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CHURCH BELLS AND THE SAINTS

SUGGESTION has been more than once made that the patronal and other festivals set out in the Church's Calendar might well be kept in reserve for peal and quarter peal attempts. The idea is a perfectly sound one, if only to give less excuse to those individuals who are none too favourably disposed towards bells, and who query the reason for long ringing, only to find out that 'Jack Jones wanted his first 5,040 in some method,' or that 'Tom Smith's wife had had a birthday'!

It might be asked—What have saints' days got to do with bells? In similar vein it could be asked—Why name certain methods of change ringing after saints, since the latter have all been dead and gone centuries before change ringing was thought of?

It was a common practice with many of our pre-Reformation bell founders to name certain bells after saints—and not always apostolic saints, the only ones of whom some people can ever think. Our church dedications and the Church's Calendar name many others. Already some have been used to identify a number of five- and six-bell methods, some extending to the higher numbers. Whilst St. Clement and St. Simon are perhaps the best known, others come to mind, such as St. Martin, St. Bartholomew, St. Nicholas, St. Columb, St. Blaise, St. Giles, St. Peter, St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Miles, St. Dunstan, St. Luke, St. John, St. Augustine, and in the Central Council's 1931 collection are two others not so much heard of nowadays, St. Vedost and St. Alphege, the former named after the church close by St. Paul's Cathedral, and the latter after the archbishop who was martyred by the Danes on the Thames estuary in 1012, to whom a church at Greenwich is dedicated. A more recent addition is All Saints.

On six bells one can, among others, think of St. Werburgh—the Mercia. Her home, it is said, was in Northants—at Weedon Bec. Some of these saints' names, and additional ones, can be seen on old bells still in existence, as well as on some recast and some modern bells, like one at Roade, Northants, recently dedicated.

Understandably, perhaps the most common dedication is St. Mary. Northants has a number of such examples, the oldest being the second of four bells at Cold Ashby, inscribed 'Maria Vocor. Ano. Dni. Mcccxvii.' This bell is believed to have been cast (in 1317) by William-de-Flint. Following it, by a few years, is the tenor of four in the

leaning tower of Stowe-IX-Churches, which is inscribed, 'Ave Maria, gracia plena,' meaning 'Hail Mary, full of grace.' This same inscription will be found on the second of the five at Alderton, on the fourth of five at Grafton Regis, the fourth of eight at King's Sutton, the tenor of six at Potterspury, and the fifth of six at Wadenhoe.

'Sancta Maria ora pro nobis' can be seen on the treble of five at Passenham, and before being recast in 1884 was on the second of the five at Bozeat. Upton has one bell inscribed 'Sancta Maria' (the C is reversed and the S lying on its side). The third of five at Polebrook has on it 'S. Maria.' And on the tenor of three at Winwick (which is believed another William-de-Flint bell) is just 'Maria.'

A very interesting old bell is the second of three at Glapthorne, by a little heard of bell founder (Johannes Sleyt). It is inscribed 'Inndre Satti Maria. Johannes Sleyt me fecit.' The tenor of these same three commemorates St. Andrew, and is inscribed 'Sancte Andrea ora pro nobis.' This inscription is varied. On the smaller of two bells at Northborough is read 'Ista Campana facta est in honore St. Andree.' Polebrook's second is inscribed 'Andrea.' St. Thomas is the dedication on the fourth of five at Sudborough, inscribed 'Thomas,' and on the third of five at Geddington is seen 'S. Thomas.'

St. Katherine finds favour on a number of bells, as, for example, the second of three at Horton, believed to have come from the Reading foundry of Sanders between 1539 and 1559. This bell is unfortunately badly cracked, and is inscribed, 'Sancta Katerina ora pro nobis.' It was at Horton that the family of Catherine Parr (last wife of Henry VIII.) held residence. 'Campana vocor Katerina' will be seen on the first of two bells in the old tower at Slapton, where there is also a very old priest bell of circa 1310 inscribed 'Richard De Wambis me fesit.'

Intended obviously for 'Sancta Katerina' can be seen 'Sacan (reversed C) Cterina' on the second of four at Barby, and the fourth of five at Roade has on it 'Sancta Katerina ora pro nobis.' This bell, together with the tenor and the third, is believed the work of Henry Jordon, a London founder from 1442–1470. Considered to be cast by the same man are all four bells at Fawsley, some of the clearest examples of pre-Reformation work anywhere. Fawsley, a tiny parish in extensive parkland, is now threatened with extinction. From 1416 until about 30 years ago a famous family named Knightley had an estate there.

[Continued next page.]

The old mansion is now disgracefully used as a timber shop. The treble of Fawsley's four is inscribed 'Sancte Botolfe ora pro nobis,' being the only bell in Northants dedicated to St. Botolph. Another only dedication is the new treble to the recently augmented five at Roade, dedicated to St. Cecilia, patron saint of music, whose festival is on November 22nd.

Another, Hargrave, has the only bell I know of in Northants dedicated to St. Anthony, the tenor of four being inscribed 'S. Antonie.' Other references to St. Anthony can, however, be found at Stanford-on-Avon and at Lampport. S. Margareta, which could mean St. Margaret of Antioch or St. Margaret Queen of Scotland, is to be seen on the third of four at Charwelton, and was inscribed on the treble to old four prior to 1727 at Roade, in which year it was recast by Thomas Russell, of Woolton, Beds. Its inscription reads, 'Nova Campana Margareta est Honorata.' The tenor of five at Twywell appears to be the only one dedicated to St. Augustine, being inscribed 'Vox Augustini sonet in Aure Dei.' A very rare dedication is on the third of the heavy five bells at Castle Ashby, with a unique stamp, which shows, like the five bells in the Church of St. Bartholomew the Great, London, it is a Bullisdon bell of circa 1510. On it is inscribed 'Sancta Agatha ora pro nobis.' The festival of St. Agatha falls early in the year.

St. Anna is another favourite dedication. She is curiously inscribed 'Saauu' (S on its side) on the second at Great-worth of three bells there. She was commemorated on the old fourth of the original five (now eight) at Thrapston, viz., 'Sancta Anna ora pro nobis,' and the same inscription is on the second of six at Paulerspury.

A very historic bell by one of the early Newcombes of Leicester, which is undated, but which we know was put in at the time the church was built in 1534, is at Whiston, inscribed 'S. Anna.' It is the third of five. Anthony Catesby (whose family some years later got mixed up with the Fresham family in the Gunpowder Plot) sold a flock of sheep to provide this 'St. Anna bell.' He is reputed to have said to his wife on hearing it rung for the first time, 'Hark, can you hear my lambs bleating?'

St. Peter is commemorated on many old bells in other counties, but strangely on few in Northants. On the recast second of four at Holcot will be seen 'Sancti Petri.' Isham, with six bells, until 1907 had four, the old third of which was dedicated to St. Ambrose. St. Gabriel can be found on several bells, as on another old Henry Jordan bell (the fourth of five) at Old (sometimes called Wold), where the inscription reads, 'Missi de Celis (C reversed) hab Nomen Gabrielis.' And on the old fourth of five at Easton Maudit before being recast was 'Dulcis Sisto melis Campana Vocor Gabrielis,' meaning 'I am called the bell of Gabriel.'

All these inscriptions and others besides show there is ample reason why we should associate the saints' names with our ringing of the bells.

P. A.

TWELVE BELL PEALS

BIRMINGHAM.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

On Sat., Jan. 30, 1954, in 3 Hours and 38 Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PHILIP,

A PEAL OF 5280 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAXIMUS

Tenor 31 cwt. 21 lb. in D.

ALBERT WALKER Treble	FRANK E. PERVIN 7
FRED DUNKERLEY 2	TERRY R. HAMPTON 8
JOHN WORTH 3	ARTHUR V. PEARSON 9
FRANK W. PERRENS 4	PETER BORDER 10
J. EDWARD CAWSE 5	GEORGE E. FEARN 11
JOHN PINFOLD 6	EDWARD JENKINS Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

ASTON, BIRMINGHAM.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 41 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5280 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

ANTHONY AGER Treble	ARTHUR V. PEARSON 7
ALBERT WALKER 2	TERRY R. HAMPTON 8
MURIEL REAY 3	RALPH G. EDWARDS 9
J. EDWARD CAWSE 4	*BRYAN D. A. WOOLLEY 10
JOHN PINFOLD 5	HARRY PARKES 11
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD 6	GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor

Composed by FREDERICK DENCH.

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal of Maximus.

TEN BELL PEALS

CARDIFF.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 11 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF 5079 STEDMAN CATERS

Tenor 27 cwt.

BRO. FREDERICK G. LEAKER, St. Keyna Lodge No. 1833 Treble	
BRO. FREDERICK J. BAILEY, Tisant Lodge No. 4154 2	
BRO. ALBERT M. TYLER, Burnett Lodge No. 6789 3	
BRO. JOHN M. STALLARD, Burnett Lodge No. 6789 4	
BRO. ARTHUR G. MASON, Rectitude Lodge No. 4727 5	
BRO. REGINALD H. ADDIS, Unity Lodge No. 6030 6	
W. BRO. FRANK HANSFORD, Brotherly Love Lodge No. 329 7	
BRO. GILBERT H. HARDING, Concord Lodge No. 632 8	
BRO. W. BERTRAM KYNASTON, Royal Sussex Lodge No. 355 9	
BRO. ALAN A. HILLIAR, Burnett Lodge No. 6789 Tenor	

Composed by H. W. HALEY. Conducted by W. BERTRAM KYNASTON.

First peal to be rung in Wales by a band of Freemasons.

NOTTINGHAM.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 23 Minutes.

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

A PEAL OF 5000 STEDMAN CATERS

Tenor 35 cwt. 2 qr. 23 lb. in C.

JACK L. MILLHOUSE Treble	HERBERT LOWMAN 6
BETTY BROWN 2	SYDNEY A. CHAMBERS 7
ARCHER T. LOWMAN 3	H. LESLIE PASK 8
GEOFFREY PAUL 4	JOHN WALDEN 9
CHARLES E. BROWN 5	RAYMOND F. SMITH Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by JACK L. MILLHOUSE.

A 21st birthday compliment to Miss Betty Brown.



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EIGHT BELL PEALS

SOUTH WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Jan. 25, 1954, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Thomas,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

J. J. Parker's Twelve-part (7th observation).

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lb. in F.

*JOHN R. NORMAN Treble	BRIAN G. WARWICK 5
GLENYS R. BODYCOTE 2	ERNEST J. JELLEY 6
JOHN M. JELLEY 3	ARTHUR E. BODYCOTE 7
G. HARRY BRAY 4	GEORGE V. DEACON .. Tenor

Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.

* First peal away from tenor.

Rung to welcome the Right Reverend R. R. Williams, who was enthroned Bishop of Leicester in the Cathedral on January 23rd, 1954.

HARPENDEN, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 30, 1954, in 3 Hours,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 15 cwt.

BERTIE A. CORNELL Treble	FREDERICK J. SPICER 5
ERIC EDMONDSON 2	*FREDERICK C. JACKLIN 6
STANLEY HUCKLE 3	ARTHUR DAY 7
GEORGE W. DEBENHAM 4	THOMAS J. SOUTHAM .. Tenor

Composed by F. NOLAN GOLDEN. Conducted by THOMAS J. SOUTHAM.

* First peal of Major 'inside.'

Mr. Day has now 'circled the tower.'

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Feb. 3, 1954, in 2 Hours and 24 Minutes,

At the Bell Foundry Campanile.

A PEAL OF 5056 KIRKINGTON SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 6½ cwt.

HAROLD J. POOLE Treble	ERNEST W. RAWSON 5
*WINIFRED M. BURTON 2	JOHN A. ACRES 6
J. FREDERICK MILNER 3	*BRIAN G. WARWICK 7
MRS. H. J. POOLE 4	TERENCE A. THORNER .. Tenor

Composed by ERNEST W. TIPLER.

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal in the method.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Thurs., Feb. 4, 1954, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes,

At the Cathedral Church of St. Philip.

A PEAL OF 5024 BARNET SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb. in A.

HENRY H. FEARN Treble	JOHN PINFOLD 5
EVELYN M. FLETCHER 2	TERRY R. HAMPTON 6
MURIEL REAY 3	GEORGE E. FEARN 7
PETER BORDER 4	CLIFFORD A. BARRON .. Tenor

Composed by H. G. CASHMORE. Conducted by CLIFFORD A. BARRON.

First in the method for the Guild, and by all.

WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Feb. 4, 1954, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF 5024 HARLESSEN SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb.

ERNEST H. KILBY Treble	THOMAS J. LOCK 5
C. EDWARD JEFFRIES 2	*BRIAN D. THRELFALL 6
THOMAS H. FRANCIS 3	ALFRED J. HOUSE 7
ALICK CUTLER 4	RICHARD F. B. SPEED .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by RICHARD F. B. SPEED.

* 25th Surprise Major method for a peal. 60th Surprise Major method on the bells. First peal in the method.

GILMORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Feb. 5, 1954, in 2 Hours and 39 Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints.

