

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 406. Vol. XIII.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27th, 1918.

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

Price 2d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey. BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

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

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Messrs. GILLET & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 6th March, 1919.
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 gives 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. BUCK.

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK

THE FUTURE.

Before the next issue of 'The Ringing World' appears we shall once again have stepped over the threshold of a new year; a year in which we may hope to see a great revival of activity in the Exercise. It is with a feeling of relief that the world turns it back upon the last of the war-scarred years to go forward into a future of peace, in which, we trust, progress and prosperity shall predominate. Before us as a nation there are still great problems, and, probably, great trials, which will require all our self-control and natural steadiness to surmount without calamity; but the unity which has gained for us the victory of war will, if it be maintained, achieve for us the victory of peace. Unity in our national life is more than ever essential to the future prosperity of our land, and, similarly, unity in the ranks of the Exercise is more than ever important to the future of ringing.

If our art is to be revived, so that it may resume its forward march from the spot where, in 1914, it was stopped by the war, we must all pull together. There is no room for lukewarmness. There is much leeway to make up, and mere thinking about it will not help matters forward. Some associations are moving, and in this connection the report of what is being done in the Gloucester and Bristol Dioceses is particularly interesting. It should also prove helpful in suggesting to others lines upon which they might proceed. What one should like to see, however, is not isolated but universal action to re-establish the Exercise in its former position. Those who occupy official posts should be the first to move, and their ardour should not be damped if, at first, they fail to stir the whole of their members. Apathy they are bound to meet, and if they let it dominate them nothing but failure can be effected. Overcome the apathy with persistent effort, and then the movement to spread interest in the art will grow and advance until success is achieved.

Let us see the new year, then, marked with a determined revival movement in every part of the country. The associations have it in their hands, by the encouragement and help they can give in all the towers in their particular spheres, unaffiliated as well as affiliated. It is a great mistake to suppose that in a campaign of this kind only those towers which are in union with a society should be considered. A little practical help at a time like this might result in bringing in many a tower at present owning allegiance to no association. The new year, bright with peace, is full of possibilities for the ringing art, and it is up to everyone of us to see that so far as in us lies these possibilities are not wasted, therefore, in extending to our readers the best of all good wishes for 1919, we hope to see them united with us in helping forward this all-important work.

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and report on Bells and Towers**

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

**OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.**

**Broomfield Vicarage,
Chalmersford**

Dear Sirs,

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

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

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

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS.

Vicar of Broomfield.

**CHARLES G. GARR, LTD.
Smethwick.**

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

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EIGHT BELL PEAL.

KIDDINGTON, OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

**On Tuesday, December 17, 1918, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,**

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 6040 CHANCES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

† JACK JUDGE Treble	GEORGE HOLIFIELD, SENR. ... 5
† LEONARD TOFFREY 2	FREDERICK WEBB 6
MAURICE SMITH 3	CAPT. J. H. R. FREEBORN ... 7
TOM PAYNE 4	G. H. KING Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE HOLIFIELD.

† First peal.

Rung to celebrate the Armistice.

UNION AND GRANDSIRE.

A REPLY TO THE REV. H. LAW JAMES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It was only a day or two ago in referring to some back numbers of 'The Ringing World' that I suddenly lighted for the first time on the letter of the Rev. H. Law James in your issue of 12th October, p. 331. His view is well and plainly set forth. Of course, I must state my view, as otherwise there are possibly those who would suppose that his letter had 'floored' me.

I am well aware that Stedman has been denominated 'Stedman's Principle.' Undoubtedly there is a plan (or principle) underlying it, which is (partly) that all the bells do similar work. But it also contains other plans (or principles) just as important and essential to its constitution, e.g., the alternation of slow and quick sixes, the departure of a bell from the front at the end, and the entry of a fresh bell into the front at the beginning of every six, double dodging, etc. All these plans (or principles), one as important as the rest, when taken together make the 'method' of Stedman. I never could, nor can I now, see any conceivable reason for not calling it a 'method,' like any other method, and such I have consistently tried to call it throughout the treatise on Stedman in the Snowdon series. I, therefore, cannot accept Mr. James' third paragraph, and fail to see any 'principle' in the plain hunting lead. It is, in fact, the one standing example of the absence of principle, except that of obedience to the three fundamental rules. (See Lead Ends pp. 5 and 6.)

