



No. 1,695. Vol. XXXVIII.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th, 1943.

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

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### HEARING.

A short while ago we stressed the need for training beginners to use their ears properly when they are learning to ring. The thought can be carried much further, for we believe that the thing which, more than another, hinders many men from becoming really good ringers is that they do not pay sufficient attention to the part hearing should play in change ringing.

Every blow a man strikes when he is ringing a touch or a peal is the result of a complex series of actions, mental and physical, in which most of his faculties are concerned. He must use his eyes to find out which rope he must follow. He must use his arms and body to give the right amount of pull and at the right time. Many ringers stop there, and if they use their ears at all it is only to check whether eyes and arms have done their work properly. Hearing is with them much less important than seeing. But the competent ringer uses hearing, as much as seeing, to find his way among the ropes.

The striking of a blow in change ringing is, as we said, the result of a complex series of actions, but there is one point which forms the focus to which the man's attention is mainly directed. To many ringers this focal point is the instant when he pulls his rope, but with the really skilled ringer it is shifted on to the actual blow of the bell. You will find something very similar in any skilled work that men do. Watch a good carpenter or mason with hammer and chisel. His work, you will say, depends on how he strikes the end of the chisel, but that is not where his attention is concentrated. The amateur will keep his eye on the place where his hammer strikes, but the craftsman looks further forward to the point of the chisel and to what is happening there.

So it should be in ringing a bell in changes. The ringer should know and feel before he pulls his rope exactly how the bell will strike. He uses his sense of hearing, so to speak, in anticipation, and does not wait until the bell has spoken. There is nothing very strange or unusual in this. The same thing happens, in a much simpler form, when a man is tapping a tune on handbells, or chiming with an Ellacombe apparatus. In change ringing the matter is complicated by the long interval between the pull and the sound of the bell, and by the necessity of using sight as well as hearing.

This co-ordination of seeing, hearing, and pulling is not easy to teach or to learn, yet a first class ringer must possess it, and all first class ringers do possess it. It is most easily acquired, perhaps, when a man has a

(Continued on page 406.)

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natural sense of rhythm, and is fortunate enough to be associated with a belfry where there is a tradition of good striking. It is excellent advice to young and ambitious ringers, and to progressive bands, to devote their attention first, not to the ringing of advanced methods (for they are easy enough to ring when a man is a really competent ringer), but to the attainment of a complete mastery of the sound of the bells and the rhythm of the changes. When that is acquired odd struck bells cease to cause any trouble—their falseness is hardly noticed; the interest in change ringing is much more than doubled; and the pleasure of those who have to listen is vastly increased.

## NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Since the lifting of the ban on ringing there has been a most welcome increase in the number of meetings held by associations. It is an excellent sign of the vitality of the Exercise, and evidence that we have not suffered nearly so much from the long silence as was feared. It has, however, put this journal in somewhat of a difficulty which we must explain to our readers.

Notice of meetings must be given and must be published in our columns, but by official regulation we are strictly limited as to the amount of space we may devote to notices. By cutting out all unnecessary words we managed to keep within the limits prescribed, but last week the number sent us considerably exceeded what we could print, and we had to hold over those of the most advanced dates.

As the dark evenings approach we may expect the number of meetings to lessen and the difficulty to disappear; but if we have to curtail some notices, or to hold over some, secretaries will understand it is because we have no option in the matter.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

SOLIHULL.

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

On Thursday, September 9, 1943, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT 109, SHARMAN'S CROSS ROAD,

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

Seven different extents.

ARTHUR D. COOK... .. 1-2 | GEORGE E. FEARN ... .. 3-4

RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 5-6

Conducted by RICHARD J. B. HADDEN.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Thursday, September 9, 1943, in Two Hours and Four Minutes,

AT 11, EXTON ROAD,

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

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor size 11 in G.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK... .. 1-2 | MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4

\*ANDREW I. PEARMAIN ... 5-6

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

\* First peal, aged 14 years.

FELSTEAD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, September 12, 1943, in Two Hours and Two ty-Five Minutes,

AT SACKFORDS, MOLEHILL GREEN,

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

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 1-2 | LEWIS W. WIFFEN .. .. 5-6

RONALD SUCELING ... .. 3-4 | MISS HILDA G. SNOWDON... 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

### EIGHT BELL PEALS.

GREASLEY, NOTTS.  
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 4, 1943, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,  
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*FREDERICK H. SHAW... ..Treble	WILLIAM H. LANCASTER ... 5
FREDERICK A. SALTER ... 2	FRANK BRADLEY... .. 6
WM. H. THORNLEY, SEN. ... 3	*THOMAS WHEAT... .. 7
JOHN E. HOBBS... .. 4	EDWARD C. GOBEY ... ..Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT.

Conducted by E. C. GOBEY.

\* First peal of Major.

PINCHBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE.  
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 11, 1943, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION,

Tenor 18 cwt. 9 lb.

CHARLES T. COLES ... ..Treble	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 5
JOHN W. CARTER ... .. 2	*WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON ... 6
PHILIP A. CORBY... .. 3	RUPERT RICHARDSON ... 7
JOHN G. AMES ... .. 4	CYRIL R. BURRELL ... ..Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES T. COLES.

\* First peal in the method. Rung as a victory peal.

BURFORD, OXON.  
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 11, 1943, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt. in E flat.

*VALHALLA V. H. HILL ...Treble	WILLIAM C. PORTER... .. 5
†CECIL G. CALCUTT ... .. 2	‡WILLIAM J. DIXON ... .. 6
BERNARD S. NICHOLS... .. 3	WALTER F. JUDGE ... .. 7
JACK JUDGE... .. 4	JOHN E. SPICE ... ..Tenor

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

\* First attempt for a peal. † First peal of Major on an inside bell. ‡ First peal of Major. An 80th birthday compliment to the mother of the ringers of 4 and 7.