A PEAL OF 5056 SOUTHWELL SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 10½ cwt.

*ERNEST J. JELLEY Treble	ERNEST W. RAWSON 5
WINIFRED M. BURTON 2	†HAROLD J. POOLE 6
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	†JOHN A. ACRES 7
†JOHN M. JELLEY 4	S. ANTHONY JESSON .. Tenor

Composed by C. H. MIDDLETON. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* 50th peal. † 25th peal. ‡ 50th peal together. First in the method by all the band except the ringer of the 3rd.

HENLEY, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Fri., Feb. 5, 1954, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF 5088 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 8 cwt. 3 lb. in A flat.

GEORGE W. PIPE Treble	JOHN S. WYBREW 5
JOHN W. C. BLYTHE 2	GEORGE E. SYMONDS 6
PATRICIA M. CLARKE 3	RONALD W. STEWARD 7
ROBERT E. LESTER 4	CECIL W. PIPE Tenor

Composed by JAMES HUNT.

Conducted by CECIL W. PIPE.

BATH, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Heywood's Transposition. Tenor 19 cwt. 2 qr. 12 lb. in E flat.

WILLIAM J. PRESCOTT .. Treble	WILLIAM F. J. COPE 5
*ERIC NAYLOR 2	*EDWARD J. FRY 6
GEORGE PRESCOTT 3	ROGER O. FRY 7
JESSE HALLETT 4	KENNETH F. MEDWAY .. Tenor

Conducted by ROGER O. FRY.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

Rung for the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 47 Minutes,

At the Church of The Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 17½ cwt. in E.

*JOHN F. WOOD Treble	FRED PRITCHARD 5
NORMAN TOMPKINS 2	FRANK REYNOLDS 6
GEORGE A. BELL 3	*†PETER CROOK, SEN. 7
REV. R. D. ST. JOHN SMITH .. 4	JAMES L. WRIGHT .. Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY.

Conducted by PETER CROOK, SEN.

* 25th peal together. † 400th peal.

Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to the ringer of the 4th and Mrs. Smith.

EARL SHILTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,

At the Church of SS. SIMON AND JUDE,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Middleton's. Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb. in G.

NANCY E. MARKLEW .. Treble	SHIRLEY BURTON 5
MRS. H. J. POOLE 2	TERENCE A. THORNER 6
*RITA STRATFORD (16) .. 3	ALFRED BALLARD 7
*CHRISTINE STRATFORD (14) 4	MICHAEL E. BROWN .. Tenor

Conducted by MICHAEL E. BROWN.

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

GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 12 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF 5152 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 21½ cwt. in E.

*H. WALTER SMITH .. Treble	RONALD SUCKLING 5
GEORGE SCHLEUTER 2	DR. L. S. CASTLEDEN 6
*HARRY STEBBINGS 3	GEORGE SAUNDERS 7
ALFRED T. M. PERRY 4	JOSEPH C. JENNINGS .. Tenor

Composed by J. REEVE.

Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

* First peal of Kent Major.

Rung for the Patronal Festival and in honour of the anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

HIGHAM FERRERS, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 12 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Tenor 22 cwt. 3 qr. 17 lb. in E.

ALBERT J. WILSON .. Treble	HARRY J. RICHARDSON .. 5
*DAVID PRIESTLEY 2	ERNEST E. WHITMORE .. 6
ARTHUR GIBBS 3	WILLIAM J. WHITMORE .. 7
*JOHN M. CLARKE 4	*RALPH WHITING .. Tenor

Composed by B. ANNABLE.

Conducted by ERNEST E. WHITMORE.

* First peal and first attempt.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 17 cwt. 9 lb.

DENIS R. CARLISLE Treble	EDWARD F. GOBEY 5
*MARION BRADLEY 2	HAROLD TAYLOR 6
*GORDON HALL 3	*FRANK BRADLEY 7
*DOREEN ARMSTRONG 4	G. RONALD EDWARDS .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by EDWARD F. GOBEY.

* First peal in method.

KNEBWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 47 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY-THE-VIRGIN AND THOMAS-A-BECKET,

A PEAL OF 5024 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 12½ cwt.

STANLEY HUCKLE Treble	FREDERICK C. JACKLIN .. 5
FREDERICK J. SPICER .. 2	†JOHN R. KETTERINGHAM 6
*BARBARA MARKS 3	GEORGE W. DEBENHAM .. 7
REGINALD W. DARVILL .. 4	THOMAS J. SOUTHAM .. Tenor

Composed by J. BARKER.

Conducted by THOMAS J. SOUTHAM.

* First peal 'inside' and first of Major. † First peal of Major.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 24 Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF 5120 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 6½ cwt.

E. CHARLES TURNER Treble	MRS. H. J. POOLE 5
WINIFRED M. BURTON .. 2	TERENCE A. THORNER .. 6
JOHN M. JELLEY 3	ERNEST J. JELLEY 7
HAROLD J. POOLE 4	JOHN A. ACRES Tenor

Composed by FREDERICK H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

OTTERY ST. MARY, DEVONSHIRE.

THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 18 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 OXFORD BOB TRIPLES

C.C.C. No. 8. Tenor 18½ cwt.

*KENNETH CLARKE Treble	†ERNEST W. ROWE 5
†ARTHUR TAPLEY 2	JACK SALWAY 6
†JOHN ARBURY 3	GEORGE E. RETTER 7
†REGINALD WOODLEY .. 4	†FRANK SOUTHWOOD .. Tenor

Composed by J. J. PARKER.

Conducted by GEORGE E. RETTER.

* First peal of Triples. † First peal in the method. ‡ First peal.

First peal on the bells since rehanging.

Rung to mark the retirement of J. Arbury, sexton at this church for 27 years.

SPELDHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

J. A. Lambert's Variation of J. R. Pritchard's. Tenor 13 cwt.

BETTY A. TESTER Treble	REGINALD E. LAMBERT .. 5
BERNARD W. PANKHURST 2	LUTHER J. HONESS 6
*JOHN T. MEDHURST .. 3	ERNEST J. LADD 7
WILLIAM R. MANSER .. 4	ROBERT T. LAMBERT .. Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT T. LAMBERT.

* First peal of Major 'inside.'

Rung on the second anniversary of the Accession of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. A 16th birthday compliment to Betty A. Tester.

WRITTLE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5088 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 18 cwt.

ERNEST E. S. JOHNSON .. Treble	PERCY GREEN 5
ERNEST W. FURBANK .. 2	DENNIS A. S. SYMONDS .. 6
*HOWARD W. EGGLESTONE 3	PETER J. EVES 7
†JOE E. G. ROAST 4	HARRY J. MILLATT Tenor

Composed by NATHAN J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by JOE E. G. ROAST.

* First peal of Surprise Major 'inside.' † First peal in the method.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

EATON BISHOP, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 23, 1954, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 42 six-scores (10 callings).

Tenor 12 cwt.

DERRICK G. CLARKE Treble	LESLIE H. COLCOMBE .. 4
THOMAS J. GUNDY 2	AUBREY J. PROBERT .. 5
REGINALD G. POWELL .. 3	RICHARD A. COLCOMBE .. Tenor

Conducted by REGINALD G. POWELL.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the 4th.

EARL'S CROOME, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 30, 1954, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents.

Tenor 9 cwt.

FRANCIS J. CUBBERLEY .. Treble	ERNEST F. CUBBERLEY .. 4
EDWARD MAUND 2	CYRIL TANSSELL 5
SIDNEY T. HOLT 3	CHARLES J. CAMM Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY T. HOLT.

FRYERNING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 30, 1954, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Double Oxford and Cambridge Surprise and five extents of Plain Bob.

Tenor 9 cwt.

PETER WILSHER Treble	ERNEST E. S. JOHNSON .. 4
*PATRICK SALTMARSH .. 2	JOE E. G. ROAST 5
HOWARD W. EGGLESTONE 3	DENNIS A. S. SYMONDS .. Tenor

Conducted by JOE E. G. ROAST.

* First peal. 25th peal as conductor.

LOCKING, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 30, 1954, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents, each called differently.

Tenor 7 cwt. 3 qr. 1 lb.

PERCY H. HULL Treble	MARJORIE LEGG 4
GWILYN SALMON 2	KENNETH MEDWAY 5
HARRY SMITH 3	GEORGE PRESCOTT Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE PRESCOTT.

Rung as a welcome to the Rev. D. Tongue, following his induction as Vicar of Locking.

MORTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 30, 1954, in 2 Hours and 32 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two extents each of Kent Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Norwich Surprise and one of Oxford Treble Bob.

Tenor 4½ cwt.

M. WRIGHT Treble	W. SWAIN 4
G. HOLDGATE 2	E. STERLAND 5
H. FRANKLIN 3	P. WRIGHT Tenor

Conducted by E. STERLAND.

Rung by the local band as a birthday compliment to W. Swain, and in honour of the return to the company of E. Sterland, after serving with the R.A.F.

OXENDON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 30, 1954, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 42 six-scores, viz. two extents of Stedman, eight April Day, twelve Plain Bob, and twenty Grandsire.

Tenor 7 cwt. 2 lb. in A.

*MICHAEL A. MESSAM .. Treble	ARTHUR J. MILLWARD .. 3
*CECIL A. SWANN 2	DEREK E. GRIFFIN 4

GEORGE HOLLICK Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE HOLLICK.

* First peal 'inside.' First peal in four Doubles methods as conductor.

Rung as a farewell to Cecil A. Swann, who is joining H.M. Forces.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Feb. 1, 1954, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 11 cwt. 5 lb. in A flat.

*JUNE HALLTreble	KENNETH W. CHEESEMAM.. 4
MARGARET A. SOFTLEY .. 2	HAROLD WALKER 5
J. BRENDA SOFTLEY .. 3	PHILIP G. DRAFFAN Tenor

Conducted by PHILIP G. DRAFFAN.

* First peal.

OTTERSHAW, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Feb. 3, 1954, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,

At CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being three 720's of Kent Treble Bob, and four 720's of Plain Bob.

Tenor 16 cwt. 2 qr. in F.

*JOHN A. MARTINTreble	*ROBERT J. ANDREWS .. 4
ROLAND W. MORANT .. 2	*JAMES F. DODSON 5
A. PATRICK CANNON .. 3	ROY COLLINS Tenor

Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.

* First peal of Minor in two methods. Rung as a compliment to Mr. R. W. Morant, on being appointed a lay reader of Guildford Diocese on this date.

BUSHBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 10 cwt.

*GEORGE DEANTreble	ERNEST STITCH 4
HERBERT KNIGHT 2	MAURICE G. TURNER .. 5
CHRISTOPHER WALLATER.. 3	HOWARD HOWELL Tenor

Conducted by MAURICE G. TURNER.

* First peal. The first peal on the bells since being rehung.

COCKERHAM, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Lancaster Branch.)

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 3 Hours,

At the Church of St. Michael,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 11 cwt.

GEORGE BRAITHWAITE ..Treble	HERBERT RAINFORD .. 4
STANLEY ANDERTON 2	FRANK F. POSTLETHWAITE 5
JAMES W. METCALFE .. 3	*SIDNEY JEFFREY Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. BRAITHWAITE.

* First peal of Minor.

CRANFORD, MIDDLESEX.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 28 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Dunstan,

A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

Being 720 each of Norwich, Lightfoot, London, York, Beverley, Bourne and Cambridge. Tenor 7 cwt. in B.

ROBERT G. LAYTreble	JOHN D. ROCK 4
BARBARA A. MITCHELL .. 2	RICHARD F. B. SPEED .. 5
JOHN R. MAYNE 3	RICHARD E. PRICE Tenor

Conducted by RICHARD E. PRICE.

GAMSTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents. Tenor 8½ cwt.

GRACE BURCHNALL ..Treble	KATHARINE BURCHNALL .. 4
†MICHAEL KEMP 2	JOHN NEWBERT 5
GEORGE CHALLANS 3	HAROLD DENMAN Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD DENMAN.

* First peal. A farewell to Michael Kemp on joining the R.A.F.

HAILSHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Tenor 9½ cwt.

*BERYL H. UNSTEAD ..Treble	ERNEST E. BREED 4
FRANK H. BEENEY 2	GERALD L. GADD 5
GEORGE BEENEY 3	C. JOHN PIPER Tenor

Conducted by GERALD L. GADD.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. First peal of Grandsire Doubles by all the band. First peal on the bells since restoration.

Rung to mark the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. I. Gadd, ringers at this tower.



GILLETT AND JOHNSTON

LIMITED

No matter in which corner of the country you happen to be, as likely as not you will come across Gillett & Johnston bells or tower clocks. Gillett & Johnston craftsmanship is embodied in an all-embracing service—as much in the preservation and restoration of old rings of antiquarian interest as in the installation of new.

BELL FOUNDERS
AND
CLOCK MAKERS

CROYDON



STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being 720 Double Oxford, 1,440 Oxford Treble Bob, 1,440 Kent Treble Bob and 1,440 Plain Bob. Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr.
RONALD HILL Treble PERCY D. BALDOCK 4
HERBERT GOAKES 2 JOHN H. BLUFF 5
RONALD RUSSELL 3 J. FREDERICK HUBBARD ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN H. BLUFF.

