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PEAL COMPOSITIONS.

The accuracy and the authorship of peal compositions are two things about which the Exercise has constantly concerned itself. The first is vital to the interests of ringing; the other, while less important, has, at any rate until quite recently, been held almost universally to be a matter involving the credit of composers. On the requirements of truth in peals there has never been any question, but occasionally an incident arises which revives discussion on the best plan for avoiding false peals. An 'audit' of figures, before they are accepted, is the scheme advocated by a correspondent this week, in reply to a suggestion that it is sufficient to publish compositions and leave those interested to find out if they are false after they have thus appeared, and have, of course, been rung. The latter method is no satisfaction to those who have taken part in a false peal, but that is what now generally happens. It is not until a peal has been rung and the figures get into print that the inaccuracies are discovered. Previous independent proof sounds a good solution, but we are afraid there are practical difficulties in the way, unless composers are willing to undertake the work mutually among themselves, and have their compositions checked before handing them out to be rung.

Rival claims to authorship have often given rise to problems and argument, and, while individual rights to a composition may still be disputed, a larger question is now receiving attention—whether, in fact, many compositions used to-day can be said to be the property of any individual. Those who have studied the question know how 'new' peals, given to the world in perfectly good faith, may be but the adapted work of former composers. One record length of Surprise Major, specially composed for the occasion, was afterwards found to be a longer peal of Treble Bob Royal by one of the old masters. The man who composed the Surprise Major had got his peal unaided by any prior knowledge of the existing peal, but he did, in fact, use the same composition, although the original composer was dead a century or more before the modern method was thought of. There is an instance this week of an old peal of Double Norwich being adapted to a Surprise method unknown when the composition was produced. Is the composer of the Double Norwich the composer of the Surprise peal? These are some of the many problems in authorship which constantly confront ringers to-day. The whole position is becoming involved, and it seems to us there will be increasing difficulties until a system can be devised to deal with the position. Claims to authorship by regis-

(Continued on page 830.)

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tration seem to be out of the question; and in these days of prolific production of peals the author's name alone, attached to a peal report, does not serve to identify what has been rung. One or two composers number their compositions, and conductors should be careful always to add this identification where possible. Could not this arrangement be further extended, so that all compositions (irrespective of the rights of authorship or claims to originality) could be collected and numbered and the identity of every peal performance thus accurately established? We know a great deal of labour would be involved, but would this not in the long run be one safeguard against losing all check upon what has been rung and a step towards the elimination of false peals?

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

GATESHEAD, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 29, 1937, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 15 cwt.

JOSEPH E. R. KEEN 2	ADAM DEAS 5
HERBERT P. CLIFF 2	CHARLES E. LAWSON 6
THOMAS W. CROWE 3	WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON 7
REGINALD H. HEWITT 4	DAVID ARKLESS Tenor

Conducted by W. J. DAVIDSON.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect for Mr. John Stuart, a member of the association since 1902, and leader of the local company for many years.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 1, 1937, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES.

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

Tenor 14½ cwt. in F.

*MISS W. E. DITCHAM ... Treble	GEORGE MAYERS 5
*MISS D. L. DITCHAM 2	NOLAN GOLDEN 6
CLIFFORD BIRD 3	GEORGE BAILEY 7
*GEORGE SAYER 4	BERTIE J. HOWCHIN ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First attempt for a peal in the method.

WESTHOUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

THOMAS B. WORSLEY ... Treble	LAWRENCE J. WILLIAMS ... 5
LESTER L. GRAY 2	WILFRED HALLIWELL ... 6
GEORGE R. NEWTON 3	BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS ... 7
HAROLD BRUNTON 4	PERCIVAL W. CAVE ... Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH.

Conducted by T. B. WORSLEY.

* First peal of London Surprise. First peal in the method on the bells. Arranged and rung in honour of the tercentenary of the society.

NETHERSEALE, DERBYSHIRE.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

*WILLIAM F. WOODWARD ... Treble	HOWARD HOWELL 5
†GEOFFREY W. CLAYFIELD ... 2	ARTHUR ROWLEY 6
HAROLD SMITH 3	JOSEPH W. COTTON 7
WILLIAM H. CURSON 4	BARNABAS G. KEY ... Tenor

Conducted by B. G. KEY.

* First peal of Major. † First peal of Major 'inside.' First peal of Major as conductor. First peal of Major on the bells since they were restored.

REDENHALL, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 24 cwt.

GEORGE W. HOWLETT Treble	WILLIAM J. FLATT 5
CHARLES W. LOOME 2	RUSSELL RICHES 6
*FREDERICK C. GUNTON 3	ERNEST WHITING 7
STANLEY W. COPLING 4	*FREDERICK W. MUNNINGS Tenor

Composed by ERNEST WHITING.

* First peal of Stedman.

WOODBIDGE, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. 26 lb.

*A. STANLEY WOODWARD Treble	GEORGE BENNETT 5
GEORGE PRYKE 2	CHARLES E. FISHER 6
FRANK L. FISHER 3	T. WILLIAM LAST 7
LESLIE G. BRETT 4	LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by L. C. WIGHTMAN.

* First peal with a treble Bob bell.

HADDENHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

MISS DOROTHY R. FLETCHER Treble	JESSE HARRISON 5
MISS KATHLEEN E. FLETCHER 2	ROLAND BIGGS 6
GEORGE MARTIN 3	HARRY WINGROVE 7
PERCY NEWTON 4	F. DONALD BOREHAM Tenor

Conducted by HARRY WINGROVE.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. JAMES AND BASIL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 10 lb. in F.

*JACK ROACH Treble	KENNETH ARTHUR 5
ROBERT W. LEIGHTON 2	CHARLES E. LAWSON 6
STEPHEN THOMPSON 3	REGINALD H. HEWITT 7
WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON 4	THOMAS W. CROWE Tenor

Composed by H. JOHNSON.

Conducted by W. J. DAVIDSON.

* First peal.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 5, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

ALFRED J. BULL Treble	WILLIAM T. BEESON 5
NELSON ELLIOTT 2	KENNETH SNELLING 6
EDWARD F. CHARMAN 3	WILLIAM SIMMONDS 7
JACK M. CRIPPS 4	OLIVER SIPPETTS Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

ALBURGH, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 7, 1937, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb.

CHARLES LOOME Treble	FREDERICK C. GUNTON 5
*CAPT. A. JOHNSTONE 2	FREDERICK W. MUNNINGS 6
WILLIAM FLATT 3	*ROBERT D. GUNTON 7
ERNEST WHITING 4	WALTER BARRETT Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by CHARLES LOOME.

* First peal in the method.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 7, 1937, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

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

GEOFFREY HARRISON Treble	LESLIE STEVENS 5
RONALD G. EDWARDS 2	J. ALFRED BARRATT 6
COLIN HARRISON 3	RALPH NARBOROUGH 7
JOHN SADDINGTON 4	FREDERICK A. SALTER Tenor

Composed by REV. E. B. JAMES.

Conducted by F. A. SALTER.

BRIDGEND, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 8, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ILLYD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART (REVERSED)

Tenor 16 cwt.

CHARLES H. PERRY Treble	FRANK ROWSELL 5
GEORGE LARGE 2	ALFRED W. HEATH 6
ALBERT J. PITMAN 3	ERNEST STITCH 7
JOHN W. JONES 4	ALFRED W. WRIGHT Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. PERRY.

The conductor has now called peals from each bell in the tower.

NORTH STONEHAM, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Thursday, December 9, 1937, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 26 lb.

WILFRED ANDREWS Treble	HAROLD P. REED 5
GEORGE POLLINGER 2	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE 6
*LESLIE TREMEER 3	GEORGE WILLIAMS 7
FREDERICK S. BAYLEY 4	REGINALD A. REED Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

* First peal of Double Norwich. Rung in the octave of St. Nicolas, patron saint of this church. It was also rung to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Melville. The conductor's 1,450th peal.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 9, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SWINSON'S VARIATION OF CARTER'S ODD BOB ONE-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt.

WILLIAM SEERLEY Treble	WILLIAM G. WHITEHEAD 5
JOSEPH J. ALLEN 2	JOHN E. ROOTES 6
FRANCIS KIRK 3	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT 7
EDWIN JENNINGS 4	WILLIAM CROSS Tenor

Conducted by MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT.

The composition is now rung for the first time. The peal was arranged as a birthday compliment to Francis A. Smith (December 7th) and Stanley Hibbert (December 8th).

FRAMSDEN, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Friday, December 10, 1937, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 16 cwt.

ALFRED S. WIGHTMAN Treble	GEORGE WHITING 5
WILLIAM WIGHTMAN 2	LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN 6
GEORGE PRYKE 3	T. WILLIAM LAST 7
GEORGE WIGHTMAN 4	LESLIE G. BRETT Tenor

Conducted by T. W. LAST.

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EWELL, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Three Hours and One Minute,

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

A PEAL OF BOVENEY SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb.

ARTHUR A. HADLEY Treble	ALBERT HARMAN 5
ALFRED H. WINCH 2	ARTHUR H. SMITH 6
JOHN S. GOLDSMITH 3	WILLIAM G. NEWBERRY 7
JOHN W. EUSTON 4	ALAN R. PINK Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

First peal in the method by all except the conductor and by the Guild.

AYLESFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt. in F.

CHARLES H. SONE Treble	THOMAS E. SONE 5
WILLIAM WENBAN 2	WILLIAM BUTTON 6
HARRY BAKER 3	GEORGE KENWARD 7
TOM SAUNDERS 4	LUTHER J. HONESS Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE.

