



No. 1,495. Vol. XXXIV.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17th, 1939.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.]

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NO BAN ON CHURCH BELLS.

Some confusion has arisen as to the interpretation to be placed upon a new Order, under Defence of the Realm Regulations, relating to noises. The use in public places of certain 'noisy' instruments, such as bells, whistles, rattles, horns and the like, have been prohibited since immediately before the war, but among the exemptions were church bells rung 'in such manner as has been customary.' The new Order, which came into force on October 31st, and which can be taken to supersede the first one, does not specifically mention church bells, and the situation was one which might well have caused alarm to all who are concerned with maintaining the use of church bells. What seemed extraordinary was that, when provision was being made against anticipated extreme enemy action, it was thought safe to leave bells to be rung for their customary purposes, and that, when circumstances have shown that the first grave fears have not materialised, it should be thought necessary to put a ban on ringing. Such a situation would have threatened the whole position of ringing, and neither service ringing nor any other customary practice could have taken place. Indeed, even chiming and the funeral knell would have been finally barred.

Already the police in some places have banned ringing, presumably on the strength of the new Order. Before this action had come to our notice, however, 'The Ringing World' had taken steps to raise the question with the Ministry of Home Security, under whose authority the Order was issued. In another column we print the reply received from the Air-Raid Precautions Department of the Home Office, which makes it absolutely clear that the intention is that the use of church bells shall be excepted from any restrictions of the Order. What further action can be taken to clarify the position remains to be seen, but we hope, now that attention has been called to it, the Minister of Public Security will take steps to indicate that church and chapel bells are specifically excluded from the operation of the Order.

Despite the clear ruling on the intention of the Order, given by the Minister, it should, of course, be the aim of Church authorities and ringers to comply with the reasonable requests of the police, especially if the safety of the public is concerned, but there is no reason why the ringing of church bells should be entirely stopped everywhere. That there is misunderstanding under the new Order is certain, and until the matter is further elucidated it needs handling with tact, but we have no doubt that eventually the position will be made clear to all authorities throughout the country. In the meantime, unless there

(Continued on page 690.)

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is a direct order from the police to desist from ringing, and they will not accept the assurance given by the letter of the Minister of Defence published in another column, ringers should carry on with their service ringing, and secretaries should go ahead with their arrangements for meetings. An interference with the customary ringing arrangements might well be taken up with the department. Anything that adds to the cheerfulness of the country and the keeping up of the morale of the people is welcomed by authority, and there is nothing, in our opinion, which helps towards this end more than the merry sound of church bells. We have the authority of the Minister that church bells do not come under the ban on public noises, and ringers can pursue their labours, knowing that the intention of the Home Office is that bells are excepted from the prohibitions of the new Order as they were under the old.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, GLASGOW.

HOW THE BAND IS CARRYING ON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We have been interested in the various accounts in 'The Ringing World' as to how some of the towers have kept going. With the exception of Sunday, September 3rd, we have managed to keep our bells going as usual. We are fortunate in having an A.R.P. post opposite the belfry, so can be warned from there without having to post a man at the bottom of the stairs, which allows us to make use of every available ringer.

An interesting diversion one Sunday was a party of Jack Tars from H.M.S. (?), who had come to attend morning service. They gladly accepted our invitation to the tower, and took an intelligent interest in the ringing, although this was their first visit to a belfry. Perhaps it may not be their last.

When we held our postponed whist drive recently, more than sixty persons defied the 'black-out' and spent an enjoyable evening. The proceeds are to be devoted to sending gifts to our members who are on service. We have been requested by the church authorities to 'run' another whist drive next month in aid of the Red Cross, so the sooner we get that tune-ringing band started the better.

By the way, since tune-ringing has been suggested as one means of keeping a depleted band going, what about starting a series of articles in 'The Ringing World' giving a few hints on how to start and teach a new band, together with a list of suitable tunes and information as to where handbell music could be obtained?

A. E. STAFFORD, Hon. Secretary.

BADSEY, WORCS.—At St. James' on Sunday, November 5th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: J. Perkins 1, W. Sparrow 2, J. Hall, jun. 3, A. Taylor 4, J. Johnson (conductor) 5, F. Sadler 6, P. A. King 7, G. Morsey 8. Rung for the dedication of additions to the choir stalls as a memorial to the late J. D. Pethard, chorister and ringer at the church.

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1/2 (6 copies for 6/-).

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Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.

TEN BELL PEAL.

SHOREDITCH, LONDON.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, November 11, 1939, in Three Hours and Thirty Four Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPS, 6029 CHANGES;Tenor 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.

WILLIAM J. NUDDS Treble	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 6
MRS. J. E. DAVIS 2	ARTHUR J. W. HUGHES ... 7
ALFRED H. POLLING 3	THOMAS H. FRANCIS 8
MRS. C. J. MATTHEWS 4	CECIL J. MATTHEWS 9
GEORGE H. CROSS 5	THOMAS BEVAN Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS

Arranged and rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of those who have laid down their lives for their country.

SIX BELL PEALS.

MAULDEN, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 11, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Rev. E. Banks James' Arrangement.

*C. EDWARD JEFFERIES ... Treble	REGINALD HOUGHTON ... 4
JOHN CHURCH 2	ANDREW C. SINFIELD ... 5
†RONALD J. SHARP 3	LEWIS H. BYWATERS ... Tenor

Conducted by L. H. BYWATERS.

* 50th peal. † First peal of Cambridge. Rung half-muffled for Armistice Day.

WICKHAM SKEITH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sunday, November 12, 1939, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 13 cwt.

ALFRED LOCKWOOD Treble	RUSSELL WARD 4
LESLIE FOSTER 2	VICTOR LOCKWOOD 5
GEORGE BROWN 3	SIDNEY ARBON Tenor

Conducted by S. ARBON.

