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*These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.*

### RAISING AND CEASING.

When, about five hundred years ago, young Englishmen discovered that bell ringing could be a first class sport, and so broke away from what had for long been the ordinary usage of Christendom, the very first thing they practised was raising and falling in peal. It had to be so, because the fittings at the time and the manner in which bells were hung did not permit anything else, not even round ringing except as a part of the raising and falling. That was the germ from which all our modern art has developed by a logical process, and we may be certain that it would not have become so popular as it did, and it would not have led on to higher things, if it had not called for the exercise of a very great amount of skill.

So long as bells were without stays and sliders, raising and falling was a necessary part of every piece of ringing, and great attention was paid to the way in which it was done. But when bells could be raised and set at the beginning of a ringing meeting and not ceased until it was finished, and particularly when the superior attraction of change ringing engaged the attention of the best bands, the tendency was to leave the pulling up and lowering to the novices who did it much as they pleased and as best they could. The result was that good raising and falling became a lost art among change ringers, and only survived among the backward and conservative bands of the West.

This was the state of things for a very long time, and it would have continued indefinitely but for the introduction, during the last fifty or sixty years, of ringing before service on Sundays. It does not matter a great deal how the bells are raised on Sundays, provided there is not too much indiscriminate clashing, but it does matter how they are ceased. To pull the bells down anyhow just as the congregation has assembled in church, and after perhaps some excellent change ringing, sounds very bad and largely spoils the effect of any good ringing which has gone before. Good ceasing therefore becomes a necessity and when it is done well it adds to the effect of the bells.

But good ceasing is not easy, and it is to be feared that bands do not give sufficient attention to the proper way of doing it. Since it is for the outside public a very important and noticeable part of the service ringing, it would be no bad thing if a band devoted some of their time now and then to practising it. But that, we imagine, is seldom or never done.

'Raising and ceasing in peal,' as the 'Clavis' says, 'when properly executed, is undoubtedly very pleasant'

(Continued on page 342.)



and melodious,' but ringers should realise that the conditions in which it sounds well outside are strictly limited. In ordinary circumstances six bells are the largest number that can be ceased, so as to give a good effect. There are bands who can bring down eight bells with hardly a miss-blow, but the rate at which the bells must follow one another spoils the outside effect, and however accurately a ring of ten is dropped the result musically is hopeless.

Quite a small number of heavy bells sound far better when they are being dropped than a large number. With a ring of ten the best way is to cease the front six first and then the back four.

**LINDOFF MEMORIAL FUND.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The committee have decided to extend the date for receiving subscriptions to the Gabriel Lindoff Memorial Fund from July 31st to September 15th. The hon. treasurer of the fund has changed his address to 118, Sandford Road, Dublin. F. E. DUKES.

**THE GUILDFORD LIBRARY.**

ACQUISITION OF BOOKS.

We have received a letter from Mr. A. C. Hazelden, the librarian of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, which has given us great satisfaction and which will be read with general interest. Mr. Hazelden writes:—

'I thought you might be interested in some additions to our library resulting from the publicity in which you kindly assisted.

'Mr. E. Morris has sent us a copy each of the two Thompson booklets, a copy of his "Legends of the Bells," and, by no means least, a small 17th century book, "de Tintinnabulis," by Magius, dated Amsterdam, 1664. From the same quarter I gathered information which led to the acquisition of an uncut copy of "The Church Bells of Norfolk," 1874.

'From Mr. Oldnall, of Birmingham, I have had a copy of Ella-combe's "Bells of the Church" (which we already had) and Lynam's "Church Bells of Staffordshire," a very fine book.

'Another correspondent in Oxfordshire sent a copy of Dr. Raven's "Bells of England," of special interest, as it had belonged to Dr. Raven's son and contains all the reviews at the time of publication. It may have been the author's personal copy. This gentleman (Mr. Malings), in return, accepted a copy of your "History of the College Youths."

'Recently one of our members, Mr. Nye, of Bagshot, had occasion to look over a parcel of books which somebody had turned out for salvage, and found a copy of W. C. Lukis' book, "An Account of Church Bells," 1857. It now forms a second copy in our library.'

'De Tintinnabulis,' the book mentioned above, is the second edition of Guslamo Magius' book, and the one which inspired Richard Duckworth to write the 'Tintinnalogia,' the first book on change ringing.

**HEAVY PEALS OF FIVE.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry for the slip in my letter of June 17th and obliged to Mr. Black for his correction. The peal in question is, of course, at *Castle Ashby*.

I am afraid that there is a printer's error in the letter regarding Ewerby bells—this peal was augmented in 1896, not 1926.

