THE RINGING WORLD

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THE FUTURE OF THE M.C.A.

The trend which ringing organisations are taking towards diocesan, as distinct from county and territorial, status has been more than once referred to in this column. It has been our conviction that in the evolution, which is ever going slowly on, the future of ringing associations lies in their being linked more closely with the Church. The time is passing when we can look upon our art merely as a secular pursuit. At one time it was considered little else, and, except that ringing took place in the church towers because there were no bells elsewhere, there was little sympathy between the church and the ringers. To-day, however, the position is totally different, and the services of the ringer are recognised as an integral part of church work. The peal ringing side of our operations is becoming very largely a concession to those who, week in and week out, give their time and talents to ringing the bells for the services. If it were to happen that ringers would no longer ring the bells on Sundays, it is quite certain they would no longer have the use of bells for peals. The first is a position that will, we imagine, never occur, so that there is no need to worry about the likelihood of the second; but we put the point forward to illustrate the argument that there has been a definite change in the attitude not only of ringers toward the Church, but of the Church towards ringers, and, if to-day our associations and guilds could make a new start together, we do not hesitate to say it would be found that they would adopt a diocesan basis.

That even county associations are seriously reconsidering the position there is now further evidence from the Midland Counties. Stretching at present over the whole or part of some four dioceses, this large and influential body has decided to test the feeling of its members on the subject; the apparent object of the committee at the moment being a sub-division of the area into four diocesan organisations. It is a thorny problem with which doubtless the members can be trusted to deal with common sense and vision, but it involves many considerations outside the purely M.C.A. area, of which the casual observer is not fully aware. The dioceses chiefly concerned are Leicester, Derby, Southwell and Lichfield, and if the Midland Counties Association's territory were simply coterminous with these the matter would be comparatively simple. Leaving out of the question, however, any small overlappings there may be into other dioceses, the M.C.A. is confronted with the fact that there are other not unimportant societies operating within the four main areas. The Society for the Archdeaconry of Staffs and the North Staffordshire Society are working successfully in the diocese of Lichfield, where the M.C.A.'s

(Continued on page 66.)

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principal concern is with the Burton District. In Southwell there is the active North Notts Association to be taken into account if the Diocesan Guild is to be really comprehensive; while in Derbyshire there is the East Derbyshire Association, and the Old East Derbyshire portion of the Sheffield District Society. Then there are organisations like the Sherwood Youths of Nottingham, and the Framland Society, so that if the scheme for division is to be made effective and successful and to embrace all the ringers in their respective dioceses, it will need to be handled with diplomacy, but we have no doubt there will be found an acceptable solution.

TEN BELL PEALS.

KING'S NORTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
On Saturday, January 21, 1928, in Three Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;
Tenor 17 cwt.

*FRANK B. YATES	...Treble	ERNEST E. ALLAWAY	...
*PERCY O. LAFLIN	2	*JOHN EATON	7
*GEORGE E. LARGE	3	*CHARLES WEBB	8
ARTHUR CHAMBERS	4	JOHN NEAL	9
*HERBERT C. SPENCER	5	JAMES GEORGE	...Tenor

Composed by YORK GREEN. Conducted by PERCY O. LAFLIN.
* First peal of Treble Bob Royal. Rung as a birthday peal to Mr. Frank B. Yates. This is the first peal on the recast bells since they were made a ring of ten.

REIGATE, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5183 CHANGES;

ARTHUR BASHFORD	...Treble	HUGH R. THORPE	6
GEORGE F. HOAD	2	ALFRED J. BULL	7
HENRY A. HOAD	3	DANIEL COOPER	8
CHARLES S. HOAD	4	WALTER CLAYDON	9
HARRY JORDAN	5	FREDERICK E. COLLINS	...Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by GEORGE F. HOAD.

HASLEMERE, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;
Tenor 13 cwt. 6 lb. in F sharp.

RICHARD HAYES	...Treble	ALFRED H. WINCH	6
JOHN H. B. HESSE	2	CHARLES H. KIPPEN	7
CHARLES HAZELDEN	3	ALBERT HARMAN	8
*RAYMOND OVERY	4	HERBERT LANGDON	9
*FREDERICK BOWDEN	5	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE	...Tenor

Composed by H. G. MILES. Conducted by HERBERT LANGDON.
* First peal on ten bells. First ten-bell peal on the bells. First peal of Caters for the Guild. A birthday compliment to R. Hayes.

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;
Tenor 19¾ cwt.

CHARLES A. HUGHES	...Treble	JAMES C. ADAMS	6
CHARLES T. COLES	2	WILLIAM PYE	7
GEORGE R. PYE	3	*WALTER GLOVER	8
ROBERT MAYNARD, SEN.	4	JAMES BENNETT	9
FRED. C. MAYNARD	5	WILLIAM MORLEY	...Tenor

Composed by HENRY W. HALEY. Conducted by CHARLES T. COLES
* First peal of Stedman Caters.

BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;
Tenor 18 cwt.

WILLIAM SHORT	*Treble*	*THOMAS HEMMING	6
SAMUEL GROVE	2	CHARLES E. PERKINS	7
ROBERT MATTHEWS	3	HECTOR G. BIRD	8
HARRY PRICE	4	ALFRED HACKETT	9
*CLIFFORD SKIDMORE	5	*WILLIAM BROWN	*Tenor*

Composed by W. KENT. Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

* First peal on ten bells. First peal on the bells since they were rehung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

DUBLIN.
THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, January 21, 1928, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL,
A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 28 cwt. in D.

WILLIAM BIBBY	*Treble*	GEORGE R. NEWTON	5
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL	2	ALBERT J. HUGHES	6
JOHN WILKINSON	3	JAMES H. RIDING	7
HENRY W. WILDE	4	EDWARD JENKINS	*Tenor*

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by E. JENKINS.

The first peal of London Surprise in the City of Dublin. It was rung on the original octave, cast by Rudhall, of Gloucester, in 1738, and is the first performance upon them. An attempt for a peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal at St. Patrick's Cathedral in the afternoon lasted two hours, Messrs. F. Bibby and G. Lindoff assisting the above band.

FRODSHAM, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Monday, January 23, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 12 cwt. 2 qr. in F.

OSWALD CLAYBROOK	*Treble*	WILLIAM H. FUSSELL	5
CYRIL VALENTINE	2	JOHN E. BIBBY	6
HENRY C. COLLYER	3	EDWARD JENKINS	7
WILLIAM BIBBY	4	FRANCIS BIBBY	*Tenor*

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by E. JENKINS.

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)
On Wednesday, January 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 14½ cwt.

ALFRED ROWLEY	*Treble*	ABRAHAM GREENFIELD	5
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE	2	THOMAS HEMMING	6
WILLIAM POTTER	3	CHARLES E. PERKINS	7
WALTER MASTERS	4	ROBERT MATTHEWS	*Tenor*

Conducted by CHARLES E. PERKINS.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. William Gibbs. First peal in the method as conductor.

DERBY.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
On Wednesday, January 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
A VARIATION OF J. O. LANCASHIRE'S IRREGULAR TWELVE-PART.
Tenor 11 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb.

JOHN H. SWINFIELD	*Treble*	CHARLES DRAPER	5
MAURICE SWINFIELD	2	E. HARRY STONELEY	6
JAMES PAGETT	3	JAMES GEORGE	7
PERCY DUDLEY	4	JOHN CURTIS	*Tenor*

Conducted by M. SWINFIELD.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. F. B. Yates, Ringing Master, King's Norton, Birmingham.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Thursday, January 26, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-THE-ARCHANGEL,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
JOHNSON'S VARIATION. Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 4 lb. in F sharp.

ALBERT WIFFEN	*Treble*	WILLIAM KEEBLE	5
*MISS ELSIE E. PETTITT	2	*HERBERT C. REASON	6
*HENRY E. HAMMOND	3	GEORGE WIFFEN	7
*BASIL REDGWELL	4	LEWIS W. WIFFEN	*Tenor*

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

* First peal in the method at first attempt. Rung on the birthday of Miss Pettitt, who is the first lady in Essex to take part in a peal in the method.

BARKWAY, HERTS.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Thursday, January 26, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
TAYLOR'S SIX-PART. Tenor 16 cwt.

*WILLIAM BYGRAVE	*Treble*	ROBERT G. KING	5
*HERBERT WHITBY	2	ROBERT HOWARD	6
†WILLIAM A. BYSOUTH	3	‡CHARLES A. BYSOUTH	7
†WALTER MACHON	4	*ARTHUR H. BYSOUTH	*Tenor*

Conducted by ROBERT HOWARD.

* First peal. † First peal of Triples. First peal in the method as conductor. First peal on the bells.

SUNDERLAND, DURHAM.
THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Thursday, January 26, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS-THE-MARTYR,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 13 cwt.

FRANK AINSLEY	*Treble*	HAROLD B. DITCHBURN	5
GEORGE S. TAYLOR	2	MICHAEL F. HARRISON	6
JOSEPH E. SYKES	3	JOSEPH W. PARKER	7
THOMAS STEPHENSON	4	ROBERT L. PATTERSON	*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH W. PARKER.

Rung to commemorate the anniversary of R. L. Patterson's wedding.

NEWPORT, MONMOUTHSHIRE.
THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
SHIPWAY'S. Tenor 15 cwt.

SIDNEY DAWE	*Treble*	WILLIAM HEATH	5
GEORGE LARGE	2	CHARLES GREEDY	6
JOHN PHILLIPS	3	JOHN HAMMOND	7
GEORGE POPNELL	4	ERNEST COOMBES	*Tenor*

Conducted by ERNEST COOMBES.

First peal of Major as conductor.

MORETON-IN-MARSH, GLOS.
THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 12 cwt.

P.S. ERNEST ASTON	*Treble*	NORMAN BYRON	5
CECIL GRIMES	2	JESSE GARDNER	6
*WILLIAM COLEMAN	3	WALTER LARGE	7
FRED JONES	4	*ALFRED SKELCHER	*Tenor*

Composed by G. WANKLIN. Conducted by W. LARGE.

* First peal of Triples.

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STONEY STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,
A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 14 cwt.

GEORGE A. NEWTON...	...*Treble*	JOSEPH H. W. WHITE ...	5
THOMAS W. CHAPMAN ...	2	E. HARRY STONELEY ...	6
FRANK W. PERRENS... ...	3	ERNEST MORRIS...	7
*HOBERT SUMMERS	4	FREDERICK H. DEXTER	...*Tenor*

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.
* First peal of Surprise Major with a working bell.

LONDON.
THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW, BETHNAL GREEN,
A PEAL OF SPLICED LONDON, SUPERLATIVE, CAMBRIDGE AND BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb.

