



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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

THE PAST.

When recently a correspondent in one of the leading daily newspapers wrote that 'we should acknowledge our debt to the past, and then shut the door on it,' he was saying what perhaps the majority of men are inclined to think, especially in times like this, though they seldom put their thoughts into such clear and unmistakable words as he did. The past is dead and done with; for good and for evil it is finished; its record has been written once and for all, and is unalterable; 'nor all thy piety nor wit can lure it back to cancel half a line, nor all thy tears blot out a word of it.' The present is ours, and, if we will, the future. Let us then, 'forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before,' pay attention to what we still can do and leave alone what we and others have already done.

There is sound advice and sound sense here, and in the spirit which informs these opinions lies in no small measure the hope for the individual, for the nation, and for humanity itself. But a truth, however great, seldom stands by itself, and not seldom, when isolated and pushed beyond its proper limits, ceases to be a real truth. However much we may try to 'shut the door' on the past, it still remains that we are what we are because of the past, and we run great risks of disappointment and failure if we neglect the lessons it has to teach us, nor can those lessons be learnt without long and careful study. Wisdom, indeed, is nothing else than understanding the lessons of the past and being able to apply them to present circumstances.

These thoughts are vital in the present critical times, but what, our readers may ask, have they to do with our particular subject of church bellringing? Surely, men may think, it savours somewhat of the grandiloquent to bring into connection with our small and limited activities in the belfry, thoughts which are appropriate to the world crisis.

Now it is true that change ringing and even the general use of bells is hardly a ripple on the broad sea of national life, and for many ringers is no more than a small part of their interests and activities; but it is also true that great truths are just as applicable to small things as they are to great things. It is a feature of the Exercise that it reproduces on its small scale the general characteristics of the nation at large, and has been influenced, and developed, and controlled, by the same

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forces working in much the same way. And, after all, bellringing is something more than just a means of calling people to church or a fascinating art and pastime. It has its roots deep down in the history, and life, and being of the people. The Exercise, no less than the nation and the Church, has come to a turning point in its history. It has great opportunities before it, and it can only make the best of them if those who are its leaders and who most influence its members know something of its past and the lessons it has to teach.

This must be the justification (if any justification is needed) for the prominence we have given in these pages to the stories of the men who were concerned with bells and bellringing in the years gone by. We might plead that during these five years of war, when there has been so little of the news which ordinarily fills a ringing journal, we have been glad to avail ourselves of anything which might interest our readers; but we put the case much higher than that. We believe that the study of the history of the Exercise is not only interesting in itself but is of real value in solving the problems and carrying on the activities of the present. We are now trying to describe something of a man who at one time had a great influence on the status of ringers and their relations with the Church and public. When we come to study what Thomas Henry Ellacombe said and wrote about the ringers of his own time, and when we bring it into conjunction with the full story of ringers and ringing, we shall know a very great deal more about the things which really do concern the life of the Exercise and its well-being.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, August 8, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes.

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	JOHN THOMAS 5-6
ALBERT J. WALLMAN 3-4	*BRYAN F. SIMS 7-8

Composed by I. J. ATTWATER. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

* First handbell peal.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes.

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5010 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN 1-2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 7-8
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH 9-10
MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6	DENNIS H. LANGDON 11-12

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

First peal of Stedman Cinques in hand by all except the conductor.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes.

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5093 CHANGES;

ERIC A. DENCH 1-2	MRS. J. THOMAS 5-6
ALBERT J. WALLMAN 3-4	JOHN THOMAS 7-8
PHILIP COWARD 9-10	

Composed by J. D. JOHNSON. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

A birthday peal for the ringer of 5-6.

BEKESBOURNE, KENT. — On Thursday, August 10th, 720 Bob Minor: T. Robinson 1, Harrison Smith 2, T. E. Ellender 3, J. Walters 4, H. J. Saunders 5, C. Turner (conductor) 6.

TEN BELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, August 5, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PHILIP,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 31 cwt.

ERNEST T. ALLAWAY Treble	THOMAS H. REEVES 6
GEORGE E. FEARN 2	WILLIAM C. DOWDING 7
HENRY H. FEARN 3	FRANK E. PERVIN 8
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD 4	ALBERT DISERENS 9
ALBERT WALKER 5	WILFRED WILLIAMS Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYE. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.

First peal of Cambridge Royal in the tower.

STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 7, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb.

