

THE RINGING WORLD

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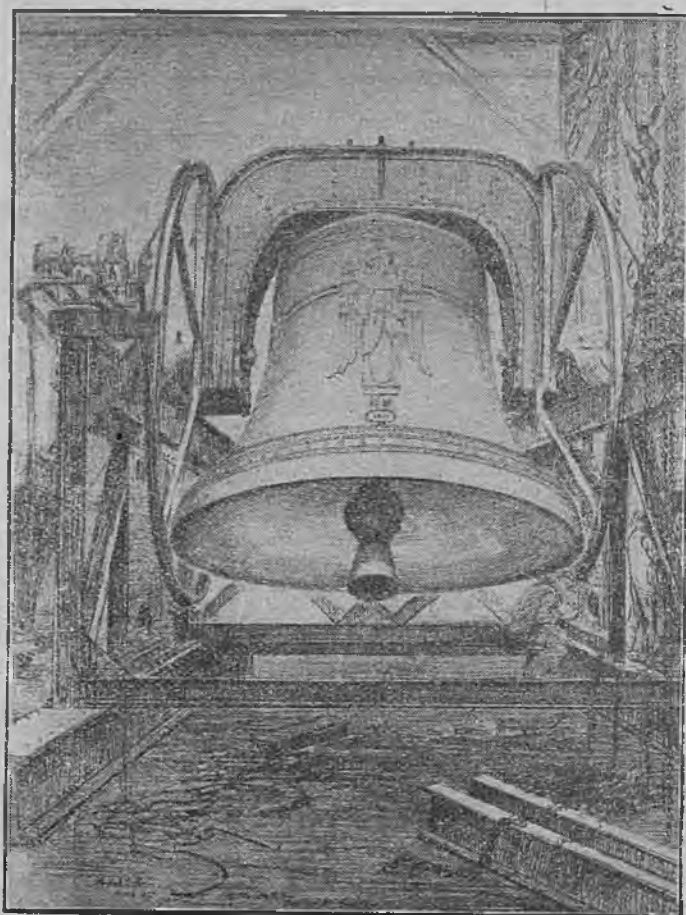
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THE REVISION OF HISTORY.

History is being called into question by letters which have recently appeared in our columns on the subject of early peals and the first performances of Holt's Original. First of all a correspondent questioned the College Youths' record that a peal, rung in 1688-9, was composed and conducted by Benjamin Annable, when, according to Snowdon, in 'Grandsire,' quoting from 'The Clavis,' Annable died in 1755 between sixty and seventy years of age. Mr. E. A. Young's reply to this was the suggestion that Annable was older than he was thought to be by those who recorded his age in 'The Clavis.' Since this there has come another challenge to the records of the Ancient Society, viz., that the claim that its members rang Holt's Original on the first occasion on which it was called by a ringer taking part in the peal can no longer be upheld, other performances of this peal (between the years 1752 and 1754), with the conductor ringing one of the bells, having now come to light. In defence of the College Youths' claim, Mr. G. N. Price puts forward Snowdon's history of the Grandsire method, in which the peal of 1791 was treated as the first, and Mr. Price asks, if the other claims to earlier peals are correct, how can it be explained that Snowdon in his patient and painstaking research work should not have come across these records, or should have ignored them if he did? 'Snowdon,' says Mr. Price, 'must have been brought into very intimate contact with Norwich when collecting data for his various books, and the question arises, was there sufficient proof to satisfy him that the peals referred to were the famous Original?'

On the question of Annable's age, it is doubtful if anyone can now provide definite evidence unless it can be supplied from some of the ancient parish registers. The question of the 'Original,' however, seems to be fairly plain. In the case of one at least of the Norwich peals the full details were given in the 'Norwich Mercury' of the time (1752), including the names of the ringers and the added intimation that 'the peal being so intricate the London Bell Ringers thought it impracticable for a man to ring one of the bells and call the bobs at the same time.' The particulars of the two peals, in 1753 and 1754, at Saffron Walden, were discovered about 15 years ago among some old newspaper cuttings from publications of the period, and in these, also, the names of the ringers are given. In view of these facts, therefore, there seems little doubt that the College Youths' peal of 1791 was not the first time the 'Original' was performed under the same conditions.

(Continued on page 32.)

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Jasper Snowdon was, as we all know, a most painstaking man, but even he could not have searched all the newspaper files throughout the country, and it is quite easy to believe that the records of the Norwich and Saffron Walden peals never came under his notice. Had they done so it is only reasonable to assume that he would at least have mentioned them, even if he had had some doubt as to their authenticity, because he analysed at great length many other of the early performances. Even the questioned 1689 peal he accepts, with limitations, in the phrase 'it seems not improbable that such a performance may have taken place at this date.' Had Snowdon known of the Norwich and Saffron Walden peals, he surely then would have said something about them and not merely have left the subject with the statement 'we may be sure that many a conductor would feel ambitious to call the peal without such assistance (manuscript), but it was not until forty years after its first performance (1791) that this object was attained.'

TWELVE BELL PEALS.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Tuesday, January 29, 1929, in Three Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 37½ cwt.

*JOHN ANDERSON... .. Treble	*GEORGE W. MURRAY ... 7
JOSEPH E. R. KEEN ... 2	ERNEST E. FERRY ... 8
*WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON ... 3	*ROBERT ANDERSON ... 9
CHARLES L. ROUTLEDGE ... 4	THOMAS H. REEVES ... 10
JOSEPH ROWELL... .. 5	WILLIAM H. BARBER ... 11
WILLIAM STORY... .. 6	*ADAM DEAS... .. Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by W. H. BARBER.

* First peal on twelve bells. Arranged for Mr. Thos. H. Reeves, of Birmingham.

LIVERPOOL.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CINQUES, 5081 CHANGES;

Tenor 39 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

ROBERT SPERRING Treble	GEORGE R. JONES ... 7
JOHN HAYES 2	JAMES MORGAN ... 8
ERNEST COTSFORTH ... 3	JAMES SWINDLEY... 9
WILLIAM SCONCE... .. 4	EDWARD V. RODENHURST ... 10
RICHARD T. HOLDING... 5	SAMUEL JONES ... 11
HARRY F. HOLDING ... 6	JAMES H. HOLDING ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by R. SPERRING.

First peal of Grandsire Cinques by all the band, excepting the 5th ringer, and first peal of Cinques by most of the band.

TEN BELL PEAL.

SWINDON, WILTS.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt. 9 lb.

JAMES H. SHEPHERD Treble	CHARLES J. GARDINER ... 6
ERNEST BISHOP 2	H. W. L. WELLS... 7
JOHN AUSTIN... .. 3	WILLIAM C. WEST ... 8
SIDNEY WILTSHIRE ... 4	LOUIS A. WILSON ... 9
HERBERT W. BISHOP ... 5	W. A. BULLOCK ... Tenor

Composed by REV. C. D. P. DAVIES. Conducted by JOHN AUSTIN.

J. Austin hails from Gloucester, S. Wiltshire from Chippenham, W. C. West from Melksham, and L. A. Wilson from Wootton Bassett.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

CRICK, DERBYSHIRE.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 26, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FIVE-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt. in F sharp.

*GEOFFREY ASHMAN Treble	†WILLIAM E. DRAKE 5
WILFRED H. BIXTON 2	JOSEPH LORD 6
FRANK F. HILL 3	HERBERT G. FRETWELL ... 7
WILLIAM A. PARSONS 4	*EDGAR ASHMAN Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH LORD.

* First peal. † First peal on eight bells. First peal on the bells since recasting and augmentation. Ringers of treble, 5th and tenor are local service ringers.

BRENTWOOD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 28, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Thomas-the-Martyr,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

*JOHN PETERS Treble	FRANK RINGE 5
†ROBERT HEAZEL 2	ERNEST J. BUTLER 6
ALBERT RAINBIRD 3	ERNEST FORBANK 7
GEORGE R. PYE 4	ALBERT PRYKE Tenor

Conducted by G. R. PYE.

* First peal. † First peal away from treble.

OLD WINDSOR, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS & SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, January 30, 1929, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

WILLIAM H. FUSSELL ... Treble	HARRY WINGROVE 5
CECIL C. MAYNE 2	WILLIAM HENLEY 6
*FREDERICK W. GOODFELLOW 3	RICHARD BECKLAND 7
PHYLLIS M. MOSS 4	WILLIAM WELLING Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS.

Conducted by W. WELLING.

* First peal in the method and 50th peal. First peal in the method as conductor. Rung as a 'send-off' to Cecil C. Mayne, Master of the Branch, who is leaving the district for Bournemouth.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 31, 1929, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

At the Bell Foundry Campanile,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 6½ cwt.

HORACE F. STEEBS ... Treble	JOHN SADDINGTON 5
JAMES HUTCHBY 2	WILLIAM SMITH 6
*CLARENCE BOLLARD 3	*DAVID COLLINS 7
ERNEST CARTWRIGHT ... 4	EDWARD READER Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by E. READER.

* First peal in the method.

NORTHAMPTON.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHAMPTON BRANCH.)

On Thursday, January 31, 1929, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Sepulchre,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

W. JACK DOVE Treble	FRED HOPPER 5
*REGINALD FINCH 2	†JOHN BURSTON 6
†FRANK BURGESS 3	TOM TEBBUTT 7
ERNEST SIBLEY 4	ALFRED MONK Tenor

Conducted by TOM TEBBUTT.

* First peal. † First peal in the method, also on the bells, since being rebung by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the 6th and to Mr. John Hensman.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, February 1, 1929, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes.

At the Church of St. Paulinus,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. ... Treble	*THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 5
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 2	*CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 6
*RONALD H. BULLEN 3	EDWIN BARNETT, JUN. ... 7
HERBERT E. ADSLEY 4	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER.

Conducted by E. BARNETT, SEN.

* First peal of Double Oxford. This peal contains 70 Bobs and 50 Singles, the calling being arranged to cut out much of the long dodging when the tenors are on the front.

BRAMLEY, LEEDS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 15 lb.

J. W. T. HOLGATE ... Treble	†S. HELLIWELL 5
*W. WATERHOUSE 2	†F. JACKSON 6
†FRANK BLACKITH 3	†HARRY BLACKITH 7
†FRED BLACKITH 4	G. MOORHOUSE Tenor

Composed by H. V. HUBBARD. Conducted by J. W. T. HOLGATE.

