



No. 297. Vol. XI.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24th, 1916.

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

Price 1d.

# GILLETT & JOHNSTON

## CROYDON, Surrey.

### BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,  
Wolverhampton.

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

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

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

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

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

## FACE THE FACTS.

An outspoken article by Mr. William Willson, on the subject which has engaged the attention of the Exercise in the last week or two, appears in another column and will be read with interest, especially as he has directly approached the Bishop of Peterborough upon the matter and is able to give his lordship's reply. With regard to this latter we have never doubted that the Bishop's attitude has been dictated by the most well-intentioned motives. Indeed, no one, as we have previously pointed out, would for a moment desire to ring bells when the ringing would be likely to affect the efficiency of those upon whom the success of our arms in the field so much depends, and ringers as a whole, we feel sure, have realised that what has been in the minds of the Bishops of Peterborough and Chelmsford has been consideration for those who are engaged upon night labour.

It is not, therefore, the action of the prelates to which objection can or need be taken, nor would it be of use to kick against any regulations framed under the Defence of the Realm Act. What the Exercise has to be on its guard against is the imposition of restrictions dictated by a few "extremists," whose views, if there should be no counter-acting influence, might be accepted without question by those in authority. Then, when once the thin edge of the wedge has been driven in, those who take a rooted objection to bells rung under any conditions, will spare no effort to gain their ends when things might be expected to go back to their normal condition. But what can the Exercise do to use its modifying influence if the emergency arises? At the present moment it would find itself hopelessly unorganised, with no settled plan of action and, so far as we are aware, no representative body prepared to give advice. It is against the continuation of this state of things that we are arguing.

The Exercise has the means to focus and express its views, to organise its forces and to prepare for eventualities, and all thinking ringers will agree that there should be no hesitation in preparing for any action that may be necessary. It does not follow that such action will be required, but the trend of events shows that the future may have its difficulties and if we are wise we shall be ready to meet them with reasoned arguments and that powerful influence which could be secured if only it were sought in the right way. If the need does not arise so much the better, but if it does it should find us ready, for it would be useless to lament when it is too late. Let us, therefore, bestir ourselves and while avoiding panic face facts. The initial step in putting our organisation into order rests with the Central Council, and ringers will expect that body to be ready to uphold their interests whenever the occasion arises.

## MODERN WORK.

# CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR  
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,  
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

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

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

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

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,  
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs 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 REGAST.

**FRAMES**

IN BEST SEASONED OAK,  
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**Chiming Machines.**

**Best Workmanship and  
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**ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON  
BRACKETS.**

MALLEABLE IRON BRACKETS.  
BEST BELL ROPES.  
REPAIRS AND REHANGING  
IN ALL BRANCHES.

**BELLHANGERS sent to inspect  
and report on Bells and Towers**

**SEND FOR CATALOGUE.**

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**Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope  
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**60, QUEEN'S ROAD, PECKHAM, LONDON, S.E.**

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

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

## EIGHT BELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION

(LATE THE ST. JAMES' SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, November 4th, 1916, Three Hours and Four Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR, SOUTHWARK, S.E.,

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

THURSTANS' ONE-PART.

Tenor 16 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lbs.

CHALLIS F. WINNEY ... .. Treble

ERNEST A. REEVE ... .. 5

THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ... .. 2

JOSEPH MILNER ... .. 6

ARTHUR JONES ... .. 3

C. W. ROBERT GRIMWOOD ... .. 7

WALTER G. MATTHEWS ... .. 4

THOMAS WALKER ... .. Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to Christopher H. Hughes, Hon. Secretary of the local company, who was killed in action on Sept. 9th.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Thursday, November 9, 1916, in Two Hours and Forty-two Minutes.

AT THE OFFICES OF MR. R. J. HUNT, BERKLEY STREET,

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

Tenor, 15 size in C.

\*FRANK W. PERRENS ... 1-2

JAMES E. GROVES ... 5-6

ALBERT WALKER ... 3-4

GEORGE F. SWANN ... 7-8

JAMES GEORGE ... 9-10

Composed and Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

Referee: GEORGE WALKER.

\* First peal of Caters "in hand" and first peal of Caters, and first handbell peal as conductor.

CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, November 12, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT 31, HIGHER ALBERT STREET,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;**

GEORGE HOLLIS ... 1-2

CLEMENT GLENN ... 5-6

GEORGE DAVIES ... 3-4

WILLIAM J. THYNG ... 7-8

ARTHUR KNIGHTS ... 9-10

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS, and

Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.