J. OLDHAM.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

MEETING AT ROCHDALE.

The annual meeting of the Rochdale Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. Chad's, Rochdale, on July 24th, and was exceptionally well attended. Ringing began about 3.30 p.m. and continued until 5, when a break was made for tea.

The business meeting was held under the chairmanship of the president, Mr. W. Crabtree. It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Thomas', Moorside, on September 11th, arrangements to be left to the secretary. Mr. Ivan Kay was re-elected secretary for the next two years, and a resolution thanking him for past services was passed. Mr. C. Haynes, of Oldham, was elected a performing member.

After discussion it was decided to offer any disabled member free membership upon application, providing the committee of the association agree. The motion will be put before them at their next meeting.

Thanks were passed to the Vicar, wardens, local ringers and all who helped to make the meeting a success.

The towers represented were Rochdale, Hamer, Todmorden, Cross Stones, Milnrow, Newkey, East Crompton, Moorside, Oldham Parish, Middleton and Shore. Visitors came from Bacup, Friezland, Liverpool, Manchester and Accrington.

**EIGHT BELL PEALS.**

WEST WYCOMBE, BUCKS.  
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

*SGT.-MAJ. J. PRYOR... ..Treble	SGY. J. W. BERRY ... .. 5
MISS D. R. FLETCHER ... .. 2	J. HARRISON... .. 6
F. G. BIGGS ... .. 3	W. LEE... .. 7
MISS K. E. FLETCHER ... .. 4	H. WINGROVE ... ..Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by H. WINGROVE.

\* First peal.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW Treble	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... .. 5
*GEORGE M. KILBY ... .. 2	EDWIN JENNINGS... .. 6
FRANCIS KIRK ... .. 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... .. 7
MADRICE F. R. HIBBERT... .. 4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ...Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

\* 300th peal. Rung on the eve of St. James' Day for the wedding of Mr. Kenneth Stockman and Miss Jessie Rootes.

KIRTLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 31, 1943, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt. in E.

*CECIL G. CALCUTT ... ..Treble	*HERBERT W. IMPEY... .. 5
†WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... .. 2	JOHN E. SPICE ... .. 6
BERNARD S. NICHOLS ... .. 3	WILLIAM JUDGE... .. 7
JACK JUDGE... .. 4	WALTER F. JUDGE ... ..Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (C.C.C.No. 112). Conducted by J. E. SPICE

\* First peal of Major. † First peal on tower bells. First peal as conductor on eight tower bells.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, July 24, 1943, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

*FRANK W. PERRENS ... .. 1-2	†FRANK SMALLWOOD ... .. 7-8
ALBERT WALKER ... .. 3-4	†FRANK E. HAYNES ... .. 9-10
*FRANK E. PERVIN ... .. 5-6	GEORGE F. SWANN ... ..11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

Referee—George E. Fearn.

\* First peal of Treble Bob on handbells. † First peal of Treble Bob Maximus on handbells.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, July 23, 1943, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

*MRS. J. THOMAS ... ..1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... .. 5-6
MRS. G. W. FLETCHER... ..3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... ..7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

\* 50th handbell peal.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On Sunday, July 25th, 1,260 Doubles, being 600 Plain Bob and 660 Grand sire: Mrs. E. M. Dennis 1, George Charlton 2, Charles Brown 3, William A. Wood 4, Henry Bird (conductor) 5, Fred Watson 6. Rung in honour of the award of the George Medal to Chief Radio Officer Donald Wilfred Dennis, husband of the ringer of the treble.



## THE TUNING OF BELLS.

### MORE RANDOM REMARKS.

(Continued from page 333.)

Although the bell is one of the very earliest and most elementary of musical instruments, as a tone producer it is one of the most complex. This is due to the fact that, though its whole mass is composed of one substance, it has two distinct functions, which are performed in varying degree by different parts.

One of these functions, and ultimately the most important, is to produce sound. This is the duty of the sound-bow, a ring of metal which vibrates when struck at a greater or less rate according to the pitch of the note of the bell. The other function is to suspend the sound-bow in such a way that it can vibrate freely. This is the duty of the canons and the crown.

It is also the real duty of the waist and the shoulders, but they are not content with doing that duty; they take a hand in the production of sound, and not only vibrate at their own particular rates, but influence and alter the vibrations of the sound-bow.

The bell therefore is not an instrument which produces a simple tone, but a rather complicated series of rings of metal, one above another, each of which produces a tone of its own, and at the same time influences the tones of its neighbours. That is why a bell has what are called overtones.

