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MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL, Nov., 1925

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL'S WORK.

If justification were needed for the existence of the Central Council we think it is to be found in the proceedings of the Ipswich meeting last week. There are still ringers who hold the view that the Council is of no service to the Exercise, and that ringing could get along as well without it as with it. With the former opinion we entirely disagree. In connection with the latter we would point out that the existence of the Council has coincided with the marked advance which the art has made in recent decades, and, if this progress has not been due to the Council, it has certainly been co-ordinated and made good by the work which the Council has done. There was a period when the central body appeared to have exhausted its usefulness, but the advent of new blood and the arousing of a wider interest in the work, in which we hope we may claim to have had a share, have regorganised the Council, and the Ipswich meeting was proof that at no stage of the Council's existence has it shown greater vitality or more readily grappled with matters of general concern to ringers than it is doing at present.

Thus we find that during the past year it has made its great effort to save Coventry bells, and, if it was not successful, some valuable lessons have been learnt, which may be of the utmost use in the future. The Council has also taken a leading part in endeavouring to get cheaper railway travelling facilities for ringers, and, here again, although not successful, it has taken up a line of action, which will be maintained, and may bear fruit in future. Its actual meeting at Ipswich, despite the smaller attendance which uncertain and restricted travelling facilities imposed, was of a very interesting character, probably as interesting as any that has been held. Ringers may not all agree with the whole of the decisions come to, and on some of them we shall have more to say later, but from the ringers' point of view there was a useful programme before the members.

Nomenclature and Simpson tuning provided two first-class debates, both of which were instructive; while proposals for expert sub-committees to assist Diocesan Advisory Committees, and for further pressing the Railway Clearing Board for cheaper travelling were matters of practical politics in which ringers have a real personal concern. Even the committee reports showed 'something attempted, something done,' as witness the decision to print at once the new book of plain Major methods, and the completion of the Science Museum exhibit, in which Mr. John Carter's wonderful machine is the central feature. Work in bringing the Treble Bob peal collection up to date; and the carrying out of inspections by members of the Towers and Belfries Committee, to say

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nothing of the work done in other directions by other committees, notably the compilation of the Analysis, is all evidence that the Council is not only alive to its objects and responsibilities, but is seeking to carry them out with a single eye on the interests of the art of ringing and of ringers.

TEN BELL PEALS.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Whit-Monday, May 24, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes.

AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

Tenor 33 cwt.

*ROBERT H. PICKERING ... Treble	ROBERT PICKERING ... 6
HERBERT KNIGHT ... 2	WILLIAM A. COOPER ... 7
SIDNEY T. ELTON ... 3	EDWARD F. MITCHELL ... 8
FRANCIS BROTHERTON ... 4	WILLIAM H. LAWLEY ... 9
†JOHN C. ADAMS ... 5	THOMAS J. ELTON ... Tenor

Composed by JAMES E. GROVES. Conducted by HERBERT KNIGHT.

Rung for the Whitsun Festival, on Empire Day, and on the birth-days of Mrs. John Perry (Brewood), Miss C. M. Knight and Miss Elton; also the anniversary of the 11,563 Grandsire Caters rung in this tower on May 22nd, 1899—four of the band taking part in this.

* First peal on ten. † First peal and first attempt. ‡ 100th peal.

KETTERING, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, May 25, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5080 CHANGES.

Tenor 24 cwt.

*CYRIL D. NICHOLS ... Treble	†JOHN KING ... 6
HARRY BAXTER ... 2	CHARLES W. BIRD ... 7
*MISS KITTY MOORE ... 3	*JOHN DOVE ... 8
THOMAS LAW ... 4	GEORGE BASFORD ... 9
†ROBERT G. BLACK ... 5	ANDERSON Y. TYLER ... Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by ANDERSON Y. TYLER.

First peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal by all the band, with the exception of the ringers of 7th and tenor. † First attempt for peal on ten bells. * First attempt for peal of Royal. First peal as conductor on ten bells. ‡ 75th peal.

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, May 29, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

THOMAS SAUNDERS ... Treble	WILLIAM T. POWELL ... 6
JOHN GOODMAN, JUN. ... 2	WILLIAM GREEN ... 7
SAMUEL BAKER ... 3	HERBERT SHEPPARD ... 8
BENJAMIN GOUGH ... 4	WILLIAM GOODMAN ... 9
JOHN GOODMAN, SEN. ... 5	GILBERT GUEST ... Tenor

Composed by W. MICKLEWRIGHT. Conducted by J. GOODMAN, JUN.

Quarterly peal for the Guild.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

MONK'S KIRBY, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 22, 1926, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDITH.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5168 CHANGES;

Tenor 24½ cwt. in D.

LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	ARTHUR H. BEAMISH ... 5
CHARLES E. RAYSON ... 2	GEORGE A. NEWTON ... 6
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 3	FRED COTTON ... 7
PERCIVAL A. ALDHAM ... 4	ALBAN DISNEY ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

The ringer of the 2nd was elected a member of the association previous to the peal. First peal in the method on the bells. The band wish to thank the Vicar for his kind hospitality after the peal.

BILLINGSHURST, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 22, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 13 cwt.

WALTER CHARMAN Treble	JAMES BURDFIELD 5
*ALBERT FEIST 2	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 6
ALFRED H. POLLING 3	OLIVER SIPPETTS 7
JOHN A. COLE 4	NELSON ELLIOTT Tenor

Conducted by A. H. POLLING.

* First peal in the method.

LYMINGE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 22, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND EADBURGA,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

CHRISTOPHER R. WALKER ... Treble	HORACE WHITEHEAD 5
PERCY PAGE 2	HENRY C. CASTLE 6
CHARLES R. MILLWAY 3	HARRY PARKES 7
CHARLES TURNER 4	ALEC WEBB Tenor

Conducted by HARRY PARKES.

The band wish to thank Mr. Alec Webb for standing in at the last minute.

FEERING, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 22, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 18 cwt. in F.

WILBY J. HAZELL Treble	FRANK CLAYDON 5
WILLIAM J. NEVARD 2	WALTER ARNOLD 6
WILLIAM A. CAVE 3	ARTHUR SAUNDERS 7
GEORGE WILLIAMS 4	WILLIAM KEEBLE Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

First peal of Stedman on the bells, also by ringers of 5th, 6th and 7th. Messrs. Cave, of Bristol, and Williams, of Southampton, were elected life members of the association before starting for the peal.

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

On Saturday, May 22, 1926, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb. in E sharp.

FRANK B. YATES Treble	JOHN WITHERS 5
PERCY O. LAFLIN 2	CHARLES WEBB 6
HARRY WILLIAMS 3	JOHN WITHERS, JUN. 7
WILLIAM C. BALL 4	HARRY WITHERS Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by HARRY WITHERS

DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sunday, May 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb.

PETER LAFLIN Treble	LESLIE E. WIGHTMAN 5
PERCY MAY 2	THOMAS W. LAST 6
JOHN W. JONES 3	WILLIAM BOLTON 7
WILLIAM C. RUMSEY 4	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by WM. C. RUMSEY.

Arranged to oblige Messrs. Jones, Bolton and Groombridge (C.C. delegates); also as a welcome to the ringer of the treble, upon his return to the old country, after a stay of nearly seven years in Canada. The latter has now completed the circle in Debenham tower. Messrs. Laflin, Jones and Bolton were elected members of the Suffolk Guild prior to starting for the peal.

CADOXTON, NEATH.—On Sunday, May 9th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1,260 changes) in 47 mins.: Harold Mathews 1, J. Bloxham 2, Gwyn Lewis 3, D. J. Lewis 4, W. Thomas 5, C. Lake (conductor) 6.

RANMORE COMMON, SURREY.
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Whit-Monday, May 24, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS,

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

Tenor 20 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb. in E.

EDWARD G. TALBOT Treble	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 5
MISS FREDA E. ORR 2	ALFRED J. BULL 6
JOHN F. GALYER 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS 7
THOMAS G. BANNISTER 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN
Rung after meeting short for Cambridge Major.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Whit-Monday, May 24, 1926, in Three Hours & Twenty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SPLICED TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt.

EDMUND C. CHASTY Treble	HENRY HARRISON 5
JAMES F. GEORGE 2	ALBERT H. WARD 6
HENRY FLETCHER 3	JOHN FLOWER 7
CHARLES GEARY 4	EDWARD C. GOBBY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by E. C. GOBBY.

Rung in commemoration of Empire Day.

BENENDEN, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Whit-Monday, May 24, 1926, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5080 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt. in E flat.

WILLIAM H. LAMBERT ... Treble	JOHN WHEADON 5
*MRS. H. BAKER 2	THOMAS E. SONE 6
WILLIAM E. PITMAN 3	CHARLES H. SONE 7
†HARRY BAKER 4	LEWIS NEWMAN Tenor

Composed by ISAAC G. SHADE. Conducted by CHARLES H. SONE.

* First peal of Treble Bob. † First peal inside. Conductor's 50th peal of Major.

LONG STANTON, CAMBS.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Whit-Monday, May 24, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 7 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY Treble	*JOHN R. DUFFIELD 5
REV. H. B. WOOLLEY 2	*FRANK E. HAYNES 6
FRANCIS GLEAVES 3	HAROLD J. HAZELL 7
†MISS KITTY WILLERS 4	*STEPHEN H. WOOD Tenor

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

First peal as conductor on tower bells. * First peal of Major on tower bells. † First peal in the method. Ringers of 5th and 8th were elected members before starting. Rung for Empire Day; also to celebrate the satisfactory conclusion of the General Strike.

GREAT BENTLEY, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Whit-Monday, May 24, 1926, in Two Hours & Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt. in A.

