



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

No. 1,721. Vol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, MARCH 17th, 1944.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for  
transmission as a newspaper] Price 3d.

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&  
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**\*THE FIRST PEAL ON THE BELLS.\***

In this week's issue Mr. Charles Tyler tells us a little story which may serve as a peg on which to hang a few remarks. He says that in his younger days he was connected with a more than usually progressive and enthusiastic band. They took to handbell ringing and succeeded in achieving peals of Stedman, Triples, Caters and Cinques. On tower bells they rang the simpler methods and Double Norwich, and began to practise Superlative with the intention of adding it to their list. Then it so happened that an outside band visited the tower for a peal of Double Norwich but, changing their mind at the last minute, rang one of Superlative instead. This deprived the local men of the opportunity of ringing the first peal in the method on the bells, and they were disappointed and offended, lost interest in their ringing and never properly recovered it.

What is the moral? Some people will be sure to blame the visitors and to see in the incident only one more instance of the selfishness of cliques, who go about ringing peals regardless of the feelings and interests of the local ringers, and so causing trouble and doing harm. What justification is there for such a view? The visiting band (we have not the least idea who they were and, anyway, it was long ago) had asked for and received permission to attempt a peal. The local band had made no objection, and would have been satisfied if the method had been Double Norwich as was at first intended. The trouble was caused by the alteration of the method to Superlative.

Now we suppose no one will question the right of a band to change the method before a peal attempt. It is continually done, and the fact that the attempt was definitely arranged for a particular method created no obligation on the part of the band to abide by it, nor would a band ordinarily think it necessary to acquaint the local men of the alteration. We are told that these men knew of no objection to an attempt for Superlative, and it is hard to see where they were to blame.

Still, it is not difficult to sympathise with the local company. They had formed an ambition and were in a fair way towards realising it, when an outside band came along and unexpectedly robbed them of the honour.

Those quarrels always do the most harm when both sides are in the right, and the cause is almost always because people do not sufficiently consider other men's point of view. In our instance, it is difficult to resist

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the conclusion that all trouble would have been avoided if the local men had taken some precautions and the visitors had had a little more imagination. If, when the visitors applied for permission, they had been told that there were reasons why they should not ring Superlative, or if, when they talked about changing the method, they had remembered that the local company might want the first peal of Superlative themselves, there would have been no difficulty.

In the same way most of the unpleasantness which has arisen (though very occasionally) through peal attempts by visiting bands has been due to misunderstanding and want of thought. Ringers should be very chary of doing anything which may cause offence, and equally they should be very chary of taking offence where none is intended.

There is the further question, Was the first peal of Superlative on those bells of such importance that it was worth making all that bother about? To be the first to do some particular feat has always been a great incentive to progress in change ringing, and there are first performances which are worth striving for. The first peal of London Surprise Major, or Cambridge Maximus, or Spliced Surprise, has a merit which can hardly be equalled by any subsequent peals in the same method; but the first peal on a particular ring of bells is little more than a matter of time and opportunity. Mr. Tyler's band might have gone on and rung their Superlative without paying any attention to what the others had done. Their merit would have been just as great; people would have thought just as much of them, and they could have thought just as much of themselves.

To have an ambition and to be balked of it may be disappointing, but it should be remembered that the benefit of having an ambition lies, not in its realisation, but in the striving after it. A peal when it is rung is nothing. It is in the attempt its values lies.

### THE YOUTH MOVEMENT.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—We are to-day hearing quite a lot about the 'Youth Movement,' but so far I have not seen the exact definition of it. One can only surmise that it is a movement designed to teach youth the best way of occupying their leisure through the medium of the various youth organisations throughout the country, such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Boys' Clubs, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., etc. These we know have done and do good work, but do they go far enough? Do they cater for the young when they have grown up? Of this I have no knowledge, but I do know that if our ringing societies were looked upon as valuable adjuncts to the Youth Movement they would cater for youth in all its stages. I therefore suggest to the Central Council that they consider what steps should be taken to link our associations with those of the Youth Movement.

JOHN P. FIDLER.

28, Naupantan Road, Loughborough.

### RAISING AND CEASING.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have found that in the prize ringing districts of Cornwall more attention is paid to the tenor than to any other bell. In other words, if the tenor during rising is too close to the 5th or 7th, the front bells close on each other to open the tenor.

At Redruth we have adopted this method with great success and it was noticeable that it works on any number of bells. It has also been found that, when falling, if the tenor has been left to swing free, i.e., neither checked or pulled, she will bring the other bells in with the best results.

But a lot still depends on a steady 2nd and 4th on six and 5th on eight. If these take their time from the tenor, the other bells have only the work of following them without any worry.

E. V. WILLIAMS.

59, Fore Street, Redruth.

### A WOULD-BE DICTATOR.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I venture to make a few remarks on 'A Would-be Dictator's' letter?

I do not think it necessary for one to become a dictator in ringing matters, only as far as it applies to the early stages, which to some probationers is a bit confusing, when they try to follow all the different ideas and views that have appeared lately. To me it seems necessary for someone competent to explain what is meant in a simple, friendly way, but not as a dictator.

We do not give sufficient thought or practice to bring about a recognised standard of ringing in the matter of time which makes for rhythm, and I think it is one of our failings in not making it one of the principal lessons for the probationer to study, not only for his own benefit, but also for those listening outside.

For this purpose I used a dulcimer of eight notes, that could be used for any number from three to eight, to represent rounds, and the changes as desired when rung on tower bells, so that the probationer's ears became acquainted with what is expected of them when ringing in the tower.

This may not seem necessary to some, but I found it very useful. I thought it worth trying after reading the accounts of some of the concerts given by the Ilkley Minstrels, in which Jasper and William Snowdon were interested. He gave demonstrations on handbells when trying to explain the different ideas he had heard, but nothing better than how he describes it in 'Rope Sight,' which enabled several to become good ringers and strikers.

The same ideas were followed here, which kept interest in the work, and the ringers rarely failed to meet for a touch at morning and evening service and an occasional peal.

Some became interested in handbell ringing, and besides ringing touches of Triples, Caters and Cinques double handed, succeeded in ringing a peal in each, and all rung with the open lead at hand.

Having become efficient on tower bells in Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob Major, there still remained the ambition to ring the first peal in a method on their own bells, which was considered to be a great help to progress, so for the next Superlative was taken up, and it did not take long for them to become sufficiently efficient to start for a peal. Unfortunately, the peal-hogs came along. I don't like this word myself, it doesn't seem to me quite the word to use in such matters, but I suppose 'Would-be Dictator' could not think of anything better.

Well, our ringing friends (this seems to me better than peal-hogs came along to attempt a peal of Double Norwich, for which permission had been given, but instead they seemed to think there would be no objection to ringing Superlative, as it would be the first in the method on the bells. It was one of their hobbies getting the first on other people's bells. They succeeded, but it caused an unfriendly feeling with the locals. They had been disappointed in their ambition and loss of interest resulted, which never properly returned.

