

No. 251. Vol. X.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1916.

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Price 1d.

# GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.

## BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,  
Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,  
MESSRS. GILLET and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1912.  
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,  
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

# MODERN WORK.

## THE RINGERS' TRIBUTE.

The muffled ringing in our churches on Sunday for those who have fallen in the war was all but universal. The steps which "The Ringing World" took to further the general observance of the day as an occasion when the ringers throughout the country might interpret, through the bells, the national feeling in regard to the sacrifice made by the heroic dead, had splendid results. From end to end of the land the muffled bells pealed out their impressive notes, marking the feeling which we have for those who have given their lives in the cause not only of the Empire, but of humanity and justice. From our great Cathedrals, from our city and village churches, poured forth those strains which stir the emotions, and which recalled the fact that, though so many thousands of our heroes are dead, their memory lives.

We believe we are on quite safe ground when we state that on no previous occasion has a collective action on the part of ringers ever received such wide public recognition, and we may be pardoned for saying that we are proud of the result. The securing of the views of the Archbishop of Canterbury assured the success of the proposal from the start, and, so far as its general adoption by ringers was concerned, the approval of the Archbishop of York and of more than a score of other prelates put the final seal upon it. Our share in the matter, however, was not finished there. We were able to reach the ringers, and, through them, the clergy; but, as we stated, it was also important that the public should be reached as well. Accordingly, efforts were made to obtain the assistance of the Church newspapers and of the daily Press, and several journals announced, in their own way, the part ringers intended to play. Nearly all the London daily papers on Monday laid emphasis on the muffled ringing, and, in one widely read journal, the article upon the day's services was given a heading relating to the bells: "Toll for the Brave. Muffled Peals rung at Nation's Services of Intercession."

So far as the ringers themselves are concerned, we feel that the part they played on Sunday was not only a worthy one, and one which was dictated by a deep appreciation of what the nation owes to its departed heroes, but it was an act which must, in its effect, be helpful. Bishops, clergy and people were made aware of a great united action by a body of Churchmen whose doings seldom come under public notice, and, to those who may give it thought, it will be apparent that such an organised observance could only come from a body who realise the duties as well as the pleasures of their calling, and who are not only ready to interpret national feeling, but are able and ever willing to do so.

# CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR  
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,  
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,  
Vicar of Broomfield.

MURRAY C. CARR, LTD.  
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your Contract,—we may be able to assist you.

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BIRMINGHAM**

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Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Alban's, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester and Worcester Cathedrals etc., etc.

## MUFFLED PEALS.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 3, 1916, in Three Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;**

Tenor 37½ cwt.

WILLIAM H. BARBER ... Treble	R. ALDER GOFTON ... 7
ALFRED DALTON ... 2	BERT HORTON ... 8
JOHN McKEAG ... 3	ALFRED F. HILLIER ... 9
JOSEPH E. R. KEEN ... 4	BENJ. C. DIXON ... 10
WILLIAM W. SINCLAIR ... 5	ROBERT RICHARDS ... 11
ASA HOLMES ... 6	JOHN FOREMAN ... Tenor

Composed by JOSEPH W. PARKER, and  
Conducted by WM. H. BARBER.

Rung with half muffled bells as a tribute to the memory of those who have fallen in the war. This composition is now rung for the first time. It contains all the 5—6's in the inverted titlums and handstroke home positions. First peal on the 12 bells in this tower and the first on 12 bells for all except the conductor and A. F. Hillier. Also the first peal of Stedman Cinques by the Association. All the above are members of the Cathedral Guild of Ringers except R. A. Gofton.

GARSTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

(LIVERPOOL BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 1, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

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

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 12 cwt.

SAMUEL MILLERSHIP ... Treble	HERBERT LUDKIN ... 5
EDWARD CAUNCE ... 2	WALTER HUGHES ... 6
THOMAS JENNIONS ... 3	SIDNEY BARNES ... 7
GEORGE WOODHALL ... 4	HERBERT SAMUELS ... Tenor

Conducted by S. BARNES.

First peal as conductor. Rung with the bells half-muffled in memory of the fallen in the war; also in memory of the late Arch-deacon Madden, of Southport.

WHITLEY BAY, NORTHUMBERLAND.

DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 3, 1916, in Three Hours and Twenty-two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

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

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 17 cwt.

*FREDERICK NICHOL ... Treble	GEORGE R. HARRISON ... 5
EDWARD A. HERN ... 2	JOSEPH A. GOFTON ... 6
COLIN GREY ... 3	THOMAS T. GOFTON ... 7
ARTHUR PAYNE ... 4	HERBERT P. MUSGRAVE ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS T. GOFTON.

\* First peal. Rung with the bells half muffled as a tribute of respect to the soldiers and sailors who have lost their lives in the war.

NEWENT, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(NORTH FOREST BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 1, 1916, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE AND ST. DUNSTON'S DOUBLES,  
5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 20 cwt. 3 qrs.

† JAMES E. ROBERTS ... Treble	HARRY GOUGH ... 4
PRIVATE H. AWFORD ... 2	EX-SERGT. J. WILLIAMS ... 5
† ALBERT MARTIN ... 3	* CHARLES PANTING ... Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT MARTIN.

\* First peal. † First peal away from the tenor. ‡ First peal as conductor. This peal was rung with the bells muffled as a tribute of respect to our soldiers and sailors who have fallen in the war. Pte. Awford belongs to the 3/1st Batt. Cyclists Corps.

**EIGHT BELL PEALS.**

NORTH STONEHAM, HAMPSHIRE.  
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 27, 1915, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;**

Tenor 9 cwt. 0 qr. 26 lbs.

JOSIAH HARRIS ... .. Treble	ALFRED MEARS ... .. 5
LIONEL H. PAGE ... .. 2	GEORGE WILLIAMS ... .. 6
CHARLES J. FRAY ... .. 3	WILLIAM H. GEORGE ... .. 7
HENRY W. WILKES ... .. 4	WILLIAM T. TUCKER ... Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS, and  
Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

This composition has the 6th at home the last 24 course-ends.

WALKDEN, LANCASHIRE.  
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 29, 1915, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

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

Tenor 13½ cwt.

JOHN DENNER ... .. Treble	GEORGE PINCOTT ... .. 5
THOMAS B. WORSLEY ... .. 2	*MATTHEW BERRY ... .. 6
JOSEPH RIDYARD ... .. 3	JOHN POTTER ... .. 7
JOHN WELSBY ... .. 4	JAMES DENNER ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK, and  
Conducted by JOHN POTTER.

