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FRIDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1916.

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

Price 1d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.

BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



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

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

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

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

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

MODERN WORK.

BELL RESTORATION IN WAR TIME.

A paragraph in our last issue, recording the fact that bell founding and restoration is not altogether in a state of "suspended animation," will have been read with interest. Except for contracts placed before the war, the present seemed an unlikely time for this sort of work to be put in hand, and it is gratifying, therefore, as well as interesting, to know that matters of this kind are not absolutely at a standstill. Before war broke out all the principal founders were so busy that they had sufficient orders on hand to last them for months, and, doubtless, since the resources of the country have been organised for munition purposes, they are now equally busy on Government work. In that respect it is well that these businesses, in which so much capital has been sunk, should be able, at a period like the present, to turn their attention to profitable work which will, when peace again reigns, leave them unhampered to resume the avocation of pre-war times.

Some firms, we believe, will be unable to take any bell contracts while the war lasts—their whole energies being required for munition work—but others, while "doing their bit" for the country, are able to undertake private orders. Of course, it cannot be expected that, just at this period, there will be many big "jobs" going, but there must, nevertheless, be many churches where overhauling is really necessary and where, despite the war time drain, it would be possible to carry out restoration. In nothing more than in regard to bells and their fittings is it true that a stitch in time saves nine, and a comparatively small amount spent at first inevitably saves a big expenditure later. Unfortunately it is often only too true that church authorities are inclined to think that, as long as the ringers are able to make the bells sound, it is all that is required. They know nothing of the unnecessary labour involved in ringing, even for half an hour before service, a bad going bell or bells. It is, in such cases, only when ringers take a firm stand and decline to ring until something has been done, that the work, long overdue, is undertaken. Such a condition of affairs is naturally a thing to be avoided, and, because this is war time and money for anything but war purposes is none too plentiful, necessary work upon bells ought not to be indefinitely postponed. Those ringers who are left at home should not only see that, as far as possible, the bells are rung upon the proper occasions, but should also bestir themselves to see that the bells are maintained in a proper condition for ringing. They will be wanted, presently, when victory comes and peace is proclaimed. Let there be no tower where the dilapidation of the bells will prevent their sharing in this event.

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

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs. C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

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

**SMETHWICK,
BIRMINGHAM**

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**FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.**

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
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Best Workmanship and
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OF ALL KINDS.

**ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON
BRACKETS.**

MALLEABLE IRON BRACKETS.
BEST BELL ROPES.

REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers.

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

MUFFLED PEALS.

The following peals, as their footnotes show, were rung with muffled bells in memory of the heroes who have fallen in the war:—

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

EPSOM, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1916, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

REV. E. B. JAMES' TEN-PART.

ALFRED E. BASSETT Treble	JOHN CRAWFORD 5
JOHN BEAMS 2	THOMAS A. SHRUBB 6
ALFRED L. BROWN 3	CHARLES E. READ 7
THOMAS MILES 4	ALFRED HART Tenor

Conducted by JOHN BEAMS

Rung with half-muffled bells as a token of respect to our fallen countrymen in the war.

SEDGLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE DUDLEY & DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, January 8, 1916, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

J. RAY Treble	F. EVANS 5
*A. ABBESS 2	W. MILLS, Senr. 6
W. MILLS, Junr. 3	H. JEAVONS 7
T. GRIFFITH 4	B. FULLWOOD Tenor

Conducted by H. JEAVONS.

* First peal. Rung with bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of the soldiers and sailors who have given their lives in the war, and of sympathy with the bereaved friends in the district.

READING, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(READING BRANCH. ST. GILES' SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, January 8, 1916, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 15 cwt.

*MISS MILDRED NEIGHBOUR Treble	ARTHUR BAILEY 5
LEONARD T. OSBORNE 2	†HORACE OSBORNE 6
†HARRY NEIGHBOUR 3	AMBROSE W. OSBORNE 7
MISS ETHEL GOODSHIP 4	*LEIGH LEACH Tenor

Conducted by AMBROSE W. OSBORNE.

* First peal. † First peal in the method. Rung with bells half-muffled, in accordance with the wishes of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, as a tribute of respect to the soldiers and sailors who have lost their lives in the war.

BUXTED, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 15, 1916, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 16 cwt.

*FREDERICK WREN Treble	SERG. W. FARLEY, N.S.Y. 5
GEORGE ADES 2	JAMES A. HART 6
WILFRED BOOTH 3	HENRY STALHAM 7
ARTHUR J. CAUSLEY 4	†Pte. F. V. HAGGIS, A.S.C. Tenor

Conducted by JAMES A. HART.

* First peal. † First peal of Triples. Rung with the bells half-muffled for all those who have fallen in the war. This peal was arranged for Jan. 8th but had to be postponed. Sergt. Farley and Pte. Haggis were elected members of the association previous to starting for the peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

BEDFORD.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 8, 1916, in Two Hours and Forty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER DE MERTON,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Court, Oxford and Plain Bob.

Tenor 13 cwt.

HARRY TYSOE Treble	MISS EVELYN STEEL ... 4
GEORGE LINES 2	CHARLES W. CLARKE ... 5
WILLIAM STAPLETON ... 3	ALBERT ROBINSON ... Tenor

Conducted by C. W. CLARKE.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to the soldiers and sailors who have lost their lives in the war.

KILLAMARSH, DERBYSHIRE.

YORKSHIRE AND SHEFFIELD DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

On Saturday, January 8, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Being 720 each of Lightfoot, Weymouth, Lancashire, Stamford, London, Wells, and Cambridge. Tenor 11½ cwt.

FRED PARR Treble	GEORGE BURNHAM ... 4
HARRY GREAVES 2	WILLIAM H. TURTON ... 5
THOMAS HOWES SMITH ... 3	CHARLES SEVERN ... Tenor

Conducted by C. SEVERN.

Rung with half-muffled bells as a tribute of respect to the memory of soldiers and sailors who have fallen in the war.

POTTON, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 15, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Being two 720's each of Single Court, Single Oxford, College Single, and 720 of Plain Bob.

CHARLES SMITH Treble	SYDNEY J. COLEMAN ... 4
GEORGE W. INSKIP 2	GEORGE D. COLEMAN ... 5
ALFRED O. BAILEY 3	CHARLES A. PRATT ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE D. COLEMAN.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to those who have fallen in the war.

OTHER TOWER BELL PEALS.

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, January 15, 1916, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANCES;

CHARLES FAULKS Treble	WILLIAM GOODMAN ... 6
GILBERT GUEST 2	JOHN GOODMAN, Jnr. ... 7
WILLIAM MILLS 3	BENJAMIN GOUGH ... 8
HERBERT SHEPPARD ... 4	HARRY GOODMAN ... 9
JOHN GOODMAN, Senr. ... 5	WILLIAM MEEK ... Tenor

Composed by the late WILLIAM MICKLEWRIGHT, and

Conducted by JOHN GOODMAN, Jnr.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. John W. Mills, who for upwards of 40 years was a devoted and faithful ringer and worshipper at the Dudley Parish Church.

MILNROW, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(ROCHDALE BRANCH.)

On Sunday, January 9, 1916, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANCES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

R. BUCKLEY Treble	J. GREENWOOD ... 5
G. STAFF 2	*C. FIELDING ... 6
JOHN FITTON 3	J. H. C. MASSEY ... 7
EDWARD SCHOFIELD ... 4	H. BUCKLEY ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD, and

Conducted by G. STAFF.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells by a local band. Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar (the Rev. E. Elliott) and Mrs. Elliott.

NEWCHURCH, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BOLTON BRANCH).

On Friday, January 7, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Being seven different 720's. Tenor 9½ cwt.

*WILLIAM GOULD Treble	ERNEST LEATHERBARROW ... 4
GEORGE POWNALL 2	JOHN YATES 5
THOMAS GRIMSHAW 3	JOSEPH LEATHERBARROW Tenor

Conducted by J. LEATHERBARROW.

