

# THE RINGING WORLD



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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.*

## THE YEAR THAT IS PASSING.

To the men of the future the year which is now hastening to its close will almost certainly rank as one of the great dividing years in the history of mankind, and its full effects will not be apparent for long—perhaps not for centuries. To those who lived through it, it has been a time of almost unexampled vicissitudes. From the opening days when an unexpected military set-back seemed to jeopardise all that had been won by the brilliant victories of the year before, down to the closing days when England seems almost as if she were an exhausted and beaten nation, dependent for her very food on what others choose to allow her, there has been a succession of events any one of which may be decisive in the history of the country. Never before has this nation won such a complete victory as that over Germany. Never before have the people been so united in a war. Never before have there been so many able and brilliant soldiers and statesmen, scientists, airmen and sailors. Never before have there been such hopes for the future or such determination to translate them into reality. And never before has the future seemed more difficult and dubious. Science has performed marvels, and its outstanding achievement is the atomic bomb which hangs like a dark portent over the future, not only of modern civilisation, but of the whole human race. This is not the end of the war we were looking forward to and expecting in 1939. The war lasted at least two or three years too long and leaves the whole world, victors as well as vanquished, broken and impoverished and disillusioned. But England has always shown herself at her best when faced with the greatest difficulties and, though the task before her will be hard and long, it can be accomplished, and will be, 'if England to herself do prove but true.'

When we turn to the ringing Exercise the story is very much more satisfactory. It is one of general and steady, though not sensational, progress and success. The fears and doubts caused by the outbreak of war, and especially by the long ban on ringing, are definitely now seen to have been unfounded. In truth, the ban was the greatest blessing granted to the Exercise for many years. It taught the people of England something of what church bells can mean, and through centuries have meant, in the ordinary life of a nation. It brought ringers into more intimate relations with the clergy and the Church authorities. It brought recruits to the bell-fries in greater numbers than ever before. It multiplied the opportunities for the practice of change ringing.

(Continued on page 526.)

These things we already knew when the year opened. What we did not know was whether they were a temporary and passing phase or whether they would stand the test of time and be permanent. Even now we cannot be quite sure. The people who detest the sound of bells, and complain of any ringing in the neighbourhood where they live, have been strangely quiet of late years, but they are not extinct. It is hardly likely that the majority of recruits, especially of the young recruits, will stay the course. But at least we can now be certain that much has been gained, and the Exercise can look forward to a long and successful life, if only ringers value the privileges of their art, and recognise the duties they owe to the Church, to the public and to one another.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Three Hours & Twenty-Three Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

ARTHUR J. MARTIN ... .. Treble	*BERNARD C. ASHFORD ... 6
*JOSEPH H. COX ... .. 2	ROBERT MATTHEWS ... .. 7
*THOMAS GREENHALL ... .. 3	*JOHN EATON ... .. 8
*FREDERICK HANDLEY ... .. 4	*CHARLES RICHARDS ... .. 9
*ERNEST CALCUTT ... .. 5	*PERCY RICHARDS ... .. Tenor

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by ROBERT MATTHEWS.

\* First peal of Royal.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ENDERBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 13, 1945, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

ERNEST MORRIS ... .. Treble	JOSIAH MORRIS ... .. 5
JILL POOLE ... .. 2	†JOHN BRAMLEY ... .. 6
CHARLES MARSHALL ... .. 3	ARTHUR DEBENHAM ... .. 7
*ARTHUR E. BODYCOTE ... .. 4	W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON.

\* First peal of Major. † First peal inside.

GREAT BADDOW, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

GEORGE GREEN ... .. Treble	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 2	LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... .. 6
PERCY GREEN ... .. 3	HILDA G. SNOWDEN ... .. 7
FRANK CLAYDON ... .. 4	EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF CORNWALL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

CHARLES SMART ... .. Treble	ALBERT E. CHEESMAN ... 5
GEORGE MARRINER ... .. 2	ARTHUR H. SMITH ... .. 6
ALFRED H. WINCH ... .. 3	WILLIAM NEWBURY ... .. 7
GEORGE COOK ... .. 4	ALBERT HARMAN ... .. Tenor

Composed by G. MARRINER. Conducted by ALBERT HARMAN.

First peal in the method by all the band. Rung with 6th place bob.

READING.—On Sunday, December 2nd, at St. Laurence's, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: R. T. Hibbert 1, Mrs. D. Catherall 2, Miss P. Hart 3, A. D. Cullum 4, T. Lanaghan 5, H. Smith 6, E. Humfrey (conductor) 7, C. Pullen 8, P. Dyke 9, E. G. Foster 10.

ROTHWELL, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;  
MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 21 cwt.

ROBERT G. BLACK ... .. Treble	HARRY BAXTER ... .. 5
HAROLD J. POOLE ... .. 2	BERNARD J. WADDINGTON ... 6
HARRY G. WAYNE ... .. 3	G. STEDMAN MORRIS ... .. 7
CHARLES W. BIRD ... .. 4	WILLIAM J. ROOT ... .. Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

UTTOXETER, STAFFS.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;  
Tenor 20 cwt.

