

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 246. Vol. IX.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26th, 1915.

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

Price 1d.

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



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.
Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

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

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

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

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

MODERN WORK.

HELPING THE FUND.

There have been some specially welcome donations among those which we have recently acknowledged towards the Prince of Wales' Fund. One was the sum collected at the service in connection with the recent annual meeting of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association. It was a very thoughtful action on the part of the officers of the association and the church authorities which directed this offertory into the National Relief Fund through the channel specially provided for ringers. We could wish that more collections were made at meetings—either in church or at the business proceedings—for this important cause. Much good work has been done by the Fund, and the future will, in all probability, make heavy calls upon its resources. Therefore, wherever there is a possibility, ringers should lend a hand. Undoubtedly district and other meetings form a capital opportunity for the claims of the fund to be advanced, and we should be very glad to see secretaries rising to the occasion more often.

A donation which we acknowledge this week is of special interest, for it has come from the members of the Boston Guild, America. It shows, in still another way, that, though the seas divide us, the hearts of our countrymen are with us. The Boston Guild has had a big struggle to maintain its existence, since it came into being two years ago. It has only been the indomitable perseverance of six or eight enthusiasts that has kept the flag of ringing flying, even for this period, in a country where the art has never flourished. Slowly the little party is going ahead, but they get very little encouragement from anyone in authority. They are able to arrange periodical ringing at one or two of the churches, and the Guild has been kept in being by a monthly business meeting. It says not a little for its vitality that a generous contribution to our list for the National Relief Fund should have been sent, and we hope the example, which this donation provides, may be followed by others from older established Guilds at home.

We know that there are many demands upon the purses of all in this country, but we should like to see our fund assisted from a wider circle of supporters than has lately been the case. Even if regular contributions cannot be sent, an occasional donation might be forthcoming, perhaps, if the tower captain or secretary would just put the matter before his band. It is not necessary that the sums should be large, as long as they are numerous. We hope, therefore, to see a quicker rise of the fund in future, so that the second one hundred guineas we set out to raise may be completed in reasonable time. It needs but a little persistent effort and well applied energy, and a helping hand all round.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

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

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

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

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs. C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

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

**SMETHWICK,
BIRMINGHAM**

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FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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OF ALL KINDS.

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IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
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TEN BELL PEAL.

CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 20, 1915, in Three Hours and Twenty-six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB ROYAL, 5184 CHANCES;

Tenor 24½ cwt.

*PERCY SAULT Treble	†THOMAS HENSHER 6
*BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS 2	SAMUEL WESLEY 7
GEORGE HOLLIS 3	ARTHUR KNIGHTS 8
*GEORGE DAVIES 4	*JAMES GEORGE 9
ALBERT H. WARD 5	WALTER ALLWOOD Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Royal. First peal of Royal in the method by the Association.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WITNEY, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

THE WITNEY AND WOODSTOCK DEANERIES BRANCH.

On Monday, November 15, 1915, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lbs.

*PRIVATE F. T. C. CAPLE...Treble	G. BROOKS 5
A. BROOKS 2	J. MONK 6
T. BULL 3	J. BROOKS 7
†SERGT. G. C. RICE 4	*H. BULL Tenor

Conducted by J. MONK.

* First peal. † First peal with an inside bell. Rung as a tribute of respect to and sympathy for King Albert, King of the Belgians, and his gallant men, and as a birthday peal to His Majesty. Sergeant Rice hails from Harwell, Berks. Pte. Caple from Exeter.

KING'S NORTON, BIRMINGHAM.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 17, 1915, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANCES;

Tenor 14 cwt., in F.

WILLIAM PALMER Treble	JOHN EATON 5
FRANK WITHERS 2	JAMES GEORGE 6
ALFRED PRITCHETT 3	J. S. PRITCHETT 7
THEODORE PRITCHETT 4	ARTHUR CHAMBERS Tenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and

Conducted by ALDERMAN J. S. PRITCHETT.

This peal was rung as a token of respect for Mr. Josiah Hands, who was born and lived for nearly 87 years under the shadow of the church tower.

WHITWICK, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 20, 1915, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANCES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

*WILLIAM H. HUMBERSTONE Treble	JOSIAH MORRIS 5
FREDERICK H. DEXTER 2	ERNEST MORRIS 6
HARRY BROUGHTON 3	*EFHRAIM W. RANDS 7
JOHN OLDHAM 4	EDWARD READER Tenor

Composed and Conducted by EDWARD MORRIS.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. Rung with the bells half-muffled in memory of the Leicestershire soldiers and sailors who have fallen during the war.

SIX BELL PEALS.

WITNESHAM, SUFFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 16, 1915, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARV.

A PEAL OF DOB MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Being seven 720's each called differently. Tenor 14 cwt.

GEORGE FARNISH Treble	GEORGE FLEMMING 4
ALBERT FLEMMING 2	SERGT. J. BENNETT (R.M.) 5
GEORGE PRYKE 3	WILLIAM BURGESS Tenor

Conducted by WM. BURGESS.

Rung to oblige the ringer of the 5th, who home on a few days' leave from H.M.S. "Phaeton," North Sea

SAPCOTE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 20, 1915, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Consisting of Grandsire, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

WILLIAM WRIGHT Treble	HENRY WRIGHT 4
MISS HILDA WILLSON 2	JOHN GARRATT 5
CHARLES BROWN 3	WILLIAM WILLSON Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM WILLSON.

Rung with bells half muffled in memory of the late Rector, Rev. A. G. Lound, M.A., for 35 years the faithful friend of the poor of this parish. Miss Hilda Willson and the conductor hail from Leicester, the remainder are local men.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ARKLOW, CO. WICKLOW, IRELAND.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 9, 1915, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,
AT LAMBERTON LODGE.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Being 720 each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Grandsire, College Single, Canterbury Pleasure, Oxford Bob, and Plain Bob.

JOHN KEARON 1-2	RICHARD KEARON 3-4
ARTHUR A. HADLEY 5-6	

Conducted by ARTHUR A. HADLEY.

Witnesses: WINIFRED HADLEY and ELIZABETH MADDERS.

Rung at the first attempt. First peal in seven method John and Richard Kearon.

RETTFORD, NOTTS.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION

On Wednesday, November 17, 1915, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. SEGAR.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Two 720's of College Single Reverse, two 720's of St. Clements and three of Plain Bob.

JOHN HURST 1-2	JOHN SEGAR, JR. 3-4
GEORGE TURNER 5-6	

Conducted by J. SEGAR, JR.

Witness: A. PIERCY.

CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES AND THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATIONS.