* First peal. Rung with the bells deeply muffled as a token of respect to Squire Withington of Culchette Hall, who died on Friday, Dec. 17th, in his 85th year, and was interred on Tuesday, Dec. 21st. Squire Withington has been a churchwarden at Newchurch Church since 1860, and was respected by all the parish.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Saturday, January 8, 1916, in Two Hours and Thirty-seven Minutes,

AT THE VICARAGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANCES;

Tenor 15 size in C.

J. BRUCE WILLIAMSON ... 1-2	REV. E. BANKES JAMES ... 5-6
REV. A. H. F. BOUGHEY 3-4	REV. H. LAW JAMES ... 7-8

Composed by J. PATRICK, and

Conducted by the REV. H. LAW JAMES.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, January 10, 1916, in Two Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,

AT ST. MICHAEL'S, JOSEPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Size 14 in D.

CHARLES HAZELDEN ... 1-2	MAURICE SMITHER ... 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING ... 3-4	MRS. CHARLES HAZELDEN 7-8

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

Witnesses: Mrs. PULLING and Mdlle. YVONNE LUCIE ELOIE-LELOUE, Arranged and rung as a compliment to Mdlle. Yvonne Lucie Eloie-Leloue, niece of Mrs. Hazelden, on her 12th birthday.

SOUTHALL, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND
LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Sunday, January 16, 1916, in Two Hours and Thirty-six Minutes,*

AT 54, BEECHCROFT AVENUE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANCES;

Bells, size No. 18 in G.

GEORGE E. HARBOUR ... 1-2	Q.M.S. J. R. MACKMAN 5-6
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... 3-4	WILLIAM LAWRENCE ... 7-8

Composed and Conducted by J. A. TROLLOPE.

Witness: Mrs. J. R. MACKMAN.

This peal was rung upon a new set of handbells—of excellent tone—belonging to Sergt. Mackman. The composition has the 6th its extent "right" and twenty-one times "wrong."

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following is a further list of ringers who have joined H.M. Forces:—

Spr. G. F. Rice, of St. Mary's, Cavendish, Suffolk, Royal Engineers, now at Chatham.

Air Mechanic H. L. Garfath, of Croydon, Motor Transport Driver, Royal Flying Corps, now at Curragh, Ireland.

Tpr. H. Littey, of St. Mary's, Langham, Yeomanry, now at Stanway.

Frederick T. Martin, of St. George's, Southwark, Armourers' Section, Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Pembroke."

Pte. Sydney Weatherstone, of St. George's, Southwark, 14th London Regiment (T), London Scottish.

Pte. C. Hunt, of Bradfield, Berks, R.A.M.C., in France.

Pte. A. E. Jarman, of St. Laurence, Thanet, 14th Co., A.O.C., now in France.

Pte. F. Jones, of St. Peter's, Irthlingborough, R.F.A., now at Ipswich.

Pte. F. Causby, of St. Mary's, Higham Ferrers, 8th Northants Regiment, now at Colchester.

From SS. Peter and Paul's, Bromley:—

Gnr. E. G. Filtess, and

Gnr. A. E. Newick, 2/3rd Glamorgan Batt. Welsh Brigade, R.F.A., now at Bedford.

THE NEWCASTLE PEAL OF CINQUES.

RINGERS ENTERTAINED BY PRESIDENT.

The ringing of a peal of Stedman Cinques is something to be proud of under any circumstances, but when it is the first peal on the bells, the first by the Association, and the first by all except the conductor, to say nothing of the reason which prompted the ringing, it becomes a performance worthy of more than passing notice. The muffled peal, therefore, rung by the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association on the 3rd January, as a solemn tribute to the fallen heroes of the great war deserves some recognition on this account.

The genial and generous President of the Association and Ringing Master of the Cathedral Guild (Mr. C. L. Routledge), recognising this, with great hospitality invited the members of the Guild, the composer of the peal, and several others to "a little supper," as he called it, at the Continental Restaurant, Newcastle. The supper turned out to be a dinner of first-class quality, served in masterly style, which everyone enjoyed most heartily.

Speaking after the loyal toast had been honoured, the President said that his one regret was that he was unable to take part in the peal. However, he heartily congratulated those who rang in the peal, and specially mentioned the composer and the conductor. Fortunate indeed was the Association in having two such men as Joseph Parker and William Barber, one to compose the peal and the other to interpret it on the bells in such masterly manner.—All agreed to this with acclamation, and drank the healths of these two, with musical honours.

Mr. Parker, responding, deprecated his own merits, and said he got far more praise than he deserved, which elicited loud "Noes" from all parts of the room. He thought that the peal would become historic, and be one which, in the future, ringers would turn to when the peal books were available for examination.

Mr. Barber admitted that he felt more at home at the end of a rope than making a speech, but managed to "round off" a few words, in which he said that "the striking was fairly good considering the little practice we had had"—which is a good admission from Billy, who, as we all know, is a stickler for good striking.

A note of sadness was introduced when the toast of "Absent Friends" was honoured, the thought of Lieut. Sayer, one of the fallen heroes in whose memory the peal was rung, passing through all minds.

Mr. E. E. Ferry proposed a vote of thanks to the Ringing Master for his kindness and hospitality, and this was carried with acclamation.

A STRONG GUILD.

It speaks volumes for the strength of the Cathedral Guild when their members (with one exception) could ring a peal of Stedman Cinques, with four such notable men as William Story, William Holmes, Ernest Ferry, and last but not least, Charles L. Routledge, absent. The first-named was in the belfry just before the peal was started, and wished the band "good luck," saying that business calls were imperative, and he regretted being unable to stand in, though it is on the cards that, if he hadn't found twelve men ready stripped, he would have left his business till next day. All honour to him for his unselfishness. Mr. W. Holmes was indisposed, and Mr. E. Ferry was away on holiday. The Ringing Master could not be present owing to an engagement which was cancelled by 'phone half an hour after the peal was started. However, all were pleased that the peal had been rung, though deploring their own hard luck.

There were present at the dinner all those who took part in the peal (with the exception of Mr. R. Alder Goffton), and Messrs. J. W. Parker, W. Story, W. Holmes, E. E. Ferry and J. Youll. Messrs. G. T. Potter and T. T. Goffton were invited, but unfortunately were unable to be present.

The evening passed very pleasantly, interspersed with speeches, stories and handbell ringing, and closing time (9 p.m. in these days) came all too soon, and the company dispersed.

It is interesting to note that out of the seventeen Cathedral Guild members and honorary members one has laid down his life in the great war, one is now in France, and those that are left are either over military age or engaged and badged "on war service," with two exceptions. All those of military age have attested under Lord Derby's scheme.

ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY.

A quarterly meeting of this society was held at Bloxwich, on Saturday week, when members assembled from Bilston, Cannock, Coseley, Harborne, Lichfield, Tipton, Walsall, Willenhall, Wolverhampton, Wood Green, and the local tower.

Ringing began soon after three o'clock, and during the afternoon and evening touches in various methods were brought round, including a well-struck course of Cambridge Surprise Major. A short service was held in church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. J. C. Hamilton), who, after giving the members a warm welcome, delivered a practical address, his subject being the use of bells as compared with the trumpets used by the priests in olden times to call people to worship—and emphasised the importance of the office of ringers.

Tea was served in the Schoolroom, and the wants of the hungry ones were attended to by Mrs. and Miss Hamilton, and other ladies.—Votes of thanks were accorded those who helped to make the meeting a success.

The next meeting is to be held at Sedgley, on May 6th.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

OLDSWINFORD RECTOR'S WAR-TIME ADVICE.

A very successful meeting of the Northern Branch was held on Saturday last at Oldswinford. For a January meeting the weather was everything that could be desired, and over 70 members were present from Belbroughton, Brierley Hill, Clent, Cradley, Tipton, Halesowen, Harborne, Kidderminster, Old Hill, Oldswinford, Stourbridge, Selly Oak, Smethwick, Wollaston, Wolverley, Wordsley, Edgbaston, Worcester, Rowley, etc.