KETTERING, NORTHANTS.

THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Monday, November 13, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT 7, THE BROADWAY,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

SERG. WM. R. HENSHER 1-2

DAVID J. NICHOLS ... 5-6

J. EDWARD CHAPMAN ... 3-4

FREDERICK W. SAWFOOT ... 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT, and

Conducted by DAVID J. NICHOLS.

This peal was arranged for Wheeler-Staff-Sergt. W. R. Hensher, who was home on leave from France.

LONDON.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Wednesday, November 15, 1916, in Two Hours and Forty-six Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, SHOREDITCH,

**A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;**

Size 16 in B flat.

JAMES HUNT ... 1-2

FRANK SMITH ... 5-6

JOHN D. MATTHEWS ... 3-4

WILLIAM T. POWELL ... 7-8

WILLIAM J. NUDDS ... 9-10

Composed and Conducted by JOHN D. MATTHEWS.

Umpire: MR. H. T. SCARLETT.

Witnesses: MESSRS. E. WIGHTMAN, B. FOSKETT and H. C. STUBBS.  
Mr. Hunt's 150th peal on handbells.

## LONDON.

## THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS

On Thursday, November 16, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, SHOREDITCH,

## A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Size 18 in G.

WILLIAM R. HENSHER ... 1-2	FRANK SMITH ... .. 5-6
JOHN D. MATTHEWS ... 3-4	WILLIAM T. POWELL ... 7-8

JAMES HUNT ... .. 9-10

Composed by H. J. TUCKER, and Conducted by JAMES HUNT.  
The conductor's 400th peal.

## BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, November 18, 1916, in Two Hours and Forty-three Minutes

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. ALBERT WALKER,

## A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5002 CHANGES;

Tenor, 17 size in B flat.

FRANK W. PERRENS ... 1-2	ALBERT WALKER ... .. 5-6
GEORGE F. SWANN ... .. 3-4	JAMES E. GROVES ... .. 7-8
JAMES GEORGE ... .. 9-10	

Composed by the late HENRY JOHNSON, and  
Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

Referee: MR. G. WALKER,

The referee ticked off each call and scrutinized every course-end.  
This peal is in 85 courses, with 335 calls.

## ROLL OF HONOUR.

Pte F. S. Macey, of Sittingbourne, Kent, M.T. A.S.C., now at Upper Norwood.

Pte John R. Moger, of St. Matthew's, Holbeck, Leeds, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, now at Middlesbrough.

From Christ Church, Southgate:—

Spr. S. Wade, Royal Engineers.

Gnr. H. E. Balaam, Royal Garrison Artillery.

## KETTERING RINGER AWARDED D.C.M.

Another ringer has been decorated for bravery on the field, the D.C.M. having been awarded to Pte A. J. Knight, of the Kettering, Northants, company, who is serving in the Northants Regiment. Writing to his parents the other day, Pte Knight said: "I have a surprise for you. I have been awarded the D.C.M. I have kept it a secret for some time, but it is for an affair which happened at the same place that Col. Ripley was wounded."

Pte Knight is 22 years of age, and enlisted in September, 1914, and has been at the front since July 25th, 1915. Before joining the army he was a very active member of the Kettering band of ringers, having mastered all the standard methods from Grandsire Triples to London Surprise, and had rung 14 peals of Stedman, Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise.

## DIED OF WOUNDS.

We regret to record the death of another ringer, who laid down his life for his country. Private Frederick George Lewis, of Llanfrecfa, died of his wounds in France on October 20th at the age of 24 years. He was attached to the South Wales Borderers. Before enlisting deceased was a member of the Llanfrecfa company, and, being verger, was a regular Sunday service ringer. He had just made himself proficient in Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Bob Minor when he joined the army. It was only seven months from the date of his joining to his death.

The bells were rung muffled at Llanfrecfa for morning service on Sunday week as a last tribute of respect by the local company to their esteemed friend.

## THE LATE PTE. C. H. HUGHES.

The Exercise in London has lost a most enthusiastic member in Mr. Christopher H. Hughes, who, as already recorded, has fallen at the front. Born in the parish of St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, in 1886, he was much attached to the church, and there he commenced and learnt nearly all his ringing. A most obliging fellow, he was elected hon. secretary of the local company. Called to the colours in April, 1916, he joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps, was wounded once in August, and killed in action on September 9th.