PERCY ALMOND Treble	WILLIAM KEEBLE 5
GEORGE WILLIAMS 2	WILLIAM J. NEVARD 6
WALTER ARNOLD 3	FRANK CLAYDON 7
ARTHUR SAUNDERS 4	JAMES FLEUTY Tenor

Composed by NATHAN J. PITSTOW. Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS

The conductor's 1,100th peal. Rung to celebrate the birth of a grandson to Mr. W. J. Nevard, who has now rung every bell in this tower to a peal. 150th peal by F. Claydon.

WHITCHURCH, GLAM.—On Sunday, April 25th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, 1,260 changes (five 240's from Mr. A. J. Pitman's arrangement), in 44 mins.: Tom Middleton 1, Fred Bailey (conductor) 2, Joe Bailey 3, Lewis Wright 4, Ralph Bailey 5, Fred Wright 6.

THURCASTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Whit-Monday, May 24, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

At the LATIMER CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

F. H. DEXTER'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 10 cwt.

LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 5
PERCIVAL A. ALDHAM ... 2	ERNEST W. TIPLER ... 6
†ARTHUR H. BARTRAM ... 3	RICHARD H. BARTRAM ... 7
ALBAN DISNEY ... 4	*GABRIEL S. CAMPTON ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal. † First peal in the method.

FOLKESTONE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Whit-Monday, May 24, 1926, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At the CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND EADSWYTH,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

HIGHWOOD S. HUMPHREY ... Treble	CHARLES R. MILLWAY ... 5
PERCY PAGE ... 2	ERNEST W. POWELL ... 6
MISS R. THOMAS ... 3	HENRY C. CASTLE ... 7
EDWARD S. ROCK ... 4	HARRY PARKES ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN THORPE. Conducted by HARRY PARKES.

Rung to celebrate Empire Day.

GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Whit-Monday, May 24, 1926, in Three Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

At the CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 30 cwt. 12 lb.

FREDERICK BORRETT ... Treble	WILLIAM LEE ... 5
GEORGE HOWLETT ... 2	CHARLES CLARKE ... 6
WILLIAM ELDRIDGE ... 3	RUSSELL RICHES ... 7
JAMES ELDRIDGE ... 4	WALTER BARRETT ... Tenor

Composed by J. PLATT. Conducted by F. BORRETT.

BADSEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, May 25, 1926, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At the CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 17 cwt.

*E. WITHERS ... Treble	*C. A. BINYON ... 5
W. D. SPARROW ... 2	J. D. JOHNSON ... 6
G. J. NORRIS ... 3	H. COLLEY ... 7
*T. W. HARDIMAN ... 4	*A. J. TAYLOR ... Tenor

Conducted by C. A. BINYON.

* First peal.

HENTLEY, SUFFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Wednesday, May 26, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

By MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL,

At the CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 8 cwt. 3 lb.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE (Hon. Member) ... Treble	
GEORGE R. PYE (Essex Association) ... 2	
FRANK HOPGOOD (Oxford Guild) ... 3	
ARTHUR E. SHARMAN (Bedford Association) ... 4	
*REV. EVERARD S. POWELL (Devon Guild) ... 5	
CHARLES MEE (Suffolk Guild) ... 6	
*FRANK J. DAVY (Devon Guild) ... 7	
THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. (Kent Association) ... Tenor	

Composed by JOHN REEVES. Conducted by J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

* First peal of Treble Bob.

A HALF-PEAL.

At Holy Trinity Church, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxon, on Thursday, May 27th, a half-peal of Grandsire Doubles (2,520 changes), in 1 hr. 25 mins.: Miss M. M. Webb 1. A. Hill 2. H. Hoverod 3. F. Anson 4. J. Keyte (conductor) 5. F. Hill 6. Longest length by the ringers of 1, 3, 4 and 6, and the longest length on the bells.

BARWELL, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Tuesday, May 25, 1926, in Three Hours,

At the CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

PERCIVAL A. ALDHAM ... Treble	CHARLES H. BELTON ... 5
GEORGE A. NEWTON ... 2	*HARRY GARNER ... 6
THOMAS K. DEACON ... 3	FRED COTTON ... 7
CHARLES R. BELTON ... 4	GEORGE P. GARNER ... Tenor

Composed by H. HUBBARD.

Conducted by G. P. GARNER.

* First peal of Major. First peal of Major as conductor.

DEPTFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 26, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

At the CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-EVANGELIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 14 cwt. 18 lb.

ROBERT A. FOSDIKE ... Treble	ALBERT BRADLEY ... 5
FRANCIS FRASER ... 2	JIM HURRELL ... 6
THOMAS A. EASTERBY ... 3	ERNEST B. CROWDER ... 7
WILLIAM J. JEFFRIES ... 4	HARRY J. NORGATE ... Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST B. CROWDER.

Rung with bells half-muffled as a last mark of respect to Edith, the beloved wife of Mr. A. F. Bennington, a member of St. John's Band.

EARL'S COLNE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION

On Thursday, May 27, 1926, in Three Hours and Five-and-a-Half Minutes

At the CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt. in G.

WILLIAM J. NEVARD ... Treble	JAMES FLEDGY ... 5
FRANK CLAYDON ... 2	WALTER ARNOLD ... 6
GEORGE WILLIAMS ... 3	LEWIS W. WIFFIN ... 7
WILLIAM KERBLE ... 4	ARTHUR SAUNDERS ... Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by WILLIAM KERBLE

HASLEMERE, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 29, 1926, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

At the CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 13 cwt. 6 lb. in F.

*BARRY ELLIOTT ... Treble	MAURICE SMITHER ... 5
ALFRED H. PULLING ... 2	*C. ERNEST SMITH ... 6
*RAYMOND OVERY ... 3	RICHARD HAYES ... 7
JOHN H. B. HESSE ... 4	ARTHUR J. BARTLETT ... Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED H. PULLING.

* First peal.

ST. GERMAN'S, CORNWALL.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

(SOUTH-WEST DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, May 29, 1926, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At the CHURCH OF ST. GERMANUS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 13½ cwt. in E.

WARREN S. HORNBRONK ... Treble	ERNEST W. MARSH ... 5
JAMES E. LILLEY ... 2	*REGINALD J. BEER ... 6
WILLIAM RICHARDS ... 3	CHARLES R. LILLEY ... 7
†THOMAS A. MYERS ... 4	†ALFRED J. WESTCOTT ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

* First peal of Stedman. † First peal of Stedman Triples. Quarterly peal of the branch.

CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE IN PLYMOUTH.

At Stoke Damerell Church, Plymouth, on May 27th, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor, the first in Plymouth by a local band, was rung by the following members of the Devonshire Guild:—W. Richards 1, J. Lilley 2, T. Myers 3, W. Rundle 4, W. Hiscott 5, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 6; also 360, in which R. Beer and W. Wonnacot took part.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 29, 1926, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, BELGRAVE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 14 cwt. 23 lb. in F.

LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	JOSEPH A. FENTON 5
*FREDERICK S. PRICE 2	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ... 6
ALFRED G. GRANT 3	ALBAN DISNEY 7
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 4	PERCIVAL PRICE Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal in the method on an inside bell. First peal of Cambridge Surprise on the bells.

BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, May 29, 1926, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF NORFOLK SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

EDWARD ROBBINS Treble	JOHN HOLMAN 5
WILLIAM LAMBERT 2	CHARLES MASON 6
JOHN H. BROTHWELL 3	THOMAS RILEY 7
JESSE J. MOSS 4	JOHN FLINT Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by JOHN FLINT.

This was William Lambert's 350th peal.

WHITTLE-LE-WOODS, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, May 29, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF SPLICED TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. 1 qr. 23 lb.

BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS ... Treble	† WILLIAM SHARPLES 5
FRED BLACKLIDGE 2	ALFRED BLOGG 6
* JAMES MILLER 3	E. ROGER MARTIN 7
HARRY FRANCE 4	JOHN H. GARTSIDE ... Tenor

Composed by EDWIN TIMBRELL. Conducted by B. A. KNIGHTS.

* First peal on eight and first attempt. † 50th peal. First peal in the method on the bells.

UPTON ST. LEONARDS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 29, 1926, in Two Hours & Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

ERNEST E. DAVIS Treble	JESSE GILLET 5
THOMAS BALDWIN 2	GEORGE CONDICK 6
JOHN AUSTIN 3	THOMAS CLISSOLD 7
WILLIAM HARRIS 4	WILLIAM AVERY Tenor

Conducted by JOHN AUSTIN.

These bells have recently been rehung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and the 'go' is all that can be desired. It was intended to ring Major; but, meeting one short, the above was substituted.

ROWLEY REGIS, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, May 29, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 13½ cwt.

ABRAHAM GREENFIELD ... Treble	WILLIAM BROWN 5
VICTOR WHITE 2	ALFRED HACKETT 6
RICHARD ROUND 3	HECTOR G. BIRD 7
PERCY HACKETT 4	* ALBERT TAYLOR Tenor

Conducted by ABRAHAM GREENFIELD.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells since they were rehung by Mr. James E. Groves, Handsworth. This peal was specially arranged and rung in honour of the first anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Harrold, who kindly entertained the band to a sumptuous tea at the close of the peal. Mr. Harrold is a member of the local band, and also a member of the choir. The best thanks of the band were given to Mr. and Mrs. Harrold for their kind hospitality.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

TIMSBURY, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, May 11, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, each called differently. Tenor 12 cwt.

* WILLIAM SHORE Treble	JOHN FEAR 4
FREDERICK J. L. BROWN ... 2	WILFRED YOUNG 5
WILLIAM YOUNG 3	THOMAS R. CLARK ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS R. CLARK.

* First peal of Minor.

LOWER HAGFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(BICESTER BRANCH.)

On Thursday, May 13, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 8 cwt.

E. A. CLIFTON Treble	W. SCARROTT 4
H. HATFIELD 2	F. NEALE 5
B. COX 3	E. HIMS Tenor

Conducted by F. NEALE.

First peal as conductor. First peal on bells since rehanging.