SYDNEY TAYLOR Treble	DONALD G. CLIFT 6
GEORGE OLLIVER 2	JOHN E. SPICE 7
JOHN AUSTIN 3	NEIL ALLNATT 8
WILFRED WILLIAMS 4	CHARLES W. MARTIN 9
WALTER YEEND 5	ALBERT DISERENS Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt. in D.

FRED HODGSON Treble	ERNEST RAYNOR 6
WILLIAM H. SENIOR 2	WILLIAM AMBLER 7
*LESLIE W. G. MORRIS 3	WILLIAM BARTON 8
J. WILLIAM CUNDALL 4	ERNEST H. SIMPSON 9
*GEORGE ROBINSON 5	FREDERICK SEAGER Tenor

Composed by G. R. NEWTON. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS

* 60th peal together. Rung half-muffled for Mr. Arthur Gill, of the Bradford Cathedral company.

CLAINES, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*ALLEN WHITE Treble	JOHN E. SPICE 6
MISS MARIE R. CROSS 2	§E. S. JOHN HATCHER 7
†MISS BETTY SPICE 3	REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 8
‡WILLIAM L. B. LEASE 4	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG 9
‡VERNON J. BENNING 5	REV. A. G. G. THURLOW Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal on ten tower bells. ‡ First peal on tower bells. § First peal. || First peal of Caters on tower bells. First peal on ten tower bells as conductor. The first peal on ten tower bells and the first of Caters for the association.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

MAJOR J. H. FREEBORN Treble	RONALD H. BULLEN 5
MISS VALHALLA HILL 2	WILLIAM C. PORTER 6
REV. JOHN P. PELLOR 3	WALTER F. JUDGE 7
CHARLES J. GARDNER 4	PHILIP A. CORBY Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by P. A. CORBY.

HALLOW, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 6, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,
 AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PHILIP AND JAMES,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S SIX-PART (C.C.C. No. 13).		Tenor 21½ cwt.	
WILLIAM RANFORD Treble	* THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. ... 5	GEORGE E. LARGE 2	REGINALD WOODYATT ... 6
ALLEN MORGAN 3	* GEORGE AMBLER 7	ERNEST F. CUBBERLY 4	CHRIS. F. BLISSETT Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal in the method.

LITTLEPORT, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 7, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

PHILIP A. CORBY Treble	CHARLES J. GARDNER 5	* MISS VALHALLA HILL 2	RONALD H. BULLEN 6
REV. JOHN P. FELLOE 3	WALTER F. JUDGE 7	WILLIAM C. PORTER 4	MAJOR J. H. FREEBORN ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOKE. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal in the method.

HANBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 8, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. in G.

JAMES WOODYATT Treble	RALPH W. SAYERS 5	GEORGE E. LARGE 2	ERNEST F. CUBBERLY 6
ALLEN MORGAN 3	SIDNEY T. HOLT 7	WILLIAM RANFORD 4	CHRIS. F. BLISSETT Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, August 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
 AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

(On the 'Stelfox' eight)

* RICHARD GRANT Treble	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ... 5	* MISS JILL POOLE 2	SIDNEY O. CHENEY 6
HAROLD J. POOLE 3	* ARTHUR DEBENHAM 7	* JOHN R. SMITH 4	ERNEST MORRIS Tenor

Composed and Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal in the method. A birthday compliment to Miss Margaret L. Morris.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, August 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt. 9 lb.

CECIL W. BAKER Treble	EDWARD C. GOBEY 5	CHARLES HUTCHINSON 2	R. ALAN HICKTON 6
WILLIAM T. KING 3	WILLIAM DAWSON 7	GIRLING RIGBY 4	EDWARD F. GOBEY Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by WILLIAM DAWSON.

First peal as conductor. A birthday compliment to Mr. E. C. Gobey.

FARNHAM, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION. Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.

GEORGE UPSHALL Treble	WILLIAM J. ROBINSON 5	GEORGE L. GROVER 2	ERNEST J. MUNDAY 6
FREDERICK OLDROYD 3	ALFRED H. PULLING 7	ERNEST J. AYLIFFE 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

PRITCHARD'S FOUR-PART.		Tenor 16 cwt.	
* JEAN BROOMFIELD (age 14) Treble	C. ALFRED LEVETT 5	WILLIAM HIBBERT 2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT 6
JOHN M. GAYFORD 3	FRANK H. HICES 7	GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE ... 4	GEORGE GILBERT Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

* First attempt for a peal.

