THE RINGING WORLD

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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FALLEN BY THE WAYSIDE

MR. FRANK E. HAYNES, the Master of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham, made an earnest appeal at the Henry Johnson commemoration dinner for a concerted drive to get the many experienced ringers who had deserted the tower back into ringing again to fill the gaps in local towers. The idea has much to commend it. In many a village today there are enough trained ringers outside the tower to ensure that the bells are manned on Sundays.

What are the causes of men and women leaving the belfry, especially in regard to Sunday ringing? One cause is the young family at home and the wife naturally turning to the husband to expect him to help on his free day. The responsibilities of a family have to be borne equally by husband and wife. 'I can't leave the wife to struggle with two young babies under three,' a ringer once remarked to the writer when questioned about his Sunday attendance. And frankly, there is no satisfactory answer. The wife has a right to help and companionship on such occasions. The only answer that can be given is 'Come when you can. You know we miss you.' The occasional attendance becomes eventually complete absence, the Guild subscription is not paid and another ringer falls by the wayside. These casualties include good, sound ringers whose names have frequently been in our peal columns—men whom most bands would rejoice to have with them.

How can they be recovered when it is known that their family ties are less pressing? Throughout the period of their absence they should not be lost sight of. A friendly word in the street when passing, telling them occasional items of belfry gossip; for a man when he is proficient in an art and has attained that proficiency probably by years of practice has still a personal interest, unless his leaving is due to one of those unpleasant circumstances that are apt to occur in all walks of life. The time comes when it is appropriate to make an approach. 'We are one short for some special ringing,' or 'Will you spend an evening to help with learners as so-and-so cannot come?' The direct appeal to his ability to be of use often succeeds. The occasional ringing gradually becomes more frequent, until the enthusiasm of old is rekindled.

Another cause of loss, particularly on Sundays, is the first motor car and the enthusiasm for the new toy. The rush 'to go places' and the Sunday by the seaside at times plays havoc with a band. These cases often arise when the wife is a non-ringer. The only hope for the tower captain is that the keenness for the new toy will rapidly pass. But here again, contact should not be lost; sometimes the suggestion of a lift to a distant ringing meeting is helpful. The great thing is to maintain the contact and, if possible, the friendship. Those in charge of towers have to be born diplomats.

The hardest breach of all to surmount is the quarrel. At times this arises from outside the ringing chamber, an aside by the parson or a church official that disturbs the individual's personal vanity. More frequently, however, these disturbances originate from inside the belfry—youth and aged do not always see eye to eye. A sarcastic young conductor has caused many a gap in the belfry. Elderly men, perhaps not in the front rank of ringers, have left with sad hearts, feeling they are not wanted. Within a year or two the young conductor has left for another town or village. Even then it is difficult to entice the ringers back; these wounds with those getting on in years are deep. These are occasions when the parson's aid might justly be sought.

There are many towers in this country, especially in towns, where the individual ringers are not known to the clergy. The head ringer and tower secretary are known but the individuals constituting the band are not. We are very largely the unseen workers of the Church, and it is only in small communities where each individual is known. Knowing something of the duties of a rector in a busy town church, with the many calls upon his time and a constantly changing staff, we cannot see how it can be otherwise. The problem of recruitment is one in which we can expect the clergy and other church workers to help, but that of wastage and winning back is the ringers' special responsibility. Fortunately for the Exercise we have a solid backbone of men and women dedicated to our art; but there are towers where leadership is not in the hands of a burning enthusiast who is also a born diplomat. The solution to the wastage problem cannot be found by committees or national direction. Its answer is in the town, village and ringing district. The finest servants of the Exercise are those 'revivalists' who by personal enthusiasm can come to a tower and provide that leadership—often by the recruitment of a new band. There are many examples. But even if the reader is just one of the rank and file he can make his contribution by regular attendance, the willingness to give his friendship to young and old, and that quiet influence, often without a spoken word, that is a characteristic of a true Christian character.

TEN BELL PEALS

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Fri., Feb. 21, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 38 *Minutes,*
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,
A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL
Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in C.

JOSEPH W. COTTON	*Treble*	*RICHARD F. PRIME	6
DEREK P. JONES	2	ALFRED BALLARD	7
ERNEST W. RAWSON	3	JOHN A. ACRES	8
J. FREDERICK MILNER ..	4	G. RONALD EDWARDS ..	9
PHYLLIS POOLE	5	PETER J. STANIFORTH ..	*Tenor*

Composed by STEPHEN IVIN. Conducted by PETER J. STANIFORTH.
* First peal of Royal.
Rung as a welcome to David Michael Brown, son of Michael and Kathleen Brown, of Sapcote, Leicester.

READING, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., March 1, 1958, *in* 3 *Hours and* 30 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,
A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL
Tenor 23¼ cwt

RONALD F. DISERENS ..	*Treble*	FREDERICK R. SCOTT	6
MRS. P. LEWINGTON ..	2	JOHN N. DISERENS	7
R. GEORGE MORRIS	3	FRANK W. LEWIS	8
REGINALD W. REX	4	GEORGE E. EVENDEN ..	9
GEOFFREY K. DODD	5	DAVID BEACHAM	*Tenor*

Composed by H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by RONALD F. DISERENS.
Rung as a wedding compliment to Noel J. Diserens and Helen M. Brant.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

OVERSEALE, DERBYSHIRE
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.
On Mon., Feb. 10, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 35 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,
A PEAL OF 5024 OVERSEALE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 1 lb. in A flat.

RICHARD J. CLIFTON ..	*Treble*	JOHN A. ACRES	5
PHYLLIS POOLE	2	J. FREDERICK MILNER ..	6
ERNEST W. RAWSON ..	3	JOSEPH WM. COTTON ..	7
PETER J. STANIFORTH ..	4	DEREK P. JONES	*Tenor*

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.
First peal in the method.
A birthday compliment to Mr. D. Staniforth, father of the fourth ringer.

WALSALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Mon., Feb. 17, 1958, *in* 3 *Hours and* 3 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
Parker's Twelve-part (seventh observation). Tenor 8¼ cwt.

*PAMELA M. GILL	*Treble*	†ROGER BARKER	5
GEORGE W. HUGHES ..	2	HOWARD HOWELL	6
†M. JILL FISHER	3	ERNEST STITCH	7
P. GEORGE GOLDER	4	ARTHUR T. DUTTON	*Tenor*

Conducted by ERNEST STITCH.
* First peal. † First of Grandsire Triples.
Rung for the second anniversary of the induction of the Vicar, and the birthday of James S. Eastwood.

BLACKBURN, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 3 *Hours and* 13 *Minutes,*
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES
Heywood's transposition. Tenor 25 cwt.

M. JOHN HALLIWELL ..	*Treble*	GEOFFREY S. MILLS	5
BRIAN A. TOMLINSON ..	2	SELWYN H. DEARDEN ..	6
NORMAN SMITH	3	IVAN KAY	7
HAROLD HAMER	4	PHILIP J. H. HUDSON ..	*Tenor*

Conducted by IVAN KAY.
Birthday compliments to Audrey Hamer, daughter of the fourth ringer, on her coming-of-age, and to Selwyn H. Dearden.

CRANBORNE, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 3 *Hours and* 3 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND BARTHOLOMEW,
A PEAL OF 5056 BELGRAVE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 17½ cwt.

COLIN CONWAY	*Treble*	MICHAEL J. BEST	5
MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY	2	LEWIS F. COBB	6
*KATHLEEN E. FLETCHER ..	3	FRANK L. HARRIS	7
HERBERT H. ABRAHAMS ..	4	RONALD N. MARLOW	*Tenor*

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by FRANK L. HARRIS.
* 100th peal of Surprise Major. First peal in the method for all.
In memoriam Frederick Precey.

DRIGHLINGTON, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 3 *Hours and* 8 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 15½ cwt.

SIDNEY H. BARRON	*Treble*	ALBERT W. BOND	5
HAROLD BARRON	2	GEOFFREY CROSSLEY	6
CYRIL F. SUTCLIFFE	3	JOHN PEARSON	7
W. GEORGE TURNER	4	MAURICE BROWN	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN PEARSON.
A compliment to S. H. Barron on completing 50 years as captain and towerkeeper at the above church.

DURSLEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 56 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES-THE-GREAT,
A PEAL OF 5056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 19 cwt. 2 qr. 9 lb. in E flat.

*MICHAEL T. SPRACKLING	*Treble*	DAVID HEIGHTON	5
*PATRICK J. BIRD	2	ANTHONY W. T. CLEAVER	6
*TUDOR P. EDWARDS ..	3	J. HENRY GILBERT	7
*FRANK D. MACK	4	PHILIP M. J. GRAY	*Tenor*

Composed by E. W. TIPLER. Conducted by PHILIP M. J. GRAY.
* First peal in the method. First in the method as conductor.

EATON-SOCON, BEDFORDSHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 48 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5024 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 14 cwt. in F sharp.

*WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN ..	*Treble*	*†M. SUSAN JACKSON ..	5
STELLA HUGHES	2	JOHN G. GIPSON	6
†GEORGE E. CRISP	3	A. ROBIN HEPPENSTALL	7
†HUGH NEILL	4	†F. BRIAN COOKSON ..	*Tenor*

Composed by H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN.
* 25th peal together. † First peal of London Major.

EDENBRIDGE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 58 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF 5184 DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR
Tenor 14 cwt. 7 lb.

ERIC J. BRUNGER	*Treble*	STANLEY G. PONTING ..	5
BERNARD V. COLLISON ..	2	CHARLES A. BASSETT ..	6
EDWARD J. JENNER	3	STANLEY JENNER	7
ERNEST J. LADD	4	*WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE	*Tenor*

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by STANLEY JENNER.
* 300th peal. First peal in the method by all except the ringers of the fourth and tenor.

LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 59 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES
Hubbard's Ten-part. Tenor 13¼ cwt. in F sharp.

MRS. E. T. CHAPMAN ..	*Treble*	PETER KINDRED	5
*GEORGE W. HOWLETT ..	2	A. WILLIAM BIRD	6
HORACE W. EASEY	3	†EDWIN T. CHAPMAN ..	7
MICHAEL SOLLEY	4	‡JEFFREY B. GORROD ..	*Tenor*

Conducted by EDWIN T. CHAPMAN.
* First peal of Plain Bob Triples. † 100th peal. ‡ First peal. First of Triples as conductor.
A welcome to Christopher Michael Solley.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 51 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,
A PEAL OF 5120 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR

In 16 methods, being 320 each of Bristol, Cambridge, Claybrooke, Cray, Eastcote, Lincolnshire, Lindum, London, New Gloucester, Pudsey, Rutland, Superlative, Uxbridge, Wembley, Wordsworth and Yorkshire; with 144 changes of method. Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb. in F.

JOHN WORTH	*Treble*	C KENNETH LEWIS	5
FRED DUNKERLEY	2	LESLIE BOUMPHREY	6
EDWARD JENKINS	3	PETER LAFLIN	7
BASIL JONES	4	BRIAN HARRIS	*Tenor*

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

PORT SUNLIGHT, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
(Wirral Branch.)
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 3 *Hours and* 31 *Minutes,*
AT CHRIST CHURCH,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES
Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lb. in F.

THOMAS ROGERS	*Treble*	*FRANK T. PARRY	5
DAPHNE M. WAIN	2	*STANLEY D. SUTTON ..	6
TERRY OWEN	3	ALEXANDER J. MARTIN ..	7
*VIVIAN T. O. BOASE ..	4	H. STEWART BAILEY ..	*Tenor*

Composed by H. HUBBARD. Conducted by ALEXANDER J. MARTIN.
* First peal of Triples.
Rung half-muffled in memoriam Mr. John Cooke, Branch president, and Mr. E. A. Webster, of St. Hilary's, Wallasey.

SOBERTON, HAMPSHIRE.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 46 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 13 cwt.

*JOHN L. QUEEN	*Treble*	†E. KEITH JORDAN	5
FREDERICK W. BURNETT..	2	ROBERT C. KIPPIN	6
†S. KATHLEEN M. KNIGHT	3	†DON C. EXELL..	7
MARGARET E. L. BEAMISH	4	R. ROGER SAVORY	*Tenor*

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by R. ROGER SAVORY.
* First peal of Treble Bob. † First of Kent Treble Bob Major.
First in the method as conductor.

LONG STANTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.
On Mon., Feb. 24, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 27 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor 7¼ cwt.

SUSAN JACKSON (Girton)..	*Treble*	A. L. M. SHEPHERD (Fitz. H.)	5
M. J. HARBORD (Trin. Hall)	2	P. F. WINDLEY (Jesus) ..	6
P. H. LANGTON (Trinity)..	3	A. R. HEPPENSTALL (Sel.)	7
M. D. S. HOOD (Trin. Hall)	4	F. B. COOKSON (St. John's)	*Tenor*

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by SUSAN JACKSON.
First peal of Major as conductor.

SUTTON-ON-TRENT, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.
THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Fri., Feb. 28, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 45 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
J. J. Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb. in G.

H. MICHAEL GARTSIDE ..	*Treble*	F. WILLIAM MIDWINTER ..	5
MISS G. BURCHNALL ..	2	HAROLD STEVENSON	6
GEORGE E. FOSTER	3	WILLIAM L. EXTON	7
MISS K. BURCHNALL ..	4	CHARLES J. COPP	*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM L. EXTON.
50th peal on the bells.
Rung as an 80th birthday compliment to Ernest A. Midwinter, a ringer at this church for over 60 years, for many years a churchwarden, and whose name is inscribed on the sixth bell.

ALVERSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 1, 1958, *in* 3 *Hours,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR
Tenor 13 cwt.

MARION J. PARKER	*Treble*	ROBERT WAKE	5
S. KATHLEEN M. KNIGHT	2	HAROLD A. NOBES	6
ALEXANDER PAGE	3	†E. KEITH JORDAN	7
*JOHN BALL..	4	FREDERICK W. BURNETT..	*Tenor*

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by FREDERICK W. BURNETT.
* First peal in the method 'inside.' † First peal in the method.
Rung as a farewell to the Rev T. G. Strangeways, now to become Vicar of Holy Trinity, Farcham.

CHIDDINGSTONE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 1, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 59 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES
Heywood's variation. Tenor 19½ cwt.

ARTHUR G. MASON.. ..	*Treble*	BERNARD V. COLLISON ..	5
*BETTY A. TESTER	2	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ..	6
REGINALD E. LAMBERT ..	3	GEORGE J. BUTCHER	7
ERNEST J. LADD	4	WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE	*Tenor*

Conducted by GEORGE J. BUTCHER.
* First attempt for a peal in the method.

FARINGDON, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.
On Sat., March 1, 1958, *in* 3 *Hours and* 13 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5088 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR
Being 2,720 Rutland, 1,472 Yorkshire and 896 New Cambridge, with 80 changes of method, and all the work of each method for each bell.
Tenor 17 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb.

*RICHARD A. JACKSON ..	*Treble*	ROBIN N. PITTMAN	5
DERMOT J. ROAF	2	†JAMES H. PAILING	6
DONALD H. NIBLETT ..	3	ROBIN A. HODGSON.. ..	7
D. ROY STODDARD	4	COLIN J. B. TAYLOR ..	*Tenor*

Composed by JOHN L. MORRIS. Conducted by DONALD H. NIBLETT.
* First peal of Major. † First of Spliced Surprise Major 'inside.'
First of Spliced Surprise Major as conductor.

HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM.
ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.
On Sat., March 1, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 40 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 15 cwt. 2 qr. 22 lb. in F.

FREDERICK E. COLLINS ..	*Treble*	RALPH G. EDWARDS	5
MURIEL REAY	2	VIVIENNE M. HORTON ..	6
DIANA J. PERRINS	3	NORMAN J. GOODMAN ..	7
JOHN S. MASON	4	A. PATRICK CANNON	*Tenor*

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.

PAKEFIELD, SUFFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 1, 1958, *in* 3 *Hours and* 4 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ST. MARGARET,
A PEAL OF 5376 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor 8 cwt. 3 qr. 4 lb. in G.

PETER KINDRED	*Treble*	JOHN W. G. KINDRED ..	5
MICHAEL SOLLEY	2	TREVOR N. J. BAILEY ..	6
HORACE W. EASEY	3	MICHAEL J. STOKES	7
SYDNEY J. MERRY	4	EDWIN T. CHAPMAN	*Tenor*

Composed by H. JOHNSON. Conducted by EDWIN T. CHAPMAN.
First peal of Major as conductor.
Ar ddydd gwyl dewi sant.

• CHURCH CLOCKS •
NEW ELECTRIC OR HAND-WOUND INSTALLATIONS—ALL TYPES OF REPAIRS
INSPECTIONS AND ESTIMATES FREE ANYWHERE IN THE BRITISH ISLES
'Smith of Derby' CLOCKS
JOHN SMITH & SONS - DERBY

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

SANDIACRE, DERBYSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 8, 1958, *in* 3 *Hours,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,
A PEAL OF 5040 SANDIACRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 16 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb. in F.

ARTHUR B. SHEPPARD	*Treble*	ALBERT W. HARTLAND	4
PATRICIA A. M. FORSTER	2	GORDON A. HALLS	5
DENIS R. CARLISLE	3	DEREK P. JONES	*Tenor*

Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.

The first peal in the method (C.C.C. S.11).

DENBY, DERBYSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Fri., Feb. 14, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 44 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 42 extents in four methods: 12 extents of Plain Bob (four callings), ten each of Reverse Canterbury (eight callings), St. Simon's (eight callings) and Grandsire (ten callings). Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb.

PERCY WESTON	*Treble*	WM. ARNOLD MORLEY	3
*KENNETH BALLINGTON	2	JOSEPH WM. COTTON	4
DEREK P. JONES	*Tenor*		

Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.

* First peal of Doubles.

HOAR CROSS, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 15, 1958, *in* 3 *Hours and* 27 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY ANGELS,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in four methods: two extents of Cambridge Surprise, one each of Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob, and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 28 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb. in D flat.

KENNETH BALLINGTON (13)	*Treble*	BARNABAS G. KEY	4
PAMELA J. PEARSON	2	ARTHUR WRIGHT	5
PETER G. BELLAMY-KNIGHT	3	DEREK P. JONES	*Tenor*

Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.

STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 15, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 48 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two 720's each of Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Bob, and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb.

JOHN M. ROFFE	*Treble*	J. HARRY COOK	4
*ALFRED E. HINMAN	2	GEOFFREY A. BOWCUTT	5
ROLAND H. COOK	3	JOHN H. BLUFF	*Tenor*

Conducted by ROLAND H. COOK.

* First peal of Minor in three methods.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. G. Slaughter, of Stamford, who is in Stamford Infirmary.

TOLLESBURY, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 15, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 39 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents. Tenor 8 cwt.

ROBERT LEVETT	*Treble*	RICHARD J. HARRISON	4
BERTRAM G. BRINKLEY	2	IVAN J. M. SAUNDERS	5
TOM R. ROAST	3	MICHAEL J. EDWARDS	*Tenor*

Conducted by IVAN J. M. SAUNDERS.

A birthday compliment to Mr. E. W. Roast.

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 15, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 28 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 8 cwt. 7 lb.

LEONARD STILWELL	*Treble*	†BERNARD MATTHEWS	4
CECIL LONGHURST	2	BRIAN LUFF	5
*DAVID BARBER	3	RAYMOND P. WOOD	*Tenor*

Conducted by RAYMOND P. WOOD.

* First peal. † First of Minor. The ringer of the second has now 'completed the circle.'

Rung as a tribute to Bishop Bell, of Chichester, on his retirement.

BECKINGTON, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Mon., Feb. 17, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 49 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 22 extents and five each of Pitman's and Morris's 240's. Tenor 16 cwt. 2 qr. 25 lb. in E.

*TERESA JONES	*Treble*	LESLIE A. FEAR	4
GRAHAM C. GRANT	2	†ERNEST E. BRAY	5
W. JOHN PHIPPEN	3	HUGH VENNELL	*Tenor*

Conducted by ERNEST E. BRAY.

* First peal. † 50th peal.

Rung as a compliment to Miss Joye Galvayne and Mr. Michael Saunders, whose wedding took place at Beckington on Saturday, February 22nd.

WILLINGHAM-BY-STOW, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., Feb. 17, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 47 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one 720 each of Single Oxford, St. Clement's, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 12¼ cwt.

*DAVID CROSBY	*Treble*	ROBERT W. PARKER	4
*JOHN M. BLAIKIE	2	*ALLEN GILBERT	5
*JOHN B. NICHOLSON	3	GEO. LESLIE A. LUNN	*Tenor*

Conducted by GEO. LESLIE A. LUNN.

* First peal in five methods.

OFFLEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., Feb. 18, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 56 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,
A PEAL OF 5040 COLDSTREAM SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven different extents (C.C.C. Nos. 64, 68, 73, 65, 67, 59, 58). Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

JUNE GLADMAN	*Treble*	J RICHARD CASTLEDINE	4
JOHN W. SINFIELD	2	PHILIP MEHEW	5
JACK S. DEAR	3	DEREK P. JONES	*Tenor*

Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.

The first peal in the method (C.C.C. S.12).

Rung in thanksgiving for the achievement of raising £2,000 towards this church's restoration fund.

WADDINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Tues., Feb. 18, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 53 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL.
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 30 extents (six standard callings) and six 240's (Morris). Tenor 11 cwt. in F sharp.

WALTER BLACK	*Treble*	RAYMOND F. SMITH	3
*DENNIS SUTTON	2	G. LEONARD THOMPSON	4
LOUIS WILLDERS	*Tenor*		

Conducted by RAYMOND F. SMITH.

* First peal, first attempt. First of Grandsire Doubles by all the band. First in the method on the bells.

MARKET WEIGHTON, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Thurs., Feb. 20, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 57 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being four extents of Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb.

LEONARD RODMELL	*Treble*	CLEMENT R. ROBINSON	4
HENRY RODMELL	2	FRED OSGERBY	5
*THOMAS W. THIRKELL	3	RONALD DUCKER	*Tenor*

Conducted by RONALD DUCKER.

* First peal of Minor. First peal as conductor.

Rung for the golden wedding of Mr. J. W. Kneeshaw, over 60 years a ringer at the above church, and Mrs. Kneeshaw. Also to mark 50 years' ringing at Beverley Minster by F. Osgerby.

THEBERTON, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On Thurs., Feb. 20, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 31 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in ten methods: (1) Ipswich Surprise, (2) London Surprise, (3) Norwich Surprise, (4) Cambridge Surprise, (5) St. Clement's and Double Oxford, (6) Childwall and Thelwall, (7) Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 9 lb.

JACK PILGRIM	*Treble*	PETER S. BEDFORD	4
EDWIN T. CHAPMAN	2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT	5
STANLEY W. COPLING	3	JOHN W. BLYTHE	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN W. BLYTHE.

WINSTER, DERBYSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Fri., Feb. 21, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 37 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

In seven methods, being 720 each of St. Simon's Bob, St. Nicholas' Bob, St. Martin's Bob, Winchendon Place Bob, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob, Grandsire, and Plain Bob. Tenor 7 cwt.

*IAN B. MCKEE	*Treble*	HERBERT E. TAYLOR	3
JOHN R. KENNETT	2	WILLIAM H. DOWSE	4
BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE ..	*Tenor*		

Conducted by BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE.

* First peal of Doubles. First peal in seven Doubles methods on the bells, and by all except the conductor.

BLUNSDON, WILTSHIRE.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 25 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,
A PEAL OF 5040 YORK SURPRISE MINOR

Being two 2,160's and one extent. Tenor 5 cwt. 3 qr. 26 lb.

ROGER O. FRY	*Treble*	W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ..	4
WALTER H. TRUEMAN ..	2	ALAN F. LEE	5
ERIC SUTTON	3	ANTHONY R. PEAKE	*Tenor*

Conducted by ANTHONY R. PEAKE.

First peal in the method by all the band, on the bells, and for the Association.

Rung as a welcome to Caroline Bridget, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Trueman, born February 21st, 1958.

COTGRAVE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 46 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford T.B., Kent T.B., and four of Plain Bob. Tenor 17¼ cwt.

BRIAN HUNT	*Treble*	JOHN E. COOK	4
*PAT HOLMES	2	DENIS A. FRITH	5
PETER A. HILL	3	J. MICHAEL SIMPSON	*Tenor*

Conducted by DENIS A. FRITH.

* First peal 'inside.'

Rung in honour of the engagement of Miss Pat Holmes and Michael Simpson.

DANBURY, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 43 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.
A **PEAL OF 5040 SPLICED SURPRISE MINOR**

Being seven extents in 26 methods, viz.: (1) Beverley, Surfleet, Berwick, Hexham, York and Durham; (2) Alnwick, Newcastle, Chester and Munden; (3) Cambridge, Ipswich, Norfolk, Primrose, Netherseale and Annable's London; (4) Cambridge, Ipswich, Norfolk, Primrose, Hull and Bourne; (5) Lightfoot, Wearmouth, Rossendale and Stamford; (6) Westminster and Allendale; (7) London and Wells. Tenor 12 cwt.

MARY DOWSETT	*Treble*	HOWARD W. EGGLESTONE	4
ERNEST E. S. JOHNSON ..	2	PATRICK W. SALTMARSH ..	5
BRIAN J. HOWARD	3	JOE E. G. ROAST	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOE E. G. ROAST.

The most Surprise methods rung to a peal for the Association.

Rung at the request of the Parochial Church Council to mark the raising of the first £500 for the tower and spire restoration fund.

STRETHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 44 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES-THE-GREAT.
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 11 cwt.

*ANTHONY LANGFORD ..	*Treble*	DONALD F. MURFET	4
W. JOHN COUPERTHWAITE	2	RICHARD J. W. HOUSDEN ..	5
CHRISTOPHER T. GRAVES	3	DONALD E. R. KNIGHTS ..	*Tenor*

Conducted by DONALD E. R. KNIGHTS.

* First peal.

Rung by past and present pupils of Soham Grammar School as a silver wedding anniversary compliment to Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Robinson, of Huntingdon.

FARNINGHAM, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 37 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 23 lb.

JOHN L. MORRIS	*Treble*	†COLIN F. MCGILL	4
*BRENDA M. FOSTER ..	2	‡RALPH BIRD	5
SUSAN P. NICHOLSON ..	3	‡IAN H. ORAM	*Tenor*

Conducted by IAN H. ORAM.

