



No. 318. Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20th, 1917.

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transmission as a newspaper.]

Price 2d.

# GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.

## BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,  
Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

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

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

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

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,  
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

## MODERN WORK.

### BELFRY CONDITIONS IN DEVON.

"Bell-ringing scandals are one of the greatest hindrances to spiritual progress in Devonshire villages" is the sweeping indictment made by a correspondent in the "Church Times" in connection with an offer made to the parish church of Harberton, South Devon, by Sir Robert Harvey, of two large bells to increase the existing ring of six to a peal of eight, together with an endowment of £2,500 in consols to provide £52 per annum for ten ringers and ten guineas a year for the maintenance of the bells, on condition that the bells and the ringers should not be under the "autocratic authority" of the vicar, but under the joint authority of the vicar, churchwardens and chairman of parochial feoffees. The Vicar has pointed out that he cannot legally bind his successors, and Sir Robert Harvey has stated that if his offer is rejected he will make a similar gift elsewhere, where no difficulties are placed in the way. The matter at the moment is left over while the advice of the Archdeacon of Totnes is obtained.

Sir Robert Harvey's offer of the bells and the endowment fund is a munificent one, but whether his conditions can be accepted with legal and binding force is a matter which it is not in our province to discuss. The point which is of more immediate concern to ringers is the scathing condemnation of Devonshire village ringers by the correspondent of the "Church Times." We very seriously doubt whether, in these days, such a statement can be justified—if it can, then Devonshire is the most sadly neglected county in all England in regard to belfry reform. We are rather inclined to believe that the correspondent of the "Church Times" has had one or two instances of the "scandals" to which he refers under his notice, and seeks to tar the majority of Devon ringers with the same brush. Years ago, no one disputes, the condition of things in belfries generally were far from what they should have been; but the action of the various associations which have sprung up all over the country have gone very far to remove the deplorable state of affairs which existed thirty or forty years ago, and it is strange to us if Devon, whose Guild of Ringers was one of the first county associations to be formed in the country, is still a black spot, so far as belfry reform is concerned.

If what is stated in the "Church Times" is true, then we must not only blame the ringers. "Smoking and even drinking and bad language," we are told, "are not yet extinct in Devonshire belfries." Then what are the clergy thinking about? This much is certainly true, that where it has been possible for anything of this kind to go on, it has always been found that the belfry has been neglected by the parson; and if the parson neglects the belfry, he

(Continued on page 122.)

# CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR  
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,  
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

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

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,

Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.

Smethwick.

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

**SMETHWICK,  
BIRMINGHAM**

## BELLS

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

**CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.**

PEALS AUGMENTED,  
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

## FRAMES

**IN BEST SEASONED OAK,  
STEEL OR IRON.**

**Chiming Machines.**

**Best Workmanship and  
Satisfaction Guaranteed**

## FITTINGS

OF ALL KINDS.

**ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON  
BRACKETS.**

**MALLEABLE IRON BRACKETS,  
BEST BELL ROPES.**

**REPAIRS AND REMOUNTING  
IN ALL BRANCHES.**

**BELLHANGERS sent to inspect  
and report on Bells and Towers**

**SEND FOR CATALOGUE.**

**ESTABLISHED 1780.**

# JOHN NICOLL,

**Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope  
Manufacturer.**

**80, QUEEN'S ROAD, PECKHAM, LONDON, S.E.**

*(Two minutes from Queen's Road Station, L.B. & S.C. Railway)*

**Late 155, Keeton's Road, Bermondsey.**

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

*(Continued from page 121.)*

cannot be surprised if the ringers neglect the church. The conditions of the "bad old times," had, we thought, disappeared practically everywhere, and it comes as a shock to read that these "scandals are one of the greatest hindrances to spiritual progress in Devonshire villages." If there be any truth in the indictment, let the clergy set about remedying it at once. They have it in their own hands. Let their influence be felt in the belfry as well as in the chancel, let them bring to their aid the Devon Guild, whose first object is "the promotion of a reverent feeling among church bell-ringers for their sacred office, belfry reform, and the cultivation of change ringing," and they will find that, if improvement is necessary, it can readily be effected. Drastic measures may be necessary, but the past has proved that when the clergy interest themselves in the belfry and, where possible, themselves become ringers, the reformation quickly comes about, a higher moral tone becomes at once apparent and a better class of ringer is obtained. The "undesirable" as a rule "weeds" himself out, and this may be relied upon with all the more certainty if that great bugbear to change-ringing progress is done away with—paid ringing. It is strange that paid ringing has proved the greatest drawback to belfry reform—but such is the case.

## EIGHT BELL PEAL.

**EARLSHEATON, YORKSHIRE.  
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION  
(WESTERN BRANCH.)**

*On Saturday, April 14, 1917, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,*

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor 14 cwt.