### SIX BELL PEALS.

CLEWER, BERKS.  
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 4, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 of Oxford Bob, and two 720's each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 25 lb. in F.

E. DENNIS POOLE... ..Treble	WILLIAM WELLING ... .. 4
FRANK H. HICKS... .. 2	NORMAN V. HARDING... .. 5
JAMES A. GLASS ... .. 3	TONY PRICE ... ..Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

Rung for the induction of the Rector, the Rev. C. Dymoke-Marr.

CHEDDLETON, STAFFORDSHIRE.  
THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 4, 1943, in Three Hours,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 11 cwt.

HENRY CARNWELL ... ..Treble	JOHN G. CARTLIDGE... .. 4
JOHN E. WHEBLDON ... .. 2	*HENRY SUTTON ... .. 5
WILLIAM EDWARDS ... .. 3	WILLIAM CARNWELL... ..Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM CARNWELL.

\* First attempt. A thanksgiving for the Italian capitulation. The towers represented were Kingsley, Cheadle, Cheddleton and Norton.

SLOUGH.—On September 11th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: T. Smith 1, Mrs. A. W. Barker 2, W. H. Fussell 3, G. Gutteridge 4. \*E. Hudson 5, A. W. Barker (conductor) 6. \* First 720 of Kent.

### WEDDING PEALS.

The following peals were rung to celebrate the marriage of Flight-Sergt A. J. Brian Wayman to Miss Enid Mary Richardson, which took place at the Church of St. Lawrence, Surfleet, on Saturday, September 4th.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 4, 1943, in Three Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5010 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 9 lb. in F.

WALTER AYRE ... ..Treble	†MRS. J. E. DAVIS ... .. 7
HAROLD J. POOLE ... .. 2	FRANK E. PERVIN ... .. 8
ALBERT WALKER ... .. 3	JOHN WALDEN ... .. 9
WILLIAM H. HEWETT ... 4	JOHN A. FREEMAN ... .. 10
CHARLES T. COLES ... .. 5	RUPERT RICHARDSON ... .. 11
*JOHN E. SPICE ... .. 6	JACK BRAY ... ..Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

\* First peal on twelve tower bells. † First peal of Stedman Cinques.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E flat.

MRS. JACK BRAY ... .. 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ... .. 5-6
ALFRED H. PULLING ... .. 3-4	JACK BRAY ... .. 7-8
HAROLD J. POOLE ... 9-10	

Composed by E. M. ATKINS.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

MRS. JACK BRAY ... .. 1-2	JACK BRAY ... .. 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON ... .. 3-4	WILLIAM H. HEWETT ... .. 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, September 5, 1943, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

JILL POOLE ... .. 1-2	ALBERT WALKER ... .. 7-8
ALFRED H. PULLING ... .. 3-4	HAROLD J. POOLE ... .. 9-10
JOHN E. SPICE ... .. 5-6	FRANK E. PERVIN... .. 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

### LEWIS OF BRIXTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your article of September 3rd on 'The Tuning of Bells,' the firm of Lewis, of Brixton, recast the ring of six bells at Shipbourne, Kent, in 1880.

There is a small chime of six bells at Keston, near Bromley, which is undoubtedly Lewis' work. The bells bear only the initials G.D.L. and were presented by the late Countess of Derby in 1887. The clavier keys closely resemble organ pedals, and the use of wooden transmission bars bears unmistakable sign of an organ builder's work. Incidentally in this respect the chime manual is identical to that at Shipbourne.

The four quarter bells and hour bell in the clock tower of the Passmore Edwards Teachers' Orphanage in West Hill, Sydenham, are inscribed G.A.L., MDCCC. LXXXI. and are also unquestionably Lewis' work.

Considering the period at which these bells were cast, when the tuning of very small bells presented great difficulties, both chimes are of remarkably good tone and tune, for the smallest bell in each case is only 13 inches in diameter, and the 'tenor' at Keston will barely weigh 2 cwt.

To the best of my recollection, both chimes consist of 'maiden bells.'

R. H. DOVE.

70, Morris Lane, Leeds 5.

## A FAMOUS RINGING MATCH.

(Continued from page 397.)

In the North of England method ringing and peal ringing were developed later than in the South and under considerably different conditions. There was little or nothing of the social influences which so powerfully affected bodies like the College Youths, the Union Society of Shrewsbury, and many another; and very much of keen rivalry and competition between tower and tower, and town and town. The result was that prize ringing assumed an importance and a prominence quite unknown, not only in London and the Eastern Counties, but also in the Midlands. The history of the art in the North in early times is almost entirely concerned with the industrial districts of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire.

In Lancashire, at the close of the eighteenth century, the two leading bands were those at Oldham and Ashton-under-Lyne. Both places had eight bells with a tenor of about 14 cwt. Not much is known of their early ringing history, but the Oldham men rang 10,080 changes of Bob Major in 1783, and 14,480 changes in 1784, both peals composed and conducted by Thomas Kay. They called themselves the Oldham Youths. The others called themselves the College Youths of Ashton-under-Lyne, but that does not mean that they had any connection or affinity with the London society.

The two bands frequently met in prize ringing, and as there was little to choose between them in skill, the rivalry was keen, and increased in intensity as one or the other was judged to have performed the better. The climax came early in 1808, when the new bells of St. Michael's, Flixton, were opened. The rivals outclassed all the other competitors, but were so equal in merit that the judges could not decide between them, and divided the prize.

Naturally that pleased neither band, and, as a result, the Oldham men challenged the others to a special match. The test was to be Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, the stake was forty guineas, and the match was to be decided at Flixton. The Ashton men accepted the challenge and the date was fixed for June 24th, 1808. The man who was mainly instrumental in fixing up the matter was John Travis, a well-known publican and betting man of Oldham. It was at his house that articles were signed, and deposits lodged. As will be seen later, his interest in the matter was not due to any love of ringing, or regard for the honour and credit of the ringers of the town he lived in.

