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FRIDAY, APRIL 12th, 1918.

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

Price 2d.

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 & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1918.
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 authorized 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. BLOK,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK

PEALS IN 1917.

The Analysis of Peals rung during the year 1917, compiled by the Committee of the Central Council, is published on another page of this issue, and the statistics speak eloquently of the cumulative effect which the war is having upon ringing. It is true that the figures refer only to peal ringing—the phase of the art which ringers have voluntarily stifled—but it is indicative also, we think, of the gradual curtailment of ringing in every direction by the withdrawal of men from the belfries for service in the Forces of the Crown, and by the general absorption of those who remain in national occupations which are growing in importance day by day. Although in a large number of places strenuous efforts are being made, and, be it added, with a great deal of success, to fill the vacancies to keep the bells ringing in fulfilment of their primary purposes, there is a gradually diminishing force carrying on the work. It is evident in the number of peals in the year 1917, as well as in the falling off in the complexity of the methods rung, and it is also to be found, by the observant onlooker, in the meetings held and in the general trend of the service ringing.

The most striking fact about the analysis is that the number of peals rung during 1917 was the lowest for any year since tabulated records have been kept, and these go back for nearly forty years, viz., to 1881. In those early days handbell peal ringing was very little practised, and when we remember that out of the 130 peals rung in 1917, 37 were "in hand," it seems more than likely that the balance of 93, which were rung on tower bells, is the lowest, perhaps, for 60 or 70 years. The explanations, of course, are totally different, and in that respect there can be no comparison between the figures of the present time and, say, those of half a century ago. The one thing that we can console ourselves with is the fact that, given the opportunity, the recovery from the present low ebb will doubtless be extremely rapid.

A perusal of the analysis table will show that it has fallen to the Yorkshire Association to ring most peals on tower bells, while the skilful band at Birmingham has placed the St. Martin's Guild easily in the forefront for handbell ringing, their seven peals of Stedman Cinques, two peals of Stedman Caters, two peals of Treble Ten, and one peal of Major "in hand" being a capital performance in these difficult days. The College Youths also did particularly well with handbells. But the falling off of peals generally on tower bells is as noticeable in the quality of the methods rung as in the quantity, and could hardly be better exemplified than by the fact that during the year one solitary peal of Double Norwich was recorded, and the sole representative of all the Surprise methods was a single peal of Superlative.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chalmersford

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. EDMONDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

WALTER C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

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

**SMETHWICK,
BIRMINGHAM**

**BELLS
FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.**

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

FRAMES

IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines.

Best Workmanship and
Satisfaction Guaranteed.

FITTINGS

OF ALL KINDS.

**ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON
BRACKETS.**

MAILHALE IRON BRACKET
BEST BELL ROPES.

REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANDERS sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Thursday, April 4, 1918, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
At CITY CAFE, BULL RING,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5100 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 size in B Flat.

FRANK W. PERRENS ... 1—2	JAMES E. GROVES... .. 7—8
THOMAS RUSSAM 3—4	GEORGE F. SWANN 9—10
ALBERT WALKER 5—6	MORRIS J. MORRIS 11—12

Composed and Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

This is the conductor's 100th peal on twelve bells, 50 of them being as conductor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

PENDLETON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 26, 1918, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

FRANK SMITH Treble	JAS. LOWE 5
WM. WASHBROOK, JUN. ... 2	SERG. WILLIAMS 6
JAS. SHAW 3	JAS. W. WASHBROOK, SEN. 7
GEO. TURNER 4	AMOS TRIPPIER Tenor

Composed and Conducted by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of Joseph Ridyard, of Worsley, Vice-President of the Lancashire Association. Sgt. Williams belongs to the Leicester Regiment.

SALEHURST, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 1, 1918, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

JOHN BLAKE Treble	WILLIAM H. HOAD 5
WILLIAM H. LAMBERT ... 2	OLDER WAGHORN 6
ALBERT E. EDWARDS ... 3	TRAYTON BOOTH 7
WALTER H. PERRY 4	LOUIS FRENCH... .. Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER and
Conducted by ALBERT E. EDWARDS.