WILLINGTON, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 15, 1926, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5760 CHANGES;

Being eight different 720's

STANLEY G. HARLOW ... Treble	† WALLACE G. CHURCH ... 4
JOSEPH CHURCH 2	* HERBERT A. WAGSTAFF ... 5
HERBERT J. HARLOW 3	HERBERT L. HARLOW ... Tenor

Conducted by H. L. HARLOW.

* First peal. † First peal inside.

OXTED, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 19, 1926, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of two 720's of Cambridge Surprise, two each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and one of Plain Bob.

Tenor 12 cwt. 2 lb. in F sharp.

LEONARD A. TIDY ... Treble	* JOHN F. GALYER 4
* FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 2	DANIEL COOPER 5
* THOMAS G. BANNISTER ... 3	CHAS. H. KIPPIN ... Tenor

Conducted by CHAS. H. KIPPIN.

* First peal in more than two methods.

ASTBURY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 22, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 13½ cwt.

JOHN PARKER Treble	JOHN MATTHEWS 4
GEORGE CRAWLEY 2	ARTHUR ALLMAN 5
GEORGE ADDISON 3	JOHN BRASSINGTON ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN BRASSINGTON.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

CORSLEY, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 22, 1926, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5076 CHANGES;

Twenty-four 240's on Pitman's plan.

* R. GALE Treble	† THOMAS MASTERS 4
TREVOR HOLLOWAY 2	† E. F. WHITE 5
GEORGE STEVENS 3	* EDWARD DOEL Tenor

Conducted by T. HOLLOWAY.

* First peal. † First peal of Doubles. ‡ First peal inside.

BRAMPTON ASH, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 22, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 13 cwt. 3 qr.

*CYRIL D. NICHOLSTreble	WALTER T. WILSON 4
MISS CECIL E. HEBURN... .. 2	HARRY BAXTER 5
JOHN KING 3	ROBERT G. BLACKTenor

Conducted by ROBERT G. BLACK.

* First seven method peal.

HARTFORD, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 22, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob.

Tenor 12 cwt.

THOMAS WILMOT... ..Treble	ALBERT CRAWLEY 4
HARRY W. HOWARD 2	JOHN S. ROYLE 5
FREDERIC H. CRAWLEY 3	HARRY PARKERTenor

Conducted by H. PARKER.

First peal in three methods on the bells and by the ringers of treble and 2nd. The conductor's 25th peal. Rung as a birthday compliment to the father of the conductor.

KINGSTONE, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

On Saturday, May 22, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 32 callings.

Tenor 10 cwt.

*ALLAN COLCOMBETreble	*HERBERT COLCOMBE... .. 4
KENNETH SOUTHALL 2	JAMES P. HYETT 5
PERCIVAL H. YOUNG... .. 3	*GEORGE PAYNETenor

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

* First peal.

STOKE LACY, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, May 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being four six-scores of Plain Bob, eight of Canterbury Pleasure, and thirty of Grandsire. 42 callings.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

JOHN BOURNETreble	WILLIAM E. WILLIAMS 4
PERCIVAL H. YOUNG 2	JAMES P. HYETT 5
GEORGE SOLEY 3	GEORGE R. HANKSTenor

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

First peal of Doubles and first open peal on the bells.

WILLINGTON, BEDS.
THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Whit-Monday, May 24, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of College Bob IV., Wragby Delight, Norbury and Kingston, Treble Bob, London Scholars Pleasure, College Exercise and Oxford Treble Bob.

THOMAS BARTRAMTreble	WILLIAM STOCK 4
WILLIAM SHARP... .. 2	CHARLES W. CLARKE... .. 5
HENRY W. GAYTON 3	PEARL INSKIPTenor

Conducted by CHARLES W. CLARKE.

LOXTON, SOMERSET.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Whit-Monday, May 24, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Single Court and three each of Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt.

ERIC WADMANTreble	REGINALD F. BECK 4
FREDERICK TARGETT 2	RONALD G. BECK... .. 5
STANLEY CARTER 3	JOSEPH T. DYKETenor

Conducted by R. G. BECK.

First peal on the bells.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

THE SECRETARYSHIP.

The annual meeting was held at Northampton on Whit-Monday, and was well attended. The Guild form of service was used at All Saints' Church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. G. Trevor Lewis), the lesson being read by Mr. F. Wilford, Master of the Guild. In his address the Vicar said he had been warned not to speak of bells, and it was the long-delayed appearance of the sun that morning that gave him his theme. Astronomy, he said, was the oldest science in the world, but originally people believed the earth stood still, and was the centre of the sun, moon and stars, which moved round it. Many to-day still placed the earth as the centre of all hope and desire; their aims were earthly, so were their aspirations. That was why they found themselves faced with problems they were unable to solve, and he mentioned, as an instance, the coal mining industry. Once they made God their centre, their aim and their hope, their problems would disappear, and the world and its affairs would run smoothly and happily.

Luncheon was served at the Plough Hotel, 70 sitting down, and was followed by the annual business meeting. Mr. F. Wilford (Master) presided, and amongst those present were Rev. J. P. Friend, Rev. R. C. Thursfield and Rev. J. C. Hichens (vice-presidents), Rev. C. J. Watkins (Vicar of St. Giles'), Rev. E. C. Channer, Messrs. W. T. Wilson (treasurer), S. F. Millward (auditor), T. Tebbutt, R. G. Black, F. Barber and W. Bott (branch secretaries), A. King (Luton), A. Moors (Daventry), W. J. Sharpe (Towcester), etc.

The Master proposed the toast of 'The King,' and afterwards referred with regret to the absence of the general secretary (Mr. D. J. Nichols) through ill-health. He said how sorry they all were that Mr. Nichols was not able to carry on the office, the duties of which he had discharged so well. All Mr. D. J. Nichols had done for the good of the Guild and for ringing in so splendid and unselfish a manner was for the love of the work. He moved that a letter of sympathy and appreciation be forwarded to him from that meeting, and this was at once agreed to.

Apologies for absence were received from the President (the Dean of Peterborough), the Revs. L. H. Lethbridge, L. S. Clark, C. H. L. Hopper, J. P. de Putron, E. J. Atkins, E. V. Martin, J. White, Canon Dodson, and Mr. J. J. Jutson and Mr. W. Moore.

The secretary's report and statement of accounts were adopted, and the following officers were re-elected: President, the Dean of Peterborough; Master, Mr. F. Wilford; treasurer, Mr. W. T. Wilson; auditor, Mr. S. F. Millward.

Mr. R. G. Black, who has been acting as secretary during Mr. Nichols' illness, was unanimously elected general secretary.

After a ballot, Messrs. F. Wilford, R. G. Black, T. Tebbutt and F. Hopper were elected as representatives to serve on the Central Council for the ensuing three years, 1927, 1928 and 1929.

Northampton was again chosen as the place for the next annual meeting.

Members of the newly-formed Daventry branch were welcomed on their first appearance at the annual meeting of the Guild. Words of welcome were also extended to the Rev. E. C. Channer, a very well-known and much esteemed member of the late Central Northants Association.

The Rev. R. C. Thursfield moved a hearty vote of thanks to the clergy of Northampton for so kindly placing the various peals of bells at the disposal of the ringers during the day, to the Vicar of All Saints' for conducting the service and for his address; also to the officers of the Northampton branch for so ably making all the necessary arrangements for the meeting.

The Rev. J. P. Friend moved a vote of thanks to the Master for presiding.

During the day touches were rung in most of the standard methods at the various churches.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

EAST HAGBOURNE BELLS UNSAFE.

The North Berkshire branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild held their annual meeting at Wantage on Saturday week. Some 70 members and friends attended a special service in the church. The Master of the Guild (the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, M.C.), with the Rev. H. A. Smith-Masters, M.C. (chairman of the branch) officiated, an able and appropriate address being given by the latter from the words 'Sirs, ye are brethren.'

After service tea was provided at the King Alfred's Head, and, at a business meeting which followed, the Hon. Secretary's report and balance sheet were presented, and again showed that the branch was in a prosperous position, both as regards members and funds.

The Chairman having reported that East Hagbourne bells had been condemned as unsafe for ringing, a grant of £4 was voted from the branch funds towards their restoration, and the hope was expressed that all who are interested in bells and ringing will speedily subscribe, so that this noble ring will not remain silent for long.

The meeting over, the tower was again visited, and members also enjoyed ringing at Childrey, Ardington and the Hendreds.

SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.**SECOND ANNUAL RINGING COMPETITION.**

Favoured with glorious weather, the second annual ringing competition, organised by the Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Guild, was held in the parish of Baglan, Glamorgan, on Saturday, May 22nd. The competition was open to the members of the Guild, and a shield was given to the team gaining the highest number of points in raising and falling the bells in peal, and 120 changes of Doubles (any method). Several bands who had competed last year were unable to appear this year, owing to the uncertain train services, and the competing bands numbered seven. The Guild were fortunate in again securing the services of Mr. W. H. Fussell, of Slough, to act as judge, and his report resulted in the competitors being awarded the following points:—St. David's, Brecon, 197; Llanelly, Brecon, 220; Baglan, 232; Cadoxton, 229; Neath, 225; Gorseinon, 227; Aberavon, 221; the maximum points obtainable being 240.

It will be observed that the home team (Baglan) secured the highest number of points, but the committee had previously decided that a handicap of nine points be imposed, and they were thus relegated to fourth place. Certificates were presented to the first three teams.

The Judge, in his report, stated that the general proficiency of the teams competing was up to the standard of last year's competition, with the exception of one team. There was no breakdown, and there were no broken ropes or fittings, and, although the method was Grandsire Doubles, one team successfully accomplished Stedman. The raising and falling in peal appears to need further practice, as a considerable number of points were lost by all the visiting competitors in this branch of church bell work. Nearly every team lost points through the mis-striking of the second bell, due to the fitting of the clapper being worn. Although the home team came out three points ahead of all the rest, they were sporting enough to accept the penalty of nine points imposed by the Guild Committee. Baglan are a somewhat heavier peal of bells (tenor 16½ cwt.) than St. David's, Brecon, used last year, but the teams kept good compass, and generally maintained a fair efficiency in the methods rung.