The method of judging these matches was as follows: Inside the belfry, with the band which was competing, were two 'lead takers down,' one appointed by each band. Their duty was to follow the ringing, check each lead as it was rung, and each call as it was made, and see that the peal was a true one.

Four censors were appointed, two by each band. They were locked up in a room near the church where they could clearly hear the bells, and their duty was to note any trip, or bad blow, or other fault in the ringing, and debit so many 'faults' to the offending band. The band with the least number of faults won the match.

Over all was a grand umpire, appointed by agreement and sworn to do justice. He did not interfere, unless the censors disagreed and appealed to him. Then his verdict was final.

The lead taker down for Ashton was Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, and for Oldham Jonathan Hague, of Manchester. Thomas Ogden and John Moss were the Ashton censors, and Daniel Bamford and John Amellows the Oldham censors. Joseph Grayson, of Birmingham, was the umpire.

Some of these men had distinguished careers as ringers. Grayson began his ringing at Sheffield, where he called a peal of Grandsire Caters in 1799. He took part in the first peal on the ten at St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, in 1811, and after his removal to Birmingham, where he was employed as a silver-plater, he rang in several peals with the St. Martin's Youths, including the long peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus in 1820.

Joseph Tebbs was one of the foremost men of the North both as ringer and composer. He called peals of Grandsire and Stedman Caters, and of Treble Ten of Leeds, he rang in the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal ever accomplished, and ten years after the Flixton match he was the conductor of the mixed band who, at the opening of the new ring of ten at Ashton, won the prize against thirteen other competitors. He was an able composer and his peal of Stedman Triples has considerable merit.

Ogden and Moss were prominent Ashton ringers and Ogden called a peal of Grandsire Caters at York Minster when the Ashton men went there in the early days of the nineteenth century.

'John Amellows' real name was Wolstencroft, but his mother, who was well known in Oldham, was usually called Owd Malley, hence the son's name. John was a very good ringer, but lazy. He used to say that one meal without work was better than two meals with work.

Before the day of the match came round, both bands rang some practice peals, and the endeavour was to complete the Grandsire Triples in the quickest possible time. On Sunday, May 15th, the Ashton men, in their home tower, rang Holt's ten-part in 2 hours and 33½ minutes. Next day the Oldham men rang the peal on their bells in 2 hours and 38 minutes. On May 24th the Ashton men rang it in 2 hours and 34 minutes; and on May 29th the Oldham men rang it in 2 hours and 29½ minutes.

These were quick times, and the keenness and closeness of the contest is shown by the fact that on the same morning the Ashton men rang the peal in 2 hours and 29½ minutes. On June 4th the Oldham band again rang it in 2 hours and 29½ minutes.

The Ashton men probably thought they had reached the limit of the speed at which their own bells could be rung, and on June 9th they accepted an invitation to go to Mottram-in-Longdendale, where the tenor was 12 cwt., and see what they could do there. They rang the peal in 2 hours and 23½ minutes and, ten days later, repeated the performance in the same time.

These were very quick peals. So quick that at one time the general opinion was that either the peals were not properly rung, or the time was not correctly taken. We need not, however, question the records. In recent times some very fast peals have been rung and they show that the older ones were quite possible. Whether it is a good thing to ring so fast is another matter.

These were practice peals. The day of the great match was Friday, June 24th. Both companies went to Flixton on the Thursday and spent the day practising on

the bells, the bands having alternately the use of the belfry. They were accompanied by a large number of supporters and backers. There was not sufficient accommodation for all in the village, and most of the people had to spend the night in the carts and wagons they had come in. The ringers put up at the Dog and Partridge Inn. Next morning they were up early and, after a short walk in the meadows, had breakfast. The censurers then tossed up to see which company should start first, and, the Oldham men winning, they went to the church, and after examining ropes and bearings, raised the bells and struck into changes at 8 o'clock. They rang a good peal in 2 hours 32 minutes and 50 seconds. It was at once officially announced that they had rung a true and complete peal. The band was: James Taylor 1, Robert Cooper 2, Henry Hindle 3, Joseph Newton (conductor) 4, William Rigby 5, Joshua Kershaw 6, John Whitehead 7, James Gartside tenor.

It was now the turn of the Ashton men. They first carefully examined the ropes and the bearings. This was most essential, not only because ordinary wear and tear might cause defects, but because interested persons might be up to tricks. A little sand in one of the bearings—a strand of one of the ropes almost severed where it would not be noticed—those things would make all the difference which way the bets went. Competing bands very often brought their own ropes and put them on the wheels themselves before they started for the peal.

The Ashton men began just before eleven o'clock, they rang a superlatively fine half peal, and came into rounds after two hours and 34 minutes' splendid ringing. As they came out of the tower they were greeted by their

supporters with a ringing cheer, which changed to amazed disappointment when the censurers immediately gave the verdict to the Oldham company.

What had happened was that Jonathan Wild, the conductor, called a bob two leads too soon in the sixth part. He then went on calling irregularly but finished with the last two parts in their correct order. The total number of changes rung was 5,012, or 28 short of the peal.

Seeing that there were the lead takers down in the belfry as well as the large number of listeners outside, it seems strange that Wild, having made the mistake, and knowing that he had made it, did not at once set up. He could not have hoped to deceive anyone. The truth probably was that the poor man did not know what to do. His colleagues in the band might forgive him, knowing how easy it is to make mistakes in peal ringing. But what about the company's supporters who had backed them freely and now stood to lose their money? Wild was to find out before long what they would think.

The Ashton-under-Lyne band consisted of Jonathan Wild (conductor) treble, Thomas Dewsnap 2, Samuel Moss 3, Thomas Hammond 4, Aaron Walker 5, Joseph Burgess 6, James Moss 7, Charles Greeves tenor.