On Sunday, November 21, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty-nine and a Half Minutes,

AT 31, HIGHER ALBERT STREET.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATER, 5003 CHANCES;

GEORGE HOLLIS 1-2	WILLIAM J. THYNG 5-6
CLEMENT GLENN 3-4	ARTHUR KNIGHTS 7-8
JAMES GEORGE 9-10	

Composed by JAMES GEORGE and

Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.

Witness: B. A. KNIGHTS.

Rung on the 35th anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. A. Knights.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

We have received the following further contributions to the Prince of Wales' National Relief Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	117	13	5
Boston Guild, U.S.A. (per Mr. Jas. F. Laker, hon. sec.)	2	7	3
Total	£120	0	8

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following further ringers have joined H.M. Forces:—

Pte J. A. Hoare, of Swansea, 7th Welsh Cyclists.
Herbert Holme, St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne, 3rd Writer, Royal Navy, now at Portsmouth.
Pte A. J. Baynes, of West Ham, M.T.C., now in France.
Pte Frank Beesley, Ton Neston, 3rd Northampton Regiment, now at Chatham.
Pte Frank Dickens, of Towcester, 3rd Northampton Regiment, now at Gillingham.
Albert W. Coles, of the Northampton Borough Police, has, with 16 other members of that force, joined the military police, and is now at Aldershot.
Pte John Parker, of Barthomley Parish Church, Cheshire, 5th King's Liverpool Regiment.
Pte Harry Tudor, of Frodsham, A.S.C.
Pte A. Mason, of All Saints', King's Cliffe, Northamptonshire T.F., at Northampton.
From the Church of St. John the Divine, Leicester:—
Pte T. Vallance, 10th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment.
Pte H. E. Norman, Motor Transport.

RINGING IN AMERICA.**BOSTON GUILD'S WORK.**

For over two years, six or eight enthusiastic and practical change ringers, from the old country, have tried their utmost to keep a band together in the City of Boston. On Monday, Nov. 7th, they held one of their monthly business meetings, and the outlook of the Guild was discussed at some length.

Considering all the difficulties they have had to overcome, it was felt the Guild had done well to be able to call a business meeting once a month. It was with regret a system of fines was introduced last year, but apparently, rather than show any lack of enthusiasm by being recorded late, or absent, the ringers have attended better, and better ringing has resulted.

Two very good quarter-peals have recently been rung, as already recorded in "The Ringing World," and with only eight or nine practical ringers in Boston, they congratulate themselves that they are slowly going ahead. It is very difficult to get permission to ring for long continuous lengths, but the Guild now have sanction to ring every Sunday evening at the Church of the Advent for 45 minutes, and once a month at Watertown, on a Sunday morning for the same time. Occasional visits are paid to Hingham and Groton, but, through lack of funds, these journeys are not so frequent as the ringers would wish.

Recognising that they could be justly ranked as a ringing society, it was felt by the members that "Boston, U.S.A." would look well amongst the list of those towers and societies subscribing to the Prince of Wales' Relief Fund through the "Ringing World." The matter was ably brought forward by Mr. R. Newton at the meeting, with the result that the hon. secretary has forwarded a draft amounting to £2 7s. 3d., which was subscribed by the nine active members in Boston. It may be added that no less than six of the ringers are members of the Order of "Sons of St. George," and with them have done, and are doing, good work for the Relief Fund.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

A successful meeting of the Northern Branch, Gainsborough District, was held at Corringham on Saturday last, at which the towers of Gainsborough, Willingham and Corringham were represented. On the arrival of the Gainsborough contingent they were pleased to learn that seven of the Bigby company (Grimsby district) along with their Rector (the Rev. H. T. Parry) who is also an enthusiastic change ringer, had already made their appearance. This helped to swell the number which, otherwise, under the present and other unforeseen circumstances would only have been rather moderate. The bells, a handy and sweet-toned ring of six, were available during the afternoon and evening, and kept going in the methods of Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob. Tea was provided by Mrs. Smithson, and was followed by the business meeting.

The Vicar of Corringham (the Rev. C. C. Fowler) presided, and was supported by the Rector of Bigby.—The Ringing Master (Mr. J. C. Tucker) gave a very hearty welcome to the Bigby visitors, which was acknowledged in a very appreciative manner by the Rev. H. T. Parry.—Votes of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, also to all those who had helped to make the meeting such a success, concluded the business.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

By "BOB MAJOR."

What a wonderful man William Pye is! That's no news, I suppose, to anybody who knows anything about ringing, but did you notice that footnote to a handbell peal recorded in last week's issue? "W. Pye's 1,200th peal," was the bald announcement, but, when you come to think about it, what a wonderful deal it conveys; and the more you think about it the more you wonder. What prodigious application and effort it means, and how puny are some of our own records beside this one. And yet our own small achievements—our struggles and failures as well as our successes—help us to realise something of what the performance of 1,200 peals means. Let us, with a hundred or so peals to our credit, think of all our exertions, even if we have been among the lucky ones, and then multiply it twelve times! Twenty or twenty-five years ago, when William Pye rang his first peal, such a thing as 1,200 peals by one man would have been looked upon as an impossibility. But peal ringing is on a different basis in these days; in some respects peals are not judged by the same standards. Indeed, I do not think it is going beyond the bounds of truth when I say that Mr. Pye is responsible to no small extent for the change in those standards.

TWO GREAT RECORDS.

Mr. Pye, as most readers will know, is the second ringer to reach the 1,200 mark, the other having been the late Rev. F. E. Robinson, who, at his death, had rung, I believe, 1,251 peals. But one cannot pretend to make any comparison between the records of these two great ringers. Their performances are altogether apart, although it is true that each has shared in some record achievements. In thinking of the late Vicar of Drayton's record, one has to remember that he was ringing peals before William Pye was born. He was well over 70 years of age when he completed his 1,200th, while Mr. Pye has fulfilled the task in less than two-thirds of the time—indeed, although I have not the dates before me, I should not be surprised if the actual ringing career of the one is not less than half that of the other. In the ordinary course of things Mr. Pye will pass "the reverend's" total by a long way. I wonder whether there will ever come a time when William Pye will "give up work and go in for peal ringing." That was what Parson Robinson, at the age of 68, said he intended to do when he was 70, but I don't think he carried out the idea in the way he at one time really contemplated, for indifferent health robbed him of the opportunities which release from parochial duties might have brought him.

TAKING UP RINGING.

It is not everybody who is in the happy position of being able, at a given age, to snap his fingers at work and embrace his hobby—particularly if he is a ringer. One such I know—have you ever heard his name, gentle reader? I don't think I ought, really, to give it away—he used to hail from Rugby, but, according to latest advices, an address in Birmingham would find him. But the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley. The unfortunate part about the intentions of this vigorous veteran is that as soon as he gave up work with a view to taking up peal ringing, the war put an end to peal ringing. But peace is coming some day, and then—won't there be a time. The 600 mark, which I believe is the immediate objective of the gentleman in question, will be left behind before you can say "Jimmy George," and the other four hundred, to make up the thousand, will quickly be put into the book. More power to your elbow, James, but I see by reports from Sheffield that your form is not deteriorating. What a youth among the veterans you are. How many men at 62 would have tackled that job—and made a job of it, too, as I warrant you did?

