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IN 'QUICK,' OUT 'SLOW'?

By T. R. BUTLER.

THE recent report of the Shropshire tour contains no less than seven allusions to the fast speed of the ringing and, in one instance, actually invites challengers to what is believed to be the fastest quarter-peal on record (Doubles in 25 minutes). 'A good peal, if a bit slow,' is almost apologetically referred to in the account of the Universities' Association week, while the Kent tour report contains a similar 'defensive' reference to another good, but slow peal. A few months ago we read that a well-known, experienced band had been gently rebuked for fast peal-ringing by its even more well-known and experienced conductor.

In 'The Ringing World' of March 13th, 1936, we find the following comments by that forthright but excellent ringer, composer and conductor, the late William Willson, of Leicester:—

I wonder, sometimes, what sort of mentality possesses the ringers who are always out for the quickest peal on the bells? In my opinion, they must be dead to all sense of music.

Do they realise that bells are cast in different tones so that they shall be heard distinctly? How can they be heard distinctly if they are raced along until all tones are jumbled together in pandemonium? The time will come when we will have to consider it.

It is doubly offensive when rung muffled at racing speed. What would we think of an orchestral conductor who boasted at having rendered Handel's 'Largo' at jazzy speed?

Whenever a peal is rung with a 20 cwt. tenor in or about 2½ hours I assert it is on the wrong side. There is something grand in the rhythm of stately rung bells, but I only feel pity when I hear a good band spoiling their work by racing bells along outside their proper gait.

It cannot, I think, be disputed that improvements in modern bell-hanging, added, perhaps, to a definite if insidious post-war tendency to introduce 'American hustle' in many of our British activities, have tended to gradually increase the tempo of peal ringing generally during recent years. The time may well have arrived, therefore, when, in Mr. Willson's words, 'we will have to consider it.'

One frequently hears the expression, 'Every ring has its own rate (or time)—this, of course, means *average* rate (or time)—and it is admittedly irksome and unnatural for any reasonably good band to endeavour to protract that rate. On the other hand, surely it is extremely doubtful whether some bells are heard to the best advantage if rung at the most comfortable and convenient speed.

Years ago I remember a well-known London ringer pointing out that a *good* slow peal (note the emphasis)

is much more difficult and requires a far more experienced band to accomplish than a good quick one. It must also be acknowledged that, in the former, the slightest fault becomes immediately more manifest and pronounced. Nevertheless, in recalling the deep, æsthetic enjoyment experienced listening to some past masters of the art, one is prompted to suggest that, with some bells at least, the effort to imitate these bygone ringers would be well worth while and amply repaid by the better musical effect produced.

With what pleasure I recollect a peal at the Bull Ring well over thirty years ago! Ten minutes to go and I'm the only ringer present! (Actually, I'm not at all dismayed, having been previously warned about this 'last-minute' trait of the Birmingham men.) Three minutes to go and twelve ringers are hurrying into the ringing room. All seems bustle and confusion! Then Albert Walker's terse 'Come on, let's get on with this peal; you can talk after,' and, led by A. Paddon Smith on the treble, off we go. I remember my delighted reaction to the steady, dignified, unhurried striking when one would have quite expected otherwise, each and every bell clearly and distinctly heard for some three and three-quarter hours without 'slurring,' 'blurring' or 'snicking'! In those days, too, the 'Brum' men even seemed to extend this lovely, deliberate type of ringing to handbells.

Then again, a year or so later, my first experience of a Central Council gathering. While awaiting the 'bigwigs,' one of the locals asks me to call a touch and we knock off three *quick* courses of Stedman Triples in what we vainly imagine expert fashion. By this time some of the 'great' have arrived. With the late Canon Coleridge on the treble, Albert Walker and others take hold. They, too, ring three courses of Stedman Triples, but what a difference! Never shall I forget the grandeur of that calm, stately and again unhurried striking, all back-strokes above 5ths slightly, almost imperceptibly, opened, and assisting to produce a lovely effect.

At the same time a peal of Kent Major was progressing in a tower a few miles away. With others, I was in time to hear a good portion of it and, to me then, it sounded monotonously perfect. Later in the day, however, the ringers (mostly local men) were very tactfully but firmly taken to task by one of the clerical brothers James (I forget which) for not widening their back-strokes in 5-6-7-8. He called it 'the taper.' It is, of course, the reverse. To the best of my recollection the band—certainly no novices, having rung a mere 17,000 Treble Bob

the previous year—took this advice with very good grace and, indeed, accepted the principle of it in the spirit it was given. During the last war this beautiful, expressive style of ringing was referred to several times in 'The Ringing World' by the late J. Armiger Trollope in an obvious effort to revive it, but I feel he did not put the matter too clearly and was, in consequence, misunderstood by some.

I believe, however, that those who have been privileged to hear this grand, slow, musical style of some of our forbears must appreciate there is a lot more in our hobby than ringing complicated methods at the fastest possible speed. In fairness, I should confess that I, too, have often been guilty of taking part in the quickest of this or that on the bells. In one tower I understand I hold the dual 'distinction' of having called (with different bands) the quickest and the slowest peal on the bells. Both were Stedman Triples, and I consider both came well within that somewhat flexible definition of 'a good peal.' Yet there was 33 minutes difference! I enjoyed each of these peals, but have sometimes wondered which the public would have voted for. After all, shouldn't we constantly bear in mind the public 'ear' in preference to our own, but can it truly be said we do this—always? The speed of peal ringing is a subject which must, sooner or later, engage the attention of the Central Council when it has finally disposed of other controversial issues.

TWELVE BELL PEAL

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Tues., Nov. 2, 1954, in 3 Hours and 31 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF 5021 STEDMAN CINQUES

Tenor 37 cwt. in C.

WILLIAM C. DOWDING .. Treble	R. ROGER SAVORY .. 7
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD .. 2	†GERALD C. HEMMING .. 8
*PETER J. MORTON .. 3	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING .. 9
ALBERT WALKER .. 4	CLIFFORD A. BARRON .. 10
FRANK E. HAYNES .. 5	GEORGE E. FEARN .. 11
MICHAEL G. MORTON .. 6	PETER BORDER .. Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

* First peal on 12 bells. † First peal of Stedman Cinques. The conductor's 150th peal on 12 bells.

TEN BELL PEAL

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Nov. 1, 1954, in 3 Hours and 13 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF 5043 STEDMAN CATERS

Tenor 21 cwt.

ALFRED E. REEVES .. Treble	ENID L. ROBERTS .. 6
*BRIAN GRINTER .. 2	ALAN A. HILLIAR .. 7
†DAVID J. MARSHALL .. 3	FRANK HANSFORD .. 8
FRANK D. MACK .. 4	REGINALD G. HOOPER .. 9
ALBERT M. TYLER .. 5	FRANCIS C. MOGFORD .. Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by ENID L. ROBERTS.

* First peal of Stedman Caters. † First peal of Caters. First peal of Stedman as conductor.

Rung on the Feast of All Saints.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Nov. 5, 1954, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes.

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

A PEAL OF 5056 PUDSEY SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 15 cwt. in G.

*FRANK E. WALKER .. Treble	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY .. 5
*ARTHUR G. MASON .. 2	†RALPH BIRD .. 6
*DENNIS BERESFORD .. 3	ARTHUR S. RICHARDS .. 7
*TREVOR A. CROSS .. 4	FREDERICK J. CULLUM .. Tenor

Composed by RICHARD F. B. SPEED. Conducted by FREDK. J. CULLUM.

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

GILMORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Nov. 5, 1954, in 2 Hours and 31 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Dexter's Variation.	Tenor 10½ cwt.
MICHAEL E. BROWN .. Treble	HAROLD J. POOLE .. 5
KATHLEEN PROCTOR .. 2	JOHN A. ACRES .. 6
MRS. H. J. POOLE .. 3	PETER J. STANFORTH .. 7
DONALD A. THEEDOM .. 4	TERENCE A. THORNBUR .. Tenor

Conducted by PETER J. STANFORTH.

ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 11 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb. in G.

*JOHN APPLEBY .. Treble	MAURICE HOLGATE .. 5
ROGER LEIGH .. 2	DEREK WHITFORD .. 6
GORDON WHEWELL .. 3	LEONARD WALSH .. 7
†WILLIAM RAMSBOTTOM .. 4	BRIAN H. WOOD .. Tenor

Composed by HORACE HOWLETT. Conducted by ROGER LEIGH.

* First peal. † First peal of Major. First peal of Major on the bells.

Rung by an all local band.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS.

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 19 lb.

*NORMAN CORNWALL .. Treble	JOHN KAPE .. 5
ROLAND BIGGS .. 2	ANTHONY E. COX .. 6
*DAVID CORNWALL .. 3	*WALTER AVERY .. 7
DOREEN COKER .. 4	WALTER LEE .. Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by WALTER LEE.

* First peal in the method.

KING'S NORTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS.

A PEAL OF 5008 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 17 cwt.

EVELYN M. FLETCHER .. Treble	JOHN LLOYD .. 5
*MOLLY P. FLYNN .. 2	BRIAN D. A. WOOLLEY .. 6
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE .. 3	CLIFFORD A. BARRON .. 7
WILLIAM C. DOWDING .. 4	PETER BORDER .. Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER, C.C.C. 202.

Conducted by CLIFFORD SKIDMORE.

* First peal in the method.

NEWCHURCH, WARRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Tenor 14 cwt.

PERCIVAL W. CAVE .. Treble	ALAN PENDLEBURY .. 5
JOSEPH LEATHERBARROW .. 2	*ARTHUR COWAN .. 6
SYDNEY LEATHERBARROW .. 3	CHRISTOPHER GUDGEON .. 7
HARRY S. COOPER .. 4	ALBERT GREENHALGH .. Tenor

Composed by REV. H. EARLE-BULWER (No. 7).

Conducted by PERCIVAL W. CAVE.

* First peal of Stedman.

PAISLEY, RENFREWSHIRE.

THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 11 Minutes.

AT THE U.F. CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF 5152 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR

In four methods, being 1,312 Bristol and 1,280 each of London, Cambridge and Superlative, with 110 changes of method and all the work of each method for every bell. Tenor 22 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lb. in E flat.

BASIL JONES .. Treble	C. KENNETH LEWIS .. 5
FRED DUNKERLEY .. 2	EDWARD JENKINS .. 6
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS .. 3	JOHN WORTH .. 7
JOHN E. BIBBY .. 4	RALPH G. EDWARDS .. Tenor

Composed by ALBERT J. PITMAN. Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

The first peal of Spliced Surprise in Scotland. The ringers of 3, 4, 7, 8 have rung, and the conductor called, this composition in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

RAINHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET.

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Annabell's Six-part.		Tenor 18½ cwt.	
EMILY T. B. WALKER .. Treble		*ALBERT J. DUNK ..	5
FRANCIS J. CHEAL .. 2		GEORGE KENWARD ..	6
EDWARD C. BARTON .. 3		GEORGE A. NAYLOR ..	7
STANLEY V. RAYFIELD .. 4		WILLIAM HOLLANDS ..	Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE A. NAYLOR.

* First peal 'inside' of Grandsire Triples. Arranged as a birthday compliment to Francis J. Cheal.

STANMORE, MIDDLESEX.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-EVANGELIST,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

J. J. Parker's Twelve-part.		Tenor 12½ cwt.	
*DAVID HOPWOOD (15) .. Treble		ALBERT C. WENBAN ..	5
CHARLES WENBAN .. 2		WILLIAM WENBAN ..	6
*JOAN WILCOCKSON .. 3		†ROY STODDARD ..	7
*MARGARET MESLEY .. 4		JOHN E. ROOTES ..	Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM WENBAN.

* First peal. † First peal in the method.

Rung by the local Sunday service band as a farewell to Roy Stoddard on joining H.M. Navy (National Service).