He was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, whose meetings he regularly attended; a member of the London County Association, being steward of the Southern District, and also a member of the Sussex and Kent County Associations. He was successful in the first eight peals he attempted, which included the local peal, Carter's Odd-Bob one-part Stedman Triples. He rang in all 45 peals, made up as follows: Grandsire Triples 1, Stedman Triples 26, Stedman Caters 3, Kent Treble Bob Major 6, Kent Treble Bob Royal 1, Plain Bob Major 1, Double Norwich Major 1, Cambridge Surprise Major 5, Superlative Surprise Major 1. R.I.P.

## RINGER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.

## MR. W. NEWELL CELEBRATES A DOUBLE EVENT.

The chronicles of Reading will have another item to record in their municipal history, for on the 8th November last, Mr. William Newell, an old resident of the town, celebrated his 78th birthday, and with Mrs. Newell attained the golden anniversary of their wedding at St. Mary's Church in 1866, the "happy couple" of those days being still in the enjoyment of good health and comfortably jogging along together.

Oxfordshire born, Mr. Newell came to Reading in May, 1851, and later on entered into the business of a brewer and licensed victualler, at The Mitre Hotel, West Street, which for 24 years was strictly and impartially carried on by him without trading on Sundays, it being against his life-long principle of "temperance in all things" to do so.

For 18 years he was one of the St. Mary's Society of Change Ringers, acting as the foreman for the last ten, followed by a rest from the belfry during the next decade, which he keenly devoted to handbell tune playing at concerts and entertainments, in and about the town, acting as the conductor to a dexterous quartette manipulating a set of 50 bells which he purchased for this purpose. Appointed tower warden at St. Lawrence's Church in 1881, when the tower and bells were restored, Mr. Newell still holds this office, after 35 years' faithful service, in addition to his duty as Guild Instructor of bell ringing. For 47 years he has occupied the position of tenor singer in the choir of St. Mary's Church, Castle Street, only resigning twelve months ago. He has been a member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild since its formation, in 1881, the Oxford Society since 1869, the Ancient Society of College Youths since 1884, and the Appleton Society since 1866. In honour of the veteran's records, all friends and neighbours flocked together on "the day," the bells at St. Mary's and St. Lawrence towers being rung. Numerous congratulations were tendered him by post, and personally, in which Mrs. Newell, who had a large share in building up this interesting record, was not forgotten.

A social reception, after partaking of an excellent tea, was held in the evening at the Dairy Cafe, in Broad Street, where some 42 ringers assembled and joined in wishing "the pair" many happy days to follow, both the natal and matrimonial events of a long and well-spent life. A handsome silver sugar basin and tongs were presented to Mr. Newell as a souvenir and a token of respect to the happy and bonny couple, the President of the Reading branch (Mr. W. P. Routh) making suitable observations in handing over the gift.

The Rev. G. F. Coleridge (Crowthorne) occupied the chair, and was supported by the Rev. Canon Newhouse (Vicar of St. Lawrence), himself also a ringer and former Guild secretary; Mr. E. Bishop (Swindon), Mr. W. H. Fussell (Slough), Mr. W. Clarke (Aldermaston), Mr. A. D. Cullum (Caversham) and Mr. G. Wright (Sonning). There were also present Miss Goodship, Messrs. H. Egby, Paice, Searle and Reeves (four of the St. Mary's original band), Goodyear and Haines (Fife-hurst), Smith, Simmon's, Hibbert, junr. (Caversham), Wright, junr., Brown, A. Osborne, Pullen, Spong, Swain, Webb, Runham, Halliday, James Potter (of Frittenden), F. Hopgood, A. Wiggins, E. J. Menday, C. Giles, A. Watmore and R. Sawyer, etc.

The evening was thoroughly enjoyed, and brought about many an unexpected reunion of the Reading Youths of past generations, speech and song quickly beguiling the hours in brotherly harmony.

The Rev. G. F. Coleridge said few of them could hope to attain to so lengthy a married life as Mr. Newell. He referred to the large number of ringers whom Mr. Newell had trained and the good work he had done. In spite of discouragement Mr. Newell had continued patiently. He looked forward to seeing his friend as healthy ten years hence as he was now.

The Rev. Canon Newhouse said he had known Mr. Newell for many years, and had always respected and admired him. As a bell ringer, a man, and a Churchman he had nothing but good to say of him.

Mr. W. H. Fussell said throughout the years of his acquaintance with Mr. Newell he had always been his staunch friend. It was a great pleasure for him to come to Reading and meet Mr. Newell and his other ringing friends.

