



'The Ringing World' was founded in the year 1911 by John Sparkes Goldsmith, who remained its proprietor and editor until his death in 1942.

No. 2282 Vol. L.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1954

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

4d.

OUR JOURNAL

By The Editor

WHEN the Central Council met at Chester in 1951, the old committee of 'The Ringing World,' who had skilfully shepherded the journal from private ownership into the hands of the Central Council and watched over its affairs for nine years, resigned. They then saw no alternative but a price increase. A new committee was appointed; they overhauled completely the machinery of production; they exercised the most stringent economies in which they had the full co-operation of the Editor in an endeavour to keep 'The Ringing World' as a fourpenny production. For three years they have held the fort nobly. In that period 'The Ringing World' has increased its sales by 600 copies. The sad thing to relate is that for the last two years the accounts of 'The Ringing World' have only been balanced by donations and those ringers of peals and especially quarter peals who voluntarily made a levy to enable the publication of their performances. Their contributions in aggregate have been very substantial and amounted in 1953 to £310 or about £70 less than the revenue from Notices. This measure of generosity appears to the Editor to have been maintained during the current year, although he is not in possession of the actual facts of the position.

We feel certain that the present Editorial Committee have come with great reluctance to their decision to increase the price of 'The Ringing World' to those readers purchasing their copies through newsagents to sixpence. The reason is that the only revenue-producing side of circulation is postal subscriptions. When the drive was embarked upon last March the number of postal subscribers was 1,582; this number has been increased to 1,903. There were great hopes that by the appointment of 'Ringing World' representatives by most Guilds and Associations a very substantial number of new postal subscribers would have been forthcoming. The fact is that more than twice the number of our readers prefer to deal with the newsagents than as postal subscribers.

Why has a price of sixpence been selected for sales through the newsagent while postal subscribers pay only

at the moment £1 2s. 6d. a year? The committee view the position strictly from a business point of view and say that each type of circulation must produce a reasonable profit. The cost of paper and printing each copy of 'The Ringing World' is approximately 1½d. With a copy that is sold through a newsagent there is in the first place his trade commission of one-third; then there is a 10 per cent. in most cases to meet the wholesaler's charges, and finally there are the costs of the publishers, Rolls House Publishing Company, who since the inception of this journal have acted faithfully in this capacity. Their costs have increased in both freight charges and labour. The outcome of this is that no contribution is available from this side of our circulation. With a sixpenny 'Ringing World' there will be a chance of some revenue being received, but, even so, still not equal to that derived from the present postal subscriber. After full allowance is made for addressing and postage, there is a margin of 2d. a week from each postal subscriber to meet the overhead costs of production. The committee accordingly came to the decision that for the time being this class of subscriber should enjoy the same privileges as heretofore, but this may have to be altered shortly.

The prosperity of 'The Ringing World' is linked with that of the Central Council. While the fees payable by affiliated bodies and associations have been increased, they are still short of what a national organisation of this character should reasonably expect. To accept office for the Central Council is not merely honorary; it is expensive. While most of the Guilds and Associations make a contribution towards the expenses of their representatives attending meetings, no such provision appears in the accounts of the Council for its officers. The time has come, in the Editor's opinion, when reasonable expenses should be paid. The same applies to members of 'The Ringing World' Committee. From Bath, Leicester, Stoke-on-Trent, Hampshire and other places they travel to attend to the business of the journal without even a train fare being paid. No other organisation would treat its executive officers in such a fashion. Those who criticise should ponder over these things. As to the future, according to the resources at the disposal of the committee, so will the standard of the journal be. Editorially, ringers get a very cheap journal.

TWELVE BELL PEALS

WAKEFIELD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 11, 1954, in 3 Hours and 27 Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF 5081 GRANDSIRE CINQUES

Tenor 35 cwt. 3 qr.

*R. MARGARET BRYCE Treble	LESLIE BOUMPHREY 7
W. ERIC CRITCHLEY 2	*LESLIE FISHER 8
PETER WOODWARD 3	JAMES H. KIRBY 9
*F. ERIC ROBERTS 4	GORDON BENFIELD 10
*WILLIAM H. JACKSON 5	WILFRID F. MORETON 11
*FRED BENNETT 6	JOHN E. KIRBY Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by WILFRID F. MORETON.

* First peal on twelve bells.

WALSALL, STAFFS

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 3 Hours and 40 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF 5019 STEDMAN CINQUES

Tenor 26½ cwt. in D.

HOWARD HOWELL Treble	*DOROTHY T. GARDINER 7
WILLIAM DAVIES 2	ARTHUR T. DUTTON 8
CHRISTOPHER WALLATER 3	ALAN G. FOSTER 9
BARNABAS G. KEY 4	ERNEST STITCH 10
STELLA HUGHES 5	FREDERICK G. HANDLEY 11
STANLEY PRESTIDGE 6	GEORGE DEAN Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by HOWARD HOWELL.

* First peal on twelve bells.

TEN BELL PEALS

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Dec. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 29 Minutes.

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

A PEAL OF 5039 GRANDSIRE CATERS

Tenor 21 cwt.

ANGELA BRIGGS Treble	ALFRED E. REEVES 6
*MICHAEL T. SPRACKLING 2	ENID L. ROBERTS 7
FRANCIS C. MOGFORD 3	REGINALD G. HOOPER 8
BRIAN GRINTER 4	ALBERT M. TYLER 9
FREDERICK G. LEAKER 5	FRANK HANSFORD Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ALBERT M. TYLER.

* First peal on more than six bells.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to R. Gordon Boyd, a member of the Ancient Society of St. Stephen's Ringers, interred at Bristol to-day.

WATFORD, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat. Dec. 11, 1954, in 3 Hours and 11 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5003 GRANDSIRE CATERS

Tenor 24 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb. in E flat.

WILLIAM WENBAN Treble	REGINALD ROWLEY 6
RICHARD G. BELL 2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 7
*D. KAY ADKINS 3	THOMAS W. SHEPPARD 8
†KENNETH DUNSTAN 4	THOMAS J. SOUTHAM 9
*ERNEST H. DURRANT 5	GEOFFREY W. SEAMAN Tenor

Composed by R. F. DEAL. Conducted by THOMAS J. SOUTHAM.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters. † First peal on ten bells.

CREWE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 3 Hours and 25 Minutes.

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL

Tenor 21 cwt. 2 qr. 26 lb.

*FREDERICK S. SUTTON Treble	GEORGE A. PACKER 6
JOHN W. GRIFFITHS 2	*IVOR R. NICOLS 7
*ROBERT W. HINDE 3	RICHARD D. LANGFORD 8
†DENNIS H. B. MILLWARD 4	ARTHUR PRITCHARD 9
F. HECTOR BENNETT 5	PERCY SWINDLEY Tenor

Composed by C. KENNETH LEWIS. Conducted by JOHN W. GRIFFITHS.

* First peal of Royal. † First peal of Surprise Royal.

Rung to mark the birth of a son to Mr. Wilfred Kerr, Crewe branch secretary.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 4, 1954, in 3 Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF 5056 BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb.

JOAN CORDWELL Treble	C. KENNETH LEWIS 5
*GRAEME A. HUGHES 2	ALAN J. BROWN 6
ALAN A. POTTS 3	PETER LAFLIN 7
JAMES FERNLEY 4	JOSEPH W. WHITTAKER Tenor

Composed and Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

* First peal of Major and first Surprise peal.

A birthday peal for Peter Laflin (65) and Alfred Barnes (86).

ABERAVON, GLAMORGAN.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 11, 1954, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 SPLICED TRIPLES

Consisting of 840 Oxford Bob and 4,200 Grandsire, with 72 changes of method, in 12 parts.

DAVID W. EVANS Treble	EDMUND MORRIS 5
ALFRED HANNINGTON 2	*GWYN I. LEWIS 6
TREVOR RODERICK 3	ALBERT J. PITMAN 7
GEORGE DAVIS 4	WILLIAM J. PETTY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ALBERT J. PITMAN.

* 150th peal.

HORNCHURCH, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat. Dec. 11, 1954, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW.

A PEAL OF 5436 GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 19½ cwt.

ARTHUR C. CHAPLIN Treble	CHARLES E. WILLMINGTON 5
LIONEL S. WOODS 2	JOHN H. CRAMPION 5
DONALD M. SALISBURY 3	TOM EAST 7
HARRY TURNER 4	FRANK V. GANT Tenor

Composed by DAVID W. BEARD. Conducted by FRANK V. GANT.

First peal in the method by all the band and for the Association. Rung, with the best wishes and congratulations, for the 90th birthday of John Dale, life member of the Association, and for many years tower-keeper at St. Andrew's.

NORTH BRADLEY, WILTSHIRE.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Dec. 11, 1954, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.

A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 13 cwt. in F.

*S. ARTHUR READ Treble	†LAURENCE H. HITCHINS 5
†ELISABETH GRIME 2	PERCIVAL W. J. HARDING 6
†FREDERICK H. SLATFORD 3	ERIC NAYLOR 7
WILLIAM F. J. COPE 4	†DAVID HOARE Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by ERIC NAYLOR.

* First peal on eight. † First peal of Kent Major.

EYE, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Mon., Dec. 13, 1954, in 3 Hours and 20 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 21½ cwt. in E flat.

JAMES B. MORLEY Treble	H. WILLIAM BARRETT 5
NOLAN GOLDEN 2	ARTHUR G. BASON 6
ALBERT G. HARRISON 3	GEORGE SAYER 7
STANLEY W. COPLING 4	BERT GOGLE Tenor

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon. Dec. 13, 1954, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 21 cwt.

*ARTHUR COWEN Treble	HAROLD WORRALL 5
CHRISTOPHER GUDGEON 2	CECIL RADDOON 6
ALAN PENDLEBURY 3	PETER CROOK, SEN. 7
SYDNEY LEATHERBARROW 4	ALBERT GREENHALGH Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by PETER CROOK.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. A birthday compliment to the conductor's daughter, Mrs. Payne, now resident in Canada, and a former ringer in Bolton.

HERSHAM, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Wed., Dec. 15, 1954, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 8 cwt. 2 qr. in G sharp.

*EUNICE HILEY Treble	JAMES F. DODSON 5
†MONICA E. COLLINS 2	E. JOHN WELLS 6
JOHN W. EUSTON 3	HERBERT COLCOMBE 7
A. PATRICK CANNON 4	ROLAND W. MORANT Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.
* First peal. † First peal on eight bells 'inside.' Mr. H. Colcombe has now 'completed the circle' on these bells. The conductor's 225th peal in that capacity.

WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.
MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Thurs., Dec. 16, 1954, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5152 SPICED SURPRISE MAJOR

Comprising 3,520 London and 1,632 Bristol, with 60 changes of method.
Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb.

C. EDWARD LANKESTER .. Treble	ALICK CUTLER 5
THOMAS J. LOCK 2	*BRIAN D. THRELFALL 6
BARBARA A. MITCHELL .. 3	JOHN R. MAYNE 7
ALFRED J. HOUSE 4	RICHARD F. B. SPEED .. Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by RICHARD F. B. SPEED.
* 150th peal.

BLETCHINGLEY, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

EDWARD G. TALBOT Treble	GORDON P. T. PETERS .. 5
JOHN W. EUSTON 2	ROLAND W. MORANT 6
GEORGE OLLIVER 3	HAROLD A. MAY 7
*STEWART F. W. KIMBER .. 4	A. PATRICK CANNON Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.
* First peal of Double Norwich.

BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 2 Hours and 51 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF 5040 SPICED TRIPLES

Consisting of 840 changes each of Court, Oxford, Hereward, St. Clement's, Double Grandsire and Double Court, with 359 changes of method.
Tenor 14½ cwt.

ALBERT MALLEN Treble	THOMAS HEMMING 5
*GEOFFREY WESTWOOD .. 2	BERNARD LAWTON 6
FREDERICK JUKES 3	JOHN LLOYD 7
†CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 4	STEPHEN MALLEN Tenor

Conducted by CLIFFORD SKIDMORE.

* First peal of Spiced Triples. † 400th peal. Annual peal for the Association.

The above composition and arrangement of methods is as published by Mr. John Segar in the 'Ringing World' of January 9th, 1953, and has every lead bobbed except the 350th and 360th, which have H.B.S.

BRIGHOUSE, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr.

*DAVID S. HOLLAS (13) .. Treble	*E. MARTIN FIELDEN .. 5
PAUL BIRKETT 2	J. HENRY FIELDEN 6
M. VIVIEN COPPING 3	ROBERT E. MOULDS 7
VERNON BOTTOMLEY 4	SAM LONGBOTTOM Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by SAM LONGBOTTOM.
* First peal.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 3 Hours.
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Groves' Variation of Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 19 cwt. in D.

