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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 1946

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‘Be of Good Cheer’

On Christmas Eve the bells were rung,
On Christmas Eve the Mass was sung.

These lines from Sir Walter Scott’s ‘Marmion’ have been adapted by Martin Shaw for one of those Christmas carols which are indeed a rich heritage in the traditional literature of our country. Christmas is intended to be a festival of rejoicing and goodwill, and that spirit of happiness, whatever the circumstances prevailing in the world at large, should permeate all Christian men and women.

Most of us look forward to our Christmas ringing. There is a thrill as you ascend the belfry stairs on Christmas Eve; a feeling of detachment and away from mundane things. You know in your heart of hearts that, however sharp may be the criticism of bells and ringing among a section of the community, the people at large expect to hear the bells of their parish church at Christmastide. It is an occasion in which the ringer feels that he has an integral part in the happiest of the Church’s festivals, and that thousands are waiting to hear the ‘message of the bells.’

And the Church does not forget her ringers. The Bell Carol, originally written in French, has been translated into English and deserves to be more widely known. It praises ringers, ‘those who built our bell-towers high,’ and enjoins all Christian men to pray and praise and sing. The unknown author in those distant Middle Ages must have known ringers, for he leaves this thought:—

‘Keep in your heart the fire of youth alight,
That he who rings aright
May ring in happy days.’

Thus is expressively told that sense of well-being and joy that comes from a perfectly struck touch. Bells do keep us young of heart, as our columns week by week have testified.

In their heart of hearts we believe that most ringers regard ringing at Christmas as a spiritual act; some take that view, and rightly so, of all their service ringing. But Christmas ringing has its special appeal—the expectation of a great revelation as came to those shepherds on the first Christmas morning. To those who can attune their minds and be conscious of the inner meaning of Christmas the festival is rich in its reward of true happiness.

This true happiness must be expressive. ‘Goodwill to all men’ is no empty phrase; the familiar words are con-

stantly in our minds. We extend to all in the Exercise, whether young or old, our best wishes for a happy Christmas in your Church and in your homes. Ringers are a great Christian fellowship drawn from all classes of society, but they are all knit together with that common bond of happy servitude in the belfry. Thus it comes that the thousand ringers of industrial Lancashire send their greetings to those in Kent, and from the farms of Norfolk go forth the cries of salutation to those in the valleys of South Wales. It is the function of 'The Ringing World' to foster this goodwill and common interest, and we can do it in no better fashion than give the carol which is enshrined in the English countryside and in the English good cheer.

God bless the master of this house,
The mistress also,
And all the little children
That round the table go!

And let it not be forgotten that the table is indispensable at Christmas, whether it be at church or in the home.

TEN BELL PEALS

CROYDON, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Dec. 1, 1946, in Three Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor 36 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lb. in C sharp.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ROYDON DAVIES Treble | JOHN G. SAUNDERS ... 6 |
| *WILLIAM F. OATWAY ... 2 | FRANK E. MITCHELL ... 7 |
| MRS. F. E. COLLINS ... 3 | GEORGE H. HUMPHRIES... 8 |
| †CLAUD DE ST. C. PARKS ... 4 | DANIEL D. COOPER ... 9 |
| *REGINALD ABBOTT ... 5 | FREDK. E. COLLINS ... Tenor |

Composed by CHAS. H. KIPPIN. Conducted by DANIEL D. COOPER.
* First peal of Caters. † First peal of Caters 'inside.' ‡ First peal on ten bells.

PONTEFRACT, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Three Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| BERNARD MOODY Treble | *JACK F. HODSON ... 6 |
| CLEMENT GLENN 2 | WALTER SWALLOW ... 7 |
| JOHN H. LENTON 3 | †DENNIS ROE 8 |
| HARRY C. WALTERS ... 4 | FRED NEWTON 9 |
| JEAN A. SOUTHERST ... 5 | †LESLIE WOODHEAD ... Tenor |

Composed by H. C. WALTERS. Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.
* First peal of Grandsire Caters. † First peal of Caters.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Three Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5041 CHANGES;

Tenor 29 cwt.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| HOWARD HOWELL Treble | *WILLIAM J. LEACH ... 6 |
| BARNABAS G. KEY 2 | GEORGE W. HUGHES ... 7 |
| GEORGE E. OLIVER 3 | ARTHUR V. PEARSON ... 8 |
| ERIC E. SPEAKE 4 | *GEORGE L. RODEN ... 9 |
| ARTHUR BOTTERILL ... 5 | †EDWARD J. WHITE ... Tenor |

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by HOWARD HOWELL.
* First peal on ten bells and first of Stedman. † First peal of Stedman Caters.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt. in D flat.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| WILLIAM ROGERS Treble | REGINALD E. LAMBERT ... 6 |
| ERIC A. DENCH 2 | ERIC B. HARTLEY 7 |
| *ARTHUR S. RICHARDS ... 3 | ALFRED W. DURHAM ... 8 |
| PHILIP A. CORBY 4 | ROBERT T. LAMBERT ... 9 |
| ALAN WHITE 5 | FRANK H. HICKS Tenor |

Composed by R. F. DEAL. Conducted by P. A. CORBY.
* First peal of Grandsire Caters.

BECKENHAM, KENT.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| MRS. R. F. DEAL Treble | FRANK E. HAWTHORNE 6 |
| MRS. ELLEN E. DAVIS ... 2 | *MAJOR D. SATOW, M.C. 7 |
| MRS. C. J. MATTHEWS ... 3 | †FCJL J. MATTHEWS ... 8 |
| ERNEST W. FURBANK ... 4 | BENJAMIN F. BAKER ... 9 |
| GEORGE H. CROSS 5 | GEORGE W. STEERE ... Tenor |

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by GEO. H. CROSS.
* First peal of Stedman and first peal on ten bells.

NORTHAMPTON.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| *RONALD A. PEARSON ... Treble | †GEOFFREY E. WATSON ... 6 |
| †ERNEST E. WHITMORE... 2 | †BERNARD J. SADDINGTON 7 |
| GEORGE CARE 3 | BURLEY P. MORRIS ... 8 |
| PHILIP JONES 4 | WILLIAM R. HAMMONS... 9 |
| ‡WILLIAM J. WHITMORE... 5 | ERIC NOBLES Tenor |

Composed by JAMES GEORGE. Conducted by WILLIAM R. HAMMONS.
* First peal. † First peal on ten bells. ‡ First peal in the method. 25th peal for Eric Nobles. First peal as conductor on ten bells. Rung as a 93rd birthday compliment to the composer.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

ALREWAS, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 30, 1946, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

E. Morris' Transposition of Parker's Twelve-part (2nd the observation).

Tenor 12 cwt.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| *DOUGLAS SANKEY Treble | SYDNEY H. JONES ... 5 |
| JOSEPH WM. COTTON ... 2 | PERCIVAL W. GRICE ... 6 |
| WILLIAM J. LEACH ... 3 | BARNABAS G. KEY ... 7 |
| JOSEPH H. BRITAN ... 4 | *WILLIAM MINOR Tenor |

Conducted by JOSEPH WM. COTTON.
* First peal.

STAPLEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 30, 1946, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Pitstow's Variation. Tenor 22 cwt.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ERNEST SPILLER Treble | LOUIS HEAD 5 |
| DORIS G. DOBBIE 2 | BENJAMIN F. BAKER ... 6 |
| *GEORGE F. CANTRILL ... 3 | WALTER H. DOBBIE ... 7 |
| GEORGE B. COLLINS ... 4 | †HERBERT J. SMITH ... Tenor |

Conducted by LOUIS HEAD.
* First peal of Stedman. † First peal.



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**MEASHAM, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.**

*On Wed., Dec. 4, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,*

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tenor 10 cwt. | |
| *E. CHARLES TURNER ... <i>Treble</i> | *JOSEPH WM. COTTON ... 5 |
| †JOSIAH MORRIS ... 2 | *BARNABAS G. KEY ... 6 |
| *WILLIAM H. CURSON ... 3 | ALFRED BALLARD ... 7 |
| *WM. H. BEADSMOORE ... 4 | ERNEST MORRIS ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by CORNELIUS CHARGE. Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.
* First peal in the method.