TOTTERNHOE, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF 5024 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Derek's Variation.		Tenor 9½ cwt.	
DEREK BROYD Treble		ROBERT L. PIRON ..	5
JOHN W. V. SINFIELD .. 2		DENNIS KNOX ..	6
R. JOHN SCOTT .. 3		JAMES G. NEWMAN ..	7
FREDERICK J. PLUMMER .. 4		WALTER AYRE ..	Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY.

Conducted by DENNIS KNOX.

Rung for the centenary of the 6th and 7th bells, cast by Chandler in 1654.

WATLINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 16 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF 5056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 24 cwt, 8 lb. in E flat.		Tenor 17½ cwt.	
CYRIL H. KINCH Treble		GEORGE F. BURTON ..	5
HERBERT H. ALEXANDER .. 2		GEORGE W. HOLLAND ..	6
*FREDERICK VICKERS .. 3		MALCOLM S. CLOKE ..	7
FREDERICK A. H. WILKINS .. 4		ALAN R. PINK ..	Tenor

Composed by E. W. TIPLER (No. 16). Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

* First peal in the method.

Rung on the Feast of St. Leonard.

WIGSTON MAGNA, LEICESTERSHIRE.

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

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 16 cwt, 11 lb.		Tenor 15 cwt. in F.	
PETER J. MORTON Treble		ANTHONY AGER ..	5
MURIEL REAY .. 2		ARTHUR V. PEARSON ..	6
JEFFREY B. WEBB .. 3		HENRY H. FEARN ..	7
J. EDWARD CAWSE .. 4		GEORGE E. FEARN ..	Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.

First peal of Cambridge on the bells.

Rung for the Patronal Festival.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Mon., Nov. 8, 1954, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,
AT BISHOP RYDER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF 5056 TYBURN SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt, 3 qr. 24 lb. in F sharp.		Tenor 13 cwt, 1 qr. 24 lb.	
JEFFREY B. WEBB Treble		PETER BORDER ..	5
MURIEL REAY .. 2		R. ROGER SAVORY ..	6
MICHAEL G. MORTON .. 3		TERRY R. HAMPTON ..	7
ARTHUR V. PEARSON .. 4		GEORGE E. FEARN ..	Tenor

Composed by ERNEST W. TIPLER.

Conducted by PETER BORDER.

First peal in the method (Tipler's B23/1).

CHILVERS COTON, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Nov. 11, 1954, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 13 cwt, 1 qr. 24 lb.		Tenor 14½ cwt.	
JOHN E. LLOYD Treble		JOHN E. S. MORETON ..	5
*DOROTHY J. CLARKE .. 2		JOHN A. L. THOMPSON ..	6
ARTHUR H. BEAMISH .. 3		JAMES F. CLARKE ..	7
DOROTHY E. BEAMISH .. 4		JAMES L. GARNER-HAYWARD	Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by ARTHUR H. BEAMISH.

* First peal in the method.

Rung as an 80th birthday compliment to Mrs. Elizabeth Beamish, an honorary member of the Guild and mother of the conductor.

QUORN, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Nov. 11, 1954, in 2 Hours and 32 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Dexter's Variation.		Tenor 14½ cwt.	
MRS. H. J. POOLE Treble		HAROLD J. POOLE ..	5
ERNEST W. RAWSON .. 2		J. FREDERICK MILNER ..	6
JOHN A. ACRES .. 3		SAMUEL J. HAINES ..	7
G. STANLEY BREWIN .. 4		PETER F. LONG ..	Tenor

Conducted by J. FREDERICK MILNER.

CHISLEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

W. A. Cave's Variation of Washbrook's.		Tenor 17½ cwt.	
DENNIS BERESFORD Treble		HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ..	5
*IAN H. ORAM .. 2		RALPH BIRD ..	6
WILLIAM J. RAWLINGS .. 3		FREDERICK J. CULLUM ..	7
*JOHN L. MORRIS .. 4		PETER BERESFORD ..	Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK J. CULLUM.

* First peal in the method.

Rung as a birthday compliment to H.R.H. Prince Charles.

CUCKFIELD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF 5152 RAMSEY SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 15 cwt. in F.		Tenor 15 cwt. in F.	
BERNARD G. MOORE Treble		LEONARD STILWELL ..	5
EDGAR R. RAPLEY .. 2		FREDERICK A. MUNDAY ..	6
RAYMOND OVERY .. 3		C. ERNEST SMITH ..	7
KENNETH SNELLING .. 4		WILLIAM T. BEESON ..	Tenor

Composed by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

Conducted by C. ERNEST SMITH.

First peal in the method on the bells, by all the band, and by the Association.



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EDENHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 3 Hours and 13 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Tenor 16 cwt.

RONALD RUSSELL Treble	†TREVOR BEVIS 5
*RUTH MORGAN 2	JOHN H. BLUFF 6
CECIL WADE 3	JAMES HAW 7
HERBERT GOAKES 4	GEORGE BUSH Tenor

Composed by THOMAS DAY.

Conducted by JOHN H. BLUFF.

* First peal. † First peal of Triples.

Rung to commemorate the birth of a granddaughter to the ringer of the 3rd.

OATLANDS PARK, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 2 Hours and 51 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. 12 lb. in G.

ALFRED H. WINCH Treble	ROLAND W. MORANT 5
*ANN M. COX 2	E. JOHN WELLS 6
JAMES F. DODSON 3	ALBERT HARMAN 7
COLIN J. CHAMPION 4	*A. PATRICK CANNON .. Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.

* 25th peal together. First peal in one Surprise method on the bells, and first peal on the bells for the above Guild.

OLD BASFORD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEODEGARIUS.

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 c.

RALPH W. CARLISLE Treble	MARK J. BARKER 5
GEORGE E. OLIVER 2	*JOHN B. STENNITT 6
DEREK P. JONES 3	†HAROLD TAYLOR 7
GORDON A. HALLS 4	DENIS R. CARLISLE Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by GORDON A. HALLS.

* First peal in the method. † 100th peal for the Association.

Rung as a birthday compliment to H.R.H. Prince Charles.

ROTHWELL, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 3 Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF 5088 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 15 cwt. in F.

WILLIAM DIXON Treble	ALFRED SMITH 5
GORDON BENFIELD 2	ALEXANDER E. MARSH 6
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS 3	*JOHN W. GIBSON 7
*THOMAS W. STRANGWAY .. 4	W. ERIC CRITCHLEY .. Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS.

* First peal in the method. The first peal of Surprise on the bells since being recast, and first of Yorkshire Surprise in the tower.

SHEFFIELD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Sheffield and District Society.)

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 3 Hours and 15 Minutes,
AT THE R.C. CHURCH OF ST. MARIE,

A PEAL OF 5040 LITTLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

*HENRY HURST Treble	FRANK BRADLEY 5
ELIZABETH BATE 2	DENNIS A. CHAPMAN 6
DORFEN ARMSTRONG 3	JOHN J. L. GILBERT 7
HERBERT O. CHADDOCK .. 4	JOHN E. TURLEY Tenor

Composed by H. HUBBARD.

Conducted by JOHN E. TURLEY.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

Rung for the Marian year, 1954.

WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 3 Hours and 6 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

ALLEN TWYMAN Treble	MAURICE THOMAS 5
*R. MARGARET BRYCE 2	JOSEPH THORNLEY 6
NORMAN TOMPKINS 3	ALAN PENDLEBURY 7
PETER E. PARRY 4	LESLIE BOUMPHREY Tenor

Composed by STEPHEN H. WOOD.

Conducted by LESLIE BOUMPHREY.

* First peal of Major. First peal as conductor.

Rung as a compliment to H.R.H. Prince Charles (Duke of Cornwall) on the eve of his sixth birthday.

SIX BELL PEALS

HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND.

ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL SOCIETY.

On Sat., Oct. 23, 1954, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,
AT ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents.

Tenor 11 cwt.

*JEAN MCADAM Treble	*KENNETH C. CHANDLER .. 4
*ATHOL C. A. CALDWELL .. 2	ROBERT GIFFORD 5
*DAVID MCADAM 3	COLIN WARD Tenor

Conducted by COLIN WARD.

* First peal.

Rung on the fourth anniversary of the opening ceremony of the bells.

BRANSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Oct. 29, 1954, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven extents. viz.: (1) Cambridge, Primrose, Hull, Bourne, Ipswich and Norfolk. (2) Berwick. (3) Hexham. (4) Beverley. (5) Surfleet. (6) London. (7) Wells. Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 23 lb. in F sharp.

AMOS INGALL Treble	BERTIE BEE 4
*WILLIAM R. PARKER 2	LOUIS WILLIERS 5
†GEOFFREY R. PARKER .. 3	JOHN E. COOK Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. COOK.

* First peal in 12 Surprise methods. † First peal in 12 methods.

BURTON-IN-KENDAL, WESTMORLAND.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Oct. 30, 1954, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent of Oxford Bob, two extents each of Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 12½ cwt.

*MARJORIE BRAITHWAITE .. Treble	GEORGE E. BRAITHWAITE .. 4
ALAN CAPSTICK 2	ALAN CASSON 5
*FRANK POSTLETHWAITE .. 3	NICHOLAS M. NEWBY .. Tenor

Conducted by NICHOLAS M. NEWBY.

* First peal in four methods.

Rung for the wedding of Miss Muriel Caunt, of Burton, and Mr. Michael A. H. Bates, of Silverdale.

ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Nov. 1, 1954, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Seven different extents.

Tenor 11 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb. in G.

*NEAL KITCHEN Treble	MAURICE HOLGATE 4
THOMAS BARKER 2	ROGER LEIGH 5
CHARLES W. BLAKEY 3	GORDON WHEWELL Tenor

Conducted by GORDON WHEWELL.

* First peal. First peal as conductor.

ISHAM, NORTHAMPTON.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Nov. 4, 1954, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being 720 each of Double Court, Double Oxford and Oxford Bob, and four 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt.

*MARY ARKINSTALL Treble	GEOFFREY E. WATSON 4
LEONARD G. TOSELAND .. 2	BURLEY P. MORRIS 5
PATRICK I. CHAPMAN 3	BRYAN S. COPE Tenor

Conducted by GEOFFREY E. WATSON.

* First peal.

BUCKLAND, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 51 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Oxford, Single Oxford, St. Clement's, Oxford Single Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 14 cwt. in F sharp.

MRS. J. THOMAS Treble	ROGER SAVORY 4
JOHN THOMAS 2	E. TREVOR NEWBURY .. 5
ALLEN MORGAN 3	THOMAS W. LEWIS Tenor

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

Believed to be the first peal on the bells.

SLYMBRIDGE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-EVANGELIST,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 21 extents each of Plain Bob and Grandsire. Tenor 12½ cwt.
 HAROLD J. HOBBS Treble | *BRIAN COOPER 4
 *ROY TAYLOR 2 | *CHARLES ROUSE 5
 †HIRAM V. WARD 3 | *HUBERT ELLIS Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES ROUSE.

*First peal in two methods. †First peal 'inside.'

Rung to the Glory of God, and to mark the first year of the new ringing chamber.

STOWTING, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 31 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF 5040 SURFLEET SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 6½ cwt.
 WILLIAM C. MARSHALL .. Treble | THOMAS CULLINGWORTH .. 4
 ALBERT J. LANCEFIELD .. 2 | JOHN R. COOPER 5
 GEOFFREY PEARSON 3 | MARK W. MARSHALL .. Tenor

Conducted by MARK W. MARSHALL.

First peal in the method by all the band. First peal of Surprise as conductor.

TENDRING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 35 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Hereward Bob, Double Court, Single Court, Single Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 7½ cwt.

JAMES G. STANNARD Treble | GEORGE N. ORMAN 4
 ALAN R. ANDREWS 2 | GEORGE A. BUTTON 5
 ALFRED E. HONEYWOOD .. 3 | ROY DUESBURY Tenor

Conducted by ROY DUESBURY.

First peal in seven methods as conductor.

