

THE RINGING WORLD

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HOW THE ASSOCIATIONS HAVE HELPED

Last week we referred in this column to the boom in bell restoration and to the part which ringers have played in bringing this about. There is also another phase of this very satisfactory indication of progress which must not be overlooked. The various ringers' associations throughout the country have done a great deal to secure improvement in the condition of rings of bells, and, where funds permit, they give generous and practical help. To begin with, the presence of ringers at district and other meetings, held at towers where the bells go badly, not infrequently results in timely hints being given to the authorities that something ought to be done. On the other hand, ringers from towers where the bells are in an indifferent condition, on going to ring on peals which provide practical illustration of how bells really should 'go,' return to their parishes dissatisfied with the state of things in their own belfry and soon begin to stir for an improvement. In both directions, therefore, the associations have been able to help forward the good work. But they are not mere grumblers at bad conditions and agitators for improvements; they give a very practical aid when they are permitted to do so. Most of the associations have one member, or more, qualified to give technical advice with regard to what is needed in the way of restoration, and the help of these experts is always readily placed at the service of church authorities. In several cases, now, the Diocesan Advisory Boards have some one of this kind to whom they always appeal in these matters, and the day is probably not far distant when every such Board will have upon it, or in consultation with it, a man with a practical knowledge of bells and ringing. So that while our organisations do their utmost to urge on restorations, they are able to give valuable assistance in the technical advice which is at the disposal of those who desire it.

But our associations do even more than that; they vote considerable sums out of their funds towards approved restoration or augmentation schemes, and in this way the ringers of the country contribute a substantial amount to bell funds and back up their proposals with their cash. The Oxford Diocesan Guild has set a wonderful example of helpfulness in these matters, and now the Chester Guild Committee has decided to enlarge its maximum grants by 50 per cent. We should like to see this lead followed by every association which has sufficient reserves to justify it; for there is little use in accumulating money. When once the reserve has placed the organisation at 'safety' point, there seems little reason why receipts and expenditure need more than balance, and we know of no better way in which the funds of a ringing

(Continued on page 130.)

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association can be spent than in assisting in the restoration of bells, which are the instruments upon which we rely for the practice of our art. Often the contribution of the ringers helps to open the tower to the association and to interest fresh people in its activities. Judiciously administered, grants of this nature repay the organisations over and over again.

TEN BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(LATE THE ST. JAMES' SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, February 18, 1928, in Three Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MAGNUS-THE-MARTYR, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

*JAMES A. HALES	Treble 2	GEORGE H. CROSS	6
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ...	2	GEORGE A. CARD	7
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL ...	3	HUGH HILLS	8
FRANCIS E. DAWE	4	HARRY MANCE	9
WILLIAM W. THORNE ...	5	HENRY C. TAYLOR	Tenor

Composed by G. R. FARDON. Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method and on 10 bells. Rung half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Wm. E. Garrard.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Monday, February 20, 1928, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5017 CHANGES;

Tenor 36 cwt.

EDWIN J. BROWN	Treble 2	GILBERT WILTSHIRE	6
ALBERT STOWELL	2	HENRY T. HOWELL	7
FRED. G. LEAKER	3	ISAAC LONG	8
FRED W. WADE	4	WALTER FARLEY	9
RAYMOND C. SEAGER ...	5	E. GEORGE TREW	Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by EDWIN J. BROWN.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Canon C. P. Wilson, Vicar of St. Nicholas', who died on Wednesday, February 15th.

BRADFORD, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 6120 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt.

MRS. J. COTTERELL	Treble 2	JOHN W. CONDALL	6
*MISS M. DAVENPORT ...	2	WILLIAM BARTON	7
*HARRY ARMITAGE	3	WILLIAM B. FRITH	8
JAMES COTTERELL	4	JOSEPH BROADLEY	9
SIDNEY BRIGGS	5	THOS. B. KENDALL	Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS.

Conducted by JAMES COTTERELL.

* First peal on ten bells.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ASPENDEN, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 18, 1928, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 12 cwt.

*CHALLIS F. WINNEY ...	Treble 2	*SIDNEY CARTER	5
FREDR. WM. RICHARDSON	2	GEORGE DAWSON	6
*BARNARD PATMORE ...	3	WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE ...	7
GEORGE GRAY	4	*GEORGE H. CARTER ...	Tenor

Conducted by C. F. WINNEY.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Stedman Triples. Believed to be the first peal of Stedman on these bells, which have been eight for almost 200 years, viz., since 1735, the bottom five being 1681.

