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THE FIFTEENTH HUNDREDTH ARTICLE

We hope we may be pardoned by our readers for introducing a personal touch into this week's leading article. It has been only rarely that personal reference has been allowed to creep into this column, but we feel that the present is one of the occasions when it may be permitted. This is the fifteen hundredth article that the Editor has written for this page, and in that respect it is a notable milestone on the journey of 'The Ringing World.' The fifteen weeks when another pen filled this space were those covered by the memorable trip to Australia in 1934, in which the Editor was able to share, and when, of course, it was impossible for him to supply this weekly article. With that exception it has been his privilege and his task to supply the 'leader' every week since 'The Ringing World' started. It has not always been easy, but there have been constantly kept in view the desire to raise the standard of the art of ringing and the aims of ringers. How far we have succeeded others must be left to judge, but for more than twenty-nine years we have striven to direct thought and practice into channels which we have hoped would lead to the improvement in the status of the ringer and the elevation of the art.

We have realised that the privilege which has been ours in trying to mould opinion has carried with it responsibilities. We hope we have not shirked them, and, while we know it is impossible on any question to expect entire agreement with our views, we have endeavoured always to be fair and to offer criticism, even though at times it may have been strong, without malice or intention to hurt individual feelings. Our aim from the first, as we have more than once said, has been to induce ringers to think for themselves and, if possible, to discuss with one another subjects which have been of mutual interest. We feel that in this we have been in some degree successful, and it will be our object to continue this policy, for in it, we believe, lies the way to improve still further the things which make for all that is best in ringing—the spirit of fraternity among ringers, the recognition of their office, the uplifting of the art itself, both as a contribution to the service of the Church and as a pursuit worthy of all the gifts that a man or woman can put into it. These articles have been written in many climes and under many conditions, some of them difficult, but they have all been written with the same ultimate end before us. We make no undue claims for any influence we may have been able to exert, but we hope it may be possible to say, when at length this pen has to be laid aside, that at any rate we have left both the art of ringing and the Exercise a little better than we found it. If so, these fifteen hundred articles will not have been written in vain.

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TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 30, 1940, in Three Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

COLIN HARRISON Treble	BURLEY P. MORRIS 7
ERNEST W. RAWSON 2	*HARRY BROUGHTON 8
J. FREDERICK MILNER 3	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 9
SHIRLEY BURTON 4	WILLIAM J. ROOT 10
HARRY WAYNE 5	HAROLD J. POOLE 11
FREDERICK H. DEXTER 6	JOHN GRANT Tenor

Composed by F. H. DEXTER.

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Cinques.

TEN BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 23, 1940, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MAGNUS-THE-MARTYR, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

CHARLES A. HUGHES Treble	RONALD H. DOVE 6
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER 2	WILLIAM SIMMONDS 7
MISS OLIVE L. ASHBROOK 3	EDWARD D. SMITH 8
ERNEST W. FORBANK 4	JAMES BULLOCK 9
CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 5	FREDERICK W. WICKS Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER

RICKMANSWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5187 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

FRED HAYES Treble	*WILLIAM REDRUP 6
*MISS M. I. GOODSHIP 2	REV. R. F. R. ROUTH 7
MISS K. E. FLETCHER 3	*A. E. MILLETT 8
STAFFORD H. GREEN 4	CAPT. J. H. FREEBORN 9
G. R. GOODSHIP 5	HARRY WINGROVE Tenor

Composed by CAPT. J. H. FREEBORN. Conducted by F. HAYES.

* First peal of Stedman Caters. First peal of Stedman Caters on the bells. The composition, which has the 6th its extent in 5th in Tittums and handstroke, is now rung for the first time.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 30, 1940, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5043 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

MRS. R. J. WILKINS Treble	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD 6
MISS MARGARET PACK 2	ALFRED PEARCE 7
ALBERT M. TYLER 3	GILBERT PEARCE 8
ALFRED E. REEVES 4	JOHN A. BURFORD 9
GEORGE POPNELL 5	DONALD G. CLIFT Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

A wedding peal for R. G. Gilbert, who is a member of St. Stephen's Guild.

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EIGHT BELL PEALS.

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*JOHN E. CLARKE Treble	LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD 5
CHARLES MARSHALL... .. 2	*W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON 6
J. LESLIE WILLIAMS 3	R. S. WILLIAM SMITH 7
†ERNEST W. TIPLER 4	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... Tenor

Composed by YORK GREEN. Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD

* 50th peal. † First peal of Kent Major and 75th peal. Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar (the Rev. J. H. Proctor, M.A.), also to welcome the new curate of the parish, Mr. Povey. The peal also was rung as a first birthday compliment to the daughter of the Vicar.

OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, LEESFIELD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

HAROLD HAMER Treble	ISAAC GARTSIDE 5
FRED DUNKERLEY 2	STEPHEN LL. PARRY 6
JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. ... 3	IVAN KAY 7
DENNIS HOLLOS 4	SELWYN H. DEARDEN... .. Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by IVAN KAY.

SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt. (approx.).

*DENNIS HOLLOS... .. Treble	STEPHEN LL. PARRY... .. 5
HAROLD HAMER... .. 2	SELWYN H. DEARDEN 6
JOHN MEADOWCROFT, JUN. ... 3	*ISAAC GARTSIDE... .. 7
FRED DUNKERLEY 4	IVAN KAY Tenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN. Conducted by H. HAMER.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, OLDHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt.

DAVID VINCENT... .. Treble	JOHN HASSELL 5
*IVAN B. GARDINER 2	REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH 6
*J. ANTHONY BEAUMONT 3	ALAN J. BROWN 7
JOCELYN B. GARDINER 4	FRANK REYNOLDS Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by ALAN J. BROWN.

* First peal of Kent Treble Bob Major. Rung as a first birthday compliment to Kathleen Bell, niece of the tenor ringer.

MARKET DRAYTON, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.	
*E. STANLEY COOPER... .. Treble	WILLIAM J. CHESTER... .. 5
WILLIAM SAUNDERS 2	FREDERICK PRICE 6
E. DENNIS POOLE 3	EDWARD V. RODENHURST... .. 7
THOMAS PRICE 4	†ALASTAIR C. MACLEAN ... Tenor

Composed by E. V. RODENHURST.

* First peal. † First peal on eight bells.

AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes;

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THEURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

G. R. NEWTON Treble	W. PILKINGTON 5
T. S. HORRIDGE... .. 2	E. F. BENNETT 6
J. LUNHAM 3	P. W. CAVE 7
*W. H. DEACON 4	H. ROBERTS Tenor

Conducted by PERCIVAL W. CAVE.

* First peal of Stedman Triples.

SOUTHPORT, LANCASHIRE.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

NORMAN HEAPS Treble	*JAMES W. GROUNDS 5
SIDNEY FORSHAW... .. 2	JOSEPH RIDYARD 6
JOHN BOOTH 3	JOHN POTTER 7
GEORGE B. JACKSON 4	WILLIAM PILKINGTON ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by JOHN POTTER.

* 150th peal. Rung in honour of the marriage of Lieut.-Commander W. Dickinson, jun., son of Mr. W. Dickinson, a member of the local band, and Miss A. J. Ross, of St. David's, Auckland, New Zealand, who were married at Auckland, New Zealand, on December 24th, 1939.

BREWOD, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND CHAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 21½ cwt.