* First peal in the method with a bob bell. This was Mr. L. French's first peal, and great credit was due to him for the excellent way he rang the tenor, he being 68 years of age and having only recently taken up change ringing after a lapse of several years. He first learnt to ring in 1868. Messrs. Blake and Waghorn were elected members of the Association previous to starting for peal.

HANDBELL PEAL.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Friday, April 5, 1918, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At THE RESIDENCE OF MR. W. T. COCKERILL, CLAPHAM, S.W.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

ALFRED B. PECK 1—2	CHALLIS F. WINNEY 7—8
HERBERT LANGDON 3—4	HARRY R. PASMORE 9—10
WILLIAM T. COCKERILL ... 5—6	THOMAS LANGDON 11—12

Composed by CHARLES H. HATTERSLEY, and
Conducted by HARRY R. PASMORE.

Umpire: EDWIN HORREX.

THE LATE MR. J. RIDYARD.

The late Mr. Joseph Ridyard, Worsley, whose death we recorded last week, leaves a widow and five children (three sons and two daughters), the eldest son is serving in Palestine, and the second son in Italy.

Mr. James George, in a letter expressing his great regret at the death of his old friend, Mr. Ridyard, and his sincere sympathy with the bereaved family, points out that the late Mr. Ridyard did not ring in the record peal of 12240 Kent Maximus, at Ashton-under-Lyne, on April 17th, 1917, to which Mr. George rang a tenor.

ESTABLISHED 1780.

JOHN NICOLL,

**Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
Manufacturer.**

60, QUEEN'S ROAD, PECKHAM, LONDON, S.E.

Two minutes from Queen's Road Station, L.B. & S.C. Railway)

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Makers 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.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. ALBANS.

The general circumstances now prevailing resulted in a smaller attendance than usual at the annual festival of the Hertford County Association at St. Albans, on Easter Monday. During the day ringing was indulged in at the various bellfries in the city, and at five o'clock the members assembled for evensong in the choir of St. Albans Cathedral and Abbey Church, where the Dean of St. Albans (the Very Rev. G. W. Blenkins) officiated, assisted by the Rev. Canon Papillon and the Rev. E. H. Evans. The lessons were read by Canon Papillon and the Dean, and Easter hymns were sung.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. G. M. Hall, of Bushey, who took as his text Exodus xv. 1 and 20.

After the service tea was served at the Abbey Institute, and was followed by the annual business meeting. In the absence on active service in France of the President (the Rev. B. Tyrwhitt Drake), the Dean of St. Albans presided with the support of Canon Papillon, the Rev. G. M. Hall, Mr. E. P. Debenham (hon. treasurer), Mr. G. W. Cartmel (hon. secretary), Mr. W. T. Cocherill (secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths), and Mr. M. O. Mitchell (London). Ringers were also present from St. Albans Cathedral, St. Peter's (St. Albans), Southgate, Walthamstow, Giron, Harpenden, Great Binstead Little Munden, Bushey, Tring, Ware, North Mimms, Hatfield, Stanmore, Aldenham, St. Michael's (St. Albans), Watford, etc.

OVER 100 MEMBERS SERVING.

The Dean called attention to the fact that more than a hundred members of the Association were 'doing their bit' for King and country, and for the cause of God. Their thoughts would be with their brothers at the front, and though the bells of the Abbey tower had been dumb since last August—as some of them had discovered that day when they tried to ring the tenor, he could not help feeling this was a thing which they might in a sense be proud of. The present strength of the Abbey band was two; ten of their members had enlisted to serve their country. Though he regretted that the music of the Abbey bells was not heard, it was a grand thing to feel that those who generally rang there for worship were helping to 'ring out the false, and ring in the true,' to ring in the Christ which is to be by doing their part for the country in this momentous war (hear, hear).

The Secretary proposed the following resolution, copies of which he had had printed upon postcards, and suggested that members of towers present should send copies to their fellows on active service at the front: 'That this meeting, in sending hearty greetings to all members, acknowledges with deep gratitude the services you are rendering to your King and country in defence of the Empire. We trust that in the good Providence of God you will enjoy the full assurance of His promise, "Lo, I am with you all the days," and that you may be granted a safe return.'

The secretary added he had heard that day that Mr. B. Prewett, their auditor, of the Rifle Brigade, had been wounded in the knee, and passed.

Mr. E. P. Debenham seconded the adoption of the report, which was carried.