It was bad luck for the band. They had rung splendidly, so well that they would certainly have won the prize if the peal had been true. As a compensation they received a gift of ten guineas from Ralph Wright, a local gentleman and magistrate, who wrote to a Major Lee (probably one of the churchwardens) asking him to divide the money among the ringers, 'as a small compliment to their merit in delighting the village of Flixton with their most excellent peal of Holt's Grandsire Triples.'

(To be continued.)

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.....

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### BELFRY GOSSIP.

It has not been found possible to arrange tea at the Middlesex Association meeting at Staunmore to-morrow, and visitors must make their own arrangements. Tea can be obtained locally.

Victory ringing for the capitulation of Italy caused the abandonment of a handbell peal at Bournemouth after about three quarters of an hour's excellent ringing.

Perhaps for the first time two handbell peals were rung in the same house simultaneously, these being accomplished at Glyn Garth, Surfleet, on Sunday, September 5th. They were Stedman Cinques and Bob Major.

Mr. W. H. Hewett, of London, had the honour of driving the bride and her father to church on the occasion of the Surfleet wedding.

Congratulations to Mr. Robert H. Brundle, who will reach his 92nd birthday to-morrow.

Charles Henry Hattersley was born on September 12th, 1844, and Charles D. P. Davies on September 12th, 1856. Both did fine work for the Exercise in their time and generation.

The first peal of Cambridge Court Bob Major was rung on handbells at Surfleet by the Cambridge University Guild on September 12th, 1922.

On the same date in 1928, the first peal of Kent Surprise Major was rung at Harlow Common by the Essex Association.

Shipway called the first peal of Imperial Place Major at St. Mary's, Islington, on September 13th, 1802.

Charles Middleton, whose name is so well known in connection with Cambridge Surprise Major, died at Norwich on September 14th, 1886.

The first peal of Bosmere Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on September 14th, 1933; and the first peal of Raunds Surprise Major at Bushey on September 15th, 1938.

The earliest recorded peal in Birmingham was one of Bob Major rung at St. Philip's on September 16th, 1755. This is the year from which the St. Martin's Youths date the foundation of their society.

The Cambridge University Guild rang a peal of Little Bob Royal at St. Sidwell's, Exeter, on September 16th, 1912. They had previously rung a peal in the method on handbells.

James W. Washbrook called 11,328 changes of London Surprise Major, at Drayton, on September 17th, 1896. This was the extent with the tenors together on the In and Fifth's plan. The peal was beaten by the 14,112 at King's Norton in 1903. There is still a longer composition to be rung, though it is only one lead longer.

The Leiston men rang the first peal of Essex Surprise Major at Leiston on September 17th, 1932.

The first peal of Court Bob Triples was rung at Warnham on September 18th, 1886. The method has never enjoyed the popularity it merits.

Fifty years ago last Tuesday, Mr. James Parker called his first peal of Surprise Major. It was Superlative at Crawley and was also Mr. Frederick Dench's first peal of Surprise.

### DEATH OF MR. F. COLE.

The death has occurred at the age of 39 at Gloucester of Mr. F. Cole from an accident in the course of his employment.

He learnt his early ringing at St. Peter's, Lytchett Minster, Dorset, and at Poole, where he was one of many instructed by Mr. F. G. Townsend. A pattern maker by trade, he became interested in aircraft and was employed at Cowes and Southampton in this capacity. After a while he was employed by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry and during his stay in London made many friends, ringing regularly at St. Andrew's, Holborn, with Mr. J. Hawkins.

For domestic reasons he returned to Poole. After the death of his wife at the beginning of the war, he became a civilian instructor to the R.A.F. and was employed at Gloucester. He resigned this work to take employment with a Gloucester aircraft firm, with whom he was employed at the time of his death. He married his second wife in Gloucester twelve months ago.

At St. Lawrence's Church, Barnwood, Gloucester, on September 10th, half-muffled Stedman Triples was rung to his memory by S. E. Romans, T. Newman, W. Yeend, C. Martin, G. Case, J. Austin, A. R. Macdonald, H. Newman and H. W. Austin.

### DIAMOND WEDDING OF MR. J. W. WILKINS.

To celebrate the diamond wedding of Mr. J. W. Wilkins, of High Wycombe, 459 Stedman Caters was rung by W. Plumridge 1, R. Coles 2, P. Newton 3, J. W. Wilkins (conductor) 4, C. A. Smith 5, E. Marham 6, G. Hinton 7, W. Welling 8, S. Goodchild 9, H. Wingrove 10.

Mr. Wilkins was married at Steventon, Berks, on August 20th 1883. He is now 80 years old and has been a ringer for 70 years. He learnt to ring at All Saints', Boyne Hill, which his father helped to build.

### MEETING AT WILBURTON.

A very pleasant evening was spent at Wilburton on Saturday, September 4th, when ringers were present from Fordham, Sutton, Ely, Chatteris and the local band. The following methods were rung: Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob Minor, Double Court, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Minor.

A meeting has been arranged to be held at Sutton on Saturday, September 25th, at 4 p.m.

**WEDDING.**

**MISS ENID RICHARDSON AND MR. BRIAN WAYMAN.**

A wedding of great interest to ringers took place at St. Lawrence's Church, Surfleet, on Saturday, September 4th, when Miss Enid Mary Richardson, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, of Glyn Garth, Surfleet, was married to Flight-Sergt. Ashley Joseph Brian Wayman, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wayman, of Blackmores Grove, Teddington, Middlesex.



**THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM.**

In Surfleet the bride is temporary captain of the Girl Guides, after being lieutenant of the Spalding High School Girl Guides. She is also a member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The bridegroom is attached to Fighter Command of the R.A.F. and has taken part in operations. Before transferring to the R.A.F. he was in the Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment, and was in action in France, ending in the Dunkirk evacuation. Prior to joining the Forces he was a ringer at All Saints', Isleworth.

