


# THE RINGING WORLD



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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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.*

## CHRISTMAS BELLS.

To-day is Christmas Eve, and to-morrow throughout the land the bells will be sending forth once more the Christmas message—Glory to God in the highest, and in earth peace, goodwill toward men—surely the noblest message that has ever been given to humanity.

But at what a time it comes now! Peace? when nearly every nation in the world is engaged in deadly strife. Goodwill? when we read almost every morning in our newspapers, with satisfaction and approval, that some town in Germany has been devastated by fire and high explosive. It might seem that the last things in men's minds are peace and goodwill, and it is only hollow mockery to talk about them at the present time. Indeed it is most regrettably true that to many men peace means no more than the ending of war which will follow on the triumph over our enemies, and goodwill a weak-kneed sentiment which must not be permitted to interfere with the revenge (justice they call it) which will be meted out to those responsible for the war. With such a spirit the message of the bells is strangely out of tune.

No man who takes a sane and Christian view of the present crisis can doubt for a moment that the war must be carried on with the utmost rigour, and if the bombing of towns and the killing of people are necessary to winning the conflict, then they must be done. Nor can there be any doubt that Germany and those who think as she does must be taught such a lesson as will not be forgotten for many years. Anything like sloppy pacifism is futile and out of place.

But that is not everything. England must set her teeth and steel her heart to win this war. She must face stern realities in the after settlement, and neither through weariness nor careless good nature shrink from what hard and pitiless measures are necessary. But England will lose her soul and throw away her heritage if she forgets that, above and beyond all the considerations that press clamorously at the present time, are the great verities which have come to us in the Christian religion. However incongruous the Christmas message may seem at the present time, the fact remains that it is true and it is eternal.

It is the duty and the privilege of us ringers to broadcast by means of our bells this supremely important warning. We do not in the least doubt that it will be heard by many, though perhaps unconsciously by the majority of them. Church bells have the power (why is a great

(Continued on page 558.)

mystery) of touching the inmost feelings of some of those who hear them, and stirring to life the best that is in them. We can be sure that England, and through England the world, will be the better for the bells which will ring to-morrow, though their influence is unnoticed and unmarked.

It should be a help and an inspiration to every ringer that he not only enjoys the practice of a most fascinating art, but at times like this can be a humble agent in proclaiming a message which the country will ignore at its peril, for if it is ignored it will most certainly in the long run mean the end of this present civilisation.

**NOTICES OF MEETINGS.**

In order to avoid misunderstanding we should like to make clear that the only alteration and curtailment of the notices of meetings sent to us by association secretaries is to delete words which serve no useful purpose. For instance, 'The next monthly meeting of the branch will (D.V.) be held at So-and-so, on —,' becomes 'Meeting at So-and-so on —.' The very common 'All ringers welcome' is omitted because it is quite redundant. All notices are, in themselves, invitations, and if ringers were not welcome at the meetings the notices would not be published.

On one occasion only (it was during the summer) we were compelled to hold over five or six forward notices. All of them appeared twice before the meetings referred to, and no great harm was done. Many times we reached the limit, but managed to keep within it.

For quite a considerable time now we have had very little need to do any curtailment. Secretaries have generally adopted the new style without any difficulty and themselves do the curtailment. They deserve our thanks and they have them.

**SERVICE TOUCHES.**

**DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR.**

1,248					1,248				
23456	I	F	H	O	23456	I	F	H	O
53624	—	—	—	—	35426	—	—	—	—
35426	—	—	—	—	25634	—	—	—	—
52436	—	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—	—
26435	—	—	—	—	26435	—	—	—	—
Twice Repeated.					Twice Repeated.				
1,280					1,280				
23456	I	F	H	O	23456	I	F	H	O
65324	—	—	—	—	54326	—	—	—	—
35426	—	—	—	—	34625	—	—	—	—
52436	—	—	—	—	42635	—	—	—	—
34256	—	—	—	—	23645	—	—	—	—
45236	—	—	—	—	43526	—	—	—	—
32546	—	—	—	—	32546	—	—	—	—
Repeated.					Repeated.				
1,248					1,280				
23456	I	F	H	O	23456	I	F	H	O
35426	—	—	—	—	35426	—	—	—	—
52436	—	—	—	—	62534	—	—	—	—
32654	—	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—	—
36254	—	—	S	—	24356	—	—	S	—
62354	—	—	—	—	43256	—	—	—	—
32456	—	—	—	—	32456	—	—	—	—
Repeated.					Repeated.				

