



THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

PEAL FAILURES.

'If we could get every peal we started for peals would not be worth ringing.' How often, we wonder, has that been said by someone to compensate himself and his fellows for their disappointment when some attempt has come to an untimely end; and though the saying has become rather trite, it expresses what is really an essential feature of all peal ringing. Ringers do not merely set before themselves three hours of amusement and enjoyment such as they would expect to experience during an evening's visit to a theatre, or concert, or cinema; they put before themselves a difficult task which will tax their abilities and attention to the full, and they get their satisfaction, not only out of the actual ringing, but from the feeling they are overcoming those difficulties. It follows that the possibility of failure must always be present.

Few bands like to lose a peal when they have started for it, and failure is almost sure to bring disappointment. Some men have developed peal ringing to the extent that they collect peals in the same spirit that another man collects postage stamps, or another adds to his bank balance. We can almost imagine them gloating over their growing list, like the miser of tradition was supposed to gloat in secret over the increasing hoard of the gold he never spent and from which he derived no further advantage than the feeling of possession. Even those of us who are no more than average ringers feel a certain amount of pride when we reach the hundred, or two hundred, or five hundred mark.

These things are quite as they should be; for although a peal when it is rung is nothing more than a memory, and after a time often not even that, the urge to ring peals is one of the chief influences which keep the Exercise alive and promote the development of the art of change ringing. We should be very sorry to say that the number of peals rung by a man, or a band, or by the Exercise as a whole, is by itself an infallible guide to the extent of progress and skill. Quality should count before quantity — quality of method and (even more) quality of execution. But it will be a good sign and a bright day for the Exercise when the number of weekly peals again reaches the old totals. That cannot occur until long after victory has been won and peace proclaimed. In this respect the setback caused

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by the last war was never fully made up. Fewer peals were rung annually between the two wars than during the years before the first, although in some respects peal ringing more than reached the earlier standards.

Meanwhile, what ought to be done to try to raise the standards so that those peals which are rung should be only of the best. It is better to fail when the attempt has been a worthy one than to record as a success a performance which has been marred by slovenly ringing or some incident which will not bear the closest scrutiny. The brilliant conductor who can get any sort of band, no matter how they ring, through a peal, is worthy of all praise for his skill, but is by no means an unmixed blessing generally.

After all a failure is nothing to regret so long as the attempt has been a good one and the band has done its best. Some failures indeed are worthy to rank with almost the best of peals, though they may not count as peals themselves. And perhaps, when we look back over the past and get that satisfaction which comes of talking of old times and recalling old incidents, the peals we did not quite get stand out in our memories as vividly as those which were successful.

This week a correspondent raises this question of peal failures and suggests that a list of causes should be drawn up. Doubtless it would be a very interesting compilation and lead to much discussion and argument. This thing, however, we would say—Though we would do everything we could to eliminate all causes of failure in any individual peal, we should be very sorry to see the causes of peal failures removed even if it were possible. But that is not in the least likely.

HANDBELL PEAL.

COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sun., Apr. 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,
At 117, WIDDINGTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor size 15 in C.

FRANK W. PERRINS 1-2	*JOSEPH H. W. WHITE ... 5-6
FRANK E. PERVIN 3-4	*HUBERT SUMMERS 7-8

Composed by W. HUDSON. Conducted by F. E. PERVIN.

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

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BISHOPS CANNINGS.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held on April 1st at Bishops Cannings. The methods rung during afternoon and evening were Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob Major and call changes. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. S. L. R. Sharpe, Mr. Hillier being at the organ. Twenty-four members sat down to tea at the Crown Inn. The vice-chairman, Mr. A. T. Weeks, thanked the Vicar, the organist and the ladies, and, in reply, the Vicar said he was pleased to have the branch at his parish again. The towers represented were Bishops Cannings, Seend, Melksham, Calne, Devizes (St. John's and St. Mary's), and Southbroom (St. James').

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., April 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Forty-One Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

HARRY BROUGHTON ... <i>Treble</i>	HERBERT W. PERKINS ... 7
LOUIS C. ALLEN 2	SHIRLEY BURTON 8
*JILL POOLE 3	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 9
Mrs. H. J. POOLE 4	†RICHARD GRANT 10
†JOHN C. SMITH 5	HAROLD J. POOLE 11
HARRY WAYNE 6	JOHN GRANT <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by HARRY BROUGHTON.
* First peal of Cinques on tower bells. † First peal of Cinques. Fiftieth peal on the tenor. First peal of Cinques as conductor.

TEN BELL PEAL.

CHELTHENHAM.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Apr. 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt.

JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... <i>Treble</i>	WILLIAM DYER 6
WILFRED WILLIAMS 2	*WALTER C. ROSE 7
JOHN AUSTIN 3	WILLIAM T. COX 8
ARTHUR H. REED 4	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING... 9
CHARLES W. MARTIN ... 5	REUBEN HEMMING ... <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.
* First peal of Stedman Caters and first attempt. Rung half-muffled for the late Mayor of Cheltenham, who was buried the previous Tuesday.

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., April 1, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

C. ALFRED LEVETT ... <i>Treble</i>	FRANK H. HICKS 5
NORMAN V. HARDING ... 2	TONY PRICE 6
H. WILLIAM BARRETT ... 3	WILLIAM HENLEY 7
JOHN M. GAYFORD 4	GEORGE GILBERT <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by FRED DENCH. Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.
Rung on the birthday of Edna Hearn, of the local band.

SIX BELL PEAL.

WENTWORTH NEAR ROTHERHAM, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Barnsley and District Society.)

On Sat., Apr. 1, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Oxford and Kent Spliced and two 720's each of Kent, Oxford and Plain Bob, called differently. Tenor 10 cwt. (approx.).

GNR. SIDNEY C. MOSS... <i>Treble</i>	*R.S.M. ALBERT FORD... 4
SIDNEY BRIGGS 2	†ERNEST SHORT 5
WILLIE GREEN 3	DANIEL SMITH <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by D. SMITH.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal.

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IRISH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Irish Association was held in Dublin on St. Patrick's Day, and was attended by members from Bray, Kilkenny, Limerick and Dublin (St. George's, St. Patrick's and Christ Church Cathedrals). Mr. William Chamney, the Dean of Christ Church, and Mr. M. Hogan were also present. The president, Canon E. H. F. Campbell, was in the chair.

Apologies were received from the Dean of St. Patrick's, the Rev. J. L. Atkinson, the Rev. R. J. Kerr, Mr. J. B. Tough and the Arklow, Waterford and Mt. St. Alphonsus, Limerick, Societies.

The annual report referred to the loss of two members through death: J. Flint, Bolsover, and Sgt. William Mackenzie, R.F.C., Bray. Two peals of Grandsire Doubles had been rung by the Arklow Guild. The memorial to the late Gabriel Lindoff is in hand and should be ready in about four months' time. The fund will be kept open for a few more months. The hon. secretary had visited or met the representatives of every country team during the year. The number of members is 248.

The statement of accounts showed balances in hand.

One society had been affiliated, Ballymodan, Co. Cork, where there is a peal of six bells. Mount St. Alphonsus, Limerick, rejoined the association.

The attendance challenge shield for 1943 was won by St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, and Waterford Cathedral Societies, each scoring 100 per cent.

Dublin was again selected as the place for the next meeting, unless transport facilities improve sufficiently to permit Waterford's invitation being accepted.

All officers were re-elected as follows: President, the Rev. Canon E. H. F. Campbell, Rector of Bray; Ringing Master, R. S. F. Murphy, Dublin (Central Council member); hon. treasurer, D. Gibson, Bray; hon. secretary, Fred. E. Dukes, Dublin.

Forty-six new practising members were elected, including the Rev. Father Magnier, Limerick, the Rev. Brian Harvey, curate of St. George's, Dublin, and nine ladies. Two honorary members were elected.

A discussion took place regarding proposed practice meetings during the summer months to encourage and help those who have little opportunity of change ringing.

Votes of thanks were passed to the president, the hon. secretary and the Dean of Christ Church.

Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung on the bells of Christ Church Cathedral.

PLAIN BOB MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have recently had the pleasure of perusing a book entitled 'Elements of Campanologia,' by Henry Hubbard, and published in 1854.

In that very excellent little treatise are three peals of Bob Major, and I notice that these are also given in 'Ropesight.'

The first two of these peals are by Henry Hubbard, and with these I am not concerned, but the third peal is attributed to different composers in each publication.

In Henry Hubbard's book the peal is shown as by 'T. Hurry,' but in 'Ropesight' it is said to be composed by 'J. Reeves.'

I append details of this peal in the hope that one of our friends may be able definitely to define the correct composer:—

23456	W	M	H
43652	—	—	—
63254	—	—	—
56234	—	—	—
23564	—	—	—
52364	—	—	—
65324	—	—	—
32654	—	—	—
53624	—	—	—
62534	—	—	—

Four times repeated.

R. S. ANDERSON.

76, Dimsdale View, Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent.