LIMPSFIELD CHART, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 37 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in 11 methods, viz., (1) Hereward Bob and Oxford Bob; (2) Thelwall and Childwall; (3) Double Oxford and St. Clement's; (4) Double Bob and Plain Bob; (5) Cambridge Surprise; (6) Oxford Treble Bob; (7) Kent Treble Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lb. in G.

LEONARD A. TIDY Treble *ROLAND W. MORANT 4
RALPH BIRD 2 *JAMES W. KNIGHT 5
*COLIN J. CHAMPION ... 3 A. PATRICK CANNON ... Tenor

Conducted by A. PATRICK CANNON.

*First peal in 11 methods. Messrs. A. P. Cannon and R. W. Morant's 25th peal together in 28 attempts.

STISTED, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1953, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent of Double Court, two extents each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt. in A.

ALBERT SAUNDERS Treble CECIL BARKER 4
*MRS. E. C. JARVIS 2 PETER L. WOOD 5
TERRY EARLE 3 ALAN R. SYDER Tenor

Conducted by ALAN R. SYDER.

*First peal in four methods

Rung to commemorate the second anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II., and as a birthday compliment to the mother of the ringer of the 3rd.

NORWICH.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 6, 1954, in 2 Hours and 35 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, COLEGATE.
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being extents of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Plain Bob, Double Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob, St. Clement's and Kent Treble Bob.
Tenor 9 cwt. in G sharp.

*EDWARD G. CURSON ... Treble WILLIAM LOVE 4
DAVID HEIGHTON 2 *JOHN MOORE 5
NOLAN GOLDEN 3 ARTHUR G. BASON ... Tenor

Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

*First peal in seven methods.

Rung half-muffled in memoriam the donor of the 3rd bell.

HANDBELL PEALS

LONDON, S.E.1.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Jan. 22, 1954, in 2 Hours and 17 Minutes,
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 13 in E.

THOMAS J. LOCK 1—2 EDWIN J. LINDLEY 5—6
WILFRID G. WILSON ... 3—4 GEORGE W. MASSEY 7—8
Composed by J. E. BURTON. Conducted by EDWIN J. LINDLEY.

LONDON, S.E.1.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Feb. 5, 1954, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,
A PEAL OF 5039 GRANDSIRE CATERS

Tenor size 17 in A.

*GEORGE W. MASSEY ... 1—2 *WILFRID G. WILSON ... 5—6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 3—4 EDWIN J. LINDLEY ... 7—8
*THOMAS J. LOCK 9—10

Composed by E. C. SHEPHERD. Conducted by EDWIN J. LINDLEY.

*First peal of Grandsire Caters 'in hand.'

QUARTER PEALS

ABBOTSBURY, DORSET.—On Feb. 6th, 1,440 Doubles (720 Plain Bob, 720 Grandsire): M. W. Ford 1, Mrs. A. J. Slade 2, A. J. Slade 3, Betty J. Marsh (first on an 'inside' bell) 4, H. J. Ford (cond.) 5, H. Warmer (first quarter) 6.

ALDRINGTON, SUSSEX.—On Feb. 7th, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: R. D. Brown (first away from a 'covering' bell) 1, S. W. Brown (cond.) 2, Valerie Mephem 3, Mary W. Brown 4, H. W. Brown 5, D. H. Paine 6. First 720 of Double Oxford 'inside' for 2, 3, 4 and 5. Rung as an 82nd birthday compliment to Mr. G. A. Steele.

BILLINGBOROUGH, Lincs.—On Jan. 23rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: A. E. Bennett 1, Miss R. Brown 2, A. T. Randall 3, J. P. Morris 4, P. Reynolds 5, W. E. Clarke 6, W. B. Dawson (cond.) 7, B. H. Dalton 8. Longest length in the method by ringers of 2, 3, 4 and 5.

BLITHBURGH, SUFFOLK.—On Feb. 6th, 1,440 Minor (720 Double Oxford and 720 St. Clement's): R. J. Thurlow 1, Miss M. Thompson 2, R. J. Darch 3, R. S. Payne 4, C. J. Gibson 5, J. W. Blythe (cond.) 6. First 720 of Double Oxford 'inside' for 2, 3, 4 and 5. Rung for the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. W. Eade, of Blithburgh, and the 30th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Gibson.

BOWDON, CHESHIRE.—On Feb. 6th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: D. C. Brown (first quarter) 1, Anne P. Brown 2, Ruth M. Jackson 3, Stella P. Wain 4, A. Twyman 5, Jean C. Brown 6, A. T. Parker 7, A. J. Brown (cond.) 8.

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL, BERKS.—On Jan. 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. Holloway 1, Audrey Castell 2, R. Willis 3, S. Turley 4, A. Jarvis (cond.) 5, F. Castell 6. Rung half-muffled in memory of Mr. George Sadler, for many years a fellow-ringer and parish clerk.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK.—On Jan. 31st, at the Norman Tower, 1,344 Plain Bob Major: Wm. Stannard (cond.) 1, R. Rose 2, C. Stannard 3, K. Brown 4, P. Everett 5, W. Goodship 6, F. Buckle 7, J. W. Banks 8. Rung before Evensong.

CARDIFF.—On Feb. 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Caters: T. Lewis 1, T. Yeomans 2, A. W. Heath 3, F. J. Hannington 4, J. Davies 5, L. Muller (first 'inside') 6, F. Rowell (cond.) 7, J. Evans 8, W. Dare 9, S. R. Barker 10.

GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX.—On Jan. 17th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: Miss A. Tyler 1, Mrs. D. T. Goodhew 2, R. Boykett 3, G. Schleuter 4, Dr. L. S. Castleaden 5, H. W. Smith (cond.) 6, A. T. M. Perry 7, G. Saunders 8.

HARLESTONE, NORTHANTS.—On Jan. 25th, 1,260 Doubles (480 Plain Bob, 780 Grandsire): J. Cadman 1, Dawn V. Elson 2, N. Craddock 3, M. F. Amos (cond.) 4, W. J. Kinchin 5.

HARTFIELD, SUSSEX.—On Jan. 31st, 1,200 Grandsire Doubles: Rosemary J. Parsloe 1, J. A. Howard (first of Doubles in the method) 2, Elsie F. Feltwell 3, D. A. Cornford 4, F. H. Hicks (cond.) 5, A. Jukes 6. First in method by 1 and 3.

HENDON, N.W.—On Jan. 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: G. Pratchett 1, D. T. C. Smith 2, Ruth Foreman (cond.) 3, J. Parslow 4, J. Taylor 5, H. Arnold 6. A birthday compliment to the conductor.

HUNTINGDON.—On Feb. 7th, at All Saints' Church, 1,320 Plain Bob Minor: Miss B. Spicer (first quarter) 1, H. B. Bull 2, J. R. G. Spicer 3, M. J. Dyer 4, H. S. Peacock 5, S. Gilbert (cond.) 6.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLEX.—On Jan. 31st, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: J. Wells (first of Major) 1, Miss E. Farrell 2, Mrs. S. E. Charney 3, Mrs. O. L. Rogers 4, Mrs. K. F. Parr 5, F. D. Bishop 6, D. J. Charney 7, H. W. Rogers (cond.) 8. Also on Feb. 7th, 1,277 Grandsire Caters: J. Wells (first of Caters) 1, Mrs. K. F. Parr 2, Miss J. Creak (first of Caters 'inside') 3, Miss E. Farrell 4, Mrs. O. L. Rogers 5, S. Croft 6, F. D. Bishop 7, B. G. Moore (first of Caters 'inside') 8, H. W. Rogers (cond.) 9, A. Tomblin 10.

KIRBY BELLARS, LEICS.—On Feb. 6th, 1,260 Doubles (480 Plain Bob, 780 Grandsire): Mrs. D. Day 1, J. H. Cook 2, H. T. Bonshor (cond.) 3, A. Hinman 4, G. H. Bailey 5. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. Annie Wheller for her 78th birthday and for her 42 years' service as vergier at St. Peter's Church.

KNOWLE, WARWICKS.—On Feb. 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Alfred Nix 1, E. E. Wimplett 2, A. A. Upton 3, Mrs. K. Watts 4, A. G. Morris 5, T. Gwilt 6, D. Harrison (cond.) 7, Albert Nix 8.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—On Feb. 6th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Arscott 1, C. W. Powell 2, E. L. Taylor 3, G. S. Morris (cond.) 4, G. Whitmore 5, R. Keeley 6, H. G. Keeley 7, J. Rattenbury 8. Rung for the institution and induction of the Rev. G. L. Tiarks as Vicar of Lyme Regis.

MELKSHAM, WILTS.—On Feb. 9th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss J. Abbott 1, C. F. Andrews 2, Mrs. W. C. West 3, Miss R. Gibbons 4, W. C. West (cond.) 5, R. Southwood 6, J. Gilbert 7, H. Cockell 8. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Mrs. Amy Swanborough, interred this day.

MIDDLEZOY, SOMERSET.—On Feb. 8th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: E. Bawden 1, D. Miller (16) 2, M. Stone 3, C. Clarke 4, W. Stevens 5, R. Short (cond.) 6. First of Minor by 1 and 2. First of Minor on the bells. For the second anniversary of the induction of the Rev. W. Griffin.

RUSHDEN, NORTHANTS.—On Feb. 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: B. Whitworth 1, H. Richardson 2, D. Priestley 3, A. Wilson 4, I. Clarke 5, D. Deighton 6, W. Whitmore (cond.) 7, S. Hodgkins (first quarter) 8. A compliment to the Rector (the Rev. E. A. Green), who was inducted Canon on this day.

SPARSHOLT, HANTS.—On Jan. 29th, 1,260 Doubles (360 Stedman, 360 Plain Bob, 540 Grandsire): R. M. Currie 1, P. Nash 2, J. M. N. Lakin 3, R. F. Brewer 4, J. A. C. King (cond.) 5. A farewell quarter to R. M. Currie.

STEPNEY, E.—At the Parish Church of St. Dunstan, on Jan. 31st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: A. Hilton (first in method) 1, C. W. Ridgway 2, H. G. Weedon 3, L. J. Fox (cond.) 4, C. A. Hullyer (first quarter) 5, S. Smith 6. Also on Feb. 6th, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: H. Weedon (first on 10 bells) 1, Miss E. K. Fulton 2, Miss M. Skinner 3, H. G. Hart 4, E. W. Thurlow 5, J. Euston 6, F. W. Goodfellow (cond.) 7, G. Spencer 8, N. W. Genna 9, A. W. Coles 10.

THETFORD, NORFOLK.—On Jan. 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Peck 1, W. Bowers 2, Miss D. Reeve 3, S. Atkins 4, T. Stagg 5, H. Fuller 6, J. Paul (cond.) 7, H. Ivings 8.

WALSALL, STAFFS.—On Feb. 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss S. Hughes (14 years) 1, G. W. Hughes 2, Mrs. S. Thomas 3, J. S. Eastwood 4, A. Botterell (cond.) 5, R. E. Woolley (13 years) 6. First quarter for 1 and 6. A birthday compliment to the treble ringer.

WIMBLEDON, SURREY.—On Feb. 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (7, 6, 8 covering): Miss M. Denroche 1, J. Tomsett 2, P. Devenish 3, H. Cox 4, F. E. Corfield (cond.) 5, Mrs. P. Devenish 6, F. W. Wicks 7, J. Brickell (longest length) 8. Rung to welcome the Rev. David Rodgers as the new curate to St. Mary's, Wimbledon.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD Chertsey District

The annual meeting of the Chertsey District was held at Chertsey on February 6th. A breakdown of the central heating system in the church caused all but the hardiest of those present to keep well wrapped up when not taking part in the ringing.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. G. S. Archibald, who later joined the company at tea in the Parish Hall.

The Guild secretary, Mr. G. L. Grover, was chairman for the somewhat lengthy business that followed. Apologies were received from Mr. F. E. Hawthorne, Mr. and Mrs. R. Lathbury and Mr. J. Hessey.

The Ringing Master, Mr. F. J. Dodson, reviewed the year's activities and promised all possible support to those bands which were still struggling.

The secretary (acting), who took over from Mr. W. Simmonds when he left the district in August, reported in detail on the district membership and matters affecting the district. He made proposals for stimulating interest in handbell ringing, especially among the younger members.

Officers elected were: Ringing Master, Mr. F. J. Dodson; secretary and treasurer, Mr. R. I. Shepherd; auditor, Mr. W. Shepherd; Guild Committee representative, Mr. J. R. Worrall.

Four ringing members and one honorary member were elected from Chertsey and two ringing members and seven junior members were elected from Egham.

It was agreed that the next annual meeting be held at Egham, it being left to the secretary to arrange the usual ringing meetings during the year.

The meeting concluded with handbell ringing in the Parish Hall, followed by further ringing at the church.
R. I. S.

