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**GILLETT
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Founders of the
HEAVIEST BELLS
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BRITISH EMPIRE

in

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NEW ZEALAND**



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TWELVE MONTHS AFTER.

Twelve months ago to-day an order was issued by the Minister of Home Security which ordained that 'no person shall in Great Britain sound any church bell except for the purpose of summoning persons to worship on a Sunday, Christmas Day, or Good Friday.' Worded as a prohibition, it was really a permission; for it ended the long silence which for more than three years had been imposed on bells and had been broken on two brief occasions only. A month later the new order was rescinded, and ringers recovered completely their former freedom from official interference. Now that a year has gone by it is as well to take stock of the situation.

When the war came, and still more when the ban was imposed, the outlook for ringing was very dark and doubtful. At the first seemed possible to do no more than keep a small amount of ringing going to serve as a nucleus round which change ringing might again be built up when peace returned. When the ban was imposed there were great fears that in perhaps the majority of places the art would simply die out, with very feeble hopes of revival within any measurable time.

The expected did not happen. The imposition of the ban, though it put a stop to most of the ringers' activities, did not weaken the Exercise to anything like the same extent that the outbreak of war did. That caused permanent loss; the ban caused not much more than a temporary cessation of activity. Here we have a great cause for satisfaction, for it shows that there is at the centre of the Exercise a hard core of men whose devotion to ringing is proof against all changes and adverse circumstances. The outbreak of war had already left them practically alone and the ban did not to any extent diminish their numbers. It is on them that the future of the art depends, and since their loyalty is assured, the defection of the many whose interest in the belfries sits lightly on them is of no more than temporary importance.

It is proverbally true that men do not know how much they value some things until they lose them. So it was with the people of England and their bells. We know now that church bells have not lost their old appeal, and any harm we may have suffered through the ban has been more than compensated by that knowledge.

The past twelve months have given ringers great cause for satisfaction and thankfulness. The loss caused by the war has been great and it will be long before

(Continued on page 162.)

the Exercise recovers its old strength and activity. But we know it can be done. Almost everywhere there are already signs of revival and growing activity, and two things especially encourage us to hope for the best in the future.

One is the large number of young recruits that have come to the belfry. They have had exceptional opportunities, for bands are depleted and there is much more room for newcomers. But even so an exceptionally large proportion of these young ringers have proved themselves of more than average ability. It were invidious to mention names, but at Enfield and Birmingham and elsewhere there are those who may be leading ringers of the future.

The other good sign is the great sale of the leading text books on ringing. That means that the best available information is being widely spread among the newcomers, and it cannot but have an excellent effect in the future years.

Taking all things together we may conclude that the Exercise is alive and healthy, and we need not doubt that the effort necessary to re-establish the art will be made when the time comes and will be successful.

TEN BELL PEALS.

SHEFFIELD, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-EVANGELIST, RANMOOR

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb. in F.

JOHN THORPE Treble	JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 6
J. EDWARD CAWSE 2	RONALD H. DOVE 7
*F. BERNARD DITCHER ... 3	†JOHN W. SMITHSON ... 8
*ERNEST A. THORPE 4	HERBERT CHADDOCK... .. 9
*G. GORDON GRAHAM ... 5	*JOHN E. TURLEY Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.

* First peal of Kent Treble Bob. † First peal on ten bells and of Treble Bob. First peal on the ten bells.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, April 14, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

HAROLD J. POOLE Treble	JOSIAH MORRIS 6
MRS. H. J. POOLE 2	PERCY L. HARRISON 7
JILL POOLE 3	HARRY BROUGHTON 8
PTE. SIDNEY HARRISON ... 4	ARTHUR DEBENHAM 9
JOHN E. SMITH 5	RALPH HUBBARD Tenor

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

APPLETON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 15, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

WALTER F. JUDGE Treble	ARTHUR H. WHITE 6
WILLIAM JUDGE... .. 2	†JOHN E. SPICE 7
*WILLIAM C. PORTER... .. 3	GEORGE HOLIFIELD 8
HENRY C. WHITE 4	RICHARD WHITE 9
FREDERICK G. MESSENGER 5	FRED WHITE Tenor

Composed by the late G. HOLIFIELD. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE

* First peal of Caters. † First peal of Grandsire Caters on tower bells.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL, ASTON,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

GEORGE E. FEARN Treble	*JOHN PINFOLD 7
ALBERT WALKER... .. 2	WILLIAM C. DOWDING ... 8
FRANK W. PERRENS 3	FRANK E. HAINES 9
DANIEL T. MATKIN 4	*S. GEORGE CHAPLIN ... 10
FRANK E. PERVIN 5	A. PADDON SMITH 11
HERBERT C. SPENCER ... 6	WILLIAM DAVIES Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal on twelve bells. A wedding compliment to Mr. Fred Price.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, April 8, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE R.C. CATHEDRAL OF ST. CHAD,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S COMPOSITION. Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb. in F.

GEORGE F. SWANN Treble	DANIEL T. MATKIN 5
*RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 2	JAMES G. PRIOR, R.A.F. ... 6
*JOHN PINFOLD 3	NELSON ELLIOTT, R.A.F. ... 7
FRANK W. PERRENS... .. 4	GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal in a Surprise method. First Surprise peal on the bells. A compliment to Mr. Fred Price on his wedding day.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb.

*ANTHONY BEAUMONT ... Treble	JOHN WORTH 5
WILLIAM FERNLEY 2	*ARTHUR PRITCHARD 6
JAMES A. MILNER 3	ALAN BROWN 7
TOM WILDE 4	PETER LAFLIN Tenor

Composed by J. S. WILDE. * First peal of Surprise.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

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

Tenor 17 cwt. 9 lb.

EDWARD C. GOBEY Treble	WILLIAM LANCASTER 5
WILLIAM THORNLEY, SEN. 2	ALEX HUTCHINSON 6
*WILLIAM H. KING 3	ALFRED MOULD 7
JACK BAILEY 4	EDWARD F. GOBEY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by EDWARD F. GOBEY.

* First peal in the method.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, EDMONTON,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION. Tenor 17½ cwt.

ERIC A. DENCH Treble	DENNIS H. LANGDON 5
VICTOR R. WOODARDS 2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN 6
PHILIP COWARD 3	JOHN THOMAS 7
MRS. J. THOMAS 4	*W. DOUGLAS SMITH Tenor

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First peal. First tower bell peal by all except 4 and 7.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

TUNSTALL, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, April 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

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

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

Tenor 8½ cwt.

GEORGE KENWARD Treble	JOHN E. SPICE 5
STANLEY B. DOBBIE... .. 2	WALTER H. DOBBIE 6
*BETTY SPICE 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE 7
DORIS G. DOBBIE 4	HARRY PARKES Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.
* First peal in the method.

BISHOPS CANNINGS, WILTS.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 16½ cwt.