* 100th peal of Kent. The composition (No. 422) is rung for the first time. An 86th birthday compliment to the Rev. Canon F. J. O. Helmore.

SLAUGHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. in A flat.

KEITH HART Treble	FREDERICK PAGE 5
JACK M. CRIPPS 2	FREDERICK S. BAYLEY 6
KENNETH SNELLING 3	FREDERICK W. ROGERS 7
EDWARD J. CHARMAN 4	OLIVER SIPPETTS Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by FREDK. W. ROGERS.

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

FREDERICK M. MITCHELL ... Treble	EDWARD J. BEER 5
DEREK M. SHARP 2	GEORGE N. CROSS 6
HERBERT E. AUDSLEY 3	FREDERICK J. CULLUM 7
HARRY HOSKINS 4	HARRY HOVERD Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by FREDERICK J. CULLUM.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. A birthday compliment to Gordon Mitchell, youngest son of the ringer of the treble.

STONE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 12 cwt.

CHARLES H. PAGE Treble	ANDREW THOMPSON 5
RICHARD T. HOLDING 2	WILLIS BUCKLEY 6
THOMAS C. TEMPLEMAN 3	ALBERT CRAWLEY 7
ALAN D. STEEL 4	SIDNEY THOMPSON Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT CRAWLEY.

* First peal in the method. Rung in honour of the golden wedding of the Earl and Countess of Harrowby.

HANDSWORTH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

*JOHN E. TURLEY Treble	JOHN H. BROTHWELL 5
†NORMAN CHADDOCK 2	ARTHUR FIRTH 6
TOM BROTHWELL 3	REGINALD PAYNE 7
LESLIE HEYWOOD 4	ALBERT NASH Tenor

Composed by GEO. LEWIS.

Conducted by A. NASH.

* First peal of Surprise. † First peal in the method.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

AND THE SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

JOHN HOLMAN Treble	F. BERNARD DITCHER 5
JESSE J. MOSS 2	JOHN A. BREARLEY 6
JOHN FLINT 3	JOHN R. BREARLEY 7
HAROLD KENT 4	J. FREDERICK MILNER Tenor

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS.

Conducted by J. F. MILNER.

First peal in the method as conductor.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

HOLBROOK, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Friday, December 3, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF BOB DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 extents.

Tenor 8 cwt.

ALAN R. ANDREWS Treble	SYLVIA R. D. BOWYER 4
DAISY M. ANDREWS 2	JOHN PENNELL 5
URBAN W. WILDNEY 3	RONALD W. STEWARD Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. ANDREWS.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to the late Brig.-Gen. E. Hunter Rodwells, churchwarden and an honorary member of the Guild. First peal of Doubles by all the band.

WINGRAVE, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Single Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 14½ cwt. in F sharp.

WILLIAM WELLING Treble	WILLIAM HENLEY 4
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE 2	CRCIL C. MAYNE 5
REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG 3	TONY PRICE Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

First peal on the bells.

WENDRON, CORNWALL.

THE TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, with ten different callings.

Tenor 9 cwt.

P. R. C. WILLIAMS Treble	E. SAUNDERS 4
W. REED 2	F. H. HARRIS 5
E. V. WILLIAMS 3	E. S. SEYMOUR Tenor

Conducted by E. V. WILLIAMS.

First peal on the bells and first peal as conductor.

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pleased to carry out restorations or give reports regarding
any make of Tower Clock

WHEATHAMSTEAD, HERTS.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELENA,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

(1) Hereward; (2) Childwall; (3) Thelwall; (4) Double Oxford; (5) St. Clement's; (6) Oxford Bob; (7) Plain Bob. Tenor 14 cwt. 22 lb.

*AUGUSTIN V. GOOD Treble	*WILLIAM J. PUDDIFOOT ... 4
*FRANCIS KIRK 2	*HERBERT GATES 5
HORACE L. WAITE 3	WALTER AYRE Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal in seven Plain methods.

LANGLEYBURY, HERTS.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 8 cwt.

*FREDERICK W. HAZELL ... Treble	JOHN E. ROOTES 4
*CHARLES DYKE 2	EDWIN JENNINGS 5
*PERCY L. PARLOW 3	*FREDERICK W. ALLEWAY ... Tenor

Conducted by E. JENNINGS.

* First peal of Minor.

HARTFIELD, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
(EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.)

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Two extents of Oxford Treble Bob, three of Kent Treble Bob and two of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 12½ cwt.

*GEORGE BERNY Treble	*HUGH MACKINDER 4
LESLIE W. JARVIS 2	WM. A. KITCHENSIDE 5
FRANK H. HICKS 3	ARTHUR S. RICHARDS ... Tenor

Conducted by A. S. RICHARDS.

* First peal in three methods.

HOPE, FLINTSHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CYNFARCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being an extent each of London, Wells and Cambridge Surprise, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Oxford Bob and Bob Minor. Tenor 10 cwt.

*WILLIAM E. FLETCHER ... Treble	GEORGE LRD SHAM 4
*FRED HARTMAN 2	RALPH G. EDWARDS 5
*PERCY SWINDLEY 3	FRANK VARTY Tenor

Conducted by FRANK VARTY.

* First peal in seven methods.

BODENHAM, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each called differently. Tenor 15 cwt.

WILLIAM H. SIMMONS ... Treble	LESLIE EVANS 4
*JOHN D. WOPSEY 2	STANLEY T. YAPP 5
AUSTIN T. WINGATE 3	ERNEST F. SALMONS ... Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST F. SALMONS.

* First peal of Minor. First peal of Minor on the bells. Rung as a 25th birthday compliment to Leslie Evans.

PYCHLEY, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being eight six-scores each of Old Doubles, Plain Bob and St. Simon's, four six-scores of Canterbury and 14 six-scores of Grandsire. Tenor 8 cwt.

*LINDSAY SARGENT ... Treble	*CECIL BROWN 3
SIDNEY MUNTON 2	RICHARD ABRAMS 4
GEORGE BROWN Tenor	

Conducted by S. MUNTON.

* First peal in five methods. Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar, the Rev. H. A. J. R. Norton, after the induction service.

ALWALTON, HUNTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of April Day, Canterbury Pleasure and St. Simon's, and 1,440 each of Grandsire and Bob Doubles. Tenor 11 cwt.

*HERBERT COCKERILL ... Treble	WILLIAM H. WALDRON ... 3
JOHN J. JUTSON 2	HERBERT GOAKES 4
WILLIAM ROSE Tenor	

Conducted by WILLIAM ROSE.

* First peal and a local man.

LANGLEY MARISH, BUCKS.
THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.
(ST. PETER'S SOCIETY, BURNHAM, BUCKS.)

On Monday, December 6, 1937, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of St. Clement's, Reverse College, Kent Treble Bob, Single Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob, Canterbury Pleasure Reverse and Plain Bob. Tenor 16 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb. in E.

MARTIN A. BLAMEY ... Treble	*BRYAN O'NEILL 4
GORDON W. LIMMER 2	*JOHN E. TAYLOR 5
CYRIL A. BURGESS 3	GEORGE GILBERT Tenor

Conducted by GEO. GILBERT.

* First peal in seven methods. † 25th peal. First peal on the bells. Rung to mark the 25th year of incumbency of the Rev. F. T. H. Shepherd, M.A.

THORNHAM MAGNA, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Monday, December 6, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Oxford, two of Kent and three of Plain Bob, called differently.

JAMES BETTS Treble	ERNEST F. POPPY 4
BERT CHILVERS 2	GEORGE BROWN 5
*LESLIE FOSTER 3	*RUSSELL WARD Tenor

Conducted by JAMES BETTS.

* First peal. † First peal in three methods.

BEENHAM, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 6, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr.

W. GREETHAM Treble	A. ARLOTT 4
A. CHURCHILL 2	E. WALLACE 5
E. RICHARDSON 3	G. FOWLER Tenor

Conducted by G. FOWLER.

First peal on the bells since they were rehung.

ELSHAM, Lincs.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 7, 1937, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Alnwick, Chester, Carlisle, London, York, Beverley and Cambridge. Tenor 7½ cwt.

FRANK LORD Treble	GEORGE E. FEIRN 4
MRS. J. BRAY 2	GEORGE DOBBS 5
ERNEST BRITAIN 3	JACK BRAY Tenor

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

First peal in seven Surprise methods by all and for the branch. A birthday compliment to the Vicar, also a farewell to him and Mrs. Allin on their leaving the parish.

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TELEPHONE: FERNDOWN 5.

LITTLE GLEMHAM, SUFFOLK. THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Wednesday, December 8, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 30 six-scores of Grandsire Doubles (10 callings), 12 six-scores of Plain Bob (four callings). Tenor 14 cwt.

WILLIAM G. COOPER... .. Treble	ALFRED J. FORD 3
*GEORGE BERRY 2	GEORGE R. FINCH 4
P.C. HENRY J. VINCE Tenor	

Conducted by A. J. FORD.

* First peal of Doubles.

MAULDEN, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 8, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, St. Clement's, Single Oxford and Plain Bob. Tenor 10½ cwt.

EDMUND WAGSTAFFE Treble	LEWIS H. BYWATERS 4
ANDREW C. SINFIELD 2	REGINALD J. HOUGHTON 5
C. HENRY HARDING 3	C. EDWARD JEFFRIES Tenor

Conducted by C. E. JEFFRIES.

A birthday compliment to Mr. Charles W. Sinfield, churchwarden.

