

Bells and Bell-ringing.

Meetings for Practice.

The Royal Cumberland Society: at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, this Friday evening, September 6th.
The Waterloo Society: at St. John-the-Divine, Kennington, on September 9th; and at St. John's, Waterloo Road, on September 11th.
The St. Luke's Society: at St. Luke's, Chelsea, on September 11th.
The Ancient Society of College Youths: at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, on September 10th; at St. Mary Matfelon, on September 11th; at St. Magnus, Lower Thames Street, on September 12th; and at St. Stephen's, Westminster, on September 13th. All about 8 p.m.

Thirsk Parish Church.

It has been known for some time past that the bells of the church have been out of order, and recently they have been examined by an expert. His report states that they are in a condition which may very quickly become dangerous. It is about forty years since anything was done to them beyond minor repairs, and in that time the gudgeons (or axles on which the bells swing) and their bearings have become very much worn, so that the bells now swing very irregularly, and cause a serious strain to the framework in which they are hung. It is estimated that both the bells and the framework could be put into good condition for not more than 50% if the work is done at once, though delay might add seriously to the cost of renewal, and cause some risk of accident. As the bells are rung on all occasions of joy and sorrow, whether public or private, and not only for the benefit of regular attenders at church, the Vicar and churchwardens appeal with confidence to all parishioners and friends to help in carrying out these necessary repairs.

The Bells of Alfreton Parish Church.

For the first time since the eighth bell was added to the tower of the parish church a peal of 5040 changes BOB TRIPLES was rung recently. This can only be done on eight bells. Through the generosity of the Vicar, the event has been recorded upon a handsome plate, which is to be hung in the belfry. The plate bears the following inscription:—

'Midland Counties' Association of Change-ringers.—Alfreton Parish Church.—On Saturday, July 13th, 1901, seven members of the local branch, with B. Fletcher, of Ripley, rang 5040 changes BOB TRIPLES in three hours and ten minutes: tenor, 15 cwt.; the members standing as follows: 1st, G. Pipes; 2nd, S. Hall; 3rd, F. Watkinson; 4th, R. Hutchinson; 5th, A. Brooksbank; 6th, B. Fletcher; 7th, J. M. Brook; 8th, F. Hillyer. This is the first peal on the bells, and was conducted by J. M. Brook. This plate was presented by the Rev. A. C. Beckton, M.A., Vicar. Mr. W. Wilson and Mr. W. M. Wilson, churchwardens.'

Ipswich Ringer's Memorial.

MEMBERS of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society assembled at St. Margaret's Church, and rang, with the bells half muffled, touches of DOUBLE NORWICH, STEDMAN TRIPLES, and SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR as a taken of respect to the memory of James William Lines, of Cemetery Road, who was a member of the Society. The ringers were: Henry Howell, Robert Hawes, William L. Catchpole, James Motts, William Motts, Robert H. Brundle, William Wood, Stephen Cook, William Roughton, Albert Gillingham, Samuel Cornish, William Tillett, and Lewis Wiffen.

CHANGE-RINGING.

The Hertfordshire Association and the Ancient Society of College Youths.

At St. Matthew's, Oxhey, on August 24th, Thurstan's One-part peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 52 mins.

Challis F. Winney (condr.)	1	Francis A. Smith	5
Henry Hodgetts*	2	Frederick T. C. Nevett*	6
William Hodgetts*	3	George N. Price	7
Hubert Eden	4	Reginald Searle*	8

[* First peal in the method.]

The Chester Diocesan Guild.

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY, STOCKPORT.