*C. SANDFORD DUMBELL ... Treble	ARTHUR PEARSON... .. 5
JOHN PERRY 2	HERBERT E. WAKELAM 6
HERBERT KNIGHT 3	ROGER L. HAWKSWORTH 7
HERBERT E. BOOTH 4	ROBERT BROUGHTON Tenor

Conducted by JOHN PERRY.

* First peal and rung on his 21st birthday.

STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

CLEM W. CRACKNELL ... Treble	EDWIN A. CRACKNELL... .. 5
KEITH W. WHITTELL 2	SHELFORD SPARROW 6
GEORGE W. ABLITT 3	HARRY D. LISTER 7
*FRANK STERRY 4	ARTHUR GRIMWOOD Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by HARRY D. LISTER.

* First peal of Kent Treble Bob.

BOWDON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, March 27, 1940, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lb. in F.

C. KENNETH LEWIS Treble	FRANK REYNOLDS 5
CHARLES EDWARDS 2	HERBERT A. MCKINNELL 6
J. ANTHONY BEAUMONT 3	REV. R. D. ST. JOHN SMITH 7
JOHN HASSELL 4	DAVID VINCENT Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS. Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

Rung for the wedding of the Rev. J. W. Hollingshead, curate at Bowdon, and Miss L. M. Boulton, which took place at Harrow, Middlesex, the same day.

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SIX BELL PEALS.

ALDERMINSTER, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten callings. Tenor 12 cwt. in F sharp.

*ALBERT J. PRINT Treble	*FREDERICK C. LYNE 4
HORACE LL. TERRY 2	CLARENCE R. STREED... .. 5
*VIVIAN B. HUNT 3	LEONARD KINCHEN Tenor

Conducted by HORACE LL. TERRY.

* First peal.

SUTTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents called differently, all 5-6's at back stroke.
Tenor 12½ cwt.

ARNOLD WORTH Treble	EDNA M. P. FETHERS... .. 4
JOHN WORTH 2	C. KENNETH LEWIS 5
REV. FRANK BONNER 3	CHARLES W. LAWTON... .. Tenor

Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

First peal of Surprise on the bells. First peal of Cambridge Minor by all except the ringer of the 2nd.

OLD WARDEN, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Three Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of York and Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Single Oxford and Plain Bob.

SAMUEL DANIELS Treble	*C. HENRY HARDING 4
*ANDREW C. SINFIELD 2	C. EDWARD JEFFERIES 5
RONALD J. SHARP 3	LEWIS H. BYWATERS... .. Tenor

Conducted by L. H. BYWATERS.

* 25th peal together.

HEMINGBROUGH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Monday, March 25, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. in F sharp.

FRED TERRY... .. Treble	MRS. E. BRADLEY 4
WILLIAM HAWLEY 2	LESLIE WOODHEAD 5
HORACE S. MORLEY 3	EDWARD BRADLEY Tenor

Conducted by E. BRADLEY.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 24, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY 1-2	*EDWIN JENNINGS 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT 3-4	†LEONARD LUCK 7-8

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First handbell peal away from the tenors. † First peal on handbells.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 26, 1940, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY... .. 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT 5-6
*WILFRED WILLIAMS 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS 7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First handbell peal in the method away from the tenors.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.**SUCCESSFUL MEETING IN DUBLIN.****Competition For Good Striking.**

The annual meeting of the Irish Association was held in Dublin on St. Patrick's Day, the national holiday. It was attended by members from the following towers: Arklow, Blessington, Bray, Dublin (Christ Church Cathedral, SS. Augustine and John's, St. George's, St. Patrick's Cathedral), Limerick (Mt. St. Alphonsus), Kilkenny and Waterford. The Dean of St. Patrick's, the Dean of Christ Church, the Rev. Canon Campbell and Mr. W. Chamney were also present. One hundred and three sat down to lunch, which was kindly provided by the St. George's Society (Dublin), in St. Andrew's Hotel. This was the largest number to attend any Dublin meeting since 1909.

The bells of four Dublin towers were placed at the disposal of the ringers and were made use of from an early hour.

The contest for the Murphy Cup Striking Competition took place in St. Patrick's Cathedral before lunch. Eight teams competed and after a keen contest St. George's, Dublin, won the cup for the second year in succession with 85 per cent. It should be mentioned that St. Patrick's, Dublin, scored 86 per cent., but, being the 'home' team, they were penalised by 10 per cent. and this placed them third. Bray were second with 81 per cent. The adjudicator was Mr. George Harrison, while the Ringing Master, Mr. R. S. F. Murphy, P.C., attended in the tower. The teams were marshalled in an efficient manner with the result that the contest was run off in less than two hours. The actual time allowed for the contest is ten minutes per team, and a maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for getting ready and leaving. Six of the teams did change ringing, the other two doing call changes. The winners rang G. Lindoff's 240 of Grandsire Doubles.

After the lunch in St. Andrew's Hotel, the manageress very kindly placed a room at the disposal of the members for the business meeting, which was presided over by Mr. J. B. Tough (Bray), president. The report stated that the shield for Sunday service ringing has been won by three societies, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, St. George's, Dublin, and St. Saviour's, Arklow, each obtaining 99.88 per cent.

LOSS OF MEMBERS.

The committee has been obliged to delete from the list of membership a great number of names, the majority of whom had got into arrears with their subscriptions.

One society, St. Finbarr's Cathedral, Cork, had ceased to function, but St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, after having their bells rehung, had reorganised and rejoined.

Blessington, who had practically dropped out of ringing, had also reorganised their society and rejoined. This place being so near Dublin, the various Dublin societies were recommended to pay occasional visits, where they would be not only welcome but a great help.

Only one peal was rung during 1939, that of Grandsire Doubles, by the St. George's Society, Dublin. It was hoped that it would not be long before they could be congratulated upon their first peal of Grandsire Triples, of which they had rung several touches. Miss A. Dukes, who rang in the peal, was to be congratulated on being the first Irish lady to ring a peal of 5,000 for the association.

Waterford Cathedral bells had been rehung by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon. They had been fitted with ball bearings and hung at a lower level in the tower, thereby greatly reducing the volume of sound in the immediate neighbourhood. When the Waterford ringers got into their stride it was hoped they would uphold honourably the tradition of their glorious past.

The total number of members now on the books is 247. The balance sheet showed a balance in hand of £4 0s. 8d., and the Belfry Repair Fund a balance in hand of £64 18s.

Twenty-seven new members were elected.

Kilkenny was selected as the meeting place for 1941 on the kind invitation of St. Canice's Society, and a vote of thanks was passed to this society for their kindness.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mr. J. S. Gibbs (Kilkenny); hon. treasurer, Mr. D. Gibson; hon. secretary, Mr. Gabriel Lindoff; assistant secretary, Mr. F. Dukes, Grad.I.E.E., M.I.E.T.; Ringing Master, Mr. R. S. F. Murphy, P.C.

An appeal from Ballyleson resulted in the meeting voting £5 from the Bell Restoration Fund.

PRESENTATIONS.

The shield for Sunday service ringing was presented to Messrs. S. Evans (Arklow), W. E. Lynch (Christ Church Cathedral) and D. McGregor (St. George's) on behalf of their respective societies.

The Striking Cup was presented to Miss A. C. Dukes (the only lady competitor in the competition) on behalf of the winners. She rang with St. George's team.