FOUR QUARTER PEALS OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES FOR THE YOUNG CONDUCTOR (Each containing 'Queens' and 'Tittums')

By LOUIS HEAD

Call the following bells 'Before' as stated:—

A	4th three times	7th in 'hunt' as a guide
	3rd four times	2nd " " " "
	4th three times	7th " " " "
	3rd " " "	2nd " " " "
B	4th four times	7th " " " "
	3rd three times	2nd " " " "
	5th three times	4th in 'hunt' as a guide
	7th three times	4th " " " "
C	7th " " "	2nd " " " "
	5th four times	4th " " " "
	7th three times	2nd " " " "
	6th three times	5th in 'hunt' as a guide
D	4th four times	2nd " " " "
	6th three times	5th " " " "
	4th " " "	2nd " " " "
	6th four times	5th " " " "
E	4th three times	2nd " " " "
	7th three times	3rd in 'hunt' as a guide
	6th " " "	2nd " " " "
	7th four times	3rd " " " "
F	6th three times	2nd " " " "
	6th three times	2nd " " " "

20 calls only in each.

HUNTSPILL, SOMERSET.—On Feb. 7th, 1,260
Plain Bob Minor: M. Farthing (cond.) 1, J. Hobbs 2,
E. Reasons 3, S. Chedzey 4, A. Turner 5, A. Fackrell 6.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD Sonning Deanery Branch

The ringers of the Sonning Deanery Branch held their annual meeting at Wokingham on February 6th. Ringing commenced on the eight bells of St Paul's Church at 3 p.m., followed by divine service at 4 p.m. conducted by the Rector (the Ven. Thorndike Shaw), and the sermon was preached by the Rev. A. C. Wilson (Vicar of Waltham St. Lawrence). Tea followed in St. Paul's Parish Room, about 60 members sitting down.

Before the business meeting commenced the company stood in silence to the memory of the late Mr. John Rance, foreman of Binfield tower, who passed away during the year.

In his report on the year's activities, the secretary spoke of the need for better support for Branch meetings and for the learners to pay more attention to their striking before attempting change ringing. He also stated that ten peals had been rung in the Branch, two being Coronation peals, and, with one exception, Branch members had taken part in all these performances.

All the retiring officials were re-elected for 1954 and 15 new members were enrolled. Monthly practices will be held as usual on the first Saturday in each month and a spring meeting was arranged at Arborfield for May 1st.

Mr. W. Hibbert, Guild general secretary, was present, and addressed the members and urged tower foremen and instructors not to be afraid to tell ringers if they were handling their rope wrongly or striking badly.

The meeting closed and members returned to the towers of All Saints' and St. Paul's Churches for ringing until about 8.30 p.m.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

'THE RINGING WORLD'

The Official Journal of the Central
Council of Church Bell Ringers

EDITORIAL OFFICE: c/o Woodbridge Press,
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Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

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EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

LATE NEWS

A new record in Spliced Surprise Major ring-
ing has been established by a peal in 36 methods
rung at Sheffield last Saturday. The peal was
composed and conducted by Mr. W. Eric
Critchley.

Hughenden Sunday service
ringers have put up a fine
performance by ringing a
non-conducted peal of Grandsire Triples (Par-
ker's 12-part). Unfortunately, one of the ringers
due to appear, who is on National Service, was
absent. The umpire was called in to ring, thus
depriving the band of an official referee.

During the year 1953 Mr. Alan Blair, of
Acton, W.3, rang in 240 different and new
towers. Is this a record for a year's 'tower-
snatching'?

Mr. Arthur T. Parker has been appointed
organist and choirmaster at Bowdon Parish
Church, Cheshire. A quarter peal, in which he
took part, was rung to welcome him.

A great service to ringing in Warwickshire
was performed by Mr. J. H. W. White, whose
death is reported in our obituary column. He
called the first peal of Mr. J. Frank Smallwood
at Bedworth.

In order that Mr. Justice Stable and Mr.
Justice Lynskey might sleep undisturbed at the
judges' lodgings near Lincoln Cathedral, the
Cathedral bells, which strike the quarters, and
Big Tom, which sounds the hours, were
stopped from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. each day during
the Assizes. The 'Sleep of the Just' is the
'Manchester Guardian's' heading.

The Shropshire Association are planning a
summer festival at Shrewsbury on July 10th
largely for the benefit of visitors. So many
applications are received from visiting bands
to ring at St. Chad's that many have to
be refused, hence the idea of the festival.
Adjoining St. Chad's is a beautiful park known
as 'The Quarry,' which is a pleasant waiting
place for non-ringing wives. St. Mary's bells
will no doubt be available.

BELFRY GOSSIP

Mr. W. S. Palin, of Faver-
sham, who is the Ringing
Master of the Canterbury
District, is in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital
recovering from an operation. His friends will
wish him a speedy recovery. The latest report
on his condition states that he is improving.

Stetty bells will be on the air at 10.15 p.m.
next Sunday, when a short history will also be
broadcast.

Mr. Peter Cook, sen., rang his 400th peal at
Holy Trinity, Bolton, on February 6th. Of
these he has conducted 171 and one was a
silent peal. His peals have been rung in 100
different towers in 16 counties.

After the peal at St. Martin's Church, Stam-
ford (Lincs), on February 6th, the band were
most hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs.
Percy D. Baldock, to whom they accord their
thanks.

The Editor has available a few separate sheets
of 'The Ringing World' index for 1953, which
ringers who bind their copies of 'The Ringing
World' might like to include in their volume.
When applying, please send a stamped ad-
dressed envelope.

There is a great joy to a conductor in shep-
herding his pupils through their first peal. Mr.
Michael E. Brown, of Sapcote (Leics), taught
Rita and Christine Stratford to handle a bell
in March, 1952. On February 6th Rita (16)
and Christine (14) rang their first peal of
Major (Cambridge Surprise) at Earl Shilton.
Previously Rita had rung a peal of Grandsire
Triples but Christine's peals had been limited
to six bells. Mr. Brown expresses thanks to
the Hinckley ringers for giving them eight-bell
practice.

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CHURCH ASSEMBLY AND RECORDED BELLS

Mr. Ivor Bulmer-Thomas is to move another motion at the spring session of the Church Assembly, 'That the Church Assembly deprecates the introduction into churches of recordings of bells and instruments simulating the sound of bells.'

In support of the motion Mr. E. A. Barnett, secretary of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, has sent to Mr. Ivor Bulmer-Thomas the following letter:—

'On behalf of the above Council, representing some 20,000 change ringers, may I wish you success with the motion which you are to move at the spring session of the Church Assembly next week. We thank you for your continued interest in the matter and offer you our fullest support to arouse public opinion against recorded and synthetic bells.

'I understand that those who favour such devices point out that organ stops are made to imitate other musical instruments; this, I feel, overlooks the fact that the organ is played by an artist, and not by a kind of pianola attachment.'

Mr. Barnett has received the following acknowledgment from Mr. Ivor Bulmer-Thomas:—

'Dear Mr. Barnett,—Thank you for your letter of the 10th inst. I am most grateful to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers for the support you have given to my motion on the recording of church bells to be debated in the Church Assembly next week. The English tradition of change ringing is rightly held in honour, and I hope, with your help, that the Church Assembly will register its dislike of recordings and synthetic bells, which are bound to undermine that tradition.—Yours sincerely, Ivor Bulmer-Thomas.'

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION

Increased Interest Reported at Annual Meeting

Almost arctic conditions prevailed at Shrewsbury on January 30th, when the Shropshire Association held their annual meeting.

Forty-five names had been received for tea, and as the meals were being cooked at a suitable cafe, the secretary became very worried as the meeting time approached. Attempts to check up numbers during the afternoon were frustrated, because owing to the sudden illness of the Vicar of St. Mary's, this belfry was closed.

The number at St. Chad's was not large, but on arrival at St. Michael's the tiny belfry was found to be full and overflowing.

Here, the Rev. C. J. Lawson (Vicar) conducted the usual service and said how happy he was that the Association had found it possible to visit the church, which was away from the town centre. They now had their own ringers for their six bells, but appreciated the way they sounded that afternoon. He quoted from letters which had survived from 1830, when the church was built, to point out that the Vicar of St. Mary's had given the bells, and Mr. Mottram, head of a firm still surviving, had given the first six ropes.

Car owners helped to augment the bus service back to town, when the officials were very glad to count 42 in the comfortable Tudor Room in Pride Hill. The Rev. C. J. Lawson was unable to be present but the Rev. R. A. R. Chapman, St. Chad's, gave great encouragement to the proposal for a ringing festival in

BELFRY GOSSIP

(continued)

Mr. P. W. Cave, of 3, The Rooley, Huyton, Liverpool, leaves this country by air on March 16th for a two months' business tour of Australia. He hopes to visit a number of the principal towns and cities and would be willing to pass on any messages which ringers may wish to convey.

His friends will be very sorry to learn that Mr. Michael Fuller, of West Wickham, Kent, sustained serious injury when his car was involved in a collision at Barnet recently, and he is now in Barnet General Hospital suffering from a fractured pelvis and a broken wrist. He is progressing as satisfactorily as can be expected, but it will, of course, be some months before he can become active again.

The esteem with which Mr. C. W. Denyer, of Farnham, Surrey, is held by his district was in evidence on Saturday, when upon his retirement from the office of District Ringing Master members showed their appreciation by presenting him with a 'gentleman's companion.' The district have nominated him as a vice-president of the Guild. Always dapper, Farnham ringers feel that Charlie with their gift will have that extra polish that should accompany the vice-presidency! There are hopes that what he has done for the Farnham District will extend to other parts of the Guildford Guild.

A company with enthusiasm and desire to progress is Blytheburgh, Suffolk. Last December they rang a peal of Minor in four methods with St. Clement's as something new. On February 6th they attempted a five-method peal with the addition of Double Oxford. Unfortunately this came to grief and there was not sufficient time for a second start. A quarter of Double Oxford and St. Clement's was, however, rung and hopes of the five-method peal are entertained for a date towards the end of February.

July, when he offered to provide tea for the occasion.

Mr. A. Pritchard, Ringing Master, said that 1953 was probably the most successful year they had achieved, ringing for the Coronation being very satisfactory. Meetings had reached record proportions, but he regretted that peals were confined to a few enthusiasts, and the total remained small.

The treasurer said the accounts reflected the increased interest and the balance was slightly higher, despite four grants to restorations. A printed report for 1951 and 1952 was ready, and the thanks of all were due to Mr. F. H. Bennett, who had printed it for them. He warned members that they could not expect this on every occasion and more subscriptions would be necessary to meet the next charge.

Mr. Bennett was warmly thanked for his work, and a peal booking fee of sixpence per rope decided upon, with a charge for the next printed report.

A comprehensive programme for 1954 was agreed upon, to include a gathering in Shrewsbury, on July 10th, of the Shropshire Association, the Staffordshire Association and the Hereford Diocesan Guild, with meetings at Broseley or Claverley, Market Drayton, High Ercall, Westbury, Atcham (if rehung) or Clive and Cheswardine.

Ringing was resumed at St. Chad's, standard methods and Cambridge being heard.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT.—At the Church of St. Peter, on Jan. 31st, 1.260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. J. Hilton 1, B. V. Collison 2, H. Vaughan 3, A. Wellington 4, J. A. Hilton 5, K. Hohl 6, E. J. Ladd (cond.) 7, G. Price (first quarter) 8.

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD

War Memorial Dedicated

In spite of the rather bad weather a fair attendance of between 40 and 50 attended the dedication of the Guild's War Memorial in the belfry of Winchester Cathedral on Saturday, February 6th. The dedication was incorporated with the annual meeting of the Winchester District of the Guild.

The bells of the Cathedral were first available between 1 and 2 p.m. although there were not many who were able to get there at that time.

The meeting itself took place in the afternoon under the chairmanship of the Rev. C. F. C. Brinkworth, supported by Mr. J. A. C. King (District secretary) and Mr. F. C. Morland (district treasurer).

The secretary, in his report, urged more members to attend meetings at isolated villages and reported a small drop in membership. The balance sheet, presented by the treasurer, showed a profit on the year's working of just over £11.

All the officers were re-elected with the exception of the representatives to the Guild Committee, both of whom asked that their resignations be accepted. In their places Mr. F. C. Morland and Miss B. R. Pittaway were appointed. Three new ringing members were elected—Miss G. Howlett (Twyford), Miss R. Diamond (St. Maurice's, Winchester) and Mr. D. J. Roof (Winchester College). One honorary and two compounding members were also elected.

It was resolved that the next annual meeting be held on the first Saturday in February of next year. The quarterly meetings will be held at Wonston, New Alresford and Hursley, and the next practice meeting at Twyford.

Tea followed the meeting, after which a move was made to the Cathedral belfry for the dedication, performed by Canon C. P. Cowley, Vice-Dean of Winchester. In a short but impressive service he read out the names inscribed on the panels and finally performed the dedication. The service over, he asked relatives to step forward and shook each by the hand. The 1939-45 Guild War Memorial consists of two additional wooden panels fixed to the side of an existing memorial to the 1914-18 war.

