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FRIDAY, MARCH 8th, 1940.

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## ENTHUSIASM IS ESSENTIAL.

The action of St. Martin's Guild in deciding to hold the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner this year was fully justified by events. Although the number attending was smaller than usual, probably smaller than at any time since the eightieth birthday of Johnson was celebrated in 1880, nevertheless a company of nearly a hundred may be considered extremely satisfactory in these difficult days. But although the company was reduced in size, the spirit of former years was there, and the function gained an unusual interest from the fact that it was honoured with the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, the Lord Mayor being a member of a distinguished ringing family. His father was Mr. Theodore Pritchett, of Kings Norton, and his uncle is still the Master of St. Martin's Guild. This happy link between the Guild and civic head of Birmingham was one of the main themes of the speeches after dinner, when it was revealed that the Lord Mayor himself had once upon a time been a ringer. Whether the hope, that he may some day return to the belfry, will be realised, remains to be seen, but the renewal of his connection with ringers through this gathering gave great pleasure to the members of the Guild and, we feel sure, to the Lord Mayor himself.

The future of ringing was naturally in the minds of most of the speakers, and the importance, not only of keeping the art alive, but of maintaining Sunday ringing, was rightly emphasised. Now that a really serious call is being made upon the young men of the country for military service, the drain upon the belfries is becoming more and more marked and, as we have over and over again tried to impress upon all those responsible—and, in our view, the responsibility rests not merely upon the leaders of towers but upon every ringer—the business of supplying reserves should begin at once. When the men liable for military service have gone, it may be too late to reconstruct a band. The depletion of the ranks should be forestalled, if necessary by calling in the assistance of ladies, and the task should be taken in hand now.

To keep the flag flying will need all the enthusiasm that ringers everywhere can put into the art. That enthusiasm exists in many places, and there is encouragement to be gained from such gatherings as that at Birmingham on Saturday. The spirit that pervades these functions has its reactions in many directions. It helps the good relations between the towers in and around Birmingham, and radiates to many distant places. It enables ringers to appreciate that ringing is not centred solely within the four walls of their own tower, and it brings home to them

(Continued on page 110.)

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the fact that the art, if it is to be kept alive, needs the active interest of all its members, who may gain an inspiration from the work and influence of Henry Johnson and others of like character, whose contributions to the edifice of ringing have helped to place it on the high level it has reached to-day. Many men have taken a share in this work, but Henry Johnson was an outstanding figure. While commemorating him, however, the Exercise may well remember, also, what is owed to all those other giants of the past, to whose skill and enthusiasm can be traced what to-day is a valuable heritage. It is our duty to see that the art shall be continued in our time, despite all obstacles, and handed on, to those who follow, the better for our association with it.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

HASLEMERE, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 2, 1940, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATER, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 6lb.

JOHN H. B. HESSE ... .. 1	...Treble	WILLIAM F. J. COPE ... .. 6
ARTHUR J. BARTLETT ... .. 2		ERNEST J. MUNDAY ... .. 7
C. ERNEST SMITH ... .. 3		WILLIAM T. BEESON ... .. 8
ERNEST J. AYLIFFE ... .. 4		FREDERICK W. ROGERS ... .. 9
BARRY ELLIOTT ... .. 5		HARRY MULLARD ... .. Tenor

Composed by JOHN ROGERS. Conducted by FREDK. W. ROGERS.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LINCOLN.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, February 27, 1940, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 18 cwt. 2 lb.

*RAYMOND STALLIBRASS ...Treble	*BERNARD G. HOOSEMAN ... 5
*FRANK METHAM... .. 2	*NOEL E. CHAMBERS ... 6
*SYDNEY A. CHAMBERS ... 3	JACK L. MILLHOUSE ... 7
HAROLD MARCON ... .. 4	*JACK H. CHAMBERS ... Tenor

Conducted by JACK L. MILLHOUSE.

\* First peal on eight bells. First peal of Triples as conductor. First peal on the bells since they were rehung in St. Giles' Church from the old St. Peter-at-Arches' Church, Lincoln. All are local members.

BUSHEY HEATH, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 2, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt. in F.

EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. Treble	*LEONARD LUCK ... .. 5
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 2	*ERIC B. HARTLEY ... .. 6
RICHARD G. BELL ... .. 3	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 7
PERCY L. PARSLow ... .. 4	CECIL C. MAYNE ... .. Tenor

Composed by REV. E. B. JAMES. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

\* First peal of Grandsire Triples. The ringer of the 7th was elected a member previous to starting.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, March 2, 1940, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

HAROLD CHANT ... .. Treble	WILLIE GREEN ... .. 5
T. COLIN RYDER ... .. 2	ERNEST BROOKES... .. 6
JOHN E. TURLEY ... .. 3	ARTHUR GILL ... .. 7
DAN SMITH ... .. 4	ALBERT NASH ... .. Tenor

Composed by G. LEWIS. Conducted by A. NASH.

**SIX BELL PEALS.**

NEWTON, PORTHCAWL, GLAM.  
THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION  
On Thursday, February 29, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,  
At the Church of St. John,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Forty-two extents, ten callings. Tenor 8½ cwt.

*WILLIAM SURMAN ... .. Treble	ERNEST STITCH ... .. 4
ALFRED HANNINGTON ... .. 2	†ALBERT E. BACON ... .. 5
ALFRED E. WILLIAMS ... .. 3	TREVOR M. RODRICK ... Tenor

Conducted by E. STITCH.

\* First peal. † First peal away from tenor.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.  
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 2, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

At the Parish Church of St. Michael and All Angels,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 6½ cwt.

FREDERICK WATSON ... .. Treble	JOHN H. BAILESS... .. 4
WILLIAM A. WOOD ... .. 2	FRANK T. LONG ... .. 5
GEORGE A. CHARLTON ... .. 3	FRANK BAILESS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by F. BAILESS.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Canon J. Casson, Rector of Croft for the past 17 years.

**HANDBELL PEAL.**

WALTON, LIVERPOOL.  
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 28, 1940, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At 56, CHEPSTOW STREET,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven callings. Tenor size 11.

THOMAS S. HORRIDGE... .. 1-2	SELWYN H. DEARDEN... .. 3-4
WILLIAM H. DEACON ... .. 5-6	

Conducted by W. H. DEACON.

Rung at the third attempt.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**

**SUCCESSFUL GATHERING AT MARKET DEEPING.**

The annual meeting of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Market Deeping on Saturday, February 24th. Previously arranged for January 27th, it had to be abandoned owing to the severe weather conditions, but on the second attempt a very successful meeting resulted. About 25 ringers were present from Surfleet, Bourne, Peterborough, Eye, Edenham, Billingborough, Deeping St. James, Baston, Glington, Manthorpe, Folkingham and Market Deeping. The Rector, the Rev. F. L. Pigott, kindly allowed the use of bells during the afternoon and evening, and they were kept going to a variety of Minor methods, including London and Cambridge Surprise and several six-scores of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles.

Service was held at 4.30, conducted by the Rector, followed by the tea and business meeting at the Imperial Cafe, 19 sitting down. Mr. R. Richardson, Master of the Guild, presided at the business meeting. The Rev. Thorold Eller, of Burkstone, the president of the branch, and all the vice-presidents and hon. members were re-elected en bloc. Mr. T. L. Bainbridge, of Bourne, was elected as Branch Ringing Master on the retirement of Mr. H. M. Day. Mr. J. E. Allen, of Billingborough, was elected as hon. auditor and Guild representative. Mr. W. Oldham, of Manthorpe, was elected to the Standing Committee in the place of Mr. W. Neale. Mr. Philip Coles, of Edenham, was elected as a ringing member.