[This peal was given in the 'Clavis' of 1788 of which Reeves was one of the authors. Thomas Hurry was not yet born. The figures do not appear in Hubbard's latest edition.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ELSTOW.

A meeting of the Bedford District of the Bedfordshire Association, held at Elstow on April 1st, was attended by members from Bedford, Bromham, Tempsford, Meppershall, Silsoe, Maulden and Kempston. Ringing ranged from London Surprise Minor to Stedman Doubles, about 10 methods being rung. Mr. L. Harlow presided over the business meeting, held in the tower, and Biddenham was selected for the place of meeting on April 28th.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's, on Sunday, March 26th, 1,008 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: H. Smith 1, H. Street 2, C. T. Coles (conductor) 3, J. C. Adams 4, H. Rumens 5, E. E. Holman 6, F. C. Maynard 7, L. E. Last 8.

STAINES.—On Sunday, March 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. C. Parker 1, W. Shepherd (conductor) 2, F. E. Hawthorne 3, E. Armstrong 4, W. A. Goldstone 5, W. H. Seabrook 6, W. A. Peck 7, R. Andrews 8.

WENTWORTH, YORKS.—On Thursday, March 16th, 720 Bob Minor: *G. West 1, S. Briggs 2, *Pte. M. Thomas, A.T.S. 3, Gunner S. C. Moss, R.A. 4, W. Green 5, R.S.M. A. Ford, I.C. (conductor) 6. * First 720.

EXETER.—On Sunday, March 26th, at St. Thomas', 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Hosgood 1, W. H. Howe 2, *Miss Queenie Pring 3, J. Salway 4, R. Truman 5, *G. Retter 6, E. W. Biffin (conductor) 7, *H. Wills 8. * First quarter-peal of Triples.

BOSTON, LINCS.—On Sunday, March 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Harper 1, A. Ellis 2, S. Jessop 3, W. E. Clarke 4, A. Freeston 5, F. Leggett 6, F. Dewey (conductor) 7, B. Jackson 8.

HASTINGS.—At Christ Church, Blacklands, on Sunday, March 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Rev. P. J. Boulsover (first quarter-peal) 1, W. Bradfield 2, W. H. Joiner 3, A. E. Easton 4, T. Carlton 5, Cpl. H. D. W. Bishop 6, J. Downing (conductor) 7, G. Martin 8.

MELLS.—On Wednesday, March 22nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: S. Ashman 1, *R. Townsend 2, E. H. Nash 3, *L. Withers 4, R. G. Beck (conductor) 5, E. Chivers 6. * First quarter-peal.

ALTRINCHAM.—On March 25th, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor: R. Elkins 1, D. Vincent 2, H. McKinnell 3, A. J. Brown (conductor) 4, W. W. Wolstencroft 5, J. Fidler 6. Rung on the front six.

BLACKWELL.—On March 27th, 720 Bob Doubles and 600 Grandsire Doubles: W. Bramley 1, A. Smithson (conductor) 2, W. Steele 3, F. Boam 4, A. Wheeler 5.

OXFORD.—On Thursday, March 30th, at St. Ebbe's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *A. White 1, W. H. B. Wilkins 2, H. Gardner 3, W. F. Judge 4, Miss M. R. Cross 5, J. E. Spice (conductor) 6, G. Caudwell 7, *A. R. Burgess 8. * First quarter-peal.

BRAFELD, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, April 2nd, 1,260 Doubles, 360 each of Plain Bob, April Day and Antelope and 180 of Grandsire: F. Battison (aged 13) 1, G. Gayton (11) 2, E. Robinson (13) 3, A. Fitzhugh (13) 4, J. Fitzhugh (14) (conductor) 5. First quarter by all.

SHIRLEY, NEAR BIRMINGHAM.—On Sunday, April 2nd, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: *Arthur V. Hemming 1, S. George Chaplin 2, *Arthur D. Cook 3, George E. Fearn 4, Edward T. Lloyd 5, *Richard J. B. Hadden (conductor) 6. * First 720 of Kent.

DINDRE, NEAR WELLS.—On Sunday, April 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: H. Collins 1, *H. Horler 2, *S. Vowles 3, P. Hull (conductor) 4, F. Bird 5, *F. Griffen 6. * First quarter-peal.

DONCASTER.—On Sunday, April 2nd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. C. Stacey (conductor), W. E. Critchley, J. Holmes, E. Daingwater, R. Thompson, J. McCluskey, H. Wagstaffe, P. J. Dawe. Rung half-muffled for Mr. George Clark, of Arksey.