**WOODSTOCK, OXFORDSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Thurs., Dec. 5, 1946, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,*

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tenor 15 cwt. | |
| JOHN V. LONSBROUGH ... <i>Treble</i> | †EDWIN G. MOORE ... 5 |
| *HARRY P. FLOYD ... 2 | WILFRID F. MORETON ... 6 |
| BETTY SPICE ... 3 | †CECIL G. CALCUTT ... 7 |
| †THOMAS W. BOND ... 4 | ALAN R. PINK ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.
* First peal of Major. † First peal in the method on an 'inside' bell. † First peal in the method. Rung in honour of the wedding of Lady Caroline Spencer-Churchill and Major Hugo Waterhouse.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*On Friday, Dec. 6, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,*

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tenor 15 cwt. | |
| ARTHUR S. RICHARDS ... <i>Treble</i> | FREDK. A. COLEY ... 5 |
| HARRY HOVERD ... 2 | FREDK. J. CULLUM ... 6 |
| LUCILE M. HUBBERT ... 3 | HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 7 |
| GEOFFREY V. MURPHY ... 4 | PHILIP A. CORBY ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by HERBERT E. AUDSLEY.
The conductor's 100th peal on the bells.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

*On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tenor 14½ cwt. | |
| *DENNIS BLOWS ... <i>Treble</i> | †REGINALD F. FUNNELL ... 5 |
| *JAMES R. FLEETWOOD ... 2 | ARTHUR C. CHAPLAIN ... 6 |
| JOHN H. CRAMPION ... 3 | †JOHN ARMSTRONG ... 7 |
| †THOMAS A. LAYBOURN ... 4 | FRANK V. GANT ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by JOHN ARMSTRONG. Conducted by JOHN H. CRAMPION.
* First peal. † First peal of Major.

NEWPORT, MON.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

*On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.*

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tenor 15 cwt. | |
| J. J. PARKER'S Six-part. | |
| *BRUCE WILSON ... <i>Treble</i> | GEORGE LARGE ... 5 |
| JOHN W. JONES ... 2 | ALFRED W. HEATH ... 6 |
| MRS. LESLIE BAINHAM ... 3 | ROBERT E. R. SMITH ... 7 |
| REV. IVOR J. RICHARDS ... 4 | LESLIE F. G. BAINHAM ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Conducted by R. E. R. SMITH.

* First peal. First peal on the bells since their rehanging and rededication in November. Rung as an 81st birthday compliment to John W. Jones, who has been captain of the tower since the bells were first installed in 1902. This is his 519th peal.

EAST MEON, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tenor 19½ cwt. | |
| EDWIN S. SMITH ... <i>Treble</i> | AUBREY D. MILLS ... 5 |
| CHARLES E. BASSETT ... 2 | JOHN S. WALTON ... 6 |
| *ARTHUR H. FISHER ... 3 | FREDK. W. BURNETT ... 7 |
| †CECIL C. WRIGHT ... 4 | JOHN H. HUNT ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by JOHN H. HUNT.
* First peal of Major. † First peal of Bob Major.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

*On Fri., Dec. 6, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EBBE,*

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

| | |
|---|--|
| Tenor 4½ cwt. | |
| FRANCES A. EDGAR (L.M.H.) ... <i>Treble</i> | †FRANCES M. MARTIN (St. Anne's) ... 5 |
| *†KATHLEEN HIGGINS (L.M.H.) ... 2 | J. A. BEAUMONT (Christ Church) ... 6 |
| BETTY SPICE (Sommerville) ... 3 | †H. VON DER HEYDE (B.N.C.) ... 7 |
| ††C. J. DICKINSON (Magdalone) ... 4 | WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's) ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by BETTY SPICE.
* First peal of Major on tower bells. † First peal in the method. † First tower-bell peal. First peal of Treble Bob as conductor.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,*

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tenor 12½ cwt. | |
| MAURICE HODGSON ... <i>Treble</i> | ALBERT W. COLES ... 5 |
| EDWIN BARNETT ... 2 | HARRY HOVERD ... 6 |
| JOSEPH BENNETT ... 3 | THOMAS J. LOCK ... 7 |
| *EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 4 | CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.
* 50th peal this year.

EPSOM, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

*On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,*

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Tenor 11½ cwt. in F sharp. | |
| Parker's Twelve-part. | |
| CHARLES POTHECARY ... <i>Treble</i> | DANIEL D. COOPER ... 5 |
| JOSEPH W. LINNITT ... 2 | GEORGE H. HUMPHRIES ... 6 |
| *MISS JOYCE ENGLAND ... 3 | FREDK. E. COLLINS ... 7 |
| ROYDON DAVIES ... 4 | WILKINS MASSEY ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Conducted by FREDERICK E. COLLINS.
* First peal.

SOUTHPORT, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

*On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,*

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Tenor 10 cwt. | |
| FRED ALMOND ... <i>Treble</i> | THOMAS HORRIDGE ... 5 |
| ARTHUR TOMLINSON ... 2 | *ERNEST J. GOWER ... 6 |
| THOMAS HAMMOND ... 3 | *ALBERT MORLEY ... 7 |
| HARRY ANDERTON ... 4 | JOSEPH RIDYARD ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by W. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.
* First peal in the method. First in the method as conductor. Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. David Marland and Miss Christine Honeyburne, daughter of the churchwarden, Christ Church.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Three Hours,
AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF ST. CHAD,*

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb. | |
| GEORGE GARDNER ... <i>Treble</i> | THOMAS W. SHEPPARD ... 5 |
| *L. MICHAEL CALLOW ... 2 | JOHN W. TAYLOR ... 6 |
| †JOHN W. T. TAYLOR ... 3 | LEONARD TREVOR ... 7 |
| HUBERT G. SUMMERS ... 4 | WILLIAM A. STOTE ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by F. HOPGOOD. Conducted by WM. A. STOTE.
* First peal on eight. † First peal of Bob Major.

SUTTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

*On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,*

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tenor 16 cwt. | |
| STANLEY E. BENNETT ... <i>Treble</i> | FRANK DEWEY ... 5 |
| HAROLD BARSLEY ... 2 | JOHN T. NEWINGTON ... 6 |
| NEVILLE HOLLINGWORTH ... 3 | WILLIAM E. CLARKE ... 7 |
| CYRIL WANDER ... 4 | JOHN G. AMES ... <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.
First peal in the method by all the band.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 30, 1946, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Single Oxford and Reverse Canterbury and three 720's of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 11 cwt.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| *DERRICK KING Treble | *DR. A. CUNNINGHAM ... 4 |
| FREDK. PRECEY 2 | WILLIAM C. SHUTE ... 5 |
| LIONEL H. PINK 3 | HAROLD E. WHITE ... Tenor |

Conducted by H. E. WHITE.

* First peal of Minor in three methods. Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar, the Rev. F. C. Whitter.

BURGH, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Tues., Dec. 3, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. BOTOLPH AND ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising two 720's each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob, with different callings. Tenor 8 cwt.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| LEWIS J. LAST... .. Treble | FREDK. J. CRAPNELL ... 4 |
| CHARLES CLARKE 2 | SILVIA R. E. PIPE ... 5 |
| GEORGE A. FLEMING ... 3 | PHILIP C. BICKNELL ... Tenor |

Conducted by SYLVIA R. E. PIPE.

Rung with bells half-muffled as a token of respect to William C. Rumsey, who was interred at Debenham the same afternoon.

BARNBY DON, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Dec. 3, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 10 cwt.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| LEONARD GERRARD ... Treble | THOMAS D. LEASK ... 4 |
| ERNEST THORLEY 2 | JAMES THORLEY 5 |
| J. MARTIN THORLEY ... 3 | CHARLES THORLEY ... Tenor |

Conducted by CHARLES THORLEY.

KEMPSEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Dec. 4, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob Tenor 19½ cwt.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| GEORGE AMBLER Treble | DENIS R. MORRIS ... 4 |
| RONALD H. DOVE 2 | *ERNEST F. CUBBERLEY ... 5 |
| GEORGE E. LARGE 3 | THOMAS W. LEWIS ... Tenor |

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First seven-method peal 'inside.'

CHARING, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Dec. 5, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE COURT BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 13½ cwt.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| WILLIAM J. HENNIKER ... Treble | WILLIAM J. LANCEFIELD ... 4 |
| THOMAS CULLINGWORTH 2 | MARK S. LANCEFIELD ... 5 |
| RICHARD J. LANCEFIELD... 3 | ALBERT J. LANCEFIELD ... Tenor |

Conducted by MARK S. LANCEFIELD,

First peal in the method by all the band.

LITTLE HOUGHTON, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.
(Northampton Branch.)

On Fri., Dec. 6, 1946, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London, New Grand sire, Antelope, April Day, Canterbury Peasrope, Plain Bob and Grand sire. Tenor 12 cwt.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| SIDNEY WILKINS Treble | JACK DAVEY 3 |
| GEORGE CARE 2 | PHILIP JONES 4 |

*LESLIE BATTISON Tenor

Conducted by PHILIP JONES.