Mr. Harry Egby said he had been associated, not only as a ringer, but also as a comrade, with Mr. Newell, whose work in the past had been that of bringing on the young change ringers.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Newell for his kindness in entertaining the company assembled and for his splendid work in the past.

In reply, Mr. Newell gave an interesting sketch of his ringing career, thanking old friends for past help, and the subscribers for their kind presentation that evening to his wife and self.

Among those who contributed to the programme were: Messrs. Newell (Sweet Reading Bells'), J. Searle ("When we were boys together"), H. Egby (in a song of his own composing, "Good-bye, Berkshires"), W. Webb, A. D. Cullum, A. Watmore and A. Spong.

A peal of Grandsire Caters was attempted during the afternoon, at St. Lawrence, but after ringing nearly 5,000 changes in 3 hrs. and 20 mins., the conductor was obliged to call stand, as two bells had changed course, much to the regret of the audience outside, who made favourable comments on the striking.

The ringers were: Rev. G. F. Coleridge (treble), F. Hopgood (composer and conductor) 2. A. Wiggins 3. W. H. Fussell 4. E. J. Menday 5. C. Giles 6. E. Bishop 7. A. Watmore 8. A. Osborne 9. R. Sawyer 10.



# MEARS & STAINBANK,

Foundry  
Established  
A.D. 1570.

*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.*

## TOWCESTER'S VETERAN RINGER.

PRESENTATION TO MR. J. SLARKE.

Mr. James Slarke, Towcester's veteran ringer, has just reached his 75th birthday, and in celebration of the event, which occurred on the 10th inst., he has been presented by colleagues of the Central Northants Association with an illuminated and framed address, and a gold bell pendant. Mr. Slarke is a native of Cottesbrooke, where, at the parish church, he became a proficient ringer by the time he reached the age of 12. Thus he has been a ringer for more than 63 years, and he has seen five generations of his family as devotees of the Art, for not only are his son and grandson bell ringers, but his father and grandfather also were members of the craft. A good deal of Mr. Slarke's ringing has been done at Easton Neston, where, through his generosity and that of his family, two trebles were added in the year 1911, to make the bells into a ring of eight. Mr. Slarke helped to found the Towcester and District Association, which came into being about 23 years ago, and has done most useful work in that corner of the county.

Mr. Slarke's birthday celebration took place on Saturday week at



MR. J. SLARKE.

Proper's Hotel, Towcester, when there was a representative gathering of ringers from the district. Mr. F. Hopper presided over the proceedings which followed a sumptuous tea, and the presentation was made by Mr. F. Wilford (Hon. General Secretary of the Central Northants Association) in a happy little speech, in the course of which he paid tribute to the worthiness of Mr. Slarke and assured him of the esteem and respect felt for him by his brother ringers. He referred to the long period during which Mr. Slarke had shown his great interest in the welfare of bell ringers, and to the service he had rendered at Easton Neston.

Several other members made congratulatory speeches, and Mr. Slarke replied in feeling terms, acknowledging the never failing kindness he had received.

Among those who rendered songs during the evening were Messrs. Wilford, J. Metherell and A. J. Mawby, while handbell selections were given by Messrs. F. Hopper, H. L. Key, W. Farey, W. Allen, T. Law, J. Hensman, W. Rogers and F. Wilford.

## KING'S CLIFFE BELL FUND.

The following further subscriptions have been received towards the fund for recasting King's Cliffe tenor: St. John's, Peterborough, ringers, 14s.; Mr. W. A. Wooler, Wortley, 10s.; Lieut. E. M. Atkins, Isham, 5s.; Mr. Menday, 3s.; St. Mary's Society, Reading, 7s. 6d.; total, £17 4s. Further contributions should be sent to the Rev. H. A. Orlebar, King's Cliffe Rectory, Peterborough.

## RINGING AND THE PUBLIC.

BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH'S VIEWS.

By WILLIAM WILLSON.

There seems to be a pessimistic feeling among the ringing fraternity that church bells have not only reached their zenith, but are already on the decline towards extinction. The chief cause of this gloomy foreboding is the recent restriction against street noises after dark, viz., "bells, striking of clocks, horns and hooters," which would undoubtedly help hostile aircraft to locate a given place. Now, further depression is added by the fact that two Bishops have lent their pens to further restrict church bells, and to all outside observers, it appears that ringing as we know it is doomed. Panic and depression are most contagious, and those persons affected by such emotions are most certainly not the best advisers.