BROMLEY COMMON.—At St. Luke's on Sunday, April 2nd, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: *C. Cullen 1, Miss H. Oakshett 2, G. F. James 3, *V. Benning 4, G. H. Kite 5, I. Emery (conductor) 6, J. Lyddiard 7, P. J. Spice 8. * First quarter-peal of Treble Bob Major.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On Sunday, April 2nd, 720 London Surprise Minor: W. C. Ryles 1, S. Ryles 2, J. E. Wheeler 3, W. C. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6. And 240 Kent Treble Bob Minor: J. Walley 1, S. Billinge 2, W. P. Deane (conductor) 3, J. Jolley 4, S. Ryles 5, J. Ryles 6.

HALESWORTH.—On April 3rd, on handbells, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: E. Codling 1-2, F. C. Lambert (conductor) 3-4, W. Barber 5-6.

DOVER.—On Easter Sunday, at St. Mary's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: S. L. Barlow 1, T. W. Robinson 2, C. Turner 3, C. George 4, H. J. Saunders 5, Raymond Wood, jun. 6, R. Collins (conductor) 7, Bernard Smith 8.

SWINDON, WILTS.—On Tuesday, April 4th, at Christ Church, 504 Grandsire Triples: Miss N. Davis (first 504) 1, C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 2, S. Palmer 3, G. W. Townsend 4, H. Wheeler 5, T. Cullingworth 6, A. G. Wells 7, E. J. Berry 8.—On Easter Sunday, 1,440 Kent Treble Bob Royal: C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 1, *W. Daniell 2, *T. Cullingworth 3, H. Bishop 4, G. W. Townsend 5, S. Palmer 6, *A. G. Wells 7, *E. J. Berry 8, *T. Townsend 9, J. H. Shepherd 10. * First quarter in this method.

PLYMOUTH, DEVON.—On Easter Day, for evensong, at St. Andrew's, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: Sub-Lieut. R. W. Rawlings 1, A. W. Myers 2, A. S. Weatherly 3, Capt. W. J. Rawlings 4, T. G. Myers 5, A. Mitchelmore 6, H. F. Myers 7, Gnr. R. E. Coles 8, G. H. Myers (conductor) 9, G. R. Marshall 10.

CROSTHWAITHE, KESWICK.—On Sunday, April 9th, for evening service 576 Kent Treble Bob Major: F. Grisdale 1, J. Brownrigg 2, Miss Margaret Telford 3, T. Wilson 4, F. Barnes 5, W. Thompson 6, T. Hartley 7, Tyson Hogarth (conductor) 8.

KENDAL.—On Saturday, April 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Richard Dennison 1, William Robinson 2, Leonard Townley 3, Thomas Haslam 4, Thomas J. Clement 5, Joseph Wilson 6, Ivor J. Heap (conductor) 7, Stanley Edmondson 8.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.
 Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
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MR. HAROLD J. POOLE.

On April 1st, after a peal of Stedman Cinques on St. Martin's bells. Mr. Harold J. Poole was installed as a lay canon of Leicester Cathedral. The Bishop, who performed the ceremony, said candidates for the office were chosen for their work for the Church. Mr. Poole's work lay chiefly in connection with the bells, and ringers throughout the land would be glad that one of their number had been chosen for the office at a Cathedral.

Many ringers were among the congregation and the bells were rung again after the service.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR.				SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR.			
1,248				1,248			
23456	B	M	W R	23456	B	M	W R
23564	—	—	—	35264	—	—	—
52364	—	—	—	26354	—	—	—
35264	—	—	—	32654	—	—	—
63254	—	—	—	63254	—	—	—
45236	—	—	—	45236	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—
1,248				1,248			
23456	B	M	W R	23456	B	M	W R
65432	—	—	—	52436	—	—	—
43652	—	—	—	63425	—	—	—
35426	—	—	—	42635	—	—	—
42356	—	—	—	42356	—	—	—
34256	—	—	—	34256	—	—	—
23456	—	—	—	23456	—	—	—

OPEN LEADS AND OTHERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with some regret and not a little trepidation that I read the letter from Mr. Vincent. After the continual bickering to keep a good wide lead, this sudden conversion to the ranks of the unrighteous would seem rather dangerous.

I am glad he has held his ground for so long among the cart-wheelers, but now that they have finally got him down I hope he does not carry his new found enthusiasm too far.

FRANK REYNOLDS.

Prestwich.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ACCRINGTON.

A meeting of the Blackburn Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at St. James', Accrington, on April 1st, at which Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob, Double Bob, St. Clement's, Double Court, Little Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor were rung, including a 720 of Plain Bob, conducted by Mr. C. Blakey.