First peal as conductor. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Mr. Ernest F. Poppy.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 11, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes.

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD.

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5030 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
*WILFRED WILLIAMS ... 3-4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... 7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 12, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes.

AT THE ROYAL MASONIC JUNIOR SCHOOL,

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

Tenor size 15 in C.

*HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4	*EDWIN BARNETT ... 7-8

Composed by REV. E. B. JAMES. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

Umpire—Edwin Jennings.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

AMONG OXFORDSHIRE TOWERS.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON A SHORT CYCLE TOUR.

On Saturday, November 4th, some half-dozen enthusiasts from Oxford and district decided to visit some of the lesser known towers within easy reach of that city. Promptly at 2.30 the cyclists left All Saints' Church, the rendezvous, and some 15 minutes later were raising the five bells of St. Nicholas' Church at Marston. Here the party was augmented by the Deputy Master, the Rev. C. E. Wigg, and three ringers from Dinton. Another welcome guest was Mr. G. H. Spice, secretary of the Rochester Branch of the Kent County Association. The bells proved to be a light and good going peal, although judging by the time it took to take the knots out of the treble rope, they are only chimed at present. Half an hour's ringing, the allowance in each tower, sufficed to give everyone a pull, and Grandsire, Plain Bob, St. Simon's Doubles and rounds were rung with varying degrees of success. A hasty look round the church revealed a building in the Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles and possessing a Jacobean pulpit.

Leaving the car party to let down the bells, the cyclists were quickly under way for the next tower, that of the Church of the Holy Cross, Wood Eaton. We were now well out into the country, and it was interesting to see, just outside the church, the village well, quite open to the elements, and the only source of water supply in the village. It has never been known to run dry, and the water is perfectly pure. The half-hour on these bells proved to be more than sufficient for most, it being quite evident that no loving care had been lavished on them for quite a while. In the pearly days of the village, when the Manor House was occupied, the estate supplied the ringers, but alas, to day the Manor House is unoccupied, and, therefore, there are no ringers. The church is mainly of the Early English and Decorated styles, and contains a fine mural painting, some old box pews, and some 14th century woodwork in the shape of a screen.

Only an intervening hill separated us from our next halt, and on reaching the summit of this a panorama of unforgettable loveliness burst on us. The bright sunshine revealed the trees in all their autumn beauty, every conceivable shade of brown and yellow being discernible, whilst below us stretched away the broad expanse of Otmoor, the home of the Bicester Hunt. A quick run down brought us into Islip, where we made for the Church of St. Nicholas with its peal of six bells, tenor 9 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb. in G, cast by Mears. Rounds, Plain Bob and Hereward were practised here. The church, largely restored, has no special features. It is interesting to recall, however, that Islip was the scene of probably the first recorded ringing of the Oxford University Society (described by 'Church Bells' as 'Gentlemen of Education'). It took place in 1871 and consisted of a 720 of Grandsire Doubles.

Having used up our allotted time, we now made for the last church, that of St. Mary the Virgin, Charlton-on-Otmoor. This was, without doubt, the plum of the day, the only 'wasp on the fruit' being that the dusky interior was made still 'duskier' by clouds of thick smoke which belched from the stove. The nave of this grand church is Early English, as are also the two bottom stages of the fine tower, the two top stages being 14th century work. There is a magnificently carved rood screen, and the cross which surmounts it consists of a box tree cut to the required shape. The bells proved to be a heavy peal of five, tenor 17 cwt., and again largely uncared for. On inspection the tenor rope appeared to be nearly frayed through, but that was the least of the troubles of the unfortunate ringer of this bell. Every movement of the rope brought down a steady stream of dirt on the head of the unlucky individual. Despite this handicap and the all-permeating smoke, St. Simon's and Plain Bob were rung, together with rounds, before the bells were lowered in peal.

'Black-out' brought activities to a close, and the company departed for home, the cyclists endeavouring, not too successfully, to stick together. We conclude by saying, 'A good time was had by all.'

A. R. P.

BELLS BEHIND THE LINES

Even close behind the lines in France the church bells are being rung. The son of Mr. C. H. Jennings, of Wyke Regis, a Flight-Sergeant in the R.A.F., has written home to say that on Sunday, November 5th, the three bells in the village, where he then was, were rung for service. 'They can ring the changes,' he says. Flight-Sergt. Jennings was instructed in the rudiments of ringing by the late Sergt. Fred Holden.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

IRON MOULDERS wanted. Government priority work.—Apply, John Taylor and Co., Loughborough.

MARRIAGE.

MARTIN—PLANTE.—On November 5th, 1939, at Bromsgrove Parish Church, by the Rev. T. C. de la Hey, M.A. (Vicar), Harold Frederick, third son of Mr. and Mrs. John Martin, Pembroke House, Church Fields, Bromsgrove, to Gwendoline Olive, elder daughter of Mrs. Plante, Bromsgrove, and the late Mr. H. Plante, Birmingham.

CHANGE RINGING ON HANDBELLS.

BY C. R. WOOLLEY.

In the article which we print below, Mr. Chris. Woolley goes further into the subject of double-handed change ringing on handbells. He explains the principles upon which other than simple methods may be mastered.

The last article dealt with the elementary positions in Bob Minor, and the importance of spacing—that is, knowing the interval, or number of bells separating the pair. Before going further, we might put down a few rules which, when examined, will be seen to be very obvious truths.

To start with, two bells cannot cross over until they have first met in consecutive places. Secondly, when two bells are hunting in opposite directions the number of bells in between must be increased or decreased by two every change. If, however, one of the pair should lie still, either through leading, lying, or making an internal place, the number of bells between will alter by one. Finally, if both make places simultaneously, the interval will remain unchanged.