\* First peal in the method with a bob bell. Rung with the bells deeply muffled as a token of respect to Mr. Benjamin Higham, who had been organist at the above church for 37 years, and who died suddenly on Christmas Day.

**SIX BELL PEALS.**

STEEPLE ASHTON, WILTSHIRE.  
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.  
(DEVIZES BRANCH.)

On Monday, December 27, 1915, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

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

Being 42 six-scores, with 10 different callings. Tenor 20 cwt.

*WALTER BERRETT ... .. Treble	†WILLIAM BAXTER ... .. 4
†HAROLD BUTCHER ... .. 2	SAMUEL J. HECTOR ... .. 5
JESSE FRANCIS ... .. 3	*WILLIAM BARTLETT ... Tenor

Conducted by SAMUEL J. HECTOR.

\* First peal. † First peal away from treble. Messrs. Butcher and Bartlett were elected members before starting for peal. This is believed to be the first peal ever rung on the bells, which have just been rehung by Messrs. Mears & Stainbank.

**HANDBELL PEAL.**

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.  
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 21, 1915, in One Hour and Fifty-seven Minutes,  
AT THE TOWER OF SS. PETER AND PAUL'S CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Comprising two 720's of St. Clements and five of Plain Bob, called differently.

CHARLES POULSON ... .. 1—2	ARTHUR SYMONDS ... .. 3—4
STEDMAN H. SYMONDS ... .. 5—6	

Conducted by S. H. SYMONDS.

First peal in two methods by C. Poulson. This was rung to celebrate the birthday of Mr. Arthur W. Baldwin, schoolmaster of St. Snoring, Norfolk, who was a former ringer of St. Mary's Church, Preston, Suffolk, and who was taught by the ringer of 3-4.

The peal rung at Staveley on December 27th, and recorded in our last issue, was Mr. W. T. Peglar's 200th peal.

**ROLL OF HONOUR.**

The following is a further list of ringers who have joined H.M. Forces:  
Gnr. G. F. Williams, of Holy Trinity, Hull, 146th Brigade, R.F.A., now at Hull.

Pte. A. Poulter, of St. Michael's, Yorktown, Surrey, A.S.C., now in France.

Gnr. J. H. Riding, of Christ Church, Crewe, Royal Garrison Artillery, now at Crosby, near Liverpool.

Pte. G. H. Harding, of St. James's, Trowbridge, Wilts, Royal Flying Corps.

Spr. A. E. Abraham, of St. Thomas's, Bristol, Royal Engineers, now in France.

Pte. W. C. Abraham, of St. Thomas's, Bristol, R.A. M.C., now at Bulford.

From Selby Abbey, Yorks:—

Rifleman H. S. Morley, and

Rifleman T. Morgan, 19th (Res.) Batt. King's Royal Rifles (Churchmen's Battalion).

These make the number who have joined from Selby Abbey up to six. From St. Stephen's, Old Radnor, Herefordshire.

Pte. W. Evans, A.S.C. (M.T.), now in France.

Pte. G. Jones, K.S.L.I., discharged through an accident.

Pte. R. Jones, 2nd Batt. Herefordshire Regiment.

**A PLEASANT NEW YEAR'S EVE.**

A most enjoyable New Year's Eve was spent by a few ringing friends attached to St. Stephen's, Ealing, and St. Mary's, Acton. The bells of St. Stephen's were raised at 7.30, and several touches were successfully brought round open.

The bells were lowered at 8.30, and, at the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, all adjourned to 24, Wimborne Gardens, for light refreshments—a most welcome interlude. Handbells were brought into use, and several courses brought round, with the aid of "my lady nicotine," by the following: A. W. Davis 1—2, W. Lawrence 3—4, G. Harbour 5—6, Robt. Holloway 7—8. Next an interesting 15 minutes was spent in examining the host's relics, for he seems to possess quite a small museum. One article in particular—a candlestick—should commend itself to those married strings who spend a good deal of time in discussing as to who should put the candle out before turning into sheet alley. Upon entering the bedroom you touch a small lever, and by the time you are in bed the candle automatically extinguishes itself. It was now 10 p.m., so the party adjourned to Acton tower, where the bells were rung half-muffled until almost 12 o'clock, when the mufflers were removed, and touches of Bob Major and Grandsire Triples were indulged in. The conducting at both towers was shared by Messrs. W. Lawrence and Robt. Holloway.

**SOLDIERS TAKE PART IN NEW YEAR'S RINGING.**

The old custom of ringing the old year out and the new year in was carried out as usual for the 40th consecutive year, at Pulborough, Sussex. The ringers were pleased to have among them their old friends, Sergt. W. H. Hollman and Pte. E. Goodsell, of the Royal Sussex Regiment. The latter unfortunately got a nasty shrapnel wound in the face while serving with his regiment in France, and has been home on sick leave. We are, however, pleased to say he has quite recovered, and will shortly rejoin his regiment. Sergt. Hollman has also been home on sick leave, and is making good progress towards recovery.

During the New Year's ringing at the Church of St. Ignatius-the-Martyr, Sunderland, the ringers had the pleasure of having with them Sapper R. L. Patterson. Prior to the war he was one of the conductors at this tower, but is now doing his duty with the Royal Engineers at Newark. The ringing on New Year's Eve and after midnight, and on the following Sunday, comprised touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and London Surprise Minor, and it was a great pleasure to again hear the voice of Sapper Patterson calling the bobs in two of the touches.

**RINGERS' NERVE-SHATTERING EXPERIENCES.**

Mr. C. H. Jennings, of Wyke Regis, and one of the district secretaries of the Salisbury Guild, who, since the beginning of the war has been attached to the North Sea Mine-Sweeping flotilla, has, we regret to say, been invalided home. He has been in hospital at Chatham suffering from nervous breakdown, through the strain of the dangerous service in which he was engaged, and is now making good progress. As one may imagine, Mr. Jennings has had some very rough times. He has seen no fewer than ten ships blown up at sea—he was serving on one of them—and has been in five air raids. Surely nerve-shattering experience enough for one man. Mr. Jennings desires, through "The Ringing World," to wish all his "brother-strings" a happy and prosperous New Year, a wish, which we are sure will be reciprocated.