THOMAS MERRITT Treble	†FREDERICK W. HALE 5
WILLIAM HACKER 2	*FREDERICK A. WILSHIRE... .. 6
WILLIAM G. MORTIMER 3	SIDNEY G. GRANT 7
*JOSEPH S. WEEKS 4	†GEORGE ORAM Tenor

Conducted by S. G. GRANT. † First peal of Triples. † First peal as conductor.

MILVERTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE PART (7th the observation) Tenor 19 cwt.

ALFRED J. WYATT Treble	CLAUDE TARR 5
HERBERT H. WALKER 2	CYRIL J. STEVENS 6
ALEC A. WALKER 3	W. G. GIGG 7
ARTHUR H. REED 4	WALTER STEVENS Tenor

Conducted by W. G. GIGG.

SLOUGH, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 17 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb. in E.

WILLIAM H. FUSSELL Treble	E. DENNIS POOLE 5
FRANK V. SINEINS 2	FRANK H. HICES 6
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE... .. 3	NORMAN V. HARDING 7
*JOHN M. GAYFORD 4	†EDWARD H. PRESTON Tenor

Conducted by NORMAN V. HARDING.
* First peal of Grandsire. † First peal. First peal as conductor and first attempt.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 15, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5086 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt.

ARTHUR TOMLINSON Treble	CPL. WM. PROCTOR, R.F.A. 5
STEPHEN LAWRENSON... .. 2	SGT. RD. WILSON, R.F.A. 6
BERNARD H. HALL 3	CPL. C. H. MOORE, R.F.A. 7
JOHN H. FOSTER... .. 4	*GNR. H. E. JEANES, R.A. Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by ARTHUR TOMLINSON
* First peal on eight bells. The 7th ringer was elected a non-resident member prior to peal. Arranged for the four Service ringers, who are stationed in the district.

BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, April 15, 1944, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt. in F.

F. BERNARD DITCHER... .. Treble	JOSEPH SAXTON 5
JOHN E. TURLEY... .. 2	*JOHN W. SMITHSON 6
JOHN H. BROTHWELL 3	A. BENJAMIN COOPER 7
STANLEY SLANEY 4	G. GORDON GRAHAM... .. Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by G. GORDON GRAHAM.
* First peal of Treble Bob Major.

SIX BELL PEALS.

BISHOP'S CLEEVE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 20 cwt.

*ERNEST RICHENS Treble	*CPL. W. FOLLEY R.A.S.C. 4
GEORGE F. CANTRILL 2	WILFRED G. FOLLEY 5
*LESLIE E. ASTON 3	FRANK PENDRY Tenor

Conducted by L. E. ASTON.

* First peal. First peal on the bells.

CREECH, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(TAUNTON DEANERY.)

On Monday, April 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 18 cwt. (approx.)

WILLIAM T. JEANES Treble	JACK ROY 4
*MISS FREDA M. POOLE 2	†WALTER H. POOLE 5
CHARLES H. FLOYD 3	WALTER E. PRIDDLE Tenor

Conducted by W. H. POOLE.

* First peal. † 50th peal.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, April 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings. Tenor 12½ cwt.

*G. A. FREEMAN... .. Treble	H. D. W. BISHOP 4
†REV. P. J. BOULSOVER 2	H. C. R. VINE 5
L. A. WOODWARD 3	*V. H. LAMBERT Tenor

Conducted by H. D. W. BISHOP.

* First peal and first attempt. † First tower bell peal.

KINGSLAND, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EARDISLAND ST. MARY'S SOCIETY.)

On Friday, April 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-AND-ALL-ANGELS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings, and one 240 of Lindoff's arrangement. Tenor 12 cwt.

*FREDERICK R. HARRIS ..Treble	E. PETER ROCK 4
*RONALD H. MEWIES... .. 2	LESLIE EVANS 5
LAURENCE T. MAINWARING 3	FREDERICK A. JAINE Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE EVANS.

* First peal and first attempt.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 7-8

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, April 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5060 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE 3-4	ALBERT J. WALLMAN 7-8

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by W. L. B. LEESE.

BELLS AND THE REFORMATION.

(Continued from page 145.)

Meanwhile, notwithstanding the Acts of Parliament, the export of bell metal still went on. The difference in the prices that could be got for it at home and abroad was so great that men were prepared to run the risk of forfeiture and to resort to various stratagems to evade the law. One way was to ship the metal on pretence that it was to be landed at some English port and then run it across to the Continent; another was to pack it in small creels, sugar chests, and hogsheads, and then bribe the customs officers not to search too narrowly. To counteract these things Parliament passed a further Act (2 & 3 Ed. 6, cap. 37) against carrying of Bell Metal out of the Realm.

'Where in the Parliament holden at Westminster in the three and thirtieth year of our late Sovereign Lord of famous Memory King Henry the Eighth it was enacted that no Person or Persons should carry or convey by water or otherwise any Brass Copper Latten Bell-metal Pan-metal or Gun-metal or Shroff metal whether it be clean or mixed Tin and Lead only excepted into any part beyond the Sea or into any outward Realm or Dominion whatever it be upon Pain of Forfeiture of double the value thereof (2) and where also by the said Statute it was likewise enacted That no Person or Persons should at any time ship or carry any of the said metals to carry or discharge the same in any Port of this Realm unless the said Person or Persons before the shipping thereof did declare and manifest unto the Customers of such Port or Creek where the same Metal should be shipped the true weight of all such Metal as should be shipped (3) and should also make a sufficient Obligation in the Law in which he should be bounden to the said Customers to the King's use in such sum as should amount to the double Value of the said Metal so declared and manifested with Condition that the same should be discharged at some Port or Creek within the Realm and in no other place upon Pain to forfeit the same in Manner and Form above rehersed as by the same Act among other things more plainly appeareth.

'Forasmuch as the Pains and Forfeitures in the said Estatute are not great enough and forasmuch also as divers covetous and greedy persons having no Respect or Obedience to the Laws have craftily and by all sinister Means practised to defraud the said Estatute some by bribing and rewarding the Searchers Masters Pursers or other officers of Ship some by secret conveying thereof in small Creeles Sugar Chests Hogsheads and otherwise—it was enacted that the penalty should be twice the value and £10 for every thousand weight of the same metal so carried; the customs officer who 'by covin or other undue means' assisted was to forfeit his office and the value of the metal; penalties were provided against the master of the ship which carried the metal; and no metal was allowed to be shipped except where there was a customs officer.

Even so a great deal of smuggling went on, and in 1551 the Council sent to Sir Anthony Kingston a letter of thanks 'for his travaill susteyned upon that coast and to staie bell metall and other things prohibited from goinge beyond the seas' with promise that the stayer thereof shall be sure of so much thereof as the statute giveth unto him.'