WILSON RUSHTON ...	...*Treble*	HARRY R. PASMORE	5
GEORGE N. PRICE	2	WILLIAM H. PASMORE ...	6
HAROLD N. PITSTOW	3	HENRY HODGETTS	7
LOUIS ATTWATER...	4	JAMES BULLOCK	...*Tenor*

Composed by REV. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by H. R. PASMORE
Cambridge and Superlative were rung in alternate parts.

EDMONTON.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 17 cwt.

WILBY J. HAZELL ...	...*Treble*	CHARLES W. BIRD	5
*JOHN G. NASH	2	WALTER J. BOWDEN	6
MISS EDITH K. PARKER ...	3	JAMES PARKER	7
EDWARD H. KING	4	GEORGE W. FLETCHER	...*Tenor*

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by MISS E. K. PARKER
* First peal in method inside.

SALLE, NORFOLK.
THE NORFOLK GUILD.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
Tenor 18 cwt.

WILLIAM B. DUNCAN...	...*Treble*	JOHN A. GODFREY	5
WILLIAM J. WASEY	2	GEORGE BAILEY	6
EDWARD HOWES	3	BEN S. THOMPSON	7
GEORGE MAYERS...	4	WILLIAM C. DUFFIELD	...*Tenor*

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by WM. B. DUNCAN.

LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK.
THE NORFOLK GUILD.
On Saturday, January 28, 1927, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 13¾ cwt.

WILLIAM E. BASON ...	...*Treble*	EDWIN R. GOATE...	5
CHARLES BAILEY...	2	CLAYTON E. PARNELL ...	6
MISS VIOLET BECKETT ...	3	JAMES SPALDING	7
JOHN C. DICKEN	4	CHARLES F. SAYER ...	...*Tenor*

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by E. R. GOATE.
C. F. Sayer has now rung every bell in the tower to a peal.

LONG STANTON, CAMBS.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 7 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb.

REV. H. B. WOOLLEY	...*Treble*	GEO. E. CRISP	5
FRANK WARRINGTON	2	CHAS. W. COOK	6
FRANCIS G. GLEAVES... ...	3	T. REGINALD DENNIS ...	7
FRED J. COOK	4	A. GEORGE RIVERS ...	...*Tenor*

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by CHAS. W. COOK.

PENSNETT, STAFFORDSHIRE.
SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

JAMES GEORGE	...*Treble*	BENJAMIN GOUGH	5
JOHN JAGGAR	2	JESSE SCREEN	6
ABRAHAM GREENFIELD ...	3	ALFRED ROWLEY	7
GILBERT GUEST	4	BENJAMIN FULLWOOD...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by ABRAHAM GREENFIELD.
Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor. The ringer of the 4th was proposed a life member previous to starting.

SILVERDALE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'. Tenor 9½ cwt.

GEORGE H. CRAWLEY	...*Treble*	GEORGE W. BIDDULPH ...	5
THOMAS HURD	2	*HARRY PARKER	6
*JOSEPH A. COCK...	3	ALBERT CRAWLEY	7
WALTER LONGMAN	4	†RALPH OXFORD	...*Tenor*

Conducted by A. CRAWLEY.
* First peal in the method. † First peal, and was elected a member before the peal.

RYE, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 19¼ cwt.

HARRY BAKER	...*Treble*	FREDERICK J. LAMBERT, JUN.	5
PHILIP S. THOMPSON	2	KENNETH PATTENDEN... ...	6
MRS. HARRY BAKER	3	CHARLES W. PLAYER	7
ALBERT HOBDEN	4	ALBERT E. EDWARDS ...	...*Tenor*

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by ALBERT E. EDWARDS
The band wish to thank Mr. Curd for oiling the bells, etc., in readiness for the peal.

LLANTRISANT, GLAMORGAN.
THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.
Tenor 12 cwt. (approx.).

*RICHARD COLLINS ...	...*Treble*	REGGIE LEWIS	5
ROYDEN DAVIES	2	ALBERT GREY	6
FRANK ROWSELL	3	JOHN DARCH	7
LAWRENCE STIRK	4	JOHN COLES	...*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN DARCH.
* First peal and first attempt. First peal as conductor. The ringers of 4th and tenor from Merthyr, the conductor from Pontypridd, the rest are local men. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of 5th.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

QUEEN CHARLTON, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, January 21, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Including three extents of Pitman's arrangement. Tenor 19¾ cwt.

ERNEST BROWN	...*Treble*	GILBERT HAZELL...	3
HERBERT BABER	2	R. THOMAS CLARK	4

HAROLD BLACKER... ... ...*Tenor*
Conducted by R. T. CLARK.

THE FIRST 1928 DATE TOUCH.

At St. John's Church, Hoylandswaine, Yorks, the new year was rung in with a date touch of 1,928 changes, comprising 488 and 720 of Oxford Treble Bob and 720 of Kent Treble Bob, in 1 hr. 12 mins.: G. Chappell 1, F. Broadhead 2, L. Wilkinson 3, S. Fielding 4, T. Noble 5, E. Brooks (conductor) 6.

HORSMONDEN, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 24, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

JAMES WAGHORN, SEN.	...*Treble*	ALBERT RELFE	4
ANDREW MARSHALL	2	FREDERICK J. LAMBERT, SEN.	5
BERTRAM LUCK	3	ARTHUR H. SMITH ...	...*Tenor*

Composed by REV. E. B. JAMES. Conducted by A. RELFE.

JARROW-ON-TYNE, DURHAM.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 24, 1928, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being four extents of Oxford Treble Bob and three extents of Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

*JOHN TURNBULL... ...	...*Treble*	†EDWARD A. HERN	4
†ERNEST GOSDEN...	2	†ADAM DEAS...	5
†JAMES E. SCOTT...	3	JOSEPH E. SYKES ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by JOSEPH E. SYKES.

* First 720 in any method. † First peal of Treble Bob Minor. Great credit is due to the treble man for the able way he rang his first peal.

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, each called differently. Tenor 12½ cwt. in F sharp.

*SIDNEY BAKER	...*Treble*	HARRY ARGENT	4
FREDERICK A MITCHELL ...	2	FREDERICK M. MITCHELL ...	5
†JOHN BURLES	3	GEORGE MORRAD	...*Tenor*

Conducted by FREDERICK M. MITCHELL.

* First peal and first attempt. First peal of London on the bells, by all the band, and rung at the first attempt. Specially arranged and rung on the Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul. All the band are Sunday service ringers at this church.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE) CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
(STOCKPORT BRANCH.)

On Thursday, January 26, 1928, in Three Hours,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 'Spliced' extents as follows:—
(1) Croyland, Combermere, Vale Royal, St. Werburgh.
(2) Poynton, Old Oxford Modernised, Bocking, Willesden.
(3) Grove Delight, Neasden, College Bob IV., Wragby.
(4) Trowel, Duke of Norfolk, College Exercise, Norbury.
(5) Norbury, College Exercise, Duke of Norfolk, Trowel.
(6) Oxford, Overton and Sandal.
(7) London Scholars' and Kingston.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JAMES FERNLEY, JUN. ...	*Treble*	WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT	4
HARRY LANGLEY	2	JAMES FERNLEY, SEN.... ...	5
WILLIAM FERNLEY	3	JOHN W. HARTLEY ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by JAMES FERNLEY, SEN.

First peal of Minor on the bells. The 5th extent in this peal was the conductor's 2,000th.

ACCRINGTON, LANCS.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(CHURCHKIRK SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Single Oxford, two each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and one of Plain Bob. Tenor 9¼ cwt. in A.

JOHN BEATTIE	...*Treble*	ARTHUR BROWN	4
WILLIAM AARON	2	SYDNEY BROWN	5
ARTHUR INGHAM	3	LAWRENCE J. WILLIAMS	...*Tenor*

Conducted by L. J. WILLIAMS.

First peal in four methods for ringers of treble, 4th and 5th.

HELD OVER.

We regret that, on account of the heavy pressure on our space through the many important gatherings that have taken place, we are compelled again to hold over a number of reports and articles.

HARROLD, BEDS.
THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, Double Court, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

WILLIAM SHARP ...	...*Treble*	WILLIAM STOCK	4
JOSEPH SHARP	2	CHARLES W. CLARKE... ...	5
HENRY W. GAYTON	3	HENRY STAPLETON ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by CHARLES W. CLARKE.

BRADWELL, BUCKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(NORTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being four 120's of Stedman, 26 of Grandsire, 12 of Plain Bob. Tenor 7½ cwt.

CHARLES G. ALDERMAN...	*Treble*	*THOMAS C. WALTERS	4
WILLIAM FRENCH	2	ALEXANDER COLEY	5
EDWARD J. WHITLOCK ...	3	†RONALD CHAPMAN ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by EDWARD J. WHITLOCK.

* First peal inside. † First peal. First peal in three methods by all the band. Rung in honour of the birthdays of the ringers of 4th and 5th.

SHIPHAM, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 28, 1928, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 240 by Pitman and 40 six-scores, with ten different callings. Tenor 9 cwt. (approx.).

GEORGE E. SHALLISH	...*Treble*	EDWARD J. AVERY	4
GEORGE GILLING	2	*REGGIE A. DARE	5
*EDWARD G. NORTON... ...	3	TOM BROWNING	...*Tenor*

Conducted by G. E. SHALLISH.

* First peal. First peal on the bells.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANCIENT CHURCH PROPERTY AT BROUGHTON.

A meeting of the Preston Branch was held at Broughton, near Preston, on Saturday, January 21st, and, although the day was very wet, there were representatives present from six of the branch towers. The ringing, on the whole, was very good, the methods being Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Spliced Oxford and Kent, Cambridge and London Surprise Minor.

The Vicar (the Rev. D. R. Davies) was present at tea, and also presided at the business meeting.

After tea, the rev. gentleman produced some rubbings which have been taken from three of the oldest bells in the tower. The oldest bell, which is of the early fifteenth century, is inscribed as follows: 'St. Petre, O.P.N.' (the founder's mark) 'T.B.'

The next oldest is inscribed: 'Jesus be our spede 1632' (founder's mark) 'P.H.'

On the third bell is 'C.W. W.W. I C. 1681. Gloria in Exelsis Deo' (founder's mark) 'W.S.'

The Vicar also showed the meeting some old 15th century documents, which related to the giving of the rent of a field to the church for ever, also an old chest which was hewn out of the tree before the use of saws and planes, as we know them to-day; an old font which had been brought back to the church some years ago, after doing duty as a watering trough for pigs or cattle.

The singular part about these ancient bells, and other things in the church, was that, although most of the visitors present had been often enough before, they were unaware of them till the Vicar brought them to their notice.

Two new members were elected, and the bells were 'dropped' about eight o'clock, after a very pleasant meeting.

ACTIVITY AT ALLESLEY.