CASTON, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 7, 1954, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Oxford Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Kent Treble Bob, St. Clement's and Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

WILLIAM M. MANN Treble | FRANK C. J. ARNOLD 4
 JOHN S. BARNES 2 | WILFRED G. SAUNDERS .. 5
 CHARLES E. G. BANHAM .. 3 | CEDRIC F. W. PHILLIPPO .. Tenor

Conducted by CEDRIC F. W. PHILLIPPO.

Rung as a 21st birthday compliment and welcome home to John S. Barnes on completing service in R.A.F.

NORTH CREAKE, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Nov. 7, 1954, in 2 Hours and 47 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven 720's. Tenor 12 cwt. in F sharp.
 TONY OWEN Treble | ROBERT ALLCOCK 4
 DAVID EMERSON 2 | ALAN LEETE 5
 FREDERICK BEALES 3 | JOHN COUZENS Tenor

Conducted by TONY OWEN.

Rung by the local band.

MOULTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Nov. 8, 1954, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Single Court, Double Court, St. Clement's, Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise. Tenor 16 cwt.

FREDA OLDERSHAW Treble | *STANLEY E. BENNETT .. 4
 WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON .. 2 | RONALD C. NOON 5
 JOHN G. AMES 3 | *FRANK TAYLOR Tenor

Conducted by FRANK TAYLOR.

*50th peal together.



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RIBCHESTER, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Nov. 8, 1954, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRED,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES.

Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 4 lb. in G.

*KENNETH TAYLOR Treble	*RENNIE ANDERTON 4
JAMES SKEATS 2	MAURICE PROCTER 5
ARTHUR TOMLINSON 3	THOMAS SAGAR Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR TOMLINSON.

* First peal.

Rung as a welcome to the Rt. Rev. Walter Hubert Baddeley, who was enthroned as Bishop of Blackburn the previous week.

ACLE, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Nov. 10, 1954, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being extents of College Bob, Double Bob, Oxford Bob, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Double Court and Plain Bob.
Tenor 9 cwt. 47 lb. in G.

HERBERT W. LIDBETTER .. Treble	NOLAN GOLDEN 4
DORIS E. LIDBETTER 2	BERT GOGLE 5
GEORGE SAYER 3	H. WILLIAM BARRETT .. Tenor

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

Rung in honour of the 82nd birthday of Mr. Herbert W. Lidbetter.

DOWNHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Nov. 10, 1954, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being three 720's of Plain Bob, one 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Oxford Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob.
Tenor 7½ cwt.

*GORDON J. BLOWER .. Treble	BERNARD SADLER 4
HERMON OLIVER 2	FRANK B. LUFKIN 5
GERALD D. J. SANDWELL 3	LAWRENCE J. BEAL Tenor

Conducted by FRANK B. LUFKIN.

* First peal of Minor.

Rung as a welcome to Alison Clare Sadler, born October 27th, 1954.

UPHOLLAND, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Wigan Branch.)

On Wed., Nov. 10, 1954, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings. Tenor 9 cwt.

*DOROTHY HOLLAND .. Treble	ERIC ROUGHLEY 4
GEORGE MILLS 2	WM. O. FARRIMOND 5
PETER ASHCROFT 3	JOHN ASHCROFT Tenor

Conducted by JOHN ASHCROFT.

* First peal.

Rung to welcome the new Vicar, Rev. R. A. Wheeler.

BLANKNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Nov. 12, 1954, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. OSWALD,

A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

Comprising one extent each of: Beverley, York, London, Ipswich, Norwich, Bourne and Cambridge. Tenor 9½ cwt. in G.

JOHN E. COOK Treble	JOHN F. PEARSON 4
BERTIE BEE 2	WILLIAM R. PARKER 5
RONALD APPLEWHITE .. 3	GEOFFREY R. PARKER .. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. COOK.

PIRBRIGHT, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Nov. 12, 1954, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

In eight methods, being (1) Double Bob and Oxford Single Bob, (2) St. Clement's Bob, (3) Double Oxford Bob, (4) Cambridge Surprise, (5) Oxford Treble Bob, (6) Kent Treble Bob, (7) Plain Bob.
Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 19 lb. in G.

*FREDERICK CHERRYMAN .. Treble	*ALAN E. HARTLEY 4
*G. KENNETH WILLIAMSON 2	*J. ALAN AINSWORTH .. 5
EILEEN M. TURNER 3	E. JOHN WELLS Tenor

Conducted by E. JOHN WELLS.

* First peal in eight methods. First peal in eight Minor methods as conductor. First peal in eight methods on the bells.

Rung in honour of the wedding anniversary of the Vicar, Rev. B. A. Whitehead, the 59th wedding anniversary of Mr. W. Thompson (for many years a local ringer) and as a birthday peal for Frederick Cherryman, captain of the local band.

HELLINGLY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Consisting of four 120's each of Old and Norfolk, six 120's of Plain Bob, and 28 120's of Grandsire. Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb. in F.

LAURA M. BEENEY (15) .. Treble	C. JOHN PIPER 4
*KATHLEEN YEO (16) .. 2	GEORGE BEENEY 5
BENJAMIN STEPNEY 3	FRANK H. BEENEY (16) .. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE BEENEY.

* First peal. First peal as conductor.

Rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Beeneey on their 20th wedding anniversary.

LITTLE COMBERTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one each of Cambridge Surprise, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Single Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.
Tenor 13½ cwt.

GEOFFREY J. HEMMING .. Treble	GERALD C. HEMMING .. 4
JOHN THOMAS 2	ROGER SAVORY 5
ALLAN MORGAN 3	THOMAS W. LEWIS Tenor

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

MEREWORTH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1954, in 2 Hours and 36 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two extents of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob, and one of Single Oxford Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

LEWIS NEWMAN Treble	FREDERICK J. LAMBERT .. 4
STANLEY G. PONTING .. 2	WILLIAM R. MANSER .. 5
LUTHER J. HONESS 3	WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE.

Rung as a birthday compliment to David Manser, son of the ringer of the 5th.

HANDBELL PEALS

SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Nov. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 14 Minutes,

At 120, WILTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 17 in A.

*JESSIE M. KIPPIN .. 1-2	CHARLES H. KIPPIN .. 5-6
DANIEL T. MATKIN .. 3-4	MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY .. 7-8

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by DANIEL T. MATKIN.

* First peal of Major 'in hand.'

Specially arranged for Jessie and Charles Kippin to ring their first handbell peal together.

SHERBURN-IN-ELMET, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Nov. 9, 1954, in 1 Hour and 51 Minutes,

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 720 each of St. Simon's, St. Dunstan's, Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, April Day and 1,440 of Plain Bob.

D. MARGARET HAWLEY .. 1-2	EDWARD M. BRADLEY .. 3-4
ALAN SHEPPARD 5-6	

Conducted by ALAN SHEPPARD.

First handbell peal by all in six methods.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Nov. 12, 1954, in 2 Hours and 1 Minute,

IN THE BELFRY OF ST. ANDREW-THE-GREAT,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents. Tenor size 13 in E.

*MARGARET A. SWANN .. 1-2	†RICHARD J. W. HOUSDEN 3-4
WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN .. 5-6	

Conducted by WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN.

* First peal on handbells. † 25th peal.

GUILD of DEVONSHIRE RINGERS Coronation Peal Board Dedicated at Totnes

In the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Totnes and a number of members of the Devonshire Guild of Ringers, a peal board commemorating a peal of Grandsire Triples rung at Totnes Parish Church on June 6th, 1953, in honour of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II., was unveiled and dedicated in the tower vestry on November 6th.

The dedication was preceded by a short service conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. Gordon H. Samuel). The board was unveiled by Mr. E. S. Nott, who was Mayor during the Coronation year, and was the gift of Mr. George Harvey, of Totnes. A silver plaque recording the gift, which is beneath the board, was given by Mr. A. L. Bennett. Mr. Nott complimented the band who rang the peal.

The band consisted of Aubrey L. Bennett 1, James E. Lilley 2, Edward W. Biffin 3, E. Maurice Atkins (conductor) 4, Robert A. Southwood 5, Gerald A. Uglow 6, Frederick Wreford 1, William J. Harvey 8.

At tea afterwards, which was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. J. E. Lilley, chairman of the Mid-Devon Branch, thanked the donor of the board, and the Vicar for conducting the service. He mentioned that his father, Mr. C. R. Lilley, conducted the 1901 peal, which was also commemorated by a peal board. Only seven complete peals had been rung on the Totnes bells. All except three of those who rang the Coronation peal had taken part in the ringing before that afternoon's service.

Mr. Lilley contended that the Totnes Parish Church bells were the finest eight in Devon, and the seventh was the purest toned bell that had ever been cast.

JOINT MEETING AT FARNINGHAM

Farningham was the venue of the annual combined meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association and the Northern District of the Surrey Association. A satisfactory attendance of about 40 ringers made up the congregation for the Kent Association form of service held in the church after the afternoon's ringing. The Vicar (the Rev. P. Maxwell Young) made the office very enjoyable and gave an interesting and inspiring address, including a warm welcome to Farningham.

Tea was partaken of at the Lion Hotel. Mr. A. S. Richards (West Wickham) welcomed the Surrey visitors and thanked them for their support. Mr. F. E. Collins (Croydon) replied in the very best vein of responses and looked forward to the Lewisham District visiting Surrey next year. Further ringing followed, many of the company travelling to Shoreham.

A KESWICK RINGING FAMILY

Bellringing is often a family affair. This is very well illustrated at Crosthwaite Parish Church, Keswick, in the centre of the English Lakes. The late Mr. Stephen Hogarth, who was bellmaster for 28 years, had four sons and one daughter, all ringers. His son, Mr. Tyson Hogarth, followed him as bellmaster and has just completed 30 years in that position. His daughter, Mrs. Tom Wilson, recently celebrated her 70th birthday and is still a keen change ringer with 43 years' service, and her husband has been a ringer for 54 years, and together they ring twice each Sunday.

They will remember being taught change ringing by their father at the dinner table with knives, forks and spoons. J. W. B.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION Ashford District

A brilliantly fine day favoured the members of the Ashford District when they met at the little church of Sellindge on November 13th. The arrangements for the meeting had been admirably made by Mr. Peter Small, the mentor of the local band.

The Vicar (the Rev. R. Petty), who is a ringer, was waiting to greet the firstcomers at 2.30, a gesture which was appreciated. There was an unusually high proportion of beginners present. This is a welcome feature, as it shows that the learners are losing their shyness and are realising that the meetings are intended for those in all stages of experience.

The Vicar conducted the service, with Miss D. Salmon, the organist of the church, and another local ringer, at the organ. About 30 members and friends sat down to a grand tea in a cosy room of the old schools, the catering for and serving of which was carried out by the local band.

At the short business meeting which followed, nine new members were elected to join the Association as from next January—six from Sellindge and three from Willesborough. Thus Sellindge is reinstated as an affiliated tower after an absence of some years. The Vicar and all who had worked to make the meeting a success were thanked by Mr. J. Willis. Then came touches on the handbells, in some of which a promising young lady, aged 12, from New Romney, took part.

A collection for the Association's Belfry Repair Fund realised £1 3s. 6d. W. P. G.

BRENT KNOLL, SOMERSET.—On Nov. 8th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: D. Miller 1, C. Clarke 2, W. Stevens 3, M. Stone 4, H. Pople (first of Minor) 5, R. Short (cond.) 6.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

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The Official Journal of the Central
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HAROLD J. POOLE.

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EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

LATE NEWS

Mr. Cyril J. Watts was elected the new
Master of the Ancient Society of College
Youths on Saturday.

A marble tablet to the
honoured memory of Mr. D.
Cooper, Master of the Surrey
Association and captain of Croydon Parish
Church band, was unveiled and dedicated by
the Vicar (the Ven. C. F. Tonks), in the belfry
of St. John-the-Baptist Church on Nov. 14th.
The churchwardens, curates and the local band
attended the ceremony. A quarter peal of
Grandsire Cinques was rung.