I consider loss of interest in other districts is partly due to the want of a little consideration as to the views and opinions of the local men in matters connected with the tower. I know some locals never know of these intended visits until they have heard the bells being pulled up.

C. TYLER.  
Henfield, Sussex.

### WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.

MEETING AT ROMSEY.

The annual meeting of the Southampton District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Romsey on February 26th, when about seventy members and visitors attended from a wide area.

At the business meeting the Rev. K. Felstead, Vicar of Weston, Southampton, who is a ringer, was elected district chairman and the other officers were re-elected. A programme for the year was drawn up. It includes meetings at Netley Abbey, Eling and Upham, as well as an all day one at East Tytherley on August Bank Holiday, and evening practices where possible.

The ringing during afternoon and evening ranged from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major.

### LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT BOLTON.

Youth was predominant at a meeting of the Lancashire Association held at St. George's, Bolton, on March 4th. Seven local belfries were represented and visitors were present from Leatherhead, Chester and Halifax.

Six new members were elected and it was decided to hold the next meeting at All Saints', Bolton, on April 1st.

The question of using bells to celebrate successes during the war was discussed, and the opinion was that the Prime Minister gave a lead when he replied to a question on firing guns as in Moscow. He preferred bells.

MAULDEN, BEDS.—On Saturday, February 26th, 720 Bob Minor: T. Harris (first 720) 1, H. Lawrence 2, R. J. Sharp 3, C. H. Harding 4, R. Houghton 5, A. C. Sinfield (conductor) 6.

**EIGHT BELL PEALS.**

PENWORTHAM, LANCs.  
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.  
(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 11, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;**

Tenor 9 cwt.

FRED RIGBY... .. Treble	JOHN H. GARTSIDE ... .. 5
JOHN JACKSON ... .. 2	FRANCES MCCARTHY ... .. 6
WILLIAM SHARPLES ... .. 3	E. ROGER MARTIN ... .. 7
WILLIAM TAYLOR ... .. 4	F. GEORGE BRADLEY ... .. Tenor

Composed by EDWIN TIMBRELL. Conducted by E. R. MARTIN.  
Rung as an 84th birthday compliment to Mr. J. R. Taylor, of the local company.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.  
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 11, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

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

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 16 cwt.

NORMAN V. HARDING ... Treble	C. ALFRED LEVETT ... .. 5
FRANK H. HICKS ... .. 2	WILLIAM WELLING ... .. 6
*ELSIE M. HUNT... .. 3	GEORGE GILBERT ... .. 7
*WINIFRED E. HUNT... .. 4	WILLIAM HENLEY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

\* First attempt for a peal. Rung on the conductor's birthday.

LECKHAMPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.  
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.  
(CHELTENHAM BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 11, 1944, in Three Hours,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

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

Tenor 9 cwt.

WILLIAM TOWNSEND ... Treble	*WILLIAM DYER ... .. 5
JOHN AUSTIN ... .. 2	WALTER C. ROSE ... .. 6
WILFRED WILLIAMS ... .. 3	*CHARLES W. MARTIN ... .. 7
ARTHUR H. REED ... .. 4	JOHN BALLINGER ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. PLATT. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

\* First peal in the method.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.  
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 11, 1944 in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

MIDDLETON'S COMPOSITION. Tenor 19½ cwt.

WILLOUGHBY E. MAULDEN Treble	WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... .. 5
GEORGE A. FLEMING ... .. 2	SERG. J. O. WELLER ... .. 6
LESLIE G. BRETT ... .. 3	THOMAS W. LAST ... .. 7
LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN ... .. 4	CECIL W. PIPE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by T. W. LAST.

**SIX BELL PEALS.**

DISLEY, CHESHIRE.  
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,  
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

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

Being seven extents in 17 methods, viz.: (1) Newdigate and College Bob IV.; (2) Old Oxford and Wilkesden; (3) Charlwood and St. Albans Delight; (4) Wragby and Neasden; (5) Ockley and Norbury Treble Bob; (6) Duke of Norfolk and College Exercise Treble Bob; (7) Capel, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston and Oxford Treble Bob.  
Tenor 8½ cwt.

DAVID VINCENT ... .. Treble	JAMES A. MILNER ... .. 4
WILLIAM FERNLEY ... .. 2	ALAN J. BROWN ... .. 5
THOMAS TAYLOR ... .. 3	JOHN WORTH... .. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

Forty-nine changes of method.

BLADON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

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

Ten different callings.		Tenor 6½ cwt. in B	
*DAVID C. RITCHIE ... Treble	JOHN E. SPICE ... .. 4	†WILLIAM C. PORTER... .. 5	*H. PETER RAYNOR ... Tenor
†MARGARET D. TELFORD ... 2			
†WALTER F. JUDGE ... .. 3			

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

\* First peal. † First peal in the method and first on six bells.  
‡ First peal of Doubles. The conductor's first peal of Doubles on tower bells. Rung after meeting short for Triples at Woodstock.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,  
AT 45, WALSHINGHAM ROAD,

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

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

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

Conducted by MRS. G. W. FLETCHER.

\* First peal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, March 7, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,  
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

MRS. J. THOMAS... .. 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... .. 5-6
*ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 3-4	†DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 7-8

Composed by F. BRNNETT. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

\* First peal of Bob Major on an inside pair. † First peal of Major.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 11, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,  
IN THE CATHEDRAL BELFRY,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JILL POOLE... .. 1-2	G. STEDMAN MORRIS ... .. 7-8
PERCY L. HARRISON ... .. 3-4	ERNEST MORRIS ... .. 9-10
HAROLD J. POOLE ... .. 5-6	JOSIAH MORRIS ... .. 11-12

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

A silver wedding compliment to Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Black, son-in-law and daughter of Mr. J. Morris.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 12, 1944, in One Hour and Fifty-Eight Minutes,  
IN ST. PETER'S HALL,

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

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor size 11 in G.

*PERCY W. BRAYSHAW ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... .. 3-4
MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... .. 5-6	

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

\* Aged 14. First peal on a working pair.

**THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK**

by E. S. and M. POWELL.

Containing full and complete instruction from the first handling of a bell to the ringing and conducting of peals of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

Large selection of Compositions included.

Price:— Complete edition, to 8 bells, cloth, 120pp., 2/9  
6 bell edition sewn, paper covers, 64pp., 1/2

Obtainable only post free from Rev. E. S. POWELL,  
Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

## ST. BOTOLPH'S, ALDGATE.

The Church of St. Botolph, Aldgate, which stands within the city area although outside the old city walls, contains a ring of eight which had a very high reputation among London bells. Few ringers now have heard them, for they have been for long out of order, but they escaped the destruction which befell their neighbours at St. Mary's Matfelon and St. George's-in-the-East, and it may be they have still a future before them as a ringing centre.

The old pre-Reformation church was a Gothic building consisting of three naves almost equal in height and breadth, and with a fine lofty tower at the south-west corner. The Edwardian inventory is defective and has now no mention of bells, but there was a ringing peal, probably five in number, in the sixteenth century.