A presentation was made to Mr. Dan Kennedy, captain of SS. Augustine and John's (O.S.A.), Dublin, and who has been ringing with that society for over 59 years.

Mr. J. B. Tough (president), in making the presentation, which took the form of a chiming clock, said that his many friends, both in his own society and the association, wished to be associated with the presentation to this very keen ringer, who had done very much, at times against great odds, to maintain the ringing in his own tower. Even though the bells were in bad order, he still kept those that were ringable pealing forth from Sunday to Sunday.

(Continued in next column.)

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT YARMOUTH ATTRACTS GOOD ATTENDANCE.
The annual meeting of the Eastern Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Great Yarmouth and 35 members were present. This was considered a very good attendance in view of the present notoriety of the East Coast, which it is hoped will not frighten prospective visiting ringers away. Ringing before the meeting was carried on from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m.

Tea was provided at Hill Restaurant, and the business meeting held afterwards was presided over by Mr. W. J. Lee (chairman), supported by Mr. J. G. W. Harwood (branch secretary), Mr. F. Nolan Golden (general secretary) and Mr. H. Tooke (branch secretary, North Norfolk).

Mr. W. J. Lee was re-elected chairman and Mr. J. G. W. Harwood branch secretary.

The committee was re-elected en bloc, and Mr. A. King and Mr. W. Barbers representatives on the General Committee of the association. One new member was admitted, and it was proposed to hold the next meeting, if possible, at Gorleston-on-Sea in June.

The methods rung were Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, Plain and Little Bob Spliced Maximus, Stedman and Grandsire Cinques, Stedman and Grandsire Caters and Triples, Cambridge Royal, Kent Royal, Plain Royal, Double Norwich Major, Kent and Plain Major.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar (the Rev. R. Aubrey Atkin) for the use of the bells, and a letter was read from him wishing success to the meeting and saying he was sorry that he was unable to be present owing to absence from the town.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

Mr. Kennedy replied, thanking all members, and said that when his legs would no longer take him up the steel circular staircase of St. John's, he would look at this clock and think of the very happy days he spent with his very broad-minded friends, the members of the Irish Association.

It was unanimously decided that members serving in Defence Forces should remain on the books and should be exempt from paying their annual subscriptions until such time as they return to their respective towers.

Votes of thanks were passed to the outgoing president and the officers. Dean Wilson said that the manner in which the president conducted the business and his fair dealing with all matters was admirable.

A vote of thanks was passed to St. George's Society for so kindly providing the lunch prior to the meeting.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT BEDFORD.

The annual meeting of the Bedfordshire Association was held at Bedford on Easter Monday. Owing to war-time restrictions, the usual day's ringing had to be curtailed, but the bells of St. Paul's and St. Peter's were at the disposal of the ringers from 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., and the attendances in the belfries were well up to previous years and there was almost continuous ringing of a good standard.

Tea was served in the Lion Hotel and the business meeting was held in the hotel lounge. Canon A. Rust, the president, welcomed the forty odd members to Bedford and to the meeting. After the secretary had read the committee's report the meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect to two St. Paul's ringers, Mr. H. Tingey and Mr. H. Sharp, whose deaths are a great loss. Mr. Sharman proposed that a special record should be made in the minutes of the valuable work Mr. Tingey and Mr. Sharp had done for the association.

The balance sheet, showing a balance in hand of £19, was adopted, but, although the membership had remained steady, regret was felt at the decrease in numbers in the Bedford District.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Canon A. Rust; vice-presidents, Miss E. Steel, Mr. A. King, Mr. J. Nicholls, Mr. E. Herbert, Mr. C. W. Clarke and Mr. A. E. Sharman; secretary, Mr. F. J. Plummer; auditor, Mr. E. Herbert.

The President at the request of the members, after reminding the meeting that the late secretary had served the association for 17 years, presented Mr. Arthur E. Sharman with a suitably inscribed barometer as a mark of appreciation of his valuable work as secretary.

The annual meeting for 1941 was again fixed for Bedford, and the summer festival for Husborne Crawley. A long discussion took place respecting the position of the Luton members, who are at present performing members of both the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Associations. The secretary was instructed to write to the Central Council and ask to have the question raised at the next meeting. It was pointed out that the formation of a St. Albans Diocesan Guild would solve this problem and suggested that every effort should be made to secure that end.

The resolution, 'That members serving with H.M. Forces should retain their membership without payment,' was carried unanimously, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the clergy of St. Paul's and St. Peter's for the use of the bells. The towers were again visited and ringing continued until 7.30 p.m.

BISHOP'S CLEEVE, GLOS.—For morning service on Easter Sunday, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes) in 46 minutes: D. Webb 1, H. Sayce 2, R. W. Daniels (conductor) 3, L. Aston 4, W. G. Folley 5, D. Creswell 6.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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THE

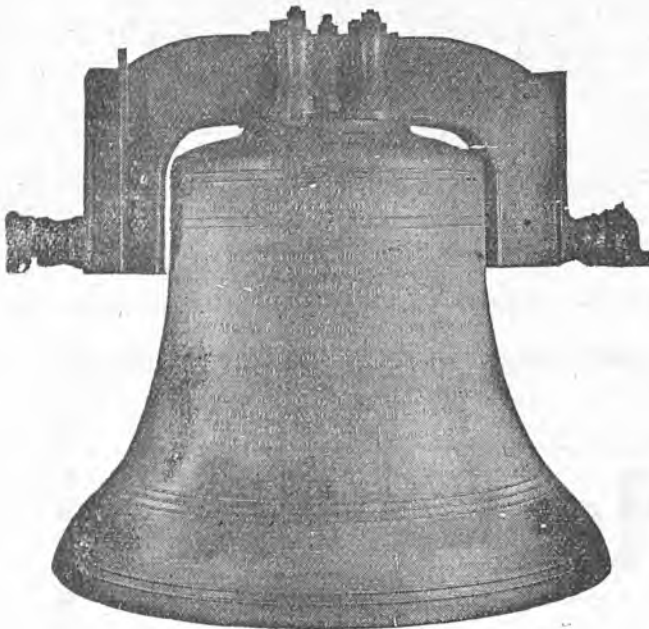
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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The reports of several meetings and peals are unavoidably held over. While the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association celebrated its golden jubilee on Easter Monday, the Kent County Association celebrated its diamond jubilee. Two members of the Kent County Association who attended the first meeting in 1880 were present at Maidstone last week. They were Messrs. Philip Hodgkin, of Headcorn, and Mr. E. S. Ruck, of Willesborough.

Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, of Dublin, whose contributions as a composer to the art of ringing are almost beyond computation, was again re-elected hon. secretary of the Irish Association at the meeting on St. Patrick's Day.

As our readers learned last week, Mr. G. W. Cartmel has been secretary of the Herts Association for 36 years, but even this record of service is exceeded by Mr. Lindoff. We are not sure for how long Mr. Lindoff has held his office in the Irish Association, but it is certainly 40 years.

Which recalls an incident in 1901 when the annual meeting was held at Arklow. The ringers were entertained by the Earl of Carysfort and so pleasant were the proceedings that the official business was forgotten and the members left without transacting it.

In our notes last week about the first peal of Bristol Surprise, rung in 1901, we mentioned Mr. A. A. Fuller as being one of the survivors of the band. We now learn from Mr. George Baker that Mr. Fuller died in July, 1938.