SEELY OAK, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

* JOHN N. LINDON Treble	JAMES F. HARVEY 5	HENRY H. FEARN 2	WILLIAM C. DOWDING 6
* JOHN PINFOLD 3	GEORGE E. FEARN 7	* RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 4	WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT ... Tenor

Composed by G. LANDOFF. Conducted by WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT

* First peal in the method.

SIX BELL PEALS.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, August 2, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being six 120's each of St. Simon's, Reverse Canterbury, St. Dunstan's, London Singles, Antelope, Plain Bob and Grandsire. Tenor 7½ cwt.

* MRS. G. WAREHAM Treble	WILLIAM C. SHUTE 4	* MISS PEGGY MARSH 2	* HAROLD E. WHITE 5
* LIONEL H. PINK 3	* GEORGE WAREHAM Tenor	Conducted by HAROLD E. WHITE.	

* First peal in seven methods.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, August 7, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 7½ cwt.

* MRS. G. WAREHAM Treble	* DR. A. M. CUNNINGHAM ... 4	* REGINALD RING 2	WILLIAM C. SHUTE 5
LIONEL H. PINK 3	HAROLD E. WHITE Tenor	Conducted by WILLIAM C. SHUTE.	

* First peal of Mjnor. Rung half-muffled for the Rev. J. A. R. Swaby, Rector of St. Mary's from 1917 to 1939.

BARROW-ON-HUMBER, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, August 11, 1944, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

* WILLIAM HOWSON Treble	W. MARTIN WALKER 4	NOLAN GOLDEN 2	ARTHUR CROWDER 5
* GEORGE F. BURTON 3	GEORGE DOBBS Tenor	Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.	

* First attempt for a peal. The ringers of second and third are in the R.A.F. and from Norwich and Desborough respectively.

WHICKHAM, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Oxford Bob and four of Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

* SIDNEY BUCKTON Treble	* STANLEY PROUD 4	* STEPHEN THOMPSON, JUN. 2	* JOHN JACKSON 5
* ERNEST CAIRNS 3	STEPHEN THOMPSON Tenor	Conducted by STEPHEN THOMPSON.	

* First peal.

'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.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,
'The Ringing World,'
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Guildford, Surrey.

'The Ringing World' is sent direct by post from the office for 4s. 3d. per quarter payable in advance, but for the time being, owing to paper shortage, new orders cannot be accepted. We shall be obliged if subscribers will send their payments to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, 3a, King's Road, Bramhope, near Leeds, Yorks.

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

The name of the ringer of the fourth in the peal of Doubles at Kempsey is Charles J. Camm, not Charles J. Cann as printed last week. Correspondents are asked to write their reports clearly and in the standard form adopted in our columns.

Mr. Frederick Oldroyd was the member of the band who rang his first peal of Stedman at Guildford on August 7th.

The Rev. E. S. Powell, Vicar of Staverton and Master of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, has been appointed Rural Dean of Daventry.

DEATH OF TWO CHELTENHAM RINGERS.

Two Cheltenham ringers have recently passed away. Mr. Charles Moulder, who was a member of the five-bell band at St. Mark's, was buried on August 5th. He was 87 years of age. The bells were rung half-muffled in the evening.

Police-Sergt. E. A. Aston was a member of the company at the Parish Church. The funeral was on August 8th and the bells were rung half-muffled before and after the service. The interment was at Prestbury Churchyard. Six members of the Gloucestershire Constabulary acted as bearers.

DEATH OF PETER A. BLAMEY, R.A.F.

The funeral took place on August 5th at St. Peter's Church, Burnham, Bucks, of Peter A. Blamey, who had died on the previous Tuesday at Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, following an operation.

He learned to handle a bell in 1935 at the age of 15 and rang his first peal on October 19th, 1936. In all he took part in 15 peals, the last in March, 1940, when he was engaged in boy's service in the R.A.F. He was away in the Middle East for three years. His peals were: Minor, three methods 1, four methods 1, seven methods 3; Grandsire Triples 1, Bob Major 4, St. Clement's College Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 2, Oxford Treble Bob Major 2. Eight were rung for the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths and seven for the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Six were by all-Burnham bands.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Wildman; the body was carried to its last resting place by brother airmen, and the girl ringers of Burnham rang rounds and Queens on handbells at the graveside, and the whole pull and stand and touches on the tower bells. Among the numerous floral tributes was one from the ringers of the St. Peter's Society, Burnham.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**MEETING AT DRIFHLINGTON.**

A meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society, held at Drifhlington on July 29th, was attended by members from Armley, Batley, Birstall, Drifhlington, Guiseley, Headingley St. Chad, Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Liversedge, Wakefield and ringing friends from Handsworth, Messrs. Brothwell and Turley.