Members then descended into the long nave of the Cathedral for evensong, at which the Rev. V. K. C. Logan gave a short address in which he stressed the importance of regarding the Church as a family rather than a club or society.

The bells of the Cathedral were again available after the service, at which the 12 bells were put to good use in standard methods.

I.W. District Report Successful Year

The annual meeting of the I.W. District was held at Newport on February 6th, the president, the Ven. A. Cory (Archdeacon of the Island) being in the chair. The secretary's report showed a very successful year's ringing and the balance sheets proved the financial situation to be quite satisfactory.

After ringing Carisbrooke bells during the afternoon, the members were more than pleased to sit down to an excellent tea provided by Mr. F. Chiverton and served by the ladies connected with St. Thomas' Bible Class. Newport bells were rung during the evening.

The service was conducted by the Rev. C. R. Farnsworth, who gave an excellent address. Miss Lower was at the organ and the District is most grateful to all those who contributed to the success of the meeting. A. M. G.

SHAFTESBURY — ITS CHURCHES AND BELLS

TWENTY miles to the west of Salisbury Cathedral and its soaring spire, and sitting astride the busy A30 main road to the south-western counties is the bold and ancient town of Shaftesbury, in Dorset county. Standing some 700 feet above sea level and reputed to be the second highest town in England would seem to make the adjective 'bold' an apt one, whilst its history, so closely connected with the kings and kingdom of Wessex of olden times, certainly imparts to it an ancient flavour.

According to one historian it was built by Hudibras, King of Britain in 950 B.C., but its real history begins with the foundation of the Abbey of Alfred the Great, in 880 A.D. The Abbey was razed to the ground after the Dissolution in 1539 and few traces of it remain. Here, during excavations in 1931, a leaden casket was found containing remains conjectured to be those of King Edward the Martyr, who was murdered at Corfe Castle in 978, and buried at Wareham, but three years later his remains were transferred to the Royal Abbey of Shaftesbury, which then became a place of pilgrimage.

Here, too, King Canute died on November 12th, 1035, to be interred at Winchester, where the casket containing his bones may still be seen in St. Swithin's Cathedral. In olden times, too, Shaftesbury possessed three mints, which have long since vanished, but is from one of these that the famous Gold Hill most likely got its name.

It is, however, the churches of this little town which must now claim our attention.

FOUR CHURCHES TO-DAY

At one time Shaftesbury possessed twelve, but of the four remaining churches one only, St. Peter's, is of ancient date. Three of these possess a ring of six bells, whilst the fourth church, that of St. Edward-the-Martyr, which is now used by the Roman Catholic faith, has a tubular chime. On the south-east outskirts of the town is the Parish Church of Cann, which regales us with the music of four steel bells ringing each week.

Upon arrival in the widest part of the High Street which makes the best and most obvious stopping place, the visitor's attention is immediately drawn to the ancient Mother Church of St. Peter, which still takes precedence over the present-day churches of the town. It is a 15th century building with some exquisitely-carved parapets along the north side, facing the street, and a massive, sturdily-built weather-beaten tower.

There is no churchyard or grass surrounding it whatsoever and the wall of the north aisle forms the pavement boundary, with what is now the main entrance door. But most remarkable is the fact that the church is built upon what is the very brow of Gold Hill—no wonder the ancient tower is well-buttressed and its walls are so thick and solid, for well it needs to be. A marvel of mediæval building, in truth. The houses straggling up the famous Hill come right up to the tower, using its south wall as their own.

The very fine entrance porch in the west wall of the tower was, unfortunately, almost completely blocked up by the building, in 1827, of the adjoining Town Hall, which comes to within a few feet of the door itself. This was the main entrance, having a large open space in front of it leading down Gold Hill and where, I have been told, were situated the old Town Cross, the stocks and the whipping post, which were all sacrificed to make room for the building one now sees there. Thus was lost one of the most attractive showpieces in the land, to Shaftesbury's disadvantage and, I should think, everlasting regret.

Inside the church there is no chancel proper but it is all one with the nave and the aisles, which extend right to the east end. Unfortunately some lovely woodwork and panelling was removed from within many years ago during some 'restoration' and cleaning operations, some of which still enriches some private houses in the town.

BEER CELLAR IN CRYPT

Underneath the south aisle there is now an attractive little crypt fitted out for use as a private chapel for quiet devotions. This has a little history all its own, for, within living memory, it used to serve as a beer cellar where adjoining inns stored their liquor and even brewed their beer. This must make it the only crypt in the land that can claim such a distinction! Fortunately, through the good offices of some local church-lovers, it is now dedicated to a higher and worthier sphere of service more in keeping with the old church itself. Owing to the noise and other inconveniences, Sunday services are held in St. Peter's only very occasionally now, the Church of Holy Trinity serving regularly instead in this respect, for the two parishes are now joined as one.

The bells of St. Peter's are a fine-toned ring of six with a tenor of 16 cwt. The fifth is said to be a little heavier than this—it certainly measures the same across the mouth. The oldest bell of the ring is the second, dated 1670, and it carries the following inscription: 'When I do ring prepare to pray.' Next in age is the tenor, 1672, which is inscribed: 'When you hear me for to toll, Then pray to God to save the soul.' Number five came from the Aldbourne foundry in 1776, carrying the words: 'While thus we join in cheerful sound, May love and loyalty abound.'

The treble is dated 1684 and informs us that: 'A wonder great my eye I fix, Where were but three you may see six. T. P.' The year 1738 gave the third and fourth bells to the church, the founder being a William Cockey, who, Mr. Fidler suggests, was probably a travelling bell-founder. The whole ring was reconditioned and rehung in 1926 by the Loughborough firm, and the good work then carried out is still evident.

FIRST KNOWN PEAL IN 1953

The first known peal, one of Plain Bob Minor, was rung on these bells on St. Valentine's Day, 1953, for the Salisbury Guild. The bells are rung for practices and special occasions, but Sunday ringing is at the 'other Church' of Holy Trinity.

Holy Trinity Church is about two minutes' walk away and its lofty tower is a familiar landmark for many miles around, being well known to travellers on the main West of England line from Salisbury to Exeter at this point. The church itself is modern, but standing on the hallowed site of a much earlier church, and was completed in 1842. The former edifice used to serve the great Benedictine Abbey of olden times. This tower also contains a ring of six bells, with a tenor of 11 cwt. in G. Two of these evidently belonged to the previous church, number four being the oldest, having been cast in 1597 by John Wallis, of Salisbury, and the fifth in 1641 by William Purdue. The remaining four bells came from the Whitechapel foundry in 1844, which firm retuned and rehung the ring in 1952.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH

Nestling at the foot of the hills underneath the little town is the Parish and Church of St. James, the church being at the extreme western end. This church, too, is modern, replacing the older St. James' on the same spot, being completed in 1867. It follows the Early English style, being built of local green stone with dressings of Bath stone. Some parapets and

the stonework in the east window of the south aisle came from the old church—of which a good photograph hangs in the vestry.

The tower contains our third ring of six bells, three ancient and three modern. The older three, of course, came from the old St. James' tower, these being the second, third and fourth. Number three of the ring would appear to be the oldest bell in Shaftesbury, and though it carries no date, the Rector states that it is definitely a pre-Reformation bell. Its weight is 5 cwt. 2 qr. 2 lb. and on it are the words: 'Santie Jacobi. Ora Pro Nobis = (St. James, pray for us).' Number two has the date 1597 and the words: 'O Praise God,' whilst the fourth has the lettering: 'C.N.C.A.C.I.D. O give thanks unto God. 1629,' inscribed on it. The treble, fifth and tenor (which is 9½ cwt.) came from the Whitechapel foundry in 1875, each bearing an inscription and the founder's name, and date. In 1937 the Croydon bell-founders set the ring in good order.

This completes our brief survey of churches with rings of bells, but there still remains much of interest in this ancient town. There are other churches and old buildings, steep hilly lanes and by-ways as well as the Abbey ruins and the glorious park-walk promenade with its magnificent views over the rolling Dorset countryside and the Blackmore vale.

YOUNG RINGERS' INTEREST

As for the ringing itself, it has been found a difficult matter to establish change ringing in this stronghold of the 'cards,' though we are making slow progress and are linked to the Guild. One heartening factor is the young people who have lately been brought into the belfries, and now the narrow old steps of St. Peter's tower resound to the eager excited tread of five girls from the local High School and three boys from the town who have all been taught to handle a bell within recent months. Even though we know that they will inevitably leave the district in time, we can still feel that something worthwhile has been accomplished if we can send them out to other bands well able to handle a bell correctly and confidently in rounds, and with some knowledge of elementary change ringing, and happy in their bond of love and service to their Church. So here we may finish where we began—outside St. Peter's in the old High Street on the busy road, which, on these modern summer Sundays, is just an inferno of din, filled with the 'noisome pestilence' (to borrow the psalmist's phrase) as pagan crowds roar by to coast and countryside in search of pleasure.

May the churches and bells of Shaftesbury never fail to send out their challenge and their appeal to all and sundry as long as the need exists—until God's work and will on earth is done: until bells no longer need to ring only to His Honour and Glory.

J. B. P.

Gratefully Acknowledged

The Editorial Committee acknowledge with gratitude the following contributions to meet the cost of producing 'The Ringing World':—

Personal. — J. L. Garner-Hayward 2s., H. Walker 2s.

Peals. — Neath 3s., Locking 3s., Gamston 1s. 6d., Newcastle-on-Tyne 3s., Hughenden 4s., Bath 4s., Dunmow 4s., Harpenden 2s., Knebworth 2s., Higham Ferrers 4s., Ilkeston 2s. 6d., Ottery St. Mary 4s.

Quarter peals. — Hitchin 2s., Bury St. Edmunds 2s., Evercreech 1s. 6d., Huntspill 2s., Wimbleton 2s. 6d., Abbotsbury 2s., Isleworth 2s. 6d., Lyme Regis 2s. 6d., Sparsholt 2s. 6d., Stafford 2s., Knowle 2s. 6d., Walsall 2s., Evercreech 2s.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A NON-RINGER AND RECORDED BELLS

Dear Sir,—It might not be inappropriate for a non-ringer to comment on the correspondence which has enjoyed the courtesy of your columns in the matter of 'canned' ringing. There is a great difference betwixt the sound of recorded bells, fixed bells that are struck, and free bells that are rung. It is wrong to quote gramophone musical records as proof that recordings are preferred or equal to the real thing. Many a lover of good music keeps records of his favourite pieces. If, however, the owner of such records is given the opportunity of hearing a favourite piece performed by a 'live' orchestra he would rush to take advantage of it.

On the radio there is a noticeable difference in the production or reproduction of recorded programmes. It is at once unwise, ungrateful and untrue to accuse all ringers of being prejudiced when they put forward their objections to recorded bells.

To me it seems equally wrong to say that it is better for a church which cannot get a ring of bells to have a recording machine. On the contrary, the tolling of a single bell has a beauty of its own when heard over the hills and dales, but the tingling of obviously synthetic bells has to the sensitive ear the same effect as the jangle of an alarm clock on a frosty morning.

It was fatuous of one correspondent to refer to electronics and radar and to suggest—to put it mildly—that, therefore, we must have canned bells in preference to a band of humans.

Much more could be said, but I will content myself with the thought that bellringing should be encouraged if only for the fine influence it has on the youth of our country—a grand, healthy exercise with a glorious spiritual background.

With best wishes for your good work, believe me to be, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR M. MORRIS.

Penley, near Wrexham.

WORCESTERSHIRE PEALS WITHDRAWN

Dear Sir,—By an error on my part in transcribing a composition of 5,055 Stedman Caters by Mr. F. H. Dexter, I have now to withdraw a peal rung at Evesham bell tower on October 31st, 1953, for the Worcestershire Association.

For the same reason the following peals will also have to be deleted from the Association's records, numbers and years as follows:—2,638 (1946); 2,656 (1947); 2,722 (1948); 2,897 (1950); 2,913 (1950).

No question as to the accuracy of the original composition arises, for it was my own stupidity in wrongly interpreting the turning-course that produced repetition of changes.

In offering my humble apologies to all concerned, I can only hope they will in time be able to forgive me.—Yours sincerely,

GEORGE E. LARGE.

Worcester.

GISLINGHAM BELLS

Dear Sir,—I must thank Mr. Rush for his interesting letter in response to my inquiry concerning the Gisligham peal of 1822.

Some time ago I sent a photograph of the peal board to the 'East Anglian Magazine' and somewhat rashly stated that the peal was a record until beaten at Yass, Australia, a few years ago. This brought forth the letter from Mr. Steward pointing out longer lengths on six bells in England. I felt sure that when the Yass peal was rung it was stated that it surpassed the Gisligham record.

Now the Yass peal was on five bells, hence my inquiry whether the Gisligham method was Doubles or Minor. Perhaps someone will say when and where the record for Doubles was rung.

I pointed out that the bells at Gisligham were out of order and suggested that it would be rather nice if the bells were restored and the record regained.