On June 4th, 1551, a letter was sent from the Council 'to James Bascamb and John ap Philips to cause certain bells seased for a forfait in Milford Haven to be brought to Penbrooke Castle and there kept untill the Kinges pleasr wer further known.'

A certain amount of lawful export was done and on June 1st in the same year a licence was granted to Thomas Hayes, of London, merchant, to export 50 tons of bell metal within six months ensuing.

In many cases unauthorised persons had gone to the abandoned churches and chapels and stripped the lead from the roofs and taken down the bells from the towers. The Council sent a letter 'to the Chauncellour of thaughtmentacions to give straight order for the restrainte of lede and belmetal being the King's Majesties not to be solde or put awaie from his Majesties owne use except the lede which Ancellyne Savage must have by warrante which neverthelesse he shall not be served either of the leade at Burye Nottingham Bridlington or any other of the Kinges howses.'

The Government had seized the abbeys, colleges and hospitals for the sake of the loot, and in the end they found, not unnaturally, that a lot of it had slipped through their fingers and into the possession of other persons who were on the spot and had no scruples about helping themselves. So great was the deficit that a commission was appointed consisting of the Duke of Northumberland, the Earl of Bedford, and other leading men, that is practically of all the chief ministers of the Crown (for the Duke of Somerset's head had fallen on Tower Hill), 'to enquire whereas by reason of visitations and commissions, surrenders and suppressions of religious houses the king is by law entitled to a great and notable quantity of lead bell-metal plate jewels etc which ought to have come to him or his father: To enquire what lead and bell-metal ought to have come to the king or his father how much of it has been sold and for what money and to what authority how much remains unsold and where.'

It is proverbially useless to try to bolt the door after the steed is stolen, and there is no reason to think that the big thieves had much success in trying to recover the swag from the little thieves.

All that I have written so far refers to the bells of the suppressed religious houses and the thought that strikes us is the great number of them. There must indeed have been 'a great and notable quantity of bell metal' if, besides the tons which were legally exported under licence, there was so much smuggled out of the country as to cause three Acts of Parliament to be passed in the attempt to stop it. I made a conservative estimate of two thousand tons as the weight of the bells in the abbey steeples, but large as is that amount, we should multiply it several times if we judged by the Acts of Parliament and the Acts of the Privy Council.

There remained the bells in the parish churches. It is these that we are usually told were confiscated, but actually there seems to have been very few of them destroyed. That Sir Henry Spelman should have heard when he was a child much talk of the pulling down of bells is understandable, and it was natural for later writers to confound bells in religious houses with those in parish churches. The former were all destroyed (or nearly all); the latter survived, but they only just sur-

vived. The men who remembered the loot of the abbeys and had themselves looted the chantries, guilds and colleges, were not likely to have much respect for the parish churches. And there were others, some of them fanatical, but many of them sober, pious and moved by a real devotion to pure religion, who set themselves to simplify public worship and rid the churches of everything that tended to superstition. Reform of the sort was necessary, but the thing was altogether overdone. The churches were stripped bare, monuments were defaced, and part at any rate of the brass and latten that was being exported consisted of old memorial brasses. Some of the Reformers were active in opposition to 'superstitious ringing,' and Martin Bucer, one of the most learned and influential of their leaders, would allow no ringing at all except such for which a single bell would suffice.

When the church plate, ornaments and vestments had been seized and sold, nothing else remained worth looting except the bells, unless the lead should be stripped from the roofs and the buildings themselves pulled down. That did happen in a few instances, but as a general proposition was out of the question. The Government did seriously consider seizing the bells. Owing to extravagance, mismanagement and dishonesty, the country was deeply in debt, and loans were raised with the money lenders of Antwerp. They not only charged a high rate of interest, but required an extra percentage on account of the exchange; and the Council suggested that if they would not accept the debased English currency at its face value, the interest might be paid in 'kerseys lead and bell metal.' By this time the bells of the abbeys had been disposed of, and we can easily see where the new bell

metal was to come from. Fortunately the Antwerp Jews do not appear to have favoured the idea.

In the Isle of Jersey the bells actually were taken down, and tradition afterwards related that fourteen of them were lost at sea on their way to St. Malo. It may, however, be well to point out that this is a good example of how unreliable are the traditions and rumours about the bells which were repeated by writers of a little later date. Sir Henry Spelman said the bells were pulled down by Sir Hugh Paulet 'at the end of Queen Mary's days,' which seems unlikely. The actual commission was issued in the year 1549 'to Henry Cornyshe esquire and Charles Mabson gentleman to sell lands in the Isle of Jersey which came to the king by the Act of I Edward VI for dissolution of chantries, etc. . . . also to sell lead bells bell-metal, ornaments, etc.' This would not refer to bells in the parish churches.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BRADFORD, YORKS.—On Easter Sunday, at the Cathedral, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. C. Buckley 1, J. Briggs (first quarter-peak of Grandsire) 2, T. B. Kendall 3, J. W. Cundall 4, J. Hardcastle 5, Capt. Debenham 6, E. H. Rayner (conductor) 7, E. H. Simpson 8.

MALDON, ESSEX.—On Easter Sunday, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: E. W. Richardson 1, E. R. Linnett 2, J. H. Waldock 3, A. South 4, E. E. Johnson 5, H. J. Mansfield (conductor) 6.

OXFORD.—On Easter Day, at St. Giles' Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Victor Bennett, J. W. Linnett, Marie Cross, Margaret Tuttt, W. F. Judge, Neil Allnutt, Major J. H. R. Freeborn (conductor), R. Challen.

WRINGTON.—On Easter Sunday, 845 Grandsire Caters: D. Clift 1, J. H. B. Hesse 2, T. Ferris 3, E. Fisher 4, H. Yates 5, C. Glenn (conductor) 6, *Prebendary A. J. Hook (Rector) 7, H. Knight 8, H. Vowles 9, H. Steer 10. *Longest length of Caters.

HARSTON, CAMBS.—On Easter Sunday, 1,260 Bob Minor: J. Green 1, C. W. Cook (conductor) 2, B. Dean 3, G. Easy 4, A. Hurst 5, E. H. Finch 6.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

.....

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

ESTABLISHED 1570

MEARS & STAINBANK

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of twelve for
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Etc.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

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THE MONTH'S PEALS.

MARCH.

During the month of March, 37 peals were rung, 19 of them on
tower bells and 18 on handbells.

The tower bells consisted of Grandsire Doubles 3, Triples 3, Caters
1; Bob Major 3; Kent Treble Bob Major 2; Erin Caters 1; Super-
lative Surprise Major 1; Cambridge Surprise Major 1; Spliced London,
Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major 1; Four Minor
Methods 1; Seventeen Spliced Minor Methods 1.

The handbell peals consisted of Grandsire Doubles 2, Triples 1,
Cinques 1; Bob Major 4, Royal 1; Spliced Plain and Kent Treble Bob
Major 1; Stedman Caters 4; Cinques 1; Kent Treble Bob Royal 2;
Cambridge Surprise Major 1.