It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Horbling in April.

The business concluded with a very hearty vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells and the service, and to Mr. Rupert Richardson for presiding at the business meeting. The tower was again visited and further ringing continued until 9 p.m.

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**DEATH OF MR. W. A. CAVE.**

**A DISTINGUISHED RINGER.**

**His Work in Bristol.**

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. William Albert Cave, of Bristol, who passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday of last week after only a short illness. It will be remembered that in our last issue we announced the death of Mrs. Cave, who was buried on Monday, the 26th ult. At that time Mr. Cave was indisposed and was unable to attend the funeral. The following day he was taken suddenly worse, and, despite all that medical skill could do, succumbed to the malady. He was 63 years of age.

Mr. Cave was among the best known ringers in England, and in the Bristol district rendered yeoman service to the art over a long period of years. He had helped to found several local ringing societies in the city, he had been hon. secretary of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, and was a valued member of the Central Council for many years. He played a great part in his younger days in raising the standard of change ringing in Bristol.

Born near St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol's famous twelve-bell tower, Mr. Cave was educated at Redcliffe School and learnt to ring on Redcliffe bells. In time he came under the influence of the late James Hinton, the mentor of so many Bristol ringers, and, as a result, he joined St. Stephen's Guild in September, 1894, and remained a member until Easter, 1932. At the time he joined the Guild the band were beginning to ring Stedman, and after a while Mr. Cave took his place with the rest in ringing for service and practice. His first peal was one of Grandsire Triples rung at Wraxall, Somerset, for the Bath and Wells Association in September, 1895. His first peal as conductor came two years later, when he called the first peal of Treble Bob Royal in Bristol by a local band. Mr. Cave watched change ringing in Bristol rise from modest beginnings to a high standard. Whereas in 1894 Stedman was a rarity, before Mr. Hinton died in 1909 peals of Double Norwich, Superlative, Cambridge and London had been rung by Bristol men. Mr. Cave shared in the conducting, and he grew to be one of the ablest conductors in the West. He was a centre of energy in Bristol and called the first peal of Bristol Surprise and the first of Cambridge Surprise Maximus by the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

His activities did not, however, find an outlet merely in peal ringing. He rendered great service in starting new companies at other churches, and to the Gloucester and Bristol Association in various capacities. In 1910 he formed a Guild of Ringers at St. Thomas' Church, and when the new ring of bells was installed at the Church of the Holy Nativity in 1931, he built up a band there, while last year he was assisting Mr. S. H. Wood to form a band at St. Mary Redcliffe.

In 1905 he was elected assistant hon. secretary of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, and in 1907 was made joint secretary with Mr. C. E. D. Boutflower. When the latter resigned he carried on alone and gave up in 1914 when military service claimed him. After the war he was Master of the association in 1920-21 and was elected a representative on the Central Council, on which he had previously served from 1909 to 1911. When, in 1929, the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association seceded from the Council for a time, Mr. Cave's valued services were retained by electing him as an honorary member, and, for a short time during the absence in South Africa of Mr. E. A. Young, then hon. secretary, Mr. Cave was acting secretary of the Council. A few years ago Mr. Cave published a very useful pamphlet on Cambridge Surprise.

Peal boards in Bristol towers testify to Mr. Cave's prowess as a ringer and conductor, although he never claimed for himself any outstanding performances. Among his peals may be mentioned a 7,023 Stedman Caters, and the one and only peal rung on Lundy Island.

Mr. Cave was an enthusiastic Volunteer, and was an excellent rifle shot. He received the long service medal on the formation of the Territorial Force. Another of his interests was in Freemasonry.

His death will be mourned by a large circle of friends, whose sympathy will go out to the son and daughter in their double bereavement. Mr. Cave will be much missed, and the Exercise can ill afford to lose such men as he.

The funeral service was held last Saturday at the Church of the Holy Nativity, where, at the time of his death, Mr. Cave had charge of the bells. It was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. W. L. Wynne, assisted by the Rev. M. Paterson, of St. Thomas', and there were many mourners, among the ringers present being Messrs. J. T. Dyke, H. Bennett, W. S. Emery, F. C. Bellamy, P. C. Williams, R. Clark, W. H. Sears, H. Pring, K. M. Bissicks, E. J. Brown, J. Burford, S. H. Wood, W. Knight, J. Cocks, A. Tyler, H. H. Tucker and Edgar Guise, as well as Mrs. Wilkins and Miss Rowe.

The hymns were 'Jesu, Lover of my soul' and 'Peace, perfect peace.' The psalm was 'The Lord is my Shepherd' and at the conclusion the Nunc Dimittis was sung.

The interment was at Arno's Vale Cemetery, where but a few days before Mrs. Cave had been buried, and there were many floral tributes, including one from the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, one from the Bristol Branch and one from St. Thomas' Church.

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

The Society of Union Scholars was founded in the year 1713, and had the distinction of being the first company to ring a peal of Major. But after a couple of five thousands they drop out of sight, and we hear no more of them until 1736, when, under the leadership of John Denmead, they began peal ringing again.

Many of their members were deserters from the Society of Eastern Scholars, and among them was Philemon Mainwaring, who seems to have been the principal founder of that company. He had already several fine heavy bell performances to his credit, and he added to them when he joined his new friends by being the first man to turn Southwark tenor in to a peal.

The method was Plain Bob Royal, and the time taken for the 5,040 changes was 4 hours and 10 minutes. The rate of changes per minute was 20.16, which is very much slower than is to-day usual with peals of Maximus on the bells. When William Pye rang Southwark tenor, the average rate was 22 changes a minute.

After a time, Mainwaring went back to the Eastern Scholars, but in the meanwhile they had accomplished their peal of Grandsire Cinques at St. Saviour's. It was rung on December 17th, 1739, and, although there were no more than 5,082 changes, three men were needed to the tenor. Andrew Field, who conducted, was one of the ringers who went down to Suffolk to make up Theodore Eccleston's band.

The next peal on the bells was a 'fine peal of 5,016 Bob Maximus Double,' by the College Youths, on March 24th, 1740. Annable called the bobs, and John Cundell rang the tenor single handed. He took 4 hours and 4 minutes.

In comparison with Bow tenor, and Cornhill tenor, St. Saviour's tenor must have gone very well indeed. This may be partly due to the greater rigidity of the tower, and partly to the excellent workmanship of Robert Catlin, who made the frame, which is still in the steeple.

It was seventeen years after the Double Bob before the next peal was rung at Southwark, and during that time only two twelve-bell peals were rung anywhere. One was Grandsire Cinques by the Union Scholars and the other Bob Maximus by the Eastern Scholars. Both were at St. Bride's.

It was the time when the rivalries and quarrels within the Society of College Youths, especially between Annable and Cundell, were splitting the company into two factions. Annable died early in 1756, and in the next year a band was formed partly from the College Youths and partly from the Eastern Scholars which became the leading company in London, and in time inherited the name and traditions of the Society of College Youths. For the next thirty years there were two distinct societies of College Youths—the new body, who were usually styled the College Youths, and the other who were called the ancient Society of College Youths.

On April 19th, 1757, at St. Saviour's, 'this Society of College Youths rang their first peal, which was 5,280 changes of Bob Maximus, in 4 hours and 21 minutes, and was call'd by Mr. Geo. Meakins.' That is how Osborn copied the entry in the peal book. There is at present nothing about it being the society's 'first peal,' but the book, as it now exists, has largely been re-written

after having been partially destroyed in the nineteenth century.