A cold luncheon was served in Baglan Schools, the Vicar of St. Catherine's, Baglan, being in the chair, and he was supported by the Revs. W. G. Davies and T. W. B. Thomas (Llanelly), Rev. R. A. Sluman (Swansea), the Master of the Guild (Mr. J. Hammond), the hon. treasurer (Mr. Charles Powell), and the hon. secretary (Mr. W. R. Howells). Nearly 70 ringers enjoyed the repast. The competition had commenced at 11 a.m., and finished at 4 p.m., when tea was served. After tea, the Rev. Howard C. Morton (Baglan) presented the shield and certificates to the successful teams, the judge having, in the meantime, delivered his report referred to above.

The thanks of the company present were given to the Vicar and his Parochial Church Council and parishioners for the hearty invitation extended to the Guild, and for their excellent luncheon and tea, provided free of charge to all ringers, on the proposition of Rev. W. G. Davies, and seconded by the Hon. Secretary. Led by the Rev. W. G. Davies, the ringers gave three hearty cheers. Thanks were also accorded Mr. and Mrs. Bellringer for the use of a room at their house to accommodate the judge during the competition, for seeing that the bells were in good ringing order, and for their services to ringers throughout the day.

The ladies serving at the tables were also accorded thanks.

The Hon. Treasurer thanked Mr. W. H. Fussell for the able way he had delivered his adjudication, and for again honouring them with his presence. After tea a collection was made towards the funds of the church.

It was interesting to again note that the Baglan team included two lady ringers, one of whom was a Bellringer by name. Her husband was also a member of the team.

The Vicar was kind enough to throw open the grounds of his Vicarage for the use of the ringers.

THE DISPUTE AT BLACKAWTON.

The trouble which, as already mentioned in these columns, has arisen at Blackawton, Devon, between the Vicar and the ringers because the latter declined to continue their ringing services when the Vicar requested that they should remain at church for the service after ringing, is still unsettled.

The Vicar invited application from seven men who understand change ringing, 'who are in the habit of keeping holy the Lord's Day and are willing to stay, as a rule, for the service they ring for.' An honorarium of £1 each per year was offered. Five ringers replied, but they did not think it possible to attend every church service regularly; while they were willing to ring and attend service on festivals of the church, they could not offer to ring either every Sunday or for three services out of four. Three other ringers offered their services 'when work permitted.'

The Vicar, at a meeting of the Church Council, refused to give a decision on these offers, and left the meeting. The other members remained, elected a chairman, and discussed the desirability of bringing the question before the Bishop of Exeter.

WATFORD, HERTS—On Whit-Sunday, May 23rd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 52 mins.: H. G. Milton (first quarter-peal) 1, W. E. Oakley 2, E. Jones 3, E. S. Edwards (first quarter inside) 4, G. Seaman 5, F. Edwards (conductor) 6, W. Hewitt 7, W. J. Norris 8.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The anniversary of the opening of two celebrated peals of bells occurs to-day. On June 4th, 1762, Bow bells, then a peal of ten, were rung for the first time. In 1814 the bells at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, were opened.

Debenham, which was visited by members of the Central Council during their Whitsun excursion to Ipswich, is recalled this week by the anniversary of the 16,608 Oxford Treble Bob Major, which was rung on June 6th, 1892, in 10 hrs. 32 mins.

Twenty years ago next Tuesday this length of Treble Bob was exceeded for the first time when the Chester Guild rang 16,800 in the Kent variation at Molltram.

The last peal on Coventry bells was rung on June 9th, 1883.

It was on June 9th, 1850, that the first peal was rung in America. This was Holt's ten-part, conducted by H. W. Haley at Christ Church, Philadelphia.

The Society of Cumberland Youths (residents of Croydon) rang Mr. Holt's Peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5,040 changes, with 98 bobs and 2 singles, which was executed in a masterly style in 2 hours and 50 mins., being the shortest time in which it was ever accomplished on these bells. This reference appears on a tablet recording a peal at St. John's Church, Croydon, on May 29th, 1827. Next year will, therefore, be the centenary year.

Mr. John Sully, who hung the bells at Almondsbury in 1903, writes to point out that the article on these bells in our issue of May 21st says that the only peal attempted on them by a local band was made on April 17th this year. As this might make it appear that no peal had been rung on them since he put in a new frame in 1903, he points out that a peal was rung there the same year, when, in the opinion of the ringers, the work of rehangings 'could not have been done better.'

It is said that one important member of the Central Council was unable to take part in the peal of Stedman Cinques at Ipswich on the Saturday before Whitsun because he had some broody hens to attend to. We hope that when the eggs are hatched out there will be no cuckoos among the chicks.

Mr. N. Bagworth, 36, Turner Road, Leicester, requests C.S.M. Geo. Gilbert to communicate his present address.

The report of the annual meeting of the Essex Association, held on Whit-Monday, when all the officers were re-elected and a sound numerical and financial position shown, will appear in our next issue.

The Bedfordshire Association meeting, which was to have been held at Toddington to-morrow, has had to be postponed. While the bells were being rung for service the tenor clapper broke, and, getting caught in the wheel, broke that also.

DEATH OF MR. W. A. WEBB. READING.

The Reading branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and particularly the St. Mary's Society, have sustained a great loss by the death of one of their old members, Mr. Walter Arthur Webb. He joined the society about 23 years ago, and had been an earnest and enthusiastic member to within a few months of his death, which occurred on Sunday, May 23rd.

The funeral took place on Thursday week. The first part of the service was held at St. Mary's Church, Reading, and was attended by a goodly number of his friends. The second part was held in the cemetery at Caversham, where a plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells over the grave, by four members of the Reading branch, the Master of the Guild, Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, ringing 7 and 8. Both services were taken by the Vicar of St. Mary's. In the evening several touches of Stedman Triples were rung on St. Mary's tower bells, half-muffled, as a last token of respect to the deceased.

Mr. Webb was a native of Beccles, in Suffolk, where he learnt to ring, and was a member of the band of ringers there. He was apprenticed to the firm of Messrs. Close and Son, printers, of that town. Trade, however, took him to Reading, where he worked first for Messrs. Petty and Sons, printers, and then for Messrs. Wyman and Co., being one of their leading machine hands, and he remained in their service till he was taken ill last year.

He was a man of amiable disposition, always cheerful, kind and ready at all times to help any one in the belfry or out of it. A good, steady and reliable ringer in nearly all methods, his heart was thoroughly in his work and in the science he loved so well. His loss to St. Mary's is very great, for all respected and liked him. He will be keenly missed, but not forgotten, by any who had the privilege of knowing him. The peals he rang numbered about 70, in many methods.

He leaves a widow, six sons and three daughters.

W. P. R.

RUGBY SURPRISE.

In printing this method, by Mr. E. Tipler, last week, an error was made in describing it as having a clean proof scale. It has four false course-ends, viz., 46325, 54263, 62345 and 34562, and was published by us in error for another method, Wycliffe Surprise, by the same author.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

COVENTRY BELLS.—DISCUSSIONS AT IPSWICH MEETING.

In reviewing the action taken to preserve Coventry bells, the Hon. Secretary (Mr. E. A. Young), speaking at the Central Council meeting at Ipswich, said that the progress of the negotiations was shown, step by step, in a booklet which he had had privately printed, and which he asked the Council to accept. (This booklet reproduces all the correspondence that had taken place and runs to 44 quarto pages.)

As the Council was aware, said the Hon. Secretary, their efforts were not successful in saving the bells, but they put up a good fight. The inception of what was done was an article in 'The Ringing World' suggesting that it was desirable the Central Council should take action, and the Standing Committee took the serious step of deciding, without calling a general meeting of the Council, to endeavour to save the bells. They were very much indebted to Alderman Pritchett, an eminent member of the Bar and a member of the Council's Standing Committee, who was able to look after their legal interests, and to meet Sir Henry Maddox, who was in charge for the other side. Unfortunately, they did not succeed in convincing the Chancellor that the bells should be saved, and it had occurred to him (the speaker) that, if at any future time they engaged in another case of the kind, they ought to get on their side similar heavy guns to Dr. Starmer and Dr. Brazil, who appeared for their opponents. It was of much interest to him to see Mr. Johnston's recent letter in 'The Ringing World' stating that he had for two or three years earnestly wrestled with the authorities at Coventry to see if some intermediate course could not be adopted to save a total loss of these bells as a ringing peal. It was unfortunate that, at the time, Mr. Johnston did not realise he had the Council at his back. If he had done so two years ago they might have met with success. Founders might, in the future, find themselves in similar difficulties, in restraining local authorities, and they would be in a much stronger position if they could come to the Council for assistance in defence of the bells. The Hon. Secretary then moved that the Council confirm the action of the Standing Committee, and pay the incidental expenses incurred.

Rev. H. Drake seconded, and thanked Mr. Young for what he had done. He put in a great deal of hard work, and was put to considerable expense, of which they had had some evidence in the book now laid before the Council. He (Mr. Drake) had been challenged as to whether the Suffolk Guild had actually supported the action of the committee, and he would therefore like to say that he brought the matter before two of their district meetings and their annual meeting, and everyone was enthusiastically in favour of what he did, and thanked him for doing it.

Mr. James George, one of the few surviving ringers who rang on the old Coventry bells before they were silenced 40 years ago, supported the thanks to Mr. Young.

Mr. J. S. Pritchett spoke of the splendid effort which Mr. Young made to save this most famous peal of bells. He added that he would not like the impression to remain on their minds that the effort was entirely unsuccessful. To a considerable extent it was successful. The original proposition was to melt up the bells and recast them in the form of a carillon of 14 bells, but at the last moment the scheme was modified in such a way as to meet the strongest objection, and the proposal which the Chancellor was finally asked to sanction was to recast the ten bells as a peal that could be rung as ten bells in the future if ever it was desired and was practicable to do so, the other four bells being added from new metal. That change of front was brought about by the splendid effort made by their secretary (applause).