* First peal away from the treble. † First peal. † First peal in the method. Rung in honour of the marriage of J. W. T. Holgate.

QUEENSBURY, BRADFORD.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Three Hours and One Minute,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*ROLAND KENDALL ... Treble	*HARRY WILDE 5
*ARTHUR SKELTON 2	CECIL DRAKE 6
CLIFFORD ELLISON 3	†WILLIAM AMELER 7
ALBERT PICKLES 4	HAROLD PEACE Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE.

Conducted by WILLIAM AMELER.

* First peal. † 50th peal.

BROWNEDGE, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

At the R.C. Church of St. Mary.

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

Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

JAMES MILLER Treble	WILLIAM SHARPLES 5
BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS ... 2	FRED HARWOOD 6
FRED RIGBY 3	JOHN T. MILLER 7
HARRY FRANCE 4	E. ROGER MARTIN Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS (156). Conducted by E. R. MARTIN.

First peal on the augmented ring, and rung half-muffled to the memory of Rev. Father Turner, O.S.B., late Rector, who died on February 6th, 1928. He commenced the scheme for the restoration of the clock and bells, but died whilst the work was in progress. The thanks of the band are due to Mr. J. Wilson for his kind hospitality after the peal.

RAWMARSH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT SOCIETY & BARNLEY & DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

FREDERICK C. WILSON ... Treble	ARTHUR PANTHER 5
WILLIAM GREEN 2	OLIVER GREATHEAD 6
MILTON FOWLER 3	ALBERT NASH 7
ARTHUR FIRTH 4	ARTHUR GILL Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by A. NASH.

First peal of Oxford by all except ringers of 3rd and 5th. Messrs. Fowler and Greathead were proposed and elected members of the Sheffield District Society previous to starting for the peal.

MARDEN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND ROMNEY MARSH AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

R. EDWARDS... .. Treble	P. PAGE... .. 5
F. WELLER... .. 2	K. PATTENDEN... .. 6
F. G. BRETT... .. 3	C. W. PLAYER... .. 7
E. G. BUESDEN... .. 4	A. BATTIN... .. Tenor

Conducted by E. G. BUESDEN.

First peal in the method on the bells.

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt. in F.

* WILLIAM C. RHODES... .. Treble	MORRIS J. MORRIS... .. 5
GEORGE F. SWANN... .. 2	FREDERICK W. RISHWORTH... .. 6
† FRED PRICE... .. 3	JOSEPH W. PEMBERTON... .. 7
GEORGE E. LARGE... .. 4	WILLIAM DAVIES... .. Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by JOSEPH W. PEMBERTON.

First peal of Major. † First peal of Treble Bob. Rung as a birthday compliment to the father of conductor.

LLANTRISANT, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Three Hours,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

HARRY PAGE... .. Treble	THOMAS PAGE... .. 5
GEORGE WINES... .. 2	WILLIAM PAGE... .. 6
FREDERICK LASBURY... .. 3	WILFRED WILLIAMS... .. 7
* ERNEST STITCH... .. 4	GEORGE POPPELL... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. WILLIAMS.

70th peal. First peal of Stedman on the bells. Arranged as a birthday compliment to Mrs. Page, Ton Pentre, mother of the treble, 5th and 6th ringers, on the occasion of her 74th birthday.

BEBINGTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WIRRAL BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 8 cwt. 3 qr. 15 lb. in A flat.

JAMES F. SMITH... .. Treble	LESTER L. GRAY... .. 5
* THOMAS ROGERS... .. 2	JOHN BREBSE... .. 6
G. RONALD EDWARDS... .. 3	† JOHN COOKE... .. 7
RALPH G. EDWARDS... .. 4	JAMES C. E. SIMPSON... .. Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by J. C. E. SIMPSON.

First peal of Major. † 50th peal. First peal in the method by all the band.

SOUTH ANSTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb. in G.

HERBERT TURNER... .. Treble	GORDON TURNER... .. 5
MISS KATHARINE BURCHNALL... .. 2	HARRY MORGAN... .. 6
MISS GRACE BURCHNALL... .. 3	EDWARD DALINGWATER... .. 7
HERBERT HAIGH... .. 4	C. ALAN HEWITT... .. Tenor

Composed by W. HARRISON. Conducted by HARRY MORGAN.

First peal of Major for treble and fifth ringers, who are father and son, and are local men. Rung on the 37th wedding anniversary of Mr. C. E. Fowler, conductor of the Anston ringers. A birthday peal for the ringer of the seventh.

LEYTON, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

CHARLES A. HUGHES... .. Treble	WILLIAM MILLER... .. 5
WILLIAM H. THEOBALD... .. 2	ERNEST J. BUTLER... .. 6
ALFRED PRIOR... .. 3	GEORGE DAWSON... .. 7
ERNEST W. FURBANK... .. 4	EDWARD D. SMITH... .. Tenor

Conducted by EDWARD D. SMITH.

First peal on the bells.

MILFORD-ON-SEA, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

GEORGE PRESTON... .. Treble	WILLIAM T. TUCKER... .. 5
D. CECIL WILLIAMS... .. 2	WILLIAM E. CHEATER... .. 6
* ALFRED T. GREENWOOD... .. 3	EDWIN J. HARDING, SEN... .. 7
FREDERICK W. ROGERS... .. 4	GEORGE WILLIAMS... .. Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

* First Surprise peal. First peal of Surprise on the bells.

SHOREHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 15 cwt.

EDWARD C. MERRITT... .. Treble	THOMAS BURTENSHAW, SEN... .. 5
FREDERICK CRIPPS... .. 2	JACK M. CRIPPS... .. 6
ROBERT H. NOAKES... .. 3	KEITH HART... .. 7
ALFRED W. GROVES... .. 4	GEOFFREY WEST... .. Tenor

Conducted by KEITH HART.

CHEADLE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(STOCKPORT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THOMAS JONES... .. Treble	CHARLES OLLIER... .. 5
* WILLIAM PEARCE... .. 2	ALFRED FROST... .. 6
JOHN HARTLEY... .. 3	WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT... .. 7
† ERNEST BENNETT... .. 4	* ARTHUR CARR... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. W. WOLSTENCROFT

* First peal. † First peal of Grandsire Triples.

PHILLACK, CORNWALL

THE TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. FELACK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. C. D. P. DAVIES' TEN-PART, No. 1. Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb.	
ARTHUR S. ROBERTS... .. Treble	WILLIAM H. SOUTHEARD... .. 5
JOHN SEDGLEY... .. 2	FREDERICK G. VILES... .. 6
JOHN WOOD... .. 3	WILLIAM H. SLEEMAN... .. 7
PHILIP J. HITCHENS... .. 4	W. JERVIS HODGE... .. Tenor

Conducted by A. S. ROBERTS.

Rung on the Feast of the Purification of B.V.M. First peal on the bells, a beautiful new ring by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. Also first peal on eight by a band all resident in Cornwall, for the Guild, as conductor; and on eight by the tenor ringer. The thanks of the band are due to the Vicar, the Rev. Anthony Wills, for providing tea at the Vicarage after the peal.

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DAVID MAXON, Rope Works, Grantham

NORTH WINGFIELD.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At the Church of St. Lawrence,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

J. P. TARLTON Treble	W. SWAIN 5
MISS O. TARLTON 2	E. MALLINDER 6
MISS D. TARLTON 3	BEN WHEELER 7
F. KNOWLES 4	B. WHEELER Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by J. P. TARLTON.

Rung in honour of the conductor's 67th birthday. First peal by Miss O. Tarlton, and first attempt. First peal of Major by the ringer of the 7th. Miss O. Tarlton was proposed a member of the association before starting for the peal.

SIX BELL PEALS.

IGHTHAM, KENT.

On Tuesday, October 9, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt.

* WILLIAM HOLLMAN Treble	* FREDERICK WOOLWAY 4
* JOSEPH HODGES 2	WALTER NEALE 5
* HERBERT WOOLLEY 3	* HENRY STANLEY Tenor

Conducted by WALTER NEALE.

* First peal. First peal on the bells by the local Sunday service ringers. This peal was rung to welcome home the Rev. Roland H. Streetfield, Rector of Ightham, from his convalescence.

EAST CROMPTON.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(ROCHDALE BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 26, 1929, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Merchant's Return, Woodbine, Sandal, Kingston, London Scholars' Pleasure, Oxford and Kent. Tenor 10 cwt.

C. THORPE Treble	J. R. BUCKLEY 4
C. HOWARTH 2	* H. BUTTERWORTH 5
R. H. BYROM 3	J. BUTTERWORTH Tenor

Conducted by J. BUTTERWORTH.

* First peal. Rung to celebrate the completion by Mr. G. Wilde of 50 years as a service ringer at the above church, during most of which period he has been the leader. It was also a birthday peal for the conductor, and a wedding anniversary peal for the 3rd ringer. All the above are service ringers at the above church.

LEYTONSTONE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 28, 1929, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London, Wells, Beverley, York, Durham, Cambridge and Ipswich. Tenor 15 cwt.

* ROBERT MOLTON Treble	ALFRED PRIOR 4
WILLIAM H. THEBALD 2	GEORGE DAWSON 5
WILLIAM MILLER 3	EDWARD D. SMITH Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE DAWSON.

* First peal of Treble Bob. First peal as conductor.

WOLLASTON.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, January 29, 1929, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

42 six-scores, ten callings

* SAMUEL THOMPSON Treble	JOHN BASS 4
HAROLD V. COOPER 2	* CHARLES W. COOPER 5
* SIDNEY THOMPSON 3	* PERCY RICHARDS Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD V. COOPER.

* First peal. + First peal of Doubles inside. † First peal of Doubles. Rung as a wedding and birthday compliment to Mr. W. Gibbs, a member of the local band.

BROMHAM, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 26, 1929, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,

At the Church of St. Owen,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 Woodbine and Kent, two of Oxford Treble Bob, one Oxford Bob and two Plain Bob. Tenor 23 cwt.

* FRANCIS BURNE Treble	HAROLD G. BEARD 4
FRANK TYSOE 2	ERNEST FREEMAN 5
HERBERT L. HARLOW 3	PEARL INSKIP Tenor

Conducted by PEARL INSKIP.

* First peal.

SLINFOLD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, January 27, 1929, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being four 720's of Kent and three 720's of Oxford, with different callings. Tenor 12½ cwt.

