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CHRISTMAS BELLS?

Ever since the ban on ringing was first imposed it caused widespread disapproval, and many attempts were made to get it removed or amended. The recent ringing for victory led to a great increase in the protests, and much pressure has been put on the Government. From the pulpit by leading clergymen, in the press, and in the House of Commons, many voices have been raised to demand that the bells shall be rung again for their normal Sunday use, or, if that were impossible, at any rate for Christmas.

These demands have not been met with a flat negative as were the earlier demands, but the answer week by week has been that the matter was being considered, and a statement would be made; but when the House of Commons adjourned for the Christmas recess no decision had been reached, and at the time of writing we still do not know whether we shall be allowed to ring for Christmas or not.

To very many people this indecision must seem strange and incomprehensible. The ban was imposed in the first instance because the military authorities thought it necessary to reserve the use of the bells for warning in the event of invasion by air-borne enemy troops. That was a clear and definite purpose, and the authorities must know whether they still rely on the sound of bells as an efficient warning. We suspect that they do not, for if they did, they surely would have made quite certain that means of ringing would be immediately available at every tower and they would have discovered by searching tests whether it would be effective. Neither, so far as we are aware, has been generally done. Though the first idea of the ban, and the early opposition to its removal did undoubtedly come from the military authorities, we find it difficult to believe that they now have any particular interest in the matter.

Why, then, should not the ban be lifted, and whence comes the present opposition and indecision? About that we can only conjecture, but we believe, ourselves, that the deciding factor is the opinion of the Prime Minister, and that if we are not allowed to ring, it will be because he does not think it advisable in the present circumstances.

This does not mean that we think Mr. Churchill is to be numbered among those who would like to see bell ringing stopped or curtailed. Quite the contrary. He is a man who has shown that he understands the past life of the nation, and in the intervals when political circumstances have prevented him from assisting himself in the

(Continued on page 574.)

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making of history, he has turned to the study and the writing of history. He showed that, more than any other man who has spoken on the matter, he understood what church bells once meant in the life of the people and what they might still mean. The ringing for victory was the immediate response to his suggestion, and proved how accurately he had gauged the matter.

But the extraordinary success of that ringing and the enormous interest it evoked among all sections of the people were in themselves a reason why it should not lightly be repeated. If there had been no silence and no victory ringing, the bells might now be used in their normal manner, sending out their weekly messages and proclaiming the good news at Christmas and Easter to those who have ears to hear them. But for the moment to the great majority of people they are associated with other things, and might easily lead men to suppose (unconsciously in most cases) that the worst is over, and there is less reason for effort and resolution. The worst may be over—we trust it is—but the end is not yet in sight, and those in authority may well hesitate before they sanction anything which might create an impression, among even a section of the community, that any relaxation is allowable.

Here we feel sure is the reason for the delay. We ringers, all of us, will rejoice if it is found possible to allow us to ring once more; but, if not, we must rest content with the assurance that England and humanity need the sacrifice.

A NEW SILENT APPARATUS.

MR. H. NUTT'S INGENIOUS INVENTION.

(By the Rev. F. F. Rigby, President of the Lancashire Association.)

An interesting and ingenious apparatus has been fitted by Mr. H. Nutt in the tower at Friezland, near Oldham, Lancashire. Its purpose is to allow the tower bells to be swung without sounding, correct striking being assured by the changes being rung on a set of fixed handbells in the ringing room. True, the effect of ringing the bells is rather odd, for the sound of the handbells seems small and out of all proportion to the energy expended in ringing the tower bells. Nevertheless, the experiment has been worth while, and is much better than ringing silent bells.

On the outside of each wheel is fitted what may best be described as a flat bell complete with clapper. In actual fact, this bell consists of two frames shaped like a trapezium, the two frames being only about an inch apart, and acting as guide rods to the clapper. The movement of this second clapper in the frame is similar to that of the ordinary bell clapper, which, of course, is prevented from swinging. When the second clapper hits the 'sound bow' of the flat bell, a momentary electric circuit is created, the handbell in the ringing room being part of the circuit. Thus each handbell strikes with every revolution of the corresponding tower bell.

Mr. Nutt has spent many hours in perfecting his apparatus, which he has now patented. Anyone interested can have the opportunity of ringing the bells, as practices are held on the last Saturday afternoon of each month, with the exception that the December practice is on the 19th.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have read the articles and letters in your paper on the above subject with much interest, and have felt much inclined to write you stating my views on the matter.

But after reading what you so admirably and plainly say in the fourth paragraph of your leading article of last Friday's issue, I feel there is not much more that can usefully be said.

I have always felt that our associations should be diocesan. The present organisation may be defective in some respects and capable of improvement. But would a National Association do so? I think we should lose much of the effect of local influences, which mean so much to us, especially in country parishes.

W. L. DUFFIELD.

Long Stratton, Norwich.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 10, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

**A PEAL OF SPLICED CAMBRIDGE AND SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR,
5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15.

*EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 5-6
*ERNEST C. S. TURNER 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 7-8

Composed and Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

Umpire—John E. Rootes.

* First spliced peal in two Surprise methods. The peal contained 2,528 changes of each method with 76 changes of method, and is the first peal in these two methods to be rung on handbells.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 12, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

In the Choir Vestry of St. Peter's Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK... .. 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

Rung on Miss Jessie Chick's birthday as a compliment to her and also on honour of the 77th birthday anniversary of Mr. John W. Jones, of Newport, Mon. (December 5th). Miss Chick entertained the party to tea after the peal.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, December 12, 1942, in Three Hours and One Minute,

At 86, SCRIBERS LANE, HALL GREEN, 28,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

FRANK E. PERVIN... .. 1-2	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD 7-8
FRANK W. PERRINS 3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN 9-10
ALBERT WALKER 5-6	GEORGE E. FEARN 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 16, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At 57, THE HEADROW,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

*MISS L. K. BOWLING 1-2	PERCY J. JOHNSON 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	WILLIAM BARTON 7-8
JOHN AMBLER 9-10	

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

* First peal of Royal. A compliment to Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Johnson on the celebration of their silver wedding.

RADLEY, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 17, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

At the School House,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

WILFRED F. MORETON 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE 5-6
MISS MARIE R. CROSS 3-4	*F/O CHRIS. T. BROWN, R.A.F. 7-8

Composed by MORRIS J. MORRIS. Conducted by Miss M. R. CROSS

* First peal.

MARRIAGE OF MR. HAROLD CHANT.

On November 21st at St. Peter's Church, Felkirk, the marriage took place of Mr. Harold Chant to Miss M. Sykes. The ceremony was performed by the Vicar, the Rev. — Barlow, at 8.30 a.m., and was quiet and private, only the parents and close friends of the bride and bridegroom being present.