* First peal away from the treble. Rung to welcome the new curate of Little Houghton and Brafeld, the Rev. G. E. B. Scott.

HANDBELL PEALS

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Tues., Dec. 3, 1946, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT 19, HOLYWELL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| *P. C. WRIGHT (Univ.)... 1-2 | W. F. MORETON (St. Jn.) 5-6 |
| BETTY SPICE (Sommerville) 3-4 | †C. J. DICKINSON (Mag.) 7-8 |

Composed by FRANK HOPGOOD (C.C.C. No. 32.)

Conducted by BETTY SPICE.

* First handbell peal and first peal of Bob Major. † First peal.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Wed., Dec. 4, 1946, in One Hour and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT 92, ETWALI ROAD, HALL GREEN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| GEORGE E. FEARN 1-2 | EDGAR C. SHEPHERD ... 3-4 |
| RICHARD J. B. HADDEN... 5-6 | |

Conducted by RICHARD J. B. HADDEN.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME, STAFFS.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Dec. 4, 1946, in Two Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

AT 76, DIMSDALE VIEW, PORTHILL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| *FRED WILSHAW 1-2 | R. S. ANDERSON 5-6 |
| ANDREW THOMPSON ... 3-4 | GEO. W. BIDDULPH 7-8 |

Composed by T. WORSLEY. Conducted by R. S. ANDERSON.

* First peal of Major on handbells.

LEICESTER.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,

IN THE VICAR'S VESTRY, ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 1-2 | ERNEST MORRIS 5-6 |
| CHARLES MARSHALL 3-4 | JOSIAH MORRIS 7-8 |

Composed by E. MORRIS Conducted by W. P. WHITEHEAD.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

IN ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH VESTRY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| DANIEL T. MATKIN 1-2 | ALBERT WALKER 7-8 |
| FRANK W. PERRENS 3-4 | GEORGE F. SWANN 9-10 |
| FRANK E. PERVIN 5-6 | FRANK E. HAYNES 11-12 |

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE RECTORY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 | JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... 5-6 |
| JOHN THOMAS 3-4 | THOMAS W. LEWIS ... 7-8 |

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

A wedding compliment to Miss Kathleen M. Johnson (youngest sister of the ringers of 1-2, 5-6, and sister-in-law to ringers of 3-4, 7-8) and Mr. W. G. Hunt.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,

IN TRINITY COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| R. F. B. SPEED (Cam.) ... 1-2 | *D. N. LAVTON (London)... 5-6 |
| P. K. WILLIAMSON (Cam.) ... 3-4 | S. F. DARMON (Cam.) ... 7-8 |
| and London) 3-4 | †D. M. J. GRAY (London) 9-10 |

Composed by E. M. ATKINS (Cam.). Conducted by R. F. B. SPEED.

* First peal of Royal and first peal on ten handbells. † First handbell peal and first peal on ten bells. First peal on ten bells as conductor.

ALVERSTOKE.—On Dec. 1st, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Mrs. G. W. Tamplin 1, E. A. Jurd 2, A. D. Mills 3, R. E. Turner 4, P. Speck 5, J. H. Hunt 6, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 7, F. G. Barron 8. First quarter in the method for treble and 5th.

AYLESFORD, KENT.—On Dec. 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. Homewood 1, Margaret Green 2, W. Linksted 3, J. Homewood 4, L. S. John Hatcher (conductor) 5, J. Upton 6, L. Wells 7, A. Green 8.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—On Dec. 1st, at St. Mary and All Saints', 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1, Dorothy Fletcher 2, D. Lamb 3, Rev. R. Routh 4, J. Howard 5, R. Buckland 6, A. Levett 7, S. Hatfield 8. Rung as a farewell to the Rev. R. F. R. Routh on his last Sunday in the parish.

BOSTON, LINCS.—On Dec. 1st at St. Botolph's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Lorna Briggs 1, A. Freeston 2, D. White 3, S. Jessop 4, W. E. Clarke 5, F. Leggott 6, F. Dewey (conductor) 7, H. Harper 8.

BROCKENHURST, HANTS.—On Dec. 6th, 1,260 Doubles (480 Plain Bob and 780 Grandsire): Stella Purkess (first quarter) 1, Myra Tiller 2, Brian Tiller 3, J. Hull 4, R. E. Tiller (conductor) 5, Beryl Purkess (first quarter) 6. The ringers of 1, 2, 3 and 6 are all under 17 years. Believed to be the first quarter by an entirely local band since 1930. First in Doubles for ringers 2, 3 and 5, and first as conductor.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.—On Advent Sunday, 1,260 Plain Bob Triples by the local band: Miss G. Murkitt 1, Miss J. M. Broomfield 2, Miss M. R. Jaycock 3, Miss M. Pemberton 4, C. A. Burgess 5, Miss J. Hearn 6, G. Gilbert (conductor) 7, Miss F. D. Murkitt 8. First post-war quarter in the method by the St. Peter's Society. First in the method by 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8.

COOKHAM, BERKS.—On Dec. 7th, in Holy Trinity belfry, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, W. Judd 3-4, G. Martin 5-6, Dorothy Fletcher 7-8.

QUARTER PEALS

CHELMSFORD, ESSEX.—At the Cathedral Church of St. Mary on Dec. 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Allen 1, E. J. Ruiter 2, Miss A. White 3, A. Hume 4, H. Bradley 5, H. Devenish 6, R. Clark (conductor) 7, R. C. Thrift 8.

CHISWICK, MIDDLESEX.—On Dec. 7th at the Church of St. Nicholas, 1,260 Grandsire Triples from Holt's Original: J. R. Mayne (conductor) 1, P. M. Mayne 2, W. Paice 3, C. C. Mayne 4, R. Biggs 5, A. H. Harding 6, W. Lea 7. First quarter as conductor on tower bells, aged 13.

CLERKENWELL, LONDON.—At the Church of St. James on Dec. 1st, 1,264 Bob Major: W. D. Prockson (first quarter of Major) 1, Miss M. A. Prockson (first quarter of Major) 2, R. Charge 3, G. A. Parsons 4, A. W. Coles 5, J. Bennett (conductor) 6, C. Potheary 7, H. W. Clarke 8.

GRIMSBY, LINCS.—On Dec. 1st at St. James', 1,260 Stedman Triples: C. Kennington 1, J. Parker 2, S. Broomfield 3, J. Kennington 4, A. Swain 5, A. Cook 6, A. Pashley (conductor) 7, H. Hadwick 8.

GLASGOW.—At St. Mary's Cathedral on Dec. 1st, 1,260 Stedman Triples: L. Bounphrey 1, R. M. Preston 2, H. F. Sargent 3, R. Clouston 4, A. E. Haynes 5, T. Winderam 6, C. Barker (conductor) 7, E. A. Stafford 8.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES, SURREY.—On Dec. 1st, 1,260 Bob Major: L. R. Trusser 1, G. A. Peck 2, H. W. Barrett 3, H. Hofton (first quarter in method) 4, W. H. Seabrook 5, G. W. Morris 6, H. G. Andrews 7, F. E. Hawthorn (conductor) 8.

LEICESTER.—At the Church of St. John the Divine on Dec. 4th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Ward (first quarter on eight) 1, A. Catell 2, J. Bennett (first quarter on eight) 3, S. Harrison 4, W. H. Clarke 5, J. Bramley 6, G. O'liffe (conductor) 7, G. Grant (first quarter) 8.

OATLANDS, SURREY.—On Dec. 1st, 1,280 Bob Major: Joan Smith 1, E. Armstrong 2, Mary Cole 3, F. Hoppood 4, C. W. R. Grimwood 5, R. Lathbury (conductor) 6, J. B. Hessey 7, W. Shepherd 8. First quarter of Major by 1 and 3.

PYTCHELEY, NORTHANTS.—On Nov. 25th, 10 six-scores of Plain Bob and 60 changes of Grandsire Doubles: A. G. Ketcher (first quarter) 1, B. H. E. Brown (first quarter inside) 2, G. S. F. Brown 3, P. I. Chapman (first quarter) 4, C. E. Brown (conductor) 5.—On Dec. 2nd, four six-scores and 60 changes of Grandsire and six six-scores of Plain Bob Doubles: A. M. Thompson (first quarter) 1, B. H. E. Brown 2, G. S. F. Brown 3, P. I. Chapman 4, C. E. Brown (conductor) 5.

STONEY STANTON, LEICS.—At St. Michael's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: John Smith (first quarter) 1, H. Briggs (first quarter inside) 2, J. H. Bailles (conductor) 3, G. Ball 4, R. Tipler 5, A. Jarrom (first quarter) 6.