The band who rang the Maximus consisted of men who were not only excellent ringers but who maintained the standards of the Exercise in London at a very high level. Joseph Monk, who rang the tenor, was afterwards the editor of the last reprint of the J. D. and C. M. 'Campanalogia,' which had first appeared in 1702.

Just a year after the Bob Maximus, on March 12th, 1758, the same society and almost the same band rang at St. Saviour's a peal of Treble Bob Maximus. 'This capital performance was the first peal of the kind ever accomplished on 12 bells by former professors of the art, and stands unrivalled for the boldness of the undertaking, the intricacy of the Method, and the excellent manner in which it was performed.'

Meakins was again the conductor, and Joseph Monk the tenor ringer. The method was, of course, Oxford, for Kent Treble Bob was as yet unknown. A month after this performance, the Ancient Society of London Youths rang 6,336 changes of Bob Maximus on the bells in 5 hours and 13 minutes.

There has been a society of London Youths for some years, made up, it would seem, by men who practised at Whitechapel and other belfries in the eastern suburbs. It was a rather loosely organised body, and had a tendency to split into different sections. One of these sections, which lasted from 1755 to 1780, had a distinguished career and helped to make ringing history. Another section lasted till the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The peal books of these two bodies survive, but of the company which rang the peal at Southwark almost nothing is known. It would seem that it was formed out of the quarrels which finally wrecked the societies of Union Scholars and Eastern Scholars, and that the band, having rung the long peal of Maximus, dispersed almost immediately. Both before and afterwards, almost all the men were ringing with other companies.

The conductor was John Jennett, and the tenor ringer was the elder Samuel Muggeridge, who ranks among the leading heavy bell ringers of all time. This performance gave him a place in the select group of men who have turned a 50 cwt. tenor in to more than six thousand changes. The group includes only six men—Samuel Muggeridge, his son Samuel Muggeridge the younger, George Harris, James Marlton, William T. Cockerill and William Pye. The first four rang their peals at Southwark, the last two on the old tenor at St. Mary-le-Bow.

The London Youths' peal was recorded on a board in the belfry, but it has long since disappeared, and we should have known nothing about the performance had not Concanen and Morgan given a copy of the board in their 'History of Southwark,' published in 1795.

Note.—Southwark old tenor was always reputed to be 52 cwt. in weight, but when it was taken down to be recast, I believe it was found to be actually 49½ cwt.

## RINGERS AND CHORISTERS.

### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Jabez Preece, I trust he will not object if I try to explain why some towers are compelled to wait a bit longer before teaching recruits. He says, 'We have a ring of six bells, tenor 6½ cwt.' Penshurst has a peal of eight, tenor 18 cwt. approx., and as the belfry is on the ground floor and the length of rope is 70ft., this, in my opinion, speaks for itself. Wishing Mr. Preece the best results with his spadework, which could be copied by many others especially at these times. GEORGE EDWARDS.  
Penshurst, Kent.

**BELLS TUNED IN MINOR SCALE.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to the recent correspondence in your columns in regard to the tuning of rings of bells in minor scales, it may interest your readers to learn that I have found several dating from the seventeenth and subsequent centuries.

At Marsh Gibbon, Bucks, is a minor ring of five originally cast by the Chandlers of Drayton Parslow in 1678, and until quite recently similar rings of five existed at Tingewick, Bucks, and Old Marston, Oxon, the latter dating from the first part of the nineteenth century.

There is a minor ring of four at Ferry Hinksey, Berks, again a seventeenth century example; while in 1701 a minor ring of four was erected at Launton, also by the Chandlers, to which a few years later a tenor was added, making a major ring of five.

Minor rings of three are fairly numerous. There are examples at Fringford Bucknell, and Oddington, Oxon; while at Oakley, Bucks, is a similar ring with the middle bell a semi-tone flat. The majority of these are seventeenth century bells.

I have found many unique rings. For example, at Nevern, Pembrokeshire, is a ring of six of eighteenth century date tuned in a minor scale, but with the fifth a semi-tone flat; and there is good evidence that they were cast and tuned thus, and have never formed part of a larger ring. At Llanstephan, Radnor, are four bells; the three largest tuned in a minor scale, with the treble one and a half tones above the second. Another unusual example is to be found at St. Petrox Church, Dartmouth Castle, Devon. Here is a ring of six, the largest five of which, cast in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, are tuned as the upper five of a major ring of eight. Subsequently a treble was added, thus forming the second-to-seventh of a major ring of ten.

Many more examples could be quoted, but I will conclude with a most peculiar example at Nether Winchenden, Bucks, where there are five bells, tuned as a major ring of five, but with the treble a semi-tone sharp and the fourth a semi-tone flat.

Launton, Bicester, Oxon. **FREDERICK SHARPE.**

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

**MEETING AT STEYNING.**

The annual meeting of the Western Division of the Sussex County Association was held at Steyning on Saturday, March 2nd, 26 members attending from 12 towers. The methods rung during the afternoon were Grandsire, Bob Major, Kent, Stedman, Cambridge, Superlative and London. At the business meeting all the outgoing officers were re-elected with the exception of Mr. G. J. Norris, who retired from the committee. The secretary wishes to thank all members for their attendances and support during the past business year.

**FALSE COURSE ENDS.**

**THE MIDDLE SECTIONS.**

We have received a very nice letter from one of our friends asking for some further information about the way to work out false course ends. He had, he says, no difficulty in following the instructions we gave so far as the first section of the method was concerned, but he could not see how to adapt them to the other sections. We ought to have explained that in dealing with all the sections the treble is simply ignored, and so they are treated in the same manner. In the example we gave (page 88) you first transpose the lead heads by the first row of the first section and the lead ends by the third row of the first section. Similarly when you come to the second section you transpose the lead heads by the first row and the lead ends by the third row. Ignore the treble and you get the following:

2554678	5324768
5783264	8753624
8647523	4687253
4236857	3246587
3572486	7532846
7865342	6875432
6428735	2468375

As 7 and 8 do not fall into the same relative positions in these two tables, this section gives no false course end.

When you come to the third section you will find that the second lead head, 5738264, transposed by the first row, 3527864, gives 7856423; and the sixth lead end, 6847253, transposed by the third row, 5327864 gives 7865324. When you compare 7856423 and 7865324, you can see that the false course end is 24365.

Similarly when you transpose the lead heads by the third row and the lead ends by the first row you get 8765432 and 8756342, which gives the same false course end, 24365, the second lead of one course being false against the sixth lead of the other.

It is always a good thing to test these things by actual experiment. For instance, write out in full the second lead of the course 23564 and the sixth lead of the course 25346 in the method given as an example, and see what happens.

**DUBLIN.**—At St. George's on Sunday, February 25th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) by past members of the 14th (Dublin) Company of the Boys' Brigade (St. George's) before corporate Holy Communion for the Boys' Brigade: Ex-Pte. W. McGregor 1, ex-L.-Cpl. D. McGregor 2, ex-L.-B.-Ldr. Miss A. Dukes 3, ex-Cpl. W. Hall (first quarter-peal) 4, ex-S.-Sgt. F. Dukes (conductor) 5, ex-L.-Cpl. G. McGregor (first quarter-peal) 6.