Before proceeding, the reader is advised to study carefully the type of dodging known as 'scissors' referred to last time. Examples occur in the 3-4 position in Bob Minor at the second and third lead-ends. In the first of these the pair have crossed in 4-5 before the dodge, consequently do not cross again after it; in the second, the dodge occurs before crossing.

654123	614523
561432	165432
516342	164523
153624	
156342	615432
	651342
513624	563124

This type of dodging is very common in all methods, and often occurs at wider intervals. It illustrates rule 2 above, that the number of bells in between must alter by two.

The work of 5-6 at a bob at the first lead-end shows the interval changing by one bell, when one of the pair make a place.

132546
123564

For further practice, Kent Treble Bob is very useful, for, while the bells still ring by position, the method provides plenty of practice both in parallel and scissors dodging. The way in which coursing pairs come to lead and also the slight difference in work due to the 3-4 places should be studied on paper. The positions are the same, apart from the fact that every movement is doubled by the dodging, and the whole method resembles a continuous series of treble leads of Plain Bob.

Following Kent, there are plenty of simple Minor methods which should prove quite easy to ring; Single and Double Court and Single and Double Oxford are obvious selections. The simple place-making in these provides practice of the work encountered when internal places are made. The fourth's place, when the treble is crossing 2—3 in Single Court, is exactly the same work as the Bob in Bob Minor; and the ringer will learn to watch for the treble, which will tell him when the place occurs.

Ability to follow the treble as it moves up and down is essential, as the whole work of a method depends on the position of this bell. For a start it is, therefore, much better to choose methods in which special work occurs

only when the treble is at the front (Bob Minor) or near the front (Single Court and Oxford Bob); but with practice it will be found quite easy to follow it up and down all the way.

So far it will be seen the system recommended depends on knowledge of positions; this system works well for methods in which plain or treble bob hunting is fairly continuous and only varies at certain positions when the treble is near the front and can be easily observed. In methods which contain more internal places, the regular positional work gives way to the work produced by those places, and we have dodging and place-making instead of the regular plain or treble bob hunt. Different leads in the same method then lose their similarity, and it is no longer sufficient to learn one or two types of lead.

Two ways are now open. The first is to learn every lead carefully. This is rather laborious, particularly so as it is necessary to learn the whole of the work of all pairs before ringing inside pairs to touches. For example, an inside pair in Double Norwich may be called, in quite a short touch, into any part of the 3-4, 5-6 or 7-8 positions, so that the complete work of as many as twenty-one different leads would have to be learned before touches could be attempted.

The second way, which is very much better, is to ring by the construction of the method. That is to say, to know what internal places are made as the treble moves up and down. Further, in all regular methods the second half lead is the reverse of the first half. This means that if 6th's place is made, for example, as the treble crosses 4-5 on the way up, another 6th's must be made as it crosses 5-4 on the way down. In this way the method can be rung without any special reference to what particular position the pair happen to be in; there is no need to know if they are in any particular part of the 3-4, 5-6 or 7-8 course, and the combined 'blue line' can be dispensed with. Clearly it will only be possible to those who are thoroughly familiar with the elementary positions and have had a certain amount of practice in simple methods with internal places.

(To be continued.)

ERNEST FREDERICK POPPY. AN APPRECIATION.

Ernest Frederick Poppy was a ringer well known in East Anglia and elsewhere and a man well beloved and held in high regard by all who knew him. His life was a record of service to his fellow-man.

His tall figure was to be seen at most ringing meetings, where his genial disposition endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. He was a veritable storehouse of East Anglian ringing lore, and this, coupled with a retentive memory, made him a very entertaining man to talk to.

He had met and rung with all the old East Anglian stalwarts, and his anecdotes of them—John Souter, Jimmy Motts and so on—were worth listening to.

As a ringer, Mr. Poppy was above all a faultless striker, and while he had great patience with learners, would not tolerate slovenly ringing. He was a very safe ringer on all numbers, and his peal record of 346 shows an unusual variety of methods.

His first peal was rung at Redenhall on February 24th, 1894, for the Norwich Association, and he took part in 257 peals credited to that society.

Mr. Poppy rang in the first peal for the Suffolk Guild at Thornham Magna on April 3rd, 1923, and his last was rung at Debenham on August 13th, 1938. He had served the Suffolk Guild on its committee since its formation, and, in addition, he had been assistant secretary to the Eye Branch since 1936.

In his own parish of Stoke Ash he had been a power for good, and he gave willingly of his time and talents to public work. A very keen and devoted churchman, he held the office of churchwarden for upwards of 20 years, and it was chiefly due to his energy that the bells were rehung and a competent band of ringers trained. Mr. Poppy represented his parish on the Hartismere Rural District Council, was a manager of the school and an honorary member of the local branch of the British Legion.

May he rest in peace.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. CATERING DIFFICULTIES OVERCOME.

By a happy coincidence the meeting of the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, held at Shalford on November 4th, took place on the third anniversary of the rededication of the bells, after having been recast from six into eight.

A last minute breakdown in the catering arrangements upset the organiser's plans, but the very sporting gesture of the Vicar of Shalford (the Rev. M. Tobias) saved the situation. On learning that it was not possible to obtain tea locally, the Vicar and his wife volunteered to do the best they could at the Vicarage. The Vicar journeyed to Guildford in his car and returned laden with supplies. Mrs. Tobias turned the Vicar's study into an impromptu tea room, and provided an enjoyable tea.

The Vicar took the chair at the short business meeting which followed, and also invited the company to bring the handbells into use. Although nothing more than plain courses of Grandsire came home, every effort was given a round of applause. The star turn of the evening, however, was double-handed tune ringing by the brothers L. and A. Hunter. These boys literally brought the house down, and we understand that they are already booked for the next Guild dinner.

