

# THE RINGING WORLD



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## PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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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.*

## METHOD CONSTRUCTION.

We do not doubt that some of our readers occasionally wonder why we give a certain prominence to articles on the more abstruse questions in the science of change ringing. Such matters, they think, are only for the very few, and so far as the Exercise as a whole is concerned, could well be left to the experts, who, by inclination and ability, are qualified to deal with them.

These opinions are natural, and we do not expect that all readers will be interested in, for instance, the analysis of the Plain Major Methods, now appearing from week to week in our columns. The interests which centre in change ringing are very varied, and it is exceptional for a ringer to be equally attracted by all. But what every ringer should realise is that all of them, in some way or other, contribute to the art he practises, and that he benefits from each of them, either directly or indirectly. He may have no desire to be a composer, and so may leave all the problems of composition entirely on one side and untouched. He may have no ambition to be a conductor, and so may take up the attitude that peals and touches are no concern of his. His business is to ring his own bell in a particular method and to leave all the rest to those whom it does concern. He knows, of course, that unless someone did interest himself in composition and conducting there would be no change ringing, but he feels that they are for other and more competent persons than himself, and concentrates on the practical problems of method ringing and striking, which do concern him.

There is no small amount of sound common sense in this attitude, but the point we want now strongly to impress on readers is that a general knowledge of the theoretic and scientific side of change ringing is not only necessary for the men who desire to be composers and conductors, but is also extremely useful to those men who are content to be just ringers. The only thing which perhaps will most strike the man who compares the peal records of to-day with those of fifty or a hundred years ago is the vast development of method ringing, and the great increase in the variety of methods that are practised. The class of band which once was fully satisfied with Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Major now rings Cambridge Surprise as a stock method. Shall we therefore conclude that the modern ringer is so much more able and skilful than his predecessor? We do not think that would be the correct explanation, flattering though it would be to the modern Exercise. We think the real reason is that methods like Superlative and Cambridge

(Continued on page 66.)



and even London are actually easier to ring than they used to be. That we believe is the experience of many men whose ringing careers cover many years. And the reason why the methods are easier is because they are generally known and understood much better than they used to be. A ringer to-day may not consciously, or individually, know more about Cambridge than some of the men did fifty years ago. Possibly he may not know so much. But the general atmosphere in the belfry is different, and just because there is so much more diffused knowledge, the man picks up the method very much more quickly.

Now we are quite sure that the reason why there is this greater amount of diffused knowledge is because ringers generally know more about how methods are constructed. Especially the man who knows what places are made in a method, what is their relation to the treble, and what is their effect on the coursing order, finds the method far easier to ring than if he were to rely entirely on the skeleton course and the older style of learning the rules for ringing. Especially is this so in handbell ringing, and it would hardly be too much to say that, without the increased knowledge of method construction, the great development of method ringing on handbells in recent years would not have been possible.

The problems of theoretic ringing are fully worth studying for their own sake. They can be absorbingly interesting to a man who has no desire whatever to join the ranks of those who figure as composers or who produce new methods. And the knowledge of them throws light on almost every phase of the ringers' art, whether it be conducting, or handbell ringing, or the practice of even the simplest method in the belfry.

#### UNATTACHED MEMBERS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Usually the cause of unattached members is change of residence, due to employment, or changed circumstances, which do not permit a man to give his time to Sunday ringing. If it's a change of residence, due to employment, and he is lucky enough to find himself placed where they have a first-class band, he is asked to join them; but if he was to join some bands and try and pull them together he would soon get the cold shoulder, so he leaves them alone and remains unattached.

Take my own case. If I want a ring on eight bells on a week night I have to travel a distance of 22 miles, or on six bells, where they ring more than one method, 12 miles. I will now explain what the unattached and ringers outside the association are doing around this district. The ringer who has rung and conducted the most peals for the Bath and Wells Association, trained the largest number of recruits and travelled the farthest distance in doing so is an unattached member. Since the ban was lifted ringers left in one six-bell affiliated tower, and others not affiliated, with the help of the unattached, have been arranging combined practices, with the result that practice has been obtained in four methods besides teaching recruits. Without the help of the unattached none of this ringing would have been possible.

I think, sir, you will agree with me that the unattached are doing a good work, and it is not their fault they are unattached.

5, Crowpill Cottages, Riverside, Bridgwater. B. T. JEANES.

#### MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Basford on January 27th and was attended by 30 members. In the absence of Mr. T. Groombridge, Mr. Pailing acted as secretary and Messrs. Salter and Barrett as ringing master.

Mr. Narborough presided at the business meeting. In his report Mr. Groombridge said that the district was reviving its enthusiasm and steadily building up its membership. Mr. Narborough was re-elected chairman, Mr. Groombridge was re-elected secretary and ringing master, and Messrs. W. Salter and W. Nichols as District Committee men.