However, record or no record, I think all will agree that these bells should be restored if possible. They were in a bad way before the war, and on a recent visit I found it impossible to ascend the tower as the staircase was choked full with nests, rubbish, etc.

Concerning the peal board, the treble is shown with a spade and a box-like object, which I took to be a coffin, and imagined the ringer was the sexton, but the tenor's emblem is clearly a shoemaker's awl.

The church is very interesting, having escaped the Victorian restoration, and contains some ancient stained glass showing the columbine and other wild flowers. The roof has recently been replaced but the restoration of the bells would probably be beyond the means of this small parish.

Alas, there are many rings of bells in a similar state where 'a stitch in time' would have saved many pounds. What a pity the Guilds, Societies and various experts do not interest themselves more in these matters; it would be so much better than arguing about 'canned' bells, methods, transpositions, grids and suchlike. They all sound much the same, anyway. Which do they think the ordinary 'man in the street' prefers, bells hanging silent or a recording of a mellow ring echoing quietly through the air? Let me whisper it, but he might even prefer 'canned' bells to the efforts of the local ringers, which may not always be so melodious!

L. SEWELL.

Long Melford, Suffolk.

BELFRY CUSTOMS

Dear Sir,—I was very glad to see the article on 'Belfry Customs' in your issue of February 5th. The restrictions on the use of bells in the two great wars have done more to effect the discontinuance of such traditions in 40 years than any other causes in the previous 400 years. It should be the endeavour of the present generation to trace and recover these interesting and romantic links with the past.

In this Dorset village two old customs have been handed on from ancient days. One is that of ringing a bell on Sundays at 8 a.m. independently of any service; the other is ringing a bell at the close of service on Sunday mornings.

I have lately been shocked to learn of even important cities having allowed the loyal tribute of ringing on royal anniversaries to fall into abeyance. When I was at school in Bath it was a grand experience to hear the bells of one church after another ring out in the early morning on these occasions, and the noble bells of the Abbey again at midday. It is true that in these prosaic times ringing during working hours may involve considerable difficulty and expense, but ringers may well take the matter into their own hands and ring in the evening without either orders or payment—as was done by the Cheltenham company in the days of Mr. W. T. Pates over 50 years ago.

In conclusion, let me make two practical suggestions. One is that, with last year's historic event still fresh in our minds, all bands of ringers make a point of ringing on Coronation Day, June 2nd. The other is that all ringers get together in their respective towers and ring on the day of the Queen's return from her imperial peregrination, so that she may be welcomed back to this country by the music of all the bells in the kingdom.—Yours sincerely,

F. LEWELLYN EDWARDS.

Kington Magna Rectory.

THE STISTED PEAL

Dear Sir,—I cannot allow Miss Snowden's letter, published in the issue of February 5th, to go unchallenged.

She states that the Essex Association has taken no official action regarding the peal of Kent Minor rung at Stisted. This, I believe, is not the case, for, following a committee meeting of the said Association, one of its oldest and most respected members took me aside in the belfry and told me that it had been withdrawn.

It was, I assume, the conductor of that peal who wrote to 'The Ringing World' withdrawing it and it was unfortunate that the editorial staff confused it with the peal of Cambridge. However, that unfortunate situation has now been rectified.

Miss Snowden then goes on to speak of the etiquette expected amongst members of the 'Ringing Fraternity.' I would remind her that the attitude of certain people, in the belfry and elsewhere, is causing much unrest in the Northern Division of the Association and undermining the quality of the ringing.

They cause people mental stress in worrying about the peace, and in this emotionally unsettled state they cannot hope to give of their best.

Until we have unity and good feeling in all our belfries, thus producing a happy atmosphere, we cannot hope to achieve good ringing.

I am not going to enter into any controversy about footnotes for this subject has already been fully considered in your columns. It is sufficient to say, however, that I was unashamedly responsible for the one in question. The peal was, of course, to the glory of God.

Let us all in this coming year make a real effort to blow away the clouds from all our belfries and thus make way for the best of ringing.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN R. LEEMING.

Clapham Common, S.W.4.

NOTE.—We have received an official notification from Mr. F. V. Gant, hon. secretary of the Essex Association, that the peal in question was not accepted by the Essex Association for the purpose of their records, and it is also not included in the records of the Peal Analysis Committee for 1953.

We regret that a typographical error occurred in Miss Snowden's letter. She asks us to point out that she does not object to footnotes, but to 'useless' footnotes.—Ed.

FORTY YEARS AGO

Extract from 'The Ringing World'
February 20th, 1914

ODD CHANGES

For the first time in history, the Exercise can boast of having in its ranks a Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Cherry having been elevated to the position of Lord Chief Justice of Ireland. . . . The new Lord Chief Justice, whenever his duties have permitted, has taken his place in the service ringing at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and has taken part in several peals. He has identified himself very intimately in the affairs of the Irish Association, at the head of whose executive he still remains.

* * * * *

The recent performance which we noted at Newcastle, where a visitor from Gosforth raised the tenor (37½ cwt.) in 5 mins. 35 secs., recalls the occasion when Mr. James H. McCracken raised the tenor single-handed at Edinburgh Cathedral (42½ cwt.) in exactly two minutes, timed by Messrs. W. R. Fyfe, J. R. Robertson and J. Whitson. This was on Jan. 25th, 1911.

[Mr. McCracken must have been a modern Hercules—or perhaps, as with Trooper Joseph Jones of the Life Guards, who was said to have raised St. Paul's Cathedral tenor by himself sometime in the 1880's, someone gave a little assistance from the bell-frame.]

ON CONDUCTING

By WILFRID G. WILSON

VII. CONDUCTING A PEAL—OLD STYLE

Now let us consider an ordinary peal of Bob Major and how our conductor will find the benefit of this Coursing Order method of conducting. Like Chapter III, this short chapter is included as a warning of what not to do.

5,056 Changes by T. B. Worsley

23456 W B M H

23645 — 2 —

62345 — —

36245 — —

24365 — —

32465 — —

54326 — —

35426 — —

43526 — —

52346 S —

35246 — —

23546 — —

Three times repeated. S instead of B half-way and end.

This is how our bob-caller will find the figures in a book. He must learn what bobs to call—nothing can save him that. He could learn those eleven course ends and then at each H he could check that the bells were still right. By mentally changing 4 and 5 he might remember the second block of eleven course ends. By mentally changing 2 and 3 he might also remember the third block (the half-way course end is 32456) and by mentally changing 4 and 5 again he might claim that he knew all the 44 course ends. That would be a considerable feat of memory, but it wouldn't help him at all unless any trips that developed happened to be at one of those 44 rows out of the 5,056. I couldn't do it and I certainly wouldn't try.

If our bob-caller were very conscientious he might even write out the whole peal (or one quarter of it) on the lines of the first example of a touch in Chapter VI. He would then be able to prove that the peal was true but that is about all.

But he is much more likely to confine himself to remembering the part ends, perhaps also the fifth course end of each part, as it is an easy one to remember, and then learn also the sixth place bells—5 and 6 in the first quarter, 4 and 6 in the second, and so on. If he wished to call the peal from any bell other than one of the tenors he would be worried all the time that he would miss a calling position unless he also learnt what one of the bells did at every bob. If he only wanted to do this for eleven courses he would have to ring the 6th, which is the only 'working' bell which repeats its work in each quarter.

There are, of course, many peals each week which are called in this manner—it is, I suppose, almost inevitable that one's early peals should be. But that they are successful is due, if we speak the truth, to the fact that no member of the band makes a serious mistake. If he does, and the method is a simple one, another member of the band may be able to help him, but in a difficult method the ordinary ringer must keep his thoughts on the work of his own bell.

QUARTER PEALS

CROYDON, SURREY.—On Feb. 7th, at the Church of St. John-the-Baptist, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: E. J. Razzell; 1. Miss P. M. Steere (first in the method) 2. S. H. Dearden 3. W. Williams 4. F. E. Mitchell 5. W. F. Oatway 6. G. H. Humphries 7. F. E. Collins (cond.) 8.

EVERCREECH, SOMERSET.—On Feb. 2nd, 1,260 Doubles (being 360 Stedman, 660 Grandsire and 240 Plain Bob): D. Hill 1. H. J. Sanger (cond.) 2. J. Nicholls 3. D. Lee 4. R. March 5. P. March 6. Also on Feb. 9th, 19260 Grandsire Triples: Marian March (aged 12, first quarter) 1. D. Hill 2. R. March 3. R. Crago 4. J. Nicholls 5. D. Lee 6. H. J. Sanger (cond.) 7. P. March 8.

HONOURS FOR SURREY ASSOCIATION

Some 56 ringers from 22 towers braved the snow and bitter wind on January 30th to attend the annual general meeting of the North-West District of the Surrey Association at Epsom. Ringing commenced promptly at 3 p.m. at Christ Church and all tastes were catered for in the following hour and a half. The Master's most difficult task seemed to be to make room for ringing, as no one wanted to leave the warm belfry for the cold outside.

At 4.30 the company adjourned to the Cricketers', where, by Mr. F. Oakshott's arrangements, an excellent tea was enjoyed. The business meeting commenced afterwards under the chairmanship of the District Master, Mr. F. E. Collins.

The committee's report mentioned a ringing membership of 289, and 16 peals were rung in 1953. These included one on handbells and consisted of three Doubles, three Minor, three Triples, three Major and one of Royal. The total was one more than the previous year.

The accounts, which showed a small increase in the balance in hand, were adopted.

The following programme for 1954 was agreed to:—Easter Monday, Esher or Egham; July 3rd, Dorking and Ramrood; September 25th, Benhilton; November 27th, Barnes and Mortlake; January 25th, 1955, annual meeting at Streatham.

It was also agreed to take part in the Four Guilds' Festival on June 26th and to have the usual joint meetings with the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild and the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association.

The following officers were elected for 1954, being the only nominees:—Master, Mr. F. E. Collins; secretary, Mr. W. Parrott (30, Hamilton Avenue, North Cheam); treasurer, Mr. H. Pitstow, M.B.E.; auditor, Mr. R. F. Layton.

After a ballot, Messrs. Adams, Lathbury and Peters were elected to the committee. A hearty vote of thanks was then passed by the meeting to Mr. Lathbury for his hard work and enthusiasm during his term of office as secretary.

The attention of the meeting was drawn to the unique succession of honours which had been bestowed upon active members of the District recently. The hon. treasurer had made history by being the first ringer to be awarded the M.B.E. for ringing activities. The Master, Mr. Collins, had just completed his term of office as Master of the College Youths, and Mr. Hawthorn had recently been elected Master of the Cumberlands. Mr. W. Hewitt had received a Coronation Medal. The meeting, in congratulating the individuals concerned, felt justly proud to count them as keen and loyal members of the District.

After the meeting ringing was enjoyed at St. Martin's for a further period.

THE VILLAGE BELLS

Trying to Please Everybody

We have a ring of eight in our village. It is the kind of ring that visitors will ring on once, to get the tower. When they do come they always ask in a surprised way, 'Don't you get complaints about the noise?' We didn't when we only rang on Sundays, but as soon as we resumed a practice night we got one persistent objector.

The Doctor, who lives right under the bells, after haranguing on their awfulness, said, 'Can't you ring them a bit softer?' I replied that perhaps we could do something about blocking up the louvres, if those people who lived near the church and objected to the bells cared to pay for it. As he is not particularly keen on parting with his money I thought that would probably be the end of the matter, but a few days later I met someone who had been to a sherry party the previous evening when the doctor was also present. My informant told me that the doctor had spent most of the evening canvassing his neighbours in the hope of getting support for his anti-bells campaign. The odd thing was that as soon as each person understood the purport of the matter, it was 'Oh, no, the bells don't bother us,' and 'We rather like the bells.' In the end the doctor got no support at all.

When I next met him I offered to block up the louvres at my own expense, and if he was satisfied perhaps he would recompense me a bit. We did a thoroughly good job, and boarded up all four windows three-parts of the way up at the expense of about £8 in materials. The doctor said that as far as he could see it made no difference and refused to pay.

This morning I was stopped in the village by the titled lady who lives at the Hall, the other side of the church, and is a little deaf. 'What's all this about the bells being muffled because one man objects to them? I never heard of such a thing. You take it all off, young man; we can't hear 'em at all.'

F. E.

TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD

Joint Meeting at Camborne

A joint meeting of the Truro and Penzance Branches of the Truro Diocesan Guild was held at Camborne on February 6th. This was the first venture of such a kind. For Cornwall the weather was arctic, which no doubt accounted for some of the more distant towers not being represented. However, there was a representative gathering of sixty, which included Mr. W. H. Southard (Diocesan Ringing Master) and the Rev. W. H. R. Trehwella (Diocesan Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Eileen Symons, who was in Devonshire caring for sick relatives, and Mr. R. G. Clemens (Truro Branch Secretary), who was not too well, and also had the additional work of caring for his cattle in the cold.

The service was conducted by the Rev. G. F. Sandfield (Rector), who also gave the address. The Rev. D. A. Wood (curate) said the prayers and the Rev. A. S. Roberts (Penzance Branch Secretary) read the lesson.