JAMES COTTERELL ... .. Treble	THOMAS B. KENDALL ... 5
WILLIAM RHODES ... .. 2	JOSEPH BROADLEY ... 6
WILLIAM CLARK ... .. 3	HERBERT DRANSFIELD ... 7
HEMINGWAY DRANSFIELD ... 4	CARFORTH TAYLOR ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS, and  
Conducted by JAMES COTTERELL.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to the memory of Walter Byrom, a local ringer and Association member for 32 years, who was interred April 7th.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

LONDON.

**THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**

*On Wednesday, April 4, 1917, in Two Hours and Thirty-eight Minutes,  
AT 32, EDGELEY ROAD, CLAPHAM,*

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

CARTER'S ODD BOB ONE-PART.

ALFRED B. PECK ... .. 1-2	CHALLIS F. WINNEY ... 5-6
HERBERT LANGDON ... 3-4	WILLIAM T. COCKERILL 7-8

Conducted by CHALLIS F. WINNEY.

Umpire: EDWIN HORREN.

## ROLL OF HONOUR.

From St. Edmund's, Northampton:—

Sapper B. O. Soden, Royal Engineers.

From All Saints', Northampton:—

Pte W. J. Allen, 12th Royal West Surrey Regiment.

## LECTURES ON BELLS.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I was interested to see the account of the lecture on bells at Winchester School. I am glad to say it does not stand alone. In the magazine of my old school, Strand School, King's College, the other day, I came across this paragraph: "Last term, on Friday, December 1st, B. Hughes lectured on 'Church Bells.' He gave a short history of bells, which have been used by most religious sects from very early days. He described the making of the moulds, the actual casting of the bell, the methods of tuning and ringing of bells. The lecture was illustrated by diagrams and a working model of a bell." The lecturer, I should add, is a nephew of the late Mr. A. Hughes, of Whitechapel Bell Foundry.—Yours truly,  
H. W. FRIGHT.

## MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

### DISTRICT MEETINGS DESIRABLE.

The 35th annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association was held at Leicester on Easter Monday, when there was ringing at St. John's and St. Martin's Churches, and, considering the very wintry weather, and the restrictions on railway travelling, it was very gratifying to see so many ringers present, representatives being noticed from Barwell, Beeston, Burton-on-Trent, Cotgrave, Croft, Hinckley, Irthlingborough, Loughborough, Melton Mowbray, Nuneaton, Quorn, and Stoney Stanton, in addition to the local men. Arrangements for tea had been made at the "Granby" Restaurant, and from 50 to 55 members and friends sat down, amongst the company being the Rev. Canon Whittingham (Rural Dean of Leicester), Rev. Canon Nugee (of St. Martin's), Rev. W. Payne (of St. Margaret's), Rev. F. W. Warren (of St. Mary's), Mr. John W. Taylor (president), and Mrs. Taylor, Mr. E. D. Taylor, Mr. H. Argyle, and others.

The President took the chair at the subsequent business meeting, when the auditor's report and treasurer's balance sheet were adopted, on the proposition of Mr. C. Draper, seconded by Mr. E. D. Taylor.

The Chairman mentioned that no peals had been rung by members of the Association during the past quarter. He thought it a pity that the Central Council meeting had been abandoned, as in his opinion it was highly important that a president should be elected, and an endeavour made to carry on the business as usual.

Several in the room agreed with this opinion.

A vote of thanks to the retiring officers was accorded, on the proposition of Mr. W. C. Hunt, seconded by Mr. F. H. Dexter, and the secretary reporting that the only nominations received were for their re-election, the President (Mr. John W. Taylor), hon. treasurer (Staff-Serjt. W. C. Wakley), at present with the army in France; and hon. secretary, Mr. W. E. White, were unanimously re-elected, on the proposition of Mr. Wm. Willson, seconded by Mr. J. H. Swinfield.

The Rev. Canon Nugee, of St. Martin's, Leicester, was elected vice-president, and thanked the meeting for electing him. He hoped he might be of use to the Association, as he had had experience of the work of a ringing association, having for 13 years filled the office of secretary to the Framland Society. He was pleased to see the familiar faces of some of its members around the table.

Four new members were elected, viz., Miss M. Clarke, of Nuneaton, Miss M. Wakley, of Burton-on-Trent; Master Henry William Webb (aged 11 years), Croft; and Mr. G. F. Newman, of Burton.

### COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL TO KEEP UP INTEREST.

The Hon. Secretary said the committee had discussed the question of quarterly meetings, and they suggested that the next three be held at Beeston, Duffield, and Hinckley. The committee also knowing the difficulties of travel at the present time, owing to restricted train service and increased fares, could not expect the general meetings to be so well attended as in the past, and they would like the committees of the various districts to arrange meetings in their own districts when and where possible, and so give their members opportunities for meeting and ringing together, and keep the interest in the Association alive. He proposed that the next three general quarterly meetings should be held at Beeston, Duffield, and Hinckley, respectively, and that the districts should do their best to carry out the suggestions of the committee as to other meetings.