* First peal 'inside.' † First peal. ‡ 25th peal together.

WALLINGTON, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 22, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 40 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

In seven methods, being an extent each of Double Court, Cambridge Surprise, St. Clement's and Double Oxford, Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob, and Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lb. in A flat.

JACK S. DEAR	*Treble*	*ALBERT W. A. LEGGETT ..	4
FRANCES M. WELCH ..	2	EDWIN G. BUCK	5
*LEONARD B. SCOOT	3	RICHARD J. CASTLEDINE, ..	*Tenor*

Conducted by RICHARD J. CASTLEDINE.

* First peal in seven methods. First peal as conductor.

A 28th birthday compliment to John G. Castledine.

CHIDDINGFOLD, SURREY.
NON-ASSOCIATION PEAL.
On Mon., Feb. 24, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 45 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 42 extents. Tenor 7 cwt.

*EILEEN MEADOWS	*Treble*	†ANTONY V. QUEEN	4
†EVE PEARSON	2	†JOHN P. MCDERMOTT ..	5
*ANGELA MARTIN	3	*ALAN EDWARDS	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN P. MCDERMOTT.

* First peal. † First in the method. First as conductor. Average age of band, 17 years.

Rung by an all-grammar school band, five of whom go to Godalming.

OXFORD.
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.
On Thurs., Feb. 27, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 34 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Double Court, Reverse Bob, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Double Bob, Fulbeck and Plain Bob. Tenor 7½ cwt.

*JEREMY A. M. SALTER ..	*Treble*	†RICHARD A. JACKSON ..	4
DONALD H. NIBLETT ..	2	ROBIN N. PITTMAN	5
*JOHN G. PUSEY	3	DERMOT J. ROAF	*Tenor*

Conducted by DERMOT J. ROAF.

* First peal in seven methods. † First in seven methods 'inside.' First in seven methods as conductor. The conductor has now 'circled the tower.'

HANDBELL PEAL

HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
(Hinckley District.)
On Wed., Feb. 19, 1958, *in* 2 *Hours and* 14 *Minutes,*
AT 128, LEICESTER ROAD,
A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor size 14 in D.

ALFRED BALLARD	1—2	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ..	5—6
*JOHN VERNON	3—4	*†MICHAEL VERNON	7—8

Composed by J. PLATT. Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal of Treble Bob 'in hand.' † 50th peal.

A compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Brown, of Sapcote, Leicestershire, on the birth of their son, David Michael.

???? STOPPED ???? ???? ???? STOPPED ????

If you require FREE advice regarding your Church Clock. It's time you consulted us :-

CHAS. H. POTTS & CO. LTD. MARSHALL MILLS, LEEDS 11.

ABBOTSBURY, DORSET.—On Mar. 1st, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: Mrs. M. M. Godley 1, Betty J. Marsh 2, J. W. Hayne 3, G. J. W. Abbott 4, J. W. Rose 5, H. J. Ford (cond.) 6. Rung to the respected memory of Frederick Precey (former branch ringing master).

ASHBRITTLE, SOMERSET.—On Feb. 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: S. N. Bristow 1, J. Smith 2, D. T. North (cond.) 3, Miss P. Norman 4, H. Bristow 5, P. Podbury 6. Rung for the induction and institution of the Rev. Eric C. G. Weeks as Rector.

AWLISCOMBE, DEVON.—On Mar. 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: A. Hodge 1, C. Summers 2, D. Dymond 3, C. Webb 4, W. Webb (cond.) 5, J. Real 6.

BARTON-ON-HUMBER, LINCS.—On Feb. 12th, at St. Mary's Church, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: W. Goddard 1, R. Harrison (first quarter) 2, S. Bromfield 3, M. Crowder 4, J. Chapman 5, S. Neave 6, E. Broughton 7, A. W. Hoodless (cond.) 8.

BERRICK SALOME, OXON.—On Feb. 18th, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: W. Fulker 1, F. E. Godden 2, K. C. Timbury 3, R. Tuckwell 4, F. Absolom (cond.) 5. For Confirmation service. Also on Feb. 18th, 1,320 Plain Bob and St. Simon's Bob Doubles: W. Fulker 1, F. E. Godden 2, F. Absolom 3, R. Tuckwell 4, K. C. Timbury (cond.) 5. For Shrove Tuesday.

BRANT BROUGHTON, LINCS.—On Feb. 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. J. Marshall (first quarter) 1, F. Derry (first as cond.) 2, J. Edward Brown 3, P. C. Pitchford (first quarter) 4, C. T. Rodgers (first quarter) 5, G. C. Jackson 6. First quarter by an all-local band, and rung on the first anniversary of the rehanging of the bells.

BRIDGEND, GLAM.—On Feb. 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (with 4, 6, 8 covering): S. Henson 1, J. Hale 2, W. T. Petty (cond.) 3, D. Hughes 4, H. Preece 5, T. Froley 6, T. E. Hiddins 7, D. W. Davies 8. First quarter for 1 and 6. For Evensong.

BRIDSTOW, HEREFORDS.—On Feb. 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. T. Wingate 1, R. Poston 2, A. Davis 3, C. Jones 4, J. J. Webb 5, H. Powell 6, F. E. Roberts (cond.) 7, T. Wood 8. For Children's Church, and as a farewell to the Vicar (Preb. A. L. Moir) on his retirement.

BURGATE, SUFFOLK.—On Feb. 9th, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: P. D. T. Cattermole (cond.) 1, Miss M. J. Alden 2, A. H. Roberts 3, L. N. Melton 4, C. Alden 5. For Evensong on the occasion of the dedication of a processional cross by the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The cross is in memory of Ernest Wells, a native of Burgate.

BURWELL, CAMBS.—On Feb. 9th, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: D. Couperthwaite (first quarter) 1, A. G. Orbell 2, W. J. Couperthwaite 3, R. J. W. Housden (cond.) 4, A. G. Fuller 5, S. Faircliffe 6. For Evensong.

CAMBRIDGE.—At the Church of St. Andrew-the-Great, on Feb. 16th, 1,280 Spliced Major (Wellington Little Court, Gainsborough Little Bob, Reverse Bob, Double Bob, Little Bob and Plain Bob): P. H. Langton 1, H. Neill 2, M. J. Harbord 3, J. Schofield 4, Susan Jackson 5, P. F. Windley 6, A. R. Heppenstall (cond.) 7, F. B. Cookson 8. For Evensong.

CARLTON-JUXTA-SNAITH, YORKS.—On Mar. 2nd, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: L. Greenhorn (first in method) 1, Mrs. Wm. Graves 2, C. Reeves (14) 3, Miss M. E. Wilkinson 4, Wm. Graves 5, J. Woolford (first in method as cond.) 6.

DONCASTER, YORKS.—On Feb. 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Jefferies (first quarter) 1, Miss K. Mallender 2, F. A. Staveley 3, G. Graham 4, H. Wagstaff 5, J. McCluskey 6, W. E. Critchley (cond.) 7, P. N. Bond 8. For Evensong.

DOWNTON, WILTS.—On Feb. 14th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Margaret Page 1, Jean Powell 2, Ann Bacon 3, J. Sutton (first in the method) 4, H. H. Abrahams 5, M. J. Butler 6, R. N. Marlow (cond.) 7, C. Churchill 8. A 79th birthday compliment to Mr. W. Chalk, for many years an active member of the Salisbury branch.

EWELL, SURREY.—On Feb. 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Maureen Candy 1, H. E. Good 2, Marjorie Hill 3, Margaret Howard 4, A. S. Besant 5, C. W. Munday (cond.) 6, J. Hill 7, G. W. Hill 8. A 21st birthday compliment to the ringer of the treble.

QUARTER PEALS

ELTHAM, KENT.—On Feb. 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples (Holt's Original): P. Clarke 1, J. Sims 2, E. J. Coode 3, K. Small 4, Brenda Slark 5, E. B. Crowder (cond.) 6, J. Hurrell 7, F. Hurrell 8. For Evensong.

GREAT WYMONDLEY, HERTS.—On Feb. 16th, 1,320 Plain Bob Doubles: Jean Croft 1, A. Harris 2, L. Runnacles 3, F. W. Croft 4, S. H. Ashton (first as cond.) 5. For Evensong.

HAILSHAM, SUSSEX.—On Feb. 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss K. Smith (first quarter) 1, W. Stepney 2, Miss C. Burley 3, E. Breed (cond.) 4, H. Goldsmith 5, A. N. Robinson 6.

HALESOWEN, WORCS.—On Feb. 17th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. H. Harris 1, A. Timmins 2, T. Greenhall 3, J. H. Cox (cond.) 4, Miss W. Pretty 5, B. E. Woodall 6, H. Shilvock 7, L. Cissett 8. Rung for the funeral of Mr. W. H. Webb, for 25 years ringing master, who was buried this day.

HEENE, SUSSEX.—On Feb. 23rd, 1,260 Plain Bob Major: Miss D. K. Saunders 1, E. R. Rapley 2, M. Fromm 3, R. J. Wood 4, L. Stilwell 5, B. W. M. Cowper 6, J. R. Wilson (first of Major as cond.) 7, H. C. Weaver 8.

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS, HUNTS.—On Feb. 9th, 1,320 Ipswich Surprise Minor: J. R. G. Spicer 1, M. J. Dyer 2, D. F. Murfet 3, D. E. R. Knights 4, F. R. Nicholls 5, H. S. Peacock (cond.) 6. For morning service. Also on Feb. 16th, 1,440 Norwich Surprise Minor: J. R. G. Spicer 1, H. S. Peacock 2, M. J. Dyer 3, D. F. Murfet 4, F. R. Nicholls 5, D. E. R. Knights (cond.) 6. For morning service. Also on Feb. 23rd, 1,440 Cambridge Surprise Minor: J. R. G. Spicer 1, Miss D. Robinson 2, F. R. Nicholls 3, D. E. R. Knights 4, M. J. Dyer (cond.) 5, H. S. Peacock 6. For morning service.

HUNTINGDON.—At All Saints' Church, on Feb. 2nd, 1,320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: A. J. Davey (first of Surprise) 1, Miss B. Spicer 2, J. R. G. Spicer 3, M. J. Dyer 4, H. S. Peacock 5, S. Gilbert (cond.) 6.

IFFLEY, OXON.—On Feb. 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: M. Cole 1, B. Cole (first 'inside') 2, J. Drewitt 3, R. Goodwin 4, W. Holloway (cond.) 5, W. Fern 6. First quarter for 1 and 3.

LONGSTANTON, CAMBS.—On Feb. 8th, 1,324 Plain Bob Major: O. Fyson 1, G. E. Crisp 2, R. J. Palmer 3, J. Couperthwaite 4, T. R. Dennis 5, W. J. Ridgman 6, G. A. Lucas 7, D. E. R. Knights (cond.) 8.

NEWINGTON-NEXT-SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.—On Feb. 23rd, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: B. G. Pepper 1, Hazel V. Dadson 2, L. Mitchell (cond.) 3, E. A. Gilbert 4, L. Gilbert 5, J. A. Rose (first quarter) 6. Rung for Mr. E. Gilbert (father of the ringers of the 4th and 5th, and at one time captain of the local band), who was interred the day previous; also for Evensong.

NORTHAMPTON.—At the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, on Feb. 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss N. G. Williams 1, J. C. Rainbow 2, Mrs. G. F. Roome 3, Miss J. A. Downing 4, Miss D. M. Miller 5, T. Jennings 6, G. F. Roome (cond.) 7, E. Billings 8. For evening service and a 78th birthday compliment to Mr. T. Jennings.

OXFORD.—At St. Ebbe's Church, on Feb. 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. H. Niblett 1, C. R. C. Coussmaker (first of Triples 'inside') 2, R. A. Hodgson 3, J. A. M. Salter 4, Ruth Hodgson 5, R. A. Jackson 6, D. J. Roaf (first Triples as cond.) 7, S. Zvegintzov (first of Triples) 8. For Matins.

PAULERSPURY, NORTHANTS.—On Feb. 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Roger Payne (first quarter) 1, P. W. Foster 2, J. Linnell 3, R. Hinton 4, K. Sheldon (cond.) 5, J. Elliott 6.

PUTTENHAM, SURREY.—On Feb. 15th, 1,260 Minor (720 Kent and 540 Plain Bob): Monica Collins 1, Joan Beezley (first of Minor in two methods) 2, A. P. Cannon (cond.) 3, Eileen Turner 4, Ann Cox 5, T. A. Cross 6. An engagement compliment to Eileen Turner.

RAYLEIGH, ESSEX.—On Feb. 16th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: W. Ward 1, A. Reeve 2, A. H. Warboys 3, G. J. Blower 4, E. J. Blower 5, R. D. Tomlin 6, G. S. Sandwell 7, A. J. House (cond.) 8. For Evensong.

ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA, SUSSEX.—At Christ Church, on February 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Bailey 1, S. Bailey 2, G. Ridd 3, J. Ridd 4, S. C. Driver 5, G. S. Piper 6, E. F. P. Bryant (cond.) 7, G. F. Piper 8. Rung for the wedding the day before at Sheffield of A. A. Price, a local ringer.

SOUTHWARK, S.E.—At the Cathedral, on Feb. 23rd, 1,331 Grandsire Caters: J. Rae 1, A. Lewry 2, Miss H. Oakshett 3, J. Cook 4, G. Parsons 5, M. Oakshett 6, E. Talbot 7, J. Smith 8, J. Euston (cond.) 9, J. Prior 10. For Evensong.

