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FRIDAY, MARCH 7th, 1924.

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transmission as a newspaper.]

Price 3d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, SURREY.



The Recast Tenor (80 cwt.) at
ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL.

New Ring of Ten opened May 14th, 1921

BELLS, CARILLONS, CLOCK S.

THE BIRMINGHAM COMMEMORATION.

Another Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner has come and gone, and the gathering which took place in Birmingham on Saturday will leave many pleasant memories with those who were privileged to be present. It is astonishing to find what an attraction this event proves year after year to ringers all over the country, for it draws visitors from the four corners of the kingdom. The reason is to be found not in one factor alone. Henry Johnson, to borrow the expression used recently by a correspondent concerning the late Mr. Washbrook, was, from a ringing point of view, a national possession, and his memory is cherished not merely by the fast diminishing circle of ringers who knew him in the flesh, but by men throughout the Exercise who realise not only his sterling qualities, but the services he rendered to the art in days when men, if they would gain knowledge, had to dig and delve for themselves in the virgin mysteries. No one was more diligent than Henry Johnson, no one more ready to impart to others the results of his labours. He did a great work for ringing, and this annual gathering is a periodical reminder to the present, as it will be to coming generations, of what the Exercise owes to him.

But it cannot be said that ringers would assemble every year in such large numbers and from such distances for the purpose only of honouring the memory of one of the greatest figures that ever adorned the art. A wonderful spirit manifests itself in this annual event, and the welcome which visitors receive on this occasion in Birmingham makes it a social gathering unexcelled in the ringing year. It is largely this which makes the dinner and the other proceedings which go with it such a great attraction. Birmingham is, as it has been for nearly a century and a half, one of the principal centres of ringing in the country. It has great traditions, traditions which Johnson did much to maintain and to pass on to succeeding generations. It has also produced other famous men in ringing, but there has never been a time, perhaps, when the midland city has been able to boast of so many ringers of such high capabilities as the present generation has produced. Harmony of feeling, keenness and skill are combined to place Birmingham without question in the very forefront of ringing, and in the hands of men of this type the future is safe. It is the position which Birmingham holds in the Exercise that adds to the prestige and importance of the Johnson gathering, and we think it may be fairly said that it was the example of this gathering and that of the College Youths in London which very largely induced Bristol,

(Continued on page 146.)

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Yorkshire and Nottingham to embark upon similar enterprises. We hope these festivals may long continue, and that, while it still retains the happy social atmosphere which now pervades it, it will not lose the spirit that prompted the inauguration of the series which has now run through thirty-six years.

TEN BELL PEALS.

CIRENCESTER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 27, 1924, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

Tenor 29 cwt. in D.

ROBERT W. WATTS Treble	WILFRED H. HAYWARD ... 6
FRANCIS W. BOND 2	SIDNEY R. HICKS 7
FRANCIS J. LEWIS 3	H. CHARLES BOND 8
WILFRED G. COOK 4	LOUIS A. WILSON 9
WILLIAM C. COSS 5	JOHN HAYWARD Tenor

Composed by EDGAR GUISE. Conducted by FRANCIS J. LEWIS.

Rung in honour of the wedding of Lord Apsley, D.S.O., M.C., M.P., eldest son of Earl and Countess Bathurst, of Cirencester, and Miss Viola Meeking, of Stockbridge, Hants, which took place at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, on the above date.

EPSOM, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5011 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. 0 qr. 2 lb. in E.

MRS. F. I. HAIRS Treble	FRANK I. HAIRS 6
CHARLES HAZELDEN 2	FRANK BENNETT 7
ALBERT HARMAN 3	EDWARD RADDON 8
MRS. C. HAZELDEN 4	SEPTIMUS RADFORD 9
WILLIAM SHEPHERD 5	EDWARD G. HEATH Tenor

Composed and Conducted by FRANK BENNETT.

* First attempt for a peal of Stedman Caters.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt. in E flat.

ROBERT A. FARDON Treble	C. Q. M. S. G. GILBERT, R.E. 6
FRANK E. DARBY 2	CHARLES H. KIPPIN, JUN. ... 7
FREDERICK G. WOODISS ... 3	ALFRED J. TRAPPITT 8
ALFRED H. WINCH 4	STEPHEN W. HOLDAWAY ... 9
REGINALD D. MARSHALL ... 5	GEORGE H. DAYNES Tenor

Composed by C. CHARGE. Conducted by C. H. KIPPIN, JUN.

Rung as an 18th birthday compliment to the ringer of the 2nd.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WYRARDISBURY, BUCKS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 23, 1924, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIAM H. HOLLIER Treble	JOHN R. MACKMAN 5
ROBERT A. FARDON 2	J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... 6
* WILLIAM E. JUDD 3	HARRY KILBY 7
WILLIAM HENLEY 4	WILLIAM WELLING Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by WILLIAM WELLING

A birthday peal for Mr. W. H. Hollier. * First peal in the method.

NEWPORT, MON.—At the Church of All Saints, on January 21st, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes), in 43 mins.: G. Day (first quarter-peal) 1, H. Forbes 2, F. Greedy 3, T. Ford 4, F. Chapman 5, C. Greedy (conductor) 6, J. W. Jones 7, W. Ridout 8.

PULHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH.

On Monday, February 25, 1924, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary the Virgin,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 6088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

ERNEST WHITING Treble	GEORGE GOWER 5
CHARLES CUTTING 2	HENRY ADCOCK 6
FREDERICK R. BORRETT 3	RUSSELL RICHES 7
CHARLES CLARKE 4	TOWNSEND ADCOCK Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by E. WHITING.

BRISTOL.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

(BRISTOL BRANCH.)

On Monday, February 25, 1924, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Philip and Jacob,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 6040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt.

FREDERICK WADE Treble	FREDERICK E. TYLER 5
EDGAR GUISE 2	JOHN G. JEFFRIES 6
HENRY J. WAY 3	HENRY T. HOWELL 7
*GEORGE TREW 4	ISAAC LONG Tenor

Composed and Conducted by EDGAR GUISE.

* First peal of Major.

BROMLEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 26, 1924, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 6120 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

PERCY J. SPICE Treble	GEORGE DURLING 5
THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. 2	ROBERT BRETT SMITH 6
WALTER SMITH 3	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 7
CLR.-SGT. J. BENNETT 4	ISAAC EMERY Tenor

Composed by J. PAGETT.

Conducted by ISAAC EMERY.

First peal in the method as conductor.

NORTHAMPTON.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, February 26, 1924, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Sepulchre,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 6066 CHANGES;

JOHNSON'S VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S.

FRANK ROLLINGS Treble	BERTIE O. SODEN 5
THOMAS LAW 2	*FRED. HOPPER 6
WILLIAM ROGERS 3	FRED. WILFORD 7
MAURICE SMITH 4	TOM TEBBUTT Tenor

Conducted by TOM TEBBUTT.

* First peal in the method. First in the method as conductor, and also on the bells. First peal in the method for the Guild.

SHEPTON MALLET, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 27, 1924, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 6040 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

WALTER FARLEY Treble	THOMAS F. KING 5
RONALD G. BECK 2	CHARLES ANDREWS 6
GERALD F. GRIFFIN 3	SAMUEL J. HECTOR 7
ARTHUR PRINCE 4	JOSEPH T. DYKE Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by JOSEPH T. DYKE.

First peal in the method on the bells. The ringer of the 2nd had not previously struck a blow in Major.

CAERPHILLY. — At St. Martin's Church, on Tuesday, February 5th, in 45 mins., a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): P. Jones 1, H. Broughton 2, W. Williams (first quarter-peal) 3, W. Pike 4, W. Dare 5, A. Addicott 6, F. Boucher (conductor) 7, G. Martin 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a token of respect to one of the sidesmen of the church.

DEANE, BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 6040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

HARRY CHAPMAN Treble	THOMAS B. WORSLEY 5
JOSEPH LOWE 2	TITUS BARLOW 6
JOSEPH LEATHERBARROW 3	JOHN POTTER 7
GEORGE POWNALL 4	ALLEN F. BAILEY Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by JOHN POTTER.

HALEWOOD, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 6088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt.

PERCIVAL W. CAVE Treble	JOHN WILKINSON 5
*CLAUDE S. BENWELL 2	GEORGE R. NEWTON 6
THOMAS HAMMOND 3	JAMES MARTIN 7
*ARTHUR LINTOTT 4	EDWARD CAUNCE Tenor

Composed by FRED PITSTOW. Conducted by G. R. NEWTON.

* First peal in the method; also first Surprise peal on the bells.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANOSIRE TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

*WILLIAM J. BUTTON Treble	ERNEST E. LANEAM 5
GEORGE FRYKE 2	GEORGE BENNETT 6
GEORGE WHITING 3	T. WILLIAM LAST 7
†LESLIE G. BRETT 4	JOHN GOOCH Tenor

Conducted by T. W. LAST.

* First peal. † First in method. First peal in the method as conductor.

MITCHAM, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

MISS E. E. HARDCASTLE Treble	WILLIAM S. SMITH 5
MISS ELSIE E. CHAPMAN 2	ALBERT CALVER 6
MISS FRED A. ORR 3	HERBERT LANGDON 7
CHARLES W. R. GRIMWOOD 4	WILLIAM H. JOINER Tenor

Conducted by H. LANGDON.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. C. W. R. Grimwood.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At Christ Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 17½ cwt.

*ERNEST W. NOY Treble	ALFRED G. HILL 5
ERNEST E. OXENHAM 2	WILLIAM H. DAYNES 6
JOHN S. MORTON 3	EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. 7
FREDERICK A. COLEY 4	EDWIN BARNETT, JUN. Tenor

Conducted by E. BARNETT, SEN.

* First peal.

BOREHAM, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

HENRY W. KIRTON Treble	*STANLEY E. EDWARDS 5
*LESLIE THRIFT 2	*CYRIL C. PEASE 6
LESLIE J. CLARK 3	ARTHUR HEAD 7
*GEORGE WIFFEN 4	WILLIAM PEASE Tenor

Conducted by CYRIL C. PEASE.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples. First peal as conductor.

DARTFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes.

At the Church of the Holy Trinity.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

MRS. RICHARD F. DEAL ... Treble	JOHN H. CHEESMAN ... 5
HERBERT E. ADDSLEY ... 2	ISAAC G. SHADE ... 6
THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. ... 3	RICHARD F. DEAL ... 7
THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. ... 4	HARRY SIMMONS ... Tenor

Non-conducted.

Umpire: JOHN WHEADON.

First non-conducted peal of Stedman in the county, by the association, and in which a lady has taken part.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

At the Church of St. Margaret.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

*ALFRED BALLARD ... Treble	*ROWLAND BARROW ... 5
THOMAS H. BENT ... 2	JOSIAH MORRIS ... 6
ARTHUR CATTELL ... 3	LAURIE JACKSON ... 7
ERNEST MORRIS ... 4	†GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE STEDMAN MORRIS.