The service in the church, which was well attended, was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. I. G. Owen), who extended a very hearty welcome to the Association, and reminded his hearers of the many changes that had taken place since their last meeting held there in 1905. He had no doubt, he said, that this terrible war was making a great mark on their association. He was proud to think that their members had responded so well to the call of their King and country. No doubt the call had created difficulties, but they would be gladly met. In passing, he referred to the fact that it was not desirable that peals should be rung at the moment, but said it was most desirable that the bells should be rung for service. He reminded those present of the custom of ringing the bell at 12 noon, and asked each and every one when he heard it to say a short prayer for all those who had answered the call. There would, he continued, be a great day for all ringers when our brave lads came home, when victory was won by our Allies and ourselves, and when peace was declared. No doubt sorrow would be felt in many homes, and he prayed to God that the blessings of peace would soon come. He thought now was the time to train as ringers those who were too young to join the services, and he trusted this would be taken up seriously. The bells brought them many messages of hope and joy through these dark days, and he hoped our hearts would go out to those who had gone to serve their King and country.

After the service, tea was provided in the Institute, to which over 70 sat down. It was pleasing to note the number of lady ringers who were present.—At the business meeting, which followed, the Rector was voted to the chair. Hagley was selected for the next quarterly meeting, to be held on June 17th. Five new members were elected.

On the proposition of Mr. A. E. Parsons, and seconded by Mr. H. Mason, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector for arranging the service and for his address, and also to those who had provided the splendid tea, which they had so thoroughly enjoyed. The Rector, in responding, said how pleased he was to have the meeting there, and hoped it would not be another 11 years before they came again. He also heartily thanked the ladies and all those who had made the gathering such a great success.

Several touches on the handbells were brought round after tea. During the afternoon the bells were kept going in the tower in the standard methods, and it was very gratifying to see the lady members from Smethwick ringing in several touches. Later, the more experienced members indulged in Superlative, Cambridge, Bristol and London Surprise Major, and this brought a very successful and enjoyable meeting to a close.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

SATISFACTORY FINANCIAL POSITION.

The annual meeting of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham was held on the 11th inst. in the Guild Room at the Tamworth Arms Hotel. The Presiding Ringing Master (Alderman J. S. Pritchett, M.A., B.C.L.) occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance of members.

All the officers were re-elected for the ensuing twelve months, and were thanked for their past services.

In presenting the balance sheet, the Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. Paddon Smith) called attention to the extremely satisfactory state of the Guild's affairs, from the financial point of view. The Guild was not, of course, a commercial concern out to make money, they had no shareholders clamouring for dividends, but it was nevertheless always "grateful and comforting" to find that the bank balance was inclined to increase. This year it was slightly more than £3 up over the previous year, and this, notwithstanding the fact that the peals had been booked practically up to date.

It was decided to hold the annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner on Saturday, March 4th next, at "Ye Olde Royal" Hotel, where it has been held for many years, and where the excellent cuisine and service have always given complete satisfaction.

Will intending visitors please note that on this occasion the dinner will commence half an hour earlier than usual, at 6 o'clock instead of 6.30.

Four new members were elected, and it was agreed to hold the next quarterly meeting at Sutton Coldfield, on a date in April, which will be announced in due course.

It was also unanimously decided to open a subscription list for the purpose of an oak table for St. Martin's belfry.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.—On Christmas Day, at 6 a.m., for the celebration of Holy Communion at the Parish Church, 882 Grandire Triples: H. Coote 1, C. H. Howard (conductor) 2, H. E. Hammond 3, G. Lindridge 4, W. H. Dyson 5, Saddler Staff-Sergt. E. Foster, A.S.C., 6, E. F. Slade 7, W. H. Hammond 8.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.**BRIDGWATER DEANERY BRANCH.**

There was a large attendance of members of the Bridgwater Deanery branch of the Bath and Wells Association at the annual meeting of the branch held at Bridgwater on Saturday week. The towers represented were: Bridgwater, Emore, West Huntspill, Wembdon, Ilminster, Taunton, Burnham and Middlezoy. Service was held in St. Mary's Church, at which the Vicar (the Rev. J. J. Langham) gave an appropriate address. Tea was afterwards served in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, generously provided by the Rev. E. de St. Croix, chairman of the branch, and Vicar of Holy Trinity, who presided over the subsequent business meeting.

In his annual report, the Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. E. Moulton) stated that it had been decided not to stick to the hard and fast rule of quarterly meetings, but in future to meet in April, June and September so as to avoid the bad weather. When the distance was long arrangements would be made to convey members by brakes, the branch bearing part of the cost. Thanks were accorded the Vicars of the churches where meetings had been held, including the chairman, who entertained them year after year on the occasion of the annual meeting, for the hospitality extended to the branch. As with everything else, the war had taken a good deal of enthusiasm out of many keen ringers, and in many parishes the towers had been so depleted that ringing was practically at a standstill. Many of the members were doing their bit in the trenches, and others were being prepared to take their places as they fell out. God grant that they might be spared to return. During the year one honorary and 19 ordinary members had been elected. "Taking into consideration the serious time through which we are passing," concluded the report, "we may congratulate ourselves that things are no worse. I trust that before the next annual meeting comes round this terrible war will be over, and that the joy bells throughout England will have sent up a joyous melody such as they have never done before."

The financial statement showed a credit balance of £1 17s. 6d.

The report and balance sheet were adopted.

SECRETARY'S GOOD WORK.

The Rev. E. de Croix was unanimously re-elected chairman, and in acknowledgment said the work was very close to his heart, and, as he had previously remarked, it was only medical reasons that prevented him from ringing. He congratulated the hon. secretary upon what must appear to all of them to be an extremely good report, considering all things, especially the war. They at Durlough were left with only one ringer, all the others having gone to serve their country (applause). Might God spare them to return! In other ways it had been an exceptional year. There had been calls of one sort and another, and there had been difficulties in getting about, whilst there was the natural feeling they all had with regard to the war. Bereavement had come into many homes, and it had been a time of difficulty and strain. Their secretary was unfortunate in his first year in starting when the war was really at its height, but he had, notwithstanding, done remarkably well (applause). Whereas so many institutions and societies were finding their finances going back, it was a satisfaction to know that their branch stood in credit. In going about as he had done—he had not missed a single meeting, and he never did if he could possibly help it—one felt at the present moment that there was growing amongst them a real feeling of ringing brotherhood, and that was how it should be. They were reminded that afternoon so well in the sermon that they were fellow workers together in the Christian Church, and that the work of bell ringing, if done well, was done to the glory of God. Practices should be done well in order that when they rang the bells, calling people to service, they might also ring the bells as well as possible, and that after ringing others to church they should occupy their place in the public worship of God. In regard to the tea, he was only too pleased to entertain the ringers, for it was the only opportunity he had during the year of doing so. In conclusion, he again thanked the members for re-electing him, and in his humble way he would try to do all he could for the good of the association.

Mr. A. E. Moulton was re-elected hon. secretary and treasurer, and Mr. A. E. Coles branch representative on the Central Committee. Four new members were elected, including two ladies. It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Greinton on April 29th.

A PRESENTATION.

The Chairman mentioned that the next business was to make a presentation to their late hon. secretary, Mr. W. Sellick, of Huntspill. They had arranged the meeting for a date when it was thought Mr. Sellick would be at home, but in a letter received from him he regretted that he had had to go away earlier than he expected, and therefore he could not be present. He was sure all the members appreciated the very real hard spade work which Mr. Sellick did during the four years he was in office. He was always keen, and was always getting about the Deanery, and was always willing to help towers to the best of his ability. He had the interest of the branch very close to his heart, and they had promoted the present little testimonial to show something of their real appreciation of his past services, and to show their esteem for his genial courtesy and kindness in carrying out the duties of secretary of the branch. Therefore, had he been present, he (the Chairman) would have had great pleasure, and he did in his absence, in presenting to him, in the name of the branch, that very beautiful case of cutlery. The members appointed the secretary, Mr. Coles, and himself (the Chairman) as a committee to arrange the pre-

sentation, and they had done their best to buy what looked like a really useful and good present, which he might keep by him in remembrance of the work which he did amongst them, and as a token of their appreciation for his past services. The accompanying address was the work of Mr. A. E. Coles, junr., and it was a very beautiful piece of engraving, and showed that they had quite a genius amongst them. The inscription on the plate of the case was: "Presented to Mr. W. Sellick as a token of esteem and regard for past services, by members of the local Deanery branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers, January 8th, 1916." The wording of the address was "Presented to Mr. W. Sellick by the following members of the Bridgwater Deanery branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers, with a set of cutlery, in token of their respect and esteem, on the 8th day of January, 1916."