**John Taylor & Co.**

**LOUGHBOROUGH.**

■■■■■

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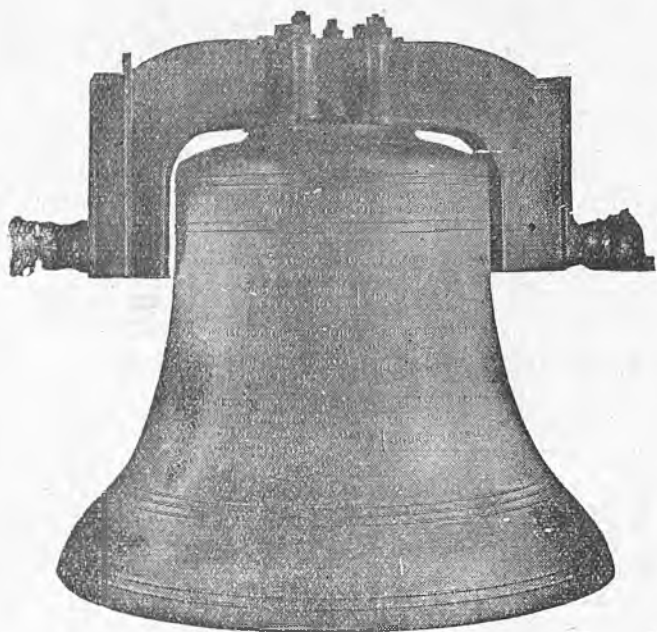
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The vice-president of St. Martin's Guild, who from the chair so skilfully conducted the proceedings at the Henry Johnson dinner in Birmingham on Saturday, had a surprise after the close of the proceedings. It was late before his duties finished and most of the company had long since departed, but when he ventured out into the night he found that not only had the last bus gone, but also the last taxi. He and his guests had to walk three and a half miles to the utter extremity of the city. What he—and they—said doesn't matter now, but they laughed over it—the next morning.

They were not the last of the company to reach their beds, however. The hon. secretary of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association, in order to be in his place in his own belfry next morning, left Birmingham at 9.30 p.m., arrived in Newport at 2 a.m. and then had a mile to walk to his home. And he was born in 1865.

We are glad to be able to state that the Master of the College Youths, Mr. E. G. Fenn, has now recovered from the long and serious illness which prevented him from presiding at the annual celebration in November. His first appearance was at the meeting last Tuesday week, and, needless to say, he had a very warm welcome back. Last Sunday he rang at St. Michael's, Cornhill, the first time for about five months.

The meeting of the Barnsley and District Society, which was advertised to be held at Sandal on March 9th, has been transferred to Silkstone.

On March 8th, 1737, the Norwich Scholars rang on the old ten bells at St. Peter Mancroft 12,600 changes of Grandsire Caters in 8 hours and 15 minutes. At the time it was the longest length in any method and it remained the record for Grandsire Caters until April 11th, 1888, but only narrowly, for only a month after it was achieved the Painswick men rang 12,006 changes in 7 hours and 55 minutes.

The first peal of Stedman Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow was rung by the Cumberlands on March 8th, 1808. It was composed and conducted by the younger George Gross, William Shipway rang the second, and the tenor was rung by Philip Pilgrim, who for many years was one of the leading heavy bell men belonging to the Society of College Youths.

On March 10th, 1742, the Richmond Society rang 'a compleat peal of Five Thousand and Forty of Richmond Triples.' The board which records this performance is still in good condition, but the figures of the method are lost and we do not know what was rung. The two trebles to complete the octave had been given two years earlier by William Gardiner, a local gentleman. He was a ringer and a member of the Society of College Youths. He was Master in 1744. In 1729 he took part in a peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Dionis Backchurch, but he did not stand in any of the peals which were rung at Richmond.

The first silent peal of Stedman Triples on handbells was rung on March 11th, 1854, by four members of the St. James' Society: John Cox 1-2, William Cooter 3-4, Henry W. Haley 5-6, and Matthew A. Wood 7-8

## RINGS OF FIVE.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir.—From 1827 to 1906 there was in Cotgrave Church, Notts, a ring of five bells in a minor scale. The third bell was cast in 1827 by Thomas Mears, of London; the other four were much older. The fifth was said to have been cast somewhere about the end of the 17th century, but I cannot ascertain the exact date or the name of the founder. The other three were cast early in the 17th century at different dates by the Oldfields, of Nottingham.

I have often wondered why this third bell was only half a tone above the fourth instead of a full tone, as in a major scale, but I cannot find any reference to it in the church records. Was it by accident or design? Perhaps the successors to Thomas Mears have records of the work done about that time and could enlighten me?

The older people in the village were very fond of this minor peal, and when they were increased to a peal of six in a major scale, many of these older people did not consider the change an improvement. The old five with their plaintive sound certainly had merits.

W. E. WHITE.

Cotgrave.

## BEGINNING YOUNG.

Tower-bell practice having been rather limited in Bournemouth, many of the ringers have turned their attention to handbells—practice takes place in St. Peter's Hall on Tuesday evenings. Among those to join the ringers from St. Peter's and St. John's on these occasions are the son and daughter of the tower captain at St. Peter's, John and Mary. Their progress has been rapid and greatly assisted by the loan of a light peal of ten by Mr. F. S. Wilson, of Midhurst. Mary, aged 9½ years, has learned to ring 1-2 to Grandsire Triples in a little under a month, and, with John (13) ringing 3-4 and father 5-6-7-8, enjoys a course or two on most days. Is she the youngest young lady to accomplish this? Grandsire Doubles and Minor are also rung and attempts at Grandsire Major. John was admitted a member of the Christchurch Branch of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild in December last and assists with the service ringing at St. Peter's. He could hunt the treble and ring 1-2 to Triples prior to his 13th birthday in November last.

## THE MEMORY OF HENRY JOHNSON.

ANNUAL DINNER AT BIRMINGHAM.

### The Lord Mayor Renews Association with Ringing.

A touch of unusual interest was given to the Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner at Birmingham on Saturday, the fifty-second of the series, when the principal guest was the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Theodore B. Pritchett, M.C. The Lord Mayor's uncle, Alderman J. S. Pritchett, has been Master of St. Martin's Guild since 1902, and his father, the late Mr. Theodore Pritchett, was one of four ringing brothers at King's Norton, who, a generation ago, were among the most distinguished ringers in the Midlands. Even the Lord Mayor himself made a beginning as a ringer, and got as far as attempting a peal. It was not surprising, therefore, to find him, in his year of office as chief citizen of Birmingham, renewing acquaintance with the Guild in which he was once interested.

During the afternoon there had been ringing at St. Martin's and the Cathedral, and special interest was taken in the new peal of eight at St. Chad's (R.C.) Cathedral, which were rung for the first time. Dinner was served at the Imperial Hotel and presided over by Councillor A. Paddon Smith (a vice-president). The company included the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Very Rev. J. H. Richards (Provost of Birmingham), Canon Guy Rogers (Rector of Birmingham), the Ven. H. McGowan (Archdeacon of Aston) and Mrs. McGowan, Mr. T. Reeves (hon. secretary) and Mrs. Reeves, Mr. F. H. Haynes (Ringing Master), the Rev. Canon Blofeld (Edgbaston) and Mrs. Blofeld, Mr. F. B. Yates (King's Norton), Mr. W. A. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Warwick Smith, Mr. A. Walker (vice-president) and Mrs. Walker, Mr. R. Richardson (Master of Lincoln Diocesan Guild) and Mrs. and Miss E. Richardson, Mr. H. Knight (hon. secretary, Society for Archdeaconry of Staffs), Mr. J. W. Jones (hon. secretary, Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association), Mr. J. Austin (Gloucester), Mr. F. Skidmore and Mr. D. Cliff (Bristol), Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Smallwood (Bath), Mr. J. P. Fidler (Loughborough), Mr. and Mrs. F. Pervin and Mr. F. W. Perrins (Coventry), Mr. W. Griffin and Miss Griffin (Walsall), Mr. and Mrs. W. Viggers (Aldershot), Mr. G. Popnell (Blackwood), Mr. and Mrs. Thorpe (Sheffield), Mr. G. J. Lewis (Worcester), Mr. H. Symonds (Hereford), Mr. F. C. A. Bennett (Wolverhampton), and ringers from many towers in and around Birmingham, numbering in all about one hundred.