STAFFORD.—At the Church of St. Mary, on Feb. 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: K. Dolby (first quarter) 1, R. J. Warrilow (cond.) 2, Miss S. K. Seery 3, D. Harman 4, D. Friend 5, A. E. Garbett 6, R. J. Warrilow (jun.) 7, C. Sherwood 8. For evening service, and as a farewell compliment to K. Dolby, who is leaving Stafford on completing his National Service.

STOKE BISHOP, BRISTOL.—On Feb. 2nd, 1,272 Kent Treble Bob Minor: M. Hill 1, Miss E. Brocklehurst 2, R. Brocklehurst 3, W. Naylor 4, J. Laver 5, P. Gray (cond.) 6. First of Treble Bob for all except 6. For Evensong.

STOKE-IN-COVENTRY, WARWICKS.—On Feb. 13th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: E. W. Simpson 1, Miss D. Elson 2, H. E. Sibley (cond.) 3, J. R. Robinson 4, W. A. Stote 5, H. Folwell 6, D. H. Ellender 7, J. L. Garner Hayward 8. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Frank E. Pervin.

STREATHAM, S.W.—At Immanuel Church, on Mar. 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss J. Scrutton 1, Miss D. Crowe (first 'inside') 2, A. Ranson 3, A. Lewry 4, J. Euston (cond.) 5, W. Wilson 6, M. Williamson 7, L. Reece 8.

SWINESHEAD, LINCS.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: P. Smith (first quarter) 1, Mary J. Morriss (first 'inside') 2, J. A. Bailey 3, P. H. Reynolds 4, R. Stephenson (first of Minor) 5, J. P. Morriss (cond.) 6.

THORPE-LE-SOKEN, ESSEX.—On Mar. 2nd, 1,260 Minor (720 Double Oxford and 540 St. Clement's): D. Hart 1, Marian Mills (cond.) 2, Heather Stewart 3, I. Cooper 4, M. Mills 5, P. Mills 6. For Matins, and also a birthday compliment to Mrs. D. Stuteley, member of the local band.

THURMASTON, LEICS.—On Feb. 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Susan Haddelsey (first quarter) 1, H. M. Payne 2, Mrs. H. M. Payne (first 'inside') 3, D. Lowe 4, E. F. Payne (cond.) 5, C. Lowe 6. A 70th birthday compliment to Mr. Martin, father of the third ringer.

TWYNING, GLOS.—On Feb. 16th, 1,260 Doubles (Reverse St. Bartholomew, Plain Bob and Grandsire): R. Hawkes 1, F. Hawkes 2, D. Beacham 3, M. Hawkes (cond.) 4, W. Williams 5, D. Williams 6.

UPPER CAM, GLOS.—On Feb. 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: R. McLung 1, O. Mills 2, C. Legg 3, G. Chamberlain 4, R. Cox (cond.) 5, T. Trotman 6. Rung half-muffled as a last tribute to Ald. F. Thomas.

WARBOROUGH, OXON.—On Feb. 16th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. P. Blond 1, F. Absolom 2, R. Tuckwell 3, J. E. Godman 4, F. E. Godden 5, K. C. Timbury 6, R. B. Blond (cond.) 7, W. E. Fulker 8. For Quinquagesima.

WARWICK.—At St. Mary's Church, on Feb. 13th, 1,288 Grandsire Triples: Shirley Stroud (first quarter) 1, W. S. Oakley 2, W. Collett 3, H. Huxley 4, A. J. Pitman 5, J. Price 6, W. H. Male (cond.) 7, E. H. Bosworth 8. Rung half-muffled in memoriam F. E. Pervin, past-master of Coventry Diocesan Guild.

WEST WICKHAM, KENT.—On Jan. 8th, 1,272 Bob Minor: A. B. Skinner (first quarter) 1, D. Randall 2, Hilda Oakshett 3, A. S. Richards 4, L. W. G. Skinner (cond.) 5, M. F. Oakshett 6.

WIMBLEDON, SURREY.—On Feb. 16th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. Bishop 1, J. Tomsett 2, Anne Garnett 3, Susan Jacobs 4, A. Bagworth 5, E. Jacobs (first of Stedman) 6, M. Sinden (cond.) 7, J. Brickell 8.

YEOVIL, SOMERSET.—On Mar. 2nd, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: M. Bishop (first of Caters) 1, R. Moore 2, L. Parris 3, T. E. Marks 4, J. Looker 5, T. Look 6, H. D. W. Bishop (first of Caters) 7, H. J. Gaylard 8, T. J. Setter (cond.) 9, G. Gaylard 10.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

Great Yarmouth To Have 13 Bells

Details were given by the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow at the annual meeting of the Eastern Branch, at Loddon on February 15th, of the progress of the restoration of St. Nicholas' Parish Church, Great Yarmouth. Members were pleased to learn that the work completed to date included the strengthening of the tower with a steel and concrete band. (Nine tons of cement were poured in in one day to construct this.) On this band a teak bell frame is to be set. It is also expected that a start will be made on the casting of the 13 bells at the Whitechapel Foundry.

The Branch chairman (Mr. E. R. Goate) was in the chair, and he was re-elected for another term of office as also were Mr. P. G. W. Newstead (Branch secretary) and Mrs. D. E. Lidbetter and Mr. S. Copling (standing committee). Mr. E. T. Chapman was elected Branch Ringing Master, as were also Messrs. Gorrod and Willgress to fill vacancies on the Branch committee (Messrs. Bird, Bailey and Forder were re-elected).

Subject to satisfactory arrangements, the next meeting will be held at Ditchingham on May 17th. The Vicar (Rev. C. R. Ninham) invited ringing support to a Church Army mission to be held at Loddon next October.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Vicar for conducting the service, to the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow for giving the address, to the organist and to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Barrett and lady helpers for the excellent tea.

Language Of Bells

Bells have many voices, some are grave and some are gay. They speak a language of their own their message to convey. They call the scholar to his books. They tell the hours at sea—and ring for great occasions in the nation's history.

Bells express our feelings: human joy and civic pride. Bells toll softly for the dead and peal out for a bride. And every day wherever God is worshipped and adored—They ring to call the faithful to the Table of the Lord.

PATIENCE STRONG.
From her book 'By Quiet Waters.'

LEEDS & DISTRICT SOCIETY

Many ringers attended the Society's meeting held at Pudsey on February 15th. This was the first meeting to be held at this tower since the bells were recast just over a year ago, and it was generally agreed that a good job had been done.

Throughout the afternoon and evening the tower was full, and ringing ranged from rounds to London Surprise. At 4.30 p.m. some 45 members made their way to the nearby Church Hall, where tea was provided by the missionary society of the parish.

The business meeting followed, at which four new members were elected, and thanks were expressed to all who had helped with the arrangements. Not everyone returned to the tower immediately: handbells were brought out and touches of Grandsire Caters, Kent and Plain Bob rung.

The nomination meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Headingley, on March 29th.

RECORD ATTEMPT FAILS AGAIN

There were three changes in the band that made the second attempt this year on the extent of Plain Bob Major at the Bell Foundry Campanile last Saturday. Robin Leale, of Surbiton, who conducted, John A. Smith, of Liccester, and Norman V. Harding, of King's Lynn, who was in the attempt three years ago.

A start was made at 6.53 a.m. and the bells were rung at a much faster pace than on February 8th. The atmosphere was much happier and although at times one or two of the band looked a little green, they quickly recovered.

Later, however, the conductor became indisposed, and he was in the process of calling the bells round with the object of completing a peal of 22,228 changes, which would have constituted a record length, when he was sick and the attempt was consequently halted.

Some 21,800 changes had been rung in ten hours, the end coming at 4.53 p.m.

The band consisted of Robin G. Leale (conductor) 1, Brian Bladon 2, John A. Smith 3, Patrick I. Chapman 4, Michael Orme 5, Norman V. Harding 6, Patrick A. Cannon 7, Philip Mehew 8.

Umpires: Peter J. Staniforth and Wilfred Robinson.

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LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

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BELFRY GOSSIP

Congratulations to the Brant Broughton band, who on the first anniversary of their bells being rehung rang a quarter peal, not only unaided but the first by all the local band. To teach a band from scratch in just a year is no mean feat, but when the teachers are learners then the achievement speaks for itself. Three of the band rang their first peal at Norton Disney a week later.

Mr. James Parker, of White House, Caister-on-Sea, is 92 on March 17th. A happy birthday!

The peal at Holbeck, Leeds, rung on March 1st, is believed to be the first peal in the tower for over 40 years.

In submitting new compositions for publication, it is an advantage not only to give the type of bob but false course ends.

Mr. Charles McGuiness is leaving Newcastle upon Tyne at the end of the month for Boston, Lincs.

The peal of Yorkshire, at Dursley, Glos, is associated by the band with the birth of a daughter (Caroline Bridget) to Heather and Ivor Trueman the previous day.

There are two villages with the name Ash in Kent. The one referred to in our issue of February 28th, at which visitors would be specially welcome, is Ash, near Sevenoaks. Letters to John V. Muller, School House, Ash, near Sevenoaks.

The order for a new bell to replace the cracked pre-Reformation fourth (St. Michael) in the ring of six at Cromhall, Glos, has been placed. It is hoped that it will be installed this year, and will be named A. D. H. Allan. Mr. Allan was a former rector who worked hard to get six bells. St. Michael will go in the church below. A large sum of money is still required, as the tower has to be reroofed as well as being pointed.

Because of Lent, there was a pre-nuptial peal at Beckington, Somerset, on February 17th, in honour of the wedding of Mr. Michael Saunders, a ringer at this tower, and Miss Joye Galvayne, which took place on February 22nd.

The band who rang a peal of Stedman Triples on March 1st at Chiddingstone, Kent, wish to thank Miss Betty Tester, who stood in at very short notice, and rang her first peal in the method excellently.

Owing to an electricity failure at Berrick Salome, Oxon, the quarter peal for the Confirmation service on February 18th had to be rung by torch-light. One of the ringers' wives held the torch in this real test of ropesight!

While doing his National Service at Stafford Mr. K. Dolby, of Peterborough, has learnt to ring. He rang in a farewell quarter on February 23rd. 'We regret losing him on his return to civilian life as a reporter on a Peterborough newspaper,' writes the tower secretary.

Some years ago a peal was rung on eight bicycle bells—the owner had to collect 63 to get an octave. Has a peal ever been rung upon criers' bells? A writer informs us that he has four such bells all in tune, and if a fifth can be found such a peal will be attempted. Auctions, market stalls and shops are being scanned for the one bell required.

In Pakefield, one of the most easterly ringing towers, St. David's Day was celebrated by a peal rung by an East Anglian band, although the treble ringer has quite often a discernible Welsh accent. The peal also carried the band's compliments to Mr. J. Kindred, whose birthday falls on March 1st, and enabled his brother, Peter, the tower captain, the 'complete the circle' at Pakefield. He recently achieved this at Lowestoft's other tower, St. Margaret's, and has now 'conquered' all the ringable bells in the town.

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HIS 50th HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER

MR. J. FRANK SMALLWOOD HONOURED

THIS year's Henry Johnson dinner, the 70th, held at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, on March 1st, was the 50th that Mr. J. Frank Smallwood had attended. He was the chairman on this occasion, and in taking the chair he told the company of 76—the lowest since before the war—he had fulfilled an ambition of many years.

Despite the drop in numbers it was a happy evening, the chairman and Mrs. Smallwood being supported by the Master of the St. Martin's Guild (Mr. F. E. Haynes), Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker, Ald. A. Paddon Smith and Lt.-Col. Donald and Mrs. Paddon Smith, Mr. John Pinfold (Ringing Master), Canon Guy Warman, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Shepherd.

Among the visitors were Wing-Comdr. and Mrs. John Mason and Mrs. Mason, sen., Dr. C. M. P. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Edge, Messrs. Paul L. Taylor, A. A. Hughes, W. Williams, R. G. Leale, M. G. Moreton, T. Southam, A. Frost, Morris J. Morris, D. G. Clift, A. H. Houghton, J. L. Millhouse, Miss B. Millhouse, Messrs. Rodney B. Meadows, J. R. Sharman, F. B. Cookson, Miss B. Hill and Mr. A. P. Cannon.

Apologies were received from the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, the Bishop of Birmingham, the Provost (Rev. Bryan S. W. Green) and Mr. H. George Williams, an old member now living at Exeter.

Ald. A. Paddon Smith submitted the toast of 'Church and State,' and said he thought they were extremely lucky in this country in having Church and State so closely connected. They had a very good representation of the Church in the House of Lords with the bench of Bishops, and they voiced the opinion of the Church in no uncertain manner. From their recent discussion he would wish them a happy issue.

BIRMINGHAM'S FINEST CHURCH

Coupling Canon Warman's name with the toast, the alderman said he was a lucky man in being Vicar of Aston because architecturally he thought that Aston was the finest church in Birmingham, and in his parish was Aston Hall, the most historic building in the city.

Replying, Canon Warman said he felt that the Exercise they pursued with so much technique and skill was one of the main links between Church and State because the bells of the Church summoned the people to church. People no longer answered that summons as in the old days, when one had to get early to Aston Church to secure one of the 950 seats. It was now not easy to keep their church in repair.