Mr. P. W. Cave wishes to thank all those who sent him expressions of sympathy in his recent bereavement, and especially the bands who rang at St. Stephen's and Holy Nativity Churches on the day of the late William Cave's funeral, and in the memorial peal at St. Mary Redcliffe.

Mr. W. H. Deacon rang his first peal of Stedman when he took part in a peal of Triples at Aughton, Lanes, on Bank Holiday. It is interesting to note that this was only his third 'touch' in the method. The first was a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples and the only other one, 1,191 of Stedman Caters, the night before the peal at St. Nicholas', Liverpool. This was his first touch on more than eight bells.

April 3rd is the anniversary of one of the record peals rung by the late William Pye. It was 15,072 changes of Double Norwich in 1899 at Erith. James W. Washbrook beat it with his long peal at Kidlington

RINGS OF FIVE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Having read with much interest some of the letters from various correspondents upon the subject of rings of five, I feel I must disagree with one of them who contends that there is no 'finishing note' (his words). May I remind him that the diatonic scale is divided into two modes, viz., the major and minor, and that each scale has its 'finishing note' (or, in 'musical parlance,' its tonic or key-note). If he hums over the last few bars of any minor tune (e.g., 'Aberystwith'), he will probably grasp my meaning. I except from this rule minor tunes ending with a major chord (the 'tierce de Picardie').

I think your correspondent, like many others (bellringers and musicians), prefers the major mode to the minor; but that does not in any way alter the fundamentals of the two 'modes' in question; each has its distinct tonic or key-note (whether pleasant to the ear or the reverse).

Let any of your readers who are in doubt on this point play over one of the 'Harmonic Minor Scales' a few times—say, for example, D E F G A B (flat), C (sharp), D.

Uphill, Weston-super-Mare.

H. MINIFIE.

'YOKEL' THINKS BOTH BE RIGHT.

Dear Zur,—I don't often trouble 'ee with a letter, for I bain't no scolar, but I mind I sent 'ee one a year or two back after some chaps had been a-hollering and a-carrying on about this, that and the other. All as were the matter were as none on 'em couldn't see more nor their point of view, and I reckon there's a bit o' that in this 'ere to-do with Mas'r Amos and Mas'r Trollope.

I knows what Mas'r Amos meant—you don't often come across five bells in that sort of sad tune, what he calls a minor five. Most on 'em be the hold back five, and he wonders how it come about as they put they others in like it. Mas'r Trollope ups and says t'other chap's ear be all wrong for saying as 'em don't sound finished. That don't seem to I to matter. If Mas'r Amos reckons they don't sound finished to him, he's right, and if Mas'r Trollope reckons they do, he's right. When us be practising here, us sometimes has the front five, and sometimes the back five. They both sounds all right to we, but I suppose both our ear'oles be wrong.

My friend Freddie Sharpe (hope he don't mind me calling him that now he's doing some big work about bells for the Berks summit-or-other Society), he reckons as a lot of rings years ago was that front five, and then they mucked about with the third and made 'em sound different.

'Ere—do 'ee remember they boys I was telling 'ee about last time? Two on 'em be calling Grandsire, and us can man the ropes from the choirboys and they as be growing up a bit, and then have some over. Us be glad on 'em too, now some of the chaps have joined up. When this 'ere war's over, I reckon all the bells'll ring all right, ting-tang and all, and damn whether 'em be minor or major.

'YOKEL.'

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT DERBY.

Large Number of Unpaid Subscriptions.

Bank Holiday, ideal weather, a good company of ringers, plenty of bells, inevitable result: successful meeting! That in a few sentences sums up the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association at Derby on Easter Monday. From an early hour the bells of St. Andrew's (10), St. Alkmund's (8) and St. Peter's (8) were available and made full use of by members and friends from many centres. St. Luke's (8) were also open to any who wished to go there, and some ringers took the opportunity of doing so. The Cathedral bells (10) were available after tea until dusk and good use was made of the time at the members' disposal.

At St. Andrew's the hon. secretary's essay was very short-lived. Taking the tenor with the intention of ringing a course of Cambridge Surprise, at the very first whole-pull he broke off the rope below the sally! Then he had the cheek to ask if he could keep the broken end to take to one of his ringers who, being a tree-feller, needed such a piece!

The committee met in St. Peter's Parochial Hall in the afternoon and as a result of their deliberations it was agreed to grant a donation from the Bell Repair Fund to Kegworth, where the ring of six bells are to be overhauled and two new trebles added.

A letter from the secretary of the Lancashire Association regarding members of other associations and guilds in H.M. Forces who migrate into the area was discussed. It was agreed that instead of asking the usual non-resident life membership fee before starting for a peal, they should be exempt from any payment, and any peals such ringers might take part in would be accepted in the association's records without fee. This, of course, would be in force for the duration of the war only.

Mr. C. Harrison pointed out that it was unlikely the number of such peals would be many, and the association should be generous to the men now serving.

Mr. C. H. Belton, of Barwell, an old and honoured member, was placed on the honorary life membership list.

THE TEA CRUSH.

Tea was served at 5 p.m. at the Babington Cafe, Babington Lane. This was, perhaps, somewhat awkwardly arranged, but the fault lay, not with the caterers, but with those members who failed to notify their intention of being present. Some 60 *did* notify, but 90 turned up and it was noticed that, as usual, the erring ones were those who complained the most. However, all were served, thanks to the local secretary, who had to do some rushing about in an endeavour to please everyone.

The general meeting followed and the chair was taken by the president (the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert). Members were present from all branches of the association, viz., Burton, Chesterfield, Derby, Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough and Nottingham, as well as a number from long distances and non-resident friends.

The President, in his address, said that if he had been going to preach and needed a text, it would be from the minutes that had just been read. He well remembered the day of that meeting—the severest snowstorm prevailing—yet to know that 40 members attended was a lesson and an inspiration worth recording. He trusted all those present that day would continue their good work, especially with regard to Sunday service ringing, and that they would not let the belfries fall into disuse. It was most difficult in these days, when so many men were called up for duty, for A.R.P. and other work, yet they must see to it that the bells never ceased to proclaim their message.

He voiced the feeling of all present in proposing a vote of sympathy to Mr. William E. White, the treasurer, who, through illness, was unfortunately unable to be present. Mr. White joined the association in 1884 and so far had never missed an annual meeting and only a very few quarterly meetings, and the association's welfare was very close to his heart. He (Canon Fitzherbert) would write a personal letter, and he asked the secretary in the name of all present to send Mr. White a note of good wishes and Godspeed for recovery to health again.

MEMBERS ON POINT OF BEING STRUCK OUT.

The annual report stated that the number of members on the books was 873 ringing members and 158 hon. members. This did not include some hundreds of non-resident life members, but did include a large number of members who were on the point of being struck out for non-payment of subscriptions. The work of the association suffered considerably through these lukewarm members. The peals rung by the association during 1939 consisted of 6 of Doubles, 21 of Minor, 17 of Triples, 31 of Major, 5 of Caters, 1 of Royal and 4 of Cinques, on tower bells, and 2 of Doubles, 4 of Minor and 2 of Triples on handbells, a total of 93. Two peals had been omitted from the records, having been rung contrary to the association rule that a peal on six bells may not be rung with a covering bell. Up to the outbreak of war, peals were well up to the average, but from that time, in common with all other societies, peal ringing in the Midlands practically ceased. It remained, and rightly so, restricted, except in a few towers, and handbells might now be used with advantage. Among the peals recorded were the first of Erin Triples and Caters for the association. During the year the hon. secretary became the first

ringer to score a hundred peals on the bells at Loughborough Foundry and the first Midlands ringer to achieve a total of 800 peals.