The President expressed the Council's heartiest thanks to Mr. Young and Mr. Pritchett, and the motion was carried.

COMMITTEES' WORK.

The Council then dealt with committee reports.

Miss Parker, for the Peal Collection Committee, reported that the work of adding the new Treble Bob compositions to the collection was proceeding, but it was involving the examination of the original peals to see that variations did not creep in. When the work was completed by the Rev. H. S. T. Richardson it would be sent to her to type, and it was hoped to have it in the hands of the Council by the next meeting.

The report was accepted.

A report for the Literature and Press Committee was made by the Hon. Secretary (in the absence through illness of the Convener, the Rev. C. E. Matthews). During the past year, he said, the committee's principal task had been revising the Council's book of rules. He had supplied the committee with a précis of all the decisions that had been arrived at, and the book was to be brought right up to date. They were much indebted to the Rev. F. L. Edwards, who was at present in Cyprus, for what he had done in this connection, and to the late Hon. Sec. (Rev. C. D. P. Davies) for a nice little preface which he had written. Incidentally, during the year, the committee had been looking after their interests in the Press, in which department Mr. Paddon Smith had lent valuable assistance. The committee hoped to put a typed draft of the revised rules before the Council at the next meeting.

The Rev. H. Law James said the book contained the Report on Methods. That report should not be reprinted until the members of the Methods Committee had brought it up to date. The Literature and Press Committee were not competent to revise that part of it—they knew nothing at all about it (laughter).

The Hon. Secretary said he took it the Convener would see that the draft was submitted to the Methods Committee.

The report was accepted.

The Rev. H. Law James, asked to report for the Methods Committee, said: We were ready to print the Plain Major Methods last year. The book would have been printed and in your hands to-day if it had not been for the interference of the Nomenclature Committee (laughter).

The President: Is that all you wish to say? (laughter).

The Rev. H. Law James: There is nothing more to say, except, of course, we want to go to print straight away.

Afterwards Mr. James moved that 300 copies be printed. He thought this number would be sufficient, because the book would contain just one lead of a method, and consequently a band that wanted to ring a method would buy one copy and make their diagrams from it. They would not want seven or eight copies for each tower.

Mr. G. P. Burton: Will there be anything in the book beside the figures of the methods? Will they be named? (laughter).

Mr. J. A. Trollope: They are named, every one of them. The names have been submitted to the Nomenclature Committee and approved of to them, but not the sub-titles.

Mr. Burton said he received a list of names, and to those names the Nomenclature Committee objected in some measure. The names themselves might not be open to objection, but their application was a point which might lead to confusion.

The Rev. H. Law James (warmly): I have been at this for 26 years; this new committee has been at work about two years. You can take the report as it is, or we will put it in the fire, names and all. ('No.') It is a matter of pure pedantry.

Mr. T. H. Beams suggested they should leave the consideration of this matter over until the Nomenclature Committee's report had been dealt with.—This was seconded by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, and agreed to.

The Peals Analysis Committee's report, which had already been published in 'The Ringing World,' was adopted, on the motion of Miss Parker.

IMPORTANCE OF PAINTING BELL FRAMES.

The Hon. Secretary reported for the Towers and Belfries Committee that they were in reserve in case of emergency to give technical advice, and he and Major Hesse were asked by the Winchester Guild to go to Southampton and inspect the tower of St. Michael's Church. They were able to report satisfactorily, so that the bells, which had been recast, could go back into the tower, the peal having been left unhung for some time previously, as there had been a doubt as to whether the tower was safe to take them.

Major Hesse said he had made two inspections during the year. He wished to draw the attention of ringers to the need of keeping the authorities alive to the necessity of painting metal bell frames. Where they were allowed to rust there would come a time, in a few years, when a great portion of the frame would have to be renewed. Authorities should be reminded of the importance of painting bell frames at least every five years. He had come across some bad cases of neglect lately.

The President said he could corroborate Major Hesse as to the need for painting frames, and it ought to be the duty of any ringer who was in charge of an iron or steel frame to tell the churchwardens that it required painting every three years. It was the duty of ringers to see that it was done. There ought to be a ringer on every Parish Church Council, and he should bring this matter up every three years.

The reports were accepted.

Mr. T. H. Beams said the Records Committee had nothing outstanding to report, but there was a slight alteration to make. A progressive length of Cambridge Surprise was put down under the heading of Royal, it should have been Maximus.

THE CARTER RINGING MACHINE.

The Hon. Secretary said the position with regard to the Science Museum Exhibit Committee was as outlined in the notice which appeared in 'The Ringing World' recently. They had to congratulate themselves on the fact that in the National Science Museum they had a small section illustrating their art. It was more than justified when they remembered that in the exhibition case was the famous ringing machine invented by Mr. John Carter. They had now arrived at the stage when there was no more for the committee to do, and, with the sanction of his fellow members, he proposed that the committee should now be allowed to lapse, and that the duties should be taken over by the Standing Committee of the Council. These duties were rather important, and turned upon the Carter machine. It had been Mr. Carter's wish that it should be in that Museum, and he had deposited it on permanent loan. He had done the Council the honour of making them trustees, and he and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies were the first trustees. They had had to consider whether they should ask others to join with them, and, with his fellow trustee's concurrence, they proposed to

appoint a ringer in London, who was thoroughly well up in ringing methods, and had a certain amount of technical skill in regard to machinery, to assist them. The machine, for delicacy of work, was of the calibre of a French striking timepiece; in fact, parts almost approached watch work. Through Mr. Carter having constantly to take the machine to pieces and reassemble it, parts were already somewhat worn, and would need adjustment. The trustees proposed to appoint Mr. C. Roberts, a young London ringer, who was a watch maker, and who had agreed to master the machine and to demonstrate it, he hoped, for many years to come. He (Mr. Young) had been able to extract from Mr. Carter details of the machine, which he had incorporated in a book, deposited with the machine. This described it in great detail, and showed what the machine would do in any method now known, or which could be invented in the future.

The Rev. C. D. P. Davies, in seconding the proposal to dissolve the committee, said he regarded the machine as one of the most wonderful things he had ever seen. It was an asset to the Exercise which he hoped would go down to the generations to come. He rejoiced to hear that Mr. Young had secured the services of a younger man, who would be able to understand the machine, keep it in order, and work it when necessary. That was a thing about which he (the speaker) had always felt concern. He was terrified with the thought that its use or explanation might be lost, and the Exercise deprived of it as an asset. He was glad they had secured a young man who would, he hoped, be able to keep it going for many years to come.

Mr. J. S. Pritchett expressed appreciation of the services which Mr. Young had rendered in this matter. Although that other wonder, Babbage's Calculating Machine, was still in existence, no one now knew how to use it. That was a fate they would not like to befall Mr. Carter's machine, and it would be saved from it by the exertions of their secretary (applause).

It was resolved that the committee be dissolved, that its duties be carried on by the Standing Committee, and that representatives be appointed by the Council to act as trustees of the Carter Ringing Machine.

METHOD NOMENCLATURE.

Mr. G. P. Burton, moving the adoption of the report of the Nomenclature Committee, said they presented a report in 1925, which was before the Exercise for a whole year. Instead of a report for 1926 the committee had put forward a series of recommendations which they had likewise seen printed in 'The Ringing World.' Those resolutions would be put to the meeting in due course. The committee were compelled to bring forward proposals which would produce some opposition, but that could not be helped, for when any reform was undertaken there must be some controversy about it. During the past year the greatest possible publicity had been given to the matter in the ringing press, and friends and critics alike had had ample opportunity afforded them to hear all there was to be said on the subject from both sides. Their greatest critic, at any rate in regard to the amount of space he had occupied, had been Mr. Trollope. He had had to declare himself in some respects on the side of the committee, but it had to be confessed that not one bit of his criticism had been in the least bit helpful. The committee was put forward to do something, and help the Exercise out of the mire in which it had been for some time in regard to names, but Mr. Trollope's criticism had been obstructive. Not one helpful suggestion had been made by the critics, they could only say 'No' to every proposal—and of what good was that? Dealing with some of the points which critics had made, Mr. Burton said Mr. Trollope, in one of his articles, showed how method names had been built up. Did that not show that by the same process they could undo them? When a word was encumbered by too many adjectives they lost their force and had to be dropped, but Mr. Trollope argued that when they had a name it must stand as it was for ever. As to the difficulties accompanying change, they were quickly got over, and people soon became accustomed to new names, as they had seen in recent years when Christianity became Oslo, and St. Petersburg had become Petrograd and afterwards Leningrad. As to the supposed right of any man to give what name he liked to a method, they knew the confusion it had led to, and they wanted the Council to transfer the authority from the individual to the Council, or a committee of the Council. The committee said it was not right that the individual should have the authority to choose a name which might cause trouble and difficulty, and perhaps bring them to ridicule. They were now frequently getting change ringing broadcast, and it was becoming the practice for the announcer to give the name of the method, and to say that such and such a society would ring a touch of Grandsire Triples, or whatever the method was. They gave out a name—that was the point. It showed that the Exercise wanted to be careful what names it used; that they had the right sort of names. What would the public think of an announcement that someone was going to ring a touch of Princess Mary Royal? They had come to a stage where they wanted no more language of flowers, no generalities. The time had passed for that. The committee wanted a plain 'Yes' or 'No' to their plain, reasonable and practicable proposals. They were doing something now for the future, and not just for their own present-day likings or convenience; they were looking further ahead, so that whatever developments might come, they could have names which were suitable, names of which they were not ashamed.