*GEORGE MOUNTFORD ... Treble	EDWARD STEELE ... .. 5
WILLIAM P. DEANE ... .. 2	CHARLES H. PAGE ... .. 7
WILLIAM EDWARDS ... .. 3	WILLIAM CARNWELL ... .. 6
JOHN G. CARTLIDGE ... .. 4	ARTHUR W. HALL ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by ARTHUR W. HALL.

\* First peal.

## SIX BELL PEAL.

OUND, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 15, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents called differently.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*CHARLES E. EDWARDS ... Treble	*WILLIAM H. LLOYD ... .. 4
†MISS ETHEL M. DUPPA ... 2	ARTHUR PRITCHARD ... .. 5
A. EDWARD REEVES ... .. 3	C. KENNETH LEWIS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.

\* First peal of Minor. † First peal.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

FELSTEAD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 11, 1945, in One Hour and Fifty Minutes,

AT SACKFORDS, MOLEBILL GREEN,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of two blocks of 2,160 each and one 720.

EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 1-2	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4
JOHN B. WOOLLEY ... .. 5-6	

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

First peal of London Surprise Minor by all.

FELSTEAD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 16, 1945, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT SACKFORDS, MOLEBILL GREEN,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;  
MIDDLETON'S.

EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
*CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4	†JOHN B. WOOLLEY ... .. 7-8

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

\* First peal in the method on handbells. First peal in the method on handbells as conductor and 100th peal as conductor on handbells.

FELSTEAD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 16, 1945, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT SACKFORDS, MOLEBILL GREEN,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

EDWIN JENNINGS ... .. 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
*CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4	†JOHN B. WOOLLEY ... .. 7-8

Composed and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

\* First peal in the method on handbells and first of Surprise Major in hand as conductor. † First peal of Surprise Major on handbells.

## A RINGER IN THE COTSWOLDS.

By JAMES F. HARVEY.

(Continued from page 517.)

It was last full day, and a morning of blue skies and summer heat found me in ancient Cirencester, 'one of the little Romes of Rome.' It is said to be the starting point of the northern Cotswolds. To the west and south-west lies the tumbled hill country of 'the Edge,' while to the south-east is the green meadowland of the upper Thames valley. 'Ciren' is dominated by its great church and its great park, the seat of the Bathurst family, and admitting all that may be said in their favour, it is doubtful whether such domination is good for the human soul. I am told that the town is society-ridden and a hotbed of snobbery, but having inherited this vast enclosure, some ten square miles in extent, it is only fair to say that the present owners have a greater sense of their social responsibilities than some others I have known. Except for war-time agriculture and military occupation one can walk pretty well where one likes.

On this gay morning I passed through the gates by the castle-like barracks and up the rise of the great drive. Scores of children were playing on the broad grass verge, while their elders rested in the shade of the woods which form a dense and seemingly unending avenue. But for some reason unknown to me the roadway suddenly comes to an end at the top of the rise. Whether this originally formed part of some great scheme that was never carried out, I don't know; it would seem to have been so, for the avenue still goes on for some distance. There were many paths through the woods on either side, and signs of recent occupation by American troops were frequent. Among these were notices warning trespassers of the presence of various dogs, but the troops had gone, the woods were deserted, and the warnings (and the dogs) had lost their bite.

Coming back to the top of the drive, the view supports the idea that it was originally intended to build the great house at the end of the avenue, for the splendid tower of the church stands up straight in its centre. That morning, against the deep blue of the sky, it made a memorable picture.

Cirencester Church is the most magnificent of all the Cotswold churches, although its peal of twelve bells is said not to equal the fine ring at Painswick. As to this I have no opinion, as it has never been my good fortune to hear them. Daubeny says of the western tower that it is 'a beautiful Perpendicular structure with rich paneling, battlements, pinnacles and gargoyles, was built at the very commencement of the 15th century, and is considered, possibly with the exception of Chipping Camden, to be the finest tower in the Cotswolds. Although 134 feet high, the intention of the builders was to complete it with a spire, but before even the tower was finished a serious settlement in the lower masonry necessitated a curtailment of the original design and the addition of enormous buttresses and flying buttresses to the eastern corners.'

Of the exterior, perhaps the most unique feature is the south porch, famous as the largest church porch in England. It was built at the very dawn of the 16th century, partly at the expense of local guilds, partly by public subscriptions; this magnificent structure appearing to have been designed for secular rather than ecclesiastical use; in the year 1672, Bishop Nicholson, of Gloucester,

granted a faculty for its use as a Town Hall, by which name it is still known. In 1836 it was pulled down and re-erected.