When, about the year 1548, Church property was being confiscated and parishes were selling their plate and investing the money in such a way that it could not be so easily alienated, 'it was agreed by a vestry of honest men for the parish of St. Botolph-without-Aldgate in the City of London' for certain plate and bells to be sold, 'and with the money thereof to purchase a row of houses at the end of the churchyard,' one of which was to be for the curate and another for the clerk. The plate was accordingly sold, but the proposal to sell the bells met with so much opposition in the parish that it had to be abandoned, and the houses could not be bought.

Soon afterwards, 'the second bell beinge crackt was taken downe and changed with Robert Mot bell founder dwellinge in Whyte Chappell.'

On February 9th, 1586, the vestry paid 'for ringing for jeyce that the queene of skotts was beheaded,' the sum of xijd, and a further xijd 'for breade and beare for ye ringers.' Thomas Harridance, citizen and iron-monger, who was the parish clerk at the time, and a 'verie carefull and industrious man in his place,' recorded that 'we ded ringe at oure parishe church the ix daye of februarye in anno 1586 and was ffor jeyce that the Queene of Skotts that enemy of oure most noble Queens Matie and our countrie was beheaded ffor the wch. the Lorde God be prayسد and I wold to god that all her conferrates were knowne and cut of by the lyke meanes.'

At this time the funeral charges were:—  
 'for ye afternoones knell with ye greate bell ... 6s. 8d.  
 for ye peales wch weare not runge ... .. 2s. od.  
 ffor thee passinge bell ... .. 4d.'  
 'Ye menester' received 11s. and the charge for 'ye grounde in ye Church' was 6s. 8d. Presumably the peals which were not rung were chimed, and when there was ringing at funerals the ringers would be paid directly.

During the seventeenth century the bells were increased to six. The church was outside the area destroyed by the Great Fire, but the churchwardens took precautions and 'paid for carrying away the pish books when ye fyre was in ve cittie, 6s.'

Laughton and the Ramblers met at St. Botolph's on December 20th, 1733, and rang Grandsire Doubles on the back five, and a 720 of Plain Bob on the six; but Laughton has nothing to say about the bells themselves.

By the year 1740 the church had become very dilapidated. George Dance, the city surveyor, was called in, and after inspection he advised that it would be better and cheaper to rebuild rather than attempt to repair.

Parliament was approached, and an Act was obtained on the then usual lines. Trustees were appointed and authorised to levy a rate not exceeding sixpence in the pound, two-thirds of which were to be paid by the landlords and one-third by the tenants. The total cost was £5,536 2s. 8d.

The church was opened in 1744, and in that year Thomas Lester cast and hung in the tower eight bells with a tenor of 28 cwt. Twenty years later the larger bells were recast by Lester and Pack.

The first peal in the steeple was rung by the College Youths on January 8th, 1745. It was 5,040 changes of Bob Major, and was conducted by Benjamin Annable. The second recorded peal was by the 'junior' Society of College Youths, and was 5,120 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major, rung on April 16th, 1758. The only other peal in the eighteenth century was one of Grandsire Triples by the Junior Cumberlands on December 19th, 1785.

In the belfry there is or was a board which records that on March 28th, 1852, a Friendly Society rang a peal of Grandsire Triples. 'The above is the 3rd Peal ever completed in this steeple and the only Peal of the kind since the year 1785. It was rung in less time than any other Peal upon the bells and was conducted by Mr. Arthurton.'

I know of no later peal in the steeple.

In mediæval times the parish of St. Botolph, Aldgate, was the headquarters of the London founders, and many bells cast there are still to be found all over the country. The earliest of note of these men was Richard de Wymbisshe, who cast a bell in 1312 for the neighbouring Holy Trinity Priory. He was succeeded by other members of his family. They were followed by many others whose names are given by Stahlschmidt, and chief among them were William Revel, William Dawe, Henry Jordan, John Danyll, William Culverden and Thomas Bullesdon.

About two hundred of Jordan and Danyll's bells still exist. Jordan, who died about 1470, by his will directed that his body should be buried 'in the Chapel of Our Lady in the northside of the pyshe Church of Seynt Botulphes w'oute Aldgate of London that is to say in the place where as the body of Johanne my wiffe there resteth buried.' He left a bequest for the benefit of poor founders which is still paid by the Fishmongers Company to the Founders Company. Apparently he was a fishmonger as well as a founder, and on the shield he cast on his bells are a dolphin and cross keys to indicate the one trade, and a laver and a bell to indicate the other.

Another Aldgate bell founder was Robert Burford, according to the continuation of Stow's Survey, a wealthy man, as it seems, of this parish, and charitably disposed, who by his will gave £40 to the building of the aisle of St. Catherine, 40 marks towards making and raising of St. Mary's chapel to the same height and form as St. Catherine's aisle, and £40 towards building a new steeple. Stahlschmidt owned a deed of conveyance, dated 1405, from Robert Burford, citizen and bell founder, to John atte Lee, citizen and candlemaker, of a house in St. Andrew's, Cornhill. None of Burford's bells seems at present to be in existence.

HESTON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, February 27th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: J. Cobb 1, W. W. Webb 2, E. R. Gladman 3, H. C. Chandler (conductor) 4, W. T. Godfrey 5, H. Belcher 6, W. J. Winter 8.

**DEATH OF MR. WALTER CHARMAN.**

The death is announced of Mr. Walter Charman, of Warnham, Sussex, who passed away on Monday, March 6th, at the age of 81. He was laid to rest on Thursday, March 9th, in the Parish Churchyard, brother ringers acting as bearers, and in the presence of many villagers who had come to pay their last respects. After the committal the bells were rung half-muffled.

Mr. Charman began his ringing career about 1880, and in 1886 Warnham bells were augmented to eight. In 1887 he rang his first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, conducted by H. Chandler. Practices were held every night and several peals were rung, three or four a month being the rule.

His last peal was on July 12th, 1939, and in all he rang 290, of which he conducted 42. They included 13,440 and 6,720 of Canterbury Pleasure Major, 6,720 Bob Major, and 6,408, 10,176 and 10,432 Kent Treble Bob Major. The others consisted of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Plain Bob, Place, Oxford Bob, Court Bob, Union Bob, Canterbury Pleasure and Stedman Triples; Plain Bob, Canterbury Pleasure, Collego Single, Oxford Bob, Double Oxford Bob, Double Norwich, and Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major; six of Minor; and about 25 in several Surprise methods from Cambridge to Spliced, to which he rang the treble.

**AN APPRECIATION\***

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—By the death of Walter Charman, not only Warnham and the Sussex County Association, but the whole Exercise has lost a true friend. It did not matter what you could ring, who you were or where you came from; one and all were made welcome at the tower by Walter. After a friendship of over thirty years I cannot recall, in all my innumerable visits, once when he was not at the church. It did not matter if it was a plain method with some of the local band or if we had a Surprise band, he was there to see that everything was right, even when we started once at 5 o'clock in the morning.