Tea was served in the parish room and was organised by Miss Thelma Richards (Secretary of the Camborne ringers). Votes of thanks were offered to all who had helped to make the gathering a success. Congratulations were offered to Messrs. Stanley and Harold Seymour, of Redruth, who had just completed forty years as members of the local band, and hopes were expressed that Mr. Geoffrey Taysom's wife would soon be out of hospital where she had recently been taken for an emergency operation.

During the afternoon and evening the eight bells at Camborne, Tuckingmill and Redruth and the six at Illogan were available. A pleasing feature was the number of young ringers amongst the hands that attended. It is to be hoped they will all stick to and progress in the art, and be of assistance in whatever district they might eventually move to. It has been noted of late that many of the more progressive young Cornish ringers pass on to other parts of the country.

Office for the Admission of a Ringer to a Parish Company or Guild, and the Belfry Office

Dear Sir,—I have just had sight of a copy of the 38th annual report of the Norwich and Ipswich Association of Ringers, which dealt with the year 1919.

The Association was founded in 1877, and I presume that it has been split into the two bodies—The Norwich Diocesan Association and The Suffolk Guild.

I was rather struck by what I saw on pp. 6, 7 and 8 of the report, and I think it is of some interest to-day. These pages contained the two Offices as in the heading of this article, and they show that the former was approved by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

As far as the Office for Admission goes it contains the following:—

'The company of ringers and the clergy of the parish being assembled in the ringing chamber or the floor of the church beneath the tower, with the candidate or candidates for admission, the incumbent, or curate-in-charge, shall proceed with the office as follows:—

In the Name of the Father . . . Amen.

Psalm xv.

Lord, who shall dwell in Thy Tabernacle. . . . world without end. Amen.

Then, addressing the candidate or candidates, he shall say:—

Do you desire admission to the Company of Ringers holding office in this church?

Ans.: I do.

Do you recognise the duty of setting an example of consistent Christian life and conduct and of attending the services of the church, to which you will summon others?

Ans.: I do.

Do you promise to conform to the Rules of this Belfry while a member of the company, to be attentive to the duties of the Ringers' Office, and to behave with reverence in the belfry as a part of the church?

Ans.: I do.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy, etc.

Our Father, etc.

V. O Lord, save Thy servant. . . .

R. . . . let our cry come unto Thee.

Prayer—

. . . vouchsafe Thy blessing to this Thy servant. . . .

Then shall he place a bell-rope in the hands of each candidate and say:—

I receive and admit the (N) into the Company of Ringers attached to this church, to share the privileges and perform the duties appertaining to the Ringer's Office, in the Name of the Father. . . . Amen,

Responses.

Blessing. Amen.'

The second Office is preceded by the following:—

'In order to help us to remember that the belfry is a part of God's House, and that the art of ringing, like every other accomplishment, should be exercised to the Glory of God, the committee recommend the use of the following short Belfry Office on all occasions of practice and peal-performance when a clergyman is present to say it:—

'The Belfry Office.

All being ready, and the ringers standing to their ropes, the clergyman shall say:—

Praise Him upon the well-tuned cymbals:

Praise Him upon the loud cymbals.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favour, and further us with Thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy Holy Name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ringers to commence immediately upon the conclusion of the office.'

I dare say that, even as recently as 35-40 years ago, this or something similar was carried out in a number of places. Are there many such to-day? Perhaps the latter Office—any of the former?

Eye, Suffolk.

CLAUDE RUSH.

THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

The Scottish Association held a ringing meeting on February 13th at St. John's, Alloa. Some time during the year a point is always made of going to Alloa, and although this meeting was an extra one and the weather was poor, and also that there were competing attractions, such as the Rugby International between Scotland and the All Blacks, about 30 ringers were present from most of the affiliated towers and from various parts of England.

The Ringing Master, Mr. C. R. Raine, was at the last moment unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting, but Mr. W. H. Pickett, the president and former Master, kept the ringing going during the afternoon and evening.

Through the kindness and generosity of the Social Committee of St. John's all the ringers attending were entertained to tea in the Parish Hall, and any doubts the caterers may have had about being able to feed the unexpected guests were soon dispelled as there was more than enough for everyone.

The ringing ranged from rounds to courses or touches of Grandsire, Stedman, Erin, Plain, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Cambridge. This was a greater variety of methods than for some time past and may have accounted for some of the roughness in the striking at times.

R. W.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION

Appreciation of Mr. G. Jennings' Services

Members and friends of the Northern Division of the Sussex County Association wish to place on record their wholehearted appreciation of the services rendered by that genial personality George Jennings, who has recently resigned the secretaryship after holding office for several years.

We feel that for a long time his name will be identified with the Northern Division for several reasons, not least among them being his ability to impart to meetings that air of friendliness and welcome which makes attendance at these gatherings always worth while.

So, George, we say, 'Thank you for all you've done and here's hoping we shall still have the benefit of your company at future meetings.'

Mr. Jennings' successor is Mrs. Enid Rapley, of 48, Swindon Road, Horsham (Telephone Horsham 2238), and to her we wish every success.

E. R.

With Harlesden Surprise Major on February 4th, a first peal in the method, 60 different Surprise Major peals have been rung on Willesden bells.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

Ashford District at Bethersden

Although the day opened dull and rainy, the weather cleared and was kind to us for our meeting at Bethersden on February 13th. Ringing had to be delayed until 3.30 on account of a funeral at the church, but it was soon going with a swing. It was the first meeting there since the bells were overhauled, and a distinct improvement all round was noticed.

At 4.30 p.m. the Rector (the Rev. G. E. Parr) came to conduct the service, at which just over 30 members and friends were present from Ashford, Biddenden, Brabourne, Folkestone, High Halden, Horsmonden, Lydd, Maidstone, Marden, Newington, Smarden and Willesborough, with the local band. Mr. W. P. Garner was at the organ and Mr. C. Hillis read the lesson. The collection, amounting to £1 3s. 6d., was given to the Association's Belfry Repair Fund.

For the tea at the Village Hall, Messrs. Harry and Peter Jarvis had made all arrangements and had themselves paid for the hire of the hall. They certainly know the kind of tea ringers like.

The Rector joined the company at tea, but had to leave before the business meeting. Before he went, Mr. Willis thanked him for all he had done to advance ringing, and, in his reply, he thanked the Association for financial help given when his bells needed attention. He said that one of the traits he most admired in ringers was their comradeship and friendliness.

It was good to hear that, because K.A. meetings really are chummy affairs, and we like the clergy, at whose churches we are guests, to feel that the same spirit is extended to them.

The short business meeting included the election of two new members—Master John Hilder, of Bethersden, and Geoffrey Pearson (late of Lancashire, but now in Ashford), whose experience will be a welcome asset to the district.

The gentlemen who had done the local spade-work in connection with the meeting were thanked. A return was made to the tower, where methods up to London Surprise Minor were rung.

It was good to see an increasing proportion of young members, and it was typical of the keenness of the ringers living in the locality that they ALL came to some part of the proceedings in spite (so rumour has it) of a certain important alternative 'engagement.' But then, of course, Bethersden has a high reputation to maintain.

W. P. G.

FAREWELL TO THE PROVOST OF LEICESTER

At the recent annual meeting of the Leicester Cathedral Society of Ringers, the Very Rev. H. A. Jones, B.Sc., former Provost of Leicester, was presented with a five guinea book token on behalf of the ringers on his leaving Leicester for his appointment as Dean of Manchester.

In making the presentation, the chairman, Mr. H. G. Jenney, thanked the Provost for his unbounded enthusiasm and co-operation during his 16 years in Leicester.

The Provost, in his reply, said he had always tried to work together with the ringers and remarked that in the 16 years the occasions were very few indeed that he had had to say no to applications for peals. He thanked the ringers for the regularity of the service ringing and for all the effort they had so obviously put into it. He said he should take away with him the happiest possible memories of his association with the Cathedral ringers.

A special peal was rung on the Cathedral bells as a farewell. It was an unnamed method and to mark the occasion the name Stonegate was given to it, that being the district of Leicester where the Provost lived for some years before taking up residence adjoining the Cathedral.

H. P.

OBITUARY

MR. W. A. FITCHFORD

By the death of Mr. W. A. Fitchford on February 2nd, a long and active line in the service of change ringing ended. Commencing to ring at St. Margaret's Church, Wolstanton, in February, 1886, at the age of 13, he continued in the same tower up to the time of his death, a total of 67 years. He rang his first peal in 1892 and the last of his 90 peals in 1939. He accepted captainship of the tower in 1905, and his sole object was to train and keep a band of ringers to ring for the services of the church, and he only accomplished this by his determination and his magnificent leadership. During his lifetime of ringing he held the post of Ringing Master and Chairman of the local Association.

He was very proud of the fact that the eight bells were kept ringing during the first World War, during which time 16 ringers joined H.M.F. His only son is the youngest ringer to have rung a peal at the age of 11 in this tower and probably in the Association.

This example of service to the Church and to ringing should be an inspiration to all ringers of the present band and to all ringers in the country to endeavour to teach the art of ringing wherever possible and to give the best service themselves.

It is impossible to imagine the amount of work and time Mr. Fitchford put into his ringing during this long period of service, and only the older generation will remember his travels around the district teaching and conducting peals whenever his services were required.

By his passing a great gap has been made in his own tower, and another one of the pioneers of ringing in North Staffordshire has been called to higher service: it is hoped that the mantle of knowledge, experience, leadership and patience will fall on the ringers who now take on the work so ably carried out by him.

The interment took place at St. Margaret's Church on February 5th and was attended by a representative band of the North Staffordshire Association. In the evening a quarter peal of Stedman Triples, with the bells half-muffled, was rung by the following: G. W. Biddulph 1, A. Moore 2, Miss S. Collins (first quarter Stedman) 3, C. Page 4, G. E. Kettle 5, E. A. Edge 6, D. R. Whalley (conductor) 7, R. S. Anderson 8. D. R. W.

MR. E. W. JOHNSON

We regret to announce the death under tragic circumstances of Mr. Ernest W. Johnson, captain for many years of the ring of eight bells in the famous Saxon tower at Earl's Barton, Northamptonshire. On the evening of February 8th Mr. Johnson was knocked down by a car and he died the next day, without regaining consciousness, at Northampton General Hospital.

For 28 years he was auditor of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild.

The funeral service was last Saturday afternoon at Earl's Barton and was attended by many ringing friends. There were many floral tributes, including a wreath from the Wellingborough Branch.

After the interment in Earl's Barton Cemetery the bells of All Saints' Church were rung half-muffled by the following ringers: Messrs. A. Bigley, branch secretary (Irthlingborough), D. G. Deighton, A. Wilson and R. Whiting (Higham Ferrers), A. Plowman and A. Stone (Wellingborough), B. Johnson (Ecton) and G. Neale, of Earls Barton. A. B.

MR. JOSEPH H. W. WHITE

With the passing of Mr. Joseph Henry Watson White, of George Eliot Road, Coventry, on February 6th, at the age of 75 years, the Coventry Diocesan Guild (formerly the Warwickshire Guild) has lost one of its founder members.

A resident of Nuneaton in 1907, he was present at the Dale Hotel, Warwick, on November 23rd, when the Warwickshire Guild was inaugurated, and he was elected as a committee member. He rang the fourth bell in the quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Mary's Church, Warwick, on that day to celebrate the birth of the new Guild. His first peal as conductor for the Guild was on May 10th, 1910, at Chilvers Coton, the method being Grandsire Triples. In the same year he removed to Coventry and joined the Stoke band. Ten years later he joined the Allesley band and was a member of that band until his death. However, difficulty of ascent to the ringing chamber caused him to transfer his ringing capabilities to Bedworth. The band there has made good progress under his tuition.

He worked enthusiastically for the Guild for many years, ringing 195 peals (42 conducted) by the end of 1952, when his peal ringing ceased. He was elected Ringing Master in 1930 and occupied that position for 14 years. At the conclusion of his Mastership, he became a vice-president. From 1932 to 1937 he represented the Guild on the Central Council.

The interment took place at London Road Cemetery, Coventry, on February 10th, when Messrs. A. H. Beamish 1—2, H. G. Summers 3—4, F. W. Perrens 5—6, and H. E. Sibley 7—8, rang a course of Grandsire Triples over the open grave. Messrs. J. L. Garner Hayward and O. J. Hunt also represented Guild members. Floral tributes from the Allesley band and also the Coventry Diocesan Guild were sent in remembrance of an old friend who had served so faithfully for over 47 years.

MR. ARTHUR MADELEY

To the memory of Mr. Arthur Madeley, who, since his retirement to West Somerset a few years ago, had been a very esteemed friend and colleague among them, the Minehead ringers rang the bells of St. Michael's Church, Minehead, half-muffled, on February 6th.

Mr. Madeley, who died at his home, Brake-ridge, Middlecombe, Minehead, on January 31st, in his 85th year, had had a very varied and interesting ringing career and had rung in towers all over the country.