The bell-ringing customs of Cirencester are so numerous and varied that no account of the church would be complete without mention of the more remarkable. Every Sunday morning at 11 the bells are lifted one by one, a venerable custom which dates from the palmy days of the Abbey to which from time immemorial the parish church belonged—when some pious soul gave a plot of land to pay for proper upkeep of the bells, and the Abbot instituted this weekly demonstration as a proof that the trust was not betrayed. The ninth bell, invariably rung on Shrove Tuesday, is known locally as the 'pancake bell,' and the tenth sounds Curfew during the winter months. An extra bell, the 13th, besides, serving as a fire alarm, is used in minor peals, and in the old cxiii. psalm tune, which is played every third hour of the day.

Some curious regulations concerning the bells are recorded in the registers. In the year 1656 it was decided that, for funerals taking place within the church, 'the bell shall be tolled for six hours and not lesse, and they to pay twelve pence for every hour.' In 1661, 'when any stranger shall desire to hear the bells rung, or to have a peal, he shall pay for the peal three shillings,' one shilling which went to the church, and the balance to the ringers. The bells themselves constitute the oldest peal of 12 bells in Great Britain, excepting London. They were all cast by the famous Rudhalls, of Gloucester, and vary in date from 1713 to 1787.

My stay in the Cotswolds had come to an end. The next morning I took my last look at the green valley as my host drove me to Rendcomb. I had seen many lovely places and had met with much of interest; I had found great kindness and good fellowship.

And so, back to Brum and St. Martin's.

(Concluded.)

## MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

### MEETING AT SAPCOTE.

A meeting of the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Sapcote on December 8th, when a good company, including a large number of probationers, were present. Mr. H. Bird, the district chairman, who presided, said the meeting was the last before becoming a district of the new 'Leicester Diocesan Guild,' but although it was the death of the old Midland Counties Association, it was very gratifying to see such a lively corpse. He believed the new association, formed as it was on diocesan grounds, would more firmly bind together the Church and the association, the clergy and the ringers, and would enable them more fully to carry out their duty of ringing for divine service and to advance the art of change ringing.

Among those present was Mr. John Garratt, the oldest member of the district, who joined the association in 1890 and at 80 years of age is still an active ringing member.

Mr. George Newton, representative on the provisional committee of the Diocesan Guild, gave a comprehensive report of the committee's activities. Notice was given of a motion to appoint a Ringing Master, to be moved at the annual meeting to be held at Hinckley on January 19th, 1946.

The methods rung on the tower bells ranged from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Surprise Minor, and at the social evening tunes and changes were rung on handbells.

## ST. DAVID'S GUILD.

### MEETING AT HAVERFORDWEST.

Between 50 and 60 members and friends attended a meeting of the St. David's Diocesan Guild, held at St. Mary's, Haverfordwest, on December 8th. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Rees, who welcomed the ringers and gave an address, in which he described the history of the church. Among the visitors were Mr. J. Williams, of Morriston, Sgt. A. P. Gannon, the Rev. S. Rees, Barry Port, and the Rev. I. Lewis, Llanelly.

The methods rung were Kent Treble Bob Major, Stedman Triples, Grandsire Triples, Bob Minor, Grandsire Doubles and rounds.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Llandilo on March 9th.

## '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.,  
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1945, should forward their renewal order, together with  
remittance, to Mr. G. W. Fletcher not later than Fri-  
day, December 28th.

The 5,040 Bob Major rung at Enderby on December 13th was Mr.  
Ernest Morris' 900th peal.

The band that took part in the handbell peal of Doubles at Solihull  
on December 17th have rung together peals on all numbers, Doubles  
to Cinques and Minor to Maximus, during the year.

### ST. MARGARET'S, LEICESTER.

On Sunday, December 9th, at St. Margaret's, Leicester, the Bishop  
of the Diocese dedicated a new bell which has been added to the  
twelve to make a middle octave. Immediately after the dedication  
the bell was tolled five times by Miss Margaret Morris, daughter of  
Mr. Ernest Morris, whose activities in connection with bells and ring-  
ing were referred to by the Bishop in his remarks.

The new bell, which is named Margaret, is to commemorate the  
five hundredth anniversary of the building of the tower. Hence the  
tolling five times. The inscription is:—

My name is Margaret, I was cast  
To show five hundred years have passed  
Since this benign and comely tower  
Was raised in fourteen forty four.

Leicester has now two churches each with a ring of thirteen modern  
bells from the Loughborough Foundry.

### THE BELLS OF BATH.

In the eighteenth century, when Bath was the fashionable water-  
ing place of England, the Abbey ringers used to be told when any  
rich visitor came to the town. Then they would ring the bells, and  
the visitor was expected to pay them for the 'compliment.' One  
of them, after his first visit, is reported to have written home as  
follows:—

'No city, dear mother, this city excels  
In charming sweet sounds both of fiddles and bells.  
I thought like a fool that they only would ring  
For a wedding, a judge, or the birth of a king;  
But I found 'twas for me that the good natur'd people  
Rang so hard that I thought they would pull down the steeple;  
So I took out my purse, as I hate to be shabby,  
And paid all the men when they came from the Abbey.'