Let us examine the facts without exaggeration. The Defence of the Realm Act is an elastic measure, and almost equivalent to martial law. Whatever is deemed to be expedient for the good of the nation is within its capacity and must be carried into effect without equivocation. But the Defence of the Realm Act ceases automatically with the war, and cannot continue afterwards without another Act of Parliament. That renewal it is not likely to get. That such an omnibus Act would be exploited by various sects was only to be expected. We have seen what the rabid teetotaler will do while sheltering behind it. We have seen zeal run to lunacy in the darkening of streets resulting in more deaths and casualties than a Zeppelin raid. Now we find up against us those who have always been antagonistic to everything appertaining to the Church and to bells in particular; demanding peace and quietness not for themselves, oh no! but for the poor overworked munition worker.

If the claim was sincere, I venture to say that no ringer with an ounce of manliness would object. Nay, we ought and must admit the rights of our fellow men to peace and quietness. What business have eight or ten men to lock themselves up in a steeple, and for their own pure amusement—sometimes disguised as sympathy by muffling the bells—annoy their neighbours by the hundred for three hours on end? None of us would tolerate an organ grinder in like manner, and the law supports us in moving him on. That is so in ordinary times. We are living in abnormal days, when selfishness must give place to the common good, and when anything which tends to winning the war must be utilised for the one object. With those ranters in the public Press whose ulterior objects against bells are only too apparent, we all can only have contempt, but I do sincerely believe that the bishops who have spoken have only the main issue in mind. Feeling that some explanation was due from the prelates of Peterborough and Colchester, I put myself in communication with the former, pointing out that:

1. Ringing was already restricted almost to a minimum for two reasons, viz., that numbers of ringers were fighting their country's battles, and not a few had made the Great Sacrifice.
2. Ringers recognised the rights of the public fully, and gladly acquiesced in stopping the clanging of odd bells for early morning services.
3. That if much further restriction is pressed, it would mean the extinction of ringers' guilds and the alienation of a considerable body of men from the church.

### THE BISHOP'S REPLY.

Although the Bishop of Peterborough has only recently taken upon his shoulders the burden of a large See, and the National Mission is in full swing, his Grace replied to my letter within 24 hours, as follows:—

The Palace, Peterborough.  
14th November, 1916.

William Willson, Esq., Leicester.

My dear Sir,—Thank you for your letter. I need hardly say that in my suggestions in regard to the ringing of church bells there is no antagonism whatever to the practice in itself, but only a desire to meet the special circumstances of a special time. No one appreciates church bells and the services of church bell ringers more than I do, and I hope that, in spite of present difficulties, the guilds of bell ringers will endeavour to keep together and tide over the present period of the war. As to the actual times when the bells are silent, I must leave that to the discretion of each parish. It must obviously depend on the presence or absence in the district of munition workers, or workers in other war service which calls for incessant labour by day and night. Believe me, yours very truly,

THEODORE PETRIBURG.

I think it will be admitted that the answer is eminently satisfactory, and that there is no need for pessimism. Those who have written urging immediate action by the Central Council might ask themselves calmly, "What can the Council do? You cannot 'kick against the pricks' with impunity. What profit, whether you elect a lawyer or a cheesemonger as President? Was there ever a case in the Courts where two lawyers would not fight to the death for either side of a question—and, of course, a fee? If there is any finality of advice in a legal President, what is the matter with Lord Justice Cherry, K.C. LL.D., as Hon. President of the Council, with an acting chairman in his absence? I do not think

the legal luminary of Birmingham would care to enter the lists against the headlight of Ireland!

But what can the Council do? Well, it might have done a great deal in the past. It might have issued to all belfries through their Associations, a certificate of affiliation, with a form of service to be used. It might have made the late Sir Arthur Heywood the first Freeman of the Council. It might then have fittingly elected as President for the ensuing year, the Bishop in whose diocese the next meeting was to be held, thus securing recognition at once by the whole clergy.

But this is not a time for recrimination, and I am not a candidate for any post whatever in the Council as at present constituted; therefore, I am speaking plainly. As ringers we have been far too secular, and the Council has encouraged it. Most Associations are run merely for the peal report, and the bulk of the members care only for that report and the number of times their names appear in the peal records. Of course, I am as guilty as anybody else, but that fact does not alter the matter. Can we improve things in the future?