STONY STRATFORD, BUCKS.—On Dec. 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Hurst 1, W. Dillow 2, A. May 3, H. C. Edwards 4, E. Yates 5, T. Trasler 6, E. C. Lambert (conductor) 7, A. Yates 8. Rung for confirmation service and also a birthday compliment to E. Yates on reaching his 79th anniversary.

TRING.—On Dec. 4th, 720 Oxford Bob Minor: D. Cartwright (first 720) 1, F. J. Reeve 2, F. C. Reeve 3, R. W. Metcalfe (first in the method) 4, E. H. Lewis (conductor) 5, W. H. J. Hotton 6.

WALMER, KENT.—On Dec. 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Mantle 1, P. Wood 2, T. Wickens 3, C. Turner 4, E. Firminger 5, E. Walker 6, F. Rye (conductor) 7, E. Axon 8. First quarter of Triples for 1, 3 and 5.

WICKEN, NORTHANTS.—At St. John the Evangelist's on Dec. 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. Ayres (first quarter) 1, F. Case 2, J. Green, sen. 3, G. Holland (first quarter) 4, R. Grainge 5, W. Yates 6, T. Roberts (conductor) 7, J. Green 8.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

'THE RINGING WORLD'

*The Official Journal of the Central
Council of Church Bell Ringers*

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EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

*'The Ringing World' was founded in the year
1911 by John Sparkes Goldsmith, who remained
its proprietor and editor until his death in 1942.*

Great Bedwyn, Wilts, still defies those who would score their first peal there. Mr. A. Pat Cannon tells of the difficulties in our news columns. Before the war he rang three 720's here, when the clapper of the 5th fell out.

Fifty peals have been rung this year by Edwin A. Barnett and John Pinfold.

The peal of Minor at Finchley, Middlesex, on Dec. 7th, was rung by a local band whose total ages are 326 years.

To call Grandsire Caters at the age of 18 is a privilege enjoyed by very few ringers. William R. Hammons had this honour at Northampton on December 7th.

The peal of Doubles at Burton-on-Trent on November 11th was rung at St. Paul's Church and not the Parish Church as published.

It is still not too late to send that Christmas gift of a year's subscription of 'The Ringing World' to your ringing friend. Send name and address and 17s. to Mr. H. J. Eldred, 26, Springfield Road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth.

Guilford Diocese have now two greatly improved rings of six at Dunsford and Merrow. Both these rings have been rehung and re-dedicated. At Send, near Woking, it is hoped to provide six bells as a war memorial.

Good wishes for a well-earned retirement are extended to the Rev. E. S. Powell, of Staverton Vicarage, Daventry, who is resigning his living on Dec. 31st, and also the Mastership of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild. The Rev. and Mrs. Powell are making their new home at East Stoke Lodge, Stoke-under-Ham, Somerset. He has been Vicar of Staverton since 1933, having previously held the livings of Clyst St. George, Exeter, 1929-33, and Holberton, Devon, 1906-28. To the Exercise in general he is best known as the author of 'The Ringer's Handbook.'

BELFRY GOSSIP

Congratulations to W. Paice, aged 13, who called 1,260 Grandsire Triples from Holt's Original at St. Nicholas', Chiswick, on December 7th. Is he the youngest conductor?

The sympathy of ringing friends is extended to Mr. Albert Walker, who has been bereaved by the death of his eldest brother.

The Essex Regimental Association propose that their war memorial shall take the form of a peal of bells in the regimental chapel at Warley.

To the list of blind ringers must be added the name of Geoffrey Grant, who at the age of 16 has just rung his first quarter on the tenor at St. John the Divine, Leicester. He started to learn to pull a bell in June this year as a pupil of Mr. S. Harrison, Ringing Master of the tower. Good luck, Geoffrey, and many more quarters!

Members of the Ely Diocesan Association have found a virgin tower at Hockwold-cum-Wilton, Norfolk. After scoring the first peal on the bells on December 7th, they were entertained to refreshments at the home of Miss D. Reeve, one of the local ringers.

The bells of Allesley Parish Church, Warwickshire, will be broadcast on the Midland wave length on Christmas Eve at 8 p.m., on Christmas Day between 9.20 and 9.30 a.m., and on Sunday, January 26th, at 7.45 p.m., followed by evensong.

Congratulations to Messrs. C. S. Bird and E. R. Gladman, who have completed 50 years as ringers at Heston, Middlesex. The event was honoured on December 7th by 1,260 Grandsire Triples, rung by H. C. Chandler 1, M. V. Chilcott 2, D. F. G. Thomas 3, W. W. Webb 4, J. Sansom (first quarter in method) 5, J. E. Chilcott (conductor) 6, E. R. Gladman 7, W. J. Winter 8.

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MUFFLES

Etc.

LOOKING BACK SIXTY YEARS

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

The first committee meeting of the North Notts Association took place at Worksop on Saturday, April 16th, 1887. Those present were Mr. R. Beeston, Worksop; Mr. N. Hunt, West Retford; Mr. S. Joynes, East Retford; Mr. D. Russon, Shireoaks; and Mr. Mackie. Another committee meeting followed at Worksop on Saturday, November 10th, at which the Rev. H. T. Slodden, of Worksop, was elected secretary. There were four towers affiliated to the association, East and West Retford, Anston and Shireoaks.

At the first meeting it was proposed to hold the first ringing meeting at East Retford on May 28th, but no record of its taking place is to hand. At the November meeting a ringing meeting was proposed for December 1st at Worksop, but again there is no confirmation of the meeting being held. Meetings took place quarterly until 1923 and then every two months until about 1935, when they began to take place monthly.

The Rev. H. T. Slodden was secretary until 1895, when the Rev. B. Darley, of Harthill, took over until 1912. By 1894 there were some 130 members and a dozen towers attached. There appears to have been good bands at Harthill, Shireoaks, Anston, Blyth, West and East Retford, Bawtry, Everton, Barlborough, and Ordsall, and names like G. Brown, T. Laking, J. White, N. Hunt, C. Crawford, H. Haigh, H. Stenton, F. Fowler, F. Hargreaves, C. Beeston and others seem to have been in the front as early as 1886.

The first peal rung was Grandsire Triples at East Retford, conducted by H. Haigh, on March 21st, 1893. This was followed on October 20th, 1894, by 5,003 Grandsire Caters in the same tower, conducted by J. B. Joynes. The first peal of Minor to be rung was by the Shireoaks band; this was in seven Treble Bob methods on January 25th, 1896, conducted by W. Hargreaves. Within a month—on Feb. 18th to be precise—the Anston band, conducted by F. Fowler, had a similar performance of a peal in seven Treble Bob methods. As the peal book was only presented in 1895 by the Rev. B. Darley, it is not known if there were any peals before these.

One of the rules made in 1901 was that ringing at meetings on eight and ten bells be allowed up to 45 minutes and on six bells to 30 minutes. This accounted for the great number of 720's rung at meetings. It is good to know that such a rule does not exist to-day at meetings.

NOTEWORTHY PEALS.

The first peal of Bob Major to be rung was at East Retford on November 1st, 1900, conducted by J. B. Joynes, followed eight days later by a peal of Bob Royal with the same conductor; 5,008 Kent Major was rung in the same tower on November 1st, 1901, conducted by J. B. Joynes, and 5,040 Kent Royal on November 10th, 1902, conducted by H. Haigh.

Stedman Triples was rung at East Retford on November 1st, 1904, conducted by J. B. Joynes, and 5,079 Stedman Caters on December 13th, conducted by H. Haigh. On December 10th, 1907, the Anston band rang 6,120 Treble Bob Minor in nine methods, conducted by H. Stenton. On April 9th, 1910, the Anston band rang 6,480 Treble Bob Minor in nine methods, conducted by F. Fowler.

The first Surprise Minor peal in seven methods was also rung at Anston on December 31st, 1911, conducted by H. Stenton. On February 3rd, 1913, Mr. J. Segar, jun., of Retford, tapped on handbells 5,040 changes in ten methods for the first time. On Wednesday, February 5th, he tapped 7,200 changes, a 720 of ten methods. Again, on September 3rd the same year, he tapped a peal of Surprise Minor in seven methods in the ringing chamber at South Anston. Handbell peals of Minor were also rung by Retford members during 1915 and after, and one of these included a peal of Bob Minor non-conducted on July 3rd, 1916. During 1924 the Anston band rang 104 720's in 100 methods; the year after they rang 103 720's in 103 methods.