### DEATH OF MR. H. M. REEVES.

The death of Mr. H. M. Reeves, of Walthamstow, in his 82nd year,  
removes probably the last link with 'The Bell News.' Mr. Reeves  
was the son of Harvey Reeves, founder, owner and editor of the first  
journal entirely devoted to change ringing, and for years assisted his  
father in his printing works.

## MAKERS OF LONDON BELLS.

(Continued from page 521.)

The founder at first had nothing to do with the hang-  
ing of the bells; that was the carpenter's job in connec-  
tion with the smith, and the parish made separate con-  
tracts and gave separate orders to those tradesmen. But  
bell hanging, if it is to be done properly, requires some  
specialised knowledge, and it was natural that the founder  
should recommend to the parish a man who he knew  
was a competent craftsman; and so it seems probable that  
from the latter days of the sixteenth century each of the  
leading founders worked in conjunction with a bell  
hanger, though not in financial partnership.

In this way John Brissendon worked with Robert Mot  
at St. Michael's, Cornhill, in 1596. In the middle of the  
following century Robert Turner was the leading bell  
hanger, and when we remember how usual it was  
for sons to follow in the same trade as their fathers, we  
shall consider it was likely that he was the grandfather  
or great-grandfather of the Samuel Turner who did  
much work in the eighteenth century, largely in connec-  
tion with the Whitechapel Foundry, and that the business  
was for many years in the same family.

Among the 'Peals of Bells hung by Samuel and Robert  
Turner, Bell hangers to Messrs. Lester and Pack, White-  
chapel, London,' were: Acton, 6, 14 cwt.; Chiswick, 6,  
14 cwt.; Shoreditch, 10, 29 cwt.; St. Peter's, Exeter, 10,  
67 cwt.; Isleworth, 8, 19 cwt.; St. Margaret's, Lynn, 8,  
30 cwt.; York Minster, 10, 53 cwt.; Richmond, 8, 19  
cwt.; St. John's, Norwich, 6, 12 cwt.; Lewisham, 8,  
16 cwt.; Harrow, 6, 24 cwt.; and Guildford, 8, 25 cwt.  
Turner made the frame and hung the twelve bells at St.  
Peter's, Mancroft, Norwich, and the late Frederick Day,  
bell hanger of Eye, a thoroughly competent judge, told  
me the work was first class. The hanging of very heavy  
bells, however, was for the old hangers with their limited  
resources always something of a matter of luck.

Two other bell hangers in the middle of the seventeenth  
century were a Mr. Allen and a Mr. Gadsden. Later on  
it became usual for the bell founder to undertake the  
whole of the work and himself to employ the bell hanger.  
It was the reversal of this process which, it seems,  
brought John Hodson into the bell-founding business.  
He was, as I have said, a carpenter by trade and, no  
doubt, did the hanging, while the casting was done at  
first by William Hull and afterwards by Christopher  
Hodson. Some men like Michael Darbie were both bell  
founders and bell hangers, and, being jack of all trades,  
were masters of none.

Although bell hanging was more and more monopolised  
by the bell founders, there were men right down to recent  
times who in country districts carried on the trade of  
bell hanger. Some of them worked themselves and were  
excellent craftsmen according to the standards of the  
time, but work done by others was too often of inferior  
quality.

The majority of the new bells hung in the steeples of  
London and the surrounding districts after the Great  
Fire of 1666, and during the first half of the eighteenth  
century, were cast by four famous foundries.

Anthony Bartlet had succeeded to the Whitechapel  
Foundry in 1647, and was followed by James Bartlet in  
1676. They supplied many of the bells to the rebuilt  
churches, as a rule one large and one small bell to each  
tower. James Bartlet's most important peal was the fine  
octave at St. Lawrence, Jewry, cast in 1687, with a tenor

of 32 cwt. The majority of the bells survived until recent times, and the ring, after being restored and slightly re-tuned by Mears and Stainbank, ranked among the very best in the country. On that tragic Sunday evening in the last week of 1940, when so much of London City was destroyed by enemy action, the Church of St. Lawrence and all it contained was burnt by fire, and nothing of the bells was left except some fused and melted metal. This is one of the rings we may confidently expect will be restored. More than any other bells, they had borne for centuries a part in the civic pageantry of the City of London.

Another octave by James Bartlet, that at Christ Church, Southwark, also perished in the air raids.

It was a common thing in the old foundries, when the family succession failed, for the business to be transferred to the man who had been the founder's foreman. James, the last of the Bartlets, died in 1702. For a year or two his foreman had been Richard Phelps, and the latter, succeeding to the business, in the next thirty-eight years did as much as almost anyone to establish the great reputation of the Whitechapel Foundry.