At the business meeting, presided over by the branch president, Mr. L. J. Williams, it was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Peter's, Burnley, on April 29th, at which Double Norwich will be the special method.

ST. DUNSTAN'S IN THE WEST.

A FAMOUS LONDON CHURCH.

The fate of the eight bells at St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street, seems uncertain. The top of the tower was set alight in a recent air raid and burnt fiercely, but at present we have no knowledge of the exact damage.

There was a church here at least as early as 1237, for in that year the patronage was given by Richard de Barking, Abbot of Westminster, to King Henry the Third. At the time of Edward the Sixth there were 'in the steeple four greates belles and a small bell.' In 1632 it was said to have been a fair and beautiful church. It escaped the fire of 1666 but very narrowly, the third house from it being burnt. In 1701 it was altered and beautified at a cost of over £1,500, and by that time little of the original Gothic building was left. It projected far out into the middle of Fleet Street and was surrounded by small shops belonging to booksellers.

Its most notable feature was the clock, which had 'two figures of savages or wild men well carved in wood and painted natural colours appearing as big as life standing erect with each a knotty club in his hand where-with they alternately strike the quarters, not only their arms but even their heads moving at every blow.' They were 'more admired by many of the populace on Sundays, than the most elegant preacher from the pulpit within.' The figures were first erected in the year 1671, and in 1829, when the church was rebuilt, they were purchased by the then Marquis of Hertford, and set up at his house, St. Dunstan's Villa, Regent's Park. In recent years they have been restored to St. Dunstan's Church.

The old church was pulled down in 1829 and the present building was consecrated in 1833. The church itself, built of brick and octagonal in shape, has no merits, but the lofty stone tower with its open lantern is a fine building and one of the best examples of modern Gothic architecture in the city of London.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century there was a ring of eight bells in the steeple, and on them in 1727 the College Youths rang the first peal of Double Bob Major. A year later they rang the first peal of Dunstan's Triples. Both were conducted by Benjamin Annable. In 1735 and 1749 the Eastern Scholars rang peals of Bob Major, one conducted by Philemon Mainwaring, the other by George Meakins. During the remainder of the century only three peals are known to have been rung in the tower, all of them by the College Youths. One of them, on March 12th, 1778, was 5,184 changes of Real Double Bob Major with two bobs in a lead, one before and one behind. Charles Purser called the peal and presumably composed it. It was claimed as the first of the kind ever completed, and a board was erected under the tower to commemorate the performance, but it is almost certain that the composition was false.

In 1823, not long before the church was pulled down, three peals were rung, two of them Grandsire Triples and Oxford Treble Bob Major, by the Junior College Youths, and the other, Oxford Treble Bob, by the College Youths.

In 1832 the bells were recast at the Whitechapel Foundry and rehung in the new tower. In the following year the Cumberland Youths rang 5,600 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major on them.

(Continued on next page.)

CENTRAL TOWERS.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 149.)

At Chicheley, St. Lawrence, Bucks, the belfry is very unusual and quite unique. The chancel is ceiled over to form a ringers' floor, thus they stand in full view of the congregation when ringing for Sunday services. The rood with crucifix and attendant figures in front of the balustrade of this ringers' gallery was given by Mrs. Easson, wife of the Rector, in 1927, as a memorial to her mother. The church dates from the 12th century. Late in the 15th century the central tower was built on the site of the chancel, and the chancel built further towards the east. The chancel was again rebuilt in the 18th century. The central tower is 15½ feet by 12 feet, and of three stages with shallow square buttresses at the angles of the first and second stages, and an embattled parapet. All the detail except the gallery is of the 15th century date. The south wall has in the S.E. angle a newel staircase carried up to the bell chamber—it led originally also to the rood loft and was entered from a doorway (now blocked) inside the tower. It is now entered from an external doorway in the south wall.

The six bells are all by Abraham Rudhall and dated 1718. The frame (like Bletchley) is fixed cross-cornered instead of parallel to the sides of the tower. On it, opposite the door, is incised: 'John and Richard Williames made Thees Frames Lining in King Sutton in the County of Northampton neare Banbuary in the yeare of our Lord 1718.'