He expressed regret that Aston bells were not available that afternoon as he had eight weddings and he could marry people with Stedman Cinques coming from the tower at the same time.

BELLS AND THE PEOPLE

That time last year the people of Aston were looking forward with pleasurable anticipation to a certain event at Wembley Stadium. They did ring a quarter peal to mark the occasion. He did not know what sort of a peal they would ring this year, whether it would be muffled or half-muffled. That sort of thing was part of the ancient village life of England when the Church and State marched hand in hand and brought together the whole community.

The toast of 'The memory of the late Henry Johnson' was drunk silently on the request of the chairman.

'This was his hobby, and 'tis mine
Good man, he was our better.'

Mr. Edgar C. Shepherd, in proposing 'Continued prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild,' said the fortunes of Guilds, as with all worldly enterprises, waxed and waned, and their Guild was no exception.

In the early 19th century it was clear that the reputation of their Guild was on its 12-bell ringers as exemplified by the many peals in 1820, with the long peals of Stedman Cinques and Kent Maximus. But fortunes changed, and after 1820 to 1830 the Guild had to struggle for its existence. The Guild was saved by a cantankerous old man, Cattall, who started to teach beginners and saved it from extinction.

They knew that about 1840 the reputation of the Guild was not so much on its ringing as its composers. It was people like Day, Thurstans and Johnson himself who were keeping the name of the Society to the fore, and their ringing whilst good was not at its highest peak. Later in the century they saw the building up of those wonderful 12-bell bands with some remarkable performances.

A BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE

Side by side with these performances was the handbell ringing, which culminated with a peal of Stedman Cinques rung silently, in which each man walked into the room, picked two bells from a bag and rang the peal.

There were men in that room who had taken part in those brilliant performances, and one of those experts he had in mind was their old friend Frank Pervin. He always admired the rock-like way he could ring a tower bell or a handbell. He was a gallant old warrior and he felt certain that those who knew him were grateful to his memory.

During the last 12 years there had been no lack of Stedman Cinques, and it had been very interesting to see the younger generation coming forward—starting with Grandsire Triples and now ringing Surprise methods better than they could ring them. They saw some of them asserting themselves at the annual meeting and it was a very joyful thing to see. The future was in their hands and whatever the ultimate trend one thing was quite clear, that at St. Martin's Guild there was opportunity for everyone to progress at any stage of ringing.

It was a sad thought that they had quite a number of young ringers round about the city who were not availing themselves of these opportunities—young men and women who had gone through the drudgery and were now content to stand still. He appealed to them to take advantage of the opportunities for their own sakes and also to improve their service to the Church.

The Guild was fortunate in its leaders. In their Master they had a man of culture and catholic tastes; their secretary was a man of infinite resource and sagacity; their Ringing Master, John Pinfold, showed consideration and patience with all sorts and conditions of ringers. With those leaders and young people coming along there was a future for the Guild.

MOVE WITH THE TIMES

The Master in his reply said he was beginning more and more to realise that there were other aspects of bell-ringing, besides ringing Stedman Cinques, although that would always come first. He realised, however, that any Guild if it was to maintain its prosperity must move with the times and adapt itself to the wishes of the younger ringers.

'I have wondered recently whether or not we in the St. Martin's Guild do not tend to confine our activities a little too much to the city. I know the diocese of Birmingham is quite a small one: there are not more than about 30 towers where there are bands of ringers of any kind, and among these 30 the number of bands that may be classed as really proficient is quite small. I know that remark can be applied to most of the ringing guilds throughout the country, and it is a challenge to the ringing Exercise to increase the proportion of towers in 5, 6, 8, 10 or 12 bells where there is a really proficient band.'

How was it to be done? There had been an effort in recent years to give instruction on a wider basis in the sending out of instructors. There had been a college founded which had very laudable aims although its methods had not appealed to the majority. Indeed, the prospectus published in 'The Ringing World' reminded him of the chapter of a book he had been reading, entitled 'The bewildered man's guide to an inextricable tangle.' Whether they could get good ringers by those means was, to him, extremely doubtful. Ringing was something very difficult to teach. He thought it was something a person took to and found he could do with a little guidance, and then they could instruct him and bring him along as they did at St. Martin's.

The prosperity of any society depended on its enthusiasts. They in the St. Martin's Guild had had burning enthusiasts for 30 or 40 years, notable among them being his old friend, Albert Walker.

GET THE OLD RINGERS BACK

He thought they would be doing a very good job if for a period of six months instead of teaching any young people to ring they tried to persuade those who had learnt to ring to ring. He could think of many capable ringers who had given up the hobby. Recently he returned to his native village of Trumpingham, Cambridge. He knew of four or five good ringers there who now never rang.

'Why do people give up ringing? I have been on the verge of giving it up on certain occasions since I started 30 years ago, but I have never given it up. One of the reasons is the fact that since I have been in Birmingham I have been closely connected with St. Martin's and St. Martin's Guild . . . . I think it is a fact that St. Martin's will continue to enjoy a measure of popularity that is very important to ringing, and I am proud to hold the position of Master in such a Guild.'

The chairman gave a special welcome to three old stalwarts—Mr. Morris J. Morris, who will be 90 in August, Mr. J. R. Sharman and Mr. Albert Walker, who had recently been 'through the hoop' with sciatica.

Replying to the toast of 'The Chairman,' proposed by Mr. F. E. Collins, Mr. J. Frank Smallwood said in taking the chair he had fulfilled an ambition of many years, and that was also his 50th Henry Johnson dinner.

In a general commentary he said certain recent performances had not impressed him—but perhaps he was an old fogey. 'I always thought it was a fine thing while ringing a good peal to have pleasurable thoughts of the social hour afterwards, but now that was old-fashioned—we should have learnt to do the two things together by taking our refreshment at the same time . . . . I do not think the recent exploits have done the ringing Exercise any good. I think we have been held up to ridicule.' He wished the further attempt at the 40,000 good luck—if people went to such lengths, he added, they deserved to get it.

During the evening there was some good singing by Mr. Geoffrey Dale, accompanied by Miss Dorothy Owen, and the usual Stedman Cinques, by W. Williams, F. W. Perrens, Albert Walker, J. F. Smallwood, F. E. Haynes and Geo. E. Fearn.

STORY OF SOME SOMERSET BELLS

Will They Ring Again?

THE bells were everywhere ringing their joyful shout for the New Year, but at Buckland Dinham the sound was only a ghostly echo. The 300-year-old bell frame, weakened by the work of generations of beetles, had sunk until this year it was impossible to swing the bells full-circle, instead the clappers were pulled up to their sides by a makeshift arrangement of ropes.

Buckland, three miles from Frome on the Bristol road has plans to remedy this in 1958. The wooden frame must be replaced by a modern steel one and another bell added to bring the present seven to a full octave.

THE MISSING BELL

There is a curious story concerning this missing bell. Many parishes have a tradition that some of their property has gone astray—Frome lays claim to Mells bells though without foundation at least for any of the present eight. Binegar thinks that neighbouring Emborough had two of its old five, since the 1-3-5 of its present six are modern, and a 3-5 to match its old 2-4-6 were in Emborough tower. Conversely Priston (just south of Bath) says its immense weathercock was delivered there by mistake, instead of to the Lancashire Preston. Buckland's claim, though more modern, is equally difficult to substantiate.

EARLY HISTORY

Before 1638 there were four bells, and the oldest part of the frame has pits for these, the tenor swinging E-W and the other three N-S. An extra beam was added then to support the new bell between it and the side of the old frame, and when the present treble was added in 1859 they were both fitted into this gap. The end beams of the tenor pit have been hollowed out to allow for the swing of a much larger bell than either the original or the present ones, but this was probably the same note, E, as now, as bells cast at that time were customarily higher in proportion to their diameter than modern bells.

TENOR CRASHES

It is said that when the tenor was lowered down the outside of the tower for recasting it fell and was smashed — the flagstones it cracked in its fall can still be seen. This was probably in 1856, the date of the present tenor. This and the little clock bell on the roof sounding an octave higher are Warner stock bells, with the founder's name and date in raised lettering. The inscriptions 'Peace' and 'Glory to God, on Earth Peace' (chipped out to the customer's requirements) commemorate the end of the Crimean War.

THE OTHER BELLS

In 1858 the third was recast, again by Warner's, and the fourth in 1896. The present second is the 1638 treble cast by John Lott, of Warminster, and the fifth came from the Bristol foundry in the early 16th century. The present treble was added in 1859 and cost £7 7s. out of the church rate. At that time the Rev. (after Prebendary) Henry Clutterbuck was Vicar, and Mrs. Clutterbuck, sen., had paid for the new clock and clock bell.

The story runs that another bell was cast by Warner's, probably at the same time as the present treble, to be the second of the full ring of eight, and this too was probably paid for by the Clutterbucks, with part of the cost of the new treble, as the £7 7s. quoted seems altogether too small a sum. The frame would not hold another two bells, nor probably would it even at that date safely support them in an upper tier. For some reason the bells could not then be rehung in a new frame and the unused second (so the story goes) was taken over to Orchardleigh to be the clock bell over the newly-completed stables. The Vicar's daughter, Miss Jeanette Clutterbuck, married Mr. Russell Duckworth, great-uncle of the present owner of Orchardleigh, in 1863 and it could well have happened that the Vicar, finding after all that the purpose for which he bought the bell was impossible to complete, sent it to Orchardleigh for another use.

BUCKLAND DINHAM TOWER
[Picture by permission of 'Western Gazette.'

UNSOLVED MYSTERY

When someone who remembered this story saw the bell between the wars they noticed it was the right date and founder and that the note was exactly right for its place in the octave. About five years ago the bell-tower was found to be dangerous owing to decayed timber, and to save the great expense of reconstruction the whole thing was taken down and the bell sold to help pay for the making good of the roof, so the mystery of how it came to be at Orchardleigh, or if, indeed, it was ever intended for Buckland in the first place, must remain unsolved.

SERIOUS DECAY

Before Buckland bells can ring again the frame supporting them must be renewed, for some of the lower timbers have been almost eaten away by woodworm and their fragments hang down from the very beams they are meant to be holding up. Since what might have been the second has gone for good a new one must be bought and about £1,300 will be needed to complete the job—an ambitious sum for a village of less than 400 inhabitants.

A NEW EFFORT

Within the last few years money has been raised to renew the church lighting and heating and to repair the roof, and now a new fund must be started.

Friends of Buckland Church, from its visitors to those who only rely on its tower for a glimpse of the time at the bend of the hill, those who ring bells and those who enjoy hearing them, can take this opportunity of helping to set them ringing again. The Vicar, the Rev. S. Max Benjamin, M.A., will be very glad to receive any sum, however small, towards the cost of putting the bells in order. As soon as a sufficient sum has accumulated work can start on the frame, the new bell being added later. With luck, the help of friends and the usual hard work in the parish, Buckland Dinham will be able to welcome Christmas and ring in 1959 in its traditional way.

E. D. O.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

After a lapse of 35 years the Llandaff Branch held a meeting at Sully on February 15th, which attracted a surprisingly good attendance, and the five bells were in full use from early in the afternoon with the Association's Master in charge.

The Rector (Rev. Basil Jones) conducted the service and gave a warm welcome to the Branch in his address. A most delightful tea, arranged by wives and mothers of local ringers, followed, and those responsible were thanked by Mr. L. Malings.

Before the business meeting commenced, the Rector asked members to stand in silent prayer to the memory of Mr. F. J. Bailey, of St. Mary's Church, Whitchurch.

Mr. R. E. Coles was re-elected as secretary/treasurer, and Mr. Gwyn Lewis, of Cadoxton, Neath, was chosen as the new Branch Ringing Master. Fourteen new members were elected, which included seven of the local band. Subject to permission, the next meeting will be held at Peterston-super-Ely.

Further ringing followed to wind up a very pleasant afternoon and evening.

R. E. C.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LAPPING FAVOURED IN 19th CENTURY

Dear Sir,—The 5,093 of Grandsire Caters referred to by H. N. P. as having been accomplished at the London Apprentice, Isleworth, on February 10th, 1848, was probably 'lapped' and not, to quote the phrase always used in 'Bell News' in peal reports, rung 'on handbells retained in hand.' The time taken (3 hours 20 minutes) and the fact that the names of the performers are not recognisable as those of ringers of the day, tend to confirm this.

'Lapping' must have been a favourite pastime years ago. In 'The Bell News' of November–December, 1900, quite a lot of correspondence took place on the subject, including the following letter from Frederick W. Thornton, who may be remembered by some as a prominent member of the band at Greenwich for many years:—

'It is evident that half a century ago "lapping" was much thought of at St. Alfege, Greenwich . . . for stowed away in a loft above our ringing chamber are several boards recording "true and complete" peals of Grandsire Caters by the Society of Eastern Scholars. Until recently, a similar tablet was to be seen exhibited in the bar of a tavern midway between Greenwich and Lewisham, rung on the premises about 1848. Twenty-two years ago, before I knew anything of half-pull ringing, I assisted in "lapping" a peal of Caters, conducted (?) . . . . from a blackboard upon which the bob leads had been carefully figured in chalk. At that period, two of us regarded it as a great achievement—five years later our opinions materially altered.'