It was often said that to know what real enjoyment there is in ringing one must have a trip to Warnham. A pleasant ride or walk through the park, an ideal tower, good bells and a pleasant tea and chat afterwards. Those of us who have had that pleasure have memories which will last all our lives. It is nice to know he is sleeping close to his godson Peter and the tower they both loved and served. It was with very great regret the writer was (owing to ill-health) unable to pay his last respects to such an old friend and one of nature's gentlemen.

A. H. PULLING.

Guildford.

**DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM RICHARD MADGWICK.**

Mr. William R. Madgwick, a ringer very well known in the Metropolitan area, was killed during a recent air raid, when the house he was living in was destroyed, with all its nine inhabitants, by a direct hit. He was buried, with the other victims, on February 23rd.

Mr. Madgwick was born at Fernhurst, near Midhurst, in Sussex, on December 15th, 1883, and thus was 60 years of age. He learnt to ring at Midhurst, and made a point of ringing at every possible church, both at home and abroad. His travels took him to Canada, California, New Zealand and Australia.

He went to London in the year 1927 and up to the outbreak of war was a member of the band which rang at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, but he was connected with other belfries as well and was always ready to join in any Sunday service or peal ringing. His list of peals included all the standard methods, as well as Yorkshire, Pudsey and Spliced Surprise Major, Yorkshire and Cambridge Royal, Cambridge Maximus and Stedman Caters and Cinques. He called several peals, including Cambridge, Superlative, Bristol and London Surprise Major.

**DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM ESSERY.**

The death is announced of Mr. William Essery after three years in hospital as the result of an air raid. He was for many years a member of the band at St. Luke's, Chelsea. The funeral was on February 29th.

**DEATH OF THE REV W. C. BARRATT.**

*To the Editor.*

Sir.—I think that it might be of some interest to those of your readers who are old members of the Oxford University Society of Change Ringers to note the death, on February 22nd last, of the Rev. W. C. Barrett, who was secretary of that society from 1927 to 1938, at Dormans, Surrey.

My reference as to his decease is 'The Church Times' of February 25th.

A member of Jesus College, he was one of the few surviving members of the society in its early days in the 1880's. His services to the society as secretary were marked by devotion and outstanding ability, and it should be mentioned also that he was a ringer of no mean ability, although his latter ringing days were hampered by the infirmities of old age.

P. J. M. BRYAN, Lieut., R.N.V.R.  
(Master, O.U.S.C.R., 1939-1940).

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

# LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

# THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

ESTABLISHED 1570

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### 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

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

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER,  
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All communications for this journal should be addressed  
to:—

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,  
Guildford, Surrey.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from  
the office for 4s. 3d. per quarter payable in advance.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to  
'The Ringing World.'

Mr. Harold J. Poole will be installed a lay canon of Leicester  
Cathedral at 6 p.m. on April 1st. There will be ringing afterwards.

The Rev. K. C. Davis, priest in charge of St. John's Church,  
Swindon, has been appointed a member of the Bristol Diocesan  
Advisory Committee as consultant for church bells, in place of the  
late Mr. Stephen H. Wood.

Miss Agatha Lewis, second daughter of Mr. Edwin H. Lewis, has  
just received promotion to a second ring in the W.R.N.S.

#### THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In view of the fact that the Central Council has not  
met during the past four years, is it not rather unreasonable and  
selfish to criticise the action of those in authority who have had a  
very difficult decision to make regarding the holding of a meeting,  
let alone on which day it should be held.

Both arguments from the reverend gentlemen do not make sense;  
for, if, as one says, it takes a day to travel to your destination,  
ruling out Monday, because of Sunday service ringing, the other says  
rule out Monday because of annual association meetings. One could  
not attend an annual association meeting if it took a day to travel  
in peace time, as the Council held its meeting on Tuesday following  
Whit Monday; and I don't think it could be deemed unloyal to miss  
service ringing for one Sunday to attend the Central Council meeting.

Let these two gentlemen bear in mind that whilst Sunday is their  
busy day, weekdays are the most important to the war production,  
in which I should imagine the majority of members are engaged,  
and it was obviously with this reason in mind that the Standing  
Committee made their decision to hold the meeting on a public  
holiday.

HILDA G. SNOWDEN.

Halstead, Essex.

#### HOW FAR CAN BELLS BE HEARD?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Stannard's statement that he has heard the bells of  
St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, at Harwich is most interesting. This  
must be very nearly, if not quite, the furthest distance that there  
is real evidence that any English bells have been heard. Perhaps the  
wide open estuary of the Orwell has something to do with it.

The Tower bells at Ipswich do not strike a visitor as having any  
great carrying power. I remember standing in the year 1939 in the  
churchyard under the steeple when the twelve were being rung. A  
little way off there is a ring of five in a lofty tower, and these began  
to ring at the same time. The curious thing was that the five seemed  
to overpower the nearer and heavier twelve and force themselves on  
the ear.

But the carrying power of sound is a curious thing. During the  
last war when I was under canvas at Widford, near Chelmsford, I  
could distinctly hear at night time the guns in France. Later on one  
occasion I stood in the line just before one of the big battles, when  
the whole sky all around was lit up by hundreds of gun flashes and  
scarcely a sound reached my ears.

'X.'

BIRMINGHAM. — On Sunday, March 12th, at St. Chad's R.C.  
Cathedral. 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: John N. Linton 1,  
Richard J. B. Hadden 2, John Pinfold 3, William C. Dowding 4,  
Herbert C. Spencer 5, Henry H. Fearn 6, Frank E. Haynes 7, George  
E. Fearn (conductor) 8.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.****HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION LUNCH.**

The fifty-sixth annual Henry Johnson Commemoration was held on March 4th at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham. Canon T. Guy Rogers presided and was supported by Mrs. Guy Rogers, Mr. Albert Walker (Master) and Mrs. Walker, Mr. G. E. Fearn (Ringing Master) and Mrs. Fearn, Mr. G. F. Swann (librarian), Mr. H. H. Fearn (auditor), Mr. T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary and treasurer), Mr. Councillor A. Paddon Smith and Mr. J. H. Shepherd (vice-presidents), Mr. F. W. Stevens (Rector's warden), the Provost of Birmingham, Canon S. Blofeld (Vicar of Edgbaston) and Mrs. Blofeld, the Rev. J. R. Hassett (Vicar of Bishop Ryder's) and Mrs. Hassett, Monsignor J. Canon Roskell (Administrator of St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral), Mr. A. A. Hughes, Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. Rupert Richardson and Mrs. Richardson, Mr. J. F. Smallwood and Mrs. Smallwood, Mr. H. Poole, Mrs. Poole and Miss J. Poole, Mr. J. Worth, Mr. D. Vincent, Mr. F. Skidmore and Miss Skidmore, Mr. J. W. Jones, Mr. S. W. Freemantle, Mrs. Freemantle, Mr. F. E. Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Yates, Mr. W. A. Clark, Mr. W. Saunders, Mr. E. C. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bishworth, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Pervin, Mr. F. Price, Mr. and Mrs. W. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. B. Wayman, Mr. J. W. Pemberton, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Dowding, Miss E. Foster, Miss O. M. Sanders, Mr. F. W. Perrens, Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Matkin, Mr. M. J. Morris, Mr. J. P. Fidler and Mr. F. E. Collins and Miss M. Cross. One hundred and twenty persons were present.