Mr. Burton then moved the resolutions which appeared in the committee's report.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

The proposals were, briefly, as follows:—

- (1) No method shall have more than one name.
- (2) No name shall belong to more than one method.
- (3) No name shall contain more than one word.
- (4) Class designations, when added to a name, shall always have some reference to the thing designated. Thus the word 'hob' in this connection shall always, as originally, have reference to dodging.
- (5) The names 'Pasallatessera' and 'Pasallatria' shall not be used in any C.C. publications; should it be necessary to distinguish the classes which were once so designated, they shall be otherwise, and properly, described.
- (6) The fifteen floral names shall be changed.
- (7), (8), (9) and (10) gave the name changes proposed in the various groups, and the following resolutions were added:—
- (11) No names or terms, supplementary of, or in substitution for, those published by authority of C.C. should be used until the sanction of C.C. has been obtained.
- (12) A supplement to the Glossary, containing new names and terms up-to-date, should be at once put in hand.
- (13) In the case of all new methods, which have been rung under names it is proposed to alter, an opportunity should be given to those who first rang them, or to their society, to approve of the proposed new name.

The question was raised as to whether the resolutions were in substitution for the 1925 report, and, at Mr. Pritchett's suggestion, it was agreed to take the resolutions as an amended report.

(To be continued.)

(Continued from next page.)

Bury, as everyone knows, is an historical place, and once the seat of the great Benedictine Abbey, whose church was one of the biggest and most magnificent in England, over 100 feet longer than Norwich Cathedral, and only nine feet shorter than Canterbury. Far away back in the seventh century Felix of Burgundy was missionary bishop of East Anglia. To him came an Irish priest, named Fursey, offering help. Felix sent Fursey to a place called Bedericsworth, in the midst of the heathen Saxons. There they laboured, and not without success. King Sigebert, the ruler of the land, himself became one of them, and for two hundred years they prospered. Then came the great irruption of the Danes, those fierce heathen warriors from the North of Europe. First as raiders, and then as conquerors, they overran the whole land, and town and village, abbey and church, went down in one common ruin by fire and sword. Edmund was king of East Anglia at the time. In a great battle fought at Hoxne, near Eye, he was killed, and his body was taken to the abbey at Bedericsworth. By that time it was a strong and noted place, but it did not escape the common ruin.

Time passed, Christianity and peace returned to the land. The church of Bedericsworth was rebuilt by a colony of monks from the Abbey of St. Benet Hulm, in Norfolk, and as King Edmund had now become a saint, it was henceforth St. Edmundsbury. As the years went on it grew in wealth and splendour to a position among the very greatest of the abbays of Europe. The mitred abbot ranked among the greatest of the nobles of England, more powerful and wealthier than the bishop of the diocese, his lordship of Norwich. How big the whole thing was you can imagine from the fact that the two fine churches which remain, the present Cathedral of St. James and St. Mary's, were but hangers-on to the great abbey church. Then came the great crash of the sixteenth century, the abbey was suppressed, and church and monastery fell in one ruthless ruin, so that to-day hardly one stone remains on another.

What was once the abbey is now a very pleasant public garden, and round this Archdeacon Farmiloe conducted us, pointing out the many objects of interest.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

IPSWICH RECOLLECTIONS.—SOME SUFFOLK BELLS.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Twelve months ago, with the memories of that delightful Chester meeting still fresh, I asked the question, 'What can Ipswich do next year?' Salisbury had set up a new standard for the comfort and pleasure of the members of the Council. Chester had lagged not a whit behind. Each has exceptional facilities, a fine cathedral, an historical city, and lovely scenery ready to hand. And each saw that we enjoyed them to the full. And what could Ipswich do? Well, we have seen, and know; and this year's meeting will go down to history as one of the most successful and enjoyable.

The whole thing was in doubt till the last moment. The shadow of the industrial crisis lay on everything. Would the Council be held? And, if it were, how many could get there? We in London, as usual, had the best chance, and even here, two days beforehand, could not be sure what trains would run, or even if there would be any at all on Sunday. For those who were faced by a cross country journey the prospect was not inviting. And so, though the number of those who attended was below the average, on the whole it was exceedingly satisfactory. I think there were fifty-three present, and they came from as far afield as Wales, Lancashire and Devon.

The overture was a peal of Stedman Cinques at the Tower Church on Saturday, the particulars of which have been published. On Sunday there was service ringing. Some of the visitors went on to Norwich and some to Felixstowe, the day ending with a social meeting and handbell ringing at headquarters. On Monday, the Suffolk Guild had arranged a motor trip to a few places, and here was an opportunity for Suffolk to show what she can do in the way of scenery and in bells, compared with Salisbury and Chester. And we can say truthfully that she fully held her own in the first, and more than held her own in the second.

Perhaps you think that Suffolk and the East of England have no really first-class scenery. Ah, but you forget what surprises an English spring has in store. Suffolk produced one this last week-end. It was not the may blossom, though the hedges were smothered with it, nor the freshness and richness of the green grass. It was the oaks. They were late; and the immature leaves of golden green with the sunlight on them turned the country roads into avenues of most marvellous colouring. It will be long before we shall forget that drive from Stowmarket to St. Edmundsbury.

The Suffolk Guild had arranged for us to visit five peals of bells, all of them heavy ones, and all of them of the old style. There was to be a discussion on the Tuesday on the advantage or otherwise of modern Simpson tuning, compared with the old style; and if the latter can be justified it is by such peals as we visited. The first was Stowmarket. They are a very fine ring of bells—that every one would agree—but they are a most extraordinarily mixed up lot. They were cast by no fewer than seven different men, and not two of them in the same year. The oldest, the fourth, goes back to 1460, and is by John Danyell; the youngest, the sixth, came from Whitechapel in 1823, and bears Thomas Mears, junior's, name.

John Danyell was a London bell founder of great repute in the fifteenth century. John Darbie (or should it not be

Michael Darbie?) cast the third and seventh, one in 1669, the other in 1672. He was an East Anglian founder, who moved about from place to place, probably to find new work. His bells are said to be generally bad ones. The fifth, cast in 1699, was by Charles Neuman, of whom, at the minute, I recollect nothing. I think he was a Norwich founder. The treble and second both came from the Downham Market foundry, the second in 1791, cast by Thomas Osborn, and the treble, in 1810, by his grandson, William Dobson. Both these men cast some well known and admired peals. Dobson's masterpiece was the ring at Diss, in Norfolk, which was usually considered the best of its weight in the East of England. The old twelve at Liverpool were also by him. The tradition is that they were made from measurements of St. Peter's, Mancroft, but were a failure.

Stowmarket tenor was by Miles Graye. She is three years older, and about the same weight as her more famous sister, the tenor at Lavenham. It is inevitable that in a peal like this, cast at so many different times and by so many different people, the undertones must be very varied, and yet it is a fact that the bells make a very fine whole. Get them down into the foundry and test them with tuning forks, and doubtless you will find them all sixes and sevens. Up in the tower you need not notice anything of the sort.

From Stowmarket we went on to St. Edmundsbury, and there there are two heavy and noted peals. The eight at St. Mary's are all from the Whitechapel foundry, but at different times. Treble, second, sixth and tenor are by Richard Phelps in 1734, the fifth by the same man in the following year. These, apparently, are what are left of the original peal. The seventh was recast by Pack and Chapman in 1776, the year after they had cast the twelve for Mancroft, and two years after they had cast the ten for Coventry; 3 and 4 were recast by Mears and Stainbank in 1869 and 1903. I was very much impressed with this ring. We had divided ourselves into two bands for the two towers, and while we were waiting for the key of the ten-bell tower the others were pulled up and rung. The tenor especially (she is 27 cwt.) is a noble bell.

The ten bells of St. James', the Cathedral Church of Bury, hang in the Norman tower formerly part of the abbey buildings. They have always stood very high in reputation among the old style peals. Some will tell you they are the best ten of their weight in England. In one respect they are, I think, unique. They were all cast by the same founder, and in the same year, 1785, and none has been recast. Their founder was Thomas Osborn, and they came from Downham Market, a small town in West Norfolk. This foundry was the lineal descendant of one established at St. Neots by Joseph Eayre. Osborn was Eayre's foreman, and, after Eayre's death, he carried on the business in partnership with Edward Arnold, Eayre's cousin. This partnership was dissolved. Arnold stayed at St. Neots for a time, and then went to Leicester, and ultimately the business was acquired by the Taylor's, of Loughborough.

Osborn set up business at Downham, and in his time, and that of his grandson, William Dobson, the foundry had a great reputation. Dobson seems to have been a good craftsman, but a poor man of business, and in 1833 the foundry was absorbed by Thomas Mears, of Whitechapel.

(Continued on previous page.)

DEVON GUILD. THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

Ottery, associated with the Coleridge family, and where some years ago the ex-President of the Devon Guild (the Rev. Maitland Kelly) was Vicar, was the venue of the Guild on Whit-Monday, when the annual festival was held. In addition to the bells at this church, the rings at Peniton, Honiton, Sidbury, Sidmouth and Talaton were at the disposal of ringers during the day, and a great deal of ringing was enjoyed. The total attendance was close upon 200, wonderful evidence of the present vitality of the Guild, and the members were delighted to see Mr. Kelly among them again, and able to take a rope in a touch. The bands represented included the Cathedral, St. Sidwell's, St. David's, and Heavitree (Exeter), Topsham, Kelly, Ilfracombe, Holbeton, Combemartin, Tiverton, Whimble, Bucknell, Littleham, Washfield, Talaton, Sowton, Upton Pyne, Christow, Whitstone, Otterton, Withycombe Raleigh and Ottery.

Service was conducted by the Rev. L. B. Stallard (Vicar) in Ottery Parish Church shortly after noon, and exceedingly well attended by the ringers, who entered into it with great heartiness and sang the hymns with much zest. The Vicar, in the course of a short address, cordially welcomed the Guild to Ottery, expressed high appreciation of the services of the local ringers, urged all to look upon ringing as a real gift, and that it was something in God's service, and enlarged upon the value of the unifying influence of the Guild.

Dinner followed at the London Hotel, and, at the close, the annual meeting was held, with the President (the Rev. E. S. Powell) in the chair.