JOSEPH L. STANIER .. Treble	*ROBERT SAVAGE 5
LEO EVANS 2	HARRY EDGE 6
ROBERT EVANS 3	ALFRED S. BAYLEY 7
G. LEONARD HEWITT .. 4	B. LESLIE JONES Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED S. BAYLEY.

* First peal. Arranged and rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Bayley on the occasion of their silver wedding on December 21st, 1954. Also a birthday compliment to the conductor.

EDENHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 3 Hours and 1 Minute.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF 5184 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb.

RONALD C. NOON Treble	ERNEST BRITTAIN 5
FRANK TAYLOR 2	*MAURICE BENNETT 6
GEORGE E. FEIRN 3	JACK BRAY 7
AUBREY D. MILLS 4	STANLEY E. BENNETT .. Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by JACK BRAY.

* First peal in the method. A birthday compliment to the tenor ringer.

HARWELL, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF 5056 PUDSEY SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 16 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lb.

RONALD F. DISERENS .. Treble	*NORMAN J. SMITH 5
*ALBERT DISERENS 2	*JOHN N. DISERENS 6
*E. WINIFRED KEYES .. 3	*CYRIL E. LEWINGTON .. 7
*BRYAN C. STIRLAND .. 4	NOEL J. DISERENS Tenor

Composed by W. ERIC CRITCHLEY. Conducted by NOEL J. DISERENS.
* First peal in the method.

ICKLETON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF 5088 FORDHAM SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 18½ cwt. in F.

HARRY L. MARTIN Treble	CYRIL A. HURST 5
WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN .. 2	CHRIS. M. P. JOHNSON .. 6
JOHN G. GIPSON 3	MANSFIELD GINN 7
T. REGINALD DENNIS .. 4	*PETER BORDER Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by PETER BORDER.

* 250th peal. The first peal in the method.
Rung for the wedding of Richard J. W. Housden and Rita Plumb, which took place at Fordham earlier in the day.

SAWLEY, DERBYSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 3 Hours.
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5008 DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr.

SYDNEY J. MERRY Treble	HERBERT E. TAYLOR 5
JACK BAILEY 2	REV. G. GORDON GRAHAM .. 6
FRANCIS R. LOWE 3	SIDNEY H. JONES 7
EDWARD F. GOBEY 4	MARK J. BARKER Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by JACK BAILEY.
First peal in the method by all the band, for the Association, and on the bells.

Rung to celebrate the 20th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Gobey, of Ilkeston, Derbyshire.



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SWANSCOMBE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Washbrook's Variation.

PETER F. BORER Treble	GEORGE KENWARD 5
FREDERICK J. CULLUM 2	TREVOR A. CROSS 6
HARRY SPRINGATE 3	GEORGE J. BUTCHER 7
CYRIL S. JARRETT 4	ALBERT E. BEANEY Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE J. BUTCHER.

Rung half-muffled as a token of deep respect to F. J. Ring, leader of the local band and a devoted member of this church.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

BELCHAMP ST. PAUL, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 11, 1954, in 2 Hours and 34 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being extents of Cambridge Surprise, Hereward Bob, Double Court, Court, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

FELIX H. ERITH Treble	ROY DUESBURY 4
ARTHUR G. BUTTON 2	GEORGE N. ORMAN 5
ALFRED E. HONEYWOOD 3	ALAN R. ANDREWS Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. ANDREWS.

HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND.

THE ST. PETER'S SOCIETY.

On Sat., Dec. 11, 1954, in 2 Hours and 32 Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 42 extents, 10 different callings.

*PETER RICHARDS Treble	*BRUCE JENKINS 3
DAVID MCADAM 2	CLAUDE GIFFORD 4
COLIN WARD Tenor	

Conducted by COLIN WARD.

* First peal. First peal of Doubles on the bells. The conductor is the first New Zealander to conduct a peal in New Zealand.

KEMBLE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 11, 1954, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Seven different extents.	Tenor 10 cwt.
JOYCE MORSE Treble	*ERNEST H. JEFFERIES 4
*HUGH FALKNER 2	RALPH E. W. WENBAN 5
MRS. W. A. GODWIN 3	WILLIAM A. GODWIN Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM A. GODWIN.

* First peal of Minor. First peal on the ring of six bells.

STAUNTON-ON-ARROW, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Dec. 12, 1954, in 2 Hours and 25 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 10 extents each of Reverse Canterbury and Plain Bob and 22 of Grandsire.

MRS. E. C. CHANDLER .. Treble	LAURENCE T. MAINWARING .. 4
JOHN HOPE 2	A. BRYAN ELLSMORE 5
*JOHN NEWMAN 3	LESLIE EVANS Tenor

Conducted by A. BRYAN ELLSMORE.

* First peal in three methods. Mr. L. Evans has 'completed the circle' on these bells. Rung to celebrate the centenary of the bells.

BRISTOL.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SOCIETY.

On Tues., Dec. 14, 1954, in 2 Hours and 39 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-ON-THE-MOUNT WITHOUT,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 4 extents each of Stedman, Chase, Reverse Canterbury; 6 extents each of Clifford's Pleasure, April Day; 8 extents of Plain Bob and 10 extents of Grandsire.

MICHAEL T. SPRACKLING .. Treble	*PATRICIA M. BOURN 4
TUDOR P. EDWARDS 2	DAVID J. MARSHALL 5
ENID L. ROBERTS 3	DAVID HEIGHTON Tenor

Conducted by DAVID J. MARSHALL.

* First peal of Doubles. First of Doubles as conductor.

BISHOP'S HULL, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Dec. 15, 1954, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents.

Tenor 13 cwt. approx.

*JAMES E. BREWER Treble	WILLIAM H. TARR 4
STANLEY N. BRISTOW 2	GORDON WALFORD 5
GEOFFREY J. GAMMON 3	WILLIAM G. GIGG Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM G. GIGG.

* First peal. The conductor's 150th peal. First peal on the bells since one recast, the rest tuned and rehung on modern bearings.

HARSTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Dec. 15, 1954, in 2 Hours and 37 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

*CLIVE A. GOODING Treble	†MICHAEL W. CARTER 4
MARIE K. ROBERTS 2	WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN 5
EUSTACE W. BULLMAN 3	CHRIS. M. P. JOHNSON Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.'

CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being 1,440 Oxford Treble Bob, 1,440 Kent Treble Bob and 2,160 Plain Bob.

S. SHIPP Treble	G. WALKER 4
*D. KNIGHTS 2	T. A. BEVIS 5
W. YOUNG 3	A. YARROW Tenor

Conducted by T. A. BEVIS.

* First peal 'inside.' Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. J. Housden (secretary of the Ely District), which took place on this day.

MARSTON BIGOT, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 2 Hours and 37 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF 5040 LONDON SURPRISE MINOR

Seven extents.

Tenor 8 cwt.

*EUNICE D. OVEREND .. Treble	†LAURENCE E. HITCHINS .. 4
FREDERICK S. SLATFORD .. 2	†GEORGE W. MASSEY 5
PERCIVAL W. J. HARDING .. 3	†DAVID HOARE Tenor

Conducted by DAVID HOARE.

* First peal of Surprise. † First peal of London.

ST. BRIDE'S MAJOR, GLAMORGAN.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BRIDGET,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 42 six-scores (5 callings).

Tenor 11 cwt. in G.

D. WALFORD DAVIES Treble	MALGWYN WILLIAMS 4
THOMAS E. HIDDINS 2	DAVID W. EVANS 5
WILLIAM T. PETTY 3	*CYRIL A. GERRISH Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM T. PETTY.

* First peal. First peal as conductor.

THORINGTON, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Dec. 18, 1954, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being extents of Hereward Bob, Double Court, St. Clement's, Court, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

ROY DUESBURY Treble	GEORGE N. ORMAN 4
KENNETH MITCHELL 2	ARTHUR G. BUTTON 5
JAMES G. STANNARD 3	ALAN R. ANDREWS Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. ANDREWS.

A birthday compliment to the ringer of the fourth.

HANDBELL PEAL

KENSINGTON, W.11.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Dec. 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 15 Minutes.

AT 58, LADBROKE GROVE,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Seven extents.

Tenor size 11 in G.

*ALAN CAVE 1—2	†MERIEL HAWKSLEY 3—4
WILLIAM T. COOK 5—6	

Conducted by WILLIAM T. COOK.

* First peal 'in hand.' † First peal.

QUARTER PEALS

BRISTOL. — At St. Mary Redcliffe on December 15th, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: M. Hancock 1, F. G. Leaker 2, G. Briggs 3, B. Grinter 4, C. F. Mogford 5, R. G. Hooper 6, A. A. Hilliar 7, N. Coombs 8, E. L. Roberts (cond.) 9, F. Hansford 10. Rung for Confirmation service.

DALWOOD, DEVON. — On Dec. 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: A. Hodge 1, C. Manley 2, C. Webb (first quarter as conductor, age 15) 3, W. Sparks 4, W. Webb 5, E. Snell 6.

EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX. — At All Saints' on Dec. 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. H. Dallaway 1, Mrs. C. R. O'Dwyer (first quarter) 2, P. J. Brook 3, H. G. F. Reynolds 4, R. W. Pankhurst 5, J. Rollison 6, O. Wood (cond.) 7, J. C. Cole 8.

LYME REGIS, DORSET. — On Dec. 12th, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: E. L. Taylor 1, Mrs. C. W. Powell 2, C. W. Powell (cond.) 3, H. G. Keeley 4, G. H. Whitmore 5, W. H. Poole 6, H. J. Gaylard 7, G. S. Morris 8. For Evensong. — Also on Dec. 18th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: G. S. Morris 1, H. Arscott 2, Mrs. C. W. Powell 3, Canon C. C. Cox (cond.) 4, H. G. Keeley 5, W. H. Poole 6, H. J. Gaylard 7, C. W. Powell 8. Rung for the 50th anniversary of the conductor's first peal, and after the failure of an attempt for a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major.

MADELEY, SHROPSHIRE. — On Dec. 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: G. Evans 1, A. Taylor 2, T. Pritchard 3, T. Wilson 4, D. Evans 5, K. Ferrington 6, J. L. Stanier (cond.) 7, T. Millward 8. Rung with 4-6-8 covering. First quarter on the new bells by a Sunday service band.

NAILSEA, SOMERSET. — On Dec. 10th, 1,260 Doubles (2 six-scores each of St. Blaize. Reverse St. Bartholomew and April Day and 540 Grandsire): Miss N. Osmond 1, L. Derrick (cond.) 2, Mrs. R. Quint 3, M. Horseman 4, C. Kortright 5, H. Hardwidge 6. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Walter Brake, interred this day.

NORTH STONEHAM, HANTS. — On Dec. 5th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: Ann Vinter 1, C. Humphrey 2, R. Finch 3, J. Knight 4, R. A. Reed (cond.) 5, D. C. Jackson 6. First 720 by all except ringers of 4th and 5th. Rung on the Eve of St. Nicolas. — Also on Dec. 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Ann Vinter 1, N. Hayes 2, D. C. Jackson 3, N. S. Hayes 4, C. Taylor 5, J. Knight 6, R. A. Reed (cond.) 7, A. E. Smith 8. First quarter by 1 and 8. Rung in honour of the Festival of St. Nicolas and for the visit of the Rev. L. T. Blackall, a former curate of North Stoneham, and also as a birthday compliment to Mr. W. T. Tucker (vice-captain), who celebrated his 78th birthday the day previous.

PRESTBURY, GLOS. — On Dec. 15th, 1,440 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Miss B. Bridgeman 1, C. Rouse (cond.) 2, R. Taylor 3, R. Dowdeswell 4, D. Surman 5, M. Clifford 6. Half-muffled in memoriam A. E. Taylor, father of R. Taylor. First in the method by all the band.

READING, BERKS. — On Dec. 19th, at St. Mary's Church, 1,280 London Surprise Major: Mrs. A. Diserens 1, A. Diserens 2, F. W. Lewis 3, B. C. Stirland (first of London 'inside') 4, C. E. Lewington 5, R. F. Diserens 6, J. N. Diserens 7, N. J. Diserens (cond.) 8.

RYE, SUSSEX. — On Dec. 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Margaret Twidale 1, Pat Forster 2, Ruth Carey 3, A. Hicks (first of Triples as cond.) 4, D. Jackson 5, R. Hodgson 6, D. Hodgson 7, J. Moore 8. First quarter of Triples for 1, 2, 3 and 8. The first quarter of Triples on the bells for 23 years.