MR. H. HAIGH'S WORK.

In 1912 Mr. H. Haigh became secretary and held office until 1929. Born at Ordsall on September 22nd, 1866, he first learnt to ring a bell at ten years of age. It was not until 1886 that he was invited to join the East and West Retford Amalgamated Society as a pro-

bationer. As he did not get the chance to do any conducting then, he often walked to Gainsborough and back, a distance of 20 miles, and soon could call a quarter of Grandsire Triples. Many times we are told he would walk 18 or 20 miles to practise Treble Bob on six bells.

In 1906 he went to live at Worksop, where he formed a new band and help to get the bells rehung, which, sad to say, badly need rehanging again. His death took place on January 7th, 1932, and he was brought and laid to rest at Ordsall, the place of his birth.

Mr. R. W. Stockdale followed as secretary from 1929. Born at Ordsall in 1869, he started work for his grandfather, Mr. W. Bowman, of East Markham, as a joiner and wheelwright, and learnt to ring under Mr. W. Freeman in East Markham tower; later he joined Ordsall tower. His keenness and good work for the association will ever be remembered by all who knew him. His end was tragic; he was returning home after attending the dedication of the new bells at Blyth on October 2nd, 1935, when he collided with a lorry while riding his motorcycle. He never regained consciousness and died on October 4th. He was laid to rest in the churchyard at Ordsall near the bells he loved so well, and many ringers attended to pay their last tribute to one who had won a place in so many hearts.

In 1927 a silver cup was given by Mr. A. Crawford, of Rampton, in memory of his father. This was to be rung for annually and is for the best struck 360 changes.

21 AFFILIATED TOWERS.

In 1938 there were 21 affiliated towers and half-dozen unattached towers. Peal total is not high compared with some guilds, about 250 having been rung in most of the standard methods. The record number was in 1937 when 34 were rung.

The association was fortunate in having Canon R. F. Wilkinson as representative on the Central Council from 1925 until 1940, when he took up duties at West Bridgford. His interest and advice on bells has been the outcome of many restorations in the district.

Mr. R. Towler, of Ordsall, took over the secretaryship from 1935 until the war began, when meetings came to an end. The association was inactive during the war and many towers have not yet got back to strength.

In 1945 Mr. H. Denman was made secretary and it is a pleasure to record that things are looking brighter. With the forming of a new Southwell Guild and the North Notts becoming the Northern Branch, it should be much easier to work than in the past. The formation of the Newark District will take some of the towers which in the past have been out of the reach of Northern members. It has just been learnt that the four-bell tower of Rampton is to have six next year—another addition to North Notts Branch. So after 60 years we say good-bye to the North Notts as an association and look forward to greater strength with the Southwell Guild. H. D.

SWANSEA AND BRECON GUILD

About 20 members attended the annual district meeting at Cadoxton on December 7th from the towers attached to the Guild, including unattached members and visitors from Cardiff and Wigan.

The Vicar (the Rev. E. Ishmael) took the service, the curate, the Rev. Mr. Morgan, gave the address, and Mrs. Jones was the organist. Tea was served in the Church Hall, and the business meeting followed with the Vicar in the chair. Mr. F. Stith was re-elected district secretary. Mr. T. M. Roderick was elected auditor.

Methods rung reached five Surprise Minor.



East Retford Church

COMMENTS ON QUESTIONS BEFORE THE EXERCISE

'Prize this great gift'

Dear Sir,—May I say how much I agree with Mr. Post, but, unlike Mr. Post, this idea is not new to me. It has always been my contention that we, who are fortunate enough to be able to ring and especially to ring well, should truly prize this great gift. We should always consider it a great honour as well as a duty to ring regularly for Sunday service, and then go on to help in the church service as much as possible.

Having been born into a family who love their church, my greatest joy at the moment is in the band of young ringers I am now training at Uxbridge. Their ringing isn't yet anywhere near the standard I'm hoping for, but in every other way they are a perfect band of young people. All of them are communicating members of the Church and we join together in corporate Communion quite regularly. Several of them are also in the choir. They are always in the front of any effort to help the church, and I must say they appear to be the exception to the general rule of young people these days, who seem to think of themselves first every time. Yet how can we blame the young people of to-day, who, after all, are only following the example set by their elders?

So surely it is up to we older ringers to set a good example in all ways to the young people we hope to draw into the great ringing fellowship and into the Church. Goodness knows, the world in general and our own small ringing world needs some Christians to give it a right perspective again. When all ringers ring firstly for the glory of God and then secondly for their own pleasure and not vice versa, we shall see our beloved art come into its golden age, both in the standard of ringing and the quality of the ringers.—Yours truly,

EDNA BEDFORD (Miss).

Uxbridge, Middlesex.

'Missing Something'

Dear Sir,—I can imagine that quite a number of readers of 'The Ringing World' will not take kindly to what appeared in the issue for December 13th from the pen of Mr. Richard A. Post. It has occurred to me many a time to ask, what would be thought of those of us who hold office as sidesmen or churchwardens if we did as many ringers, go in church just to take the plate round or give books out, and walk out again?

In far too many cases the ringer is all too fond of excusing himself (and a poor excuse it is) that he is different from those performing other duties in the work of the church; that his is an act of worship in itself, or that to tuck another hour on to three-quarters of an hour's ringing is asking too much. But who among any choir, vergers or organists would look at their job from that angle—and surely singing in a choir or playing the organ is just as much an act of worship as ringing bells? And how often do we hear of the vergers or churchwarden, who have to be in church for some time both before and after the service, grumble about stay of time?

Let us remove all 'bottle-necks of vision and slums,' as it were, in this as we should in any structural buildings of a similar character, to broaden the outlook: then no one can say that we or ringing will be any the worse for it. We shall see (as others do) that we are missing something, just as the parson who installs a synthetic bell's apparatus is, or like a case in my own town where a recording of 'The Messiah' is being given in church from gramophone records. This makes me ask, 'What is the Church coming to?'—Yours sincerely,

P. AMOS.

Northampton.

The Battle Ahead

Sir,—I must compliment you on the excellent article you wrote in condemnation of electrical substitutes for bells, and fully agree that for ringers 'there is a very real battle ahead.'

An item in our local Press regarding our bells drew a most objectionable letter from a member of the public, and was followed next week by a paragraph in the same vein from a columnist in the same paper who has a very large following.

The writer of the letter asks:—

'What other group of people are so utterly selfish that they allow their hobby to disturb the peace of the town day after day. . . .? The belief that the general public enjoy Stedman Triples and Double Norwich Court Bob Majors is entirely erroneous. There are few noises more objectionable than the ringing of bells.'

'With the introduction of cheap watches we no longer need bells to tell us the time, and since so few people attend religious services, Sunday peals are nothing but an imposition on the majority of the population.' The local columnist expresses his agreement with the writer quoted above and adds:—

'Perhaps, like him, I am just allergic to that Sunday morning mournful, monotonous clanging. Some people, I'm told, actually enjoy it!

'Even so, since there is now a by-law against loud radios, I can see no logical reason why this clangorous cacophony should be allowed to deafen the anti-campanologists just because the bells are situated in a church.'

Those among us who regard our bellringing as more than an enjoyable pastime have an answer to these accusations, but how best can we supply it without incurring more public wrath?

You, sir, write that 'the public and the Church have to be educated.' How can one deal with a public antagonistic to bells, which at the same time accepts without a murmur the din of aeroplanes, motor horns, pneumatic drills and other disturbing accompaniments of the present era? Perhaps the Central Council or some of your readers can furnish the answer—the public must certainly have it or ere long the bells will only be rung subject to by-laws, if not actually silenced.—Yours faithfully,

W. BIRMINGHAM.

Periam, Slough, Bucks.

GOSPEL OAK MEMORIES

Dear Sir,—I saw in this week's 'Ringing World' an account of the meeting at St. Martin's, Gospel Oak. It brought many memories to me, as I knew personally nearly all the men whose names are on the tablet. I rang my first 720 Kent there with some of them 45 years ago.

I used to go there to ring when in London with the late George Hollis, of Chesterfield. He used to belong to the Gospel Oak and the Star Street band when he lived in London before going to Chesterfield. W. J. Nudds called the 720 Kent. I used to go and visit Dick Bevan when he lived in Rocheford Street, Kentish Town. We used to ring at Star Street at 9 o'clock Sunday mornings and then go on to Gospel Oak.—Sincerely yours,

Edenham, Lincs. ARTHUR I. HOLMES.