A report of the meeting at Sutton-on-Trent was discussed, and it was decided that at the next quarterly meeting at Greasley, in April, a committee shall be appointed to deal with the preliminary work necessary for the formation of a new diocesan association for Southwell.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HARTLEBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Feb. 4, 1945, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

### A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation). Tenor 20 cwt.  
HORACE J. BENTLEY ... Treble | ALLEN MORGAN ... 5  
FRANK H. ORRIS ... 2 | ALFRED W. GLAZZARD ... 6  
GEORGE E. LARGE ... 3 | REGINALD WOODYATT ... 7  
FRED N. FLUCK ... 4 | EDWARD AMIES ... Tenor

Conducted by REGINALD WOODYATT.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Wed., Feb. 7, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,  
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,

### A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb.

LEONARD TUFFREY ... Treble | JOHN PINFOLD ... 5  
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD ... 2 | RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 6  
ARTHUR JONES ... 3 | GEORGE E. FEARN ... 7  
\*ARTHUR D. COOK ... 4 | HENRY H. FEARN ... Tenor

Composed by J. R. BARKER. Conducted by R. J. B. HADDEN.

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

APPLETON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Feb. 8, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

### A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

\*ANTHONY G. HOLIFIELD Treble | WALTER F. JUDGE ... 5  
THOMAS BOND ... 2 | GEORGE HOLIFIELD ... 6  
FREDERICK C. WHITE ... 3 | RICHARD WHITE ... 7  
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 4 | †EDWIN DREWETT ... Tenor

Conducted by G. HOLIFIELD.

\* First peal. † First peal of Triples.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 10, 1945, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

### A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

PRITCHARD'S FOUR-PART. Tenor 16 cwt.

WILLIAM HENLEY ... Treble | A. JAMES GLASS ... 5  
\*MARY PEMBERTON ... 2 | THOMAS J. FOWLER ... 6  
JOYCE HEARN ... 3 | JOHN E. TAYLOR ... 7  
\*JEAN M. BROOMFIELD ... 4 | GEORGE GILBERT ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

\* First peal of Major away from tomler.

PORTISHEAD, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 10, 1945, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

### A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

\*JOHN M. STALLARD ... Treble | \*THOMAS W. KIMBER ... 5  
\*MISS ANNIE BROWN ... 2 | CLEMENT GLENN ... 6  
\*DONALD G. CHET ... 3 | \*NORMAN H. COOMBS ... 7  
\*GEORGE TALBOT ... 4 | \*EMLYN F. HANCOCK ... Tenor

Composed by W. ROYLE. Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.

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

SOUTH ANSTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 10, 1945, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

### A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb. in G.

\*JACK G. BROTHWELL ... Treble | F. BERNARD DITCHER ... 5  
JOHN H. BROTHWELL ... 2 | \*ERNEST A. THORPE ... 6  
ARNOLD HILL ... 3 | \*HERBERT O. CHADDOCK ... 7  
J. EDWARD CAWSE ... 4 | JOHN E. TURLEY ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by J. E. CAWSE.

\* First peal in the method.



**KIDLINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE.  
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Sat., Feb. 10, 1945, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,*

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

A VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 23 cwt.	
ANNA M. SELLORS ... .. Treble	WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 5
BERNARD S. NICHOLS ... 2	WILLIAM JUDGE ... .. 6
MARIE R. CROSS ... .. 3	WALTER F. JUDGE ... .. 7
BETTY SPICE ... .. 4	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... Tenor

Conducted by BERNARD S. NICHOLS.

First peal in the method as conductor.

**STOURBRIDGE, WORCESTERSHIRE.**

**THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**

*On Sat., Feb. 10, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,*

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

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION. Tenor 19 cwt.	
*MISS FLORRIE WRIGHT Treble	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... 5
FRANK PERRENS ... .. 2	JOHN LLOYD ... .. 6
THOMAS GREENHALL ... 3	THOMAS HEMMING ... .. 7
HAROLD COOPER ... .. 4	PERCY RICHARDS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by F. PERRENS.

\* First peal in the method.

**SIX BELL PEALS.**

**OCKBROOK, DERBYSHIRE.**

**THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**

*On Thurs., Jan. 11, 1945, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,*

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being one 720 of Cambridge Surprise and two 720's each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.	
*BLANCHE WINFIELD ... Treble	WILLIAM LANCASTER ... 4
*ALFRED MOULD ... .. 2	*WILLIAM DAWSON ... .. 5
†FRANCIS B. LOWE ... .. 3	JACK BAILEY ... .. Tenor

Conducted by J. BAILEY.

\* First peal of Minor in four methods. † First peal of Minor.

**TRULL, SOMERSET.**

**THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**

*On Thurs., Feb. 8, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,*

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

Ten callings. Tenor 14 cwt.	
*JAMES COLES ... .. Treble	*REGINALD PERRY ... .. 4
ALFRED J. WYATT ... .. 2	HORACE LEA ... .. 5
HARRY CHURCHILL ... 3	*DOUGLAS FEAR ... .. Tenor

Conducted by H. CHURCHILL.

\* First peal.

**STOULTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.**

**THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**

*On Sat., Feb. 10, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND,*

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being 720 each of Double Court, Double Oxford, Cambridge Surprise, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 7½ cwt.	
WILLIAM RANFORD ... Treble	DENNIS R. MORRIS ... 4
REGINALD WOODYATT ... 2	GEOFFREY J. LEWIS ... 5
GEORGE E. LARGE ... 3	GEORGE AMBLER ... Tenor

Conducted by GEOFFREY J. LEWIS.