These are not overtones in the sense that the word is generally used in connection with musical instruments. Every instrument has overtones, even the violin string, which is probably the simplest and most perfect of all. For the string not only vibrates as a whole, but different sections of it have secondary vibrations, and all of them combine to build up and give character to the tone which is heard. In this sense the sound-bow of a bell has overtones, but they are lost among the many other tones of the bell.

A bell is an instrument which produces a number of separate tones of varying intensity, which are not wholly independent of each other, nor yet necessarily have any harmonic relationship with each other. In theory such a thing should be hopeless as a musical instrument, and the fact that it is not so is one of the mysteries of the bell.

Now since there are these various tones in the bell, there must be one of two things to make it tolerable to any ordinary musical ear. Either the tones must be brought into harmony with each other, or else by some means, or for some reasons, the presence of the lesser and discordant tones escapes attention. The first is the idea which lies behind the systems of modern tuning; the other is the idea which in effect governed the older style.

Some people have thought that the old founders and tuners deliberately adopted inharmonic overtones (such as flattened seventh hum-notes) in order to get certain desired and desirable effects; but that certainly was not so. There is indeed one ring of bells in this country—the octave at St. Andrew's, Kingsbury—which was cast with that intention. They are very fine and very musical bells, but they stand alone. Until the closing years of the nineteenth century, founders and tuners in their endeavours to produce good and tuneful bells simply ignored the overtones; and, though there is a general sameness about all the best of the old bells, the overtones of different bells, even in the same ring, vary considerably in relative pitch.

The old founders knew quite well that the different

parts of a bell do produce different notes. No one can handle bells without noticing that. And it is probable that their ears did at times take notice of the various tones of a bell when it is rung, but they looked upon overtones as defects, and were well content if, when their bells were struck, none was noticed by the hearer.

It is said that in the Low Countries during the seventeenth century the best of the founders, especially the Hemony's, of Amsterdam, understood and practised tuning on a five-tone principle, and it seems that the majority of their bells are fairly correct in that respect, though whether they have ever been subjected to the rigorous tests the modern English founder applies to his bells we do not know. In any case, it is quite unlikely that the Hemony's had investigated the matter and understood tuning in the way it is understood at Loughborough and Croydon and Whitechapel. Men in those days did not work on the scientific lines that men do to-day. The best craftsman did his work and got his results because he was a good craftsman, but how he got his results it would have puzzled even himself to say. This was so much the case that it was customary to think, when a man did superlatively good work, he was influenced by outside powers. Men said he had a genius, not, mark you, that he was a genius. The idea which lies behind the doctrine of the verbal inspiration of the Bible is the same idea raised to the highest plane. When Hemony said that a good bell should have three octaves, two fifths, one major and one minor third, these were the results which he had noticed in the best of his bells, not the standard to which he consciously and deliberately aimed. And it is most unlikely that he had enough even of empirical knowledge of the way a bell produces its tones to be able to control seven or even five tones.

It is the introduction of scientific knowledge, scientific instruments and scientific methods which chiefly distinguishes modern tuning from the old style.

(To be continued.)

## THE PEAL AT CRAYFORD.

After the peal of Stedman Triples at Crayford, reported in our last issue, the band and some friends spent some time in social intercourse, during which Mr. Rupert Richardson asked for attention. He said that the peal, besides being the 1,000th by Messrs. Bennett and Coles, had been rung to the memory of a very gallant young officer, Capt. Freddy Coles. 'I had the pleasure,' Mr. Richardson said, 'of knowing him for many years, and watched him grow up into a fine specimen of British manhood. He obeyed his calling up notice willingly and cheerfully, and in the Army he did well. From letters received from his C.O. and brother officers, which I have read, there is no doubt that he had the confidence of his men, who would follow him anywhere, and the esteem of his fellow officers. He was killed at the head of his company, when leading it into an attack. Only a few weeks previously he had been awarded the Military Cross for a very gallant similar action, after the then company commander had been killed. I ask you now to drink to the memory of a very brave young man, and to join with me in sympathising with his wife and parents in their great loss.'

Mr. C. T. Coles thanked the company for their sympathy, and said the peal was actually rung on the eve of his son's wedding day just a year ago. He wished to pay a tribute to the help he had received from the late William Pye, with whom he had rung the majority of his peals, and who laid the foundation of his success in attaining four figures; and to acknowledge the help received from Bob Pye, whose health prevented him being in the peal. He also coupled the names of James George and the late John S. Goldsmith with the peal, both of whom were to have been in previous attempts abandoned owing to the war.