Four local ladies rang in a quarter peal at
St. Matthew's, Walsall, on November 14th—the
first occasion.

Mr. Gerald Sandwell, an active ringer in the
Southend-on-Sea area, is shortly leaving for East
Africa on his National Service with the Crown
Forces.

The ringer of the second in the peal of Bristol
Surprise at Willesden on September 16th (page
670) was Miss Barbara A. Mitchell. It was her
first peal in the method.

The quarter peal at Clifton-on-Dunsmore,
near Rugby, was the first by the local Sunday
service band. The 13-year-old treble ringer,
who started to handle a bell six months ago,
was warmly complimented by the Ringing
Master, Mr. S. J. Merry.

Mr. G. Becey, of Hailsham, Sussex, con-
ducted his first peal for the 20th anniversary of
his wedding at Hellingly, Sussex. The ringers
included his daughter Laura (aged 15), his son
Frank (16), and the best man at his wedding,
Mr. Benjamin Stepney.

Mr. E. C. Barton rang in the birthday
peal for Mr. F. J. Cheal at Rainham, Kent,
on November 6th, with two black eyes and
a bruised nose, the result of an accident earlier
in the week while at work driving a tractor.
At the birthday spread, kindly provided by
Mrs. Cheal and Frank, the tune of the evening
was 'Two lovely black eyes.'

BELFRY GOSSIP

In answer to the ques-
tioners Mr. Harold Poole
writes that no request was
received for Leicester Cathedral bells at pre-
service ringing before the broadcast. He had
never encouraged any suggestion because (1)
the amount of ringing actually broadcast did
not justify the preparation, and (2) it would be
an unenviable job to pick out the 12 out of the
24 Sunday service ringers.

The weight of the tenor at St. Mark's, Wors-
ley, is 24 cwt. 9 lb.

We extend special congratulations to New
Zealand ringers on their peal at St. Peter's
Cathedral, Hamilton. Mr. Colin Ward is the
first New Zealand born ringer to conduct a
peal.

The floodlighting of the 169ft. spire of
Chester-le-Street Parish Church on Remem-
brance Sunday was a remarkable silent witness
to the surrounding countryside. Ringing fol-
lowed the switching on of the lights by the
chairman of the U.D.C. and a dedicatory
prayer said by the Rector.

On Nov. 1st a peal was rung at Rother-
ham Parish Church. Unfortunately, the letter
was lost in the post, and also the 4s. postal
order for our 'Gratefully Acknowledged.'
Fortunately our correspondent kept the counter-
foil of the P.O., and this week he and 'The
Ringing World' have been duly reimbursed.

A grand gathering of ringers attended the
joint meeting of the Sheffield and District So-
ciety and North Notts District of the South-
well Guild at Retford on November
6th. At the meeting Mr. John Seager, of
Retford, met Mr. John Seager, of the Sheffield
Cathedral band, for the first time, although
they live only 25 miles apart. There was some
handbell tapping of Grandsire Caters. Kent
Treble Bob Royal, etc., from Mr. John Seager,
of Retford.

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PEAL RINGING IN ESSEX

WITH Essex, we come to the first of the

Home Counties, in alphabetical order, and since London has always been the main centre of change ringing from the earliest times, the neighbouring counties can be looked to to provide large numbers of peals to talk about. Actually, I suppose the City itself is at a lower ebb than at any time in its history because of the destruction during the war and the movement of population. But this loss is the gain of the outskirts, for ringers are ringing more peals there. After discussing the last county in the list, there will be an article on ringing in London itself, which will include towers in the various Home Counties already mentioned, for (as Dove's book indicates) they really go better altogether even though they must be mentioned under their particular counties as well. Another point to remember about the figures given for the counties near London is that they will usually not give the total number of peals rung because many of the eight-bell and upwards towers had peals rung at them before 1881. So it is especially important here to keep in mind that we are only considering the period 1881 to the present day.

Although there is no tower which has passed the 200 peal mark since 1881, there are nine towers in Essex which have reached the century, which is a high proportion amongst the counties. Only Kent, Lancashire and Suffolk can beat this. The tower with the greatest number of peals is Romford (8) with 176. This is closely followed by Walthamstow, St. Mary's (10), with 174. Both show very similar features, for both have been rung consistently throughout the period from 1881 with a slightly higher average per year between the wars than before the first war, and both have dropped off since the last war. At Romford, 96 peals were rung between 1881 and 1914, and there were 73 between the wars. At Walthamstow, 87 came before 1914 and 81 from 1919 to 1939. At the former there have been only seven peals since the war (1948 to 1952) and at the latter six (1945 to 1952).

Although it has only been heard twice in the past 20 years (in 1936 and 1948), Stansted Mountfitchet (8) comes 3rd on the list with 155. The first peal recorded was in 1889, when there were six bells in the tower, and 34 peals were rung on them in the next 13 years—a goodly number for a six-bell tower. After augmentation, the church was the most popular in the county for peals, no less than 86 being rung between 1903 and 1914. After the first war it still did very well, but not to quite the same degree, 33 peals coming from the years 1920 to 1933. Since then, only the two peals mentioned above have been rung, which is rather a sudden ending.

Prittlewell (10) has just reached the 150 mark and comes next. It is the post-war period which has shown the greatest activity here, for no less than 58 peals have been rung in the past nine years. But it has shown a consistent two or three a year since the first one in 1896, for 32 were rung before 1914 and 60 between the wars. Thus, in the first four are two 10- and two 8-bell towers. The remaining five are all 8-bell towers—Writtle (126—a consistent two a year since 1882), Bocking (116—94 from 1930 onwards), Barking (113—heyday before 1914, only 21 since), Widford (109—best period also before 1914 with 70 peals then), and Brentwood (102—65 between the wars and 20 since 1945). Nineteen towers are between the 50 and 100 mark—rather too many to mention individually, although some of the higher ones will find a place in the sections dealing with the towers by numbers of bells.

THREE 12-BELL TOWERS

All the three 12-bell towers have totals greater than 50, and Waltham Abbey is approaching the 100 mark (there are older peals here, of course). It has scored 94 since 1881—55 between 1882 and 1914, when it was an 8-bell tower, 36 on the 12 between the wars and only three since (in the last three years). Chelmsford Cathedral has 61, 39 between the wars, which was the best period, and four since. Saffron Walden has 58. The 15 rung here since 1945 means it is producing a slightly higher average now than previously. Two of the three 10-bell towers have been mentioned above. The third is West Ham, which has also passed the 50 mark with 62 peals (28 came from 1882 to 1914, 30 from 1919 to 1939 and there have been only four since the war).

There are still two 8-bell towers which have not been conquered in the past 74 years—Dedham and Ilford. The former had a few peals rung there more than 100 years ago, but I have found no records of any at the latter. Of the remaining 50 8-bell towers, seven have been mentioned above. Those with more than 60 peals will be mentioned individually. The first is Galleywood with 91, more than half of them being rung between 1926 and 1939. Then comes Harlow Common with 85. The period 1905-1914 was the best here, for 42 peals were rung then. There have been 10 in the past three years. Feering follows with 81. This tower has not been heard since 1938, but previously to that 46 peals were rung between 1920 and 1934. Did the bells become 'difficult'? Great Baddow has 76 spread over the whole period, but especially from 1925 to 1940, when 44 peals were rung. Then comes Foxearth, whose best time was at the end of the last century—43 peals being rung between 1886 and 1899. The only peal since the war was last year, which broke a silence of 18 years.

At Coggeshall, we find 72 peals, the peak being between 1900 and 1913, when 32 of them were rung. This tower has not appeared in the peal columns since 1939. Twenty-nine of Braintree's 65 were rung in the 1930's, and there have only been three since the war, the last in 1949. Leytonstone seems to have been more popular as a 6-bell tower than an 8. Forty-five of its 62 peals were rung between 1897 and 1936, when the augmentation took place. It has, however, been doing better since the war, for 12 peals have been rung (although none this year so far, as I write). Of the 8-bell towers where peals have been rung in the period, Walter Belchamp has been silent the longest, for the last peal there was in 1913. In fact, this is the only peal this century when a false peal rung in 1912 is disregarded. Nineteen were rung between 1882 and 1896. Again disregarding the two peal-less towers, the fewest peals have been rung at Epping, for only two have been recorded there (one in 1914 and the other in 1919).

TEN UNCONQUERED 6-BELL TOWERS

In the case of the 6-bell towers, only 10 out of the 78 remain to be rung to a peal. They are Arkesdon, Ashdon, South Benfleet, Steeple Bumpstead, Great Chesterfield, High Easter, Helion Bumpstead, Littlebury, Ridgewell and Tillingham. Several 6-bell towers have very respectable totals of peals for such rings, the best being Stisted, which has passed the 50 mark with 56. The first peal recorded here was as far back as 1887, but the main activity has been since the last war, for 31 peals have come since 1944, including no less than 14 last year and nine so far this. Colne Engaine follows Stisted with 43. Only two have been rung since the war—the best period at this tower being from 1930 to 1939, which produced 28 of them. There will only be space to

mention the 6-bell towers which have passed the 25 mark. Apart from the two mentioned above, there are seven of these, with Great Bromley joining this group with its next peal. Maldon, St. Mary, has the highest number of the seven with 36 peals. Twenty-three were rung prior to the first war and eight immediately after it. The remaining five were rung from 1926 to 1938, and it has been silent since. Two towers have 30 peals—Kelvedon, which has a record of four peals in 1896 and 1897, 20 between 1921 and 1938, and six since 1947, and Downham, where all the peals have been rung since 1948 (but only one this year as I write). This is good going for a 6-bell tower. Gestingthorpe, Mistley and Shenfield have each 26. The first peal at the former was in 1910, and the only period of silence since (except for the war periods) was from 1920 to 1931. Mistley had its first peal in 1904, but the second didn't come until 1923, which started a 'batch' of 23 peals in the next 15 years. There have only been two since 1945. Shenfield has been going consistently since its first peal in 1922. Fourteen were rung before the war commenced, and there have been 12 since. The seventh tower is Roydon, which recorded one of the earliest 6-bell peals in the county in 1888. Sixteen of its total of 25 were rung between 1898 and 1906. The remaining eight are spread out fairly evenly over the past 48 years, with two since the war.

Twelve of the 39 5-bell towers have had peals rung at them, and one has reached double figures—Hutton with 12. This is a good number for a 5-bell tower. As a point of general interest which I have not mentioned before, there are only 16 5-bell towers in the whole of the country which have reached double figures. Seven of them are in Northants (which will occasion no surprise considering the number of 5-bell towers there). All 16 will be mentioned in the individual counties—suffice it to say at the moment that the greatest number (31) is held by Warkton (Northants). Actually, only three have passed the 20 mark—all in Northants. Whitney (Hereford) being the highest outside that county. So Hutton has a good number for a 5-bell tower. Black Notley will soon join this select band with double figures, for nine have been rung there. Nazeing (now a 6-bell tower) recorded the first 5-bell peal in the period in 1900. Manuden, where three peals were rung in 1901 and 1902, has not had a peal since, and so qualifies for the longest silent tower.

SUCCESSFUL SOUTH Lincs MEETING

A very successful meeting was held at Folkingham on November 6th by the Lincoln Diocesan Guild (Southern Branch) and over 30 ringers and friends were present.

The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. H. Evans) and the lesson read by the secretary of the Branch (Mr. James Haw). In the course of his address the Rector extended a hearty welcome to the visitors and continued to give an interesting address on bells, ringers and the church. Tea was served at the local cafe.

At the business meeting which followed, the Rev. H. Evans presided. Two new ringing members were elected, Mr. James Manton and Mr. Ronald Hobson, of Folkingham. The Rector was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Branch. At the conclusion a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector, the organist and to those who had provided such an excellent tea.