ARTHUR KNIGHTS' No. 377

Dear Sir.—If Mr. E. W. Pve will refer to your issue of August 16th, 1935, he will see that Arthur Knights' No. 377 of Treble Bob Major was rung at Crayford a week previously. Whether this was the first occasion I do not know, but it was rung again—also as Sliced Kent and Oxford—prior to Mr. Pve's peal last August. This was on handbells by the Oxford University Society.—Yours sincerely,

Crayford, Kent.

E. A. BARNETT.

Christmas Eve Broadcast

Dear Sir,—East Hagbourne, a charming North Berkshire village, is to provide material for a Christmas Eve broadcast at 6.30 p.m. The script has been prepared by Mr. John Bridges, of the B.B.C., and the principal features of the broadcast will be the lovely peal of eight from the old village church of St. Andrew being rung to Stedman Triples by the local band; carols and part of a Nativity play by the R.A.F. (Levant) Male Voice Choir, who had the honour of broadcasting from Jerusalem and Bethlehem on Christmas Day, 1942. A Christmas message will be given by the Vicar (Rev. H. A. Smith Masters).—Yours faithfully,

A. H. WEBB, Tower Foreman.
East Hagbourne, Berks.

COMPOSER WANTED

Dear Sir,—A few weeks ago, wanting a simple peal of Bob Major, I called the following:—

| | 5,040. | | |
|-------|--------|---|---|
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Eight times repeated, omitting the bob at Middle, except in 4th and 7th parts.

Having no access to my books, I published the peal without a composer's name. It is so simple and obvious that it must have been thought of many times before. Can any of your readers put a name to it?—I am, yours, etc.,

FDWIN H. LEWIS.

Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

OXFORD PEAL TABLET DEDICATION

A peal tablet, recording a peal of Grandsire Triples rung in June in commemoration of the inauguration of the 'Friends of the Church,' was unveiled and dedicated in the tower of Burford Parish Church, Oxford, by the Vicar (the Rev. R. F. S. Tucker) on Dec. 1st. Three leads of Grandsire Triples were rung during the service.

Afterwards 504 Grandsire Triples were rung by J. Collett 1, B. J. Forest 2, B. S. Nichols 3, T. S. Stratford 4, I. D. Harris 5, T. Timms 6, W. J. Dixon (conductor) 7, G. R. Miles 8, and 504 Stedman Triples by I. D. Harris 1, J. Kevte 2, W. J. Dixon 3, F. W. Soden 4, B. S. Nichols 5, T. Timms 6, F. Soden (conductor) 7, G. R. Miles 8.

PEAL ATTEMPT AT GREAT BEDWYN

On Saturday, December 7th, six tough ringers met at Great Bedwyn. With to attempt a peal on the fine toned, but heavy going, bells at this beautiful church. There are many difficulties to overcome, viz., excessive noise (sallies go round the wheels), no window in the ringing chamber, very odd struck bells, particularly the 5th and tenor, which are odd-struck the opposite way about. The 5th has to be pulled level with the 4th in rounds at back-stroke, and the tenor has to be pulled before the 5th at hand-stroke! And the weight of the tenor is 28 cwt!

All went well until the end of the fifth 720, when indisposition prevented one of the ringers continuing. The 3,600 of Minor was rung as follows: 720 Cambridge Surprise, 720 each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and two 720's of Plain Bob. The ringers were: N. J. Diserens 1, A. Diserens 2, E. R. Banley 3, R. W. Rex 4, W. B. Kynaston 5, A. P. Cannon (conductor) 6.

After the attempt the local ringers and their wives very kindly invited the visitors to tea in the Church Hut, which was much appreciated by everyone. Another attempt is to be made in the near future.

Salisbury Diocesan Guild

WEST DORSET BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the West Dorset Branch was held in Bridport on December 7th, some 45 members attending from Beaminster, Bovington, Bradpole, Bridport, Evershot, Hawkechurch, Lyme Regis, Netherbury, Portland and Thorncombe, with visitors from Yeovil and Sgt. P. Toccock, on leave from India.

Service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Rector (Canon L. Bartlett), who also gave a welcoming address. Mr. B. Esworth was at the organ.

Tea was rather a crowded affair at a nearby restaurant, but amply served, and afterwards the company adjourned to the Church House for the business meeting, presided over by the chairman of the branch, Rev. C. Carew Cox.

In presenting the accounts, the hon. secretary (Mr. C. H. Lathey) urged that returns and subscriptions from affiliated towers might be sent in before the end of November in order to ensure his being able to complete the accounts—which he had never yet been able to do—in time for the annual meeting. Ten towers were at the moment defaulters.

All the officers were unanimously reappointed and the following new members were elected: Miss Robinson (daughter of the late Rev. F. E. Robinson) now resident in Bridport, Mrs. H. Vine, Messrs. E. T. Rose, S. Samways and B. Stringer from Evershot, Roger Keeley (aged 12) from Lyme, and Mr. C. F. Guy, of Portland. Mr. H. D. W. Bishop (Ringing Master) mentioned that Mr. W. Groves had a record of 50 years' service as a ringer at Evershot.

Quarterly meetings were arranged to be held at Burton Bradstock, Whitechurch Canonorum and Thorncombe. A suggestion to hold monthly combined practices was approved. Hawkechurch, Beaminster, Bradpole and Netherbury being towers to be visited.

The Chairman expressed pleasure at the larger attendance and referred to signs of increasing activity in the branch. Some towers, as Hawkechurch and Thorncombe where keen young bands were coming on, needed visits of instruction, and he hoped members would make efforts to help them from time to time.

Warm thanks were accorded Canon Bartlett for his welcome, to the organist and to Mr. C. H. Lathey for his successful arrangements.

The ringing during the afternoon and evening ranged from rounds and call changes to Grand sire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Double Norwich Major.

WIMBORNE BRANCH.

The annual branch meeting was held at Wimborne on December 7th. Over 50 members took part in ringing upon the ten bells and attended the service and tea and business meeting.

The Rev. T. W. Page Phillips welcomed the members and gave a most interesting address at the service, taking for his text the inscription on the 16½ ton bell in St. Paul's Cathedral, 'Woe unto me if I preach not the Gospel.' He urged the members to always have these words in their minds when ringing.

At the meeting the whole of the officers were re-elected, though the chairman, Canon Eddrup, and the rest of the officers all expressed the wish that younger members should take up the offices of the branch.

The Rev. C. A. Phillips (secretary) called the attention of the members to the ringers' rally to be held in Bournemouth in January.

The collection at the service was for the restoration of the bells at St. Thomas', Salisbury, this with the donation of £1 from the Guild members at St. John's, Bournemouth, and a grant from the funds was brought up to £4.

It was hoped that the Rev. R. F. R. Routh, who had just come to the living of St. Ambrose's, Bournemouth, from Beaconsfield, would be joining the members in their meetings shortly.

The next meeting will be held at Wareham on January 11th.

Guildford Diocesan Guild

FARNHAM DISTRICT AT SEALE.

A large number of ringers from a wide area attended the meeting of the Farnham District at Seale on November 30th and enjoyed this musical ring of six. Mr. E. Gardner, the local captain, had made the arrangements, and in the unavoidable absence of the Ringing Master, Mr. R. Hasted (Farnham), the hon. secretary, Mr. C. Denyer, supervised the ringing. Two ve towers were represented, Ash, Aldershot, Bentley, Farnham, Farnborough, Godalming, Bagshot, Clanton, Guildford (Cathedral), Worplesdon, Pirbright and Seale, and a variety of Minor and Double methods were rung.

The Guild's form of service was held in church and conducted by the Rector (the Rev. E. D. Ginever), who himself is a ringer. The choir, which consists mainly of local ringers, led the singing, and the Rector carried out the duties of organist. In a brief address the Rector welcomed the visitors to Seale and spoke of the importance of the work of the ringers, who, like St. Andrew, whose festival it was that day, were called to serve God and in turn to call others to His service.

By kind permission of Lady Buckingham, tea was served in the squash court at Seale Lodge and over sixty sat down. The meal was prepared and served by Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Cass and Mrs. Mott, and following the meal a short business meeting was held. Lady Buckingham, who visited the gathering, was elected as an honorary member of the Guild. In reply, Lady Buckingham thanked those present and said she would probably take up ringing and become a practical member at Seale. Other members elected were the Misses Jean Whitcombe and Joyce Withers, of Aldershot.

Major H. J. Cann, on behalf of the company, expressed thanks to the Rector, Lady Buckingham, Mr. Gardner and to the tea hostesses. A special vote of thanks was extended to an anonymous resident who generously gave the tea, and a collection for the Guild Benevolent Fund realised £1 10s 2d.