The wedding ceremony was performed by the Vicar of Surfleet, the Rev. G. H. Clark. The music included the Bridal March from 'Lohengrin' and Mendelssohn's Wedding March, whilst the hymns sung during the service were 'Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost' and 'O perfect love,' as well as the psalm, 'I will lift up mine eyes.'

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a dress of white chiffon, with wreath of orange blossom, veil and silver shoes. She carried a shower bouquet of lily longiflorum and white heather, including a piece of the latter sent by Miss Wilson, sister of Mr. R. Wilson, secretary of the Holy Trinity, Hobart, Tasmania, Society of Ringers. The bridegroom was in his R.A.F. uniform. Mrs. D. L. Tomlinson (Surfleet) was matron of honour and Miss Jill Poole (Leicester) bridesmaid. They wore dresses of pale green organdie and carried bouquets of yellow roses and white heather. Flying Officer G. S. Thomas, cousin of the bridegroom, was best man.

The altar and screen were tastefully decorated with lilies and scabious by Miss Louisa Richardson, aunt of the bride.

The bridal party left the church through an avenue of ringers, holding handbells as an archway, whilst the Surfleet Girl Guides and Brownies formed a guard of honour. They were under the command of Mrs. Harvey, Assistant County Commissioner for Lincolnshire. At the same time the bells in the tower pealed out their joyful message of congratulation.

The reception was held at Glyn Garth, where just over a hundred guests were assembled. Besides the parents and other relatives of the bride and bridegroom there were present many friends from Surfleet and district, the employes of Mr. Richardson, and the following ringers and friends: Mr. and Mrs. J. Bray and Miss Enid Bray, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Coles, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Freeman and Mr. M. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Poole and Miss Jill Poole, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pulling, Mr. and Mrs. J. Walden, and Messrs. W. Ayre, W. H. Hewett, F. E. Pervin, J. E. Spice and A. Walker.

The toast of the bride and bridegroom was proposed by the best man, and the bridegroom, after responding, proposed the toast of the bridesmaids, to which the best man replied. Mr. Albert Walker proposed the health of the parents of the newly-married couple, and Mr. R. Richardson and Mr. J. S. Wayman responded. The Vicar proposed the toast of 'The Visitors,' which Mr. C. T. Coles acknowledged.

After the reception, the happy pair left for the honeymoon, which is being spent at an undisclosed destination. The bride wore a cherry marocain dress and white coat. Their home for the duration of the war will be at Glyn Garth, Surfleet.

There were a large number of presents, including many from ringing friends.

The ringing before the wedding ceremony was done by visiting ringers, and included touches of Stedman Caters and Cinques; whilst the ringing as the bridal party left the church, consisting of rounds and firing, was performed by the local ringers, assisted by visitors.

After the reception a peal of Stedman Cinques was rung, particulars of which will be found in its appropriate place, whilst on the following day handbell peals of Bob Royal, Stedman Cinques and Bob Major were accomplished. These peals were rung without interfering with Sunday service ringing. In the morning Stedman Caters and Cinques were rung, and for evensong, Stedman Caters and Cambridge Surprise Royal.

**GOLDEN WEDDING.**

On Saturday, August 28th, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fletcher, of Beaconsfield, celebrated their golden wedding. They were married in 1893 at St. Andrew's Church, Chinnor, Oxon.

Mr. Fletcher joined the Chinnor band in 1883 and is a member of various ringing guilds. He still takes part in Sunday service ringing at Beaconsfield.

The bells of St. Mary's, Beaconsfield, were rung, Mr. Fletcher and his three daughters taking part. A quarter-peal of Bob Major was accomplished by Miss M. Wingrove treble, Miss K. Fletcher 2, Miss D. Fletcher 3, the Rev. R. F. R. Routh 4, R. Buckland 5, W. Edwards 6, W. Lee 7, H. Wingrove (conductor) tenor.

An attempt on Saturday, September 4th, for a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major was lost within ten minutes of the end.

**OUR LOST BELLS.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Re 'Our Lost Bells' in current issue of 'The Ringing World,' I learn from the Rector of St. Sidwell's, Exeter, that nine of the bells are at Taylors, the 9th is undamaged. Five of the other eight are only partially damaged; three only are quite smashed up, but metal is saved. The tenor is still under the debris. Clyst St. George bells are still hanging in the tower. Whether any are cracked by heat of fire is not yet ascertained. Aveton Gifford eight bells were destroyed.

E. V. COX, President of Guild of Devonshire Ringers.  
The Rectory, Tedburn St. Mary.

**VICTORY BELLS.**

Victory bells were rung last week in many places on receipt of the news of the capitulation of Italy.

At Kington Magna, Dorset, the Rector, the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, soon got moving. Before 7 p.m. the village bells were rung in rounds and firing.

At St. Mary's, Putney, touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire: E. Cassell, A. Ford, H. W. Page, V. F. Gibbons, S. Croft, W. Winter, A. N. Other (Chesterfield).

At Truro, the Cathedral and Kenwyn bells were rung by request of the Mayor. Three generations of ringers, David J. Hurst, aged 10, his father and his grandfather, took part. As there is no black-out in the tower, the bells were rung by moonlight.

**CHILCOMPTON, SOMERSET.**—On Saturday, September 4th, 1,120 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Alec Munday (Radstock) 1, Tom Kimber (Hallabrow) 2, Ronald G. Beck (conductor) 3, John Downing (Hastings) 4, E. John Targett 5, Frederick A. Targett 6. Rung for the marriage of Mr. David Targett, a member of the local band, and Miss A. E. Kirton.

**ST. JAMES', BUSHEY.****THE CHURCH, BELLS AND RINGING.**

BY EDWIN JENNINGS.