Mr. E. P. Debenham proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. G. M. Hall for his sermon. The name of Hall, he said, had been associated with the Bushey bells for many years, and when he had been to Bushey he had heard a great deal of the Rev. Montague Hall, and of his sympathy with the art of change ringing. He trusted the Hertford County Association would have the pleasure of his honorary membership for many years (applause).

Mr. J. C. Mitchell seconded the vote of thanks, and the Rev. G. M. Hall, replying, said it was always a pleasure to him to be with the ringers.

ELECTIONS.

The following were elected honorary members: The Rev. J. J. Ambrose (Rector of Hatfield), Rev. G. C. Ward (Vicar of Lemsford), Sir Wm. Leise, Mr. H. F. Seymour, Potteries; Mr. A. C. Clarion, K.C., North Mimms—all proposed by Mr. W. Nash; Mr. R. T. Kent, St. Albans, the Rev. Mitchell Carruthers (Rector of Little Munden), and Mr. L. Wilkinson, Bushey.

The following were elected ringing members: Mr. G. A. Spencer, Mr. George Willmott Debenham (son of the hon. treasurer), Miss M. Bitchelor, Miss F. Harding, Mr. F. Keen (Tring), Mr. H. Speakman (Aldenham), Messrs. Sidney Carter, Reginald Jones and W. A. Whitehall (Little Munden), Miss Eileen Shannon, Miss Molly Kunsch, Miss Sybil Wilson, and Mr. E. J. Gillett (Harpenden).

The hon. treasurer presented the balance sheet, showing that the year ended with a balance of £10 0s 4d, and the receipts during the year brought the total to £25 9s. 10d. A sum of £5 5s. had been deposited in the Savings Bank, and there was a balance in hand of £7 6s. 3d. The reserve fund amounted to £15 18s. 7d. and in addition the association held £15 15s. 9d. 6 per cent. War Stock.

This balance sheet was passed.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The secretary presented his annual report, which was adopted.

Canon Papillon proposed the election of the Rev. C. F. Aycock, Vicar

of Watford, as the new President of the Association, vice the Rev. B. Tyrwhitt-Drake, the motion being seconded by Mr. Edwards.

Mr. E. P. Debenham was re-elected honorary treasurer, on the motion of Mr. W. Hughes, seconded by Mr. H. Lewis.

To the position of hon. secretary, Mr. G. W. Cartmel was again re-elected, on the proposition of the Dean, who spoke in terms of gratitude and praise of the work accomplished by Mr. Cartmel for many years.

To this proposition the meeting heartily assented, and Mr. Cartmel, in acknowledgment, thanked the members, and said he did not intend to 'set his bell' unless the members ordered him to do so. He also acknowledged his indebtedness to the district secretaries and members for their support. He said the work of the secretaryship was a great pleasure to him.

Mr. E. D. Livermore was elected hon. librarian, in place of the late Lieut. Kirby. Mr. B. Prewett was re-elected hon. auditor, and the hon. district secretaries were elected as follows: Northern, Eastern and Western, and St. Albans Divisions: Messrs. F. R. Bacon, W. H. Lawrence, P. Smith, F. Edwards and W. Nash respectively.

Replying to a vote of thanks to himself and the Vicars of St. Albans Churches for the use of their bells, the Dean of St. Albans said if, please God, peace should be granted to us, they might rely upon the help of other hands in order that the bells of the Cathedral might not be silent in the day of victory.

Mr. E. P. Debenham offered a word of welcome to Mr. Will Howard, a member of St. Peter's band at St. Albans, upon his return from Australia.

Mr. J. C. Mitchell expressed the thanks of the members to Mr. G. W. Cartmel for his services as secretary during the past year.

This expression was endorsed by Mr. W. H. Lawrence, who said none of the members wished for a change of secretary, as they could find nobody to take more interest in the Association than Mr. Cartmel.

Mr. Lewis also supported the expression of thanks, and the proceedings terminated, touches in various methods being rung by members before separating.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Warwickshire Guild, held at Emscote, Warwick, on Easter Monday, was, despite the handicap of the present conditions in many ways one of the most enjoyable yet held by the Guild. The cancellation of the Easter holidays by the Ministry of Munitions caused the absence of many regular attendants, amongst whom may be mentioned the hon. secretary (Mr. J. H. White), for whom Mr. O. J. Hunt, of Coventry, deputised. Owing to the present crisis on the Western front, permission to use the bells at St. Mary's, Warwick, had been withdrawn, but full use was made during the day of the towers of the Parish Churches of Leamington and Emscote.