**LEWISHAM.**—On Sunday, February 4th 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Warnett, sen. 1, Mrs. F. E. Collins 2, Mrs. J. E. Davis 3, W. H. Hewitt (conductor) 4, J. Bennett 5, H. Warnett, jun. 6, F. E. Collins 7, R. Boyce 8.

**ISLEWORTH.**—On February 4th, 720 Bob Minor: \*P. Thirst 1, R. W. M. Clouston 2, J. C. Birt 3, \*D. R. Judd 4, H. F. Thirst (conductor) 5, G. Dodds 6. \* First 720 of Minor.

**GUISELEY, YORKS.**—On Sunday, February 4th, 720 Bob Minor: A. Wear 1, L.-Cpl. J. Armitage 2, W. Dixon 3, \*F. Smith 4, J. McGlenn (conductor) 5, A. C. Walsh 6. \* First 720. First 720 as conductor.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

**LEICESTER.**

**THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**

*On Sat., Feb. 3, 1945, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,  
IN THE CHOIR VESTRY OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH,*

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5001 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

G. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 1-2	PERCY L. HARRISON ... .. 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE ... .. 3-4	ERNEST MORRIS ... .. 7-8
JOSIAH MORRIS ... .. 9-10	

Composed by F. H. DEXTER.

Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

**LEICESTER.**

**THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**

*On Tues., Feb. 6, 1945, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,  
AT 202, FOSSE ROAD SOUTH,*

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE ... .. 1-2	ERNEST MORRIS ... .. 5-6
REV. P. J. BOULSOVER ... 3-4	G. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 7-8

Composed by F. H. DEXTER.

Conducted by H. J. POOLE.

Witness, Mr. Josiah Morris.

Rung for the marriage of Mr. A. C. Boulsover to Miss Ida Goldsmith at St. Paul's, Leicester.

**ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.**

**THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Tues., Feb. 6, 1945, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,  
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,*

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;**

ERIC A. DENCH ... .. 1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 5-6
MRS. *J. THOMAS ... .. 3-4	JOHN THOMAS ... .. 7-8
CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 9-10	

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

**ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.**

**THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Thurs., Feb. 8, 1945, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,  
AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,*

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5085 CHANGES;**

CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS ... .. 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... .. 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 7-8
DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 9-10	

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**

**BRANCH MEETING AT NEWTON ABBOT.**

The annual meeting of the Mid-Devon Branch of the Devon Guild was held at Newton Abbot on Saturday last, members and friends coming from Exeter, Kenn, Dawlish, Kingskerswell, Paignton, Colleton St. Mary, Dartmouth, Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and Plymouth. The president (the Rev. Pres. E. V. Cox, of Tedburn St. Mary) and general secretary (Mr. F. C. Smale, of Okehampton) were also present.

The bells of Wolborough Parish Church were well utilised during the afternoon, some very good touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Major and Cambridge Surprise Minor being rung. After tea at Messrs. Thomas' Restaurant, Courtenay Street, the business meeting followed, presided over by the Rev. W. R. D. Mills (chairman). A number of apologies for absence were received, and the secretary in his annual report stated that three meetings had been held during the past year. A number of practice meetings had been held to oblige some R.A.F. personnel who had recently been stationed in the Mid-Devon area. The report also thanks all clergy concerned for the use of their bells, and Mr. C. R. Walker, of Kingskerswell, for assisting in the arrangements of some of the meetings.

The treasurer's report was also produced and adopted and showed a balance in hand of £2 6s. 11d. in the Branch Fund and £4 4s. 4d. in the Instruction Fund. The branch officers were re-elected as follows: Chairman, the Rev. W. R. D. Mills; secretary, treasurer and Ringing Master, Mr. A. L. Bennett; auditor, Mr. C. R. Walker; three representatives for General Committee, Messrs. C. R. Walker, W. C. Wakley and H. C. Collyer. It was also decided to recommend to the General Committee that Mr. Walker be nominated for the General Committee.

It was decided that the next meeting be held on Saturday, June 9th, and that this be at Buckfast Abbey, subject to the necessary permission being obtained.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the visitors for their continued support, to the Rector of Wolborough for the use of his bells, and to Mr. Walker for assisting with the arrangements. Handbell ringing occupied the remainder of the time left at the disposal of the visitors.



## '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.  
 The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.  
 Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,  
 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—The Editor,  
 'The Ringing World,'  
 c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,  
 Guildford, Surrey.

The increasing circulation of 'The Ringing World' has now exhausted the extra supply of paper recently allowed us, and new orders for delivery by post can only be accepted subject to vacancies occurring in the present list of subscribers, either from death or some other cause. Orders sent to Mr. George W. Fletcher will be dealt with in strict rotation as quickly as opportunity offers.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

For the benefit of any ringers who may be interested, the Home Service Works Wonder programme from the West Midlands at 12.45 p.m. on Wednesday next, February 21st, will include a little tune ringing on handbells.

An attempt for a peal of Grandsire Triples at Appleton, Berks, on Saturday February 3rd, failed. The bells were brought round at the half-peal owing to someone trying to get the church keys from the tower.

### THE BELLS OF SUEZ.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Perhaps your readers may be interested in this little account of the bells of the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception at the town of Suez.