The Master of the Society of College Youths, Mr. E. G. Fenn, sent a telegram of good wishes.

Apologies were received from the Vicar of Aston (the Ven. H. McGowan), Mr. J. A. Trollope, Mr. W. T. Froggatt and Mr. T. B. Worsley.

**CHURCH AND STATE.**

Mr. W. C. Dowding proposed the toast of 'Church and State' in a challenging speech. He did not intend to propose the toast in the usual laudatory manner; indeed, he thought there was room for improvement in both Church and State. We were living in serious times, in which the only real hope for the world lay in the spread of the spirit of Christianity to the realms of business and politics. A year or so ago there had been signs that the Church really was trying to give a lead to the world, but since the Archbishop of York had been to Russia very little had been heard from him. Had the Archbishops been told not to make themselves a nuisance? He hoped not, because it was the duty of the Church to fight against the forces of evil just as vigorously as the Russians were fighting against the enemies of society.

Again, the treatment of ex-Service men after the last war had, in his opinion, been disgraceful on the part of both Church and State. He sincerely hoped that it would not happen again, but that the whole Church would make a real effort to bring about improvements in the State so obviously needed.

Canon Guy Rogers, in reply, said that the toast had indeed been proposed in a novel way. He wished to assure Mr. Dowding that the Church really was more alive to the social problems of the day than at any previous time. No longer did the idea of an old Tory squire and parson, surrounded by the village bellringers, give a true picture of the Church. There were to-day numerous organisations, closely connected with the Church, interesting themselves in the social and moral welfare of the country. At times, if it seemed necessary, the Church was prepared even to oppose the State. This, by the way, it had successfully done in the matter of the ban on church bells. Incidentally, the Rector said that the bells of St. Martin's were to be broadcast on Palm Sunday.

On the whole, however, Church and State worked well together—better in this country, in fact, than anywhere else in the world. The Church really was prepared to witness to Christianity and was making genuine efforts; the clergy were, however, only a part of the Church, and needed the support of everybody. He was pleased once again to have the privilege of replying to the toast, which Mr. Dowding had proposed in so vigorous and sincere a manner.

**MEMORY OF HENRY JOHNSON.**

Mr. A. Paddon Smith said that the memory of Henry Johnson had been kept green for more than half a century, not by Birmingham men only, but by ringers from all over the country. He did not ring a great number of peals, but devoted all his spare time to the study of compositions in which he was particularly successful. He died at the good age of 81 years and was laid to rest under the shadow of Aston Church tower, where he did most of his ringing. A memorial stone erected by the ringers of England marks the spot.

A well-struck course of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells by F. E. Haynes 1-2, F. W. Perrens 3-4, A. Walker 5-6, J. F. Smallwood 7-8, G. F. Swann 9-10, F. E. Pervin 11-12.

Mr. F. E. Haynes, proposing 'Continued prosperity to St. Martin's Guild,' said some people might think that because there had been a double change of officers the prosperity of the Guild was diminishing. But it was a sign of strength when a society could change its officials at reasonable intervals and before they became old and decrepit. It showed that there were more than just one or two men capable of filling the positions. It stimulated interest. And it offered encouragement to able men who otherwise might not come to the fore.

For many years the St. Martin's Guild had occupied a position in

the Exercise quite remarkable when is considered the small area it covers and the number of its members. Why was this? Partly, of course, because several outstanding men and first-class ringers had come from Birmingham, but largely, he thought, as a result of something which had been criticised by visitors more than once. It had been said that the St. Martin's Guild can ring only one method—Stedman. True, Stedman has long been a favourite, but it had not brought monotony and decay. Rather it had brought increasing prosperity. In fact, one might reasonably claim it had been the chief cause of prosperity.

Nevertheless, there seemed to be a general tendency to-day to regard Spliced Surprise as the ultimate goal of change ringing, and while he felt they should still keep Stedman well to the fore, he would suggest they might broaden their front and try to include other methods in their activities somewhat more frequently.

**MR. REEVES' GOOD WORK.**

Mr. Haynes paid a tribute to the work of the secretary, Mr. T. H. Reeves. It had always seemed to him a mystery how Mr. Reeves managed to carry out his duties since his business took him away from Birmingham so often. Yet for 16 years he had retained the confidence of the Guild, during which time he had kept it financially strong, and conducted its affairs with unflinching efficiency.

Mr. Reeves, replying, said they were proud of the history of the St. Martin's Guild and the records it had achieved. At the same time, the officers were alive to the needs of the present time. During the past year they had enrolled a number of new members, of which more than half were quite young men. The new Ringing Master, Mr. George Fearn, took a special interest in these young ringers. He thanked Mr. Haynes for the nice things he had said and assured them that so long as he received their support and confidence he would be happy to continue as their secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Albert Walker proposed the toast of 'Kindred Ringing Societies.' He first mentioned that he was the fourth Ringing Master since Henry Johnson. The others were Mr. John Day, 1890 to 1902; Alderman J. S. Pritchett, 1902 to 1941; and Councillor A. Paddon Smith, 1941 to 1944. He welcomed the representatives of the various associations present and referred to the spade work which had been done during the ban on ringing. He hoped as many representatives as possible would be present at the Central Council meeting on Whit Monday.

**THE VISITORS RESPOND.**

Mr. Harold Poole, responding, said the Johnson dinner did not just commemorate the name of one of Birmingham's best ringers, which but for this annual function would not have been remembered at all to-day. It meant far more than that, and for the visitors it was one of the chief events of the year. The visitors were very grateful for the opportunity of coming to Birmingham and mixing with one another. Mr. Poole recalled his first visit to Birmingham one Sunday morning in 1921, when he had his first touch of Stedman Cinques. After ringing he was taken to what he was told was the Thieves' Kitchen somewhere in Bath Street, where for the first time he listened to Stedman Cinques on handbells.

Mr. C. T. Coles said that after Inspector Poole's speech there was little left for him to say. It was a pleasure to respond to the toast, for there was a long connection between Birmingham and London. Canon Guy Rogers was an incumbent in London before coming to Birmingham, and Mr. Albert Walker used to ring at his church at West Ham. Mr. Sam Reeves, a forbear of the present secretary, also rang in London for some years, while Mr. Frank Smallwood had gone to London from Birmingham.

Mr. F. E. Pervin proposed the health of the chairman, Canon Guy Rogers had occupied the position on many occasions and was an ideal chairman. He took a keen interest in the ringers of St. Martin's and the welfare of the Guild.

Canon Rogers, in his reply, stated he was happy to be their chairman, and recalled that his first public appearance in Birmingham was as chairman of that annual gathering.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT BURGESS HILL.**

The annual meeting of the Southern Division of the Sussex County Association was held at St. John's, Burgess Hill, on March 4th, and was attended by about 40 members. Visitors were present from Crayford, Herne Hill and Liss, and a well-known ringing family was represented by four generations in the direct line—Mr. Frank Bennett, Mrs. F. I. Hairs, Mrs. E. A. Barnett and her daughter Jean—as well as by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Barnett, Mr. Frank Hairs and Mr. E. A. Barnett.