MANGOTSFIELD, GLOS.—On December 4th. 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. Palmer 1, Miss N. Gardner 2, C. Harding 3, J. Jefferies, jun. 4, T. James 5, D. Gardner 6, J. Jefferies, sen. (conductor) 7, F. Durbin 8. Rung as a compliment to the ringer of the 5th, who has completed 47 years' service on the L.M.S. Railway.

**EIGHT BELL PEAL.**

CHEADLE, STAFFS.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1943, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. GILFS,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5280 CHANGES;**

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JOHN G. CARLIDGE ... .. Treble	CHARLES H. PAGE ... .. 5
WILLIAM P. DEANE ... .. 2	ALBERT CRAWLEY ... .. 6
EDWARD STEELE ... .. 3	ANDREW THOMPSON ... .. 7
WILLIAM CARNWELL ... .. 4	ARTHUR W. HALL ... .. 7enor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by ARTHUR W. HALL.

First peal on the bells since they were augmented to eight. A birthday compliment to the Rev. J. J. Macdonald.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, December 15, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT 45, WALSHINGHAM ROAD,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

MRS. J. THOMAS ... .. 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLEICHER ... .. 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... .. 3-4	*ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... .. 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

\* First peal of Major.

WELLINGTON, SALOP.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 16, 1943, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

IN THE TOL H ROOM,

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

Tenor size 12 in G.

CPL. C. BRETT-SMITH, R.A.F. 1-2	*L/CPL. A. J. ADAMS, R.A.O.C. 5-6
A/C.I HAROLD CHANT, R.A.F. 3-4	†PTE. JAMES FERNLEY, A.C.C. 7-8

Composed by G. WILLIAMS. Conducted by CYRIL BRETT-SMITH.

\* First peal in the method on handbells. † First handbell peal. First peal as conductor.

**THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**

ANNUAL MEETING OF EXETER BRANCH.

That change ringing is reviving was definitely in evidence at Exeter on December 11th, when the local Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers held its annual meeting. Most of the associated towers were represented, and regular practices are being conducted in many of them. Thirty odd members and friends practised Grandsire, Stedman and Bob Major in the afternoon at St. David's, and more were present at the service in St. Edmund's, when the Rev. Colin Marr officiated.

After tea in Western's Cafe, Mr. W. H. Howe presented the report and balance sheet, which showed a credit in hand of £13 13s.

Messrs. E. J. Ryall (chairman), W. H. Howe (secretary and treasurer), as well as Messrs. Biffin, Pook and Rowe (representatives to the General Committee), were re-elected. Mr. E. Biffin was elected as Ringing Master.

The next meeting of the branch was fixed to occur in February. Mr. and Mrs. Wayman were elected new members. Mr. Biffin proposed 'that the annual meeting of the whole Guild should be held on Whit Monday and that this recommendation should go forward to the General Committee of the Guild.' The Rev. Prebendary E. V. Cox pointed out that with a scattered diocese like Exeter, difficulties of transport were very great. He preferred that the various branches should hold their local meetings. The members present almost unanimously favoured Mr. Biffin's proposal.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar of St. Edmund's and the organist concluded the meeting.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**

MEETING AT BRADFORD.

A meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at Bradford Cathedral on November 27th. Ringing began soon after 3 p.m. and continued until the business meeting at 7 p.m. Mr. W. H. Senior presided, and members were present from Armley, Batley, Burley, Bushey, Driehlington, Headingley (St. Chad's), Idle, Liversedge, Pudsey, Rothwell, Shipley and the local company, as well as Mr. Ballard, of Leicester, and Mr. Farmer, of Shrewsbury.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Barton and seconded by Mr. A. Smith.

The next meeting will be at Pudsey in January.

## CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 542.)

St. Asaph is the smallest cathedral city in Great Britain. The See was established in the sixth century. The first building, which was of wood, was burnt down in 1282, and being re-erected was again almost totally destroyed in the wars of Owen Glendower. The present edifice was built about 1480, but a portion of the choir is of a later date. In the Civil Wars the cathedral was occupied by the soldiery and received considerable damage, being used as a stable, barrack and hospital, and even as an office for the postmaster.

The central tower, which is 40ft. square and 100ft. high, gave cause for much anxiety owing to a subsidence, and with it the south transept and chancel. It was restored in 1930. It was considered not strong enough to carry a ring of bells.