Noticing four bells hung in the tower, my friend, Ernie Bugden, and myself decided to endeavour to have a look round them and if possible to get permission to take part in the daily jangling next time we were in town. Accordingly we sought out the English-speaking father—a very pleasant and obliging Irishman, who promptly took us up to the tower, around the inside of which was a wooden staircase up to the bells. Near the top of the tower were three slotted holes in each of the four walls, above these, a large circular hole and higher still a large square hole in each of the four walls, and hanging in each of the latter openings was a bell, four bells in all, hanging in a very insecurely fixed wooden frame. The bells were hung from wooden headstocks to which a lever was fixed. From this lever a rope hung down to the ground floor of the tower, from which the bells are chimed.

Three of the bells formed a peal of three, but the lightest of these is unfortunately badly cracked. The fourth bell was approximately the same size as the largest of the other three bells, weighing, at a guess, about 4½ cwt. The clappers were truncheon shaped—very thick at the bottom end, but with no definite ball on the end. There was at the end of each clapper a ring, presumably for a rope to be fixed for clapping.

In contrast to the shabbiness of the hanging and fittings of the bells, the bells themselves are beautiful in appearance, being decorated with flowers, leaves, etc., all round the top and soundbow, whilst on the waist were various figures—one one were angels with baskets of fruit, and cherubs.

All of them bore inscriptions and the founder's name. They were not all by the same founder, but all were cast in Italy; one of them, cast at Pistoria in 1872 (in Tuscan), bore the inscription (in Latin), 'The voice of the Lord over the water.'

The bells are chimed each day by three Maltese boys from the English School in Suez, and a few days later my friend and I had the pleasure of meeting these boys and chiming the bells for service. They were dressed in English clothes and spoke perfect English, as well as three or four other languages, and for lads of 13 or 14 years of age were highly intelligent. Two of them had English names—Douglas and Edmund—and had relatives in England.

The sound of the bells was disappointing to us, but the boys were excited to show us that they could make them ring twice by pulling harder and swinging the bells higher. They were very interested in our description of English peals and how we ring them.

India.

NORMAN CHADDOCK.

## OBITUARY.

### MR. T. A. DOICK.

News of the death of Mr. 'Tom' Doick at Chichester on Saturday, February 3rd, came as a shock to his many ringing friends in West Sussex, as he had shown marked improvement since recovering from the illness which had caused his retirement from business towards the end of last year.

A member of a well-known ringing family, Mr. Tom Doick joined the Sussex County Association 47 years ago. He was then an active member of the Pulborough band. About 12 years later he moved to Chichester and had ever since been one of the keenest of the Cathedral ringers. He had rung peals in most of the towers in this district.

On the day of the funeral a half-muffled quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Chichester by the Pulborough and Chichester ringers, and conducted by Mr. L. Stilwell, secretary of the West Sussex Branch.

### MR. W. G. HINTON.

The death at the age of 76 years is announced of Mr. W. G. Hinton, who had been chorister for 64 years, 50 years ringer and sexton for 47 years at the Church of SS. Peter and Mary, Lois Weeton. Although not a peal ringer, he always maintained good striking for service ringing. After the funeral on February 6th the bells were rung half-muffled in the evening.

### MR. J. M. NICKERSON.

The funeral of the late Mr. James M. Nickerson, who died on the previous Sunday at the age of 74, took place at Thrapston Church and Cemetery on Thursday, February 8th. A large congregation paid tribute to his memory as steeplekeeper and captain of the belfry for 47 years, and also as a sidesman.

He had also been secretary for the Thrapston Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild for some 16 years, and the branch was represented by the president, the Rev. D. A. Jones, and 10 ringing members. The bells were rung half-muffled after the service.

The Royal Oak Lodge of the Nottingham Order of Oddfellows, of which Mr. Nickerson had been an official for many years, was also represented.

### MR. WILLIAM STORY, J.P.

The Durham and Newcastle Association, and particularly the Newcastle Cathedral Guild, has lost an old and valued ringer in Mr. William Story. He started his ringing career at St. John's, Newcastle, in 1879, and with his brother (the late Mr. R. S. Story) assisted in forming a very stable band of ringers at that church—a voluntary guild which led the way for many years in the matter of 'belfry reform.' He had rung 268 peals for the association, and, including those rung in connection with the Yorkshire Association, Oxford Guild, etc., about 275 peals in all, ranging from Maximus to Minor, including London, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major. He was usually at the heavy end and could be relied on as steady and efficient in every respect.

When the Newcastle Cathedral Guild was formed in 1912 he was a main supporter and remained a regular service ringer up to Christmas last year, when he was taken ill. He passed away on February 8th. Mr. Story was a vice-president of the association for many years and president from 1920 to 1923. He was a Freeman of the City of Newcastle and was for some time chairman of Stewards Committee. He was in the coal trade on Newcastle Quayside for over 60 years, latterly as secretary of Bedlington Coal Company, and was, in his younger days, a member of Tyne Amateur Rowing Club, the Grainger Lawn Tennis Club and the Northern Rugby Club. He had been twice married and is survived by his second wife.

He was also a Mason and had been Master of Hotspur Lodge and of the Free-Burgess Lodge. He was also a Past Grand Warden of the Province of Northumberland.