This was seconded by Mr. W. C. Hunt, and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the clergy for the use of the bells, and to the local members for making the arrangements for the meeting, was passed, on the proposition of Mr. W. E. White, seconded by Mr. R. H. Bartram.—The Rev. F. W. Warren acknowledged the vote on behalf of the clergy.—The Rev. Canon Whittingham also addressed the meeting, and, speaking of the restrictions placed upon the ringing of church bells (in Leicester, in particular), said he was in communication with the authorities, and hoped that in a short time the reasonable ringing of the church bells for Sunday services might be resumed, and also for daylight practices.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr. C. Draper, and seconded by Mr. J. H. Benstead, terminated the meeting.

The ringing of the church bells was resumed for a short time, and afterwards a social gathering, with piano, songs and handbells, passed away the remainder of the evening.

## BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Bedfordshire Association was held at the Church House, Bedford, on Easter Monday. This year the usual dinner was given up.

Owing to a recent bicycle accident, the President (Canon W. W. C. Baker) was unable to be present, much to the regret of all present.

All the officers of the Association were re-elected, and it was decided to hold the summer meeting at Woburn on a Saturday, either at the end of June or the beginning of July.

A vote of thanks was passed to Canon Speak for kindly allowing the Association to have the use of the Church House and the bells at St. Paul's, and to the Rev. J. E. Gilbert for the use of the bells at St. Peter's, touches being enjoyed by the visitors at both these churches during the day.

## GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL MEETING AT CIRENCESTER.

The absence of so many of the younger members on active service, the restricted train service, and the unseasonable weather, had a detrimental effect on the attendance at the annual meeting of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, which was held at Cirencester on Easter Monday. A very enjoyable day was spent, however, by those who were present. By kind permission, ringing commenced on the fine bells of the Parish Church at 11 o'clock, and a rare opportunity was afforded some of the ringers to stand in for Grandsire and Stedman Caters, followed by a touch of Grandsire Cinques, to the great satisfaction of the participants. Ringing continued until 1 p.m., when an adjournment was made to Messrs. Viner's Restaurant, where an excellent dinner awaited the visitors, and was thoroughly enjoyed.

The business meeting followed, Mr. John Austin (Gloucester), Master, being in the chair. Amongst those present were the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, Mr. J. W. Jones (hon. secretary of the Llandaff Association), Mr. R. J. Wilkins, Bristol; members from Newent, Stone, Stroud, Swindon, Wanborough, etc., and the hon. secretary, Mr. R. W. Hyner (Swindon).

On the motion of Mr. Frank K. Howell (Thornbury), who made eulogistic reference to the Master's good work, seconded by Mr. J. Williams (Newent), Mr. John Austin was unanimously re-elected Master. He briefly returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him.

The duties of hon. treasurer had been carried on for many years by the Rev. H. A. Cockey, but to the intense regret of the members the reverend gentleman passed away in December last, since which time the duties had been discharged by Mr. Frank K. Howell. The latter gentleman was asked to continue as hon. treasurer, and readily consented to do so.

Mr. R. W. Hyner, of Swindon, was re-appointed hon. secretary.

A balance sheet for the past year was presented by Mr. Howell, showing a substantial balance in hand, together with the sum of £25 invested in the War Loan, which was considered highly satisfactory. Sympathetic reference was made to the death, since the last annual meeting, of two other gentlemen who had in the past rendered invaluable services to the Association. They were Mr. C. E. D. Boulflower, who was formerly Master and hon. secretary, and Mr. F. E. Ward, who had been Master and hon. treasurer.

A vote of thanks to the officers and all who lent assistance in connection with the meeting was carried unanimously. A word of praise is also due to Messrs. S. Moore (President of the Cirencester Branch), H. C. Bond and J. Jefferies for their valuable assistance in arranging the meeting.—The kind offer of Mr. Francis W. Selby, of Swindon, to convey the hon. secretary to any of the branch meetings in the locality, was also gratefully acknowledged.

After the conclusion of the business, several remained behind and spent a pleasant time handbell ringing, whilst others visited Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor, to test the melodious ring of eight bells, which the tower contains. A return visit to the Parish Church tower was made during the evening, when the day's proceedings terminated with a touch of Stedman Triples, and the lowering of the bells.

## WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

The tenth annual meeting of the Warwickshire Guild was held at Emscote, Warwick, on Easter Monday. Members were present from Ailesley, Berkswell, Birmingham, Coventry, and Emscote, and Mr. W. Saunders, of Coalbrookdale, who was paying a visit to the district. The towers of Leamington Parish Church (8), All Saints', Emscote (8), and St. Mary's, Warwick (10), were open to the visitors, and touches of Stedman and Grandsire Doubles, Bob Minor and Stedman and Grandsire Triples were rung. Service was held at All Saints', Emscote, during the afternoon, when the Vicar gave a short address, which was much appreciated.

The business meeting was afterwards held in Emscote Schools, at which the Rev. H. C. A. Bach, President of the Guild, took the chair.—The Secretary read the statement of accounts, and reported that all things considered, the Guild was in a healthy state.

A letter of apology was read from Mr. G. H. Kettle, late secretary, now on active service, to whom a hearty vote of thanks was passed for his past services to the Guild. Letters of apology were also read from Messrs. Argyle, Chapman, and Reader, of Nuneaton, regretting their inability to be present.