The following occurs in Archdeacon Thomas's History: 'In 1680 it was ordered "the three bells being broken cracet and insufficient to give notice of ye time of celebration of divine service," should be cast into two new ones: and in 1681 an agreement was made with Thomas Roberts, bell founder, of Shrewsbury, to take down the three bells in the tower and recast them as two of the same weight within six weeks, for £40. After replacing them, the canon of the bigger bell broke, and it fell, but was renewed the same year.' These bells were recast in 1848 by C. and G. Mears, of London. Largest, note D, 25 cwt.; other bell note E.

Sheffield Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul has a massive central tower and spire, and here the approach to the ringing chamber is much the same as that at Leicester Cathedral described above: by a spiral stairway at the end of one of the transepts, emerging on roof, which is traversed to the central tower. Here is a ring of twelve bells with a tenor 41 cwt. Recently Mr. Barton, the peal secretary of the Yorks Association, stated that 36 peals had been rung on these twelve to Cinques and Maximus.

Daniel Hedderly made the old ring into eight in 1745, and it is recorded that the tenor was cast in a barn which stood at the east end of the churchyard. There have been records in the history of ringing when the men of Sheffield have been of the front rank, and at the beginning of the 19th century they were unquestionably no mean company. With only one ring of bells there were two sets of ringers, the 'ins' and the 'outs.' St. Peter's Youths were the former, and St. Peter's Independent Youths were the latter. There were changes, of course, and at different times members of the 'outs' can be found ringing with the 'ins,' so that it is difficult to draw a dividing line between the two. While the 'ins' were able to satisfy their peal-ringing aspirations on tower bells, the 'outs' turned their attention to handbells, and it was probably the rivalry between the two companies that provided those wonderful handbell performances of a century ago.

The first peal recorded on the tower bells was of Union Treble Bob (which is now known as the Oxford Variation) on the eight bells, 'on Tuesday evening ye 8th of March, 1785.' The second peal is on the same bells, the tenor of which was 33 cwt., and is noteworthy as being of Cambridge Surprise, 6,048 changes in 4 hours 18 minutes. The late J. W. Snowdon points out that this

was unfortunately false, but this does not demerit the performance of the ringers. Other peals are recorded on the ten (tenor 30 cwt.), cast in 1798, and on the ten of 1804. The latter was 5,040 Bob Major Royal, in 3 hours 36 minutes, on November 27th, 1811. The tenor, 41 cwt., was rung by William Heald 'and assistant puller,' and the peal called by John Woodhead. Two trebles were added in 1868 by Mears and Stainbank, being the gift of Henry Wilson, of Sharrow, thus completing the present twelve.

Hedon, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, possesses a very fine church with a central tower of a solid and satisfactory design. The ornament grows gradually in richness from the ringers' storey to the belfry, and from the belfry to the double parapet and pinnacles. The buttresses are at first double, and are then replaced by a single buttress set diagonally. The effective combination of buttresses and pinnacles is worthy of notice. This is probably the determining feature of the beauty of Magdalen tower at Oxford.

Originally there were five bells at Hedon, cast in 1686 and 1687 and, from their inscriptions, they appear to have been presented, not to the church, but to the Corporation of Hedon. The tenor was cast in 1687 by Samuel Smith, a bellfounder of York, the bell being the gift of Sir Charles Duncomb, one of the two members of Parliament for the borough. The fourth bell was cast in the same year, presumably at the same foundry, and bore the unusual inscription: 'Wind them and Bringe Them and I will Ring for Them.' The fifth, sixth and seventh were cast in 1686 by William and Philip Wightman. A treble had been added (now the 3rd) to make the ring to six in 1776, while in 1929 the whole were recast and two trebles added by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., being the gift of Col. and Mrs. Lambert White. The ring is now a very fine one, with a tenor 17½ cwt.

(To be continued.)

## BELLRINGING AT SEVILLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The interesting account sent you by Mr. C. E. Borrett of the ringing at the Giralda Tower, Seville, seems to leave the whole affair more mysterious than ever. How could a boy of fourteen (or the strongest man for that matter) swing a bell by pulling a rope 'wound round the axle at one side of the bell'? We know from experience that it is almost impossible to move in the slightest even the lightest bell when the rope is round the stock instead of the wheel, and one of these Seville bells is said to be 18 tons. The bells are said to revolve 'faster and faster,' although they are heavily counterbalanced. Perhaps one of your readers who knows can explain what really did happen when these bells were rung. 'ENQUIRER.'

## FIVE THOUSAND PEALS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. Barnett's letter I notice he inserts the proviso 'believed to be.' How has the total been arrived at? By the annual reports or the peal books? If by the reports, what about the numbers with a suffix?