ACTON, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, February 20, 1928, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt.

J. EVERED WALSON Treble	ERNEST G. GARRARD 5
*HERBERT ELLIS 2	CHARLES W. ROBERTS 6
†J. WILLIAM FRUIN 3	FRANK CORKE 7
WILLIAM H. HOLLIER 4	THOMAS LOCK Tenor

Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

* First peal. † First peal of Stedman with an 'inside' bell. This peal was arranged, and rung, as a birthday compliment to Mr. W. H. Hollier.

ELTHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 21, 1928, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

FRANCIS FRASER Treble	WILLIAM A. MARTIN 5
ERNEST BRETT 2	GEORGE DAYNES 6
JOHN DAFTUS 3	WILLIAM J. JEFFRIES 7
CHARLES A. BINES 4	JIM HURRELL Tenor

Conducted by W. J. JEFFRIES.

First peal of Stedman Triples on the bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to Francis Fraser, who is 78 years of age. First peal by Francis Fraser, John Daftus and Charles A. Bines.

UPTON-ON-SEVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, February 21, 1928, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

*WILLIAM HALFORD Treble	*CHARLES ALLEN 5
*ALBERT HARTLAND 2	*FRED HAWKES 6
*JOHN ROWLAT 3	*ARTHUR GRIFFIN 7
FRANK LAWRENCE 4	CHARLES CAMM Tenor

Composed by F. HOPGOOD.

Conducted by C. CAMM.

* First peal of Major. All the above belong to the local band. The first peal of Major on the bells by a local band.

PULHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Thursday, February 23, 1928, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF NEW CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 16 lb.

FREDERICK BORRETT Treble	CHARLES CUTTING 5
CHARLES BAKER 2	ERNEST WHITING 6
ALFRED SMITH 3	CHARLES ROOPE 7
EDWIN GOATE 4	FREDERICK ROOPE Tenor

Composed by C. J. SEDGLEY.

Conducted by F. BORRETT.

TICKHILL, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(DONCASTER & DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Thursday, February 23, 1928, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb.

SAMUEL HARRISON Treble	JAMES MCCLUSKEY 5
J. EDWARD CAWSE 2	*STANLEY SHEPPARD 6
REV. R. F. WILKINSON 3	PERCY GLEDSTONE 7
MILTON C. FOWLER 4	HAROLD WALKER Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN. Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSE.

* First peal in the method. Rung with half-muffled clappers as a token of respect for the late Mr. F. G. Greenhough, a lifelong resident of Tickhill, and devoted church worker, who was accidentally knocked down and fatally injured on February 18th. The conductor has now completed the circle in this tower.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 23, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

*GEORGE OLLIVER Treble	*BERNARD WELLS 5
*NELSON ELLIOTT 2	*CECIL NICE 6
*CHARLES H. SURRIDGE 3	†ALFRED J. BELL 7
*REGINALD V. JOHNSON 4	OLIVER SIPPETTS Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.
* First peal of Surprise Major. † First peal of Superlative 'inside'.

SUNDERLAND, DURHAM.

THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 23, 1928, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes, 3

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FIVE-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt.

*WILLIAM ARMOUR Treble	JOHN J. LEIGHTON 5
GEORGE S. TAYLOR 2	JOSEPH W. PARKER 6
THOMAS STEPHENSON 3	ROBERT L. PATTERSON 7
†HAROLD B. DITCHBURN 4	†NORMAN PATTERSON Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH W. PARKER.

* First peal away from the tenor. † First peal in the method. Rung on the anniversary of the augmentation of the bells to eight, and as a birthday compliment to R. L. Patterson and T. Stephenson.

FRODSHAM, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, February 24, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

BRUCE BERRINGTON Treble	ARTHUR BERRINGTON 5
OSWALD CLAYBRECK 2	WILLIAM BIBBY 6
JOHN E. BIBBY 3	CYRIL VALENTINE 7
GEORGE COOKE 4	FRANCIS BIBBY Tenor

Composed by J. S. WILDE.

Conducted by J. E. BIBBY.