Handbell ringing followed and later the gathering returned to the belfry, where further ringing took place, the bells being lowered in peal at 9 p.m.

NEW MASTER FOR LEATHERHEAD DISTRICT.

A meeting of the Leatherhead District was held at Dorking on December 7th, when about 50 ringers attended from Addlestone, Aldershot, Banstead, Carshalton, Chertsey, Clanton, Dorking, Epsom, Ewell, Godalming, Guildford, Hugglescote (Leics.), Kingston, Newdigate, Leatherhead, Sha'ford, Thames Ditton and Westminster. Ringing commenced at 3 o'clock with a service, conducted by the Rev. L. Starey, at 4.15. Tea was enjoyed at the Mad Hatter Cafe.

Mr. A. Harman (Master of the Guild) presided at the business meeting, held in the Church Room. One new member, Mr. Fordham, was elected. Mr. H. N. Pitstow was nominated as Ringing Master, as Mr. A. J. Adams found it impossible to carry out the duties, and the Rev. F. Page as representative on the General Committee. The rest of the retiring officers were renominated.

The business concluded with votes of thanks to the Rev. L. Starey for the use of the bells, for taking the service and for coming to tea, and Mr. G. Coldman for making the arrangements.

As the members left the room a collection was taken for the Grundisburgh Bell Restoration, which amounted to 19s.

The bells were again made use of until nearly 9 p.m., methods ranging from Grand sire Triples to London Surprise, with rounds for some beginners unused to heavy bells.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS.—On Dec. 1st, 1,260 Grand sire Triples: H. Bristow 1, Miss D. Sands 2, H. V. Good 3, D. Cook 4, W. C. Hughes (conductor) 5, A. G. Cook 6, H. Gates 7, E. Upton 8.

Yorkshire Association

WESTERN DIVISION AT EARLSHEATON.

The quarterly meeting was held at Earlsheaton on December 7th, and in spite of the wintry conditions about 30 members were present from the following towers: Almondbury, Batley, Bradford Cathedral, Burney, Denholme, Guiseley, Haworth, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Huddersfield, Id'e, Liversedge, Pudsey, Queensbury, Sowerby and the local company.

Despite a broken rope at the start, the bells were kept going in a variety of methods from Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise. An excellent tea was served in the schools, and through the generosity of Mrs. Dransfield no charge was made.

Mr. P. J. Johnson presided at the business meeting, and apologies for absence were received from Canon Marshall and Miss L. K. Bowling.

There were no new members for election. It was unanimously agreed to accept the invitation from Keighley to hold the next meeting at that tower. This will be in March of next year.

For reasons which were not apparent, there was an absence of younger members; perhaps they were busy preparing for their Christmas festivities, but it did give the old 'uns a chance to indulge in ringing rather more than is their wont. The collection to Belfry Repairs Fund amounted to 14s. 6d.

TWO NEW RINGS SOON READY.

News that two new rings of six bells at Carlton and Hutton Cranswick will soon be ready for dedication was announced at the quarterly meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association, held at Cottingham on December 7th. Over 50 ringers attended from Barton-on-Humber, Beverley Minster and St. Mary's, Bridlington, Goole, Hessle, Howden Hull, Kirk Ella, Market Weighton, Nunburnholme, Patrington, Pocklington, Scarborough, Selby, Sutton-on-Hull, York and the local company, and also the Vicar of Hutton Cranswick (the Rev. G. Storer).

After an excellent tea the business meeting was held with Mr. A. H. Fox, the vice-president, presiding. Two new members were elected—Messrs. L. Straker, of St. Mary's, Beverley, and D. Forth, of York Minster. The next meeting is to be held at either Goole or Thorne in March.

The usual votes of thanks were passed, and a collection for the Bell Repairs Fund of the association realised £1 5s.

TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD

SHORTAGE OF INSTRUCTORS.

A meeting of the Penzance Branch of the Truro Diocesan Guild was held at Crowan on November 30th, when 70 ringers attended from Camborne, Carbis Bay, Towednack, Zennor, Cury, Kenwyn, Wendron, St. Hilary and the local band. Also present were the Revs. W. H. R. Trewella (diocesan secretary) and F. R. S. Byfield (Zennor).

The Rev. H. J. Shewes, Vicar of Crowan, conducted the service, and the address was given by the Rev. A. S. Roberts (district secretary), who acknowledged the excellence of Cornish rounds and call changes, but spoke of the interest which could be found in method ringing. He exhorted the members generally to try to make progress in method ringing, and suggested the 'teing up' of three or four bells and beginning from the most elementary stages. This was essential because of the great shortage of instructors.

Mr. Hugh Dunstan took the chair in the absence of Miss Eileen Synon (president of the Guild), and St. Keverne was chosen for the next meeting.

An excellent tea was provided, everyone finding a large Cornish pasty on his plate to begin with. A hearty vote of thanks was expressed to the Vicar and Mr. Bourdeaux (local captain) for the splendid welcome. The eight bells were made full use of.

Christmas Greetings

Christmas greetings and every good wish for a happy and prosperous New Year to all ringing friends.—From Mr. and Mrs. F. Bradley, 60, Dame Agnes Street, Nottingham.

Sincere greetings and best wishes for 1947 to all ringing friends.—Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs, 'The Oaks,' Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all ringing friends from Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bray, Trentwood, Burton-on-Stather, Lincs.

To the Rev. D. P. Roberts, Elm-bank Road, Liverpool 15.—Wishing you a happy Christmas and a bright New Year.—From the bellringers, St. Chad's, Norton-in-Hales, Shropshire. Archie Harrison, Captain.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all ringers everywhere.—E. Stitch, 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam. Swansea and Brecon Guild (Southern District).

To 'The Ringing World' and all ringers, greetings from C. H. Webb, Coventry.

Hearty Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all ringing friends.—From Hubert Hatto, Henley-on-Thames.

To all my friends of the Exercise, all best wishes for Christmas, and may the New Year bring you happy days.—T. J. Fowler, Cookham, Berks.

Major H. J. Cann sends Christmas greetings to all ringing friends, especially those in the South and West of England whom he met during the war, and in particular to those members of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers who gave him such a pleasant outing across Dartmoor in July.

A happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to all ringing friends is the sincere wish of A. E. Austin, Sunny View, Woodditton Road, Newmarket.

Christmas greetings to J. W. Jones and all my old friends at All Saints' and St. Woolos', Newport, Mon.—Kenneth W. Knowles, Wednesbury.

The season's greetings to all ringing friends at home and overseas.—From Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson and Mrs. E. M. Wayman, Glyn Garth, Surfleet, Spalding.

John E. and Mrs. Allen wish all old ringing friends, both at home and in South Africa, a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.—Virginia Cottages, Donington, Spalding, Lincs.

Hearty good wishes for Christmas and New Year to East Norfolk Branch and all my ringing friends.—J. Harwood, Sec., 189, Palgrave Road, Great Yarmouth.

Christmas greetings and good wishes for the coming year to all our friends.—Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Key, 10, Grange Street, Burton-on-Trent.

Greetings for Christmas and good wishes for the New Year to all my ringing friends.—From Mr. Frederick White, 142, Stephens Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Greetings and best wishes for Christmas and a prosperous New Year.—From Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Swann, 5, Heathlands Road, Sutton Coldfield.

Hearty greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all ringing friends at home and overseas.—Wm. T. Elson, 59, Pursers Cross Road, S.W.6. Here's to the next meeting!

A happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all ringing friends is the sincere wish of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pulling, Royal Grammar School, Guildford.

To J. W. (Jim) Dixon, Trincomalee, Ceylon, the season's greetings and every good wish. We are all thinking about you.—Love from Mum, Dad, Edna, Bernard and all Burford ringers.

To all Sunday service ringers from the age of nine to ninety-nine, and all of those very young first pealers, 'the season's compliments.' 'Stick it.'—Geo. Gilbert, Burnham, Bucks.

Christmas greetings from Eaton Socon ringers to Messrs. Harding, Bell, F. and W. Lack, Chamberlain, Miss Pettit and all others who have assisted us in learning method ringing.—L. J. Clarke.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Wright, of Shimpling, send Christmas greetings and good luck, health and happiness in the New Year to all their ringing friends, especially those now serving overseas.

Joint Meeting at Hillingdon

On November 30th, the Middlesex Association and the Oxford Diocesan Guild held a joint meeting at Hillingdon. About 50 ringers were present from many towers, including Beaconsfield, Cookham, Ruislip, Old Windsor, Maidenhead, Farnham Royal, Clewer, Cranford, Heston, Ealing, Bushey, Hartington, Uxbridge, Acle (Norfolk) and Swindon. The bells of both St. John's and St. Andrew's were available during the afternoon and evening and methods rung (or attempted) included Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Plain Bob, Kent, Kent and Oxford Spliced, and Cambridge Royal, and Spliced Surprise in four methods.