The Guild service was held in Emscote Church, and an address by the Vicar, the Rev. J. E. Beibitz, was much appreciated by the members present.

The general meeting was afterwards held in the Schools, presided over by the President (the Rev. H. C. A. Back), supported by the Ringing Master (Mr. Jas. George), and members from Allesley, Coventry, Emscote and Nuneaton.

The secretary's report of the work of the past year and the statement of accounts showed that, despite the abnormal conditions prevailing, steady progress was still being made. Three members of the Guild, including the late secretary, Mr. G. H. Kettle, have made the supreme sacrifice for their country during the past year, the members present standing for a moment at the mention of their names.

Mr. C. Freeman, of Coventry, raised the question of a memorial to the late secretary, and it was decided to invite opinions on the matter from the various towers in union with the Guild.

Four new members were elected, including Alderman J. S. Pritchett, M.A., of King's Norton, and Miss M. Clarke a promising lady ringer from Nuneaton.

Owing to the difficulties caused by the food restrictions no catering arrangements had been made by the Guilds, but through the generosity of the Ringing Master (Mr. Jas. George), a sumptuous tea was provided, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded him for his kindness.

A feature of the meeting was the universally good striking which prevailed throughout the day and the variety of methods rung, consisting of Grand sire and Sledman Triples, Plain Bob Forward and Duffell Major, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise.

The next quarterly meeting was fixed to be held at Berkswell, in July.

THE DANIEL PRENTICE FUND.

Mr. Daniel Prentice, of Ipswich, wishes to return his most hearty thanks to those ringers who so kindly responded to the appeal made on his behalf, and which amounted to £4 12s. 6d.

Further contributions to the fund should be sent to Mr. William Motts, 25, Orchard Street, Ipswich.

MEARS & STAINBANK,

Foundry
Established
A.D. 1670.

Bellfounders & Bellhangers,

32 & 34, Whitechapel Road,
LONDON, E.



Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring
of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rehanging, Retuning and Recasting.

Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL GUILD.

RECORDS FOR THE CATHEDRAL BELFRY.

There was an interesting ceremony in the belfry of St. Nicholas' Cathedral at 9.45 a.m. on Palm Sunday, when, by invitation of the Guild, Mrs. W. Lister Newcombe (who, it will be remembered, with her husband, gave the two trebles to make the peal of twelve in the tower at Easter, 1914) kindly unveiled a handsome solid oak peal board measuring 6 feet 6 inches by 5 feet. It is a fine specimen of ecclesiastical architecture, and was kindly designed by Mr. W. Lister Newcombe, who is reputed to be one of the foremost architects in the North, if not in the country. It is placed on the east wall of the belfry in a conspicuous position, and the design, marksmanship and beauty of the lettering was much admired by ringers and lay alike.

The Vicar (the Rev. Canon G. E. Newson, M.A.) was present, and read a short belfry service. There were present, besides the ringers, Canon and Miss Kempson, the Rev. J. B. Ferry, of Lincoln, brother of the hon. secretary of the Guild, Mr. E. E. Ferry; Mr. Churchwarden Robinson, Mr. Coultis, who was responsible for the lettering of the board, and Mrs. Coultis; Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Goffon, of Whitley Bay; Mr. John Stuart, of Gateshead St. Mary's; Mr. R. Thompson, the Cathedral vergier and others.

Mr. J. W. Parker, of Sunderland sent his regrets for inability to attend, and in his letter enclosed a handsome donation to the expense of the board, and enclosed a most valuable gift in the shape of a handsomely bound book, in calf leather, of touches and peals in his own handwriting, and all of his own composition. These are in various methods extending from Plain Bob to Cambridge and London Surprise, from Triples to Cinques, with an instructive chapter on notation and methods of conducting.

The book is dedicated, as he most modestly puts it 'to the Newcastle Cathedral Guild of Change Ringers, to the members of which the author is indebted for many opportunities of advancement in the ringers' art.' The touches and peals, especially those in Stedman and Erin, Original and Double Norwich, are most original and clever in their construction, and the book has but to be seen to be thoroughly appreciated by any conductor. It runs to 208 pages, closely written.