GARVESTON, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 9, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Margaret,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising seven extents: (1) Norwich Surprise; (2) Cambridge Surprise; (3) Kent and Oxford Treble Bob; (4) Double Oxford; (5) St. Clement's; (6) Double Court; (7) Oxford Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor reputed 12½ cwt. in F sharp.

*A. HECTOR HOLLIDAY Treble	*JOHN A. GODFREY 4
WILLIAM CLOVER 2	CECIL V. EBBERTSON 5
NOLAN GOLDEN 3	*HENRY TOORE Tenor

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal in nine methods.

RUSHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Thursday, December 9, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At the Church of St. Michael,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 12 callings. Tenor 7 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb.

HOWARD HOWELL Treble	BARNABAS G. KEY 4
*SIDNEY O'C HOLLOWAY 2	*FRANK E. HAYNES 5
*DANIEL T. MATKIN 3	*HARRY V. PARDOR Tenor

Conducted by FRANK E. HAYNES.

* First peal of Stedman Doubles. † First peal in the method.

WESTON-UNDER-PENYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Laurence,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Single Oxford and four different 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

WILLIAM H. SYMONDS Treble	JOHN J. WEBB 4
*ERNEST F. SALMONS 2	ALFRED T. POULTON 5
† WILLIAM T. POSTON 3	WILLIAM POSTON Tenor

Conducted by W. POSTON.

* First peal in four methods. † 125th peal.

HANDBELL PEALS.

PUDSEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 7, 1937 in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

At 9, PEMROKE ROAD

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

MISS KATHLEEN L. BOWLING 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON 5-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON 3-4	JOHN AMBLER 7-8

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

100th peal as conductor.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 10, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

In the Belfry of St. Paulinus' Church,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

DEREK M. SHARP 1-2	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 5-6
FREDERICK G. GROOMBRIDGE 3-4	GEOFFREY V. MURPHY ... 7-8
EDWIN BARNETT 9-10	

Composed and Conducted by T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 12, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

In the Old Parish Room,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

EDWIN A. BARNETT 1-2	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 5-6
DEREK M. SHARP 3-4	GEOFFREY V. MURPHY ... 7-8
ALAN J. HOPPER 9-10	

Composed by T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. Conducted by D. M. SHARP. The conductor's first attempt to call a peal of Royal. Fiftieth peal together by E. A. Barnett and G. V. Murphy.

A WORCESTERSHIRE RESTORATION.

BISHAMPTON'S GREAT EFFORT.

Very largely by the untiring efforts of the Vicar (the Rev. T. Wilkinson), the tower and bells at St. James Parish Church, Bishampton, near Pershore, Worcestershire, have been restored at a cost of nearly £1,000. The extensive work to the structure was completed last year, and now the bells have been set in order by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co.

The dedication of the bells was preceded by a parochial tea, at which the Vicar spoke of the progress of the fund for the restoration work, and the Bishop of Worcester paid a warm tribute to the valuable work which the Vicar had done in collecting such a large sum for the carrying out of the scheme. Alderman J. Hemming (Hampton), on behalf of the Worcestershire Association, congratulated the parish on the restoration.

There was a large congregation at the dedication service, which was conducted by the Vicar, who expressed his gratitude to all who had contributed to the fund. General Sir Francis Davies and Major W. H. Taylor (Birlingham) read the lessons.

The dedication took place in the belfry, and before returning to the chancel the Bishop unveiled a marble tablet commemorating the restoration.

The Bishop, in his subsequent address, spoke of the history and uses of bells, and referred to the extraordinarily rich inheritance which we have in England in our old parish churches. 'Not only,' he said, 'are they often real gems of architecture, but more than that you find they are witnesses to the past love of God on the part of our forefathers, and they are witnesses to-day that God is the ruler of the universe, of this nation and of each single individual.'

The opening ringing was done by J. D. Johnson (hon. secretary of the Worcestershire Association), J. Hemming (Hampton), H. Middleton (Norton), J. W. Heath (Willersey), G. A. King (Badsey) and J. Hall (Bretforton).

Others who attended were Messrs. F. Spiers (Gower Moor), W. Shelton (Birmingham), S. T. Holt (Crowle), C. Camm (Upton-on-Severn), C. W. Cooper (Stourbridge), B. Ashford (Clent), J. H. Shepherd (Swindon), C. H. Webb (Coventry), E. T. Newbury and W. H. Harris (Beckford), J. E. Newman and Miss I. D. Barner (Hinton-on-the-Green), H. Hurdman (Burton-on-Trent), S. Jones (Derby), G. N. Baylis and J. Beasley (Norton), E. S. Beasley (Stourbridge), Mr. J. P. Fidler (representing Messrs. John Taylor and Co.) and the members of the local band, G. A. Ainge (captain), B. Ainge, H. Ainge, P. R. Ainge, F. J. Ansell, E. Hemming, C. V. Harris, J. Harris, J. G. Ludlow, C. J. Salisbury, W. T. Shelton and F. Spiers.

Most of the bells were cast in 1690 and they have been tuned and rebung in a new frame. The tenor is 10½ cwt. and the inscriptions are:—

1. Gvlielmvs Keyt. Baronot. Hvns Maneris 1690.
2. Robert Gaywood and William Parly Churchwardens 1690.
3. William Gruit 1690.
4. William Bagley Made Mee 1690.
5. Rd. Sanders Made Mee William Powell Churchwarden 1705.
6. Feare God Honnor the King 1721.
- Sanctus Bell. G. Dugard, R. Fairley 1721.

LADY CONDUCTS QUARTER-PEAL.

Miss Hilda Snowden, ringing the tenor, conducted a quarter-peal of Bob Major on Sunday, December 12th, at St. Mary's Church, Woodford, for evensong: B. Weaver 1, C. Snowden 2, F. Corney 3, A. Boyack (first quarter-peal of Major) 4, S. G. Peck 5, S. Webb 6, C. R. Morris 7, Hilda G. Snowden (conductor) 8. It was arranged for the ringers of 2 and 8, who were on a visit from Halstead. The band thank the ringer of the 5th, who comes from Southgate, for standing in at short notice.

A PLYMOUTH RINGER'S JUBILEE.**PRESENTATION TO MR. G. H. MYERS.**

The 850th anniversary of St. Andrew's Church, Plymouth, provided an excellent opportunity of commemorating the 50th year of service there as a ringer by Mr. G. H. Myers.

At an 'At home' held in the Abbey Hall, Mr. Myers was presented by the Bishop of Plymouth, on behalf of the Church Council, with a solid silver bell, complete in oak frame and suitably inscribed.

His Lordship commented on the fact that Mr. Myers rang at St. Andrew's for Queen Victoria's Jubilee, the Accession and Coronation of Edward VII. and George V., the Silver Jubilee of George V., the Accession of Edward VIII. and, for the Coronation of our present King and Queen, participated, together with his three sons, in a peal of Bob Royal at St. Andrew's. This peal was conducted by Mr. T. G. Myers, and, incidentally, was the only peal rung in Devon for the Coronation.

The Bishop, in conclusion, wished Mr. Myers many more years of ringing at St. Andrew's, and the recipient suitably responded.

C. L. G.

Mr. Myers recalls that he was laughed at for suggesting that change ringing should be practised in Devon, but in spite of that he persisted in his endeavours and can proudly point to the fact that he has now under his charge the most progressive band in the county, who can ring Surprise methods for Sunday service. That, in a part of the country where call change ringing is practically the order of the day, says much for his perseverance, enthusiasm and excellent teaching ability.

He has been captain of St. Andrew's band for the last 25 years, and, although not a prolific peal ringer, has rung about 100 peals (of which he has conducted about a quarter). Most of these are credited to the Devon Guild.

In celebration of the 850th anniversary of St. Andrew's Church, Plymouth, a quarter-peal of 1,259 changes of Grandsire Caters was rung on Sunday evening, November 28th: C. Holmes 1, Mrs. Guy (longest length on 10 bells) 2, Allen Weatherby 3, J. Gluyas 4, A. W. Myers 5, A. Mitchelmore 6, W. Hamlyn 7, S. O'Shaughnessy 8, G. H. Myers (conductor) 9, G. Marshall 10.

A DATE TOUCH.

At the Parish Church, Middleton, Lancashire, on November 29th, a date touch of 1,937 Bob Major in 1 hour and 5 minutes: Ogden Moores 1, William Berry (composer and conductor) 2, Thomas K. Driver 3, Alwyn Taylor 4, Tom A. Ogden 5, James Ogden 6, James H. Bastow 7, Abraham Ogden 8.

RESTORATION OF ANCIENT WARWICKSHIRE RING.**'PLAINTIVE MELODY' OF CORLEY BELLS UNTOUCHED.**

The village of Corley situated about four miles north-west of Coventry has an ancient church (dedication unknown) in the Norman and early decorated style with a small central tower of wood built in the roof and containing five bells, which were in an unsafe state for many years. The bells have now been rehung in a new steel frame and new fittings, and on Sunday, November 28th, at evening service, were rededicated by the Rev. E. G. Bowring, M.A., five members of the Warwickshire Guild ringing a plain course of Grandsire Doubles as an opening touch.

The Rector (the Rev. T. Goring) expressed his gratitude to all who had helped with the work.

After the service 120 of Grandsire Doubles was rung: C. H. Webb 1, M. C. Melville 2, J. W. Taylor 3, J. H. White (conductor) 4, W. A. Stote 5. A number of ringers were present, including the president of the N.U.T.S., who had arrived the previous day and had obtained a ladder to get on to the roof of the church to find his way to measure the tenor bell. He, however, found this a difficult job, as the bells are rung in the centre of the nave, and it is only by going through a small trap door in the roof of the nave that one can get to the bells. However, through the kindness of a well-known ringer, late of Croft, he found access on the Sunday afternoon.