* First of Major. † 50th peal, also first as conductor, never having called a bob in the method before; age 16. Rung on the occasion of the installation of the Lord Bishop of Peterborough as Dean of Leicester, which took place on this date at St. Martin's, Leicester.

BRISTOL.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

At the Temple, or Holy Cross Church.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SIR A. P. HEYWOOD'S NO. 1.

Tenor 22 cwt.

EDGAR GUISE ... Treble	EDWIN JOHN BROWN ... 5
*RICHARD TAYLOR ... 2	HENRY PRING ... 6
WILLIAM ABRAHAM ... 3	WILLIAM A. CAVE ... 7
FREDERICK G. LEAKER ... 4	ARTHUR DUBBIN ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM A. CAVE.

* First peal of Stedman. First in the method on the bells. The last peal on these bells was rung on February 7th, 1895.

WEST HARTLEPOOL, DURHAM.

CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes.

At the Church of St. Aiden, Stranton.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*JOHN H. BALMFORTH ... Treble	†WALTER N. ASHBY ... 5
JOHN D. BALMFORTH ... 2	FRED. P. HOWGROFT ... 6
†FREDERICK ROBSON ... 3	JOHN LOWREY ... 7
ALFRED E. BACON ... 4	JOSEPH E. SYKES ... Tenor

Composed by ERNEST MORRIS. Conducted by JOSEPH E. SYKES.

* First peal. † First peal of Bob Major.

LEEK, STAFFORDSHIRE.

STOKE ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Three Hours and Three Minutes.

At the Parish Church.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

EDWARD A. RIDGWAY ... Treble	ALBERT CRAWLEY ... 5
*EDWIN SHARRATT ... 2	EDGAR SHARRATT ... 6
SAMUEL CARDELL ... 3	JOHN RIDER ... 7
CHARLES H. PAGE ... 4	*GEORGE E. FLANT ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN RIDER.

First peal of Stedman on the bells. * First peal. First peal as conductor. S. Cardell hails from Hanley; C. H. Page from Stoke, and A. Crawley from Crewe.

OSWESTRY, SHROPSHIRE. — On Thursday, January 17th, for evensong, in 30 mins., 720 Grandsire Doubles: E. H. Kynaston 1, E. Kynaston 2, W. B. Kynaston 3, R. Edwards 4, R. T. Evans (conductor) 5, T. Marshall 6.

HENLEY, SUFFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes.

At the Church of St. Peter.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S BOB AND SINGLE. Tenor 8 cwt. 6 qr. 3 lb. in A flat.

CHARLES W. PARKER ... Treble	GEORGE A. FLEMING ... 5
REV. W. C. PEARSON ... 2	CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE ... 6
HARRY R. ROPER ... 3	ALBERT A. FLEMING ... 7
*PERCY K. PARKER ... 4	JAMES ROSE ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE A. FLEMING.

* First peal in the method. The Vicar's first 'six-score' of Bob Doubles was rung on March 3rd, 1878.

FAIRFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Three Hours and Six Minutes.

At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 15 cwt. in F.

GEORGE LAW ... Treble	WILFRED G. COOK ... 5
BASIL GUY ... 2	*JOHN C. ACOCK ... 6
WILLIAM C. COSS ... 3	JOHN HOPE ... 7
GEORGE J. WINTER ... 4	JOSEPH SMITH ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN HOPE.

* First peal. First peal of Triples on the bells conducted by a Fairford ringer.

GRAVESEND, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Three Hours and Five Minutes.

At the Church of St. George.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

RICKS PAINE ... Treble	THOMAS BEAUMONT ... 5
CHARLES WINNER ... 2	CHARLES NORRIS ... 6
FRANK BELSEY ... 3	WILLIAM J. WALKER ... 7
FREDERICK RICHARDSON ... 4	WILLIAM HAIGH ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by W. HAIGH.

First peal of Treble Bob Major on the bells. The above are all members of Rochester Cathedral Society.

HORSHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes.

At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION. Tenor 22½ cwt. in E.

JOHN H. B. HESSE ... Treble	WILLIAM STANFORD ... 5
PERCY H. DOICK ... 2	WILLIAM T. BEESON, JUN. ... 6
JAMES BURDFIELD ... 3	ALFRED H. POLLING ... 7
ARTHUR J. BARTLETT ... 4	JOHN COOK ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. POLLING.

The above company represents eight different towers.

HOLM LACY, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 2, 1924, in Three Hours and One Minute.

At the Parish Church.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 18 cwt.

LEONARD NELMES ... Treble	FRANK VOYCE ... 5
WILLIAM T. POSTON ... 2	WILLIAM BISHOP ... 6
ERNEST MATTHEWS ... 3	WILLIAM POSTON ... 7
ROBERT E. SUMMERS ... 4	GEORGE WILKS ... Tenor

Conducted by W. POSTON.

THOS. J. GROOMBRIDGE

Church Bell Hanger,

CRAYFORD, KENT.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED FOR NEW OR REPAIR WORK

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 3, 1924, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in D.

HENRY HUTTON Treble	*RAYMOND PHILPOTT 5
*ERNEST WEATHERBY 2	*WILLIAM R. MELVILLE 6
*JOHN T. SCOTT 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON, JUN. ... 7
*GEORGE W. STEERE 4	ALFRED H. PULLING Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal in the method. Rung as a farewell to Mr. Weatherby, who was leaving Guildford for Canada on March 6th. The company would like to associate with this peal the names of Mr. J. Foster, who rang the previous week 2 hrs. 45 mins., and Mr. G. Burdock, whose health will not allow him to ring peals. The peal was also a birthday compliment to Tom Hutton, son of the treble ringer.

SIX BELL PEALS.

TEYNHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, February 22, 1924, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes

At the Church of St. Mary the Virgin.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 2,520 each of College Single and Oxford Single Bob.

Tenor 11 cwt.

FREDERICK RUMMERY Treble	EDWARD W. TUMBER 4
CHARLES TUMBER 2	EDWARD HODGES 5
EDWARD W. GAMBELL 3	WILLIAM NYE Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM NYE.

First peal on the bells since the recasting of the 2nd by Mears and Stainbank.

APPLEFORD, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 23, 1924, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5030 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores with ten different callings.

ALFRED E. BUTLER Treble	ALLAN H. CASTLE 4
JOHN NOBES 2	T. FRANCIS HANKS 5
DANIEL H. WOODLEY 3	A. PERCY FLETCHER Tenor

Conducted by JOHN NOBES.

First peal on the bells.

MORTIMER, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(READING BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

At the Church of St. John,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each called differently. Tenor 7½ cwt.

WILLIAM FORD Treble	STANLEY C. DAVIS 4
GEORGE PARSONS 2	ARTHUR LOVEJOY 5
WALTER LEWINGTON 3	JAMES R. MACKMAN Tenor

Conducted by J. R. MACKMAN.

First peal on the bells.

BIGBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 1, 1924, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob each called differently. Tenor 6 cwt. 1 qr. 8 lb.

HAROLD RUSHBY Treble	CHARLES W. TAYLOR 4
GEORGE BLANCHARD 2	WALTER GODDARD 5
*STEPHEN BROMFIELD 3	HERBERT J. MINGAY Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT J. MINGAY.

Ringers of treble, 3rd, 4th and tenor hail from Grimsby; 5th from Barton-on-Humber, 2nd belongs to the local band. * First peal in three methods. The band wish to thank the Rector (the Rev. H. T. Parry) for the use of the bells, and the local ringers for having everything ready.

MADRESFIELD, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Sunday, March 2, 1924, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London and Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, College Single, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 14 cwt.

ROBERT G. KNOWLES Treble	FREDERICK STANTON 4
WILLIAM NIBLEY 2	JOHN J. JEFFERIES 5
SIDNEY T. HOLT 3	CHARLES CAMM Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES CAMM.

HANDBELL PEAL.

OSWESTRY, SHROPSHIRE.

THE ST. OSWALD'S SOCIETY.

On Thursday, February 28, 1924, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

At Lloran House.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores with ten different callings.

†REGINALD KYNASTON ... 1—2	†WILLIAM B. KYNASTON ... 3—4
*E. HARVEY KYNASTON ... 5—6	

Conducted by WILLIAM B. KYNASTON. Witness: T. MARSHALL.

* First peal of Doubles, also on handbells. † First peal 'double-handed.' ‡ First peal on an 'inside' pair, and first as conductor.

BOSTON GUILD, MASSACHUSETTS.

MUFFLED RINGING.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It gives me great pleasure to have something to write about for the information of your numerous readers and our many friends.

As the world knows, our late President, Woodrow Wilson, died and was buried on February 6th, in Washington (district of Columbia), in the State of Virginia. The Boston Guild of Change Ringers met at the Church of the Advent, Boston, and rang two 120 Grandsire Doubles, with Mrs. M. A. Shurtleff taking part, and also a 720 Plain Bob Minor, with the bells deeply muffled, except the tenor, which was open one side: Alex. Matthews 1, P. J. Alfrey 2, Wm. Bashford 3, Joseph Goodhead 4, Richard Newton 5, Anthony (Tony) R. Price (conductor) 6. Mr. Price hails from King's Lynn, England, and is a recent addition to our band, which has been made weak through removals.

The Boston Guild wish to record as their mite towards the ringing records that were no doubt rung all over the British Empire wherever change ringing is known, the above 720 of Bob Minor to the memory of the greatest change ringer on tower bells that was ever known, James W. Washbrook, of Manchester, England, who was a very pleasant, good-natured, helpful 'father' to hundreds of learners in the art. To conductors his advice and opinions were always free and clear, and to the point. He will be missed.

We also rang the bells half-muffled at Perkins' Institute for the Blind, Watertown, Mass., U.S.A., on Sunday, Feb. 10th, in his memory. Several touches of Grandsire Triples were rung with Mrs. M. A. Shurtleff and Mr. Warren S. Sturges, of Groton School, taking part. Wishing the best of luck to 'The Ringing World,' to yourself, and my old friends in and around Manchester.—Yours very sincerely,

RICHARD NEWTON (late of Manchester).

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

DERBY DISTRICT.

A monthly meeting of the Derby district was held at Alvaston on Saturday, February 23rd, about 20 members being present from All Saints', St. Luke's, St. Andrew's, and St. Alkmund's Churches, Derby, and members of the local company, also the treasurer of the association, Mr. W. Willson, of Leicester.

The majority were young ringers anxious to gain further knowledge in the art of change ringing, and, aided by a few of the older members, they should keep up the traditions of the Midland Counties Association.

Touches were rung in various methods, and on the whole the striking was very good. This was the first monthly meeting held in the district for several years, and it is hoped to carry them on, but to be a success it is very desirable that they should be well attended.