The following 720's of Surprise Minor were rung by the Sunday service band recently: Sunday, October 9th, 1927, 720 of York Surprise; Sunday, October 16th, 720 of Beverley Surprise; October 24th, 720 of Chester Surprise; October 31st, 720 of Durham Surprise; Sunday, November 6th, with the bells half-muffled, 720 of Wells Surprise; Sunday, November 13th, 720 Cunecastre Surprise; November 26th, 720 London Surprise; December 5th, 720 Ipswich Surprise, also 720 of Cambridge Surprise; Sunday, January 8th, 720 of Surfleet Surprise. C. Aylett and G. Gardner 1, O. J. Hunt 2, H. Summers 3, J. Taylor 4, F. W. Perrens (conductor) 5, J. H. W. White 6. The above 720's, with the exception of London and Cambridge, are the first upon the bells and by all the band.

BRISTOL UNITED RINGING GUILDS.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GATHERING.

The committee of the Bristol United Ringing Guilds have every reason to be happy and proud of the continued successes, year after year, of the annual dinner, but there is one perplexing feature, and that is that Bristol is poorly equipped with hotels and restaurants in which a room can be found to house the large numbers who wish to support the happy event. Last year a move was made to the Royal Hotel, where the coffee lounge was found to be large enough and something to spare for future elasticity, but, unfortunately, the room was acoustically so bad that a return to the Grand Hotel had to be made. With only accommodation for about 125, the hon. secretary was bewildered to find that over 150 tickets had been sold, and that other applications were still pouring in. It was decided nearly a week beforehand that no more tickets could be disposed of. At the last moment some relief was afforded by the unfortunate illness of about eight to ten patrons.

Proceedings at the seventh annual gathering on Saturday, January 21st, commenced with ringing at St. Stephen's Church. After an hour's efforts in various methods, a move was made to St. Mary Redcliffe, where ringing on the twelve bells was indulged in for a considerable period beyond the scheduled time. Tea was provided at St. Thomas' Parish Room, and here good opportunity was made for a chat with old friends. In one instance two ringers met for the first time after a lapse of 20 years. The ringers are very grateful to Mrs. Leaker and Mrs. Cave and others who helped to arrange the tea. At 5.45 a move was made to the Grand Hotel. The room was festooned with large coloured paper bells, and the whole 'atmosphere' was permeated with the spirit of good fellowship. The service was voted better than ever, and good digestion was assisted by sweet music rendered by Mr. Palmer and his friends. After all the good things had been disposed of, the Chairman (Mr. John Jeffries) proposed the toast of 'His Majesty the King,' and when the National Anthem was sung one thought of the Albert Hall community concert. The Sec. read the apologies for absence, in which good wishes were expressed, from Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, Mr. C. F. Johnston, Mr. A. Paddon Smith, and Mr. Dart. An apology was made from Mr. Rich, of Bath, who had unfortunately been ill.

The Chairman then proposed the toast of 'The Church,' in which he referred to the present crisis, and said that bellringers throughout the length and breadth of England hoped for a settlement upon a foundation true and sure. The church bell chambers, he proceeded, were better places now that their paternal body, the Gloucester and Bristol Association had been formed for half a century. He hoped for continued prosperity for the association, and asked all ringers to place the prosperity of their beloved church before every other consideration. This was important, because, of course, if there were no churches they, as bellringers, would not be wanted.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Malmesbury, on rising to respond, was greeted with a tremendous ovation. The Lord Bishop remarked that it was being said that the Church to-day was torn apart, and that one section was pulling against another, but he was sure that the situation had been greatly exaggerated. 'Here are you good people,' said the Bishop, 'coming from all sorts of churches, and yet you are in real fellowship and willing to live and let live. It is possible that in bellringing even one might find different views upon different matters, but because of that you do not think they are thoughtless or selfish. It would be ridiculous ever to suppose that one could have uniformity of thought. Why, the whole beauty of the world was its variety. Just as there was a variety in nature, so was there variety in the human mind and feeling. It expressed itself in art, in every form of science, in what you prefer to eat and drink, and even as he looked amongst them in that room he could notice the variety of dress. In the Church to-day they had a variety of expression, and in this there was bound to be differences of intellectual ideas and interpretations. The world's progress depended upon variety of thought, and progress was due to that daring to be different. The crisis through which we are passing is an attempt by men who have thought well to bring our laws up to date, and so enable all those who hold fast to the old laws of the Church, but need a variation, to express themselves to God.

A very difficult position had arisen, he continued, and a great deal depended upon the laity as to how they supported the Bishops in the task before them. He would like them to think of what bells meant. They rang as a sign of danger; they rang as a sign of joy; and they expressed the great things of Christian life. Bellringers acted as agents of God when they called people to worship Him. The standard of bellringing had gone up, not only in the work itself, but in the way it was done. In conclusion, the Bishop said he could, in the name of the Lord Bishops of Bristol and Gloucester, thank the united ringing Guilds for the work done and for the example they had set in carrying out the work they had at heart. He had never been at a ringers' gathering before, but he hoped he would be allowed to come again, and, perhaps, on the next occasion they might not be burdened with his voice.

Mr. Joseph S. Hawkins, Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, proposed the toast of 'The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.' In doing so, he congratulated the association upon attaining its jubilee, and congratulated the officials upon their efforts to maintain the position that the association occupied. He wished them continued success.

The Master, Rev. C. D. P. Davies, in responding, was received with long applause. He said the gathering that night proved that the step of forming the association fifty years ago was a right one. There was every sign and prognostication that not only was the association making progress, but would continue to do so (hear, hear). He was very proud that the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was holding its own among the associations of England. The work of a ringer called for a certain amount of self-denial and self-sacrifice, and they as ringers were willing to give both, and, furthermore, were always ready to do so.

The Vice-Chairman, Rev. R. H. Whitford, proposed the toast of 'Kindred Guilds and Associations.' He referred them all to the leading article in 'The Ringing World' issued the day before, and welcomed the many visitors there that evening.

Mr. John P. Fidler, Midland Counties Association, and Mr. John W. Jones, Llandaff Association, responded.

The toast of 'The Artistes' was proposed by Mr. Joseph Gould, who said thanks were due to those who had so admirably entertained them that evening, and that the Guilds were greatly indebted to Mr. W. S. Emery and Mr. Charles Spurrier, who had worked untiringly to make the musical programme the great success it had been.—Mr. Charles Read, I.S.M., conductor of the Cecilian Musical Society, briefly responded. Mr. Read is regarded as being part and parcel of these annual dinners, and the committee know they not only have his sympathetic support in assisting from the musical side, but his advice and useful information. Songs were ably rendered by Miss Winifred Rodd (gold medallist), and the congratulations of Bristol Guilds have been extended to her upon the invitation to sing at Croydon All-England Ringers' Day on March 3rd. Miss Dorothy Hill gave humorous recitals, and the songs of Master Folkes (a St. Thomas' choir boy) were much appreciated. Mr. Courtenay Frost, who has a delightful tenor voice, was encored. Mr. E. Vaughan Coleman gave mystic performances, and the St. Thomas' handbell ringers played new and old selections to everyone's delight. During the evening, by kind permission of the management of the Prince's Theatre, Mr. Jack Stanley ('King Philip') and Mr. Johnnie Schofield ('Mrs. Pip'), from 'Humpty Dumpty' pantomime, gave a happy few moments of their company and songs. As the evening drew to a close, the numbers gradually decreased, until 'Auld Lang Syne' officially ended the night's successful enjoyment.

Among those present were ringers from London, Croydon, Swindon, Birmingham, Sheffield, Newport, Malvern, Weston-super-Mare, Ubley, Kemerton, Loughborough, Wyke Regis, Chaw Magna, Chippenham, Gloucester and other places. One gratifying feature was the strong support given to the Guilds by the clergy.

COALBROOKDALE RINGERS' DINNER.

The Coalbrookdale Society held their second annual dinner at the Commercial Hotel on Saturday, January 14th. The Vicar (the Rev. Preb. C. B. Crowe, M.A.) presided, and was supported by Mr. Frederick Johnson (churchwarden), Alderman Walter Roberts, Councillors W. Bishop and J. S. Barker, J. C. Green, Esq., and Mr. Edwin Bailey (Coalbrookdale Inn). Messrs. John Wase, Donald Wase, F. Francis, A. J. Garbett, E. V. Rodenhurst (Hodnet), J. L. Hayward (Maidstone), and Wallace Wall (organist), were amongst the visitors. Fourteen of the local ringers were also present, and the sidesmen of Holy Trinity Church, viz., Messrs. S. Stanway, H. Williams and E. Johnson. Apologies were received from Mr. Herbert Hughes (Vicar's warden) and Mr. Thos. Doughty, saying that illness prevented them being present. The function was arranged by Mr. William Saunders, head ringer and towerkeeper, and an excellent meal was served.

The loyal toasts were honoured, and Councillor Barker proposed 'Church and State,' to which the Chairman replied.—The health of 'The Visitors' was proposed by Mr. Fred Johnson, and Alderman Roberts responded.

Councillor Bishop submitted the toast of 'Continued prosperity to the Coalbrookdale ringers,' and Mr. Wm. Saunders suitably replied.—The health of 'The Chairman' was submitted by Councillor Barker, and was responded to.

During the evening Mr. Wm. Saunders explained the origin of the function, and said it would help to promote a feeling of goodwill among the ringers.—A musical programme was rendered during the evening by the following: Alderman Roberts, Messrs. F. Francis, A. J. Garbett, D. Wase, G. E. Wase, J. Garbett, and the Coalbrookdale handbell ringers. Mr. Wallace Wall was the accompanist. All present agreed that the annual dinner of the Coalbrookdale ringers had come to stay.

RINGERS ENTERTAINED.

A pleasant gathering took place at the Bull's Head, King's Norton, on Saturday, January 21st, when the Ringing Master of the St. Nicolas' Guild, Mr. F. B. Yates, invited the members and a few friends to dine with him. A splendid repast of Christmas fare had been provided, to which full justice was done. Afterwards, the company settled down to a concert, songs being well rendered by Messrs. Downes, Dowding, H. Withers and Avery, and touches upon handbells were successfully brought round.

At the conclusion, the best thanks of those present were given to Mr. Yates in a very hearty manner by Mr. J. F. Smallwood, of Derby.

A birthday peal for Mr. Yates had previously been rung.

CHITTLEHAMPTON BELLS.

A DAY'S FESTIVITIES.

The bells at Chittlehampton, Devon, have been reopened after being rehung by the well-known firm of Messrs. John Taylor and Co., Loughborough. The new framework is of massive cast iron; the foundations consist of two sets of rolled steel girders. All new fittings have been provided, with headstocks of cast iron, specially proportioned to each bell. The nickel steel gudgeons turn in ball bearings, with double race enclosed in special housing which excludes all dirt.