A GREAT LITTLE MAN.

While there are only two men who have reached a dozen centuries of peals, so wide is the gap between such enthusiasts as these and ordinary peal ringers, that there are only about two others who have topped the thousand: I. G. Shade and E. Pye. The latter can claim, I believe, to have rung peals in more counties than anyone, more even than William. But the marvel of the age, to my mind, is George Shade. He was peal ringing a generation before some of the present-day peal ringers were born, and the habit has grown with him. Time and distance have been no obstacle to this great little man. If he couldn't get his ringing in London, well, he would go out of London for it, and, while it was not till he fell in with the present band that he rang peals at such a pace, yet for well over forty years he has been pegging away. And he still goes at it with all the zest of a boy—when he has the chance, for chances have been few and far between lately, especially as he has never been a handbell man.

SPARE TIME WORK.

In those palmy days, when some men used to ring round about a hundred peals a year, to say nothing of what they lost—I suppose they lost some, like other people—and of the casual ringing meetings and practices they used to attend, I was often wont to wonder when they found time to do much else but ring. They always reminded me of an acquaintance of mine who filled many public offices. He was a bit of a wag, and was called upon one day, in his public capacity, to give evidence at a Local Government Inquiry. As he seated himself in the witness' chair, the following colloquy took place:

Inspector: I think you are Mr. William Robinson?

Robinson: I am.

Inspector: What are you, Mr. Robinson?

Robinson: I am a member of the Borough Council and chairman of its Finance Committee, as well as being a member of the Highways Committee and the Watch Committee; I'm chairman of the Board of Guardians and on all its committees; I'm a member of the Education Authority. I'm churchwarden of my parish church, and serve on the committees of several local institutions. In my spare time I manage a bank.

One would sometimes be inclined to imagine that some of those who do so much ringing only work in their spare time, were it not that one knows how hard they have to work for their livelihood. Indeed, it's the busy man who always finds time for other things besides his every-day task.

ONLY ONE WHO KEPT A BEAT.

There's a story going the rounds now—it's almost got whiskers on it by this time—about an admiring Scotch woman and her daughter, watching the marching of the regiment in which her son had recently enlisted. As the soldiers passed, the dame exclaimed: "Look, Mary, oor Jock's the only one keeping step." Reading this yarn again the other day, reminded me of an incident that occurred in London some few years ago. A more or less scratch party met, I believe at Cornhill, for a peal of Cinques. At that time of day I do not think Cornhill bells went as well as they go now, or did go the last time I was there. Anyway, the peal attempt did not go any better than the bells, and after they had gone up into a "heap" and the ringing had come to an end, there was some "argifying," which turned, not only on who had put the "finishing touch" to the performance, but also on the striking which had prevailed. The gentleman who had rung the eleventh came in for special criticism. He took it rather sadly to heart, and, feeling somewhat aggrieved, confided in a sympathetic friend afterwards. Said he, "I can't understand why they all wanted to put the blame on to me, why I was the only one of the whole twelve who kept a beat."

BELLS AND POETRY.

That quotation at the top of an article, "Middlesex v. Bucks," in last week's "Ringing World" was, in truth, a misquotation. "Those evening bells, those mellow bells," was written by Thomas Moore as "Those evening bells, those evening bells." Whether they are evening bells or mellow bells, however, matters little to us, as long as they are bells, although whether it be evening or morning we naturally prefer bells that are mellow to those that are otherwise. There is one tower down in Hampshire where, they say, the bells are made of leather, except the tenor, and that's a wash tub. At any rate, there's not much satisfaction got out of ringing them, but when visitors talk to the boss of the belfry about them, he remarks, "Well, they mayn't be much of things, but they are better than nothing." There's much wisdom, as well as a spirit of resignation about this, which many of us might take to heart when we feel a bit discontented, not only with our bells, but things in general. But I have digressed. What I really intended when I began this note was to inquire who has the best collection of verse concerning bells? Have any of my readers made a point of gathering up the fragments of the poets concerning bells? If they have, it must make an interesting collection.

CHESTNUTS.

A couple of jokes that will appeal to ringers:—

Visitor: "I say, my lad, what are those church bells ringing for?"

Small Boy: "'Cos somebody's pulling 'em!"

Sergeant (to new recruit): "What denomination are you? Church of England?"

Recruit: "Oh, I ain't partic'lar. What are yer short of?"

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting of the Thrapston District was held at Thrapston on Saturday week, about 26 members being present from Raunds, Welford, Ringstead, Twywell, Islip, Finedon, Wellingborough, Titchmarsh and the local tower. The bells are a fine peal of eight, and various touches were rung during the afternoon and evening. Tea was provided at the King's Head Hotel, after which a short business meeting was held, presided over by the President (the Rev. W. St. George Coldwell, of Islip), who was supported by the Rev. J. Lang, of Twywell; Mr. F. Milford, general secretary, and the district secretary, Mr. F. Stubbs.—An apology was received from the Rector (the Rev. W. B. Stothert), who was busy recruiting, also Mr. James Clarke, of Towcester, who had to leave early, owing to the train service.

The following district officers were elected: Rev. W. B. Stothert, vice-president; Mr. F. Stubbs, district secretary; Messrs. F. Kirk, R. Loveday, D. Redhead, E. Mayes and E. Curtis, committee.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Twywell.

A vote of thanks to the Rector and local ringers brought a very successful meeting to a close.

CURTAILED RINGING AT NEWCASTLE.

At Newcastle Cathedral, where there has been only one practice since the war started, Sunday ringing is much curtailed, as no ringing is allowed after sunset on account of possible air raids, and on Sunday mornings a soldiers' service reduces the available time to 15 or 20 minutes.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

A VETERAN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED.

On Saturday week a quarterly meeting of the Dudley and District Guild was held at St. Martin's Parish Church, Tipton. In the afternoon several touches of Cambridge Surprise Major, Stedman Triples, etc., were rung on the bells, and at 4.30 p.m. the Guild service was held in the church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. W. T. De Vine, M.A., R.D.), assisted by the Rev. F. N. Fletcher.