Mr. Bennett said he wished to identify himself with all that Mr. Coles had said about William Pye and Bob Pye, and desired to thank the band, and especially Mr. Barnett for arranging the peal attempt.

CHESTER.—On Saturday, on July 31st, on the front six at the Cathedral, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: F. Fox 1, R. Sperring (conductor) 2, T. Taylor 3, J. Worth 4, J. W. Clarke 5, H. Parker 6.



## BELFRY GOSSIP.

At the Sheffield and District Society's meeting at Handsworth tomorrow, the ringing will begin at 3 o'clock, not the tea as announced last week.

Mr. Ernest Morris, of Leicester, has given a series of five lectures to three separate units of the R.A.P.C. His subjects were bells, bell-ringing, bellfounding, bells of all nations and carillons. These lectures have been popular and much appreciated.

Sixty years ago to-day the Cumberlands rang the first peal on the bells of St. Andrew's, Wells Street, London. The method was Kent Treble Bob Major, and two men were needed at the tenor. These bells, which have a definite place in the story of bell tuning, have since been moved with the tower and the whole church to Kingsbury, Middlesex.

Fifty years ago to-day, James W. Washbrook called the first peal—one of Grandsire Caters—on the heavy ring at Yeovil in Somerset. Mr. Edwin Shepherd is the solo survivor of the band.

On August 1st, 1828, four of the Cumberland Youths rang on hand-bells, 'up in hand' at the Sign of the Green Dragon, Poplar, the first handbell peal of Grandsire Triples. Edmund Giles rang 3-4 and conducted.

The twelve bells of St. Saviour's, Southwark, were opened by the College Youths on August 3rd, 1735, and the twelve bells at Quex Park by bands of Cumberlands and College Youths on August 4th, 1819.

The record peal of Cambridge Maximus, 15,312 changes, was rung at Ashton-under-Lyne on August 5th, 1929.

Ten years later on the same date the first peal of Airdale Surprise Major was rung at Northowram, Halifax, and the first peal of Gonville Bob Major at Chester.

On August 6th, 1821, the Huddersfield band rang 5,600 changes of Superlative Surprise Major. The composition was false.

The first peal of Lancashire Surprise Major was rung at Oswaldtwistle on August 7th, 1922.

## THE GOLDSMITH MEMORIAL.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I fully agree with the spirit of the letter in this week's 'Ringing World' from Mr. R. H. Dove, but I altogether disagree with the details.

What good would it do ringers generally to provide a new peal of bells for Guildford Cathedral, or how would that be a fitting memorial for the late Mr. Goldsmith? The cost would be heavy, much more than ringers would be justified in spending in the present or future circumstances, and very few ringers would ever have an opportunity of hearing the bells. Guildford has already got two good peals of eight and, I believe, one or two sixes, and if the town wants another peal it is only right that it should provide it itself. Besides, the tower is not built and will not be built for a good many years. The Guildford diocese is, for its size, richer than almost any other, and the people ought to pay for their own cathedral, and, according to Mr. Grover, that is their intention.

It was a very nice thing for ringers to provide the Stedman memorial, but it is a fair question to ask: What real good has it actually done? And how much better is Stedman known because of it?

'NORTH COUNTRY RINGER.'

## HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

COMPOSITIONS WANTED.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Edwin Jennings and I are at present engaged on the task of collecting the figures of all peal compositions rung for the Hertford County Association since its inception.

Should any of your readers have called any peals for the association or know the figures of any peals called by conductors now dead, I should be pleased if they would forward them to Mr. Jennings or myself.

We do not need the figures of well-known compositions, but only of those peals which are not identifiable from the published report.

H. G. CASHMORE.

24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

## LLANSTEPHAN BELLS.

(Continued from next column.)

it was quite in order, and in any case the bells were rung. The Church said it had tried to get eight persons, and to this day it has not yet been straightened out, and nobody knows if any interest has been paid out during recent years.

I tried to find out if the ban on ringing for 2½ years did not entitle the Infirmary to the interest, but there was no reply.

Such was the feeling in the parish about this bequest, and so divided was the parish, that the Bishop of St. David's came down to intervene, but the dispute still remains. The bequest is now in the hands of the governing body of the Church in Wales, and they discussed it recently, but, strange to say, the Infirmary authorities are not interested in the matter.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

## LLANSTEPHAN BELLS.

THE STORY OF A WILL.

*To the Editor*

Dear Sir,—Llanstephan is a beautiful little village about eight miles from Carmarthen and well known to holiday-makers who desire a very restful and peaceful time. As one approaches Ferryside on the railway and looks across the water, the old Castle and Church can be plainly seen.