Mr. Jeanes reported that in regard to the proposal of giving instruction in change ringing, he had visited the towers of Wembdon, Middlezoy, and Chedzoy, being accompanied at Middlezoy by Mr. A. E. Coles. The result, however, had been rather disappointing, save in the case of Chedzoy, where a wonderful improvement had taken place.

The Rev. Havergal said in regard to Middlezoy the reason of the poor attendance was due to a misunderstanding as to the date of the visit. If Mr. Jeanes and Mr. Coles would visit them again he could promise them a good attendance.

Mr. Jeanes said he should be very pleased to make another visit, because he had change ringing at heart, but he was sorry to say it was the lowest in achievement in the Bridgwater Deanery of the whole Diocesan Association.

The Rev. Havergal expressed gratitude to the Vicar of Holy Trinity for providing the tea, and to the ladies who had made the arrangements for the meal.—Mr. A. E. Coles seconded, and the motion was heartily approved.

A vote of thanks was also accorded to the Vicar of Bridgwater for his sermon at the afternoon service, and for granting the use of the bells of St. Mary's.

Both during the afternoon and after the meeting touches were rung on the bells of St. Mary's Church.

DEATH OF ARCHDEACON CAMPBELL.**A LOVER OF BELLS.**

Ringers, especially those residing in the Eye district of Suffolk, will learn with great regret of the death of the Rev. Colin A. F. Campbell, Archdeacon of Wisbech and Rector of Feltwell, Norfolk. The deceased gentleman had been in failing health for the past two months, but his illness was not considered serious until a few days before his death, which took place at Aldeburgh, at the residence of his sister, Mrs. Harvey, on January 6th, at the age of 52 years. Before being ordained, in 1893, deceased was secretary to the Earl of Kintore, Governor of South Australia. For two years he was curate of Hartlebury, Worcestershire, and became domestic chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury. He afterwards held the livings of Thornham Magna, Suffolk; Street (Somerset), Worlingworth, Suffolk, and was appointed Rector of Feltwell in 1912. A few months later, Feltwell went from the Norwich into the Ely Diocese, owing to the boundaries being altered. He was then appointed the first Archdeacon of Wisbech.

He had a wonderful love for bells, and it was through his own efforts that the bells of Thornham Magna, Street and Worlingworth were rehung and augmented, Thornham to six and Street and Worlingworth to eight. Although not a ringer himself he took a great interest in the art, and whenever he went to his old home (Thornham) he always paid a visit to the belfry. He has been described as a broad-minded cleric in the real sense of the word, and he realised the importance of practical Christianity. Although his sojourns in the parishes, of which he was incumbent, were short, the parishioners not only benefited by his ministrations, but they found in him a staunch friend, with whom they were loath to part; and it is the record of many little acts of kindness which will tend to make his name imperishable amongst all who knew him. He was beloved by all, and his death will be greatly deplored.

The funeral took place at Aldeburgh on January 11th. A large number of friends, including deputations from all the parishes where he had lived, gathered together to pay their last respect. As a proof of the esteem in which he was held in the Church, the Bishops of Ely, Bath and Wells and Suffolk were present, as well as a large number of neighbouring clergy. There were many floral emblems. A memorial service was held at St. Mary's, Thornham Magna on January 16th, the Rector (the Rev. E. F. Bingley) officiating. The bells were rung muffled before and after the service, as well as on the day of the funeral. Several touches of Treble Bob were rung, and 720 each of Cambridge Surprise and Plain Bob, the following taking part: A. Berry, C. Nunn, G. Kemp, G. Cattermole, E. Youngs, J. Martin, P. Steggals, H. Moss and W. Rose.

OFFERTORY FOR RINGERS' FUND.

Unable, owing to military restrictions to ring their church bells after dark, the members of the Colchester band rang touches of Minor and Major on handbells as the congregation entered, and left the church on the occasion of a New Year's Eve service held at 8.30 p.m., in place of that customary at midnight. The offertory at the service was, as usual, devoted to the Ringers' Fund, in recognition of their voluntary services during the year.

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WELL-KNOWN RINGER "MISSING."

CORPL. F. T. MARTIN.

Corpl. Frank T. Martin, son of Mr. J. Martin, of 3, Red Lion Cottages, Wealdstone, and a member of the 7th Battalion Rifle Brigade, has been missing since July 30th. News was received of him in a letter from a comrade, Pte H. Wooster, who, writing to Mr. Martin, says: "Your son and myself were together in a wood just behind one of the trenches. The place I must not say, but this was the spot where your son was hit, and I asked him if I could do anything for him, but he said 'No, go and support the boys in the trench,' and I had not got ten yards myself when I was shot through the thigh. I saw no more of him, but the place was a death-trap, for the shells fell in the woods in hundreds, and it made escape impossible."

Corpl. F. T. Martin will be remembered as having at the outset of his ringing career gained the notable and unique distinction of conducting, on handbells, the first peal he ever rang (Holt's ten-part from 1-2). This was accomplished with three other youthful enthusiasts, one of whom (the 7-8 man), in common with the conductor, had not rung a 5,000 before. The two other members of the band (Mr. George Ship and Mr. C. N. Leman) had not previously rung a handbell peal. The perseverance and thoroughness of these youths was to be admired from the fact that, meeting one evening without an umpire, and starting peal fashion, they completed the peal, but refrained from publishing it, until at a subsequent attempt it was rung with an umpire.



CORPL. F. T. MARTIN.

Shortly after this Corpl. Martin went to reside in the neighbourhood of Reading, and with the Caversham band learnt to ring Superlative and Cambridge. Enjoying the friendship and tuition of Mr. Tom Hibbert, he became an accomplished and safe tower bell ringer. Returning to Harrow Weald he joined the Oxhey band, and with them went further into handbell and Surprise method ringing, scoring peals of Stedman Caters and Cinques in hand, as well as peals of Bristol and New Cumberland Surprise on tower bells. While associated with this band everyone had a liking and admiration for "Frank," who, by his manly and upright bearing, won the confidence and friendship of all.

At the outbreak of hostilities he joined the forces, and was quickly picked out for promotion, having been highly spoken of by his commanding officer in a personal letter recently written to his father. The sympathy of the ringing Exercise will be extended to his parents in their present time of anxiety and trouble.

RINGER'S SUDDEN DEATH AFTER MUFFLED RINGING.

After having assisted in the muffled ringing at Wallingford, Berks, on Intercession Sunday, both before and after evening service, Mr. George Edmund Allsworth died suddenly in bed. The deceased, who was 54 years of age, had been a ringer for nearly 20 years, and had always enjoyed good health. On January 2nd, after returning from the belfry, he had supper as usual, but, soon after getting to bed, complained of sickness and pains in his head. His wife sent for a doctor, but before medical assistance arrived, deceased had passed away. Death was due to cerebral hemorrhage, and at an inquest which was held, a verdict to that effect was returned.

THE FIRST PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS.

Tuesday week was probably the 200th anniversary of the first peal of Grandsire Caters ever rung. The qualification is necessary because it is not certain whether the year was 1716 or 1717. The peal was rung by the London Scholars, who are believed to be the original society out of which the Cumberland Youths were formed. Among the Osborne MSS. in the British Museum is the following: "The first known performance of the London Scholars was a peal of 5040 Grandsire Caters at St. Bride's, in Fleet Street, on January 11th, 1716-17. The frame put up was taken down and destroyed when the church was repaired in 1796. This was supposed to be the only peal of Caters rung whilst St. Bride's contained ten bells, and was said to be the first known peal of Caters ever completed by any company in the kingdom; which was probably the case, as no other peal upon ten bells appears upon record to precede this performance."