The report of the General Committee was as follows: The year 1925 has again been a period of steady advance by the Guild, not so much in extension of its influence as in making good on existing ground. A total of 61 certificates has been issued to performing members who have qualified. This shows that the system of organised instruction is having good results. Reports from branches show an addition of four new bands during the year, making the total 56, and there is evidence of great activity towards a higher and more conscientious standard. The Guild practices at the Cathedral have been regularly kept up, with the result that an excellent quarter-peal of Grandsire Cinques was rung there on November 14th, and although not strictly within the year under review, a peal of 5,015 changes was brought round on January 9th, 1926, the first by Devonshire men, and composed and conducted by our esteemed president, to whose initiative and perseverance much of the success of this crowning achievement must be attributed. Our peals record comprises two of Grandsire Caters, seven of Grandsire Triples, three of Stedman Triples, and one of Kent Treble Bob Major, this latter being the first by a local band in Devon for 16 years. The finances of the Guild and its branches continue in a satisfactory state.

The general accounts showed a balance in hand of £51 6s. 9d., against £42 11s. 7d. at the commencement of the year, but an investment of £25 had been sold out.

The report and accounts were adopted.

The following re-elections took place:—President, the Rev. E. S. Powell; vice-presidents, Bishop of Crediton, Bishop of Plymouth, Dean of Exeter, Archdeacon of Exeter, Canon McLaren, Sub-Dean Martin, the Revs. Maitland Kelly, H. L. Pigot and G. E. F. Molinoux, Mr. W. E. Pitfield Chapple, the Revs. J. E. B. Ball, Canon J. A. Kempe and E. V. Cox; hon. treasurer, Mr. T. G. Bartlett; hon. secretary, Mr. T. Laver; honorary members' representatives, the Revs. H. B. Clark and A. S. Hutchinson, and Mr. H. B. Kindersley; representatives on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, the President, Messrs. A. W. Scarle, F. J. Davey and E. W. Marsh; hon. auditor, Mr. E. Shepherd.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to officers for past services (special compliments being paid to the president and hon. secretary for their enthusiastic and excellent work), to incumbents for use of bells, and to the Vicar and organist of Ottery for their help in the service.

It was agreed that branches should be able to exercise the option of appointing Ringing Masters for themselves, and that representatives of the Guild on the Central Council should be ex-officio members of the General Committee of the Guild.

Newton Abbot was approved as the meeting place for next year's annual festival.

EDGBASTON BELLS.

During the past year the six-bell band at Edgbaston, Birmingham, rang, all for Sunday services, 720's of Minor in ten methods, ranging from Plain Bob to London Surprise. Mr. Holt's 'celebrated 720 Bob Minor without a single' was included. The band hope, in the near future, to get these bells augmented to eight.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—At the Parish Church, on the occasion of the marriage of Miss Clarke to Mr. Chivers, May 19th, 1,167 changes of Stedman Caters in 50 mins.: Fred Hayes 1, Ralph Coles 2, Geo. Hinton 3, J. W. Wilkins (conductor) 4, E. R. Coles 5, S. T. Goodchild 6, F. Boxell 7, C. A. Smith 8, Ralph Biggs 9, F. Plumridge 10. —Also 1,299 changes of Stedman Caters in 54 mins.: Fred Hayes (conductor) 1, Geo. Hinton 2, J. W. Wilkins 3, R. Coles 4, E. Markham 5, S. T. Goodchild 6, F. Boxell 7, C. A. Smith 8, Ralph Biggs 9, F. Plumridge 10.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

THREE MORE TOWERS AFFILIATED TO THE PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT.

Despite the restricted travelling facilities, an excellent meeting was held at West Meon on Saturday last. Although the weather was not at its best, over 30 members and friends assembled at this picturesque village, in the heart of the Meon Valley. The Church of St. John-the-Evangelist, a beautiful flint structure, contains a good peal of eight bells, which were used to full advantage during the afternoon and evening.

The Guild form of service was conducted by the Rector (Rev. W. H. Thomas), who welcomed the members and expressed pleasure that they should find time during their outing to have a half-hour set aside for a service of thanksgiving and prayer. He thought that ringers who were members of a society such as the Diocesan Guild were doing a great work for the church, and he wished them prosperity in the future.

An excellent tea was partaken of at the Red Lion Hotel, after which the business meeting was held, the Rector being voted to the chair. Five full members and five probationers were elected from Bramshott, 11 probationers from Netley and two full members from West Meon, thereby affiliating these three towers to the district.

The Master (Mr. G. Williams) proposed a vote of welcome to these new towers, and congratulated the district on its progress in this direction, this making 17 towers in union.

Four honorary members were elected from Bramshott, and it was very pleasing to have amongst the company one of the churchwardens (Mr. C. Woods), who is keenly interested in change ringing.—The Rector of West Meon expressed a wish to become an honorary member, and he was unanimously elected. He was glad to see that some of his ringers had joined the Guild, and said he would do his best to urge the remainder to become members.

A letter was read from Mr. C. J. Fray, expressing his regret that he would have to resign as a representative on the general committee, as he was now residing out of the district. The meeting expressed appreciation of his past services, and Mr. R. J. Stone (Portsmouth) was elected in his place.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting at Bramshott on August 21st, and that application be made for the use of the bells at Liss. Due notice of this meeting will appear in 'The Ringing World.'—A vote of thanks was accorded the Rector of West Meon for the use of the bells and conducting the service, after which the meeting concluded.

During the day members were present from Bramshott, Bishop's Waltham, Farnham, Netley Abbey, North Stoneham, Portsmouth (St. Mary's and St. Thomas'), Swanmore, Wickham, Winchester and West Meon. The ringing ranged from rounds to Superlative and Cambridge Surprise Major.

WEDDING BELLS.

CARDIFF RINGERS MARRIED.

The marriage took place on Monday, May 17th, of Miss Constance E. Jones to Mr. George Day. Both are ringers at All Saints' Church, Newport, the bride being the daughter of Mr. J. W. Jones, the hon. secretary of the Diocesan Association and leader of the All Saints' ringers. The marriage ceremony took place in St. Mark's Church, in which parish the bride and her parents reside, and was performed by the Vicar (Rev. Isaiah Roberts, M.A.), assisted by the Vicar of All Saints' (Rev. Sidney G. Morgan). The wedding was witnessed by a large congregation, and the bride was given away by her father.

A peal of Stedman Triples was attempted on All Saints' bells in honour of the event, but came to grief. Afterwards a quarter-peal in the same method was rung by H. Ridout 1, T. Ford 2, J. W. Jones 3, C. Greedy 4, H. Morgan 5, F. Chapman 6, J. Hammond (conductor) 7, A. Williams 8.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

Although held under strike conditions, a very useful meeting of the St. Albans District was held at Harpenden on May 8th. Ringers arrived—somehow—from Luton, St. Albans, Hitchin, Dunstable, Kimpton, Watford, Hemel Hempstead and Redbourn—the whole band of learners. These, with the local company, enabled the following methods to be rung: Grandsire Doubles, Stedman Triples, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Bob Major, Double Norwich, Superlative, Bristol and London (Grandsire Caters in hand), with Bob Minor for beginners.

At the meeting, which followed the tea, the President took the chair, and the Western District secretary officiated for Mr. W. Nash. Nine members from Redbourn, one from Harpenden and one from St. Albans Abbey were elected.

The next meeting was proposed for St. Albans on June 12th, when the Western District are asked to join them in 10-bell ringing in the afternoon, and 8-bell in the evening.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells closed the meeting, the members adjourning to the tower for further ringing until 8.30 p.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

We regret that, owing to the demands upon the space available for Sunday Service Touches, we are unable to undertake to insert anything less than a quarter-peal on eight bells and upwards, and 720 of Doubles or Minor. Many correspondents send us quite short touches for publication and they must not be disappointed if we are unable to find room for them.

DERITEND, BIRMINGHAM.—On Sunday, May 30th, for evening service, 720 of Bob Minor, in 25 mins.: W. T. Froggatt 1, J. Neal 2, H. N. Way 3, G. Yendall 4, E. Mausell 5, G. E. Large (conductor) 6.

LEATHERHEAD.—On Sunday, May 30th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,259 changes), in 47 mins.: W. Messam 1, A. H. Winch 2, A. C. Otway 3, A. W. Coles 4, G. Mariner (conductor) 5, G. A. Cook 6, A. Harman 7, E. Hull 8, A. Dean 9, F. G. Miles 10.

DEPTFORD, KENT.—At the Church of St. John the Evangelist, on Sunday, May 30th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. W. Pannett 1, E. J. Pannett 2, E. B. Crowder 3, R. A. Fosdike 4, H. J. Norgate 5, A. J. Bradley 6, W. J. Jeffries (conductor) 7, A. F. Bennington 8.

CROSTHWAITHE, KESWICK.—On Sunday, May 30th, for evening service, 1,280 Oxford Treble Bob Major: W. Thompson 1, H. Just (first quarter in the method) 2, F. Barnes 3, D. Usher 4, T. Wilson 5, W. Hogg 6, T. Hardy 7, T. Hogarth (conductor) 8.

RICKMANSWORTH.—On Sunday, May 30th, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, in 49 mins.: W. Croseley 1, G. Foster 2, T. Stephenson 3, H. W. Kington 4, W. F. Elliott 5, E. Hookham 6, J. H. R. Freeborn 7, J. Marks (conductor) 8. First quarter-peal in the method by Messrs. Croseley, Foster, Elliott and Hookham, and first by a local band.

GOSPEL OAK.—At St. Martin's Church, for evening service, on Sunday, May 30th, 720 Bob Minor: A. Harwin 1, E. Young 2, R. Bullen 3, R. Johnson 4, E. Bonfield (conductor) 5, A. Bonfield 6.