We next come to the question of what constitutes a 'Plain Lead.' It is in his definition of this that Mr. James, as I contend, differs from what is practically the universal acceptance of the Exercise, and attempts to tie down the term to the sense described and more or less fully reviewed on p. 8 of 'Lead Ends.' But this will not do. His object is obvious. By 'Plain Lead' in the lips of 99 per cent. of the Exercise is meant, and is rightly meant, a treble's lead without a call. (See 'Lead Ends,' p. 10.) I say that herein Mr. James' object is obvious. What is it? It is that if his definition of 'Plain Lead' be accepted we have to accept also the only lead-ends that it will produce, i.e., Plain Bob (or Grandsire) lead-ends, and Mr. James is triumphant. He is delighted to allow us any amount of intineacy and any number of 'bobs' (according to his definition of that term) within the lead, provided only that they produce his own beloved lead-ends—but woe to you if you have a 'bob' too few! (See 'Lead Ends,' p. 18.)

That the positions of the five working bells at the lead-ends of a plain course of Grandsire Triples, when the two hunt bells are eliminated, happens to fit into the mould of the five bells in the plain hunting lead on that number (see 'Lead Ends,' p. 8) is a mere fortuitous fact, and Mr. James' remarks about it do not seem to me to have any real bearing on the question. Indeed, after reading his paragraph commencing 'And lo!' all that I feel inclined to say is 'What about it?'

And now to come to his argument from Single and Double Court and Single and Double Oxford Bob. Before, however, addressing myself to the argument proper, let me make an observation on an incidental remark which he makes in the course of it. I refer to the clause 'unless we are going to say that Grandsire is the only plain lead which exists.' In Mr. James' sense of 'plain lead,' as defined in paragraphs 4 and 5 of his letter before us (but not at all in the sense of those words as accepted by the Exercise at large) I am inclined to think that leads of Grandsire (and Plain Bob) are the only plain leads that exist. But be that as it may.

Now for his argument. This, omitting his accompanying figures, is as follows. Court Triples and other methods, such as those mentioned just above, having the Grandsire lead-ends, though these last need not necessarily occur in the same order of succession as in Grandsire itself, will, if one or more of their leads be substituted for a Grandsire lead, continually land us in a Grandsire lead-end. Of course they will! What else could they possibly do? It is a self-evident fact. If Mr. James will pardon my saying so, it is no argument at all, being merely a tautology. It is, in fact, nothing more than a roundabout

way of saying that if you keep in the Grandsire circle you do not get out of it!—not much of an argument, in my opinion.

It is important that this should be made quite clear. Let me, therefore, put it in another way. Take the six sets of lead-ends in Appendix II. (p. 24) of 'Lead Ends.' Now it matters not one jot what may be the structure of the interior of any of the leads—they may be leads of twenty different methods—provided that their lead-ends belong only to one of the six sets, no amount of interchanging of leads of the various methods will ever get us out of the circle of lead-ends of that set. This, and all other characteristics of any one set, are equally true of all the sets. I can only repeat what I say on p. 24 of 'Lead Ends'—they are all of equal value, and, I may add, of similar characteristics.

Now, what does Mr. James do? He points out quite truly that, so long as we mix up plain leads from various methods having Grandsire lead-ends, we do not get out of set No. 1 on p. 24. Of course not. It is self-evident. But what does he next do? He proceeds to substitute a lead of Union Triples for one of Grandsire, and then seems to think that he is making a wonderful revelation in showing that we cannot get back into set No. 1: whereas no one but an utter ignoramus would ever suppose that we could do so. If we have a method, or any number of methods, whose plain course lead-ends belong to set No. 1, none of them, nor any mixture of them, will ever get us out of that set. And exactly the same with all the other sets.

Further, Mr. James plainly seems to congratulate himself on having, as he supposes, triumphantly shown that a lead of Union acts as a bob to a lead of Grandsire. It is equally evident that he has forgotten that it is open to anyone else to say, as I emphatically do say, that a lead of Grandsire acts as a bob to a lead of Union. Quite unconsciously he utters the real truth when he says that 'they are not plain to each other.' Precisely so. Grandsire is not plain to Union. Let me paraphrase the conclusion of Mr. James' letter as follows: 'Can we use this lead (of Grandsire) to connect three or more courses of Union Triples together? Will it do the work of a bob? Answer: Yes.'

234567

253746

274653

265374

237465

Twice repeated.