First attempt for a peal by the treble ringer.

CHIPPENHAM, WILTS.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

*THOMAS DAVISON Treble	ALFRED E. REEVES 5
ERNEST TRUMAN 2	SIDNEY J. WILTSHIRE 6
EDWARD PERRY 3	WILLIAM BOLWELL 7
*CHARLIE LOVELOCK 4	FRED LAMBETH Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE.

Conducted by FRED LAMBETH.

* First peal in the method.

ICKLETON, CAMBS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

JOHNSON'S VARIATION.

Tenor 18 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

*PERCY WEBB Treble	FRANK E. HAYNES 5
MISS KITTY WILLERS 2	STEPHEN H. WOOD 6
ALBERT E. AUSTIN 3	*ROBERT HOWARD 7
*WILLIAM A. TACK 4	*†EDWARD H. FINCH Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT HOWARD.

* First peal in the method. † First peal on more than six bells. First peal of Major as conductor. First peal in the method on the bells.

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IPSWICH.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

CHARLES PARKER... .. 1 Treble	ROBERT H. BRUNDLE... .. 5
ALBERT FLEMING... .. 2	HARRY R. ROPER... .. 6
CHARLES A. CATCHPOLE... .. 3	WILLIAM P. GARRETT... .. 7
WILLIAM J. NEVARD... .. 4	GEORGE E. SYMONDS... .. Tenor

Composed by J. H. BARRETT. Conducted by GEORGE E. SYMONDS

MARGATE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 22½ cwt.

HARRY BAKER... .. 1 Treble	CHARLES W. BRETT... .. 5
MRS. H. BAKER... .. 2	CHARLES W. PLAYER... .. 6
FRED. G. BRETT... .. 3	ARTHUR A. SAXBY... .. 7
EDWIN G. BUESDEN... .. 4	FREDERICK A. FAIRBEARD... .. Tenor

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by EDWIN G. BUESDEN.
Birthday peal for Fred G. Brett.LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF SPLICED CAMBRIDGE AND SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in B.

ERNEST MORRIS... .. 1 Treble	C. ARTHUR MANNING... .. 5
J. FREDERICK MILNER... .. 2	FREDERICK S. PRICE... .. 6
EDWARD C. GOBEY... .. 3	WALTER WHITE... .. 7
JAMES S. HUTCHBY... .. 4	PERCIVAL PRICE... .. Tenor

Composed by ALBERT J. PITMAN. Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

First Spliced Surprise peal by all, and by the association. The composition has 2,560 changes of each method, and 86's and 78's in nearly every course, and is now rung for the first time. (See 'The Ringing World,' September 11th, 1925.)

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF SPLICED TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

ILKESTON VARIATION.

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in B.

ERNEST MORRIS... .. 1 Treble	J. FREDERICK MILNER... .. 5
PERCIVAL PRICE... .. 2	C. ARTHUR MANNING... .. 6
JAMES S. HUTCHBY... .. 3	EDWARD READER... .. 7
WALTER WHITE... .. 4	EDWARD C. GOBEY... .. Tenor

Composed by ALBERT J. PITMAN. Conducted by EDWARD C. GOBEY

This composition, now rung for the first time, has 372 of 78's at back stroke, with the 6th extent in 5-6, 4th and 5th extent in 6th, and all the 86's and 867's.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5050 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

ALFRED KEEBLE... .. 1 Treble	JAMES M. BAILEY... .. 5
LESLIE G. BRETT... .. 2	FREDERICK J. SMITH... .. 6
LEONARD P. BAILEY... .. 3	CHARLES F. BAILEY... .. 7
ERNEST S. BAILEY... .. 4	JAMES G. ROMSEY... .. Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by CHAS. F. BAILEY.
100th peal for L. G. Brett, 49 being Surprise peals.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

LINDOFF'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

Tenor 15 cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. ... 1 Treble	LIONEL J. CULLUM 5
EDWIN BARNETT, JUN. ... 2	GEORGE H. DAYNES 6
ROBERT BRETT-SMITH ... 3	FREDERICK J. CULLUM, JUN. 7
HENRY WOOD 4	WILLIAM R. BOND Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK J. CULLUM, JUN.