The next meeting was fixed for March 29th, at Ashbourne, if the bells can be obtained.—A vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar (the Rev. W. Webb) for the use of the bells, and to the local ringers for their support.

THE CENTENARY OF LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from page 139.)

Mr. C. F. Winney, on behalf of the Ancient Society of College Youths, first responded. He remarked that he joined the St. James's Society in 1879, and he rang in a peal at St. Clement Danes for the bi-centenary of the peal of eight bells. He was proud to be a College Youth, and he was also proud to see the Master of the London County Association wearing such a lovely silver badge. He remembered the old one, but, unfortunately, when they changed their headquarters, it got lost in transit (laughter). Mr. Dawe had referred to men like Johnson, Cox and Haley, but they had such men to-day. They had one of them with them that evening, Mr. John Carter (applause), who was one of the cleverest and most original men the Exercise had ever known (applause).

Mr. J. D. Matthews next replied. He said he would like on behalf of his own society, the Royal Cumberland Youths, and, if he might, on behalf of the College Youths, to welcome the London County Association into the ranks of the centenarians (applause). The College Youths and Cumberlands had been the only two in London until that day, but they were pleased to see the London County Association join their ranks. They would not catch the two older societies, who had too long a start (laughter), but they had reached what he might call their 'majority.' They had the representative of another centenarian society with them that evening in Mr. Cave, of the St. Stephen's Guild, Bristol. He sometimes spent some of his leisure in looking through the old ringing papers, and it was surprising to notice the advance in ringing in the last 40 years, or even 30 or 25 years. A quarter of a century ago Surprise ringing was unknown in Bristol, but since then they had rung most of the methods worth mentioning, up to Cambridge Surprise Maximus. It showed what a different class of men were coming into the ringing world. The outstanding men in days gone by were exceptions. Where they found them in ones in the time of Johnson, Haley and Cox, they could find scores to-day of similar ability. They did not, however, stand out so much, because there were so many of them.

Mr. W. H. Fussell responded for the Provincial Societies, and first paid a compliment to the Ladies' Guild. They had, he said, no territory and no church as headquarters, they could not even claim a parson (laughter). They were scattered up and down the country, silent, persevering members of the Church of England, in their simple hobby doing a great work among the ladies of the country, and forming the nucleus of little bands. The associations appreciated the work they did. He regretted the Master of the College Youths, who was also secretary of the Oxford Guild, could not be present that night, but he was carrying on a great work. They, however, had with them that evening members of the Essex Association, the Kent Association, the Sussex Association, the Gloucester and Bristol Association, the Winchester Guild, and other societies. Proceeding, Mr. Fussell referred to the ringers overseas, in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Toronto, Vancouver and Boston. There was to be an Imperial Exhibition this year, and it had been suggested that among the exhibits there should be a peal of bells. He thought this was very desirable. There was no doubt bells would take their share in future centuries in the work of the church abroad. In the mushroom cities which had sprung up in the Colonies, they had not got towers of sufficient stability to carry peals of bells, but in time to come these buildings would be replaced by English-like solid towers, and then would be the time when English bells would be rung in the Colonies, as they were in this country to-day. They remembered the ringers overseas that night, and sent them their greetings and kind regards. There were ringers in Auckland, and he would like to mention one who died and was buried there. He was the first man to ring a peal in the four corners of Great Britain—William Greenleaf, who rang a peal in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales before anyone else. He lies buried in Auckland, and he (Mr. Fussell) regretted that there were no bells to ring over him. Continuing, Mr. Fussell said that society might almost be called the Tolladay Society. Tolladay, although first and foremost a College Youth, largely built up that society, and while carrying on a boat building business, rang many peals in the Thames-side towers. William Atherton, who called the first peal for that society, was a Cumberland, and only rang two peals for the St. James's Society, because he had all his work cut out to keep the Cumberlands in the high position they had attained. Of the two, however, Tolladay was the man they most associated with the St. James's Society. He died in 1864, very shortly after ringing his last peal at Waterloo. He was a loss to the Exercise, for he was an affable and good man, with a great deal of tact in dealing with a young band. Mr. Fussell also referred to the two other societies, not previously mentioned, the Junior College Youths and the Junior Cumberlands, who eventually became merged in the seniors, and said the foundation of the St. James's Society was a splendid idea, to enable members of the rival societies to ring together. He hoped the traditions of the past would long be upheld, and that success would attend the future of the London County Association (applause).

The Master read messages sending good wishes to the gathering from the Lavenham ringers and Mr. F. C. Lambert.

Mr. E. A. Young proposed 'The Visitors,' and Mr. W. A. Cave responded, remarking that it was always a great delight to him to meet and ring with London ringers.

During the evening, Mr. J. Bullock sang three excellent songs, and tunes on handbells by Messrs. Truss, Hawkins and Green were so highly appreciated that there was a double encore. A most enjoyable evening concluded with 'Auld Lang Syne.'

BENEDICTION OF THE BELLS.

SOMERSET VILLAGE CEREMONY.

The interesting ceremony of blessing the bells was performed at Huish Champflower, Somerset, on Sunday, Feb. 17th, when the Benediction was pronounced upon the rehung five bells in St. Peter's tower. Eventually, a treble, given by Miss Shaw, is to be added, but owing to the illness of the donor, and also to the inability through illness of the Bishop of Taunton to be present, the placing of this bell in the company of the others is deferred to a later date. As the Bishop intimated on a previous occasion, when he was at Huish Champflower, he would like to have the privilege of being the first to ring the new bell.

The service took place in the afternoon, and the church was full to overflowing. About 50 ringers were present from Huish Champflower, Wiveliscombe, Minehead, Milverton, Fitzhead, Chipstable, Skilgate, Clatworthy, Kingsbrompton, and Huntsham. Mr. G. Stacey (hon. secretary of the Dunster Deanery branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers) and Mr. W. Hoyle (Ringing Master of the branch), from Minehead, were among those present.

The Rev. P. W. P. Hancock (Rector) conducted the service, and an address was given by P. R. H. Maynard.

The Benediction collects for the rehung bells were said by the Rector, and the congregation then stood for a few moments while the local ringers rang a short peal, and demonstrated the harmony of the bells which had been for so long silent.

After the service the visiting ringers were entertained to tea by the Rector. The local ringers and their wives waited on the guests, and after tea Mr. Stacey, on behalf of the visitors, expressed their appreciation of the Rector's kindness in providing tea, also of Mr. and Mrs. Baker in lending the room, and of the local ringers and their wives who had waited upon them.

During the evening the bells were rung by mixed bands, and although there was some little disappointment that the peal of six was not ready yet for them to try their hand upon, they were very pleased with the trial of the five that have been rehung.

The bells which at present form a peal of five, but will soon be augmented to six, are of various dates and founders. The treble is by Bilbie, of Cullompton, 1790; the 2nd by Pannell, Cullompton, 1820; 3rd by Norton, Exeter, undated, but about 1540; 4th and 5th by Bailey, Bridgwater, 1763, the tenor being 11 cwt. The frame, which is of stout, locally grown English oak, was made and fixed by Mr. Jack Tont, a local carpenter, on five heavy steel joists, these having been covered with concrete to prevent rust. The bells have been turned, tuned, fitted with new headstock, wheels, ball bearings, huffered clappers, and hung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, Mr. J. Tyler having been in charge of the work, and, needless to say, everything done has given the greatest satisfaction.

THE LEANING TOWER OF BRISTOL.

In connection with the peal rung at Temple Church, Bristol, it is interesting to note that it is nearly 30 years since any peal was rung or attempted there, and Mr. Pring, who rang in Saturday's peal, was in the previous one, in 1895.

The tower of Temple Church leans. It is some 6ft. out of perpendicular, and it is on record that at least one ringer would not take part in a quarter-peal there when he saw the tower. 'I don't like the look of that, I'm off,' he said, and away he went. But another 'Alf' turned up and took his place.

NORFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, February 23rd, a district meeting of the above Guild was held at Aylsham, some twenty members attending from Aylsham, Fakenham, North Elmham, North Walsham, Hoxingham, Norwich and Reepham. During the afternoon and evening the following methods were rung: Bob Major and Royal, Treble Bob Major and Royal, Grandsire Caters, Stedman Triples and Caters, and Superlative. At the conclusion everybody agreed that, in spite of the bad weather, a very enjoyable meeting had been held.

SWANMORE, HANTS.—At St. Barnabas' Church, on Wednesday, February 20th, for practice, 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor: W. Allen (first 720 Treble Bob) 1. R. Linter (first 720) 2. A. Millard 3. E. Jacobs 4. H. Ainsley (first 720) 5. W. Linter (conductor) 6.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO RULES.

A very successful meeting of the Portsmouth District was held at Curdridge on Saturday last, when 40 ringers were present. Altogether 15 towers were represented, viz.: Alverstoke, Bishop's Waltham, Bishopstoke, Curdridge, Fareham, Gosport, North Stoneham, Portsmouth (St. Mary's and St. Thomas'), Ringwood, Southampton, Swanmore, Shedfield, Wickham and Winchester. Among those present were Mr. G. Williams (Master), Mr. G. Pullinger (general secretary), and the Rev. E. Bankes James (Seaford Park).

A service was held in the church, the Vicar (the Rev. W. Slater) conducting the service, and also addressing the members. Tea was provided in the Parish Institute, where a highly substantial repast was served. The tower was again visited until 7 p.m., at which hour the business meeting was held in the belfry. The following new members were elected: Messrs. F. Pritchard, S. Bath, E. Groundsell, W. Linter, A. Marsh and L. Davis, all of Bishops Waltham.

The following alterations to certain rules, as suggested by the Central Committee, were then placed before the members:—

- (1) That Rule VI. be altered to read: That a general meeting of the Guild shall be held each year on a Saturday, and that it be held every third year in Winchester, and that the places for the next two annual meetings shall be decided at that meeting.
- (2) That the words: 'Peal Recorder and Hon. Auditor' be inserted in Rule VI., after the word 'Secretary.'
- (3) That the second section of Rule X. be deleted.
- (4) That the words: 'or Ringing Press' be inserted in Rule XV. after the words 'Recorder of Peals.'
- (5) That Rule XVII. be deleted.
- (6) To decide what 'Due Notice' shall mean as in Rule XVIII.

It was proposed by Mr. C. J. Fray, and seconded by Mr. W. Knight, that these proposed alterations be adopted, the members present showing unanimous approval.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Privett on May 31st, due notice of which will appear in 'The Ringing World.'

A vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, and Mr. A. Mears for kindly arranging the tea and having everything in readiness, concluded the business meeting.

Altogether it proved to be a very enjoyable and well-attended meeting. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob and Double Norwich Major, Cambridge, London and Bristol Surprise.