He started ringing at Lichfield and it was largely as a result of his enthusiastic leadership, when he was a churchwarden there, that in 1908 a new ring of bells was installed in the Parish Church of Rushall (Staffs). Much later—in the early 1930's—he was again leader in the movement which ended in the bells at Broughton, Preston (Lancs), being recast.

Although in later years he had not been an active ringer he was a frequent visitor to gatherings of ringers in many parts of the country. At various times he had been a member of ringers' organisations in Staffordshire, Lancashire and Somerset, but by nobody will he be more sincerely missed than by his friends in the Dunster Deanery of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, with whom he loved to assemble.

NOTICES

Scale of Charges

The charge of Notices for meetings is one penny a word, minimum 2s. 6d. For additional insertions with no change of type one half of the above charge for each insertion.

Other Notices one penny per word, minimum 3s.

All notices must be prepaid.

Notices must be received on the Monday preceding publication.

ENGAGEMENT

GOODYER—WINTER.—The engagement is announced of Margaret Eleanor, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Winter, of School House, Quedgeley, Gloucester, former member of St. John's School of Ringing, Bristol, to Thomas William, elder son of Mrs. and the late Mr. R. W. Goodyer, member of St. Mary's tower ringers. Sydney, Australia. 3962

DEATH

MADELEY.—On Jan. 31st, 1954, at his home, Brake-ridge, Minehead, in his 85th year, Arthur, very dear husband of Thirza and father of Rachel, John and Geoff. 3137

SITUATION WANTED

WHEELWRIGHT AND BODY BUILDER would like a change: over 20 years' experience. Partnership in business would be considered.—Write Box 3930, 'Ringing World,' Woodbridge Press. Ltd., Guildford. 3930

MISCELLANEOUS

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Peals Secretary for 1954 is F. B. Lufkin, 73, St. Mary's Road, Prittlewell, to whom booking fees and peals particulars should be sent.—F. V. G. 3949

PEAL CARDS & QUARTER PEAL CARDS can now be ordered at 5s. a set of 12, post free (minimum charge). Order and remittances must be sent with peal report. For quarter peals write separate copy in same style as peals.

PUBLICATIONS

RINGER'S NOTEBOOK AND DIARY FOR 1954.—We regret that both editions are now sold out.—W. Viggers and M. Hodgson. 3936

MEETINGS

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—Meeting at Hemingford Abbots (6), Saturday, Feb. 20th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock at The Forge.—H. S. Peacock. 3913

ELY ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting, Wiggenshall, St. Mary Magdalen, Saturday, Feb. 20th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Tea provided.—J. E. Fox, Dis. Sec. 3915

HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting, Saturday, Feb. 20th, Kilndown. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. 3910

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Harpenden, Saturday, Feb. 20th 3 p.m. Tea. Special method: Double Oxford.—S. Huckle, Dis. Sec. 3908

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Meeting, Feb. 20th, St. Margaret's, Uxbridge (8 bells), opposite Underground Station. Bells 3 p.m. and after tea. Service 4.30. Tea in Church Hut, Belmont Road. 5.15. Names, please. Subscriptions now due.—F. W. Goodfellow, Hon. Sec., Seaford, Slough Road, Iwer Heath, Bucks (Iwer 1039). 3925

MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.—Next meeting, Newhall, Saturday, Feb. 20th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—J. W. Cotton, Tel. Overseal 264. 3934

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—West Dorset Branch.—Meeting at Lyme Regis, Feb. 20th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.—Barrett, Proutbridge, Beamister. 3912

SELBY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual meeting, Feb. 20th, at Selby Abbey. Bells (10) 2 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea being arranged by local company followed by annual general meeting. Ringing until 9 p.m. after meeting. **The dinner is cancelled.**—L. M. Woodhead, Hon. Sec. 3923

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Practice meeting, Merstham, Feb. 20th. Bells (6) 3. Service 5. Tea 5.30. 3916

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Annual meeting, Southover, Lewes (10), Feb. 20th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. 3906

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at Hardington Mandeville, Saturday, Feb. 27th. Service 4.30. Please notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock. 3921

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Branch.—Practice meeting, Compton Bishop, Saturday, Feb. 27th. Bells (6) 5.30 p.m.—E. C. Wickham, Hon. Local Sec. 3947

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting, Luton, Saturday, Feb. 27th, 3 p.m. Cafes available for tea. Look up Yorkshire S. Royal.—Dennis Knox. 3950

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—Annual meeting, Wallasey St. Hilary's, Feb. 27th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea provided for those notifying by 23rd. Annual dinner, entertainment and dance, Coach and Horses Inn, Moreton, March 13th. Tickets, 15s. each, now available.—Alexander J. Martin, 19, Falcon Road, Birkenhead. 3963

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting, Adwick (6), Feb. 27th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by 24th to Mrs. H. Scott, 105, Doncaster Road, Woodlands, Doncaster.—D. E. Smythe, Sec. 3964

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Houghton-le-Spring, Saturday, Feb. 27th. 3 p.m. Names for tea not later than Thursday, Feb. 25th, to Mr. W. F. Sheraton, 27, St. Aidan's Terrace, New Herrington, Houghton-le-Spring. 3143

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cambridge District.—Meeting at Ickleton (8), Saturday, Feb. 27th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—H. L. Martin, Dis. Sec. 3956

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.W. District.—Meeting at Harlow Common (8) on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (free) 5.15 p.m. in the Church Hall.—G. Blake, Dis. Sec. 3914

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Stevenage, Feb. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to W. Lawrence, 97, Letchmore Road, by Feb. 24th. Special method, Oxford Bob Triples. 3961

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at Bolton. Bells: All Souls' from 2 p.m., St. George's from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. at St. George's. Nominal charge. Names by the 24th to Mr. E. Ford, 384, Chorley Old Road, Bolton.—J. Thornley, Hon. Sec. 3144

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hinckley District.—Earl Shilton, Feb. 27th. Bells 3. Tea in Church Schools 5. Please notify by Feb. 24th Mr. G. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton, Leicester. 3953

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting, Saturday, Feb. 27th. St. Michael's. Headingley. Bells 3.30. Cups of tea provided, bring own food. Business meeting after tea.—I. Slack, Hon. Sec. 3146

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Melton District.—Meeting at Harby on Saturday, Feb. 27th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 o'clock. Names to Mr. J. Butcher, Harby, by the 24th.—J. H. Cook. 3951

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Annual meeting, Fakenham, Feb. 27th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5, followed by annual business meeting. Names for tea to George Cooke, 24, Back Street, Hampton, Fakenham, Norfolk. 3142

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Witney and Woodstock Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Cassington on Saturday, Feb. 27th. Ringing, Cassington and Eynsham, 2 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Social in the evening. All ringers and friends welcome. Please notify for tea Miss Lottie Pimm, High Street, Eynsham, Oxford. (Phone Eynsham 222.) 3918

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting, Beaconsfield, Saturday, Feb. 27th, 6 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough. 3952

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Practice meeting, St. Edmund's, Northampton, Saturday, Feb. 27th. Bells 6.30 p.m. All welcome.—G. F. Roome. 3140

SALISBURY GUILD.—Calne Branch.—Meeting, Wootton Bassett (8), Feb. 27th. 3 p.m. Number for tea essential.—E. Brooks, 37, Church Street, Wootton Bassett, Wilts. 3954

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Annual meeting, Eastbourne (St. Mary's), Saturday, Feb. 27th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. All Saints', Eastbourne, available in the evening. Names for tea not later than Wednesday, Feb. 24th, to R. W. Pankhurst, Hon. Div. Sec., 11, Salehurst Road, Eastbourne. 3957

WORCESTERSHIRE & DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—Meeting at Littleton, Saturday, Feb. 27th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business. Names by Tuesday, Feb. 23rd.—W. J. Newman, 7, New Road, Hampton, Evesham. 3959

DEVON GUILD.—Aylesbeare Branch.—Sowton, March 6th. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names by March 2nd to B. Pidgeon, East Budleigh. 3948

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.E. District.—District meeting at Great Bromley, Saturday, March 6th. Bells (6) 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Numbers for tea to me by March 3rd.—J. H. Gould, Fir Tree Cottages, Great Bromley. 3139

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—By-meeting at Milton Regis (6) on Saturday, March 6th. Bells 3 p.m. Names for tea by Tuesday, March 2nd, to Cyril S. Jarrett, 1, Blenheim Avenue, Chatham. 3960

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner, March 6th. Ringing arrangements: Friday evening, Erdington Abbey (8) 7.30 p.m.—9 p.m.; Saturday, St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral (8) 1 p.m., Bishop Ryder's (8) 2 p.m., St. Martin's (12) 2.30 p.m., Aston (12) 3.30 p.m., Cathedral (12) 4.15 p.m. Dinner tickets available if application is made by return, 14s. 6d. each.—G. E. Fearn, 92, Etwell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham 28. Phone Springfield 1025. 3965

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Salisbury Branch.—Practice, Shrewton, March 6th, from 2.30. Tea at the Plume 5. Amesbury also available afterwards. Names for tea by March 2nd, please.—Miss Eloie, 7, Victoria Road, Salisbury. 3958

SOUTHWELL GUILD.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Attenborough (8), recently augmented from 6, Saturday, March 6th. Further details next week. 3966

SWANSEA AND BRECON GUILD.—Southern District.—Quarterly, Cadoxton, Neath, March 6th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Names for tea—6, Gendros Crescent, Fforestfach, Swansea.—J. A. Hoare, District Secretary. 3145

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chipping Norton Deanery Branch.—Preliminary Notice.—The annual branch meeting will be held at Hook Norton on Saturday, May 22nd.—J. K. 3955

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.—Summer meeting at Shrewsbury, July 10th, Shropshire Association, Staffordshire Association and Hereford Diocesan Guild. Details later. 3938

SOUTHWELL SURPRISE MAJOR

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
1 2 4 6 3 8 5 7
2 1 6 4 8 3 7 5
2 6 1 4 3 8 5 7
6 2 4 1 8 3 7 5
2 6 1 4 8 7 3 5
2 6 4 1 7 8 5 3
6 2 4 7 1 8 3 5
2 6 7 4 8 1 5 3
2 7 6 4 1 8 3 5
7 2 4 6 8 1 5 3
2 7 6 4 8 5 1 3
7 2 4 6 5 8 3 1
7 4 2 5 6 8 1 3
4 7 5 2 8 6 3 1
7 4 2 5 6 8 3 1
4 7 5 2 8 6 1 3
4 5 7 8 2 6 3 1
5 4 8 7 6 2 1 3
4 5 7 8 6 1 2 3
5 4 8 7 1 6 3 2
5 8 4 7 6 1 2 3
8 5 7 4 1 6 3 2
5 8 7 1 4 6 2 3
5 8 1 7 6 4 3 2
8 5 7 1 6 3 4 2
5 8 1 7 3 6 2 4
5 1 8 7 6 3 4 2
1 5 7 8 3 6 2 4
5 1 7 3 8 2 6 4
1 5 3 7 2 8 4 6
1 5 7 3 8 2 6 4

False course ends: 24365, 32546, 46253, 32465 and 43265.

Middleton's Cambridge is true.

First peal in the method rung at Southwell Minster, Notts, on January 16th, 1954, conducted by W. E. Critchley.

HOLYWOOD DELIGHT MAJOR

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

2 1 4 3 5 6 8 7
1 2 3 4 6 5 7 8
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
2 4 1 6 3 8 5 7
4 2 6 1 8 3 7 5
4 2 1 6 3 8 5 7
2 4 6 1 8 3 7 5
4 2 6 8 1 7 3 5
2 4 8 6 7 1 5 3
2 4 6 8 1 7 3 5
4 2 8 6 7 1 5 3
2 4 8 7 6 5 1 3
4 2 7 8 5 6 3 1
4 2 8 7 6 5 1 3
2 4 7 8 5 6 3 1
4 2 7 5 8 3 6 1
2 4 5 7 3 8 1 6
2 4 7 5 8 3 6 1
4 2 5 7 3 8 1 6
2 4 5 3 7 1 8 6
4 2 3 5 1 7 6 8
4 2 5 3 7 1 8 6
2 4 3 5 1 7 6 8
4 2 3 1 5 6 7 8
2 4 1 3 6 5 8 7
2 4 3 1 5 6 7 8
4 2 1 3 6 5 8 7
4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7
1 4 6 2 3 8 7 5
4 1 2 6 8 3 5 7
1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5

1 4 2 6 3 8 5 7

The method is Pontefract Delight Major with places shifted to 5-6 instead of 3-4 when the treble is in 1-2.

Rung at Holywood, Co. Down, January 30th, 1954.

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123456 5 16

215463879 A

213564

314562

413265

412365

213465

314265

314562978 B

412563

213564

312465

312564

214563

413562

315462

312654 C

312456 † calling last course D

A—3.5.6.7.2.4.5.8.16.

B—3.4.6.9.11.12.13.

C—4.5.11.16.

D—6.7.12.13.18.

Rung at St. Mary-the-Virgin's, Nottingham.
on February 6th, 1954, conducted by Jack L.
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