There is a tradition that there has been a church on the site of St. James', Bushey, since Saxon times. That there was a chapel here in early times is evident from the fact that the deed granting the tithes to Bushey is dated between 1151 and 1168, i.e., during the abbacy of Robert of St. Albans. This early church was probably a wooden structure.

The earliest part of the present church is the chancel, which is thirty-seven feet long by seventeen feet wide, and was built about 1300 in the Early English style.

On either side of the interior is an arcade composed of three arches, resting upon slender, Purbeck marbled shafts. The lancet windows on the north and south sides (with the exception of one opening to the organ chamber) are of the same date. This latter window was no doubt for some reason substituted for a lancet window, probably when the nave was built.

The eastern triple lancet window was substituted in the place of a five-light square-headed window of the fifteenth century in 1870.

Along the two sides of the chancel there are stone seats. The rest of the furniture is modern.

In the north wall of the sanctuary is the large aumbrey which was restored by the Kynaston family, with the addition of a beautiful locally designed and carved oak door, executed by Mr. W. G. Whitehead, a local ringer. The roof of the chancel is modern, though the wall-plates are the original.

In the centre of the chancel hangs a very handsome candelabra which, before 1870, supplied the only artificial light for the whole church. It consists of two tiers of seven branches in each and a gilded dove above. It bears the following inscription: 'The gift of Richard Capper, Esq., at the request of Elizabeth, his wife, A.D. 1727.'

There are two very handsome Renaissance silver candlesticks on the altar (*circa* 1700), the gift of rector Falconer in the nineteenth century.

There is no chancel arch separating the chancel from the nave.

Above the modern Rood-screen is a large fifteenth century cambered beam supporting a plastered partition, on which are painted the arms of Queen Anne, probably executed during the restoration by rector Richard Smith, 1693-1739. On the east side of this partition are three panels painted in Jacobean times, showing a representation of the Shechinah (The Divine Glory), supported on either side by angels.

The nave is fourteenth century, the arcades are new. The arches and columns are copied from one originally existing on the north side. A small section of the

original moulding, which has been copied in the 1870 mouldings, can be seen built into the capital of the westernmost of the columns on the north of the nave.

The north doorway is modern and square-headed. Within it is inserted a timber frame with panelled spandrels in the perpendicular style and of fifteenth century date on the west of the door there has been preserved, though much battered, the old Benatura, or Stoup, for holy water. The wrought iron furniture on the door is beautifully modelled, the key-hole cover being a representation of St. George and the Dragon, and the lift of the latch on the aisle side a galloping horse.

The nave has a fifteenth century roof, a fine specimen of alternate hammer-beam and lie-beam type with large projecting brackets. Prior to 1870 this roof was hidden by lath and plaster—the joints of the lath nails can still be seen in the roof timbers.

The pulpit is a very handsome example of Jacobean work of the early part of the seventeenth century.

The glass in the windows of the chancel, aisles and tower is all modern and does not call for any comment.

In the clergy vestry (added in 1897) there is a window of two lights on the east side, being a relic of the old church and of the fifteenth century. In it are preserved, in old glass, four shields of arms. The first, with the date 1611, commemorates Sir James Altham, one of the barons of the Exchequer, whose memorial is to be found at Oxhey Chapel. The second, with date 1638, is for John Gale, who presented the existing old Communion plate and gave 'The Gale Charity.' The third is probably the coat of arms of Sir Thomas Egerton (Lord Ellsmere), Lord High Chancellor. The fourth, unidentified, was discovered in 1902 in a Bushey carpenter's box in small pieces.

All the glass in the north and east sides were damaged beyond repair by enemy action in October, 1940.

The tower, which was refaced in 1869-70, is embattled, with a west doorway and some original windows remaining. It is in the perpendicular style of the beginning of the fifteenth century. The ascent is by a newel stairway, carried up to a turret on the north-east side, and is entered by a four-centred doorway on the north side of the tower.

(To be continued.)

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.  
MEETING AT SOBERTON.**

Although owing to unforeseen circumstances only 14 members attended the meeting of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at Soberton on September 4th, the gathering was a success from the learners' point of view, several of them ringing their first course of Grandsire Triples.

Tea was served in the White Lion and a meeting was held, the Vicar of Soberton being in the chair, supported by the Ringing Master (Mr. George Williams), the general secretary (Mr. F. W. Rogers) and the district secretary (Mr. R. J. Stone).

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Fareham on Saturday, January 15th. The general secretary proposed that a letter should be sent to each tower asking them to support the meeting. Votes of thanks to the Vicar and organist were passed. The methods included Grandsire, Stedman and Bob Major.

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## CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

In the greater English cathedrals, monastic or collegiate churches, the principal feature was the presence of a central tower, often combined with one or two western towers. These were the natural outcome of the cruciform plan, as facilitating the roof of a church with transepts, especially when the latter were lower than the nave and chancel.

At Claremont-Ferrand there was built in the year 510, in a church of secondary rank, a central tower 'with a great luxury of materials and profiles.' Both in Anglo-Saxon England and Normandy a central tower is almost always present in the greater churches. In the early Christian churches of Gaul, central towers were in existence as early as the 6th century, when they were open structures of wood, evidently lantern towers. Even when the central tower ceased to be constructed of wood, its use as a lantern still survived. To be of any use, however, for lighting purposes, the central tower needed to be very broad, and to be pierced with large windows set low down. As a rule it was lofty and narrow and its windows were often small.

The lower storey of such towers were often given elaborate ornament, as at Winchester, Pershore, Lincoln and elsewhere, all of which are decorated with elaborate arcading unnoticeable from below. Even the angel tower of Canterbury, though its windows are of great size, makes very little impression when seen from within. Of all our central towers, only two, perhaps, have decided artistic value *inside* the building, York Minster with its broad square tower of stone, and Ely Cathedral with yet more spacious octagonal lantern of wood.