The two police officers present saw to it that the Vicarage was 'blacked out' well before scheduled time.

Mr. C. W. Denyer (Farnham district secretary) and Mr. R. Whittington (Cranleigh) expressed thanks to the Vicar and Mrs. Tobias for all they had done and for the manner in which they had come to the rescue.

The evening closed with a hearty rendering of 'For he's a jolly good fellow' and a cheer that echoed the sincere thanks of all.

The service, held prior to tea, was a real antidote to the troubled times we are passing through. A special organ voluntary, cheerful hymns, and a bright and interesting address that made no mention of war, all tended to emphasise the point that the Vicar of Shalford always stresses. It is that our religion should not be a dull and depressing creed, but something to be happy and joyful about.

Full use was made of the bells from 3 to 4.30 p.m., and the District Ringing Master (Mr. C. E. Smith) saw that everyone who appeared in the belfry had a touch of some sort.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE QUARTER-PEAL.

For a Confirmation service held by the Bishop of Chelmsford, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1,280 changes) was rung at Prittlewell, Essex, on Sunday, November 5th, by William James 1, Norman Townsend 2, Jack Belcham 3, Roy Brown 4, Walter Taylor 5, Frank B. Lufkin (conductor) 6, Henry S. Wilson 7, Albert E. North 8.

THE B.B.C. INTERVAL SIGNAL. SHOULD IT BE IMPROVED?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Although this correspondence is getting nearer to it, no one has yet faced up to the question whether the interval signal ought to be improved or not.

The interval signal has to be something which can be switched off at any moment. Therefore, anything which contains a pleasant succession of sounds is not suitable; for every time the signal is switched off in the middle, everyone would be crying out for the conclusion; or, at any rate, would not be in the best humour for what follows. Thus the interval signal ought to be in itself an annoying one, or, at any rate, something which one is more or less glad to have switched off. At the same time, it ought not to be very annoying, or people would be always objecting to it, like they did to the former signal.

There is, therefore, a good deal to be said for the use of call changes. It is quite certain that many (probably most) ringers have no idea how distasteful call changes are to all others, or they would never ring them. The horribly monotonous repetition is, however, lessened when the number of bells is larger than eight; or when the sound is varied to imitate its volume being altered by the wind.

Therefore, if there are to be other records made (and probably we all agree that it would be better to have more variety than at present, it would seem that they should be call changes and on twelve bells.

A further point is, who would ring them? My experience is that it takes a band of ringers who can strike changes well to strike call changes well. Notice that I do not say satisfactorily, for call changes can never be that; but well enough to pass muster on a record. Can twelve men be found who would be willing and capable of doing this? I would not be one of them. If I could strike twelve bells in real changes, nothing would induce me to make a display of sham or call changes!

Uford Rectory.

HERBERT DRAKE.

WAR TIME RINGING ARRANGEMENTS.

Liversedge, 10 to 10.30 a.m. and 5 to 6 p.m.

Rockwell, 9.45 to 10.30 a.m. and 3 to 3.30 p.m.

Blackpool, St. John's, 10 to 10.40 a.m. and 5.30 to 5.55 p.m. Practice,

Thursday, 8 p.m.

St. Anne's-on-Sea, 10 to 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 to 3 p.m. Practice,

Monday, 7 p.m.

Ipswich, St. Mary-le-Tower, 10 a.m.

Pentre Rhondda, St. Peter's, 10 to 11 a.m. and 5 to 6 p.m. Practice,

Thursday, 6.30 p.m.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The war-time derangement of the postal services and the necessity of getting the copies of 'The Ringing World' into the hands of the publishers earlier on Thursday make it absolutely essential that all contributions to our columns, and particularly all notices, should be in our hands by Monday in each week. We cannot guarantee the insertion in the following issue of anything received later.

We hope that secretaries will send us prompt reports of their meetings, and we shall welcome any items of news relating to ringers and ringing, but they must reach us early.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Last Sunday the bells of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, which have been silent since the war began, were rung for morning service. The police had banned all ringing, but have now withdrawn the prohibition so far as daylight only is concerned. There is still no practice on Tuesdays.

The photograph of the spire of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, in our last issue, was by Mr. F. E. Dawe.

To-day is the one hundred and fourth anniversary of the first peal of London Surprise Major, which was rung at St. Andrew's, Norwich. In our issue of August 25th last, we gave an account of the bells of this church.

On November 15th, 1784, the College Youths rang 5,040 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Maidstone and claimed the peal as the first on the new bells. A fortnight earlier James Barham's band from Leeds had rung 5,120 changes in the same method. The London men had no great opinion of the others' performances, and it looks as if they did not believe they had rung a true peal.

Almost a century later, on November 15th, 1873, 8,544 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major were rung at Liversedge, beating John Reeves' peal of 8,448, which for long was considered the extent with the tenors together. The 8,544 was rung as the composition of William Sottanstill, but probably was varied by him from one of John Thorp's peals.

On November 16th, 1885, Jasper Snowdon died at the early age of 41, after a comparatively short ringing career. By his writings, his work and his example he had influenced the Ringing Exercise for good to an almost greater extent than any other man.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting held on November 7th for the purpose of electing officers of the Ancient Society of College Youths, Mr. W. H. Shuker, general secretary of the Lancashire Association, was chairman.

A good attendance augured well for the fortnightly war-time meetings.

As previously reported, last year's officers were re-elected en bloc. The secretary read the list of attendances for the past year. Mr. L. Fox headed the list with 79 out of a possible 80, and, in addition, he rang 150 times for Sunday services and about 120 times for practices at St. Dunstan's and other towers.

Four other members of the Stepney band rang almost as many times as he did.