Cremation took place at West Road Crematorium, Newcastle, on February 12th.

### DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Doncaster and District Society was held at Doncaster on February 3rd. Canon A. H. Davies (president) was in the chair and the following towers were represented: Arksey, Adwick, Selby, Barnby Don, Felkirk, Hemingbrough, Gamson, York, Rotherham, Retford, Tickhill, Sprotborough and the local company.

Three new members were elected, Mr. E. Stacey was elected Ringing Master for the next three years and Mr. E. Cooper was elected to the committee. The secretary reported that 51 new members had been elected during the last 18 months; 24 ladies were now making good progress.

Canon Davies thanked the officials and also the members for the good work done and assured them that the Doncaster bells were at their disposal whenever they liked to come along.

St. Peter's, Felkirk, won the Walker Cup for best attendance for the year 1944, and this was presented by its donor, Mr. Harold Walker, of York, to the Felkirk representative, Miss D. Grange.



## OLD BIRMINGHAM RINGERS.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Written in the year 1894.)

(Continued from page 59.)

Note.—The two peals rung in 1820 at St. Martin's, Birmingham, referred to by John Day, were the 7,200 Treble Bob Maximus and the 6,600 Stedman Cinques, each the longest length at the time. They are recorded in the belfry as follows:—

1820, April 17th. 7,200 New Treble Bob Maximus in 5 hrs. 8 mins. by the undermentioned persons. Conducted by Henry Cooper. Wm. Bennett, treble; Jas. Jarvis, 2; Wm. Hassell, 3; Thos. Worrall, 4; Alex. Sanders, 5; Hy. Cooper, 6; Saml. Lawrence, 7; Jos. Grayson, 8; Jos. Riley, 9; Thos. Chapman, 10; Wm. Marsh, 11; Thos. Thurstans, tenor.

1820. Dec. 28. Six thousand six hundred Stedman Cinques, in four hours thirty-five minutes, by the following persons. Conducted by Mr. Thomas Thurstans. William Bennett, treble; James Jarvis, 2; Thomas Chapman, 3; Thomas Worrall, 4; Joseph Powell, 5; Henry Cooper, 6; Samuel Lawrence, 7; Joseph Riley, 8; Charles Thurstans, 9; William Hassell, 10; Thomas Thurstans, 11; William Marsh, tenor.

### THOMAS CHAPMAN.

Thomas Chapman was a spare built man, about 5ft. 7in. to 8in. in height, of reserved and rather austere appearance, a man with whom you could not take liberties. He was a jeweller by trade and held a very confidential post with one firm for many years. I have heard my uncle say that three fortunes were made in that particular business under Chapman's foremanship or management; the business changing hands, but trading under the same name. I forget what that name was, but it was situated in St. Paul's Square.

Chapman took part in both the peals of 1820, and in others. I never saw him in a belfry but once, and that was in November, 1846. We met at St. Martin's on a Sunday evening to ring with the bells muffled to the memory of Nathan Blunt, a much respected member, whose funeral had taken place that day. We looked much like being a man short for Caters, when Chapman came into the belfry, having heard of Blunt's death. The band was made up for the most part of young ringers, the older ones having attended the funeral, I think at Aston. Henry Johnson rang the tenor and called a musical touch of Stedman Caters. Chapman rang the seventh, and, we remarked, without making a mistake, although some years had elapsed since he had rung.

I do not remember seeing him again, but a few years later his son, a Nonconformist minister, came into the belfry and told us that his father was dead, and requested that we would honour his memory with a funeral peal, which, of course, we did.

He was one of those men who had the respect of everyone, though very few were familiar with him. I have heard the old ringers say that after practice he generally went straight away home, one of his remarks being that 'there was seldom any good came of the ale bench.' He conducted the opening peal of 5,200 Treble Bob Royal, on the new ring of ten bells at St. Thomas' Church, Dudley, on January 4th, 1819.

### THOMAS WORRALL.

Although I knew Mr. Worrall personally, I cannot remember ringing with him, or that I ever saw him in a belfry. He was a tall square shouldered man, an upholsterer by trade, and, I believe, a native of Manchester. He was said to be a very good ringer in his proper place, which was about the fourth, and he rang that bell in both the peals of 1820.

The last time I saw him was at a dinner at Aston, in about 1850 or 1851, when he attended as an invited guest. He was then a mere wreck of a man and going blind.

### SAMUEL LAWRENCE.

Among the 1820 men I did not know, but of whom I heard much, the one most spoken of and appreciated, was S. Lawrence. He was a native of Shifnal, a farrier by trade, and must have been in easy circumstances judging by the number of peals he took part in at places wide apart, and at a period when travelling was very expensive. He was supposed to be the second heaviest man in England, being upwards of 32 stone in weight. Nevertheless, he was always ready for a peal.

Lawrence took part in the first peal of Stedman Cinques ever rung, which was accomplished on the bells of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London; in the two peals at St. Martin's, Birmingham, in 1820; and in many others, including the peals at Warwick and Solihull. His death was the result of an accident. The bells at St. Martin's, Birmingham, were rehung in the year 1825, and the opening took place, I believe, at Easter in that year. He was to be present at the dinner given to celebrate that event, and early in the morning was about to set out in his chaise cart, a vehicle built especially for

him, but into which he could not mount without using a chair or other aid. By some means this chair was improperly placed, and when he got upon it it broke under him, causing a severe fall and a broken thigh. The news of the accident arrived in Birmingham just as the company were sitting down to dinner, and cast a gloom over the rest of the day's proceedings. Through his great obesity the bone could not be properly set; mortification ensued, and Lawrence died. He was always spoken of by the old ringers with the greatest respect.