WALTER CHARMAN Treble	ALAN R. PINK 4
PETER CHARMAN 2	JOHN COOK 5
REGINALD JOHNSON 3	WILLIAM STANFORD Tenor

Conducted by W. STANFORD.

WORTH, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 30, 1929, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Woodbine, Cambridge Surprise, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Oxford Single Bob, Canterbury Pleasure and Plain Bob.

* GEORGE OLLIVER Treble	Cecil NICE 4
* KENNETH SNELLING 2	ALFRED J. BULL 5
* NELSON ELLIOTT 3	OLIVER SIPPETTS Tenor

Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

* First peal in seven methods. First peal on the bells, which have recently been recast and relung by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston.

MISTLEY, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 2, 1929, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Court, St. Clement's, and two 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOSEPH BOWELL Treble	GEORGE W. MOSS 4
* CHARLES A. ANDREWS 2	GEORGE A. ANDREWS 5
STANLEY G. MOSS 3	WALTER HONEYWOOD Tenor

Conducted by G. A. ANDREWS.

* First peal of Minor. An 18th birthday compliment to the ringer of the third. Ringers of 2nd and 5th are from Thorington, of treble from Great Bromley, the rest local.

HANDBELL PEAL.

MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 31, 1929, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

At 16, Lime Grove,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

FREDERICK PAGE 1-2	ALLEN F. BAILEY 5-6
HAROLD JACKSON 3-4	ALFRED BARNES 7-8
PETER LAFLIN 9-10	

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by ALLEN F. BAILEY

Rung on the 50th anniversary of the first peal of Mr. Jas. Shaw, a much respected member of the Lancashire Association and Chester Diocesan Guild.

ACCIDENT TO MR. JAMES GEORGE.

In the evening of December 1st last, when alighting from a train at Birmingham Station, Mr. George was pushed between the platform and train, injuring both legs badly.

He has now nearly recovered, and hopes shortly to renew his activities.

This note will explain his sudden silence to his many friends.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. LINCOLN DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Lincoln District took place at Branston on Saturday, January 26th. It was previously arranged that a district meeting should be held at Branston during the latter part of last year, but owing to a serious case of illness near to the church the event had to be postponed. Another date was chosen, and at the time when preparations were almost complete, the opening of the Cathedral bells was timed to take place on the same day, consequently the district meeting suffered a second postponement. In view of these circumstances, the holding of the district's annual meeting at Branston was, in a way, compensation to that tower. A fine day favoured the occasion, and the attendance, numbering about 50 ringers, was very gratifying. The towers represented were: Lincoln Cathedral, St. Peter-at-Arch, St. Peter-at-Gowts, and St. Botolph's, Bassingham, Blankney, Bardney, Metheringham, Washborough, and Branston, and there were also visiting ringers from the North Notts Association towers of Sutton-on-Trent, North Collingham, and Workson.

Touchees in various methods were rung during the afternoon, when the Guild's service was conducted by the Rev. R. Bond, of Lincoln. The lesson was read by the Rev. T. S. Pocock, of Bassingham, and the Rector of Branston (the Rev. J. J. R. Pells) gave an address, in the course of which he explained a number of the inscriptions appearing on the local bells. He mentioned that, according to tradition, the fifth bell, which was the oldest in the tower, was said to have been rung at the time the Spanish Armada was defeated. Next in age came the tenor, the third and the fourth, which are of the Elizabethan period and, lastly, the treble and second, which were installed about 30 years ago. The Rector went on to explain various points of interest in the church.

An innovation in the service was the assembly of a male voice choir, mainly composed of ringers of the Guild, and a very pleasing effect resulted.

Tea was then partaken of in the Rectory, and the caterers were the recipients of appreciation for the excellent tea provided for the small charge made. The day seemed brimful of innovations, for, while the visiting ringers were having tea, a number of the local ringers were giving a few of their musical items on the handbells.

A business meeting followed, and the Rev. R. Bond, who is president of the district, occupied the chair. He referred to a number of past year's events, and mentioned Lincoln Cathedral bells. He congratulated the Cathedral ringers upon the rapidity of their progress. Similarly, the Chairman referred to the achievement of the band that accomplished their peal of London Surprise Major after many unsuccessful attempts. With regard to the Lavenby peal of bells, the Chairman intimated that the bells had now gone to the bell foundry, and upon their return the district would benefit by the acquisition of another peal of six.

These remarks from the chairman constituted good news for the district, and they were received with applause.

All the officials were re-elected for another year, thus exemplifying the confidence the ringers have in the leaders. The officials are: Rev. R. Bond, president; Mr. H. Maroon, secretary; Mr. J. Waldon, Ringing Master and also district representative.

Four meetings were appointed to take place during the year at the following places: Nettleham, Bardney, Lavenby or Brant Broughton, and Caythorpe, and the corresponding meeting to Saturday's event will take place at Washborough next year.

Three new members were elected, and, coincidentally, they were all lady ringers, consequently their acceptance was received with applause. They were Mrs. C. McGuinness and Miss S. Norton, of Lincoln, and Mrs. East, of North Collingham. The latter was elected as a non-resident life member.

At the close of the business, handbell ringing was indulged in, and, after a few attempts, a course of Stedman Caters was accomplished.

The method of College Single was chosen for preferential study for the Nettleham meeting in April.

The bells were lowered about nine o'clock, bringing to a close a most successful meeting.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A very successful meeting of the Maidstone District was held at Ightham on Saturday, January 12th. During the afternoon and evening, touchees of Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise were rung. Members attended from most of the towers in the district, also from Ashford, Canterbury, Tonbridge and Rochester districts, 17 towers being represented. At the service the association form was used. Tea was partaken of at the Old Chequers, 40 members being present.

In the absence of the Vicar, Mr. W. Neale presided at the business meeting, when 24 new members were elected, including the bands of Ightham and Snodland.

It was decided to hold a bye-meeting at Bearsted on February 23rd.

A collection on behalf of Mrs. Bates was taken, and amounted to £1 4s.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar brought the meeting to a close.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. SUCCESS OF COMBINED PRACTICES.

The annual meeting of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild was held at Leatherhead on Saturday, when 32 members attended. The district towers represented were Banstead, Leatherhead, St. Martin's, Epsom, Newdigate, Ashted, Cobham, Dorking and Ewell, and there were visitors from Guildford (Cathedral and St. Nicolas'), Walton, Thames Ditton, Beddington and London. The ringing during the afternoon and evening included rounds for some who had not previously rung on ten, and methods ranging from Grandsire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Royal.

The business meeting was held after tea at the Institute, Mr. Albert Harman, District Ringing Master, presiding, in the absence of the Rector, who was unable to remain for this part of the proceedings.

The Ringing Master reported that the ringing had been very successful. Twelve peals had been rung in the district, including two of Treble Ten, one of London Surprise, four of Double Norwich, one each of Kent Treble Bob Major, Oxford Treble Bob Major, Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and Oxford Treble Bob Minor. This last was the first peal by the Guild, and was rung at Capel. The combined practices had been successful, the most notable feature of which had been that those who attended had advanced both in the standard of ringing and the methods rung. He hoped they would continue to work together for the advancement of ringing in the district.

Mr. A. H. Winch, who was responsible for organising the combined practices, reported that 33 of these practices had been held, and there had been a good average attendance. The main object of these practices should not be overlooked—that of giving the local band visited the advantage of practising with more advanced ringers, and he hoped the members would do all they could to continue to make these meetings successful, and especially to attend at those towers where there was not at present a full band.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. G. Woodiss) said the district had had a very successful first year, and they hoped to do still better in the coming year. In looking down the list of towers, however, they would see that a number had not got a full band, and they must do their best to make these bands up as quickly as possible. He particularly thanked Mr. Harman (the Ringing Master), Mr. Winch and Mr. A. Dean, of the Leatherhead tower, for all the assistance they had given him. The future looked rosy, and they looked forward hopefully to extending their influence and making up the Sunday service bands at all their towers.

The number of members in the district was 65 ringing and three honorary members.

The balance sheet, which showed a small balance in hand, was adopted, and the general secretary (Mr. J. S. Goldsmith) congratulated the district upon the work accomplished, and the lead it had given to the other districts, particularly in the matter of combined practices.

No new nominations having been received, the retiring officers were re-elected.

The meeting unanimously accepted the invitation to hold a joint meeting with the Surrey Association at Ewell on May 11th, and decided upon the following places for district meetings during the year: Christ Church, Epsom; Newdigate, Dorking; St. Martin's, Epsom; Ashted, and the annual meeting at Leatherhead.

A discussion took place on the rule requiring a fortnight's notice of nomination for office, and it was stated that this would be reviewed at the next annual meeting.

Mr. A. H. Pulling brought forward the question of what should be recognised as a peal of Minor or Doubles, and asked the members to study the question, which was an important one to the Exercise.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells, Mr. A. Dean and members of the Leatherhead tower for the arrangements made, and to the officers for their services during the past year.

FARNHAM DISTRICT'S SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

The first annual meeting of the Farnham District was held at Aldershot on January 26th and was attended by a muster of 45 members and visitors from Ash, Aldershot, Bagshot, Farnham, Frimham, Seale, Brixton, Chertsey, Finchampstead, Guildford (Cathedral), Ottershaw and Woking. Among the visitors were Miss H. E. Mills, hon. secretary of the Southern District of the Ladies' Guild, now well on the way to recovery to health after her serious accident, Admiral T. P. Walker, hon. treasurer of the Guild, who is recovering from a protracted illness, Mr. A. H. Pulling, who took light exercise on the treble of Aldershot's light ring of eight (tenor 8 cwt.), and Mr. W. J. Paice, hon. secretary and treasurer of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

Canon Girling, Rector of Farnham, conducted the Guild's service, and a splendid tea was afterwards partaken of in the Parish Hall.

After tea, the business meeting was presided over by Canon Girling, after he had been proposed by Admiral Walker and seconded by Mr. R. Hasted as an honorary member.

The year's work was reviewed. First, the Ringing Master (Mr. Hasted) reported that three peals had been rung and three lost.

The Secretary reported that they had passed a rather quiet year. They had opened the year with 14 honorary members and 86 ringing

members, and closed with 16 honorary and 104 ringing members respectively from a district of only 11 towers, only one of which was not in union with the Guild. Most towers were affiliated under the Guild's scheme. The year closed with a really handsome balance in hand. The Secretary also said that during the year he had given help to the Ash band, and now they were able to ring Bob Minor for Sunday service, while some of the band could also ring Kent Treble Bob. He also reported that Frensham, after about six weeks' tuition, were able to ring Grandsire Double for service. Until last November this was a 'stone' tower. There still remained Crondall, Bentley and Hawley to convert.