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER.

After the loyal toast had been honoured, the Hon. Secretary announced that letters of apology had been received from the Bishop of Birmingham, Mrs. Guy Rogers, Mrs. J. H. Richards (wife of the Provost), Mr. F. W. Stevens (churchwarden of St. Martin's), Mr. F. E. Dawe (Woking), Mr. J. H. Shepherd (Swindon, a vice-president of the Guild), Mr. and Mrs. E. Guise (Bristol) and others. The hon. secretary read the following letter from the Master of the Guild (Alderman J. S. Pritchett): 'I cannot tell you how grieved I am not to be with you this evening, but the terrible winter has tried me dreadfully and I feel quite unable to be away from home. I am glad that the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress are coming and I hope they will enjoy themselves. The Lord Mayor's father rang with me in Holt's Original, London Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Superlative Surprise and many other peals. He was a life member of St. Martin's Guild. Please give my kindest remembrance to my old ringing friends. I often think of the happy days in the belfry with them. At about 7 p.m. on Saturday I hope to be drinking "Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild" in a glass of old port (laughter and applause). I desire to be specially remembered to my old friend Tom Miller if present' (applause).

The Hon. Secretary said unfortunately Mr. Tom Miller was unable to be present, as he was an inmate of the Western Road Hospital. That was only the second or third dinner that he had missed in the whole series since the commencement, while Mr. Dawe had reminded them that he was one of the founders of that commemoration, as he attended the first dinner, which commemorated the 80th birthday of Henry Johnson.

#### UNITY NEEDED.

Mr. W. C. Dowding, proposing the combined toasts of 'Church and State' and 'The City of Birmingham,' welcomed the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress and the clergy who were present and referred to the happy relations which existed in Birmingham between the clergy and ringers. At St. Martin's, he said, the ringers greatly appreciated the visits which the Rector paid to the belfry. Mr. Dowding went on to speak of the great need of unity among churchpeople, and said he was much interested in a recent letter in 'The Ringing World,' under the heading of 'Ringers and Choirmen.' The writer, who said he was both a ringer and choirmen, wrote that there was not very much unity, in fact he said there was a certain amount of feeling, between ringers and choirmen; that, in effect, the ringers turned up their noses at the choirmen and the choirmen turned up their noses at the ringers (laughter). That certainly did not apply in Birmingham and they had that evening four choirmen who had come to entertain them (applause). Mr. Dowding appealed to everyone in the Church to 'stick their backs' into the work for the Church, for there never was a time in the history of the Church when more hard work was called for than it was to-day. With regard to the City of Birmingham they were very proud that the State was being piloted by a Birmingham man (applause). Despite the criticism sometimes levelled

at him by certain newspapers, whose editors seemed to know how to do everybody's job but their own (laughter), Mr. Chamberlain was doing his job very well indeed (applause). No man in England needed the devout prayers of the Church and nation more than the Prime Minister, and it was up to everyone to support him to the full (applause).

Continuing, Mr. Dowding said they were all very grateful to the Lord Mayor for sparing that evening from his busy life to come and join them at that gathering. It was a coincidence that the Lord Mayor who visited them last year was the son of a well-known Worcestershire ringer, Mr. Elijah Crump, of Bromsgrove, while the present Lord Mayor was not only a member of a family of distinguished ringers, whose name was once a household word in the Exeter, but had also been a ringer himself (applause). He (Mr. Dowding) had had the pleasure of ringing years ago with the Lord Mayor at King's Norton, and he hoped that, when his civic duties would permit him, he would find time to return once more to ringing and keep up the high standard set by his ancestors (applause). The Lord Mayor's father, Mr. Theodore Pritchett, was a very fine ringer, and his uncles, William and Alfred, were also well known. The only survivor of that generation was Alderman Pritchett, the esteemed Master of their Guild. He had a charming personality and a lovable disposition which endeared him to everybody (applause). Mr. Dowding mentioned a peal in which the four brothers took part on May 2nd, 1904. It was a peal of London Surprise Major at King's Norton, conducted by J. S. Pritchett. It was rung at a time when a peal of London was a very rare occurrence and it was rung by a local band, which proved that they were ringers of great ability. He (the speaker) understood that after the peal the ringers regaled themselves in the manner only known to ringers of the olden days (laughter). He added that they wished the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress a successful term of office and hoped that before that term ended they would be rejoicing that a lasting peace had been restored (applause).

The hour was just seven o'clock when Mr. Dowding finished speaking, and, at the call of the chairman, the company rose and drank to the health of Alderman Pritchett in the hope that at the same moment he would be drinking to the Guild.

#### LORD MAYOR'S BELFRY EXPERIENCES.

The Lord Mayor, who was enthusiastically received, expressed the pleasure of the Lady Mayoress and himself at being present, but said he did not regard himself as being among strangers, for their Guild was a society to which he was introduced many years ago by his family and in which he had found many friends (applause). He thought he would be right, as Lord Mayor, in claiming that the bells in Birmingham were one of the amenities of the city, for there was something very beautiful about the ringing of church bells on Sunday mornings, calling to church, and in the atmosphere they created. At half-past four that afternoon he felt called from his office to make a round of the streets in the neighbourhood merely by the ringing of the bells of St. Philip's Cathedral (applause).

The Lord Mayor went on to refer to his early association with bells and ringing. At first, he said, he used to be taken to the belfry by his father always on Sunday mornings to witness the ringing by himself, his three brothers and the others. He used to sit there as a child noticing particularly the swaying of the belfry, and he remembered the awe with which he was taken up the winding stair to see the bells swinging in the tower. As time went on he became very friendly with Mr. William Palmer, who used to take him to the belfry regularly at eight o'clock there to ring the curfew. In that way he learned to handle a bell. Later on he was taken by his uncle, Will, to his study where he endeavoured to ring handbells, and hunt the treble, perhaps a fairly simple matter, but when it came to taking an inside bell or endeavouring to ring with two bells he found it a very complicated task (laughter). The Lord Mayor recalled the story of a curate at King's Norton who tried to learn to ring but gave it up. He was told by the Vicar that any man could be a parson, but only a very limited number ever qualified as bellringers (laughter). The Lord Mayor said he continued his ringing, and after the war, when he was in Lichfield, he used to ring at St. Mary's Church, where he met Mr. Cope, who told him a lot more about ringing than he was able to absorb (laughter). He also referred to Mr. Betterton, an old ringer at King's Norton, who was extremely deaf. It was very difficult for him to know when the calls were made, and he (the Lord Mayor) was sometimes instructed to stand by him and give him a dig in the back, once for a single and twice for a bob, but there was always trouble when he gave Mr. Betterton the wrong number of digs (laughter). His first peal attempt was at Shenston, where he went with his father. He was put on the treble and all went well for two hours, but then something happened, for which he did not think he was responsible, and they lost the peal. That was his first and last attempt. He was, however, looking forward to renewing his acquaintance with the belfry to try again, when his term of office expired (applause). He had been in the last twelve months trying to show his wife how to hold a handbell, but it was a hopeless proposition (laughter). In conclusion, the Lord Mayor said they looked to the bellringers of their churches at all times of importance in their lives, and they were hoping now for the time when the bells would be rung for the restoration of peace (applause).