January 13th was the anniversary of one of the only three peals of Imperial Treble Bob ever known to be rung. It was a 6048, in 3 hrs. 58 mins., at St. Michael's Coslany, Norwich, in 1772.

January 18th was the anniversary of the first peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, a peal which was also, at the time, the longest length in the method. This was a 7126 rung in 5 hrs. 17 mins., in the year 1844, and of which it is recorded "The bold and regular striking attracted the notice of the public, and is allowed to exceed any other performance ever attempted on twelve bells." Among those who took part in the peal were Charles Middleton and Henry Hubbard.

The anniversary of the first peal of Grandsire Cinques occurred on Wednesday, for on January 19th, 1724, the College Youths "rung completely a peal of 5060 Grandsire Cinques, being the first that ever was done. Ye persons that performed the same were as follows, viz.: Wm. Woodruff 1, Benjn. Annable 2, Edward Chadwell 3, Jno. Ward 4, Jno. Pearson 5, Robt. Catlin 6, Robt. Carter 7, Wm. Thompson 8, Wm. Jackson 9, P. Merrygarths 10, Math. East 11, Thos. Rowland 12."

In 1767, on January 19th, the London Youths rang 6200 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch, in 4 hrs. 46 mins., but this proved afterwards to be a false composition.

On January 20th, 1777, at the same church, the Cumberlands rang a 6240 of Treble Bob Royal in 4 hrs. 34 mins.

Readers are invited to send copies of old records, to which they may have access, for insertion in this column.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

A most successful and enjoyable quarterly meeting of the Guild was held at Stoke-in-Coventry on Saturday last, and attended by 29 members from Allesley, Birmingham, Coventry, Chilvers Coton, Northampton, Nuneaton, and Rugby. The bells were raised soon after 3 o'clock, and set going to the tune of Stedman Triples. Touches in other methods were also tapped off till 4.30, when a short service was held, which was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. A. Hyslop), who also gave the members a very appropriate address, which was much appreciated.

After service, the ringers adjourned to the Parish Room, where a sumptuous tea had been very kindly provided by the Rector and Mrs. Hyslop. After tea, Stedman Triples and Grandsire Caters were rung on the handbells, and some tune ringing by Messrs. Hessian, Malins and White delighted everyone, especially the ladies present, who evidently had not been entertained with handbells before.

The business meeting was then held, and the Ringing Master (Mr. James George) and secretary (Mr. H. Kettle) were instructed to make the arrangements for the annual meeting to be held at Warwick on Easter Monday.—Three new members were elected, and a vote of condolence was passed with the president (the Rev. H. C. A. Back) whose brother, Capt. Eric Back, lost his life on the "Natal."—A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector and Mrs. Hyslop for providing the tea, and to the Rector for the use of the bells, and for his address.

The tower was afterwards again visited, and the bells kept going till after 8 p.m. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Double Norwich and Bob Major, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise.

SUNDAY GATHERING AT THETFORD.

On Sunday last, by kind permission of the Rector of Thetford, the bells of St. Peter's Church were available for visiting ringers. For morning service, and also in the afternoon, touches of Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major were rung, those taking part being Messrs. R. Lathbury, R. Sharp and P. Pinder, of Newmarket; P. Fordham, of Mildenhall; Corpl. J. W. Barker, of Bedford; and Messrs. A. Macro, G. Flatt and T. Fitzjohn, of Thetford. At Mr. Fitzjohn's residence, on handbells, before tea, a course of Grandsire Caters and one of Double Norwich were brought round. This friendly gathering was very much enjoyed by all.

MR. JAMES GEORGE'S NEW APPOINTMENT.

At a meeting at Bishop Ryder's, Birmingham, on Friday, Mr. James George was unanimously elected Ringing Master, and to take charge of the tower and bells. There is a peal of eight at this church, and some noted Birmingham ringers have been associated with it in the past.

MUFFLED RINGING FOR DEAD HEROES

The following were among the muffled touches rung for those who have fallen in the war:—

IRTHLINGBORO', NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, for morning service, with the bells muffled, 308 Grandsire Triples: J. Tyler (first touch on eight) 1, A. Tyler 2, J. Ward 3, A. Perkins 4, J. Mawby 5, J. Garratt 6, W. Perkins (conductor) 7, S. Ward 8. For evening service, 504 Stedman Triples, and a course of London Surprise Major: J. Mawby 1, A. Perkins 2, C. Newman 3, W. Perkins 4, J. Houghton 5, J. Ward 6, J. Garratt 7, A. Tyler 8.

CIRENCESTER, GLOS.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1259 changes): A. Hayward 1, F. W. Bond 2, J. King 3, F. J. Lewis (conductor) 4, J. C. Eden 5, J. J. Jefferies 6, H. C. Bond 7, H. T. Gardner 8, W. J. Carter 9, W. J. Finch 10.—On Thursday, Jan. 6th, at Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): J. E. Waters 1, F. J. Lewis (conductor) 2, A. Hayward 3, A. C. Harmer 4, J. C. Eden 5, H. Lewis 6, W. J. Carter 7, J. J. Jefferies 8. The above touches were rung with the bells half-muffled.

SHIPLEY, YORKS.—At the Parish Church of St. Paul, on Sunday, January 2nd, with the bells muffled, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1264 changes), in 46 mins.: H. Utley (longest length in the method) 1, T. B. Kendall (conductor) 2, E. Simpson 3, W. Joyce 4, E. Murgatroyd 5, J. Joyce 6, J. Ross 7, G. A. Mettleton 8.

PENDLETON, MANCHESTER.—On Jan. 2nd, with the bells half-muffled, for morning service, 504 Stedman Triples: F. Smith 1, Cpl. A. R. Macdonald, R.E., 2, W. E. Clark 3, J. Winterbottom 4, G. E. Turner 5, S. Greenhalgh 6, H. Chapman 7, C. Featherstone 8. For evensong, another 504: F. Smith 1, G. E. Turner 2, W. E. Clark 3, J. Winterbottom 4, S. Greenhalgh 5, W. H. Shuker 6, H. Chapman 7, C. Cash (Swindon) 8. Corpl. Macdonald, who belongs to Bournemouth, is in hospital at Manchester recovering from the effects of enteric contracted at the Dardanelles. The Pendleton band will be glad to see or hear from any other soldier ringer who happens to be sent to either of the Manchester hospitals. Pendleton is only a penny tram ride out of the city on the Swinton or Worsley cars.

ISHAM, NORTHANTS.—After Intercessional evensong, on Jan. 2nd, with the bells muffled, 720 Plain Bob Minor.

LONG EATON, DERBYSHIRE.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, for evening service, 640 Kent Treble Bob Major: F. Senechall 1, J. Andrews 2, R. Hickton 3, A. R. Hickton 4, R. Drage 5, N. Widdowson 6, T. Hutchinson 7, J. Bailey 8. After service, 312 Stedman Triples: F. Senechall 1, J. Andrews 2, T. Hutchinson 3, R. Drage 4, A. R. Hickton 5, J. Harrison 6, J. Bailey 7, N. Widdowson 8.

EAST PECKHAM.—On Sunday morning, Jan. 2nd, at St. Michael's Church, with the bells half-muffled, 720 Bob Doubles, in 27 mins., by the local band. In the evening the East Peckham ringers journeyed to Hadlow, and, with the help of two of the local men, rang a quarter-peal of Doubles with 7-6-8 behind, in 50 minutes, the bells being muffled.

STANSTED.—Essex Association.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, the bells were rung muffled, for morning service, at the Parish Church.—On Monday evening, Jan. 3rd, with the bells muffled, 360 Grandsire Doubles: H. G. Watts 1, W. W. Watts 2, G. Gray 3, A. Jordan 4, H. W. Watts 5, W. Watts (conductor) 6, T. J. Watts 7. Also 720 Plain Bob Minor: W. Watts 1, G. Gray 2, A. Jordan 3, H. W. Watts 4, T. J. Watts 5, W. Watts (conductor) 6.

KINGSCLIFFE, PETERBOROUGH.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, with the bells half-muffled, for morning service, and after evening service, touches of Grandsire Doubles: H. Bailey 1, C. M. Orlebar 2, J. T. Blake (conductor) 3, E. Adams 4, P. Roberts.