After the secretary's report, the district warmly thanked him for his first year's work, which, by his report, showed he had accomplished a great deal.

Mr. A. H. Pulling, as a visitor, congratulated the district and the officers, and said that this was the best report he had heard, and that he thought the secretary had done really well by breaking new ground so successfully. He hoped the district would be proud of him.

For the post of Ringing Master, Mr. R. Hasted was re-elected, as his was the only name nominated.

Although the secretary was nominated again to fill that office, he said that he wished to retire and let someone else carry on, but after some discussion he agreed to continue in office.

No other nominations had been received for district representatives other than those in office, and they were re-elected except Major-General Deane, who had left the country.

Mr. T. F. Neighbour, of Seale, was elected, subject to his being willing to stand.

The following list of fixtures was proposed and approved: March, Crondall; May, Bagshot; July, Farnborough; August, Hawley; November, Seale. The Hawley meeting is to be a combined meeting with the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

The Secretary said that he hoped the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild would join in with them in this meeting and arrange for the use of the Yateley bells for the afternoon and evening. He had written to the hon. secretary of the Basingstoke District of that Guild (Rev. D. Board), asking him to put it before his district, who were also holding their meeting that day.

Mr. W. J. Paice said he would like to see this joint meeting an annual affair, and that his Guild would support it wholeheartedly.

Nine new members were elected, viz., two from Seale, four from Frensham, and three from Aldershot. Two new honorary members from Farnham were also elected.

(Continued in next column.)

THE WIRELESS EFFECT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the various letters on this subject, and think the letter of Mr. A. P. Smith gives the key to the solution. He says that while 'St. Philip's (Birmingham)' are really a miserable ring of ten, they come over the ether very well. Now my humble opinion is that twelve bells are too much for broadcasting, especially the modern rings with so many tones and notes, and the rapid striking that is necessary to ring Cinques does not give the microphone a chance, and so the 'nasal twang' is produced.

If we could hear the back 8 or even 10 at York or St. Martin's, I think there would be some different opinions formed.—Yours truly,

GEO. F. SWANN.

JUDGED BY PERSONAL SATISFACTION.

Dear Sir,—May I trespass upon your valuable space in acknowledgment of an article I have read by 'Irenæus Pistor' regarding the crude criticism of Birmingham bells, which were broadcast? I would like to draw the above-named gentleman's attention to the fact, first, that the set did not belong to the 'Limited Company, and, secondly, it is not a set which one would class cheap, as the average working man would have to fast a lengthy period and save all his earnings in the endeavour of buy the 'cheap set.' Bells, like voices and other musical instruments, are judged by personal satisfaction, and naturally criticised accordingly, allowing everyone freedom of choice.—Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH E. DARBY.

EXPERIMENTS.

Further experiments with the position of the microphone are to be made at St. Martin's Parish Church, Birmingham, before the next broadcast of the bells takes place from that church. A peal attempt next Tuesday will give the B.B.C. their opportunity.

(Continued from previous column.)

The ladies who carried out the catering were warmly praised by Mr. Stroud for the splendid way they had provided for the wants of the visitors, and they were accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.

At the conclusion, thanks were accorded to the Vicar of Aldershot (Rev. H. Le Fleming) for the use of the bells, the curate (Rev. I. Smith) for attending to conduct the service, and Mr. T. A. Stroud (who is both organist and ringer at Frensham) for his services at the organ.

This may well be called a ringers' meeting, as all who took part in it were ringers, from Canon Girding, who conducted the service, to the ladies who catered, and even the 'blower' of the organ.

Ringling took place both during the afternoon and evening.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

■■■■■

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The old peal of six at St. Olave's, Hart Street, City (Samuel Pepys' Church) are to undergo restoration, and it is hoped to add two trebles. The six were cast at the Whitechapel Foundry, four years before the Great Fire, and they are to be restored by the same foundry (Messrs. Mears and Stainbank).

The Bishop of Guildford will dedicate the two new trebles at Woking Parish Church, converting the present six into a ring of eight, on Saturday, May 11th. The bells are being provided through the energies of Admiral T. P. Walker, D.S.O., who is one of the local service ringers, and are being cast at the Whitechapel Foundry.

We would remind intending visitors to the Johnson Commemorative Dinner on Saturday, March 2nd, that all applications for tickets should be made to Mr. Thomas H. Reeves, 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, the newly-appointed hon. secretary.

Thirty years ago to-day the first peal of Forward Major was rung. It was composed and conducted by Mr. John Carter, and was rung at Deritend.

The first peal of Superlative in the 'Metropolis' was rung by the St. James' Society at Bethnal Green on February 9th, 1850.

On February 11th, 1810, the spire of St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool, fell with disastrous results, a number of worshippers, including several children, being killed.

A peal of 14,016 Kent Treble Bob was rung at Oldham in 7 hrs. 26 mins. on February 12th, 1821.

One of the early long peals of Grandsire Cinques was rung at Cornhill on February 14th, 1731. The length was 7,018.

The longest peal on twelve bells, 13,001 Grandsire Cinques, was rung at Painswick on February 14th, 1920.

LIGHTING THE BELFRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Please allow me to thank those who have replied to my request for advice, both those who have written to you and to the many who have written to me direct.

There is one point which puzzles me. Everyone has said that it is necessary to have the lights on the stairs fixed on three wires, so that they can be turned off either at top or bottom, but no one has said why. It seems to me to be merely a 'stunt,' the advantages of which are outweighed by the disadvantages.

What is required is a light which cannot be turned off by anyone outside the ringing chamber. This is easily arranged here, as we ring on the ground floor, and the main switch is on the floor above (the clock chamber). The stair lights should be small, and each connected to the chamber to which that flight of stairs leads. They will thus be a sign that that particular chamber is in use, and whoever is occupying it will not inadvertently be locked up from below.

I agree that a central light over the bells, within reach of anyone standing on the bell-frame, is best. But in our case it would be very difficult to get at the centre of the roof (just under the leads) to fix it, and equally difficult and costly to get there for repairs. Is the only alternative a bracket lamp over the door?

HERBERT DRAKE.

THE J. LOWE APPEAL.

The following sums have been received on behalf of the appeal for Mr. J. Lowe, made by the Lancashire Association:—

	£	s.	d.
Manchester Branch	8	1	0
Rochdale	2	6	0
Rossendale	10	6	
Liverpool	1	3	0
Blackburn	3	16	0
Preston	12	0	
Pylde	1	14	0
Bolton	3	15	0
Furness and Lake District	4	14	6
Rev. Canon Elsee	1	0	0
Mr. R. Newton, U.S.A.	10	0	
Mr. J. Goodhead	10	0	
Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Deal	5	0	
Miss A. Brierley	1	0	
Mr. and Mrs. W. Wolstencroft	5	0	
Mr. A. Barnes and Friend	3	6	
Mr. E. Jennings, Kendal	5	0	
Mr. G. Lindoff, Dublin	5	0	
Mr. A. E. Wreaks, Paisley	5	0	
Mr. W. Idle, Dewsbury	2	0	
A. and H. Lees	2	6	
Friends at Glossop (per Mr. J. Buckley)	7	0	
Mr. R. Best	4	0	
Friends at Glodwich (per Mr. W. Wolstencroft)	5	0	

Total ... £31 2 0

Any friends willing to subscribe to the above should send their contributions to Mr. J. Hall, 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting, Manchester.

PEALS OF MINOR AND DOUBLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—There can be no reasonable doubt that the intention of the Council at Hereford was to widen the rule for five and six bell methods to meet the situation caused by Mr. Bankes James' arrangement of Cambridge, and at the same time provide a barrier against merely freak peals. The intention of the people who were originally responsible for the resolution was to open the door just wide enough to let in Mr. James' Cambridge (and exactly similar compositions), but to bar it tightly against anything further. You, sir, will correct me if I am wrong here. But the intention of many people, who both spoke and voted in favour, was certainly wider than that. Mr. Law James seconded the resolution, and, if I remember rightly, he assured us that its scope was wider. The Council can hardly have had the intention of disallowing his arrangement of London because it had not then been put together. It was, in fact, composed and published as an example of what the resolution did allow.

After the meeting there was quite a lot of discussion and disagreement as to what actually the resolution did mean, and I think it is certain that, though the whole Council was agreed on the main principles, the details—the point at which the line was definitely drawn—were anything but agreed to.

Now let us turn to the resolution itself. And first it must be pointed out that it must be read according to the ordinary grammatical meaning of the words, and in view of the generally accepted custom and tradition of the Exercise. The intentions of its authors or of the people who voted for it are not to the point. It lays down that a peal of Minor shall 'consist of at least seven true and complete 720's.' That is quite plain. Now, Mr. Bankes James' Cambridge does not consist of seven true and complete 720's. Even if you count starting rounds and so reckon 720 true rows, the 720 is not complete. For a 720 is something more than 720 rows. It consists of so much hunting, dodging and place making, so many bobs and singles, and without these it cannot be complete. For instance, could you say that you had rung a complete 720 if the final bob or plain lead was not made? In the tower it is the work which matters above everything else, and if that is not complete the 720 is not complete.

Therefore, the resolution, if read according to the natural meaning of the words and in light of the custom and tradition of the Exercise, does not allow Mr. James' arrangement of Cambridge. And that is why I say that it does not express the intentions of the Council or of its authors.

Mr. Bankes James' composition is not made up of 720's. It consists of one true 720 and two blocks of 2,160. Each of these is made up of three incomplete 719's, no one of which can be brought round, and the three are joined together by one Q set. If you will turn to any 720 of Bob Minor (single, half-way and end), where the half-way is 43256, you will find an exactly similar composition. There the incomplete 719's are joined by Singles, and you will find the same construction in many old peals—Reeves' 13,440, for instance. The only difference is that Mr. James has used each of his 720 rows three times, and seeing that in a 5,040 each row must be repeated, he was thoroughly justified in doing so. If you want to see what the composition really is, apply the accepted rules of variation. You will speedily see that any idea that it can be considered to be in separate 720's, goes by the board at once.