A. E. BAMES' PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

A LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of July 28th last this peal is reported to have been rung at Bridgend, Glamorganshire, which is the first occasion I have seen it rung for many years. It was the first peal rung on the back eight of the bells at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, conducted by the composer. It was highly thought of by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, and on his recommendation the block of 350 changes was deferred until end of the peal. Thus it runs to 4,690 changes by bobs only, when the first Holt single is introduced. Then follow the five calls at 5, the last of which produces rounds (at the second Holt single). It is a beautiful and symmetrical peal, with five uniform parts—to 4,690 changes, and from this point of view is unsurpassed. It is not difficult to call, and without, I hope, detracting from the merit of such compositions as Holt's Ten-Part or J. J. Parker's Twelve-Part, I consider it a superior composition to either. It needs no words of commendation from one in this far off land.

ERNEST F. BEHAN.

Melbourne, Victoria.

CHURCH BELLS AND NEW NOISE ORDER.

EXCEPTED FROM RESTRICTIONS.

Home Office Intention.

Under the Control of Noise (Defence) Order, which came into force on September 1st, severe restrictions were placed upon the use of certain instruments in public places, but church and chapel bells used for their 'customary purposes' were included among the exceptions.

This exemption enabled church bells to be freely rung, and on the strength of it Church authorities and ringers were urged, through our columns, to continue, as far as possible, the service and other ringing to which they were accustomed.

On October 31st, however, another Order, entitled Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, was issued, and from its drafting there appeared to be considerable doubt as to whether church bells were in future to be exempted. In view of the importance of the question, the following letter was addressed to the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Security (A.R.P. Department) by the Editor of 'The Ringing World':—

'The Ringing World' Office,
Lower Pyrford Road,
Woking,
November 7th, 1939.

CONTROL OF NOISE.

Sir,—In the Control of Noise (Defence) Order, No. 1169, dated September 1st, 1939, Clause 3(2) provided that nothing in the Order shall be deemed to prevent the use of any church or chapel bell in such manner as has been customary.

The Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, dated October 31st, 1939, does not mention church and chapel bells among the exceptions.

May it be understood that church and chapel bells are still exempted by the original Order, and that they may continue to be used for their customary purposes?

As this is a matter of great importance to the churches of this country, I shall be very much obliged if you will let me have an early reply.—Yours faithfully,

J. S. GOLDSMITH,
Editor.

The following reply has been received, and it is gratifying to know that church bells are still exempted from the operation of the Order:—

Home Office
Air-Raid Precautions Dept.,
Horseferry House,
Thorney Street,
London, S.W.1,
November 10th, 1939.

CONTROL OF NOISE (DEFENCE) (No. 2) ORDER, 1939.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of November 7th, I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to say that it is intended that the use of church and chapel bells should be excepted from any restrictions by virtue of

clause 1(b) of the Control of Noise (Defence) (No. 2) Order, 1939.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
The Editor, (Signed) R. L. POLAND.
'The Ringing World.'

Confusion had already arisen from the wording of the second Order, and we have, since writing to the Minister of Home Security, received information that the police have banned the ringing of bells in certain places. We shall be glad to hear of any case where such action has been taken, as we hope that some further steps may be taken to have the position made clear.

WHAT THE NEW ORDER SAYS.

Clause 1 of the Order of October 31st, so far as it is relevant, runs as follows:—

Subject to the provisions of the Order, no person shall, in any area in Great Britain, sound any instrument or cause or permit any instrument to be sounded, except—

(a) for the purpose of making a signal, in accordance with directions given by the local authority or chief officer of police for the area, to indicate that an air-raid by the enemy is expected or is in progress or has ceased, or that noxious gas is present, or that danger from such gas has ceased, or

(b) in such circumstances that the sound of the instrument is not liable to be mistaken for any such signal as aforesaid.

Clause 4 (c) of the Order lays down that the expression 'instrument' means any siren, hooter, whistle, rattle, bell, horn or other like instrument.

BELLS AND THE A.R.P. CANCELLED MEETING AT UPHAM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A district meeting was arranged to be held at Upham on November 11th, and was duly advertised in 'The Ringing World,' the ringing to be completed during the hours of daylight.

At the last minute the meeting had to be cancelled, as the A.R.P. authority informed the incumbent that the church bells must not be rung at any time other than for Sunday services.

I communicated with as many as possible and apologise to anyone who may have been overlooked and made this journey to Upham in vain.

Upham is a very quiet village with few houses near the church. It appears to me that the local A.R.P. authority acted in a high-handed manner, as the Control of Noise (Defence) Order, 1939, specially exempts the ringing of any church or chapel bell in such manner as has been customary, and it has long been the custom to ring the church bells in Hampshire in connection with district meetings.

Can any of your readers with experience of A.R.P. administration give advice on this point?
Bishopstoke, Hants. GEORGE PULLINGER.

RINGING AFTER SUNSET.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to know if you could give me any help in the following. We are able to ring each Sunday morning at our tower from 10 to 11 o'clock. We are blacking out our church windows so that evening service can be held at the ordinary time, and we are thinking of blacking out our belfry, which can easily be done. Before we do so, however, I would like to know if the law as far as church bells are concerned allows us to ring after sunset? I shall be greatly obliged if you can, through 'The Ringing World,' give me a reply, so as to give us an idea of what is the best thing to do.

Great Tey, Essex.

J. W. DYER.

The Order controlling noise in war time specially exempts church bells rung for normal purposes, as will be seen from the article 'Church Bells and New Noise Order' in this issue. There is no law against the ringing of church bells after sunset, although it might be well to consult the local police authorities on the matter. The chief obstacle to the ringing of bells arises if there is a 'listening' post nearby, but if there is no objection to daylight ringing there cannot, we think, be any objection to ringing after nightfall, provided the black-out regulations are observed.—Ennox, 'The Ringing World.'