The Rev. H. C. A. Bach was re-elected president; Mr. James George, Ringing Master; and Mr. H. Argyle and Mr. A. Roberts (now on active service), representatives on the Central Council; Mr. J. H. White was elected as hon. secretary, and Mr. O. J. Hunt as hon. auditor; the other members of the committee being re-elected en bloc.

It was decided to forgo the annual report, and substitute a short resume of the year's working instead, copies of the latter to be distributed among the different towers and members on active service.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the clergy for the use of the bells, and to the tower keepers for having everything in readiness.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in July, at Berkswell, or, failing there, at Bishop Ryder's, Birmingham.



# MEARS &

Foundry  
Established  
A.D. 1570.

# STAINBANK,

*Bellfounders & Bellhangers,*

**32 & 34, Whitechapel Road,  
LONDON, E.**



**Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring  
of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.**

## ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rehanging, Retuning and Recasting.

**Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.**

*At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.*

## WORCESTER ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

The annual meeting of the Worcestershire and Districts Association was held at Worcester on Easter Monday. The Very Rev. W. Moore Edc, D.D., Dean of Worcester (president), occupied the chair at the business meeting, and about 60 members were present. Owing to the illness of the hon. secretary (Mr. J. R. Newman), who was unable to be present, the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. H. Johnson) took his place.

The balance sheet and report were presented and passed. Apologies were read from several members for their absence, and all the officers were re-elected, with the addition of Mr. T. J. Salter as a lay vice-president.

It was proposed that a vote of sympathy from the members should be conveyed to the families of the late Rev. Canon Phillips, Mr. S. Spittle, and Mr. Pestridge.

Four new members were elected.

After some discussion with reference to the trustees of the Association, it was decided that their names be erased from the list of officials, as the members thought there was no need for trustees.

The Dean said how pleased he was to see so many young members and ladies present filling the places of the absent members, and the following resolution was passed: "That this meeting of the Worcestershire and Districts Association of Bell Ringers, assembled in the Chapter House at Worcester on Easter Monday, 1917, desires to convey to all members of the Association who are now serving their country in France, or elsewhere, their friendly greetings and earnest hope that they may be preserved in all the dangers to which they may be exposed, and may be spared to meet us all again at the next annual meeting."

It was decided to ring the annual peal, with the bells half-muffled, Mr. W. Short being the conductor, and to make all arrangements.

It was resolved to hold the next annual meeting at Worcester on Easter Monday, 1918.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Dean for presiding, and to the clergy for the use of the bells at the various churches, this bringing a pleasant meeting to a close.

The members then adjourned to the Cathedral for service, at which an address was given by the Dean, and afterwards they partook of tea, between 60 and 70 sitting down.

During the day ringing was enjoyed on various peals of bells.

## LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### HON. SECRETARY BECOMES CHURCHWARDEN.

A fairly well attended meeting of the London County Association was held on Saturday last, at St. Paul's, Hammersmith, members and friends putting in an appearance from various parts of the Metropolis and Provinces. Good progress was made in various methods, the ringing of which was carried on from 4 to 8 p.m.

A business meeting followed, at the Devonshire Arms, Queen Street, the Master (Mr. T. H. Taftender) presiding.—Mr. W. A. Robinson, of Cuckfield, Sussex, was elected a member.

Mr. L. Porter announced that news had been received that Mr. A. Turner, of St. Mary Magdalen's, Holloway, was suffering from shell shock, and was now in Hospital at Rouen.

A vote of sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr. A. Brightman, of Highgate, was passed in silence, the hon. secretary having written a letter of condolence to his widow, on receipt of the sad news of his death.

It was proposed by the Master, seconded by Mr. Fardon, that the hearty congratulations of this meeting be accorded to the hon. secretary (Mr. T. Walker) upon his election on the preceding Thursday as churchwarden of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, and this was carried with acclamation.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Saturday, May 12th, full particulars of which will appear in "The Ringing World."

Touches on the handbells brought the proceedings to a close.

## SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.

### MEETING AT WORKSOP.

The April meeting of the above society was held at Worksop on Easter Monday, when, after an arctic morning, the weather took a more seasonable turn, and the afternoon proved fine, with plenty of bright sunshine, conditions which contributed towards a successful and enjoyable meeting. The earliest arrivals found an occasional rope moving, which told them that friend Haigh was up aloft doing his best to make the bells run easily, the subsequent ringing, and there was a lot of it, proving the success of the job. Arranging a meeting in these times even, is as easy as ever it was, but getting a good attendance and some good practice is altogether another story. At Worksop, however, there were upwards of 30 ringers from Anston, Ecclesfield, Gainsborough, Norton Slawley, Sheffield, Warsop, and Worksop. The ringing comprised Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain and Treble Boh Major, and Cambridge Surprise Minor.—Three new members were elected, and a hearty vote of thanks accorded the Vicar (the Rev. G. J. A. d'Arcy), an honorary member of the society, for granting the use of the bells.

## MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.

### MISUNDERSTANDINGS AT AN END.

The nineteenth annual meeting of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on Saturday last, when the attendance, though smaller than usual, was good.

The proceedings commenced with a service at St. Martin's, which took the form of a musical service for organ and violin, with an address by Bro. Newlandsmith, warden of the Religious Arts Society, on "How to kindle the fire of the Spirit to the Service of God," through such arts as music, literature and pictures. All were able to join heartily in the singing of the hymns, "Gracious Spirit, Love Divine," and "Jesu, Lover of my Soul."

After service the towers of St. Martin's and St. Giles' were open for ringing, and many good touches in various methods were rung.

Tea was served at the Church House adjoining St. Martin's.

At the business meeting the chair was taken by Mr. Arthur T. King, I.S.O. (president), who was supported by Messrs. F. A. Milne (treasurer), W. Pye (Master), Corpl. J. Armstrong, T. Beadle, and G. B. Lucas (District Masters), the Rev. E. Bankes James, Messrs. J. George, J. Parker, H. J. Bradley, W. Lawrence, J. D. Matthews, etc.

The President, in opening the proceedings, said: This is a red-letter day in the annals of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, and it is the happy outcome of a long period of misunderstanding between the old London Societies and ourselves, now, happily, let us hope at an end, and soon to be buried in oblivion. We are here to-day by the kind co-operation of the Royal Cumberland Youths, a society we hold in the highest esteem, many of whose members have belonged to us for many years, without our causing them to be less loyal either to the old society of their choice or to our own. There was a time when, much to our regret, the old London Societies looked somewhat askance at us, as though we were an ugly duckling, but we have lived down all that, and just as we are ready to meet them in the spirit of mutual help and goodwill, we are confident that they are ready to meet us in the same spirit, as best becomes those who are privileged to take an active part in the service of the Church. We have passed through many vicissitudes, and we have met with much good fellowship on all sides, but we have never appreciated anything so much as the goodwill which has resulted in the welcome we are now receiving here. So may it always be. We always recognise courtesy where it is offered us, and endeavour to match goodwill with a responsive echo of goodwill. So may we all flourish, old and young societies alike.

A telegram was read from the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard, regretting his inability to be present that day, through illness, but offering a hearty welcome to St. Martin's.

### THE REPORT.

The committee, in the annual report, said the belfries during the year 1916 had been still further depleted by the demands made upon them in the strenuous work of war. In some few cases the effect has been almost to silence the sound of the bells even for the occasions of Sunday services. It was only here and there that a few ringers above military age were left behind. So far as could be learnt they were doing their best to keep things going, in the absence of their comrades at the front; but they could not do impossibilities, and there were practically no new ringers available. Later on, when the war is over, they would want to welcome their brave soldiers back again; but they would only be able to do it by a well considered scheme of co-operation among available resources of ringers. The number of peals rung in 1916 was twelve, viz., on tower bells four, and on handbells eight. The peals rung on tower bells were in memory of those comrades who had lost their lives in the war. The peals included three of Grandsire Triples, one each of Bob Major, London Surprise and Stedman Triples, and six of Stedman Caters. The tower bell peals comprised the three of Grandsire and the one of London, the others were on handbells. Six of the peals were conducted by W. Pye, and one each by G. R. Pye, Clement Glenn, J. A. Trollope, A. J. Trappitt, H. Kilby, and W. J. Kemp. The membership now stands at 700. New members elected during the year were 49 in number, while death and other causes removed the names of 44. During the year 1916 the Association had had to mourn the loss of many members, of whom six had given their lives in the service of their country, and six others had passed away, leaving behind them a record of true and faithful service for all to remember and value. Those whom the war had claimed were: Corpl. F. T. Martin, of the Oxhey band; Pte G. H. Orford, of St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton; Pte A. Cain, of Northaw; Lance-Corpl. W. S. Inwood, of Aldenham; Pte T. E. Loosemore, of St. Edward's, Romford; and T. J. Barker, of Heston. Death had also removed Mr. W. Foreman, of Greenwich; Mr. Fred Rumens, of St. Mary's, Walthamstow; Mr. Arthur Hughes, of the Whitechapel Foundry; Mr. A. F. Shepherd, of Hershaw; Mr. T. J. Barker, of Heston; Mr. Powis Lomas, an hon. member of Isleworth; and Mr. A. W. Grimes, who died just after the close of 1916. The war roll now numbers 182, and there must be still more names to be entered, especially from the towers where no reply had been made to the appeal for information.

The Master, hon. secretary, and assistant hon. secretary of the North and East District are all on service, and in offering them the best thanks for their splendid work in the past for the Association, the members wish them, as indeed they wish all members on active service, a speedy and safe return.