The number of peals in January was 50, and in February 34, making
a total for the year, so far, of 121.

GEOFFREY V. MURPHY,

News has been received about Geoffrey V. Murphy, of whom nothing
had been heard since the collapse of Italy, where he had been a
prisoner. He was captured in the desert not long after successfully
coming through the first siege of Tobruk. He escaped on September
15th, and after what he calls 'an exciting time,' was recaptured at
the end of January and is now in Germany. Easter Sunday was his
25th birthday.

PEAL FAILURES.

Talking about peal failures, I wonder which is the longest failure
on record. I imagine it must lie between the eighteen thousand of
Kent Major at Mottram, the seventeen thousand of Grandsire Cinques
at Painswick, and Barham's nearly twenty-five thousand in an attempt
at Leeds to ring the extent of Plain Bob Major. Be that as it may, I
don't think there is much doubt about which was the shortest.

It was like this. Many years ago before the last war we used to
ring peals fairly regularly at St. John's, Waterloo Road. The band
came from widely scattered distances, and as they worked for their
living, they could not get to the church much before seven o'clock.
There was a rule that the ringing must be finished and the bells
down before ten. Whether this was an official rule or a self-denying
ordinance, I don't know, but it was strictly observed.

Well, one day we met for a peal of Double Norwich, raised the
bells, and got ready to start. The treble man gave the signal, pulled
his rope, and it broke at the wheel without the bell coming off. I
was at the second. I had got her on the balance, but when I saw
what happened I let her go back on the stay, and so we started for
and lost that peal without a single blow being struck. If that isn't
the record, I should like to know what is.

BELFRY PRAYERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I quite agree with the Rev. A. C. F. Davies' suggestion
that some form of prayer should be used before ringing for service.
I have rung in nearly 200 churches all over England, and in only
one tower, viz., Lyme Regis, Dorset, was a prayer said. We each
stood under our ropes while the Vicar offered up a prayer.

(Mrs.) MAUD M. GATEHOUSE,
Canterbury.

WEDDING OF MR. FRED PRICE.

An event of interest to a considerable number of ringers took place at Royston, Yorkshire, on April 8th, when at the Parish Church was celebrated by the Rev. J. G. Seebold the marriage of Mr. Fred Price, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Price, of Welland, Worcestershire, to Miss Violet Parks, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Parks, of 266, Midland Road, Royston. The bride, wearing a gown of white moiré taffeta and carrying a bouquet of red roses, lilies of the valley and white heather, was attended by Miss Hilda Parks, her sister, and Miss Lilian Godwin, niece of the bridegroom, who were attired in pale blue satin, with bouquets of daffodils.

Miss Parks was given away by her father, and Mr. F. E. Haynes acted as best man. After the ceremony a reception, attended by some forty guests, was held at the Pack Horse Hotel, adjoining the church. Later in the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Price left for the Lake District, where the honeymoon is being spent.

Among many congratulatory telegrams received were several from members of the St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, of which Mr. Price has for many years been an esteemed member. During the reception tribute was paid by Mr. W. L. Whiston to Mr. Price's work at Aston Parish Church, since the augmentation of the bells to twelve; he also offered congratulations on behalf of the Aston band. Among the guests was Miss Nancy Price, sister of the bridegroom, who is now capable of ringing the treble to a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. Mr. Price's father was a ringer at Longdon, Worcestershire, at least one of his brothers is a ringer, and now, we understand, his wife is learning to ring.

Another well-known ringer, Mr. Christopher Woolley, at present stationed at Wakefield, made his way over to Royston during the afternoon. His presence was naturally particularly gratifying to the best man, as they were contemporaries at Cambridge, and are, of course, both members of the Cambridge University Guild.

The future home of Mr. and Mrs. Price will be at 172, Marsh Lane, Erdington, Birmingham, 23.

Two peals were rung to celebrate the wedding, Cambridge Surprise Major at St. Chad's R.C. Cathedral, Birmingham, and Stedman Cinques at Aston Parish Church.

PILOT OFFICER DEREK M. SHARP.

The Air Ministry have recently presumed the death of Pilot Officer Derek M. Sharp, who was reported missing over enemy territory on the night of June 25th, 1943.

His Squadron Commander (Wing-Commander Nettleton, V.C., himself killed early this year) wrote that Pilot Officer Sharp, as captain of a Lancaster bomber, had made 19 operational flights in three months with the squadron and had pressed home these attacks with courage and determination. Thus a week before his 27th birthday ended the career of a very gifted young ringer. As far as can be ascertained, Derek Sharp rang 180 peals and conducted 34. His first peal was Grandsire Doubles at the age of 18 on November 29th, 1934, and his last Double Norwich on handbells on January 21st, 1940, when he was 23. Over 150 were rung between September, 1936, and September, 1939, and the peals were in 44 different methods or extensions as follows. The numbers in parentheses are those he conducted.

Doubles, 3, handbells 4 (3); Minor, 4 (1), handbells 3 (3); Cambridge Minor, 1 (1); Grandsire Triples, 8 (1), handbells 3 (1); Bob Triples, 2 (1); Stedman Triples, 18; Bob Major, 19 (3), handbells 9 (6); Reverse Bob, 1; Double Bob, 1; Canterbury, 1; Double Norwich, 14 (1), handbells 1; Real Double Norwich, 1; Double Oxford, 1; Hereward Bob, 1; St. Clement's, 2; Pulford Bob, 1; Cheltenham Bob, 1; Little Bob, 1 (1); Dartford Little Bob, 1; Erith Little Bob, 1; Kent Treble Bob, 12 (2); Oxford, 2; Granta, 1; Cam, 1; Cambridge Surprise, 23 (2); New Cambridge, 1; Superlative, 9 (1); Yorkshire, 3 (1); Lincolnshire, 1; Wheatley, 1; Painswick, 2; Ashted, 1; London, 1; Bristol, 1; Grandsire Caters, 1 (1); Stedman Caters, 2; Bob Royal, 1 (1), handbells 6 (3); Little Bob Royal, 1; Kent Treble Bob, 1; Granta, handbells 1; Grandsire Cinques, 1; Stedman Cinques, 1; Bob Maximus, handbells 2 (1); Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 1.

DUTIES OF A RINGING MASTER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Whilst agreeing in sentiment with the last paragraph of Mr. Russell G. Spears' letter in the issue of December 24th last (which, unfortunately, has only just reached me), I should like to offer a little criticism.

Has Mr. Spears considered the difficulties which stand in the way of a Ringing Master who no doubt would like very much to visit the towers in his district on their practice nights—I mean those of travel and time? Outside of London, these factors become of much greater importance, and are often insurmountable for many people.