EDINBURGH SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Lindoff is right when he states that I object to 'Edinburgh' being termed a new method. It is certainly new to those persons who have not seen it before. I have known it quite a long time, and Mr. Geo. Lewis, of Sheffield, presented it to me last May or June, asking my opinion of it, which I gave him candidly. Now, I ask what would he be likely to say if I was to tell an opposite tale in the present case. That is precisely my position in regard to 'Edinburgh' Surprise. I have said what I think, and I have nothing more to add.

Regarding the 5,040 Surprise Royal, I can only reply as follows: When I constructed the 14 necessary courses I selected quite the most simple arrangement I could imagine, for the very reason that I knew there was nothing original in so short a span. I was under the impression that Yorkshire Royal and Princess Mary Royal were the first two Surprise methods rung on ten bells that would allow the 6th the full extent home, so Mr. Lindoff, if he has produced these self same figures, must have applied them to a plain method, in which case my figures would be repeated with a single called mid-way and end. Mr. Lindoff would have a prior claim to me if this is the case.

Regarding the two-part extent of Treble Bob Major, 7,616 two peals, and others ranging down to 5,056, I produced them in August, 1899. I also sent them to the late Tom Lockwood for inclusion in C.C. Collection. We also rang the 5,056 at Mansfield on June 15th, 1901. I arranged my table of course ends from the natural course ends of Tom Lockwood's 7,488. I can quite understand Mr. Lindoff talking about tossing me for them, and adding the few coppers in his pocket. I should not agree if he were to add the gold and silver.

The last paragraph in Mr. Lindoff's letter does him no credit, and can do me no harm, when I inform your readers that I possess two 29 course peals of 8,896, and that I produced them in 1900, while exploring the possibility of an even greater length. They are both distinct compositions compared with Wm. Harrison's peal, but does it appear as though I was anxious to publish them when I have already had them 24 years? Mr. Lindoff would do well to reorganise his secret service department, as it has been misleading him.

I am heartily sorry that my comments on 'Edinburgh' have so upset my old colleague: had I thought what would have come of it I should have wished that someone else would have undertaken the task.—Yours truly,

ARTHUR CRAVEN.

Stannington, near Sheffield, Feb. 24th, 1924.

JOHN TAYLOR & Co.,

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We understand an important bell augmentation is likely shortly to take place in Manchester.

A great improvement has just been effected in the belfry of St. Martin's, Birmingham, where the rough walls round the upper part of the ringing chamber have been encased with woodwork, painted white and varnished. It puts a finish to what was already a well-appointed belfry.

The meeting of the Grappenhall Branch of the Chester Guild at Runcorn to-morrow has been cancelled.

Shrove Tuesday seems to have been a favourite day with Nottingham ringers in W. D. Croft's time for peals, and one of these pre-lent performances was a 7,040 Oxford Treble Bob on Shrove Tuesday morning, 15th February, 1774. The time was 5 hours, 1 minute, and the peal was called by W. D. Crofts.

Congratulations to the band of the Kent County Association, who, at Dartford on Saturday, rang a 'non-conducted' peal of Stedman Triples. The noteworthiness of the performance is enhanced by the fact that one of the ringers was a lady, the first to take part in a non-conducted peal. Not only is great credit due to Mrs. Deal for the excellent way she rang through the peal, but merit is added to her achievement by the fact that she has never yet called a bob in the method.

The peal of Bob Major at St. Margaret's, Leicester (recorded elsewhere), is the first in the method on the new bells. The only previous peal of Bob Major at this church was Annable's 5,040, called by Thos. Gibson on April 4th, 1807, 'the parties being all wool-combers.'

On March 7th, 1819, 10,080 Bob Major was rung at Great Baddow, and still stands as the record in the method for Essex.

At Norwich, on March 8th, 1737, a peal of 12,603 Grandsire Caters was rung at St. Peter Maucroft, Norwich, in 8 hrs. 15 mins.

A 10,047 Stedman Caters was rung at Aston on the same day in 1859.

One hundred and forty years ago next Monday the College Youths rang a 7,008 Oxford Treble Box Maximus at Southwark.

This was twenty-six years after the first peal of Oxford Treble Twelve, rung by the same society on the same bells on March 12th, 1758.

The Bedfordshire Association was founded on March 13th, 1882.

On Tuesday, March 7th, 1843, at St. Peter's Church, Sheffield, 'a true and complete peal of Hudson's New Light, containing 5,600 changes,' in 3 hours and 46 mins. It was composed and conducted by William Hudson, senr., and is recorded as the first peal in this method ever rung. This method is now called Spliced Treble Bob.

A gentleman wishes to thank the ladies at the Aldershot meeting last Saturday who so kindly provided him with cakes for his Sunday tea.

LADIES' GUILD.

The quarterly meeting of the Western District was held at Bath on Saturday. The bells of St. Mary's, Bathwick, were available at 3 p.m., and the members enjoyed a good pull, through the kindness of Mr. F. Rich (the local secretary), who came with some of his colleagues to help with the heavy bells.

A beautiful service was conducted by the Rector of Bathwick, the Rev. H. F. Napier, Mrs. Napier kindly presiding at the organ.

Tea was served at Taylor's Restaurant, and was followed by a business meeting, Mrs. Edwards, of Portishead, presiding.

It was notified that the next quarterly meeting was to be abandoned owing to the general meeting of the Guild being held in Bristol this summer.

It was proposed to hold a practice at Coalpit Heath in May, and the annual meeting at Evercreech in September.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Rev. H. F. Napier and Mrs. Napier, the Rev. G. C. Williamson for the use of the bells of St. Michael's, and the Bath ringers for their great help.

The members then visited St. Michael's tower, where touches in Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major were rung till 8.30 p.m., when a very happy meeting was brought to a close.

'AN EXPLANATION.

Mr. E. Tigwell writes, in reply to the inquiry by 'T.B. Minor,' that the description applied to the quarter-peal rung at Purley, Berks, was sent through a misunderstanding on the part of the ringer who forwarded the report. Instead of the footnote reading 'first spliced quarter-peal,' it should have read 'first quarter-peal in two methods.'

The Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner.

BIG GATHERING AT BIRMINGHAM.

A company, numbering over 160, assembled on Saturday at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, on the occasion of the 36th annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner, held under the auspices of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham. The event again proved most enjoyable, and drew together visitors from many parts of the country as well as a representative gathering from in and around Birmingham. During the afternoon there was ringing at St. Martin's, the Cathedral, and Bishop Ryder's Church, and at each tower, despite the wintry conditions which prevailed, a considerable number of ringers enjoyed touches. In the regrettable absence of the Rector of Birmingham (Canon E. Grose Hodge), who was the victim of an attack of influenza, Alderman J. S. Pritchett, the Presiding Ringing Master of the Guild, occupied the chair at the dinner. Among those also present were Messrs. J. J. Kendall and F. W. Blake (churchwardens of St. Martin's), Councillor C. H. Clutterbuck, Canon Badger (Vicar of Bishop Ryder's), Councillor Gilling (donor of the bells of Bishop Ryder's), the Rev. F. Li. Edwards (hon. secretary of the Salisbury Guild), Lieut.-Col. the Rev. F. J. Cheverton (Rowley Regis), Mr. A. Paddon Smith (hon. secretary) and Mrs. Smith, Mr. A. Walker (Deputy Ringing Master) and Mrs. Walker, Mr. T. Russam (vice-president) and Mrs. Russam, Messrs. W. Kent and J. H. Shepherd (vice-presidents), C. Dickens (trustee), J. Preston and T. H. Reeves (auditors), Pryce Taylor (Loughborough), H. Mason (Clent), A. E. Parsons (Old Hill), W. H. Fussell (Slough), Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Goldsmith (Woking), Mrs. Wilkins (Bristol), president of the Ladies' Guild, Mr. P. J. Johnson (Leeds), hon. secretary, Yorkshire Association; Mr. J. Rowbotham (London), Mr. and Mrs. A. Trippier (Manchester), Messrs. S. F. Palmer and W. Bugar (Sheffield), Mr. and Mrs. F. Smallwood and Mr. J. Paget (Derby), Messrs. F. Perchus and O. J. Hunt (Coventry), T. Salter (Kidderminster), W. Walmsley (Macclesfield), W. Knight and J. Burford (Bristol), W. Griffin (Walsall), H. Broughton (Leicester), S. R. Roper (Croydon Foundry), A. Coppock (Nottingham), W. H. J. Hooton (Nuneaton), Chandler and Fenton (Rugby), W. Saunders (Coalbrookdale), T. King (Bath), W. Mead (Clun), Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Groves, Mr. J. George, Mr. J. Oldham (Loughborough), Mr. Elijah White, who has been for fifty years a service ringer at Halesowen, etc.

After an excellent dinner, a lengthy programme of speeches and music was entered upon, and the large company spent a happy evening. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. A. A. Hughes (London), detained by illness at home; Mr. John Carter, who was too unwell to attend; Mr. E. Woodhall (West Bromwich), Mr. W. J. Nevard (Great Bentley), and the Vicar and churchwardens of Aston. Mr. W. T. Cockerill, hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths, sent a telegram of good wishes.

CAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND REFLECTION.

The toast of 'The King' having been honoured, Mr. A. E. Parsons submitted 'The Church and State.' He referred to the changing times through which we are passing, and said that with regard to the Church there was cause for solemn thought and reflection. What was happening? They read that the dignitaries of the Church were countenancing conversations with the Church of Rome on the question of re-union. He would like to ask how those authorities could square their present attitude with their allegiance to the 39 articles of the Church of England, particularly the 22nd. They had a few persons in the Church who were doubting the authority of God's word, and even cutting out what they did not choose to read in their churches. Was that compatible with their allegiance to Article 4? These were things that made the laity think, and no doubt the laity would speak if these things went on (hear, hear). If some of our forefathers were to come back now, he added, they would wonder if they were entering the right buildings or not. Instead of listening to services which were creating a spiritual atmosphere, some of the places were almost compatible with a fancy dress ball at the East end. He sincerely hoped the Church dignitaries would pause before they took such drastic steps as those which they were at present contemplating. He also hoped with all his heart they would never get back to pre-reformation days, which were really unthinkable.

The Rev. F. Li. Edwards, who first responded, said they lived in days in which the Church had need of the loyal support of the country at large, and when not only the whole nation but the Empire stood very greatly in need of the consolidating and elevating support of the Church. Those leaders of politics in the world who set their minds entirely upon projects of material aggrandisement and material prosperity had had their fling during the greater part of the last ten years, and no one could claim that they were to be congratulated upon the result. It appeared to him that the only way to find material peace and prosperity was by laying greater insistence on

spiritual principles for which the Church stood. One of the Bishops had been advocating a separation of the Church and State in this country. Whether or not beneficial results would ensue from such a revolution in their position was a matter no one could foresee, but one thing was quite certain, that it would introduce a serious breach in the historic continuity of the relations of the sacred and secular aspects of our national life.