### RESTORATIONS.

It was with pleasure they were able to report a little more activity this year with regard to bell restoration. Messrs. Mears and Stainbank reported that they had added four smaller bells at St. Peter's, Hammersmith, to the one already there (7½ cwt.) to make the set of five. These were, however, only hung for chiming. The same firm had in hand the rehanging in new fittings of the treble, 3rd, 4th, and tenor at St. Magnus the Martyr, E.C., and the adjustment and overhauling of the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th. Messrs. Mears and Stainbank also reported that they are recasting the peal of eight at Dartford, and rehanging them with entirely new fittings. Messrs. John Warner and Sons had lifted out and thoroughly overhauled the ring of eight bells at St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, E.C. The bells of St. Mary Magdalene, Holloway, had also been lifted out and thoroughly overhauled, and the tenor rebung.

The report concluded by stating that it was a pleasure to be able to say in these troublous times that the Central Fund of the Association had improved, in spite of the reduced amount received from subscriptions. This was due in the past to the reduction by a number of pages of last year's report, but the coming year would be a greater test of solvency; and in thanking those who so kindly gave extra subscriptions last year, they would once more appeal to all members who could afford to help by ever so trifling a contribution in order that the funds might not suffer while so many were away fighting for their country and their King.

Their thanks were due to the joint hon. secretaries for all that they had done during the past year; and they must not forget the work of Mr. Oram, who had kindly stepped in to carry on the work of Mr. C. T. Coles, with an energy and resource which those who were brought into contact with him could not fail to admire and to appreciate.

The report and balance sheet were presented, and adopted on the proposition of Mr. J. Parker, seconded by Mr. W. Pye.

### OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

Five new members were elected, and the following were appointed officers for 1917: President, Mr. A. T. King, I.S.O.; vice-presidents, Mr. F. A. Milne and Major J. H. B. Hesse; hon. treasurer, Mr. F. A. Milne; Master, Mr. W. Pye; hon. secretaries, Mr. C. T. Coles, Mr. W. H. Oram (pro tem.), Mr. H. C. Chandler.

A vote of thanks was passed to the hon. secs. for their work in connection with the Association, and was ordered to be recorded on the minutes. Messrs. J. E. Miller and W. Pickworth were re-elected auditors, and the President, Messrs. J. R. Sharman, W. Pye and Major J. H. B. Hesse were elected to represent the Association on the Central Council in 1918.

The arrangements for the next annual meeting were left in the hands of the hon. secretary, Hillingdon, Heston, or Ealing, being suggested.

It was reported that the Central Committee had discussed the question of "peace ringing," and had recommended that local arrangements be reported. Some discussion arose, and the matter was referred back to the Central Committee.

The President moved a sincere vote of condolence with the relatives of the late Mr. H. J. Dewey, and of the Rev. H. Champion McGill, a vice-president and Vicar of Isleworth, who had always been a good and true friend to the Middlesex County Association.—This was carried, all standing.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. H. K. L. Sheppard for the kind welcome to St. Martin's, and also for use of the bells with an expression for a speedy recovery from illness; to the Rev. W. H. Davies, of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, for the use of the bells; to Mr. J. D. Matthews, Master of the Royal Cumberland Youths, and to the steeplekeepers of both churches.

Mr. Alps then proposed a vote of thanks to all the officers of the Association for their work during the past year.—This was seconded by Mr. W. A. Pye, and carried with acclamation.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The handbells were then brought into use. Many methods were rung, those taking part including the Rev. E. Bankes James, with "Tommy Minor," to quote the photo in the "Ringing World" of March 30th.

### THE LATE MR. A. W. GRIMES' HANDBELLS.

As we have already announced, the peal of 18 handbells which belonged to the late Mr. A. W. Grimes are to be disposed of. The arrangements are in the hands of Mr. W. Pye, of 8, Sansom Road, Lansdown Road, Leytonstone, and any who would like to dispose of tickets to help the fund, which is for the benefit of the widow and six young children, should communicate with him. The tickets are in books of 25, and those that are unsold by the 30th inst. can be returned. Those who are unable to take a book of tickets can help by purchasing any smaller number (they are 3d. each), enclosing at the same time a stamped addressed envelope.

## BELLS AND ENDOWMENT OFFERED TO DEVON PARISH.

### "BELL RINGING SCANDALS."

Under the heading, "An Embarrassing Offer," the following appeared in last week's "Church Times," from a correspondent:—

"Sir Robert Harvey has made a munificent offer to the parish church of Harberton, South Devon, of two large bells, increasing the peal to eight, and an endowment of £2,500 Consols to provide £52 per annum for ten ringers, and ten guineas per annum for the maintenance of the bells. But the offer is qualified by a condition that the bells and their ringers shall not be under the 'autocratic authority' of the vicar, but under the joint authority of the vicar, churchwardens, and chairman of parochial feoffees. At the Easter vestry the Vicar, the Rev. W. G. Mallett, pointed out that he was unable legally to bind his successors, whilst Sir Robert Harvey tried to argue that the men, some of whom might be Dissenters or Roman Catholics, should not be required to attend church, the vicar's ruling on this subject having resulted in the silence of the bells. If his offer were rejected 'he would make a similar gift elsewhere, where no difficulties were placed in the way.' It was finally resolved that the Archdeacon of Totnes should be asked to advise in the matter.