CAERPHILLY, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS'. Tenor 13 cwt. 1 lb. in F

WILLIAM PIKE 1 Treble	PERCY JONES 5
* HAROLD C. CASSEL 2	WILFRED WILLIAMS 6
HARRY BROUGHTON 3	ALBERT ADDICOTT 7
GEORGE POPNELL 4	GEORGE COOKE Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT ADDICOTT.

* First peal of Stedman. Rung on the 17th anniversary of the opening of these bells.

TIPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

BENJAMIN GOUGH 1 Treble	ALFRED ROWLEY... .. 5
ABRAHAM GREENFIELD ... 2	HERBERT SHEPPARD 6
JOHN PRICE 3	JOHN GOODMAN, JUN. 7
WILLIAM GREEN 4	GILBERT GUEST Tenor

Conducted by JOHN GOODMAN, JUN.

This peal was rung half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Dr. A. Underhill, who was medical officer of health for Tipton for fifty years. Quarterly peal for the Guild.

BUSHEY HEATH, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt. 1 lb.

HARRY LONG 1 Treble	*STEPHEN HOARE 5
*EDWARD ASHBY 2	JOHN T. KENTISH 6
GEORGE H. CROSS 3	FREDK. W. ELLIOTT... .. 7
*RONALD BULLEN 4	WALTER AYRE Tenor

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

* First peal in the method. The ringer of the 4th was proposed a member of the association previous to starting the peal.

WHALLEY, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(CHURCHKIRK SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 22½ cwt.

SYDNEY BROWN 1 Treble	FRED READ 5
ARTHUR BROWN... .. 2	RICHARD BOLDESON 6
ARTHUR INGHAM... .. 3	JOHN HIRST... .. 7
*ARTHUR LORD 4	LAURENCE J. WILLIAMS Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by L. J. WILLIAMS.

* First of Treble Bob.

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BACUP, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr.

DAVID BROWN Treble	ALBERT MILLS 5
JAMES SMITH 2	HERBERT MILLS 6
FRED BENTLEY 3	RENNEY HARTLEY 7
NORMAN GRADY 4	W. H. HUNTER Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by W. H. HUNTER.

First peal for the ringers of the treble and 4th. The ringer of the 2nd hails from Nelson, 3rd, 7th and tenor from Burnley, treble, 4th, 5th and 6th are members of the local band.

DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Three Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 30 cwt.

GEORGE A. PICKERING ... Treble	WILLIAM H. JOHNSON ... 5
*JAMES TEMPLE 2	JOSEPH E. SYKES 6
CHARLES F. VASEY 3	ERNEST E. FERRY 7
WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON ... 4	*ERNEST A. GALLIMORE ... Tenor

Composed by T. DAY. Conducted by E. E. FERRY.

* First peal on eight bells. The ringers of the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and tenor belong to the Cathedral. First peal of Grandsire Triples and first attempt by all except the ringers of the 6th and 7th.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

HANLEY SWAN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Thursday, February 16, 1928, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. GABRIEL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, College Single, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt.

FRANK LAWRENCE Treble	ROBERT G. KNOWLES ... 4
SIDNEY T. HOLT 2	WILLIAM RANFORD 5
ERNEST GIBBS 3	CHARLES CAMM Tenor

Conducted by C. CAMM.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

WHICKHAM, DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, February 22, 1928, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Double Oxford Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 8 cwt.

JAMES E. SCOTT Treble	EDWARD A. HERN 4
*JAMES L. GRAY 2	ADAM DEAS 5
*WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON ... 3	JOSEPH E. SYKES Tenor

Conducted by EDWARD A. HERN.

* First peal of Minor. The ringers wish to thank the local band for their kindly welcome, and the Vicar for his welcome greetings.

FULMER, BUCKS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's. Tenor 7½ cwt.

JAMES H. LUCAS Treble	GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE ... 4
*RICHARD WARNETT 2	PERCY E. JONES 5
†EDGAR G. SWIFT 3	FRANK CORKE Tenor

Conducted by FRANK CORKE.

* First peal away from treble. † First peal of Minor.

BALCOMBE, SUSSEX.—On February 21st, 720 Bob Minor: A. Coote 1, R. Wood 2, A. C. V. Gasson 3, T. E. Exeter 4, A. Laker 5, A. E. T. Gasson (conductor) 6. First 720 on an inside bell by the ringer of the 2nd.