I do not think any individual on the Council can alter circumstances which are purely local, but it often happens that when an attack is made in the Press upon bell ringing, there is no one in the locality who feels able or willing to combat the charge on behalf of the ringers. The local secretary is not always a journalist. I am of opinion that we must win into our ranks the clergy from the bishops downwards. In every town or County Association there should be one official who is a clergyman. We must remember that we only ring at any time by permission of the incumbents, and that the ringing of peals of 5,000 changes was not the object for which bells were placed in the tower.

That the clergy obtain a more educated class of men in change ringers as compared to "round ringers" goes without saying, and the clergy know it. It is for us to see that the privileges we get are not abused. When the "bells of peace" ring again shall we see peals of 5,000 changes rung every day for a week, and every Saturday until the backs of the public rise again and demand the quietness they enjoyed in war-time? It is for us to think about. I believe the heart of every man will leap when the bells ring out for peace. Let us see that we do not surfeit the public and produce a re-action.

### THE TWO EXTREMES.

We have received a thoughtful letter upon the same subject from a member of the Central Council, who, while having no desire to appear as a controversialist, will, we think, permit us to give the following extracts:—

"It is necessary in forming an opinion on such subjects to consider at least the existing national conditions, and put oneself as far as possible into the position of those opposed to ringing. Respecting the former, we are living in extremely strained circumstances, when the public mind is unhinged, existence practically jeopardised, everybody going at high pressure, prevailing profiteering by unpatriotic forces who put money before citizenship, and so on, all tending to force expression of opinion on questions which under normal conditions would not be, perhaps, thought of.

"On the second point, what is the ground of their complaint, and how far should it be justifiably combated? Mr. Dawe said, and very properly too, the incessant clanging of one, two or three bells for continuous services, but what about the excessive amount of peal ringing before war, particularly in populated areas?

"These two extremes are, I am afraid, the origin of all the trouble. The former can, under pressure of organised protestation from within, be suppressed without the aid of extreme measures, but the case of excessive peal ringing is for us within our own ranks to carefully consider, and the first question to be asked is: 'What purpose is served by excessive peal ringing?' I can only find one answer, and that is personal gratification, and, indeed, glorification. I cannot see that excessive peal ringing has any effect upon Christianity, or the extension of God's Kingdom, and, unless this is so, excessive ringing does not carry out the intended purposes of church bells.

"I am not by any means condemning peal ringing as, for instance, were peace to be declared to-morrow, I am sure the very people who are now shouting for the bells to be silenced would be the first to exclaim, 'Why don't they ring the bells?' We all stand for well-struck ringing, and if this is done as well as possible, in reason, especially for church services, our opponents will have no ground to stand upon.

"We should not court antagonism, but we must be prepared, as your strongest point sets forth. Let us not, however, force the pace to a fight, but quietly deliberate and prepare our ground without demonstration, and quietly handle the flower in the bud, on sound legitimate reasoning. If the rabid ones know we are alarmed it is just what they want, and will fan it into flame.

"What we have to do is to see the ground we rest on is safe, and then quietly wait events. I do not for a moment feel alarmed at the result."

DALTON-IN-FURNACE.—On Sunday, Sept. 10th, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor: Miss F. M. Stuart 1, Miss A. Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, T. Stuart 4, T. R. Jackson (conductor) 5. W. S. Forshaw 6, J. Burrows 7.

## THE PEALS AT SHOREDITCH.

### A DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY.

Very few peals that were rung by the Royal Cumberland Youths a generation ago appeared without the name of Benjamin Foskett amongst the performers, and those ringers who are old enough to remember the many good performances in which he has taken part will undoubtedly join the ringers of the peal of Royal at Shoreditch on Wednesday of last week in their congratulations on his reaching the "allotted span" on that day. The preceding Saturday (Nov. 11th) was the 45th anniversary of Mr. Foskett's wedding, and at his kind invitation the peal was attempted at his residence at Cricklewood on that day. Evidently, however, the importance of the occasion proved too much, as the peal was lost in the 18th course. The ringers, however, made no mistake in the courses that followed, in which the conducting was ably shared by the Misses Foskett, well backed up by father and mother. A pleasant hour was afterwards spent with handbells and singing, and the congratulations of the party were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Foskett on the auspicious occasion, with best wishes for many more years of conjugal bliss, of which they certainly seem to have every prospect.

The peal rung in the evening of Thursday, the 16th, was arranged over the 'phone at a few hours' notice for Staff-Sgt. W. R. Hensher, of the 3rd Canadian Division, who was passing through London on his way back to the Western front after short leave, he having to depart from Victoria early the following morning.