I would point out that the reports do not agree with the peal books, as some peals which appear in the books are not in the reports, and some in the reports are not in the peal book.

Whilst on the subject of peals, can anyone say whether there are any eight-bell towers in Kent where the Kent County Association has not rung a peal, and the name of the tower or towers?

16, Harefield Road, Brockley, S.E.4. F. W. RICHARDSON.

## ST. GILES' CATHEDRAL, EDINBURGH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your article about the disposal of the bells of St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, reminded me of a visit there in 1923.

It seemed to me that its fine tower must contain a peal of some sort, although I knew there was not one hung for ringing, so while I was inside I asked the guide. His answer came quite pat. 'Yes, sir we have a peal of ten tubular bells by Harrington Lathom, of Coventry.'

E. B.

## 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of  
Church Bell Ringers.

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'The Ringing World.'

The time draws near the birth of Christ:  
The moon is hid; the night is still;  
The Christmas bells from hill to hill  
Answer each other in the mist.

Four voices of four hamlets round,  
From far and near, on mead and moor,  
Swell out and fail, as if a door  
Were shut between me and the sound:

Each voice four changes on the wind,  
That now dilate and now decrease,  
Peace and goodwill, goodwill and peace,  
Peace and goodwill to all mankind.

This year I slept and woke with pain,  
I almost wish'd no more to wake,  
And that my hold on life would break  
Before I heard those bells again:

But they my troubled spirit rule,  
For they controll'd me when a boy;  
They bring me sorrow touch'd with joy,  
The merry merry bells of Yule.

—Tennyson.

The Editor would be very glad if anyone who has a spare copy of  
'The Ringing World' for November 19th would let him have it for  
a well-known ringer who is serving abroad.

We are sorry to hear that Miss I. B. Thompson, the treasurer of  
the Midland Counties Association, has broken her right wrist through  
a fall in the black-out while on the way to a Red Cross meeting.

The handbell peal of Bob Major rung at Wellington on December  
16th is the first so far in this war rung by a band consisting entirely of  
ringers serving in H.M. Forces.

Sixty years ago to-day Mr. James S. Wilde rang the tenor at Hyde  
in Cheshire, where his family lived. Mr. Wilde is happily still alive  
and still takes a great interest in ringing. He lives at Auckland,  
New Zealand.

**THORNTON HEATH.**—On Sunday, December 5th, at 17, Hamilton  
Road, 1,260 Grandsire Triples on handbells: E. Jennings (conductor)  
1-2, E. C. S. Turner 3-4, C. H. Kippin 5-6, F. E. Collins 7-8. Rung  
to celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Kippin.

**ASHFORD KENT.**—On Sunday, December 5th, 1,260 Stedman  
Triples: H. C. Castle 1, Miss S. Wickens 2, P. Page 3, Flight-Serget.  
T. Callingworth 4, W. A. Oldfield 5, H. S. Wickens 6, C. W. Everett  
(conductor) 7, D. Godden 8.

## MR. GEORGE R. PYE.

The many friends of Mr. George R. Pye will hear with regret that  
he has had to go into hospital for a serious operation. It was per-  
formed last Sunday and we have received a telegram from Mr. Ernest  
W. Pye saying that it was a success and the patient is as well as  
can be expected. In view of his age and the recent state of his health  
there is considerable anxiety.

## ON PEAL RINGING.

We have been told by so grave and learned an authority as 'The  
Quarterly Review' that 'one unparalleled enthusiast, whose book  
was printed in 1618, devoted 475 pages to prove that the principal  
enjoyment of the blessed in heaven will be the continual ringing of  
bells.' No further details were given, no name of the author, no clue  
by which we could trace this most remarkable and interesting book.  
We might, indeed, have suspected that the reviewer was trying to  
pull our legs, if we did not know that such a thing was far below  
the dignity of a 'Quarterly' reviewer in the year 1854. We fear we  
shall never know the name of the author, nor have a chance of dipping  
into his book. Who and what was he? We must assume—in the  
absence of evidence to the contrary that he was sane, though that, of  
course, is open to discussion. Learned he must have been and dili-  
gent, or he would not have written a book of close on five hundred  
pages in the reign of King James the First. Well-informed we must  
grant him, for obviously he was acquainted with facts not generally  
known. But what a pity we have lost all details of the ringing and  
the methods practised! Perhaps we shall find out later.