On the subject of finance, the report stated that the deficit on the general account was well covered by the value of the association badges which were on sale. It was noticed with regret that, notwithstanding the welcome influx of new hon. members, the total number was gradually falling, and of those whose names appeared in the report for 1938, the subscriptions of some 25 to 30 had not been collected. Also that of the 835 ringing members on the books, the subscriptions had been received from 593 only.

The general account showed receipts of £89 1s. from members' subscriptions and £25 12s. from other sources including £14 9s. 6d. from the sale of badges—a total of £114 13s. The expenditure amounted to £130 17s. 1d., of which £32 11s. 4d. was the cost of meetings, postages, etc., £24 honorariums to general and district secretaries, £37 16s. printing the annual report, and £29 for association badges.

In the absence of the hon. treasurer, the hon. secretary stated that the annual report and balance sheet had now been printed and circulated. This was somewhat late, but delay was due to Mr. White's illness and to Easter coming so early this year.

Mr. G. Stedman Morris (auditor) proposed the adoption of the accounts as printed, assuring the members that the books were in good order and correct, and that Mr. White's system and careful accountancy made the auditor's task an easy one.—The report was unanimously adopted.

THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT.

The new members elected included four ringing, one honorary, and as no other nominations were received, the general officers now serving were re-elected, viz.: President, the Rev. Canon H. E. Fitzherbert; vice-president, Mr. Colin Harrison; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. E. White; general secretary, Mr. Ernest Morris.

The President, in acknowledging the honour again conferred upon him, said he felt that this office should be changed yearly and suggested that the members should think of suitable gentlemen in other districts who might fill the position. He assured the members of his hearty co-operation in all their efforts.

Mr. C. Harrison also acknowledged his re-election and said he would do all in his power to further the association's interests.

Mr. Ernest Morris, in thanking the members for once again electing him, said that many times he had asked them to relieve him of the office; he did not seek the job, which was getting more and more irksome every year. He would be delighted if someone else would take it on. Referring to the annual report, he said he was well aware there were some errors in it, but these were not his nor the local secretaries' fault. If members would only take the trouble to acquaint him at once of any alterations needed, these would be rectified. It was not fair to leave it until next Easter and then complain. He had received many corrections after the report was in print!

The President then announced the names of the places suggested by the committee for the next three quarterly meetings, viz.: June, Raby and Groby; September, Newark; January, 1941, Netherseale and Measham or Overseale.—These were agreed to.

Canon Fitzherbert then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Lancaster and the local committee for their work in making arrangements for the meeting; the Vicars and steeplekeepers of the churches where the members had been privileged to ring; and to the auditors for their work in checking the accounts.—This was unanimously passed and a happy meeting closed. Handbell ringing and tower-bell ringing at the Cathedral closed a most successful day.

SOME PEAL NOTES.

A wedding peal three months after the ceremony is an unusual event, but these are unusual times and no earlier opportunity presented itself to the ringers at Southport of celebrating the marriage of Lieut.-Commander Dickinson, the son of one of their members. Lieut.-Commander Dickinson met the band after the peal, but the bride is still in New Zealand, occupied with her duties as assistant matron to the Northern Command Medical Services.

It was nearly as long before the Rickmansworth bells could be rung to a peal in honour of the wedding of the Vicar, the Rev. W. B. Belcher, who was married last January to Miss Calway. An attempt at the time came to grief.

After a lapse of 16 years, Mr. J. Frank Smallwood's name appears again among the conductors. Last Saturday he called a peal of Stedman Caters at Bristol.

The many friends of Harold J. Poole will be very pleased to learn that he has now quite recovered his health and is just as 'perky' as of yore.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

BRIGHTWELL, BERKS.—On Easter Day, for matins, a quarter-peal of Doubles (720 of Plain and 600 of Grandsire): M. Girling 1, F. Castell 2, O. G. Barnard 3, G. Lewington 4, C. J. Castell (conductor) 5, F. Brooker 6. For evensong, 1,440 Grandsire Doubles: F. Brooker 1, F. Castell 2, O. G. Barnard (conductor) 3, G. Lewington 4, C. J. Castell 5, W. Currill (first quarter-peal) 6.

LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.—On Sunday, March 3rd, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Bob Major: Miss S. Harman (first quarter-peal) 1, G. Marriner 2, G. Massey 3, C. Smart 4, C. Otway 5, W. Whiting 6, A. Smith 7, A. Harman (conductor) 8.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

FALL IN MEMBERSHIP.

But Funds Now Exceed £1,000.

At Maidstone on Easter Monday, the Kent County Association held its sixtieth annual general meeting, and in spite of war time 37 towers in the county were represented by over a hundred members. The only alteration to the usual procedure was that the luncheon provided by the association was abandoned owing to the uncertainty of the number attending and the prevailing conditions, and the members were given a sum to cater for their own needs.

In years past this meeting has been noted for the attendance of youth. This occasion was a marked exception, owing to so many of the younger ringers having been called to the Colours.

The bells at All Saints' Church were going in various methods to suit all tastes shortly after 10 o'clock, and at noon the association service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. O. Standen, an hon. member of the association. Mr. G. W. Grant, of Headcorn, proved a capable volunteer organist.

The Vicar gave an inspiring address, and said he was agreeably surprised to see such a large attendance under the present circumstances. It demonstrated the zeal of the members in their work for the Church and their interest in the association. He appealed to those who were left in the belfries to carry on their work and pray for the safe return of their younger fellow ringers who had been called away to fight for a just cause. The bells, he said, must be kept ringing to call people to worship God in His House. No one knew how long and arduous was the task that lay ahead, but they must all do their duty to God and country. 'You, as ringers,' he said, 'must see to it that the bells are rung in towns and villages and thus keep up the spirit of the nation.'

The service concluded with the hymn, 'O God, our help in ages past,' and a collection for the Benevolent Fund realised £1 12s.

The members reassembled at 2.15 in the College Room adjoining the church for the business meeting.

The hon. secretary (Mr. F. M. Mitchell) apologised if any inconvenience had been caused, but he thought the members would understand that to make preparation for a meeting in such times was rather a difficult task, as no one could foresee what might happen. They would have had to guarantee a certain number to provide lunch, and as arrangements had to be made well ahead, the committee had taken what was perhaps the wisest course and let the members get their own lunch, recompensing them after the meeting.

In the absence of Mr. E. H. Lewis (who was in Scotland), the Rev. Canon G. C. E. Ryley was voted to the chair.

Arising out of the minutes of the last meeting, the hon. secretary was asked what was the result of the appeal for the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore Memorial Fund. He replied that in spite of the appeal that had been issued in 'The Ringing World' at present no donation had come in.

The annual report was presented and unanimously adopted.

EFFECT OF THE WAR.

The report stated that the 60th anniversary of the association opened in dark days for the country. War had upset, for the time, all organisations in the land, and they had, as ringers, experienced many difficulties. During the winter months peals of bells had been silent owing to local conditions and the 'black-out.' Meetings were cancelled or postponed, but with the lighter days ahead it was hoped that the difficulties would be overcome.