SOUTHWARK, S.E.1. — On Dec. 19th, at the Cathedral, 1,311 Stedman Cinqs: S. Dearden 1, J. Chilcott 2, B. K. Lunn 3, M. V. Chilcott 4, W. Rawlings 5, A. A. Hughes 6, J. Sansom 7, James Phillips 8, J. Bullock 9, R. F. Deal 10, John Phillips (cond.) 11, A. B. Peck 12.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCS. — At St. Thomas' Church on Dec. 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: B. Crannage (first on treble) 1, D. J. Midgley (age 13, first 'inside') 2, Jill Tombs 3, F. V. Nicholls 4, R. Cooper 5, D. H. Watson 6, R. Smith (cond.) 7, P. W. Webb (age 17, first quarter) 8. Rung for Evensong.

GLOUCESTER. — At the Church of St. Mary de Crypt on Dec. 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Newman 1, T. Newman 2, S. Harrison 3, A. Lynall (first of Triples) 4, J. Whiting 5, L. Barry (cond.) 6, W. Cox 7, C. Lerner 8. Rung on the silver wedding day of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Jones.

TRULL, SOMERSET. — On Dec. 12th, 1,260 Stedman Doubles: L. M. Noad (first in method) 1, L. Beryl Churchill 2, B. G. Vine 3, R. G. Perry 4, H. Churchill (cond.) 5, R. E. J. Baker 6.

ROMFORD, ESSEX. — On Dec. 7th, 1,272 Minor (480 Little Bob, 792 Plain Bob), rung with tenor covering: Mrs. M. M. Osborne 1, Mrs. E. Merrett 3, Mrs. J. C. Northan 4, J. Merrett 5, J. Barrance 6, L. W. Bullock (cond.) 7, J. R. Brice 8. First in two Minor methods by all the band. Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. C. Stella, Edgware, Middlesex.

ROMSEY, HANTS. — At the Abbey on Dec. 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: G. Northway 1, Miss A. Knight (first 'inside') 2, M. Northway (cond.) 3, K. Jacobs 4, D. Greenlaw 5, C. T. Drew 6. — Also on Dec. 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss S. Money (first quarter) 1, Miss A. Knight (first of Triples) 2, M. Northway 3, M. J. Bray (first 'inside') 4, D. Greenlaw (first of Triples) 5, K. Jacobs 6, C. T. Drew (cond.) 7, J. Salvi (first of Triples) 8.



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No matter in which corner of the country you happen to be, as likely as not you will come across Gillett & Johnston bells or tower clocks. Gillett & Johnston craftsmanship is embodied in an all-embracing service — as much in the preservation and restoration of old rings of antiquarian interest as in the installation of new.

BELL FOUNDERS AND CLOCK MAKERS

CROYDON



Ancient Bells and Interesting Inscriptions in Surrey

By J. CLARK, HASLEMERE

THIS article has for the most part been compiled from J. C. L. Stahlschmidt's book 'Surrey Bells and London Bellfounders,' nowadays an almost unobtainable work published in 1884, a copy of which I am fortunate enough to have in my possession.

I shall begin with the pre-Reformation bells, of which there are 22 in Surrey, although most of them cannot be dated exactly. The single bell at Chaldon is unquestionably the most ancient in the county and one of the oldest in England. At present it hangs in the south porch, where it can be closely studied. The bell is shaped somewhat like a flower-pot with scarcely any curve around the waist and sound-bow; it bears the inscription in beautifully-formed Gothic letters, 'Capana : Beati : Pauli.' The suggestion has been made that it was cast in Italy, or at least by an Italian founder. Stahlschmidt says: '... it may be certainly reckoned as not much later than 1250, and from its archaic shape may well be much older.'

The second at Bisley would appear to be the second oldest bell in the county, having been cast sometime between the years 1307 and 1346, when it is thought to have been presented by the great Abbey of Chertsey, which owned much property in Surrey prior to the Reformation. The inscription in Gothic lettering on this bell reads, 'Fraternitas : Fecit : Me : Honore : Beate : Mareie.'

The first and second at Wotton, which from their inscriptions would appear to have come from the same foundry, belong to the years between 1350 and 1400. The single bell at Chelsham and the fifth at Limpsfield, although this latter has been recast, are possibly the work of a London founder, William Burford, between the years 1371 and 1392. The second at Merstham dedicated to St. Katharine, was cast in all probability by his son Richard between 1392 and 1418.

A WOMAN BELLFOUNDER

The third at Stoke D'Abernon bears the letters 'J. O. S.' These are the initials of Johanna Sturdy, one of the few women founders, and the wife of Richard Hille (she was afterwards the widow of a person by the name of Sturdy) who cast the third at East Horsley and the bell at Headley; these three bells date from about the middle of the 15th century.

The fifth at Chertsey bears the inscription, 'Oro Mente Pia Pro Nobis Virgo Maria.' the same as that on the first at Wotton. The bell is thought to have come from the Abbey at the time of the Dissolution, but this and the bells previously mentioned form the only bells in the county with inscriptions composed entirely of capital letters. The first bells inscribed with small letters were the bell at Seale, the first at Clandon, the original third at Chiddingfold, which is not now incorporated in the present ring, and the third and fourth at Ewhurst. These bells all bear dedications to various saints, whilst that at Chiddingfold is inscribed, 'Sancta Trinitas Ora Pro Nobis': one wonders to whom the Holy Trinity is supposed to pray! The above bells belong to approximately the middle of the 16th century. The second at Merton and the first at Burstow, dedicated to St. Margaret and St. Thomas respectively, belong to much the same period. The remaining pre-Reformation bells are the third and sixth at Limpsfield, the fourth at Walton-on-Thames and the third at Chobham, with the second at Thursley dating from 1450.

ARMADA BELLS

From the time of the Dissolution until the year 1600, there are 13 bells all dated and inscribed. Beginning with Barnes we have the second inscribed, 'This Bell Cast By Order Of Thomas Smythe.' The second at Dunsfold has a complete inscription in small letters, this:— 'multie anie reconet campanai iohan,' and is dated 1583. To the year 1585 belongs the fourth at Banstead inscribed, 'Robertus mot me fecit' Robert Mot, who died in 1608, was the first owner of the famous Whitechapel foundry. Another bell cast by the same man and bearing the same inscription is the seventh at Chertsey, this is dated 1588. It seems incredible that men and materials could have been spared for the casting of bells in so critical a year as that. Dating from the same year and bearing the same inscription we have the second at Fetcham. In 1591 Robert Mot cast the third at Walton-on-the-Hill, whilst the third at Merstham, dated 1597, is also his work. The Eldridge family are very important as regards bells in Surrey, for there are very many examples of their work throughout the county.

Richard Eldridge is the earliest member of the family of which we have any record. He had foundries at Reading, Wokingham and Horsham; his earliest work in Surrey is the fifth at Capel, inscribed 'Omnia habent finem. R. E. 1593.' His almost invariable motto is like that to be seen on the fifth at Chipstead, and the second and fourth at Chobham, all inscribed, 'Oure hope is in the lorde. 1595. R.E.' and at Chobham, '1597. R.E.' The first at Weybridge is another of Robert Mot's bells, inscribed, 'R. M. 1597.' The last 16th century bell in Surrey is the fourth at Cranleigh, inscribed, 'Prais God. 1599. A. W.' It seems that Stahlschmidt is unable to ascribe the initials to any founder in particular, but thinks it cast by 'a local founder not improbably one casting at Horsham.' However, with the mention of this bell we pass on now to the bells of the 17th century.

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

I think it simpler to divide the 17th century into two parts. Taking the years 1600 to 1650, first we have many examples of work by the Eldridge family. Richard Eldridge has cast the fourth at Capel, 1605: the fourth at Chipstead, 1607: the second at Witley, 1604; the first at East Molesey, 1608; also the fifth at Seale in the same year: the fifth at Chobham, where he breaks away from his usual motto, and has, 'In trouble an adversitie the lord god heare thee. 1610. R. E.' The last bell cast by him before his death in 1623 is the first at Dunsfold.

We have many examples of the work of Brian Eldridge the elder, who died in 1640, and of his son Brian, who died in 1661. It is possible in most cases to distinguish the work of the two, because the former spells his name Eldredge. The first at Alford, inscribed 'Gloria Deo In Excelsis. 1631. B. E.' and also the third, inscribed 'Brainvs Eldredge Me Fecit. 1625,' are his work, as also are the first at Banstead, 1638; the first at Compton, 1634; the second and fourth at Cranleigh, 1638: the third at West Horsley, 1621: the third at Merton, 1621: the second at Mickleham, 1624: the third at Morden, 1637; and the first at Petersham, 1620.

His son's work may be seen at Dunsfold, the third, 1649; the first at East Horsley, 1648; and the first at West Horsley, 1645; whilst a full ring of five was cast by him for Lingfield

in 1648, a surprising accomplishment in the time of the Civil War. He also cast the first at Merrow, 1650; the fifth at Merstham, 1640; and the first at the same place, 1657; the sixth at Walton-on-Thames, 1651; and the first and third at Witley, 1648. A certain William Land cast the third at Fetcham, 1613; the first at Barnes, 1616; and the fifth at Dulwich College Chapel, 1633; the second, third and fourth at Frensham, which are the remains of an old ring of five, were cast by Ellis Knight in 1627; they bear rather quaint old mottoes: the second, 'I as second will ring'; the third, 'I as third will sing'; and the fourth, 'I as tenar hvm all roynd.' There remain only about half a dozen bells of this first half of the 17th century which I consider not important enough to be worthy of notice.

I will now pass on to the second half of the 17th century, of which period there are 72 bells, but space will only permit the mention of the most interesting. There are one or two examples of the work of Brian Eldridge the younger during this period, notably the second at Chiddingfold, 1656; the second at Compton, 1660; and the sixth at Cranleigh dated the same year; also the first at Merstham, 1657; the sixth at Walton-on-Thames, 1651; and finally the first at Woodmansterne, 1661. Following his death in 1661, the ownership of the foundry passed into the hands of his brother William, and the majority of the bells cast during this period bear his name or initials; in a few cases he gives his name in Latin, as at Barnes on the third:— 'Gvilielmvs Eldridge Me Fecit. 1667.' His other work includes the first and second at Abinger, 1674; the second, third, fourth and sixth at Albury, 1695; the sixth at Banstead, 1661; the second at Great Bookham, 1675; the third, fourth and fifth at Buckland, 1681; the fourth at Burstow, 1681; the third, fourth and sixth at Charlwood, 1697, 1668 and 1662; and at least another 25 spread fairly evenly throughout the county.

COULSDON'S RING

The Hodson family have cast a few bells in Surrey. Christopher Hodson cast the second at Addington in 1683; whilst John cast the first and second at Caterham in 1664: the first and second at Chipstead in 1658; the bell at Farley in 1663; and the complete ring at Old Coulsdon, which are all inscribed, 'Iohn Hodson. Hodson made me. 1675. Ch Thoms Wood, Iasper Wood Chvrchwardens,' and are reputed to be the oldest complete ring in Surrey that have never been renovated in any way. These bells, I think, are the most important of the period, although there are some dozen or more which I have not the space to describe.

There is a bell at Pyrford which I think has the most amazing inscription of all in Surrey; Stahlschmidt does not date the bell, neither does he profess to be able to translate the inscription. The only word of any meaning, could be the first, which to me appears as the Latin word 'Suas' in reverse but beyond that the inscription is meaningless. It would be interesting to hear if readers have any ideas about it. Another rather unlikely suggestion is that the founders wished to put on a Greek inscription, and not having any Greek letters, did the nearest thing they could with English letters.

Another peculiarity, chiefly to be found on late 17th century bells is the reversing of the letters S and N on numerous bell inscriptions. There may have been some particular reason for this, but I think it very conceivable that as the letters which were to impress the inscription into the bell had to be fixed into the cope so that they read from right to left it was very easy to make a mistake with the letters N and S, and affix them the correct way so that they came out in reverse on the bell itself.

However, with this interesting question still unsolved, I conclude my article on Surrey's ancient bells.

QUARTER PEALS

ALDRINGTON, SUSSEX.—On Dec. 12th, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: Valerie Mepham 1, Mary W. Brown (cond.) 2, R. D. Brown (first 'inside') 3, Pamela Law 4, H. W. Brown 5, D. H. Paine 6. A 15th birthday compliment to the ringer of the 3rd.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFS.—At St. Modwen's Church, on Dec. 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: C. G. Smith 1, Jill Cochran 2, J. H. Brittan (cond.) 3, T. Pryce 4, A. W. Skelton 5, K. Pulford 6. A welcome to the Ven. E. Aldington Hunt, who was inducted as Vicar on Dec. 1st, and to Mrs. Hunt.