BRAINTREE.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, with the bells half-muffled, for the evensong intercession service, at the Parish Church, 1008 Grandsire Triples: Lance-Corpl. H. Phillips (A.S.C.) 1, C. H. Howard (conductor) 2, F. Webb 3, H. D. Hammond 4, W. H. Dyson 5, Saddler Staff-Sergt. E. Foster (A.S.C.) 6, G. Lindridge 7, E. F. Slade 8.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, for intercession services, 336 Stedman Triples: A. Crane 1, W. Mead 2, J. Mead 3, H. Morris 4, H. Sear 5, E. Marks 6, W. Sear (conductor) 7, V. Sear 8. 420 Stedman Triples: A. Crane, J. Mead, W. Mead, H. Morris, L. Meager, E. Marks, H. Sear (conductor) 7, W. Sear. A touch was also rung after evening service.

TYLDESLEY, LANCASHIRE.—On Sunday morning, Jan. 2nd, with the bells deeply muffled, 840 Grandsire Triples: H. Watts 1, James Allred 2, Robert Allred (conductor) 3, Harry Allred 4, W. Hindley 5, John T. Allred 6, Herbert Allred 7, J. Watts 8. For evening service, 672 Grandsire Triples: H. Watts 1, James Allred 2, Harry Allred 3, W. Hindley 4, Robert Allred 5, John T. Allred 6, Herbert Allred (conductor) 7, J. Watts 8.

SHREWSBURY.—On Jan. 2nd, with the bells muffled, 148 Stedman Triples, conducted by C. R. Lilley. Also 287 Grandsire Caters: T. Peel 1, J. Tudor 2, W. Brooks 3, G. Scarratt 4, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 5, T. W. Belton 6, W. Stockdale 7, G. Jones 8, A. Fullick 9, H. Jones 10; and 288 Kent Treble Bob Major: G. Scarratt 1, J. Tudor 2, W. Brooks 3, T. M. Belton 4, W. Stockdale 5, G. Jones 6, A. Fullick 7, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 8.

WIDFORD, ESSEX.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, for evening service, with the bells fully muffled, 360 Plain Bob Minor: A. Bewers 1, A. Speller 2, R. W. Everard 3, J. Tarbun 4, A. Tarbun, junr., 5, A. Tarbun, senr., 6. Also 360: A. Speller 1, J. Tarbun 2, R. W. Everard 3, E. Runter 4, A. Tarbun, junr., 5, G. Tarbun, senr., 6.

LANGPORT, SOMERSET.—On Intercession Sunday, touches of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob, the following taking part: A. Case, T. W. Creed, F. Locke, G. Locke, T. Lloyd, W. Tout, W. White, C. Sandford, Sergt. G. R. Mills.

MARTOCK, SOMERSET.—On Intercession Sunday, the bells of All Saints', Martock, were rung half-muffled. For morning service, touches of Grandsire Triples: W. Fort 1, W. Gould 2, F. Strickland 3, F. Farrant (conductor) 4, A. E. Worner 5, W. Strickland 6, F. Sweet 7, J. Wescombe 8. For evening service, 720 Grandsire Minor, with 7-8 covering: W. Fort 1, W. Gould 2, F. Strickland 3, F. Sweet 4, W. Strickland 5, F. Farrant (conductor) 6, S. Gould 7, J. Wescombe 8. Notice was given to the parishioners of the muffled ringing by the following being posted outside the Church House by the Vicar: "The bells will be rung muffled on January 2nd, in honour of our brave 120,000 dead."

SALEHURST, SUSSEX.—At St. Mary's Church, on Tuesday evening, Jan. 4th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 47 mins., with the bells half-muffled, in memory of the men of Salehurst who have fallen in the war: J. Goodsell 1, F. Morgan 2, H. Edwards 3, W. Cramp 4, W. Hoad 5, W. H. Perry 6, T. Booth (conductor) 7, E. Mills 8.

STONY STANTON.—Midland Counties Association.—At St. Michael's Church, in an unsuccessful attempt for Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, upwards of 2,000 changes were rung on Saturday, January 8th, with the bells half-muffled: C. Brown 1, H. Briggs (conductor) 2, N. Walker 3, G. Wood 4, W. Hyde Inglesant 5, H. Wright 6, C. Briggs 7, W. Jones 8. Messrs. Brown and Wright hail from Sapcote, G. Wood from Sharnford, W. H. Inglesant from Broughton Astley. The remainder belong to the Stony Stanton branch of the society.

Other touches are unavoidably held over.

RINGERS HELP RED CROSS.

The church bell ringers of Yaxley, near Peterborough, are to be heartily congratulated on the result of their very paise-worthy efforts to raise funds for the British Red Cross Society this Christmas. Under the leadership of Mr. Oswald Richardson, they visited various residents in the parishes of Farceet and Yaxley and gave excellent exhibitions of the art of change ringing, interspersed with well-known tunes on the handbells, and were received by all they visited with appreciation and kindness. Had the weather been more favourable to allow of a larger number of visits, there is no doubt that the amount collected (£4 14s.) would have been considerably augmented. The ringers wish heartily to thank the public for the kind reception accorded them, and for the generous contributions received for the funds. The amount, as stated above, was handed over to the Vicar, who has forwarded it to headquarters. The names of the ringers are as follows: Mr. Oswald Richardson (conductor), Mr. Fredk. Hall, Mr. Alec Lenton, Mr. Frank Lewis, Mr. G. Burton and Mr. G. Hobbs, the last-named kindly taking the place of his son, Mr. Walter Hobbs, who recently left Yaxley to take up a new post on the G.N.R.

MR. HENRY DAINS INDISPOSED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Having been rather seriously indisposed for some weeks, Mr. Dains asks me to write you tendering his best thanks to the conductors who have so kindly called some of his peals recently, as reported in "The Ringing World":—

(1) A peal of Treble Bob Major in November last by Alderman J. S. Pritchett at King's Norton, Birmingham.

(2) A peal of Bob Royal, at Whitley Bay, Northumberland, in December last, by Mr. Joseph A. Gofton.

(3) A peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major in December last, at North Stoneham, Hampshire, by Mr. George Williams.

Each of these records, as they came along, cheered him up to liveliness, reviving pleasant memories of days gone by. Mr. Dains has been confined to his room for days at intervals by medical restrictions and the conditions of the weather, and he hopes that friendly correspondents will kindly accept this intimation and await his convalescence for replies to their letters, which it is hoped will not be long delayed. Thanking you in anticipation, yours faithfully,

47, Richmond Road, Barnbury, N

D. K. P.

THE USE OF CHIMING APPARATUS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I notice in his letter in a recent issue that Mr. J. R. Jerram does not agree with the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards regarding chiming apparatus. As a practical ringer and chimier of many years' experience, I can fully endorse what Mr. Edwards says. Extensive and serious damage has been done to fine bells, and good rings of bells are never rung owing to the introduction of what he properly describes as "an infernal machine."—Yours truly,

Liverpool, January 6th, 1916.

WILLIAM DAVIES.

DEDICATION OF NEW BELLS AT CROFTON. DONOR KILLED IN ACTION.

New Year's Day, 1916, will long be remembered as a red-letter day in the ancient parish of Crofton, near Wakefield. On that day a new peal of six bells was dedicated in the fine old Parish Church of All Saints'. The church is a cruciform structure of ancient date, having a central tower, and is well situated on a hill. Prior to the New Year, the church possessed but three bells. The two smallest are not dated, but are old bells. The largest bears the inscription: "Venite Exultemus Domino," 1663. These bells have been to Messrs. Taylor and Co., of the well-known Loughborough Foundry, and have been retuned and refitted, and three larger bells added to make a ring of six. They have all been tuned on the Simpson five-tone principle, and are hung in a massive iron and steel frame, with all the latest fittings. The tone and "go" of the bells are perfect, and leave nothing to be desired, and reflect the greatest credit on the founders. The weight of the tenor is 15½ cwt. This ring of six bells is the finest and heaviest within a radius of at least nine miles.