Among my acquaintances years ago was an old man named Elvins, a carpenter, who had assisted C. Oliver, sen., in that capacity while hanging the ten bells at Dudley in 1819. Of course, he was at the opening, and there first saw Lawrence. He used to tell me that when he saw him strip in the belfry for the opening peal he never saw such arms in his life. 'They were as thick as a child's body.' The staircase at Dudley tower is rather narrow. Lawrence managed to squeeze himself up it pretty well, but Elvins used to say that it took three to get him down again, one to push, one to pull, and Lawrence in the middle.

I had many interesting conversations with Elvins about the old ringers. Though not a ringer himself, he knew more about them and their doings than any other man I ever met. He knew Elijah Roberts well and had witnessed his great skill on the handbells. In our conversation we generally worked round to the ringers and Lawrence, and on one occasion I remember he finished up by saying, 'Oh, John, it's a pity such men as Sam Lawrence should ever die.'

I suppose it would be on a friendly visit of the St. Martin's Youths to Shifnal, when they rang Cooper's peal of Stedman Triples which he called from the manuscript, that Lawrence rang the seventh, and by way of a joke asked Cooper what sort of a peal he called that, 'for,' said he, 'I have rung sixty plain courses.' Another of his remarks that I used to hear quoted was made on the completion of the peal of Cinques at St. Martin's, Birmingham, 1820, when he said, 'Well, lads. I was in the first, and, I have no doubt, in the last.'

(To be continued.)

## MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT EARL SHILTON.

The annual meeting of the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Earl Shilton on January 20th. Owing to wintry weather, the attendance was not so large as usual, about thirty members being present from Broughton Astley, Barwell, Croft, Earl Shilton, Stoke Golding and Elmehorpe.

The Vicar presided at the business meeting, and remarked on the large number of young ringers coming forward, a very good sign. Mention was made of the deaths of two members, Reuben Wightman, of Earl Shilton, and Reginald W. Collis, of Croft, who had lost their lives in the service of their country. One old member, Mr. G. R. Wilkinson, was re-elected.

The secretary's report for 1944 showed that in many ways 1944 had been a record year. For the first time all the towers in the district had been visited in one year. Seventeen meetings had been held and 20 towers visited, one of them twice. The average attendance had been good—25 ringers and nine towers at each meeting. Subscriptions had come in well, many long outstanding arrears having been cleared, including one covering seven years. Three new members had been elected, and five had rejoined. Three district peals had been rung and two other peals rung with the assistance of out-county members attached to the district. The number of members in H.M. Forces is 33.

All the district officers were re-elected. The chairman, Mr. H. Bird, and the secretary, Mr. W. A. Wood, thanked all for their help. Croft was selected for the next meeting on February 24th.

Mr. G. Newton, who is a member of the provisional committee of the proposed Leicester Diocesan Guild, explained the position up to date. He said the Leicester District were unanimous in their decision to proceed with the formation of the new Guild. The feeling was growing that the present association is too large for efficient working and should be divided into separate diocesan guilds. Hinckley District would only be affected by a change of name. New districts would be formed in the present Leicester area. Melton Mowbray, Market Harborough and possibly Lutterworth were mentioned as being new centres.

Other members generally agreed with the idea of the new Guild and that the Midland Counties Association would be better divided. Many would not subscribe to more than one guild, and it was not desirable for two separate organisations to be competing in the same tower.

Welcome was given to Mr. C. H. Belton, who will be celebrating his 88th birthday in a short time and is still actively engaged in ringing.

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## CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

By ERNEST MORRIS.  
(Continued from page 50.)

Another curiously exposed ringing chamber is at St. Andrew's, Cotton, Suffolk. Across the base of the tower arch is a wrong-iron grille with a gate in the centre. On the left is a rough wooden screen folded back; this is the only protection afforded the ringers in rough weather. In any case rain and snow can drive in between the top of the grille and the point of the arch. There are six good toned bells with tenor about 10 cwt., and in good order.

At Aughton, Lincs, the Church of St. Michael has its tower in the unusual position of half-way along the north aisle. There is here a ring of six, tenor 6 cwt., and as they are rung from the ground floor between the pews, the ringers are thus in full view of the congregation. A somewhat similar state of affairs is at Buckminster, Leicestershire, but in this case the tower is on the south side. Here the church, dedicated to St. John-the-Baptist, also has a ring of six. This church is in the Early English style consisting of chancel, nave, aisles, south porch, a chantry chapel on south side and remains of another on the north. The massive tower and spire is peculiarly situated on the south side at the east end. The spire was struck by lightning in 1841, repaired in 1843, and restored 1894. There is a beacon chimney on the tower. The bells are rung from the ground floor in full view of the congregation, and the writer has had the pleasure of conducting a Minor peal here. On the east side of the ringing space is the organ. There is a good rood stair, finely carved in stone, near the chancel arch. Adjoining the churchyard is the mausoleum of the Dysart family.

The Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Appledore, Kent, has a western tower containing a ring of eight. The old six were recast and augmented in 1900, when belfry floors were renewed. A bell of the original peal is used as a clock bell, and the ancient Sanctus (blank) is also in the tower. The bells are rung from the ground floor, and the west door of the tower being also the church entrance, the congregation pass through the rope circle to enter the church.

At Andover, Hants, the Church of St. Mary, erected at a cost of £30,000 at the expense of Rev. Wm. Stanley Goddard, formerly headmaster of Winchester College, on the site of an older building, has a tower with pinnacles containing a clock and eight bells. These bells are all by Lester and Pack, 1758/9 (tenor 16 cwt.), except 4th, which is by R. Wells, of Aldbourne, 1784. At the entrance to the churchyard is a Norman doorway which was the original door of the old church. To get to the ringing room is a wooden spiral staircase inside the church by which the ringers ascend in full view of the congregation. As this is some 30ft. high and sways considerably, it is rather terrifying to some.

Brabourne Church, Kent, has a massive unfinished western tower and, like Appledore, the entrance to the church is through this. Ringing here is also done from the ground floor, and so the congregation pass through the circle. The tower was restored in 1923/4, and now has a ring of six, tenor 14 cwt. in F. Two of the old bells were by William Hatch, 1656, and one by Josiah Hatch, 1605. In 1552 there were here 'iiij bells in the steeple and one herse bell.' A similar tower entrance to the church is at St. John-the-Baptist, Bishopsteignton,

Devon, where the six bells (tenor 10 $\frac{1}{4}$  cwt. in A) are rung from the ground floor, and so the congregation pass through the rope circle. Here the tower is at the west end of the north aisle. The bells are all by Mears and dated 1840.

(To be continued.)

## HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT ROSS-ON-WYE.

The annual meeting of the Ross and District Branch of the Hereford Diocesan Guild was held at Ross on February 3rd, and was attended by about 30 ringers from Ross, Bridstow, Goodrich, Much Marcle and St. Weonards, including visitors from Hereford, Burghill and Ruardean.

Service was conducted by the Rector of Ross, Preb. P. C. Barber, M.B.E., who also presided at the business meeting, which followed a substantial tea, provided by the district ringers and Ross churchwardens, at the Central Cafe.

Mr. W. Poston (Bridstow) was re-elected Master of the district, and Mr. W. T. Poston (Ross) district hon. secretary. A vote of thanks to Mr. W. Poston for carrying out the secretarial duties from 1938 to the present time was passed.

The Master reported on the combined practices held during recent months, and said that thanks were due to the Rev. A. J. Neads, M.A., assistant priest at Ross, for help given in providing transport and in many other ways.

The financial statement showed a credit balance of £6 16s. 2d. at the end of 1944. Methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Double Norwich.

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

LEWISHAM DISTRICT.

Thirty-six ringers attended a meeting at St. Mary's, Lewisham, on Saturday, January 27th. Service, including an outstanding address by the Vicar (the Rev. P. D. Robb), was followed by tea, generously provided by the Vicar, and business meeting.

Three new members were elected and one tower election was ratified. Christ Church, Erith, was chosen for the next meeting, to be held on April 21st. A message of sympathy and goodwill was accorded to Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., the genial Ringing Master, the significance of whose absence was not realised at the time. Tribute was paid to the memory of the late Mr. James E. Davis, an old and trusted friend to the district.

After some discussion, it was decided to give notice of motion to the next available general meeting: 'That the association, in order to mark appreciation of outstanding performance in the affairs of the association or to ringing in general by any member, should appoint a special office, to be held for one year (and never two in succession by any one person), as a token of honour and esteem for such services.'

News of members away on active service was gratefully received. A cordial vote of thanks to the Vicar and organist, to Messrs. H. Warnett and C. H. Walker was recorded. The Vicar replied and closed the meeting. Standard methods and rounds were rung on the tower bells during the afternoon and evening.

## MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.—On Sunday, January 28th, 720 London Surprise Minor: C. Aylett 1, H. G. Summers 2, Lieut. F. Crawley, R.N. 3, J. W. T. Taylor 4, F. W. Perrens (conductor) 5, W. A. Stote 6.—On Sunday, February 4th, 720 of Spliced York and Durham Surprise Minor: C. Aylett 1, H. G. Summers 2, J. W. T. Taylor 3, J. W. Taylor 4, F. W. Perrens (conductor) 5, W. A. Stote 6.

RUNCORN.—On Tuesday, January 30th, 720 Bob Minor: J. Orme (first 720) 1, T. Mather 2, R. Hulse 3, E. Hughes 4, W. Allman 5, S. Booth (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, February 4th, 720 Bob Minor: W. S. Nelson 1, J. Strutton 2, T. Mather 3, W. Allman 4, R. Hulse 5, S. Booth (conductor) 6.

CHEADLE, STAFFS.—On Tuesday, January 30th, at the R.C. Church, 720 Bob Minor: W. Potis (first 720) 1, D. Steel 2, A. Plant 3, T. Hawley 4, E. Steel 5, A. W. Hall (conductor) 6, A. A. Hall 7.