The year quoted by Mr. Thornton, 1848, is the same as that of the Isleworth 'peal,' and one wonders if it might have been by the same performers, or indeed, if it was the same performance, with the band perhaps taken from one public house to the other on a change of landlord. But it is clear that quite a number of such peals were accomplished, for in a leading article (December 1st, 1900) the editor had commented:—

'The elders among the Exercise will not have forgotten the publication of records of such displays of *skill* in the sporting papers. Many of them will remember these impudent persons who put the word "Professor" before their names when sending these worthless accounts of "peal-lapping." And we have our doubts whether all the peals said in these early days to have been rung in hand were so rung.'

Yours faithfully,

E. A. BARNETT.

YOUNG PEAL RINGERS

Dear Sir,—A recent letter on this subject can achieve no good purpose. Some still only think the youngsters should be allowed the condescending and much-hampered opportunities of earlier days—a sure formula today for an empty tower. They are also slow to recognise achievement and to give credit where due. In these days of spoon-fed amusements it should be a source of satisfaction that there are still some young people in our midst who are prepared to show a bit of ambition and determination, and we should encourage them within their limits. I should not have thought participation in a peal tour was more damaging physically than some types of out-of-door sport at school which are accepted without comment, but it does require an exacting standard of mental discipline.—Yours faithfully,

D. P. JONES.

Burton-on-Trent.

THE RINGER'S EVEREST

Dear Sir,—Ringing the extent of Major with one set of men has been likened to the ascent of Everest. While I would not disagree with this comparison of the tasks themselves, I would suggest that in the planning of the assault on these objectives very little comparison can be seen.

I remember attending a lecture in Newcastle by two members of the Everest expedition and marvelling at the meticulous care with which the whole operation had been planned. I cannot express the same admiration for the 1954 and 1958 attempts on the 'ringer's Everest.' Surely the 1954 attempt with its sick man and the 1958 attempt preceded by only three hours' sleep did not deserve success. The inadequacy of three hours' sleep is surely obvious and does not require to be learned in such a hard way.

In these attempts the record length of 21,600 has not been exceeded, and I do not see that any great advance has been made to give reliable grounds for any belief that the extent will be achieved in the near future.

Meticulous attention to details will not detract from the merit of the performance if and when it is accomplished, but without much more careful preparation I think the second 20,000—which after all will be worse than the first—will still be a long way off. Remember that while one cannot command success one can do more—deserve it.—Yours sincerely,

DENIS A. BAYLES.

Chester-le-Street.

A LEARNER'S GRATITUDE

Dear Sir,—If knighthoods were conferred on those who brought happiness to others, I would not hesitate to bestow one on Tom Greasley, of Whatton, Notts (Newark District). He *first* taught me to handle a bell, and the happiness I have since derived from learning to ring could only compensate him for his patience, even though I am not yet advanced.

I hope other learners are as grateful as I.—Yours, etc.,

A. HENSON.

LITTLE MUNDEN

Dear Sir,—May I make a correction with regard to notes printed by K. W. H. F. regarding the ringing of 13 peals from 1902 to 1913. It should be Little Munden. I should know as I was one of the ringers, and took part in most of them.

Great Munden did not at that time have a band of ringers; they used to come to learn from us at Little Munden.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES GALE.

Wyke Regis.

REUBEN SANDERS

Dear Sir,—It was a pleasure indeed to read W. G. W.'s remarks about my old friend Reuben Sanders. We here remember him very well—certainly for his good humour and his outstanding ability in and out of the belfry. Reuben was with us during the early part of the last war for some considerable time, and he rang with us until the ban came, which stopped all ringing.

However, I saw him many times still with the rope-end in his left hand, but it wasn't 'Sally' in the right—it may have been 'Blossom' or 'Turpin,' as he was on his way to the village blacksmith's with a shire horse.

Good health, good luck and many happy returns.—Yours, etc.,

C. W. DIXON.

Maidwell, Northants.

TEN SECONDS BROADCAST

Dear Sir,—Having read your note in some recent Belfry Gossip concerning the service to be televised by the B.B.C. from Hillingdon I, as no doubt did many other ringers, made a point of watching and listening at that time. Once again the B.B.C. have, I feel, let us down. A picture of Hillingdon Church appeared on the screen at exactly 9.45 a.m. and we had the pleasure of listening to about six whole pulls of perfectly-struck rounds before the bells were set up and the introduction to the service began. It really makes one wonder if the B.B.C. do realise the immense amount of arrangements which must have been necessary to arrange for a near-perfect service touch to be rung, and yet all that is broadcast is about ten seconds or less of the final rounds. Congratulations, Hillingdon, your striking was as perfect as it could have been: I consider it disgraceful that the B.B.C. only allowed about ten seconds of it to be broadcast.

In contrast, the Independent Television Authority televised a civic service from St. Mary's, Warwick, on March 2nd. A picture of the church appeared on the screen, with the bells in the background being rung to rounds—no commentator broke in at all. We continued to hear the bells for several minutes while we watched the civic procession moving up the street to the church. This took several minutes, and all the time the bells were heard—in fact they were still ringing when the service began! After the service, as the Mayor's procession moved out of the church, the ringing began again, and the broadcast finished as it had begun, with a picture of this beautiful church on the screen, and the sound of its equally fine bells in the background.

Yes, the I.T.A. gave the bells a far greater place in their organisation than did the B.B.C. at Hillingdon, and the I.T.A. are to be congratulated on this. On the B.B.C. channel, the interval signal appeared for several minutes before the picture of the church and views of Hillingdon itself appeared. Surely during this time it would have been perfectly easy for the sound of the beautiful ring of ten to have been sent out on sound only at least.

One really wonders just when the B.B.C. will begin to realise that the ringers have a part to play in a church service equally with the organist, choristers and other Church workers. Once again, thank you, Hillingdon and Warwick, for the sound of your fine bells—to me, the bells made a perfect introduction to both services.—Yours sincerely,

PETER N. BOND.

Hildenborough, Kent.

STRIKING IN ODD PLACES

Dear Sir,—Mr. Desmond Painter says in ringing the rhythmical effect is to emphasise the bells striking in odd places. I agree this might be so when ringing rounds with a powerful treble and a nondescript tenor, but this isn't usual. A few changes taken on their own emphasise odd places such as 75312468, but the popular Queens will sing that too: it is hard work putting emphasis on the odd places. . . .

I would appreciate guidance on the following points:—

When ringing with an open handstroke lead and tenor covering, is it desirable to hold off the tenor a fraction at back stroke?

When ringing down in peal, at the stage where the tenor is striking only at hand, must the treble's back stroke be kept behind the tenor until such time as the treble is low enough to strike only once?

With thanks in advance to any who reply.—Yours, etc.,

H. Y. PRICE.

Kimpton, near Hitchin.

MUSIC IN BELL-RINGING – III.

By DESMOND PAINTER

WE have now seen what music can and cannot be reproduced on bells. A consideration of this problem brought me in my first article into disagreement with the first of Mr. Chant's points—that '8-7's' occur in 'ordinary' music. What of his second contention that in any case 8-7's are no worse than, say, 8-4's? (Mr. Chant spoke in terms of Minor, of course, but I am sure he will not quarrel with this translation of his point into terms of eight bells.)

If his theories on the first point were suspect, it is difficult to quarrel with Mr. Chant's second point. Can it seriously be contended that 8-7 is a less musical combination than 8-anything else? It is certainly more musical than 8-2. The fact is that here we are beginning to use the word 'musical' in our third sense—to express a personal liking for a particular combination of notes. Such a use of the word is common, especially in imaginative literature, and frequently describes a sound that has nothing to do with music at all—the sound of a rushing stream, for instance, or of laughter. It is equally so in ringing, and many changes which ringers may describe as musical are only so in the very wide sense which we dismissed at an early stage as being too all-embracing to be of any use.

There are of course degrees of musicality which vary as a change approximates more or less closely to those qualities we have already discussed—for instance, changes with the tenor last are far more musical than those with the tenor turned in; hence the famous story about Stainer and the bells of St. Paul's. But the extent of variation between these degrees is so much one of personal preference that it serves only to confuse the issue if combinations other than the few we have already singled out are described as 'musical.' Thus some ringers will find 4-5-8's 'musical'; others will see nothing in them. Some will think the 8-7 at backstroke the worst that can happen to a ringer, while others (like Mr. Chant and myself) will find the 8-4 just as bad.

I do not wish to be misunderstood on this point. I hold no brief for 8-7's. My plea is merely that we should reserve the description 'musical' for those changes in respect of which it has some recognisable meaning, and treat the rest as a matter of taste. After all, there is nothing to stop anyone liking an unmusical change or disliking a musical one; but it will make his point clearer if he says so, instead of treating 'musical' as identical with 'what I happen to like,' an error easily and understandably made because the two so often coincide.

MUSICAL METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS

We have so far dealt only with the musical qualities of particular changes, and not of methods or compositions. The two aspects of ringing are closely connected, of course, and in general the most musical method or composition will be that which contains the greatest number of musical changes. Whether this is always so depends on the way in which the musical changes are grouped together, for as the late J. A. Trollope said, when even a musical pair of bells dodges over and over again the result is 'not music but monotony.' Music and monotony are not perhaps necessarily inconsistent, but no one would quarrel with the general sense of Trollope's view—one can have too much of a good thing. It is on this that the protagonists of even-bell methods often base their claims, and there is much to be said for the view that the musical changes sound all the better for coming after a number of unmusical ones, or that the way the musical combinations coalesce and disperse in an intricate pattern of forward and backward hunting in Bristol is better than anything the odd-bell methods have to offer. On the other hand, can it really be said that the regular striking of the tenor at the end of each change in the odd-bell methods, at least on higher numbers, is monotonous? Keeping the tenor behind gives the ringing a general musical sense which the even-bell methods cannot equal, while the changing pattern of the bells below the tenor is quite fluid enough to avoid monotony.

A strong point in favour of the odd-bell methods is that they can make use of the tittum position, which depends for its effect on the fact that the tenor is behind. The great merit of the 'harmonious tittums' is of course not merely that it produces a number of musical changes—the handstroke home probably produces more—but that the **coursing order** of the bells is itself musical, so that the effect of a roll-up is maintained for anything up to twelve changes at a time, but without becoming monotonous, since the little bells coursing in the opposite direction to the big ones break the rigid pattern up.

In the last resort the merits of different methods must be at least partly a matter of taste, although it is easier to measure the qualities of a **composition** against the criteria elaborated in the second of these articles.

Perhaps I may conclude by summing up the contents of these articles.

We began by distinguishing between three possible senses of the word 'musical' in connection with ringing:—

(a) A succession of musical notes.
(b) A reproduction of 'ordinary' music.
(c) A pleasant sound.

We rejected the first as too wide to be meaningful, and investigated the second. This led to the conclusion that the only music readily reproducible on bells was a small number of chords and cadences, and that the only genuine musical changes were the 6-7-8's, 4-6-8's and 7-4-8's, together with a few other closely related ones. Anything else was 'musical' only in the third sense, which was also rejected as too subjective to have a generally accepted meaning.

It may be said that this is not news; but my object was not to evolve some startling new

(Continued foot of next column)

Famous Handbells Sold At Parish Sale

Handbells of the once famous Horbury Handbell Ringers, who won the National Handbell Ringing Championship and made two successful North American tours at the turn of the century, were recently found in a basket in the parish church tower.

The bells, nearly 70 in number, ranging from a few ounces to 8 lb., were cleaned and offered at a handbell stall at the parish church sale on February 22nd.

About 48 of them had been ordered beforehand and the remainder sold quickly. The bells fetched a total of more than £30.

Two of the largest were bought by a woman from Grimethorpe to use on her farm for calling the workers in to meals.

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the Society was held at St. John's Church, Ranmoor, on March 1st. Apart from the break for tea and meeting, the Ringing Master (Mr. J. J. L. Gilbert) was fully occupied in catering for a large number of ringers, from 3 to 9 p.m., when the local tower captain (Mr. F. B. Ditcher) regretfully had to bring the meeting to a close.

As is usual at Ranmoor, the belfry was spotlessly clean and well heated, and it was noted that a large proportion of the members present were teenagers. A wide range of methods from Bob Doubles to Cambridge Royal, London Major and Stedman Caters was rung, whilst an unusual feature was a three-course touch of Double Norwich Caters.

After an excellent tea the Vicar (Rev. G. Payne) presided over the business meeting. The principal officers were re-elected, the only new appointments being Mr. S. Scattergood, a vice-president; Mr. I. M. Holland, deputy Ringing Master; and Miss S. Chaddock, 'The Ringing World' correspondent.

Six new members were elected, and it was announced that the next meeting would be at Rotherham Parish Church on Easter Monday.

S. C.

MR. T. E. SONE'S 600 PEALS

With a peal at Marden, Kent, after 47 years Mr. T. E. Sone, of Paddock Wood, Kent, rang his 600th peal. These have been rung with 549 ringers in 153 towers for 25 Associations. He has conducted 226 different compositions by 68 composers. His peals are as follows:—

Doubles.—Grandsire 2 (cond. 2).

Minor.—In two, three, four methods 6 (1), in seven methods 2 (1), Cambridge 3 (1).

Triples.—Grandsire 65 (45 Holt's Original, five times round 'circle' and on non-conducted), Stedman 18 (2), Oxford Bob 1, Spliced Grandsire and Bob Major 1 (1).