Mr. Chant is well known among Yorkshire ringers. He is hon. treasurer of the Barnsley and District Society, and Ringing Master of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association. At present he is in the R.A.F.

VICTORY BELLS.

BAGSHOT.—Grandsire Doubles and call changes were rung by Mrs. Welton and Messrs. V. Welton, G. Bryant, J. Corbett, H. Hall, E. Hall, E. Marsh, H. Hunt, F. Rose, G. Wigmore, C. Haines and F. Nye.

BALCOMBE, SUSSEX.—Ten ringers took part in some good rounds, finishing with a good touch of Minor. The bells were then lowered in peal.

DRAYTON, NEAR TAUNTON.—Ringing began at 9 a.m. and continued until 12 noon at intervals, those taking part being P. H. Lock, B. Attwell, R. Dabinett, W. Male, S. Dabinett, T. Locke (conductor), F. Harris, E. Dabinett and C. Sandford. Mr. Sandford, who is 70 years old, had not rung for 20 years.

ELLESMERE, SHROPSHIRE.—Owing to several ringers being away with H.M. Forces, etc., only seven were present, and change ringing could not be attempted, there being one short for Stedman Doubles. The back seven, however, were kept going in call changes from 9 until 11 a.m. by the brothers Stone (both home on leave), A. Allen, W. Higginson, sen., T. Butler, sen. (conductor), and two visitors working in the district, to whom the thanks of the band are tendered.

HANDSWORTH, SHEFFIELD.—Bob Major by Miss L. Kelly, Mrs. D. Kelly and Messrs. R. Birch, J. H. Brothwell, J. G. Brothwell, F. Cardwell, W. H. Taylor, J. Haywood, L. Haywood and J. E. Turley. The conductors were L. Haywood and J. E. Turley. The striking was fairly good and several touches were rung.

LIVERPOOL.—The twelve bells at the Parish Church have been removed from the tower and only handbells could be rung. At St. Francis Xavier's R.C. Church a considerable number of ringers were present, and the eight bells were kept going until 11 a.m. in call changes, 'firing' and Bob Minor with 6-8 covering. An unusual incident occurred here a few minutes before the ringing ceased when the conductor, Mr. T. W. Hammond, called out asking if there was anybody present who had not had a 'pull.' A gentleman, about 50 years of age, thereupon removed his jacket and took the rope offered him by the ringer of the third whilst still ringing, nobody questioning his being a ringer. It immediately became obvious, however, that this gentleman had no knowledge whatever of ringing a bell. As there were several small children seated nearby, what might have been a serious accident was averted by a qualified ringer taking the rope from him and bringing the bell under control again. At Garston and Woolton, courses of Grandsire Triples and call changes were rung, and the handy ring of eight at St. Nicholas', Halewood, was fully manned.

LITTLE MUNDEN, HERTS.—Touches of Oxford Treble Bob by W. Williams, A. Woolston, S. Head, A. Phillips, A. Carter and E. Overall.

A REGRETTABLE PICTURE.

'CHILDISH ANTICS.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A few days ago, when I opened a copy of the 'Daily Mirror,' I was amazed to see a photograph of two young girls swinging in distinctly ungraceful attitudes upon bell-ropes, several feet from the floor. Upon reading the note which accompanied the picture, I was still more amazed to be informed that this was a learners' class in progress in a Buckinghamshire tower, and that the incident illustrated formed part of the syllabus. When I first learnt to handle a bell, some 14 years ago, one of the things which was impressed firmly upon my mind was the fact that one should never lift one's feet from the floor while ringing; and I feel sure that the opinion of competent ringers will be that I have been correct in pointing out this fact to the not inconsiderable number of pupils whom I have taught to handle a bell since that time.

We ringers should be grateful to the 'Daily Mirror' for its interest in our art, and its repeated requests that the ban on ringing might be lifted. These facts make it the more to be regretted that the paper's representative should have been so misinformed as to be led to believe that the childish antics depicted form part of the instruction required to produce a capable ringer.

Catterick, Yorks.

R. D. St. J. SMITH, C.F.

IT IS ALL WRONG.

Dear Sir,—Last Tuesday's copy of an illustrated daily paper contains a picture representing—to quote the Press description—'learning the peal of the bells in Burnham (Bucks) Church.'

It is also stated that 'it takes 18 months to learn how to control bells' and 'part of the lesson is to swing on the bells like this'; the photograph showing two girls clinging to the top of the sallies and suspended in mid-air.

It seems hardly credible that Mr. G. Gilbert, who is mentioned as their instructor in change ringing, could have countenanced such statements as those quoted: giving such an inaccurate, not to say ridiculous, impression to the general public. It is certainly not in the interests of the art that such an unedifying photograph should have been staged and published. One of my girl recruits, on being shown the picture, said at once to her mother, 'That is all wrong'! And she could control her bell efficiently in rounds after less than six months' practice, without any curious gymnastics.

The Vicarage, Lyme Regis, Dorset.

C. CAREW COX.

[We have received several other letters about this picture. — Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

FABIAN STEDMAN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 567.)

In the year 1677, when the 'Campanalogia' was published, Fabian Stedman was still living at Cambridge, but shortly afterwards he moved to London, where he spent the remaining part of his life. Direct evidence is lacking, but it seems that through the influence of his friends among the College Youths he obtained a post in the audit of Excise under John Birch, and we get one or two glimpses of him in the Treasury Books.

In 1690 he and George Birch are mentioned, evidently as the two principal clerks in the office, when they are granted an allowance to cover a tax. The younger Birch (who afterwards called himself Bruere) and Stedman were closely associated for a long time. In 1691, when John Birch died, the two carried on without an official head and themselves did the audit for six months. Nine years later the two sent a joint petition to the Treasury asking for an increase of salary, and giving as the reason the great increase in the business of the office owing to new taxation. The petition was favourably received and the then Auditor General, Sir Basil Dixwell, was ordered to pay them £60 per annum, which had been allowed for additional salaries. Previous to that Bruere's salary seems to have been £100 and Stedman's £60.

George Bruere evidently died before Fabian Stedman. The long connection of the two with the audit of Excise and their close personal friendship is shown in Stedman's will; Bartholomew Bruere is a legatee and John Bruere a witness.

During the early part at least of his life in London, Stedman continued active in the art and as a member of the Society of College Youths. In 1682 he filled the office of Master. Later on, as he became more advanced in years and as his early friends passed away by death or retirement, he gradually dropped out of the active life of the Exercise and by the beginning of the new century was little more than a name and a memory among ringers. Whether he did any further work as a composer we do not know. If he did, his compositions are lost and forgotten, and the 'Campanalogia' remains his permanent contribution to the development of change ringing. He died in November, 1713, and was buried in the church of St. Andrew, Undershaft, in the City of London.