Lieut.-Colonel the Rev. F. J. Cheverton also responded to the toast, remarking that he had sometimes been almost glad that the ladies burnt down Rowley Regis Church. The re-building had been a great joy to him, because it had brought him into touch with that splendid fellowship which was personified in that gathering. But for that event he would not have had the opportunity of coming into touch with many whom he could already call friends, and the equally splendid spirit of fellowship which he had discovered (applause). He thought it was appropriate that in this toast the Church should come before the State, because the Church came into existence long before the State. Before the State came into existence, the Church stood not only for the religious faith of the land, but for something more than that. It stood for the whole life of the land; it stood for art; it stood, doubtless, for bell ringing; it stood for education, and it stood for the drama; in fact, it stood for the sum of national life. But as the national life developed, more particularly in the last two or three centuries, it became incumbent on the Church to pass on some of its duties. He admitted that it was partly forced upon them by the fact that the Church, in a way, failed to rise to its noble opportunity and occasion, and that a decadence set in, but a great deal of the work of the State was originally the work of the Church, and they should not forget the splendid legacy she had passed on to them. Dealing with the attitude of the Church to the State and the State to the Church, the speaker said they were passing from the days when the State showed hostility to the Church, such as they saw in the Welsh Disestablishment Bill. Social progress was being built up on Christian foundations, and the politicians to-day recognised that in dealing with human affairs they could not go beyond the moral conscience of the people. They looked to the Church to uplift the moral tone and moral standards of the people so that they could then come in and legislate up to the outlook of the people. He believed that if the Prime Minister (Mr. MacDonald) were there that night he would tell them, as representing the Church, that they need no longer look askance at each other, but that they were to go hand in hand, and that the more they had the welfare of the nation at heart the more they would help each other on. He was an optimist, and he believed they had great days before them, and had nothing to despair about in the Church or in the State.

HENRY JOHNSON AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

Mr. W. H. Fussell was entrusted with the toast of 'The Memory of the late Henry Johnson.' He said he was not that evening going to praise him as a man, straightforward and honest, as a very able conductor, or to speak about the qualities or musical properties which he had placed in a column of figures, because he felt that other speakers in the past, who were more in touch with him in his lifetime, had already done so in a very able manner. His (the speaker's) first visit to Birmingham in the year 1883 was a successful one, for he rang a peal at St. Chad's, and it was after they came from the belfry on that occasion that he first met Mr. Johnson. The portrait on their programme that night was an excellent one, and depicted Mr. Johnson as he was about the time referred to, when he was about 74 years of age. He had the privilege of meeting him twice after that. As most of them knew, Henry Johnson was born on February 28th, 1829, and his death occurred in 1890, when he was 61 years of age. He took unto himself two wives, and he had a family of eight children, and although he died in 1890, Henry Johnson lived to-day (hear, hear). Mr. Johnson's ringing days were spent in company with Cooper and Day, Roberts, Macdonald and Hopkins, all good men, who no doubt encouraged him to follow out the practice of his forefathers, and he did that to no mean extent. Hopkins was a close friend of Johnson, and bequeathed to him a little peal book which had since been handed to the custody of St. Martin's Guild. Hopkins was born in 1800, and died in 1862. He defended Johnson on several matters when he was attacked by his competitors in the field of composition: for instance, in a controversy over Stedman Triples and a controversy with Lates over Bob Triples. Another who was a friend of Johnson was Joseph Riley, of Gloucester. He was a member of the Royal Cumberland Youths, and was also very proud of the old St. Martin's Society, coming to Birmingham and conducting several peals for it. Riley's peal book had also come into the possession of that society. Johnson called his first peal as conductor in 1832. This was Grandsire Triples at Aston,

and it happened to be his 23rd birthday, but the peal was rung with the muffles on as a mourning peal for Joshua Short. In 1841 he called his first peal of Stedman Caters at Aston, and in 1846 the famous peal of Stedman Triples for the second time. He also called a peal at St. Martin's for the famous John Cox, of London, who came to Birmingham on a visit, and it would have been very interesting could they know what was said between these two about certain facts in ringing. In 1846, he rang two peals in three days, which was a most unusual thing in those days, and in 1848 he rang in 12 peals in a year, which was a wonderful performance, although in these days a band will go on tour and ring as many in a week. In 1851 an interesting event occurred. That society made up seven men, who visited the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, and then met three members of the Royal Cumberland Youths at St. Clement Danes, where they rang a peal of Grandsire Caters, conducted by Henry Haley. The year 1873 was noted for the visit of Charles Hattersley, of Sheffield, to Birmingham, and was the beginning of some interesting exchanges between the two men, both through the post and by personal interviews on more than one occasion. Johnson's immediate predecessors in the realm of conducting in Birmingham were Elijah Roberts, the peal tapper, who afterwards committed suicide, John Lates, Henry Cooper, Joe Powell and Thomas Day. These men handed on the traditions, Johnson took them up, and in his turn left a great tradition to those who came after him. It was in Johnson's day that Stedman was started in earnest, and became in the Birmingham district the most popular method; indeed, the reputation of St. Martin's Guild for Stedman to-day might be traced back to the days of Johnson, and from 1830 the name of Henry Johnson, of Birmingham, became a household word in many a ringer's home, long before any ringing papers were issued. What ringing news there was, was published in 'Bell's Life' and 'The Era,' and in these papers appeared many matters of great interest in which Johnson's name figured. He frequently took up some challenge to assert what Birmingham had done, and to show that others claims had already been superseded. Birmingham, said the speaker, seemed to have been favoured in getting news from the old stage coaches. Being the centre of England, a number of through coaches from all parts came into the town. Elijah Roberts was himself on a coach, and doubtless Birmingham ringers knew what was going on elsewhere sooner than anyone else. Henry Johnson at the time of his death had two sons, both of whom were living to-day, and both of whom became ringers. One was with them that night (applause). Continuing, the speaker said the present harmonious relations among ringers in Birmingham did not always exist. Forty years ago there were several societies, and all had their own ideas of what was right and proper. There was the Union Society of St. Martin's and St. Philip's, the Helt Society of Aston, the Birmingham and District Association, founded by John Carter, and others, some of whom he saw present that night. Each body was jealous of its position and achievements, but there was a happy spirit of brotherhood existing among the ringers of Birmingham to-day. Henry Johnson lived to a ripe old age, and he must have been proud of the position of matters when he breathed his last, leaving behind him a wonderful record in the way of conducting and a collection of compositions in several methods that may be found to-day in the modern works on change ringing. In 1888 a new Guild was formed for Birmingham in which the old societies united, and eventually became St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham. He hoped they would continue to prosper, and to carry on their work as Churchmen. They had met that night as the result of the birth of Henry Johnson, to honour, as a Guild, a fine old English gentleman.

The toast was drunk in solemn silence, and then followed a perfect touch of three leads of Treble Bob on 14 handbells, by seven members of St. Martin's Guild, an exhibition of ringing, which, the Chairman pointed out, could not be heard anywhere else in the world. It was rung by T. Russam, A. Walker, P. O. Ladin, G. F. Swann, J. E. Groves, A. E. Norman and M. J. Morris. The completion of the touch was greeted with tremendous applause.

A REVIEW.

The Chairman next said he was both proud and happy in being once more with them and having the honour of proposing 'Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild.' He invited them, as was his custom, to first pay a passing thought to those who had passed away from them during the year. The hand of death had dealt lightly with the Guild in 1923, for they had lost only one Birmingham and one country member. The Birmingham member, as they all knew, was Mr. James L. Wells, a most valued and valuable member, one of the Sunday band of St. Martin's, whose heart and soul was in ringing, and whose ringing was looked upon by him as a solemn duty in connection with that Church. They mourned him. The other was perhaps the most famous ringer of his time, certainly the most accomplished ringer that ever lived, so far as both the composition of peals and the actual ringing of them was concerned. He referred to Mr. James W. Washbrook. No man rang peals more rapidly than he did, and on more than one occasion he rang two bells himself in the same peal. His fame as a virtuoso in ringing could never be sur-

passed. Continuing, the speaker said they had also, fortunately, a small sick list comprising dear old friends. There was Mr. Rock Small, from whom he had received a letter saying he was afraid he would never be able to leave his house again, and would be extremely pleased if old friends passing that way would call upon him. Then there was Mr. John Carter. They deeply deplored his absence and his illness, and they hoped he would be spared for many years yet. There was Mr. John Buffery, whose illness they all regretted. It was fifty years ago since he came to see him (the speaker) at Oxford, and mistook the extra strong ale for soda water (laughter), with the result that they were unable to ring at Magdalen College in the afternoon as they had intended to do (laughter). They were all sorry that Mr. Buffery was absent from that gathering, and hoped he would recover from his illness to some extent (hear, hear). Looking round, he was very glad to see nearly all the old faces present among them again, men that he used to ring with 30, 40, and even 50 years ago. Joe Johnson, a son of the famous Henry Johnson, who had never missed one of those gatherings, was with them again, and there was also Mr. Tom Russam, with his good lady, Mr. William Kent, Mr. Bernard Witchell, and the three brothers Dickens, all of them connected with the Guild for many years, and he hoped would still be long connected with it (applause). Proceeding, the Chairman said St. Martin's Guild had not done badly during the past year. They had rung 26 tower bell peals and 13 peals on handbells, which was three more than the previous year, although it did not come up to the record number of the year before, which was about 45. Out of the tower bell peals, nine were peals on twelve bells at St. Martin's Church, and the remarkable part of it was that to ring those nine peals they made only nine attempts (applause). The most noteworthy of the peals was that to celebrate Mr. James George's 70th birthday. It was noteworthy for the occasion on which it was rung, and also for the fact that had it not been for Mr. George's birthday it would have been rung for Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walker's silver wedding. Mr. Walker very generously gave way to Mr. George, and they could only hope that as a recompense a splendid peal would be rung for the golden wedding (applause). Another reason that prevented a silver wedding peal being rung was that Mr. Wells died, and the next opportunity for ringing a peal was devoted to ringing a muffled peal in his memory. During the past year an attempt had been made to revive Cambridge Maximus. A course was rung the other evening, and it was hoped that during the coming year another peal might be rung. He would like the clergy present, added the Chairman, to know that the members of the Guild rang regularly every Sunday morning at St. Martin's Church for service, and also gave their services once a month at the Cathedral, and occasionally at other churches in the city. They were a most devoted band of ringers, and were deeply sensible of the dignity and importance of their position as church bell ringers. They were honoured that night by the presence of the Vicar of Bishop Ryder's Church and his churchwarden, Councillor Gilling. They heartily congratulated them upon the rehanging of the bells at that church, the bells being the generous gift of Councillor Gilling. They were a very beautiful peal, and a great addition to the ringing facilities in the city. In concluding, Alderman Pritchett said he would like to thank his deputy, Mr. Walker, for his great services to the Guild during the past year, for his services as conductor and for his services as organiser, with Mr. Smith, of the most successful social gatherings which they had held from time to time. Mr. Walker also had attended ringing dinners in London, Sheffield and Bristol as the representative of that Guild. He had difficulty in finding words properly to express their acknowledgments to Mr. Paddon Smith for all he had done for the Guild as hon. secretary. He believed he had said at least twelve times that he had excelled himself. A man could not excel himself more than twelve times (laughter), and he had reached perfection many years ago. He did not know what they would do without him. Mr. Smith sometimes complained of the burden of his office. He (the speaker) could only assure him that their gratitude was as deep and sincere as his labours were strenuous and burdensome, and that must be his reward (applause).