The bells are inscribed:—

- 1.—1641 Hugh Watts.
- 2.—1410 John De Colsale.
- 3.—1702 H. Bagley. Recast by Taylor and Co. 1937.
- 4.—(Ancient bell founder unknown, no marks).
- 5.—1631 T. Hancox, Weight 5 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb.

The work has been carried out by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, in their usual excellent manner. The firm was represented by Mr. J. P. Fidler.

The bells are a quaint ring not in perfect tune, but the architect requested that the 'quaint plaintive melody' of Corley bells remain unaltered.

SWANSEA RINGER'S DEATH.

At St. Mary's, Swansea, on Sunday, December 5th, as a last tribute to the memory of Mr. James Hoare, a ringer and chorister at this church, who passed away suddenly the previous week, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (Reeves') was rung half-muffled by A. Edwards 1, J. Williams 2, Reg Dobbins 3, Haydn Dobbins 4, J. Hanson 5, W. Dobbins 6, A. W. Dobbins (conductor) 7, A. Rose 8. Ringers of 1 and 8 belong to Swansea, the rest to Gorseinon.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Stephen Wood, of Bristol, is a 'colt' among 'ringers' in the 'Antient Guild of St. Stephen's Ringers' in that Antient City. The funny part about it is that Mr. Wood is the only member who knows anything about ringing, for he is the first practising ringer to be admitted since 1648!

The Antient Guild, which existed in Queen Elizabeth's time, and was granted a charter in 1620, has never ceased in its beneficent work of maintaining and beautifying the fabric of St. Stephen's Church and upholding the ordinances of its charter. Perhaps Mr. Wood can now induce some of the members to become interested in the art they have so long neglected.

Despite the proximity of a Surrey meeting at Betchworth (three miles away), the meeting of Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild attracted 35 ringers, and the ringing included courses in five Surprise methods as well as humbler stuff.

The only complaint about the 'clash' was from a ringer who, at 7 o'clock, learned of the Betchworth meeting for the first time and regretted he did not know of it earlier. He was promptly told to 'Take "The Ringing World,"'

The many friends of Mr. John H. Cheesman will be sorry to hear that he has had the misfortune to break an arm, and will wish him a speedy recovery. Mr. Cheesman is one of the best known North Kent ringers, and is one of the comparatively small number who have rung over a thousand peals.

The Hobart Holy Trinity Bellringers' Association have lost two of their members by removal to other parts of Tasmania. This is a serious blow to progress in a place where change ringing has as yet only a precarious existence.

Under the heading of 'Campanology,' the 'Henley Standard' of December 3rd complimented the Wargrave ringers upon a selection of hymn tunes given on the bells on the previous Sunday morning and evening and asked for more. 'There was a good attendance of ringers,' said the newspaper, 'and they are to be heartily complimented upon the able way in which they rang the bells.'

The ringers of the four towers in Oldham have decided to reform the Oldham and District Society. They will, of course, retain their membership of the Lancashire Association.

DEATH OF MR. A. T. BAKER.

'IRENÆUS PISTOR' PASSES ON.

Years ago, in the early days of 'The Ringing World,' there were frequent contributions by an anonymous correspondent, 'Irenæus Pistor,' who wielded a trenchant pen, and, with his somewhat cynical humour, added relish to many a discussion. It is long now since 'Irenæus Pistor' was able to write for this paper, for the terrible affliction of blindness overtook him. And now Alfred Townsend Baker is dead.

When Mr. Baker wrote for 'The Ringing World' he was living at Hillsborough, Sheffield, but when he was no longer able to work he removed to Ilkeston, Derbyshire. About two years ago he lost his wife after a long illness, and this was a severe blow to him.

On December 4th he had a seizure, and, without recovering consciousness, passed away in the early hours of December 7th, at the age of 60 years.

Through 'The Ringing World,' which was faithfully read to him week by week, Mr. Baker kept contact with what was happening in the Exercise and was always keenly interested in the doings of his friends. It seems strange that only the night before his attack his nephew finished reading 'The Nine Tailors' to him.

The funeral took place at Kirk Hallam Church on Thursday week. The sympathy of all will go out to Miss Muriel Baker, the only child, who is left to mourn her loss. She has been her father's constant companion and solace during his affliction.

The bells at St. Mary's Church, Ilkeston, were rung half-muffled for both services on Sunday as a mark of respect.

'BELLS OVER LONDON.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read with some surprise Mr. P. W. Cave's letter in the current issue of 'The Ringing World,' and I suggest that it must have been written rather hastily or he would hardly have allowed himself to indulge in a personal attack on Mr. Roughton without, as he seems to admit, knowing much of the facts. His reference to the 'exclusiveness' of the College Youths is, according to my hearing, the exact opposite to the facts, for, as I heard Mr. Roughton, he emphasised that the College Youths were *not* exclusive, except only as regards the Sunday ringing at St. Paul's. I hardly think, too, that many will agree with his remark that Miss Dorothy Sayers (however clever her book) has done more for ringing than Mr. Roughton.

As to the withdrawal part of the business, I do not propose to enter into much discussion at the moment, as the matter appears to be 'sub judice,' but I would suggest that it would be more in accord with the best traditions of ringing if those who apparently disagree with Mr. Roughton were to withhold judgment until they have heard his side of the question; for I think that there is no one who has worked harder in the past on behalf of the College Youths, particularly in regard to broadcasting, than he has, and if and when the true facts appear, it may be realised that Mr. Roughton has not been too well treated.

December 10th, 1937.

'A COLLEGE YOUTH.'

NORTHFLEET'S YOUNG RINGERS.

BOYS AND GIRLS RECRUITED TO MAKE NEW BAND.

The shortage of ringers in many places is a source of serious concern to those who are responsible for maintaining service ringing. Nearly everywhere the cry is that there are so many counter-attractions in these days that young people will not give to ringing the time necessary to make themselves proficient—indeed, they will not come into the belfry at all.

This year at Northfleet it was decided to try to form a band of juniors, and the Vicar was approached regarding the choirboys and the girls of the Bible Class. At first two choirboys came along, but within two weeks there were 10 boys and girls on the register.

Great credit is due to Mr. George Bulcher, an enthusiast, whose activities are well known in North Kent. With one or two helpers he



THE YOUNG RINGERS IN THE BELFRY AT NORTHFLEET.

Back row (left to right): Kenneth English, Eric Butler, Herbert ('Tiny') Taylor, Stella Snelling, George Vanderpeer. Sitting: Phyllis Stacey, Joyce Argent, Kathleen Butcher, Donald Stacey, Alma Perry, Beatrice Sparks.

[B. Marshall, Photographer, Gravesend.]

At Northfleet, Kent, however, a remarkably successful effort has been made to recruit the company with young people. During recent summers there was a decided slackness amongst members of the band. For about three months in the summer of last year no practice was possible, only two or three turning up; even Sunday service ringing was out of the question on some occasions. The neighbouring tower of Gravesend was in a similar plight, and eventually it was decided to have a combined practice, to be held on the usual practice night of the respective bands on alternate weeks. This, although of help to the enthusiasts, only gave the 'slackers' the opportunity of an excuse on the Gravesend night, in the winter months, and also did not solve the problem of Sunday service ringing.

has put in an enormous amount of time teaching these youngsters, who now number twelve. It was a great day when, on the occasion of the dedication festival on October 10th, the juveniles rang entirely unaided as a band, their average age being under 14 years. Fifteen-year-old Phyllis Stacey rang the 16½ cwt. tenor. Service ringing is at present confined to well-struck 'Stoney.' The band is also making good progress with tune ringing on handbells, and the Vicar (the Rev. F. A. Page) is arranging for them to give a short programme of carols in church on December 26th.

Although the Vicar knew nothing of bells and ringing when he went to Northfleet three years ago, he has taken a deal of interest in the activities of the band and gives all the encouragement he can.

THE BELLS OF ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST. LONDON RECTOR'S APPEAL FOR HELP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As the 'History of the College Youths' mentions that, in the early days of hellinging, important peals were rung at the Parish Church of St. George-in-the-East, I should be most grateful if you will allow me to appeal to your readers and to all those interested in hellinging for their kind financial help to enable the eight bells of St. George-in-the-East to peal once again.

They are, and have been for some years, in a very bad state, and to put them into thorough ringing condition will cost £317. Towards this sum I have been promised £180, so that there is £137 still required. The parish of St. George-in-the-East is one of the poorest in East London, and our own people have done their best and have given all they can.

I do, therefore, ask—with confidence—for the assistance of any friends. All contributions should be addressed to the Rector, the Rectory, 16, Cannon Street Road, St. George-in-the-East, E.1, and an acknowledgment and a receipt will be sent to every kind donor.

R. BRUCE EADIE, Rector, St. George-in-East.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

The Cirencester Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association held its annual meeting at Cirencester on Saturday, December 4th. Although the weather conditions were very bad and most of the ringers had to come from some distance, the meeting proved very successful. The following towers were represented: Northleach, Chedworth, Lechlade, Maissey Hampton, Fairford, South Cerney, Withington and Cirencester, and there were visitors from Christ Church and St. Mark's, Swindon, Faringdon and Rodbourne Cheney.

Tea at Messrs. Viner's Restaurant was followed by the business meeting, the Rev. N. E. Hope presiding.

The hon. treasurer's report for the year was considered very satisfactory.