There were over 100 campanologists present at the reopening from Torrington, Atherington, High Bickington, Chulmleigh, King's Nympton, Tawstock, Bishop's Tawton, Marwood, Meshaw, Yarnscombe, Filleigh, West Buckland, Burrington, and Mariansleigh, all of whom expressed themselves highly pleased with the work. The proceedings started with an auction of the old timber framing, the hammer being successfully wielded by Mr. F. Dobbs, all the lots realising satisfactory prices.

A public luncheon followed, the Vicar presiding, supported by the acting Rural Dean, Rev. E. Bell Molland, Col. Gracey, Revs. W. Lee and H. J. Crocker, Wesleyan ministers, and Mr. F. Dobbs, the visiting bellringers being guests of the committee.

At the conclusion, a toast list was submitted by the Vicar. 'The King' was accorded musical honours, 'The Visitors' was acknowledged by Col. Gracey and Rev. W. Lee, 'The firm, John Taylor and Co.' was responded to by Mr. J. P. Fidler, representing the firm, and 'The ringers' was replied to by Mr. A. Darch, Torrington.

The Rev. E. Bell submitted 'The Bells Committee,' and congratulated them on the success achieved. To this, Mr. J. R. Burgess, hon. secretary and treasurer, responded. The Vicar then proposed 'The hon. secretary and committee organising the recent draw,' Mr. G. Crocker responding. 'The hon. auctioneer' was replied to by Mr. F. Dobbs, 'The subscribers' by Mr. H. E. Jones. A hearty vote was accorded the ladies, on the proposition of Mr. R. Pidler, High Bickington.

Divine service followed, the preacher being the Lord Bishop of Exeter who in the course of his address referred to the prominent part played by church bells in our national life. The bells, he said, were high up in the various towers, so that their sound might reach everyone with their message, and they had a message for all—the call to God's house and a call to higher things. He hoped they would not call in vain.

During the afternoon and evening, whist drives were in charge of Mesdames Lean and Bastin, and a skittle competition was in charge of Messrs. W. Dean, W. J. Westacott and G. Pethebridge. A public tea was provided and well patronised, followed by a dance arranged by Messrs. J. R. Burgess and P. V. Bastin, who were also M.C.'s, music being provided by the Palestrine dance band.

Much work has devolved upon Messrs. A. E. Mayne, the bellringers' secretary, and J. R. Burgess, hon. secretary and treasurer to the Bell Fund Committee, who are to be congratulated on the results achieved.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS OF RULES.

The quarterly meeting of the Lewisham District was held at St. Luke's, Bromley Common, on Saturday. Standard methods were rung during the afternoon, and a short service was held in the church, the Vicar (Rev. J. W. Hassard-Shortt) officiating. Tea, kindly provided by the Vicar, was partaken of in St. Luke's Church Hall, fifty-seven able trenchermen (and women) participating of the good fare provided. At the business meeting which followed, with the Vicar in the chair, nineteen new members were elected, including five ringers of St. Mary's, Woolwich, a tower which had been out of union for the past two or three years.

Mr. I. Emery gave a report of proceedings at the Central Committee meeting held at Tonbridge in November last. In the course of this report, Mr. Emery called the attention of members residing outside the county to the proposed amendments to Rule 4 (d) and Rule 11. These will appear, for discussion, on the agenda of the annual general meeting, and are as follows: Rule 4 (d) to be altered so that members desiring to become life members after three consecutive subscriptions of the usual amount (i.e., 2s. per annum), must notify the secretary of their desire, and Rule 11 to be altered by the addition of the words 'or other' to the closing sentence, viz., 'No travelling, or other allowances will be made to non-resident life members.' Last year 'other allowances' included free dinner tickets on the occasion of the annual general meeting.

Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Emery for his clear and concise report, and this was carried with applause.

St. Mary's, Woolwich, was chosen as the place of next meeting.

Mr. T. Groombridge proposed that a collection be made on behalf of 'Irenæus Pistor.' This was agreed to, and the sum of £1 1s. 3d. was obtained.

Mr. W. J. Jeffries moved a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, for conducting the service, for his generous hospitality in supplying a splendid repast, and for presiding at the business meeting, to the organist for his services, to the ladies for serving the tea, and to Mr. Keep, of the local band, for arranging the meeting.—This was carried with applause.—The Vicar responded, assuring the members of a hearty welcome whenever they visited St. Luke's in the future.

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LOUGHBOROUGH.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Among those whom death removed from the Surrey Association last year was Mr. W. E. Otway, of Leatherhead, not Mr. A. Otway, as inadvertently given in our last issue.

Intending visitors to the Johnston dinner on February 25th should make application for tickets to Mr. Albert Walker, 81, Baker Street, Sparkhill, Birmingham (Deputy Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild), and not to Mr. A. Paddon Smith, the hon. secretary, who will be abroad for the next three weeks.

Two thousand extents of Minor is a wonderful, if not a record, performance, yet this has been achieved by Mr. James Fernley, sen., the conductor at Norbury, Cheshire, where history has been made in 'Spliced' ringing. Last week a peal in 25 methods was rung, in the course of which Mr. Fernley reached his 2,000th 720.

Mr. William Stevens, a carpenter, who resides at Great Horwood, Bucks, has just completed 60 years as a ringer at the Great Horwood Parish Church, where his father, also a carpenter, helped to do the woodwork when the bells were rehung and one bell recast 70 or 80 years ago.

Sunday is the 40th anniversary of the peal of 12,041 Stedman Caters rung in 7 hrs. 26 mins. at Appleton on February 5th, 1888. Since that time that record has been beaten in varying stages by over 9,000 changes, but Appleton still has credit of the longest length, which it retrieved on April 22nd, 1922, when the peal of 21,363 was rung.

On February 5th, 1783, a peal of 12,672 Bob Major was rung at Bromley. It was two days after this event that the bells of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, were opened, and three separate peals were rung by three different bands on that occasion. Two of the peals were by the College Youths, and one by the Cumberlands.

The first Surprise peal rung in the 'Metropolis' was 5,600 of Superlative at Bethnal Green by the St. James' Society on February 9th, 1850.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

PROPOSAL TO FORM DIOCESAN GUILDS.

What can be written down as a most successful meeting of the Midland Counties Association was held at Syston on January 21st, when some 50 members from Burton, Cotgrave, Derby, Hinckley, Loughborough, Leicester, Nottingham and other places were present, including Mr. J. H. Shepherd from Swindon. The eight bells of the Parish Church, though not of the best, and sadly in need of rehanging, were kept going in various methods from Grandsire to Cambridge, and later in the evening Thurmaston (six bells) was visited by a number of ringers. It was unfortunate that the worthy president of the association, Ald. R. B. Chambers, B.A., J.P., could not be present, but advancing years and feeble health prevented this; and, further, the hon. treasurer (Mr. W. Willson) was unable to attend owing to business.

The committee met in the Church Rooms, and Mr. W. E. White was elected chairman. Routine matters were first dealt with, and it was decided to grant £5 to Whitwick, whose eight bells are being rehung. As proposed at the last meeting, the hon. secretary read the committee's report and the treasurer's comments on the balance sheet, and, with minor amendments, these were passed for printing in the annual report.

There have been several suggestions and proposals talked of to divide the association, which covers a huge area, into diocesan Guilds or districts, and this idea was favourably received by the committee and referred to at the general meeting.

A substantial meat tea, catered for by the churchwarden's wife and other ladies of the church, was followed by the general meeting, presided over by the Vicar (the Rev. T. R. J. Avery). He gave the members a cordial welcome in a few witty remarks. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. E. Morris) explained the various matters arising out of minutes, and also stated that the committee's report and balance sheet for 1927 had been passed, and would appear in the annual report in due course.

New members elected since the previous meeting were confirmed, viz., 1 patron (the Lord Bishop of Derby), 1 honorary, 1 life, and 22 ordinary members. The grant to Whitwick, proposed in committee, was ratified, and two auditors to check 1927 accounts were elected.

The proposals or suggestions to divide the association into diocesan Guilds or districts was then discussed at length, the Hon. Secretary first explaining that the committee had favourably received the idea, but warned the members not to come to hasty conclusions, but carefully to think the matter over, so that, should the scheme come about, it could be done in a fair and equal way to all concerned.

It was finally decided to bring the matter up again at the annual meeting on Easter Monday at Nottingham, and that in the meantime each district should discuss the matter among its members. The hon. secretary was requested to write to each of the four Lord Bishops (Derby, Leicester, Lichfield and Southwell), who all are patrons, and get their sanction and opinions.

It was quite understood that the present Midland Counties Association be kept as a central body with the four diocesan Guilds affiliated when, and if, so formed. It was also agreed unanimously that the president, Ald. Chambers, be asked to retain office for at least another year, and that all members be prepared to co-operate with his superior experience and knowledge.

ALL ENGLAND RINGERS' MEETING AT THE CROYDON BELL FOUNDRY ON MARCH 3rd.

We have issued this week an invitation to all hon. secretaries of Diocesan Guilds and County Associations asking them to send names of their members who wish to attend. I would be glad if this information could reach me not later than Wednesday, February 22nd. The programme for the day will be :—

11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.—Ringing at St. Stephen's Church, Clapham Park, and Croydon Parish Church, by arrangement.

2 p.m.—Works open to visitors. Demonstration of a peal of ten, having as tenor the 19-ton Bourdon for New York, which will be rung in its frame; a ring of eight; a carillon of 23; and sundry other peals of bells.

3.30 p.m. to 4.45.—Ringing at the Parish Church and St. Peter's, Croydon.

5 (for 5.15 p.m.).—Invitation tea at the Baths Hall, Scarbrook Road.

6.45 p.m. to 7.45.—Ringing at the Parish Church and St. Peter's.

8 p.m. to 11.45.—Social at the Baths Hall: concert, handbell ringing and dancing.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Bishop of Guildford, Canon G. F. Coleridge (president of the Central Council), the Mayor and Mayoress of Croydon, and the Vicar of Croydon (Canon E. S. Woods), are among those who have expressed their intention of being present at this gathering.

CYRIL F. JOHNSTON,
Gillett and Johnston, Croydon.

In connection with the gathering, Mr. Johnston is seeking the co-operation of the secretaries of ringing Guilds and associations in making known the arrangements, and those who require tickets will have to make application through this channel.

As the number of ringers attending is likely to be unusually large, it is not possible to extend the invitation in a general way to ringers' wives or friends (unless they are ringers also). Every effort, however, will be made to provide for a few tickets for this purpose to each association or Guild directly the number of those coming is known.

If any ringers desire to ring in the morning from 11.30 to 12.45, before visiting the works, and they could let me know, the necessary arrangements will be made at St. Stephen's Church, Clapham Park (ring of eight, tenor 17¼ cwt.), and at the Parish Church, Croydon (ring of eight, tenor 30 cwt.).