## MUFFLED RINGING FOR DEAD HEROES.

### UNIVERSAL OBSERVANCE ON INTERCESSION SUNDAY.

Never before in the history of ringing has such united action been taken in a public observance as was the case on Sunday, when, throughout the land, with comparatively few exceptions, the bells of our churches were rung muffled "to give emphasis," in the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury, "to our sense of the loss the country has sustained by the death of the brave men who have given their lives in the cause of what we believe to be loyalty to righteousness and truth." The one important point in connection with this special ringing was the fact that its particular purpose was brought very widely beneath the notice of the public, thanks to the publicity which was obtained through a large number of the great daily papers. Many of them quoted the Archbishop's letter, and the ringers' prelude to those remarkable services held on Sunday made an obvious impression. One great London daily paper dwelt upon the "note of solemnity given to the occasion by peals of muffled bells"; another said "A new and impressive note was struck at the services, for muffled peals were rung in memory of the brave men who have fallen." Thus, in varying phrase, the great journals have made known the ringers' part.

As for the clergy, they readily welcomed the idea of the muffled ringing, and, as in the case of the Rector of Birmingham, whose words we quoted last week, many not only announced the purpose of the ringing, but emphasised its meaning. In hundreds of towers special touches were rung, the ringers themselves going out of their way to make adequate arrangements, and the success which attended the day's observance was the more remarkable from the fact that in so large a number of cases the bands are seriously depleted by the contributions in men which have been made to the Forces. But if only to ring rounds, the muffles were put on, just as readily and just as willingly as if it were for a quarter-peal.

At Colchester, where, in the ordinary way, ringing after sunset is forbidden, special permission was given by the authorities for the bells to be rung in the evening.

We give below particulars of many of the touches rung, and it will be seen they come from all parts of the country.

Our peal columns, too, bear testimony to the efforts that were made. At Newcastle Cathedral the first peal on the twelve bells was rung.

**©ALDICOT, MON.**—Llandaff Diocesan Association.—On Intercession Sunday, the bells were rung half-muffled before each service, and on the evening previous a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), half-muffled, by: E. Rowe 1, H. Morgan 2, J. Bullen 3, A. Lewis 4, N. Margetts 5, C. Greedy 6, J. W. Jones (conductor) 7, H. Lake 8.

**CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.**—Winchester Diocesan Guild.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, for evening service, with the bells muffled, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1295 changes): H. F. Elliott (longest length of Caters) 1, S. Best 2, R. O. Street 3, E. Hinton 4, A. Best 5, G. H. Plummer 6, F. A. Sparshott 7, W. Fowler 8, G. Preston (conductor) 9, H. Bagshot 10.

**WRENTHAM, SUFFOLK.**—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, with the bells half-muffled, for morning service, 240 Oxford Treble Bob, and 300 Plain Bob; for afternoon service, 240 Kent Treble Bob, 360 College Single, and 240 Plain Bob, the following taking part: Robert H. Brundle (of Ipswich), Rifleman B. Prewett (London Rifle Brigade), A. J. Naunton, J. Spencer, G. Bertram, L. Naunton, E. Chatten and F. W. Naunton (conductor).

**ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.**—At the Parish Church of All Saints', on Sunday morning, Jan. 2nd, with the bells muffled, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): E. Webb 1, Pte. E. V. Beadle, R.H., 2, A. Bechensale 3, F. C. Goddard 4, C. Dell 5, T. Beadle 6, G. Spencer (conductor) 7, K. T. Beadle 8.

**HAMMERSMITH.**—At St. Paul's Church, on Sunday, Jan. 2nd, with the bells half-muffled, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins.: H. Dyas 1, H. Stevens 2, J. Ross 3, Pte. H. J. Dewey, R.A.M.C., 4, R. Mackrill 5, G. Iles 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, P. H. Phillips 8.

**BURTON LATIMER, NORTHANTS.**—On Jan. 2nd, at St. Mary's Church, for morning service, three six-scores of Doubles, and for evening service, 720 of Doubles, being three six-scores of Grandsire, two of St. Simon's, and one of Plain Bob, each called differently: J. Hendry 1, G. Lines (conductor) 2, H. Meadows 3, H. Saddington 4, J. Pettit 5, F. Capps (first 720) 6. Rung with the bells half-muffled.

**HULL, YORKS.**—On Friday, Dec. 31st, at Holy Trinity Church, with the bells muffled at backstroke, for the memorial service, as a tribute to our fallen heroes, two courses of Stedman Caters, and one, too, of Bob Major: C. Jackson 1, Gunner G. F. Williams (conductor) 2, T. Stockdale 3, M. Hedges 4, E. Cutsforth 5, G. T. Miller 6, J. Hodds 7, T. Morton 8, D. W. Brown 9, J. Chamberlain 10.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, for the Intercession, a muffled touch of 480.

**WALKDEN.**—Lancashire Association.—On Sunday evening, Jan. 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 44 mins.: John Denner 1, John Worthington 2, Alfred Potter 3, John Welsby 4, Saml. Oakes 5, B. Welsby (first quarter-peal) 6, John Potter 7, James Denner 8.

**COLCHESTER.**—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, at St. Peter's Church, for morning service, with the bells half-muffled, 704 Kent Treble Bob Major: G. Burch 1, H. T. Pye 2, F. L. Bumpstead 3, R. W. Stannard 4, H. Evers 5, G. Bashbrook 6, W. Chalk 7, W. J. Schofield (conductor) 8 and a touch of Bob Major, in which S. F. Millward, R.A.M.C. (stationed at Military Hospital), of St. Giles', Northampton, took part. For the evening service, by special permission of the authorities, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1280 changes), in 51 mins., with the bells deeply muffled, by: Messrs. G. Burch 1, H. T. Pye 2, R. W. Stannard 3, Pte S. F. Millward 4, F. L. Bumpstead 5, G. Rashbrook 6, W. Chalk 7, W. J. Schofield (conductor) 8.

**ABERAVON, GLAMORGAN.**—At St. Mary's Church, on January 2nd, with the bells half-muffled, for evening service, after meeting short for Grandsire Triples, 720 Grandsire Minor: E. Stitch 1, A. Perry 2, W. Nurton 3, H. Perry 4, D. Frankcom 5, J. Wethersby 6, A. Pitman (conductor) 7, F. Stone 8. Rung with 6, 8 covering. Also 1200 Grandsire Doubles, consisting of ten six-scores, with different calling: E. Stitch 1, A. Perry 2, D. Frankcom 3, H. Perry 4, W. Nurton 5, A. Pitman (conductor) 6, W. Herring 7, J. Wethersby 8. Rung with 4, 7, 8 covering.

**BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, with the bells muffled, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): H. Gillett 1, W. E. Stratford (Birmingham) 2, H. Packer 3, T. Banning 4, J. Collett 5, W. Stratford 6, W. Large (conductor), Todenham, 7, J. Buttler 8.

**WIMBORNE, DORSET.**—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, at the Minster, with the bells half-muffled, courses of Grandsire Caters and Triples by the following: E. Tubbs, A. Asmon, C. Perritt, T. Coles, F. Dacombe, H. Kitchell, H. Burling, B. Dredge, W. Bennett, F. Hart.

**BARNET.**—Middlesex Association.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 50 mins., with the bells half-muffled: H. J. Eldred 1, J. Sumpter 2, R. Roffey 3, H. Burlingham 4, W. Soer 5, F. A. Milne 6, A. J. Trappitt (conductor) 7, G. Herbert 8.

**PULBOROUGH, SUSSEX.**—With the bells half-muffled, on Sunday, Jan. 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: C. Greenfield 1, Sergt. W. H. Hollman 2, S. Stone 3, G. H. Lee 4, P. H. Doick 5, S. W. Corden 6, A. Greenfield (conductor) 7, H. J. Doick 8.

**HEYWOOD.**—At St. Luke's Church, on Sunday, Jan. 2nd, with the bells half-muffled, for morning service, 266 Grandsire Triples; for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): F. Fletcher 1, A. Chadwick 2, G. Walmsley 3, J. Harrison 4, J. Millett 5, W. H. Ashcroft 6, J. Partington (conductor) 7, J. Cradwick 8.

**CHESTERFIELD.**—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, with the bells muffled, 287 Grandsire Caters: D. Farthing 1, A. Knights (conductor) 2, P. Sault 3, G. Hollis 4, G. Davies 5, F. Stubbs 6, F. Jacobs 7, T. Gore 8, G. Thompson 9, W. Allwood 10; and 576 Grandsire Caters: G. Hollis (conductor) 1, W. Allwood 2, P. Sault 3, F. Jacobs 4, F. E. Smith 5, F. Stubbs 6, A. Knights 7, G. Davies 8, G. Thompson 9, T. W. Gore 10. Also a touch of Stedman Caters.

**WRITTLE, ESSEX.**—On Jan. 2nd, with the bells half-muffled, after morning service, 672 Grandsire Triples: J. Poole 1, F. W. Edwards 2, G. W. Sorrell 3, F. G. Radley 4, R. Wood 5, T. Lincoln 6, W. Lincoln 7, F. Edwards 8. Owing to church parades and other services, ringing at any other time was not possible.

**SOUTHGATE, MIDDLESEX.**—At Christ Church, with the bells half-muffled, a quarter-peal of Bristol Surprise Major was attempted for morning service, but lost after 900 changes: G. Bester 1, J. Armstrong (conductor) 2, G. W. Fletcher 3, S. Wade 4, N. A. Tomlinson (conductor) 5, H. Miller 6, J. E. Miller 7, F. G. Tegg 8. For evening service, 224 Superlative Surprise: A. R. Glasscock 1, G. Bester 2, G. W. Fletcher 3, J. Armstrong 4, N. A. Tomlinson 5, F. G. Tegg 6, J. E. Miller 7, W. Pickworth 8.

LONDON.—London County Association. At St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, E.C., on Sunday morning, with the bells fully muffled, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 49 mins.: W. A. Alps 1, F. Andrews 2, F. Davies 3, W. G. Matthews 4, C. H. Hughes 5, T. Walker 6, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 7, W. J. Nelder 8. For evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, also in 49 mins.: W. J. Nelder 1, W. G. Matthews 2, F. Davies 3, F. Andrews 4, C. H. Pullen 5, W. A. Alps (conductor) 6, T. H. Taffender 7, T. Walker 8.

Those ringers who desire their Intercession service touches published should forward them without delay.

## OCCASIONAL NOTES.

By 'BOB MAJOR.'

We are all interested when the wedding of a ringer takes place, and I uttered congratulations last week when I read the notice of the marriage of a lady ringer to a gentleman ringer. This has not often happened in the history of our Exercise, but I have no doubt that it will become a more common occurrence in the future. Now that ladies are playing such a prominent part in ringing, it goes without saying that many a swain will fall a victim to their charms. But from a ringers' point of view there is no doubt that the Leicester ceremony was "some" wedding. Every one of the bridal party, with the exception of one bridesmaid, so a correspondent informs me, was a ringer of repute.

### THE RINGER AND THE BELLE.

The bride, Miss Lilian Willson, is one of the foremost lady ringers, and the daughter of a famous father—Mr. William Willson, whom we all know, either in the flesh or through the Press. Miss Willson will be remembered as one of the band who took part in the first ladies' peal at Cubitt Town, and she has something more than a score of peals to her credit. The bridegroom is the hon. secretary of the Leicester Branch of the Midland Counties Association; one bridesmaid, Miss Hilda Willson, enjoys the honour of having been the youngest lady to ring a tower bell peal, and the first to ring two 5,000's on tower bells in a day—although, unhappily, one turned out false—the best man, Mr. Ernest Morris, is a leading exponent of the art in Leicester district; and last, but by no means least, there was W. W. himself, who "gave the bride away," although I imagine he prefers to think he has gained a son rather than lost a daughter. Ringers throughout the country will extend good wishes to the young couple, on the threshold of their new career, for their prosperity and happiness.

### A FIVE-YEAR-OLD RINGER.

My notes a fortnight ago about ringing being a pastime which one could follow from the cradle to the grave, and the reference to young Teddy Webb, of Broughton Astley, ringing Grandsire Doubles on handbells at the age of seven, have brought to light a remarkable record of two young men belonging to Bolsover. On March 2nd, 1913, a plain course of Bob Major was rung by Percy Kettleborough 1—2, Fred R. Kettleborough 3—4, W. Lambert 5—6, Fred R. Kettleborough, junr., 7—8. Would you believe it; when that course was rung Percy Kettleborough was scarcely five years and nine months old! His brother, Fred junior, was on that day celebrating his seventh birthday! It was in honour of this latter event that the ringing was taking place, and two courses of Bob Major had been rung by Jesse J. Moss 1—2, Fred R. Kettleborough 3—4, Wm. Lambert 5—6, Fred R. Kettleborough, junr., 7—8. It sounds incredible, doesn't it? If these boys only stick to it, and live to a ripe old age, as we all hope they will, what a record length they will score—in years of active ringing. Dad must be very proud of his boys, and I trust that the keenness which has so early developed in them will grow with their years.