No tombstone or any other monument to his memory exists in the church, but that is only what we should have expected. Very few of those who were buried in the City churches or graveyards had any memorials and most of those which were erected were displaced to make room for others. So, too, were the bones of the dead. They were constantly being dug up to make space for newcomers, and where what remains of Fabian Stedman now lies, no one can say.

The identification of the Fabian Stedman of the Excise audit and the Fabian Stedman of Cambridge is not absolute—few things of the kind ever are—but it seems to be beyond all reasonable doubt. The evidence is as follows:—

In the year 1901, Mr. Owden Stedman sent to the Ancient Society of College Youths an abstract of the will

of a Fabian Stedman who died in 1713, and was buried at St. Andrew's, Undershaft, with a request for any particulars of the testator's birth and life. The matter was put in the hands of Mr. Robert A. Daniell, who made extensive inquiries both in Cambridge and London. He had the original document photographed and a copy was printed in 'The Bell News' of November 7th, 1903. He searched the parish registers of St. Benedict's, Cambridge, and other churches in the town, and the accounts of St. Andrew's, Undershaft.

There was little result of his labours, but he was convinced that the two Fabian Stedmans were the same. Other people thought differently. Stedman, they pointed out, was born in 1631, and so would have been nearly fifty years old when he was supposed to have received an appointment in the Civil Service; and eighty-two years old when he died, and apparently he was carrying out his duties up to the end. That a printer in a provincial town should, at that time of life, receive a Government appointment seemed to them to be most unlikely, and indeed almost impossible.

When they are examined, there is not much in these objections. I have already given what I think sufficient reasons for putting Stedman's birth, not in 1631, but ten or twelve years later, and if these reasons are sound then the chronological difficulty disappears. And there is nothing much in the other part of the objection. There was then nothing like our modern Civil Service. The Crown appointed the heads of departments and they in turn appointed whom they would as clerks and subordinates. Anyone could have been made a clerk in the audit office, provided he was competent and had the necessary influence behind him. That Stedman was competent there is no doubt, his book shows that. And he did not lack influence. He was highly esteemed by the College Youths, and there were several men among them who could and would speak a good word for him.

And there is a further link in the chain of evidence which, if it is thoroughly sound, would put the matter beyond all doubt. The head of the Excise in London at the time was a man named John Cooke, and there were two men named John Cook who were members of the Society of College Youths, one of whom joined in 1654 and the other in 1655. Now, if one of these was the Controller of Excise (and there is no reason why he should not have been), the matter is clear. Stedman came up to London for the annual feast in 1677, for in that year he was steward; the 'Campanalogia' had just appeared; and his reputation was at its height. What more natural than that the College Youths should wish to keep him in London so that they could have the benefit of his company and of his experience in the art of ringing? And who would be so likely to find him the necessary job as the head of the Excise?

There remains the evidence from the name and from the will. The name Stedman is, as I have already said, not an uncommon one; but judging from the parish registers in the seventeenth century, it was rare in London. Identity of name is, of course, no proof of identity of person, but we should hardly expect to find two men living at the same time, of similar character, and both called by the unusual name of Fabian Stedman. It has been suggested that they may have been father and son, but the suggestion is pure conjecture, and creates many more difficulties than it removes.

The will is dated October 17th, 1713, and was written by the testator's own hand. It is also his own drafting, for there is a touch which betrays the amateur. He left 'to the poor of the parish where I was born ten pounds, and to the poor of the parish where I shall die five pounds.' No doubt it was all perfectly clear to his executor and the other persons concerned, but surely a lawyer would have put in the name of his native parish. For us it would have cleared up several points which are now in doubt:

The testator was a bachelor, or childless widower, and a man quite well-to-do. He left fifty pounds to Christ's Hospital, and various sums to his sister and her children and grandchildren, but specially excluded the husband of one of his nieces from any benefit. He remembered the clerks in his office, the porter and doorkeepers, the watchman and yard keeper—everyone in fact that was connected with him, even the maid who cleaned his office. To Mrs. Phœbe Wickens, a widow, and her daughter he gave each one hundred pounds, and we may suppose that he lodged with those two ladies. The balance of the estate went to a nephew, the son of a sister who apparently was already dead.

The wording of the will follows the usual form of such documents, and there is little scope for the expression of any individuality; yet we cannot help feeling that this is the sort of will we should have expected the author of the 'Campanalogia' to have made, and this is the way in which we should have expected him to have written it.

The general impression we get of Fabian Stedman from what we know of him, is of a quiet, intellectual man; thoroughly reliable and conscientious in his

duties; kindly in his nature, unambitious, and a bachelor by disposition. In his active lifetime he and his book had a great reputation among ringers, but it is the usual fate of such to be unduly disparaged by the next generation, and the authors of the J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia' speak rather slightly of Stedman's 'Campanalogia.' His fame, however, survived, and, after a time, began steadily to increase until his was the best known name in the whole of the annals of change ringing. The climax was the memorial raised to him on what was believed to be the tercentenary of his birth. Following a suggestion of Mr. John S. Goldsmith, a sum of more than five hundred pounds was raised entirely by the Exercise, and the bells of St. Benet's, Cambridge, were restored and a commemorative tablet erected in the church. There have been many memorials erected from time to time to the memory of distinguished ringers, but none on the scale of this, erected to the memory of a man whose active career was spent so long ago as the reign of King Charles II.

DEATH OF MR. EDGAR RIVERS.

The death is announced of Mr. Edgar Rivers, which took place on December 8th at the East Suffolk Hospital after a serious operation.

Mr. Rivers had been for many years a member of the Sproughton band, and, being a good ringer and striker, will greatly be missed by his companions.

IN PRAISE OF STEDMAN.—Throughout the whole province of Change Ringing there is no more delightful method than that of Stedman. Ringers of methods of all degrees of intricacy find in it a continual freshness and charm. If we are to seek for the grounds of such a well-deserved popularity, we shall probably be right in ascribing it chiefly to the varied nature of its work; while at the same time its music has a peculiarly smooth and mellow cadence.—C. D. P. Davies.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The handbell peal of Stedman Cinques at Birmingham on December 12th was rung for Mr. James George's 89th birthday, Nov. 27th, and on the 44th anniversary of the wedding day of the conductor and Mrs. Albert Walker. It was Mr. G. F. Swann's 150th peal of Stedman Cinques, 109 of which were on handbells. It was also the 200th handbell peal by the St. Martin's Guild, formed from the old St. Martin's Society in 1889.