The officers were elected for 1938 as follows: Chairman, the Rev. N. E. Hope; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. W. H. Hayward; member on Management Committee, Mr. J. Hope.

Watermoor bells were open in the afternoon and the Parish Church bells (12) during the evening. Methods rung ranged from Grand sire Triples to Bob Royal and some rounds on the twelve bells.

BRISTOL'S ANTIENT RINGERS' GUILD.

ELIZABETHAN SOCIETY HOLDS ITS FEAST.

Mr. S. H. Wood, First Ringing Member for Nearly 300 Years.

For the first time since the year 1648 the Antient Guild of St. Stephen's Ringers has a practising ringer among its members. The old Bristol organisation, founded under a charter of 1620, which exists to preserve the fabric of St. Stephen's Church, this year elected Mr. Stephen H. Wood as a 'colt' or 'apprentice.'

Queen Elizabeth extended her royal favour to the society, which, on the occasion of a visit which she paid to Bristol, gave her a welcome by the ringing of St. Stephen's bells. The charter was granted in the reign of her successor, and the Antient Guild still maintains some of the quaint customs of its early days.

Every year it holds an annual feast, at which its ordinances are solemnly read and a new Master installed in traditional manner by being carried to the chair.

But although ringing now forms no part of the Guild's activities, its work for St. Stephen's is of a very practical kind. For example since 1875 no less than £11,000 has been devoted to the restoration and enrichment of the church.

On the Sunday preceding the feast a service was held, in accordance with custom, in St. Stephen's Church. The Master (Mr. G. H. Boucher) presided at the annual dinner, which was attended by the Lord Mayor and Sheriff of Bristol, Lord Waldegrave and the Dean of Bristol.

The traditional toasts were honoured, that of 'The Antient Society of St. Stephen's Ringers and the Master' being proposed by the Lord Mayor.

The Master, in responding, said: 'Never has this society been regarded more highly in the public esteem than it is to-day. People do appreciate the honour of being one of the 100.'

During the last 20 years they had put the tower into first-rate order for a period, they were told, of 100 years. The very beautiful north porch was being put into perfect order and the vestries had been completely restored.

He was glad to say that the portion of the buildings now being demolished in Colston Avenue, adjoining the church, would be, by the goodness of the owners in conjunction with the city, set back some 16ft. so that people would be able to see the tower from the base right to the top so that the full glory of the tower would be exposed. The society would, he thought, be able to put the west end, which would be fully exposed, into good condition and to everyone's satisfaction.

Mr. Sidney Clifford (senior warden) proposed 'The Rector and Churchwardens of St. Stephen's Church,' and 'The Preacher of the Day.'

The Rev. S. E. Swann (Vicar of Redcliffe) replied. He said that St. Stephen's and St. Mary Redcliffe were closely associated in many ways. They had a ring of 12 bells at St. Mary Redcliffe for 40 years, but on all ceremonial occasions St. Stephen's ringers rang their peals, rang them well, and for which they were grateful. He confessed he would like to have his own band of ringers, and he ventured to suggest that some of the distinguished members of the society instead of continuing to be 'speculative' ringers might become active ringers.

The Master proposed the toast of 'The New Master and New Wardens.' In the traditional way the new master (Mr. Sidney Clifford) was installed by being carried to the chair. Mr. J. R. Ware was installed senior warden, and Mr. H. G. Treasure junior warden.

FALSE PEALS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Mr. Kenneth Lewis, in his reply to me, has attempted to read into my letter something which was not intended to be there. I did not in any way impugn the honesty of any composer. A treasurer does not consider his honesty or integrity in any way questioned by having his account submitted to audit—on the contrary, he would probably insist on it. My suggestion was the pre-audit of peal figures.

It is a fact that practically all the peals withdrawn as false have been published. If they had not been published the error would probably not have been discovered. For instance, the records at Painswick and Southwark would probably still be accepted as true peals. Certain associations, e.g., Gloucester and Bristol, and Lincoln, always publish their peal figures. Why should not all do this?

The percentage of false peals to true is undoubtedly small, but there is a percentage of such false figures, and it is probably higher in unpublished figures than in published, since the figures by a known composer are given wider circulation than those by an unknown and usually find their way into print.

If the Central Council insist, as they rightly do, that false peals must be withdrawn, then they should insist that peal figures are made known or certified by some authorised body.

Mr. Lewis says this only interests a small section of the fraternity. It is of interest to every peal ringer—might I say of much more interest than, perhaps, hours of discussion over a word such as 'spiced.' But, of course, this was not a waste of valuable time.

I must apologise for again using your valuable space, but felt that I could not allow the accusation that I was questioning the good faith of any composer to go uncorrected.

J. K. ARMSTRONG.

TEACHING BEGINNERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested to read Mr. F. E. Dawe's letter in your issue of November 19th in which he points out that I had misunderstood the meaning of his previous letter.

It is quite true that he did not specifically mention my name or the article which I had contributed to your previous issue, but his letter appeared between two others which quite definitely did relate to my article, and I confess that this led me—and incidentally a good many others as well—to read his letter in a similar light.

However, Mr. Dawe has given his assurance that this was not his intention, and it appears, therefore, that I did him an injustice in including him in the remarks I felt bound to make regarding the tone of the letters concerned. If this is the case, I owe him an apology which I willingly make, because when I disagree with my elders—as disagree I must with Mr. Dawe on this subject—I would very much rather do so in an amicable spirit.

Turning now to the rest of Mr. Dawe's letter, I notice that he is of the opinion that the idea of starting beginners on even-bell methods emanates mainly from inexperienced members of the rising generation. I question whether this is so; in the first place, I would point out that it is possible to have had quite a lot of experience of instruction and still be a member of the younger generation; and in the second place I could tell Mr. Dawe of many ringers of all ages who share my views on this matter and who, moreover, put them into practice regularly—and successfully—with their pupils. If he will turn to your issue of October 22nd he will find a letter from your correspondent 'Interested' who states that he has had 44 years' experience—almost as long as Mr. Dawe himself—and 'strongly advocates starting beginners on the even-bell methods first.'

I am sorry if I appeared to speak slightly of old times, but possibly there is a little misunderstanding on Mr. Dawe's part here. What I intended to convey, was that views held 50 years ago should not necessarily be accepted without further argument to-day. There is much that can be said in favour of both systems of instruction, but they should be considered on their own merits, and irrespective of any bias towards one method simply because it was the usual practice two generations ago.

The opinions I have expressed are the results of my own practical experience—short though it has been—of both systems. The most astonishing statement in Mr. Dawe's letter is that in all his vast experience he has only come across three cases in which Plain Bob was used as the first method. In view of this I hope he will forgive my asking him (with all respect and in a perfectly friendly spirit) to consider carefully whether he is really qualified to judge between the respective merits of two systems of instruction, of one of which—on his own showing—he is almost completely ignorant.

STEPHEN H. WOOD.

Bristol.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT SECRETARY RETIRING.

A very successful quarterly meeting of the Southern District of the Surrey Association was held at Betchworth on Saturday, December 4th. As a meeting was being held at Dorking at the same time, some of the ringers were able to visit both towers in their 'flying squad' cars. Ringers were present from Reigate, Redhill, Mersham, Buckland, Lingfield, Horley, Betchingley, Crawley, Tunbridge Wells, Beddington, Croydon, Uckfield, Oxford and Thornton Heath.

Service was conducted by the Rev. E. H. Kennedy, who gave a warm welcome to the ringers to Betchworth. A very welcome tea was served at the Dolphin Inn, and afterwards the business meeting took place, the Master (Mr. D. K. C. Birt) presiding.

The hon. secretary (Mr. W. Claydon) referred to the death of Mr. Thomas Whitmore, of Horley, who passed away on October 22nd. The members expressed condolence with the relatives by standing for a few moments in silence.

It was proposed to attempt the next quarterly peal at Buckland, the conductor to be Mr. R. Fuller.

The secretary intimated that owing to pressure of business he would not seek re-election. He thanked everyone for the support they had given him. Several names were received for the secretaryship and committee. Election will be by ballot at the annual meeting, which will be held at Horley on Saturday, January 22nd.

The bells were kept going till 9 p.m., ringing ranging from Grand-sire Triples to Bristol Surprise Major.

BOURNEMOUTH'S NEW BELLS.

A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on the new bells at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, by members of the Sunday service band on December 5th for a Confirmation service by the Lord Bishop of Southampton: H. Osborne 1, L. V. Davis 2, F. Frankland Rigby 3, H. Roberts 4, A. V. Davis (conductor) 5, C. E. Forst 6, P. W. Witham 7, H. Garrett 8.

The bells were dedicated on November 20th, and prior to this service and in honour of the occasion a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. James Church, Poole.

It is hoped to hold a meeting of the Christchurch District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild at Bournemouth early in the new year.

PEAL NOTES.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PERFORMANCES AND RINGERS.

Some names given to methods sound, at first, a bit odd. To some people Boveney Surprise may be among them. But Boveney (pronounced Buveney) is an ancient parish near Windsor, and was adopted as a method name when first rung by the enterprising band whose activities centre round the royal borough.

The method is by George Baker and is a half-brother to Ashtead. It is, in fact, Ashtead without 7th's place. Only one peal had been rung before last Saturday, when the Guildford Guild (who rang the first peal of Ashtead) rang the second of Boveney at Ewell.