The fact is that Mr. James has made a new departure in Minor composition. It is all in accordance with the natural development which is always going on in ringing. We should, I think, try and see what it involves and what good we can get out of it, rather than try and force it by an unnatural use of words into the old ideas. One thing I must say, and that is that it recognises to the full the principles of truth and completeness on which you and others rightly set such store. And so, too, does Mr. Morris' arrangement of Doubles.

And now let me ask you some plain questions. Are we, in preparing this new book, to abide by the resolution passed at Hereford and exclude Mr. James' Cambridge? Or are we to read it liberally and twist its plain words so as to admit it? And if we may so read it, why cannot we also admit Mr. Law James' London? Or must we wait until the Council has cleared up the mess? A leading ringer said to me, when we were in the middle of that other dispute about the names, 'Why don't you go ahead and use your own judgment and chance the result?' I said that I preferred the thing to be done legally if possible, and he only laughed. Would you like us to take his advice in this instance? I am not at all sure that it was not good advice, but 'even the Methods Committee' has some regard for the opinions and wishes of others.

I fully recognise Mr. Severn's abilities as a six-bell ringer and his right to speak on this matter, but I think he will find his answer in the fact that other six-bell ringers are increasingly using Mr. James' arrangement, and that shows that it does meet a need.

Mr. Willson is more funny (unintentionally) than convincing. He lectures me for presuming to say that we must assuredly admit Mr. James' arrangement (that being the opinion of the Central Council and probably the majority of the Exercise), and a few lines later he

forgets his lecture and announces pontifically that we must not admit it.—Yours truly,

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

[As Mr. Trollope asks us a plain question, we would give a plain answer, and say that, if the Hereford resolution excludes Mr. Bankes James' arrangement of Cambridge, then the committee should not include it in their new publication.—Ed. 'R.W.']

ORTHODOX OR UNORTHODOX.

Dear Sir,—It has always been declared, all through the history of change ringing, to

'Ring out the false,
Ring in the true,'

and rightly so. It is the bed rock, the very foundation of change ringing, and a beautiful ideal.

It may, perhaps, be true that circumstances and conditions are different to-day, as compared with those prevailing at the time of the commencement of our art. But the word true has the same, identical, unchanged meaning to-day.

In the course of our ordinary, usual ringing, when a change 'comes up' a second time, a change that has already been rung, the ringing ceases, as this repeating is not true. No ringer, participating in a peal, on hearing rounds 'come up,' will continue ringing, because something has happened which causes the changes to be untrue, and the untrue will not be countenanced.

Perhaps the proper word to use to describe the controversial peals of Doubles and Minor is 'unorthodox,' because these compositions are unusual, away from, out of, the ordinary.

The rounds rung at the 'pulling off' of the bells is not part of the peal composition, but the rounds at the conclusion is the last change. This final change, rounds, completes the peal. That is the orthodox. Therefore it is for the Central Council to say whether it will recognise orthodox and unorthodox, or only orthodox compositions, or draw a line and recognise certain unorthodox compositions, but refuse others.

I cannot see how the Central Council can refuse others, and if unorthodox compositions are accepted, it must tend to make our ringing unorthodox, unusual, out of the ordinary—yes, untrue.

But whatever rule is passed, it must be properly worded, and in the most detailed wording, with no possible loopholes for a carriage and four or chariots and horses.

Of course, if the Central Council does decide to fail to recognise unorthodox compositions, it does not necessarily follow that they will not be rung again, for the Central Council cannot forbid.

Mr. Trollope, in paragraph 2 of his letter, on page 59, says, 'It cannot be ruled out,' and in the last paragraph: 'If we can allow as we assuredly must allow.' Why 'must allow'? There is no must about it. If the Central Council chooses, it can rule it out.

How about an enterprising conductor, out for a fresh record, addressing the band about to start for a peal, in some such style as this: 'Now, my lads, when I call "Go," don't go off in the usual way, but ring so and so (say 46157836), which is the 2,753rd change of the composition, but don't get hurried when rounds "come up," but ring on to the 2,752nd change, and I will call "That's all." Rounds will "come up" in the middle.'

Would such a performance be countenanced as a peal?

It is not enough to say, 'Oh, rats,' or something like that, which does not answer the question. Shall we call it a peal?

It behoves us all, as true change ringers, to see to it that nothing is done to damage this foundation of our art, but ever continue to

Ring out the false,
Ring in the true.

Referring to the word 'change,' has it not been given out by Mr. Trollope in articles in 'The Ringing World' that a change is not a row, but that which takes place between the rows?

In my humble opinion, an excellent point of view is expressed in the latter part of paragraph 4 of Mr. Trollope's article on page 59, which tends to show that the suit (the row) is the change, and the change is not between the two suits (the two rows), which is merely the act of changing.—Yours sincerely,

F. W. RICHARDSON.

'NOT LEGAL TENDER.'

Sir,—As was to be expected from previous letters on the so-called extents of Doubles and Minor, I think our 'versatile journalist' of the Exercise. Mr. Willson, has very briefly and accurately described what these freak compositions really amount to, viz., clever, but 'not legal tender,' which I take it means 'counterfeit.'

This, surely, is sufficient to warrant these compositions be excluded from any performance as a peal record.—Yours, etc.,

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

ADHERE TO 'TRUTH.'

Sir,—Mr. Trollope's letter in your issue of January 25th is, from the point of view of the Exercise, a damaging one for the Central Council's reputation, to admit that six out of seven 720's are not true to the Council's ruling, and in the same sentence say we must admit it. Why must? You, Sir, in your leading article this week, say 'it is acceptable to the Exercise.' Admittedly that is so, but the Council's duty in regard to this matter is not to judge whether

it is good or popular, but to adhere to truth in these matters, and once the Council gives way on that point to eminent composers or to popularity, the Exercise will lose its confidence in that body.

The next meeting of the Council will be an important one, as they will then have to decide whether they will maintain the standard of peals. May I suggest to Mr. Trollope, if he is thinking of sending in a resolution concerning this Minor question, to publish it your paper early enough, so that our 'solicitor' members can study it, in case they may be able to discover some hidden meaning which we ordinary ringers cannot see on the face of it.—Yours, etc.,

A. H. PULLING.

A FINE PIECE OF WORK.

Sir,—I never intended to join in the controversy re above, yet this week's 'R.W.' compels me. May I apologise for butting in. Mr. Severn says, 'Where is the value?' There is none, from my point of view, except to the conductor. I find in ringing peals of Minor the different bands I have met care not for the different 700's, but what a look should a 6-5 turn up! Recently we rang a peal of Surprise, and previous to the peal I warned the band to be prepared for a real surprise. This is the retort I got, 'Call the boys where you like, bring five-six up right way, and we will ring the method.' With Mr. Willson's remark, 'not legal tender,' I agree, but all the same it is a fine piece of work of the Rev. E. B. James. If ever I call this peal I shall, however, call the W.R.W. first. This, I contend, would be the true 720 first, the other six would naturally finish as the composer's first six. Ringing is an art by itself. Let us keep it from the 'nasal twang' of notes in Court. I have rung seven complete, different 720's, with 5-6 the right way. I should say Mr. J. W. Parker knows how. Yet I wonder if this would be accepted from my pen?—Yours truly,

F. WARRINGTON.

Long Stanton.

'SCRAP THE LOT.'

Dear Sir,—I quite agree with your views regarding the Minor and Doubles. If E. B. James' Cambridge means the inclusion of H. L. James' London and the Doubles, I say, scrap the lot.—Yours faithfully,

W. H. BARBER.

Newcastle.

(Other letters are unavoidably held over.)

THE MINOR METHODS COLLECTION

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is proposed to give in the new book a large selection of five-bell methods, including some that (if judged by the standards of Minor and Major methods), would hardly be called regular. We are doing this, because the scope of five-bell ringing is so very limited. I should be glad if anybody who has the figures of any old method will send them to me with its old name. It is the names I am anxious to get.—Yours truly,

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

52, Ladbroke Park Road, W.5.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

RINGERS FROM TWELVE YEARS OLD TO EIGHTY.

The annual meeting of the Presteigne District Branch of the Hereford Diocesan Guild, was held at Staunton-on-Arrow. After ringing and a service, conducted by the Vicar (Prob. S. Cornish Watkins, M.A.), tea was served in the Church Room, kindly provided by the Vicar and Mrs. Watkins. Twenty-three members were present, representing seven towers out of eight in the district. The business meeting followed, the Vicar presiding.

The Secretary reported that combined practices had been held at Eardisland and Pembridge since the last meeting. In the past year seven combined practices had been held, with an average attendance of eight members, and three meetings with an average of twenty-five members. Three peals had been rung, and nine members had qualified for certificates. One tower had dropped out, and one rejoined.

The District Ringing Master (Mr. W. Evans, Lyonsall) and the district secretary (Mr. J. Preece, Staunton-on-Arrow) were re-elected.

Two new members from Kington and six from Dilwyn were elected for 1929.

It was decided to hold a combined practice at Kington in February, and the next quarterly meeting at Dilwyn in April.

The district includes ringing members whose ages range from twelve to eighty. The Vicar of Kington (Rev. H. Greene) proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and Mrs. Watkins for their kindness, also to Mr. Evans, a young ringer of Eardisland, who ably presided at the organ.

The tower was again visited, and, other ringers having arrived, ringing was kept up until nine o'clock in the following methods. Grandshire, Canterbury Pleasure and Bob Doubles and Bob Minor.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the North and East District took place at Edmonton on Saturday last, and, in spite of the unkind elements, a large number of members attended. Ringing began almost punctually at 3 p.m., continuing until 5 p.m., when divine service was held. The Vicar (Rev. R. C. Evill) in his address gave the association a cordial welcome, and reminded the members of their services to God, which were most important services. He made sympathetic reference to the passing of George Paice, an old and valued member of the association and a ringer at Edmonton for some 25 years.

Tea was afterwards served in the Institute, a company of 50 sitting down to an excellent meal. The Vicar presided, being supported by Mr. E. A. Crusha (organist), Mr. J. Parker, the district officers, etc. It was a great pleasure to have amongst the company Mr. W. A. Cave (Bristol) and Mr. W. Lawrence (district hon. secretary, Herts Association).

At the business meeting the chair was taken by Mr. W. Pickworth. Reference was made to the absence, through illness, of the president, and the secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Milne conveying the sympathy of the members. A vote of sympathy was also accorded Mr. W. Dell, of Hadley, who is seriously ill.