The Castle was the scene of very heavy fighting in the 11th and 12th centuries, and was said to have been destroyed in 1136 by the sons of Gruffudd ab-Cyan; this name is frequently mentioned and known to students of early Welsh history.

The ancient church, with its Norman tower, embattled with a corner turret, and substantially built, shows great age. In ancient times the church was served by itinerant preachers sent from the Monastic Priory of Carmarthen, who probably owned the tithes. On the dissolution of the monasteries in the time of Henry VIII., the Rectory of Llanstephan was granted by the Crown to one of the Earls of Northumberland, and has since passed with the Rectorial tithes through various hands.

The characteristic features of the church are its massive barrel vaulting roof, and its rude Gothic arches, which have neither mouldings, splay, nor capitals: these arches have the appearance of having been cut out of the walls after the latter have been built. The place of the holy water stoup is still to be seen in the south porch, and above the inner door of the same porch was the niche which contained an image of the Virgin.

### GIFT OF BELLS.

In 1756 George Lloyd Mears, of the Plas, Llanstephan, presented the church with a chalice, two patens and a flagon, all silver and each article beautifully inscribed. The chalice is known as the 'Cocoanut Chalice,' and the top is formed from the shell of a special kind of cocoanut, and is mounted on ebony, has silver bands encircling, and bears the above inscription. There are only three of these in existence, and it was in use up to a recent date.

The Rev. J. T. Wade-Evans, one time Vicar of Stow-on-the-Wold, Glos, in his great work, 'The Church Plate of Carmarthenshire,' gives a good description of this chalice.

In 1875, Henry Parnell, who was a wholesale clothier of Bishopsgate Street, London, presented a peal of eight bells with tenor about 19 cwt., together with a chiming apparatus, cast by Mears and Stainbank, and these bells are reputed to be the best for tone in the county of Carmarthenshire. I do not know what system of tuning was employed, and perhaps Mr. A. A. Hughes could settle this point. A team of 'Ancient College Youths' came down from London at the donor's expense, and remained in the village for a fortnight. It is recorded that these bells were first rung on January 1st, 1876, to ring in the new year. The 'College Youths' rang a peal of 'Grandsire Triples,' and taught local people to ring and formed a local band of ringers before returning to London.

By the will of Ann Parnell, the donor's sister, dated November 26th, 1891, she left £400 for the ringers, and instead of this bequest being a great help to the village, in recent years it has divided it and created discord. The clause in the will reads:—

'I give and bequeath the sum of £400 to the Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish of Llanstephan to invest same, and apply the interest thereof amongst eight persons, to be of sober and respectable mien, as shall be employed by the Vicar and Churchwardens as Bell-ringers to ring the Bells of the Parish Church of Llanstephan aforesaid in such proportions and at such times as the Vicar and Churchwardens and their successors, or the majority of them in case of difference may in their discretion think proper and expedient. And I declare that such last-mentioned bequest of £400 is made on condition that the aforesaid bells be rung in the usual course regularly on each Sunday, and in default thereof I give the last-mentioned sum of £400 to the Treasurer of the Carmarthen County Infirmary for the general purposes of the Infirmary.'

### A PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY.

On February 29th, 1898, an enquiry was held into the various charities of the village, and the House of Commons ordered on February 20th, 1899, that the proceedings with the evidence should be printed. At this enquiry it was stated that the annual income of the bequest of Ann Parnell was £9 4s., and same was divided by the Vicar amongst the bellringers, who are 10 in number, in proportion to their respective attendances. The names of the bellringers, together with the number of attendances made and the sum received by each of them quarterly, are affixed to a board which is hung up in the church porch. The accounts, too, are published every year.

In 1929, when the present Vicar was inducted into the living, several of the ringers had left the parish, and some of the St. Peter's band at Carmarthen went down to assist. The Vicar tried to keep the bells going, and put certain proposals before the ringers which they claimed were not in accordance with the bequest of Ann Parnell. All the ringers left, and the Vicar had to resort to the chiming apparatus.

In the local Press, a wordy warfare went on. One side claimed that the bells were not rung, and the £400 should go to the Infirmary. The other side claimed that as Parnell paid for the chiming apparatus

(Continued in previous column.)



**TRIPLE TOWERS.**

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 337.)

Somerset is the county of grand church towers and noted for its heavy rings of bells. These include the heaviest ringing peal of six (Queen's Camel) and ten in the kingdom. The latter are in the south-west tower of the grand Cathedral of Wells, and the tenor weighs 56 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb.