The Ringing Master (Mr. C. L. Routledge) introduced Mrs. Newcombe, and explained shortly the meaning and uses of these records in a belfry.

Mrs. Newcombe unveiled the board with a pious wish that the bells would soon ring out a message of peace for the whole world.—A vote of thanks was accorded to her, and in replying on behalf of his wife, Mr. Newcombe said the board was a beautifully finished example of the cabinet makers' art and the lettering was something that any artist might be proud of. He said that he and Mrs. Newcombe were always pleased and proud to do anything for the old Cathedral, within the sound of whose bells they had both been brought up.

A short touch of Erin Cinques was then rung before the visitors departed, followed by a longer service touch. The board is the gift of those whose names are inscribed thereon, and it is through the kindly and enthusiastic efforts of Mr. Asa Holmes, a prominent member of the Guild, that the work has been carried through.

The board is in two large panels, headed by 'Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association of Ringers'. The first panel records the first peal on the old ten bells and is as follows:—

On Monday, December 26th, 1892, in 3 hours and 42 minutes,
was rung in this belfry a Peal of
5040 Changes of Kent Treble Bob Royal.
Tenor 37½ cwt.

Charles L. Routledge	...	...	...	Treble
Robert C. Hudson	...	...	...	2
Ernest E. Bewick	...	...	...	3
Thomas T. Goffon	...	...	...	4
Robert S. Story	...	...	...	5
Alfred F. Hillier	...	...	...	6
Francis Tees	...	...	...	7
William Story	...	...	...	8
William Holmes	...	...	...	9
Fredk. J. Harrison	...	...	...	Tenor

Composed and conducted by Wm. Holmes.

First peal on ten bells by the Association, and by all except Mr. Holmes, and first peal on these new bells. The first half was rung in the 'Titum' position. A. T. Lloyd, Vicar. A. J. Robinson, T. Blenkinsop, H. Thompson, A. H. Dickinson, Wardens.

The second panel runs:—

As a solemn tribute to the memory of those who have fallen in the great war, a muffled peal of 5007 changes of Stedman Cinques was rung on these bells on Monday, January 3rd, 1916, in 3 hours and 57 minutes. Then follow the names of the ringers with the record that: This is the first peal rung on the twelve bells, which were augmented from the old peal of ten bells by the addition of two trebles, the gift of Mr. W. Lister Newcombe and Isobelle his wife, of this city.

The first peal of Cinques by the Association.

ANALYSIS OF PEALS RUNG DURING THE YEAR 1917.

Compiled by the Committee appointed by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

TOWER BELLS.

HAND BELLS.

Associations.	Tower Bells.																			Hand Bells.																		
	Major.					Minor.					Doubles.	Total on Tower Bells.	Major.					Minor.					Total on Handbells.	Grand Total.														
	Stedman Cinques.	Treble Bob	Plain Bob.	Others.	Superlative	Double Norwich	Treble Bob	Plain Bob	Stedman	Grandsire			Stedman Cinques.	Treble Bob	Plain Bob	Others.	Treble Bob	Plain Bob	Stedman	Grandsire																		
Anc. Soc. College Youths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Bath and Wells	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Central Northants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Chester Diocesan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Dudley and District	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Ely Diocesan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Gloucester and Bristol	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Hereford Diocesan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Kent County	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Lincoln Diocesan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Llandaff Diocesan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
London County	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Middlesex County	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Midland Counties	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
North Notts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Norwich Diocesan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Oxford Diocesan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Royal Cumberland Youths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
St. Martin's Guild	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Salop Archdiocesan	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Stafford Archdiocesan	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Sussex County	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Winchester Diocesan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Worcestershire and Dist.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Independent Societies	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
TOTALS.....	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	12	8	14	32	11	7	92	8	4	2	5	4	1	5	1	7	37	130													

The two peals attributable to Independent Societies were rung in the following counties: Lancashire, 1; Salop, 1.

The 21 peals of Treble Bob were rung as follows: In the Kent Variation Royal 5, Major 16.