The Vicar took his text from the 10th Psalm, "Tell it out that the Lord is King." He said that they were all trying to do their little bit for the country that we love, but that day he was asking them to do their little bit for a grander King. As Christ's messenger, he asked them to tell it out. John the Baptist said his was a voice crying in the wilderness. They, as ringers, had a very great honour conferred upon them. They were men who not only called others to God's house, but came to God's house themselves. As bell ringers they must have clean hands and pure hearts. They must never be slackers. They knew that when war first broke out many of their best workmen joined at once, and their places were filled by inferior men who did not think so much of their country, but came in for high wages. Thus over the bodies of their comrades they rose to success. As ringers of the bells they were mixed up with joy and sorrow. They took a great pride in their ringing, and were banded together all over the country. He was very glad of it. The bells did a noble work. Every scholar in their schools, when the bell rang out at noon, offered a prayer for King, country, and soldiers. There was a great art in bell ringing, and it was worth the time spent upon it.

There was a good company of members of the Guild and other ringers, and their wives, who had been specially invited. To celebrate the 76th birthday of Mr. William Rock Small, a veteran Tipton bell ringer, that gentleman kindly provided tea for the company, in the school room, which was greatly enjoyed.

The subsequent proceedings were presided over by the genial Vicar (the Rev. W. T. De Vine), and among those present were: Alderman J. S. Pritchett, M.A. (presiding Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham), Mr. A. Paddoa Smith (hon. secretary of St. Martin's Guild), Mr. S. Spittle (chairman of the St. Thomas's Guild, Dudley), Messrs. John Carter, J. E. Groves and J. George (all of Birmingham), Mr. H. Mason (Old Hill), Mr. A. E. Parsons (Old Hill), Messrs. A. Little, John Bradney, H. Knight, and D. Jones (Wolverhampton), Mr. B. Gough (Coseley), Mr. Herbert Sheppard (hon. sec., St. Thomas's Guild), Mr. John Smith (Church House, Tipton), Mr. William Rock Small (the host), the Rev. F. N. Fletcher, and a good many ladies, about seventy-five sitting down. Apologies were received from Messrs. Albert Walker, T. Rissam, and T. J. Bratton (Birmingham), Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Perrins (Tipton).

On the proposition of Mr. W. R. Small it was decided that the annual meeting of the Guild should be held at Dudley. Mr. Spittle said he would endeavour to make them as welcome as they always tried to do.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Mr. H. Mason proposed a vote of thanks to the provider of the feast (Mr. W. R. Small), and remarked that it gave him great pleasure to be present to attend welcome their old friend. It was not the first time that they had met under similar happy auspices. They congratulated him on having successfully passed another anniversary. On the previous day, as they knew, he entered upon his 77th year. They looked upon Mr. Small and Mr. Spittle as their shining lights, as the two old fathers of the Guild. They trusted that the donor of the feast would be spared for many years to ring the bells at that, and other bellfries (applause).

Alderman Pritchett, who associated himself with the vote of thanks, remarked how many years he had known Mr. Small as a ringer. He had had the pleasure of being introduced to two of his stalwart sons and a charming grand-daughter, and congratulated him. Like Mr. Spittle, Mr. Small was on the way to living to a grand old age, which showed that a ringer's life was a healthy one. He would certainly catch Mr. Spittle up if he lived long enough, being only three years behind (laughter). Many assembled there that evening were present to celebrate Mr. Small's golden wedding, and later, the attainment of three-quarters of a century, and he trusted that they would all live to meet together to celebrate the bringing in of peace (applause).

Mr. James George (Master of the Warwickshire Guild) also expressed the hope that Mr. Small would be spared for many years to ring peals.

Mr. S. Spittle then responded to a request to sing the old favourite song, "Many happy returns of the day," which he did in splendid voice, loud and clear, and far from what one would expect from a singer who is not far short of eighty years of age.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation, followed by the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow" and three lusty cheers.

Mr. William Rock Small, in reply, said that some of those present he met 40, 30 and 20 years ago in following his ringing, and the more he saw of them the more he liked them. He started to ring in 1863, ringing his first peal in 1866, and he had been ringing ever since. The more he rang the more he liked it, and to the ringing he ascribed his good health. There was no better exercise on earth, as it was both a mental and physical stimulant. He rejoiced to know that ringers were altogether a better lot of men than they were in the olden times. Ringers were now properly recognised as Church workers. There

would doubtless be more good ringers if the clergy took a greater interest in them.

Mr. John Smith, in some interesting remarks, moved a vote of thanks to the visitors.

A vote of thanks was also accorded the ladies for being present, Mr. Mason replying on their behalf.

Mr. S. Spittle voiced a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Tipton for so cordially consenting to the service, and to the organist (Mr. G. A. Banner).

The Rev. W. T. De Vine, in response, said he was very proud of the ringers of England.

The National Anthem closed the proceedings.

SURPRISE MINOR RINGING IN SUSSEX.

Recently the Shipley band, with Mr. Oliver Sippetts, of Crawley, visited the old parish church at Horsham, and rang two courses of Cambridge Surprise Major and 288 Kent Treble Bob Major: F. Denman 1, T. Adams 2, K. H. Bowell 3, G. Lucas 4, J. F. Bowell 5, W. Denman, junr., 6, A. Cripps 7, O. Sippetts (conductor) 8.—On Tuesday, November 2nd, at Shipley, 720 Chester Surprise Minor was rung: F. Denman 1, O. Sippetts 2, K. H. Bowell 3, G. Lucas 4, J. F. Bowell 5, A. Cripps (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, Nov. 7th, before morning service, 720 each of Beverly Surprise and Worcester Surprise Minor: T. Adams 1, W. Denman, junr., 2, R. H. Bowell 3, O. Sippetts 4, J. F. Bowell 5, A. Cripps (conductor) 6. Before evening service, 720 London Surprise Minor: F. Denman 1, T. Adams 2, R. H. Bowell 3, W. Denman, junr., 4, J. F. Bowell 5, A. Cripps (conductor) 6; and after service, 720 Wells Surprise, G. Lucas taking the place of R. H. Bowell, the rest as before.—On November 8th, 720 Durham Surprise was rung by: F. Denman 1, T. Adams 2, R. H. Bowell 3, W. Denman, junr., 4, J. F. Bowell 5, O. Sippetts (conductor) 6.—On Saturday evening, Nov. 14th, at West Grinstead, 720 York Surprise: W. Denman, junr., 1, O. Sippetts 2, R. H. Bowell 3, G. Lucas 4, J. F. Bowell 5, A. Cripps (conductor) 6; and 720 Carlisle Surprise: F. Denman 1, T. Adams 2, O. Sippetts 3, W. Denman, junr., 4, J. F. Bowell 5, W. Denman, junr. (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, before evening service, 720 Cambridge Surprise: F. Denman 1, T. Adams 2, R. H. Bowell 3, W. Denman, junr., 4, H. Foulle 5, O. Sippetts (conductor) 6.—On Tuesday, Nov. 16th, at Shipley, 720 Bristol Surprise: W. Denman, junr., 1, T. Adams 2, R. H. Bowell 3, G. Lucas 4, J. F. Bowell 5, A. Cripps (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, Nov. 21st, for morning service, 720 Canterbury Surprise: W. Denman, junr., 1, T. Adams 2, R. H. Bowell 3, O. Sippetts 4, J. F. Bowell 5, A. Cripps (conductor) 6. Before evening service, 720 College Pleasure: W. Denman, junr., 1, T. Adams 2, R. H. Bowell 3, G. Lucas 4, J. F. Bowell 5, A. Cripps (conductor) 6.