CLAPHAM COMMON, LONDON.—At the Redemptorist Church of Our Immaculate Lady of Victories on Dec. 9th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss J. Pilkington 1, Miss M. Fuller 2, Miss M. Powell 3, M. Fuller 4, C. Rew (cond.) 5, T. Farmer 6. Rung on the occasion of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and for the Crowning of Our Lady of St. George's.

CRADLEY, WORCS.—On Dec. 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. Overton (first quarter) 1, E. Sidaway (first 'inside') 2, H. White 3, H. Wyre 4, L. R. Hall 5, R. Dunn 6, H. Shuck (cond.) 7, W. Lloyd 8. For gift Sunday.

DUSTON, NORTHANTS.—On Dec. 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss D. Miller (first quarter) 1, Miss G. Ashby 2, W. A. Gammage 3, W. R. Hammons (cond.) 4, G. F. Roome 5, T. Jennings 6. Rung in honour of the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh to British Timken, Ltd., Duston.

EDGWARE, MIDDLEX.—On Dec. 8th, 1,320 Bourne Surprise Minor: Mrs. C. C. Mayne 1, C. C. Mayne 2, D. J. L. Ward 3, J. R. Mayne 4, R. G. Ouston 5, H. E. Clayton (cond.) 6. First in the method by all.

GREAT GRANSDEN, HUNTS.—On Dec. 12th, 1,440 Ipswich Surprise Minor: J. R. G. Spicer 1, F. Warrington 2, G. D. Whitehead 3, M. J. Dyer 4, F. L. Nicholls 5, H. S. Peacock (cond.) 6. For morning service.

HARLOW COMMON, ESSEX.—On Dec. 12th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: R. H. Young 1, A. H. Warboys 2, Miss I. Coates 3, Miss A. Bailey 4, F. W. Whitby 5, V. Tipton 6, W. Wheeler 7, E. Rochester (first in method as cond.) 8. For evening service.

HUNTON, KENT.—On Dec. 18th, 1,440 Treble Bob Minor, being 720 Kent and 720 Oxford: W. R. Manser 1, I. A. C. Butcher 2, K. S. Holth 3, L. J. Honess 4, G. Fry (first in method as cond.) 5, J. W. Meade 6.

KINGSBURY, N.W.—On Dec. 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. Voss 1, M. J. H. King 2, J. C. Taylor (cond.) 3, G. M. Ellis 4, D. Sanders 5, Miss B. F. Martin 6, P. F. Flint 7, M. D. Chamberlain 8. Rung with 6, 7, 8 covering. First quarter by 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Average age 17.

LANGHAM, RUTLAND.—On Dec. 14th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: A. E. Hubbard 1, Mrs. P. A. Gorby 2, R. J. Hubbard 3, F. J. Stimson 4, M. D. Staniforth 5, J. F. Hubbard (cond.) 6. Rung for Confirmation service, and also as a golden wedding compliment to Mr. and Mrs. F. Cousins.

OXFORD.—At St. Giles' Church, on Dec. 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss S. A. Pursey (first quarter) 1, P. Walker 2, J. H. Gardner 3, J. R. Chaundy 4, D. O. Wilks 5, D. H. Niblett 6, A. H. Gearing (first quarter as cond.) 7, L. F. Pullen 8. For Evening-song.

PORTSMOUTH, HANTS.—On Dec. 9th, 1,20 Stedman Doubles: M. Parker (first of Stedman) 1, S. K. M. Knight 2, R. H. R. Parker 3, F. W. Burnett 4, R. Baldwin (first of Stedman as cond.) 5, F. G. Edwards 6. First of Stedman Doubles by 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6, and on the bells.

QUEDGELEY, GLOS.—On Dec. 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: P. Hurcombe (first quarter) 1, F. E. T. Tranter 2, S. J. Pugh 3, C. Wixey, jun. (first 'inside') 4, F. G. Gorby (cond.) 5, J. Cobb (first quarter) 6.

READING, BERKS.—At St. Lawrence's Church, on Dec. 12th, 1,584 Cambridge Surprise Maximus: Mrs. A. Discrens 1, R. F. Discrens 2, A. Discrens 3, Mrs. P. Lewington 4, G. K. Dodd 5, J. N. Discrens 6, F. W. Lewis 7, R. G. Burton 8, R. W. Rex 9, C. E. Lewington 10, W. Hibbert 11, N. J. Discrens (cond.) 12. First of Surprise Maximus for 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10.

SANDHURST, BERKS.—On Dec. 19th, 1,272 Kent Treble Bob Minor: W. J. Paice (cond.) 1, J. Wightman 2, Miss S. Revell 3, W. Collins 4, L. W. Paice 5, W. J. Parker 6.

SIBSEY, Lincs.—On Dec. 2nd, 1,264 Bob Major: Agnes Elmet 1, W. Elmet 2, H. Johnson 3, T. Cummins 4, W. Wilkinson 5, J. R. Young 6, D. Smith 7, A. E. Flatters (cond.) 8. First quarter by 1, 2 and 7.

TICEHURST, SUSSEX.—On Dec. 14th, 1,260 Stedman Doubles: W. A. Kitchenside 1, B. V. Collision 2, S. G. Ponting 3, C. A. Bassett 4, E. J. Ladd (cond.) 5, P. N. Bond 6. First quarter in method by all the band except ringer of tenor. Third anniversary of Vicar's induction.

TITCHMARSH, NORTHANTS.—On Dec. 16th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: G. E. Watson 1, R. F. Roe 2, G. W. Jeffs 3, C. H. Harding 4, B. S. Cope 5, C. Clarke (first of Major) 6, P. I. Chapman (cond.) 7, H. Parkes 8.

TOTTERNHOE, BEDS.—On Dec. 19th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: Mrs. J. Newman 1, Miss J. Gladman 2, J. G. Newman 3, D. M. Knox 4, R. J. Scott 5, K. L. Brown 6, D. Broyd 7, J. W. Sinfield (cond.) 8. Rung as a farewell compliment to Mr. K. L. Brown, who is leaving the district for Lowestoft.

WARKTON, NORTHANTS.—On Dec. 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Doris M. Barker (first quarter) 1, Mary Arkinstall 2, G. Geary (first quarter 'inside') 3, B. P. Morris (cond.) 4, L. G. Toseland 5.

WESTON FAVELL, NORTHANTS.—On Dec. 11th, 1,260 Doubles (360 Plain Bob, 900 Grandsire): W. A. Gammage 1, Miss G. Ashby 2, F. Rollings 3, Miss J. Hill 4, G. F. Roome (cond.) 5. For the wedding of Miss J. D. Beeby and Mr. K. R. Bates. Also on Dec. 13th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: F. Rollings 1, Miss G. Ashby 2, Miss J. Hill 3, W. A. Gammage 4, G. F. Roome (cond.) 5. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Mrs. M. Lyon (sister of the tower captain).

WEST WICKHAM, KENT.—On Dec. 19th, 1,320 Surprise Minor (720 London and 600 Cambridge): J. E. Cannell 1, Mary Fuller 2, L. W. G. Skinner 3, M. Fuller 4, A. S. Richards (cond.) 5, R. Bird 6.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

MR. JAMES BENNETT'S 1,200th PEAL

A Peal in Every County in England

Mr. James Bennett, of Grundisburgh, rang his 1,200th peal on December 4th. 'My peal centuries,' he writes, 'do not roll along as quickly as in the past, as it has taken nearly five years to reach the last 100.'

Doubles.—In five methods 1.

Minor.—All numbers from one to seven methods 44.

Triples.—In 7 different methods 180.

Major.—In 36 different methods (excluding methods used for splicing) 671. Spliced: Double Norwich and Plain Bob 1, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob 3. Surprise: All numbers from three to twelve methods 35. Total Major 710.

Caters.—In three different methods 59. Spliced: Erin, Stedman and Grandsire 1. Total Caters 60.

Royal.—In ten different methods 74. Spliced: Yorkshire, Pudsey and Cambridge Surprise 1. Total Royal 75.

Cinques.—Grandsire 1, Erin 1, Stedman 73. Total Cinques 75.

Maximus.—Plain Bob 1, Kent Treble Bob 4. Surprise: Cambridge 44. Superlative 3, Yorkshire 1. Spliced: Superlative & Cambridge 2. Total Maximus 55.

Grand total.—1,200 (conducted 106).

In addition to the above five others were rung but had to be withdrawn, four of which were false.

Rung with 1,136 ringers, for 33 Associations affiliated to the Central Council, in 47 counties in England, Wales and Ireland, in 336 towers, 25 of which 'the circle has been completed.'

Included in the above are:—

Major.—The first peals in eight new methods. The first in 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of Spliced Surprise.

Caters.—The first of Spliced in three methods.

Royal.—One new method and the first of Spliced Surprise in three methods.

Maximus.—The first two peals of Spliced (two methods) ever rung. The longest peal on 12 bells, viz., 15,312 Cambridge Surprise

Also includes a peal in every county in England, a peal on eight bells and upwards on every one of the 366 dates of the calendar, both completed during 1936. The first peal ever rung by an Army and Navy band, viz., Bob Major, January 1st, 1914. The first peals on the twelves of Canterbury Cathedral and Buckfast Abbey. A 12-bell peal in 50 different towers. One hundred or more with the following:—G. R. Pye 460, William Pye 321, C. T. Coles 300, H. E. Audsley 274, J. H. Cheesman 210, A. W. Coles 132, E. P. Duffield 124, C. W. Roberts 123, I. G. Shade 117, Edwin Barnett sen. 114, E. J. Butler 107, F. J. Cullum 106.

Ely Diocesan Association

The District meeting of the Hunts Branch took place at All Saints', St. Ives, on December 11th. The Guild service was conducted by Canon B. F. Sheppard, M.A., Rector of Somersham.

The business meeting was in All Saints' (St. Ives) belfry, Mr. F. Warrington presiding. For the February meeting it was hoped to obtain both Hemingford Grey and Abbots, and it was left to Mr. Warrington to see the Vicar of Hemingford Grey, where some doubt exists about the bells being in good going order. F. W.

Analysis of Peals rung on T

Compiled by the Committee appointed

ASSOCIATION

An. Soc. College Yths.
Bath and Wells Dio....
Bedfordshire
Cambridge Univ. Gld.
Coventry Dio. Guild...
Chester Diocesan
Cleveland & N. Yorks
Cumbld & N. West'd
Derby Association
Devonshire
Dudley and District...
Durham & Newcastle
E. Derby and Notts
East Grinstead Guild
Ely Diocesan
Essex Association
Gloucester & Bristol
Guildford Diocesan
Hereford Diocesan
Hertford County
Irish Association
Kent County
Ladies Guild
Lancashire Assoc.
Leicester Dio. Guild
Lincoln Dio. Guild
Llandaff & Monmouth
London County Assn.
Middlesex County
Midland Counties
North Staffs Assn
North Wales Assn
Norwich Diocesan
Oxford Dio. Guild
Oxford Society
Oxford University Soc.
Peterborough Dio.
St. David's Dio. Guild
St. Martin's Guild
Salisbury Guild
Scottish Association
Shropshire Assoc.
Soc. R. Cum. Youths
Southwell Dio. Guild
Stafford Archdeaconry
Suffolk Guild
Surrey Association
Sussex Association
Swansea and Brecon
Truro Diocesan
Universities Assoc.
Win. and Portsmouth
Worcester & Districts
Yorkshire Assoc
Unattached

TOTAL

	MAXIMUS				CINQUES				ROYAL				CATERS			
	Spliced Surprise (12)	Ditto (10)	Ditto (8)	Ditto (6)	Spliced Surprise (12)	Ditto (10)	Ditto (8)	Ditto (6)	Spliced Surprise (12)	Ditto (10)	Ditto (8)	Ditto (6)	Spliced Surprise (12)	Ditto (10)	Ditto (8)	Ditto (6)
An. Soc. College Yths.																
Bath and Wells Dio....																
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Truro Diocesan																
Universities Assoc.																
Win. and Portsmouth																
Worcester & Districts																
Yorkshire Assoc																
Unattached																
TOTAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

One each of the following Surprise Major methods.—St. Martin's Guild: Ashton-under-Lyne, Crewe, Staffordshire; Banstead, Chesham, Eastbury, Ickleton, Kendal, Knebworth, Leatherhead, Neasden, Peterborough, Biddenden. Derbyshire Association: Chesterfield. Bedfordshire Association: Hitchin. Sussex Association: Shalford. Peterborough Diocesan Guild: Wicken. Essex Association: York.