After tea the business meeting was held in the belfry, Mr. W. H. Senior presiding. Thanks were given to the Vicar and churchwardens and to Mr. Barrow; and the next meeting was fixed for Calverley on August 26th.

A suggestion was made that an additional meeting should be held at Ilkley, but it was decided that owing to present circumstances it had better be postponed until happier times.

THE MONTH'S PEALS

During the month of July, 47 peals were rung, 31 of them on tower bells and 16 on handbells.

The tower bell peals consisted of Grandsire Doubles 3, Triples 3; Plain Bob Doubles 1, Minor 3, Major 5; Kent Treble Bob Major 1; Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major 1; Stedman Triples 1, Cinques 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major 1; Cambridge Surprise Major 1; Royal 1; Superlative Surprise Major 1; London Surprise Major 1; Spliced Cambridge, Superlative, Bristol and London Surprise Major 1; Minor, four methods 2, five methods 1, seven methods 1; Doubles, seven methods 1.

The handbell peals consisted of Grandsire Doubles 1, Triples 4, Caters 1; Bob Doubles 1, Major 3; Kent Treble Bob Major 1; Stedman Triples 1, Caters 3, Cinques 1.

The number of peals in January was 50, in February 34, in March 37, in April 48, in May 41, and in June 34; making a total for the year (so far) of 291.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I notice in your report of the Derby District meeting at Ripley on July 22nd that I am reported as saying that we (the Nottingham District) favoured a separate Guild to allow us to organise the North Notts area. To a certain extent this is so, but it is such a highly condensed statement of my remarks that it may easily convey a false impression to those who did not hear actually what was said. I reported that our members appeared to favour the idea of a separate Guild, and were of the opinion that it would stimulate closer co-operation with the North Notts Association, and so create a more efficient organisation for the diocese (or county), a much different aim to that which your report suggests.

I am doubly anxious for this point to be made clear, as I have heard several questions put as to how the possible splitting up of the Midland Counties Association would affect other societies in the area. Surely, especially in our present state when many towers are minus half their company, co-operation is the key to the restoration of the art to its pre-war standing, and that is solely what I am advocating for the Notts district.

Nottingham.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

ST. CLEMENT'S BOB TRIPLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some years ago I rang in a peal and sent the report to 'The Ringing World' as 'St. Clement's Triples.' It was published as 'St. Clement's Bob Triples.' In this week's issue I see the same method is called 'St. Clement's Bob Triples.' This appears to me to be incorrect, as it is not an extension of St. Clement's Bob Minor with seconds place and blows behind at the treble lead. If the method with thirds place is correctly called St. Clement's Bob Triples, what is the name of it when rung with seconds place?

Also could you include in the article on seven-bell ringing a chapter on what can be done in splicing various seven-bell methods? Can an extent be obtained? And, if so, would you publish the figures?

C. A. LEVETT.

Feranda, Bath Road, Taplow, Bucks.

(Reference to this letter will be found in an article on page 346.)

RECONSTRUCTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your excellent leader on this subject and the power of the architects, I deplore the note of despair in your remark, 'It is hard to say what remedy can be had.' Your arguments from the ringers' point of view are weighty and there is no reason why the ringer should not be as powerful as the architect.

Ringers form part of the organisation of every large parish and of the Church as a whole. They are treated with respect and their advice listened to through the mouthpiece of their experienced captain or foreman.

The Diocesan Ringing Master is a power. He is usually on the Advisory Committee and is consulted by the dignitaries of the Church on belfry matters.

The Central Council of Church Bellringers has a tremendous influence on all matters connected with church bells.

The clergyman holds the key of the situation on everything to do with his church. He it is who raises the money for bells and belfry whereby the architect is paid. Thousands of clergy are ringers or take a deep interest in ringing. Every incumbent is proud of his bells and ringers and here is an infallible remedy against mistakes in tower and belfry construction.