Mr. O. Sippetts, who has been a most welcome visitor to Shipley of late, has now had to take a farewell of the band, as he is leaving to take his place in the ranks of the 14th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, now stationed at Colchester. The best wishes of all the band went out to him with a hope he may be spared to return victorious amongst them again.

41 SURPRISE EXTENTS.

A capital record has been put up at St. Mary's Church, Walton-on-the-Hill, Liverpool, where by the ringing of 720 Bourne Surprise Minor, the members of the belfry have now achieved the whole of the 41 Legitimate Surprise extents published in the Central Council Legitimate Methods. The 720 Bourne, on November 9th, was rung by: J. W. Bell 1, W. T. Robson 2, T. W. Gilmour 3, J. Martin 4, H. H. Barker (conductor) 5, H. Fyles 6. Other members who have taken part in the ringing of the 41 methods are H. Harrison and Corpl. J. Wilkinson.

OXFORD GUILD GATHERINGS.

We are asked to state that a friendly gathering of ringers from neighbouring towers will be held, by kind permission of the Rector, at St. Mary's, Farnham Royal, on Saturday, the 27th, at 7 p.m. Six-bell men will be specially welcomed.

On Saturday, December 4th, the tower of St. Mary's, Burnham, will be open for united practice, to which visitors will be welcome, from 6 to 9 p.m., after the Boyne Hill committee meeting. A train leaves Taplow at 9.12 p.m. for the down and branch lines.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.—Warwickshire Guild.—On Tuesday, Oct. 26th, for practice, 720 Bob Minor: C. Holland (first 720 of Minor) 1, J. White 2, A. Wilson 3, J. Taylor 4, E. Andrew 5, H. Kettle (conductor) 6.

STANSTED.—Essex Association.—On Monday, Oct. 25th, at the Parish Church, 504 Grandsire Triples: W. W. Watts 1, G. Gray 2, F. Bird 3, R. Law 4, T. J. Watts 5, H. W. Watts 6, W. Watts (conductor) 7, A. Jordan 8.—On November 1st, 630 Grandsire Triples: W. W. Watts 1, G. Gray 2, F. Bird 3, R. Law 4, T. J. Watts 5, H. W. Watts 6, W. Watts (conductor) 7, F. Potter 8.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.—On Sunday, October 31st, at Holy Trinity Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 48 mins.: A. Burdock 1, C. Burdock 2, H. Hutton 3, H. Burdock 4, Sergt. B. Thomson (Romford) 5, M. Smither 6, B. Chorley 7, A. H. Pulling (conductor) 8. Rung as a farewell to the three brothers Burdock, who were on the point of joining H.M. Forces.

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TWO CHAPLAINS OF FORCES.



THE REV. C. E. MATTHEWS.



THE REV. CYRIL W. O. JENKYN.

Two very popular Guild Masters are serving in France as Chaplains of the Army.

The Rev. C. E. Matthews, Vicar of Titchfield, has been Master of the Winchester Diocesan Guild for many years, and takes a deep and active interest in its work, although he is not so well known as a change ringer. Under his guidance the Winchester Guild has maintained a high position. Among the members, Mr. Matthews is exceedingly popular, and his businesslike discharge of his duties have proved him the right man in the right place.

The Rev. C. E. Matthews has been a Chaplain of Forces since March, 1901, when he was appointed to the old 2nd Volunteer Battalion Hants Regiment, at Southampton, now the 5th Battalion Hants Regiment. He was promoted Chaplain, third class, T.F., in March, 1911. When war broke out he was with his regiment, and served as Brigade Chaplain to the Hampshire Infantry Brigade, on Salisbury Plain, until the Wessex Division left for India in October, 1914. He then served for two months as Brigade Chaplain to the 2nd Thames and Medway Infantry Reserve Brigade (the 5th and 6th K.R.R.'s and 5th and 6th Rifle Brigade) in the Isle of Sheppey. On

being drafted to the front the Rev. C. E. Matthews was at first attached to No. 11 General Hospital at the Base, and is now the C.E. Chaplain at No. 12 Casualty Clearing Station.

The Rev. Cyril W. O. Jenkyn, the popular Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, although he has only been connected with the Army Chaplaincy since about Easter of this year, is also doing splendid work among the men in France. As a ringer he is, of course, well known throughout England, being one of the foremost clerical exponents of the Art. No one has a truer conception of the responsibilities of office than he has, and since he succeeded the late Rev. F. E. Robinson as Master of the Oxford Guild, he has furthered its objects in every possible way. He is unquestionably the Guild's most active official, and his aim is always to promote the interests of the members. A ringer among ringers, he is at home at the light or heavy end, while his skill in the higher methods is well known. Those who know him from experience in ringing circles will readily appreciate that his services will be highly valued by Tommy in the field.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

A special general meeting of the Guildford District was held at Dorking, on Saturday, November 20th, and although the attendance was smaller than usual, owing to the number of members serving their King and country, it was a very representative gathering, the following towers being represented: Dorking, Leatherhead, Guildford (Holy Trinity and S. Nicolas), Godalming, Farnham, and Cranleigh. The officers were all re-elected, and after some discussion it was resolved to hold three meetings and the annual in 1916; at Godalming in February, Seale in May, Woking in August, and the annual meeting at Leatherhead, in November.

The stately church was greatly admired: the new entrance gates greatly adding to its dignity, whilst the beautiful bells were available afternoon and evening. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. Canon Chichester), and unanimous expressions of satisfaction and thanks were heard on all sides afterwards, at the very interesting and practical address given by the reverend gentleman.

GRANDSIRE COMPOSITION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Matthews' letter, claiming my peal of Grandsire, I beg to state that he has no right to accuse me of peal snatching, seeing that he has not made out his case. He suggests that my peal was obtained from his by a transposition of a few singles, but surely he can see it would require something more than that to obtain it. Anyhow, I would not care to try and get the peal that way. Such a lot of transpositions of calls would be necessary that it would be easier to go in for a new peal. Further, Mr. Matthews has not replied to the remarks in my last letter with regard to the working of the part bells. Therefore, I object to his claim and resent his remarks as to peal snatching.—Yours faithfully,

5, Prior Street, Port Talbot.

A. J. PITMAN

MONKS ELEIGH RINGER'S DEATH.