Though a type of Saxon central tower occurs at Breamore in Hampshire and elsewhere, the pre-Conquest builder did not normally possess the skill to construct one on piers connected by arches. It was not until Norman methods had gained the ascendancy just before the Conquest, that churches with transepts and a central tower, supported only at its angle, came into being, as can be seen on quite a large scale at St. Mary-in-the-Castle, Dover. [See my article on Twin Towers, p. 292.]

When the Normans had firmly established themselves in this country, the true cruciform plan began to assert itself, not only in larger buildings, but in quite modest sized parish churches. The central towers were for the most part short and sturdy, as at Newhaven and Melbourne (heightened at a later date), though exceptions occur, as at St. John's, Devizes, Wiltshire; Old Shoreham, Sussex; and the fine structure at Castor in Northamptonshire, with its three tiers of rich arcading, and many others, notably in Devon and Cornwall. Often we find the bell tower detached, even in the greater churches, built specifically lest the central tower, poised not too securely on the arches of the crossing, should be

endangered. As has already been shown, Salisbury Cathedral (p. 517, Nov. 13th, 1942) possessed a magnificent detached campanile with a picturesque wooden top, which was destroyed in 1789.

At Norwich there was a detached bell tower to the south of Erpingham Gate, and it appears from the Sacrists' rolls that it contained a ring of bells in addition to that in the central tower of the cathedral. St. Paul's Cathedral had a campanile containing the 'Jesus' bells, which was demolished at the Reformation. Other similar instances occur at Worcester, Westminster and Tewkesbury. Chichester is the only English cathedral retaining its detached campanile.

Another objection is that the piers of the central tower were usually so very broad that they obstructed the main vista of the church. Internally, at any rate, the central tower was little valued in later days, and was closed up by vaulting. This occurred at Gloucester, Wells, Winchester and other places. But, though of little value as a lantern, it was magnificently impressive from outside. So much was this appreciated that at Wells, the central tower erected c. 1200, was given a second storey early in the 14th century, and at Lincoln the central tower of 1238 was similarly heightened in 1307. Other such instances occur at Durham and elsewhere. The four piers at the entrance of the transepts are the weak point in every cruciform church and, in spite of all precautions, a central tower was always a source of danger in the greater churches. It did not rest on solid walls, but on open arches, and its great weight often of thousands of tons, tended to rupture the piers, and unless the foundations were exceptionally good, tore them away from nave, choir and transepts. Several central towers actually did fall—Winchester in 1107; Worcester in 1175; Bury St. Edmunds 1210; Evesham 1213; Lincoln 1237; Ely 1321; Selby 1690. Others had to be taken down and rebuilt, as at Peterborough. Sometimes they were strengthened by strainer arches, as at Salisbury and Canterbury, and occasionally these were inverted, as at Wells and Glastonbury. Similar precautions can be seen in the churches of Finedon and Rushden in Northants. From others their original wooden spires have had to be removed, as at Hereford, Lincoln and Ripon. Others, like St. David's, Sherborne, St. Albans, Rochester and elsewhere, have had to be considerably strengthened and underpinned.

In Llandaff Cathedral the central tower was dispensed with altogether, as also at Exeter in the 12th century, and Ottery St. Mary in the 14th, in both of which there were built towers at the end of each transept. [See my articles pp. 313 and 204/5.] Other churches were built with transepts but without a central tower, as at Acton Burnell, Salop; St. Mary's, Shrewsbury; St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, etc. Impressive cruciform churches with central towers of the 13th century are at Amesbury, Wilts; Witney and Bampton, Oxon; Uffington, Berks, and elsewhere. (To be continued.)

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**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Annual festival at Christ Church, Crewe, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Meeting at 5.30 in Christ Church Parish Hall. Cups of tea supplied. Bring own food.—H. Parker, 64, Church Road, Northwich.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—A practice meeting at Blofield on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea in Margaret Harker Hall 4.30 p.m. Bring own food. Buses leave Norwich 2.15, Yarmouth 2.30.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (12) from 4 to 6.30 p.m. No arrangements for tea. Identity cards may be needed.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—North and East District.—Meeting at St. John's, Stanmore, on Saturday, Sept. 18th, at 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—General meeting at Sandal, near Wakefield, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. General Committee in Vestry at 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea (1s. 9d. per head) and business meeting in the Endowed Schools 5 p.m.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Northaw on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 3 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided at the Hut. Buses from Potter's Bar Garage every 30 minutes.—R. W. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—Meeting at Wolvey, Saturday Sept. 18th. Bells (6) during afternoon and evening. Tea in Village Hall, 5 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Horsham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells at 3 p.m.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Terrington St. Clement on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5. Bring own food.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western Division.—Meeting at Lyminster on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (6) 3. Service 4, followed by tea and meeting at the Vicarage.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—Meeting at Ripley, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 2 p.m.—W. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—Meeting at Witham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Bring own food. Cups of tea provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Annual Meeting at Clent, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District.—Meeting at Knebworth, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, 5 p.m., Lytton Hall.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Canterbury District.—Annual district meeting at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting.—B. J. Luek, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Great Waltham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) during afternoon and evening. Service 4.30. Tea and business afterwards.—H. W. Shadrack, 48, Harbour Lane, Chelmsford.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—Meeting at Enderley, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8). Ringing 3 p.m.—H. D. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Bispham on Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring own food.—J. H. Foster, Branch Sec.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Biggleswade, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Bells (8) 3 p.m.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**—Meeting at Exeter, Sept. 18th. Service St. Mary Majors, Cathedral Yard, 4 p.m. Tea at Western's Cafe, Bridge Street, 4.45, 1s. 3d. each. Numbers by Sept. 13th.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Swanage. Dedication of bells Saturday, Sept. 18th, at 3.15 p.m. Ringing after the service and from about 6 to 7. Tea at Oriental Cafe, 5 p.m.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, on Sept. 25th, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. Sunday service ringing at Stepney, Sept. 19th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Ranworth on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 (additions to food welcomed). Buses leave Norwich 12.5 and 4.30, also 12.30 for Panxworth; return 7.27 p.m. Names for tea by Sept. 20th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

**DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting in the Miners' Hall, Durham, on Saturday, Sept. 25th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at Dunelm Cafe, Old Elvet, 2/6 5.0 p.m.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.**—Quarterly meeting at Edgbaston Parish Church on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells (8) at 3.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5.15. Names not later Sept. 22nd.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 25th, at Deane, Bolton. Bells at The Saviour and Holy Trinity, Bolton, available. Service at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Meeting at 6 p.m.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester, 14, T. Wilson, 118, Langham Road, Blackburn, Hon. Secs.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Great Bentley, Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business at the Plough Inn 4.45. Names for tea by Wednesday, Sept. 22nd, to me at 'Woodhill,' Stratford St. Mary, Colchester.—L. Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—Meeting at Kingston-on-Thames on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 3.30 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Tea and meeting following. Names for tea not later than Sept. 22nd to Mr. H. W. Barrett, 22, Firdene, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Newark on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 3 p.m. Own arrangements for tea. Short service at 5.50 p.m.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Braunston (6), Saturday, Sept. 25th. Notify me for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT MEETING.**—Meeting at Idle, Saturday, Sept. 25th, 3 p.m. Tea provided. Bring own food.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—Meeting at Framlingham, Saturday, Sept. 25th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at Simpson's Restaurant, 4.30, for those sending me p.c. by 23rd.—W. E. Maulden, 14, Market Hill, Framlingham.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Cheltenham Branch.—Meeting at Prestbury on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting 5. Names for tea before Sept. 22nd.—Walter Yeend, Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern Division.—Meeting at St. John's, Southover, Lewes, on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea, 5 p.m., Church Hall. Tea only for those who notify me by Wednesday, Sept. 22nd.—E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Cheddar on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting in Church House 5 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Beaconsfield on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells 4 to 7 p.m. Bring tea.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—Meeting at Barnby Don on Saturday, Sept. 25th, at 3 p.m. Names by Sept. 21st.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec., 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Meeting at Abingdon on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Bells: St. Helen's (10), St. Nicholas' (6) 3 p.m. Service, St. Nicholas', 3.30 p.m. Tea for those who notify me by Sept. 22nd.—M. R. Cross, The School House, Radley, Abingdon.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—Opening of new 'Central Training School for Ringers' (electrical installation) at St. John's, City, Saturday, Sept. 25th, 3.30

p.m. Tea and meeting at St. Peter's Parish Rooms, Castle Green, 4.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. W. S. Emery, 34, Waverley Road, Bristol 6.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Acton, Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells 2.30 p.m. Short service 5 p.m. The Rector hopes to provide tea and sandwiches. Ringing (probably) at St. Mary's, Ealing, in the evening. Names to J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke, Edgehill Road, W.13.

**SUTTON-ON-TRENT, NOTTS.**—Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (8) afternoon and evening. Cups of tea provided. Bring own food.

**WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Upton-on-Severn on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business at 5 o'clock. Names before Sept. 28th.—E. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

**SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at St. James', Paisley, on Saturday, Oct. 2nd, at 2.30 p.m. Notify Mr. Neil Sharpe, 35, Argyle Street, Paisley, by Sept. 29th for tea.—E. A. Stafford, Deputy Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Wellingborough Branch.—Meeting at Great Doddington, Saturday, Oct. 2nd. Bells (5). Service 4.30. Tea, free to those who advise F. Barber, Fairlawn, Doddington Ridge, Wellingborough, by Sept. 28th.

**ST. PETER'S, SOUTH CROYDON (10 bells).**—Practice, Monday, 7.45 to 9 p.m. Sunday ringing, 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.—Chas. Dean.

## LEANING TOWERS.

### A FOOTNOTE TO MR. 'MORRIS' RECENT ARTICLE.

Among the lesser known leaning towers it is worthy of note that at Barcheston, near Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, St. Martin's Church, built in the reign of Edward I. (A.D. 1281) and consecrated in 1291, has a tower some 18 inches from the perpendicular. It contains three bells, and although there are pits for four in the frame, there does not seem to have ever been more than three bells hung there. The first says, 'Mathew Bagley made mee 1775.' The second, dated 1720, has two trademarks (a) plain circle with R.S. and a bell, (b) bell surrounded by words 'Richard Sanders made me'; the third says 'Bartholomew Attvn made mee 1596.'

At Podington, Bedfordshire, there is a leaning spire (with four bells) and Godalming, Surrey, central spire also is slightly out of plumb. Here are eight bells, tenor 24 cwt. and, like many central towers, there are no windows in the ringing room. Brafield, Northants, tower, which is supported by a stout buttress, and contains five bells rehung 1937, also leans. Other examples might be quoted.

**DARTFORD, KENT.**—On Saturday, September 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Ball 1, J. E. Bailey (conductor) 2, R. Constant 3, T. Wake 4, H. Raynor 5, N. Summerhayes 6, H. Hovard 7, E. Barnett 8. Rung for the wedding of the Rev. D. Kidd, curate at Holy Trinity Church, Dartford.

**CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.**—On Thursday, August 5th, at the Priory Church, 1,245 Grandsire Caters: George Preston (conductor) 1, Miss C. Sparshott 2, A. F. Martin Stewart 3, E. V. Hinton 4, Mrs. Williams 5, E. Waters 6, E. T. Griffin 7, — Sparshott 8, A. V. Davis 9, H. Gillard 10. Rung to mark the ferment of the Vicar of Bournemouth, Canon Hedley Burrows, to be Archdeacon of Winchester and Canon Residentiary of the Cathedral.

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