ALBRIGHTON, SHROPSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

42 six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 11 cwt. (approx.).

*GEORGE A. SMITH Treble	HERBERT T. PIPER 4
†JACK W. TAYLOR 2	ROBERT PICKERING 5
THOMAS E. TAYLOR 3	HARRY BOSWELL Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT PICKERING.

* First peal. † First peal away from treble. First peal on the bells. Rung as a birthday peal for G. A. Smith.

SOUTH WEALD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores with ten different callings.

Tenor 15 cwt.

*FREDERICK J. WOODS ... Treble	WILLIAM D. LEGGITT ... 4
*JOHN R. HARRIDGE 2	HARRY TURNER 5
GEORGE MILES 3	*EDWARD W. PALMER ... Tenor

Conducted by G. MILES.

* First peal and first attempt. Ringers of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd hail from Brentwood, 4th, 5th and 6th from Shenfield.

NORTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORD AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge and Ipswich Surprise, Violet, Duke of York, Woodbine, Kent and Oxford.

Tenor 11½ cwt. in F sharp.

OWEN WILLIAM Treble	WILLIAM CORFIELD 4
CHARLES S. RYLES 2	GEORGE BIDDULPH 5
JOHN E. WHEELDON 3	JAMES WALLEY Tenor

Conducted by JOHN E. WHEELDON.

This peal was arranged for G. Biddulph, of Lawton, Cheshire, and was his first peal in seven methods. This is J. Walleys 25th peal.

BELBROUGHTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Cambridge Surprise, two of Oxford, and three of Kent Treble Bob.

Tenor 13 cwt. (approx.).

CHARLES E. PERKINS ... Treble	*CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... 4
WILLIAM SHORT 2	*THOMAS HEMMING 5
ROBERT MATTHEWS 3	JOHN LLOYD Tenor

Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

* First peal of Minor. First peal on the bells since they were rebung by Gillett and Johnston.

EMBERTON, BUCKS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 25, 1928, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

At THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Cambridge Surprise and two 720's each of Woodbine, Kent and Oxford.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

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

Conducted by HENRY W. GAYTON.

* First peal, and elected a member of the association before starting.

MR. LESLIE G. BRETT'S 100 PEALS.

Minor in six methods 1, in seven methods 2, Grandsire Triples 1, Stedman Triples 7, Bob Major 5, Oxford Treble Bob Major 5, Kent Treble Bob Major 4, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 25, Double Oxford Bob Major 1, Superlative Surprise Major 10, Cambridge Surprise Major 23, New Cambridge Surprise Major 3, Norfolk Surprise Major 2, Yorkshire Surprise Major 2, *London Surprise Major 8, Bristol Surprise Major 1; total, 100. * Includes two in one day. These peals were rung in 25 towers, in three counties, and with 104 ringers.

BENINGTON'S FAMOUS BAND. ANOTHER VETERAN GONE.

The last but one of the famous old Benington band has passed to the other side, namely, Mr. Samuel Page, who was in his 80th year. He was laid to rest on Saturday afternoon last in the old churchyard that he had so often trod on his way to the tower and the bells he loved so well, and not many yards from the resting place of his old Master, Squire Leonard Proctor, who was such a well-known figure in the ringing Exercise 70 years ago.

'Old Sam,' as he was familiarly called, was a man whose word was his bond, and punctuality was part of his life. A promise from him, humanly speaking, was a certainty, and to be late was, in his eyes, a crime. Himself one of the very finest of strikers, and a keen listener to every change in touch or peal, no excuse was allowed for any man, who called himself a ringer, for bad striking. Mr. Page had been trained in a strict school. The writer can well remember in his childhood days hearing Benington bells across the fields, striking with the regularity of machinery.

Thomas Page, Sam's father, had the training of his son, and Sam has often repeated the words of his father to him, viz.: 'If I was going to be a ringer I'd be one,' and these words were carried out to the full by both.