Handbell ringing was then indulged in by some, while others returned to the tower for further ringing. A good variety of methods was rung ranging from Grand sire Doubles to London Surprise Minor, and rounds for those less advanced.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON SOCIETY

Summer Tour in the Lake District

AT the back end of October it is nostalgically pleasant (if not very acceptable from the editorial viewpoint) to summarise recollections in tranquillity of how, on July 24th last, twelve members of the University of London Society converged from various corners of the land on to the modest town of Whitehaven, Cumberland—the chosen centre of a week's ringing tour of the Lake District, which included all, except possibly one, of the ringable towers of Cumberland and a good many in Westmorland. Headquarters were at the Golden Lion. As usual the party took undisputed (after the first hour or so) possession of the residents' lounge and adjoining bar, other residents who attempted to gain entry being greeted by a volley of handbell fire. Here our organiser, Graham McKay, from nearby St. Bees, enlarged on the details of the week's programme.

On Sunday members attended Holy Communion at the bell-less but otherwise beautifully internally appointed Church of St. James. At breakfast we were initiated into the horrid local custom, which was dutifully observed in the high Roman fashion throughout the week, of eating buns with bacon and eggs. The fully-mechanised party thereafter proceeded to Cleator Moor to ring for Matins. Here we were welcomed by the Rev. H. T. Batey and two local pillars of the Exercise—Stanley Richardson and Geoffrey Tembey—whose good fellowship and valuable assistance were to be much valued throughout the week. In spite of a dangerously cracked tower in a very metastable landscape, ringing was enjoyed without incident on this agreeable eight. (We have since learned that we were the last to ring in this tower, which was last seen when we were heading in a westerly direction towards the Solway Firth.) Ringing for Evensong was on the cheerful eight of the charmingly-situated church at Arlecdon, whose churchyard is entered by a fascinating stone 'cattle-gate.'

On Monday the party was joined by Rex Agg (another local authority), David Little and Ann Field, whom we were gratified to find eligible for membership, and who led the convoy eastwards towards Carlisle. Only for the first mile or two, however, were we fully-mechanised; before any appreciable gradient had been reached the presidential car (doubtless in tactful anticipation of the shape of things to come) developed very audible big-end trouble in Cockermouth. The four passengers missed ringing on the light and rather noisy six at Thursby, but arrived in time, public transport and torrential rain, to ring on the venerable but eccentric eight at Carlisle Cathedral. Seven of the sadly derelict eight at St. Stephen's were rung with more curious amusement than real pleasure before going on to the handy eight at Aspatria, the last tower of the day.

On Tuesday, Workington—a town looking very like its name—with an appropriately awkward going eight (very much in F sharp) was first visited. The Rector welcomed us and introduced a reporter, who proceeded to interview the president on behalf of 'The Workington Star.' The resulting report swelled the circulation of that influential organ of local opinion by at least a dozen copies that evening. It was a relief to make our way to Bridekirk, where an enjoyable hour was spent on the rather brassy but good-going six. The inevitable buns were gratefully washed down with beer at lunchtime in Cockermouth before setting out on the magnificent run (for those who remained in charge of their transport) over Whinlatter Pass to Keswick for a ring on the very fine eight (judged by some as the best of the tour) at Crosthwaite. Ringing on the majestic eight at Penrith ended the day.

Wednesday was cryptically described on the programme as a 'day of semi-rest.' So, in fact, it turned out to be, but only on account of the weather. Fell-walking (for those fit enough) and one tower (for the one who wanted it) had been prescribed. Ironically the weather lifted on the way to Irton—the only tower of the day. The magnificent view from this isolated church, on a plateau, looking up the valleys of Eskdale and Wasdale, was enjoyed perhaps more than the ringing on the rather recalcitrant eight.

The president having retrieved his car, the party journeyed southwards on Thursday into the Furness district of Lancashire, where ringing in five good towers with relatively few distractions of scenery (apart from the magnificent climb past Devoke Water on the outward journey), had been arranged as a corrective to the lotus-eating of the previous day. At Broughton we found a brisk eight and a ringing chamber beautifully kept and decorated with reverent imagination. The excellently well-Taylored ten at Dalton (another fine ringing room) were rung with the assistance of Mr. Tom Metcalfe, our tower host, enjoyably to Grandsire Caters, ineffectually to Stedman and purposefully to Royal. After lunch the party set out under lowering skies for Barrow, where the worsening weather didn't seem to matter very much. Here the acoustically-odd eight seemed also to make striking a matter of relatively small concern. Our organiser was persuaded to allow us a brief interval for a cup of tea, which mutinously developed into a knife-and-fork orgy and consequent lateness at Kirkby-Ireleth. In this tower a charming six and yet another model Lancashire ringing room were just beginning to beguile us and to inspire the best striking and most interesting ringing of the day when we were sternly hustled on to our last lap to Millom. An unforgettable welcome awaited us here from the local band of learners (which included the Vicar), who met us in force. After a not very convincing demonstration of Cambridge Minor by the Society on this undistinguished and noisy six, the rest of the time was spent most enjoyably and with missionary fervour ringing call changes with our largely self-taught hosts. We were joined after dinner that evening by David Robinson, who had extricated himself from that military machine at Catterick.

Friday was Westmorland day, and the convoy, reinforced by Stanley Richardson and Geoffrey Tembey and their party proceeded to Great Langdale. Mr. Frank Birkett met us here, and ringing on his most attractive six included the now traditional touch of Original. We headed over perilous roads and inspiring scenery for the cosy town of Hawkshead, with its little hill-top church. We adjourned to a most pleasurable pub. Some fair ringing including a course of London was enjoyed on the mellow six. There followed a mad rush via Esthwaite Water to catch the ferry across Lake Windermere. The main body and its transport was duly waterborne, but our guests and their crews were left frantically waving from the shore, having been locked in the car park at Hawkshead. Kendal was reached in time for tea and an exterior inspection of the Ring of Bells (with its unique ringers' sign), before ringing on the ten fine originals in the imposing setting of Holy Trinity Church. We were met here by Mr. Jim Wilson, who helped us to strike some good Stedman and Treble Ten in an enjoyable hour's ringing.

Tables in the Golden Lion that evening were set rather more formally than usual for dinner, to which the Society entertained the distinguished guests and their ladies. After dinner tradition was again followed in a visit to the local fair, where the party as usual commanded and shamefully mishandled the 'dodgems.'

On Saturday morning we rang on the easy-going eight at Egremont. Mr. Alfred Eilbeck (to whom we send our best wishes for a return to health very soon) got away from work in time to welcome us to his tower and usefully to strengthen our Stedman. Then we went over the hill to St. Bees and were welcomed by McKay pere and Mr. Harold Wilson. Ringing in the massive tower included recognisable Double Norwich, St. Clement's Major and Erin.

After lunch at H.Q. members digested their buns in tentative Duffield on the fast and noisy eight at Hensingham, the last official tower of the tour. Rex Agg then led a bell-weary, bun-heavy but otherwise enthusiastic party on a memorable scramble over Sty Head Pass to the tarn under Great Gable and Scafell. There are various unflattering photographs of this episode available, so that it is only necessary here to pay tribute to the commendable foot-poundage achieved by John ('Jumbo') Seager. At the farewell sing-song on Saturday evening John Crawley worked overtime on the piano.

On the last Sunday morning we returned to Hensingham to ring for Matins. The only peal attempt of the week (Plain Bob Major) was in the afternoon at Arlecdon. After a rather choppy quarter had been rung the closure was formally moved and presidentially applied when it had become obvious that the tenor did not altogether approve of being turned in.

Numerically, the tour was the smallest on record, both in the size of the party and the number of towers visited. The Society's thanks for the success of this much-enjoyed week are gratefully extended to the incumbents and tower-keepers who met and welcomed us and showed such tolerance of the vagaries of our time-keeping; to Rex Agg, Stanley Richardson and Geoffrey Tembey, who guided us so rewardingly into the heart of Cumberland ringing; to our genial host and hostess at the Golden Lion (Mr. and Mrs. William Berwick); and to Graham McKay for his fine organisation and a memorable example of tact and tolerance.

ARCHDEACONRY OF HALIFAX GUILD

About 26 members attended the meeting at Northwram on November 6th, and the pleasant octave was rung to Stedman Triples, Double Norwich Court Bob and Cambridge Surprise Major.

After the service, cups of tea provided by local ringers were served in a cosy room with a cheerful fire. They were thanked for making the Guild so welcome.

The business included a discussion on a proposed trip to be held next Whitsuntide. Details were left to the Ringing Master to work out. The annual meeting of the Guild will be held at Halifax Parish Church early in January.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION

St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, was visited by the Northern District for their quarterly meeting on November 13th. Grandsire and Stedman Cinques were the main methods rung with rounds for those less advanced.

After tea further ringing took place at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, until 7 p.m., when Evensong was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. A. Gorbould), who gave a cordial welcome to the Association.

The business meeting was held in the Parish Room with the Master, Mr. C. A. Hughes, in the chair. It was decided to hold a monthly practice meeting, which will be announced at a later date in 'The Ringing World.'

Further ringing was obtained from 7.50 to 8.30, when methods ranging from London Surprise Major to Grandsire Triples were rung.

L. W. B.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPICED SURPRISE MAJOR

Dear Sir,—Mr. L. W. G. Morris's article, 'Spiced Surprise Major—Whither Advancement?' fully deserves the comment he invites, and I hope that this letter is only one of many in an interesting discussion on this subject.

The late Rev. H. Law James, like most men of genius, undoubtedly struck a vein more productive than he knew when he built up a peal on the three-lead course plan. In 1927, to ring such a peal must have presented a real challenge, and in my opinion the fine achievements of the late William Pye and his band in scoring peals in up to 12 methods almost as fast as they were published gave to this branch of ringing a value not wholly proportionate to its true worth.

Having taken part in a few peals on this plan, up to ten methods, I am sure that from the ringer's point of view, Mr. Morris is correct in saying that more concentration is required to accomplish a peal of London Surprise Major. Above ten methods—whatever the plan—a good deal of unfamiliar material has to be mastered, and I rate any peal of spiced containing upwards of about ten methods a very worthy performance indeed. Please note that I express a ringer's viewpoint here; I hope others will put forward the conductor's angle.

Those well-known composers who have produced peals containing all the work of all the methods are deserving of every praise; these excellent compositions were bound to appear in time—the solving of problems such as these are the life-blood of this branch of our art. They must present a real challenge to the conductor, but to the ringer, as six methods is the maximum so far included in this plan (I believe), I do not see that from his standpoint it is a performance of any greater merit than taking part in one of London Major. But I am open to correction here—I have not rung a peal on this plan.

'Has the intrinsic value of Spiced Surprise Major ringing changed?' asks Mr. Morris. The answer is in the negative—real values do not change. The Exercise generally needs to view all Surprise ringing with a more critical eye, and develop a right sense of values. Any peal of Spiced Surprise is a good performance, so is London Major.

What I fail to see is the point, week after week, of peals in new single Surprise methods—merely, it seems, to claim them as rung for the first time. Although some of these are undoubtedly good performances on the part of the bands, and something new is very refreshing at times, I hope I shall not be accounted conservative or even reactionary when I say that a peal of Stedman Triples is every bit as well worth ringing, and every one brought round a credit to the conductor. I should like to see in the peal columns more peals of Stedman—what a fascinating range of compositions there is here—and Holt's Original rung more frequently. Sometimes it seems there will be nobody left to call this! A great Lincolnshire friend of mine, well known and respected in the Exercise, has yet to call it, and he has already put a number of difficult compositions behind him! A sign of the times? But I am getting away from the point, and have said enough, I trust, to evoke some lively criticism on these topics.—Yours faithfully,

K. S. B. CROFT.

Southampton.

We desire to acknowledge 'The East Anglian Magazine' for the bellringers' epitaphs that appeared on page 715. They were sent to that journal by Mr. L. Sewell and forwarded by another reader to 'The Ringing World.'