The Vicar, the Rev. Eric Marsh, conducted the service and welcomed the members. At the business meeting all the officers were re-elected, and Uckfield was chosen as the place of the next quarterly meeting. A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar and to the hon. secretary for providing tea. Ringing ranged from rounds to Bristol Surprise Major.

**LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.**—On Sunday, February 20th, at SS. Peter and Paul's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: M. T. Symonds 1. A. F. Turner 2. S. Smith 3. S. H. Symonds (conductor) 4. W. R. J. Poulsen 5. W. Jarvis 6. F. F. Mortlock 7. L. Offord 8. Rung fully muffled in memory of F. G. Symonds, who was buried at Southgate, Middlesex, the previous Wednesday at the age of 64.

## PAUL REVERE.

By DR. ARTHUR H. NICHOLS.

(Continued from page 101.)

While Revere adopted the English method of hanging his bells, the bungling sexton has generally bolted a counterweight above the headstock, fancying that by rendering the rotation more slow the instrument can be easily handled. The effect thus produced is in fact the reverse of that intended. Not only is the friction thus created adequate to make the bells more or less unmanageable, but the clapper being thus made to rest upon the sound bow at its impact, interrupts suddenly the sound waves in such a way as to cause sooner or later a fracture. Although such cracking is exceedingly rare in bells properly hung, it has proved the principal mode of destruction of Revere's bells, no less than fifty having met this fate.

The next cause of mortality has been conflagration, again due in most instances to the culpable carelessness of a sexton. Upon one occasion the writer chanced to be passing a stately church edifice, when through a cellar window he could discern a small flame just starting in some woodwork near an overheated furnace. Although a dash of water would have extinguished the fire, access to the interior was impossible, and before fire engines could reach the scene through deep snow, the entire edifice was gutted, with damage estimated at \$80,000. This story, with perhaps slight variation, will describe the loss of forty-one Revere bells. Seventy-seven of his bells are known to survive, though others are doubtless in use.

By the foregoing record it will be seen how little regard has been shown by church officials to the proper care and preservation of Revere's bells, whose superiority is often first appreciated when the attempt is made to replace them. Nor can we hope for any reform in this matter until the care and management of bells is entrusted to bell lovers, as has been the custom in England, where the organised guilds now number more than thirty thousand, supporting two weekly papers, 'The Bell News' and 'The Ringing World,' exclusively devoted to campanology and the achievements of ringers. Under this system towers and belfries, each assigned to a separate steeplekeeper, are kept neat and orderly, while their bells have a lifetime of centuries. In this country, on the other hand, our church officials are indifferent as to the care of their bells, which, like all machinery, should receive constant overhauling and adjustment. Hence we are led to the sombre reflection that in the course of another century, at the present rate of destruction, all Revere bells not preserved as relics will have been lost.

Unfortunately, by reason of an erroneous, narrow-minded conception of their commercial interests, the powerful influence of American founders has hitherto been arrayed against scientific change ringing as practised by the ringing societies of England. While admitting their inability to cast instruments equipped to meet the requirements of skilled ringers, their policy has been to discourage by misrepresentation the importation of foreign bells, upon which, furthermore, a high tariff is imposed. (In accordance with a decision of the U.S. Treasury Department, bells imported by universities, colleges, seminaries and other institutions of learning, to be used for the purpose of instruction in scientific change ringing, are classed as scientific instruments and therefore non-dutiable).

To what extent this opposition has been pushed may be illustrated by a single instance in which a generous offer to install a heavy peal of twelve bells in the lofty tower of the new Boston Custom House, reproducing the famous Bow bells of London, was defeated by the protests of a prominent American firm made before a Congressional Committee at Washington. Thus came to naught a rare and perhaps unique opportunity of introducing the art of scientific ringing upon musical bells, which would have benefited the manufacturers by stimulating the demand for better instruments and perhaps have furnished later employment to thousands.

The following table will indicate the fate of two hundred and twenty bells whose history has thus far been authentically traced:—

Still in use	...	...	...	78
Damaged by cracking	...	...	...	47
Destroyed by fire	...	...	...	39
Destroyed by lightning	...	...	...	2
Preserved as relics in good condition	...	...	...	4
Preserved as relic, cracked	...	...	...	1
Exchanged or sold	...	...	...	20
Recast	...	...	...	2
Disappeared	...	...	...	28

A large part of Dr. Nichols' two little books is taken up by a full and detailed account of every one of the known bells cast by Paul Revere by himself or in partnership with his son. The first list (those cast by Revere himself) contains 46 bells dating from 1792 to 1802. Of them, five are less than 1 cwt. in weight, nine are between 1 and 5 cwt., twenty-four between 5 and 10 cwt., and four are over 10 cwt. For four no weights are given. The heaviest is one cast in 1800, which weighs 11 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb.

The following is the description of Revere's first bell, the weight of which is 8 cwt. 16 lb.: 'For the New Brick Church. It bears the inscription: The First Church Bell cast in Boston, in 1792, by Paul Revere. Many posities may be seen in its haunch, while its sound is of short duration, harsh and panny. Hung in a lofty belfry, it was very noisy and, though rung for fire, the less discordant bell of the New North Church was swung at morning, noon and night. After the destruction of the steeple in the gale of 1869, the bell was removed in 1871 from the tower and stored until sold in 1901 to the St. James Church in Cambridge. The original bell of the New Brick Church raised in 1743 was sold in 1780 and bought for the Third Church in Jamaica Plain. It bore the inscription—Thomas Lester of London made me 1742. Its weight was 342lb. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that in 1792 a bell, still in use, weighing more than one ton, was cast at the Hope furnace in Rhode Island.'

The second list contains the full list of the bells cast by Paul Revere by himself and in conjunction with his son. The number is 398, and the dates are from 1792 to 1828. The majority are less than 10 cwt. in weight, but there are seven between 15 and 20 cwt., and three of over a ton. The largest is one weighing 25½ cwt., cast in 1817. The others are the one at King's Chapel, the account of which Dr. Nichols has given, and another, evidently a replica, which went to Providence, R.I. Both were cast in 1816, and both weighed 21 cwt. 21 lb.

All these bells by Revere are single bells. In no instance did he cast any to be rung or chimed as a peal.



## CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 105.)

The Church of St. Michael, Stewkley, Bucks, dates from the middle of the 12th century, and was given by Geoffrey de Clinton to the Priory of Kenilworth in 1170. The Historical Monuments Commission date it as 1160, the ground floor forming a parallelogram of four rectangles, two belonging to the nave, one surmounted by the tower to the choir, and one to the Sanctuary. The nave measures 48ft. by 22ft., the choir and Sanctuary each 24ft. by 18½ft. The church at Iffley was somewhat smaller, but the proportions have been altered from the original designs by an Early English addition to the chancel. The whole length of the church here is 96ft., at Iffley 104ft. The width between the piers supporting the tower arches here is 14ft., at Iffley 11½ft. The outside measure of the tower here is 28ft. square, at Iffley 26ft. Stewkley tower, standing between Sanctuary and nave, is about 57ft. high, and supported on massive semi-circular arches, springing from piers nearly four feet in thickness, having at the angles circular columns with wrought capitals and bases, each capital of a different design. The west fronts of these arches are richly carved with triple mouldings, the lower ones consisting of beak-heads, cats' heads and grotesque figures, their tongues or beaks lapping over a large head moulding.

The ringing chamber has, in the east wall, opening into the space above the vaulted ceiling of the chancel, a doorway with a round head, which has grooves worn by bell ropes, indicating that some of the bells were rung formerly from the west end of the chancel. Above the west arch of the tower, opening into the nave, is a similar doorway. The bell chamber has, in each wall, an opening with round head, set in the middle of an external arcade of seven bays with interlacing semi-circular arches, chevron moulded and carried on attached shafts.

There are now eight bells, two trebles having been added in 1938. These were given by Mr. Bliss as a memorial to his parents. They were hung by Messrs. White and Sons, of Abingdon. The old six were retuned at the same time. Of these the 3rd was added in 1602 to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII., and is by Mears and Stainbank. The 4th is by Richard Chandler I., of Drayton Parslow Foundry, and is dated 1636. The 5th is probably by Lawrence Wright of the second half of the 16th century. It bears a quaint inscription with unknown meaning, the letters being placed either backwards or upside down. The 6th is by Anthony Chandler, dated 1661. The 7th is by Edward Hall, 1735. This Edward Hall was probably a native of Stewkley, and cast bells between 1726 and 1754. There is an entry in the Register of Drayton Parslow in the handwriting of Dr. John Lord, the then Rector, 'Buried, Edward Hall, poor old Bellfounder, February 9th, 1755.'

The tenor (17 cwt.) is by W. and J. Taylor, 1837. There is also a Sanctus, dated 1686, by Geo. Chandler.

The Central tower of the Priory Church, Great Malvern, Worcestershire, is a reduced edition of Gloucester Cathedral in design. It has one stage less, and the parapet and pinnacles are much more restrained. Its effect, however, is very satisfactory. The extension of the window tracery downwards, forming blind panels in the compartments below, may be compared with the 'long panel' device seen in many Somerset towers. The church is dedicated to SS. Mary and Michael, and belonged to a Benedictine monastery founded here in 1085 by Aldwin. It is now the parish church, but the inhabitants had no interest in the building until after the Dissolution, when it was purchased directly from the Crown for £20. The actual parish church, which has now entirely disappeared, stood at no great distance on the north.

The central tower, 124ft. high, contains 10 bells, i.e., a ring of eight with a tenor 21 cwt., a Sanctus and a service bell. The latter—formerly the 4th of the ring—is by John of Gloucester, c. 1340/50. Sanctus is of no great antiquity. In 1552 there were here 'iiij belles in the steeple a saunce bell a lytle sacrynge bell.' Down to 1887 there were only six bells. When the ring was restored in commemoration of the Jubilee, the old 4th was taken out of the ring to ensure its preservation, and now is only used for tolling for services. The new 5th takes its place, and a treble and tenor were added to make the octave. This work was done by John Taylor and Co. The clappers of the old bells are kept in the church.

The noble Church of St. Mary, Beverley, Yorkshire, was probably founded in the 12th century, and has few rivals in dignity and beauty among the parish churches of England. The western turrets, the south porch and the great east window are noticeable features. The central tower, broad in proportion to its height, is simple in design but good in detail. The parapet and pinnacles form a crown, virtually unconnected with the buttresses. The pinnacles, sixteen in number, arise from the parapet, and consist of corner and median, with intermediate ones of smaller size. At the foot of each pinnacle is a gargoyle, and the rest of the parapet is elaborately incised with arcade patterns. The top windows are large, as is usual in many Yorkshire towers; and the middle stage windows are circular, deep set, with deep mouldings and beautiful tracery. In this tower is a noble ring of ten, all by J. Taylor and Co., 1900, with a tenor 34 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb. in D flat. The ancient 5th bell has been preserved, also the crowns of the old 4th and 7th bells.

(To be continued.)

QUEENBOROUGH, KENT.—On Sunday, February 27th, 720 Bob Minor: W. A. Wood 1, R. Belsom 2, T. Jull 3, F. Belsom 4, L. Wood 5, B. May (conductor) 6. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to the steeplekeeper, Mr. G. Wood, on the loss of his wife, who passed away on February 20th.

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## THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I express my appreciation of your excellent leader of February 4th on the subject of the best ring of bells. I have also read with great interest the opinions expressed by your correspondents, to whom I tender my sincere thanks.

'Lancastrian' was correct in assuming that I required material for publication, and your readers may be interested to know that in addition to Berkshire I have made preliminary surveys of the bells in three other counties, and, God willing, I hope these will duly be published after the war. In contrast to the majority of previous writers of county bell histories I am not solely interested in the archaeology of bells; but, as a ringer, the musical and engineering details of the rings of bells are of equal interest to me, even though my editors sometimes restrict the space which may be devoted to descriptions of these.

The published opinions of ringers on the subject of the best ring of bells has revealed many items of interest, and I sincerely hope that many more ringers will state their views. But if the opinions are to be of real value it is essential that the following details are given: (1) Number of bells in the ring; (2) strike note and weight or diameter of tenor; (3) type of tuning, if known; (4) founders' names if known. Personally, I prefer to hear opinions on 'old standard' (or, as one of your readers stated, 'ordinary') tuned bells, because our modern bell founders can be safely relied on to give us excellent Simpson or harmonically tuned rings.

As 'Lancastrian' stated in your issue of January 14th, no replies to my original letter had then appeared in 'The Ringing World,' but it may be of interest to your readers to learn that many well-known ringers personally gave me their opinions; and, in a subsequent article in 'The Ringing World,' Mr. E. J. Thomas, of Carmarthen, voiced an opinion on the ring of eight bells at Llanstephan in that county. Perhaps ringers are shy of expressing themselves! I quite expected my Berkshire friends who loudly applaud the merits of the Hagbourne and Appletton bells to be writing to you, and I would not have been surprised to see a long letter from my old friend 'Yokel.'

I expect Mr. Coles' reference to Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, was intended for Llanbadarn Fawr, near Aberystwyth, where there is a ring of eight, of which five are by Rudhall, 1749, two by Warner, 1885, and one by Mears and Stainbank, 1924. Llanbadarn Fawr tenor weighs approximately 12 cwt., and sounds the strike note F sharp. The tuning is old standard. These bells are, in my opinion, very sweet toned, but here again the acoustics of the belfry help considerably, for the central tower in which they hang is of huge dimensions; and, as the belfry windows are very small, the volume of sound outside the tower is greatly modulated. In my humble opinion these bells would not be superior to Chewton Mendip, Somerset, but they would rank as the best in Cardiganshire. In the latter county, however, rings of bells are few. Llanbadarn Fawr is the only ring of eight. There is one ring of six, two of four, two of three and eleven of two. Apart from one chime of eight and another chime of six, the remaining churches in Cardiganshire each possess one bell, and the majority of these appear to be hung in a manner calculated to defy inspection by even the most enthusiastic campanologist.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton.