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

ST. LEONARD'S, SHOREDITCH.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The first peal at Shoreditch of which we have any account was rung on March 1st, 1741, by the Society of Eastern Scholars. The method was Double Bob Major, the bobs were called by John Sharp, and the band included several men who were prominent ringers at the time. The tenor man, Philemon Mainwaring, earned a leading position among the heavy bellringers of all time. He was the first man to turn St. Saviour's, Southwark, tenor in to a peal; he rang the 28 cwt. tenor at West Ham to a fifteen-thousand of Bob Major, and the 44 cwt. tenor at Spitalfields to a five-thousand of Oxford Treble Bob Major. These bells were hung with the old style fittings, and peals rung on bells with modern fittings cannot be compared with these feats.

Thomas Bennett, who rang the seventh at St. Leonard's, had a long and active ringing career, during which he was a member of nearly every one of the leading London companies.

The peal of Double Bob was not claimed as the first in the tower, and, as it was not rung until the bells had been two years in the steeple, the likelihood is that others had already been scored which are now forgotten, especially as five years elapsed before we have any record of a second performance. This, too, was by the Eastern Scholars, and was 5,040 changes of Bob Major, composed and conducted by Joseph Prior.

It was an interesting composition, being the first that ever was rung with the sixth the extent (twelve times) at home. The earlier peals were on the plan of Annable's Three-part, in which the sixth is nine times in each one of the five available positions at the course-ends.

Later on in the same year Prior called 6,832 changes of Bob Major, and on December 27th, 1747, Thomas Bennett conducted 5,040 changes of 'that excellent new peal called Eastern Bob.'

This method was the composition of Joseph Prior. He afterwards extended it to Royal and produced the double variation of Major, and peals of both were rung by the Eastern Scholars. A century later the method was re-discovered by Henry Hubbard and published by him under the name of Yorkshire Court. Though it does not now rank as a 'regular' method, it has many good qualities.

Meanwhile, on January 12th, 1746, the College Youths rang the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major on the bells, Annable calling the bobs.

The ringer of the second was Thomas Prior, who possibly was Joseph Prior's brother, and, like him, was a very active metropolitan ringer. The 'General Advertiser' of 1746 contains an advertisement by 'Thomas Prior, Esq.,' in which he offers for sale a marvellous tar water which would cure almost any complaint, including asthmas, cancers, small-pox, lowness of spirit, etc. His address was Painter's Court, Bury Street, St. James'. There is nothing beside the name to identify this man with the ringer, but quite likely they were the same.

In 1747 began the long connection between the belfry of Shoreditch and the Society of Cumberland Youths. Concerning the origin of this company, a number of legends grew up which have been repeated many times and are still believed in, but, unfortunately, like so many other ringing legends, when they are subjected to any real test, turn out to be baseless.

Osborn, writing a hundred years ago, tells us that in his time the tradition was that 'when, in 1746, the Duke of Cumberland returned to London after defeating the Scotch rebels at the battle of Culloden, he entered the Metropolis by the old North Road through Kingsland and Shoreditch. The London Scholars welcomed him with a merry peal on the bells of Shoreditch Church, and, to show their loyalty and joy at his safe return, they



THE TOWER OF SHOREDITCH CHURCH IN 1733.

changed their name, and afterwards, to commemorate the event, an appropriate and ornamental medal, with the likeness of the Royal Duke on his charger enamelled in gold, was presented to the society; which medal is usually worn by the master at the society's general meetings."

Later writers allowed their fancy some freedom, and we are usually told that the Duke was so pleased with the ringing that he sent and congratulated the ringers, and himself presented the medal.

'A History of Shoreditch Church,' published some years ago, is still more circumstantial, and relates that the Duke was so charmed with the music that he entered the tower and afterwards gave the two bells which then made the ten. He certainly was a ringer and the founder of the Cumberland Society, and the medal was presented to the Society by the Duke himself in 1746.

'The Duke also presented a large oil painting of himself to the society, and this hung in the centre porch until the bells could no longer be rung, when it was removed to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.'

All this is only fancy run riot, and would hardly deserve notice if it were not that it is sometimes repeated

by responsible people as genuine history. The Duke had no personal connection with either Shoreditch Church or the Society of Cumberland Youths. He was a German by birth, and a soldier by profession, and his action at Carlisle in 1747, when his army tried to confiscate the cathedral bells, shows that he had no particular sentiment in favour of church bells.

Osborn's account, it will be noted, was very much more moderate. He does not say that the Duke himself had anything to do with the matter. The tradition had not then developed beyond the statement that the London Scholars rang Shoreditch bells to welcome him when he came home, and afterwards changed their name to show their loyalty and joy at his safe return. This is a much more credible statement, but it also fails completely when we apply any real tests to it.

The Society of London Scholars had been founded some time before the end of the seventeenth century, and for half a century its members ranked with the College Youths as the leading ringers of the country, both socially and in the belfry. Unfortunately the society's records are lost, and all we know about their performances is that they rang three peals, one of Grandsire Caters and two of Grandsire Cinques. The last we hear of their doings is that in 1730 they were proposing to try Rudhall's new bells at Fulham. After that they drop entirely out of history.

They were then at the height of their prosperity, and we must not suppose that they went to pieces until some time after. Most probably they continued to meet in tower and tavern long after they had given up peal ringing. The mere gap of years is no proof that they did not become the Society of Cumberland Youths. But what is certainly lacking is any signs of continuity.