The toast was heartily received, and Mr. Smith's health was drunk with rousing musical honours.

(To be continued.)

THE HANDBELL PEAL AT TAUNTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The handbell peal of Grandsire Doubles rung at Taunton on February 24th ult. was P. H. Sparks' first peal as conductor; in fact, he had only rung one peal (Grandsire Doubles) before. The peal was the result of these three young ringers' perseverance, and they are to be congratulated on their very good performance.

An error, through me, was inserted in the footnote, which stated that it was the first peal on handbells by a resident band in the diocese. This is not correct, two peals having been rung previously, one at Carhampton on April 22nd, 1914, and one at Midsomer Norton on December 5th, 1914. With sincere apologies to both these bands,—Yours faithfully,

J. HUNT.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. PRESENTATION TO DUNSTER DEANERY SECRETARY.

At the annual meeting of the Dunster Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, on Saturday week, the long services rendered by Mr. G. Stacey, of Minehead, as hon. secretary of the branch, were recognised by a presentation. The meeting was largely attended by ringers from Stogumber, St. Audries, Dulverton, Minehead, Old Cleeve, Selworthy, Porlock, Timberscombe, Dunster, Wooton Courtenay, Chipstable, Monksilver, St. Decuman's and Carhampton, and there were also visiting ringers from Swindon and Milverton. The Association's form of service was conducted by the Rev. T. S. Dawson, Vicar of Carhampton, and President of the Association, and an address was given by Preb. A. C. Harman (Rector of Old Cleeve). Tea was served in the Village Hall, the Vicar presiding. Afterwards the Rev. H. G. McTaggart expressed the thanks of the members to the ladies who, under Mrs. Dawson, had served the tea, and to the organist.

At the business meeting, Mr. Stacey presented a report on the year's working of the branch, which showed that it had been a successful year. Although they had not recorded any peal ringing, the progress of change ringing had been marked, especially at Timberscombe, Wooton Courtenay, Porlock, Old Cleeve, and Carhampton, and those bands were to be congratulated. Four meetings had been held, which had been well attended. The balance sheet showed a balance of £1 13s. 8d. in hand, after sending £6 16s. 4d. to the general secretary. Eighteen working members and two honorary members had been added, this making the working members 127, and five unattached, and eight honorary members, but not all were paid up.

The Rev. T. S. Dawson was re-elected chairman, and Mr. Stacey hon. secretary. Mr. W. Hoyle (Minehead) was re-elected Ringing Master, and Mr. H. A. Phillips (Timberscombe) was re-appointed to the Central Committee. The following new members were elected: Rev. W. J. Ludlow (Dulverton), Messrs. P. Bond, F. Norman, W. Newbery and W. H. James.

Prebendary Reeder, at the request of the chairman, then made the presentation to Mr. Stacey, the gifts consisting of a fitted attache case and two pairs of gauntlet gloves for motor cycling, one for summer, and the other for winter. Prebendary Reeder said he thought that the clergy owed a great debt of gratitude to all the ringers who helped them so much in their work. Perhaps nothing had improved the whole tone of ringing and the atmosphere of the bellfries more than the formation of ringing associations. They had certainly worked a wonderful change. One remembered stories of the old days when things which were far from satisfactory went on in some of the bellfries, but that state of things had altogether come to an end now. A very high ideal was now aimed at, and in most cases reached, in the majority of bellfries throughout the land, and this, he thought, was owing very largely to the result of the working of the associations all over the country. No association was any good, however, unless there was a mainspring driving it and working it, and, of course, in every case the mainspring was the secretary and treasurer. The president did something—he was always a figurehead—but the bulk of the work was done by the secretary, and, therefore, the association generally and also the clergy owed a very great debt of gratitude to the secretaries for the work they did. When he (the speaker) came to that deanery, Mr. Stacey was filling, and filling excellently, the office of secretary, but he (the speaker) had heard a little bit about the history of the association in earlier days still. He was told that it flourished, and then, owing probably to slackness on somebody's part, it got into rather low water and became ineffective. Then Mr. Tomkins, of Williton, was elected secretary, and he (Mr. Reeder) was told he did yeoman service and raised the association to a very high pitch. Then, twenty-one years ago, the association most wisely elected in Mr. Tomkins' place Mr. Geo. Stacey, and he had not only carried on the work which Mr. Tomkins began, but continued to raise the association to the state of efficiency which it occupied at present. His twenty-one years had been years of great activity. He had never lost his zeal, his energy, or his tact, and it showed what a very wonderful man Mr. Stacey was. He was tactful and courageous, because he did not mind speaking out his mind. He did not mince matters in the least, and that was a very valuable quality in a secretary who had brought the association up to that pitch. The members of the association had recognised the truth of everything that he (Mr. Reeder) had said with regard to Mr. Stacey's work: they appreciated what he had done, and valued his services, and it had come into the minds of some of them to give him a tangible proof of the respect in which they held him and of their esteem for the work he had done, and he (the speaker) had been asked to come there that afternoon to make a presentation to Mr. Stacey, to which they had all contributed.

Mr. Stacey, who was taken by surprise, remarked, in returning thanks, that he had heard of things being kept dark before (laughter), and if ever anyone was surprised it was himself (laughter). He could not think what they had been about in never letting him know that they wanted to give him something. It was very good of them

all, and he was most grateful to all the members who had contributed towards these beautiful presents, which he did not deserve—(Voices: Yes, you do). He would treasure them up and always remember when he looked at these gifts the happy days that they had spent together. Again he thanked them all very much indeed for their kindness (warm applause).

The Chairman said there was still a balance in hand, and suggested that Mr. Stacey would like to have something which he could hang up in his home to serve as a reminder of their appreciation of him, and he read the following draft of an address which it was resolved to have illuminated and framed: 'The Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers.—Dunster Deanery Branch.—We, members of the above deanery, desire to express our appreciation of the very efficient and valuable services of Mr. George Stacey as hon. secretary to the deanery for the past 22 years, and ask him to accept the accompanying gift as a token of our esteem and respect.'

The names of the towers and of the honorary and unattached members subscribing will be added.

A letter paying a warm tribute to Mr. Stacey's work was read from the Rev. G. L. Fitzmaurice, of Brompton Ralph, formerly President of the Association, and votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Farmer, of Carhampton, for organising the presentation, and to the Vicar of Carhampton for the use of the church and bells, and his hospitality in providing tea; and to Preb. Harman for his address at the service.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Dulverton.

During the day ringing took place at Carhampton, and also at Dunster.

ILCHESTER DEANERY BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Ilchester Deanery Branch was held at Martock on Saturday, February 23rd, the following towers being represented: Ilminster, Langport, Stoke-under-Ham, Yeovil and Martock. There were also present Mr. G. Stacey and Mr. W. Hoyle, of Minehead, secretary and Ringing Master respectively of Dunster Deanery Branch. The Rev. G. W. Saunders, Vicar of Martock, and President of the Branch, conducted the service, and gave an excellent address.

The annual meeting was held after tea in the Church House, the president being in the chair.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. Farrant) read a report of the year's work and a financial statement, which were adopted by the meeting.

The officers were re-elected as follows: The Rev. G. W. Saunders, president; Mr. F. Farrant, secretary; Mr. D. G. Taylor, Ringing Master.

The Hon. Secretary asked that Mr. J. E. Baker, of Yeovil, should take his place as the representative of the branch on the general committee, and this was agreed to.

One new member was elected, and East Coker chosen for the next meeting.

Mrs. Grimshaw, as usual, had provided an excellent tea, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded her and her helpers, Mrs. A. E. Warner and Mrs. F. Farrant. Miss Hayne was thanked for playing the organ at the service.

The Secretary referred to the presence of Mr. Stacey, who had been 21 years secretary of the Dunster Deanery Branch, and congratulated him on the fact that his long service had recently been recognised by his branch with some valuable presents.—Mr. D. G. Taylor added a few words of praise for the good work done by Mr. Stacey in the interest of change ringing.—Mr. Stacey suitably replied, and took the opportunity of thanking the Vicar for his address.

The bells were made good use of during the day, the methods rung being Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob.

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD RINGER'S 50 PEALS.

Only two months after his sixteenth birthday, George Stedman Morris, of Leicester, has completed his first fifty peals, which range from Grandsire Doubles to London Surprise Major and New Cambridge Royal, and include one long length, a 9,120 of Treble Bob. The following is the list of this promising young ringer's peals: Grandsire Doubles (on handbells), 1; Grandsire Triples, 4; Grandsire Caters, 3; Grandsire Cinques, 1; Stedman Triples, 4; Stedman Caters, 3; Bob Major (conducted 1), 4; Forward Major, 1; Kent Treble Bob Major, 5; Kent Treble Bob Royal, 1; Spliced Treble Bob Major (including 9,120 record), 2; Double Norwich C.B. Major, 1; Superlative Surprise Major, 5; Cambridge Surprise Major, 5; Bristol Surprise Major, 5; London Surprise Major, 4; New Cambridge Surprise Royal, 1; total, 50.

TEN METHODS IN DATE TOUCH.

At Watlington, Yorkshire, on Saturday, February 16th, a date touch of Minor (1,924 changes) was rung in 69 mins., comprising 15 Forward, 108 Bob Minor, 240 each of Ebor, Cambridge Surprise, College Treble, Tulip, Sandal Exercise, Rochester and Burton Treble Bob, and 120 College Exercise: W. Bramham 1, H. Chamberlin 2, A. Panther 3, G. Lord 4, A. Gill 5, A. Nash (conductor) 6.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

SHEFFIELD.—At St. Marie's, on Sunday, March 2nd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1,280 changes), in 53 mins.: J. Tukey (first quarter-peal of Treble Bob Major) 1, H. Bower 2, T. Sarel 3, J. Evinson 4, G. Lewis (conductor) 5, R. Harrison 6, J. Dixon 7, C. Harrison 8.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist, on Sunday, March 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), for morning service: A. Smith 1, J. J. Pratt 2, Miss P. M. Moss (conductor) 3, P. Jones 4, J. Bacon 5, R. Carter 6, W. Honor 7, F. Smith 8.—Also for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,295 changes), in 50 mins.: A. Smith 1, Miss D. G. Fellham 2, Miss G. Baker 3, Miss P. M. Moss 4, W. C. Ibbett 5, J. J. Pratt 6, F. W. Goodfellow (first quarter-peal as conductor on ten bells) 7, H. A. Folkard 8, W. Honor 9, J. Bacon 10.