It provided another example of the vexed question of authorship of compositions. The 5,024 was an adaptation of half a peal of Double Norwich by George Williams. Can it be said that George Williams composed the peal? Boveney had never been heard of when he set down the figures to Double Norwich. Boveney has a 4th's place bob, while Double Norwich has a 6th's place bob; consequently the course ends are not the same. A bob at 5 in Double Norwich brings up the course end, a bob before in Boveney cuts it out. But the calling of the peal of Boveney was taken from George Williams' peal of Double Norwich. So what about it?

Alan Pink called both peals of Boveney, and in the two peals there have been 15 firsts in the method. Incidentally it was Mr. Pink's one hundredth peal as conductor, and these peals have been rung in a large number of methods—something like 25 Surprise methods among them. And here is another interesting point. With the exception of a peal of Edmonton Bob he has called a peal in every Major method he has rung.

A distinctly fine performance was put up by William G. Newberry in this peal. He came to ring the treble, but owing to the indisposition of one of the band a new trebleman had to be obtained (it was Mr. Arthur Hadley, who was for many years in charge of the tower at Arklow, Ireland), and Bill Newberry, with a knowledge of Ashtead, learnt the method in the tower before taking on the 7th.

Another ringer to score his one hundredth peal as conductor in recent days is Mr. William Barton, of Pudsey, who reached his century with a peal of Bob Major on handbells, rung on December 7th. It was a belated birthday compliment to Mr. P. J. Johnson, but this was the first opportunity of thus celebrating the natal anniversary of Yorkshire's former secretary.

EIGHTY AND STILL GOING STRONG.

A peal of Double Norwich Major was rung at North Stoneham on December 9th to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Melville.

Mr. Melville was for many years a member of Holy Trinity, afterwards the Cathedral, band, Guildford, where he was steeplekeeper for a time. He was also a very active District Master of the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

Since his retirement from Messrs. Dennis Bros' motor factory, he has been living at King's Worthy, near Winchester. Since taking to a country life he seems to be growing younger, but he finds gardening on a chalky soil as hard as the work in a blacksmith's shop.

Mr. George Williams, who called this 'wedding peal' and reached a total of 1,450, must be the oldest active conductor. He was 80 in May, but he still keeps going, and since registering 'four score' has rung 28 peals and called about a dozen of them. He is one of the very few ringers who have conducted over a thousand peals.

Mr. John Stuart, an old member of the Gateshead band, whose death we recorded last week, was buried on November 29th, and a half-muffled peal was rung after the funeral. He was leader of the local company for many years and is deeply mourned.

The North Lincolnshire band, of which Mr. Jack Bray is a leading spirit, rang their first peal in seven Surprise Minor methods on December 7th. And it was, also, the first by the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild. They rang the peal at Elsham as a birthday compliment and a farewell to the Vicar, who is leaving the parish.

A peal in seven Minor methods at Hope, Flintshire, on December 4th, marked the 17th anniversary of the bells, which were installed by Messrs. Taylor and Co. in 1920 and constitute the village war memorial.

The six bells at Beenham, Bucks, have recently been rehung, and the first peal on them since they were reopened was rung on December 6th by a local band, who are all ex-Service men. The peal consisted of three methods of Minor, two 720's each of Kent and Oxford and three of Plain Bob. The 720's were rung alternately.

Two sisters, the Misses W. E. and D. L. Ditcham, members of St. Giles', Norwich, tower, were among the three ringers who rang a peal of Double Norwich Major at the first attempt at St. Giles' Church on December 1st.

CANON HELMORE'S BIRTHDAY.

Mr. Thomas E. Sone, of Paddock Wood, Kent, on Saturday rang his one hundredth peal of Kent Treble Bob. This was at Aylesford, and he has now called a peal from all the bells in no fewer than six towers.

The peal was a birthday compliment to Canon F. J. O. Helmore, of Canterbury, who was hon. secretary of the Kent County Association for over 30 years. Canon Helmore is 86. A peal of Double Norwich in honour of the event on the preceding Saturday at New Romney unfortunately failed.

With the peal of Stedman Triples on December 8th, Mr. C. H. Perry has conducted peals from each bell at St. Illtyd's, Bridgend,

and is believed to be the first to do so in any tower for the Llandaff and Monmouth Association. The variation of Brook's peal, which was the composition used, starts as suggested in 'The Ringing World' recently, with rounds the last row of the six.

To call a peal of Bob Royal on handbells from 3.4 as the first attempt at calling a peal of Royal is the notable performance of Derek Sharp, at Crayford. At the same time two other of the younger Crayford members, Teddy Barnett III. and Geoffrey V. Murphy, rang their fiftieth peal together.

Two peals of Yorkshire by the Yorkshire Association on the same day! It is another testimony to the growing popularity of this Surprise method. These two peals were rung on December 11th at Handsworth and Eckington.

After a peal in honour of the golden wedding of the Earl and Countess of Harrowby, at Stone, Staffs, on Saturday, the band were hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Willis Buckley.

Three sixteen-year-old ringers of St. Peter's Society, Burnham, took part in the first peal on the bells at Langley Marish, Bucks, on December 6th, when seven 720's of Minor in seven different methods were rung to mark the 25th year of the incumbency of the Rev. F. T. H. Shepherd, through whose generosity the bells were increased from five to six.

Of the three youths, John E. Taylor rang his 25th peal, and Bryan O'Neill his first peal in seven methods. The third, Martin Blamey, rang the treble.

The Rector of Alwalton, Hunts, where there is a ring of five bells, is anxious to stir the interest of the parishioners into forming a band of ringers. On December 4th, at his invitation, a visiting company rang a peal in five methods of Doubles as a piece of propaganda work, and afterwards were entertained to tea by the Rector (the Rev. E. G. Milnes). Visiting ringers are sure of a warm welcome at any time at Alwalton.

CORNWALL'S YOUNGEST CONDUCTOR.

A very young conductor called the peal of Doubles at Wendron, Cornwall, on December 4th. He celebrated his 12th birthday only the day before, and his performance was worthy of anyone much older in years and experience, as he only rang his first peal just twelve months ago. Since then, however, he has taken part in several, and is a very capable ringer of Grandsire Triples and Stedman—surely an achievement for a child.

In honour of the centenary of the College Youths, Lancashire members rang a peal of London Surprise at Westhoughton on December 4th.

What should have been a birthday peal at Holbrook, Suffolk, on December 3rd, was turned into a peal of mourning for the death of Brig.-Gen. E. Hunter Rodwell, churchwarden and an honorary member of the Suffolk Guild.

It was Ronald Steward's 17th birthday, but the muffles were put on and Doubles substituted for Minor. It was the first peal of Doubles by all the band.

It is of interest that Miss Sylvia Bowyer, who took part, has now rung peals on all numbers from Doubles to Maximus.

Three of the Sunday service ringers at Siltan took part on November 26th in the first peal on the five bells at this Dorset village. It was their first peal, too.

The first peal of Minor on the bells at Bodenham, Herefordshire, was rung as a 25th birthday compliment to Mr. Leslie Evans, one of the ringers.

A peal in two hours and fifteen minutes, even of Doubles, on a ring of six church bells is good going. At Rushall, Staffs, 42 six-scores of Stedman were rung in this time on December 9th. It was the quickest peal on the bells, the tenor of which is just under 7½ cwt.

The conductor, Mr. Frank E. Haynes, who is Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild, has now called and Mr. D. T. Matkin has rung peals of Stedman from Cinques to Doubles. This peal, by the way, was rung for the Staffs Archaeocentry Society.

COMPOSED IN EGYPT.

Mr. Bernard Swinson, who resided for some years in Egypt, worked out while there a variation of Carter's odd hob one-part peal of Stedman Triples. It was called for the first time on December 9th by Mr. Maurice F. R. Hibbert at Bushey. Mr. Hibbert, like that other Maurice—Maurice Swinfield, of Burton—has a penchant for calling difficult peals.

The first peal of Major on the bells since they were restored was rung at Netherseale, Derbyshire, on December 4th.

The first peal on the six bells at Wheathampstead, Herts, since they were recast and rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. was rung on December 4th and was a birthday compliment to Mr. H. Golding, Miss Richardson and the conductor (Mr. Walter Ayre).

Messrs. C. V. Ebberson and Nolan Golden rang their fiftieth peal together when they took part in a peal of Minor in nine methods at Garveston, Norfolk, on December 9th (the first in more than one method on the bells) as a birthday compliment to Mr. John A. Godfrey, Ringing Master of the West Norfolk Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association. It was the 80th tower in which Mr. Ebberson had rung a peal.

The new Vicar of Pytchley, Northants (the Rev. H. A. J. R. Norton) was welcomed with a peal of Doubles after his induction on December 4th. It was rung in five methods.

It did not take 3 hours and 50 minutes to ring the peal at Gorton, as recorded last week, but only 2 hours 50 minutes.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**WESTERN DIVISION AT NORTHOWRAM.**

In spite of the very wintry conditions which existed practically all over the country, the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association held a very well attended meeting at St. Matthew's, Northowram, on Saturday, December 11th. It speaks well for the enthusiasm of the members, when upwards of 60 attended from a very wide area. There had been a heavy fall of snow the previous evening, and on several days during the week, so that travelling facilities were not at their best.

The beautiful modern church was greatly admired, and a special item of interest was the 'Children's Corner.' The bells, which are a very musical ring of eight, were kept moving throughout the day in a large variety of methods, from call changes to Cambridge and Superlative Surprise. A very gratifying feature was the number of young ringers who were present—a good augury for the future.

A short service was held during the afternoon, and Canon Watkinson, in a most delightful and interesting address, welcomed the visitors to Northowram. He touched upon the many old customs of ringing from the most early times and concluded with an example of the early morning ringing on Easter Day—a custom which he hoped would never lapse.