It may be that the author had in his mind a sort of glorified club  
room in which the blessed sit in luxurious armchairs, and continually  
ring electric bells; and (when the ministering spirit appears) give the  
order, 'Another round of the same, please!' There are so many  
different sorts of ringing. But we reject this solution of the problem  
as being too Mohammedan.

The ringing, we take it then, is proper bellringing, land and back,  
and rounds and changes. But why should our author be at such  
pains to prove that all the blessed are going to do little else through-  
out eternity? Was it to create a longing for coming bliss or was it  
only to point out that people must not expect too much? There is  
a story (N.B. this is a chestnut) of a man who lived at Wigan (you  
vary the name according to fancy and circumstances), who died. The  
next day, as he was walking down the streets of his new abode, he  
met an old friend who had preceded him and who greeted him warmly.  
'Well, what do you think of it?' he asked. 'Not a great deal,'  
replied the other. 'In fact, so far as I can see, heaven is not a  
very much better place than Wigan.' 'But, my dear fellow,' re-  
joined his friend, 'This isn't heaven!' It might be that some people  
would think the same if they had nothing else to do except pull at  
a bell rope for ever and ever.

We have, of course many enthusiasts whose appetite for peal ring-  
ing seems insatiable. The more peals they can attempt, and the  
longer the peals are, the better they like it. Yet we imagine that,  
even with them, unlimited and unrestricted ringing would produce  
satiety in the end; and we fancy that more than half the attraction  
of peal ringing lies in the fact that peals take a lot of trouble to  
arrange and they are not easy to accomplish.

Here is a profound problem for the philosopher and metaphysician  
to cogitate about. Why do we ring peals? Why do we shut ourselves  
up in belfries for hours together, and (sometimes) sweat and toil  
when we might be taking our ease by the fireside, or on the sea  
shore, or watching Aston Villa beat Blackburn Rovers? (N.B. names  
to be filled in to taste.) Don't tell a cynic it is because the ringing  
itself is so enjoyable, for to every peal ringer the most enjoyable  
change is the last one, and the greatest satisfaction is felt when all  
is over.

We do not pretend to have any solution of the problem. We accept  
the fact that there is an overmastering fascination about peal ringing,  
but though it would be pleasant and interesting (material restrictions  
removed) to start for a peal of Cambridge Surprise on five hundred  
bells, we trust our old author has exaggerated the extent to which  
there will be bellringing in the next world.

## A LETTER FROM MR. C. K. LEWIS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like, through the courtesy of your paper, to  
express to my ringing friends my sincere Christmas greetings and  
best wishes for the New Year.

I cannot let the occasion pass without a word of appreciation for  
the excellent way in which 'The Ringing World' has been produced  
during the past year. Its leading articles maintain the high standard  
of its founder, and the special articles covering a wide range of  
subjects of interest to ringers have been both varied and instructive.

To those members of the Exercise who still have the opportunity  
to handle a rope I would say that we 'exiles' look to them to keep  
the flag flying until the day when the Christmas message of 'Peace  
on earth to men of goodwill' shall be accomplished.

India.

C. KENNETH LEWIS.

**GREAT PAUL.**

(Continued from page 551.)

**HOW THE BELL REACHED THE CATHEDRAL.**

The following account is from 'The Daily News,' at that time a leading London daily, and now merged in 'The News Chronicle.'

The usually quiet neighbourhood of Highgate was on Sunday evening the scene of a demonstration such as might have seemed to the old historian who speaks of Britain as the 'ringing isle' fully to justify his designation. Rarely have the people of London flocked out in this direction in greater numbers than they did on Sunday night to see for themselves the monster bell of whose happy birth and adventurous journey they had lately been hearing so much.

All day, and especially in the evening, curious crowds thronged out to see the bell and to touch it, and to discuss its proportions and its composition and its tone—as judged by a poke with an umbrella or a rap with the knuckles—and when darkness had dispersed them a pertinacious mob of perhaps three hundred still clung to the railings of the enclosure from which they had been expelled. They had come to see the bell into London, and so they stuck to their various coigns of vantage in the best of spirits and ready to make very merry over a little scare which everybody experienced as the trolley on which Great Paul was bound seemed to be setting off on its own account on an impromptu mission into the centre of a mason's showyard. In the twilight of early dawn it was not quite clear what had occurred, but it certainly did occur that just when both engines were detached after a deal of furious puffing and rattling and whirling of wheels, the trolley made an unexpected plunge down the sloping side of the roadway, and for an instant seemed bent on capsizing among the monuments. Perhaps the danger was more seeming than real. There was a scuffle among the people and a heavy thud against a propitiously placed kerbstone, and then came the merry laugh that plainly told that there was nothing much the matter.