As for his remarks re the 'local' ringer—i.e., that the association takes very little interest in him—I should like to repeat what I have heard Mr. Rupert Richardson say at many a meeting—'put plenty into ringing and then you will get something out of it.'

Every enthusiastic ringer I have met has got plenty out of ringing. As in every other art and sport, there are a few in ringing—just a few—who expect everything for nothing.

KENNETH S. B. CROFT, Lieut.

By Air Mail.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

'Romford, Essex. The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. On Wednesday, April 18th, 1894, in Eight Hours and Sixteen Minutes. At the Church of St. Edward. A Peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 13,440 changes. Tenor 17½ cwt. in F. Benjamin Foskett Treble, Edwin Barnett 2, Henry Dains 3, George Smith 4, Charles Wilkins 5, Albert Pittam 6, Arthur Jacob 7, George Newson Tenor. Composed and Conducted by George Newson. The band is the same as in the attempt at Brentwood on Easter Monday, when the treble rope broke after ringing 13,072 changes in 8 hrs. 15 mts. This is the first time the extent with the tenors together has been rung in the method.'—'The Bell News.'

SERVICE TOUCHES.

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

23456	1,260	23456	1,260
34526	S Before, Home	43526	S 4-5 up, S 6-7 down
45326	Home	35426	6-7 down
52346	Before, Wrong	54326	6-7 down
34256	Before, S, Wrong	42356	In and Out
Five times repeated. B for last S in third and sixth parts.		Five times repeated. S for last B in third and sixth parts.	
Seventh the observation. 1,260		Sixth the observation. 1,260	
234567		234567	
436527	6-7 up	357246	S 4-5 up, S 6-7 down
362574	6-7 down 4-5 up	573246	6-7 down
623574	4-5 up	735246	6-7 down
236574	4-5 up	354267	In and Out
Five times repeated. S half-way and end.		Five times repeated. S half-way and end.	
Fifth the observation. 1,260		Fourth the observation. 1,260	
234567	1 2	234567	
436257	S —	342567	Out at 4 leads
536472	— S	263475	In at 3
637524	— —	642537	S out at 5
732645	— —	756342	6-7 up
234756	— —	237456	In
Five times repeated. B for first S in third and sixth parts. Three-lead courses.		P.L. 243675	
Third the observation.		Five times repeated. Second the observation.	

STONE Y.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Your leader on Stoney was most interesting. It fits our case admirably. I have a very young band composed chiefly of boys from 12 to 14 years old, and although the boys have got the idea of change ringing (two of them have rung quite a lot of Plain Bob and the rest are still in the early stages), we do not as yet do any on Sundays.

As soon as they could ring in rounds I put them on to call changes, and my system is, first to call the treble out in whole pulls until he is behind and the rest to follow in rotation until the bells come round.

This might seem monotonous to the experienced ringer, but, believe me, the boys enjoy it, and, young as they are, they can strike remarkably well.

The system teaches them to strike over different bells and gives them plenty of time to do it. It keeps them calm, and gives them confidence, which you will agree is one of the chief essentials in change ringing. I also allow the boys to call the bells round, and this demands of them full knowledge of the system, which, although it seems easy, is not as simple as it sounds.

As to the musical effects of call changes, I find that the listening public are not at all particular. In fact, I am certain that well-struck rounds are much more appreciated than even the most musical Treble Bob or Stedman. There are some people who argue that if the bells are not ringing 'Put on your hats and come to church,' then they are not ringing properly. Which illustrates quite clearly that the experienced ringer rings to please himself first of all, the church comes a bad second and the public last of all.

F. LINFOOT.

78, Elland Lane, Elland, Yorks.

DEATH OF THE REV. W. P. WRIGHT.

The death is announced of the Rev. William Peter Wright, which occurred on April 8th at Eyam Hall, near Sheffield, in his 80th year. He was formerly Vicar of Hemingbrough, Yorkshire, and a practical ringer.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

(Continued from page 157.)

Another tower that should be noted in my list of central towers where ringing is done in full view of congregation is at Amport, Hampshire. The church of St. Mary is cruciform with a tower $13\frac{3}{4}$ feet square. This has plain plastered walls with a projecting stone parapet at top, below which is a hollow moulding enriched with four-leaf flowers and ball flowers. In each surface, just below the parapet, is a small window of two trefoiled lights. This tower contains a ring of six, the treble being by Mears and Stainbank, 1895; 2nd by Clement Tosier, 1717; 3rd by the same, 1686; 4th by I. D., 1703; 5th and tenor by W. Purdue, of Salisbury, 1662.

Another famous Hampshire church with central tower is that of Romsey Abbey. The first settlement of a monastic body here dates from A.D. 907, when King Edward the Elder founded a house of nuns, and set his daughter, S. Elfleda, at their head. The 10th century church is said to have been burnt during Danish wars after the massacre of 1002. In 1900, during the laying down of a new floor in the nave and crossing, the remains of an apse were found, proving that the east end of the church stood on the site of the present tower. Its walls continued under the western piers of the tower, and were $4\frac{3}{4}$ feet thick. There can be little doubt that the apse remained standing until the building of the tower, and was then taken down to floor level. The setting out of the eastern part of the present church began about 1120 and finished about 1230.

The church, as it stands to-day, is a fine and dignified building, but from the lack of an adequate finish to the tower, and the nature of its site, is far less picturesque externally than many churches of less interest. The interior, on the other hand, is one of the most attractive pieces of 12th century work to be found in the country, full of interesting details and singularly unspoiled by later alterations. The plan is cruciform with the tower over the crossing. It rises only 92 feet to the parapet, and it is not likely that its walls were ever much higher, but it was doubtless capped by a pyramidal roof which must have been a far more satisfactory finish than the present low octagonal wooden turret. The ring of eight bells hangs in the octagon. They are by Thos. Mears, 1791, and the tenor is 25 cwt. 8 lb. In 1933 Mears and Stainbank recast the 3rd, 5th and 7th and tuned the others. A fair number of peals have been rung on these bells. The 'approach' to the ringing chamber is by spiral stairway at the end of transept, thence along the triforium to the central tower, whence a very narrow and dark flight of stairs leads to the ringing room. This is spacious and contains the huge clock.

A further interesting Hampshire example is that of All Saints', East Meon. This church seems to have been begun 1130 to 1140. The central tower is of three stages, the ground stage being open on all four sides with slightly stilted round-headed arches. The second stage has plain round-headed openings on all four faces, and is reached by a stair from the north-west angle of the south chapel, which leads to an opening in the east wall of the south transept, and thence by a landing to a narrow 15th century doorway in the south-east of the tower. From this a stone spiral leads to the ringing room and bell chamber. The third stage has a group

of three windows in each face with round-headed arches, and the whole is topped by a leaded octagonal broach of moderate height. Here are eight bells, tenor 19 cwt. 18 lb. The treble, 2nd, 7th and tenor by J. Taylor and Co., 1890; 3rd by Chapman and Mears, 1782; 4th and 5th by Thomas Mears, 1834 and 1819; 6th by William Tosier, 1722.