Replying for the Church, Canon Guy Rogers congratulated Mr. Dowding upon his fine speech and said he appreciated very much the

(Continued on next page.)

## RELATIONSHIP OF CHURCH & STATE

(Continued from previous page.)

happy relations existing between the clergy and ringers at St. Martin's. He thought he might also speak on behalf of the Provost of the Cathedral, the Archdeacon of Aston and Canon Blofeld in expressing appreciation of the services of the bellringers and their happiness in co-operating with them. They recognised that the ringing of the bells could be not only a summons to worship, but a spiritual symbolism.

Going on to speak of the relationship between Church and State, Canon Rogers said if there was a state of tension between them, it was because the Church was intended to be a goad to those responsible for the administration of the State, to urge them along right moral lines. If the Church was entirely quiet, then, he imagined, it was evading its functions completely. When the time came they would always find that the community was glad that the Church spoke its mind, even if it sometimes made mistakes. A large part of the real success of this country in the position which it held in moral leadership was due to the fact that the State recognised that the Church had a real responsibility. It expected from the Church the inspiration which it sought to give, the warnings which it sometimes sent out and the trouble it sometimes created, and as long as the tension went on they got results which created a Christian nation. In a great city like Birmingham, with its vast business concerns intent on making money, it was extremely easy to forget the eternal background. Unless the Church was true to the Gospel and was continually putting before the people the eternal background of our lives, calling for humility in the presence of God, calling for the right relationships between a people, calling for recognition of the due place of religion and religious observance, the gradual decadence of the nation was certain. That was what really lay behind the tension between the Church and State. There must always be tension in order to create something. They must recognise the position of the Church. They did not want to be patronised, they did not mind being criticised, but they wanted to have their place recognised so that they might give their best service to the community and be faithful to the God who created the Church and made them its officers and ministers.

### A FAMOUS BAND.

Mr. John Austin, one of the four ringers present who knew Henry Johnson in the flesh, gave the toast of 'The Memory of Henry Johnson.' He said that what men did for themselves on this earth was buried with them, what they did for others remained. Henry Johnson's services to ringing lived on and they had evidence of it in that gathering, which brought men together from all over England.

Mr. Austin said he first met Henry Johnson on November 20th, 1882, when Johnson was one of the umpires of the first peal of Stedman Triples rung 'silent.' The band was made up of C. H. Hattersley, John Carter, Henry Bastable, Joseph Griffin, Samuel Reeves, William Wakley, John Jagger and Albert Thomas. Mr. Jagger, who was with them that night, and Mr. Griffin were the only survivors. The umpires were Henry Johnson, of Birmingham, and the Rev. J. H. Fish, of Burton. He (Mr. Austin) was only a probationer at the time, but he was anxious to hear the peal, and he went with the ringers to the meeting house afterwards. He felt he was sitting at the feet of the mighty. He could not join in the conversation, but he listened and he learned a good deal. It was regarded as a national calamity for ringers when Henry Johnson died on January 7th, 1890. St. Martin's Guild had flourished ever since the day when Henry Johnson was Master, and its success was one of the things which had survived him. Mr. Austin referred to the Ringing Masters who had held office since Johnson, and remarked that while it used to be said that St. Martin's Guild could only ring Stedman Cinques, during Mr. Walker's Ringing Mastership they got up to Cambridge Maximus. The success was largely due to the foundation which Henry Johnson laid more than 50 years ago, and to the spirit which he created. He (Mr. Austin) hoped that spirit would long remain in the Guild; as long as it did remain the Guild would prosper.

The toast was drunk in silence.

Other toasts were 'Continued Prosperity to St. Martin's Guild,' 'The Visitors' and 'The Chairman.' A report of these speeches will appear in our next issue.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

OLDHAM.—On Monday, February 19th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Moorside Church, Oldham: H. Armstead 1, F. Lawton 2, I. Gartside 3, J. Ogden 4, James Brooks (first quarter-peal) 5, C. Taylor 6, I. Kay (conductor) 7, Leonard Brooks (first quarter-peal) 8.

KILBURN.—On Sunday, February 11th, for evensong at St. Augustine's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 43 minutes: W. R. Dennis 1, A. W. Tozer 2, G. A. Parsons 3, Miss M. Prockson 4, W. H. Seabrook 5, F. C. Shorter (conductor) 6, E. Murrell 7, W. Murrell 8.

SWAVESEY, CAMBS.—On Saturday, February 10th, at St. Andrew's Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Doubles (1,440 changes): \*J. Hodson 1, \*G. Hodson 2, D. Adams 3, G. E. Crisp 4, F. Warrington (conductor) 5. \*First quarter-peal of Doubles. Rung fully muffled in respect of Mr. W. H. Key, many years churchwarden at this church.

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### NEW RINGING MASTER IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Eastwood, Rotherham, on Saturday, February 24th, when quite a good number put in an appearance. Members were present from Sheffield Cathedral, St. Marie's (R.C.), Sheffield, Handsworth, Felkirk, Rotherham, Doncaster, Rawmarsh, Ranmoor, Wath-on-Deerne, Whiston, Dore, Eckington, Barnby Don and the local company.

The bells, a nice handy ring of eight (tenor 12½ cwt.), were fully occupied during the afternoon, until black-out time, in all the standard methods and various Surprise ones, whilst at the same time every opportunity was given to a number of beginners, who showed promise for the future.

The business meeting was held in the Schoolroom immediately after the bells had been lowered, the chair being taken by the vice-president, Mr. George Lewis. Owing to illness, the Vicar (the Rev. P. W. R. Kennedy) was unable to attend.

One new member (Mr. Horace Bailey, of Rawmarsh) was elected. Three retiring committeemen, Messrs. F. A. Staveley (Doncaster), A. Panther (Wath-on-Deerne) and T. C. Ryder (Rotherham), were re-elected for a further term of three years. Mr. E. Brookes, Hoylandswain, was elected a member of the committee in place of Mr. C. D. Potter, Barnsley, deceased.

The retiring Ringing Master (Mr. Sidney F. Palmer) said he did not seek re-election, and expressed a wish to stand down in favour of some younger man. Mr. Palmer explained that although quite willing to carry on if necessary, he considered it was not policy for one member to hold more than one prominent position. He thought the work should be spread round the district, thus creating more interest amongst the members, especially as there were several promising talented members now on the horizon. As they already knew, he held another important office in the association, and he thought the time had now arrived when new blood should be infused amongst the workers. He hoped, therefore, the meeting would elect a successor in his place, someone who could and would attend all the meetings, and be capable of using tact in controlling the ringing.

On a proposition by Mr. Norman Chaddock, seconded by Mr. Albert Nash, Mr. Harold Chant, of Felkirk, was unanimously elected as Ringing Master for three years, the proposal finding great favour with everyone present.

On the invitation of Mr. F. C. Wilson, it was decided to hold the next meeting at Rawmarsh on April 20th.

It was announced that the General Committee had passed a resolution whereby the names of all members serving in H.M. Forces would be kept on the books of the association without further payment until their return to civil life.

The operation of the newly-launched Bell Repair Fund was explained by Mr. S. F. Palmer, who stated that although it had been decided this should be a purely voluntary effort and that no grants could be made until there was an accumulation of funds, he hoped it would meet with a good response. The honour of the first collection in the association fell to that meeting, whereby history would be made.

This realised the sum of 7s. 9d., which was considered satisfactory for the number present.

A vote of thanks to the local company brought the meeting to a close.