One each of the following Delight Major methods.—Hereford Diocesan Guild: Eardisland. Norwich Diocesan Guild: Bebbington Imperial, Liscard Imperial. Chester Diocesan Guild: Bebbington Imperial, Liscard Imperial. Bob. Norwich Diocesan Association: Hingham Imperial, Sedburgh Court. Surrey Association: Single Norwich. Spliced Triples: 8, 6, 4 and 2 methods—Worcester and Districts Association.

'THE RINGING WORLD'

The Official Journal of the Central
Council of Church Bell Ringers

EDITORIAL OFFICE: c/o Woodbridge Press,
Ltd., Guildford, Surrey.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One year, £1 2s. 6d.;
six months, 11s. 8d.; three months, 6s. Send
remittances to Mr. J. E. Jeater, Greystones,
Cusgarne, Truro, Cornwall.

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

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BARNETT, 26, Iron Mill Lane, Crayford,
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EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

Mr. T. Reginald Dennis, now 71 years of
age, tried something new on December 18th
with a peal of Fordham Surprise Major at
Ickleton. This is the first time this method has
been rung to a peal.

We welcome to our columns
the peal of Grandsire Doubles
rung at Hamilton Cathedral,
New Zealand, which is the second peal to be
rung by the St. Peter's Society, Hamilton. It
was conducted by New Zealand born Mr. Colin
Ward, who is the first native of that Dominion
to call a peal in his own country.

Wadhurst bells were dedicated at morning
service on December 19th. An application has
been made for a faculty for two new treble bells.

Mr. T. H. Francis was the umpire for the
handbell peal rung at St. Martin-in-the-Fields
on November 29th for the Society of Royal
Cumberland Youths.

Accrington Parish Church has now eight
subscribers to 'The Ringing World.' They
would be interested to hear of a tower that
beats their record.

Although during the course of the recent
peal at Eye by ringers from over the border
there was evidence of bearings running dry,
there was no lack of 'lubrication' of another
sort at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Rush.

Errata.—The peal of Minor in seven methods
rung at Stoke Bishop, Bristol, on November
13th, consisted of extents in the following
methods:—Double Bob, Hereward Bob, Double
Court, Single Court, Double Oxford Bob, Plain
Bob and Single Oxford Bob. (See page 804.)

Mr. R. Claude Gifford, Ringing Master of
Hamilton Cathedral, New Zealand, in sending
seasonal greetings to English ringers, wants es-
pecially to be remembered to the Bristol Rural
Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Guild,
of which he was secretary for some
11 years. He and his wife recall many happy
hours spent with the Branch and tower mem-
bers of Coalpit Heath and Westerleigh. His
greetings are heartily endorsed by other mem-
bers of the Cathedral band

BELFRY GOSSIP

Mr. W. J. Robinson, who
since 1926 has been a stalwart
at Holy Trinity Cathedral,
Guildford, is leaving in the New Year to live
near Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. In apprecia-
tion of his good services to the tower and com-
radeship he was presented with a wallet at the
tower's annual supper on December 20th. The
tower captain, Mr. F. A. Munday, made the
presentation, and tributes to Mr. Robinson's
ability and helpfulness were paid by Mr. A.
H. Pulling and Mr. R. H. Hutton. His de-
parture will be a great loss to the tower and the
district.

Mr. Roger B. Morris informs us that the peal
of Doubles at Rampton, Cambs, on December
1st was not his first in the method.

The bells of Tetbury Parish Church, Glos.
(tenor 16½ cwt.) will be broadcast in the West
Home Service on January 2nd.

Throughout the year many readers have in-
formed us that the issues for April 9th and
April 16th bore duplicate numbers, 2,245. To
rectify the position the number 2,283 has been
omitted and we start 1955 with number 2,284.

His many friends in Essex will be pleased to
know that Mr. John Dale has reached the grand
old age of 90. Apart from difficulty in getting
about John is hale and hearty and retains a
lively interest in the Exercise. The peal of
Gainsborough Little Bob Major at Hornchurch
on December 11th, in honour of his
birthday, was one of unusual length
and can be a lesson to conductor and
composer. To the former—check the number
of changes, and to the latter—the danger of
ambiguous instructions. A peal of 5,004
changes turned out to be 5,436 changes, so John
got good value on a very auspicious occasion.
One is almost tempted to claim 'the longest
length in the method.' What about it, Records
Committee?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MR. FRED G. MAY

Dear Sir,—It was with considerable pleasure that I discovered the other day a man who, in the earlier years of this century, had been a leading ringer in the West Country.

Mr. Fred G. May was born near Cirencester in 1871 and was there taught to handle a bell by Mr. C. Bond. He was then 24, and his great aptitude is evident when, four years later, in 1898, he became Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. A Cumberland Youth and member of numerous Guilds, he was on the Central Council from 1900 to 1909.

Noted as a composer and especially as a conductor, his peal total stands at more than 660, many being rung in his home tower of St. Nicholas', Bristol; amongst others were the first of Cambridge, and Gloucester, Surprise Major, also first of Forward Royal.

His last peal was at Stroud, Glos, in August, 1919, when he conducted his own composition of Grandsire Caters. In 1925 he came to a warmer climate for his health, and for a while captained and taught at St. Mary's, Woodstock, but the travelling nature of his work precluded any peal attempts.

To-day he is quite well, living in quiet retirement near Cape Town. If this should catch the eye of any friends who wish to write to him they could do so care of, Yours sincerely,

A. V. SHEPPARD.

P.O. Box 1073, Cape Town.

IDENTITY OF SURPRISE METHODS

Dear Sir,—From the list of Surprise Major methods given by Mr. Blagrove I can help in a very small way with supplying the names of Nos. 12 and 22—Essex (No. 12) and Clacton (No. 22).

The notation of No. 5 is Beaconsfield, and of No. 17 Guildford but both these have 2nds place lead ends, so cannot qualify, as Mr. Blagrove's are all 8ths place lead ends.

As my collection of these methods is only small, the above information is probably of little use, but I give it for what it is worth.—Yours sincerely,

J. H. BRETT.

Sible Hedingham.

FIGHT FOR OUR CRAFT

Dear Sir,—My old friend, Mr. Ernest J. Rowe, takes a very alarming attitude over what might happen over the Bob Major extent attempt, which ended in such a glorious failure at Loughborough. Instead of being an alarmist, I feel some good will come out of this peal attempt, for never in my lifetime do I remember bell-ringing gaining such publicity. I am optimistic enough to think we shall get inquiries at our churches about this bell-ringing, which should mean recruits to take up the art.

The criticism Mr. Rowe fears should be met. The fault here lies with the ringers—yes! and with the bell founders as well and the craftsmen who help to make materials into bells and frames, etc. Both sections allow all sorts of unkind and ignorant criticisms to go unchallenged and unanswered; we just 'lie down' and 'take it.'

Ringers should take up the fight on behalf of the art of change ringing, and most certainly the founders should join in the fray to preserve their ancient art of bell founding which is their living.

I can hear some of my friends saying to me, 'Why don't you have a fight?' I have several times in the local Press here in North London, when nasty letters have appeared about bell-ringing.—Yours faithfully,

R. NEWMAN.

Holloway, N.7.

REPLY TO MR. FELSTEAD

Dear Sir,—With regard to Mr. Felstead's letter of December 10th, I must protest against his remark that Mr. Butler is 'trying to be funny.' Unlike the Methods Committee, who are concerned only with the 'purity' of methods, Mr. Butler, on behalf of Sunday service ringers in his area, is protesting against the stupid rules introduced by the Methods Committee.

It has been explained before to Mr. Felstead that there is no comparison between the laws of the land and the laws of the Central Council. The laws of the land are made for the good of the majority and are generally justified by the Ten Commandments, although they do occasionally bring hardship to a small minority. But the rules of the Central Council only do harm for the majority and satisfy the personal whims of a very small minority. What good has it done to ban Plain Bob Triples and 'irregular' Minor from the analysis? Try to get the Central Council rules ratified by the Guilds, Societies and Associations and you will soon see that the majority do not object to Plain Bob Triples and 'irregular' Minor being included in the analysis.

Football is a competitive sport, played for gain, and as such needs regulations. Peal ringing should be a duty to the Church and as such does not need regulations (concerning method construction).

Then he makes an amusing accusation, 'rebellion' against the Methods Committee. There can be no doubt that when the Doubles Collection is published, a motion will be put to the Central Council by the Methods Committee (directly or indirectly) that 'peals containing methods not in the collection be excluded from the peals analysis.' I therefore appeal to all Doubles ringers to stand firm against the Methods Committee, by getting their associations to instruct their representatives(?) to vote against such a motion. Perhaps Mr. Felstead could tell us how to rebel against any committee, let alone that infallible collection of purists, the Methods Committee.

He then says that the Methods Committee persuaded (by way of a compromise) the Central Council to relax certain rules for Doubles ringers. Where was the persuasion? It only needs a speech from the Methods Committee, a direction 'Don't waste time over this,' and like a lot of sheep the Central Council say, 'Yes.' Where was the compromise? Doubles ringers were not consulted. Those relaxations were the wishes of the Methods Committee, none of whom are five-bell ringers.

He then says that I helped in getting together the collection of 97 'true' methods. When I found out what rules the Methods Committee were using, I worked out that there were 100 methods conforming to these rules and sent them to Mr. C. K. Lewis to check. He replied that (in his quest for purity) 'he could not accept 19 of them.' I wrote back protesting that his exclusion of these methods was as illogical as the exclusion of Double Bob Minor and the inclusion of Plain Bob Minor because Double Bob Minor has its lead ends in a different order to Plain Bob Minor. He was, in fact, interpreting the rules to suit his own wishes. I received no reply.

In fact, we rang the peal at Stanwell under the impression that ten of the methods we rang would not be included in the collection, and it was not until after the peal that I found out that Mr. Lewis had changed his mind about them. Even now they are excluding three methods because they cannot find a bob to suit their puritanical ideas. Will these methods be included? Will all other methods be banned? Or will the few try to dictate only 97, 'which (quoting Mr. Felstead) is quite a good number when there are only five bells to play about with,' but which (quoting Sunday service ringers) 'is not enough.'

Finally, may I be allowed to enlarge on Mr. Speed's remarks on Treble Bob Major? He says that it is impossible to get a T.B.8 method with 'natural' coursing order in 7-8 and no adjacent places. The same is true on 10 and 12, and also, I believe, for Little T.B. In fact, there are only 343 T.B. Major with P.B. coursing order in 7-8 and triple and quadruple changes only. There are, in fact, only eight different works above the treble, all of which are 'place' variations on Kent, either Kent Places moved and/or seconds at the lead end.—Yours sincerely,

F. T. BLAGROVE.

W. Bedfont, Stanwell, near Staines.

ALL SAINTS' DOUBLES

Dear Sir,—Mr. Cavill is quite right—All Saints' Doubles is not one of the methods which will appear in the Doubles book. The reason is not far to seek—the method is simply Reverse Canterbury Pleasure using a Grandsire single at the lead end, whilst the bob lead is a plain lead of Reverse Canterbury. We have excluded all this type of method in the book. The sort of thing that can happen if you don't draw the line in the way we are suggesting is shown by the fact that Besthorpe, Old Doubles, Norfolk, Hudibras, April Day, Ready Money, Ludham and Kennington all have the same plain course, viz., Plain Bob (!) and their difference consists in the variation of bob.

I was interested to see that the peal at South Wigston on November 27th was claimed as the 100th on the bells. I make it the 103rd. Perhaps there have been some false ones rung of which I am not aware, and so I should be grateful if Mr. Warwick (or someone more directly interested, perhaps) would check up with me at St. Michael's Vicarage, Southampton.—Yours sincerely,

K. W. H. FELSTEAD.

Southampton.

AN EXAMPLE TO THE CLERGY

Dear Sir,—When recently attending the practice night at Brighouse Parish Church I was agreeably surprised to see that the Vicar and two of his curates are learning bell-ringing. The Vicar and one curate are in the rounds stage, whereas the other curate can ring Grandsire, both on the tower bells and 'in hand.' Brighouse is one of the most important and populous parishes in the Wakefield Diocese, and the clergy are, without doubt, kept fully occupied.

One of the local ringers told me that much of the future possibilities of the team depends upon these three reverend gentlemen, for otherwise there would not be sufficient members for regular ringing.