### MR. J. HUNT'S 400 PEALS.

	Tower Bells.		Handbells.	
	Rung Conducted		Rung Conducted	
Minor .....	2	1		
Grandsire Triples .....	22	6	11	1
Grandsire Caters .....	9	3	4	
Bob Triples .....	1	1		
Bob Major .....	23	7	6	
Bob Royal .....	2	1	5	1
Kent Treble Bob Major .....	15	1	2	
Kent Treble Bob Royal .....	4		1	
Stedman Triples .....	73	3	31	
Stedman Caters .....	22	4	79 (a)	
Stedman Cinques .....	5		12	
Double Norwich Court				
Bob Major ...	25	4		
Norfolk Surprise Major .....	1			
Superlative Surprise Major ...	31	2		
New Cambridge Surprise Major ..	1			
Cambridge Surprise Major .....	4			
Cambridge Royal .....	1			
Bristol Surprise Major .....	6			
London Surprise Major .....	2			
	249	33	151	2

(a) Including 14,031 and 19,738 record.

The tower bell peals were rung in 77 towers in ten counties.

### WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

The annual meeting of the Guildford District was held at Leatherhead on Saturday week, but owing to the war and other causes the attendance was comparatively insignificant, only about two dozen members putting in an appearance, as against over a hundred in normal times. During the afternoon touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Treble Bob Major were brought round on the back eight at SS. Mary and Nicholas' Church, where there is a peal of ten with a tenor 20 cwt. in E flat, and a touch of Caters conducted by F. E. Dawe.

The members afterwards attended service, at which the Rev. T. F. Hobson, Vicar, preached. An excellent tea was subsequently partaken of at the Institute, the party including some Canadian soldier guests. In the absence of the Vicar, Mrs. Hobson kindly welcomed the ringers to Leatherhead, and a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the service and the use of the bells was accorded, on the motion of Mr. F. E. Dawe.

The officers were re-elected en bloc, and it was decided to hold the quarterly meetings for the year as follows: February, Witley; May, Bentley; August, Christ Church, Epsom; November (annual), Dorking.

**RUMNEY.**—On Sunday, Sept. 10th, for evening service, at the Church of St. Augustine, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, in 42 mins.: John H. Pacey (aged 15) 1, Fred Hannington 2, James Thompson 3, George Gullidge 4, Miss Ethel M. Pacey (conductor) 5, Henry Pacey 6. First quarter-peal for all except the ringers of the fifth and sixth. Rung as a farewell to the ringer of the fourth, who was shortly leaving the band to join the colours.

**BRECON, SOUTH WALES.**—On Sunday morning, Sept. 3rd, at St. Mary's Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, with the tenor covering: G. Giblin 1, S. Brooks 2, W. Hargest 3, S. Watkins 4, G. W. Frayne 5, W. Evans (conductor) 6, W. Griffiths 7. For evening service, 1260 Stedman Triples, in 46 mins.: W. Hargest 1, J. Davies (Penarth) 2, G. Giblin 3, S. Watkins 4, S. Brooks 5, G. W. Frayne 6, W. Evans (conductor) 7, W. Griffiths 8.

## NOTICES.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—A Meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on November 30th, for handbell practice.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—A branch meeting will be held at the Holy Trinity Church, Burnley, on Saturday, Nov. 25th, 1916. Bells ready 2.30. Ringing to cease at dusk. Meeting as arranged.—J. Watson, Branch Secretary.

**WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Yorktown District.—The annual meeting will be held at Hawley on Saturday, Nov. 25th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. in the Pavilion close to the Church. All ringing friends welcome.—G. Miles, Hon. Sec., Owlsmoor, Camberley, Surrey.

**WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Basingstoke Branch.—The annual district meeting will be held at Basingstoke on Saturday, Nov. 25th. Bells (8) from about 2 o'clock. Service at 5.30. Tea and meeting in Church Cottage at 6.—Rev. F. G. Hume, Dist. Sec.

**SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Eckington on Saturday, Dec. 2nd (8 bells). Will those members whose subscription is yet unpaid kindly remit before December 31st.—Sam Thomas, 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—The quarterly meeting of above will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, Dec. 2nd. Service at 3.30 p.m. Bells (8) available during afternoon from 1.30 p.m.—Walter Sear, Branch Secretary, 69, Windsor Street, Bletchley.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South Western Division.—The Annual District Meeting will be held at West Ham on Saturday, December 2nd. Bells available from 2.45 to 4.20 p.m. Tea at 4.45 in Church Hall, Meeson Road, 9d. each only to those who notify me on or before Monday, Nov. 27th. Meeting (at which Officers for the ensuing year will be elected) to follow.—E. J. Butler, 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. George's Church, Bolton, on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 1916. Bells from 2.30 to 5.30.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Secretary, 19, Parkfield Road, Bolton.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Stockport Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Norbury on Saturday, December 2nd.—Rev. A. T. Beeston, Hon. Sec., New Mills.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—Wotton-under-Edge and District Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wickwar on Saturday, December 2nd. Bells (6) available from 2.30 to 5 p.m.; tea and business meeting to follow. Will those requiring tea please notify to W. A. Lewis, Branch Hon. Sec., Ham, Berkeley, Gloucestershire.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.**—The next monthly meeting of the above Society will be held at Headingley St. Michael's on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 1916. Bells available from 3 to dusk. Business meeting at 7 p.m.—William Barton, Hon. Sec., 10, Carlisle Road, Pudsey.



**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.  
—The next monthly meeting will be held at Heywood Parish Church on Saturday, December 9th. Bells, ready at 2 o'clock, till dusk; meeting to follow. Reports will be ready for this meeting.—T. K. Driver, 132, Morton Street, Middleton.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Members of the Central Committee are informed that the bells at Tonbridge Church will be available for ringing at one o'clock on the date of the meeting there.—W. Latter, Hon. Dist. Sec., 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Mr. James George, Master of the Warwickshire Guild, is now 48, Minstead Road, Gravelly Hill, Birmingham. Will secretaries of associations and others kindly note.

**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.

#### **SITUATION VACANT.**

**PORTER-GARDENER** required for Trinity Hospital (Almshouses), Clun, Salop. Opportunities for ringing.—Apply to Rev. Subwarden, giving references.

#### **HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.**

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

#### **LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

The members of the above Association paid a visit on Saturday week, to St. Margaret's, Westminster, where a very enjoyable and instructive afternoon was spent. Ringing commenced shortly after 2.30 p.m., but owing to a rope breaking, and a service at the Abbey at 3 p.m., the handbells were brought into use for half-an-hour. A good number were present from the metropolis and provinces, and the methods rung were Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Treble Bob Royal and Cambridge Major.

A meeting was held subsequently at the Headquarters Room, Milford Lane, Strand, the Master (Mr. T. H. Taffender) occupying the chair. Mr. Arthur Mason, of Erith, Kent, was elected a member.

The rest of the evening was devoted to handbell ringing in various methods and tunes, one interesting feature being a course of Grandsire Triples by husbands and wives, viz.:—T. Walker 1—2, Mrs. F. I. Hairs 3—4, F. I. Hairs 5—6, Mrs. T. Walker 7—8.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 9th, and particulars will appear in the "Ringing World" in due course.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. W. Hewett for the able manner in which he carried out the arrangements for the comfort of all who attended.

#### **LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

##### **THE FUSION WITH THE LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN GUILD.**

Outside those immediately concerned very little has been heard of the fusion of the Liverpool Diocesan Guild with the Lancashire Association, which has been carried out quietly during the past year. The annual report of the Lancashire Association, however, makes a reference to it which will be read with interest. The report says:—

"The most notable event of the last year has been the re-union of the Liverpool Diocesan Guild with the Lancashire Association. Many good ringers and clergy in that part of the county have regretted the existence side by side of two societies for the same purpose, and when an opportunity came of bringing the two together it was readily seized by representatives of both. As a result of careful negotiations the Liverpool Guild will retain its unity and close connection with its own diocese for local management, but will be united to the Lancashire Association in the same way as the other branches; all members will pay their subscriptions to the Association. Past membership of the Guild will be counted as if it had been membership of the Association. It is with deepest satisfaction that we record this agreement. On the one hand it is natural and right that such a vigorous diocese as Liverpool should desire to have its own organisation for the large body of Church workers found in its towers. On the other hand all change ringers in the county should be included in the Lancashire Association. These two objects are now, we hope, satisfactorily secured, and we gratefully acknowledge the goodwill shown towards the Association by the representatives of the Guild who negotiated with us."

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Guildford, and Published by Messrs. WM. DAWSON & SONS  
LTD., Cannon House, Bream's Buildings, London, E.C.