St. Paul's Church, Bedford, is in Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles of architecture with embattled central tower and a spire. It was a collegiate church prior to the Conquest and retained this rank until between 1148 and 1170, when its prebends were transferred to Newnham by Simon de Beauchamp, who was buried in this church in 1206, the stone slab said to mark his grave still remaining on the south side of the High Altar. The edifice was rebuilt in 1224 on the site of the old church which had been pulled down by order of King John in order to fortify the castle. In the latter part of the 15th century the church was materially altered by several additions. In the reign of Henry VIII. the church became for a time the cathedral of a suffragan bishop. In 1868 the tower and spire were rebuilt, the design of the tower being modified and its plan enlarged, and the old spire re-erected upon it. The church was further enlarged in 1884.

The central tower is 18 ft. 8 ins. square, and stands on four piers with hollow chamfered arches and clustered responds. It has angle buttresses above the church roof and an embattled parapet, above which rises the tall stone spire with three sets of spire lights. There are two windows in each face of the belfry stage, each of two trefoiled lights with tracery under pointed heads. There is a clock with noted chimes, and a ring of 10 bells with tenor $28\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. The old eight were recast and two additional bells added by J. Taylor and Co., 1896/7, and these were rehung in 1929. Prior to 1744 there were five bells only. The old ring of eight was opened in the spring of 1745, as is shown by the following entry in the minutes of the Common Council held on the 19th April that year:—

'It is voted ordered and agreed unto at this Court of Common Council. That the Chamberlains of the Corporation shall pay amongst eight men that shall come from Saint Michael, Cornhill, London, the sum of six guineas for their trouble in ringing the new Peal of eight Bells which are hung up in the steeple of the Parish Church of Saint Paul in this Town.'

The treble of this ring of eight was recast in 1755 and again in 1868. In 1896 two trebles were added and the tenor recast. All the others except the 9th (old 7th) were recast in 1897. The first peal on the ten was 5,003 Grandsire Caters, conducted by the late Charles W. Clarke on November 9th, 1896, and since that time a number of other peals in various methods have been rung. Like many central towers, the approach to the ringing chamber is first by a good spiral stairway and thence over the roof for some 14 feet.

Bedford also has another central tower at St. Mary's Church. This is 12 feet by 13 ft. 2 ins., and is a very interesting piece of early masonry in rubble walling with heavy ashlar groins. No herringbone masonry is visible. It is of four stages, the second being hidden by the roofs and has lost its original finish, now ending with an embattled parapet, having crocketed pinnacles and gargoyles at the angles of 15th century date. The third

stage is architecturally the most important with wide round-headed openings on each face, enclosing two smaller openings, whose arches spring from a central shaft. There are six bells, treble by J. Eayre, of St. Neots, 1748; 2nd by Richard Chandler, 1682; 3rd by Newcombe, of Leicester, 1604; 4th bears shields but no date or inscription. It is probably by Hy. Jordan or his successor; 5th by R. Chandler, 1682; and tenor by Hugh Watts, of Leicester, 1609.

The church of St. Mary, Aylesbury, Bucks, stands near the middle of the town. There was probably a 12th century church on its site, but it appears to have been entirely rebuilt in the first half of the 13th century. The plan is cruciform, and the building, with its massive central tower is of fine proportions. The tower, 23½ feet by 18½ feet, is of three stages, and has diagonal buttresses above the ground stage, a north-east stair turret and embattled parapet with carved traceried panels, and a lead lantern and spire. Externally the tower has been almost entirely restored and refaced, but the original design is said to have been followed. The lantern and spire were copied from the former 17th century design. On the ground stage the four arches which support the superstructure are two centred, and of two chamfered orders originally of the 13th century rebuilt 1850, some of the old voussoirs being re-used. The tower stairs start from the west wall of the north transept, cross to the north-west pier of the tower and continue to the triforium level. The lower part of the stairs was altered apparently in the 15th century, when heavy abutments, since removed, were built to counteract the weakness of the piers. At the triforium level the stairs pass from the north-west to the north-east angle. The inner walls are pierced with an arcade of late 13th century date considerably restored, of two bays in each wall. The bell chamber is lighted by two large lancet windows in each wall.

There is a ring of eight bells and a Sanctus. The history of these is given in 'Church Bells of Bucks.' The weight of the tenor is quoted as 22 cwt., and a note is added:—'These fine bells, unfortunately, cannot be rung. The tower is a central lantern, and not only did the late Sir G. G. Scott give his opinion that it was not safe for ringing, but in the restoration of the church (1850) the lantern was opened up, and the floor of the old ringing chamber removed, so that it is now impossible to ring them, the drop to the floor of the nave (whence they are chimed) being far too long a draught.'

A peal tablet gives details of 5,040 Grandsire Triples having been rung here 12th November, 1804, by the Aylesbury Society in 3 hours 16 minutes. These bells were originally opened by the College Youths 'July ye 12th, 1773.'

THE RINGERS' HANDBOOK

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EAST DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT TIBSHELF.

The annual meeting of the East Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Association was held on Easter Monday at Tibshelf, Derbyshire. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. T. A. Fowler, who gave an address. The lesson was read by Mr. J. W. England.

Nearly 50 members and friends sat down to tea, provided by the local company and ladies connected with the church. The president, Mr. John E. Hobbs, took the chair at the business meeting, supported by the officers of the association. Mr. Hobbs commented favourably upon the attendance, particularly of the younger element. The balance sheet, showing a credit balance of £19 11s. 11d., was accepted. It was agreed to hold the annual meeting in 1945 at Alfreton, and quarterly meetings at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Blackwell and Morton. Monthly meetings will be held during the summer months.

The shield, which is awarded annually to the most progressive tower, was presented to the captain of Tibshelf tower, Mr. H. Draycott, who has been a ringer there for 55 years.

The president (Mr. J. E. Hobbs), the vice-president (Mr. Wilson Dobb), the treasurer (Mr. C. M. Heathcote), the secretary (Mr. J. W. England) and the Ringing Master (Mr. C. Bleby) were re-elected, with Mr. C. Metcalf Central Council representative. Messrs. J. Machin and H. Doughty were re-elected auditors, and Messrs. J. Bleby, F. Robey, J. W. Price, A. L. Bawson, T. Jennings and the Rev. T. A. Fowler were elected to the Executive Committee. Thanks were accorded the Vicar, the local band and the ladies. Nearly all the towers in the association were represented. Some good ringing was heard in various methods of Doubles and Minor from Grandsire to Cambridge Surprise.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LINDLEY.

A quarterly meeting of the Western Division of the Yorkshire Association was held at Lindley on April 16th, at which about 30 members from a wide area were present.