The 3rd bell bears the name 'Sr. Iohn Chester Bart. Benefactor.' This family was descended from John Chester, Citizen and Draper of London, who was buried in Mercers' Chapel 1437. In 1546 the King granted to Anthony Cave, Esq., the Manor, Rectory and Advowson of the Vicarage of Chicheley. Having no son, they passed, on his death, September 9th, 1558, to one of his daughters, Judith, who was married to William Chester, Esq. Their son, Anthony, was High Sheriff of the county in 1601, being first knighted, and later created a Baronet by James I. in 1635. Sir John, 'the benefactor,' recorded on the bell, was 4th baronet. He was buried February 16th, 1725/6. Tradition says that he used to ring, using a silken rope: and that, when he had the bells recast, he threw the old family plate into the furnace containing the bell-metal. In 'Genealogical Memoirs of the extinct family of Chester of Chicheley' (London, 1878, vol. ii., p. 531) it states that 'Sir John Chester was enthusiastically fond of the music of church bells, and the tower of Chicheley Church is so close to the hall, that an amateur would be driven to distraction by bells of inferior tone. Sir John therefore sent the old bells to Abraham Rudhall, the famous Gloucester bellfounder, to be recast, and purchased from him a new peal of six bells, which are so celebrated for their silvery tones that it is firmly believed among the local traditions that Sir John threw in during the casting a cap full of silver crowns. . . . It was Sir John's delight to ring these bells with his own hands, and the silken rope attached to a wheel, with which he used to practise ringing, is still preserved at Chicheley Hall. The exercise served him as a substitute for hunting, for which he was getting too old, and for which Chicheley afforded fewer opportunities than Shenton.' Sir John was married at Shenton, Leicestershire, in November, 1686, and

resided there until the death of his wife in 1704. Ten years later he married Frances, Lady Skrimshire, and then came to Chicheley, where he died in 1726.

Of Algarkirk Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Lincs, one remembers the great performances by the local band under the conductorship of Mr. Vernon Taylor, in ringing the multi-method peals of Spliced Minor. There was originally a ring of five by Thomas Norris in 1662, and in 1935 a treble was added by Mears and Stainbank. In writing of the old five, Mr. Thomas North, in 'Church Bells of Lincs,' remarks: 'There is no approach to the bell chamber. The only means of reaching the bells is by climbing on to the chancel roof, thence to the north roof, and then crawling through a latticed window which is too small to admit an adult.' In addition to the six, there is a priests' bell (blank). The bells are rung from the floor of this very handsome cruciform church, at the entrance to the chancel, and on Sundays, therefore, the ringers perform in full view of the assembling congregation.

(To be continued.)

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I know practically nothing about peals of bells north of the Thames, but, in my opinion, the best peal of bells in the southern part of the country, both for tone and go, is at Christ Church, Swindon. I have no particulars with me of this peal of bells, but whether one hears the eight or ten, one cannot but be impressed by this fine peal.

H. BADGER.

Thame, Oxon.

PEAL FAILURES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think that it is safe to say that no one other than the very beginner at peal ringing has ever been 100 per cent. successful in his peal attempts, and most people can record, in addition to their successful peals, a number of attempts that failed. Probably the greatest cause of failure is the fact that ringers are human and consequently lose their places, forget to call bobs, etc., on occasions. But there are many other causes which are beyond the ringers' control, such as mechanical defects leading to broken ropes, broken clappers and the like. Then, too, there is external interference usually by people who do not appreciate the full significance of a peal attempt. This last is probably the most exasperating of all.

I have not taken part in many peal attempts—perhaps thirty or so—and most of the failures have been due to the human element; but I feel sure that more experienced ringers must have encountered unusual causes of stoppage and their experiences would make very interesting and sometimes amusing reading. Maybe it would be possible to draw up a list of the possible causes of failure that the would-be peal ringer has to contend with.

DENIS A. BAYLES.

Biddick Lane, Fatfield, Co. Durham.

ST. DUNSTAN'S IN THE WEST.

(Continued from previous page.)

There was, and still may be, a board in the belfry recording a peal of Grandsire Triples rung by the St. Dunstan's Society in 1834. 'St. Dunstan's Society, on Tuesday, April 1st, 1834, was rung by this Society a true and complete Peal of Grandsire Triples consisting of 5,040 changes in 3 hours and 5 minutes by the following members: Wm. Graham 1, Jno. Rogers 2, Jno. Harrison 3, Philip Symondson 4, Chas. Randall 5, Chas. Goozer 6, Thos. Tolladay 7, Wm. Watkins Tenor. This being the first Peal rung in the above Method in this Steeple and conducted by Mr. Thos. Tolladay.'

The bells have not been rung for many years, and few living ringers can have heard them. Occasionally they have been chimed, and it seems that one or two of them are cracked.

A VISIT TO WILTSHIRE TOWERS.