Richard Phelps was a native of Avebury, in Wiltshire, and cast some hundreds of bells for parishes in different parts of England. In the City of London his name is on three fine rings: the noble twelve at St. Michael's, Cornhill, the ten at St. Magnus-the-Martyr, and the ten cast for St. Dionis', Backchurch, which for some years hung in the tower of All Hallows', Lombard Street, and are now awaiting a fresh home in the new church of All Hallows', Twickenham.

The hour bell at St. Paul's—the Great Bell of St. Paul's—is by Phelps, and so is the tenor at Westminster Abbey. He also cast the octaves at St. Mary's, Lambeth (since recast), at Enfield, and at St. Mary's, Staines; and among his many bells in the provinces are the fine ring at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, and the noble octave at St. Mary's, Bury St. Edmunds. Almost his last job was the old tenor at Bow Church, Chteapside. It was probably the best, and certainly the most famous, bell in the London district, but when the ring was restored in 1933 it was found to be cracked in the crown and had to be recast. Its successor's life was a short one, for church and steeple were burnt out in an air raid and the bells destroyed.

Another ring by Phelps, which had a great reputation but which has long since disappeared, was the heavy eight (tenor 44 cwt.) at Christ Church, Spitalfields.

In the last three years of his life Phelps was assisted as partner by Thomas Lester, and after his death in 1738 the latter carried on the foundry, the lease of which, with the business and all the trade implements, was bequeathed to him by Phelps.

In 1653 William Wightman was foreman to John Hodson, but soon afterwards he set up in business for himself. He did work for St. Giles', Cripplegate, and was afterwards in partnership with his brother Philip. They supplied a bell for Kensington Palace, and, on the strength of that, called themselves 'royal founders.' Philip Wightman cast the back eight at St. Clement Danes, which were destroyed with the church in the air raids. I consider that they (and especially the tenor) were very fine toned bells. The back sixes at Mortlake and Tottenham were also by Wightman, and both were at one time thought to be exceptionally good bells.

Of all English bell foundries, none has had a greater

reputation than that at Gloucester. It was started about 1684 by Abraham Rudhall, who was assisted by his son of the same name. The foundry remained in the family until 1830, during which time 4,521 bells were cast, but it is upon the earlier ones that the reputation depends. The most famous of these in the provinces are the rings of twelve at Painswick and Cirencester and the tens at Wrexham and Bath Abbey. London possessed five peals from the foundry, and all were good. They were the twelves at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, and St. Martin-in-the-Fields; the ten at Fulham; and the octaves at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, and St. George's, Southwark. Of them, the bells at St. Bride's and St. Dunstan's were destroyed in air raids; the others remain.

In recent years the preference for bells tuned in the five-note style has largely obscured the peculiar merits of Rudhall's bells, and, indeed, of other good eighteenth-century bells. The tendency is to consider that there is a definite standard of excellence in bell founding which can be measured by the tuning fork; to stress the necessity of correct tune and ignore the desirability of good tone. Perhaps it would be truer to say that the opinion is largely held that good tone depends entirely upon the degree in which the bell is in harmony with itself. This opinion is largely derived from the ideas introduced by Canon A. B. Simpson and to a great extent has been adopted by the bell founders themselves, for they have discovered exact rules by which the overtones of a bell can be controlled and brought into accord with each other and with the strike note. That the average bell cast today in any one of the three great English bell foundries is far superior to the average bell cast one hundred or two hundred years ago, or indeed at any time in the past, can hardly be denied by anyone. That the modern rings are far more in tune with themselves, is patent to an average ear. And yet it would not be true to say that these things finally settle the question. There is a quality about the best of Rudhall's bells (and also about those of some other founders) which has always appealed to some people and which still does appeal to some people, which is quite independent of correctness of overtones, and which is not the less real because it cannot be analysed or described in any accurate degree. It either appeals to a man or it does not, and, if it does not, that is for him the end of the matter; for even the man to whom it does appeal will usually find it evades him directly he tries to analyse or criticise it. Nor is this to be wondered at. Bell founding is an art, however much in practice it has been reduced to an exact mechanical science, and it is of the very nature of an art that its highest things should be above rules.

It is a remarkable fact that the sound of a bell has in almost all ages and in almost all countries appealed to men as few other sounds can appeal. It is an appeal that comes not to all men, nor always to any men. It is intangible, subjective, and transitory, and it dissolves at once when the listener begins to think about such things as overtones. Here is the explanation why so many people to-day find little or nothing to admire in bells like Rudhall's, which earlier generations so much admired. The fault is not in the bells themselves, nor is it true that earlier men had to be content with a lower standard than the modern listener. The truth is that the modern critic has consciously or unconsciously trained his ears to notice especially certain qualities, and so misses certain others in which the real excellence of some bells lies.

(To be continued.)