The old squire would often take young Sam to various parts of England for ringing, and he was never tired of telling of his visits to Birmingham, Warwick, Ipswich, London, Lavenham, Saffron Walden, and many other places, as well as of the places visited by the whole band together to open peals, etc. For instance, the band visited Braughing on the anniversary of the opening (May 10th) for 50 years without a break, and it was seldom that all the standard methods were not rung during the day. The prowess of the band can be somewhat estimated by the newspaper report upon the visit to Galleywood, Essex, for the opening of the new church and bells, which reads: 'The opening of the church was taken advantage of by Mr. Pryor, who kindly invited the Benington band to attend, and, although they had to travel a distance of nearly 70 miles, they reached Galleywood in time to ring for morning service, after which they rang in masterly style the following touches in ten methods: Grandsire Triples 336, Stedman Triples 420, Bob Major 336, Double London Court 336, Double Norwich Court Major 1,008, Oxford Treble Bob Major 576, Kent Treble Bob Major 704, Superlative Surprise 448, Cambridge Surprise 448, London Surprise Major 448. Conducted by Thos. Page. As will be seen, the whole amounts to a peal of 5,060 changes, and, indeed, a wonderful performance which, without a doubt, no other village in England could approach.'

A few words as to the history of ringing at Benington will interest many. The church stands in a picturesque spot and in a most picturesque old-world village, with its timbered houses and rookery near by. The old bells were a ring of six. When, in 1838, Squire Proctor came to reside there at the old Lordship, two trebles were added, and a peal tablet in the tower record that the bells were opened on Jan. 29th, 1838, and the next day a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by the Royal Cumberland Youths, Wm. Lobb ringing in it, and Leonard Proctor ringing the tenor, the peal being conducted by E. Giles.

The next peal recorded was one of Double Norwich in 1849, the first in the county of Hertford, rung by residents. The next was in 1855, a peal of Superlative, the squire taking part with a mixed company. Then in 1865 came the first peal of Stedman in the county by a resident band. On December 26th, 1870, from what can be gathered, Sam rang his first peal at home, which was a 6,048 of London Surprise by all residents—truly a remarkable thing for those far-off days and for a small village. Before this date, however, he had rung in a peal of Stedman Caters at Hertford upon the old ten, years before they were burst down. He was then 21 years of age, and the peal was conducted by John Cox, of the Cumberlands. No proper account of the number of peals Mr. Page had rung can be found, but the number must be considerable for a ringer of that time, as, upon the death of his father, the conducting fell upon him, and Benington was the Mecca of many famous men. Cox, Haley, Miller, Lobb, and, in later days, Washbrook, Rev. F. E. Robinson, Nathan and Frederick Pitstow and many others were visitors, and at the Lordship the old squire kept ever-open doors to ringers. It was nothing strange, 45 or 50 years ago, to hear the bells of Benington ringing upon any day of the week, for if a peal was wanted Squire Proctor had only to call up his men, and visitors could be accommodated with any method they required.

In 1873, a board records a 5,600 of Cambridge Surprise rung by residents, and there must have been many that are not recorded, for the ringing was kept up to a very high standard right up to the time of Mr. Proctor's death, which occurred in 1895. Surprise methods were regularly rung for Sunday services, and the fame of the Benington men at that time spread throughout England. Though all men of humble calling, they were great at ringing.

And now one more of this band has left the scene. The bells he loved and had rung so often were rung half-muffled after the funeral service by his colleagues, W. H. Lawrence taking a rope in the tribune to an old and respected friend.

W. H. L.

EMBERTON, BUCKS.—For morning service, at All Saints' Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: C. Wilson 1, W. Sharp 2, J. L. Sharp (conductor) 3, W. Hoek 4, H. Lovell 5, F. G. Mynard 6. This is the first in the method as conductor, and aged 13.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

DIOCESAN TITLE SUGGESTED.

Attracted by what many who are competent to judge consider as the finest ring of eight in the diocese, and favoured with a warm, sunny day, upwards of forty members of the Essex Association attended the meeting of the Northern Division at Dunmow on Saturday. The Ringers' Office was said by the Rev. W. J. House, D.D., Vicar, and Mr. C. H. Howard (Master) read the lesson.

A sumptuous tea, provided by the local ringers' wives and friends, was much enjoyed. The Vicar presided, supported by the Rev. P. E. T. Widdington, Rector of Great Easton, the Master of the association, Mr. A. A. Saunders, District Master, and Mr. W. Arnold, district secretary.

At the meeting which followed, the District Master presided. Members were present from Braintree, Great Bardfield, Earls Colne, Fearing, Great Easton, Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham, Black Notley, Stebbing, Rayne and Dunmow. Eight new members were elected, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Stebbing.