The London Scholars consisted of 'gentlemen and others' who met and rang in the City and West End; the Cumberlands were men of Shoreditch and district who practised in the northern and eastern suburbs, and, in those days, Shoreditch was a long way from St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. If the tradition were true, we should have to believe that the London Scholars not only changed their name, but they entirely cut themselves apart from their past, destroyed all their old records, and had an entirely fresh start. Moreover, though the battle of Culloden was fought on April 16th, 1746, the new society was not formed until September 6th, 1747, and it is certain that neither the London Scholars nor any other company greeted the Duke on his return with a merry peal on Shoreditch bells, or any other bells.

The Duke's victory had made him a popular hero, and his return was eagerly awaited. The contemporary newspapers contain several statements that he was expected on such and such a date, and then that his coming had been postponed; and, finally, he arrived unannounced and unexpected by the general public. Six days after he had set out from the North, 'The General Advertiser' stated that 'there is no certain account when H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland will set out from Fort Augustus,' and it was not till the third day after his arrival that it printed a message from Whitehall, dated July 26th, saying that 'yesterday about one o'clock in the afternoon his Royal Highness, the Duke of Cumberland, arrived at the Palace of Kensington from the North and immediately waited on his Majesty.'

(Continued in next column.)

NOTICES.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—A combined practice will be held at the Cathedral, Portsmouth, on Saturday, November 18th. Ringing from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. No service or business meeting. All ringers welcome.—A. T. Greenwood, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Afternoon ringing meeting at Rodbourne Cheney on Saturday, November 18th. Six bells. Open from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. On Swindon Corporation bus route.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Swindon, Wilts.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—All members are requested to attend a special meeting at Wraxall on Saturday, November 18th, to discuss programme of future meetings. The bells will be available from 2 o'clock.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Naseby on November 18th, when the bells will be dedicated. Dedication service at 3 o'clock.—H. H. Shrivess, Hon. Branch Sec., Long Buckby, Rugby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Werburgh's, Spondon, on Saturday, November 18th. Bells available from 2.30 till dusk. All ringers invited. Nottingham and Burton districts please note and make an effort to attend.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Aylestone (6 bells) on Saturday, November 18th. Ringing from 3 p.m. till dusk. Tea and meeting. It is hoped everyone will make a special effort to attend.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. James', Poole, on Saturday, November 18th. Ringing from 2.30.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A meeting for practice will be held at Crawley on Saturday, November 18th. Tower open 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. No business meeting or tea.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's on Saturday, November 18th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow (election of officers, future meetings, etc.). Handbell practice afterwards. Please advise early for tea to A. M. Tyler, 5, Addison Road, Bristol, 3.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Newbury on Saturday, November 18th. Bells (10) available from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. only. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Arniston, Manor Lane, Newbury.

SHOREDITCH BELLS.

(Continued from previous column.)

It is clear, then, that the London Scholars did not welcome the Duke as he came home past Shoreditch Church, and so did not alter their name and become the Cumberland Youths. But the questions still remain: What did become of the former society?, and How did the latter society originate and get its name?

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at Cropthorne on Saturday, November 18th. Bells available from 2.30 and after the meeting. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15, followed by business meeting. Will all members who can possibly do so, attend and make this a good meeting.

NASEBY, NEAR RUGBY.—The ring of five bells restored by John Taylor and Co. will be re-dedicated by Bishop Willis at 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 18th.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Croft on Saturday, November 18th. Ringing from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m., when a short service will be held followed by tea (1s. each). Names for tea should be sent to Mr. J. Bayliss, Brookside Cottage, Croft, Leicester, as early as possible. Handbells available for the rest of the evening. Come and enjoy yourself.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Holy Trinity, Bolton, on Saturday, November 18th. Bells available 2.30 to 5 p.m. Business: Future meetings.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—A meeting of the above will be held at Sutterton on Saturday, November 18th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea at 5.15 p.m. followed by business meeting.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., Park House, 99, Norfolk Street, Boston, Lincs.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. James', Poole, on Saturday, November 18th. Ringing from 2.30 and after 7 p.m. Service 4.45. Address by the Rector, the Rev. E. C. Harris. Tea in Old Rectory 5.30, followed by business meeting.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Writtle on Saturday, November 18th. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.15, followed by tea and business meeting.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Upper Arbour Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—A meeting of this district will be held at Biddenham on Saturday, November 18th. Bells (6) ready from 2 p.m. till evening. We shall be pleased to see you.—Frank C. Tysoe, Hon. Dis. Sec., 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—A meeting will be held on Saturday next, November 18th. at St. Dunstan's, Stepney. Ringing from 2.30 to 5 p.m. A meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot on Tuesday, November 21st, at 7 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. James', Birch-in-Rusholme, on Saturday afternoon, November 25th. Tower open for ringing at 3 p.m.—J. H. Ridvard, Branch Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—A meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, November 25th, when there is nearly a full moon to counteract the black-out. Ringing from 3 until 5. Tea and business meeting at the Duke's Head, with further ringing until 9 o'clock. Owing to caterer's difficulties, please send numbers for tea to Mr. A. Dean, 24, Church Walk, Leatherhead, as early as possible. Everybody welcome.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Southern District) and **THE SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—A joint practice meeting will be held at Ranmoor, Sheffield, on Saturday, November 25th. Bells (10) available from 2.30 p.m. until 'black-out.' Short business meeting will be held in the Church Hall immediately afterwards, to be followed by handbells, and also instructional advice on theory and advanced methods by Mr. George Lewis. All welcome. No tea provided, but refreshment obtainable close by. There will be a full moon on this date, therefore no transport difficulties anticipated. Rally up.—Sidney F. Palmer and Maurice E. Wilson, Hon. Secs.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Christchurch District.—The annual meeting will be held at Christchurch on Saturday, November 25th. Bells (12) available from 2 p.m. Tea at 4.30 p.m. at King's Arms Hotel, P.R.H.A. Please advise early for tea to G. Preston, 42, Waterloo Place, Christchurch.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, on Saturday, November 25th. Bells available 2 p.m. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea, reservations for which must be sent to Mr. E. M. Atkins, 18, Westbere Road, N.W.2 (telephone, Hampstead 4510), by Wednesday 22nd. Business and handbell ringing afterwards.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at East Crompton on Saturday, November 25th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Method to learn, London Scholars'. For tea, please notify Mr. John Butterworth, 3, Society Street, Shaw. Business meeting to follow at 6.30 p.m.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—A branch meeting will be held at Hyde on Saturday, November 25th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Please note change of tower, and also, in view of present circumstances, kindly advise Mr. T. Wilde, 23, York Road, Gee Cross, Hyde, the number requiring tea.—C. K. Lewis, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting will be held at Lavendon on Saturday, November 25th, from 2 to 4.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Learners and beginners invited.—J. F. Amies, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—General quarterly meeting, Loughborough, Saturday, November 25th. Bell foundry bells (10) open all afternoon. Committee meet 4 p.m. General meeting in ringing room 5 p.m. Owing to difficulty of transport, etc., members are asked to cater for themselves. Tea can be got at local cafe.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Padiham on Saturday, November 25th. Bells available 3 p.m. until black-out. Meeting after business; important. Members and non-members cordially invited.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—The meeting which was to have been held at Ospringe on Saturday, November 25th, is cancelled, owing to a restriction placed on all ringing in that area by the police authorities. Please watch 'The Ringing World,' as it is hoped to arrange another meeting elsewhere.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The Luton District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Dunstable on Saturday, November 25th. The eight bells will be available from 3 till 8 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. All ringers invited.—E. A. Belson, Dis. Sec., 7, Queen Street, Leighton Buzzard.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be at Birstall on Saturday, November 25th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting in the tower.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. Albans on Saturday, November 25th. The cathedral bells (12) open 2.30-4 p.m. St. Peter's bells (10) open 3.30-5 p.m. Ringers' service will follow at this church. Tea at McMeekan's Restaurant 5.45 p.m. Business meeting (further meetings, election of officers, secretary's report, etc.) and handbell ringing. All towers in the district should be represented. All ringers and friends welcome, but send me a card if you intend to be present.—Harold V. Frost, Dis. Sec., 4, Kimberley Road, St. Albans.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—A meeting will be held at Upton on Saturday, November 25th. Bells (5) available from 1.30 to 4.15 p.m. Short service. Tea at moderate charge to those who notify me by Thursday previous. A whist drive will be held in the Village Hall during the evening.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