One Saturday afternoon in March, a band of ringers, composed in the main of youthful enthusiastic learners, set out on bicycles for three neighbouring towers. There were nine of them altogether, three old hands and six boys. The youngsters, in common with so many of the war-time ringers, had never seen a bell until a few months ago, but they were now capable of handling any bell they had so far come across, and visits to adjacent belfries on practice nights had increased their experience and deepened their enthusiasm. But their trips to date had been to well-kept ringing chambers, and the bells were usually in excellent order; this time, however, their afternoon outing took them to long neglected ringing lofts, towers no longer affiliated to the Diocesan Guild.

The first stop was made at the Church of St. Giles, Wishford Magna, where a melodious old five hang in one of the smallest towers in the diocese. The ringers were not accustomed to ample elbow room, and their own belfry is very small, but this ringing chamber was really midget. Moreover, a clock occupied half the available space, while the ladder to the bell chamber (a fixture) straddled right across the room. The treble came down in a corner, a few inches from the angle of the wall; the second rope emerged in some mysterious way from the clock case, but this also was close to the wall; the third hung grandly in the centre of the belfry, with the fourth immediately behind it; the tenor was rung on the top step of the stairs, the ringer facing down the steps, away from everybody else.

In view of these facts, it was decided to raise the bells singly, and a start was made on the treble; it was disconcerting, however, to ring standing in a corner with one's face to the wall, reminiscent of infant school days, but the bell was soon raised. The second, third and fourth followed, but when it came to the tenor's turn, a terrific thumping noise was heard, completely drowning the sound of the bells. The tenor was hurriedly set, and a local ringer appealed to. He said they knew all about it, the bell had been making that row for nearly a year, but they didn't know what it was. It was quite all right to ring it, nothing happened.

The visitors were less sure, and preferred to know what was happening, so one went aloft with a torch, while another rang the bell, expecting every moment to have it down on his head, as the floor was very thin and the noise awe-inspiring. It was eventually discovered that the clapper was striking the frame. The man aloft, who was a carpenter, said that a few minutes with a chisel would solve the problem.

Ringings now began, but never had the visitors rung under such conditions. How could the treble man be expected to watch the tenor, when his nose was about three inches from the angle of the wall, while the tenor was away in the opposite corner? The ringer on the second could just see the treble, by squinting sideways, but he was afraid to move his head too far round, otherwise he hit it on the clock-case. The third could see the second, and the fourth could see the third, but the poor fellow on the tenor could see nobody; he had to look down the stairs. Accustomed as these youngsters were to their own light ring on ball-bearings, this old ring of five, with tenor 14 cwt., proved hard going, but everybody had a pull, and there were some well-struck rounds and call-changes, and at least it was a unique experience.

The next stop was at Stapleford, a fine old church with some wonderful Norman arcading and a large tower. No cramping here, plenty of room to move about, and five ropes hanging in a circle. The bells had not been rung, however, since before the war, and on entering the ringing chamber through a trap-door in the floor, a bird's nest fell on the first man's head, followed by straw and other debris. It was easy to raise these bells in peal, they went well, even if they had not been touched for years, but they were a harsh lot, different from the tuneful notes of the Wishford peal. They were old, the treble and the second having been cast in 1655 by Nathaniel Bolter; the other three by Mears and Stainbank in 1887 and 1907.

The last tower to be visited was St. Andrew's, South Newton. Here were six bells, very shrill and penetrating, but at this church the two remaining old hands have commenced to train some youngsters, and conditions were more like those prevailing in the visitors' own belfry. This was the most enjoyable visit of the outing. A little method ringing was attempted here, and as the ringing chamber was blacked out, a longer practice was possible.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual meeting at East Grinstead, April 15th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Annual meeting at St. Lawrence's, Brentford (6 bells), Saturday, April 15th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting in the Vicarage 4 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided in the Parish Hall 5 p.m. Annual business meeting to follow. Bells of St. Mary's, Ealing, during evening.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13. Perivale 5320.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Annual meeting at Nuneaton, Saturday, April 15th, 3 p.m. Committee meeting 4 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, 5 p.m., in Parish Hall. Bells until 8 p.m. Private room at Bull Hotel (opposite G.P.O.) available until 10 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Hilgay, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) at 3 p.m. Service 4.3. Tea at 5. Bring food.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Maulden, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea at 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Meeting at Great Tew, Saturday, April 15th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury, Oxon.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Scothern (6 bells), Saturday, April 15th 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at moderate charge at 4.45 p.m.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

BARNESLEY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Eastwood, Rotherham, Saturday, April 15th, 2.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Kilburn, Saturday, April 15th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Willesden bells 6.30 p.m.—T. J. Lock, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District.—Meeting at Dalton Parish Church on Saturday, April 15th, 2.30 p.m.