The 33 peals of Grandsire Triples may be classified under the following compositions: Holt's Original, 3; Holt's ten-part, 6; Parker's twelve-part and variations, 11; Parker's six-part, 1; Rev. C. D. P. Davies' ten-part, 3; Carter's peals, 4; Taylor's peals, 2; Day's six-part, 1; Bruerton's twelve-part, 1; Biddlestone's peal, 1.

The 19 peals of Stedman Triples were: Thurstan's one-part, 2; Thurstan's four-part, 12; Carter's No. 35, 1; Carter's Odd Bob, 4.

The 12 peals in Plain Methods comprised the following: Bob Royal, 3; Bob Major, 9.

The seven peals of Doubles may be divided among the following Associations:—

Association	1	Method 3	Methods
Bath and Wells	2	—	—
Hereford	1	—	—
Llandaff	1	—	—
Worcestershire and Districts	1	1	—
Independent Societies	1	—	—
	6	1	Total 7

The number of peals rung on tower bells was 93, and on handbells 37. Owing to the continuance of the war, there has been a further drop in the number of peals rung in 1917, as compared with 217 in 1916: 219 in 1915; 1415 in 1914; and 2,359 in 1913.

The peals rung month by month in 1916 and 1917 are appended for purposes of comparison:—

1916	1917	1916	1917
January	20	7	5
February	16	7	12
March	13	8	12
April	20	13	10
May	11	8	14
June	17	9	25
Jan to June	142	52	75
			78

Total for 1916, 217; total for 1917, 130, being a decrease of 87.

The total number of peals, whether on tower bells or on handbells, rung year by year since 1881, is as follows:—

1881...156	1889...797	1897...905	1905...1519	1913...2359
1882...214	1890...699	1898...1002	1906...1313	1914...1415
1883...330	1891...878	1899...912	1907...1339	1915...259
1884...419	1892...802	1900...924	1908...1474	1916...217
1885...500	1893...705	1901...1194	1909...1628	1917...130
1886...556	1894...859	1902...1313	1910...1725	
1887...616	1895...766	1903...1469	1911...1739	
1888...759	1896...791	1904...1512	1912...2329	

Grand Total, 38,584.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1917.

The number of peals rung in 1917 is, as might be expected, still less than in 1916, and, indeed, has dropped well below the total of 1881. The Yorkshire Association has rung the greatest number of peals on tower bells, viz., 12; while the St. Martin's Guild heads the list of handbell peals, also with 12, of which seven were of Stedman Cinques. The Ancient Society of College Youths placed nine peals on handbells to their credit, and the Lancashire and Worcestershire Associations each rang eight peals on tower bells.

By comparing these figures with those of the 1913 analysis, some small idea will be obtained of the effect of the war upon peal ringing. 94 peals were recorded during 1917 on tower bells, but one of these, a peal of Stedman Caters at Aston rung by the St. Martin's Guild in honour of the 'Old Contemptibles' and the success in Palestine, unfortunately turned out to be false. The remaining 93 peals were rung in 75 different towers. Crayford, Earlsheaton and Lavenham supplied three peals each, 12 other towers two each, and 60 towers contributed one peal each. The 75 towers are situated in 23 counties: Staffordshire (10 peals), Lancashire (9) and Yorkshire (9) each supplied 8 towers towards the total; Gloucestershire (8 peals), Salop (7) and Worcestershire (7), six towers; Warwickshire (7 peals), five towers; Kent (6 peals), four towers; Bucks (3 peals), three towers; Leicestershire, London and Suffolk (4 peals each), Glamorgan, Middlesex, Somerset and Surrey (2 each), two towers; one peal in one tower was rung in the Counties of Cheshire, Essex, Hants, Monmouth, Northants, Sussex, and the Isle of Wight.

Fifty ringers took part in their first peal, including five ladies; four rang a first peal away from the tenor; three their first with a bob bell, and seven their first as conductor. Mr. Mitchell, of Barnwood (Glos.),

rang two peals at the age of 82, one on his birthday; and Mr. W. Rock Small achieved two peals in honour of his 78th birthday. A 600th peal (Mr. J. George) and a 500th peal (Mr. E. Barnett, senr.) are recorded. For one peal of Minor at Stanton (Glos.), it is stated that the ringers cycled a total of 143 miles.