I believe that some theological colleges are giving elementary instruction in bell-ringing. This will no doubt result in an increase in clerical recruits in our belfries.

I would like to point this out as a 'striking' example of how the clergy are helping ringers in a busy industrial parish. Whether clerical or lay, are we not entrusted with one of the more important duties, namely, of calling people to worship and proclaiming to our parish that divine service is about to begin?—Yours sincerely,

PAUL BIRKETT.

Elland, Yorks.

A WEEK-END IN FOUR COUNTIES

Dear Sir,—I was interested to read on page 812 the writer's comments that any peal on the heavy five at Mudford should be non-conducted. Before the war I took part in a peal there and for about a week afterwards the conductor, my old friend, Bill Shute, appeared to be suffering from laryngitis and the rest of the band could hear the bells in their cars!—Yours sincerely,

E. T. PAUL FIELD.

Long Sutton, Somerset.

LETTERS—Continued

THOSE TON TENORS

Dear Sir,—In your issue of December 3rd 'M. E. E.' questions my published weight of 15 cwt. at Kingston, Somerset, but prefers local tradition of a ton.

This bell measures 42½ inches in diameter, according to 'The Church Bells of Somerset' (and the late J. H. Shepherd's notes), and a bell of this size cannot possibly weigh anything like a ton—it would need to be well-nigh solid to do so. An experienced bellfounder estimates 13½ cwt. as being more likely.

Local traditions are notoriously exaggerated where weights are concerned and it is not possible, as some ringers seem to think, to judge the weight of a bell merely by its 'go.'

Broadly speaking, it may be assumed that the precise weights (to the pound) given in 'The Book' are the authentic weights supplied by the founder and the approximate weights have been computed from the measurements. As, however, I used a scale of weights and measurements of modern bells the tendency may have been to overestimate in some cases rather than underestimate, a tendency which has been corrected as far as possible in the revised book now printing.

I am frequently met with 'You've got our tenor wrong, she is a lot heavier than you state,' etc., and as likely as not inquiries reveal that since tradition was established the bells have been away to the foundry and have been tuned and perhaps had the cannons removed and the exact weight has been obtained.

Even so it by no means follows that the bona fide weight given by a reputable bellfounder will be accepted. Indeed, I know one Yorkshire tower where if the tenor was weighed before their eyes the ringers would declare that the scales must be wrong!

I see also that 'Dove' is blamed for misleading Mr. Felstead in his article on peal ringing in Dorset, but since peals rung at St. John's, Surrey Road, have always been, and still are, recorded as being rung at 'Bournemouth, Hants—one was rung here only a few weeks ago—why 'The Book' should be blamed is not quite clear.

'Crockford' records this church as Bournemouth, Hants, but I have obtained a ruling from the Town Clerk, who states that while the greater part of the parish is in Bournemouth, and therefore in Hampshire, that portion which contains the church is situated within the Borough of Poole (Dorset).

In the new edition of the 'Guide' this tower will appear as Bournemouth, Dorset, with a cross-reference to Poole. Doubtless I shall be informed that Bournemouth is not in Dorset, but if I were to record the tower at St. John's, Poole, I should be told I had omitted St. John's, Bournemouth.

If any readers can suggest how otherwise to record a tower which is in one town in name and another town and county in actual fact I would welcome advice.—Yours faithfully,

R. H. DOVE.

FALSE PEAL

Dear Sir,—The handbell peal of Plain Bob Minor, rung for this Guild at Hucknall, Notts, on May 27th, 1954, is false, and should be deleted from the records in the Analysis of Peals.—Yours sincerely,

C. GLENN,

Peal Sec., Southwell Diocesan Guild.

KING'S NORTON, BIRMINGHAM.—On Dec. 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Pamela I. Scrivens (first quarter) 1. Geraldine Carless 2. E. W. Blake 3. A. Jones 4. W. R. Carless (first 'inside') 5. D. A. Kaye 6. W. C. Dowding (cond.) 7. C. E. J. Blake 8. Rung for Evenson, also a birthday compliment to Mr. Arthur Jones.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Chew Deanery Branch was held at Winford on December 4th. Ringing took place on the fine ring of six (Mears, 1816; tenor 16 cwt) until 4.30 p.m., when the Rector (the Rev. A. J. H. Hobbs) conducted the Association form of service.

Ringers from Chew Magna, Clutton, Corston, Long Ashton, Marksbury, Nailsea, Timsbury, Winford, Wraxall, Wroughton and Yatton 'signed the book' at the business meeting, which followed an excellent tea provided by the local ringers and their wives.

The Branch officers were all re-elected, these being:—Mr. H. W. Knight, chairman and Ringing Master; Messrs. L. Derrick and L. Pullin, Deputy Ringing Masters; and Mr. P. G. Yeo, secretary and representative on the General Committee.

The chairman announced that he had received an invitation from Mr. Bennett, of Clutton, asking if Clutton tower could be transferred to the Chew Deanery Branch. The meeting decided that, subject to the formal approval of the Frome Branch, this would be in order. A new member each from Clutton, Nailsea and Winford were duly elected and it was decided that, subject to permission being granted, the next quarterly meeting (April) should be held at Backwell, with practice meetings at Ubley, Weston-in-Gordano and Clutton for January, February and March respectively. There being no other business, Mr. G. Yeo proposed votes of thanks to the Rector for conducting the service and for the use of the bells, to the organist for her services, and to the ladies who prepared tea. M. J. H.

Gloucester and Bristol Association

The annual meeting of the Swindon Branch was held at Christ Church, Swindon, on December 11th. A special welcome was extended to Miss Marion Skinner, of Pinner, a former member of Christ Church band.

Those present were entertained to tea by Christ Church ringers and at the business meeting Dr. H. Craig was elected chairman in succession to Mr. W. Sidwell, who has left the district. All other Branch officers were re-elected and it was proposed that the next three meetings be held at Stratton-St. Margaret, Rodbourne Cheney and St. Mark's, Swindon. The secretary's report revealed a satisfactory state of affairs although there was a decline in peal ringing in the Branch area. Ringing at the meeting ranged from rounds to Cambridge Royal. W. B. K.

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EAST GRINSTEAD & DISTRICT

The annual dinner of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held on December 11th in Tunbridge Wells and proved to be the best ever. The recently overhauled bells at St. Peter's were available from 3 to 5.30 and everyone agreed that they now rung perfectly and are much more audible in the belfry.

An excellent meal was served at the Culverden Arms. There were no visitors and no formalities except the loyal toast proposed by the chairman, Mr. E. J. Ladd, who afterwards spoke a few words of praise to the caterers and thanked everyone for their support.

In the meanwhile a parcel had been making its way round the tables and when it was opened by the recipient it was found to contain a toy trumpet, whereupon a wit got up and proposed a toast to Eddie Calvert.

When the tables had been cleared the company were entertained with dancing by Margaret Ladd, accompanied by her mother on the piano, and then, for nearly an hour, by Mr. Clarkson, from Tonbridge, who amused and mystified. The rest of the time was then passed away with method- and tune-ringing on the handbells. The arrangements were in the hands of Messrs. E. J. Ladd and A. F. Wellington, who are to be congratulated for making the event such a success. C. A. B.

ST. DAVID'S DIOCESAN GUILD

In spite of the dismal weather there was a good attendance at the quarterly meeting of the Guild held at Llanstephan on December 11th. The Vicar, the Rev. J. T. Jenkins, was in the belfry to greet the members as they arrived and it was very nice to see the Vicar of Llanbadarn Fawr, the Rev. O. G. Rees and the Rev. E. A. B. Hughes, curate of Llanelly, among those present.

The Vicar, the Rev. J. T. Jenkins, officiated at the service and the lesson was read by the Ringing Master, Mr. W. J. Harries, of Llanbadarn Fawr. The ringers were afterwards entertained to a very nice tea at the Central Cafe, about 70 members attending.

The Vicar presided at the business meeting and the usual touch on the handbells was given by the young ringers of the Llanelly Parish Church, and also a demonstration of lapping bells, a novelty to many of the members.

A collection for the Bell Restoration Fund realised the sum of £1 14s. Two grants of £5 each were approved to Llanbadarn Fawr and Llanstephan and the next quarterly meeting of the Guild will be held at Llanelly on Saturday, March 12th. The Vicar was thanked by Mr. C. H. Hawkins (secretary) seconded by Mr. E. J. Thomas (Carmarthen). C. H.

Gratefully Acknowledged

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

Personal.—J. H. Brittan 5s., W. O. Haythorne 19s. 6d., J. E. Arnold 7s. 6d., H. G. Fretwell 7s. 6d., E. J. Leversuch 7s. 6d., W. A. Wooler £1, A. Carveth 7s. 6d., Miss Lawrence 2s. 6d., W. E. Maulden 2s. 6d., W. Mawby 2s. 6d., G. Moorhouse, 7s. 6d., T. J. Thurley 2s. 6d., F. Skidmore 7s. 6d., With Christmas Card unsigned 5s., Anon. 10s., E. T. P. F. 1s.

Peals.—Aberavon 4s., Leigh 5s., Bishop's Hull 3s., Bristol 2s. 6d., Marston Bigot 3s., Harwell 5s., Wakefield 6s., Brighouse 4s., North Bradley 4s.

Quarter Peals.—Bath 2s. 3d., Dalwood 2s., Southwark 3s., Lyme Regis 2s. 6d., Rye 4s., Prestbury 2s., Gloucester 2s. 6d., North Stoneham 3s. 6d., Nailsea 3s., Eastbourne 2s., Stourbridge 2s., Madeley 2s. 6d., Bristol 4s. 6d.

EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN

By P. AMOS

To some, the busy streets of any large city mingled with sight-seeing, studying of churches, etc., hold attractions. To others the countryside, with its woodlands, its landscapes and village churches, away from the smoke of diesel engines into the fresh air, makes a pleasant change. To those desiring the latter, few spots will be found to equal an area between Buckingham and Towcester. Churches may be scattered somewhat, but there is plenty to interest those who prefer the quiet.

Whittlebury has for centuries been a source of delight because of its parklands and its Royal forest, from which King Charles II. gave a thousand tons of timber to rebuild All Saints' Church, Northampton, after the Great Fire of 1666. Noted families have from time to time held residence at Whittlebury, including Sir Reginald Loder, who in 1887 was responsible for adding a new bell to four existing bells in this church and rehangings all in a new oak frame, the work by Messrs. Warners, of London—a firm which ceased to exist after rehangings the bells of Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, about 1922.

Very little ringing activity has existed at Whittlebury during my 33 years as a ringer and only once have I rung there. I well remember finding most of the bells loose on the headstocks afterwards, especially the third. I cannot ever recall a Guild meeting at Whittlebury! The tenor of these five bells is eight cwt.

To the south we come into Bucks to the quiet but pleasant village of Lillingstone Lovell, with its old saddleback tower dating from 1210, and a church which still retains its old horse-box pews. At the end of the war I well remember visiting this church, to find four bells, all cast by Alexander Rigby, of Stamford, Lincs, dated 1693. So dangerous did their frame and fittings appear that I wrote the then Rector, pointing this out, at the same time advising a restoration and a new bell to make five. A subsequent Rector followed up the advice, but instead of a tenor a treble was added, which made them into a minor five (the tenor of these is 6½ cwt.). Messrs. John Taylor and Co. carried out the work some two years ago, but a great misfortune has befallen their keen, youthful, new team of ringers since—the tower has cracked and ringing is suspended. Whether a tenor to make six will now ever be added, as they hoped, is a matter for the diocesan architect, who evidently could not have detected a crack, which it is thought must have been present at the time of the rehangings, in a steel frame for six. It is very unfortunate for Lillingstone Lovell, with few more than 100 souls, who did rally to raise the money with such enthusiasm.

At the time of penning these notes I am tempted to think of Lillingstone Lovell's famous racehorse, 'Wot-no-Sun'! Many days have passed since it shone, around Northampton at any rate!

In a park about a mile to the west is Lillingstone Dayrell (pronounced Darrell locally), whose church has a low tower with a flat leaded roof, no battlements or pinnacles, giving it a somewhat strange appearance. It contains three bells with a tenor of nine cwt. by Richard Chandler, of Drayton Parslow, Bucks, dated 1674, the second by Edward Hall, who took over the Chandlers' business, is dated 1726, and the treble, by Warners, of London, dated 1868. The old oak frame is for three bells only. Here again I advised a restoration, and, if possible, an augmentation, for dry rot and wood worm have taken toll of both frame and headstocks. Despite this, the Lovell lads have had Dayrell's three bells up and rung sixes on one or two occasions. Typical of so many churches I

visit, I found leaflets detailing the history of the church in both places, but not a mention of the bells as a guide to bell archaeologists.