Congratulations to Mr. Charles E. Borrett, who reached his 68th birthday on December 21st.

Sixty years ago on December 16th the North Staffordshire Association was founded.

The first peal of Crayford Surprise Major was rung at Crayford on December 21st, 1935. Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., conducted.

Barham's band rang a peal of New Morning Exercise Major at Leeds, in Kent, on December 23rd, 1775.

Sir Arthur Heywood was born on Christmas Day, 1762.

Not many peals have been rung on Christmas Day, but in 1762 Barham's band, at Leeds, rang 6,720 changes of London Court Bob Major.

The day after Christmas has always been a favourite day for peal ringing, and among the notable anniversaries are the following:—

1749: 6,336 Bob Maximus at St. Saviour's, Southwark, by the London Youths. The tenor was rung single-handed by the elder Samuel Moggeridge.

1760: The first peal of College Exercise Major, by the College Youths, at St. John's, Hackney.

1782: London Union Triples by the London Youths at St. Giles-in-the-Fields.

1831: 15,168 Kent Treble Bob Major at Elland in Yorkshire.

1885: 8,064 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Leiston.

1894: The then longest peal of Superlative Surprise, at Crawley, conducted by Mr. James Parker. This was beaten on the same date in 1910, by 9,728 changes at Clent, in Worcestershire.

1901: The record peal of Stedman Cinques, 11,111 changes, at St. Martin's, Birmingham.

1923: The record peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal, 10,440 changes, at Walthamstow.

The Editor extends hearty greetings and Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year, to all readers; and expresses his sincere thanks to the many friends who have given him help and sympathy in the difficult and trying circumstances of the past year.

AFTERTHOUGHTS ON THANKSGIVING SUNDAY.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Much has happened in a short while in the ringers' world. The National Press and the B.B.C. give news items of bells and ringers in the past few days. Therefore, the conclusion must be that the public were ready and anxious to hear the bells rung again, because surely it is an old axiom, in press circles at any rate, that the public only wants to read what it is interested in.

I only know what took place in my own locality on Thanksgiving Sunday, but there can be no doubt that ringers answered the call to duty (a short one in both senses) to celebrate the nation's victory in war. No doubt other and louder voices than mine will be raised to ask the powers-that-be to reciprocate and allow (subject, of course, to the war situation not worsening in the meantime) the bells to be rung on Christmas morning, say for the same period, to remind the country and others who care to listen of the significance of the day and to give pleasure to those near and far on this greatest of all days.

So far as my personal impressions go, for me Thanksgiving Sunday was a great occasion. The pleasure of meeting old friends, some of whom I had not seen for several years, was indeed good to behold. I am sure, judging by the keen spirit and willing co-operation exhibited on Thanksgiving Sunday in this small part of the ringing world, that ringing and ringers will come into their own again in the post-war era, laying a foundation which will make a finer Exercise and fulfil the hopes and desires expressed in the ringers' journal in the dark months gone by.

When all is said and done, 'tis an ill wind that blows nobody any good!

'IN SLOW.'

THE LATE MR. C. R. LILLEY.

As briefly announced in our last issue, the death occurred on December 10th of Mr. Charles R. Lilley, who passed away in a private ward of Newton Abbot Hospital. He leaves a widow and a son, Mr. J. E. Lilley, who is also a well-known Devonshire ringer.

Charles Richard Lilley was born on April 8th, 1874, at Candlesby, in Lincolnshire, where his father for many years was churchwarden. His great-grandfather, William Fant, was a ringer at Freiston, and Mr. Lilley inherited his ringing books. It was in his native county that he himself learnt to ring, and his first peal was in 12 methods of Doubles at Wrangle in 1894. His first peal as conductor was on August 7th, 1897, at Bennington, where he called seven 720's of Bob Minor.

In 1897 Mr. Lilley moved to Bedford and came into contact with the late Charles Clark, and together they were very active in peal ringing, among the performances being the first peals of Kent Treble Bob Royal and Bob Royal on the augmented ring at St. Paul's, Bedford.

From Bedford Mr. Lilley moved to various places, and when in Oxfordshire he took part in Washbrook's record length of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Kidlington on May 22nd, 1899. The number of changes was 17,024 and the time taken 11 hours 12 minutes. In 1913 he went to live at Shrewsbury, where at St. Alkmund's he called the first peal of Stedman Triples in the town. He was appointed Ringing Master and steeplekeeper at St. Chad's, and after the twelve bells were restored and recast by Messrs. Taylor and Co. he conducted several peals in the tower, including Grandshire and Stedman Cinques and Plain Bob and Treble Bob Maximus.

His later years Mr. Lilley spent in Devonshire, where he did a lot of teaching and called several peals. Since the war started he formed a handbell band at Highweck, where he lived, and by this means was able to score a peal on every day in the year, including February 29th and Christmas Day.

From 1924 to 1926 Mr. Lilley represented the Shropshire Association on the Central Council.



THE LATE MR. C. R. LILLEY.

DETACHED TOWERS 'THE STORY BEHIND.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Replying to Mr. Bailey's letter in your last issue, I hope, with your kind permission and as space allows, to give 'the story behind' most of the detached towers mentioned in my article. Nearly all of those are quaint and very interesting. As regards the two sisters legend, this occurs in instances where two churches are in one churchyard, which at some future date I will give full details. Another instance is that of Ormskirk, Lancashire, where it is said the church was built by two sisters, daughters of Orme, a famous pirate, who, failing to agree over the question of tower and spire, built both! A happy way of settling the dispute, the one of compromise:—

'Sister,' said one, 'tis my desire
The church should have a tapering spire,
To point to realms where sin's forgiven,
And lead men's thoughts from earth to Heaven.'

The other sister wanted a tower, and so:—

The other said, 'I like a tower,
It speaks of strength, of might, of power—
An emblem of the Church's strength
To overcome the world at length;
To show that 'gainst the Church, though frail,
The gates of Hell shall not prevail.'

The outcome of the dispute was that they made 'Orme's-Kirk' unique by erecting a massive tower 84 feet high and 37 feet square; and also a low octagonal tower with a graceful spire reaching about 25 feet above the summit of the other tower. The latter contains a ring of eight bells.

Re Mr. Martin's note on East Bergholt, it was an error on my part to say the bells have wheels—they have not. A photograph of both exterior and interior of this quaint bell-house is given in my book, 'History and Art of Change Ringing,' together with a note on certain change ringing done there. I also give account of Swaffham Prior churches in the same volume.

ERNEST MORRIS.

ST. PETER'S BELLS, ST ALBANS

THE RING OF TWELVE:

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I be allowed to supplement further information to the article published in last week's 'Ringing World,' gathered from authentic correspondence in my possession.