A splendid tea was served in the Schools, and the business meeting followed, presided over by the vice-president (Mr. P. J. Johnson) and supported by Canon C. C. Marshall, M.A., and Canon Watkinson.

The Chairman intimated that the main business of the meeting was the appointment of a new member of the committee, the vacancy having been caused by the elevation of Mr. T. W. Strangeway to the Ringing Mastership. On the motion of Mr. John Ambler, supported by Mr. W. H. Senior, it was unanimously agreed that Mr. William Ambler, of Queensbury, be elected.

The vacancy on the General Committee of the association was filled by the appointment of Mr. Hy. Armitage, of Huddersfield.

Canon Marshall, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and wardens for kindly granting the use of the bells, and for the splendid reception, especially thanked the Vicar for his most interesting address, which he was sure everyone had greatly appreciated. This was seconded by Mr. William Ambler and supported by the chairman.

Mr. H. Lofthouse, in a neatly worded speech, thanked the local company for their splendid arrangements, which he knew had not been accomplished without a great deal of thought and effort. This was seconded by the secretary, who included another unseen worker in the vote—the organist who so ably officiated at the service.

Mr. Albert Hancock replied for the local company, saying that they had all been pleased to welcome the association and would like to see them again whenever it was convenient.

Six new members were elected as follows: Frank Mosby, of Kildwick; C. Nichol and K. Dobson, of Northowram; Vernon Bottomley, of Halifax; Arnold Cole, of Hunslet; and Harry Lamb, of Sowerby.

After the meeting, the members inspected the new schools and then adjourned to the tower, where further ringing was enjoyed until after 9 o'clock. At this time it was still snowing heavily, but in spite of this various members were very reluctant to leave the village.

It is hoped to arrange the next meeting, which is the annual divisional meeting, in March next, at East Ardsley.

The towers represented at the meeting were as follows: Armley, Tatley, Bolton (Bradford), Brighouse, Denholme, Drighlington, Elland, Halifax (St. John's and All Souls'), Haworth, Headingley (St. Michael's and St. Chad's), Kirkburton, Leeds Parish Church, Idle, Pudsey, Queensbury, Rothwell, Ripponden, Shipley, Sowerby, Sherburn-in-Elmet and the local company.

TALGARTH RINGER'S EARLY DEATH.

It is with regret that we have to record the death on Wednesday, November 24th, of Mr. Stanley Charles Powell, at the early age of 32 years after only a short illness.

Deceased was a very faithful member of the Talgarth Church bell-ringers, always regular at practices and for Sunday service ringing. He had only rung two peals. In addition to being a bellringer, he was also a sidesman, a member of the Parochial Church Council and of the C.E.M.S.

The funeral took place on Saturday, November 27th, when there were between 300 and 400 people present. Mr. J. P. Hyett (district secretary) represented the Northern District of the Swansea and Brecon Guild, and Mr. M. T. Davies, who is a member of the Central Council of the C.E.M.S., represented the society. Deceased's fellow-bellringers, Messrs. D. H. Bennett, B. H. Davies, C. M. Davies, J. L. Gwynne, S. L. Speake and D. J. Griffiths, acted as bearers, the undertaker being Mr. W. D. Griffiths, who is also captain of the local ringers. Among the 65 wreaths from the family and friends was one from the bellringers, in the shape of a floral bell lying on its side.

After the service some six-scores of Grandsire Doubles and call changes with the bells half-muffled were rung as a last tribute of respect to one whose place will be hard to fill. On December 1st a half-muffled peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung as a last tribute of respect.

'BELLS' IN NEW ZEALAND.**DORKING CURATE DESCRIBES SUBSTITUTES.**

In spite of the wintry weather, about 40 ringers put in an appearance at Dorking on Saturday week, when the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild held the last meeting for the year, a welcome visitor being Mr. Alan Pink, from Hanwell, a former secretary of the district.

The Guild's service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. O. H. Hunt), assisted by his senior curate (the Rev. A. Dawson), and Mr. Coles, the organist. The address was given by the Rev. A. Dawson, who said he thought the bells of England were taken—almost subconsciously—as an accepted factor, and it was not until he went away to New Zealand that he realised what a real part they played in English life. He went on to describe some of the substitutes he found in the country districts out there, one place being well off with a set of iron bars of various lengths. It was not unusual, however, to hear an iron bedstead or an empty kerosene can being banged to signify that it was nearly time for service.

Tea was served in the Church Room, and, although there were home-made cakes, the party of 35 failed to finish the course. The Vicar was present and took the chair for the ensuing business meeting.

The retiring officers were all renominated, the names of Messrs. W. James and W. J. Whiting being added to the representatives on the General Executive Committee.

The district secretary (Mr. A. H. Smith) advised the members of the Guild's dinner on January 8th, and the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the service and use of the bells, also for presiding, and to the Rev. A. Dawson for an interesting and unusual address.

After an interlude with handbells, the tower bells were again made full use of until close on 9 o'clock. The variety of methods ranged from rounds, through Triples, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob to Cambridge, Superlative, London, Bristol and Yorkshire Surprise.

LADIES' GUILD.**SUCCESSFUL MEETING IN BRISTOL.**

A very successful meeting of the Western District of the Ladies' Guild was held at the Parish Church, Clifton, on December 11th. The attendance was good, members being present from Bath, Bristol, Abbotsleigh, Duffield, Mangotsfield, Portishead, Stoke Gifford, Westerleigh and Wrington. Touches of Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob were rung during the afternoon. The service was conducted by the Vicar, who extended a hearty welcome to the Guild.

Thirty-two members and friends assembled afterwards in the Parish Hall, where Mrs. Gregory had provided an excellent tea. This was followed by the business meeting, Mrs. Edwards, the vice-president, being in the chair. Miss Violet Smith, of Westerleigh, was elected a member of the Guild, and Mangotsfield was chosen for the next meeting, to be held on the second Saturday in March.

At the conclusion of tea a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells, to Mr. Hedley Gregory for playing the organ, to Mrs. Gregory for providing the tea, and to those members of the local band who had kindly made all the necessary arrangements for the meeting.

A disappointment was experienced after tea. It had been arranged to ring at St. Mary-le-Port in the evening, but on arrival at the church it was discovered that one of the bells was out of order and ringing impossible. After various efforts had been made to secure another tower, Miss Annie Brown came to the rescue and carried off a large party to ring at St. Philip's, where they spent a very happy hour, and rang, among other things, a nice course of Cambridge.

BRAINTREE VETERAN.

For over 50 years Mr. H. E. Hammond has been a Sunday service ringer at St. Michael's, Braintree. On Saturday he celebrated his 72nd birthday, and in honour of the event a quarter-peal of Superlative Surprise Major was rung for morning service on Sunday: S. Warne 1, B. Redgewell 2, H. Hammond 3, R. Martin 4, G. Lindridge 5, H. Felton 6, L. Wiffen 7, A. Wiffen 8. In spite of his age, Mr. Hammond is still the 'life' of the Braintree company, and his 'striking' is as near perfect as possible. He is an old member of the College Youths.

NORTON RECTOR'S SILVER WEDDING.

After an unsuccessful attempt for a peal at St. James' Church, Norton, near Sheffield, on November 27th, to celebrate the silver wedding of the Rector (the Rev. J. S. Pegge), a quarter-peal of Bob Major was rung by S. Briggs 1, J. Moss 2, J. E. Turley 3, J. Sykes 4, R. Payne 5, A. Gill 6, J. J. L. Gilbert 7, N. Chaddock (conductor) 8.

MUFFLED BELLS.

At St. John the Baptist's, Aldenham, on Sunday, December 12th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung with the bells half-muffled to the memory of Miss Ellis, for many years connected with the church: G. J. Bishop 1, H. J. Wright 2, S. Jones 3, C. Evans 4, C. H. Horton (conductor) 5, W. Inwood 6, W. Giles 7, V. Lawrence 8.

'THE COLLEGE YOUTHS'

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by J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE

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FIRST QUARTER-PEALS.

MAISEYHAMPTON, GLOS.—On Sunday, Dec. 12th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, 1,260 changes (10½ six-scores each called differently): E. H. Pearce 1, W. C. Cuss (conductor) 2, L. W. Cuss 3, N. G. Pearce 4, J. E. Godwin 5, W. A. Godwin 6. First quarter-peal and first attempt by the ringer of the treble, who is aged 14 years.

NORBURY, CHESHIRE.—On Monday, December 6th, at St. Thomas' Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,344 changes): Miss L. Fernley (longest length) 1, J. Fernley 2, L. Clough 3, Rev. F. Bonner 4, J. Whittaker 5, J. W. Hartley 6, C. K. Lewis (conductor) 7, J. Worth 8.

LONDON.—At St. Giles', Camberwell, for Sunday evening service on December 5th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters: A. Hughes (first quarter-peal) 1, T. H. Taffender 2, Miss B. Mills 3, Miss H. Mills 4, Miss O. Ashbrook 5, T. W. Taffender (conductor) 6, P. A. Corby 7, E. J. King 8, A. Diserens 9, Frank Hopgood 10.

LONDON.—At St. Lawrence Jewry for evening service on December 5th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes): W. A. Hughes (first quarter of Bob Major) 1, G. A. Parsons 2, R. W. Cousins 3, G. T. Moody (first quarter of Bob Major) 4, R. Allen 5, F. C. Shorter (conductor) 6, J. A. Waugh 7, E. Murrell 8.