A last tribute of respect was paid to the late Mr. G. Paice by the members standing in silence for a few moments.

The balance sheet, showing a credit balance of £22 17s. 7d., and assets to the value of £96 11s. 3d., was adopted, subject to audit, on the proposition of Mr. W. H. Oram, seconded by Mr. H. J. Eldred.—Twelve new members were admitted.

The whole of the district officers were re-elected, as also were the auditors and members of the Central Committee.—The next district meeting was fixed for Stamford Hill (St. Ann's) on March 16th, and Southgate was chosen for next year's annual meeting.

A discussion took place on the Spliced Minor and Doubles controversy.

Heartly votes of thanks were accorded to the Rev. R. C. Evill for his address at the service and for the use of the bells; to Mr. E. A. Crusha, the organist; and to the local ringers, mentioning Mr. W. Bowden, for arrangements made.—The Vicar briefly acknowledged the thanks of the members, once again expressing his pleasure at the visit of the association. Mr. J. Parker, on behalf of the Edmonton band, also welcomed the members, and hoped the meeting had been enjoyed by all.

A well-struck course of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells by Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, Messrs. G. W. Fletcher, G. H. Cross, G. R. Pye, W. Pye and J. Thomas. A course of Cambridge Surprise Major was also rung, Mr. C. W. Roberts taking part. The tower was again visited, and ringing continued until 9 p.m. Most of the standard methods were rung, including four Surprise methods, which were rung separately and spliced together. An encouraging feature was the progress made by several of the younger members of the association, which it is to be hoped will continue.

PEAL BOARD UNVEILED.

A practice meeting was held at Willesden on Tuesday, January 29th. A good attendance crowded the small belfry, and it was found difficult to slow away those not for the moment taking part in the ringing. During the evening the Rev. A. E. Smith visited the belfry for the purpose of unveiling a peal board recording the first peal of Spliced Surprise Major rung in the county. The Vicar expressed his deep appreciation of the honour done to Willesden by the ringing of such a peal, and congratulated the band on being successful. He was especially glad at the share taken in ringing the peal by members of his own band. The Vicar asked Mr. H. Kilby to unveil the board, which was done, revealing an excellently written record, done in gold lettering on a black background, of the peal.

Mr. C. T. Coles, in thanking the Vicar for his attendance, urged upon ringers present the necessity of perseverance. Only by this could they succeed, whether in easy methods, or in the kind of ringing which was recorded on the board just unveiled. Mr. Coles also expressed grateful thanks to Mr. Harry Kilby for presenting the board, and to Mr. J. Botham, a youthful member of the Willesden band, for so well writing the same.

A short touch of 224 changes in four Surprise methods was then rung by Messrs. E. Lankester, J. A. Trollope, G. M. Kilby, G. R. Pye, C. T. Coles, J. Bennett, H. Kilby, W. Pye (conductor), in the same order as they stood when the peal was rung.

Mr. W. Pickworth and Mr. N. A. Tomlinson ably looked after the ringing and saw that methods were rung to suit all present. Altogether a very pleasant and successful meeting.

MUFFLED BELLS.

On Thursday, January 10th, at St. Marie's Church, Sheffield, members of the district companies met and rang various touches of Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Grandshire and Stedman Triples, with the bells muffled, as a tribute of respect for the late Mrs. Dixon (wife of Mr. G. O. Dixon, a member of St. Marie's company), who was interred on that day. Mrs. Dixon died on Sunday, January 6th. Of a quiet and retiring disposition, she had, unfortunately, been a great sufferer for several years, having undergone severe operations. She leaves, in addition to her husband, a family of grown-up sons and daughters to mourn her demise.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**MR. C. H. JENNINGS RETURNS TO OFFICE IN DORCHESTER BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Dorchester Branch was held at Dorchester on Saturday week, and there was a fine attendance of members, representing Abbotsbury, Bradford-Feversell, Bere Regis, Charminster, Dorchester, Fordington, Wood, Wyke Regis, while welcomed visitors outside the branch were the Rev. C. A. Phillips (hon. secretary, East Dorset Branch), Messrs. A. V. Davis (Bournemouth), G. Preston (Christchurch), J. Davis and E. Townsend (Poole), W. Ingham (Parkstone), W. Cheater (Ringwood), and W. Bastable (Swanage).

The bells of Fordington and Dorchester were available during the afternoon and evening. Service in St. Peter's Church was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. Dr. G. C. Niven), the Rev. C. A. Phillips read the lesson, and the Rev. J. Wynn-Wernick (Vicar of Sydling) gave an inspiring address. The service was fully choral, and was led by the choir.

Subsequently, tea was served in St. Peter's Institute, and at the business meeting which followed, the chair was taken by Mr. R. N. Dawes (chairman), supported by the Revs. Dr. G. C. Niven and C. A. Phillips, Messrs. J. T. Godwin (churchwarden), J. Benger (hon. secretary), and J. W. Smith (assistant hon. secretary), with members and friends to the number of 70.

The chairman welcomed them all, and especially their visitors, and he gave a hearty welcome to their old friend, the Rev. C. A. Phillips. He proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Niven for all he had done, to the choir and organist, to the ladies for waiting at the tables, and to all who had assisted in any way.—Dr. Niven, replying, said how much he welcomed them to St. Peter's. He thought at times the ringers were too much ignored, and he wished some people could be there that day to see what they had done and were capable of (applause). A letter of apology was received from the Master of the Guild (the Rev. R. H. Gundry), who had had such a serious illness that the doctor and specialist almost gave up hope of his recovery. In his letter he said: 'The King and I have been running level all along, and now we are both on the mend but fearfully weak.' The Rev. F. L. Edwards (general secretary) also wrote. He said he had heard of the impending resignation of the hon. secretary, and they were greatly indebted to him for the businesslike way he had carried out his duties. The Rev. C. D. Job, Vicar, and Messrs. W. Williams (West Lulworth), Hewlett (Puddletown), Hunt (Buckland Newton), A. H. Drew (Brighton), the latter an old member of the branch, also sent apologies.

The Secretary, in his report, said three meetings had been held, and a great feature of the year was that 27 new members had been elected.

The balance sheet showed a balance in hand (including savings certificates) of £10 14s. 3d., which was considered very satisfactory.

Mr. R. N. Dawes was re-elected chairman of the branch, amid applause. In returning thanks, he said how gratifying it was to see so many young men come forward to take up ringing. He hoped this would continue. The Chairman stated Mr. Benger had written to him, sending in his resignation. Mr. Benger said he had increased work, and he did not think he was able to carry on, as it was very difficult for him to get away on Saturdays.—His resignation was received with regret.

At this juncture the chairman sprang a pleasant surprise on Mr. Benger by presenting him with a fountain pen, and asked him to accept it with their best wishes, as a slight recognition of the able manner in which he had carried out his duties. He hoped that every time he used it he would think of the happy occasions he had had with the branch (applause).—Mr. Benger was cordially received and thanked the chairman and members most sincerely. He said he would certainly do as the chairman had stated.

The Chairman said, on receiving Mr. Benger's resignation, they had to look round for another secretary, and they thought there was no one more energetic and suitable than their old secretary, Mr. C. H. Jennings, who had returned to his home (applause). He had great pleasure in proposing him for his old post, which he carried out from the formation of the branch until he went away.—Mr. Benger endorsed the chairman's remarks and seconded the proposition. No other nominations coming forward, the chairman put it to the meeting, and it was carried with applause.

Mr. Jennings thanked them all for the confidence they placed in him. It was true, as the chairman had said, that he was their first secretary on the formation of the branch, and carried it on for 13 years. He strongly appealed to the members for their support. He said it did not matter how energetic a secretary was, he could not make it a great success unless he had the co-operation of them all, and he appealed to them to do their very best.

Mr. G. T. White (Dorchester) was re-elected Ringing Master, and Mr. H. A. Runyard (Wool) was elected Deputy Ringing Master.

Messrs. K. Spier and J. Wescott (Charminster), A. Lovell and S. Symes (Sydling), and J. Gillingham (Frampton) were elected members.

The place of next meeting, Wyke Regis, was proposed, but Mr. A. Rose (captain) pointed out that July was much better for them, and it was agreed to hold the second quarterly meeting there, and the first quarterly gathering was left in the hands of the secretary to arrange.

Mr. Benger said how he would like to thank his assistant secretary, Mr. J. W. Smith, who had greatly helped him in the work of the branch.

The Rev. C. A. Phillips said he brought good wishes from East Dorset, and congratulated them on having Mr. Jennings as their hon. secretary again. He wished to thank him for the way he had assisted the East Dorset branch in their monthly practice in the higher methods, he not having missed one during the year. He also thanked Mr. C. Benger, who had also given them valuable help. He wished the branch all prosperity for 1929.

This concluded the business, and the two towers were again visited. Thanks to the help of the visitors, some fine touches were brought round, including Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Little Bob and Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major.

DEVIZES BRANCH.

The monthly meeting of the above was held at the beautiful church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, Potterne, on Saturday, February 2nd (Feast of the Purification).

Ringing commenced about 3 p.m., and continued till 4.30 p.m., when the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Kewley, R.D., unveiled and dedicated a beautiful peal board, designed and made by Mr. George Wells, the cost of the lettering (which is done in gold leaf) being borne by Mr. C. S. Burden, a native of Potterne, and a respected member of St. Paul's Cathedral ringers and the College Youths. The board records a peal of Grandsire Doubles (5,040 changes) rung there by Potterne ringers on Thursday, October 2nd, 1924: Thomas Raddon treble, George Wells 2, Sidney Hillier 3, Charles S. Burden 4, Cecil Raddon 5, William Mead and Leonard Swift tenor. Conducted by S. Hillier.

After the dedication, at the request of Canon Kewley, those present stood in silence in memory of Thomas Raddon and William Mead, who have passed away since the peal was rung.

The Guild service followed in the church, conducted by Canon Kewley, Mrs. W. Hollaway being the organist, in consequence of the illness of Mrs. Kewley.

Tea followed in the Parish Room, after which a short business meeting was held. Mr. C. D. Heginbotham, chairman of the branch, presiding. He thanked Canon Kewley for the reverent manner in which he had unveiled and dedicated the board, and said it made a great deal of difference to the ringers. He also referred to the death of Mr. J. C. Day, of Warminster, churchwarden of the Minster, who, although not a ringer, took a great interest in the bells and the ringers of Warminster, and welcomed the branch when the meetings were held there.—Those present stood in silence.