The bells were dedicated "to the Glory of God and in loving memory of William Hurst, of Crofton Old Hall, and Isabella Cockburn Hurst, his wife, the gift of David Lyell, Second Lieutenant, the Royal Scots Lothian Regiment," by the Venerable R. C. M. Harvey, Archdeacon of Huddersfield, who is himself an old ringer. The kind donor was not spared to see the result of his munificent gift, he having been killed in action during the war. Special hymns were sung, which included "Lifted safe within the tower, now our bells are set on high." After the bells had been dedicated a plain course of Oxford Treble Bob Minor was rung by the Wragby company, who had the honour of opening the bells. As these bells are rung on the ground floor, in the body of the church, and in full view of the congregation, much interest was taken in the ringers' operations.

At the close of the service, a well-struck 720 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Minor was rung by the Wragby men: J. Brewin 1, W. Jackson 2, G. Harrison 3, F. Atkinson 4, J. Adams 5, J. A. Adams (conductor) 6.

The Wragby ringers, together with the Ackworth ringers, who had been invited, partook of an excellent tea at the Rectory. After tea the Ackworth ringers rang a 720 of Bob Minor: F. Lindsay 1, A. Lamprey 2, H. Moss 3, K. Macaulay 4, F. Atkinson (Wragby) 5, C. E. Lamprey (conductor) 6. Next the Wragby ringers, in the same order as before, rang a 720 College Pleasure, and then "fired" the bells sixteen times to represent the New Year. The bells were then lowered in fine style, and this brought to a close an eventful day in the history of Crofton.

On the following afternoon the Wragby ringers walked over to Crofton, and rang 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, with the bells half-muffled, in memory of the brave men who have lost their lives in the great war. The ringers were entertained to tea by Mr. Shaw, one of the churchwardens.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL SOCIETY. AN INNOVATION CELEBRATED.

A very pleasant evening was spent by the members of the Wakefield Cathedral Society and a few friends, on Tuesday of last week at the Manor House Hotel, the occasion being the celebration of his appointment as steeplekeeper of the cathedral by Mr. J. T. Eason. Formerly the post has been filled by a member appointed by the company, and paid a small sum from the annual salary of the ringers. It was thought that the position should be officially recognised, and a recent application resulted in the appointment of Mr. Eason by the Vicar and churchwardens, who appreciated the necessity of having a practical ringer to look after the excellent peal of twelve bells in the tower. They agreed to pay a salary to the steeplekeeper in future out of the church funds.

It was to celebrate this innovation that Mr. Eason invited the ringers to a most excellent supper, and fifteen members and friends sat down to a very substantial repast, provided by the worthy hostess of the Manor House Hotel. Signaller W. Turner, 1/4th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, and a member of the Cathedral Society, being home on leave from the trenches, was present, to the great delight of his "brother strings." His stirring stories of trench life, and graphic description of a gas attack on December 19th, were listened to with the greatest interest.

The usual loyal toasts were given, and the health of Mr. Eason was drunk with musical honours.—Mr. Eason, in acknowledging the toast, said that he hoped that the Society would make the dinner an annual one in future.—The toasts were interspersed with handbell ringing and songs, the latter being accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Hensher.—The chair was occupied by the senior member of the society, Mr. A. Scott, and a pleasing feature was the presence of Mr. Scott's father, a very old ringer at the Cathedral, although now unable to take any active part.—A hearty vote of thanks to the hostess concluded a most enjoyable evening.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A successful practice meeting of the South Western Division was held at Loughton, on Saturday week, about 22 members and friends, representing Chigwell Row, Leytonstone, West Ham, Woodford, Walthamstow, Bromley, Chelsfield, Deptford, and the local men, participating in touches of Stedman, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Superlative. The bells, which were available from 3 to 6 p.m., were half-muffled, as a tribute to the soldiers and sailors who have given their lives in their country's cause. As ringing was not permitted after dark the evening was devoted to handbells.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. DEVIZES BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Devizes Branch was held at St. James' Church, Trowbridge, on Saturday, January 8th, 1916, and being a fine day, was well attended. Ringing commenced at 3 o'clock, and continued until 4.30, when a short service was held in the church, at which the Diocesan form of service was used. The Rector of Trowbridge (the Rev. R. A. Nash), assisted by the Rev. J. H. Keen, conducted the service, and the singing was well sustained by the ringers present, under the guidance of the organist, who kindly gave his services for the occasion.—A most impressive address was given by the Rector, and the whole service was much appreciated by all present. The company afterwards adjourned to the Old Vestry Room, where a good tea was thoroughly enjoyed.

The business meeting was then held, kindly presided over by the Rev. P. A. Nash, who was supported by the hon. secretary (Mr. H. Brownlee West), and ringers from St. John's, Devizes; Holt, Melksham, Trowbridge, Southbroom, Chirton, Westbury, Bath Abbey, Swindon and Bradford-on-Avon.

The secretary's annual report and yearly balance sheet were read, approved of and duly confirmed.—The report showed that eleven meetings had been held during the year, with an average attendance of 24. The members of the tower of St. Mary's, Potterne, had joined the Guild, and at the towers of St. Mary's, Devizes, and St. Mary's, Steeple Ashton, the bells had been restored and rehung. The war had very severely interfered with the ringing in many of the towers, and death has deprived the Guild of a very much-respected honorary member, the Rev. J. Hamlyn Hill, Vicar of Erchfont. They had also lost, through the war, several of their ringing members, whose deaths they much regretted. The membership for 1915 was 197 ringing members and six honorary members; of these 95 were change ringers and 102 round ringers. Although the subscriptions from two of the towers had not yet been paid up, the balance in hand was slightly in advance of last year. The thanks of the Guild were due to the under-mentioned who had generously provided tea for the ringers at the meetings held in their respective parishes, viz., the Rev. Canon Gardiner, R.D., Vicar of Southbroom; the Rev. V. J. Dale, Rector of Fittleton; and Mrs. Llewellyn, Churchwarden of St. Mary's, Devizes.

The officers for the ensuing year were chosen: Mr. Sidney Hillier, of Devizes, was appointed chairman in place of the Rev. J. A. Sturton, resigned; Mr. H. Brownlee West, of "Avalon," Devizes, was unanimously re-elected honorary secretary, with many thanks for his services during the past five years.

The three next meeting places were decided upon as follows: January, 29th, Potterne; February 12th, Westbury; and March 4th, St. John's, Devizes.

RINGER'S WEDDING.

A well-known member of the Exercise, Mr. William Shepherd, of Hersham, Surrey, was married on Wednesday week, the bride being Miss Ethel May Harding, of the neighbouring town of Addlestone. The ceremony took place at Addlestone Parish Church, the officiating clergyman being the Vicar (the Rev. A. Cumming). The bride was given away by her father, and wore a cream silk dress, with white tulle veil and orange blossom. Her sisters (the Misses Florence and Lilly Harding) were bridesmaids, and the duties of best man were carried out by Mr. A. F. Shepherd, the bridegroom's brother, who also assisted Mr. Ferris Shepherd, senr. (father) and Mr. F. J. Shepherd (brother) to ring a touch on the handbells as the party were leaving the church, there being no tower bells.

The wedding breakfast was held at the Village Hall, and about 40 guests sat down. Songs, handbell music, dancing, etc., were afterwards indulged in. The happy couple, who were the recipients of hearty congratulations, and received a large number of presents, spent the honeymoon in Devonshire.

On the previous evening, the annual meeting of the Hersham band, to which Mr. Shepherd belonged, was made the occasion for the gift of a gold bell pendant to the bridegroom on the occasion of his marriage.—The Vicar, in making the presentation, spoke in feeling terms of the good work done by the band, and also of the kindly feeling and good fellowship which prevailed amongst them.—Mr. Shepherd suitably replied, and was evidently highly pleased with the gift, which was quite a work of art, and executed by a ringer, Mr. W. Hiscott, of Plymouth.

DEATH OF A POOLE RINGER.

The death has occurred of Mr. C. Line, for some years a member of the St. James', Poole, band. As a mark of respect, the ringers of St. James', Poole, together with representatives from Wimborne Minster, and from St. Peter's and St. John's, Bournemouth, rang the bells of St. James', half-muffled, on the occasion of the funeral.