An application has been forwarded to the Railway Clearing House for reduced fares to all ringers attending. Information on this point, if the application is successful, will be published in a future issue. The nearest station to the works is West Croydon; to St. Stephen's, Clapham Park, is Clapham Common Underground: and to Croydon Parish Church, West Croydon or East Croydon.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Central Division was held at Southover, Lewes, on Saturday, January 21st. Ringing commenced at 2.30, and continued until four, when a special service was conducted by the Rector (Rev. C. R. Farnsworth, M.A.), who gave an instructive address on strength and weakness of character as exemplified in the case of St. Peter. The offertory on behalf of the benevolent fund reached the excellent sum of £1 4s. After the service, the company, which had reached close on 60, proceeded to the Church Room, where a substantial tea had been most generously provided by the Rector.

The usual business meeting followed, the Rector presiding, supported by the Master (Mr. J. T. Rickman), and was mostly of a routine nature. The following new members were elected: E. Colbran, Turner's Hill, and P. W. Arnold, C. J. Cooper, W. J. Davey, J. C. Edwards, S. Foster, F. Keywood, F. J. Sharpe, S. Simister, all members of the newly-affiliated tower of the Good Shepherd, Dyke Road, Brighton. Mr. G. Piper, who is leaving Seaford, was elected a non-resident member, and the election of Mr. J. B. Tyler, Alton, Hants, as a non-resident member, was confirmed.

The next meeting of the division—the annual—was announced to take place at East Grinstead on Saturday, March 31st, by kind invitation of the Vicar, the Rev. Dr. Golding-Bird, D.D.

The meeting concluded with the Master (Mr. J. T. Rickman) proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector of Southover for the use of the bells, the service, his address and generous hospitality. He also thanked the organist for his services. The Rector suitably responded.

Ringing was again resumed, and ranged from rounds to Caters, Royal and Surprise methods. The following towers were represented: Brighton (St. Peter's, St. Nicholas' and the Good Shepherd), Burgess Hill, Ditchling, Crawley, East Grinstead, Eastbourne (St. Saviour's and All Saints'), Heathfield, Heene, Henfield, Keymer, Lindfield, Seaford, Shoreham, Uckfield, Withyham; also the Southover Branch, who kindly made all local arrangements.

DEATH OF NORTHANTS VETERAN.

A 'FATHER' OF THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

A much respected member of the Thrapston Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, in the person of Mr. Henry Stubbs, of Raunds, Northants, passed away on January 12th, in his eightieth year. The late Mr. Stubbs had been an active ringer in the parish for 63 years, and for 61 years he had taken part in ringing the old year out and the new year in, with the exception of the war years, when ringing was prohibited.

He was also a loyal Sunday Service ringer, and always ready to help and encourage the younger members in the art of change ringing. In his early days, before the advent of buses, etc., he walked hundreds of miles to help and encourage others who were not so proficient in the art as he himself, doing real pioneer work for many miles around. It might be said that he was one of the fathers of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, for he was one of the founders of the Raunds, Wellingborough and District Society of Church Bellringers, formed in 1883, afterwards merged in the Central Northants Association, which four years ago became the Peterborough Diocesan Guild.

He had taken part in a good number of peals, his last being rung when he was 77 years of age. For the last ten years of his active working life he was sexton at the Parish Church, and it was always a pleasure to meet him with his cheery smile.

Amid many tokens of respect and sympathy, he was laid to rest at Raunds on Monday week. The services at the church and at the cemetery were taken by the Rev. A. Brown (Vicar). Amongst those present at the funeral were Mr. W. Gilbert, a life-long colleague, representing the Raunds ringers, Mr. R. Loveday, of Thrapston, and Mr. G. H. Roberts, of Ringstead, representing the Thrapston Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild. After the funeral, touches were rung with the bells fully muffled.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WIRRAL BRANCH.

The Wirral Branch of the above Guild held its annual meeting at St. Saviour's, Oxton, on Saturday, January 21st, and a goodly muster attended to make full use of the excellent peal of eight bells, the methods rung ranging from Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise Major. All had their wishes gratified, the youngest learners not being neglected, rounds being rung for their benefit.

A most pleasing feature of the gatherings of this branch is the number of youthful members who are coming along. For instance, in a touch of Cambridge Surprise Major, on Saturday, at least four of the band were under 21, two of them being only 13 years of age! This is a splendid augury for the future of ringing in this district, and reflects the greatest credit on the branch instructor (Mr. J. Cooke), who has been unsparing in his efforts to impart his knowledge to these young ringers.

A short service was held, conducted by the Rev. Canon Sayer, M.A. (Vicar), who gave a most arresting address. He appealed to those present, and especially the juniors, not to rest content in their lives, to avoid getting into a rut, and ever to be seeking to improve their condition and that of those around them. The abolition of slavery, he said, and great reforms of all kinds, had been brought about by men who had a 'divine discontent' of things as they found them, and who sought to improve matters and did not rest content until they had done so.

Tea was afterwards served, and at the succeeding meeting the branch president (Mr. J. W. Milner, of Liscard) took the chair. A letter of regret for absence was read from Mr. E. W. Elwell (general secretary of the Guild).—The election of officers took place, and a very hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for his excellent address, and to the Parochial Council for providing the really sumptuous repast, concluded an afternoon that was agreed by everyone present to have been most enjoyable.

W. J. B.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The annual meeting was held at headquarters, Barnsley, on Saturday, January 14th. In spite of inclement weather, the gathering was thoroughly representative, and great interest was taken in all the numerous items that had to be dealt with. The bells were rung freely in Minor, Triples and Major during the day.

A committee meeting was held in the Rectory by the kindness of Canon Hone. A short service in St. Mary's Chapel was taken by Rev. H. Hervey (curate).

Tea at Howard's Cafe followed, and the business meeting was held in the Parish Room, the president, Mr. W. Moxon, being in the chair. A representative of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston (Mr. S. R. Roper) was present, and was offered a warm welcome by the chairman.

Two rules, one amended, the other new, were duly passed.

Mr. W. Reyner, the president (Sandal) proposed that a special gathering be arranged, to which the Bishop and all clergy in the association should be invited to meet the members. This was deemed a happy inspiration, to be acted upon at a later meeting.

A charitable gift of £1 12s. was collected for Mr. Wilfred Richardson, a ringer, aged 84.

The accounts for 1927 were duly audited and passed. All the officials were re-elected without opposition.

THE SHERWOOD YOUTHS.

LARGE GATHERING AT NOTTINGHAM.

Growing in popularity year by year, the William Doubleday Croft's Commemoration Dinner, organised by the Society of Sherwood Youths, has now become one of the leading social gatherings of the year among ringers. The event at Nottingham last Saturday drew together a company of between 70 and 80, and, after ringing at St. Mary's Church, a happy party sat down at the Welbeck Hotel, where, thanks to the work of the Master (Mr. A. Coppock), the hon. secretary (Mr. F. Blood), and the steward (Mr. F. W. Bailey), a thoroughly enjoyable evening was passed. The Master presided, and the visitors included the Sheriff of Nottingham (Councillor J. Pollard), the Rev. W. H. Dew (curate of St. Mary's, Nottingham), Mr. J. S. Goldsmith (Woking), Capt. J. H. R. Freeborn (representing Messrs. Gillett and Johnston), Mr. J. P. Fidler and Mr. D. S. Collins (representing Messrs. J. Taylor and Co.), Councillor J. T. Brown (Spalding), Mr. G. Ladd (Pinchbeck), Mr. A. H. Ward (Derby), Mr. W. A. Wooler (Worsley), Mr. W. E. White (Cotgrave), Councillor A. B. Moss (Chilwell), and the company also included Messrs. A. Archer (the last link with the former society of Sherwood Youths), Mr. W. Flinders, Mr. M. Bend and Mr. T. Squires (other veteran Nottingham ringers), Mr. F. Blood, Mr. F. W. Bailey, and ringers and friends, including numerous ladies, from St. Mary's and St. Peter's, Nottingham, Beeston, Bottesford, Bulwell, Lenton, Long Eaton, Mansfield, Sileby, Sutton-in-Ashfield, etc.

THE DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT.

The Master, after the loyal toast had been honoured, said they had every reason to congratulate themselves upon the attendance, which was well up to the standard of those gatherings, while their visitors came from further afield than ever before. They invited the Bishop of Southwell, and he promised to attend, but, owing to his unfortunately having had a nervous breakdown in November last, he was now recuperating in Switzerland. He (the Master) suggested they should send their Bishop a letter conveying their good wishes for his speedy return to health (applause). The Chairman referred to the democratic spirit which characterised ringers. In the belfry, a man's position outside ringing fell to the ground, whether it be men like the late Sir Arthur Heywood, the late Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, or the present Recorder of Lincoln, to quote just a few. The only people who seemed to have any distinction in ringing matters were parsons and policemen (laughter). The parsons, of course, got it out of respect to the cloth, but why policemen had it, he did not know. He supposed they would read some day of a peal being rung by eight men who were on the dole (laughter). Referring to Sir Arthur Heywood, whose memory they would honour that night, the Master said he stood for the hall mark of change ringing, and the hall mark was the measure of refinement which he endeavoured to introduce into the Exercise. Among the visitors that night was the Sheriff of Nottingham. The Sheriff had always been a rather particular fancy of the Sherwood Youths, but while the old Sherwood Youths, it was said, used to lay wait for the Sheriff and rob him, the opposite now occurred. They got him to their festive board and treated him as royally as they could (laughter and applause).

'The Church' was proposed by Mr. J. P. Fidler, who neatly introduced a spice of humour into a serious toast. Referring to the fact that the Rev. W. H. Dew was the only clergyman present, and that it would fall to him to respond to the toast, he recalled the old saying that every soldier had a field marshal's baton in his knapsack. He hoped that in Mr. Dew's kit there was a pair of gaiters (laughter and applause). Mr. Dew would see from that gathering the spirit that prevailed amongst ringers. Speaking at Bristol the week before, the Bishop of Malmesbury had pointed out that the animosity that prevailed in some ranks of churchmen was absent at a ringers' gathering. In the belfry, said the speaker, no matter whether they were high Church or low Church, or Roman Catholic, there was nothing which prevented a ringer from taking a rope. His opinions on other subjects did not count in the belfry. So far as the ringers and the controversy which was now raging were concerned, the ringers had every confidence in the Bishops as representing the Church.

After the toast had been honoured, a course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells which had been presented to St. Mary's tower by Mr. Archer, who had been both a ringer and chorister there.

The Rev. W. H. Dew acknowledged the toast, and said that, while not a ringer, he realised the tremendous technique and skill there was in bellringing. The clergy and congregations realised the service that was rendered by the ringers. He felt it to be a great privilege to be there that night as an outward and visible sign of what he hoped was coming in their congregations, and was already beginning to be present—an ideal unity, which should be reflected in the outer world, for which all men of goodwill were working (applause).