FARNHAM, SURREY.—On Sunday, March 2nd, at St. Andrew's Church, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 minutes: S. Meadows 1, H. Prior 2, H. Kemp 3, G. Upsball 4, E. Clapham 5, T. Uphall 6, R. Hasted (composer and conductor) 7, A. E. King 8.

DORCHESTER, OXON.—At the Abbey Church, on March 2nd, 336 and 168 Grandsire Triples: C. Worley (first in method) 1, F. Woodwards 2, H. Cobb 3, R. Davis 4, E. Naish 5, F. Naish (conductor) 6, W. Hutton 7, G. Spicer 8.—Also 168, with G. Nicholls ringing the treble.

MARKET HARBOUROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, February 24th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,280 changes), by J. Reeves: J. Chester 1, S. Richardson 2, W. Hector 3, E. S. Cotton 4, Frank Wallington 5, W. Wallington 6, Fred Wallington 7, C. A. Manning (conductor) 8. First quarter-peal of Major ever rung by an entirely local band at Market Harborough.

BEESTON, NOTTS.—On Sunday, February 24th, after ringing for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples on handbells: F. S. Price 1—2, W. A. Jones 3—4, E. C. Shepherd (conductor) 5—6. *P. Price 7—8. * First quarter-peal on handbells.—For evening service, at the Parish Church, 576 London Surprise Major: W. Clifford, jun., 1, W. Clifford, senr., 2, F. S. Price 3, W. A. Jones 4, J. C. Dicken 5, A. Lowe 6, E. C. Shepherd 7, P. Price (conductor) 8. Rung as a welcome to the new Vicar, who was in the belfry when the touch was commenced.

MORETON-IN-MARSH, GLOS.—On Sunday, Feb. 24th, for service, 1,260 Grandsire Triple, in 45 mins.: F. Jones 1, C. Grimes 2, J. Gardner 3, B. Timms 4, N. Bryon 5, A. White 6, W. Large (conductor) 7, J. Layde 8. This is the first quarter by all except ringers of 6th and 7th.

SALEHURST.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday evening, Feb. 24th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (from Holt's Original), in 46 mins.: J. Goodsell 1, F. Morgan 2, T. Hoad 3, T. Booth 4, W. Hoad (conductor) 5, G. Mills 6, E. Mills 7, G. King 8.

STOKE POGES.—On Sunday, February 24th, 480 Stedman Doubles: E. C. Hartley 1, T. G. Hawkins 2, J. Shuker 3, W. L. Gutteridge 4, A. D. Barker (conductor) 5, Mrs. A. D. Barker 6.—Also 240 Kent Treble Bob Minor, with H. C. Albrow and W. Bateman.

FAVERSHAM, KENT.—On Sunday evening, February 24th, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 43 mins.: T. Harman 1, T. E. Eades 2, G. Culver 3, H. Baker 4, S. R. Garner 5, S. Fox 6, E. Trenchell (conductor) 7, C. A. Reynolds 8. First quarter-peal by ringers of 1st, 3rd and 8th.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Sunday, Feb. 17th, for morning service, at St. Edmund's Church, 840 changes of Stedman Triples: W. Gammage 1, J. Townsend 2, L. Bennett 3, J. Meherell 4, J. Mackay 5, H. Marlow 6, T. Tebbutt (conductor) 7, B. Soden 8. The longest touch in the method by the ringers of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th.

REDENHALL, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, February 17th, for morning service, 704 Oxford Treble Bob: F. Borrett 1, W. Barrett 2, W. Mobbs 3, F. Smith 4, G. Gower 5, C. Clarke 6, R. Riches 7, T. Adcock 8.

EXETER.—Previous to the evening service, on Sunday, February 10th, at the Exeter Cathedral, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in 56 mins.: J. Hosgood 1, F. J. Davey (conductor) 2, E. W. Biffen 3, T. J. Stokes 4, G. C. Glass 5, W. S. Lethbridge 6, E. Routley 7, A. H. Goad 8. Composition taken from 'the Clavis.'

MISTLEY, ESSEX.—At St. Mary's Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob, for morning service: G. F. Honeywood 1, J. Souler 2, C. Hall 3, A. Fuller 4, G. Moss 5, W. Honeywood (conductor) 6.

PRELUDE TO A RECITAL.

At Barking, Essex, on Thursday, February 28th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes), in 44 mins.: A. C. Hardy 1, C. Fenn (conductor) 2, F. Russell 3, A. J. Neale 4, E. H. King 5, G. W. Faulkner 6, E. G. Cottis 7, H. Holgate 8. Composed by J. Carter. This quarter-peal was rung before a recital on the organ, harp, and handbells, which was given in aid of the organ fund, Madame Annie Hughes playing the handbells.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT SHIREOAKS.

A very successful meeting of the North Notts Association was held at Shireoaks on Saturday week. The village derived its name from the ancient oak that stood for many centuries on the spot where the three counties of Notts, Yorks and Derbyshire converge. A fine thriving oak occupies the site of the original tree, which is not remembered by any person now living. The constabulary, which comprises about 800 acres of land, is the property of the Duke of Newcastle, who is also lord of the manor.

The London and North-Eastern Railway, the Chesterfield Canal and River Ryton each intersect the chapelry. Here are some extensive coal mines, which were commenced in June, 1859. They now reach a depth of 515 yards, and almost all the inhabitants of the village are employed here. It was at this most interesting little spot, where the peal of six bells was installed by Taylor in the church of St. Luke (built by the Duke of Newcastle in 1863), that 32 members of the association assembled for their first meeting of the year. The ringers came from Anston, Barlborough, Ordsall, Tickhill, East and West Retford, Blyth, Shireoaks and Worksop, and included two ladies. The organist of the Priory Church, Worksop (Mr. S. Mayes) was also present. Touches in the following methods were brought round: Plain Bob, Double Court, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Violet, Killmarsh, Arnold's Victory, Cambridge and London Surprise, the only little drawback being that the treble bells require the attention of a bell hanger.

Tea was served in excellent style by Host and Hostess Loose, and presided over by Mr. F. Hargreaves, of Shireoaks, in the unavoidable absence of the Vicar, who sent a letter of apology.

The next meeting will be held at North Cottingham, near Newark, on Easter Monday, where a new peal of six bells has recently been installed by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, the host and hostess, and to the Vicar of Shireoaks for the use of the bells.—Mr. Hargreaves briefly replied, giving a hearty welcome to all who had attended the meeting.

Further ringing took place, and the bells were lowered in peal at 8.20 p.m.

H. H.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Western District was held at Chertsey on Saturday, February 23rd, when members attended from Thames Ditton, Walton, East Molesey, Holy Trinity, Guildford, Old Windsor, Mitcham, Weybridge, and the local company. The bells were raised shortly after 3 p.m., and various methods were rung during the afternoon.

At the business which followed tea, nine new members were elected, and Hersham was chosen for the next meeting.

A suggestion was made that the district should hold an all-day meeting on Whit-Monday, visiting, if possible, the following towers: Witley, Chiddingfold and Haslemere, the necessary arrangements being left to the secretary.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells, and for the churchroom where the tea was held, also to the steeple-keeper for having everything in readiness.

The tower was again visited, further ringing taking place until 8.30 p.m.

A JOINT MEETING.

A combined meeting of the Kent County Association and the Romney Marsh Guild was held at Ashford. In addition, arrangements had been made for ringing in the afternoon at Willesborough, but owing to two weddings and a funeral very little ringing could be done there. Service was held in the Parish Church, Ashford, the Vicar (the Rev. T. K. Sopwith) officiating, and Mr. W. E. Pitman (Mus. Bac.) presiding at the organ. Afterwards about 30 sat down to tea, the Vicar presiding.

A short business meeting was held, when the secretary gave his report of the past year, which showed the district to be in a progressive state, both numerically and financially.

A bye-meeting was proposed to be held at Headcorn in April. The Romney Marsh Guild resolved to hold their next meeting at Benenden on March 22nd.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and to Mr. W. E. Pitman was passed, and the tower was again visited, some good touches being brought round in the four standard methods.

HORNSEY, MIDDLESEX.—On Monday, Feb. 25th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes), in 50 mins.: W. Blee 1, T. Langdon 2, J. G. Nash 3, H. Blee 4, C. H. Ross (conductor) 5.

WARMELY, BRISTOL.—On Saturday, March 1st, 720 Kent Treble Bob: *C. Harding 1, C. Harnell 2, A. Maggs 3, G. Wiltshire 4, T. James 5, J. G. Jefferies (conductor) 6. * First 720 of Treble Bob.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM NEWELL. 'FATHER' OF READING RINGERS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William Newell, of Reading, one of the oldest ringers in the country. Mr. Newell was 85 years of age, having been born on November 8th, 1838. He had been connected with ringing for over 70 years, and in his day had taught a large number of beginners. He passed away on Thursday of last week.

RINGER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.

The golden wedding took place on March 2nd of Mr. Samuel Coley, and Mrs. Coley, of Birmingham, and they were the recipients of many good wishes. Mr. Coley has been a service ringer at Bishop Ryder's Church for many years, and special touches were rung at this church and at Birmingham Cathedral on Sunday in celebration of the event.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. STOCKPORT BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Stockport Branch was held at Stockport (St. George) on Saturday, Feb. 23rd. The day, happily, was a glorious one, and tempted out some who are wont to hibernate, and, needless to say, as a result the attendance was good. Service in church was conducted by the Rev. A. T. Beeston, and addressed by the Ven. Archdeacon Thorpe on 'Christian religion and public worship.' It is well known, he said, that the music of the bells is often heard, but seldom heeded by many, yet it never fails to find some hearts which it exhilarates and some which it softens. The Archdeacon brought his homily to a close by an anecdote on the softening of one man's heart.

Through the pressure of work, Archdeacon Thorpe was unable to be present at the festive board, but heartily welcomed the visitors, and hoped they would enjoy the good things spread before them. His hopes were fulfilled.

At the business meeting, the Branch Chairman (Mr. J. H. Jackson) expressed, on behalf of the members, hearty congratulations to the Rev. A. T. Beeston upon his recent marriage.—The remarks were endorsed by many present.—On rising to reply, the 'benedict' appeared to be in a dilemma, for, never having been married before, he did not know what to say. However, he managed to get through it with no little jocularity.