### THE OPEN HANDSTROKE LEAD.

I was much interested in Mr. E. H. Lewis' statement that the open handstroke lead is almost automatically caused by the weight of the bellrope. It was a confirmation of an opinion I had formed by close observation and study, and which I expressed in the articles on 'Handling a Bell' ('Ringing World,' January, 1944) in these words: 'We may be as certain as we reasonably can be of something which happened unnoticed long ago, that the open handstroke lead was forced on ringers by the way bells are hung, and it was not until long afterwards, and then gradually and partially, that its great musical effect was recognised.' 'Watch,' I said, 'an ordinary skilled ringer pulling a bell casually, say to try his rope before starting for a peal. Almost certainly he will definitely make his backstrokes quicker than his handstrokes. It is the natural thing to do.'

I was inclined to see the cause in the way the rope is attached to the wheel and its effect on the ringer's pull, rather than in the actual weight of the rope; but the two are intimately connected. There was also the influence of the original style of hanging to be taken into account. In the times when round ringing was universal the rope was attached to the top of the wheel (when the bell was down). This gave what was called a 'dead pull,' greatly increased the effect of the weight of the rope, and caused almost all the pulling and bell control to be done from backstroke. The effect of this style is still very evident in the round ringing of the West. It necessitated very careful bell control, and may have been one cause of the excellent traditional round ringing, but in change ringing it was speedily found to be a handicap and was altered. J. A. T.

### WAR DAMAGED CHURCHES.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In the report of the Central Council for the Care of Churches and your remarks upon the same, I see no mention is made of Llandaff Cathedral.

This prompts me to ask three questions. Is Wales so remote from England that it is considered of no consequence? Is the Church in Wales still considered a part of the Church of England? Is Llandaff Cathedral considered to be of no architectural merit?

It may not be considered among the front rank of British cathedrals, but in some respects it is unique and for centuries has been the pivot of religious life in South Wales.

To-day it stands a roofless ruin, only the Lady chapel being intact and in use. The west towers are also standing, although the pinnacle has been removed from the spire.

Fortunately the bells are undamaged, but the floor of the ringing chamber is destroyed. F. HANNINGTON.

32, Surrey Street, Canton, Cardiff.

[The Church in Wales is in full communion with the Church of England, but is not now a part of the Church of England, which consists of the Provinces of Canterbury and York. The Central Council for the Care of Churches is one of the organisations connected with the Church Assembly, and, therefore, is not officially concerned with the cathedrals and parish churches of Wales. Our remarks were confined to the ground covered by the Council's report. This does not in any way mean that churchmen and ringers in England are indifferent to the welfare and losses of their brother churchmen and ringers in Wales.—The Editor.]

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON SOCIETY.

At a meeting held in October it was decided to form a ringing society in the University of London, and the society has now been recognised by the university.

All past and present members of the university who are interested in the society are invited to write to the Secretary, c/o Imperial College of Science, London, S.W.7.

The following officers were elected: President, Dr. J. C. E. Simpson; Master, Mr. D. N. Layton; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. P. M. J. Gray.

### DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

*MEETING AT DARLASTON.*

Thirty members and friends were present at a meeting of the Dudley and District Guild, held at Darlaston on December 8th. The Rector, the Rev. R. S. Phillips, conducted the service and presided at the meeting which followed. It was arranged for a quarterly peal attempt at Darlaston, and the next meeting (the annual) was fixed for March 9th at Dudley Parish Church.

### ACROSS THE SINAI DESERT.

Now and then I slumbered for some moments on the back of my camel. On the fifth day of my journey the air above lay dead, and the whole earth that I could reach with my utmost sight and keenest listening was still and lifeless, as some dispeopled and forgotten world that rolls round and round in the heavens through wasted floods of light. The sun, growing fiercer and fiercer, shone down more mightily now than ever on me he shone before, and as I drooped my head under his fire, and closed my eyes against the glare that surrounded me, I slowly fell asleep—for how many minutes or moments I cannot tell—but after awhile I was gently awakened by a peal of church bells—my native bells—the innocent bells of Marlen that never before sent forth their music beyond the Blaydon hills! My first idea naturally was that I still remained fast under the power of a dream. I roused myself and drew aside the silk that covered my eyes, and plunged my bare face into the light. Then at least I was well enough awakened, but still those old Marlen bells rang on, not ringing for joy, but properly, prosily, steadily, merrily ringing 'for church.' After a while the sound died away: it happened that neither I nor any of my party had a watch by which to measure the exact time of its lasting, but it seemed to me that about ten minutes had passed before the bells ceased. I attributed the effect to the great heat of the sun, the perfect dryness of the clear air through which I moved, and the deep stillness of all around me; it seemed to me that these causes, by occasioning a great tension, and consequent susceptibility of the hearing organs, had rendered them liable to tingle under the passing touch of some mere memory that must have swept across my brain in a moment of sleep. Since my return to England it has been told me that like sounds have been heard at sea, and that the sailor becalmed under a vertical sun in the midst of the wide ocean has listened in trembling wonder to the chime of his own village bells.—A. W. Kinglake, 'Eothen.'