Mr. James' supposed arguments are wholly fallacious.

CHARLES D. P. DAVIES.

CHRISTMAS BELLS, 1918.

(Written in Commemoration of Peace.)

Thousands, many times multiplied, will listen in this Empire during this sacred festival of Christmas to the joyous bells which will ring in their noble spires in token of peace. The interval of their cessation has seemed dull and dreary. No superior factor in the heralding of the entrance of the old conditions of happiness for the subjects of the King will be in evidence this Yuletide, and, looking to the future, we must at once commence to put the belfries, bells, and their legions of ringers in order. Under the most felicitous conditions casualties may occur, for bells, like frail humanity, need at times restoration and repair, and, therefore, discussion at this momentous season is relevant.

In the constructing, furnishing and maintenance of an important belfry the art of graceful designing and the science of careful construction, with well chosen material, should be brought into service; and wise committees, when placing contracts for bell towers or spires, whether Cathedral, Church, or City Hall, will assure themselves that the architect whom they call to their aid for such work shall be of acknowledged understanding in matters campanological, and especially that the bell founder shall be of high repute.

The following information is from a private letter sent to the writer of this article on the theme of tuning bells. 'As an instance of this the case of one of the largest sets of quarter bells in this country come to my mind. The uncertain tone of the hour bell and the lack of harmony in the quarter bells are painfully noticeable. I understand that a suggestion is being made to recast all into a fine chromatic carillon, and to ensure the artistic consummation of such a task I have in my mind an extensive workshop where it could be carried out under the best conditions. A shop of old standing, but increasing in size, one may say, year by year to cope with the work that our far flung and still extending civilisation demands from it.'

A bell cannot hide its defects from the musical public. The smallest flaw is made manifest to all who wish to hear, from the first moment that the bell is rung or chimed. It hangs aloft in a tower or spire pointing to the sky, and it would seem as if the clouds themselves are playing the role of critic by echoing the fault back to mother earth. A few cases of deplorable misfortune attended by fatal results are recorded in history, and go to prove that death and injury to human beings hang ever overhead like the impending sword at Damocles. One may instance the accident at Manchester on March 2nd, 1792, when the bells crashed through the roof while ringing a

sonorous joyous peal, the cause being the decay of the fittings through old age. To make good the damage was a great expense, and the regret of the authorities was deep and sincere. The lesson to be learnt therefrom is that of the old proverb, 'A stitch in time, etc.' for if the authorities had had regular inspection of the belfry made by experts the defects in the fittings would have been discovered, and the sad calamity averted.

At Liverpool, on a Sunday forenoon, February 11th, 1810, the spire of St. Nicholas' Cathedral Church fell, 22 persons being crushed to death. The collapsing spire had only been erected in 1750, thus being not more than 60 years old.

Both the above calamities are reported in the standard history of Lancashire, edited by Sir Edward Raines, of Leeds.

Just a word as to the supposed oldest dated bell in the world. A famous collector from America while in London chanced to call on the founder, who case one of our leviathan time denoters, where he saw this ancient bell. It is now in his museum in California. It is inscribed in Latin as follows: I.H.S. X.P.S. Maria. Quintana: Et Saluator Ma Recerit Ao Di 1247. 'James, Jesus Christ, Mary, Quintana and Salvador made me in the Year of Our Lord 1247.' When this was cast, Louis IX. of France was getting ready for the sixth Crusade 1248-1250, and the Magna Charter had been granted by King John only 32 years. Surely this is worthy of honourable mention. Mr. Miller, the famous collector, of Riverside, California, is my authority in this matter.

Another leviathan bell which once on a time suffered deterioration by the infusion of unappreciated wealth at the hands of the nobles of Russia, viz., 'Tsar Kolokol,' otherwise called the King of the World's bells. First cast A.D. 1651, when the Tsar Alexis Michaelovitch ordered that a bell should be cast of the weight of 320,000lbs., this bell was in use until 1701, when it was destroyed in consequence of a violent fire which broke out in the Kremlin. It was recast with additional metal in 1733, by the order of the Empress Anna Ivanovna. The project of building over the bell a tower in which to hang it was about to be put into execution when, in 1737, the terrible fire which devoured a part of the city, communicated with the constructions of wood which surrounded the bell, and the records of the times relate that, having become extremely hot, the bell cracked when it was reached by the water which the inhabitants, with over-great zeal, threw on it to save it, and which occasioned a contrary effect to that which they expected. The bell is exhibited in the grand square of the Kremlin, upon an octagonal pedestal of granite, the broken piece being placed against the pedestal. The weight of the bell is 432,320lbs., or 193 tons, height 20ft. 7in., diameter 22ft. 8in., thickness 2ft., circumference 75ft. 7in. When the bell was being cast the noble ladies of Moscow threw jewels and other treasures into the molten metal and caused imperfect places in the bell.