FOR 10 30 morning service on Sunday, September 1st, 557 GRANDSIRE CATERERS. J. W. Taylor, 1; J. Booth, 2; T. Jackson, 3; C. Barber, 4; H. Meakin, 5; J. W. Bailey, 6; J. Hankinson, 7; T. Marshall, 8; E. Reader (conductor), 9; G. Marshall, 10. Mr. Taylor hails from St. Mark's, Glodwick, Oldham, and it is the first time he has ever rung on a higher number of bells than eight. For practice, on Monday evening, September 2nd, 1344 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR. G. Astbury, 1; T. Jackson, 2; H. Meakin, 3; T. Smithson, 4; Rev. A. T. Beeston, 5; J. W. Bailey, 6; T. Marshall, 7; E. Reader (conductor), 8. Rung on the back eight. Also 289 STEDMAN CATERERS. J. Booth, 1; G. Astbury, 2; Rev. A. T. Beeston, 3; C. Barber, 4; E. Reader, 5; J. Mottershead, 6; H. Meakin, 7; T. Marshall (conductor), 8; J. W. Bailey, 9; G. Marshall, 10. The Rev. A. T. Beeston hails from New Mills, Derbyshire, and Mr. Smithson from St. Elizabeth's, Reddish. Longest length in the KENT TREBLE BOB method for Messrs. Jackson and Astbury.

AT CAVENDISH, SUFFOLK.—A 720 of PLAIN BOB MINOR has been rung by the following band for practice: W. Underwood (conductor), 1; G. Maxim, 2; D. Gridley, 3; H. Evans, 4; E. Perkins, 5; G. Moore, 6. Gridley and Moore hail from Clare. This was Moore's first peal.

COVENTRY.—On Friday the following rang 240 of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES. J. H. White, 1-2; R. Bosworth (conductor), 3-4; A. Gilbert, 5-6. Also several courses of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, A. Gilbert, 1-2; J. H. White, 3-4; R. Bosworth, 5-6; S. Hope, 7-8.



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Some Bell Inscriptions.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX (St. John the Baptist).

- Treble. G. Mears & Co., Founders, London, 1864.
 2nd. Pack & Chapman of London, Fecit.
 John West and John Hannington, Church Wardens, 1779.
 3rd. Same as the second.
 4th. T. Mears of London, Fecit, 1828.
 The Very Rev. R. Hodgson, Vicar.
 T. Ratcliff } Ch. Wardens.
 W. Seaward }
 5th. W. & T. Mears of London, Fecit, 1783.
 Messrs. Allen & Shackle, Church Wardens.
 6th. Same as the 5th.
 7th. W. & T. Mears, late Lester, Pack & Chapman, of London,
 Fecit, 1788.
 Messrs. Allen & Shackle, Churchwardens.
 Tenor. Same as the 7th.

Clock bell on top of tower. Robert Whittington, John Shepherd,
 Church Wardens, 1808. T. Mears & Son of London, Fecit.

The parish church of St. John the Baptist, Hillingdon, situated in the centre of the village, is a very fine edifice, principally in the Early Decorated style, consisting of chancel, with north aisle, transepts, nave, aisles, and an elegant embattled western tower, containing a clock and a fine peal of bells; in the churchyard are buried John Rich, the actor, died 1761, and Major-General Richard Russell, grandson of the Protector Cromwell, who died 1793.

In the ringing chamber can be seen the following records of completed peals rung on the bells:—

On Sunday, May 14th, 1826, was rung in this steeple by the Society of Watford Union Youths, a true and Compleat Peal of 5040 changes of Grandsire Tripples. Composed by Mr. John Holt. Consisting of 98 Bobs and 2 Singles, and was performed in 3 hours 12½ minutes, by the following persons, viz:—

Thomas Ovenden	..	Treble.
James Tomkins	..	2nd.
Robert Bygrave	..	3rd.
John Clark	..	4th.
William Cole	..	5th.
George Pope	..	6th.
Richard Rush	..	7th.
Henry Rothwell	..	Tenor.

The peal was conducted by James Tomkins.

{ Presented as a Testimony of }	{ William Townsend, Church- }
{ Merit by Mr. George Pope. }	{ Thomas Ratcliff, Wardens. }

On Monday, April 18th, 1892, in three hours and twelve and a half minutes, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, a peal of Grandsire Tripples, 5040 changes (Holt's Ten-part). Tenor, 22 cwt.