Over the Bucks boundary, to Passenham, on the very edge of Northants is a church recently threatened with a closure, where I think the Historic Churches Preservation Trust should step in and do something. Stony Stratford and Wolverton are very nearby, and only low-lying meadowland for about a mile separates them, and possibly prevents housing expansion. Thirty years ago I remember going over this Village Hall and boating on the moat surrounding it. I was then but a treble ringer and could not resist finding out about the bells, which I found were rehung by Bowell, of Ipswich, in 1907, in existing oak frame, they at the same time recasting a pre-Reformation treble. The tenor here is said to be 17 cwt., but is only 46 inches in diameter across the lip. The tenors of Wootton (Northants) and Claybrooke (Leics) are both 46-inch bells and weigh 13 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb., and 13 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb. respectively, and I am inclined to think this is nearer the true weight of Passenham's tenor, despite some people's story that 'she goes all 17 cwt.' I once visited Ashwell, in Rutland, where a 9 cwt. tenor 'went all 30 cwt.'!

However, a very interesting church with some of the old high pews is to be found at Passenham. The fourth is the most interesting bell, showing a unique inscription, 'A Trvsty Frende is Harde to Fynde, 1585.' It is a casting of Richard Benetlye, a travelling bell-founder, who, by means of temporary furnaces, cast all his bells on the spot. Benetlye was a native of Leicester, and possibly learned his trade under the Newcombe family of bell-founders. Other works of his can be seen in Rutland, at Seaton (1597), and several Midland parishes. When he cast this bell at Passenham, it is thought he must have been in a rather low spirited frame of mind—a somewhat sad man—hence the inscription.

Were he or the Attons of Buckingham alive to-day, I have an inclination that one of these would be able to divulge the secret of what happened to the four bells of Preston Deanery, near Northampton, which were sold between 1585 and 1622 by Jasper Hertwell, who during those 37 years occupied the Manor, plundered the church and sold the lead and the bells. In 1622 Charles Edmonds, who took this Manor, restored the church at Preston Deanery and installed one small bell, which Henry Penn, of Peterborough, recast in 1710, which still exists to this day in the old tower. This old tower is, inside, like a fuel cellar, used for storing coke.

Back to South Northants, Syresham is a steeple of which little is known to many ringers. I had an eye-opener when I visited this place back in the early '30's. There are five bells (tenor 8½ cwt.) in what is described as 'a weak steeple,' although it is of no great height, 60-70 feet at the outside.

Massive polished oak beams are built inside the tower from the ground up to the bell chamber in each corner. Upon these is built the oak bell frame, so that these carry all the weight and the tower actually only forms a casement (or shell). The back four bells hang one on each side of the tower, with the treble in a frame of its own above, set diagonal, so that its rope falls in the centre of the belfry, which is on the ground floor. The last rehangings here was in 1886. To-day the bells are totally unringable. At the time of my visit (one Sunday), the then churchwarden (who was himself a ringer) had the remarkable record of having served under 11 vicars. I have tried to persuade one or two in authority here to push for a restoration, and one day it may succeed.

Another steeple needing a bell restoration in this area is Evenley. Nothing has been done since 1865, when Mears rehung these five light bells (tenor 6 cwt. 3 qr. 26 lb.), one of which has the historic distinction of being the first bell of the Bagley family, of Chacombe, nearby.

Henry Bagley, born in 1608, cast this bell at the age of 24—in 1632—the date to be seen on it. This Henry had several descendants of the same name, besides two Matthews and a William. The family carried on bellfounding at Chacombe, Exton, and elsewhere, until 1771, when it became extinct. The back six of the unringing eight bells at Easton Neston, near Towcester, were the last bells of the Bagleys. A new vicar of Towcester is hoping to persuade Lord Hesketh to allow Easton Neston's bells to be rung again. These six bells were augmented to eight by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston in 1911. They have been unringing since the late '20's and are a ring of bells wasted. The Hesketh family control the estate and are the patrons.

Whitfield, near to Syresham, has five bells rehanging by Taylors in 1870. I cannot recall a meeting ever here, but some ringing interest of late has sprung up, although the belfry is anything but pleasant to ring in; ropes fall almost touching the walls. There are five bells (tenor 7 cwt.).

(To be continued)

A DAY IN SHROPSHIRE VILLAGES

A small band drawn from Allesley (Coventry) St. Luke's, Wolverhampton, and Little Aston, together with the writer, spent December 4th touring Shropshire villages.

At Burford it was discovered that the five bells here are hung 'dead' (Mr. Dove and others interested, please note). A local inhabitant at Tugford told us that this five had not been rung within living memory, and by the state of the frame and fittings we could well believe it. Not until nearly dinner time did we have our first ring, at Rushbury (5, 6 cwt. in B). Here the Vicar welcomed us but told us that the bells had not been rung for six years and that he himself had never heard them rung. After ascending the tower to ensure their safety, and one of our ropes had been fixed to the tenor, we managed some Grandsire on this somewhat tricky ground-floor ring, with a cracked 2nd.

There is a pleasant six at Hope Bowdler (9½ cwt. in A) and an even better light 5½ cwt. six at Church Pulverbatch. They have recently been overhauled by Taylors and are a good job.

About three miles north of Shrewsbury is Leaton, with its broached five. These bells were considered by the two members of the band who had rung on every Shropshire five to be easily the best; they are a good ring by Taylors (tenor 14½ cwt. in G) and some Stedman was enjoyed here. At Atcham we decided to check with the Vicar the report that the bells were unringable. He promptly informed us that this was not so and readily gave us permission to ring. Unfortunately the treble rope was broken but we enjoyed some well-struck Doubles on the back five (tenor 11 cwt. in G). This church is notable in being the only one in England dedicated to St. Eata.

The head ringer and his son welcomed us and joined in ringing with us at Albrighton. Here are quite a good six (tenor 11 cwt. in G). We found a pinnacled tower and spire rising 200 feet at Worfield, where the head ringer joined in some excellent Grandsire Doubles on this good six (tenor 15 cwt. in F). A good 'fall' ended the day's ringing. The band wish to express their sincere thanks to all incumbents and ringers who made them welcome.

OBITUARY

MR. F. J. RING

With great regret we record the passing of Mr. F. J. Ring, of Swanscombe, Kent, who died suddenly after a very short illness.

Mr. Ring, who was 68 years of age, was for many years leader and secretary of Swanscombe band. He followed his father as secretary of the band, thus constituting a record of 62 years of continuous service. A prominent Freemason, he was Immediate Past Master of the Anglo Saxons and also a member of the Lodge of Sympathy.

In Swanscombe Church there is a permanent memorial to his love of the church. He made and gave the beautifully carved oak screen which divides the vestry and ringing chamber from the main body of the church.

The funeral service in Swanscombe on Dec. 15th was attended by many mourners, including the local band and friends from nearby towers. The bells were rung half-muffled on Friday evening, and a half-muffled peal of Stedman, his favourite method, was rung on the Saturday. And so another stalwart of this church has passed to his higher reward. G. J. B.

REDEDICATION

WITHYHAM, SUSSEX

Reputed to be one of the most musical rings in Sussex, the bells of Withyham have just been overhauled by Messrs. Taylor. They have been fitted with new gudgeons and hung on ball bearings and the clappers have been rebushed. The organ, also, has been cleaned and overhauled, and on Sunday, December 12th, the completion of both jobs was celebrated by a thanksgiving service, which was preceded by an organ recital by Dr. A. W. Bunney, Director of Music, Tonbridge School.

The bells were dedicated by the Rural Dean, the Rev. J. R. Missen, Vicar of Coleman's Hatch, who gave them into the care of the Rector, the Rev. P. L. Scott, while an interesting address was given by the Rev. G. A. E. Cotnam, curate of Wadhurst. After the service there was ringing by the local band and visitors under the direction of Mr. H. Vaughan, the Withyham captain.

VILLAGERS AFRAID?

The following headlines appeared in the Northampton 'Mercury' and 'Herald' on December 17th:—'Syresham Villagers Afraid Bellingring Will Bring Down Their Tower.'

The village of Syresham, situated near Brackley, has but five bells with a 37 inch tenor weighing 8½ cwt., in one of the lowest broadched steeples to be seen anywhere. Like Acle, Norfolk, the bells are hung almost independent of the tower, in an oak frame upon beams from the ground in each corner of the tower, which is a mere casement or shell.

The bells were last rehung (on oak headstocks) in 1886. They hang north, south, east and west, with the treble swinging diagonally in a frame on its own above the other four in the centre.

'Would these five light bells, if rehung, bring down the tower?' A visit by the Central Council Towers and Belfries Committee should supply the answer.

SAID 2,500 YEARS AGO

The Master said: To learn and to practise on occasion what one has learnt—is this not true pleasure? The coming of a friend from a far-off land—is this not true joy?

Refusal to instruct one who is competent to learn entails the waste of a man. Instruction of one who is incompetent to learn entails waste of words. The wise man is he who wastes neither men nor words.

From the 'Sayings of Confucius' (551—478 B.C.)

Submitted by Miss E. D. Overend, 49, Alexandra Road, Frome.

NORTH STONEHAM RINGERS

Preceded by supper, the annual meeting of the North Stoneham ringers was held at the Old Rectory Hotel, North Stoneham, near Eastleigh. The Rector (the Rev. H. Shail) presided at an attendance of 16 of the band. In his address he referred to the sound of the bells as a 'glimmering of sanity in a world becoming used to the scream of the jet engine and the crash of breaking through the sound barrier.'

Congratulations and good wishes were expressed to Mr. W. T. Tucker, who had celebrated his 78th birthday the day previous. Commenting on the year's activity the captain, Mr. R. A. Reed, said that the full ringing band now numbered 23 of mixed ages and ringing ability. To train the local band to peal standard had of necessity to be a slow task but the successful ringing of the first 720 for several of the band, and the equally successful quarter peal attempt that afternoon had been encouraging for all who took part, including himself.

Reporting on the financial position the treasurer and secretary, Mr. Norman Hayes, said that the Belfry Fund, after expenses, now stood at £41, nearly a quarter of which had been received from ringers' subscriptions. The steeplekeeper, Mr. C. Taylor, reported on the condition of the bells and the belfry.

Election of officers for the ensuing year resulted:—Mr. R. A. Reed, captain; Mr. N. Hayes, treasurer; Mr. L. W. Stead, secretary. Permanent officers were the Rector as president, and Mr. Taylor as steeplekeeper.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL

Cheltenham Branch

Nearly 40 members and visitors assembled at St. Mary's Church, Charlton Kings, on December 11th for the annual meeting of the Cheltenham Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

Ringling began on the eight bells at 3 p.m. and continued until 4 p.m. when a break was made for tea at which the ringers were cordially welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. C. T. Deakin.

This was followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Master of the Association, Mr. Leslie Barry. Officers elected for 1955 were Mr. C. Rouse, chairman, and Miss E. M. Bliss secretary; Mr. F. Nurden was re-elected representative on the Management Committee.

After the meeting the ringers returned to the church for a service conducted by the Vicar, who spoke of the importance of ringers playing an active part in the life of the church.

Further ringing, ranging from rounds to Cambridge Major, took place until 8.30 p.m.

Australia's Oldest Bell

The oldest bell in Australia was cast 278 years ago and stands in the porch of St. Mary's R.C. Cathedral, Perth. It was presented to the Benedictine Abbey at Compostella, Spain, in 1676 by one Maestro Bustamante and was brought to Australia in 1853.

According to J. E. M. H. in 'Ringing Towers' the inscription round the shoulder of the bells is: 'Sancta Hagata, I.H.S. Maria Ora Pro Nobis.' The lettering has a background of fine tracery of leaves. On the body of the bell are two medallions—one of a knight on horseback and the other a head of Our Blessed Lord. On the opposite side of the bell from these is a cross carried out in little individual star shapes rather like those which one can achieve with a cake-icing nozzle. Altogether it is a most noble old bell—rather longer and narrower than the present-day shape—and it would be interesting to hear the note and tone of it.

NOTICES

Scale of Charges

The charge of Notices for meetings is one penny a word, minimum 3s. 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. 6d.

All Notices must be prepaid.

Notices must be received on the Monday preceding publication.