In conclusion, let me appeal for the early and complete restoration where necessary of the bells of the Motherland, so that they may take their appointed portion in ringing in the glorious 'Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Men.' The bells of the Parish Church of my native town of Radcliffe may be cited as a peal which was imperfectly repaired and retuned by a northern founder, some years ago, creating much dissatisfaction.

WILLIAM HAMPSON

(Late 'Radcliffe Observer')

BRIGHTLING'S BATTLE BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Having read in this week's 'Ringing World' the article headed 'Commemorative Battle Bells,' I thought it might be of interest to some of your readers to read the following inscriptions on the bells of St. Thomas-a-Becket's Church, Brightling, Sussex:—

- Treble. Waterloo. T. Mears of London fecit 1818.
- Waterloo. This peal of bells was completed Anno Domini 1818 at the expense of John Fuller, Esq. T. Mears of London fecit.
- Talavera. The Revd. J. B. Hayley, Rector. Mr. James Bass, Mr. Henry Hoad, Ch. Wardens. T. Mears of London fecit 1815.
- Salamanca. T. Mears of London fecit 1815.
- Vitoria. T. Mears of London fecit 1815.
- Pyrenees. T. Mears of London fecit 1815.
- Orthes. T. Mears of London fecit 1815.
- Toulouse. T. Mears of London fecit 1815.

The five bells recast, and a new treble added at the expense of John Fuller, Esq., the member for the county, Anno Domini 1815. In honour of the illustrious Duke of Wellington, his last six victories are here recorded.

T. Mears of London Fecit.

Yours faithfully,

E. J. PANNETT.

WEST RAYING.—On Sept. 8th, for the morning service, 720 R. Minor: C. Brown 1. H. W. Hooper 2. W. Lawrence (conductor) 3. P. Holloway 4. E. Vickery 5. A. Harding 6. A. E. Smith (Aster) 7. No assisted.

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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.

RAISING AND LOWERING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Might I trespass on your space to say a word or two about 'Raising and Lowering' P I have tried Mr. Lawrence's method 2, 5, 7 and 1, 4, 6, 8, on handbells, and was very much struck with the beauty of the two chords, and I think his method infinitely preferable to the monotonous method of letting bells down or pulling them up one by one. Mr. Lawrence's way makes a beautiful finish to a good 'touch' just before evening service, and I have heard it done at a well-known church (where the tower was not considered quite strong enough for 'raising and lowering' the whole peal of eight at one time 'in peal') with magnificent effect. The 3rd can be then lowered as a service bell at the finish.

Of course, raising and lowering the whole of the bell 'in peal' is the best and prettiest way, and ought to be done wherever possible. By a little assiduous practice any band of ringers ought soon to be able to do it well, and the clappers could quite easily be fixed in the centre of the bell by a piece of rope or a 'clapper-stay' while they were still in the learners' stage. I know of a tower where a man is not considered a proper ringer unless he can raise and lower his bell 'in peal' properly. Many a good 'touch' is utterly spoiled by the abominable practice (as Mr. Richardson rightly says) of lowering the bells anyhow 'all of a heap' just before the service begins.

It is not what ringers think, it is what the general public think, that matters, and it is very hard for a ringer outside the tower to hear the caustic remarks that are passed when bells are jangled up or down anyhow, even though he himself may know that a minute or two previously they were ringing a well-struck 'touch' of Cambridge Surprise Maximus!

I know a church where they do not care to practise raising and lowering in peal, as they fix 'clapper-stays' on the clappers and pull them up and down slowly, which is far better than doing it all anyhow.

Failing either raising or lowering in peal, or by chords 'in peal,' I certainly agree that the single-bell method is the best, as advocated by Mr. Richardson. The 'chord' method, as the Rev. L. Edwards says, is especially suitable for heavy 'rings' of bells.—Yours very truly,

ERIC H. S. THURSCOTT, Second-Lieut.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I be permitted to add a few remarks in reference to the proper manner of raising and lowering bells? First of all my contention is that there is one way only of raising and lowering bells and that is in peal.