"Bell ringing scandals are one of the greatest hindrances to spiritual progress in Devonshire villages, and scores of incumbents have been troubled by men who summoned worshippers by ringing the bells, and, instead of remaining for worship themselves, have dispersed, in some instances to a village inn. Smoking and even drinking and bad language are not yet extinct in Devonshire bellfries, and a vicar deprived of the power of dismissing a ringer for bad conduct would be placed in an intolerable position."

## MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

**BRIERLEY HILL.**—On Sunday, March 4th, at St. Michael's Church, for the Confirmation service in the morning, 720 Bob Minor: E. T. Lloyd 1, C. W. Cooper 2, A. Whatmore 3, W. Potter 4, J. Bass 5, A. E. Whatmore (conductor) 6, Pte E. Harley 8. In the afternoon, for the men's service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: C. W. Cooper 1, T. Heathcock 2, J. Bass 3, W. Potter 4, R. Moors 5, E. Perkins 6, A. E. Whatmore (conductor) 7, Pte E. Harley 8. Pte E. Harley was a member of the Brierley Hill band before joining the colours, and was home on a short furlough.

**EYNSFORD.**—Kent County Association. — On March 10th, at St. Martin's Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (Thurstans'), as a farewell to the Rev. M. C. and Mrs. Elphinstone, who were leaving on the 15th for Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire: H. Blackwell 1, T. Groombridge (conductor) 2, W. Hewett 3, G. Durling 4, I. Emery 5, Ar. Mason 6, W. Smith 7, W. West 8. It was intended to attempt a peal, but four of the band were delayed on the railway, and time would not permit the attempt.

**YORK.**—On Sunday, March 11th, at York Minster, for morning service, 558 Grandsire Caters, conducted by Corpl. E. Morris. For evening service, at SS. Philip and James', Clifton, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: F. Earnshaw 1, G. Horner 2, A. Haigh 3, H. Imeson 4, Sergt. H. Washbrook (Manchesterers) 5, Corpl. E. Morris (D.L.I., attached A.S.C.) conductor, 6.

**TYLDESLEY, LANCASHIRE.**—At St. George's Church, on March 11th, for morning service, 840 Grandsire Triples: H. Watts 1, J. Allred 2, B. Allred 3, Harry Allred 4, W. Hindley 5, R. Allred (conductor) 6, Herbert Allred 7, J. Hampson 8. — On March 25th, for evening service, 800 Bob Major: H. Watts 1, J. Allred 2, F. Banks 3, B. Allred 4, W. Hindley 5, J. T. Allred 6, Harry Allred 7, R. Allred (conductor) 8.

**HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.**—At the Parish Church, on March 11th, for evening service, 459 Stedman Caters: R. Coles 1, G. Twitchen 2, F. K. Biggs 3, E. Markham 4, F. Hayes 5, Gnr. Bidnell 6, G. White 7, J. Gransbury 8, J. W. Wilkins (conductor) 9, W. Phipps 10. — On March 18th, in honour of St. Patrick, patron Saint of Ireland, 1299 Stedman Caters, in 55 mins.: F. Hayes (composer and conductor) 1, G. Twitchen 2, J. W. Wilkins 3, E. Markham 4, Gnr. Hinton (R.F.A.) 5, Gnr. Bidnell, R.F.A. (first quarter-peal of Stedman Caters), 6, J. Gransbury 7, W. Phipps 8, G. White 9, R. Coles 10.

**DALTON-IN-FURNESS.**—Lancashire Association. — At the Parish Church, on March 11th, for evening service, 720 Bob Minor: Miss E. M. Suart 1, J. Huddleston 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, T. Watson 4, W. S. Forshaw 5, J. Burrows (conductor) 6. — On April 1st, for Matins, 672 Bob Major: Miss E. M. Suart 1, Miss Lindsay 2, J. Huddleston 3, T. Watson 4, W. H. Dennison 5, T. Suart 6, W. S. Forshaw 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8. Longest touch of Major for Miss Suart and Miss Lindsay. For evening service, 672 Bob Major: Miss E. M. Suart 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist (longest touch of Major) 3, T. Watson 4, J. Huddleston 5, W. H. Dennison 6, T. Suart 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8.

**PLYMOUTH.**—On March 25th, at St. George's Church, Stonehouse, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: A. Kentfield 1, W. Hooper 2, W. Hobbs 3, Pte W. Malins 4, W. Rundle (conductor) 5, W. Richards 6, J. Woodley 7, G. Kerswell 8.

## NOTICES.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Moorside on April 21st. Bells ready at 2 o'clock; meeting at 6.30; practise Double Norwich.—T. K. Driver, Sec., 99, Hunter St., Middleton.

**BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Dunster on Saturday, April 21st, 1917. Service at the Parish Church at 4 p.m. Tea at the Mill at 4.30 p.m. Meeting to follow. Bells available all the afternoon.—E. E. Burgess, Hon. Sec., 62, Greenway Avenue, Taunton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, April 21st, 1917. Bells available from 5 to 9.—Thomas B. Worsley, Br. Sec., 19, Parkfield Road, Bolton.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Maidstone District.—The annual meeting will be held at Harrietsham on Saturday, April 21st. Bells available for ringing at 3 o'clock; a short service at 5 p.m. Tea provided in a large room near the church at 5.45. Brakes will leave from near the Cannon, High Street, Maidstone, at 3 o'clock. The Secretary will be glad to know, not later than Monday, April 16th, of any members intending to be present. All are welcome.—Stephen Hayzelden, Dist. Sec.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—South and West District.—A meeting will be held by kind permission of the Vicar (Rev. F. W. A. Wilkinson) at Heston, on Saturday, April 21st. Bells available from 3.30. Tea by invitation at 6. Members please note that subscriptions are now due.—H. C. Chandler, Hon. Sec., Heston, Hounslow.

**ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**—Quarterly meeting at St. Mary Magdalene, Holloway, Saturday, April 21st. Ringing from 4 to 7. Meeting afterwards, at which important business dealing with the rules will be brought forward.—H. J. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

**(ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** Established 1637).—A Meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for general business on April 24th.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W. 4.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—Quarterly meeting will be held at Edgbaston Old Church, Saturday, April 28th. Bells available from 4 o'clock. The Vicar and Churchwardens are kindly providing tea in the Church Room at 5.30, free for those members who advise me *not later than the 24th inst.* of their intention to be present.—A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bridgwater Deanery Branch.—A meeting of the above association will be held at Thapwick on Saturday, April 28th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service, 4 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., meeting to follow.—A. E. Moulton, Hon. Sec.

**THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Woolwich on Saturday, April 28th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service and address by the Rev. Arthur N. Pickering (Rector), at 5.30 p.m. Tea will be provided by the Rector for those only who send their names to me not later than Tuesday, 24th. Business meeting to follow. I shall be glad to receive all outstanding subscriptions.—T. Groombridge, Hon. District Sec., 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.



**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Finchley on Saturday, April 28th. Bells available from 2.30 till 9 p.m. Tea, 4.45 p.m., 6d. to members who notify me by April 24th. Short service with address by the Rector (the Rev. W. St. Hill Bourne). Business meeting to follow. A good attendance is essential. Subscriptions for 1917 are now due.—W. H. Oram, Hon. Sec. pro tem., 25, Crown Street, Harrow.

**WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—A quarterly meeting of the Portsmouth District will be held at St. Thomas's, Portsmouth, on Saturday, April 28th. Bells available 3 p.m. Tea will be served at Madden's Temperance Hotel, Station Street, at a time convenient to the members present. Notice must be sent me by the 25th inst. how many will require tea. Subscriptions for 1917 are now due.—E. J. Harding, Dist. Sec., 76, Carnarvon Road, Portsmouth.

**LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Llanfrechfa, Mon (Pontrhy Station), on Saturday, May 5th, at 4 o'clock. Bells (6) available. Tea provided.—Rev. Connop L. Price, M.A., J. W. Jones, Hon. Secs., 29, Barrack Hill, Newport, Mon.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—THE WILLIAM SNOWDON MEMORIAL.**—Subscribers and those interested are asked to note that the Committee have decided to postpone the opening ceremony of the above until after the war.—H. Williams, Hon. Gen. Sec., *pro tem.*

**PEAL BOOKS.**—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

#### HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

**RINGERS** and visitors to Matlock will find every comfort and convenience at Mrs. H. Paulson's, Beech House.

#### HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION. SIX BELL CONTEST.

The quarterly meeting and six bell contest of the Halifax and District Association was held at Mythomroyd on Easter Monday, when the bells and schools were kindly placed at the disposal of the members by the Vicar (the Rev. T. Metcalfe, M.A.). Five companies entered for the contest, each set ringing 720 changes, preceded by a plain course for practice. The judges for the day were Mr. Broadley, of Bradford, and Mr. Wilcox, of Mythomroyd.

The meeting was held in the Schoolroom at the conclusion of the ringing, the President (Mr. Cotterell) being in the chair, supported by the Vicar, and the society's officers.

A hearty vote of thanks to the local ringers for the way they had catered for the visitors was accorded.

The judges' decision was then announced as follows:—Ripponden, 320 faults; Halifax, 238 faults; Thornhill, 140 faults; Earlsheaton, 78 faults; New Mills, 130 faults. Earlsheaton were, therefore, declared the winners.

A cordial vote of thanks was given to the Vicar for his presence, and for the use of the bells, and the Rev. T. Metcalfe, in reply, expressed his great pleasure at being among the ringers. He then presented the cup to the conductor of the Earlsheaton team.

A vote of thanks to the judges brought the meeting to a close.

#### DEDDINGTON STEDMAN MAJOR.

The above is the correct name of the method published last week by Mr. G. T. Clayton, and not "Doddington," as headed.

#### HELD OVER.

Pressure on our space compels us to hold over until next week the reports of the dedication of Writtle bells, and the Essex Association meeting at that place; an excursion among Middlesex towers; the Lancashire Association meeting at Worsley; and the completion of Clun Bells restoration fund.

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