The St. Peter's Society is the 'child' of the St. Albans Society of Change Ringers, founded in 1876. From the first report of the society, read at a meeting of members on January 9th, 1877, I quote:—

'A year having now elapsed since the above society was formed, its officers desire to tender their best thanks to those who have kindly contributed to its funds, and they forward to them their balance sheet. From this it will be seen that the sum they have in hand amounts to £15 11s. 11d. . . . The chief calls upon its funds have arisen from the engagement of the services of experienced instructors in the art of campanology. Under the able tuition of Mr. Haworth, of London, who was assisted in the beginning of the year by Mr. Wood, noted members of the celebrated band of College Youths, the society has every reason to be satisfied with the progress it has made, the ringers having on several occasions rung over 500 changes. The officers believe that the society is now on a firm footing, and if progress is made during the coming year in proportion to that which is now drawing to a close, the St. Albans Society of Change Ringers will, they trust, soon attain to a prominent position, among the ringing societies of Hertfordshire.—Signed, Henry Lewis.'

Financially, the society was strong, the subscriptions in 'the first year amounting to £51 4s. 6d. Instructors' expenses amounted to £21 12s. 7d.

The Master of the society was Mr. Henry Lewis, and the secretary Mr. E. P. Debenham. The high hopes expressed in their first report did not come to fruition, and resort eventually was made to 'stoney.' This continued until the County Association and the Cathedral Society were formed, when the earlier society was merged into the present St. Peter's Society. Under the instruction and genial influence of Mr. E. P. Debenham, the whole band gave their attention to change ringing, and soon became a very capable asset, as peal boards record.

The peal of twelve that once hung in the tower was also mentioned in the article. I never heard the twelve rung, but the son of the donor told me that the two trebles were 'burnt bells,' but what a 'burnt bell' is neither he nor I ever knew. As various views have been expressed as to the quality of the twelve, I append a copy of a letter sent by the donor of the trebles to his son Henry.

St. Albans. May 9th, 1868.

'My dear Henry,—I hope we shall be able to arrange for the opening of the peal of 12 next Tuesday week, but I am not certain at present. Mr. Haley was here yesterday chipping a little more out of our 4th of the ten, as it had become slightly too sharp again. All the jackdaw rubbish is cleared away and thrown over the dumb left, so that the place where the bells are is quite clean. The tenor clapper has been made a little heavier. We had a touch on the 12 last night for Mr. Haley to hear. They sounded like a great band of music. We had not first-rate ringers in, but the best we could get considering it was Friday night: Mr. Haley 1, G. Hatton 2, Francomb 3, Myself 4, William 5, Hull 6, Lawrence 7, Baptist 8, Old George 9, T. Woolfield 10, Waller 11, Ellis 12. Mr. Haley came into the churchyard afterwards and they rang the first eight, which was very fine, so altogether it has proved very successful.

'I will let you know when the opening is to be and will write to Mr. E. Barry. I want to get six of each Cumberlands and College Youths, but I fear there is a little misunderstanding between them just now, so that I may be compelled to ask one party exclusively. I hope not!

'The town appears delighted with the addition, so far it is gratifying to me. With kind regards to Messrs. Barry and Mr. Willis, etc.

'I am, my dear Henry, your loving Father, John Lewis.'

I regret I cannot trace all the men who rang the first touch mentioned, which I could have done earlier in my ringing career, but G. Hatton was a watchmaker in business in St. Peter's Street; Hull was a painter. Old George was George Richardson, upholsterer, of Chequer Street. Woolfield was connected with the Dudding family. T. Waller was the sexton (not officially appointed) and became an excellent ringer.

G. W. CARTMEL.

HUGH REGINALD HAWES.

(Continued from page 569.)

Such seasons are not without real danger—more than once the lightning has melted and twisted the iron hasps about the tower, and within the memory of man the masonry itself has been struck. During the long peals of thunder that come rolling with the black rain clouds over the level plains of Belgium, the belfry begins to vibrate like a huge musical instrument, as it is; the bells peal out, and seem to claim affinity with the deep bass of the thunder, whilst the shrill wind shrieks a demonic treble to the wild and stormy music.

All through the still summer night the belfry lamp burns like a star. It is the only point of yellow light that can be seen up so high, and when the moon is bright it looks almost red in the silvery atmosphere. Then it is that the music of the bells floats furthest over the plains, and the postilion hears the sound as he hurries along the high road from Brussels or Lille, and, smacking his whip loudly, he shouts to his weary steed as he sees the light of the old tower of Tournay come in sight.

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS. A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

In our account of Lord Grimthorpe we said that he was one of the influences which made English modern bells the best in the world, though not in the way he intended; and the same may be said about another man, the Rev. H. R. Haweis, who differed in almost every way from Grimthorpe, except that he, too, was generally accepted in his time as an authority on bells.

Hugh Reginald Haweis, who came of a clerical family, was born at Egham, in Surrey, on April 3rd, 1838. In his childhood and boyhood he was afflicted with a severe malady from which he ultimately recovered, but which left him a cripple and little more than a dwarf in stature. From his early days he had a great aptitude for music, and that continued to be one of his main interests throughout his life. After going to Cambridge, he took orders and was curate at St. Peter's, Bethnal Green, for two years. In 1866 he was appointed incumbent of St. James', Westmorland Street, Marylebone, and remained there until his death in 1901.

At St. James' he soon attracted attention by the unconventional style of his services and his somewhat theatrical manner of preaching. He became a popular preacher and lecturer, and wrote many books and magazine articles chiefly on music and theology, which, though not particularly profound, appealed to a wide circle of readers. His most popular book was 'Music and Morals,' a revision of magazine articles, which was first published in 1871, and went through sixteen editions, the last appearing in 1891.

Like many other visitors to Belgium, Haweis was attracted by the carillons of the Low Countries, and he devoted time and writing to an attempt to introduce them into this country, much as the late W. W. Starmer tried to do in later years. But while Haweis appealed to a far wider circle than Starmer did, he had nothing like the technical knowledge and skill the other possessed.

One or two carillons and one or two rings of Belgian bells actually were put up in England, mainly through Haweis' influence. Among them were the carillons at Boston, Cattistock, and Eaton Hall, and the octaves at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, and Lower Beeding in Sussex. Boston bells have been recast and the carillon done away with; Cattistock bells were destroyed by fire about three years ago; Kilburn bells have been partly recast, retuned, and altered out of recognition by Taylors; Beeding bells remain, but as a ringing peal they are a decided failure.

One section of 'Music and Morals' was devoted by Haweis to bells, and it can be read now with interest, though seldom with agreement. It is written in the somewhat inflated style which was natural to the man, and for which the modern reader should make allowance.