It may be interesting to state here that the last public duty the late Mr. Day performed in connection with the church was to attend the annual meeting of the Warminster ringers the Wednesday before his death, which occurred on the following Friday.

Several new members were elected, and, on the motion of the chairman, a vote of thanks was passed to Canon Kewley for the use of the bells and conducting the service, to the organist and those who prepared the tea.

Canon Kewley, in his reply, regretted the absence of Mrs. Kewley, and suggested the advisability of getting a proper form of service suitable for the dedication of peal boards.

A touch of Grandsire Triples was rung on Mr. Hillier's handbells by E. F. White, C. D. Heginbotham, S. Hillier and E. Green, followed by some Grandsire Doubles by the three last-named.

The ringers returned to the tower, and ringing continued till about 8 p.m. The following towers were represented: Devizes, St. John's and St. Mary's, Potterne, Bratton, Bradford-on-Avon, Bishop's Cannings, Holt, Molksham, Rowde and Warminster.

Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob were rung during the afternoon and evening. In spite of the wet weather, a very pleasant time was spent.

A BRIGHTON GATHERING.

A party of about twenty spent a very enjoyable evening at Brighton on Wednesday, January 23rd, when the St. Nicholas' ringers held their annual dinner and musical evening at the Pavilion Restaurant, which was presided over by the Vicar (the Rev. H. Collinson), who was supported by his churchwardens.

The Vicar, in replying to a toast proposed by Mr. F. Bennett (captain of the band), remarked how pleased he was to be able to be with them, and how he appreciated the efforts of the bellringers, and congratulated them on the increased strength of the band.

Mr. R. Hoather, who, unfortunately, met with an accident, and is at present lying at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, was the only member of the band absent, but he was not forgotten, although unable to be present. Good wishes for his speedy recovery were expressed, and the secretary was asked to send him a letter to this effect.

With Mr. Marsh at the piano, songs, etc., were rendered by Messrs. Bleach, Burchett, Coard, Hart and Dawe, while a few touches on the handbells by Mrs. Hairs, Messrs. Bennett, Drew and Hairs, made the evening go with a swing, only to come to a close too quickly with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN KENT RINGER.

It is with deep regret we have to record the death of Mr. A. C. Winsor ('Charlie'), a ringer well known in Kent circles, more especially in the Rochester District, who had been attached to the Frindsbury tower for upwards of 40 years, and was also one of the band at Rochester Cathedral.

The late Mr. Winsor had been ailing for the past four months, and passed peacefully away on Sunday morning, January 20th, at the age of 56.

The interment took place at Chatham Cemetery on Saturday, January 26th, when, singularly enough, a meeting of the Rochester District was held at Mr. Winsor's home tower at Frindsbury, and, consequently, the bells were rung half-muffled.

In addition to the family mourners, the Kent Association was represented by the following members of Rochester District: Messrs. W. Haigh and W. Spice (district representatives), F. M. Mitchell (district secretary), E. A. G. Allen, C. J. Norris, W. Easter, F. Belsey, H. Springate, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Spice, R. Smith, W. Walker, C. M. Mitchell, V. A. Jarrett, S. Jarrett and others. The curate of Frindsbury was the officiating clergyman, in the unavoidable absence of the Vicar.

After the committal service a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the open grave by Messrs. E. A. G. Allen, W. Haigh, W. Easter and C. Norris.

His fellow-ringers at Rochester Cathedral and Frindsbury sent beautiful floral tributes.

The passing of the late Mr. Winsor leaves a gap in the association's ranks which it will be hard to fill. A member of the Kent Association for nearly 40 years, he always took great interest in the business of the association, and it was very rare he missed a district meeting. By his cheery disposition he endeared himself to all his fellow-ringers. As a ringer he was always willing to give his assistance, whether in a peal attempt or helping a struggling band of 'youngsters.'

The late Mr. Winsor commenced his ringing career at Frindsbury at the age of 14, and he has been continuously attached to that tower until his death. He rang his first peal (Kent Treble Bob Major) at Gravesend on April 26th, 1901, and his last at Frindsbury on October 20th, 1928.

His complete list of peals, as far as is known, was: Kent Treble Bob Major 17 (conducted 2), Oxford Treble Bob Major 5, Stedman Triples 18, Double Norwich Major 18, Grandsire Triples 4, Victory Major 1, Superlative Surprise Major 3, Stedman Caters 7, Kent Treble Bob Royal 3, Oxford Treble Bob Royal 1, Bob Major 3; total, 78 (conducted 2).

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

NORTHERN BRANCH CREATE A RECORD.

A very successful meeting of the Northern Branch was held at Oldbury on Saturday, January 19th. The bells were made good use of during the afternoon, and service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. J. R. Harrison), and the association form was used. The Vicar, instead of the usual address, gave a very homely talk on how pleasant it was to be in each other's company.

Tea was served in the schools, and the business meeting which followed was presided over by the Vicar, who was supported by Messrs. Hall and Allsop (churchwardens), Mr. C. Skidmore (Ringing Master of the Northern Branch), and Mr. A. J. Skelding (branch secretary).

It would not be unfair to say that a record was set up by the Branch in electing three whole companies of ringers, namely Oldbury, Bowdley and Chaddeley Corbett, who, with individual ringers from other towers, made up a total of 40 performing members and 6 honorary members. Instructors were also applied for for these towers.

The Secretary stated that at the opening of Bowdley bells in September of last year, and through the assistance of Mr. J. Broad, he had had a talk with the Rector of Bowdley, who said he would be very pleased to have the branch at Bowdley for the June meeting.

It was unanimously decided, on the proposal of Mr. T. J. Salter, to accept the Rector's invitation.

The Secretary made reference to the death of Mr. J. W. Smith, and mentioned that, although not a member of the association at the time of his tragic death, Mr. Smith had been a very old member of the association. At the Secretary's suggestion, it was decided that he should personally convey the association's deepest sympathy to Mrs. Smith.

Mr. A. E. Parsons moved a very hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar of Oldbury for the use of the bells, and for arranging the service, to all those who had provided such a splendid tea, and to the ladies who had so kindly waited upon them. He coupled with it the names of Mr. and Mrs. Hadley, who, he said, had given of their best to make the meeting such a huge success.—The Vicar, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said he hoped that he would have the pleasure of the members' company again in the near future. His ringers had become very keen, and he thought with an instructor they would soon make rapid progress.—The Vicar then moved a vote of thanks to the secretary for his work, and this was carried unanimously, the Secretary briefly replying.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT TO HOLD MORE MEETINGS.

The members of the Southern District of the Surrey Association held their annual general meeting at Charlwood on Saturday week. Over 40 members from Reigate, Redhill, Betchworth, Buckland, Burstow, Merstham, Horley, Charlwood, Godstone, Oxted, Limpsfield Chart met at 3.30 p.m. and rang various touches. A service was held in the church, and a short address was given by Rev. W. Grainger Thompson. Mr. H. Bashford kindly presided at the organ.

Tea was provided at the Half Moon, after which the business meeting was held. The Rev. W. G. Thompson was elected to the chair. Mr. Maurice A. Northover referred to the loss the association had sustained through the death of Mr. F. H. Beaumont, of Buckland Court. He said that Mr. Beaumont was loved and respected by all who knew him, and not only would his passing be felt by the Surrey Association, but by the village of Buckland and many organisations throughout the county. The Buckland Society had lost a true friend.—The members present stood in respect of his memory.

The committee recommended that six meetings, including the annual general meeting, be held annually, instead of four as in the past, and that the remaining five meetings be held at Leigh, Limpsfield Chart, Betchworth, Kingswood and Redhill, subject to it being possible to carry out the necessary arrangements.—This recommendation was adopted.

It was decided to hold the next annual general meeting at Godstone. The next quarterly peal is to be attempted at Buckland, the method to be seven Minor methods, and to be conducted by Mr. L. Tidy.

Mr. George F. Hoad, of Reigate, was re-elected as Master of the district for the ensuing year, Mr. Alfred Bull, of Horley, was re-elected hon. secretary, Mr. Maurice A. Northover, of Reigate, was re-elected hon. treasurer, Messrs. D. K. Burt, H. Hooper and L. Tidy were elected on the committee, and Mr. A. Gear was re-elected as auditor.

Mr. Bull, the hon. secretary, submitted the annual report, which was adopted. Twenty-seven new members had been elected during the past year.

Mr. Northover, hon. treasurer, presented the balance sheet for 1928, which showed a satisfactory balance. This was received and adopted.—Messrs. W. P. Pooley, W. Slaughter, G. Woodman and R. Jenkins were elected members.

Rev. W. G. Thompson was thanked for presiding at the meeting, and for addressing the members at the service. A vote of thanks was then accorded to the secretary for his untiring efforts during the past year. At the conclusion of the meeting, ringing was resumed, methods from Grandsire to London Surprise being rung.

COALBROOKDALE RINGERS' DINNER.

The Coalbrookdale Society held their third annual dinner at the Coalbrookdale Inn on January 19th. The Vicar (the Rev. T. Eland) presided, and was supported by Messrs. H. Hughes and F. Johnson, churchwardens. Alderman Walter Roberts and Councillor J. S. Barker, Messrs. A. E. Edwards, F. H. Fowler, T. Doughty, F. Francis, A. J. Garbett, N. Griffiths, H. Brown, W. Burd and W. Westbrook were amongst the visitors. Sixteen of the local ringers were present, and the sidesmen were represented by Mr. E. Johnson. The function was arranged by Mr. William Saunders (head ringer and towerkeeper), and an excellent meal was served by the host (Mr. E. Bailey), ably assisted by Miss Maund. After the loyal toasts had been duly honoured, Councillor Barker proposed 'The Church and State,' and extended a hearty welcome to the newly-appointed Vicar.—The Chairman very suitably responded.

'The Visitors' was proposed by Mr. Fred Johnson, and Mr. T. Doughty replied.

Alderman W. Roberts submitted the toast of 'Continued prosperity to the Coalbrookdale ringers,' and Mr. W. Saunders suitably replied.

The health of 'The Chairman' was proposed by Mr. T. Doughty, and the Vicar responded very feelingly.