THE LATE SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD.

The next toast was 'The memory of Sir A. Percival Heywood, Bart.' This was entrusted to Mr. W. E. White, who had had a long personal acquaintance with the late president of the Midland Counties Association. Mr. White said he felt sure all would readily endorse his remarks when he said Sir Arthur was every inch a gentleman, plain, straightforward, and sincere, yet at the same time one who would never, if possible, say a word that would pain a fellow-creature. He was a pioneer amongst ringers and ringing at a time when both were rising from the opprobrium which had covered them for so many years, and he was instrumental in bringing together in many parishes the incumbent and his ringers to their mutual advantage, impressing upon both that the ringers' office is essentially a branch of the Church's work, and as such demands proper recognition by the Church authorities and seemly conduct by the ringers. During his residence at Duffield he was an example of what a church bellringer should be. Punctual and constant in his attendance at practice, ringing for Sunday services and his attendance at the service afterwards, always anxious that the striking should be of the best, and avoiding as much as possible the ringing of single bells and the clanging and jangling of which we hear so much when bells are being raised and lowered. The result of his researches into the various methods of change ringing then practised, and his creation of that musical method 'Duffield,' would alone point him out as being above the ordinary run; but it is, perhaps, as president of the M.C.A. (a position he occupied for 29 years) that he will be best remembered locally, and as the founder and president of the Central Council of Church Bellringers, from the date of its inception until the time of his death in 1916, that he will be best remembered by the ringers of England. He (the speaker) knew him intimately. He was a man whose sole idea seemed to be a desire to leave everything he touched in a better state than that in which he found it, and the status of the ringers was considerably raised during the time he was with them, perhaps not entirely due to his efforts, but he certainly was responsible for much of it. The only memorial—if such it could be called— from his ringing friends was to be a peal board in Duffield Church tower to record the last peal in which he took part. If the ringers of England could do no more, let them at least cherish his memory in their hearts.

The toast was honoured by the company standing in silence for one minute.

BIG BELLS FOR NOTTINGHAM.

Mr. A. B. Moss proposed the toast of 'The City' in a brief speech, in which he said they, as bellringers and citizens, could congratulate themselves on the churches of the city, and also on the enjoyment they derived from the bells there.

Mr. Sheriff Pollard replied in an interesting speech, in the course of which he said all those connected with their churches appreciated very much the work which ringers were carrying on throughout the country. Those who were citizens of Nottingham had as a heritage a splendid city, as progressive as, if not far more than, any other city in this country. Continuing, the speaker said the name of Pollard appeared three times, representing three persons, on the bells of the Parish Church of Eastwood. He had been greatly interested to visit the church recently and inspect those bells and their inscriptions. He felt that if they could in some way create more interest in the bells of the city of Nottingham and other places they would have greater support than they were receiving at the present time. Bells had played a great part in the history of this land; and the ringers should be proud of their art. He did know it was appreciated by those who loved their church. Proceeding, the Sheriff referred to the bells and clock which are shortly to be erected in the new Nottingham Exchange building which is nearing completion. The industries of Nottingham, he said, were to be illustrated in the frieze and tympanum. On the frieze they would find lacemakers, miners and other trades illustrated, and one that would interest ringers very much was a cupid working at a bell, which was included because at one time long ago they had a bell foundry in Nottingham. The bells of the new Exchange would consist of a large hour bell and four smaller bells, to give the Westminster chimes. The idea was that the large bell should give a note that would sound over a radius of five miles from the Market Place. The weight of the bell would be approximately ten tons, and the total weight of the whole would be approximately 16 tons. The bells were to be cast by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, and the clock was being made by Messrs. Cope, of Nottingham. The bells which they were going to have showed that the members of the Corporation did not think that bells were a noisy nuisance, as some people tried to describe them. They were wonderfully musical, and for those who could enter into the joys and spirit of those things there was no doubt much pleasure to be derived from it (applause).

'The silent toast' was next on the list, and the only name to be coupled with it was that of the late Mr. Pryce Taylor. He had attended that dinner on two occasions, said the Chairman, and they all deeply regretted his death in Canada. The toast was drunk in silence.

Mr. Fred Blood proposed 'The Visitors,' remarking that the Sherwood Youths were very pleased to have so good a company present. They had visitors from fresh ground there that night, but they missed one visitor of former years, Mr. George Walker, of Birmingham.

Capt. Freeborn responded. He reminded the company of what Canon Coleridge had said at Guildford recently, that he was pleased to see the bell founders present, because the bell founders were their friends. That was very true, but it was not always recognised or realised.

LUNATICS ALL.

At this stage, the Vicar of St. Mary's (Canon G. Gordon) arrived, attired in his scoutmaster's uniform. Called upon to address the meeting, he greeted the company as 'fellow lunatics.' Was it possible for a man to be happy or wise, if he was not a bit of a lunatic? How could they be happy or wise unless they had a hobby, and how could they be enthusiastic over a hobby unless they were 'cracked' on it.

(Continued on next page.)

LADIES' GUILD.

WEDDING PRESENTATION TO THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY.

The combined meeting of the Central and Southern Districts of the Ladies' Guild, held at St. Clement Danes, Strand, on Saturday, January 21st, was a great success from all points. Visitors were numerous, and all the districts of the Guild were represented, with the exception of the Western and Northern. Ringing commenced at 3 p.m., and touches in all standard methods up to Cambridge Royal were successfully brought round.

The service at 5 p.m. was taken by the Rector, the Rev. W. Pennington-Bickford, who gave a most interesting address on the origin of bells, and referred to the use of strips of iron by the Greeks when forbidden the use of bells by the Turks. The Rector concluded his address by a sympathetic reference to the bereavement sustained by the Central District secretary (Mrs. F. I. Hairs) by the death of her mother.

After the service an adjournment was made for tea, to which 70 sat down. The company then proceeded to the Parish Hall, which the Rector had kindly placed at the disposal of the ladies for their business meeting, and to which the gentlemen were also invited.

Miss Evelyn Steel (president of the Guild) occupied the chair, being supported by the general and district secretaries. The ordinary routine, which was brief and carried out in a commendably business-like manner, was soon over, and the most important part of the day's proceedings was then reached, namely, a presentation to Miss Parker, the general secretary, on her approaching marriage to Mr. G. W. Fletcher. The wedding takes place at Edmonton to-morrow.

Miss Steel, in making the presentation, drew attention to the fact that when Miss Parker first suggested the formation of a Ladies' Guild (after an attempt for a peal by eight ladies one hot day in July, 1911), it seemed an impossible proposition. However, the Guild was started with eight members, and after years of hard work on Miss Parker's part they now had a membership of over 250. Miss Steel said that as a mark of appreciation for all Miss Parker had done for lady ringers she had great pleasure in asking her to accept a small present from the Guild on the occasion of her forthcoming marriage, and with the present went the very best wishes of the members for her future health, wealth and happiness (applause).

Miss Parker, in a few well-chosen words, thanked the members for their beautiful gift, adding that she had quite a lot she would like to say, but the gift had come as such a surprise to her that all she could say was, 'From the bottom of my heart, thank you.'

Mr. A. E. Young (secretary of the Central Council) said that he knew the ladies would not object to him expressing the appreciation of the Standing Committee of the Central Council for the work Miss Parker had done for ringing in general, and he had great pleasure in handing her a signed letter from that committee, at the same time enclosing a cheque as a personal gift from himself, wishing her all happiness in her future life.

On the proposition of Mrs. R. F. Deal, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Rector for the use of the tower, and for the service and for his interesting address.—To this the Rev. Pennington Bickford replied, remarking that he had no idea that the 'Ladies' Guild' had so many members all over the kingdom, and expressing his pleasure at being able to welcome the ladies, who, he thought, had a very beneficial influence in the belfry.

The meeting was brought to a close by Mrs. F. I. Hairs proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Harris, the choir boys, and Miss E. E. Chapman for their kind assistance, after which all present made their way to the top table to inspect the gift, which consisted of an oak sideboard set, comprising salad bowl and servers, two biscuit barrels, butter dish and trowel, sugar bowl and tongs, cruet stand, and a 24in. tray.

All agreed that the committee responsible could not have done better in their choice.

An hour's ringing at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields was the last item of one of the most successful meetings of the Guild. The ladies take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Gear for having everything in readiness at St. Giles'.

NORTHERN DISTRICT'S NEW SECRETARY.

A very enjoyable meeting of the Northern District was held at Handsworth Church, Sheffield, on Saturday, January 28th, when members of the Guild were present from Bradford, Dore, Norton, Rotherham, Surfleet and the local company, the visitors including ringers from Sheffield and Bradford Cathedrals, Treeton, Wombwell and Lincolnshire. A choral service was held in the church, Mrs. Baker presiding at the organ. Those present were privileged to hear from the Rector a most interesting address on the true spirit of 'clannishness' (as distinct from 'cliquishness'), which does to a very large extent exist among ringers, and which many hope to see as a solution to the present controversy among the leaders of our national church.

An excellent tea was served in the Parish Room, after which a vote of thanks to the Rector and Mrs. Baker and the local company was proposed by Mrs. Cotterell, the vice-president of the district.

Contrary to custom, the gentlemen, being few in number, were allowed to remain to the business meeting, at which Mrs. Baker took the chair. Three new members were elected—Miss Spieby, of Doncaster, Mrs. Downing, of Handsworth, and Miss Schofield, of Glodwick, Oldham.

The Chairman, with a few words of most kind appreciation, announced the resignation of the hon. secretary, Miss Davenport, in view of her approaching marriage, and asked for nominations for the election of a new secretary. The choice fell finally on Mrs. Hilda Jacques, of Mansfield Woodhouse, to the great pleasure of those present. It is earnestly hoped that members of the district will support her in all her work for the Guild, and in so doing help to build up this Northern District, whose foundations have been but so recently laid.

The next meeting will be held on Easter Monday, April 9th, at Rotherham Parish Church, in conjunction with the Sheffield District Society.

The Secretary announced that congratulations on the ladies' peal had been received from Miss Edith Parker, Miss Sylvia Thursfield, and from many officials of other associations in various parts of the country. It was decided that a peal tablet should be hung in the belfry of Handsworth Church to commemorate this first peal of Major rung by ladies. Any members of the Guild or friends who would care to send a contribution, however small, to this end, are invited to communicate with Mrs. Jacques, The Bungalow, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts, who will be most grateful for any donations.

DEATH OF MR. W. E. GARRARD.

WELL-KNOWN LONDON RINGER DIES IN THE STREET.