APPLETON, BERKS.—On Saturday, February 3rd, 2,520 Grandsire Triples: A. G. Holfield 1, T. Bond 2, F. Messenger 3, W. C. Porter 4, W. Judge 5, G. Holfield (conductor) 6, W. F. Judge 7, E. Drewett 8.

SONNING.—On Saturday, February 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Norcott 1, N. E. Tanner 2, J. Cook 3, G. Cleaves 4, E. Nash (conductor) 5, F. Cox 6, G. Wright 7, J. Smith 8.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Tuesday, January 30th, 720 Bob Minor: P. S. Skipworth 1, J. P. Stocker 2, E. Nobles 3, A. E. Flatters 4, L. W. Fisher 5, J. Perkins 6.

SWINDON.—On Sunday, February 4th, 1,269 Stedman Caters: G. W. Townsend 1, \*T. Cullingworth 2, W. Carter 3, \*J. Daniells 4, H. Bishop (conductor) 5, S. Palmer 6, H. Taylor 7, G. Wells 8, T. Townsend 9, W. Bullock 10. \*First quarter-peal in the method.



**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.

KENT ASSN.—Westerham, Saturday, Feb. 17th. Service 4 p.m. Tea at Wolfe Cafe, 4.30 p.m.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Twelve-bell practice, High Wycombe, Sat., Feb. 17th, 5.30 p.m.—R. T. Hibbert, Sec., A. D. Barker, Hon. Treas.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Nottingham and Derby Districts.—Ilkeston (8), Saturday, Feb. 17th, 2 p.m.—T. Groombridge and W. Lancaster, Hon. Secs.

HERTFORD ASSN.—Hoddesdon, Saturday, Feb. 17th, 2.30 p.m. Service, 4.30. Tea and business 5.15 p.m.—G. Radley, 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Whetstone (6), Feb. 17th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting in schoolroom 5 p.m. Names to H. W. Perkins, Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Eastern Division.—Annual, St. Mary's, Eastbourne, Sat., Feb., 17th, 2.30 p.m. Service 5.15. Tea 6 p.m.—John Downing, Hon. Sec., 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Rossendale Branch.—Helmshore, Feb. 17th, 3 p.m. Bring own food; cups of tea provided.—H. Parkinson, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Croft, Saturday, Feb. 24th, 4 p.m. Sandwiches and meeting, Heathcote Arms, 7.30 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX ASSN.—Heston, Saturday, Feb. 24th, 3 p.m. Tea and business, Westbrook Hall, 5 p.m. Names to Mr. H. C. Chandler, 44, New Heston Road, Hounslow.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec. Per. 5320.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSN.—Old Hill, Saturday, Feb. 24th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSN.—Bridgend, Saturday, Feb. 24th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by business.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., 94, Alteryon View, Newport, Mon.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSN.—Luton (8), Saturday, Feb. 24th, 3 p.m. No tea.—D. E. Lidbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ELY ASSN.—Downham Market (8), Saturday, Feb. 24th. Usual arrangements.—W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—Axbridge Deanery.—Winscombe (8), Feb. 24th, 6.30 to 9.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

KENT COUNTY ASSN.—Maidstone and Ashford Districts.—Charing, Saturday, Feb. 24th. Service 3 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock at Chestnut Tea Rooms, 1s. 3d. per head. Names for tea by Tuesday, 20th, to Mr. C. F. Good, The Old Swan, Charing, Ashford.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Feb. 24th, 3 p.m. Ringing St. Margaret's, Westminster, 4.45 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Wooburn, Bucks, Feb. 24th, 3 p.m. Names for tea (1s. 3d.) by Feb. 19th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Loughborough District.—Hathern, Feb. 24th, 3 p.m. Hoping to arrange cups of tea; bring eatables.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Ashbury (6), Feb. 24th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea by Feb. 21st.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Fernham, Faringdon.

DONCASTER SOCIETY.—Adwick-le-Street, Feb. 24th, 3 p.m. Tea at moderate charge. Names by Feb. 20th to W. E. Lloyd, 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Practice, Debenham, Feb. 24th, 3.30 p.m. Tea shop in village.—W. C. Rumsey.

LEEDS SOCIETY.—Birstall, Feb. 24th, 2.30 p.m. Members bring own food. Business meeting in tower.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 9, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Bolton Branch.—Meeting at Bolton Parish Church, Feb. 24th, 2.30.—Business meeting 6.30. Cups of tea provided.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Henry Johnson Commemoration luncheon, Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, Saturday, Mar. 3rd, 1.30 p.m. Tickets to fully-paid-up ringing members, 2s. each; to other members and friends 6s. 6d. each. Number is strictly limited. Bells of St. Philip's Cathedral, 12 to 1, St. Martin's after lunch for one hour.—T. H. Reeyes, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Southern Division.—Annual, St. John-the-Baptist, Southover, Lewes, March 3rd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5. Names to Mrs. E. L. Hairs, The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, by Feb. 28th.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Quarterly, Buckingham (8), March 3rd, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30. Names for tea by Feb. 26th to R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

**DEATH.**

NICKERSON.—On Sunday, February 4th, 1945, at Thrapston, James M. Nickerson, aged 74 years. R.I.P.

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