An excellent address, based on the example of the life of St. Andrew, was given by the Vicar, the Rev. A. M. Bashford, when he conducted the service. He directed many of his remarks to new recruits to the Exercise, emphasising the brotherhood that existed among ringers.

Tea and cakes were provided by the local ringers and served in St. John's Hall by Mrs. Goodfellow, Mrs. Coles and others. At the subsequent informal meeting Mr. W. H. Coles announced that the Rector of Acton had invited the Middlesex Association to his church on February 1st, when a peal tablet would be unveiled by the Rev. L. Hodson, Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

Tokens of esteem and affection were expressed when the best wishes of the meeting were given to the Rev. R. F. R. Routh, chairman of the local branch of the Oxford Guild, who was leaving Beaconsfield for Bourne-mouth, to which Mr. Routh suitably replied. Misses M. V. Ashford, J. E. Martin, D. A. Bird, P. G. and E. M. Goodfellow, and Messrs. C. Ashford, R. M. Ashford and M. Coles, all of Hillingdon tower, together with eight members of the Hillingdon tower, were elected members of the Middlesex Association.

It was announced that the six bells at Hillingdon would shortly be augmented to eight, and that the Middlesex Association had been invited to ring the opening peal. The usual vote of thanks was accorded to all who had contributed to the comfort and enjoyment of the visitors.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER.
Annual and quarterly subscribers are reminded that subscriptions become due on January 1st.

With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year to all my ringing friends.—George R. Newton, 57, Amptill Road, Liverpool 17.

To all friends, greetings for Christmas and the New Year.—Charles J. Sedg'ey, 61, Belvedere Road, Ipswich.

Christmas greetings to all ringing friends of Arthur A. Holmes and W. A. Holmes, of Edenham, Lincolnshire.

To all our ringing friends, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, is the sincere wish of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Colclough, Hall Park Street, Bilston, extend their best wishes for Christmas and New Year to members of Dudley Guild and all ringing friends.

NOTICES

The charge for one insertion of a notice of a meeting is *one penny per word, minimum 2s.* For additional insertions with no change, one half above charge for each insertion.

Other notices one penny per word, minimum 2s. 6d.

All notices must be prepaid.

SILVER WEDDING

BRADLEY—SPRAY.—On Dec. 26th, 1921, at Holy Trinity, Lenton, by the Rev. Felix Asher, Frank to Catherine. Present address: 60, Dame Agnes Street, Nottingham.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE

For sale, SET of eight **HANDBELLS**, by Taylor; in excellent condition and in baized oak box.—Jenkins, Lewcombe, Evershot, Dorset.

Seventeen second-hand **HANDBELLS**, all complete and in good order, with case. Bells as follows: Large size: A (18), B (16), C (15), D (14), E (13), F (12), G (11). Smaller size: A (10), B (9), C (10), D (7), E (6), F (5), G (4). Small size: A (3), B (2), C (1). £25 or nearest offer.—Miss G. Shuttleworth, Rose Cottage, Water Lane, North Hykeham, near Lincoln.

RINGING AT ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL on the third Saturday every month, commencing on Dec. 21st, from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.—B. W. May, Hon. Dis. Sec., Rochester District.

YORKSHIRE ASSN.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting, Whiston, Saturday, Dec. 21st. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. All welcome.—J. J. L. Gilbert.

DERBY AND DISTRICT ASSN.—Derby District.—Meeting at Ripley, Saturday, Dec. 28th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Meeting in belfry 6 p.m. Own tea arrangements, cafes nearby.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Next meeting, Whitechapel Bell Foundry, Saturday, Dec. 28th, 3 p.m. Ringing after the meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishops-gate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Hellingly, Saturday, Dec. 28th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names, please, to John Downing, 128, Elphinstone Road, Hastings.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSN.—Quarterly meeting, Sat., Dec. 28th, Sutton-in-Ashfield (8). Come and ring out the old year. Bells available 3 p.m. Bring own food.—J. W. Price.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Annual meeting, Saturday, January 4th. Ringing at St. Martin's, 4 to 6 p.m. Meeting at Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.15 p.m. prompt.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSN.—Cheltenham Branch.—Annual meeting at St. Mary's, Cheltenham, Saturday, Jan. 4th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea by invitation to those only who notify W. Dyer, 69, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham, by first post, Thursday, Jan. 2nd.—S. Taylor.

KENT ASSN.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting Edenbridge (8), Jan. 4th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Names for tea should be sent to me not later than Dec. 28th.—R. A. Whitehead, Sec., Leigh, near Tonbridge, Kent.

ESSEX ASSN.—N.E. Division.—Annual district meeting, Saturday, Jan. 4th, at Thorrington (6). Bells available 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Meeting in Church Room 5 p.m. Bring own food; cups of tea provided.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Park Farm Cottages, Shimpling, Bury St. Edmunds.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOC. OF CHANGE RINGERS.—The 75th anniversary of the formation of the society falls in February, 1947. Any old members who have not been circularised about the celebrations taking place in Oxford over the weekend, February 1st-2nd, and who would like further particulars, are asked to communicate with me before Jan. 1st.—Betty Spice (Master), 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD

Forty members attended the quarterly meeting of the Dudley and District Guild at St. Giles', Wilenhall, on December 14th. The service was conducted by the curate, who welcomed the party in the unavoidable absence of the Vicar. Tea and meeting followed.

The annual meeting is to be held at Dudley in March.

Essex Association

REOPENING OF ROMFORD BELLS.

Forty members and friends attended an informal meeting of the South-Western Division of the Essex Association, held at Romford, by kind invitation of the Vicar (the Rev. E. C. Baxland), on November 30th, to mark the re-opening of the bells.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, and in his address he gave the visitors a very warm welcome and expressed his delight on hearing the bells of his church again after such a long term of inactivity.

After service the visitors were entertained to tea in the Church Hall by the Vicar. In moving a vote of thanks, the District Master (Mr. J. Chalk) referred to the leading part Romford had played in Essex ringing circles in the past, and expressed the hope that a new band would arise to carry on that grand tradition.

In response, the Vicar thanked the Master for his kind words, and added that at the moment they had 14 very keen volunteers under the guidance of Mr. E. J. Butler, and were confident they would soon be making themselves heard.

Ringling was resumed after tea and methods rung ranged from Grandsire to Bristol Surprise.

MEETING AT HALSTEAD.

A meeting of the Northern District was held at St. Andrew's, Halstead, on December 7th, when some 30 members were present from Braintree, Bocking, Halstead, Wickham St. Paul's, Black Notley, Pebmarsh, Great Baddow, Stansted, Great Bardfield, Shimpling and Bures.

A bountiful tea was served in St. Andrew's Hall, and the business meeting followed under the chairmanship of Mr. L. W. Wiffen (District Master). One honorary and six ringing members were elected. The next meeting, which will be the annual district, will be at Braintree on January 18th. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar (the Rev. A. W. Swallow) and the ladies for providing the tea.

Afterwards the members attended evensong at the church, and the collection for the Bell Restoration Fund amounted to 11s. 6d. The bells were made good use of during the afternoon and evening, also there was some hand-bell ringing.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN CLARK

The death occurred on December 2nd, at the age of 86, of Mr. John Clark, of Ross-on-Wye, who will be remembered by many of the older ringers.

As a lad he learned to ring at Ross, and later became foreman of the tower, succeeding Mr. J. G. Wall. He was a member of the Hereford Diocesan Guild in its early years and served on the committee. After the Guild was divided into districts Mr. Clark acted as secretary of the Ross district for about 18 years. He also represented the Guild on the Central Council for several years, and in 1939 was elected a vice-president of the Guild.

In his best days he was an excellent ringer in the four standard methods, and 35 years ago might have been classed amongst the best half-dozen ringers in the diocese. He was equally good on a light or heavy bell, and was a greater stickler for good striking. In a peal he could always be depended on to do his best, but would soon begin to groan and complain if the striking was not up to standard. He himself did not know the exact number of peals he had rung, but he had taken part in 109 peals for the Hereford Diocesan Guild.

He was a life-long member of the Ross Church choir, and its members attended at his funeral on December 6th, as well as Mr. W. T. Poston, Ross district secretary, and other ringers. A wreath was sent on behalf of the Guild and District.

Mr. Clark's wife had predeceased him by only a fortnight. W. P.

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