NEWPORT, MON.—St. Woolos' Cathedral.—The augmented ring of twelve will be dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Monmouth during 11 a.m. service on Sunday, November 26th. The two new trebles added and Nos. 3, 4 and 5 recast by Gillett and Johnston.

CANNINGTON, NEAR BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET.—The ring of six bells rehung by John Taylor and Co. will be re-dedicated by the Bishop of Bath and Wells at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 28th.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The 'black out' will not interfere with the next meeting, to be held at Newhall on Saturday, December 2nd. Bells (6) available from 2.30 to 7.30. Tea and meeting in Church Room at 4.45. Appreciation of the efforts made to ring after tea should be shown in attendance. All are welcome. Note: Postcards to me by Thursday previous.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—The annual meeting of the division will be held at Leytonstone on Saturday, December 2nd. Bells available from 2 p.m. till dusk. Business meeting to follow. Will everyone please make an effort to attend this meeting, when it will be discussed what course should be adopted with regard to practice meetings?—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Cedar Avenue, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting will be held at Norwich on Saturday, December 2nd. The bells of St. Michael at Coslany available from 2-4. Tea in St. Miles' Mission Hall at 4.15. Business meeting to discuss plan of campaign and incidental problems at 4.45, followed by social evening, including the showing of a film in colour by the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, taken by him on his recent holiday in Norway and Spitzbergen, and the use of handbells. It is most important that I know by Tuesday, November 28th, if you are coming.—Nolan Golden, Gen. Sec. and Treas., Winton, 26, Brabazon Road, Norwich.

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. David's Institute, Haldon Road, Exeter, on Saturday, December 2nd. Tea at 5 o'clock, preceded by a short service at 4.45. Will those requiring tea please notify me by November 25th? St. Sidwell's, St. Thomas' and St. David's bells available from 2 to 5 p.m.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Wednesbury on Saturday, December 2nd. Bells available 3 p.m. Service in church at 4.15. Business meeting afterwards. All arrears in subscriptions should be paid at this meeting.—Herbert Sheppard, 17, Grange Road, Dudley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Cuthbert's Church, Lytham, on Saturday, December 2nd. Ringing from 3 p.m. Business meeting 5 p.m. A good attendance requested.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—A meeting will be held at Hersham on Saturday, December 2nd. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. More ringing after business meeting. Nominations for district officers for 1940 at this meeting. All ringers welcomed. Names for tea to Mr. W. Simmonds, 33, Burwood Close, Hersham, not later than Wednesday, November 29th.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Kempsey on Saturday, December 2nd. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m., with business meeting to follow. Please notify numbers for tea by Tuesday, November 28th, without fail.—E. F. Cubberley, Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

LYDFORD, DEVON.—The ring of six bells rehung by John Taylor and Co. will be re-opened at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 3rd.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Owing to circumstances over which I had no control, it has not been possible for me to arrange the usual annual meeting. I tender my apologies to all concerned. Please note change of address.—Alec E. Richardson, 24, Norton Road, Southborough.

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Printed for the Proprietor by the Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, and Published by the Rolls House Publishing Co., Ltd., Breams Buildings, London, E.C.4.