Dear Sir,—In West Somerset, at Ash Priors, Combe Florey and Fitzhead there are three modern rings of six. The tenors of these rings are only about 1 cwt. different in their weights. Two are Taylors (two styles of tuning) and the other is by Mears.

It is possible to stand between these towers (the farthest is just over a mile away) and hear all distinctly ringing at the same time. I must admit I have never heard such lovely bell music from one single tower.

Assuming we now take the bells of Chewton, Ditchet and Twerton (which are as much alike as three peas) and place them in the above towers, I am afraid, if they were ringing together, they would not sound so well as the present ones do.

From a point near Ash Common, within a radius of just over three miles, there are one ring of 8, eight of 6, and two of 5, making a total of 11 rings. If these were all recast and all tuned on the same principle by one founder, I am sure people would soon get tired of them and you would not get ringers to ring them.

Church bells (being open-air music) are, in my opinion, equivalent to the song of the birds, the beauty of which is not confined to one species, but to the combined efforts of all that we hear in our fields and hedgerows.

I have rung or heard most rings of 10 and 12 from Worcester Cathedral to Plymouth, also the three rings of Chewton, Ditchet and Twerton, besides other modern rings of eight in the west and elsewhere—about 300 towers in all. When it comes to saying which is the best, I suppose there are only a few persons able to judge. Surely the best would be found from such rings as Buckfast Abbey, Croydon, St. Paul's, Mancroft, Walsall, York, Beverley or Worcester.

B. T. JEANES.

Bridgwater.

## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Feltham, Saturday, March 18th. Bells 3 to 7.30 p.m. Short meeting in belfry at 5 p.m. Several cafes nearby.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., Perivale 5320.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District. — Annual meeting at St. James', Clerkenwell, on Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Syston, March 18th, 3 p.m. Tea at Mrs. E. Payne's, near church, 5 p.m. Buses from bus station, Abbey Street.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery.—Annual meeting, Saturday, March 18th, at Wilton. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea British Restaurant. Meeting 6 p.m., Club House, St. James' Street.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—Meeting at Belper (8 bells), Saturday, March 18th, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Barnet, Saturday, March 18th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. and during evening.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—Annual meeting, Bridport, Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting 5.15.—C. H. Lathey, Sec., Malmesdon, Bradpole, Bridport.

BRIGHTON.—Practice, Saturday, March 18th, at St. Peter's, 2.30 to 7.30 p.m. Tea interval 4.30 to 5 p.m. No arrangements. Methods, rounds to Double Norwich Caters and Cambridge Royal.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Meeting at Wath-on-Deerne, Saturday, March 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tea in Church House 5 p.m. Service 5.45 p.m., followed by business meeting.—S. F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual committee meeting at Oxford, on Saturday, March 18th, in the Chapter House, Christ Church, at 3.15 p.m.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual meeting at Dudley, Saturday, March 18th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting and light refreshments afterwards.—J. Goodman, Hon. Sec., 45, Holcroft Street, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, March 25th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. Service ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, March 19th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—Annual meeting at Balcombe, Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. Service and meeting. Names for tea by March 21st.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Canterbury District.—Meeting at Whitstable, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea, 1s. Names to Mr. C. C. Dilmot, 75-77, Oxford Street, Whitstable, by March 22nd.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Croft (6 bells), 4.30, on Saturday, March 25th. No tea. Late trains to Hinckley and Leicester.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Eastern Branch.—Annual meeting at Boston, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Business afterwards. Tea can be obtained at nearby cafes.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—Meeting at Rolleston-on-Dove (8 bells), Saturday, March 25th, 3.30 p.m. Bring own food. Cups of tea provided.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Bispham, Saturday, March 25th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Barnley, Doncaster, on Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Buses from Doncaster every ten minutes.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec.

**HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.**—Practice, Saturday, March 25th, 6.30 to 9 p.m. Service ringing Sundays, 10.15 to 11 and 5.50 to 6.30.—Ralph Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—Annual meeting at Reigate, Saturday, March 25th, 3.15 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m., followed by business. Names to Alfred Gear, Sandy Way, Redhill.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Moulton, Saturday, March 25th. Bells 3.30. Service 4.15. Bring food.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting Saturday, March 25th, at Clewer, 3.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tea 1s. Names by March 20th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

**DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Gateshead, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—F. Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grange-town, Sunderland.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Rural Branch.—Meeting at St. Ambrose, Bristol, E., Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Notice for tea by March 22nd.—C. Gifford, Jubilee Cottages, Short Hill, Westerleigh, Glos.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Malins Lee, Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Bus service from Wellington.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—Annual nomination meeting, Armley, Saturday, March 25th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Wednesday, March 22nd. Business meeting to follow.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds 12.

**BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.**—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Weston-super-Mare, Saturday, March 25th, 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea Kalif Cafe, High Street, 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Meeting at Tisbury, Saturday, March 25th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., if notified not later than March 20th.—F. W. Romaine, 41, Green Croft Street, Salisbury.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.**—Meeting at Aston Parish Church, Saturday, April 1st, 3.30. Service 4.30. Tea in Vicarage Room 5.15. Names for tea to Mr. W. Davies, 99, Rosary Road, Erdington, Birmingham, by March 29th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District.—Meeting at St. Paul's, Daybrook, Saturday, April 1st, 2.30 to 8 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea in Church Room. Names to Mr. R. A. Ward, 42, Arno Vale Road, Woodthorpe, Nottingham, by Monday, March 27th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting at Worcester on Easter Monday, April 10th.—J. D. Johnson, Lay Sec.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Dorchester Branch.—Owing to the continued illness of Mr. C. H. Jennings, 59, Portland Road, Weymouth, he is unable to answer any communications in connection with the secretaryship for the present. Any letters, therefore, may be sent to Mr. J. T. Godwin, 10, High West Street, Dorchester.

**UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.**—It is proposed to elect a Central Council representative by postal ballot. Nominations with names of proposers and seconders should reach me by Saturday, April 15th.—J. E. Spice, Hon. Sec., New College, Oxford.

**HENLEY-ON-THAMES.**—On Sunday, February 27th, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: \*C. Coventry 1, P. Aldridge 2, W. Appleby 3, H. Hatto 4, E. Nash (conductor) 5, S. Coventry 6, \*N. Tanner 7, I. Smith 8. \*First quarter-peal.

**SILEBY, LEICESTER.**—On March 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: \*Mrs. Bene-Roberts 1, T. Dexter 2, L. Lovett (conductor) 3, W. Swan 4, W. Draper 5, \*C. Church 6. \*First quarter-peal.

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