It was about three o'clock, nearly broad daylight, when the bell got fairly under way amid a ringing cheer of the valorous three hundred who marched on all sides of it, and as they tramped down into London found, apparently, ample reward for their long vigil in the ludicrous appearances that were descried at the bedroom windows along the route. All along the line people peeped out upon it but could not be persuaded to join the procession.

The arrival at St. Paul's, however, was later than had been calculated on. The Cathedral is only about five miles and a half from the spot on which the bell had rested on Sunday, and between three and six it was imagined there would be ample time to accomplish the downhill journey. Unexpected difficulties presented themselves, however. The surveyor of Islington prevented the bell from coming down the Liverpool Road, and Upper Street had to be substituted. This route presented alternate ascents and

declines, and more than once it became necessary to send on an engine ahead and throw it across the road as a stationary engine by which to haul up some slippery slope with a length of steel rope.

However, the last acclivity was successfully scaled, and from Islington Green to the Cathedral progress was rapid and the attendant crowd ever on the increase. Those who were awaiting the arrival at St Paul's were made anxious for a time by a rumour that the City police intended to stop the cavalcade at the City boundary, where it did not arrive until close upon eight, the proper limit of time being six in the morning. However, nothing so injudicious was attempted; on the contrary, the police afforded every facility, and at five minutes to eight Mr. Coles, the contractor for the conveyance of the bell, had the satisfaction of bringing up his charge to the very inch assigned for the purpose by Mr. Pemrose, the Cathedral surveyor.

The crowd of spectators around the Cathedral had by this time become a large one, mustering perhaps two thousand people, who cheered vociferously as the engines pulled up alongside. In an hour or two the space intervening between the top of the trolley and the platform from which the bell was to slide down to the front of the tower was bridged by complementary timbers, and the various stays and ties by which the newcomer had been secured to the carriage were removed. In order to do this it became necessary for one or two men to creep up through a hole in the woodwork at the bottom of the bell into the body of it, and a large pair of bellows and elastic tubing had to be brought into play to guard against their possible suffocating.

While the work was proceeding and the ever-increasing crowd was surging around the Cathedral boundaries, the Lord Mayor drew by in semi-state on his way to the Old Bailey Sessions House, and in passing his lordship was seen endeavouring to address to Mr. Pemrose something which was, no doubt, as currently assumed to be, his congratulations at the success thus far attendant upon this weighty undertaking. His responsibility, however, had only just commenced, and some little anxiety among the spectators within the enclosure was naturally experienced and expressed as to the success of the arrangements that had been made. If, however, all should go as merrily as the earlier stages of the work have done, there will certainly be good cause for congratulation.

With the smallest possible delay, and with apparently no difficulty whatever, Great Paul was induced to make the slow and stately movement towards the Cathedral, and set out upon the sloping launchway that had been constructed towards the enlarged doorway that had been constructed at the foot of the clock tower. One strand of a rope gave way, but another and stouter rope, with all the necessary gear attached, was immediately forthcoming to take its place, and to illustrate the provident forethought of the arrangements for the day's proceedings,

(Continued on next page.)

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## GREAT PAUL.

(Continued from previous page.)

which were as successful as the most exacting could have desired.

At the time we write the bell is barricaded from the public view, but passers-by endeavour to obtain a sight of it, even though it can only be done by clutching at the top of the hoarding which had purposely been daubed by the tallow and blacklead that had been provided, greatly in excess of requirements, for reducing friction on the timbers beneath the bell.

On Tuesday last we paid a visit to the bell, but experienced a great difficulty from the not at all courteous opposition of the Cathedral officials. With a determination as inflexible as adamant, the janitor in charge barred the way, and it was not until the appearance of the Rev. H. C. Shuttleworth, who kindly used his influence in our favour, that we gained admittance.

The bell was upon a low stage waiting until the headstock was first hoisted, before being moved any further. From the state of affairs going on around us, we wondered whether the bell would be in position this week. There were only about half a dozen workmen present, who seemed to be taking it remarkably easy, we thought. The stock had the chain round it ready for hoisting, and very powerful tackle was in position ready for that purpose.

The bell is peculiarly plain in appearance and devoid of the ornamentation which we expected to see. But that is a small matter. So long as the bell is good, the outside appearance goes for very little. Some interest was manifested in the two impressions of coins which appear on the top part of the bell.