The Exercise will learn with regret of the sudden death of Mr. Wm. E. Garrard, an ex-Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, who expired suddenly on January 20th, from heart failure. Mr. Garrard had been to Paddington Station, where he had met Mr. W. H. Fussell, of Slough, and was on his way home when he collapsed in the street. He was 61 years of age, and had long been associated with St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, where he was leader of the ringers.

Mr. Garrard was an excellent all-round ringer and conductor, and a delightful man with a young band. He did a great deal of work in instructing beginners, and was always ready with help and advice. But not only was he an able tutor; he was also an accomplished performer, and among the peals in which he took part was the 'London' Surprise Royal at Stepney. He called the 60 course ends of Stedman Caters at All Saints', Fulham, on October 24th, 1896, and the men who rang the four back bells in that peal of 6,550 changes have now all 'crossed the bourne.'

The first part of the funeral service was taken in St. Mary Abbot's Church, and at the graveside members of the College Youths paid the ringers' last tribute by ringing the handbells after the committal. Three whole pulls in rounds thrice was followed by a course of Stedman Triples.

Mr. Garrard was interred in the grave of his eldest son, who, born on the same day as the Prince of Wales, died ten years ago. The deceased leaves a widow, three sons and a daughter to mourn their loss.

The bells in several of the London churches have been rung muffled in his memory, but a peal at St. Magnus' by the London County Association came to grief on Saturday through the sexton attempting to ring the Angelus while the bells were in motion.

MR. ROBERT G. BLACK'S 100 PEALS.

Grandsire Doubles, rung 5, Triples 2, Caters 2 (conducted 1); Stedman Doubles 1, Triples 3, Caters 3; Bob Minor 5 (5), Major 6 (2), Royal 1 (1); Kent Treble Bob Major 6 (4), Royal 1; Spliced Treble Bob Royal 1; Cambridge Surprise Minor 3 (1), Major 4 (1), Royal 1; Double Norwich Major 5 (2); Superlative Surprise Major 4; Minor in three methods 3, in four methods 4 (1), in five methods 4 (2), in seven methods 20 (12), in eight methods 3 (1), in nine methods 1 (1); Doubles from two to seven methods 12 (5); total, 100 (39). Rung in 32 towers with 111 different ringers.

SHERWOOD YOUTHS—*continued.*

The hobby on which he was 'cracked' was a very good one, and he knew the bellringers' hobby was also a very good one. In the Scouts they tried to do good turns, and the ringers also did their good turn in a stuffy, noisy belfry, doing things he would not do if they paid him, doing it because they loved it, and doing something which the rest of them valued very much (applause). He, therefore, thought their form of lunacy was a very good one, and he congratulated them on it (laughter and applause). He wished long life to the Sherwood Youths.

The concluding toast was 'The Ringing World,' submitted in complimentary terms by Mr. F. S. Price, and acknowledged by Mr. J. S. Goldsmith.

A feature of these gatherings is always the musical programme, and on Saturday it was up to the customary high level. It was principally sustained by the Welbeck Quartette (of which the Master of the Sherwood Youths is a member), and their five listed items had to be doubled, so greatly were the company pleased with the glees and quartettes. The pieces were of diversified type, ranging from grave to gay, and one every occasion an encore was demanded. Mr. Leonard C. Pearce sang 'Nita Gitana,' Mr. J. F. Adkin, 'Neptune,' and Mr. Warren, 'Songs of Araby.' These three, with Mr. Coppock, make up the quartette. Miss Daisy Greening's songs were a delightful contribution to the evening's enjoyment, and included 'Land of Hope and Glory,' 'A little brown owl,' 'Come to the fair,' and Liddell's 'Abide with me.' Mr. Fred Blood, jun., the son of the secretary, was an able accompanist, and also played a brilliantly executed pianoforte solo.

'IRENÆUS PISTOR.'

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following further contributions to the fund for assisting Mr. Alf. T. Baker, of 22, Hawthorn Road, Hillsborough, Sheffield ('Irenæus Pistor'), whose affliction has appealed so widely to the sympathies of members of the Exercise.

The appeal which has been published in these columns has led to an effort being initiated at Ilkeston, where Mr. Baker began his ringing career, to enlist help for him among the parishioners there, and Capt. Humphreys is receiving the local subscriptions.

Ringers who have not yet sent their contributions to 'The Ringing World' fund should do so as early as possible. Donations will be acknowledged through these columns. Cheques should be made payable to the Editor.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	106	9	11
Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, per J. Sparrow ...	1	0	0
St. Peter's Bellringers' Guild, Blaenavon, Mon.		10	0
Sandiacre, Derbyshire, ringers, per J. Hall		10	0
Ringers of St. Mary's Church, Broomfield, Essex		10	6
Ringers of Mitcham Tower	1	0	0
St. Thomas' Church bellringers, South Wigston		5	0
Ringers of Shroton, Blandford, Dorset	1	1	0
St. Mark's, Worsley, band		10	0
Ringers of Ickleton, Cambs		5	0
Collected at the Portsmouth District meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, per F. W. Rogers		9	0
Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, Caversham		10	0
J. H. B. Hesse, Haslemere		5	0
C. H. Howard, Braintree		10	6
H. Stenton, South Anston, Sheffield (second donation) ...		10	0
Ringing friends at Stourton and Mere, Wilts	1	1	0
Archdeacon Conybeare and ringers of Southwell Cathedral		10	0
Capt. J. H. R. Freeborn		10	0
W. B.		2	6
	£116	9	5

SUICIDE IN A BELFRY.

A tragedy occurred in the belfry of the Parish Church, Mitcham, Surrey, last week, when Stanley Robert King, one of the ringers, was found hanged by one of the bell ropes. The inquest was held on Friday, which would have been the deceased's 26th birthday, and a verdict of 'Suicide while of unsound mind' was returned.

Mr. Henry King, father of the dead man, told how he looked for his son in the gloomy belfry. His search ended when the beams of his torch shone on his son's upturned face. His son, added Mr. King, had no trouble of any sort. He was always bright and was fond of cycling.

The Coroner: There was something abnormal about him, wasn't there?—He was very reticent.

Is there any insanity in the family?—Yes, there is a brother in an asylum.

A strange note, it is now reported, has since been found in the belfry. The note, which was in King's handwriting, was discovered by Mr. John Lott, another ringer, in the belfry register. It stated:—

'I'm sorry I did not let all the bells down. I slipped on the fifth and hurt my back. It was my own fault. Heaven bless you all. Oh, my back. It does hurt.'

The last sentence was underlined.

The message was taken to the Vicar of Mitcham, who handed it to the police. It is not thought that it can affect the coroner's verdict.

THE LATE MRS. KATHARINE HELEN BENNETT.

The funeral took place on Monday week in the Brighton and Preston Cemetery of Mrs. Katharine Helen Bennett, of 21, Warleigh Road, Brighton, who passed peacefully away, after a brief illness, on January 11th, at the age of sixty. Mrs. Bennett was the wife of Mr. Frank Bennett, the leader of the Brighton St. Nicholas' Church bellringers, and mother of Mrs. Frank Hairs, who, with her husband, is also well known to the campanological world. The whole of the service was taken in the chapel at the cemetery, the Rev. H. Collinson, Vicar of St. Nicholas', officiating. The family mourners were Mr. Frank Bennett (widower), Mrs. and Mr. Frank I. Hairs (daughter and son-in-law), Mr. Reginald Bennett (son), and Miss Goodall (sister). At the cemetery, the St. Nicholas' ringers were represented by Mr. G. Smart and the St. Peter's ringers by Mr. J. T. Rickman and Mr. K. Hart. There were many beautiful floral tributes, including one from the ringers of St. Nicholas' Church.—The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. Brown, Baker and Weston.

Mr. Frank Bennett and family desire to thank sincerely all those who have sent them messages of sympathy and condolence in their great loss.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.

Full set of 178 HANDBELLS and all accessories for sale. Property of winner of many prizes; Belle Vue, Manchester, Society defunct. Must sell. Full information.—Pickles, Shirley Villas, Cleckheaton, Yorks.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 8d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4/- per quarter.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual meeting will take place at Isleworth on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Tower open at 2.45. Service 4.45, followed by tea and meeting in the Church Hall.—Wm. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