Muffled peals (mostly as a tribute to the memory of local heroes who have made the supreme sacrifice) were 32; seven peals were rung to celebrate successes in the war: first on the bells, 2; first since augmentation, 2; first since rehanging, 1; 29 on various special occasions (Church festivals, welcome, farewells, etc.), and for the remaining 20 no reason is stated.

The conductors of four peals and over are as follows: J. E. Groves (handbells 5) 9 peals; S. H. Symonds (H.B. 3) 6; G. F. Swann (H.B. 4) 5; C. R. Lilley, A. Walker (H.B. 4), C. F. Winney (H.B. 4), and E. Wightman (H.B. 4), 4 peals. There were 5 conductors of 3 peals, 11 of 2 peals, and 56 of one peal. One peal was rung without the services of a conductor, a peal of Stedman Triples by the College Youths, on handbells, at Clapham. One lady, Miss E. K. Parker, appears amongst the conductors. We have ventured to dispense with the apportionment of points this year.

E. W. CARPENTER, Thriplow, Cambs.

JOSEPH GRIFFIN, 11, Shobnall Street, Burton-on-Trent.

ARTHUR T. KING, 1, Southsea Terrace, Southsea.

GEORGE WILLIAMS, West End, near Southampton.

CHURCH BELLS FOR GUNS.

CARDINAL'S PROTEST AGAINST ENEMY VANDALISM.

The sacrilege of the Germans in carrying away the famous bells from the churches of Belgium now seems complete, and a protest has been issued by Cardinal Mercier against the requisition by the Germans of bells for munitions and organs from Belgian churches. This protest forms a most touching document. 'The taking away of our bells is sacrilege,' says Cardinal Mercier. 'The bell announced your confirmation, your first communion, your marriage, and it weeps over your dead. It associates its prayer with all great memories, happy or unhappy of our country.'

'We should betray our Church and our country if we were cowardly enough to witness, without an act of public reprobation, the taking away of this metal, which the enemy will convert into engines of destruction turned against the heroes who are sacrificing themselves for us.'

The Cardinal points out that, according to the 46th and 52nd Articles of the Hague Convention, which were signed by Germany, only those requisitions can be claimed by an army of occupation which are necessary to it, and that religious convictions and public worship must be respected. He adds:—

'In the name of the liberty of the Church, in the name of the sanctity of Catholic worship, in the name of international law, we condemn and reprove the seizure of the bells and organs of our churches. We forbid our clergy and the faithful of our diocese to help in removing them: we refuse to accept the price of the sacred objects which are torn from us by force.'

'Strengthened by an unconquerable hope, we await the hour of our God.'

M. Emile Cammaerts the famous Belgian poet, in a letter to the 'Spectator,' writes it must be admitted that they (the Germans) kept the stroke for the last.

The Church was the last refuge of patriotism. Tunes utter no words. The familiar ringing of the bells and the playing of the National Anthem on the organ were the last comfort left to the people, their last breath of freedom, the only voice through which the country's soul could still defy the enemy.

'It must be stifled and the pipes and bells will be sent to Essen, perhaps to be converted into one of those long-range guns which are bombarding Paris.'

'For centuries they rang on every occasion, in the hours of danger and tragedy, in hours of joy, for so many mournings, for so many feasts, that they seemed to carry in the resonant bronze the very heart of generations.'

'They must be thrown to-day in Germany's melting-pot, and their golden song which floated over the peaceful meadows of Flanders and to the cool and shady streets of quiet towns will become the rough bark of the guns.'

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

Owing to the developments at the Front, the Surrey meeting on Easter Monday was, with regret, abandoned at short notice, and it was impossible to advertise the fact. Those who made the journey, and are entitled to claim for expenses should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Ch. Reading, Union Bank Chambers, Croydon.

100 PEALS ON TWELVE BELLS.

With the peal of Cinques rung on handbells at Birmingham, on Thursday week, Mr. James E. Groves reached his century of twelve bell peals, a record almost unique. Of this 100, Mr. Groves has conducted 50, and the century is made up of Stedman Cinques 92, conducted 49; Erin Cinques 1, conducted 1; Grand sire Cinques 3; Grand sire Maximus 1; Forward Maximus 1; Treble Bob Maximus 2.

NOTICES.