Dr. Stainer was very busy pointing out to visitors all the details connected with the bell in that courteous manner which is one of his distinguished characteristics, and for one whose acquaintance with bells is so very limited he certainly did his task very well. The bell is intended to be placed in position this week. It will be hung in the usual way on immense gudgeons without a wheel, but, as we understood Mr. Taylor, with two levers like a school bell, and, as that gentleman told us, two men would be able to chime it swinging, the latter being a statement which we could not, however, see our way clear at the time to subscribe to. The clapper is a vast appendage made of wrought iron.

## JOINT MEETING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

A joint meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association and the East Grinstead Guild was held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, on December 4th, when 23 ringers were present. There was some good practice in various methods ranging from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Major, and a short service was held at 4.15 p.m., conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. H. Walker.

Tea was served in the Parish Hall, after which the secretary called attention to the passing of Mr. J. Steddy and Mr. Exeter. The Vicar welcomed the association and guild to St. Peter's and said he was pleased that the bells are now being rung again after the long silence. He wished everyone a very happy Christmas and expressed the hope that before long peace would reign in this unhappy world. Mr. Battin proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, to the organist and to the ladies who had prepared tea.

Hawkhurst was selected for the next meeting, to be held in February, 1944. The towers represented at the meeting were Hifchin, Heris, Lamberhurst, Uckfield, East Grinstead, Wadhurst, Benenden, Hawkhurst, Rotherfield, Thorne, Yorks, and the local band.

**HASTINGS.**—At All Saints' on Sunday, December 5th, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. Carlton 1, W. Bradfield 2, A. Funnell 3, A. Easton 4, W. Joiner 5, J. Downing 6, A. Levett (conductor) 7, G. Martin 8.

## NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

### MEETINGS AT NEW BUCKINGHAM AND NORWICH.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association, held at New Buckenham on November 20th, was attended by 16 ringers from Banham, Bergh Apton, New Buckenham, Attleborough, Diss, Fornsett, Mulbarton, Norwich and Wymondham. Various methods were rung, the service was taken by the president, in the absence of the Vicar through illness, and a tea was provided at the St. George and Dragon. Members were pleased to see present Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Golden after a long absence.

On December 4th, a meeting of the association was held at St. Giles', Norwich, when ringers were present from Bergh Apton, Cambridge, Long Stratton, Mulbarton, Norwich, Whittle-le-Woods (Lancs), Wroxham, Wymondham and Great Yarmouth, 27 in all. Various methods were attempted during the afternoon. The Vicar in an address at the service expressed his gratitude to those who had kept the bells going every Sunday morning since the ban was removed. Tea was presided over by Mrs. Ditcham, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Sayer.

A collection is made at each meeting of the association for the restoration fund of the ring of twelve at St. Nicholas', Yarmouth, destroyed in an air raid. At the last three meetings £2 7s. 6d. was contributed.

It was decided to have the next meeting at St. John de Sepulchre, Norwich, on February 5th, and for the annual meeting to revert to the pre-war practice of having it on Easter Monday.

## DUTIES OF A RINGING MASTER.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the various letters that have appeared relating to the duties of a Ringing Master.

We have been told what, in the opinions of some of your readers, a good Ringing Master should do, but, at the risk of expecting too much from an individual, I venture to add one further task. We all know of the type of ringer, often referred to in a not very complimentary way as one of the locals, who never bothers, through one reason or another, to go ringing in a tower other than his own. As to the County Association and its meetings, he has no time for it, and often says as much, if not more, although, as is often the case, he has been made a member at some time or another. I am not intending to plead his case, but, whether he is right or wrong, one of his chief complaints is that little interest is taken in him by the association (referred to in the usual vague manner), and, therefore, it is not to be expected that he should be filled with enthusiasm over a body that, more or less, disowns him.

All this perambulation of mine leads me to the point which I intend to make; in that it would certainly do no harm and, quite probably, do a lot of good if the Ringing Master made a point of visiting the various towers in the association on their practice nights. If a Ringing Master were to add this function to that of his other duties (which very often appear to start and finish at a district meeting), I have no doubt that the average, so called, local ringer would feel that he is really part of the association and might be prompted to give as well as receive.

RUSSELL G. SPEARS.

## MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT BARNET.

Twenty ringing members and friends were present at a meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex Association held at Barnet on December 11th. Six affiliated towers were represented, and visitors came from Bayswater, Herne Hill and St. Albans. Plain courses and touches in various methods, including Cambridge Surprise Major, were brought round and the bells were lowered in peal, the striking throughout being well maintained.