After a few short touches, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes) was rung by: H. Harris (St. Peter's, Bournemouth) 1, D. Williams (St. Peter's), first quarter-peal, 2, H. Bennett (St. John's) 3, G. Doell (St. John's), 4, E. Waters (St. Peter's), 5, F. Townsend (St. James', Poole), 6, C. Goodenough (St. Peter's), conductor, 7, A. Osborne (Wimborne) 8.

MR. SAMUEL SPITTLE.

After a period of 37 years of unbroken service as school attendance officer for Dudley, Mr. Samuel Spittle, the veteran Master of the Dudley Guild, who just recently passed his 79th birthday, has resigned his public office. We hope, at an early date, to be able to give a brief story of Mr. Spittle's interesting career.

NOTICES.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells available from 6 p.m. Meeting 7.30.—G. Pincott, Branch Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Hamer Parish Church on Saturday, January 22nd. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Business meeting at 6.30.—T. K. Driver, Secretary, The Gardens, Hopwood Hall, Middleton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at St. Luke's, Bromley Common, on Saturday, January 22nd. Tower open at 3 p.m., service at 5.30 p.m., with address by the Rev. C. P. Gosselin (Vicar). Tea in St. Luke's Institute at 6 p.m. Subscriptions should be paid now.—P. Groombridge, Honorary District Secretary, 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The annual meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, January 22nd. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 5.30. Tea at the Cherry Tree at 6.15.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 49, Wood Street, Walthamstow.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—The Annual Meeting will be held at Titchfield on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Bells available from 2 o'clock. Short service at 5 o'clock. Tea at 5.30.—J. W. Whiting, District Secretary, 9, Colenso Road, Fareham.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wraxall on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30. Tea at 5.15; business meeting to follow.—George Yeo, Hon. Local Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North Western Division.—A district meeting will be held at Stansted on Saturday, January 29th. Bells available from 4 to 9 p.m. Business meeting in the Tower at 5.30 p.m. Wm. Watts, District Secretary, Mont House Cottage, Stansted, Essex.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—A committee meeting will be held at the offices of the British Equitable Assurance Co., 1, Greyhound Street, Nottingham, on Saturday, Jan. 29th, at 5 p.m., followed by general meeting at 5.30. Business: Appointment of Auditors, etc. A notification of intention to be present will be esteemed.—W. E. White, Hon. Sec., Cotgrave.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting for the whole district will be held at the Parish Church of SS. Mary and Nicholas, Leatherhead, on Saturday, January 29th. Bells (10—tenor 20 cwt.) available 3.30. Service at 5 o'clock. Meat tea (members 9d., visitors 1s. 6d.) at the Institute Restaurant 5.45, followed by business meeting for election of officers and other business. Kindly notify intention to be present on or before Wednesday, January 26th, to Ch. Reading, Assistant Hon. Secretary, Union Bank Chambers, Croydon.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Evesham on Saturday, January 29th. Service in All Saints' Church at 5 p.m., at which members are requested to attend. Tea will probably be arranged, and it is most important I should be notified by those intending to be present by the Wednesday previous. The bells (10) will be available for ringing.—J. Hemming, Branch Sec., 29, Church Bank, Hampton, Evesham.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Wakefield on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Service in the Cathedral at 4 p.m. For full particulars of the day's arrangements see circular sent to each tower secretary.—C. Glenn, Hon. Gen. Sec., 11, Fisher Road, Sheffield.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A branch meeting will be held at Accrington on Saturday, January 29th, 1916. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 6.30 p.m.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

SALOP ARCHIDIACONAL GUILD OF CHANGE-RINGERS.—Annual meeting January 29th, 1916, at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury. Ringing 2.30 p.m. (also at St. Alkmund's), Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in St. Chad's Room 5 p.m. Meeting after tea. Please reply before the 24th to Rev. F. Tennison, Honorary Secretary, St. Alkmund's Vicarage, Shrewsbury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—The annual meeting of the above Guild will be held at Stamford on Saturday, January 29th. Bells of S. Martin's, All Saints', and S. Michael's available afternoon and evening. Tea at Crown Hotel 5 o'clock. Meeting to follow. Members and friends are cordially invited.—Wm. G. Thorpe, Assistant Secretary.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Droitwich on Saturday, January 29th, 1916. Service in St. Andrew's Church at 4.15 prompt; the bells (8) will be available. Tea will be provided for those who give me notice by the Wednesday previous.—R. G. Knowles, Branch Secretary, Madresfield, Malvern.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Staplehurst on Saturday, February 5th, 1916. Further particulars will be announced next week.—W. Gatter, Hon. Dis. Sec., 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting of this society will be held at Ranmoor on Saturday, February 5th. Further particulars next week.—Sam Thomas, Secretary, 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Wanstead, on Saturday, February 5th. Bells available from 3 to 4 o'clock, and 4.30 to 6.30 p.m. Arrangements will be made for tea for all letting me know by Wednesday, February 2nd. All ringers and friends invited.—H. Rumens, Honorary District Secretary, 32, Verulam Avenue, Walthamstow, N.E.

AN UNOFFICIAL MEETING will be held at Dulverton on Saturday, February 5th. Bells (8) available at 3. Service at 4.30. Tea (9d.) in the Parish Room at 5. Those requiring tea are asked to notify me by February 1st.—Rev. E. V. Cox, Bampton, Devon.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks & South Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Slough on Saturday, February 12th, 1916. Service in the Parish Church 4.30 p.m.; preacher. Rev. F. G. A. Phillips, Rector of Taplow. Tea in Church Institute 5.15 p.m., business meeting to follow. The bells will be available from 2.30 until 9 p.m. Names of members intending to be present must reach me not later than Monday, February 7th.—G. Martin, 21, Powney Road, Maidenhead.—United practice will be held at Burnham tower on January 23rd, Beaconsfield on January 27th, and Gt. Missenden on January 29th, all at 7 p.m.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District. —A meeting of the above will be held at Ashford, by kind permission of the Vicar (Rev. E. H. Sopwith), on Saturday, February 19th. Bells available from 3 till 6. Service in the church at 6 o'clock. Arrangements will be made for tea after the service (for those who wish it) by notifying me of same not later than Tuesday, February 15th. As we have not been privileged to hold a meeting at Ashford for several years it is hoped members will turn up in force to show their appreciation of same.—C. Tribe, British School Villas, Tenterden.

THE LADIES' GUILD. — I beg to remind members that the subscription for 1915-16 is now due. — E. K. Parker, Honorary Secretary, 97, Edenbridge Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield.

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.

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MARRIAGE.

HAIRS—BENNETT.—On January 15th, 1916, at St. Mary's, Clapham, S.W., by the Very Rev. J. Bennett, C.Ss.R., Francis Ivie Gane Hairs, only son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ivie Hairs, to Elsie Laura Bennett, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bennett, of Brighton.

BAGSHOT, SURREY.—At St. Anne's Church, on December 5th, 504 Grandsire Triples: W. Wood 1, J. Corbett 2, F. Nye 3, H. Stapleton 4, T. Gould 5, F. Francis (conductor) 6, H. Gould 7, W. Varndell 8.—On Christmas morning, for service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (from Parker's 12-part): Bandsman W. Nye 1, J. Corbett 2, F. Nye 3, H. Stapleton 4, T. Gould 5, F. Francis (first quarter-peal as conductor) 6, H. Gould 7, W. Varndell 8. Arranged for W. Nye, bandsman in Canadian band, stationed at Shorncliffe, who was home on leave.—On New Year's Eve, 476 Grandsire Triples: W. Wood 1, J. Corbett 2, F. Francis 3, H. Stapleton 4, T. Gould 5, H. Gould 6, F. Nye (conductor) 7, W. Varndell 8. — On Sunday evening, for service, 350 Grandsire Triples: W. Wood 1, J. Corbett 2, F. Nye 3, H. Stapleton 4, T. Gould 5, F. Francis 6, H. Gould (conductor) 7, W. Varndell 8. There is ringing at this church every Sunday, and visitors will be welcome.

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