A promising young ringer has been lost by the death of Lance-Corpl. Robert C. Keeble, R.E., the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Keeble, of Monks Eleigh, Suffolk. The gallant young soldier died from wounds received in France on September 15th, 1914, at the age of 22 years, and was buried at Vendresse. The deceased began to learn ringing very young, as he piloted the treble through his first 720 on tower bells at the Parish Church, Hitcham, Suffolk, when only 12 years old. He rang several 720's on his own parish church bells before enlisting in 1909 into



the Suffolk Regt. He afterwards transferred into the Royal Engineers, and was stationed at Aldershot, where he got connected with Mr. C. Edwards, of Farnham, and joined the Winchester Guild, ringing in several towers in that district. The deceased had rung only one peal, this being in three methods, Kent, Oxford and Plain Bob, on January 3rd, 1914, at his own parish church. He is supposed to be the first member of the Ely Association to lose his life in the war, and his loss is mourned, for Corpl. Keeble, who was of a cheerful and kindly disposition, was held in high esteem by all who made his acquaintance.

FIRST 720 AT GREAT MISSENDEN.

On a peaceful hillside, away from the tumult of war, stands the fine old Parish Church of Great Missenden, from which the massive grey tower rises well above the old yew tree, like a sentinel on guard over the graves in the sloping churchyard beneath. During the past three years the question had often been put: "When shall we try a 720 on the Missenden bells?" and eventually a meeting was arranged for Nov. 13th. The melodious old ring of six (tenor 27-cwt.) were sent off in Grandsire Doubles. By the time this was completed Messrs. Buckland and Blackmore had arrived from Beaconsfield, and the job of the evening was soon under weigh. Bob Minor was the method; but, alas, at the fourth part end one of those unaccountable bobs crept in, which brought an untimely end. After another six-score of Doubles, another attempt was made, and in exactly 30 minutes the bells rolled into rounds, this being the first known 720 rung on the bells. The ringers were: A. Elburn (first 720) 1. W. Thorne (conductor) 2. J. Evans 3. R. Buckland 4. J. Blackmore 5. J. Gransbury 6. More touches were afterwards rung, including a six-score of Stedman Doubles, the ringing concluding with 240 Kent Treble Bob: W. Edwards 1, J. Evans 2, W. Horne 3, J. Gransbury 4, J. Blackmore 5, R. Buckland (conductor) 6. Others taking part in touches were Messrs. E. Redreep and R. Star, of Amersham; P. Evans from Hughenden, and J. Barnes. To the last-named thanks are due for making arrangements and meeting the visitors at the church. It is hoped a bell hanger may be employed at the tower ere long, as the bells, although a heavy ring, do not go well.

MR. WILLIAM PYE'S 1,200 PEALS.

The handbell peal of Stedman Triples rung the other day at Walthamstow was, as the footnote announced, Mr. William Pye's 1,200th peal, and, incidentally, his 900th as conductor. It is rather remarkable that these two round numbers should turn up together in this way. Mr. Pye's list of peals will be read with interest, for it is one which, taken in all its bearings, is unique.

	On Tower Bells. Rung.	Cond.	On Handbells. Rung	Cond.
Seven Minor Methods	2			
Grandsire Triples	12	3	1	
Grandsire Caters	4	2		
Stedman Cinques	1	1		
Stedman Triples	163	128	35 a	21
Stedman Caters	159	120 b	37	35
Stedman Cinques	60 c	41	33 d	31
Bob Major	4			
Kent Treble Bob Major	20	15 e	6	4
Kent Treble Bob Royal	27	19	4	2
Kent Treble Bob Maximus	8	6	1	1
Oxford Treble Bob Major	7	6		
Oxford Treble Bob Royal	2	1		
Double Oxford Bob Major	1			
Duffield Major	1			
Double Norwich Major	77	57 f	5	3
Superlative Surprise Major	221	156	7 g	4
Cambridge Surprise Major	29	19		
Cambridge Surprise Royal	17	12		
Cambridge Surprise Maximus	3	2		
New Cambridge Surprise Major	1	16	3	3
New Cambridge Surprise Royal	3	3		
New Cumberland Surprise Major	1	1		
London Surprise Major	131	117 h	5	4
Bristol Surprise Major	83	65 i	3	2
Total	1059	790	141	110

a Including 1 non-conducted.

b Including 18027 (record).

c Including 11111 (record).

d Including 6063 (record).

e Including 10464.

f Including 15072.

g Including 1 non-conducted.

h Including 14112 (record).

i Including 15264 (record).

A KING'S NORTON WORTHY.

DEATH OF MR. JOSIAH HANDS.

A peal was rung at King's Norton, on Thursday of last week, with the bells half-muffled, as a token of respect for the late Mr. Josiah Hands, who was born and lived for nearly 87 years under the shadow of the church tower. For many years he was a member of the church choir, and, in 1892, while churchwarden, he was instrumental in placing in the tower a new clock with two dials and quarter chimes, and in getting the beautiful and noted peal of bells rehung by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough.

His funeral was largely attended, among those present being the Rev. Canon Hugh Price (Vicar of King's Norton), the Rev. Canon C. W. Barnard, Rector of Sutton Coldfield; Rev. Dr. Smyth, Vicar of Sutton-on-Sea. Amongst his numerous grandchildren who attended, were Lieuts. R. H. M. Hands and A. M. Hands, 1st Battery, South African Heavy Artillery, sons of Mr. Harry Hands, Mayor of Capetown, and formerly Rhodes Scholars, University College, Oxford; Capt. A. S. Hands, 17th London Battalion (T.F.) and Pte Saxby Hands, R.A.M.C., others of his soldier grandchildren being in the fighting line, and unable to obtain leave. There were also present, amongst his nephews, Mr. C. Eustace Hands, the well-known war correspondent of the London "Daily Mail"; Alderman J. S. Pritchett, Mr. A. Pritchett and Mr. Theodore Pritchett. Mrs. Rebecca Brant, aged 92, the oldest inhabitant of the village, also attended the funeral.

At the conclusion of the peal, which is recorded in another column, Mr. John Eaton reminded Alderman Pritchett of a promise, made to him when 12 years of age, of a sovereign when they should ring their first peal together, which promise had been in abeyance for 14 years.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Sunday, November 14th, at St. Giles' Church, 1263 Stedman Caters in 52 mins.: A. W. Coles (conductor) 1. J. W. Metherell 2. W. J. Allen 3. T. Tebbutt 4. J. W. Sharp 5. J. T. Hensman 6. F. Hopper 7. W. Rogers 8. G. Flavell 9. W. Farey 10. Rung as a farewell to A. W. Coles, who has joined His Majesty's Forces.