FRINDSBURY.—On May 30th, at All Saints' Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 42 mins.: E. A. G. Allen 1, W. Stockley 2, C. Winser 3, W. Evans 4, S. Jarrett (first quarter-peal as conductor) 5, W. S. Beaumont 6, T. Beaumont 7, P. C. Springham 8.

CHELMSFORD.—At the Cathedral, on Sunday, May 9th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): F. Tolworthy 1, C. Gentry 2, R. C. Clark 3, A. Saltmarsh 4, J. Wood (conductor) 5, L. J. Clark 6, P. Timson 7, F. Cooper 8. First quarter-peal as conductor.—On Sunday, May 16th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,259 changes): F. Tolworthy 1, C. Gentry 2, W. Lincoln 3, A. Saltmarsh 4, R. C. Clark 5, L. J. Clark 6, J. Wood 7, E. Kemp 8, P. Timson (conductor) 9, F. Cooper 10. First quarter-peal on ten bells by E. Kemp.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at *St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, on June 29th; *St. Magnus' on the 10th and 24th; *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 15th; Southwark Cathedral on the 22nd. All at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Rd., Clapham, S.W.4

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A quarterly meeting of this Guild will be held at Wombourn on Saturday, June 5th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Service in Church 4.30 o'clock.—Herbert Sheppard, 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Sunbury-on-Thames on Saturday, June 5th. Ringing from 3.15. Will arrange tea as usual. Ringers and friends welcome.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The re-cast bells of St. John's, Newcastle, will be dedicated on Trinity Sunday at 3 p.m., and will be open to the members of the Association on Saturday, June 5th, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Probably the cathedral bells will also be open).—E. Ferry, 16, Gordon Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Leesfield, Oldham, on Saturday, June 5th. Bells available from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m. All ringers welcome.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at Bury Parish Church on Saturday, June 5th. Bells ready at 3.30. Meeting at 7 o'clock. A good attendance is required.—John H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 31, St. Paul's Street, Ramsbottom.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD AND LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A joint social meeting of the Stockport and Manchester Branches will be held at Norbury on Saturday, June 5th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, at a small charge, 5.15 p.m.—J. P. Fidler and J. Hall, Joint Hon. Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting of the above branch will be held at Bletchley on Saturday, June 5th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A meeting will be held at Great Wymondley on Saturday, June 5th. Bells (6) available at 3. Tea at 5 p.m. at the 'Green Man.' All ringers are welcome.—E. W. Day, District Sec., 117, Nightingale Road, Hitchin.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—Next meeting on June 5th at Dore. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Committee meeting at 4.15, short service at 5 p.m. The annual business, which should have been taken at St. Marie's on May 8th, and was postponed owing to the General Strike, will be held at this meeting. All members are asked to attend. Bus service from Ecclesall tram terminus every 20 minutes, and frequent train service to Dore and Totley Station (L.M.S.).—Colin Harrison, Hon. Sec. (pro tem.), 62, Roach Road, Sheffield.

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SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Dorset Branch. — The next quarterly meeting will be held at Okeford Fitzpaine on Saturday, June 5th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea 5 (members 6d. each). A short business meeting to follow. Towers available: Okeford Fitzpaine (6), Childe Okeford (6), Sturminster Newton (6), Shillingstone (5) and Hazelbury Bryan (5). — Rev. R. E. P. Gorringe, Manston Rectory, Sturminster Newton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Devizes Branch. — The monthly meeting will be held at Steeple Ashton on Saturday, June 5th. Bells (6) ready at 3 p.m. Service 4.40. Tea 5. Short business meeting follows tea. Keevil bells (6) also available for ringing. — F. Green, Branch Sec., 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Guilsborough District. — The annual meeting will be held at Guilsborough on Saturday, June 5th. Six bells. Usual arrangements. All ringers are welcome. — W. Bott, Hon. Sec., Guilsborough.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Luton District. — The meeting arranged at Toddington for Saturday next, June 5th, has unavoidably to be postponed. — A. E. Sharman, Hon. Sec., 199, High St., Dunstable.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION. — A special meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, June 12th, at West Hartlepool. The three towers will be open from 2.30. Tea at the Raglan Hotel at 5 o'clock, 2/- per head to those who notify the Secretary by Wednesday, June 9th. — E. Ferry, 16, Gordon Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

HOYLANDSWAINE CUP CONTEST to be held on Saturday, June 12th. Members are earnestly invited to join at once. — Apply to Mr. L. Wilkinson, Jackson Terrace, Hoylandswaine, near Penistone.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION. — The next meeting is the Cup Contest at Hoylandswaine on June 12th (Saturday) as provided by our Hoylandswaine members. Particulars as given previously, or will be given to towers on application to Mr. L. Wilkinson, Jackson Terrace, Hoylandswaine. Tea will be provided, but it must be noted that tea can be better provided in a village by members sending early applications as above. The date of entrance will be kept open as long as possible. The usual business meeting will be after tea. — C. D. Potter, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Southern Branch. — A quarterly meeting will be held at Edenham on Saturday, June 12th. Bells available afternoon and evening. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. Those requiring tea please notify me by June 8th. — S. Proctor, 72, Bridge End Road, Grantham.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Yorktown District. — A quarterly meeting will be held at Horsell on Saturday, June 12th. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Guild's service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. A good attendance is desired. — J. B. Hessey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 11, Queen Street, Chertsey.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND THE ROMNEY MARSH GUILD. — A joint meeting of the above will be held at Tenterden on Saturday, June 12th. Bells ready 2.30. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock. Those requiring tea please inform A. C. Kay, 6, Sturges Road, Ashford, by Thursday, June 9th. — A. C. Kay and C. W. Franklin, Joint Dis. Secretaries.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION — Fylde Branch. — The next meeting will be held at St. Cuthbert's, Lytham, on Saturday, June 12th; a good attendance requested, business, election of branch secretary. — C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 320, N. Promenade, Blackpool.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — Stebbing. — The annual ringing festival will be held on Saturday, June 12th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. All ringers are heartily invited. Those who intend to be present should notify not later than Thursday, June 12th. — F. Harrington, Ware House, Stebbing, Chelmsford.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — The postponed annual general meeting will be held at Brighton on Saturday, June 12th. Programme and agenda as previously announced. The time of tea is 5 o'clock. Will those who intend to be present please notify the general secretary not later than Tuesday, June 8th? — A. D. Stone, Hon. General Sec., 16, Belgrave Street, Brighton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Preston Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Chipping Parish Church on Saturday, June 12th. Bells available from 3 p.m. — Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

SUFFOLK GUILD. — Clare District. — The quarterly meeting will be held at Haverhill on Saturday, June 12th. Bells (6) available from 2 o'clock. — W. Underwood, Assistant Dis. Sec.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held at East Retford on June 12th. Bells of East Retford (10), West Retford and Ordsall (6) will be available from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Divine service 4.20 to 4.50 p.m., East Retford Church. Meat tea, 1s. 6d. per head, will be provided at Cooke's Café, Carolgate, Exchange Street, at 5 p.m., for those who notify D. A. Piercy, Wharton Street, Retford, not later than the 9th inst. Visitors from kindred associations welcome. — H. Haigh and H. Weaver, Hon. Secretaries.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Liverpool Branch. — A meeting will be held at Rainhill on Saturday, June 12th. Bells ready at 3. Meeting 5.30. — Walter Hughes, 3, Shrewsbury Place, Garston.

HERTS AND ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — A joint meeting will be held at Bishop's Stortford, at 3 p.m., on Saturday, June 12th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service at St. Michael's Church at 5 p.m. Tea (1/- per head) in the Parish Room at 5.30 p.m. All ringers welcome. Those intending to be present kindly advise us. — C. Beeston, King St., Bishop's Stortford (Essex Assn.); W. N. Lawrence, Little Munden, Ware, Herts (Herts Assn.).

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. — Northern Branch. — A meeting of the above branch will be held at Kiver on Saturday, June 19th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30. Business meeting to follow. — A. J. Skelding, Branch Sec., 7, Cecil Street, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Southern Division. — A joint meeting of the Sheffield and District, Barnsley and District, Doncaster and District and the Southern Division of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Whiston, near Rotherham, on Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) available early. Tea at 5 o'clock, at 1s. 3d. each. Those requiring same please let me know by the 15th. This is important. Buses for Whiston leave the old Cattle Market, Rotherham, at 1.15, 1.50, 2.30, 3.5, 3.45 and 4.20. — F. Clark, Hon. Sec., 18, Royston Avenue, Doncaster.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual festival will be held at Trowbridge on Saturday, June 19th. Arrangements previously announced hold good.—T. Hervey Beams, Assistant Hon. Sec., Bradpole, Bridport.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Next meeting, Stanmore, June 19th. See full particulars next week.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lichfield on Saturday, June 19th. Bells: St. Mary's (8), St. Michael's (6) available at 3. Tea: Members (fully paid) 1s., others 1s. 6d., Lloyd's Restaurant at 5. General meeting to follow. Please send word by Tuesday, June 15th.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LADIES' GUILD.—Southern District. — The annual meeting for this district will be held at Worplesdon on Saturday, June 19th. Bells 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. All welcome. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Wednesday, June 16th? —H. F. Mills, 125, St. Michael's Road, Aldershot.

GUILD OF DEVON RINGERS.—N.E. Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Bradninch on Saturday, June 19th. Bells available at 2.30. Committee meeting 4.15. Service 4.45. Tea (1s. each) 5.15. General meeting after tea. Will those requiring tea kindly send in their names to me by Tuesday, June 15th.—M. Hanson, Hon. Sec., 2, The Avenue, Tiverton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The next general quarterly meeting of the above will be held at Belper (Derbyshire), on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (8) open from 2.30. Short service 4 p.m. Committee meeting 5 p.m. at the Cadena Cafe, Bridge St., where tea will be served at 5.30, followed by general meeting. Will those intending to take tea (moderate charge) please notify Mr. C. Draper, 25, Western Rd., Derby, not later than June 23rd.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec. 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

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