Major.—Plain Bob 26 (10), Canterbury Pleasure 1 (1), Spliced Canterbury and Plain Bob Every Lead 1 (1), St. Clement's College 1, Double Norwich 99 (66), Dartford Little Bob 1 (1), Kent Treble Bob 98 (85), Oxford Treble Bob 11 (11), Spliced Oxford and Kent 1 (1), Ilkeston Treble Bob 1, Worcester Treble Bob 1 (1), Liversedge Treble Bob 1 (1), Cambridge Treble Bob 1, Double Oxford 1.

Major Surprise.—Superlative 50 (24), Cambridge 44 (18), New Cambridge 3 (1), Pudsey 3, Ashtead 11 (6), Yorkshire 44 (17), Rotherfield 1, Rutland 4 (1), Lincolnshire 6 (2), Aldenham 1, Ipswich 1, Apsley 2 (1), Warwickshire 1 (1), Bristol 2, London 1, Staffordshire 1, Southwell 2, Whitwick 1, Lyme 1, Belgrave 1, Hockley 1, Jedburgh 1, Gainsborough 2, Painswick 4, two spliced 4, three spliced 1, four spliced 1

Caters.—Grandsire 11 (11), Erin 1 (1), Stedman 7 (1), Double Norwich 1 (1).

Royal.—Plain Bob 8 (5), Canterbury Pleasure 1 (1), Kent Treble Bob 19 (17).

Royal Surprise.—Cambridge 9 (1), Yorkshire 1.

Cinques.—Grandsire 1 (1), Stedman 1.

Maximus.—Kent Treble Bob 3 (2), Plain Bob 1 (1).

Total.—600; conducted 344.

(Continued from previous column)

theory about what changes are musical or unmusical. Rather was I attempting to analyse why the musical changes are musical, and to introduce some definition into the present vague use of the word 'musical' in relation to ringing. I hope I have in some measure succeeded, if only to the extent of prompting someone better qualified than I to make a better job of it.

(Concluded)

OBITUARY

MR. FREDERICK DENCH

The death of Frederick Dench, of Saffron Walden, came as a great surprise to his many ringing friends. He had been in remarkably good health until a week before his death, when he developed a chill. A sudden turn for the worse turned to a diabetic coma from which he never recovered.

Fred Dench was born in the village of Worth, near Crawley, Sussex, in 1875, and commenced bell-ringing at the age of 13 with James Parker's band at Crawley. He soon showed great promise and was in the band which rang all the Surprise peals.

In 1897 he moved to London and joined the Rochester Row band for Sunday ringing. Later he became a member of the St. Paul's Cathedral band. One of his great peals in London was the non-conducted Stedman Cinques at Cornhill.

In 1911 he moved to the village of Ditton, near Cambridge, and rang with the Cambridge Youths. In 1914 he moved to Saffron Walden and opened up a business on his own as a coach painter. He became a member of the Saffron Walden Society, and composed and conducted many peals. He retired from business about ten years ago.

He will chiefly be remembered as a composer. He was the first to discover that IN and 5ths runs true to London Surprise and to break away from Middleton's peal of Cambridge Major by parting the tenors. His method, Bedford Surprise, extends from Minor to Maximus, and his Dench's Principle from Doubles to Cinques. He was one of the few to compose and conduct peals of Cambridge Surprise from Minor to Maximus. His record of peals is not available at present, but it is hoped to publish this later.

He was a very modest man and a most genial companion and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

The funeral service took place in the Parish Church and was conducted by the Vicar (Canon M. R. Sinker). Among those present were L. E. Pitstow (College Youths), A. E. Pitstow, J. Negus, L. Mumford, H. Cranwell (Saffron Walden Society), T. R. Dennis E. Hibbins, J. Quinney, J. G. Gipson, S. F. Brown (Cambridge), J. W. Ward (Melbourn), Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Austin (Newmarket).

As the cortège left the church some well-struck Stedman Triples was rung on the half-muffled ring by the following: J. Quinney 1, S. F. Brown 2, J. G. Gipson 3, E. Hibbins (conductor) 4, T. R. Dennis 5, J. Negus 6, J. W. Ward 7, A. E. Austin 8.

AN APPRECIATION

The death of Fred Dench, which occurred on February 22nd, is a great loss to ringing and to the Exercise generally, for he was in the front rank as a composer and conductor.

It is 60 years ago when I first met Fred and I have esteemed his friendship ever since. He first learned to ring at Crawley, where the band, with 'Jim' Parker as conductor, was one of the few bands at that time which was practising Surprise methods and which band did hold the record length for Superlative Surprise.

Ringing was Fred's only hobby, and like all great artists he put his heart and soul into it and became the composer of peals in various methods. At one time he contributed news of much interest in 'The Bell News' and later to 'The Ringing World.'

He was outstanding as a conductor and it was very rare that he made a mistake. It was when he and 'Jim' Parker left Crawley and we all worked in London that I first met Fred, and

MR. FREDERICK DENCH

we rang several peals together. He left London and went to Cambridge, and later came to Saffron Walden. We considered it very fortunate to have such a noted ringer join us.

On the social side Fred had a fine personality and disposition, and it was a pleasure to spend an hour or two with him.

He was always ready to impart his knowledge to those who were eager to learn. I myself, and I think I can include his many friends, wish to express our regret at the passing of a friend and a great ringer.

A. E. PITSTOW.

Saffron Walden.

MR. J. B. HESSEY

Many ringers, particularly in Surrey, will deeply regret the passing of Mr. John Belchamber Hessey at his home in Chertsey on March 2nd. He was 76 years of age and was a lifelong resident of Chertsey. These last few years he had been in failing health, but maintained his interest in ringing although unable to handle a rope or visit the belfry.

John Hessey came to the tower from the choir stalls, and the writer first met him in 1902, when the Chertsey bells were a handful to manipulate, and after rehanging took place he set the good example of regular and punctual attendance. As tower captain and District Ringing Master of his Diocesan Guild, he accomplished much steady progressive work, and he will also be remembered as a loyal member of the Surrey Association.

Of quiet disposition, Mr. Hessey was not selfish when it came to conducting peals or quarter peals, yet he could call peals such as Penning's One-part or Parker's One-part. He was not a prolific peal ringer, but he loved a well-struck quarter or touch and he was regarded as a safe ringer. John won esteem and affection from ringers over a wide circle, and his steady but sure work as ringer, conductor, instructor and unassuming guide and friend will not easily be forgotten.

Cremation took place at Woking on March 6th. W. S.

MR. WILLIAM A. LEWIS

Although not so well known to members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association of today as he was to the older generation, the passing of Mr. William A. Lewis at the age of 83 on February 23rd has taken from us one who was looked up to and respected for many years.

He had been a member of the Association for 53 years and was one of the founder members of the first Branch, Wotton-under-Edge. For ten years he was Branch secretary, and after that its chairman for two years; he was the captain of Berkeley tower for 50 years and in 1955 was made a life member of the G. and B. for his faithful services. Mr. Lewis rang only one peal, the treble to Grandsire Caters.

The Wotton-under-Edge Branch was represented at the funeral at Berkeley on February 27th, and a wreath was sent. Tribute was paid to his memory at a meeting at Chipping Sodbury by the chairman (Rev. W. A. Peel), and members present stood in silence. Mr. Lewis's grandson (Mr. R. Cox) thanked the Branch on behalf of the family. C. R.

REDEDICATION

Wiveton, Norfolk

On Sunday, March 2nd, at St. Mary's Church, Wiveton, at the end of an ordination service, the Bishop of Norwich rededicated the bells, which have been rehung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

The opening rounds were rung by Janet Harcourt 1, John Bone 2, Edward Copeman 3, W. H. Theobald 4, William West 5, R. Whisker 6—local ringers, with exception of Mr. Theobald, of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, to whom credit must be given for overcoming difficulties caused by the snow and gales, and getting the bells ringable in time for the service.

Ringers from Norwich, Blakeney, Cromer, Wells and Caston were present. (This meant a 2¾-hour cycle ride for John Barnes.)

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

Chertsey District

In spite of bad weather, more than 60 ringers attended the annual meeting of the Chertsey District at Walton-on-Thames, which was held jointly with the Ladies' Guild. Before the service, conducted by the Rev. G. Greig, in Walton Parish Church, there was ringing in standard methods at Oatlands Park and Walton.

Local ladies prepared a grand tea, and at the business meeting all the retiring officers of the Chertsey District were re-elected unopposed. Mr. T. Luxford was elected to the Guild executive in place of Mr. Goldstone who had retired.

Both the District Ringing Master and secretary stressed the need for the more experienced ringers to attend meetings to assist the large number of recruits. Membership was over the hundred mark for the first time. The balance sheet showed an increase of £1 19s. 10d.

New members were elected from Hersham 4, Walton 1, Horsell 1 and Chobham 1 (junior).

No nominations were made for Guild Ringing Master or secretary. Mr. George Brown, of Aldershot, was nominated as Guild auditor.

Mr. W. Shepherd proposed a vote of thanks to all who had made the meeting a success, and welcomed visitors from Watford, King's Langley, Henfield, Hawkley, Sevenoaks and Reading.

Ringing continued at Walton till 8.30, and included a touch of Grandsire Triples by an all-ladies band. R. C.

EWELME, OXON.—On Feb. 15th, 1,320 Plain Bob Doubles: Patricia Reason 1, F. Godden 2, Joan Busby (first quarter) 3, R. Baker (first as cond.) 4, R. Tuckwell 5, H. J. Winfield (sen.) 6. First quarter by an all-Ewelme band.

WAKEFIELD RINGING IN 1757

By DAVID CUBITT

THE intention behind this article was to review the activities of Wakefield ringers 200 years ago, as revealed in the churchwarden's accounts, against the background of local and national events; but, as most of the entries merely recite the payment of a sum of money to 'the Ringers' without further explanation, the reason for ringing in all instances cannot be given. The wardens of All Saints' Church, Wakefield, eight in number—six representing the town, two for each of the three streets, Northgate, Westgate and Kirkgate, and the yards and alleys leading off them, and two representing the parish, which included the outlying hamlets of Thornes, Alverthorpe and Stanley—were elected annually and levied a rate, from the proceeds of which they paid the salaries of church and parish officials and made such other payments as were necessary.

Before noting payments made to the ringers, it might be interesting to give some indication of wages about that time. In 1771, Arthur Young published his 'Six Months' Tour through the North of England.' He wrote that Wakefield was noted for the cloth dressing trade: 'The men earn from 6s. a week (in winter) to 14s.; boys till 14 or 15 years of age, 1s. 6d. to 2s. a week.' Miners in nearby pits earned 10s. or 12s. a week: a farm labourer at harvest time 1s. 4d. a day, in winter 9d. or 10d.

With regularity, in January, April, July and October of every year, the churchwardens paid the ringers their salary, for Sunday ringing, by quarterly instalments. In 1757, on the 25th of those months, they paid 'Ringers' Sallary' of £3 6s. 8d.—that is, 8s. 4d. per ringer This payment remained at £3 6s. 8d. a quarter till 1773, when it was increased to £4.

But if £13 6s. 8d. a year for the eight ringers was a flat rate, there were bonus payments to be had, for which the ringers presented the wardens with a note or bill. It was customary then for the bells to be rung on January 30th, May 29th and November 5th each year; for those days in 1757 the ringers received 4s., 10s. 6d. and 10s. 6d. respectively.

January 30th was, of course, the day of the execution of King Charles I. in 1649, and by Act of Parliament of 1660 it was enacted 'That every thirtieth day of January, unless it falls out to be upon the Lord's day, and then the day next following, shall be forever hereafter set apart to be kept and observed in all churches and chapels of these your Majesty's Kingdoms . . . . as an anniversary day of fasting and humiliation, to implore the mercy of God, that neither the guilt of that sacred blood, nor those other sins by which God was provoked to deliver up both us and our King into the hands of cruel and unreasonable men, may at any time hereafter be visited upon us or our posterity.'

May 29th, 1660, saw the restitution of Charles II. on the throne (on his birthday) and the restoration of the Government, in commemoration of which Parliament enacted 'That all and singular ministers of God's word and sacraments, in every church, chapel and usual place of divine worship and public prayer, which now are or may hereafter be within this realm of England, and the respective dominions thereof and their successors, shall in all succeeding ages annually celebrate the twenty-ninth of May by rendering their hearty public praises and thanksgivings unto Almighty God . . . . ' Branches of oak were displayed on this day, an allusion to Charles II. concealing himself in the oak at Boscobel, after the battle of Worcester.

The payment for November 5th requires no explanation. Parliament proclaimed this day to be one of public thanksgiving for the deliverance of James I. and Parliament in 1605. The special forms of service for these three days no longer appear in the Prayer Book.

Other payments, made annually, were for New Year's Day, Good Friday and Christmas Day—8s., 2s. 6d. and 8s. respectively in 1757.

Wakefield has two annual fairs, one at midsummer, dating from 1258, the other at All Saints'-tide, dating from 1204. For the fair held on Nov. 10th and 11th, 1757, the ringers received 10s. 6d. for the first day (a cattle fair) and 3s. 6d. for the second (when workmen and servants were hired). Lest anyone should query an All Saints' fair being held on November 10th and 11th, the seeming discrepancy is explained by the Act of 1751 which corrected the calendar, as a result of which the day following September 2nd, 1752, was accounted September 14th, 11 days being omitted. The Wakefield fair continued to be held on the old days.