Wells Cathedral bells have a long and interesting history. The Fabric Rolls show that in 1586 the 'Great Bell to be placed by the Master of the Fabric in the Tower, and the fragments of metal to be sold.' The next year we read that 'Harewell's great bell to be recast by Joseph Carter, of Reading.' In 1627 the Corporation gave 40s. towards recasting the Cathedral bells. In 1670 'Mr. James, of Bristol, gave for metal for Harewell's bell £17 15s.,' and cost of 'agreement between Thomas Purdue and Dean' was 2s. Purdue was paid £23 for 'forming the bell called Harewell.'

For many years the ring numbered eight being the heaviest octave in England, but in 1891 it was decided to have them rehung and augmented to ten. This was done and two trebles added by Mears and Stainbank, and the rehanging in an iron frame carried out by Messrs. Blackburn and Greenleaf, of Salisbury. The 9th and tenor are by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and dated 1877. When the ring was opened, members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild were engaged for the occasion, and after the dedication a peal of Stedman Caters was started with the late J. W. Washbrook as conductor. He called his own composition and attempted to ring the tenor single-handed. The rest of the band were: Fred White 1, G. H. Philott, M.A., 2, Charles Hounslow 3, T. Blackburn 4, Rev. H. A. Cockey 5, Rev. F. E. Robinson 6, Wm. W. Gifford 7, James Hinton 8, Richard T. Hibbert 9. Washbrook rang the tenor for 3½ hours and then turned it over to Wm. Greenleaf, still retaining his position by the bell and finishing the conducting. It was a magnificent heavy-bell performance, for with the old style of plain bearings it was a rare thing for a bell to go well until it had been rung for some time.

Washbrook completely eclipsed this feat some four years later, and actually turned it in single-handed to a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, an outstanding heavy-bell performance. The day following the peal at the Cathedral, Washbrook\* turned the 29 cwt. tenor at St. Cuthbert, Wells, into a peal of Double Norwich Major, while the next day he conducted a peal of Stedman Triples at Prestbury, and another of Caters at Cheltenham. Since those days other peals have been rung at Wells, but only on rare occasions has the complete 5,000 been accomplished.

Although Bristol possesses more rings of bells than almost any other city in England, yet, strange to say, its cathedral, which has three towers, can only boast of four bells. These hang in the central tower. The small-

lest, 28½ inches diameter, has an inscription in black letter alphabet, with invocation to Saint Clement. It also bears a shield placed sideways, depicting a bleeding heart pierced with nails, and the letters I.N. in Lombardic capitals on either side. This is a rebus on the name of Abbot Newland, alias 'Nailheart,' who died in 1486. The second bell, 31½ inches diameter, has an invocation to St. Margaret, also in black letter alphabet. The third, 35½ inches diameter, in highly ornamented Lombardic capitals, says, '+CLARA: VOCOR: ET: CLARIOR: ERO' (I am called Clara, and will be clearer). The largest, 48½ inches diameter, was cast by Robert Purdue in 1670, and in large Roman capitals bears an inscription in Latin, meaning, 'The Cathedral Church of Bristol, the house of the Lord, call a solemn assembly.' The two western towers bear the names of Bishop Butler and Edward Colston.

The glorious Cathedral of Lincoln now possesses a grand ring of twelve, tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb. The history of bells at Lincoln is very comprehensively given in North's 'Church Bells of Lincolnshire,' but briefly it is as follows: Two bells were given by Robert de Chesney, fourth Bishop of Lincoln, in the middle of the 12th century, and were hung in the western towers. Two more were placed in the central tower between 1307 and 1311. Others were added at various times until the 18th century, when we find a ring of six in this tower. These were commonly known as the 'Lady Bells.' The four larger ones were cast by Robert Quernbie and Henry Oldfield in 1593. At that time the old Great Tom hung in the north-west tower and weighed 88 cwt. 1 qr. 10½ lb. This was cracked in 1827, and after several attempts to remedy it an estimate by T. Mears was accepted for casting a new Great Tom and two quarter bells from the metal of the old bell and the six Lady bells, all of which were shipped off to London on June 23rd, 1834. The new bell, weighing 5 tons 8 cwt., was cast November 15th that year, and brought to Lincoln by road, arriving on April 30th, 1835, amid great rejoicing.

In 1880 the two quarter bells were replaced by four bells arranged for the Cambridge chimes, the largest weighing 27 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb. At this time there was a ring of eight, with a tenor 16½ cwt., in the south-west tower. In 1913 these were all recast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., the old 7th and tenor being retained as service bells. In 1928 four additional bells were added as a memorial to the ringers of the diocese who fell in the Great War. The tower itself was completely restored and the bells lowered some 30ft. The ceiling and roof of the tower removed and replaced by a lantern roof resting on reinforced concrete piers. The lower louvres have been closed, and the sound therefore travels uninterrupted to the top of the tower before escaping. Thus the sound of the bells is moderated in the vicinity but carried in full mellowness far across the surrounding country. Since their inauguration a number of fine peals

(Continued on next page.)