### LONG PEALERS.

Murder will out, they say, but it is not always the same with Truth. But often, if truth is not quite savoury, it has an awkward knack of worming its way into daylight. Even in belfry affairs, where everything ought to be fair, straight and above board, the truth gets hidden sometimes. And if it leaks out, its attempted suppression has never improved matters. It was a bit audacious, though, wasn't it, in the year 1831—Anni Domino, as the old lady said—that those long pealers at Elland, whose doings were recalled, under "Peals of the Past" last week, should have endeavoured to palm off the work of ten men, as if it were the work of eight. It was a good job for them, too, that they had two men capable of calling the peal, for seeing that the one who called the first part was one of those who had to accept the assistance of the relief party, it would have been all U.P. if somebody else hadn't known something about the job. And perhaps for the future reputation of the band it would have been better if they had stopped.

### HOW A 10,000 WENT "UP THE POLE."

Long peal men are always a source of wonder to me. I can't think how they do it. I only had one turn at it, and that once was sufficient for me. The preparations that were made were enough to break the peal down, and that is what they did. It was only ten thousand of Grandsire Caters that we were after, but you ought to have seen the lay out. Anybody would have thought we were going to ring for a week. The tenorman was a thirsty soul, and he provided himself with

any amount of quarters of orange. We hadn't long been going, before he started practising how to pick up a piece with one hand, while he tried to control his bell with the other. Presently he swallowed a bit too quickly—I mean a bit of the orange, not of the bell—and it nearly choked him. That settled it. Somebody laughed; there was a bit of a "smear," and when the bells came out of it they were wrong. But our tenorman had nearly finished his orange quarters—and when we stopped we had only rung about 3,000 changes. I don't know how he would have fared if he had had to finish the peal. He would have been choked another way I expect. His eagerness to put away that orange reminded me of a tale that an old friend of mine used to tell with gusto. With his workman, he was one morning off to do a job away out in the country. On the journey they came across a boy minding cattle. "What's time, master?" called out the youth as they passed. "Time, my boy; why, quarter to nine." "Quarter to nine?" gasped the boy incredulously, and then he added in disgust and sorrow, "Be darn'd if I ain't eat my dinner."

### QUEER NOTIONS.

What funny notions the uninitiated sometimes get about bells and their fittings. I was talking to a lady friend of mine the other day about the muffled ringing that was to take place last Sunday, in memory of those brave men who have fallen in battle, and she seemed quite interested. Suddenly she asked, "How do they muffle the bells? Do they tie padding round them?" Fancy our old friend Ted Horrex having the job of tying cushions round the twelve at St. Paul's! Nearly as queer a notion, surely, as that of some people who think that the harder you pull the louder the bell will ring. It used to be so with the door bells of my youth, and the harder I pulled the faster I used to run. But it is not so with church bells. Still, as I said, there are odd ideas about. On New Year's Eve, for instance, I was "doing my bit" to herald 1916, and some three or four of the parishioners came up into the belfry to watch the proceedings. It was one of those old towers where the ringing room has quite a low ceiling, and the sallies, at backstroke, disappear through the holes. As we were ringing, one young man watched the ropes with evident interest, and when we stopped, blandly asked if those "fluffy things" were on the ropes to keep the holes clean.

### THE "CHURCHYARD BOBBERS" "BOB."

Down in the little village of — well, I mustn't say where, but it isn't a hundred miles from Birmingham, there is an old chap who keeps the village stores, and who is foreman of the ringers, calling the touches of "Churchyard Bob" with much precision for the services on Sundays. Now, unlike many of the old-fashioned Churchyard Bobbers, Tom was pious in his way, and deemed it his duty as well as his privilege to attend church every Sunday and to give, according to his means, to the offertory. One Sunday some weeks ago the worthy Vicar waxed eloquent in the interest of foreign missions, and later in the week went into Tom's establishment. Tom usually fussed round a good deal when "parson" came into the shop, but on this occasion he received his Vicar with a marked coldness, which the reverend gentleman could not understand. He therefore inquired the cause. Tom produced a shilling from a drawer, and, throwing it down on the little counter in front of the Vicar, said: "I marked that coin and put it in the plate last Sunday, and here it is back in my shop! I know'd well 'nough they poor Africans never got the money!"

### GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Bristol Branch was held at St. George's, and during the afternoon touches in various methods were rung, and Divine service was held, the Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Willmott-Elwell) officiating, assisted by the Rev. F. Rogers, Vicar of Warmley. Thirty-six members were present, including the Master (Mr. F. Howell), hon. treasurer (the Rev. H. A. Cockey) and Mr. J. W. Jones (hon. sec. of the Llandaff Association). The service over, tea was partaken of in the school, the tables being presided over by Mrs. H. Howell and other lady friends.

The business meeting followed, at which the chairman of the branch (Mr. H. Howell) presided. The balance sheet was presented, and was of a very satisfactory nature. The receipts, including a balance of £1 2s. brought forward, amounted to £13 9s. 6d. The expenses were £2 19s. 1½d., and, of the balance, £9 9s. 4½d. had been paid to the hon. treasurer, and £1 1s. retained in hand by the secretary.—The Chairman thought the financial position very favourable, and proposed a vote of thanks to the hon. secretary (Mr. G. W. Tomkins) for his persevering efforts.—The Hon. Secretary thanked the chairman and members for all the help they had given during the past year, and expressed a wish not to be re-elected, owing to business and other pressing engagements.—During the election of officers, the Rev. Willmott Elwell took the chair, and Mr. H. Howell was then re-elected chairman of the branch for 1916. Mr. A. W. Seviour was elected secretary, and given power to appoint his assistant at the next meeting. The Rev. W. Burgess (curate of Fishponds) was elected a performing member, and St. Matthew's was decided upon as the next place of meeting.—A vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar of St. George's for his kindness and welcome, and was suitably acknowledged.