He begins his chapter half-way up the tower of a Belgian cathedral, which may be Antwerp or Malines, but probably was a fancy construction made up from impressions of several towers.

The long winding staircase seems to have no end. Two hundred steps are already below us. The higher we go the more broken and rugged are the stairs. Suddenly it grows very dark, and, clutching the rope more firmly, we struggle upwards. Light dawns again through a narrow Gothic slit in the tower—let us pause and look out for a moment. The glare is blinding, but from the deep, cool recess a wondrous spectacle unfolds itself. We are almost on the level of the roof of a noble cathedral. We have come close upon a fearful dragon. He seems to spring straight out of the wall. We have often seen his lean, gaunt form from below—he passes almost unnoticed with a hundred brother gargoyles—but now we are so close to him our feelings are different; we seem like intruders in his lawful domains. His face is horribly grotesque and earnest. His propor-

tions, which seemed so diminutive in the distance, are really colossal—but here everything is colossal.

This huge scroll, this clump of stone, cannon-balls, arc, in fact, the little vine tendrils and grapes that looked so frail and delicately carved from below. Amongst the petals of yonder mighty rose a couple of pigeons are busy making their nest; seeds of grasses and wild flowers have been blown up, and here and there a tiny garden has been laid out by the capricious winds on certain wide hemlock leaves: the fringes of yonder cornice is a waste of lilies. As we try to realise detail after detail the heart is almost pained by the excessive beauty of all this petrified bloom, stretching away over flying buttresses, and breaking out in column and architrave, and the eye at last turns away weary with wonder.

A few more steps up the dark tower and we are in a large dim space, illuminated only by the feeblest glimmer. Around us and overhead rise huge timbers, inclining towards each other at every possible angle, and hewn, centuries ago, from the neighbouring forests, which have long since disappeared. They support the roof of the building. Just glancing through a trap door at our feet we seem to look some miles down into another world. A few foreshortened, but moving specks, we are told are people on the floor of the cathedral, and a bunch of tiny tubes about the size of a pan-pipe really belong to an organ of immense size and power.

At this moment a noise like a powerful engine in motion recalls our attention to the tower. The great clock is about to strike, and begins to prepare by winding itself up five minutes before the hour. Groping amongst the wilderness of cross beams and timbers, we reach another staircase, which leads to a vast square but lofty fabric, filled with the same mighty scaffolding. Are not these most dull and dreary solitudes—the dust of ages lies everywhere around us, and the place which now receives the print of our feet has, perhaps, not been touched for five hundred years? And yet these ancient towers and the inner heights and recesses of these old roofs and belfries soon acquire a strong hold on the few who care to explore them. Lonely and deserted as they may appear, there are hardly five minutes of the day or night up there that do not see strange sights or hear strange sounds.

As the eye gets accustomed to the twilight we may watch the large bats fit by. Every now and then a poor lost bird darts about, screaming wildly, like a soul in Purgatory that cannot find its way out. Then we may come on an ancient rat, who seems as much at home there as if he had taken a lease of the roof for ninety-nine years. We have been assured by the carillonneur at Louvain that both rats and mice are not uncommon at such considerable elevations.

Overhead hang the huge bells, several of which are devoted to the clock—others are rung by hand from below, whilst somewhere near, besides the clock machinery, there will be a room fitted up like a vast musical box, containing a barrel, which acts upon thirty or forty of the bells up in the tower, and plays tunes every hour of the day and night.

You cannot pass many minutes in such a place without the clicking of machinery, and the chiming of some bell—even the quarters are divided by two or three notes or half-quarter bells. Double the number are rung for the quarter, four times as many for the half-hour, whilst at the hour a storm of music breaks from such towers as Mechlin and Antwerp, and continues for three or four minutes to float for miles over the surrounding country.

The bells with their elaborate and complicated apparatus, are the life of these old towers—a life that goes on from century to century, undisturbed by many a convulsion in the streets below. These patriarchs, in their tower, hold constant converse with man, but they are not of him; they call him to his duties, they vibrate to his woes and joys, his perils and victories, but they are at once sympathetic and passionless; chiming at his will, but hanging far above him: ringing out the old generation, and ringing in the new, with a mechanical, almost oppressive, regularity, and an iron constancy which often makes them and their grey towers the most revered and ancient things in a large city.

The great clock strikes—it is the only music except the thunder that can fill the air. Indeed, there is something almost elemental in the sound of these colossal and many-centuried bells. As the wind howls at night through their belfries, the great beams seem to groan with delight, the heavy wheels which sway the bells begin to move and creak; and the enormous clappers swing slowly, as though longing to respond before the time.

At Tournay there is a famous old belfry. It dates from the twelfth century, and is said to be built on a Roman base. It now possesses forty bells. It commands the town, and the country round, and from its summit is obtained a near view of the largest and finest cathedral in Belgium with its five magnificent towers. Four brothers guard the summit of the belfry at Tournay, and relieve each other, day and night, at intervals of ten hours. All through the night a light is seen burning in the topmost gallery, and when a fire breaks out the tocsin, or big bell, is tolled up aloft by the watchman. He is never allowed to sleep—indeed, as he informed us, showing us his scanty accommodation, it would be difficult to sleep up there. On stormy nights a whirlwind seems to select that watchman and his tower for its most violent attacks: the darkness is often so great that nothing of the town below can be seen. The tower rocks to and fro, and startled birds dash themselves upon the shaking light, like sea-birds upon a lighthouse lantern.

(Continued on page 579.)

**ALL HALLOWS', BARKING.
A FAMOUS CITY CHURCH.**

One of the churches destroyed in the great fire raid on the City of London during the night of the last Sunday of the year 1940 was All Hallows', Barking, by the Tower. It was a church well known to the general public, but though it had a ring of eight bells they had not been used for some long time.

Saint Erkenwald, the fourth Bishop of London, founded a monastery for women at Barking, in Essex, and appointed his sister the first abbess. He endowed it with fifteen acres of land to the west of the Tower of London, and there in the year 675 a church was built which was served from the abbey, and so got the name of All Hallows', Barking.

It was rebuilt and altered several times, and most of the building, which was standing a few weeks ago, belonged to the Perpendicular style of Gothic architecture.

On January 4th, 1649, a man in the neighbourhood had twenty-seven barrels of gunpowder in his shop, which caught fire and blew up, causing great loss of life and damage to the surrounding property. The glass in the church was shattered and the tower so damaged that it was considered unsafe, but for some time nothing was done.

At a vestry meeting, held on May 12th, 1657, the churchwardens, for the second time, appealed to the vestry on account of the dangerous condition of the tower, and the subject was again deferred for further consideration.