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**TRIPLE TOWERS.**

(Continued from previous page.)

of Cinques and Maximus have been successfully rung on the bells. An account of the ancient 'Companie of Ringers' formed here in 1612 will be seen in my 'History and Art of Change Ringing.'

The vastness of York Minster—or Cathedral of St. Peter—with its forest of clustered pillars, its unrivalled ancient stained glass, its importance as the metropolitan church of Northern England, combine to make this splendid structure one of the most interesting in the kingdom. The central tower, rising to a height of 216ft., is the largest in England. It is one of the greatest achievements of the 15th century (1410-1433), and is one of the finest in the world. The east window is the largest window in England retaining its original glazing, although in actual size is surpassed by that of Gloucester. In the north-west tower hangs Great Peter, the third largest bell in England, recast in 1927 by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and now weighing 10 ton 16 cwt. 2 qr. 22 lb. Its note is E flat and is said to be the deepest-toned church bell in Christendom.

In the south-west tower hangs the grand ring of twelve (with additional semitone). As the full history of these bells has already been given in these columns, all that I need add is that the whole ring were recast with additional metal in 1926 by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., and rehung in a new iron and steel frame. The tenor is now 60 cwt., the third heaviest in existence—it will be fourth when Liverpool bells are completed. The writer had the good fortune to be stationed in York for two years during the Great War (1917-18), and during that period did most of the conducting of Sunday service ringing on the old ring, tenor 53½ cwt., the chief and most eventful occasion being when, on the proclamation that Armistice was signed, he called the touch for the special service of thanksgiving at which over 5,000 people attended. The two western towers are 201ft. high.

Durham Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary is the glory of this ancient city. Its two west towers are 144ft., and the central tower 218ft. high. The present structure, which replaced an earlier one, was begun in the 11th century, and much of it is Norman. The Galilee chapel is a notable feature, as are the central tower and the chapel of the nine altars. For some very interesting notes on the ancient customs of ringing the bells here in mediæval times, copied from 'The Rites of Durham, being a description of all the ancient monuments, rites and customs belonging to or being within the Monastical Church of Durham before the Suppression, written 1593,' I would refer the reader to my letter in these columns of September 29th, 1939. All I need add is that in 1693 the bells were cast into a ring of eight by Christopher Hodson, of London. Three of them have since been recast, the treble in 1780 by Pack and Chapman, the third in 1781 by Chapman, the fourth in 1896 by Mears and Stainbank.

Mr. W. Story, of Newcastle, writes: 'The approach to the belfry is first by a broad flight of spiral steps from the north-west corner of the south transept, thence a long walk under the roof of the transept to a narrow spiral stairway in the north-west corner of the central tower—a tremendous climb! I rang the tenor to the first peal on the bells many years ago by candle light before they were rehung; and later the same bell to the third, both in the same time, 3 hours 22 minutes.'

Peterborough Cathedral, besides having a central tower, has two lofty western towers, or turrets, flanked at the angles with clustered shafts and crowned with spires. Its noble west front is said to be the finest portico in Europe. Records of bells here date from very early times, and as early as 1250 we find that Abbot John de Caletto gave a great bell to the monastery at Peterborough. A little later Richard de London, sacrist, gave two more bells. Numerous other notes on the bells occur in later years, till at the time of the Commonwealth we find that a heavy ring of ten bells was hanging in the tower. It is recorded that Cromwell's soldiers were quartered in the cathedral for some time, and that they used to amuse themselves by jangling the bells at all hours, night and day, much to the annoyance of the inhabitants of Peterborough, who managed secretly to remove the clappers and hide them, and so put a stop to the nuisance. The tenor of this ring must have weighed 60 cwt.

In 1709 Henry Penn, the Peterborough bell founder, agreed to cast a tunable peal of ten out of the four largest of the above-mentioned ring with a little additional metal, taking for his payment the front six bells. A ring of ten, with a tenor 32 cwt., was then erected, when, after being in use for over 120 years, the 9th became cracked. At that time the tower was deemed unsafe, and it was resolved to sell the front five bells, with the idea of reducing the strain thereon. This was done, and William Dobson, of Downham, Norfolk, bought them, at the same time recasting the 9th (now the fourth) in 1831. Thus Peterborough Cathedral still only has this part ring of five bells, although just prior to the present war a scheme was advanced to restore the tower and erect a ring of twelve.