Many members had been called to the Colours and it was expected that before the war was won, many more would be called. They wished all 'Godspeed and a safe return.'

The members who were left to 'carry on' were urged to do all in their power to keep the bells ringing for Sunday service. 'Every belfry,' said the report, 'will miss a face or faces, and there will be many ropes without a ringer. But don't neglect your part! If there are not enough to ring the full peal at your towers, ring what you can, and prove to those that have gone that you intend to keep up the spirit of our race, and do your duty to God and fellow-ringers.'

Owing to the 'black-out' and travelling conditions, the usual annual district meetings were postponed. Perhaps some thought this an unwise decision, but the various officers carefully considered the question of holding the meetings and getting a representative gathering, and in some cases took a plebiscite of the district, the result of which proved their decision was right.

The committee had decided that all members of the association who are called to serve in any of H.M. Forces shall have their names retained as members of their respective towers, the usual membership fee being waived during their absence. Tower secretaries were asked to include all serving members when sending in their list, stating regiment, etc.

There were 110 towers in union; Wye, Deal, Faversham, Bearsted, Minster and Speldhurst having dropped out through non-payment of subscriptions. Hartlip and Ruckinge had rejoined.

It was with regret that the committee reported the falling off in both honorary and practising members, the former having fallen from 68 to 54, a loss of 14, and the latter from 1,000 to 944 (894 adults and 50 juveniles), a loss of 56. Twelve non-resident life members joined during the year.

PEALS AND MEMBERSHIP.

No restoration work in the area of the association had been reported during the past year. Peal ringing virtually stopped with the outbreak of the war in September. During the year 98 peals were rung—53 less than in 1938—84 on tower bells and 14 in hand, as follows: On 12 bells, 2; on 10 bells, 8 (2 in hand); on 8 bells, 73 (9 in hand); on 6 bells, 14 (3 in hand); on 5 bells, 1. The peals were rung in 47 towers in Kent, two in London and one in Sussex. Twenty-three members rang their first peal, six their first in hand, and 151 rang their first in the method. The conducting was undertaken by 37 members and four conducted their first peal. It was again pleasing to note that the younger members were sharing their responsibility as conductors. Messrs. P. A. Corby, Derek Sharp and G. A. Naylor were striking examples, as nearly one-half of the peals rung were credited to these young enthusiasts, and it was hoped when the war was won they and others would keep up their good work. Ashsted Surprise Major and Cheltenham Bob Major were rung for the association for the first time, and the first peal has been rung on the bells at Ringwould.

Mainly through the falling off in membership, the income was reduced in the General Fund by £20. Owing to the war the district meetings were not held in the autumn, which effected a saving in the expenses, and the balance in hand was £68 9s. 10d., an increase of £6 12s. 4d. The Belfry Repair Fund showed an increased balance from £144 13s. 6d. to £152 9s. 6d. One appeal was received during the year—from St. Stephen's, Canterbury. A grant of £5 was made.

The grants from the Benevolent Fund to aged members and widows of members amounted to £20 5s. The income of the fund exceeded this amount by £11 15s. 9d., thus increasing the balance to £308 0s. 5d. The income from collections was reduced by £4 8s., and this was accounted for by reason of the district meetings being postponed.

The increased income over expenditure as shown by the balance sheets revealed the total worth of the association to be £1,010 1s. 8d.

The general account showed that the members' subscriptions amounted to £111 8s. 6d., and interest to £8 1s. 4d., out of a total income of £127 8s. The expenditure amounted to £120 15s. 8d., including £10 to the Benevolent Fund, £6 7s. 8d. (from interest) to the Belfry Repair and the Benevolent Funds. The investments of the association amount to £481 1s. 11d., and the balances in the various funds to £528 19s. 9d.

In the absence of the hon. auditor, Mr. G. H. Cross, who had been called home owing to the illness of his mother, the balance sheets were presented by Mr. W. J. Jeffries, one of the trustees, and adopted. The announcement that the funds of the association had reached over £1,000 was received with loud applause.

On the proposition of Mr. F. J. Cullum (Erith), seconded by Mr. T. Saunders (East Peckham), the whole of the officers were unanimously re-elected.

The Hon. Secretary reported that at the committee meeting held earlier in the day the question of ringers coming into the county from other societies while serving in H.M. Forces had been discussed. It was considered that a hardship would be imposed on Service ringers if they wished to stand in a peal and the rule was enforced that they become non-resident life members with the usual fee of 5s. The committee unanimously decided that such ringers should be admitted to membership as ordinary practising members, under Rule 5, on the payment of 2s. and participate in all the privileges extended to county practising members, without further payment whilst serving in the county in H.M. Forces, for the duration of the war.

This announcement met with hearty approval.

Believed to be the last surviving members of the formation of the association, Messrs. P. Hodgkin (Headcorn) and E. S. Ruck (Willesborough), who attended the first meeting in 1880, were present and accorded a hearty ovation.

The Chairman, in proposing thanks to the hon. secretary and treasurer, said he had known the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, their late hon. secretary, all his life and knew the great interest he took in the welfare of the association, and he considered the mantle had fallen on worthy shoulders. Their thanks were due to him for carrying on the work.—Mr. Mitchell briefly replied.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar of Maidstone, to the chairman, and the volunteer organist and all who had helped to make the meeting so successful, terminated a very happy war-time gathering.

The members then departed to the various towers that had been so kindly placed at their disposal for further ringing. In addition to All Saints', Maidstone, Leeds, Aylesford, West Malling, Linton and East Peckham were visited.

A few donations were received for the Helmore Memorial Fund, and further donations will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the hon. secretary, Mr. F. M. Mitchell, 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend. Cheques and postal orders can be made payable to 'Helmore Memorial' and crossed Lloyds Bank, Gravesend.

A FAMILY AFFAIR.

On Easter Sunday, before the 7 a.m. celebration at St. Margaret's, Leicester, 648 Bob Minor by Miss Margaret Morris 1, Ernest Morris (conductor) 2, Josiah Morris 3, G. Stedman Morris 4, Edwin Cattell 5, Arthur Cattell 6. This band consists of one grandfather, two fathers, one daughter, two sons, four brothers, one uncle, one niece. Truly a family affair!

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION**IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS AT ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Chippenham, Wilts, on Easter Monday, about 50 members attending. Among those present were the Rev. L. C. Cornwell, Mr. J. Gould, Mr. S. Romaus and Mr. S. H. Wood. The Master, the Rev. N. E. Hope, R.D., presided.

The secretary (Mr. Edgar Guise) stated that since the outbreak of war the association had lost 130 members (it is not known at the moment how many of these may have been called to the Colours) and that a further 90 members had failed to pay their subscriptions for 1939. The income of the association was £20 less than 1938, yet there was a profit, very small perhaps, upon the year. New members totalled 33, as against 120 in the preceding twelve months. Twenty-one peals had been rung during the year.

All the officers were re-elected and the Rev. M. Paterson, of St. Thomas', Bristol, was elected a vice-president.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

'That for the duration of hostilities, the Management Committee be authorised, notwithstanding Rule 3, to cancel the annual general meeting in any year in which they consider that the circumstances then prevailing make it undesirable to hold it.'

'That the annual report be issued omitting such materials that show no alteration, such as the rules, etc.'