The bishops also are a strong buttress for the ringers and their point of view. I have read most excellent episcopal addresses to large bodies of ringers. Their sympathy, I feel sure, will always outweigh the vagaries of an architect.

The diocesan architect is always a reasonable and approachable man and is one of us. To get him to see the ringers' difficulties is a strong remedy.

We must not get faint-hearted with such forces at our disposal.

Washfield Rectory, Tiverton.

J. M. TURNER.

THOMAS HENRY ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 325.)

Ellacombe was the earliest of that group of men who surveyed the church bells of England, county by county, and published records of their inscriptions, dates and founders in the books that most ringers are familiar with. There were, of course, other and much greater antiquarians before him, some of whom gave accounts of particular bells among the things they noticed; but he was the first to treat of bells systematically as a subject complete in itself. What directed his attention to this subject we are not told, nor how early his interest was aroused; but we may conclude it arose from the nature of the man and the particular time and circumstances in which he lived. He was clearly one of those men to whom things of the past appeal because they do belong to the past, and altogether apart from any utility they may have or any light they may throw on modern life and conduct. His early years were spent at a time when a great change was coming over the opinions of men. The eighteenth century had passed and with it most of its ideals and standards. The poetry and novels of Walter Scott were one of many things which were turning some men's minds towards the Middle Ages and its romance, and chivalry, and religious faith; while at the same time others were looking to the future and working for parliamentary and social reform. Great changes in Church and State were approaching. When Ellacombe was at Oxford, Oriel was the chief centre of the intellectual life of the University. It was not until after his time that the Oxford Movement began, for John Keble was not elected a fellow of the college until shortly before he went down, and E. B. Pusey and John Henry Newman not until some years later. Ellacombe had no part in the Oxford Movement, but that it influenced him and altered his whole outlook on Church matters is certain. He would have agreed that the best remedy for the evils of his days was a return to the faith and order which existed before the Reformation, and his natural instincts as an antiquarian and his instincts as a churchman led him to value and take an interest in those things which had survived from the Middle Ages. Such a man could not have been unsusceptible to the sound of church bells, 'that peculiar creation of mediæval age, which falls on the ear like an echo of a vanished world.'

The picture Ellacombe and those who thought like him drew of the faith and order of the Middle Ages was a rather vague and idealised one and did not accurately represent the facts, but it was vivid enough and real enough to supply the explanation of much that he said and wrote.

But Ellacombe was not merely an antiquarian. He was eminently a practical man of action, and he came to the subject on which he was to be the great authority first of all as a country parson who had to deal with ringers. It was the ringers of his parish (and elsewhere) and their conduct that first engaged his attention, and then the ringing they did. Change ringing had not much

interest for him, nor quality of striking, nor those things that ringers set store by. What he was concerned with was the reasons for ringing, the occasions on which it should be practised, and generally those questions which brought the ringers and the parson into contact. Of this we shall have something to say later.

It is impossible to say conclusively, but it is not unlikely that it was the three ancient bells he found at Clyst St. George which definitely interested him in the archæology of Devon bells, and induced him to undertake his great task of making a survey of all the towers in the county. It was a stupendous undertaking, for the county is one of the largest in England, and at that time he had no means of reaching the different churches other than by driving there in his own carriage. It took him long to accomplish, but he did accomplish it, visiting every tower and taking the inscriptions and particulars of every ring of bells, except two, to which for some reasons he was denied access.

Ellacombe ultimately published the results of his labours in his 'Church Bells of Devon,' which appeared in 1872, but long before that he was widely known as the great authority on bells through his writings in 'Notes and Queries' and 'The Ecclesiologist,' by his sermons, and by his tract on Belfry reform which he called 'Practical Remarks on Belfries and Ringers.' The first book on the archæology of bells was C. W. Lukis' 'Church Bells,' which was an incomplete survey of Wiltshire with some remarks on bells, bell founders and bellringers generally. It appeared in 1857, and was followed by Dr. A. D. Tyssen's 'Sussex Church Bells' in 1864, and Dr. J. J. Raven's 'Church Bells of Cambridgeshire' in 1869. Earlier still in 1847 Dr. Alfred Gatty, a voluminous writer on church matters, had published a little book called 'The Bell, its origin, history, and uses,' which was intended for popular reading.