THE EXTENT OF BOB MAJOR

Dear Sir,—Now that an attempt to ring the extent of Bob Major is to be made, no doubt interest in the previous peal will be revived. We are told James Barham and his band of thirteen accomplished this feat at Leeds in Kent in 1761. Is it on record what composition they rang, and who 'called ye bobs'?

When searching the record books of the Society of Cambridge Youths I found the extent of Bob Major composed by Thomas Steers. He was elected a member of the Cambridge Youths on February 6th, 1787, and is described as gentleman, an ingenious mathematician. He was also a good practical ringer, ringing the 6th to 6,600 Bob Maximus, the 2nd to 6,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal and the 5th to 7,002 Grandsire Quaters, all rung at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge. There is no date on his composition of which I have a copy of the full peal, which is printed in a book dated 1770.—Your faithfully,

E. G. HIBBINS.

Cambridge.

DOUBLES METHODS AND THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

Dear Sir,—As Mr. Birmingham has explained that his statement 'Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander' is an attack on the Central Council, I wish to withdraw unreservedly my allegation that he was kicking at Doubles ringers.

I must say, however, that I do, in part, disagree with his last letter. I feel sure that most Central Council members have no wish whatsoever to dictate, and that one or two committee members, knowing that most Central Council members have little or no technical knowledge, take advantage of it to get banned what they, the committee members, do not ring. Sometimes they do this in a very low manner, as, for example, when the members were led to believe that irregular Minor methods produce far more 65's at backstroke than do regular methods, this being achieved by quoting only the standard calling in Treble Bob methods, instead of producing the complete facts, which are very much different. No, Mr. Birmingham, the Central Council does not dictate, it is just the odd few satisfying their personal whims.

About Doubles methods. The rules that the Methods Committee are using have been published. The trouble is that no one has yet realised what they mean. Two of the most popular Doubles methods, All Saints and Reverse Saint Bartholomew, do not conform to these rules, and there can be no doubt that the Methods Committee and Peals Analysis Committee will do their utmost to get peals containing these methods excluded from the analysis. The average Central Council member will not want to do this, but as they have already passed these rules without knowing what they mean, they will not be able to do much about it. Cf. Plain Bob Triples.

Finally, I should like to appeal to all fellow Doubles ringers to stand firm against the Methods Committee. Do not be weak-willed like the Minor ringers and give way to suppression. Remember, nearly every Doubles ringer is a regular Sunday service ringer at his local tower. The same cannot be said for Surprise ringers.—Yours sincerely,

F. T. BLAGROVE.

Stanwell.

A VILLAGE PROBLEM

From a West Surrey village the following problem of the rector and ringers has been addressed to us for the opinion of other members of the Exercise:—

Often it happens that one is faced with a problem and, having made a decision, is afterwards troubled as to whether the course adopted was the right one.

Briefly, our story is this. Living in close proximity to our church, with its somewhat noisy ring of eight, is a lady who, during the last 20 years or so, has on every possible occasion voiced her objections to any ringing at all.

One tragic Thursday evening, two years ago, her daughter was killed in a road accident some miles away (our practice night is Thursday and we had finished ringing before the news reached us). Last year, on the night which was the anniversary (by the day though not the date) of the tragedy we suspended our practice on a last minute request.

This year, two days before the second anniversary, the lady in question again asked the Rector to silence the bells.

The lady's request was doubtless based on the facts that she hated the bells anyway; that they had been ringing while her daughter lay dead awaiting identification and during a time when she herself was suffering agonising suspense; that every week she coupled the sound of the bells with her daughter's death; and that on the anniversary day she felt particularly unable to bear the sound of ringing.

In discussing the matter with the Rector and in coming to a decision we had in mind the following:—That we all did at the time and still do sincerely sympathise with the lady in her sad loss; that two years have now elapsed; that ringing was not (except perhaps by way of association with ideas) anything to do with the tragedy; that our tower is visited regularly by learners and visitors with whom we could not quickly get in touch; that neither the lady nor any member of her family is a churchgoer at all; that we always do all that is reasonable to curtail our ringing by accepting visiting bands sparingly, by refraining from peal ringing and by keeping District meetings to the minimum; that we do suspend ringing in the case of serious illness or if anyone is lying dead in the vicinity; that having stopped for this particular reason we might be expected to on various pretexts on many future occasions; that there is no reason why the lady and her family should stop at home as they have relatives living within easy access but outside the sound of our bells; that it is unreasonable to expect the outside world to share private griefs indefinitely and that in spite of tragedy the world and life must go on.

Would other ringers like, through the columns of your paper, to tell us what they would have done in similar circumstances?

EARTH AS A SILENCER

Dear Sir,—There is a deep layer of earth under the floorboards of the bell chamber in the tower of Llanbadarn Fawr. Our ringers would like to know whether it is the custom to use earth in this way to deaden the noise in the belfry and whether such a practice is effective. There is one apparent disadvantage in that earth and dust are a breeding place for beetles and worms, which in turn may well attack the wooden frame of the bells.—Yours truly,

O. G. REES (Rev.).

The Vicarage, Llanbadarn Fawr,
Aberystwyth.

SPliced SURPRISE MAJOR IN SCOTLAND

A border raid in modern fashion enabled eight Sassenachs to snatch the first peal of Spliced Surprise Major in Scotland on November 6th. Leaving Manchester Airport at 9.30 a.m. they had a not too comfortable trip to Renfrew, where they de-planed at 11.20 and proceeded forthwith to seek the lunch already arranged for them. At 12.50 a move was made in the direction of St. James' U.F. Church, Paisley, nearby where the local tower secretary (Mrs. Caldwell) and Mr. Scott were waiting to receive them. Everything was in readiness and the hosts were very solicitous that there should be no hitch and had obviously gone to great trouble.

Ropes were adjusted to the party's liking and the bells went off into a peal of 'real' Spliced Surprise Major (i.e., one in which all the bells do all the work of each method), Pitman's masterpiece in four methods. Of the peal there is nothing of note to report for it proceeded without a hitch and in spite of the difficulty some had in hearing the bells clearly, due in some measure to the intermittent intervention of British Railways, the striking was of a very high order. After some 3 hours and 11 minutes' good ringing the conductor had the satisfaction of saying 'That is all' to the first peal of Spliced Surprise in Scotland, and at the same time he, and other members of the band, completed the quartet of countries with this composition; that is to say they have rung it in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, being the first to do so, and in the case of the last three countries, they were the first band to ring the composition in the country. To enable those members of the band who have not already rung this Spliced Surprise composition in its native land, a trip over Offa's Dike is being arranged in the near future.

Such achievements cannot be accomplished without the ready co-operation of the local ringers, and thanks are due to the ringers at Paisley for their efforts to make the attempt successful and for the wonderful tea which they provided at its conclusion.

The organisation of transport to and from Scotland was arranged by Mr. Dunkerley and Messrs. Worth and Jenkins attended to the matter of bells, meals, band, etc., with the result that everything went off in clockwork fashion.

A 'STEEPLE CHASE'

The North Bucks 'steeple chase' on October 9th was enjoyed by 30 ringers, two coming from Sussex and the remainder from Buckinghamshire.

The first tower, Wingrave, was reached at 8.30 a.m. Aston Abbots, Woburn (Beds), Wavendon (where the party were welcomed by the Rev. C. Elliot Wigg, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild), Milton Keynes and Woughton-on-the-Green were all visited before lunch. The embarking and disembarking was now much speedier and we had learned from Mr. R. Biggs how to deal with recalcitrant clock hammers.

Old Wolverton was the first tower visited after lunch. Here the bells were raised in the order 216543. Nobody told us they were anticlockwise and we picked the wrong one for the treble.

Stony Stratford, Buckingham, Padbury and Winslow bells were sampled and enjoyed before a short break for tea. Later the five-bell ringers came into their own at East Claydon and Quainton. At the latter tower the rather long draught without guides and the bells falling in the order 13254 caused a little confusion. Fly-fishing described some of the ringers' antics here perfectly.

Hardwicke was the 14th tower, and some very nice ringing with a good fall in peal closed the day.

W. L.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD

Dorchester Branch at Litton Cheney

The recently-retuned eight bells at Litton Cheney were visited by the Dorchester Branch on November 13th, when the ringing was under the direction of Mr. F. Preece and his two deputies, Messrs. F. Stedman and H. Ford. Methods rung included Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Minor and Major.

Canon C. C. Cox, the Master of the Guild, read the lesson at the service conducted by the Rector (the Rev. W. H. Parson), who, in his address, spoke of the various uses to which bells had been put—to proclaim joy, sadness and disaster; but running through all was a note of salvation and hope for everyone. Mr. Sidney Trevett was organist.

Tea was served in the Sunday School room and much appreciated by the 35 ringers and friends who attended. The Rector presided at the business meeting. Forthcoming events agreed to were the annual meeting at St. Peter's, Dorchester, on January 22nd, and a Branch practice at Wyke Regis on November 27th. The question of joint meetings with other Branches was referred to the annual meeting.

Upon the suggestion of Canon Cox the meeting decided to send a letter of congratulation to the Branch chairman, Canon A. W. Markby, on his recent marriage.

Mr. Fred Preece said he was glad to welcome the Litton Cheney tower to the Dorchester Branch (it was transferred from West Dorset last February) and he assured the Rector and his ringers that everything possible would be done to encourage change ringing in their tower.

Mr. J. H. Hayne (hon. secretary) mentioned the loss of a ringing member, Mr. H. C. Butler, who died recently in hospital. A native of Wisbech, Cambs, he joined the Branch as recently as April, when working in the locality.

A vote of thanks to the Rector, the ladies and the organist and all who had worked hard to make the meeting a success, was moved by the assistant hon. secretary, Mr. R. H. Duke, and the Rector, in reply, said he could only repeat the welcome he had given in the church, and they all looked forward to the next visit.

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The Editorial Committee acknowledge with gratitude the following donations towards the cost of producing 'The Ringing World':—

Personal.—Anon. 10s., Anon. 5s.
Peals.—Sherburn-in-Elmet 1s. 6d., Stanmore 4s., Moulton 3s., King's Norton 4s., Farnham 3s., Pirbright 2s. 6d., Totterhoe 2s. 6d., Rotherham 4s., Burton-in-Kendal 3s., Wigtoft 3s., Chilvers Coton 4s., Hughenden 4s., Cuckfield 4s., Upholland 3s., Sheffield 2s., Edenham 4s., Mereworth 3s., Wychbold 3s., Silk Willoughby 3s.

Quarter Peals.—Eastbourne 3s., Llandilo 2s. 6d., Heddington 3s., Sutton, Ely, 6s., Freshwater 2s. 6d., Margate 2s., Guiseley 2s., Croydon 6s., Stourbridge 2s., Twerton 2s., Salisbury 2s. 6d., Hutton 2s. 6d., Bath 2s., Salisbury 1s. 6d., Barcombe 2s. 6d., Lyme Regis 2s. 6d., Walsall 2s., Walthamstow 2s. 6d., Chelsfield 2s. 6d., Hawkechurch 1s. 6d., Helmdon 5s., King's Norton 2s., Henfield 2s.

Durham and Newcastle Association

Ringers from a wide area on Tees-side attended the Southern District meeting at St. John's, Darlington, on November 13th.

A shortened version of Evensong was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Brown. Thirty-two ringers sat down to a sumptuous tea, provided by local ringers' wives.

Methods rung: Bob Minor, Grandsire, Stedman, Erin and St. Clement's Triples, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise.

F. W. C.

FORTY YEARS AGO

Extract from the 'Ringing World'
November 27th, 1914

LONDON

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION
On Saturday, November 21, 1914, in 3 hours and 48 minutes

At the Church of St. Leonard, Shoreditch
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5,007 CHANGES

Tenor 28 cwt.