### RINGERS ON ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Now that peace reigns again we ringers are getting back to normal, and perhaps some of us are pleased and satisfied. Your editorial this week has given us some war losses and leaves room for quiet thought. We must not be satisfied. Each county guild, association or whatever we call ourselves should have a representative if possible to be a member and assist the Bishop's committee concerning bells.

For some considerable time it has been my duty and pleasure to help in our Ely diocese. Twenty odd years of experience has given me much, but to those who are elected to serve on the Council it would be well to read all modern engineering, get knowledge on security and strengthening of towers, so as to be ready for the tasks which may have to be undertaken. Fortunately, our famous bell firms have representatives who are always ready to help and give advice, and from them we may learn much. Whatever is done it should be accomplished with competent efficiency.

F. WARRINGTON.

St. Ives, Hunts.

### GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

*MEETING AT HEAVITREE.*

The annual meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, held at Heavitree on December 15th, was attended by ringers from Bampton, Broadclyst, Buckfastleigh, St. David's, Ide, Heavitree, Milverton, Newton Abbot, Okehampton, Sidmouth, Silverton, St. Thomas', Thorverton, Wellington and Whimble.

The service, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. Johnston, was choral, with Mr. Denis Reed at the organ, and 44 ringers and friends partook of tea provided by Messrs. Hill, Palmer and Edwards. At the business meeting which followed, the report, presented by Mr. Howe, showed that considerable progress had been made during the year, two peals had been rung, and many recruits had become interested. Co-operation between bands had been helpful.

All the officers were re-elected: Mr. A. W. Searle as chairman, Mr. W. H. Howe as secretary and treasurer, Mr. E. W. Biffin as Ringing Master, and Messrs. E. W. Biffin, H. J. Corry and T. H. Pook as representatives to the General Committee.

Mr. F. H. Gardner was elected a life member, and Miss Joan Burlinson and the Rev. W. H. Croft as members. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Newton St. Cyres on February 23rd. The ringing at Heavitree and the Cathedral ranged from rounds to Kent Treble Bob.



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**NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

**GUILDFORD GUILD.**—Leatherhead District.—Ewell, Saturday, Dec. 29th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business 5.30.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—Next meeting Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Dec. 29th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Burton District.—Lullington (6), Saturday, Dec. 29th, 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—J. W. Cotton, Overseal.

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**—St. Martin-in-the-Fields, practice, Wednesday, Jan. 2nd, 6.30 p.m.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

**LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Leicester District.—Leicester, Jan. 5th. Important business.—H. W. Perkins, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**SHEFFIELD SOCIETY.**—Dronfield (8), Jan. 5th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—H. O. Chaddock, 18, Seagrave Crescent, Sheffield 2.

**ELY ASSN.**—Ely Branch.—Annual, Ely (8), Jan. 5th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea, at 4.30, Ye Olde Tea Rooms.—R. H. Bullen, 39a, High Street, Ely.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**—Winchester District.—Annual, Winchester, January 5th. Cathedral bells 6 to 8.30 p.m., St. Maurice's 3.15 to 8.30 p.m. Meeting at Dumpers' Restaurant 3.45 p.m. Buffet tea 4.30. Service in Cathedral 5.15. Names by January 2nd to W. G. Goodchild, 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

**LANCASHIRE ASSN.**—Wigan Branch.—Upholland, Saturday, Jan. 5th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at local café.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

**BEDS ASSN.**—Bedford District.—Renhold (5), Saturday, Jan. 5th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Wilden (5), after tea. Names to Mr. P. Cunnington, Newhaven, Salph End, Renhold, Bedford.—L. H. Bowler, Hon. Sec.

**SALISBURY GUILD.**—Devizes Branch.—Annual Meeting, Devizes, St. John's, Jan. 5th. Bells 2.30 Service 4.30. Tea at 5 in Parish Room.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham. Phone 297.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSN.**—The next meeting will be held at Newcastle-under-Lyme (10 bells), on Saturday, Jan. 5th. No tea arrangements, but cafés and B.R. nearby.—Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**—East Devon Branch.—Feniton, January 12th. Service 4 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d.) 4.30 p.m. Names by Dec. 29th.—J. Arbury, Belmont, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.

**LINCOLN GUILD.**—Lincoln District.—Harmston (8), Saturday, Jan. 12th. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5 p.m. Names by Jan. 8th.—K. W. Mayer, 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

**SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.**—Meeting at Bloxwich on Saturday, Jan. 12th. Bells at 3. Service at 4.45. Tea 5.30; members 9d., others 1s. Numbers by Tuesday, Jan. 8th.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

**YORKSHIRE ASSN.**—Bradford Cathedral (10), Saturday, January 19th, 2.30 to 8.30 p.m. Committee 3 p.m. in Parish Room. No tea. Business in Parish Room 6 p.m.—L. W. G. Morris, 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

**BIRTH.**

**THOMPSON.**—Dec. 18th, at 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, to Ada, wife of Andrew Thompson, a son, Keith Bourne.