'That all members of the association called to H.M. Forces and to service in the Mercantile Marine shall be excused from paying subscriptions during the war. The end of the war shall be determined as December 31st in the year of peace.'

'That members of H.M. Forces if taking part in a peal, shall be invited to become out-diocesan members of the association without payment of subscription; that such membership shall not be deemed part of compounding fee as a life member and shall only take effect for the duration of the peal.'

'That the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association strongly urges the Central Council of Church Bellingers to continue its full activity during the war, particularly to watch the interest of church bell-ringing, even though their activities may be curtailed in regard to change ringing.'

'That no Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association peals shall be accepted after publication in "The Ringing World" unless all moneys due, such as subscriptions and peal fees, have been paid by those taking part. The general secretary shall disclaim any peals published in which the rules of the association have not been complied with.'

Before and after the meeting the bells of St. Paul's and the Parish Church were available, and the success of the arrangements was due to Mr. F. W. Merrett.

The annual meeting for 1941 will be held at Cheltenham on Easter Monday, April 14th, subject to the resolution referred to above.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION**ANNUAL MEETING.**

All Saints', Newport, extended a hearty welcome to the large gathering which attended from both dioceses on Easter Monday for the annual meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association. The bells of both All Saints' and St. Woolos' Churches were made full use of during the afternoon and evening. Service was held in All Saints' Church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. C. R. G. Lewis), with the assistance of his curate. At the outset the Vicar gave a cordial welcome to the visitors.

Tea, very kindly provided by the ladies of the parish, was served in the Mission House, the large room being taxed to its utmost. These same ladies served at the tables.

The business meeting was presided over by the Vicar. The names of those members who had passed away during the past year were read, and all stood in silence as a mark of respect.

A report of the bell restorations carried out during the year was received, and it was unanimously decided to vote £3 to St. Bride's Major Restoration Fund.

The question of future meetings was discussed and it was resolved to hold two summer meetings, one in Glamorganshire, the other in Monmouthshire, at St. Athan and Abergavenny respectively. The next annual meeting is to take place at Llandaff.

Correspondence was read in regard to the proposed Central Council meeting at Cardiff, which is now postponed.—The action taken by the hon. secretary was approved.

Mr. F. Hannington was elected Master for the ensuing year, and the hon. secretary and auditors were re-elected.

The treasurer, the Rev. Ivor J. Richards, now in France, wrote asking for someone else to be appointed, as he was uncertain as to his future. The Rev. C. R. G. Lewis, Vicar of All Saints', Newport, kindly consented to take the position.

Many new members were elected. The question of the subscriptions of members serving with the Forces was discussed, and it was decided not to make any alteration to existing rules.

It was decided to transfer £25 to War Savings Certificates.

The usual votes of thanks brought to a close one of the best and pleasantest meetings in the history of the association.

EAST DERBYSHIRE & NOTTS ASSOCIATION**MONTHLY MEETING IN SUMMER AND AUTUMN.**

The annual meeting of the East Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Association, held at Sutton-in-Ashfield on Easter Monday, proved one of the most successful and enjoyable meetings held for a considerable time, and the splendid ring of six (tenor 15½ cwt.) and the fine spring weather, with the prospect of a brief respite from the more serious business of war and its worries, brought together a happy crowd of ringers.

The bells were raised about 2 p.m. and until 4.30 were 'kept at it' in fine style. The service, which was conducted by the Vicar of St. Mary's (the Rev. H. N. Wrigley), was well attended, and the address was given by the Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, Rector of Ordsall, Retford. A collection for the Sutton Bell Fund realised £1 3s.

Tea was generously provided by the Vicar and wardens in the Parish Room and was followed by the business meeting. The president (Mr. John Hobbs) occupied the chair, supported by the Revs. H. N. Wrigley and R. F. Wilkinson and officers of the association. The assembled company stood in silence in remembrance of four members who had passed away since the last annual meeting, the Rev. E. A. Morgan, of Cole, Norfolk, a former Vicar of Tibshelf, one of the founders of the association in 1887; Mr. Wilson Allin, a past president; Mr. Herbert Allwood, of Crich, and Mr. James E. Scott, of North Shields, a former officer of the association. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. T. Clarke, Ringing Master, and Mr. Joseph Machin, auditor.

The balance sheet and auditor's report, presented by Mr. H. Doughty, were accepted.

In presenting his report, the secretary drew attention to the fact that, although the number of entrances each year was very satisfactory, the total membership remained practically the same, an increase of three this year, which means a considerable number of losses annually.

On the motion of Messrs. C. M. Heathcote and W. Dobb, it was decided to send a letter to incumbents asking for their co-operation, for, as the secretary remarked, 'parsons depend on ringers as much as ringers depend on parsons.'

Some discussion took place on the question of meetings during the period of the war, and it was agreed to hold monthly meetings during the summer and autumn, and only the December quarterly meeting in winter.

The following meetings were arranged: Annual meeting, Easter Monday, 1941, Alfretton; quarterlies at Pleasley (June), Heanor (September) and South Normanton (December). It was agreed that all members serving in H.M. Forces should be considered members without further subscription until their return to civilian life.

The Jubilee Shield, awarded to the tower showing most progress during the year, was presented by the president to Mr. H. Draycott, captain of the Tibshelf tower, who has completed 50 years' service as a ringer at this church. Mr. Draycott suitably replied to the congratulations.

The officers were elected as follows: President, Mr. John Hobbs; vice-president, Mr. Wilson Dobb; treasurer, Mr. C. M. Heathcote; Ringing Master, Mr. C. Bleby; secretary, Mr. J. W. England; auditors, Messrs. J. Machin and H. Doughty. Messrs. T. W. Hopson and W. Swain were added to the Executive Committee.

The Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, who is a popular figure amongst ringers in the district, received an enthusiastic reception, and expressed his pleasure in meeting so many old friends, including Mr. T. Bettison, who now resides at Watford.

WEDDING BELLS.

For the wedding of the Rev. W. C. C. Williams, curate in charge of Ystradfellta, to Miss Rita Jones, of Clydach, which took place at St. Mary's Church, Clydach, on March 23rd, a peal had been arranged to be rung at Morrision, but unfortunately the band met one short and a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles was substituted: E. Stitch 1, J. L. Bloxham 2, T. M. Roderick (conductor) 3, E. J. Morris 4, J. T. Williams 5. The band took refreshment at the home of Mrs. Williams, mother of the bridegroom and the ringer of the fifth, when the best wishes for the future of the happy pair were extended to them.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MULBARTON, NORFOLK.—On March 29th, a quarter-peal of Bob Doubles (1,260 changes): F. W. Wasey 1, G. W. Woolmer 2, H. Nicolls 3, F. W. Middleton 4, C. F. Goodman (conductor) 5. Rung half-muffled as a last token of respect for the Rev. E. H. H. Ward, 24 years Rector of Mulbarton. First quarter-peal by the ringers of 1, 2 and 3, who have been converted with H. Lake from stoney during the last 18 months.

NETHERTON.—On Sunday, March 24th, at St. Andrew's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): L. Prestidge 1, J. W. Smith 2, H. Hill 3, H. Hubball 4, A. Davies 5, A. Prestidge, jun. 6, T. A. Townsend (conductor) 7, J. H. Davies 8. Rung as a wedding compliment to Mr. C. Corbett and Miss M. Prestidge. The bride is a daughter of Mr. A. Prestidge, for many years a ringer and late leader of the Netherton company.