This is not in any way a difficult matter, providing a band will go to the trouble of practising it, and can be quite easily done on any moderate weight peal on any number up to ten bells. On ten bells the front six would require to be rung up two-thirds of the way (before commencing with the heavy bells) and remain at that point until the heavy bells are rung up to the corresponding height. On six and eight bells it would be much simpler to commence practically at the same time, viz., by raking the bells in rotation, each commencing one pull after the bell in front of it. From past experience I have always found it much better when teaching a band to raise and lower in peal, to practise the lowering first. This gives its own practical lesson in the format on of the compass as the bells swing lower. The chief point in doing so is to have a man ringing the treble that can hear the bells, so that he can control the pace to almost what extent he likes. Also, immediately the heavy bells are below their usual balance there should not be any attempt to keep an open hand stroke with the treble, otherwise the heavy bells will quickly be all in a heap.

On ten bells a good plan is to lower all in peal as long as the heavies can be kept talking, then cease with the four back bells, and finish the lowering of the front six. This effect is very pleasing.

Twelve could be lowered in a like manner, but when the heavies cease to clapper properly the two trebles should be checked immediately, and finish with middle six.

Previous to my coming here, two years ago, and when living at Farnham, Surrey, we always lowered the eight in peal, and once in conversation with a gentleman of great musical abilities, he informed me that the greatest pleasure the ringing gave him was to listen to the lowering of the bells in peal, his remark being that the music was beyond description.

After the outbreak of war, and until my removal here, I came in contact with a very great number of ringers from all over England. I used to meet them at Aldershot and Farnham Parish Churches, and I can safely say that you could not reckon on more than one in twenty that had ever attempted or ever heard bells lowered in peal.

I think myself, it is not a matter for the Central Council but for each individual Association to impress upon its members the necessity of practising it, so as to do away for ever with this terrible system now so prominent of clashing of bells down in any numbers or form, after, perhaps, a most excellent touch has been rung for the service.

Yours faithfully,

Gardens, Cockley Cley Hall, Swaffham.

C. EDWARDS.

TAUNTON.—On Sunday, Sept. 22nd, at St. James' Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: T. Doble 1. J. Maddock 2. F. Millard 3. W. Cording 4. A. Thorne 5. J. Matthews 6. E. E. Burgess (conductor) 7. J. Churchill 8.

FIRST RINGER V.C.

WORKSOP MAN'S CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY.

Many war honours have fallen to ringers during the great struggle, now happily closed, but it was left to the last days of the war to provide the greatest distinction of all. Sergt. William Henry Johnson, a ringer belonging to Worksop, won the Victoria Cross by an exhibition of remarkable courage in the fighting at Rancourt on October 3rd, and the Exercise will join in congratulating him upon having earned the coveted honour. Great satisfaction is also naturally felt by the residents in his native town.



Sergt. W. H. JOHNSON V.C.
(of Worksop Priory Church Company).

Sergt. Johnson, who is a son of the late Mr. Wm. Johnson, is 28 years of age, and prior to enlisting on February 9th, 1916, worked as a miner at the Manton Colliery, Worksop, belonging to the Wigan Coal and Iron Company. He has been serving in France with the 15th Territorial Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters. He was badly wounded in the heavy fighting early in October of this year, in which the Sherwoods so distinguished themselves, and is now in hospital in France. He is married, and has three children. Sergt. Johnson is a member of the Worksop Priory Church company of Change Ringers, and belongs to a well-known Worksop family. He is also a member of the North Nottingham and Sheffield District and Old East Derbyshire Associations. He is the first Worksop man to win the Victoria Cross, though the old town is able to boast of D.C.M.'s, M.M.'s and Military Crosses.

The official account of the deed for which Sergt. Johnson received the coveted distinction is as follows:—

No. 306122 Sergt. William Henry Johnson, 15th Batta, Notts and Derby Regt. (T.F.), Worksop.—For most conspicuous bravery at Rancourt on the 3rd October, 1918. When his platoon was held up by a nest of enemy machine guns at very close range, Sergt. Johnson worked his way forward under very heavy fire, and single-handed charged the post, bayoneting several runners and capturing two machine guns. During this attack he was severely wounded by a bomb, but continued to lead forward his men. Shortly afterwards the line was once more held up by machine guns. Again he rushed forward and attacked the post single-handed. With wonderful courage he bombed the garrison, put the guns out of action, and captured the teams. He showed throughout the most exceptional gallantry and devotion to duty.