### NOTICES.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Easter Monday, when the Cathedral (12 bells), St. Peter's (10), St. Michael's (6), and St. Stephen's (6) will be open for members from 2 p.m. Service in Cathedral 4.30 p.m. Preacher, Rev. A. M. Fergusson, M.A., followed by tea and business meeting in the Waterend Barn, St. Peter's Street (close to Westminster Bank). You can depend upon a sumptuous meat tea in this original 16th century barn. Please let me know if you are coming, so as to make adequate arrangements.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting, Easter Monday, March 25th, 2.30 p.m., at Chippenham. Management Committee will meet at 11.30 a.m. Temporary suspension of rules 3, 5 and 31 has been notified as a motion until end of war or until such times as seem desirable. Full times and details of other arrangements will be announced later.—Edgar Guise, 46a, Tankards Close, Bristol, 2.



**LONDON RINGING ORGANISATIONS.**  
EFFECT OF PERSONAL DISPUTES.

**Outspoken Criticism at Middlesex Association Meeting.**

The meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, held at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, last Saturday, was another successful event to be recorded in the annals of the association's activities. The bells were set going about 2.30 p.m., and from that time until late in the evening something interesting was taking place—a ring on the tower bells, a chat with an old ringing friend, a look round the ancient and interesting church, an inspiring short service, a plentiful tea, a business meeting short and snappy, some handbell ringing and a game of table tennis, also (exclusive to the ladies) some knitting.

Ringers from a wide area attended, and to cater for all present the Ringing Master (Mr. A. Cutler) arranged the bells to be rung in rounds and methods ranging to courses of Bristol Surprise Major and Cambridge Surprise Royal.

The service in church was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. French, who welcomed the association and referred to the ancient and historical building which had stood there for four or five hundred years and was the successor of two others, one a humble wooden structure, and the other some of whose stones were incorporated in the present church.

Speaking of the war, he said that since he believed in God he was sure we should win, but when we did win we must see that the victory was turned to good account. Lord Baldwin had said more than once that a war would mean the end of our present civilisation. There were many things in our present civilisation, including the Stepney slums, that he (the preacher) would be glad to see ended.

Prior to the business meeting the chairman (Mr. Vice-President Fletcher) called upon the general secretary (Mr. C. T. Coles), who said that it was perhaps somewhat unusual to start making speeches before the minutes of the previous meeting, but this was no ordinary occasion. To many present it was a red-letter day in the history of the Middlesex Association, for in the 43 years of its existence the society had never before held a meeting at Stepney.

He said that he would have given a great deal for such a meeting during his own term of office as district secretary, and he felt that he had resigned just a bit too soon.

As to the reasons why such a meeting had been possible, most of them did not matter now. But there was something in this connection which ought to be mentioned. They had read a great deal lately about the relations between London ringing societies, and the writer of those articles showed a considerable knowledge of his subject. But they have never been told how much those relations, when difficult, were due to personal bad feeling between ringers. There has been a great deal of this in past days, and they found it breaking out again on occasions amongst older men. For instance, there was a meeting in London a week or two ago—'but I had better put it differently,' said Mr. Coles, amidst loud laughter. They had often heard of a ringer being barred from a tower because of his personal bad relations with the ringers in that tower, but it was rather astounding in these days to hear of a ringer denying himself, and the whole of the members of his society, entry to a tower because of some old personal animosity he himself held towards a ringer in that tower. Yet that was the sort of thing that London had suffered from in days gone by.

He was glad, he added, to see amongst them at that meeting members of other societies who had done their best to mend this state of affairs, and it had always been their aim in the Middlesex Association not to let such a spirit affect their work. The present generation had already shown that they did not wish to have anything to do with these old quarrels, and he could assure them that, with the difficult days that lay ahead for ringers and ringing, co-operation was necessary, or ringing would not survive.

The ringers at Stepney had set them an example as to how to live in friendliness with all. It was one of the good signs of the present day that the younger ringer did not wish to keep up past quarrels.

Mr. T. J. Lock said that although Mr. Coles might have preferred this meeting to have taken place during his own term of office, the credit was still his, for it was entirely due to his efforts that they were enabled to visit Stepney.—Mr. Coles: Thank you, 'Tom.'

Mr. A. A. Hughes paid a tribute to the Stepney ringers. For enthusiasm they could not be beaten. They were entirely self-taught, and at a recent meeting of the College Youths four of them each took a pair of handbells in a course of Stedman Cinques. The Rector and the Stepney people had reason to be proud of these young men.

It was announced that the annual general meeting of the association would be held at Acton on April 27th.

**NOTICES.**

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Earls Colne on Saturday, March 9th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Business meeting at the Vicarage 5.30 p.m. It is hoped the members will make a special effort to attend this meeting.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LEICESTER & DISTRICT RINGING SOCIETIES.**—The annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel (near Clock Tower) at 6.30 p.m. prompt, on March 9th. Ringing at St. Peter's, Belgrave (8 bells), 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., and at St. John's (10 bells) from 4.30 p.m. till 5.30 p.m. Tickets, 3s. 6d each.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Belper, on March 9th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Nottingham and Peak districts specially invited. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Wigan Parish Church on Saturday, March 9th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Branch.—The branch annual meeting will be held at Great Yarmouth on Saturday, March 9th. Ringing from 3 to 6 p.m. Tea at Hill's Restaurant, King Street, at 6.15 p.m. Business meeting after tea. Owing to the conditions of the present times it is essential that those coming to tea should let me have names or numbers. All ringers are welcome.—J. Harwood, Hon. Sec., 4, Cobden Terrace, Northgate Street, Great Yarmouth.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Kendal Parish Church on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (10) available at 2.30 p.m. Mr. Woodhouse hopes to demonstrate his ringing machine at this meeting. Tea will be arranged at 4.30 p.m. only for those who send notice to Mr. L. Townley, 3, Charles Street, Kendal. Meeting in the Vestry Room after tea.—N. M. Newby, Sec.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Henlow on Saturday, March 9th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western District.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 9th, at Redbourn. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. usual arrangements.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—Annual meeting will be held at Warnham, Saturday, March 9th. Tower open at 3. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

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**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at Balcombe on Saturday, March 9th. The eight bells will be available at 2.30 p.m. We extend a cordial invitation to all ringers in Sussex and elsewhere.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—South and West District.—Next meeting March 9th at Brentford (St. Lawrence). Bells available from 2.30. Service at 5, followed by tea at Druce and Smith's. Christ Church, Ealing, bells available in the evening.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, W.13.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—A practice will be held at St. Mary-le-Bow on Saturday, March 9th, at 3 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 12th at headquarters at 7 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—Owing to the indisposition of the secretary, the annual meeting of the above Guild, which was to have been held at Dudley on March 9th, has been postponed to April 6th. Band secretaries please notify the secretary of numbers of members intending to be present.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—There will be a meeting at St. Helens Parish Church on Saturday, March 9th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. and tea at 5.30. Will all who intend to be present for tea kindly send word to Mr. A. Wallace, 6, Brookside Avenue, Eccleston, St. Helens?—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Hunts Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Somersham on Saturday, March 9th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m. A good meeting is desired. Please come.—H. J. Parker, Hon. Sec.

**BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—Owing to unavoidable circumstances, the meeting advertised to be held at Sandal on March 9th has had to be postponed, but a meeting will be held at Silkstone on Saturday, March 9th, instead. Bells (6) ready 2.30 p.m. Tea at Ring of Bells 5 p.m., followed by short business meeting, and further ringing until 8 p.m. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**DONCASTER PARISH CHURCH.**—The ring of eight bells, which has been recast by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., will be dedicated on March 10th at 3 p.m. by Archdeacon T. Sandford.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual general committee meeting will be held at Oxford on Saturday, March 16th, at 3.15 p.m. in the Chapter House, Christ Church.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting will be held at Doncaster on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Tower blacked out. It is hoped to arrange a tea for those who send their names to F. A. Staveley, 151, Wentworth Road, Doncaster, not later than Wednesday, March 13th.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guildford District.—Meeting at Witley, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. It is essential that all requiring tea notify Mr. F. C. Haggley, 2, Wheeler Street, Witley, not later than Thursday, March 14th. All ringers and friends welcome.—W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, March 16th. Bells of St. John's available from 3 o'clock. Service 5 o'clock. Tea at the Parish Hall, Silverdale Road, Croydon, 5.45. Meeting 6.30. Further ringing after the meeting. Notifications for tea to be sent to Mr. D. Cooper, 5, Harrisons Rise, Croydon, by Wednesday, March 13th.—E. G. Talbot, Hon. Sec., 53, Birchwood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Luton District) AND HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION (St. Albans District).**—A joint meeting will be held at Luton Parish Church on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. All ringers cordially invited.—H. Frost and E. Belson, Dis. Secs.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Meeting of Southampton District at Upham on Saturday, March 16th. Bells 2.30-7.30. Teas only for those who notify by March 13th.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Chew Deanery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Wrington on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock at the Golden Lion, followed by business meeting.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Tendring on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (6) available from 2 p.m. till 9 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5.15 p.m. at the Vicarage. A good bus service from Colchester. On account of rationing problems, it is very important that those desiring tea shall send names by March 12th to L. Wright, Hon. Assist. Div. Sec., Lower Barn Farm, Dedham, Colchester.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at St. Mark's Church, Glodwick, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand. All ringers welcome.—Ivan Kay, Branch Secretary.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16th, at Tonbridge. Tower open 2.15. Service at 4.30, conducted by the Rev. Canon Frank Child. Tea and business meeting to follow. Election of officers, and plans for the future. Please notify for tea by Tuesday, the 12th.—Alec E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Eccles, on Saturday afternoon, March 16th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend. Subscriptions due.—J. H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guildford District.—The combined practice, arranged for Cranleigh on March 16th, is cancelled.—W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Syston (8 bells) on March 16th. Ringing, 3 p.m. till 7 p.m. No tea, but a hot supper for those who notify Mr. G. Walker, Southfields, Goodes Lane, Syston, by March 14th. No name, no supper.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Devizes Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at North Bradley on Saturday, March 16th Bells at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5, for which please advise.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The next meeting is arranged to take place at Stoke-in-Coventry on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) available during afternoon and evening. Tea at 5 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall, Binley Road, at a moderate charge.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Maidstone District.—First war-time meeting of Maidstone District will be held at Linton (near Maidstone) on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Association form of service at 5, followed by tea and business meeting in the Institute Room. Tea will be provided by the association for those who notify Mr. C. H. Sone, Linton Park, by Wednesday, March 15th. M. and D. buses 5, 6, 59, and E2 are handy. Subscriptions for 1940 may be paid at this meeting except from members serving in H.M. Forces.—R. G. Rayfield, Dis. Hon. Sec., 86, Hedge Place Road, Hornsross, Greenhithe, Kent.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Crewe Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Church Lawton (8 bells) on March 16th. Will those who intend to be present kindly inform me by March 13th? Ringing from 2.30 p.m.—Richard D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Thurlaston on Saturday, March 16th. Ringing from 3 to 7.30. Service at 5. Refreshments being arranged. Please notify Mr. J. Taylor or W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec., Fosseyway, Croft.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at Stoke Bishop on Saturday, March 16th. Bells (6) from 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Ringing to continue until 8 p.m. Buses from Centre Nos. 22 and 222.—A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol 3.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting of the Southern Division will take place after the practice at St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells available in the afternoon from 3 p.m. No tea. Half rail fare allowed, maximum 1s. 6d.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec.

**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Ipswich on Easter Monday, March 25th. Committee meet at 3.30 in vestry of St. Mary-le-Tower and service 4 o'clock. At 4.30 the general meeting, in the Oak Room, Oak Lane, followed by tea at Lyons Restaurant. The bells at various towers will be available all day for ringing: St. Mary-le-Tower (12), St. Margaret's (8), St. Clement's (6), St. Matthew's (6), Sproughton (6), Rushmere (6), and St. Lawrence's (5).—Harold G. Herbert, Hon. Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, March 25th. Subject to the approval of the Dean and Chapter, general business meeting in the Chapter House at 3 p.m. prompt. Chairman, the Very Rev. Arthur Davies, D.Litt., Dean of Worcester. Service in the Cathedral at 4.15 p.m., with address by the Dean. Tea (non-members, 1s. each) has been arranged, but it is essential that all those requiring same

should notify me before Tuesday, November 19th. Bells available: Cathedral (12) 1-2 p.m., All Saints' (10), St. John-in-Bedwardine (8). The usual six-bell towers will probably be available. Information at St. Alban's from 11 a.m. Central Committee meeting in St. Alban's Room at 11.30 a.m. Subscriptions should be paid, and reports obtained in St. Alban's Room, Fish Street, between 12 noon and 1 p.m.—Joseph D. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., Aubyns, Cheltenham Road, Sedgberrow, Evesham.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Bedford on Easter Monday. The bells of St. Paul's and St. Peter's will be available from 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Full particulars next week.—F. J. Plummer, Hon. Sec., Plantation Road, Leighton Buzzard.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting at Derby on Easter Monday. Various towers will be available. Committee meet 3.30 in St. Peter's Schools. Other details later.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The 60th annual general meeting will be held (D.V.) at Maidstone on Easter Monday, March 25th. Committee meeting in the College Room at 11.15. Association service in the Church of All Saints, at noon, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. O. Standen. General meeting in the College Room at 2.15 p.m. Owing to local conditions and the uncertainty of catering and the members attending, it has been deemed advisable to dispense with the lunch. All practising members attending will be allowed 2s. 6d. each. The bells of All Saints' (10) will be available from 10 a.m. till noon and after the meeting until 6 p.m. It is hoped other towers will be available; if so, will be announced later.—Fred M. Mitchell, Gen. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Ewell on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells available: Christ Church, Epsom, 11 a.m. to 12.30; St. Martin's, Epsom, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.; St. Mary's, Ewell, 3.30 to 5.30, and again in the evening until 8.30 p.m. Tea, with business meeting following, in Ewell Church Hall at 5.30. Notifications for tea to be sent to Mr. C. E. Read, 58, High Street, Ewell, by Wednesday, March 20th.—G. W. Massey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting at Cambridge, on Easter Monday, March 25th. Service in the Church of St. Mary-the-Great, 3.30 p.m., followed by business meeting in Consistory Court. Tea at Lion Hotel, 5 o'clock. Ringing: St. Mary's, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2.30 to 3.30, and 6 to 8 p.m.; St. Benet's, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 to 3.15 p.m., and in the evening. Please note change of plan due to war-time conditions.—Kitty Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

**DEVON GUILD.**—East Devon Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Ottery St. Mary on Easter Monday, March 25th. Bells (8) available 2 p.m. until 9.30. Service 4.30. Tea meeting at the Church Institute 5.15. All ringers welcome.—John H. Godfrey, Hon. Sec., 9, Silver Street, Ottery St. Mary.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The future address of Mr. A. H. Smith, hon. secretary of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, will be The Bungalow, Bookham Rec., Leatherhead.

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