After tea the business meeting was presided over by the vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson, who was supported by the president, Canon C. C. Marshall, and the general secretary, Mr. L. W. G. Morris. Mr. William Ambler, who had been acting pro tem., was appointed hon. secretary. Messrs. J. Ambler, F. Hodgson and P. Birkett were elected to the District Committee, and Mr. J. Ambler was re-elected to the General Committee.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens was moved by Canon Marshall, and a vote of thanks to the local company and ladies by Mr. H. Lofthouse. Mr. Hargreaves responded.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Rothwell in July. Seven new members were elected, and the collection to the Belfry Repairs Fund realised 13s. 3d.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

The ringers of Rochdale Parish Church have presented Mr. Stephen Hodgkinson, their oldest member, with a walking stick and a sum of money on the occasion of his golden wedding.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

HALIFAX.—On March 25th, at the Parish Church, 720 Bob Minor: K. Hattersley (first 720) 1, R. Squires 2, H. Jones 3, P. Ingham 4, R. Mann 5, V. Jarrett (conductor) 6.

BOURNEMOUTH.—On March 25th, at St. Peter's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Osborne 1, Mrs. F. John Marshall 2, *Mary E. Davis 3, Charles R. Forfitt 4, *Andrew Pearmain 5, Eli Waters 6, Arthur V. Davis 7, John Coles 8. *First quarter of Triples.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.—On Easter Sunday for morning service, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: Miss D. Wacey 1, W. Prior 2, R. Wood 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, E. Garbett 5, H. M. White 6, W. T. Prior 7, T. Ward 8.—For evening service, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: Miss D. Wacey 1, W. Prior 2, R. Wood 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, H. Bull 5, W. T. Prior 6, H. M. White 7, T. Ward 8.

CHATHAM.—At St. Mary's on Sunday, April 9th, 1,260 Bob Major: Miss N. Gardiner (first quarter-peal of Treble Bob) 1, F. Richardson 2, H. Springate 3, D. T. Hills 4, W. A. J. Knight (conductor) 5, W. J. Walker 6, E. A. G. Allen 7, C. E. J. Norris 8.

EYNSHAM, OXON.—On Easter Day, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: Miss Lottie Pimm 1, J. Gardner 2, T. W. Bond 3, C. Calcutt (conductor) 4, C. Bennett 5, H. Caves 6.

OAKHAM.—On Easter Day, 504 Grandsire Triples: W. Stimson 1, W. H. Smith 2, S. B. Higgs 3, S. Towell 4, C. Prince 5, W. E. Higgs 6, F. C. Towell (conductor) 7, C. Ball 8.

TAMWORTH, STAFFS.—On Easter Sunday, 840 Stedman Triples: L. B. Hodgetts 1, G. H. Peers, jun. 2, E. Elton 3, H. Curzon 4, G. H. Peers, sen. 5, H. J. Dakin 6, C. Pratt (conductor) 7, S. Dunkley 8.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—On Easter Sunday for evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *John Burlinson 1, J. E. Philbrick 2, Mrs. C. W. Powell 3, *Joan Burlinson 4, E. Hawker 5, Rev. C. C. Cox (conductor) 6, G. H. Whitmore 7, C. Tett 8. *First quarter-peal.

THE BEST PEAL OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The reference by the Rev. A. S. Roberts to Penningtons, of Exeter, was of interest because in Devon many bells cast by the firm still hang in towers up and down the county.

The old third and present fifth of the Exeter Cathedral ring was cast by I. Pennington in 1658. It weighs 10 cwt., which is about the same as the tenor at St. Veep's, Cornwall. Many of the tenors of Pennington peals, as I know them, are from 10 to 14 cwt., and each are strikingly impressive bells, conveying the idea of being heavier than they really are. The peal of six at Parkham, near Bideford, cast by the firm in the churchyard in 1778, is a maiden peal, particularly pleasing in tone and famed locally. The tenor is 10 cwt. One is inclined to wonder if the same mould dimensions were used here as at St. Veep's. Parkham bells were rehung by Taylors in A frames in 1887.

Penningtons seem to have been more successful with medium weight bells than with heavier ones, and for that reason were refused certain contracts with the Cathedral authorities.

Much has been said about the best peal of bells, but no mention, as I have seen, has been made of the really magnificent eight at Pilton, near Barnstaple—though Barnstaple has been mentioned. The tenor of 25 cwt. is a very fine bell.

As I remember, one of the very best peals in Devon is at Uffculme, tenor, by Mears, 24 cwt., and their go seemed perfect.

Many rings of bells, e.g., Exeter Cathedral, Heavitree, St. Cuthbert's, Wells, Horsham, St. Saviour's, Eastbourne, have been spoken of by experienced ringers as sounding 'like a band of music,' and one wonders by what standards the superior qualities of all or any may be assessed. They are all so beautiful and each has its peculiar quality, clang-tint if you like. What about the Stafford (minor) eight in Exeter Cathedral? F. C. S.

N.B.—Mr. Morris has omitted to mention Tawstock in his interesting series of 'Central Towers.' Does he need details?

VISITORS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Since I have been back in England I have been very unfortunate as far as ringing is concerned. I have visited various towers on various occasions, only to find them silent.

I would like to suggest that steeplekeepers should pin a note up on the church notice board informing visitors of times of ringing, change of service, etc. More than once in large towns I have gone to what I thought looked the most likely church for a ring, only to find after hanging about for 30 minutes or so no one turning up. I have then gone in search of another church, only to find I am too late and they are just 'falling.' A simple little note would save myself and others needless trouble and give a hand to towers where they are still ringing with depleted bands.

I would like to express my admiration of some of the bands who are carrying on in spite of incredible difficulties. One tower I visited on the East Coast, although the tower was bomb shaken, which made ringing unsafe, the ringers used to turn up every Sunday and chimed the bells for 30 minutes. A praiseworthy effort, in my humble opinion.

J. F. BUTLER, formerly of St. Chad's, Shrewsbury.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at All Saints', Newport, on Easter Monday, and was well attended by members from Glamorgan and Monmouthshire.

The Vicar, who is treasurer of the association, conducted the service and welcomed the members in the course of his address.

At the business meeting, Mr. W. Powell, of Llanfrecfha, was elected Master, and the hon. secretary, Mr. J. W. Jones, and the auditors were re-elected.

It was decided that the two representatives should attend the Central Council meeting in London on Whit Monday. A number of new members were elected, including the whole of the Usk tower members and practically all the Aberdare ringers.

The next annual meeting will be held at Cardiff, and quarterly meetings were arranged for Pentre and Usk.

The ladies of the parish combined to make the ringers welcome and provided tea. After the meeting the bells of St. Woolos' Church were available.

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Just before the war I was thinking of voicing my displeasure of the way meetings were arranged by organisations whose one object should be to help in the promotion of friendly relations.