NOTICES.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Aston Parish Church on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (12) available at 3 p.m. Short service in church at 4.30. Tea in the Parish Hall at 5.15. Business meeting to follow.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The next meeting will be held at Great Baddow on Saturday, April 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Queensbury on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 to 9 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) at Co-op Café, High Street, 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting in Schools—election of officers, etc.—Frank Rayment, Dis. Sec., Bramley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—The next meeting will be held at Epping on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. and after the meeting. Service at 4.45 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting in the Church Hall. It is hoped as many as can will avail themselves of the opportunity of ringing on this fine peal. Subscriptions for 1940 are now due.—J. H. Crampton, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Cedar Avenue, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Baldock, April 6th. Bells available 3 to 8 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5, only for those who let me know. Don't forget postcard.—R. Thomas Newman, Dis. Sec., Salisbury Road, Baldock.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—A practice meeting will be held at Cartmel Priory Church on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Sec., Furness and Lake District.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at the Sacred Heart (R.C.) Church, Blackpool, on Saturday, April 6th. Bells at liberty for ringing from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. only. Business meeting after ringing.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 35, Berwick Road, Blackpool, S.S.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—Quarterly meeting at Hursley on Saturday, April 6th next. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Service at 4.30, to be followed by tea and business meeting in the Club Room.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting will be held at Wellington on Saturday, April 6th. Usual arrangements as far as possible. Tea will be provided if arrangements can be made, but cafes available.—W. A. Farmer, 14, Swan Hill, Shrewsbury.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Next meeting at Stoney Stanton on Saturday, April 6th. Bells from 3.30. Reports ready.—W. A. Wood, Fosseyway, Croft, near Leicester.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome and Midsomer Norton Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Nunney (6 bells) on Saturday, April 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Whatley (6 bells) will be available after the meeting. Butter for those who advise for tea, margarine for others.—E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—The spring meeting will be held at Beedon on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m., to be given by Mrs. Stewart Menzies, of Beedon House.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Manor Lane, Newbury.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow (10 bells), on Saturday, April 6th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting.—Charles R. Raine, 21, Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Tempsford on Saturday, April 6th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All will be welcome. We shall be pleased to meet you. What about it?—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy, Beds.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bowdon on Saturday, April 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. For tea please advise Mr. Alan J. Brown, 15, Priory Road, Bowdon. All welcome.—C. K. Lewis, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—There will be a practice at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, on Saturday, April 6th. Meeting time 3 p.m. The next meeting will be held at headquarters on Tuesday, April 9th, at 7.45 p.m. A practice at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on Saturday, April 13th, at 3.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Cophull on Saturday, April 6th. Bells available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea (1s. each) 5 p.m.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—There will be ringing at 5.30 p.m. for evensong at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on Sunday, April 7th. Visitors welcome.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.—The practices at the above church are reverted to Mondays, commencing Monday next, April 8th, 6.30 p.m. until black-out.—James E. Davis, Tower Keeper, 118, Sarsfield Road, Balham, S.W.12.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. James', Birch, Rusholme, on Saturday, April 13th. Tower open for ringing at 3.30 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited. Reports ready.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Secretary.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—A quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Bishops Cannings (8 bells) on Saturday, April 13th. Ringing at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5. Meeting to follow. Please advise me early how many will attend the tea.—W. C. West, Branch Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—A special meeting will be held at St. Saviour's, Eastbourne, on Saturday, April 13th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Will all members intending to be present let the undersigned know not later than Wednesday previous to the meeting.—F. H. Dallaway, Stone Cross, Pevensy, Sussex.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Broughton Parish Church, on Saturday, April 13th. Bells available from 3 p.m.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Branch Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Rolleston-on-Dove on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. It is hoped to arrange light refreshment at 4.45 for those who notify me by Wednesday, April 10th. Meeting to follow. Hearty invitation to North Staffs friends and Derby District members. Subscriptions now due, and reports ready.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—North-East Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Cullompton on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (10) from 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. It is necessary that those wishing to attend should inform me by Monday, April 8th.—R. Harris, Hon. Sec., Park, Silverton, near Exeter.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Welford (8 bells) on April 13th. Usual arrangements. Please send names for tea by April 9th.—H. H. Shrives, Hon. Sec., The Mill, Long Buckby, Rugby.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch, Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting will be held at Tyringham on Saturday, April 13th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Monthly meeting at Purton on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (6) available afternoon and evening. Tea by invitation of Vicar. A card re tea will oblige.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bridgwater Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, April 13th, at Moorlinch. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4. Tea and business meeting to follow. All welcome.—C. Evans, Local Sec., 17, Wellington Road, Bridgwater.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Bottesford on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) ready 3 p.m. Please make own arrangements for tea. Come and try this fine peal.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., Trowell, Notts.

CHESTER DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Macclesfield Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held at Bosley on April 13th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. If tea is required, a line will be appreciated early.—Jack Tipper, Hon. Branch Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—A monthly meeting will be held at Emmanuel and St. Andrew's on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) available from 2.45 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m. respectively. Tea at 5 p.m. Buses Nos. 22 and 222 to Guthrie Road.—A. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

CORNWOOD, DEVON.—At 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 13th, the Lord Bishop of Exeter will re-dedicate the ring of six bells restored by John Taylor & Co.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Shelley on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (6) ready at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., followed by short business meeting and further ringing until 8 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. F. R. Brook, Lilac Nook, Shelley, near Huddersfield, not later than April 10th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., Rock Cottages, Shafton, near Barnsley.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at Harpenden on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.—Harold V. Frost, Dis. Sec., 4, Kimberley Road, St. Albans.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Forget your worries and come to Uckfield on Saturday, April 13th. A warm welcome and a cheerful company await you. Owing to war, etc., tea will be 1s. 6d. Please send cards as promptly as possible.—C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The next meeting will be held at West Hallam, on April 13th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. For tea please notify me not later than Thursday 11th. Come and have a ring at this handy peal. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be at St. James', West Derby, on Sat., April 13th. Bells (6) available from 2.30. Service at 5. All ringers cordially invited.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Roydon on Saturday, April 13th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. until dusk. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—W. H. Wheeler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Whitworth Parish Church on Saturday, April 13th. Bells, available from 3 p.m., are well worth a visit. All ringers and friends cordially invited. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—Ivan Kay, Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Overton on Saturday, April 20th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Tea in Overton Rectory. Business meeting follows. All requiring tea please notify by April 17th the Rev. E. G. Wells.—J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Sec.

CORNWORTHY, NEAR TOTNES, DEVON.—The ring of six bells, restored by John Taylor and Co., will be re-opened on Saturday, April 20th, at 3 p.m.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting, Saturday, April 20th. Bells at Cathedral Church 3 to 4.15 p.m., S. Nicolas' afternoon and evening. Service at S. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Cafe (next to S. Nicolas'). Numbers for tea must be sent to me by April 17th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, April 27th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Tea, at Manor House Cafe, at 5 o'clock, 1s. 9d. each. Please notify Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, E. Yorks, by Wednesday, April 24th. Meeting after tea for election of officers, etc.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Acton on Saturday, April 27th. Full particulars later.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. A. Lawrence is now 6, French Horn Lane, West Goldings, Hatfield, Herts.

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