ST. MARY'S, PUTNEY.—Weekly practices resumed Wednesday, April 19th, 8 p.m. Service ringing 2nd and 4th Sundays, 5.30.—W. T. Elson, 59, Pursers Cross Road, S.W.6.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Sharnford, Saturday, April 22nd, 5 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

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BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Frome Branch.—Meeting at Publow (6 bells), Saturday, April 22nd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea by April 18th to E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Luton District.—Meeting at Husborne Crawley, Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—D. E. Lidbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Meeting at Willenhall, Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (10) 3. Service at 4.45. Tea 5.30. Names by April 18th.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—Meeting at Grantham, April 22nd. Bells (10) 2 to 9 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting in belfry 6 p.m. Cafes in town. Own tea arrangements.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting, Beaconsfield, Saturday, April 22nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.45 p.m., 1s. 6d. Names by April 17th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION. — Northern Branch. — Meeting at Lye, Saturday, April 22nd, 3 p.m. Usual arrangements. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Rossendale Branch.—Meeting at Waterfoot, Saturday, April 22nd, 3.30. Meeting in tower 6.30. Names to Mr. Morten, 92, Fairfield Avenue, Edgeside, Waterfoot, by April 19th.—J. Porter, Branch Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Bleadon, Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) 6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, E.1, Saturday, April 22nd, 3 p.m. Ringing afterwards at St. Dunstan's, Stepney. Sunday ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, April 16th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch. — Meeting at St. Peter's R.C., and St. John's, Lytham, Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch. — Meeting at Westhoughton, Saturday, April 22nd, 2.30 p.m. Business 6.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Unveiling of peal tablet.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—Meeting at Mears Ashby (6), Saturday, April 22nd. Names for tea by April 18th.—A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Kington District. — Meeting at Lyonshall, Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) 6.30 to 9.30. Business meeting 7 p.m. — J. Preece, Dis. Sec., Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow, Leominster.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Croscombe, Saturday, April 22nd, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Numbers for tea by April 18th. — W. H. Marsh, 4, Dovecotes, Street, Somerset.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District. — Meeting at Shipbourne, Saturday, April 22nd. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea in Vicarage Work Room. Names to Mr. G. H. Hewitt, Shipbourne Vicarage, Tonbridge, by Wednesday, April 19th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — South Forest Branch.—Meeting at Ruardean, Saturday, April 22nd, 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names by April 19th.—Oliver Thomas, Branch Hon. Sec., 11, Victoria Road, Lydney, Glos.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District. — Meeting at Havant, Saturday, April 22nd, 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea, 5 p.m., at Bear Hotel. Names for tea by Tuesday, April 18th.—R. G. Stone, 16, Penhale Road, Portsmouth.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Lincoln, Saturday, April 29th. Bells, Cathedral (12) 2 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m., St. Giles' (8) and St. Peter at Gowts' (6) by arrangement. Business meeting at 3 p.m. in Chapter House: Evensong 4 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec., Blankney, Lincoln.

LAMBETH PARISH CHURCH. — Practices every Wednesday, 7.30 to 9 p.m.—C. M. Meyer.

SALSBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT TISBURY.

A meeting of the Salisbury Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Tisbury on March 25th, was attended by members from Amesbury, Berwick St. John, Britford, Fisherton St. Paul, Semley, Swallowcliffe, Wilton, Salisbury (St. Martin's and St. Thomas'), with visitors from Longbridge Deverill, Warminster and Westbury in the Devizes Branch. The Tisbury ringers were represented by six members of the Women's Land Army, who have recently taken over the tower. Service was conducted by the Vicar, Canon A. H. Barnes, and Mr. H. Roles was at the organ.

At the business meeting the branch chairman (Mr. E. G. Cople) presided, supported by Mr. G. K. Norton, vice-chairman, and Mr. F. W. Romaine, branch secretary.

New members were elected from Wilton and Semley, and it was resolved to hold the next quarterly meeting at Shrewton, in June, the date to be fixed with the Vicar.

Mr. E. F. White (chairman of the Devizes Branch) said he thought in these days of difficult travel it would be a good idea to hold inter-branch meetings and so support each other.

The secretary reported that arrangements were well in hand for the Guild festival on May 20th in Salisbury. The service would be at St. Martin's and the four city towers would be open. The bells at Britford, Coombe Bissett and Wilton had also been asked for.

Thanks to the Vicar, to the organist, and to the ladies who had provided the tea, closed the business of the meeting.

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