LADIES' GUILD.—Lincolnshire District.—A meeting will be held at Bassingham, near Lincoln, on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Bells (6) available from 2 p.m. Service at 4.15. Tea 4.45.—Mrs. R. Richardson, Glyn Garth, Surfleet, near Spalding, Lincs.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which enables members who have not attended twenty times in the previous year to vote on matters of finance, is now due. Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus' on February 16th; *St. Giles', Cripplegate, on the 7th; St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 9th (8 p.m.); *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 21st; Southwark Cathedral on the 23rd, at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—By kind permission of Rev. Canon Solloway, and the churchwardens of Selby, the annual meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Selby on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Divine service in the Abbey at 4 p.m. Bells (10) available from 12 noon onward. Tea will be provided at a charge of 1s. 6d. each. Annual reports will be issued at this meeting, and subscriptions received.—P. J. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., 396, Meanwood Road, Leeds.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Annual meeting, St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, Saturday, Feb. 4th. Bells 3 p.m. Short service, with address by the Rector, at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30, followed by business meeting. On shilling will be charged for tea. Other ringing arrangements: St. Clement Danes', 3 to 4.30 p.m.; St. Andrew's, Wells Street, 7.45 to 9 p.m.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District. — A quarterly meeting will be held at Horley on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Bells available from 3. Service at 5. Tea and business to follow.—A. J. Bull, Hon. Sec. pro. tem., Jesmond, Queen's Road, Horley, Surrey.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at West Ham (10 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Subscriptions for 1928 are now due.—E. J. Butler, Dis. Sec., 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Church Kirk, on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Reports to hand.—F. Hindle, Hon. Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Central District. — The annual meeting of the district will be held at St. Leonard's, Streatham, on Saturday, Feb. 4th. The following towers will be open for ringing: St. Stephen's, Clapham Park, 2.30 to 4 p.m.; St. Leonard's, Streatham, 3.30 to 5.30; Immanuel, Streatham Common, after the meeting until 9 p.m. Service at St. Leonard's 5.30. Tea and business meeting at Streatham Hall.—A. J. Trappitt, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Mellows Road, Wallington.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—A ringing meeting will be held at Bulwell on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Bells (8) will be available from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.—F. W. Bailey, Local Hon. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Bedford District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's Church, Bedford, on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Tower open 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5. Business meeting to follow.—W. Stapleton, Dis. Sec., 24, New Fenlake, Bedford.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—Next meeting at Treeton, Feb. 4th. A committee meeting will be held, at which a full attendance is desired. Will those requiring tea please advise Mr. F. Hanson, 50, Wood Lane, Treeton?—Colin Harrison, Hon. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A meeting will be held at Overbury on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Service at 5 p.m. Tea provided in Overbury Village Hall for those who notify me by the Tuesday previous.—J. Hemming, Branch Sec., 29, Church Bank, Great Hampton, Evesham.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. —Ilchester Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Martock on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow.—F. Farrant, Martock.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Annual meeting at Faringdon, Saturday, Feb. 4th. Tower open 2.30. Service 3.30. Those requiring tea please notify E. Webley, Union Street, Faringdon, by Feb. 1st. Visitors heartily invited.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Baldock on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Short service in church 5 o'clock. Tea 5.30 at the White Lion Hotel. All are welcome. Annual subscriptions now due.—Geo. T. Croft, Dis. Sec., 37, Burnell Walk, Letchworth.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Northampton Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Kingsthorpe on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 o'clock.—T. Tebbutt, West Street, Moulton, Northampton.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North Essex Division. — The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Colchester, on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Ringing commences at 3.30 p.m. Short ringers' service at St. Peter's at 4.30, and 5 p.m. tea and meeting in the Parish Room (1s. each). — R. W. Stannard, Pantiles, 12, Ireton Road, Colchester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Western District.—The next meeting will take place at King's Langley (8 bells) on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Bells available afternoon and evening. Frequent bus service from Watford. All ringers and friends welcome. — W. Ayre, Leverstock Green.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—The inaugural meeting of the new Andover District will be held at Whitchurch on Saturday, Feb. 4th. Bells (8), also Laverstoke (6), available from 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5, business meeting follows. A good attendance requested. All ringers welcome. — G. Pullinger, Sec. pro tem., 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—By permission of the church authorities this tower will be open on Monday evenings till further notice, commencing Feb. 6th, as a general practice tower to all members of the branch. Learners specially invited. Time: 7.30 p.m. till 9.30 p.m. Will members please turn up so as to make these meetings a success?—J. Hall, Branch Sec., St. John's, Oldham Road, Miles Platting.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Tower open at 2.30. Service at 4.30. Tea after service, followed by business meeting. Members requiring tea must notify the district secretary not later than Tuesday, Feb. 7th. Subscriptions are now due, and can be paid at this meeting or sent to the district secretary. — W. Latter, Hon. Dis. Sec., 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—The next meeting will be held at All Saints', Springfield, on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Those requiring tea please notify secretary by Wednesday, Feb. 8th, at latest.—R. C. Clark, Dis. Sec., 8, Hill Road, Chelmsford.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Dorset Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Sturminster Newton on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Preacher, the Rev. H. Bowden-Smith (Vicar). Tea 5, at the Swan Hotel (6d. for members). Meeting to follow. Will all ringers who wish to attend, and all will be welcome, please let the Rev. A. E. Nedham, Compton Abbas Rectory, Shaftesbury, know by Feb. 7th at the latest? Towers available: Sturminster Newton (6) and Okeford Fitzpaine (6).—R. E. P. Gorringe, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch. — Practice at Hurst (8 bells), Saturday, Feb. 11th, at 6 p.m. All ringers welcome.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Hindley, on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 6. Reports ready. Subscriptions due.—James W. Grounds, Sec., 8, School Lane, Standish.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch. —A meeting of the above branch will be held at Hampstead Norris on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells (6) available from 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea at 1s. at 5 p.m. All ringers welcome. Intending visitors please notify the Rev. W. A. Lowsley, The Vicarage, Hampstead Norris, by Monday, Feb. 6th, for tea.—H. W. Curtis, Hon. Sec., Church Road, Shaw, Newbury.

HERTS ASSOCIATION. — Watford, Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells open from 4 p.m. Tea 5.45 p.m. Business meeting after. Cheap trains from Broad Street, Euston, or Elephant and Castle. Names for tea by the 8th please.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. (Tel. City 4270.)

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—All members are earnestly invited to the annual meeting on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Ringing at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East from 2.30 to 4, and St. Clement Danes' from 2.30 until the service at 4.30. Preacher, the Rev. Canon H. Foster Pegg. Tea in the Parish Room, by ticket, followed by business meeting. Other meetings for ringing during February: St. Clement Danes', Sunday, the 5th, at 10 a.m., and Mondays, the 13th and the 27th, at 7.30; St. Mary's, Lambeth, Tuesday, the 21st, at 8.—A. H. Keighley, Gen. Sec., 19, Pepys Road, S.E.14.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—A meeting will be held at Headcorn on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Tower open at 2 o'clock. Service at 4. Tea at the George and Dragon at 4.30. Meeting to follow. Subscriptions for 1928 can be paid at this meeting. All ringers welcome. — A. C. Kay, Dis. Sec., 6, Sturges Road, Ashford.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Salisbury Branch.—The general meeting will be held at Tisbury on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Meeting to follow. Please notify by Feb. 6th for tea. All ringers welcome. — F. W. Romaine, Hon. Branch Sec., 41, Green Croft Street, Salisbury.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Christchurch District.—A meeting of this district will be held at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells available from 3 p.m. — George Preston, Dis. Sec., 3, Waterloo Place, Christchurch.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Tower open at 2.30. Those requiring tea should let me know by Wednesday, Feb. 8th. All ringers welcome. Subscriptions now due.—G. Lambert, Drummond Hay, East Grinstead.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Ely District will be held at Melbourn, Cambs, on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells (6) ready 3 p.m. Short service 4.30. Tea 5. Will those requiring tea please notify F. Harper, Melbourn, Cambs?—F. Warrington, Hon. Dis. Sec., Long Stanton.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—The annual meeting will be held at Dunstable on Saturday, Feb. 11th. The bells will be available at 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5. A good attendance is hoped for.—Arthur E. Sharman, 199, High Street N., Dunstable.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at Barwell on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells (8) available from 4 to 7 p.m. This meeting is very important. Will *all* members therefore make an effort to attend? By the kind permission of the Rector, tea will be provided at the Schools. It is essential that all requiring tea should notify Mr. C. H. Belton, High Street, Barwell, near Leicester, by Thursday, Feb. 9th. All ringers are cordially invited.—W. Cope, Smockington, Hinckley.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Isle of Wight District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Ryde on Saturday, Feb. 11th. All Saints' Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting at the Welby Institute. Will those requiring tea kindly notify me by the 8th inst.?—B. J. Snow, Hon. Dis. Sec., 2, Collingwood, Daniel Street, Ryde, I.O.W.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting for the Hunts District will be held at Huntingdon on Feb. 11th. Service at St. Mary's Church 4.30, followed by tea (5 p.m.) and business meeting at Miller's Restaurant. Bells: St. Mary's, Huntingdon (8), 3-4.30; Godmanchester (8) after 6.30. Kindly reply by Feb. 7th.—H. B. Woolley, Long Stanton Vicarage.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Preston Parish Church on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due. — Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Helen's on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells (10) available 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Those intending being present notify me before Wednesday, Feb. 8th. All ringers welcome. — Claude I. Davies, Branch Sec., Caerleon, Dunbabin Road, Wavertree.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Leesfield, Oldham, on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. Special methods: Plain Bob and Double Norwich. Subscriptions now due. Reports to hand. — William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION. — A meeting will be held at Darton on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells ready early. Tea will be provided if sufficient number apply before Feb. 11th to Mr. George Broadhead, Earnshaw Cottages, Darton, near Barnsley. All ringers invited.—C. D. Potter, Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Sandy on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. Good train and bus services. All ringers welcome.—C. J. Ball, 2, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Hereford District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Hereford on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells available: St. Nicholas' (6), 2.30-4.30; All Saints' (8), 2.30-4-15; Cathedral (10), 7-8.30. Service at St. Nicholas' 4.30. Tea, Booth Hall, 5.15 p.m. Please notify me not later than Feb. 8th.—A. Gwynne, Dis. Sec., Deancry Cottage, Castle Street, Hereford.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Leatherhead District.—Meeting for election of district officers, etc., will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells (10) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Meat tea (1s. 6d.), in the Institute, 5.30, business meeting afterwards. Those requiring tea must notify me by Tuesday, Feb. 7th.—Farnham district meeting, at Farnham, Feb. 18th.—J. S. Goldsmith, Hon. General Sec., 63, Commercial Road, Woking.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Southern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Grantham on Saturday, Feb. 18th. Bells available afternoon and evening. Tea at 4.45 p.m., followed by business meeting. Those requiring tea please notify me by Feb. 14th.—S. Procter, 72, Bridge End Road, Grantham.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Canterbury District.—The annual meeting will be held at Elham on Saturday, Feb. 18th. Tower open for ringing at 3 p.m. Tea will be provided at 4.30 p.m., business meeting following. Subscriptions are now due, and may be paid

at this meeting. Tea provided only for those who notify me on or before Wednesday, Feb. 15th. — Percy W. Smith, Hon. Dis. Sec., Fair View, Littlebourne, Canterbury.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The pre-Lent meeting will be held at Cramlington on Saturday, Feb. 18th. Committee meeting at 4, and tea (1s. 3d. per head) at 5 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Those coming to tea please notify me by first post on Tuesday, Feb. 14th. United bus leaves the Hay Market, Newcastle, for Cramlington at the hour and every 15 minutes. Return fare 1s. 4d.—E. Ferry, Hon. Sec., 16, Gordon Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Ripple on Saturday, Feb. 18th. Service at 4 p.m. prompt. Business meeting afterwards. The bells will be available from 3 p.m. The branch secretary should be notified how many to expect by the Wednesday previous.—J. Rowlatt, Branch Sec., Old Street, Upton-on-Severn.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Deansgate, on Saturday, Feb. 18th. Bells ready 3.15. Tea 5.30, at a charge of 6d. per head. Meeting 7 o'clock. This is the last time a meeting will be held here, as the church is to be pulled down. Will members therefore make a special effort to attend?—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Spalding on Saturday, Feb. 18th. Bells available afternoon and evening. Tea at Barker's Restaurant at 4.15. Business meeting afterwards. Evensong at 6.30. Anyone requiring tea please let me know not later than Wednesday, Feb. 15th.—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 40th Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, Feb. 25th, at 6 o'clock, when the chair will be taken by Canon T. Guy Rogers, B.D., M.C., Rector of Birmingham, Chaplain to the King. To fully qualified members tickets will be issued on payment of 2s., to other members and friends, 6s. 6d. each. Applications for tickets must be accompanied by remittance. The bells of St. Martin's (12) will be available from 3 to 5 o'clock, the Cathedral (10) and Bishop Ryder's (8) from 4 to 5.30. —Albert Walker, 81, Baker Street, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. W. H. Barber is now 99, Ellesmere Road, Benwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Mr. P. Laflin has removed from 101, Longton Road, to 16, Lime Grove, Longsight, Manchester.—The address of Mr. T. Tebbutt, Northampton District Secretary of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, is now West Street, Moulton, Northampton.

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