For payments on only three other days in 1757 can reasons be ascribed with certainty. Friday, February 11th that year, was appointed a national day of fasting to deprecate God's judgment for the sins of the country, and for ringing that day 4s. was paid. On February 18th appears a payment of 10s. 'For going about the Parish and the Ringers,' and refers, no doubt, to the churchwardens' annual perambulation and survey of the parish.

In the previous year, what was to be called the Seven Years' War broke out, following a diplomatic revolution in which Britain allied herself with Prussia against France and Austria and, later, Russia. Britain's activity in this war was almost entirely directed against the French, and chiefly in India and Canada and on the high seas. On May 6th, 1757, Frederick II. of Prussia engaged and defeated the Austrians near Prague. The news of the victory was published in the London Gazette Extraordinary of Friday, May 20th, and on May 23rd 10s. 6d. was paid 'By Ringers pr. Note/ King of Prussia's Victory.'

There are five other entries when payments were made for ringing, at 10s. 6d. a time.

On Shrove Tuesday, 1757, the Wakefield ringers travelled to Leeds, where, at the Parish Church, they rang a peal of 5,040 Grandsire Triples in 2 hours and 55 minutes. The journey and the peal must have been for the love of the art and not for financial gain, as no payment was made this day—unless the Leeds churchwardens paid them something.

Wakefield in 1757 was a prosperous wool and cloth market as well as an agricultural centre, and ripe for expansion: but an 'upper class' of merchant in the town, not wishing to have the air they breathed polluted by soot and smoke or their views spoiled by factory chimneys, succeeded in keeping industry away from the town, so that in the early years of the industrial revolution other West Riding towns outstripped it in size and commercial importance. That, however, is another story.

Benson's Bells Rehung

The service to commemorate the rehanging on ball-bearings of Benson's bells was held on February 25th, the day of the worst weather this winter. Nevertheless, Mr. Frederick Sharpe and the handbell ringers of St. Mary's, Launton, made the journey.

Besides conducting the service, Mr. Sharpe gave an illustrated talk on bells, and the handbell ringers gave a recital.

A recording of the service and of the tower ringing was played back at a reception arranged by the P.C.C. at the Vicarage. Mr. F. White, who rehung the bells, was thanked by the Church Council and ringers for a really good job.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON SOCIETY

THE University of London Society held its annual dinner at the Mitre Tavern, Chancery Lane, on February 15th. During the afternoon ringing took place at St. Mary's, Putney, St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, and St. Lawrence Jewry. The afternoon's chase across London succeeded in producing healthy appetites, and in pleasant surroundings a meal of roast beef was served to a record gathering of 52 people.

The loyal toast, followed by the president's customary blessing that 'those who must smoke may now do so,' was observed and, with that feeling of well-being so essential to the reception of after-dinner speeches, the company relaxed. The toast of 'The Church' was given by the president (Dr. Denis Layton), who dwelt briefly on the beginnings of the Society and spoke of the blessings which the Society now enjoyed at its home—St. Olave's, Hart Street.

The Rev. Stanley Evans, who replied, said as a ringing member of the Society he was able to speak from, as it were, both sides of the belfry door. He touched lightly on his experiences as a 'clerical gentleman' and on his recent tour to Russia, and then went on to advise ringers to treat other members of the congregation as though they were fellow ringers. He felt the unity of the Church would be thus strengthened.

The toast of 'The Society' was proposed by the Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths (Dr. Philip Chalk). His sense of the dramatic was highly delightful to watch and, although it is now difficult to remember what he said about the Society, it is certain that his stories will be remembered. Roger Keeley (Master of the Society) replied, and gave a summary of recent activities. He expressed his pleasure in seeing the Dawes Cup come home for another year and congratulated the members concerned in the competition.

John Armstrong, last year's Master, was called upon to propose the health of 'The Visitors, and regretted the absence of the Rev. Powell-Miller (Rector of St. Olave's, Hart Street), who was convalescing after his long illness. In his reply, Mr. Frederick Cullum (Master of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths) thanked the Society for their hospitality.

The Masters of Oxford, Cambridge and Bristol Universities Guilds, who until that moment had been enjoying themselves, soon lost their soporific smiles when told by the president that the U.L.S.C.R. was not a completely charitable organisation and that they would have to sing for their suppers. Copies of a conventional Victorian melodrama were produced, and the parts of the Villain, his assistant and the Hero given to Brian Cookson, David Heighton and Robin Pittman respectively. Insults, abuse, villainous interjections and the snarls which soon ensued were all uttered with such depth of feeling that one felt here at last was the ideal medium for the expression of inter-university rivalry. The audience were highly amused and the end came far too soon. R. L. A.

First Peal of Doubles at Lewknor

With reference to the peal at Lewknor on February 15th (see page 153) which states: 'Believed to be the first peal of Doubles on the bells,' Mr. Alan R. Pink informs us that the first peal on the bells, on May 7th, 1947, then a ring of five, was in 19 Doubles methods, which at that time was the greatest number of Doubles methods rung to a peal by the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

NOTICES

New Scale of Charges

Meetings: 3/6 (minimum) for 30 words, afterwards 1½d. a word. Each additional insertion half charge.

Other Notices: 4/- (minimum) for 36 words, afterwards 1½d. a word.

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BIRTHS

BENSTEAD.—On Saturday, March 1st, 1958, at 20, Stanley Close, Botley, Oxford, to Irene and Robert Benstead, a son (Mark Andrew), a brother for Pauline and Bruce. 1997

DARMON.—On March 4th, 1958, at Watford Maternity Hospital, to Jean and Stanley Darmon, a son (James Christopher). 2000

ROCK.—On March 5th, 1958, at Middlesbrough, to Peter and Dorothy Rock, twin sons (David Charles and Jonathan Richard). 2005

FORTHCOMING WEDDING

HARBOTT—NORGATE.—The wedding of Martyn W. Harbott and Christine Norgate will take place (D.V.) on March 15th at 10.30 a.m. at St. Mary's, Merton. Bells (5) from 10 a.m. and after service. Future address: 20, The Street, Ashtead, Surrey. 1990

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—On and after March 11th the address of Frank B. Lufkin (peal secretary, Essex Association) will be 108, Salisbury Road, Holland-on-Sea, Essex. Peal reports, compositions and peal fees to this new address, please. 1983

PERSONAL

MARRIAGE THRO' SOCIAL INTRODUCTIONS.—The only social service of its kind enjoying the warm approval of both Clergy and Press. It is completely confidential and operates throughout Great Britain. Interesting free brochure under plain sealed cover from The Bournemouth Bureau, 176, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. 1886

MISCELLANEOUS

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY GUILD.—The annual summer tour is being held in south east England from July 7th to 17th. Will anyone interested please write for further details to Miss Carol Eustace, 4, Burton Avenue, Withington, Manchester, 20. 1981

Can any member of THE SOCIETY OF RAMBLING RINGERS, proposing to use a car this year, offer a vacant seat to an enthusiastic fellow member? Health prevents extensive cycling—expenses shared.—Box No. 1989. 'The Ringing World' Offices, Onslow Street, Guildford. 1989

'Electrical Switchgear Warning Cards.'—Issued free, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, size at least 5¾in. by 3¼in., to Miss Elizabeth Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester.

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MEETINGS

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—Meeting at Yaxley (6), Saturday, March 15th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—H. S. Peacock, Dis. Sec. 1961

ELY ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting, Downham Market, Saturday, March 15th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—J. Fox, Dis. Sec. 1955

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.E. District.—Meeting at Ardleigh, Saturday, March 15th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. 1921

HAWKHURST GUILD.—Meeting. Staplehurst, Saturday, March 15th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Names to E. A. Fellows, Hon. Sec., 9, Blacklands, Sedlescombe, Battle. 1944

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting, Saturday, March 15th, at Sandridge. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—S. Huckle, Dis. Sec. 2003

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—Meeting at Rawtenstall on Saturday, March 15th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Cups of tea at 5 (own food). Meeting in tower at 6 p.m.—J. Porter. 1987

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Meeting at St. Margaret's, Uxbridge, Saturday, March 15th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Further ringing till 8.30 p.m.—W. T. Cook, Dis. Sec. 1952

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Reigate on Saturday, March 15th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in Parish Hall. Buckland bells 2.15 to 3.15 p.m. 1909

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Practice meeting, Seaford (8), Saturday, March 15th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., Granny's Café.—Geo. North, 11, Richmond Terrace, Brighton. 1982

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Branch.—Practice meeting, Badgworth, Saturday, March 22nd. Bells (5) 5 p.m.—E. C. Wickham. 1998

CHESTER GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—Meeting at Cheadle, Saturday, March 22nd. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. For tea please advise by Tuesday, 18th, Mr. H. Cook, 24, Bilkeley Road, Cheadle.—C. K. Lewis. 2006

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Monthly meeting, Saturday, March 22nd, at Etwall. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Names for tea, please, by Wednesday, March 19th, to W. A. Morley, Dis. Sec., 29, Short Row, Belper, Derbys. 1985

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual meeting at Dudley, Saturday, March 22nd. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and business 5 p.m. Names to R. A. Peakman, Les Cloches, Court Crescent, Kingswinford. 2007

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Leckhampton (8), Saturday, March 22nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5 p.m. Names by March 18th.—Mary Bliss, Beech Pike, Cheltenham. 1995

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hinckley District.—Stoney Stanton, Saturday, March 22nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting in the Church School at 5 p.m. Names for tea, please, by Wednesday, March 19th, to Michael Vernon, Long Street, Stoney Stanton, Leics. 1992

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Marlborough Branch.—Meeting at Collingbourne Kingston, Saturday, March 22nd. Names essential for those requiring tea.—T. A. Palmer, 16, Oxford Street, Aldbourne, Wilts. 2002

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Guild.—A quarterly meeting at Cranborne, Saturday, March 22nd. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea for those who notify by March 19th I. Davis, 13, Sandbanks Road, Parkstone. 1999

SUFFOLK GUILD.—A general meeting at Beccles, Saturday, March 22nd. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, 19th, to Mr. E. R. Goate, 51, Grove Road, Beccles. Norfolk ringers welcome.—J. W. Blythe, Gen. Sec. 1911

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Mildenhall District.—Meeting at Elveden (8), Saturday, March 22nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—E. M. Peachey. 1974

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Practice meeting, Saturday, March 22nd, Warbleton (6). Method, St. Clement's Minor. A country meeting you will enjoy. Country tea: names to H. Reynolds, Sec., 10, Eastern Avenue, Polegate. 1991

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Feering, Saturday, March 29th. Bells (8) 3.15 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, 26th, if possible, to Mr. H. Nichols, Alverstone House, Feering, Kelvedon. 2004

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Boughton, Saturday, March 29th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Names for tea by Tuesday previous, please, to Mr. G. F. Roome, 116, Derby Road, Northampton. Committee meet at 6.15 p.m.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Debenham District.—A meeting will be held at Helmingham, Saturday, March 29th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, March 26th, please, to L. G. Brett, 109, St. John's Row, Framsden, Stowmarket. Framsden bells (8) from 6 to 9 p.m.—W. J. Button, Dis.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting, Minehead, Easter Monday, April 7th. Service 12 noon. Lunch 1 p.m. Admission tickets sent on receipt of stamped addressed envelope. Details of ringing later.—Roger O. Fry, 5, Morford Street, Bath. 1968

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, Ashford, Easter Monday, April 7th. Committee, 11 a.m., at Wrens Restaurant. Service at 12 noon. Luncheon, 1 p.m., at Ashford School for Girls. Tickets, *before Tuesday, April 1st*, from Mr. B. W. May, Keithston, Keycol Hill, Bobbing, Sittingbourne: members 4s. 6d., others 6s. 6d. Printed leaflet with full details of ringing, agenda of business, etc., sent with tickets. Towers include Ashford, Bethersden, Biddenden, Charing, Little Chart, Sellindge, Tenterden, Willesborough and Wye.—Dr. E. S. J. Hatcher, Chimneys, Offham, Maidstone. 1996

OXFORD SOCIETY.—The 225th anniversary dinner will be held on Saturday, April 19th, at Christ Church, Oxford, 6.15 for 7 p.m. Tickets 15s. each. Names with remittance, before April 1st, to P. Walker, 66, Fairacres Road, Oxford. All ringers and friends will be welcome. Ringing: Wolvercote, 12.30 to 1.30; St. Giles', 1.15 to 2.15; Iffley, 1.30 to 2.30; St. Mary-the-Virgin, 2.30 to 3.30; All Saints', 2.45 to 3.45; St. Ebbe's, 3.30 to 4.30; St. Mary Magdalene, 3.30 to 4.30; Christ Church, 4 to 5; New College, 4.30 to 5.30; Magdalen, 5 to 6 p.m. Peals can be arranged for those requesting them. 1994

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—A meeting will be held at Cambridge on Saturday, May 3rd. Will those members wishing to travel at reduced fare on the 9.25 a.m. train from Kings Cross please notify the undersigned by April 25th. Ringing arrangements will be announced later.—John Chilcott, 20, Crosslands Avenue, Southall, Middlesex. 1984

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