On the announcement by the Vicar of Worksop (the Rev. G. J. A. D'Arcy) of the good news on Sunday evening, the 15th, the ringers rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): R. Wright (first quarter-peal), aged 15 years, 1. H. H. Cartwright 2. A. Johnson 3. E. Clark 4. H. Haigh (conductor) 5. J. T. Wilson 6. Sapper T. Bartholomew, R.E. 7. G. Hardwick 8. On Monday evening the bells were fired in volleys, and touches of Kent Treble Bob Minor and a 720

was rung, the ringers being those above mentioned, together with William Roberts.

Sergt. Johnson joined the Priory company five years ago, and by hard work and steady perseverance he managed to ring greater peals in five methods. He was always aiming at a higher state of efficiency in the more intricate methods, but soon after the war broke out, and the county was wanting men, he willingly volunteered his services, leaving behind him his wife and children, and the Priory ringers weaker by his absence. Always of a bright and cheery disposition, and with a winning smile, he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact, and was very popular with his colleagues.

In a letter written on December 8th to the writer of these lines, he says: 'I have undergone another operation. I feel so well, that although it will be impossible for me to be with you for Christmas ringing, I live in the brightest hopes of joining the ringers on their annual excursion next Whitsuntide. I must thank you and all the ringers for remembering me on Armistice Day, and for the volleys fired on the bells on my behalf. I can assure you that when I read the account in the local papers I felt very grateful to you all. I have not got on of bed yet, but hope to do so very shortly. Thanking you for all past kindnesses.'

CLUN AND ITS CHURCH.

AND THE STORY OF A RINGING WEEK IN SALOP.

(Continued from page 405.)

The restoration of 1877 was carried out under the direction of Mr. G. E. Street, A.R.I.B.A., and has resulted in the preservation of one of the most beautiful stately parish churches to be found throughout the country; a jewel, hidden amongst nature's scenery, and now embellished with a row of nine pendant flags on each side of the nave representing with dignified simplicity those Allied Nations who have so recently concluded the mightiest war ever known.

Of the church bells we learn that a pebble was added in 1631, but the stability of the bell frame, as well as that of the tower itself, gradually failed, and the peal of six became unringable until 1914, the year of restoration of the tower and bells. A few extracts from old churchwardens' accounts are of much interest, and I would here like to recommend readers to procure a copy of Mr. Mead's 'Story of the Bells' for further interesting information.

1549. 2 June iiiij Bells of one accord.

1553. 15 May Clonne iv Bells.

These two items refer to the earliest bells in the old tower which were totally destroyed by fire, portions of the fused metal having been discovered in the rebuilding in 1914.

	s. d.
1718. To the Ringers at Christmas	5 0
1718. Ringers' expenses, 20 Oct.	3 6
1718. To the Ringers on 29 May	3 6

In 1877 nothing was done to the church tower. Erected probably 700 years ago, it was left by Street's Restoration Committee to another generation of Clun people to carry out, and right worthily have they completed what may best be described as a ringers' paradise. At a public meeting, held in June, 1913, with a view to restoring the tower and bells of Clun, the sum of £168 was raised. Mr. B. Stelly-brass, an expert architect, was called in and estimated approximately £490 for the work of repairs alone, viz.: Bells and clock £125, tower £365. In January, 1914, the stonework of the tower was commenced, and a new ring of six bells considered on February 4th, which were to have new fittings throughout; the funds at that time amounting to £592. In April a balance sheet was issued by the committee, showing assets £653 13s. 2d. in 'monies paid, promises made,' and they had to contend with more difficulties when the architect announced further serious cost of building operations, and Mr. Mead's pressure for two additional bells when the new clock and chiming had been 'generously given by Mrs. Hulme and family. However, on the principle of 'everything comes to him who waits,' the whole work was completed at a total outlay £1,235 18s. 6d., without, be it remembered, recourse to a bazaar, entertainment or amusement of any description—the generous and lasting gift of man to mankind for the glory and honour of God.