A social evening was afterwards spent, songs and games being indulged in. A particularly enjoyable feature was the selections by the St. George's lady handbell ringers, who were encored several times.

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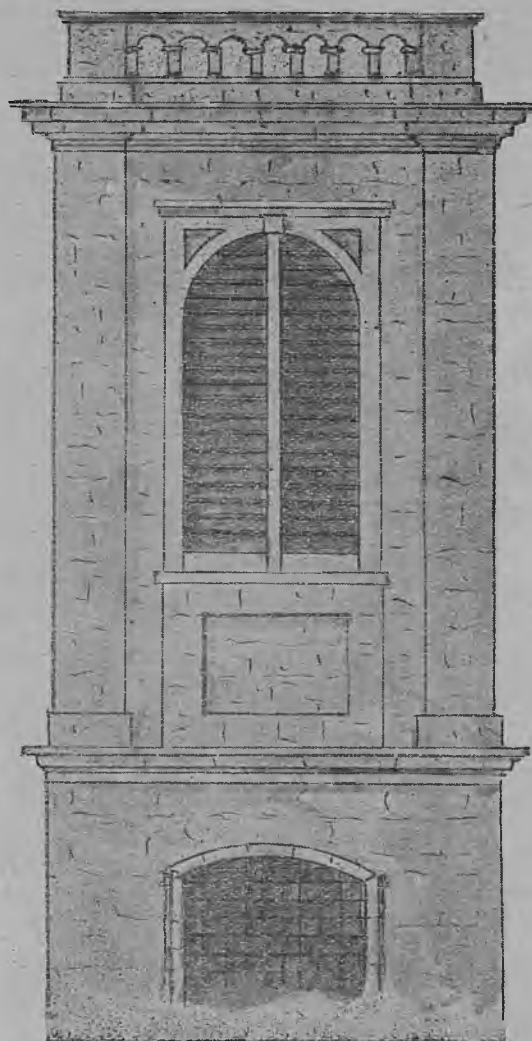
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## LONDON'S VANISHED CHURCHES.

### THE TOWERS OF ST. DIONIS AND ST. BENET'S.

In our last issue we printed one of Mr. J. R. Jerram's interesting articles upon two vanished London churches, and we give on this page the illustrations of the towers, which, through an accident, had to be omitted last week.



ST. DIONIS, BACKCHURCH.

St. Dionis, pulled down in 1879, possessed a peal of ten bells—now at All Hallows, Lambard Street—upon which several peals were rung, the first recorded being in 1785, and the last in the year 1878.

St. Benet's, pulled down at the same time, was a beautiful little church, surmounted by one of the handsomest towers in London. It possessed, however, only one bell.



ST. BENET'S, GRACECHURCH.

### RINGING ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—In reply to "Reader of 'The Ringing World,'" customs vary in different parts of the country. I have rung in many different churches up and down, and the most common custom of ringing at Christmas is, in my experience, at 6 a.m. In the County of Northamptonshire it appears to be the custom to ring at 12 o'clock on the Christmas Eve. It is done in the town of Northampton itself, where there are several good bands of change ringers. We do the same here in Daventry; although until I came to reside here, I had never been in a place where it had been done before. Personally, I think it is

quite as appropriate as ringing at 6 a.m.; it marks the early dawn of the birth of Christ, and that is the reason why we ring; "to commemorate the birth of the Saviour of Mankind."—Yours truly,  
High Street, Daventry. ARTHUR ANDREWS.

Sir,—In reply to your correspondent re ringing at midnight on Christmas Eve, it is the custom to do so here. The only difference from the ringing on New Year's Eve is that we ring through the midnight hour at Christmas, and midnight on New Year's Eve is tolled out on the tenor.—Yours, etc.,  
Dunstable, Beds. A. E. SHARMAN



## WEDDING BELLS.

### WELL-KNOWN RINGERS UNITED IN MARRIAGE.

"I heard the bells at noon-tide peal,  
Their joyous tidings to reveal,  
For two young hearts beat blithe and gay  
Upon their happy bridal day.  
And as the sacred knot is tied  
The sun shines forth upon the bride,  
While o'er the scene resounding swells  
The greeting of the Marriage bells,—  
' Blessings on thy happy wedding!  
Blessings, joy and brightness shedding,  
As along life's pathway treading,  
Hand in hand you go! "

As briefly announced in our last issue, the marriage took place on Monday, December 27th, at the Church of St. John the Divine, Leicester, of Mr. Thomas Henry Hardy, Secretary of the local district of the Midland Counties Association, and Miss Lilian Ada Willson, the elder of the well-known change ringing daughters of Mr. William Willson, of Leicester. To do honour to the occasion, the organist and choir of



THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM.

St. Margaret's Church (where the bridegroom is both a chorister and ringer), were present, and at the service, which was fully choral, the Rev. R. S. C. H. Wood, M.A., Vicar, officiated. As the bridal party entered the church, the organist, Mr. Taylor, played the Bridal March from Lohengrin, while during the ceremony, the hymns, "Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us," and "Love divine all loves excelling," were sung. The bride was given away by her father, Mr. William Willson, while Mr. Ernest Morris, the conductor of St. Margaret's ringers, acted as best man. The bridesmaids were Miss Hilda Willson and Miss May Hardy, sisters of the bride and bridegroom respectively. After the ceremony, and as the party were leaving the church, the organist played Mendelssohn's Wedding March.

In honour of the event the bells of St. John's were rung by a large number of ringers, among whom were Messrs. J. Harris, J. Smith, P. Dunkley, S. Burton, S. Shelton, J. Tomlinson, R. Hubbard (of St. John's), J. Morris, A. Ballard, J. Vernon, F. Sharman (of St. Margaret's), G. Cleal, F. H. Dexter, P. Harrison, H. Broughton (of St. Martin's), A. J. Ballard (Belgrave), and L. Mason (Anstey). Amongst the touches that were brought round were 840 Stedman Triples called by A. J. Harris, and 518 Grandsire Triples called by A. J. Ballard.

It is needless to say that all their ringing friends both near and far, will wish the happy couple the fullest measure of happiness, health, and prosperity, in their future life. E. M.