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These steel headstocks are especially designed to eliminate the prevailing vandalism of cutting off the cannon heads of ancient and historical bells, and thus meet the oft expressed wishes of Clergy, Ringers, Ecclesiastical Architects, Archæological Authorities, and also agree with the sentiments of the general public.

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The renewable gudgeons enable bells to be rehung at a minimum of expense, and the improved stays are fitted to the headstocks by means of clips, and thus are not weakened by holes being bored through them.

NOTICES.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on Thursdays, December 2nd, 16th and 30th, for handbell practice, and on Tuesdays, 7th and 21st, for business; all at 8 p.m. The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members to vote on financial matters, is now due. — William T. Cockerill, Honorary Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at SS. Peter and Paul, Swanscombe, on Saturday, Dec. 4th, 1915. Bells available from 3.—Edward A. G. Allen, Hon. District Secretary.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North Western Division. The annual district meeting will be held at Saffron Walden on Saturday, December 4th, 1915. Bells available from 2 till 6 p.m. Short service at 6 o'clock. Tea, 6d. each, at the Infants' School, 6.30 p.m., followed by meeting for election of officers and other business. Members requiring tea please notify me not later than Wednesday, December 1st.—William Watts, District Secretary, Mont House Cottage, Stansted, Essex.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting of this Society will be held at Conisborough (8 bells) on Saturday, December 4th, bells available 3.30-7.30.—Sam Thomas, Hon. Sec., 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch. —The next meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Leyland, on Saturday, December 4th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 5.30. Reports ready. — A. E. Woodhouse, Branch Secretary.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — The monthly meeting of the above society will be held at Burley on Saturday, December 4th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting in the Parochial Room at 7.30 p.m.—Wm. Barton, Secretary, 10, Carlisle Road, Pudsey.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch. —The annual meeting of the branch will be held on Saturday, December 5th, at St. George's Church, Stockport. —Rev. A. T. Beeston, Honorary Secretary, New Mills.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Horbury, via Wakefield, on Saturday, December 11th. Bells (8) available 3 to 8 p.m. Tea provided, at 5 p.m., in school, near church (at 1s. head) for those who notify J. Smith, 38, Medlock Road, Horbury, not later than Tuesday, December 7th. A good attendance is desired.—Leonard Brightman, District Secretary pro. tem., 45, St. Stephen's Road, Rotherham.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Keighley on Saturday, December 11th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Tea, 1s. per head, at 5 p.m., in the Vestry, to all giving notice to Mr. R. W. Jennison, 42, Aireworth Street, Keighley, not later than Tuesday, December 7th.—P. L. Cooper, Honorary District Secretary, 12, Willoughby Avenue, Holbeck.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch. —The next meeting will be held at the Parish Church, St. Michael's, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Saturday, December 11th. Bells ready at 4.30; meeting at 7.—W. Wolstencroft, Branch Secretary.

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

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

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

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

SAXMUNDHAM.—After service, on Oct. 17th, 720 Bob Minor: W. Fleming 1, A. J. Lincoln 2, J. Avis 3, F. Watling (conductor) 4, T. King 5, J. Punchard 6. Also 720 Oxford Treble Bob: W. Fleming 1, F. Watling (conductor) 2, T. King 3, J. Avis 4, H. Phillips 5, A. J. Lincoln 6. J. Punchard hails from Bramfield, F. Watling from Saxmundham, A. J. Lincoln from Leiston, T. King from Lowestoft; the rest belonging to Kelsale.

MIDDLETON.—Lancashire Association.—On Oct. 17th, for morning service, 518 Grandsire Triples: J. Hollows 1, W. Berry (conductor) 2, J. Arrowsmith, senr., 3, T. K. Driver 4, Pte J. Arrowsmith, junr., 5, T. A. Ogden 6, S. Holt 7, T. Wellens 8. For evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1280 changes), in 46 mins.: J. Hollows 1, W. Berry (conductor) 2, J. Arrowsmith, senr., 3, T. K. Driver 4, Pte J. Arrowsmith, junr., 5, J. Jacques 6, S. Holt 7, T. Wellens 8. Rung as a welcome to Pte J. Arrowsmith, junr., who was home on furlough.

HITCHIN.—At St. Mary's Church, for evening service, on Oct. 17th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 49 mins.: *E. Day 1, A. Squires 2, J. Hare (composer and conductor) 3, F. R. Bacon 4, E. Newell 5, *F. Day 6, L. Fidler 7, W. Croft 8. For evening service, on Oct. 10th, 1008 Grandsire Triples: J. Hare (conductor) 1, A. Squires 2, H. Day 3, F. R. Bacon 4, G. Wolfe 5, G. Croft 6, L. Fidler 7, H. Else (longest touch) 8. * First peal.

GRANTHAM.—On Oct. 17th, for evening service, in honour of the Patronal Festival, at St. Wulfstan's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1259 changes), in 51 mins.: E. Nidd 1, J. C. Whetstone 2, W. G. Thorpe 3, Corpl. J. Lloyd, R.A.M.C., 4, D. B. Overton 5, Wheeler A. Roberts, A.S.C., 6, S. Proctor (conductor) 7, Sec.-Lieut. H. T. Gibson (North Stafford) 8, F. Turner 9, T. Hall 10. The ringers of 4th, 6th and 8th are encamped at Belton Park, Grantham.

CHESTERFIELD.—Midland Counties Association.—On Sunday evening, October 17th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (Brooks), in 35 mins.: A. Knights 1, G. Hollis 2, F. Jacobs 3, *F. Stubbs (first quarter-peal in the method) 4, W. Allwood 5, G. Davies 6, T. W. Gore (first as conductor) 7, G. A. Thompson 8.

HARBORNE, STAFFS.—On Oct. 17th, for divine service, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 42 mins.: G. Hitchman 1, A. T. Hyland 2, W. H. Keys 3, A. Beecham 4, H. Pratt 5, H. Grosvenor 6, F. W. Perrons (conductor) 7, A. Price 8. Arranged for F. W. Perrons, who hails from Willenhall, Staffs.

STREATHAM.—On Monday evening, October 18th, on handbells, in the belfry of Emanuel Church, 523 Stedman Caters: A. F. Shepherd 1-2, W. Shepherd (conductor) 3-4, J. J. Attwater 5-6, H. L. Garfath 7-8, Miss Elsie Bennett 9-10.

BRAINTREE.—Essex Association.—On Sunday, Oct. 24th, for Matins, at the Parish Church, 640 Kent Treble Bob Major: O. L. Twist (Walthamstow) 1, C. H. Howard (conductor) 2, H. E. Hammond 3, R. Fluty (Earl's Colne) 4, W. H. Dyson 5, H. Rumens (Walthamstow) 6, G. Lindridge 7, E. F. Slade 8.