Meanwhile, the survey of the Devonshire bells absorbed only a part of Ellacombe's energies. Besides his splendid garden, which he worked in with his own hands, and his church rebuilding, heraldry occupied his attention, and he made a study of the very early 'crotals' and handbells, which had been dug up in various parts of the country or in other ways come to light in recent years. A good collection of these handbells made by him is shown at the South Kensington Museum. He also searched ancient documents, whenever he got the chance, to discover any references to bells and their uses in early times, either in England or abroad. In 1865 he wrote and published 'History and Antiquities of Clyst St. George,' an account of the church and of the great houses in the parish and the families that lived in them. In 1881 he published a history of Bitton parish.

(To be continued.)

FELTHAM, MIDDLESEX. — On July 15th, 720 London Surprise Minor: G. Goodman 1. R. E. Price 2. M. A. Beauchamp 3. W. Sparrow 4. W. Barnett 5. G. W. Morris 6. First 720 in method by all. Bobs called by T. Price, who did not ring.—On July 22nd, 720 Bob Minor: P. Beauchamp (age 13) 1. F. C. Price (age 10) 2. T. Price (conductor) 3. W. Sparrow 4. W. Barrett 5. R. E. Price (age 12) 6.

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SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 335.)

Before we leave the subject of seven-bell ringing it may be worth while to consider whether there are not any useful methods of Triples other than those we have dealt with. At first sight it would seem very unlikely that, apart from Stedman, we should be confined to a small group of no more than eleven methods, all with a bell-in-the-hunt; and especially so when we remember the great number available on six and eight bells.

The first thing which naturally suggests itself is to copy the plan which is so useful in Minor and Major, and construct our method with a plain hunting treble, using all the other bells as 'working' bells; in other words to do away with the bell-in-the-hunt. Will such a plan work and give us anything worth having?

In theory it will, and there is no reason why a Plain method which will extend from six bells to eight should not also appear on seven. But as soon as we prick any particular example we can see how great are the difficulties and disadvantages when the number of the working bells is even. Plain Bob can be rung on any number of bells, odd or even, from four upwards. All the bells plain hunt except when the treble leads full; then Seconds place is made and the bells above take one step backwards before resuming the plain hunting. When there is an odd number of working bells one of them makes the Seconds place and the others dodge in pairs; but when there is an even number of working bells, one of them will make Seconds place and the others will dodge in pairs as far as they are able, but one must be left over to lie still by itself. The result is the four blows behind, which are generally condemned as objectionable. Yet we should remember that these four blows are really three places (each a part of plain hunting) which have to be made consecutively. There is nothing really foreign to the method in them; they are an unfortunate result of having an even number of working bells.

When we try to adapt other methods to seven bells in a similar way we get a similar result. Here, for instance, is Double Court extended from six bells to seven and eight:—

123456	1234567	12345678
214365	2143657	21436587
241356	2413567	24135678
423165	4231657	42316587
243615	2436175	24361857
426351	4263715	42638175

The real reason why so many good seven-bell methods have a bell-in-the-hunt is not because the bell-in-the-hunt is in itself a particularly attractive feature, but because it is the easiest and most obvious way of avoiding an even number of working bells. If we desire to extend a Minor methods to seven bells, we can set about the job in one of two ways; we can add to the number of the working bells, or we can give a treble a companion, and except for the bobs treat the two as if they were equal and, indeed, as if they were one. Either plan of extension is theoretically a sound one, but the first gives results which in practical ringing are so unsatisfactory that the Exercise, ever since the time of William Shipway, has decided to use the second almost exclusively. Grand-sire Triples, which is Bob Minor with a bell-in-the-hunt added, retains the name which it has borne for two and a half centuries, and when we talk of Bob Triples we mean the version which has six working bells, but they

are the exception which proves the rule. Oxford Bob Triples is Oxford Bob Minor with a bell-in-the-hunt, Court Bob Triples is Court Bob Minor with a bell-in-the-hunt, and so on.

