

lowed by meeting. Ringing at St. Peter's, Caversham, St. Mary's and St. Laurence's during afternoon, 3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—There will be ringing for evensong at St. Olave's, Hart Street, E.C.3, on February 12th, at 5.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings, February: *St. Mary-le-Bow, 14th; St. Magnus', 16th; St. Giles', Cripplegate, 21st; St. Andrew's, Holborn, 23rd; *St. Paul's Cathedral, 28th. *Business meeting afterwards. All at 7.30, except St. Andrew's, 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LADIES' GUILD AND SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A joint mid-week meeting will be held at Benhilton on Wednesday, Feb. 15th. Bells available from 3.30 p.m. Tea, 5.30, at the Rendezvous Café, Sutton Green. Ringing again in the evening. Numbers for tea to be sent to Mr. F. H. Randall, 7 Bushey Road, Sutton, by Monday, Feb. 13th.—I. R. Housden and F. G. Woodiss, Hon. Dis. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Saturday, Feb. 18th. Ringing at 6 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The pre-Lent meeting will be held as a joint meeting with the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association at West Hartlepool on Saturday, February 18th, when the bells of St. Oswald's (10) and St. Aidan's (8) will be available. Committee meeting in St. Oswald's Vestry at 4 p.m. Tea will be provided at a reasonable charge in St. Oswald's Church Hall at 5 p.m., and requirements should reach Mr. F. Robson, 13, Grainger Street, West Hartlepool, by Thursday, February 16th, at latest.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec., 23, Oaklands Terrace, Darlington.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Maidstone District will be held at All Saints', Maidstone, on Saturday, Feb. 18th. The peal of 10 bells will be available from 3 till 5, and after tea. A special business meeting will take place following the tea at the Old Palace. Members who do not send their notifications to me by Wednesday, Feb. 15th, must be prepared to make their own arrangements for tea.—A. Waddington, Hon. Dis. Sec., Malthouse Farm, Egerton.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Great Bentley (bells 8) on Saturday, Feb. 18th. Service in Church at 4.30, followed by the meeting at 5 p.m. Will all those intending to be present please notify me as soon as possible? — J. R. Sparling, Dis. Sec., Station Hotel, Wivenhoe.

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OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—The spring meeting will be held at Uffington on Saturday, February 18th. Bells (5) available at 2.30. Service at 4.30. Please notify for teas not later than Thursday, February 16th.—R. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon, Berks.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting of Southampton District at Bishopstoke on Saturday, February 18th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Tea 5. Names by February 16th, please.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Shaw-cum-Donnington on Saturday, February 18th. Bells (6) available at 3 o'clock. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., at 6d. each. All ringers welcome. Please let me know by February 15th how many for tea.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Arniston, Manor Lane, Newbury.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Crewe Branch.—The next meeting of the above branch will be held at Audlem (8 bells) on Saturday, February 18th. Ringing from 3.30 p.m. Will all those who intend to be present kindly let me know by the 16th inst. ?—Richard D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Amid-quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Knighton, Leicester (5 bells), on February 18th. Ringing at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea in the Church Rooms, Knighton Road at 5 p.m., for those who notify me not later than February 16th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting is to take place on Saturday, February 18th, at Arley (6 bells), instead of Exhall as arranged. Bells available during afternoon and evening. Tea provided.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District and Romney Marsh Guild.—A combined meeting will be held at Tenterden on Saturday, February 18th. Bells ready 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—P. Page, Hon. Dis. Sec., 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

BUSHEY.—Saturday, February 18th. Bells open 3.30 till 8.15. Tea at 5.15. Please notify for tea by February 15th, so that adequate arrangements may be made.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey (City 4270). Herts Association.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—The Langford-Beams memorial meeting will be held at Beaminster on Saturday, February 18th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow.—C. H. Lathey, Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Ilminster on Saturday, February 18th. Bells at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Service 6.30 p.m. Please notify early for tea.—D. G. Taylor, Braeside, Ilminster.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—A meeting will be held at Hathern on Saturday, February 18th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and meeting at 5 p.m. Good bus services from Loughborough, Coalville, etc. Please make an effort to attend, and don't forget a postcard to Mr. C. Durby, Hathern, near Loughborough, Leicester, if you want your tea. Subscriptions for 1939 are now due.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec., Hyom, Penistone Street, Ibstock, Leicester.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Spalding on Saturday, February 18th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. Will those intending to be present kindly let me know by February 14th?—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at Brecon on Saturday, February 18th. St. Mary's bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in the Church House at the kind invitation of the Vicar. Please notify not later than February 13th to J. P. Hyett, Dis. Sec., Dulas Terrace, Hay.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting at North Crawley, on Saturday, February 25th. Ring up 2.30. Tea 4.45.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—East Norfolk Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Margaret's Church, Lowestoft, on Saturday, February 25th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea at St. Nicholas' House at 5 p.m. Business meeting after tea. All ringers welcome. But 'Mr. Harwood wants to know' the names or numbers for tea, so just send a postcard, chums. Address to J. G. W. Harwood, 4, Cobden Terrace, Northgate Street, Great Yarmouth.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Coggeshall on Saturday, February 25th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow. Will all those intending to be present please notify Mr. V. Morley, 10, St. Peter's Road, Coggeshall, Essex, not later than first post, Wednesday, February 22nd? Subscriptions for 1939 are now due.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Hedingham Road, Halstead.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 51st annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, February 25th, at 6 p.m. prompt, Rev. Canon Stuart Blofeld, B.A., Vicar of Edgbaston, in the chair. The following towers will be open: St. Martin's, Bull Ring (12) and Aston Parish Church (12), 3.30 to 5 p.m.; Cathedral Church of St. Philip (10), 4 to 5.30 p.m.; St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral (8), 3 to 4 p.m. Tickets will be issued to fully-paid-up ringing members at 2s. each; to other members and friends at 6s. 6d. each. Early application is requested, but latest date is 23rd inst.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETIES.—The annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel, Leicester, near Clock Tower, on Saturday, February 25th, at 6.30 p.m. prompt. Ringing at Leicester Cathedral 4.30 p.m. till 6 p.m. Another tower next week. Tickets, 3s. to be obtained from me not later than Wednesday, February 22nd.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Southwark Cathedral on March 4th. Bells (12) available from 3 p.m. Evensong at 5 p.m. Tea (1s. per head) at The Chapter House, St. Thomas' Street, S.E.1, followed by meeting. Please send notifications for tea to me by 28th inst.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

—The annual dinner will take place on Saturday, March 18th, at 6.30 p.m., at the Old Bell Restaurant, Holborn, E.C. Tickets, price 6s. each, may be obtained from either of the following: Messrs. T. Bevan, J. Carnford, G. H. Cross, T. H. Francis, G. Gilbert, R. Heazell, J. Parker, G. Radley, A. H. Pulling, N. Summerhayes or the secretary. Arrangements for ringing will be announced later.—G. W. Steere, Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.—Will those members of the National Guild of Police Ringers who were unable to attend the annual meeting in London kindly forward their subscription to Sergt. H. G. Jenney, Acting Sec., City Police Headquarters, Leicester?

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