### BRIDAL PARTY OF RINGERS.

The wedding was in some senses a remarkable one, for the whole of the bridal party, with the one exception of Miss Hardy, the bridegroom's sister, are ringers, and have good peal records to their credit. The bride, who is a talented musician, has rung in some 20 to 25 peals, one of which, Kent Treble Bob Major, she conducted. Her most memorable performance, however, was the first ladies' peal, at Cubitt Town, in which she was one of the band.

The bridegroom, who is attached to the company at St. Margaret's Church, is hon. secretary of the Leicester Branch of the Midland Counties Association, and has rung over 30 peals in various methods.

Miss Hilda Willson, one of the bridesmaids, can claim to have been the youngest lady to ring a tower bell peal, and the first member of

the fair sex to ring two peals in one day, viz., Stedman Caters and Double Norwich Major, although, unluckily, the former afterwards turned out to be false. She has rung about a dozen peals in all.

The best man, Mr. Ernest Morris, the conductor at St. Margaret's Church, is known not only for his enthusiasm in ringing, but for his researches into bell history and bell lore. Articles from his pen have appeared in these columns. He has rung just over 80 peals, about half of which he has conducted, including 7,200 and 10,080 of Minor, which is the record on six bells for the Midlands.

Mr. William Willson's belfry feats are well known. His peals number about 240. He was one of the band who took part in the world's record at Loughborough, the 18,027 Stedman Caters in 12½ hours, on Easter Monday, 1909. He also composed and conducted the longest length of Double Norwich that has been rung, viz., 17,104. The other long lengths which he has conducted include 7,001 Grandsire Caters; 10,192 Bob Major; 10,176 Kent Treble Bob Major and 11,008 Double Norwich.

## LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Llandaff Diocesan Association was held at St. Woolos, Newport, Mon, on Monday, December 27th, and proved to be a most pleasant and successful gathering. The bells of both St. Woolos and All Saints' Churches were available for ringing, and advantage was taken of this opportunity, both before and after the business part of the proceedings.

Service was held in St. Woolos Church at 3.30, the officiating clergy being the Vicar (the Rev. D. H. Griffiths), a former hon. secretary of the Association, and the Rev. A. A. Matthews, Vicar of St. Paul's, Newport, the address given by the Rev. D. H. Griffiths being a most interesting one, and much appreciated.

At the conclusion of the service a move was made for the Waters Lane Mission Room, where tea, very kindly provided by the Vicar, was waiting. After the good things had been disposed of, the business meeting was held, presided over by the Rev. D. H. Griffiths.—Arising out of the minutes was the question of inter-affiliation, but nothing was suggested, and the matter dropped.

The Hon. Secretary read a copy of the letter which had been sent to the Rector of Merthyr in regard to the broken wheel of one of his bells, but no reply to it had been received.

The election of officers was next proceeded with, Mr. W. B. Biss being elected to the mastership for the ensuing year. The present hon. secretaries (the Rev. Connop L. Price and Mr. J. W. Jones) were re-elected, and the auditors elected were Mr. C. Hobbs and Mr. M. Selby.

A discussion followed on the printing of the report for 1915, and it was decided that it should be deferred, and that 1915 and 1916 reports should be included in one.

Cardiff was chosen as the place for the next annual meeting. Aberavon, Port Talbot, was selected as the place for the next Glamorgan quarterly meeting, and Rumney for the next Monmouthshire quarterly meeting.

The question of the subscriptions of those members serving with the colours was discussed, and it was unanimously decided that each one's subscription should be considered as paid. It was also requested that all towers affiliated to the Association should, through the respective conductors, send a list of their members serving to the hon. secretary, showing in each case the date of enlistment.

A resolution was carried that the hon. secretary insert in the minute book the Association's appreciation of the visit of the Bristol ringers to Newport on the occasion of the meeting.—Mr. Frank Howell (the Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Association) suitably acknowledged the compliment.

Several new members were elected, and after a vote of thanks to the chairman for his kindness, the meeting closed.

The methods rung during the day were Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Caters and Kent Treble Bob Royal.

## WORKSOP RINGER'S DEATH.

The Worksop Priory band have lost a highly-respected member by the death, from wounds received in action, of Chas. Richard Redfearn. The deceased enlisted in the 1/8th Batt. Sherwood Foresters, and passed away on December 8th at St. Omar, France. As a tribute to his memory a touch of 504 Grandsire Triples was rung at the Priory Church with the bells half-muffled on December 31st; the following of his old belfry comrades being at the ropes: F. Hind 1, E. Clark 2, H. H. Cartwright 3, A. Johnson (conductor) 4, W. Roberts 5, H. Haigh 6, T. Bartholomew 7, G. Hardwick 8. Much sympathy has been expressed with the bereaved family and relatives of the deceased soldier. He was a brave man, and died that England might live. R.I.P.

## "FATHER" OF BRISTOL RINGERS DEAD.

The death occurred on December 21st, at his residence, 16, Christmas Street, Bristol, of Mr. George Staden, who was for years the "father" of the Bristol ringers. For 58 years he was verger and sexton at St. John the Baptist's Church, from which position he retired not long since. The interment took place on December 27th, and before and after the funeral, as for evening service on the previous day, the bells of St. John's Church were rung muffled. The deceased was 80 years of age.