BARNES.—At St. Mary's Church, on Oct. 24th, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples, in 42 mins.: J. Wilmott 1, H. Barrett 2, M. Jacobs 3, R. Mackrill 4, C. Hunt 5, F. Skevington (conductor) 6, H. Cook 7, G. Hunt 8.

LEICESTER.—At St. Martin's Church, on Oct. 24th, for the Assize service, 504 Stedman Triples: P. Harrison (longest length away from tenor) 1, H. Broughton 2, L. Allen 3, S. Cotton 4, F. H. Dexter 5, H. G. Jenney 6, A. Martin 7, A. Another (Bristol) 8. For evening service, 725 Stedman Caters: P. Harrison 1, G. Cleal 2, S. Cotton 3, H. Broughton 4, L. E. Allen 5, A. Lowe (Beeston) 6, F. H. Dexter 7, H. G. Jenney 8, A. Martin 9, T. Taylor 10.—On Oct. 26th, 336 Double Norwich: A. Martin 1, *W. H. Humberstone 2, H. Broughton 3, T. Vallance 4, S. Cotton 5, J. Morris 6, E. Morris 7, F. H. Dexter 8. 378 Superlative Surprise: *W. H. Humberstone 1, E. Morris 2, H. Broughton 3, T. Vallance 4, S. Cotton 5, T. Allen 6, J. Morris 7, F. H. Dexter 8. * Longest length in method.

GAINSBOROUGH.—Lincoln Guild.—On Oct. 24th, at All Saints' Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 54 mins.: G. F. Semper (first quarter-peal) 1, W. Dickenson 2, F. S. W. Butler (conductor) 3, J. C. Tinker 4, J. T. Ladd 5, C. H. Baker 6, H. Torr 7, A. H. Curtis 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a tribute of respect for those of the 5th Lincolns and other local soldiers who have so heroically fallen for their King and country.

HATFIELD, Near DONCASTER.—On October 24th, for evening service, at the Parish Church, 700 Grandsire Triples: G. Wilburn 1, C. W. King (Goole) 2, E. Purdy 3, H. G. Marshall 4, G. Welch 5, H. Howarth 6, D. England (conductor) 7, H. Crowe 8.

ROTHWELL, NORTHANTS.—At the Parish Church, for evening service, on October 24th, 672 Grandsire Triples: L. Robinson 1, W. Parker 2, A. E. York 3, W. Welch 4, B. York 5, A. J. York 6, H. Peet 7, H. Gamble 8. Conducted by A. E. York, who, having joined the Royal Flying Corps, left on the following day to take up his military duties.

WHITTLESFORD, CAMBS.—On October 30th, 720 Oxford Bob: H. Beavis 1, Spr. T. R. Dennis 2, A. Wilkerson (conductor) 3, W. H. Carr 4, A. E. Austin 5, F. Nunn 6. First 720 by H. Beavis. 720 Kent: F. Matthews 1, A. E. Austin 2, Spr. T. R. Dennis 3, W. H. Carr 4, A. Wilkerson (conductor) 5, F. Nunn 6. Also a course each of Cambridge Surprise and Woodbine Treble Bob, in which F. Dench and F. Hurry took part. The above ringing was arranged for Sapper T. R. Dennis, general secretary of the Ely Diocesan Association, who was home from France for a few days.

BUXTED, SUSSEX.—At the Parish Church, for afternoon service, on October 31st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins.: F. Wren 1, F. Tester 2, W. Burrell 3, A. J. Pierpoint 4, A. Causley 5, Tpt.-Major W. Farley 6, J. A. Hart (conductor) 7, A. Hunter 8.

RESTORATION OF LAKENHEATH BELLS.

The fine Church of St. Mary, Lakenheath, near Brandon, is noted for possessing the unusual feature of a Galilee porch. It has also a ring of five bells quite worthy in size though not in number of the ample tower in which they are hung.

These bells have lately been tuned and rehung, and on Thursday evening of last week the service for the dedication of the work was held, in the presence of a fair congregation, despite the inclemency of the weather. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. J. G. M. Stretton). The first lesson was read by the Rev. E. W. Cockell, Rector of Eriswell, and the second by the Rev. W. H. Wood, Vicar of Mildenhall, and Rural Dean.

After the first Collect, the clergy, accompanied by the ringers and choir, went in procession to the tower, where the work was formally dedicated by the Rural Dean. The Vicar then read some special prayers, after which the ropes were handed to him by the churchwardens in token of his custody of the bells, and after he had tolled a few strokes on the second bell the ringers rang some rounds.

Then came the hymn, "Hark on High," followed by a sermon. The preacher was the Rev. H. B. Woolley, Vicar of Long Stanton, to whose suggestion the inception of the work was due, and the text chosen, Psalm xc, 17 (Prayer Book version): "Prosper Thou the work of our hands upon us, O prosper Thou our handiwork." The preacher congratulated the people at Lakenheath on the restoration of their bells, and drew attention to the fact that the funds were only just raised in time before the war broke out, and but for Divine Providence, the work would doubtless have come to naught. He then spoke of ringing as a part of church work, especially ringing for the services of the church. He mentioned that the ringers of Horley Church, in Surrey, had arisen one Christmas morning recently before three o'clock, and rung a whole peal for the first Celebration of the Holy Communion at 6.30 a.m. That, in his opinion, marked an epoch in the history of ringing, being a striking recognition of the Exercise as an adjunct of the highest service in the Christian Church. He spoke about the effect of war upon ringing, and remarked that ringers had contributed their full share to the role of honour. In conclusion, he recommended the text as a prayer for ringers.

After the service some ringing took place on the bells, but little change ringing could be attempted owing to the number of change ringers being one short of making a band.

Besides the local ringers, three were present from Mildenhall and one from Yaxley, near Eye.

The work of rehanging was entrusted to Mr. A. Bowell, of Ipswich, and the "go" of the bells is a great improvement in their new steel frame. When the bearings of the fourth and tenor have "bitten in" and got well oiled, doubtless it will be better still. The want of a sallie guide was greatly felt, but this is a defect which can be easily remedied. The frame has been made for six bells, and it is hoped that a new treble may be added after the war.

The following are the inscriptions on the bells taken from Raven's "Church Bells of Suffolk":—

- (1) Thomas Mears Founder London 1841 (recast by A. Bowell 1915).
- (2) Sancta Katerina Ora pro Nobis + 21 ∇ 20 +
- (3) Eristas Perpetue Dei Nobis Gaudia Vite + 21 ∇ 20 +
- (4) John Parsley Vicar, Charles Newman made me 1697.
- (5) John Darbie made me 1676. Thomas Denton, James Parlet, Churchwardens.

The tenor weighs about 16 cwt. The inscriptions on the 2nd and 3rd are in Old English characters.

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