The hon. secretary presented his report for the past year. Generally speaking, he said, there was an absence of such a measure of interest and activity as would be naturally expected from such a large branch; and, except in an isolated case, the quality of the performances was low, as was also the membership. Five meetings had been held during the year, with an average attendance of 45. This, to a certain point, was encouraging, but could be improved upon. After all financial claims had been met there was a balance on the right side, some £3 less than the preceding year. It was regretted that there are a number of subscriptions outstanding, and it is hoped these will soon be forthcoming.

After the adoption of the report, the election of officers was proceeded with. Mr. J. H. Jackson (Disley) was unanimously re-elected to the chair. The Rev. A. T. Beeston requested to be relieved of the hon. secretaryship, but said he would remain hon. treasurer. Mr. J. P. Fidler (Hazel Grove) was appointed hon. secretary to the branch. All the other officers were re-elected.

After much discussion, it was decided to fix the place and date of the next four meetings, the same to be printed on a card, subject to a confirmation appearing in 'The Ringing World' previous to each meeting.

There was also much discussion regarding the printing of the Guild's annual report.—Mr. E. W. Elwell (hon. secretary to the Guild) being present at this meeting, summarised the feelings of the committee on this matter, and also stated that, where a tower was in union with the Guild, the Parochial Church Council of that church was to be asked to give an affiliation fee to the Guild. This was a practical suggestion, and one which it is hoped church councillors would support. It is understood that the scheme has the approval of the Lord Bishop of Chester, and he has promised, through the medium of the 'Diocesan Gazette,' to make mention of the importance of the Guild having a sound financial footing.

Following the election of four new members, the usual votes of thanks concluded the meeting, and further ringing took place.

A MEMORIAL PEAL BOARD.

In the fine old Church of Frampton, Lincs, a board was dedicated on Saturday week recording a peal of Bob Minor rung on June 23rd, 1923, with the bells half-muffled, after the funeral of Mr. H. Taylor, who had been a ringer for 20 years, and had been conductor in the tower for ten years. The board, of English oak, with gold lettering, was the gift of the late Mr. Taylor's two sisters, and was dedicated by the Vicar (the Rev. R. G. MacClelland).

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 8d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, Commercial Road, Woking.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4/- per quarter.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—The Grappenhall Branch meeting of the Chester Guild, which was to be held at Runcorn on Saturday, March 8th, has been cancelled.—F. Bibby, Hon. Sec., Frodsham.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — (Late the St. James' Society.)—Meetings for March, 1924: St. Clement Danes, Mondays, 17th and 31st, 7.30 p.m. St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, Monday, 10th, 7.30 p.m.—J. Bullock, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Established 1637.—Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus, Lower Thames Street, March 20th; *St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, 11th; St. Andrew's, Holborn, 13th; and *St. Paul's Cathedral, 25th. All at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards. — William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

NORFOLK GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH.—A General meeting of the Guild will be held at Diss on Saturday afternoon, March 8th. By kind permission of the Rectors of Diss and Palgrave, the bells of both parishes will be available. Tea at the King's Head Hotel at 5 o'clock, followed by the General Business meeting.—Arthur L. Coleman, Sec., High Croft, North Walsham, Norfolk.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow, on Saturday, March 8th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Short service at 5. Tea at 5.30. Meeting to follow. The ten bells at St. Mary's Church will be open for ringing from 7.30 until 9 p.m. Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1924 are now due.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 49, Wood Street, E.17.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD. — The annual meeting of the above Guild will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 8th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service in church 4.30, which will be conducted by the President, the Rev. Canon Phelps, R.D. — Herbert Sheppard, 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at Padiham on Saturday, March 8th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m.—J. Watson, Branch Sec., 33, Langham Road, Blackburn.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Gladwick, Oldham, on Saturday, March 8th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Broughton, on Saturday, March 8th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m.—W. Taylor, Branch Sec., Tower House, Penwortham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Furness and Lake District Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Ulverston, on March 8th, at 5 p.m. Bells (6) available at 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m.—W. T. Clark, Sec., Broughton-in-Furness.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bootle on March 8th. Bells ready at 3. Service 5.30. Tea and meeting 6 p.m. Members intending being present please send word to Walter Hughes, Sec., 3, Shrewsbury Place, Garston.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—A Monthly meeting will be held at Ugglescote on Saturday, March 8th. Bells open at 3 o'clock. Meeting 5 o'clock. A hearty invitation is given to all ringers.—J. Saddington, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next Branch meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Newchurch in Rossendale, on Saturday, March 15th. Bells ready at 3.30. Meeting at 7. Subscriptions are due. Reports to hand.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 31, St. Paul's Street, Ramsbottom.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, March 15th. Ringing from 3.15 p.m. Shall be glad to know at the earliest those requiring tea.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next monthly meeting of the Bristol Branch of the above Association will be held at Almondsbury on Saturday, March 15th. Bells available from 3 o'clock, service 4.30, tea to follow. Please notify by March 10th.—P. C. Williams, Branch Hon. Sec., 22, Bruce Avenue, Easton, Bristol.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, Barlow Moor, on Saturday, March 15th. Bells ready 3.30. Meeting at 7 o'clock.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting, Manchester.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A business meeting will be held on March 15th. Tower open for ringing from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m., meeting after. All ringers will be welcome.—C. F. Mitchell, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Phene Street, Chelsea, S.W.3.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Eaton Socon on Saturday, March 15th. Bells (6) available at 3, tea at 5. All ringers welcome.—C. J. Ball, District Sec., 2, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD. — Members and others are reminded of the re-opening after restoration of the bells at Bulkington on Saturday, March 15th, at 3.30 p.m. Will those requiring tea kindly send word to Mr. Ashley, jun., builder, etc., Bulkington, not later than Wednesday, March 12th?—A. Wilkerson, 68, Norman Avenue, Nuneaton.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Isle of Wight District.—Quarterly meeting at Carisbrooke (8) on Saturday, March 15th. Bells from 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. All ringers welcome. Those requiring tea please inform me by the 12th inst.—W. Upton, 10, Elm Grove, Newport, I.W.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Central Division.—The annual meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, March 22nd. Tower open 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea (by kind invitation) 5, followed by business meeting. Those intending to be present should notify the undersigned not later than Tuesday, March 18th.—A. D. Stone, 16, Belgrave Street, Brighton.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—A General meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Beverley on Easter Monday, April 21st. Further details later.—P. J. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., 90, Blackman Lane, Leeds.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — The Annual General meeting will be at Nottingham on Easter Monday, April 21st. Nominations for President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary for ensuing year, and for four representatives on Central Council for next three years should reach me one month before the above date.—A. C. Wright, Hon. Sec., Strathallan, Darley Dale, Derbyshire.

PUBLICATION.

'AMONG THE BELLS.'—THE RINGING CAREER OF LATE REV. F. E. ROBINSON, M.A., Vicar of Drayton, Berks, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Part I. to XX may be had singly at 6d. net. Unbound numbers I to XX complete, 8s. 6d. Or the whole work bound in cloth for 10s. 6d. net. From Mrs. ROBINSON, Fair Home, Wokingham.

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HORNSEY, MIDDLESEX.—On Monday, Feb. 11th, 720 Oxford Bob Minor, in 28 mins.: H. Blee 1, J. G. Nash 2, H. E. Day 3, T. Langdon 4, M. Fenson 5, C. H. Ross (conductor) 6.

WORCESTER. — On Monday, Feb. 18th, at the Church of St. Helen, 1,184 Bristol Surprise Major: W. Niblett 1, R. G. Knowles 2, W. C. Jones 3, G. Hinton 4, S. T. Holt 5, W. Lewis 6, J. J. Jefferies (conductor) 7, C. Camm 8.

SCARBOROUGH, YORKS. — On January 15th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, with tenor covering: Miss Doris Maison 1, A. Ruston 2, H. Gibson 3, W. Barker 4, F. Davison 5, J. R. Barton (conductor) 6, T. Cole 7. 1st 720 in the method by ringers of treble, 2nd, 4th, 5th and tenor, and 1st in the method by the local band. Also for evening service on Sunday, January 27th, 720 Kent, with treble leading and tenor covering: J. R. Fryers 1, H. Ferguson 2, A. Ruston 3, H. Gibson 4, W. Barber 5, F. Davison 6, J. R. Barton (conductor) 7, T. Cole 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. T. Cole, and also to Mr. and Mrs. J. Fryers on the 27th anniversary of their wedding day.



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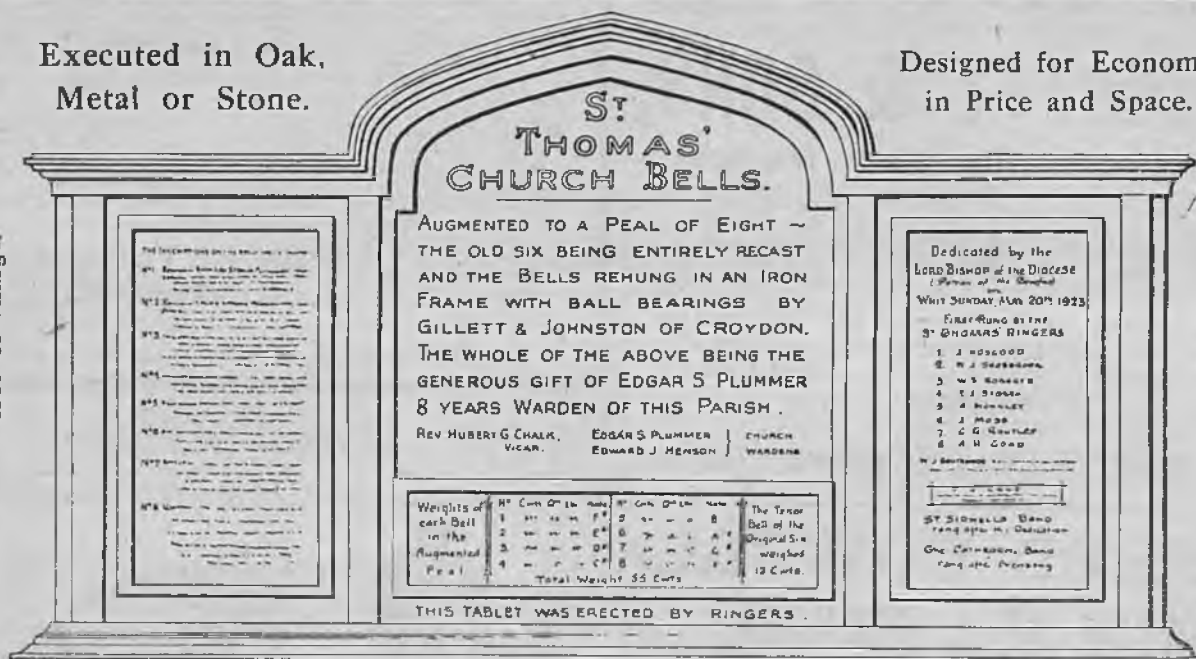
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