Often once a year joint meetings were arranged, and one such gathering at Hillingdon was a great success. Then for the rest of the year each association went its own way.

Now more than ever I think we should pull together. Many cannot attend meetings for various reasons and attendance drops. Difficulties in arranging meetings are many, but it is generally the locality and not the date with which there is trouble and secretaries have a hard task.

The last two meetings of both districts of the Middlesex Association have been on the same date. Surely this could have been averted. Coupled with this the Hertford Association arranged a meeting at Barnet on the North and East District's doorstep on the same day as the first of them.

Many districts before the war kept the same Saturday each month, and this must be to the benefit of everyone. In any case, it should be part of the duty of every secretary to notify all his neighbours of his meetings. If one started this I am sure the others would soon take it up. F. G. BALDWIN.

49, Windsor Avenue, Hillingdon.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DAYBROOK.

The monthly meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association at St. Paul's, Daybrook, on April 1st, was attended by over 60 members and friends, representing 18 towers.

A short service, with an address by the Vicar, preceded tea, arranged and prepared by Mrs. R. A. Ward, one of the local company, and a band of lady helpers. Four new members were elected, including Master Michael Ward, a grandson of Mr. R. Elson, of Daybrook tower, thus completing three generations active there.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar and to Mrs. Ward and her helpers. Methods from rounds to Cambridge Surprise were rung.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

A meeting of the St. Martin's Guild at Aston Parish Church on Saturday, April 1st, was attended by between 60 and 70 members and friends. In the absence of the Vicar, service was conducted by the curate, the Rev. R. Stevens, who gave an address on the importance of the office of bellringers in the service of the church.

Tea, provided by the Aston ringers and their ladies, was followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Master, Mr. Albert Walker, who referred to the death of three members, Percy Rainey, who had been killed in action in North Africa, and who previous to joining the Army was a ringer at Aston; W. Farley, a member of the Guild for over 20 years, and John Barber, who had been a member for more than 40 years, and who rang the tenor to the record peal of Stedman Cinques, 11,111 changes, at St. Martin's in 1901.

The following new members were duly elected: H. L. Hooper and L. L. Willis, of Coleshill Parish Church; John W. V. Conduct, of Erdington; W. A. Blake, of Alum Rook, and Edric J. Franklin, of Ward End.

On the proposition of Mr. G. F. Fearn, Ringing Master, it was decided to hold bi-quarterly meetings, the next at Coleshill Parish Church about the middle of May. The next quarterly meeting was fixed to take place at King's Norton on Saturday, July 1st.

A vote of thanks to all who had made the meeting enjoyable, particularly to Mrs. Davies and the other ladies, was proposed by Mr. Walker. Mr. Fred Price was congratulated on his marriage, which was to take place at Easter, and the best wishes of the Guild were accorded to him and his bride.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DORKING.

A meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association was held at Dorking on Easter Monday, at which about 40 members and friends attended from Addlestone, Benlinton, Carshalton, Clendon, Crawley, Crovdon, Clavgate, Dorking, Epsom, Ealing, Fulham, Leatherhead and Reigate. The methods practised during the afternoon and evening included Cambridge and London Surprise Major.

Tea at the Orange Cafe was followed by the meeting, at which the Vicar of Dorking presided. It was decided to hold the next meeting at the end of June, and Hersham was suggested as the place.

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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.

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. — 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.

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.

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

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Croscombe, Saturday, April 22nd, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—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. —T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

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.—R. G. Stone, 16, Penhale Road, Portsmouth.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts Branch. —Meeting at Eynesbury, Saturday, April 22nd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. (if it can be arranged).—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

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.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Cambridge, Saturday, April 29th. St. Bene't's bells 2.30-4 p.m.; Great St. Mary's 2.45. Service 4.15. Committee meeting 3.45 p.m. General meeting after service in Consistory Court.—K. Willers.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Bugbrooke, Saturday, April 29th. Committee meeting 3.45 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea provided. — R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District. — Meeting at Biddenham, Saturday, April 29th. Own tea arrangements.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—Ringing, Saturday, April 29th, 3 to 4.30 and 6.30 to 8. Sunday, April 30th, 10.15 to 11 and 5.55 to 6.30.—Ralph Coles, 27, Priory Road, High Wycombe.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Meeting at St. Nicholas', Wallasey, Saturday, April 29th, 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea 6 p.m. Names by April 24th. — Harry Brocklebank, Hon. Sec., 30, South Hill Road, Birkenhead.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery.—Meeting at Barrington, Saturday, April 29th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea by April 25th.—J. T. Locke, Hon. Sec., School Street, Drayton, Taunton.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Thrapston Branch. — Meeting at Ringstead, Saturday, April 29th. Bells (6) Service at 4.30. It is hoped to arrange tea.—W. R. Butcher, Hon. Sec., Brigstock.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District. — Meeting at Whitwick, Saturday, April 29th, 4 p.m. Special business 6 p.m. — A. E. Rowley, Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — Annual general meeting at Leeds Parish Church, April 29th, 3 p.m. Business in tower 7 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION. — Eastern District. — Meeting, West Hartlepool (St. Oswald's, 10 bells), Saturday, April 29th, 2.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. F. Robson, 13, Grainger Street, West Hartlepool, by 27th.—Frank Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Sunderland.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch. — Annual meeting at Wokingham, Saturday, April 29th, 3 p.m. Service in St. Paul's 4 p.m. Tea and meeting in Parish Room. Names for tea by April 25th.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting at Leeds Parish Church, Saturday, May 6th, 2 p.m. Service 3 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d.) in St. Peter's Hall 4 p.m. Names to G. Robinson, 32, Heathfield, Adel, Leeds 6, by May 3rd. General meeting in St. Peter's Schools immediately afterwards.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. — Meeting at Sandiacre, Saturday, May 6th, 2.30 to 8.30. Tea 1s. 3d. Names to Mr. P. L. Parrott, School House, Lawrence Street, Sandiacre, by Tuesday, May 2nd. Vital business affecting all towers. —T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—Meeting at Beckenham, Saturday, May 6th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Names for tea not later than Monday, May 1st, to A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting, Brighton, May 6th. St. Nicholas', 2.30 to 4.30; St. Peter's, 6.30 to 8.30. Service, St. Nicholas', 4.30. Tea 5s, 2s. (1s. to members), followed by business meeting. Names by May 1st. Half rail fare, maximum 2s. 6d. to resident members. If outside defence area, send for agenda (1d. stamp).—S. E. Armstrong, Gen. Sec., 21, Kenmure Avenue, Brighton 6.

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

ST. MARY'S, PUTNEY.—Weekly practices Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Service ringing 2nd and 4th Sundays, 5.30. Other times by arrangement.—W. T. Elson, 59, Pursers Cross Road, S.W.6.

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