The columns of 'The Ringing World' have already well described the beautiful ceremony of the dedication and reopening of the tower and bells on the 16th September, 1914, at a time when the town of Mons were making history for the British Army at the beginning of the great war—and on the anniversary of the writer's humble birth. Altogether a sum of £7,000 has been spent on this edifice, with a parish population, mostly agricultural, of only 1,450. In a work of such importance it is worthy of note that Mr. F. F. Short, marked indefatigably as hon. secretary throughout; whilst Mr. Wm. Mead, change ringer and churchwarden, 1915-17, was ever alert to further the undertaking. The latter's little booklet raised £7 10s. in cash, and an additional £7 10s. in donations. Then again the Vicar (the Rev. R. D. Macher) was exceptional in deciding to go forward with the work, and to have nothing but the very best put into it, thus completing a noble church that will bear inspection throughout the

centuries to come. The successive churchwardens, Messrs. Darrell Townsend, Mead, Newell and Clarke are also well-known townsmen, who have all 'done their bit' in aid of their old parish church.

The solemn sweet harmonious bells,
All other music far excels.
1782 Bowdley's ruined peal board.

The thoroughness of the good people of Clun is revealed in their decision not to have a full peal rung on their new bells—1914—till the war ceased; and on Armistice Day, November 11th last, the question was raised, and the duty of organising a good band undertaken by Mr. Mead in his usual energetic fashion. There are numerous ringers about who do not fully realise the amount of time required to fix up ringing matters, and I may be pardoned if I here repeat a paragraph from the letter of invitation sent to me on the 22nd: 'I had no idea that when I made myself responsible for the "peace peal" that I was letting myself in for such a lot of correspondence.' Accordingly the date was fixed for Wednesday, December 4th, by the St. George's Parish Church authorities, and those invited were requested to report to Mr. Mead the night previous, and as will have been seen by the peal columns of this journal, a worthy representation of the Hereford Diocese Guild and the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham assembled to carry out the local programme, which also included 'joy peals' in several of the neighbouring towns. I cannot do better than give you my notes of the daily routine, and I found the practice of the organisers of some of the old Sussex tours of advantage to our party, viz., stick to the programme as far as possible.

Wednesday.—We were up at 6 a.m. Our organiser had a good night's rest, having been able to count his chickens before going to roost. The churchpeople most hospitably gave the visitors bed and board. Mr. W. Short arrived in time to complete a band for Major after the departure of Mr. A. A. Hughes (representing the White-chapel bell foundry), who was called away to Yorkshire on church bell business.

At seven o'clock a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by Messrs. Shepherd, Pigott, George, Groves, Hughes, Short, Mead and W. Roberts—time, 48 mins., Barnett's composition, with the 24-6-7's (conducted by W. Short) being the first by the two last-named men. Holy Communion was celebrated at 8.15 by the Vicar, to which the ringers as a corporate body presented themselves.

We breakfasted at the Vicarage, where Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Machin allowed us to exceed the usual war rations on generous terms, well knowing that invigorating sustenance was required for the day by their guests. At its conclusion, the Rev. V. A. Cresswell offered thanks to our host and hostess for their kindness, and said how proud our men were to be allowed the privilege of coming to Clun for the first full peal on their new bells. Their thanks were also due to the parishioners, who had so willingly welcomed the visitors, and made them comfortable.

After breakfast several interesting business details were gone through in the Vicar's study and hall. Mr. Hughes was elected an Herefordian; Miss Mead and the Revs. Scott and Cresswell made members of the St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, and all the visitors members of the St. George's Society of Clun. A musical set of dinner gongs received attention, Stedman Caters, double-handed and tunes were rung on handbells, followed by a smoke and chat, while the weather, more like spring than winter, enabled us to ramble in the grounds and about the church to our hearts' content. A happy morning ended with 'touches' on the tower bells till lunch was ready. Mrs. Machin's boys—there were ten of them—simply revelled in the standard methods with exactitude, my only regret being the absence of our old friend, Mr. Wm. Gifford, to help 'pitch 'em off'.

The peace peal was successfully attempted in the afternoon, as already duly chronicled, and this was followed by a special evening service in the church at 6.30.

The Vicar, the Rev. W. D. Machin, M.A., conducted the service, assisted by the Rev. H. J. Scott. The surpliced choir was in charge of Mr. W. Tong, who presided at a very fine organ. Suitable hymns were selected: one of them composed in Bucks, and commencing—'Hearkening God who Reigneth.'