But a correspondent, whose letter appears on another page, suggests that St. Clement's Bob should also be an exception. He hints that the name really belongs to the version with six working bells, and that the following is the correct extension:—

123456	1234567
214365	2143657
241635	2416375
426153	4261735
246513	2467153
425631	4276513
245361	2475631
423516	4257361
243156	2453716
421365	4235176
412635	2431567
146253	4213657
_____	4126375
142635	1462735

1426375

Now there is no doubt whatever that this is a perfectly correct extension, and if it were not for the four blows behind the method would be fully worth ringing. But the method we printed on August 4th is equally a correct extension; it is in possession of the name, and is free from any blemish such as its rival suffers from. We doubt if anyone will want to ring the version with the six working bells and its four blows behind; but if there be any such, the name difficulty could be got over by calling the method St. Simon's Triples, the title under which Benjamin Annable and the College Youths rang the first peal of it at St. Bride's in 1732. It is the same as the five-bell method which appears in many ringing books as St. Simon's Doubles.

(To be continued.)

NOTICES.

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

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

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Balcombe, Aug. 19th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD, COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — St. Albans District. — Meeting at Northaw, Aug. 19th, 3 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided. — R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts Branch. —Meeting at St. Ives, Saturday, Aug. 19th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. No tea arrangements. Cafe in the town.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at the Parish Church, Sutton Coldfield, on Saturday, Aug. 19th, 3.30. Tea 5 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1 Eversfield Road, Reigate.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—Meeting at East Coker, Aug. 26th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Steyning, August 26th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Business meeting in belfry. Send names for tea.—L. Stilwell, Pikeholme, Pulborough.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at Maidwell, Saturday, Aug. 26th. (Train to Lamport from Castle station, 1.20 p.m., buses crowded.) Tea provided.—R. S. Cowley, 83, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting at Ockbrook, Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—Meeting at Old Woodhouse, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea 5 p.m. Bring food.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Rural Branch.—Meeting at Winterbourne, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Advise for tea.—R. C. Gifford, Bungalow, Stanshawes Drive, Yate, Bristol.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Adwick-le-Street, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Names by Aug. 22nd. Buses every 10 minutes from Doncaster.—W. E. Lloyd, Hon. Sec., 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde and Preston Branches.—Meeting at Kirkham, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster and F. Rigby, Branch Secs.

RINGERS' GATHERING AT OUNDLE, Aug. 26th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea. Names by Aug. 22nd to George W. Jeffs, 4, Highfield Road, Thrapston, Kettering.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Halesowen, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Whilton (6 bells), Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bring food.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Farnham Royal, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Names for tea before Aug. 21st.—A. D. Baker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Brent Knoll, Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) 6.30 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—Meeting at Bidston (6 bells), Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Bring food; cup of tea provided.—Harry S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Calverley, Saturday, Aug. 26th, 3 p.m. Names to Mr. S. Keighley, 6, Salisbury Street, Calverley, near Leeds, by Aug. 24th. Business after tea.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Salisbury Branch.—Meeting at Downton, Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5 p.m. Names before July 21st.—F. W. Romaine, 41, Green Croft Street, Salisbury.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Ripple, Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business.—E. F. Cubberley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—Meeting at Ashford, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Aug. 28th to P. Page, 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern and Western Districts.—Joint meeting at Chester-le-Street, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Meeting at Beverley, Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Bells at the Minster and St. Mary's 3 o'clock. Service in St. Mary's 4.30. Tea in Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall. Names by Aug. 30th to Mr. G. Braithwaite, 26, Albert Terrace, Beverley, East Yorks.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Annual meeting, Sturry, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30. Service 4. Tea and meeting after. Names to H. R. French, Lamorbey, School Hill, Sturry, Canterbury, by Aug. 29th. Nominations to me by Aug. 29th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Wellingore (6 bells), Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Meat tea 1s. 6d., 4.30. Names for tea to me at School House, Barnby-in-the-Willows, Newark, Notts, by Aug. 30th.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Special meeting at Wollaton, Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by important business. Names for tea by Tuesday, Aug. 29th.—T. Groombridge, jun., Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.—Meeting at Manchester, Saturday, Sept. 9th. Assemble Town Hall belfry 12 noon. Luncheon, Piccadilly Restaurant, Tib Street (Market Street end) 1 p.m., 3s. 6d. Ringing, Town Hall (12) 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tea, Piccadilly Restaurant, 6 p.m., 2s. 6d. Social evening. Names at once to Mr. F. R. Williams, 35, Boardman Road, Higher Crumpsall, Manchester: none accepted after Monday, Sept. 4th.—Inspector H. J. Poole, Hon. Sec.

BIRTH.

JOHNS.—On Sunday, July 30th, at Gainsborough Nursing Home, to Phyllis (née Baker), wife of Donald E. Johns, a son (Barry Edmond).

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