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## NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Established 1637.—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members to vote on financial matters, should be paid before February 29th. Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on January 18th, for business, and on the 13th and 27th for handbell practice.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The annual meeting of the Devizes Branch will be held at St. James's Church, Trowbridge, on Saturday, January 8th, 1916, at 3 o'clock. Service in Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock. Important business meeting to follow; good attendance hoped for.—Henry Brownlee West, Hon. Secretary, Avalon, Devizes.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting for practice will be held at Loughton on Saturday, January 8th. Bells available from 3 to 6 p.m. All ringers welcome. — H. Rumens, District Secretary, 32, Verulam Avenue, Walthamstow.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Bloxwich on Saturday, January 8th. Bells available at 3. Short service at 5.15, with an address by the Vicar (Rev. J. C. Hamilton). Tea (gd.) in the schoolroom at 6. — H. Knight, Honorary Secretary, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas, Liverpool, on Saturday, January 8th. Bells ready at 5.—Walter Hughes.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting of the above branch will be held at St. Mark's, Preston, on Saturday, January 8th, 1916. Tower open for ringing at 3 o'clock. Meeting in the tower at 5.30. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—A. E. Woodhouse, Hon. Secretary.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bridgwater Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Bridgwater on Saturday, January 8th, 1916. Service at St. Mary's Church 4 p.m. Tea at Holy Trinity Parish Hall 5 p.m., meeting to follow. Bells available from 2 p.m.—A. E. Moulton, Hon. Secretary.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755). — Annual meeting will be held in the Guild Room at the Tamworth Arms Hotel, Moor Street, Birmingham, on Tuesday, January 11th, 1916, at 7.30 p.m. All subscriptions are due, and should be paid at this meeting. The balance sheet will be presented.—A. Paddon Smith, Honorary Secretary, 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Stoke-in-Coventry on January 15th. Bells (8) ready at 3 p.m. Short service at 4.30. Tea will be provided free in the Parish Room to all who notify me by January 12th. Business meeting after tea. — H. Kettle, Honorary Secretary, Rectory Cottage, Allesley, Coventry.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The quarterly meeting of the Maidstone district will be held at Mereworth on Saturday, January 15th, 1916. The bells will be available for ringing at 3 o'clock. Short service at 5 p.m. Tea provided by the Rector at 5.30. Business meeting after. The secretary would be glad to know, not later than Monday, January 10th, of any ringers intending being at that meeting.—Stephen Hazelden, Secretary, Lower Street, East Farleigh.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Bury, on Saturday, January 15th, 1916. Bells ready at 3.30 o'clock. Meeting at 6.30 prompt. Reports now ready. Subscriptions are due.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Secretary.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge and District Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at Thornbury (8 bells) on Saturday, January 15th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., business meeting to follow. Visitors welcomed.—W. A. Lewis, Branch Honorary Secretary, Ham, Berkeley, Glos.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Manchester Cathedral on Saturday, January 15th. Bells available from 5 p.m. Meeting at 7.—W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Secretary.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—The next quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Oldswinford, Stourbridge, on Saturday, January 16th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service in the church at 4.45. Tea kindly provided in the Schools at 5.30. Business meeting to follow. It is very important that all members intending to be present should let me know on or before Wednesday, January 12th.—E. J. Dowler, 11, Edward Road, Bournbrook, Birmingham, Branch Secretary.

MIDLANDS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The annual meeting of the Derby District will be held in St. Alkmund's belfry on Tuesday, January 18th. Bells open at 7.30 p.m. Meeting at 8 p.m. — J. Lord, District Secretary, 36, Howard Street, Derby.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Hamer Parish Church on Saturday, January 22nd. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Business meeting at 6.30.—T. K. Driver, Secretary, The Gardens, Hopwood Hall, Middleton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at St. Luke's, Bromley Common, on Saturday, January 22nd. Tower open at 3 p.m., service at 5.30 p.m., with address by the Rev. C. P. Gosselin (Vicar). Further particulars next week. Subscriptions should be paid now. — P. Groombridge, Honorary District Secretary, 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

THE LADIES' GUILD.—I beg to remind members that the subscription for 1915-16 is now due. — E. K. Parker, Honorary Secretary, 97, Edenbridge Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

**HANDBELLS FOR SALE.**

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**TO PARENTS.**

Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, Kington Magna, Gillingham, Dorset (Salisbury Guild), can for a limited time take gentlemen's sons, age 12 to 15, as pupils on exceptionally favourable terms. *Spanish* may be taught. Also farming.

**HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.**

RINGERS and visitors to Matlock will find every comfort and convenience at Mrs. H. Paulson's, Beech House.

**ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE RINGERS' SOCIAL.****LADIES' PRESENT TO INSTRUCTOR.**

On New Year's Eve, a social evening was held in the Schoolroom of St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne, when all the lady ringers, along with their friends, were the invited guests of their tutors, Messrs. W. W. Wolstencroft, H. Palmer, J. W. Holme and J. Rolls. Mr. J. W. Holme occupied the chair during the evening, and contrasted that present gathering with the one held two years ago. No one then ever dreamed that the lads who were the heart and soul of the party would be to-day on the battlefields of Europe. One had already laid down his life for honour and liberty, but he trusted the others would have a safe return. — During the evening, Mrs. W. W. Wolstencroft sang "Hearts and Homes," Miss A. Horrocks rendered "Till the lads come home," Miss S. Holt recited "Our Boys," and Miss Ida Wolstencroft "Robin Redbreast." Amusing games were also heartily indulged in.

Mr. Wolstencroft (the captain of the ringers), during an interval, said that, looking back upon the past few months, he was glad to see the progress their ladies had made, and the hearty and spontaneous manner in which they have taken to ringing. He trusted that when their loved ones returned they would have a great reception by the ringing of the bells, the message of which would be, "Ye have done your duty. Be yours the Honour."

Subsequently a surprise was sprung upon the gathering, when Miss Thorp announced that she had something to say and to perform on behalf of the ladies. They did not fail to recognise the self-sacrifice and untiring patience of their esteemed leader, Mr. Wolstencroft, along with Mr. Palmer, Mr. Rolls and Mr. Holme. She asked Mr. Wolstencroft to accept, as a slight token of their appreciation, a gift of a pocket wallet.

Mr. Wolstencroft, who was taken by surprise at the incident, said he failed to find words to express his thanks at their kindness for the little services he had rendered. He was always amply rewarded when he found that he was helping someone to understand the beauties of their loved and cherished art of ringing.

Just before the company parted, the Vicar (the Rev. T. W. Pughe-Morgan, M.A.), who had just returned from Beguilay, Radnorshire, called in to offer his appreciation of the services rendered by the ringers, and to wish all "a happy and victorious New Year."

After the gathering, the whole of the ringers, along with their friends, ascended the church tower to ring the old year out and the new year in.

Pte. Dan Wolstencroft, who fortunately was over on furlough, was present with the party. He is expecting to be drafted out to the East about the middle of January. Many and earnest were the wishes exchanged for the New Year.

**EDINBURGH.**—At the Cathedral Church of St. Mary, on Christmas Eve, for a carol service, 630 Grandsire Triples on the back eight, after meeting short for Caters: H. Russam 1, Corpl. Bartram, R.F.A., 2, W. C. S. Heathcote (conductor) 3, D. Stocks 4, J. R. Robertson 5, E. F. Price 6, W. B. Sampson 7, Lieut. Clay (Cameronians, Scottish Rifles) 8. The tenth man arriving, a few well-struck rounds on the ten were rung with J. Mowat on the treble, and J. King 2.

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