ABERAVON, GLAM.—On Sunday, December 4th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: V. Smith 1, T. M. Roderick, Newton Porthcavi (first quarter-peal of Triples and first attempt) 2, A. J. Pitman (conductor) 3, S. E. Eoper (Croydon) 4, W. J. Nulton 5, C. Mathers 6, E. Stith 7, F. E. Stone 8.

MERE, WILTS.—On December 2nd, for practice, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: V. Hill 1, E. Coward 2, J. Paul 3, G. Bunce 4, J. Gray 5, W. Keates 6, F. A. Coward (conductor) 7, H. Jordan 8. The first quarter-peal of Stedman by the local band on the bells. Thanks are due to Mr. E. Rowe, of Stourton, for his help from the band's first 120 of Grandsire Doubles upwards.

BARKING, ESSEX.—On Sunday, November 28th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes): P. C. C. Austin (first in the method) 1, H. Worboys 2, W. Beard 3, E. G. Collis 4, C. Penn (conductor) 5, G. W. Faulkner 6, R. Penn 7, C. W. Faulkner 8.

KIRKBY STEPHEN, WESTMORLAND.—On Sunday, November 28th, for evening, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): W. Wharton 1, K. Burnett 2, A. G. Morland 3, T. Martin 4, J. Bradberry 5, A. Wilkinson 6, E. Burnett (conductor) 7, F. P. Nicholson 8. The first quarter-peal for all the ringers with the exception of the conductor.

WATFORD, HERTS.—On Sunday, November 28th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich (1,280 changes): A. W. Dix 1, S. H. Hoare (conductor) 2, F. Bullock (first in the method) 3, W. Norris 4, H. L. Long 5, C. N. Leman 6, H. G. Casimore 7, R. G. Bell 8.

A DOUBLE BAND FOR SUNDAY SERVICE RINGING.

ROCK FERRY'S EXAMPLE.

On Sunday week two 720's of Minor were rung at St. Peter's Church, Rock Ferry, by two entirely separate bands and all are members of Rock Ferry tower, five of them having commenced to learn only in March of this year.

Six of the band, whose average is 15½ years, are members of the choir, whilst two others are ex-choirboys. Two more are learning, making a total of 14, and on practice nights it is usual to have at least 16 in the tower at once, but everyone gets a fair share of the ringing. During this year 720's in 27 methods have been rung, including 24 Surprise methods.

Sunday's 720's were as follow: For morning service, 720 Cambridge Surprise: W. J. Williams 1, D. Parry 2, Mrs. M. Poole 3, J. Leslie 4, A. V. Andrews 5, W. Dean (conductor) 6. For evening service, 720 of Kent Treble Bob: H. Andrew 1, J. H. Cooke 2, C. O. Eulse (first 720 of Treble Bob) 3, A. J. Martin 4, J. Cooke (conductor) 5, F. T. Perry 6.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY.

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ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-West Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Bishop's Stortford, on Saturday, December 18th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m.—H. A. Wacey, Hon. Sec., 69, Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Gloucester Branch will be held at Barnwood on Saturday, December 18th. Bells (8) open at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5.15 p.m., kindly provided by the Rector (Rev. E. H. Noott). All ringers welcome.—W. H. Harris, Branch Hon. Sec., 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Chad's, Poulton, on Saturday, December 18th. Bells (8) ready 3 p.m. Business meeting after tea. Come and hear the new octave, tenor 8 cwt. Subscriptions due.—C. Sharples, Fylde Branch Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The last meeting for 1937 will be held at the Parish Church, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Saturday, December 18th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Tea in Church Room 4.30 prompt. Short service at 5.30. All ringers and friends welcome, especially Loughborough District members, at this meeting.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseale, Burton-on-Trent.

SHAUGH PRIOR, S. DEVON.—Ring of six bells, tuned and rehung in new framework by John Taylor and Co.—Rededication service by the Lord Bishop of Plymouth on Saturday, December 18th, at 3.15 p.m.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—The annual meeting is to be held at St. James', Poole, on Saturday, December 18th. Ringing from 2.30. Service at 4.30. Address by the Rector, Rev. E. C. Harris. Tea in the Church House, 5.15, followed by the usual business.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

MAWGAN, NEAR HELSTON, CORNWALL.—The bells, restored and augmented to a ring of six by John Taylor and Co., will be dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Truro on Saturday, December 18th, at 3.30 p.m.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at St. Albans on Saturday, December 18th. St. Peter's bells (10) available from 3 p.m. until 5. The Cathedral bells (12) after tea. Tea arrangements are being made. Will all those who can please attend this meeting, especially the committee for the district?—W. Nash, North Mimms, Hatfield, and H. V. Frost, 4, Kimberley Road, St. Albans, Dis. Secs.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Holy Trinity, Bolton, on Saturday, December 18th. Bells available 3 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Oswaldtwistle on Saturday, December 18th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. Everybody welcome.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Ranmoor, Sheffield, on Saturday, December 18th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Tea in the Parish Hall at 5 p.m. at 1s. each.—F. Clark, Hon. Sec., 35, Finkle Street, Bentley, Doncaster.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Calne Branch.—Annual meeting will be held at Calne on December 18th. Bells from 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Ringing friends welcome.—L. A. Wilson, Hon. Sec., 109, High Street, Wootton Bassett.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—A meeting will be held at Sawley on Saturday, December 18th. Arrangements for tea on the spot. Service 4.30. Please turn up and let us have a swagger Christmas meeting.—Tom Clark, Dis. President.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—A monthly meeting will be held at Berkswell on Saturday, December 18th. Tea at the Garden Cafe at 5 p.m. Bells (6) available afternoon and evening.—M. Melville, Gen. Hon. Sec., Ex-hall, Coventry.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Next meeting at Wisbech on Saturday, December 18th. Bells (10) at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5. The members of the district committee are asked to meet at 4 p.m. Please help to make the last meeting of the year a great success.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington, St. John, Wisbech.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next practice has been arranged at Old Windsor on Saturday, December 18th, at 6 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Manchester, on Saturday, December 18th. Tower opens 6 p.m. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—J. H. Ridyard, Branch Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—The next meeting will be held to-morrow, December 18th, at St. John's, Old Hackney (Mare Street). Bells ready 3 p.m. Tea, etc., 5 p.m. A good attendance is specially requested.—James G. A. Prior, 31, Limerston Street, S.W.10.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Watford, Saturday, December 18th. Bells open from 3.30. Tea at 5.45. Annual business meeting. Election of officers for 1938. Ringing after till 8.30. Excellent train or coach service to Watford, from all parts.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

SPREYTON, NEAR BOW, DEVON.—Ring of six rehung on ball bearings by Gillett and Johnston. Rededication by Rural Dean, Saturday, December 18th, at 3 p.m.

THETFORD, NORFOLK.—St. Peter's Church. The peal of eight, tuned and rehung with modern fittings in strengthened frame by Gillett and Johnston, will be rededicated by the Rural Dean on Saturday, December 18th, at 2.30 p.m. Bells available for ringing after the service. Tea provided in St. Peter's Schoolroom, Croxton Road. All ringers invited.

PLYMSTOCK, S. DEVON.—Rededication of the ring of six bells, tuned and rehung in a new framework by John Taylor and Co., will take place on Monday, December 20th, at 7 p.m. Preacher, the Lord Bishop of Plymouth.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus, Dec. 23rd; *St. Giles', Cripplegate (instead of Bow), Dec. 21st (7.30 p.m.); St. Andrew's, Holborn, Dec. 30th, at 8 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards. A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

BROADCLYST, EXETER.—The ring of eight bells, recast and rehung in new framework by John Taylor and Co, will be dedicated by the Bishop of Crediton at 7 p.m. on Tuesday next, December 21st.

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 1st, 1938, at St. George's, Southwark, S.E. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. All those requiring tea please notify me not later than Thursday, December 30th. Gentlemen cordially invited.—M. L. Cross, Hon. Sec., 9, Beverley Road, Barnehurst, Kent.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 1st, 1938, at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street. Ringing at St. Martin's Church from 5 to 6 p.m. Business meeting at 6.15 p.m. prompt.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual Dinner, Saturday, January 8th, 1938, at the Lion Hotel, Guildford, at 6 p.m. Tickets 5s. 6d. each, from J. S. Goldsmith, Hon. Sec., Southover Cottage, Lower Pyrford Road, Woking, Surrey.

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ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

MEETING AT SOUTHWARK.

A quarterly meeting of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths was held at St. George the Martyr, Southwark, on November 20th and was attended by about 25 members and friends, chiefly from the London area.

Ringling took place during the afternoon on the recently retuned and rehung peal of eight, and ranged from rounds to Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise.

A shortened form of evensong was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Cooke, and was followed by tea at the Express Dairy, London Bridge. The Rector also presided at tea, and those present were entertained by a course of Grandsire Caters on Mr. C. W. Taylor's excellent peal of handbells.

The business meeting was held in the vestry, the Master (Mr. G. H. Cross) taking the chair.

The elections of two new members prior to a peal were ratified.

It was decided to hold a dinner early in 1938 on the lines of that held in March, 1937, and the third Saturday in March was put forward as a suitable date.

The Master referred to the passing of the Rev. 'Dick' Sheppard, mentioning that he was a member of the society. The meeting stood in silence for a few moments as a tribute of respect.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector for granting permission to ring and for conducting the service, and also to Mr. W. Bottrill for his assistance in making arrangements.

Upon returning to the tower, further ringing was indulged in, methods to suit all being rung until 9 o'clock, when the bells were lowered in peal.

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