(To be continued.)

**THE BLOCKING UP OF WINDOWS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The architect for the Borough of Blackpool, Mr. Robinson, writes to inform me that he was never consulted regarding the building up of St. John's Church tower windows, and the suggestion that the interior lining of the bell chamber would be affected by sound waves was not made by him. I beg to apologise to Mr. Robinson for the implication and hope he has suffered no inconvenience.

The gentleman who made the statement was in no way connected with the municipality.  
C. SHARPLES.

STAUNTON-ON-ARROW, HEREFORDSHIRE.—On Thursday, July 22nd a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, 10 callings: Mrs. H. Chandler 1. T. Jones (conductor) 2. J. Preece 3. L. Evans 4. B. Ellsmore, R.A.F. 5. J. Petrie (first quarter-peal) 6. Rung half-muffled in memory of Sergt. W. J. Preece, a former member of the band and the church choir.

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

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All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Loughton on Saturday, August 7th. Bells 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea 5.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Annual meeting at Faringdon on Saturday, August 7th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Handsworth (8 bells) on Saturday, August 7th, at 3 p.m.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Hitchin, Saturday, August 7th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting in the tower at 6 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Rededication of six bells at Newnham on Saturday, Aug. 7th. Service at 3 p.m.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at the Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, on Sat., Aug. 14th, 3 p.m. Service ringing at Stepney Aug. 15th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting at Reigate, Saturday, August 14th. Bells (10) 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. Names before August 9th. Talk by Mr. A. A. Hughes, 'Bells and Bell-ringing,' 6.30 p.m.—Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, The Cutting, Redhill.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—The annual meeting at St. Anne's Parish Church on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring own food.—J. H. Foster, Branch Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome Deanery.—Meeting at Radstock, Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Names before Aug. 11th to E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

BARNESLEY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Wentworth on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 2s. Notify Mr. G. West, 25, The Square, Wentworth, near Rotherham, before Aug. 11th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Yelvertoft on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Bring own food. A cup of tea provided.—C. Green, Branch Sec., Murcott, Long Buckby, near Rugby.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting on Saturday, August 14th, at North Mimms, at 3 p.m. Names for tea by August 11th to R. W. Darvill, Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Caerleon on Saturday, August 14th. Bells 3 o'clock. Business meeting 4 o'clock.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Cheddleton (6 bells) on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Names for tea to Mr. H. Sutton, 22, The Avenue, Cheddleton, Leek, Staffs, before Aug. 7th. No card, no tea. Cheadle meeting Aug. 28th.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Gainsborough District.—Meeting at Haxey, Isle of Axholme, on Saturday, Aug. 14th. Bells (6) afternoon and evening. Bring own tea.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

HOLLESLEY, SUFFOLK.—Ringing meeting, Aug. 14th, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.—C. W. Pipe.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Halesowen, Saturday, August 21st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., in Church School. Bells afterwards to 9 p.m. Also handbells. Numbers for tea by 19th.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Surfleet on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Bells (12) 2 p.m. Service 3.15. Tea at Glyn Garth 4 p.m. Names for tea before Aug. 17th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Padiham on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Scunthorpe on Saturday, Aug. 21st. Further particulars next week.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Joint meeting with the East Grinstead and District Guild at Rotherfield, Saturday, Aug. 21st. Details next week.—John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual festival at Crewe on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Further particulars later.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. W. H. Wilson, Hon. Treasurer, Lindoff Memorial Fund, has changed his address to 118, Sandford Road, Dublin.

**BIRTH.**

WORRALL.—On July 24th, 1943, at the Chester City Hospital, to Edith (nee Sanders), wife of R. W. Worrall, Hillcroft, Vale Road, Hartford, a son.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT PULBOROUGH.**

A meeting of the Western Division of the Sussex County Association was held at Pulborough on Saturday, July 24th, when ringers were present from Billingshurst, Chichester, Goring, Haywards Heath, Heene, Henfield, Lower Beeding, Lyminster, Storrington, Warnham, West Grinstead, Wisborough Green and the local band. The bells were put to good use during the afternoon and evening, the ringing including rounds, Doubles, Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

After tea a meeting was held in the church, presided over by the Rector, the Rev. E. I. Frost, who also conducted the service. Miss Joyce Humphrey, Chichester, and Mrs. L. Stilwell, Pulborough, were elected members and Mr. J. H. Paice and Mr. H. Colley re-elected. Lyminster was selected for the next meeting, to be held in September.



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