William J. Nudds	Treble
John H. Cheesman	2
Ernest Pye	3
William Pye	4
Isaac G. Shade	5
William J. Kemp	6
Charles T. Coles	7
Edward Barnett, sen.	8
Harry Flanders	9
James Hunt	10
Reuben Sanders	11
Alfred W. Grimes	Tenor

Composed by Henry Johnson. Conducted by William Pye.

This was the conductor's 100th peal on twelve bells, a feat never before accomplished.

MR. JACK L. MILLHOUSE'S 500 PEALS

Mr. Jack L. Millhouse, of Lincoln, rang his 500th peal (205 of which he has conducted) on October 23rd. His list makes interesting reading:—

TOWER BELLS

Doubles.—Grandsire 2 (cond. 2), Stedman 2 (2), five methods 1, 6 methods 1; total 6 (4).

Minor.—One to seven methods 23 (7), 7-20 methods 70 (39), 21 methods 1, 34 methods 1, 43 methods 1, 49 methods 1, 53 methods 1, 60 methods 1, 70 methods 1, 100 methods 1, 102 methods 1, 104 methods 1, 125 methods 1, Cambridge Surprise 24 (14), London Surprise 7 (2), Lincoln Surprise 1 (1), Wells Surprise 1 (1), York Surprise 1 (1); total 138 (65).

Triples.—Grandsire 7 (5), Stedman 18 (3), Erin 1 (1); total 26 (9).

Major.—Plain Bob 9 (6), Little Bob 4 (2), Gainsborough Little Bob 1, Erith Little Bob 1 (1), Double Norwich 17 (16), St. Clement's 1, Oxford Bob 1, Wymondham Bob 1, Original 1, Kent Treble Bob 6 (3), Oxford Treble Bob 1 (1), Combined Kent and Oxford 1; total 44 (29).

Surprise Major.—London 42 (19), Cambridge 21 (13), Yorkshire 21 (11), Bristol 16 (6), Super-alude 8 (3), Rutland 7 (3), Lincolnshire 5 (3), Pudsey 2, New Cambridge 1 (1), Painswick 1, Ashted 1, Belgrave 1 (1), Dublin 1 (1), Edinburgh 1, Wordsworth 1 (1), Wembley 1 (1), Lincoln 1 (1), Jersey 1 (1), St. Giles' 1 (1), Withyham 1 (1), Runnymede 1 (1), Norfolk 1 (1), Watford 1 (1), Wombourne 1; Spliced: 2 methods 1, 3 methods 1 (1), 4 methods 10 (4), 5 methods 2, 6 methods 3 (1), 10 methods 3, 16 methods 1, 22 methods 2, 32 methods 1; total 162 (76).

Caters.—Stedman 15 (4), Grandsire 1 (1), Erin 2; total 18 (5).

Royal.—Plain Bob 2, Little Bob 1, Kent Treble Bob 1 (1), Cambridge Surprise 6 (2), Yorkshire Surprise 6 (3), London Surprise No. 3 1, Wembley Surprise 1, Pudsey Surprise 1 (1), Oakham Surprise 1 (1); total 20 (8).

Cinques.—Stedman 37 (5), Erin 1; total 38 (5).

Maximus.—Cambridge 7 (1), Yorkshire 3 (1); total 10 (2).

Tower bell total.—462 (203).

HANDBELLS

Minor: Plain Bob 1 (1), Triples: Grandsire 1, Stedman 1. Major: Plain Bob 7 (1), Double Norwich 1, Kent Treble Bob 1; Spliced: 6 methods 1, 8 methods 1. Caters: Stedman 13, Grandsire 2. Royal: Plain Bob 2; Spliced: Plain and Gainsborough Little Bob 1. Cinques: Stedman 6. Handbell total 38 (2).

OBITUARY

MR. GEORGE BAILEY

'F. S.,' of Leeds, writes regretting the passing of Mr. George Bailey, of Wroxham, Norfolk, and recalls one pleasant memory of him. It was on December 20th, 1913, when George cycled about 28 miles to meet the young band at Tibenham, Norfolk, for a peal attempt in seven Surprise methods. When the bells came home the delight on George's face was noted by the band—it was his first peal in seven Surprise methods. May he rest in peace.

The band consisted of Frederick C. M. Skinner 1, George Bailey 2, Bertie F. Turner (conductor) 3, George Snelling 4, John Snelling 5, Frederick Seager 6.

MR. WALTER WILLS

One of the oldest ringing members of the Leicester Diocesan Guild, Mr. Walter Wills died on November 7th, aged 84 years. For the past six years he had been a regular ringer at St. Andrew's, Aylestone, Leicester.

He took a keen and lively interest in all the activities of the Leicester Guild and his loss will be keenly felt in his local tower. He set a splendid example by his regular attendance and unflinching punctuality.

A native of Hinckley, he rang at the Parish Church in his younger days. In 1898 he moved to Leicester but took no active part in ringing for 50 years. He returned to ringing when the bells of St. Andrew's were augmented to eight in 1948, and it was at this church the funeral service was held on November 10th.

During the service a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by Messrs F. E. Wilson 1-2, E. Morris 3-4, H. J. Poole 5-6, T. Bolingbroke 7-8. The service was conducted by Canon Cray prior to interment at the Gloucester Cemetery, Leicester. F. E. W.

THE LATE FLYING OFFICER E. A. DENCH

Eric A. Dench rang 190 peals—116 'in hand' (conducted 15) and 74 on tower bells (conducted 9). His first peal, Holt's Original 'in hand,' was rung at the age of 16, on November 20th, 1943, conducted by Mr. John Thomas, and his last, Superlative Surprise Major, at Sibley, Leics, on October 24th, 1953, conducted by Mr. P. A. Corby. He rang 120 peals with Mrs. John Thomas and 117 with Mr. Thomas. Details:—

TOWER BELLS

Doubles.—Grandsire 1 (cond. 1), two methods 1 (1).

Minor.—Three methods 3 (1), four methods 1. Triples.—Grandsire 5 (4), Stedman 5.

Major.—Plain Bob 2, Kent Treble Bob 4 (1), Double Norwich Court Bob 4.

Surprise Major.—Cambridge 9 (1), New Cambridge 1, Superlative 9, Yorkshire 3, Belgrave 1, Pudsey 1, Hinton 1, London 1, Bristol 3, Ashted 1, Aldenham 1. Spliced: four methods 1, six methods 1.

Caters.—Grandsire 2, Stedman 3.

Royal.—Plain Bob 1 (record length), Kent Treble Bob 1, Oxford Treble Bob 1, Cambridge 3, Yorkshire 1, Belgrave 1 (first peal in method), Prittlewell 1 (first in method).

Maximus.—Cambridge 1.

'IN HAND'

Minor.—Plain Bob 2 (1).

Triples.—Grandsire 8 (1), Stedman 3, Spliced Oxford Bob and Grandsire 1.

Major.—Plain Bob 24 (10), Kent Treble Bob 7 (2), Oxford Treble Bob 3, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob (Ilkeston) 1, Spliced Kent and Oxford Treble Bob 3, Little Bob 1, Double Norwich Court Bob 1.

Caters.—Grandsire 13, Stedman 20.

Royal.—Plain Bob 9 (1), Kent Treble Bob 4, Oxford Treble Bob 1, Kent and Oxford (Worcester Variation) 1, Little Bob 2.

Cinques.—Grandsire 2, Stedman 7.

Maximus.—Plain Bob 2.

Fourteen-In.—Plain Bob 1 (first peal with 14 working bells).

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD

Andover District

A quarterly meeting was held at Woolton Hill on November 6th, when over 40 ringers were present throughout the day, visitors coming from distances as far apart as Winchester, Reading and Bishopstoke. Ringing took place during the afternoon on the eight at Highclere, when methods rung included Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise.

The service and tea were held at Woolton Hill, the meeting taking place in the Parish Room presided over by the chairman, the Rev. M. P. Simcock. Three new members were elected from Woolton Hill—M. Davis, M. Mills and J. Knight—whilst Miss J. Goodyear was elected from Andover.

It was decided to hold the next meeting on December 11th at Goodworth Clatford, this being for those members less advanced in method ringing, whilst Andover would be available in the evening for practice in the higher methods.

After the secretary had read the letter on the finances of 'The Ringing World,' a motion was passed that he be instructed to write to the towers in the District, approaching them with a view to having a copy of 'The Ringing World' bought for the use of the members of the band by their Parochial Church Council.

J. K. D.

MR. ARTHUR V. PEARSON'S 500 PEALS

Mr. Arthur V. Pearson, of Penn, Wolverhampton, has a list to be proud of in his 500 peals:—

Twelve bells.—Surprise Maximus 19 cond. (2), Yorkshire 8, Pontefract 1, Solihull 1, Pudsey 1, Prittlewell 1, Lindsey 1, Albanian 1, Spliced (two methods) 1, Stedman Cinques 66, Plain Bob Maximus 1, Little Bob Maximus 1.

Ten bells.—Surprise Royal: Cambridge 19 (3), Yorkshire 13 (5), Rutland 1, Pudsey 4, New Cambridge 1 (1), York 1, Painswick 1, Birmingham 1, Lindsey 1, Langley 1, Staffordshire 1, Prittlewell 1, Solihull 1, Harborne 1, Spliced (two methods) 1. Saltley Delight Royal 1, Little Bob Royal 2, Kent Treble Bob Royal 2, Plain Bob Royal 2, Stedman Caters 29, Grandsire Caters 3.

Eight bells.—Surprise Major: Aldenham 2 (1), Apsley 1, Ashted 1 (1), Bristol 10, Belgrave 2, Belvedere 1, Cambridge 44 (12), Cornwall 1, Crewe 1, Cassiobury 1, Colmore 1, Chiltern 1, Cranborne 1, Darlington 1, Dorney 1, Erdington 1, Frankley 1, Hallam 1, Hitchin 1, Hanbury 1, Hockley 1, Ipswich 1, Jersey 1, Kendal 1, London 14 (5), Lindum 1, Lutterworth 1, Langley 1, Lincolnshire 11, Moseley 1, Norfolk 4 (1), New Cambridge 1 (1), Oxhey 1, Pudsey 4 (2), Painswick 2 (2), Pyrford 1 (1), Quinton 1, Rutland 13, Ramsey 1, Radnor 1 (1), Riblesdale 1, Superlative 14 (1), Somerset 1, Southgate 1, Sandringham 1, Truro 1, Tring 1 (1), Trowbridge 1 (1), Vauxhall 1, Warnham 1, Withyham 1, Warwickshire 1, Whitminster 2 (1), Wombourne 1, Yorkshire 44 (9). Spliced in four methods 5 (1), six methods 2 (1), eight methods 2 (1). Double Norwich Court Bob Major 24, Duffield Major 1, Little Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 7, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, Plain Bob Major 12, Stedman Triples 11, Grandsire Triples 15.

Six bells.—Cambridge Surprise Minor 2, Plain Bob Minor 4, Minor (various) 8, Doubles (one to six methods) 7 (2).

Total 500 (conducted 56).

CLIFTON-ON-DUNSMORE, RUGBY.—On Nov. 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: P. J. Barnett 1, D. C. Cook 2, June Dunkley 3, D. L. Brown 4, S. J. Merry (cond.) 6. First quarter peal for 1, 2 and 3.

NOTICES

Scale of Charges

The charge of Notices for meetings is one penny a word, minimum 2s. 6d. For additional insertions with no change of type one half of the above charge for each insertion.

Other Notices one penny per word, minimum 3s.

All Notices must be prepaid.