**QUARTER PEALS.**

**DEPTFORD.**—At St. John's, on Sunday, December 2nd, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: F. Morris, A. J. Ford, R. G. Long, F. W. Richardson, G. H. Daynes, F. Shorter (conductor), J. E. Warner and E. S. Owen.  
**LAVENHAM.**—On Sunday, December 2nd, 1,288 Oxford Treble Bob Major: B. Cornell 1, W. Jarvis 2, S. H. Symonds 3, W. R. J. Poulson 4, F. A. Poulson 5, M. T. Symonds (conductor) 6, L. Poulson 7, L. G. Pryke 8.

**MELKSHAM, WILTS.**—On Sunday, December 2nd, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: Miss R. L. Gibbons 1, S. Cockle 2, Miss E. M. Hunt 3, A. W. Angel 4, A. J. West 5, H. Smith 6, W. C. West (conductor) 7, C. Gibbons 8.

**BOLDMERE, SUTTON COLDFIELD.**—On Sunday, December 2nd, 1,260 Grand-sire Doubles: Derek Kedge 1, John Gilbert 2, Dennis Clive 3, Norman Raybone 4, Terry Hampion (conductor) 5, Peter Arrowsmith 6.

**BOURNEMOUTH.**—On Thursday, December 6th, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: F. Jacobs 1, Mrs. F. J. Marshall 2 (conductor) 2, A. Pearmain 3, B. Rogers 4, C. Forfitt 5, E. Waters 6, F. Coles 7, E. Osborne 8.

**GREAT BUDWORTH, CHESHIRE.**—On December 7th, 1,260 Bob Minor: Miss B. Morton 1, Mrs. C. Holden 2, H. Parker 3, Miss D. C. Osborn 4, C. Holden 5, Eric Nobles (conductor) 6.

**ALVERSTOKE.**—On December 8th, 1,260 Grand-sire Triples: Miss E. Landon 1, E. Jurd 2, W. Thompsett 3, C. Philpotts 4, F. Barron 5, R. E. Turner (conductor) 6, F. W. Burnett 7, H. A. Nobes 8.

**TENBY, SOUTH WALES.**—On Sunday, December 9th, 1,260 Minor (720 Kent, 540 Plain Bob): G. Thomas 1, I. Jenkins 2, K. Johns 3, Sgt. A. P. Cannon (conductor) 4, T. W. Griffiths 5, L. H. Jenkins 6.

**WORCESTER.**—On Sunday, December 9th, at the Cathedral, 1,287 Stedman Caters: Geoffrey Lewis (conductor) 1, Denis Morris 2, Betty Spice 3, Sidney Holt 4, Allen Morgan 5, Denis Sayers 6, Reginald Woodvatt 7, E. Cubberley 8, G. Ambler 9, Albert Humphries 10.

**BARNBY DON, DONCASTER.**—On December 9th, 1,260 Bob Minor: Derek Reed 1, Harry E. Wills 2, Frank Reed (conductor) 3, Ronald Lunn 4, Frank Lamb 5, Ernest Padgett 6. Half-muffled for Archbishop Lord Lang.

**STREATHAM.**—On Sunday, December 9th, at St. Leonard's, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. E. Chilcott 1, E. L. Miles 2, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 3, J. W. Chapman 4, H. Belcher 5, C. D. Nichols 6, R. Sanders 7, S. Howard 8.

**HONITON CLYST, DEVON.**—On Sunday, December 9th, 1,260 Grand-sire Doubles (1-2 leading): D. Callard 1, R. Sandford 2, R. Retter 3, Miss Q. Pring 4, G. E. Retter (conductor) 5, F. E. Retter 6, J. Salway 7, G. Richards 8.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.****MEETING AT LEVERINGTON.**

A meeting of the Wisbech Branch of the Ely Diocesan Association was held at Leverington on December 15th, when the following towers were represented: Chatteris, Downham Market, Elm, Leverington, Marham, Shouldham, Tydd St. Mary, Terrington St. John, Terrington St. Clement, Walsoken, Walpole St. Andrew and Wisbech.

The Rector conducted the service and gave an address. Mr. F. Wigmore was organist. Tea was served in the parish room, followed by the business meeting, at which the Rector took the chair. It is hoped to hold the annual meeting at Downham Market on January 12th. Various methods were rung during the afternoon and evening ranging from Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise.

**RINGFRS' WEDDING.**

On Saturday, December 8th, at St. Mary's, Twyford, near Reading, the wedding took place of Corpl. Harold Smith, Royal Corps of Signals, 14th Army, younger son of Mr. T. W. Smith and the late Mrs. E. M. Smith, of Melksham, Wilts, and Miss Elsie Mary Hunt, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Hunt, of The Grove, Twyford. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Kenneth C. Davis, of Ewell.

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