The address, to a good congregation, was founded upon St. Matthew iii. 3 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord.'

I sincerely hope that Mr. Machin will be good enough to give it again some day to a Diocesan gathering of bell ringers.

At 7.30 a social gathering was held in the spacious ringing room, when nearly 50 people were present including the clergy, choir, ringers and friends; more touches rung, old views of the church and ancient bell fittings, etc. inspected; and 'Good-night' said all round to end another day of days for Clun.

(To be continued.)

MERTHAM, SURREY. — On Sept. 29th, for the harvest festival, 1320 Grandsire Doubles, in 55 mins.: H. Morley 1, Miss Orlebar 2, E. Atkins (conductor) 3, C. Killick 4, G. Morley 5, W. Francis 6.

THETFORD, NORFOLK. — At St. Peter's Church, for harvest thanksgiving services, 720 Rob Minor: Sapper W. Darlow 1, Sapper R. Deal 2, 2nd Corp. B. Clark 3, T. Fitzjohn 4, Wm. Everett 5, C. Edwards (conductor) 6.

NOTICES.

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

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society), Estab. 1824.—The next meeting of the above will be held at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, December 28th. Bells available from 3.30 p.m.; business meeting to follow. All ringers heartily invited.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec., 50, Cannon Street, E.C.4.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—A meeting will be held at Gillingham on Saturday, January 4th, 1919. Bells available from 3 p.m.—Edward A. G. Allen, 77, Ball Street Road, Finsbury, Rochester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The annual Branch meeting will be held at the Cathedral on Saturday, January 4th. Bells available at 5 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m.—W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec., 103, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

SHEFFIELD AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting of this Society will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, January 4th, 1919. Eight bells available from 3 o'clock or earlier by arrangement. This being an extra meeting, an extra good attendance is desired.—Sam Thomas, Hon. Sec., 164, Greystones Road, Sheffield.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at All Saints' Church, West Bromwich, on Saturday, January 11th. Bells (eight, recently been recast) available at 3. Service in church, with an address by the Vicar (Rev. M. M. Connor), at 5.15. Tea (1s.) in the schoolroom at 6. Will those who intend to be present please notify me by Tuesday, January 7th?—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. — (Estab. 1755.)—The annual meeting will be held at St. Martin's Hotel, St. Martin's Lane, Birmingham, on Tuesday, January 14th, 1919, at 7.30 p.m., the Presiding Ringing Master, Alderman G. S. Pritchett, M.A., in the chair. Ringing at St. Martin's from 6 o'clock to 7.15. All subscriptions are due at this meeting. Will members and visiting friends please note for this and subsequent meetings the change of meeting house?—A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

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

HANDBELLS WANTED.

HANDBELLS wanted from G 25 or C 22. Chromatic preferred.—Apply "H.," "Ringing World" Office, Woking.

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CHANGE RINGER (married) would like to hear of position of trust in any capacity at a public school or college, or as storekeeper in "Works Dept."—G. Thompson, 12, Hopwood Gardens, Tunbridge Wells.

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GREETINGS.

A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year are the hearty wishes to all ringing friends from C.Q.M.S. J. E. Davis, 242nd A. W. Co. Royal Engineers, B.E.F., France.

Lance-Corpl. C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec. Middlesex County Association, sends from Salonica hearty greetings for Xmas and good wishes for the New Year to all ringing friends.

THANKS.

Mrs. Bertram Prewett desires to thank all the many friends throughout the Exercise who have sent their kind expressions of sympathy with her in her bereavement.—Alderbury, Oxhey Avenue, Watford.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE REV. H. A. COCKEY

The Bristol Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association have started a fund to help forward the above memorial, and appeals to all ringers for voluntary subscriptions, which should be forwarded to Mr. F. K. Howell, Hon. Treasurer, Thornbury, Glos.

LOWER BEBINGTON.—On Sept. 17th, at St. Andrew's Church, 1344 Double Norwich Major: J. Wilkinson 1, J. W. Bell 2, G. R. Newton (conductor) 3, E. Cauce 4, J. Martin 5, H. Ludkin 6, H. H. Barker 7, W. T. Robson 8. Also a further touch of 416 in the same method: J. Wilkinson 1, J. W. Bell 2, H. Ludkin 3, E. Cauce 4, G. R. Newton (conductor) 5, J. Martin 6, E. Breeze 7, H. H. Barker 8.

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