E. James Walsom	..	Treble	*Edward Harris	..	5
John Basden	..	2	Reuben Flaxman	..	6
George Stanbrook	..	3	Allen H. Taber	..	7
Joseph J. Parker	..	4	*William Stannett	..	Tenor

Conducted by Joseph John Parker. [* First peal.]

J. H. THOMAS, Vicar.
 G. F. WORSLEY } Churchwardens.
 W. H. EVANS }

In a new oak frame with twelve partitions. In 2nd partition:—

On Wednesday, May 23rd, 1900, in three hours and four minutes, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, the Middlesex County Association (the Hillingdon Society) rang a peal of Oxford Bob Triples, 5040 changes (J. J. Parker's Ten-part No. 3). Tenor, 22 cwt.

Frank Weeden	..	Treble	Henry S. Reeves	..	5
Herbert J. Ayres	..	2	William Honor	..	6
James W. Odell	..	3	Henry H. Chandler	..	7
Joseph J. Pratt	..	4	George Bellamy	..	Tenor

Conducted by Joseph J. Pratt. [* First peal. + First peal in the method.] First peal in the method as conductor, and first in the method on the bells.

Rung in honour of the relief of Mafeking, and to commemorate the Queen's birthday. It was arranged to ring the peal on Thursday, the 24th, but, being Ascension Day, the use of the bells could not be granted.

In 3rd partition:—

On Thursday, Jan. 3rd, 1901, in three hours and two minutes, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, the Middlesex County Association (the Hillingdon Society) rang a peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes (Holt's Five part). Tenor, 22 cwt.

Cecil Bellamy	..	Treble	Joseph J. Pratt	..	5
Herbert J. Ayres	..	2	William Honor	..	6
James W. Odell	..	3	Henry B. Chandler	..	7
Edward T. Griffin	..	4	George Bellamy	..	Tenor

[* First peal. + First peal in the method.] Rung on the return of Earl Roberts from South Africa.

In 4th partition:—

On Tuesday, Feb. 19th, 1901, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, the Middlesex Association (Hillingdon, East Middlesex) rang a peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes (Holt's Ten-part).

Frank Weeden	..	Treble	Joseph J. Pratt	..	5
Herbert J. Ayres	..	2	William Honor	..	6
Henry Waite	..	3	Henry H. Chandler	..	7
Edward T. Griffin	..	4	George Bellamy	..	Tenor

Conducted by Henry H. Chandler.

On the north wall of floor, below ringing chamber, which is used as a gallery, is a stone tablet worded as follows:—

The Whole Peal of Grandsire Tripples of 5040 was thrice perform'd by these persons hereafter named; In y year 1733.

Rich. Ashley, sen.	Rich. Inett.
Jas. Munday.	Mat. Ashley.
Rich. Ashley.	Rd. Brown.
Willm. Ashley	Jno. West.
Jno. Christmas.	Rich. Perris.
Will. Mitchell.	Rich. Cox.

On February 6th, 1737, was rang a compleat peal of 5040 Oxford Triple Bob in 3 hours and 26 minutes by these men:—

Charles Dockwell	..	Tripple	Wm. Munday (?)	..	Second
Richard Inett, junr.	..	Third	C. Taylor (?)	..	Fourth
Jno. Christmas	..	Fifth	Richd. Inett, senr.	..	Sixth
Matw. Ashley	..	Seventh	Jno. Treadaway (?)	..	Tennor

NOTE.—I have added a (?) to the names of 2nd, 4th, and Tenor men, as the letters were barely discernible.

In the ringing chamber is a list of the weight and notes of the bells:—

HILLINGDON.
 Peal of Eight Bells.
 Pack & Chapman, founders, 1776.

		cwt.		
Tenor	21	approx.	E	
VII	15		F#	
VI	12		G#	
V	10		A	
IV	8½		B	
III	7½		C#	
II	6		D#	
Recast, 1861.	Treble	5 1 10	E	

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