On April 17th, 1658, the churchwardens brought before the vestry drafts and plans for a new tower, as well as a plan for repairing the old one, with a statement of the cost.

After much debate the vestry selected the draft from Samuel Hyne, a bricklayer, and resolved that the work should forthwith be put in hand. The old steeple was ordered to be pulled down and the new tower to be built at the west end of the nave instead of at the west end of the south aisle. The rebuilding seems to have given trouble from want of means and the difficulty of raising funds, and at a vestry held on July 12th, 1659, the churchwardens were authorised to mortgage certain estates and so get sufficient money to go on with. The whole sum collected was £730 16s. 3d., made up as follows—

	£	s.	d.
Parish Stock, balance in hand	279	15	0
Collected among inhabitants	201	1	3
Mortgaged Property	250	0	0

£730 16 3

The expenditure included £417 for the bricklayer, £105 for new bells and frame, £61 10s. for the carpenter, and £20 for a clerk.

The new tower was of brick, from the design submitted by the bricklayer; and it looked like it, for it was a plain, not to say ugly, building. But those were the days of

the Commonwealth, when art was somewhat under a cloud.

There had been five bells in the old tower, and they were hung in the new, with addition of a sixth. Who was the founder, we do not know.

All Hallows' escaped the fire of 1666, but very narrowly. 'I lay down in the office again,' wrote Samuel Pepys, 'being mightily weary and sore in my feet, with going till I was hardly able to stand. About two in the morning my wife calls me up, and tells me of new cries of fire, it being come to Barking Church which is at the bottom of our lane. I up, and finding it so, resolved presently to take her away, and did, and took my gold which was about £2,350. Home, and whereas I expected to have seen our house on fire, it being now about seven o'clock, it was not. I find, by blowing up of houses and the great help given by the workmen out of the King's yard sent up by Sir W. Pen, there is a good stop given to it as well at Marke-lane end as ours; it having only burned the dyall of Barking Church and part of the porch, and was there quenched.'

Rings of six do not figure much in ringing records, and we have no account of any performance at All Hallows' during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, except that the Rambling Ringers went there on December 27th, 1733, and rang two 720's—one Treble Bob, the other Plain. But the names of two men fairly well known in the history of ringing occur in connection with the church. By his last will Michael Darbie left £50 to the parish to buy three gowns every Christmas for ever for three poor men or women. There is nothing to identify him absolutely with the bell founder, but the dates agree.

Until the late catastrophe there still remained in the church an elaborate wrought-iron sword-rest which recalled the connection of Slingsby Bethel with the parish. Bethel was a member of the Society of College Youths, he was Sheriff of London, and in 1756 Lord Mayor.

In 1813 the church was restored at a cost of £5,313, raised by voluntary subscription, and a new ring of eight bells with a tenor of 19 cwt. was supplied by Thomas Mears, of Whitechapel, at a cost of £370, exclusive of the old metal.

The first peal on the bells was one of Grandsire by the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths rung on March 23rd, 1813. The first peal of Major was by the College Youths on May 22nd, 1815, and was composed and conducted by the younger George Gross, who was temporarily at variance with the Cumberland Youths.

After Gross had returned to his old society he called for them Reeves' peal of Oxford Treble Bob, containing 8,448 changes, which remained the longest length on the bells.

These three peals, and one of Bob Major rung on December 1st, 1823, were recorded on boards in the belfry.

All Hallows' bells had been out of ringing order for many years, and there had been little or no ringing on them since before the last war.

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DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 571.)

At Kirkoswald, Cumberland, the tower of St. Oswald's Church stands on top of a hill, two hundred yards distant from the church. It contains two bells, which can be heard for a long distance.

I was wrong in stating in my list of towers (p. 317) that Chittlehampton, Devon, had a detached tower. This is not so, the fine Perpendicular tower being attached to the west end of the church. Devon has, however, a detached tower at Newton Abbot. The embattled tower of the old chapel of St. Leonard—which was demolished in 1836—still stands at the east end of Wolborough Street. It is of Early English period and is about 80 feet high. It was restored in 1874 and contains a clock and eight bells placed there in 1887, in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. St. Mary's Church, Wolborough, standing on an elevated position more than half a mile south of the town, is an ancient building with a west tower also containing eight bells.

Durham has its detached belfry at Middleton-in-Teesdale, where the tower of the old church stands away on the north side of the new church. It contains three bells, one of which, with an invocatory inscription, is dated 1557.

At Henllan, Denbigh, the tower is separate from the church, but I cannot say how many bells there are therein.

According to the 'Church Bells of Essex,' Hempstead in that county had 5+1 bells. The tower fell on January 28th, 1882, and since that time No. 1 and No. 4 bells have hung in a shed in the churchyard: the tenor had its cannon broken in its fall, and this and the clock bell are still unhung in the churchyard. The 2nd had a piece broken out of the rim. As early as 1552 there were here 'iiij belles in the steple by estimation of xli^e weight the Sanctus bell xxx^{li} weight ffor the w^{ch} belles there is owing to the sayde Robert Mordaunt at this Daie xx^{li} xvj^s jd ob: as it shall apere by the church boke.'

At Wix, Essex, there is a detached wooden 'bell-house' situated in the centre of the churchyard. It has one bell cast by John Danyell, of London. In 1552 we read 'Wycks—such ornaments as be remainyng still in oure church and churchyarde. It iiij bells in the stepyle w^t a litile bell in the chawncel.' Two handbells were sold to 'Thomas Chawes the peterer dwellyng in Lawforde,' and the account adds 'which money wth the said bells are dd. to Nicholas Steward to the King's use, and the residew of the p'myses which do remayne are dd. to the churchwardens ther for dyvyne s'vyce.'

At Wrabness, Essex, the church of All Saints is a plain building of rubble, consisting of nave, chancel and south porch. The 'belfry' is a picturesque ivy-clad structure, standing detached in the churchyard and containing one bell. It weighs 4 cwt. 2 qr. 17 lb., its note E, and was cast by J. Warner and Sons in 1854.

Essex also has a semi-detached tower at Epping, St. John-the-Baptist. The site of this church, which was erected in 1889 and constituted the parish church in lieu of All Saints at Epping Upland, is that of the Mass Chapel erected by William I. by charter (1177). Henry II, granted the chapel to the Monks of Waltham Abbey. In 1547 Edward VI. seized all 'free' chapels, and this was included. It was thereupon vested in trustees and

subject to the Bishop of London. The present church is in the Gothic style of the 14th century and its square tower with projecting clock contains a fine ring of eight bells. Tenor 20 cwt. in E flat. The tower, although an independent building, is joined to the main fabric of the church by a low vestry. The east window, reredos, organ and rood screen, as well as the tower, were presented by E. J. Wythes, Esq. Before the tower was built there was one bell, cast by William Whitmore, of Watford, inscribed: 'William Lord Graye of Warke, 1650,' and it used to hang in a frame on a shed at the south-west of the new church. William Lord Graye purchased the Manor of Epping in 1635. He died in 1674 and is here buried.