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

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The committee meeting usually held in April will not be 'called' this year, but if possible it will be arranged to meet before the annual general meeting on the same date, notice of which will be duly given.—Richard T. Hibbert, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Elizabeth's, Reddish, on Saturday, April 13th. Bells ready at 4 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.—W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec., 103, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, April 13th, at Rochdale Parish Church. Bells ready from 3 o'clock till dusk; meeting at 6. Subscriptions are due.—T. K. Driver, Hon. Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A district meeting will be held at Sawbridgeworth on Saturday, April 13th. Bells will be available for ringing from 3 p.m. till dark. Business meeting will be held in the Church House at 5.30 p.m. Subscriptions for 1918 were due January 1st.—William Watts, District Secretary, Mont House Cottage, Stansted, Essex.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A branch meeting will be held at Colne on Saturday, April 13th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Time of meeting as usual.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Peterston-super-Ely on Saturday, April 13th, at 4.30. Bells (6) available all the afternoon and evening. Tea will be provided.—Rev. Connop L. Price, M.A., John W. Jones, Hon. Secs., 29, Barrack Hill, Newport, Mon.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The annual meeting of the above district will take place at Leeds on Saturday, April 13th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. A short service at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.15, business meeting after.—Stephen Hayzelden, Dist. Secretary, Lower Street, East Farleigh.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Weston-super-Mare on Saturday, April 13th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Tea at Glass's Restaurant at 4.30; meeting to follow.—R. E. Burgess, Hon. Sec., 62, Greenway Avenue, Taunton.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Alveston on Saturday, April 13th. Bells available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at the Ship Inn at 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting. Members intending to be present at tea will oblige by advising me not later than April 9th.—W. Stafford, Hon. Sec., 16, Queen's Road, St. George, Bristol, E.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Estab. 1637).—Meetings will be held at the "Coffee Pot," Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell practice on April 18th, and for general business on the 23rd, all at 8 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A special meeting of this Society will be held at Burley on Saturday, April 20th. Bells will be available from 3.30 until dusk. The meeting will be held at 6.30 p.m. in the Parochial Hall to discuss the future of the Society. All members interested in the welfare of this Society are asked to be present.—William Gage, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 7, Burley Terrace, Burley Road, Leeds.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Estab. 1755).—Quarterly meeting at Aston on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (10) available from 4 o'clock. Business meeting in belfry at 6 o'clock. Tea will be provided free for those who signify their intention, not later than the 17th inst., to be present.—A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Offenham on Saturday, April 20th, 1918. Service in church at 5 p.m. Tea will be arranged if possible, names to be sent me by the Wednesday previous at latest. The bells (6) will be available afternoon and evening.—J. Hemming, Branch Sec., 29, Church Bank, Hampton, Evesham.

IRTHLINGBOROUGH.

WINNING NUMBERS, MRS. PALMER'S BENEFIT.

April 1st, 1918.

1—11680	13—11759	25—1397	37—3022
2—9248	14—13483	26—11980	38—12702
3—1563	15—9399	27—9325	39—12221
4—9442	16—5663	28—12880	40—14298
5—13901	17—12301	29—2040	41—5791
6—13335	18—2480	30—4702	42—13487
7—7860	19—8029	31—13380	43—1388
8—8902	20—8930	32—14154	44—8641
9—11188	21—2239	33—3061	45—11922
10—13912	22—2181	34—11692	
11—2949	23—2354	35—9423	
12—12759	24—5392	36—13009	

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Prizes to be claimed in 14 days or forfeited.

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.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

COACHBUILDERS, WHEELWRIGHTS AND WOODWORKERS wanted on Government work.—Apply Wilton Carriage Co., 107, Waddon New Road, Croydon.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Liverpool Diocesan Guild Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Christ Church, Southport, on Easter Monday. There was a good attendance, members present including representatives from Walton, Pendleton, Crosby, Liverpool, Bolton, Garston, Bobington, Oxtan and Southport. The methods rung were Stedman Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise Major. A service in church was conducted by the Rev. E. C. Collier (clerical secretary of the Guild), who also gave a short address.

A business meeting was subsequently presided over by Canon Inskip, Vicar of Christ Church. Tea was kindly provided by the Vicar and wardens, to whom a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. W. Hughes (ringing secretary).

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