During the evening Mr. Saunders explained the origin of the function, and said its object was to promote a feeling of goodwill amongst all the ringers.

A musical programme was rendered during the evening by the following: Alderman Walter Roberts, Messrs. P. Reighway, A. A. Dennis, F. Aston, W. Harper, J. Bowen and F. Francis. Handbell selections were rendered by the Coalbrookdale ringers, and Mr. F. Fletcher was the accompanist. At the close of the evening the chairman referred to his predecessor, the Rev. Preb. C. B. Crowe, and asked all present to drink to his health and success in his new parish at Morpeth, Northumberland. This was supported by Councillor Barker and Mr. T. Doughty.—The singing of the National Anthem brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

HYDE, CHESHIRE.—On Tuesday, January 29th, at St. George's Church, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major (1,280 changes) in 48 mins.: W. Shaw 1, A. Houghton 2, J. Brierley 3, H. Norgrove 4, J. Shaw 5, S. Bowker 6, T. Wilde (composer and conductor) 7, A. Hough 8. Rung on the eve of the 50th anniversary of Mr. James Shaw's first peal, which was rung on January 30th, 1879.

NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. (Established 1637.)—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which enables members who have not attended twenty times in the past year to vote on matters of finance, must be paid before February 28th. Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus' on the 14th and 28th; *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 19th; Southwark Cathedral on the 21st; all at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Canterbury on Saturday, Feb. 9th. A special service will be held at St. Alphege Church at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting at the Oddfellows' Hall, Orange Street, at 5.15. The Cathedral bells will be available after 4 p.m. Members' subscriptions for 1929 are now due, and may be paid at this meeting.—Percy W. Smith, Hon. Sec., Fair View, Littlebourne, Canterbury.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will take place on Saturday, Feb. 9th, the bells of St. Clement Danes' being available from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., after which a short service will be held. There will be a tea and meeting after the service at the Parish Hall. The bells of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East will also be available during the afternoon. Meetings for February: Monday, the 11th and 25th, at 7.30 p.m.; St. Mary's, Lambeth, Tuesday, the 19th, at 8 p.m.—S. C. Moye, Gen. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Leesfield, Oldham, on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. Subscriptions now due. Reports and new rules and diagrams to hand. A peal board commemorating a peal by the local band will be unveiled at this meeting.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The usual monthly meeting will be held at Childwall on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Tea, 1s. each (Childwall Abbey), 6 p.m.—Claude I. Davies, Branch Sec., Caerleon Dunbabin Road, Wavertree.

PETERBOROUGH AND LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILDS.—A joint quarterly meeting of the Peterborough and Southern Branches will be held at St. Martin's, Stamford, on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Bells available afternoon and evening. Will those requiring tea please make their own arrangements, as there are several restaurants?—C. T. H. Bradley, Folkingham, Lincs, and W. H. Waldron, 137, Scotney Street, Peterborough, Secs.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Alton District.—The annual meeting will be held at Alton on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Bells at the Parish Church available from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea in St. Lawrence Church Room at 5.—B. C. Taylor, Binsted Vicarage, Alton.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Chertsey on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Business meeting to follow in Church Room.—H. J. Chaffey, Upper Chilton, Longcross, Chertsey.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held at Isleworth on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Members entertained to tea by the Vicar and churchwardens.—Wm. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Spalding on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Service 6.30 p.m. Tea 4.45 p.m. Business meeting afterwards—George Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—A meeting will be held at Newton St. Cyres on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Service 4. Tea 4.45. Bells (6) available; also Upton Pyne (6) and Crediton (8). All ringers welcome.—Miss E. Lomas, Hon. Sec., Sandfords, Whimple, Devon.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Royden (Herts) on Saturday, Feb. 9th, at 3 p.m. Arrangements as usual. Those requiring tea kindly notify me.—C. Beeston, 5, King Street, Bishop's Stortford.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—The annual meeting will be held at Dunstable on Saturday, Feb. 9th. The bells (8) will be ready at 2.45 p.m.—A. E. Sharman, Hon. Sec., 199, High Street N., Dunstable.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at Compton on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. at 1s. All ringers welcome.—H. W. Curtis, Hon. Sec., Church Road, Shaw, Newbury.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting of the above branch will be held at Martock on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock. Meeting to follow.—F. Farrant, Hon. Local Sec., North Street, Martock.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The Pre-Lent meeting will be held at Blaydon on Feb. 9th. Bells of Blaydon and Winlaton will be available after 2.30. Committee meeting at 4.30 and tea at 5 o'clock at the Co-operative Café.—George S. Taylor, Sec., 149, St. Leonard Street, Sunderland.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Sandy on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Tea at 5. All ringers welcome. A good attendance is requested.—C. J. Ball, Dis. Sec., 2, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Preston St. Mark's on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Tower open from 3 p.m.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hereford District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Hereford on Saturday, Feb. 9th. City bells available during afternoon and evening. Service, All Saints, 4.15. Tea, Booth Hall, 5 p.m.—A. Gwynne, Dis. Sec., Deanery Cottage, Castle Street, Hereford.

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Monk Bretton on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Bells ready early.—C. D. Potter, Prospect Villa, High Street, Royston, Barnsley.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Dorset Branch.—The next meeting of the above branch will be held at Lydlinch (5 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 9th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea 5 (6d. for members). Meeting to follow. Towers available: Lydlinch (5), Hazelbury Bryon (5), Sturminster Newton (6), Stalbridge (6).—A. E. Nedham, Hon. Sec., Compton Abbas Rectory, Shaftesbury.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Ravenshorpe on Saturday, February 9th. Usual arrangements.—K. J. Cater, Althorp Park Station, East Haddon.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District and Romney Marsh and District Guild.—A joint meeting of the above will be held at Tenterden on Saturday, Feb. 16th, by kind permission of the Rev. M. L. Mann (Vicar). Tower available 2.30. Service at 5 o'clock, followed by tea at 5.30 and business meetings. All ringers welcome. A card to either secretary by the 14th would be appreciated.—Kent County Association, A. C. Kay, 6, Sturges Road, Ashford; Romney Marsh Guild, A. Battin, Heronden Hall Gardens, Tenterden.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Bingham on Saturday, Feb. 16th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Will all those requiring tea please notify me not later than Feb. 13th, without fail?—F. W. Bailey, Local Sec., 42, Rupert Street, Nottingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Brookfield Church, Gorton, on Saturday, Feb. 16th. Bells ready 3.30. Meeting 7 o'clock. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand. Hoping to have a good attendance.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting of the Chesterfield District of the above association will be held at Eckington on Saturday, Feb. 16th. All those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. Jervis, 7, Littlemoor, Eckington, not later than Feb. 13th.—J. P. Tarlton, Hon. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Northamptonshire District.—A meeting will be held at Thrapston (8) on Saturday, Feb. 16th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 o'clock. Will those requiring tea kindly let me know by Tuesday, Feb. 12th?—S. Thursfield, Cranford Rectory, Kettering.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The annual meeting will be held at West Tarring on Saturday, Feb. 16th. Bells available from 2 o'clock. Service 5.45. Tea (free) 4.45. Heene bells will be available in the evening.—A. W. Groves, Dominion Road, Worthing.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—A monthly meeting will be held at Allesley on Feb. 16th. Bells available during afternoon and evening.—J. A. Fenton, Hon. Sec., 6, Frederick Street, Rugby.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Combined practice at Binfield, Saturday, Feb. 16th, from 6 till 9 p.m. All welcome.—W. J. Paice, Branch Sec.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Feb. 23rd, meeting at Watford (8). Ringing from 4 p.m. Tea 6 p.m. Cheap trains to Watford from all stations.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. Tel. City 4270.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—A bye-meeting of the above will be held at Bearsted on Saturday, Feb. 23rd. Tower open for ringing 3 o'clock. Service at 4.30. Tea, by kind invitation, in the Parish Room after service. All ringers welcome. Kindly notify me not later than Tuesday, Feb. 19th.—C. H. Sone, Hon. Dis. Sec., Bungalow, Linton, Maidstone.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—The Langford memorial meeting will be held at Bradpole on Saturday, Feb. 23rd. Bells (8) ready at 2.30 p.m. Guild service at 4.30. Tea 5, followed by short meeting. Numbers for tea by 20th inst.—T. Hervey Beams, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Holy Trinity, Bolton, on Saturday, Feb. 23rd. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Saturday, Feb. 23rd, meeting, Watford. Bells open from 4 till 8.30. Tea (Old School) 5.40. Number for tea by 20th. Cheap trains from all parts to Watford.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. Tel. City 4270.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Michael's Church, Blackburn, on Saturday, March 2nd. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. A good attendance requested. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due.—F. Hindle, Hon. Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. (Established 1755.)—The 41st annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 2nd, at 6 o'clock, when the chair will be taken by Canon T. Guy Rogers, B.D., M.C., Rector of Birmingham, Chaplain to the King. To fully qualified members tickets will be issued on payment of 2s., to other members and friends 6s. 6d. each. The bells of St. Martin's (12) will be available from 3 to 5 o'clock, the Cathedral (10) and Bishop Ryder's (8) from 4 to 5.30. Applications for tickets, accompanied by remittance, should be made to Thomas H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

DEATH.

THOMPSON.—On Jan. 28th, at Cavendish, Suffolk, Harry Thompson passed peacefully away, aged 84 years.

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SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Central Division was held at Aldrington, a six-bell tower, on Saturday, January 26th, the number present being 21. After ringing in the afternoon, a short service was conducted by the Rector (Rev. H. T. Mogridge), who gave an excellent address. A capital tea was served in the Church Hall. The Rector took the chair at the business meeting which followed, and was supported by the Master (Mr. J. T. Rickman). Mr. Keith Hart kindly undertook the duties of the divisional secretary, Mr. Stone being unable to be present. Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs, St. Nicholas', Brighton, were the new members elected; and the election of Mr. Alfred T. Greenwood, of Portsea, as a non-resident member, was confirmed.

A vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells and the hall for tea, for the service, for his address, and for presiding at the meeting, was carried, and acknowledged by the Rector.

A collection taken at the service, on behalf of the Benevolent Fund, amounted to 6s. 6d.

Ringing was again resumed, the methods including Cambridge and London Surprise Minor, several ringing their first plain course of the latter. The towers represented were Aldrington, St. Peter's and St. Nicholas' (Brighton), Seaford, Shoreham and Southover (Lewes).

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