Notices must be received on the Monday preceding publication.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

CHRISTMAS CARDS, showing the tower of Liverpool Parish Church (Our Lady and St. Nicholas) on sale in aid of Bells Fund; 5s. 6d. a dozen (including envelopes) post free, from Dr. J. E. Spice, 30, Glenmore Avenue, Liverpool 18. Cards sent by return of post. Cash with order, please. 5392

MISCELLANEOUS

ST. CRANTOCK, near NEWQUAY, CORNWALL.—The weekly practice of change ringing will in future be on Wednesdays, 7 to 9 p.m., instead of Thursdays. — W. H. R. Trehwella, Vicar. 5388

STAMFORD HILL, LONDON, N.15. — Ringing has recommenced at St. Ann's Church, on completion of the rebuilding of the spire. Times: Sundays, 10.15 a.m. and 5.45 p.m. Visitors welcomed. Tuesdays: 7.30 p.m. 5394

PEAL CARDS & QUARTER PEAL CARDS can now be ordered at 5s. a set of 12, post free (minimum charge). Order and remittances must be sent with peal report. For quarter peals write separate copy in same style as peals.

MEETINGS

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch. — Meeting, Stalybridge, Holy Trinity, Nov. 27th. Bells 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15.—C. K. Lewis, Sec. 5344

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—Meeting, West Hallam (8), Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. 5353

EDLESBOROUGH (BUCKS). — Rededication of bells, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Ringing after. All invited. Tea. Rededication conducted by Rev. Wyndham Edgar, Rural Dean, Ivinghoe Deanery. 5382

ELY ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch. — Meeting, Denver, Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Own food. Cups of tea provided.—J. Fox, Dis. Sec. 5364

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Cambridge District.—Meeting at Sawston, Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. Committee please attend.—H. L. Martin, Dis. Sec. 5374

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Norton, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea 4.45. Special method, Pudsey Surprise.—E. Buck, Dis. Sec. 5346

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Langley, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Horton 6 p.m. Tea at Langley 5 p.m.—Butler, 2, Faraday Road, Slough. 5345

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Winchester District.—Annual dinner, Westgate Lodge Hotel, Winchester, on Saturday, Nov. 27th, at 6.30. Bar available 6. Bells (St. Maurice) 3. Service in St. Maurice 4.30. Tickets (10s. 6d.) from Mr. J. A. C. King, 29, Fox Lane, Stanmore, Winchester. 5345

DEVON GUILD. — Aylesbeare Branch. — Annual, Woodbury, Dec. 4th. Service 4.30 Names by Dec. 1st to J. Glanvill, Bagmoor, Woodbury. 5345

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Chew Deanery. — Annual meeting, Winford, Dec. 4th. Bells 3 o'clock. Divine Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting 5 o'clock.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton. 5401

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Taunton Branch. — Annual meeting, Taunton, St. James', Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Names for tea. — A. Reed, George Street, Taunton. 5391

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Bridgwater Branch.—Practice meeting at Cosington, Dec. 4th, 6.30 p.m.—R. Short, Chilton Trinity. 5421

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Crewe Branch.—Sandbach, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea must be received by Dec. 1st.—W. Kerr, 102, Moreton Road, Crewe. 5413

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Northwich Branch.—Meeting, Witton (8), Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea H. Parker, 64, Church Road, Northwich, not later than Wednesday, Dec. 1st.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec. 5423

COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Southern District.—Meeting at Whitnash (Leamington) on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Names for tea by Dec. 1st, please.—H. M. Windsor, The Bakery, Long Itchington, nr Rugby. 5406

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Peak District. — Annual meeting, Tideswell, Saturday, Dec. 4th. 3 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. (cups of tea only), followed by business meeting. All welcome.—H. E. Taylor, Dis. Sec. 5407

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD. — Quarterly meeting at Pensnett on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and business meeting 5. Names for tea to R. A. Peakman, Hon. Sec., 47, High Street, Kingswinford. 5420

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Ely District. — Meeting at Stretham on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (6) 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5.—R. J. Housden, Dis. Sec. 5387

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — South-Eastern Division.—Meeting at Great Waltham (6) on Sat., Dec. 4th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Numbers for tea to A. H. Everett, Plantation Road, Borcham 5365

FROME, SOMERSET. — A ringers' social will be held in St. John's Hall, Frome, on Saturday, Dec. 4th, from 6.30 to 11 p.m. All welcome. No charge to enter. There will be dancing, handbells, a tower-spotting competition, etc. Refreshments available at cost. Tower open 7.30 to 9 p.m.—Hilda Massey, Parbury Bungalow, Frome. 5384

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Bristol City Branch.—Annual meeting, Dec. 4th. St. Mary Redcliffe (12), 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5, Redcliffe Hall, Guinea Street. Business 6 p.m. St. Stephen's (10) after meeting. Advise for tea certain by Dec. 1st.—A. Bennett, 151, Kingsway, St. George, Bristol 5. 5400

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cirencester Branch.—Annual, Cirencester, Dec. 4th. Watermoor bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Names by Dec. 1st. Parish Church bells (12) 6.30 p.m.—R. Wenban, Williamstrip Cottages, Cold-St. Aldwyn, Cirencester. 5383

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — South Forest Branch.—Annual meeting at Ruardean on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30. Names for tea by Wed., Dec. 1st, to Mrs. D. Stafford, Staunton, nr. Coleford, Glos. 5411

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—Nomination meeting at Shalford, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells available 3 p.m. Tea in Church Hall. Names for tea by previous, Wednesday to Hon. Sec., 7, Raymond Crescent, Dennisville, Guildford. 5363

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Leatherhead District.—The Ewell meeting, fixed for Dec. 4th, is cancelled. Arranging meeting on Dec. 11th, probably at West Clandon. Details next week.—A. H. Smith, Dis. Sec. 5410

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Saturday, Dec. 4th, Rickmansworth (10), 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names, please, R. G. Bell, 131, Hamper Mill Lane, Watford. 5408

LADIES' GUILD.—West Midland District. — Meeting at St. Barnabas', Erdington, on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) available 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Names for tea by Nov. 30th to Stella Hughes, 3, Delves Road, Walsall. 5355

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—By kind invitation the next meeting will be at St. Bartholomew's, Ripponden, Yorks, on Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Please send names for tea to F. Rhodes, 15, Lane Head, Soyland, Ripponden, nr. Halifax.—F. Pritchard. 5390

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Church Kirk on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Tower open at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Meeting to follow. Cups of tea provided.—Charles W. Blakey, Branch Sec. 5412

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Wigan Branch. — Annual meeting to be held at Standish Parish Church on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells 2.30. Meeting after tea. — W. O. Farrimond, Branch Sec. 5422

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION. — Joint Meeting.—Llandaff Branch with Southern District of the Swansea and Brecon Guild, Cowbridge, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business meetings.—R. E. Coles, Branch Sec. 5337

NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, Stoke-on-Trent, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Names for tea to Mr. C. H. Page, 57, Oxford Street, Penkull, Stoke-on-Trent.—W. Carnwell, Hon. Sec. 5386

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Standing Committee meeting, St. Andrew's Parish Hall, Queen Street, Norwich, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Tea 4. Meeting 4.30. Agenda: Annual general meeting. Names for tea by Nov. 29th to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 67a, The Close, Norwich. 5385

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting at Bletchley, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells 2.30. Service 3.30. Please notify for tea by Nov. 29th.—R. H. Howson, 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bucks. 5360

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — V.W.H. Branch.—Meeting at Shrivernham on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea by Wednesday, Dec. 1st, to R. F. J. Gilling, Fernham, Faringdon. 5358

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A combined practice will be held at St. Paul's, Wokingham, on Dec. 4th, at 6.30 p.m.—B. C. Castle. 5404

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Guildborough Branch.—Meeting at West Hadon, Dec. 4th. Names for tea must reach me Wednesday, Dec. 1st.—E. Orland, High Street, Long Buckby, Rugby. 5393

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—Meeting, Holt (6), Dec. 4th. Usual arrangements. Names for tea, Slatford, North Bradley, Trowbridge. 5399

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting Dec. 4th, at All Saints', 3 to 5 p.m. St. Marie's, 6.45 to 9 p.m. For tea, in All Saints' Institute, notify by Dec. 2nd, W. Holland, 78, Petre Street, Sheffield 4. 5369

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Joint meeting, St. Leonard's, (Shoreditch (12), Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells available 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Tea, Church Hall. St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. 5 p.m. Bishopsgate bells (8) available after tea. Names for tea to

Mrs. E. E. Davis, 118, Sarsfeld Road, Balham, S.W.12, by first post Wednesday, Dec. 1st. Sorry, no names, no tea.—P. N. Bond, F. W. Goodfellow, T. J. Lock, Hon. Secs. 5376

SOUTHWELL GUILD.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Bulwell, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.. at nearby cafes. 5352

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Halesworth District.—An evening meeting at Halesworth (8), Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.—R. S. Payne. 5409

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Northern Division.—Quarterly meeting, Cuckfield (8), Saturday, Dec. 4th. Names for tea by Dec. 2nd to Mrs. E. Rapley, 48, Swindon Road, Horsham. 5414

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Crewkerne Deanery. — Annual meeting at Shepton Beauchamp, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Notify for tea to J. T. Locke, Hon. Sec., School Street, Drayton. 5398

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Dunster Branch.—Annual meeting at Dunster, Dec. 11th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea provided for number notified by Dec. 8th ONLY.—A. R. Tudball, Hon. Sec. 5415

BECCLES.—Joint Norwich Diocesan Association (Eastern Branch) and Suffolk Guild meeting, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells (10) from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, Dec. 8th, to E. R. Goate, 47, Smallgate, Beccles, Suffolk.—P. Newstead, Branch Sec. 5389

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—Annual meeting, St. David's, Exeter, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, Imperial Hotel, 5 p.m. Meeting, St. David's Vestry, 6.15. Names by Dec. 7th to F. Wreford, 24, Normandy Road, Exeter. 5403

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.W. District. — By invitation of the Bishop's Stortford ringers, there will be a meeting at St. Michael's (8) on Saturday, Dec. 11th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m.—G. Blake, Dis. Sec., Hamlet House, Roydon Hamlet, Harlow. 5395

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—Annual meeting—Charlton Kings, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 2.30. Tea and meeting 4. Service 6.—P. Baker, 40, St. Michael's Avenue, Bishop's Cleeve. 5402

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Davenport Branch.—Meeting, Harpole, Saturday, Dec. 11th. Names for tea by Dec. 6th to Mr. H. Haynes, Harpole, Northampton. — F. W. Hancock. 5419

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting, Redhill, Dec. 11th. Bells (8) 3. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5. Business includes nominations for district officers for 1955. Names for tea, by Dec. 8th, to Miss Illman, 12, Garlands Road, Redhill.

UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.—Annual dinner, Friday, Jan. 7th, 1955. Members who have not received circulars, and any prospective members, please write now to B. D. Threlfall, 191, Elm Road, New Malden, Surrey. 5405

EAST HARLING.—Preliminary Notice. — Ringers' supper mardle will be held at The Fox, Garboldisham, nr. Diss, on Jan. 26th. Please note this is a Wednesday. Accommodation limited to 30. Names before Jan. 1st, please. — P. H. A. Jonason, East Harling, Norwich. 5378

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The third annual dinner will be held at the Corporation Hotel, Derby, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13th, 1955. Morning peal attempts will be arranged for those who apply. Afternoon ringing arrangements later. Tickets from G. A. Hollis, 15, Brackens Avenue, Alvaston, Derby, price 11s. 5380

GOSCOTE SURPRISE MAXIMUS

BY H. J. POOLE

	1234567890ET	14	453268107t9E
		x	54238601t7E9
3T	213547698E0T	5T	4532806t1E79
x	12537496E8T0	x	542308t6E197
70	2135479E680T	14	5243806t1E79
14	231574E986T0	x	253408t6E197
x	3251479E680T	5T	52430t8E6917
70	23157496E8T0	x	2534t0E89671
x	325147698E0T	14	23540t8E6917
3T	235467890ET	x	3245t0E89671
x	3245618709TE	5T	2354TE098761
14	3425167890ET		
x	4352618709TE		13527496E8T0
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