The following were elected as ringing members of the association: Messrs. J. Lord (Hendon), F. Hill (Stanmore), A. Wallman, V. Woodards, E. Dench, D. Langdon and P. Coward (Edmonton) and J. C. Mellor (Potters Bar). Congratulations were given to the young people from Edmonton upon the successful attempts to ring their first peals on handbells. The meeting respected the memory of Mr. R. Roffey (Barnet) and Mr. W. E. Troke (St. Giles-in-the-Fields), late members of the association. Tea was provided through the energies of the local captain, Mr. H. J. Eldred, and although the ringing continued after black-out, social activities continued for some while after the bells were silent.

## MUFFLED RINGING.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in J. B. M. Ridout's letter regarding muffled ringing. Your contributor may be interested to hear we rang a touch of Grandsire Triples at Woodbridge, Suffolk, in whole pull changes, with open handstroke and muffled backstroke. The bells were rung slowly and the effect was most pleasing. The occasion was the death of His Majesty King George V.

GEORGE N. BLAKE.

St. Albans.

**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.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E. 1, Jan. 1st, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. —A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.**—Annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 1st, at headquarters, the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.15 p.m. prompt. Ringing at St. Martin's Church from 4.30 to 5.45 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Winchester District.—Annual district meeting at Winchester, January 1st. Service in the Cathedral 3.45 p.m. Address by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Winchester. Tea and meeting to follow at Dumpers' Restaurant. Cathedral bells (12) before service and St. Maurice's Church (6). Names for tea by December 29th. —W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, January 1st. Bells (10) 3.30. Names for tea before December 28th.—A. Thompson, Hon. Sec., 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-East Division.—Annual district meeting at Mistley, Saturday, January 8th, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting and tea to follow probably at the Thorn Hotel. Bring food and a little tea. Good train and bus service via Manningtree.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., 113a, Great Thurlow, Haverhill, Suffolk.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at East Crompton, Saturday, January 8th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food. Subscriptions due; reports to hand.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Beeston on Saturday, January 8th. Bells at 2.30 p.m. Short service 4.30. Full particulars next week.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

**SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION** (Chesterfield District).—Joint meeting at Staveley on Saturday, January 8th. Hope to have tea arrangements in next week's issue.—G. G. Graham and S. Scattergood, Hon. Secs.

**GREETINGS.**

That this Christmas may bring happiness to all ringing friends, with Victory and Peace in the New Year, and a return to the belfries of all ringers in the Services, is the sincere wish of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles.

Wishing all College Youths and ringing friends everything we should wish ourselves in the coming season.—Ernest G. Fenn (Master), A. B. Peck (Secretary), A. A. Hughes (Treasurer).

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 our brothers of the belfry at home and overseas, a restful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.—W. H. Fussell, Slough.

Kindest Christmas and New Year greetings to all ringing friends at home and overseas.—From Mr. and Mrs. R. Richardson and Mr. and Mrs. B. Wayman, Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

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

To all our friends of the belfry, and especially to those of the Norwich Diocesan Association, best wishes for Christmas and a happier New Year.—Nolan and Iris Golden, Checkendon, Reading, and 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich. Christmas, 1943.

Best wishes to all our ringing friends for a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.—Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker, Birmingham.

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.

Greetings and best wishes to all friends from Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Harris, Woburn, Beds.

**DEATH.**

**LAFLIN.**—On Wednesday, December 8th, Annie, dearly-loved wife of Peter Laffin, of Stockport, St. George's, aged 50 years, leaving husband, son and three daughters to mourn their loss.

**THE PEAL AT CHEADLE**

The bells at the Roman Catholic Church at Cheadle, where a peal was rung on Saturday, December 11th, as reported in our peal column, were originally a ring of six cast at Whitechapel in 1846. The first peal on them was in 1922, conducted by J. E. Sykes, the next Grand-sire Doubles in 1926, conducted by A. W. Hall.

The bells were increased to eight in 1939, and in May, 1940, a peal on the octave was arranged to celebrate the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Hall, but it had to be abandoned owing to war work. Father Macdonald, for whose birthday the recent peal was rung, visited the belfry before the attempt and afterwards entertained the band.

**BRAINTREE.**—On Sunday, December 12th, 1,320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: S. Warne 1, H. Hammond 2, G. Lindridge 3, F. E. May 4, L. W. Wiffen 5, R. Martin 6. A birthday compliment to Mr. Harry Hammond, who was 78 the day before. He rang his bell faultlessly.

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