The church of St. Cyfelach, Llangyfelach, Glamorgan, has a detached tower to the south side which belonged to an earlier church. It contains a ring of 4 bells.

Gloucestershire has two examples—Berkeley (10 bells) and Westbury-on-Severn (6 bells). With regard to Berkeley tower there is a tradition that it was built apart from the church by order of Lord Berkeley, so as to be further away from his castle, the top of the tower being liable—in case of war—to be used as a point of vantage to any foe. Originally four bells from the famous Gloucester foundry of Rudhall, they were increased to six by T. Mears in 1842. In 1900 these bells, being in bad repair, were restored and two trebles added, and all rehung in an iron frame by T. Blackbourne, of Salisbury. To these a further two were added as a war memorial by and to members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, making the present ring of ten. At Westbury-on-Severn, the church of SS. Peter and Paul has a detached tower on the north side, 50 feet distant from the church. It has a wooden broach spire 153 feet high, and contains a clock presented in 1845, and six bells, all cast in 1711 by A. Rudhall, the tenor being recast by John Rudhall, 1825. In 1887 these were rehung and one recast at the expense of the Misses Crawley, of Hempstead. On the south-west buttress of the tower is an 18th century sundial inscribed 'Fugax est aetas,' and lower down, incised on stone, radiating lines of a mediæval dial which marked the canonical hours of prayer. A singular network of great oak beams form the skeleton of the octagonal spire. Damaged by terrific storms in 1662, it was shingled in 1664, and again in 1680 with staves of disused cider barrels which the churchwardens bought and utilised for the purpose. The tower was built in 1270. In 1937 the spire was re-shingled, to the cost of which the Pilgrim Trust contributed. Let us hope the inscription on the treble bell will soon again be fulfilled:—'LET VS RING FOR PEACE MERRILY A.R. 1741.'

Holy Trinity, Gosport, Hants, built in 1696 and since enlarged, is of brick with stucco dressings of Ionic order, has a detached tower at the north-west angle, erected in 1889 by the Rev. W. L. Nichols, and containing eight bells and a clock. The bells are by Mears and Stainbank (1890), with a tenor 9 cwt. 11 lbs. The present Vicar says: 'Our detached campanile was built away from the church for the reason that the swaying caused by the bells would have weakened the fabric of the church itself, and I very much suspect that the authorities would not allow it to be built on. There is no passage between it and the tower. The belfry would have been better had there been six bells instead of eight. One

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — A meeting will be held at Newcastle-under-Lyme, on Saturday, Jan. 2nd, at 3.30 p.m. Handbells available. Tea will be arranged, at Burgess Cafe, 5 p.m., for all who notify me not later than Dec. 29th.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual meeting will be held at headquarters, Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, on Saturday, January 2nd, at 6.15 p.m. prompt.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

GREETINGS.

Christmas greetings and good wishes for 1943 to all ringing friends.—From ringers of Bagshot, Surrey.

Greetings and all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all ringing friends from Mr. and Mrs. James E. Davis, 118, Sarsfeld Road, Balham, S.W.12.

To ringing friends and acquaintances: Christmas and New Year greetings. — (Gnr.) C. W. Denyer, R.A. (Aldershot).

Old days, old times, old friends, old pleasures! It's joy to think of these and to wish you new joy in the same old way. — Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Harris send greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all friends, especially those whom they met and hope (D.V.) to meet again on the Bristol tours.—Woburn, Beds.

The Methods Committee send greetings to all members of the Central Council and other friends.—Ernest C. S. Turner, J. A. Trollope.

Kind thoughts and seasonable greetings to all my old ringing friends, with very happy memories of pleasant times spent in days long since past. — From Chas. J. North, Norton Cottage, West Street, Selsey-on-Sea, Sussex.

To all ringing friends, far and near, a happy Christmas is the sincere wish of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pulling, Royal Grammar School, Guildford, Surrey.

Swansea and Brecon Guild.—Southern District. — To all members and friends, best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.—E. Stitch, 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

All best wishes for Christmas and the coming year to all our ringing friends, at home and overseas, from all at Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

Harry Hoskins offers Christmas greetings and best wishes to all ringing friends at home and abroad.

Sincere greetings to all my ringing friends, and may our hopes and dreams come true, viz., Christmas bells again, 1942.—W. Spice, sen., Tunstall, Kent.

Greetings and best wishes for Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all ringing friends, from Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Swann, 5, Heathlands Road, Sutton Coldfield.

A quiet Christmas and a happier New Year to all ringing friends is the sincere wish of A. Harman, 27, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead.

Christmas and New Year greetings to all ringing friends from Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

To all my friends, best wishes for Christmas, and may the New Year bring peace and happiness.—Fred Price, 174, Marsh Lane, Erdington, Birmingham, 23.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all my ringing friends.—B. Rayfield (Miss).

The Bristol Branch of the G. & B.D.A. send sincere greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all our members now serving with H.M. Forces, and Godspeed for a safe and speedy return to home and ringing.—A. Bennett, Chairman; W. S. Emery, Hon. Secretary.

To all College Youths and friends at home and abroad, greetings and best wishes from Ernest G. Fenn, Master; Alfred B. Peck, Hon. Secretary; Albert A. Hughes, Hon. Treasurer.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all friends, from Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles, 21 Vincent Road, Highams Park, E.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

(Continued from previous page.)

bell has special wheels to take the rope round two corners and the result is there is not enough room for comfortable ringing.

At Quarley, Hants, the three bells are hung in low frames in the churchyard. They are tolled from the vestry by strings and pulleys. One is an ancient 'Ave Maria' recast by Mears and Stainbank; another is also a mediæval one with similar inscription; and the third says 'Love God 1636 I.D.'

One isolated Hampshire tower not given in my first list is that at Foxcote, formerly a separate parish, but now included in Andover. The church—not dedicated—was a building of flint with stone quoins in the Early English-Lancet style, with a south-west tower and octagonal spire containing a clock and two bells. The chancel and nave were taken down and re-erected at Charlton, but the tower was left standing. Of the two bells, one is hung and this is inscribed 'James Wells Albourn Wilts me fecit 1808'; the other is not hung and stands on the floor. It is inscribed +Iohansnea, the letters meaning 'Johannes' and the whole is backward. The cross is that as used by Robert Norton, of Exeter, about the year 1400.

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