ENGAGEMENTS

LEESE—SPENCE.—The engagement is announced between William L. B. Leese, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. S. Leese, of 24, Rollscourt Avenue, Herne Hill, S.E.24, and Eileen Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Spence, of 39, Morningfield Road, Aberdeen. 5581

MOORE—BRACEY.—The engagement is announced between Mr. John Moore, of Heston, Middlesex, and Miss Eileen Bracey, of Hethersett, Norfolk. 5582

SILVER WEDDING

BALL—BRINKWORTH.—On January 1st, 1930, at St. Mary's Church, Frampton-on-Severn, by the Rev. Lionel Ward, Henry Surman to Freda. Present address: New Inn, Haw Bridge, Tisbury, Gloucester. 5594

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

To all friends, far and near, old and new, greetings.—Charles Rouse, Cheltenham. 5578

Greetings for the New Year to friends everywhere from Shirley Rymer, Dudley, Worcs. 5575

To all our ringing friends with whom we have had such great times with on our tours round the counties of England, a happy and prosperous New Year.—N. S. T. G., Nailsea. 5573

PUBLICATION

A FEW COPIES remain of 'The Church Bells of Flintshire,' 3s. 6d.; 'Ayrshire,' 3s. 6d.; 'Stirlingshire,' 3s.; 'Scottish Rings of Bells,' 2s. All post free from the author, Ranald Clouston, Swanslea, Westerfield, near Ipswich, Suffolk. 5464

MISCELLANEOUS

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. Change of officer: The hon. secretary is now E. H. Edge, of 6, Court Lane, Wolstanton, Stoke-on-Trent. Tel. Newcastle 66085. 5593

ROMSEY ABBEY.—No practice on Jan. 5th or during Lent, otherwise visitors welcome on first Wednesdays of the month.—C. T. Drew, 111, Winchester Road, Romsey, Hants. 5579

EXTRA COPIES.—It is an advantage if those requiring extra copies will send their orders at the time copy of peals or quarter peals is submitted.

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

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Quarterly meeting at Ripley (8), Saturday, Jan. 1st. Bells 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements; cafes nearby.—Mary Hobbs, Dis. Sec. 5577

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ely District.—Annual meeting at Ely on Saturday, Jan. 1st. Bells (8) 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Election of officers at business meeting.—R. J. Housden, Dis. Sec. 5543

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—Meeting at New Romney on Jan. 1st. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Don't forget your nominations for new members.—W. P. G. 5493

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Sevenoaks (8) on Saturday, Jan. 1st. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (1s.) 5.15 p.m. Names, with cash, please, to Miss D. Colgate, 38, Buckhurst Avenue, Sevenoaks. 5517

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Annual meeting at Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, at 6 p.m. Jan. 1st. St. Martin's bells (12) available 4.30 p.m.—George E. Fearn, 92, Etwell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28. Phone: Springfield 1025. 5502

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Dore, near Sheffield, on Saturday, Jan. 1st, 3 p.m. Cups of tea in Church Hall; bring own food. All welcome.—N. Chaddock, Hon. Sec. 5532

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Practice meeting Lindfield (8), Saturday, Jan. 1st.—Mrs. E. Rapley. 5597

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Holborn, W.C.2, on Monday, Jan. 3rd, 7 p.m.—T. J. Lock. 5600

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Bath Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Michael's (8), Broad Street, on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5.15 p.m. Abbey bells available after the meeting. Tea, on notification only, to Mr. G. Hawkins, 29, Coronation Avenue, Oldfield Park, Bath. 5542

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Frome Branch.—Annual meeting at Chewton Mendip, Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells 3. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—E. Chivers, Chilcompton. 5583

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—The annual meeting will be held at Biggleswade on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells (8) 3. Tea and business meeting in the Memorial Hall 5.—L. H. Bywaters, Sec. 5576

DEVON GUILD.—N.E. Branch.—Annual meeting, Silverton, Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 Names for tea to A. G. Selley, 3, Exeter Road, Silverton.—W. Ware, Hon. Sec. 5506

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Withyham (8), Jan. 8th. Names for tea to H. Vaughan, 17, Balls Green, Withyham, Hartfield.—C. A. Bassett. 5601

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cambridge District.—Annual meeting at Cambridge, Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells: R.C. 2-3 p.m.; Great St. Andrew's 3-4.30 p.m. and service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. St. Andrew's Parish Room, Emmanuel Road. St. Mary's bells after tea.—H. L. Martin, Dis. Sec. 5587

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western.—Annual general meeting, Brentwood, Jan. 8th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. followed by meeting. Names for tea to Mr. J. Sitch, Angle Cottage, Priests' Lane, Shenfield. 5531

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Rodbourne Cheney (6) Jan. 8th. Tea.—Kvnaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon. Tel. 3936. 5586

HEREFORD GUILD.—Ross District.—Annual meeting at Ross, Jan. 8th, from 3 p.m. Service 4. Tea (Central Cafe) 4.30. Names for tea to W. T. Poston, Viewlands, Walford Road, Ross-on-Wye. 5544

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Quarterly meeting at Headcorn, Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5. Names, please, to R. L. Sills, The Square, Wrotham. 5569

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Leyland, St. Andrew's, Jan. 8th. Tea at 5 p.m. followed by Branch annual meeting. Names for tea, please, by Wednesday, 5th.—L. Walmsley, Leyland Motors, Ltd., Leyland. 5572

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Bartholomew's, Whitworth, Jan. 8th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Business 6.15. Election of Ringing Master, nominations to be given at meeting. Please send names for tea, by Jan. 5th, to B. Heginbottom, 4, Parkside, Whitworth.—F. Pritchard. 5590

LADIES' GUILD.—North-Eastern District.—Second annual meeting, Darlington, Saturday, Jan. 8th. Ringing 2.30 p.m. at St. Cuthbert's and St. John's. Service, St. Cuthbert's, 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Ringing, Holy Trinity, in evening. Names for tea, by Thursday, Jan. 6th, to Mrs. Cooke, 24, Leafield Road, Darlington. Special bus will leave Central Garage, Newcastle, at 2 p.m. There are still a few seats vacant on this bus. Anyone interested, please contact Mrs. N. I. Lea, 9, St. Vincent Street, South Shields. 5553

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Loughborough District.—Annual, Jan. 8th, Loughborough Parish Church, 3. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting, Bellfoundry Ringing Room, 5. Names, by Jan. 4th, to Mr. P. Taylor, Bellfoundry House.—C. W. Hall. 5556

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leicester District.—Annual meeting, All Saints', Leicester, on Jan. 8th. Bells 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. in Schoolrooms. Names, by Jan. 5th, to J. Bennett, 41, Valence Road, Leicester. St. Margaret's possibly available during evening. 5598

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch (Lincoln District).—Annual meeting at Sleaford (8) on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Tea for those who notify, by Wednesday previous, Mrs. Wray, 16, Eastgate, Sleaford.—C. Brown, Hon. Sec. 5580

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Next meeting, Fishtoft, Saturday, Jan. 8th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. All requiring tea must notify me by Monday, Jan. 3rd.—W. E. Clarke, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston. 5603

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Annual meeting, Jan. 8th, St. Margaret's (not St. Andrew's), Uxbridge. Service 4.30. Tea and business in Church Hut, Belmont Road. Bells (8) from 3. Hillingdon (10) after tea. Every tower represented, please.—F. W. Goodfellow, Hon. Sec. 5568

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting, Longton, Sat., Jan. 8th. Own arrangements for tea; cafes near tower.—E. H. Edge. 5592

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A.G.M. at East Haddon, Jan. 8th. Service 4 p.m. Tea at Red Lion Hotel 4.45 p.m. Names for tea must reach me by Jan. 5th.—E. Orland, High Street, Long Buckby, Rugby. 5589

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Quarterly at Swalcliffe (6), Jan. 8th. Service 4. Tea 5. Please notify E. C. Pearson, Adderbury West. Phone: Adderbury 350. 5535

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oundle Branch.—Annual meeting at Oundle (8), Jan. 8th, at 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow at Brereton Rooms. Names for tea, by Jan. 1st, to Mrs. P. E. Clarke, 7, Bassett Place, Oundle. 5550

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Winter meeting, Bushbury, Wolverhampton, Jan. 8th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Names for tea, not later than Wednesday, Jan. 5th, to Mr. H. Harrison, 70, Sandon Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton. 5574

SOUTHWELL GUILD.—North Notts District.—Annual meeting at Retford, Saturday, Jan. 8th. East Retford (10), West Retford (6) and Ordsall (6) available from 2.30. Service in East Retford Church at 4.15. Tea (3s. each) at 5 p.m. at Tudor Cafe, only for those who notify by 6th, Mr. O. Street, 61, Cobwell Road, Retford. Meeting in East Retford belfry at 6 p.m.—H. Denman. 5595

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Practice meeting, Angmering (6), on Saturday, Jan. 8th. Names for tea, please, by previous Tuesday to W. L. Weller, Sunnyside, Itchingfield, Horsham. 5605

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southampton District.—Annual District meeting, Jan. 8th. Service in St. Mary's Chantry 4.15. Tea in Chantry Hall at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Ringing at St. Michael's 2.30 to 4 and after meeting. Names for tea, by Jan. 4th, to M. J. Butler, 8, St. Peter's Road, Southampton. 5599

MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.—Annual meeting, Burton, All Saints', Saturday, Jan. 15th. Bells 2.30. Tea in All Saints' Schoolroom 4.45, followed by meeting. Parish Church bells available after meeting. All ringers welcome.—J. W. Cotton, Overseale 264. 5591

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—North Norfolk Branch.—The annual general meeting will be held at Wymondham on Saturday, Jan. 15th. Bells (8) from 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea in Vicarage Room at 5 p.m. followed by business meeting. Names or numbers for tea must be sent on or before Wednesday, Jan. 12th, to H. Tooke, 11, Long Row, The Lizard, Wymondham, Norfolk. 5596

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—The annual general meeting will be held at Kettering (10) on Saturday, Jan. 15th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5.15. Tea will be free to current Branch members. Names for tea, not later than Tuesday previous, to D. Haynes, 5, London Road, Kettering. 5588

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Annual general meeting at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Saturday, January 15th. Bells available: St. Giles', Cripplegate (City) (12), 2.30-4 p.m.; St. Martin-in-the-Fields 3.30-5 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.; St. Martin's Canteen, followed by meeting in Vestry Hall. Names for tea, by Tuesday, Jan. 11th, please, to Mrs. C. J. Matthews, 177, Engadine Street, Southfields, S.W.18.—P. N. Bond, Hon. Sec. 5526

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Cradley, Saturday, Jan. 15th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. followed by tea and business.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Lane, Stourbridge. 5602

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—South-West Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Lifton on Jan. 22nd. Names for tea, by Jan. 17th, to T. G. Myers, 79, Regent Street, Plymouth. 5548

LADIES' GUILD.—Kent Branch.—Important Preliminary Notice.—The annual general meeting of the Kent Branch will be held at Canterbury Cathedral on Jan. 22nd. Ringing to commence at 2 p.m. and Evensong at 3.15 p.m. Tea 4.30. Names, by Jan. 15th, please, to Mr. B. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury. All ladies welcome, gentlemen cordially invited.—Jill Haffenden, Hon. Sec. 5585

HONITON, DEVON.—On Dec. 19th, at St. Michael's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: C. Webb 1, C. Manley 2, A. Hodge 3, W. Sparks 4, W. Webb (cond.) 5, B. Tozer 6. For morning service.

HUTTON, ESSEX.—On Dec. 12th, 1,260 Doubles (Grandsire, Plain Bob and All Saints): M. Baker 1, Gwenda A. Davies 2, W. G. Wright 3, C. E. Hill 4, B. E. Shedell (cond.) 5. Rung for Evensong and as a farewell to Gwenda A. Davis, who is leaving the district.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	3 8 7 2 5 6 1 4
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2 8 6 3 4 7 1 5	1 3 2 5 4 7 6 8
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Rung at Birmingham Cathedral, Oct. 7th, 1954.

STREATHAM, S.W.—At Immanuel Church, on Dec. 12th, 1,280 Plain Bob Major: Miss E. Wooldridge (first quarter of Major) 1. Miss J. Clements 2. D. Woodhams 3. J. Euston 4. G. Parsons 5. C. Nichols 6. R. Story 7. E. Talbot 8.

WALMER, KENT.—On Dec. 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. A. Rye 1. Mrs. F. W. Lawrence 2. Miss A. Vine 3. A. C. Rye 4. P. J. Rye 5. J. F. Penfold 6. F. W. Lawrence (cond.) 7. H. E. Axon 8. Rung for carol service, also a 63rd birthday compliment to H. E. Axon.

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