The question of changing the name of the association was discussed. After several members had expressed their opinion, the following resolution was carried by a very large majority: 'That a recommendation be sent to the General Committee to consider the advisability of changing the name of the Essex Association to the Chelmsford Diocesan Guild.'

The Master thanked the Vicar for the use of the bells and his warm welcome, the organist and choir for their services, and the ladies who had so kindly supplied the tea.

The Vicar, in his reply, expressed the thanks of himself and his parishioners for the assistance given when the restoration and augmentation of his bells took place.

The Rector of Great Easton, who was present, announced that after a silence of forty years his ring of five bells were to be rebung and a treble added by Messrs. Taylor and Co. He gave an invitation to all to attend the dedication in July of this year.

The Vicar, who is also Rural Dean of Dunmow, stated that a lady parishioner of Great Bardfield had placed an order with the same firm of bell founders to add two trebles in Bardfield Church.

Messrs. Floyd and Saunders, members of Dunmow choir, sang very beautifully two duets, 'Excelsior' and 'The Battle Eve,' and several courses of Caters and Major were rung on the handbells. During the afternoon and evening methods from Grandsire to Cambridge Surprise Major were practised by the visiting ringers.

SOUTH-EAST DIVISION.

A meeting of the South-East Division was held at Springfield on Saturday, February 11th, and in spite of inclement weather 25 members put in an appearance. Ringing commenced at 2.30 p.m., followed by the service, conducted by the Rector, Canon F. S. Paynter. The lesson was read by Dr. Spencer-Phillips, of Great Baddow, in the absence of Mr. C. H. Howard (Master of the association). Tea was served in the Vestry Hall, followed by the meeting, at which the Rev. G. P. A. Dixon, of Springfield, was elected an hon. member. Miss I. White, of the local band, was elected a ringing member, and Mr. S. Jackson, Great Baddow, probationary member.

It was decided to hold the next meeting jointly at High Easter and Good Easter.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Rector for allowing the use of the tower and bells, and conducting the service, the organist for accompanying the hymns, and the ladies who helped with the tea.

A collection towards the fund for 'Irenaeus Pistor' amounted to 12s.

During the afternoon and evening the bells were rung in various Minor methods, including Cambridge and London Surprise.

A RINGER'S SUDDEN DEATH.

The sudden death has occurred at Guiseley, of Mr. William B. Smith, an engineer of Leafeld Mills, who passed away at the early age of 47 years on Monday night, February 20th. He went to work in his usual health about 6.15 in the morning, and on returning home at night he complained of pains in the chest and went to bed. Before a doctor could be summoned he died.

The funeral took place on Thursday week, and was largely attended. The bells were rung half-muffled on Sunday as a tribute of respect to the deceased, who had rung 65 peals. He was a good striker and a safe ringer, and will be sadly missed among ringers.

SUFFOLK GUILD.

A meeting of the Eye District was held at Eye on Saturday, February 18th, when ringers were present from Otley, Debenham, Stowupland, Stoke Ash, Thorndon, Wetheringsett, Thornham Magna, Rickinghall, Yaxley, Diss, Dickleburgh, and the local company. Tea was served at the Horse Shoes Inn, the Rev. J. R. Vincent presiding and giving a short address of welcome.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar for presiding at the meeting and for the use of the bells was proposed by Mr. E. F. Poppy. After tea the tower was again visited, and the bells were kept going until eight o'clock. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening were Treble Bob, Bob Major, Grandsire, Stedman Triples, Double Norwich, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. WIRRAL BRANCH MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Wirral Branch of the above Guild was held at St. Peter's, Rock Ferry, on Saturday, February 25th. The number of members present was not as large as it should have been, but those who did turn up thoroughly enjoyed ringing the handy peal of six. Methods of all kinds were rung, ranging from Bob Doubles to London and other Surprise Minor methods. The service was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. Arch. Ball, M.A.), who prefaced his remarks by extending a hearty welcome to those present. In his address, which was one quite out of the usual class met with at ringers' gatherings, he said he always endeavoured to find out what the other man was thinking, and on asking one individual how the church could attract the people, he was told that the clergy should cut out the 'sob stuff' and get down to real facts. That was sensible advice, and he thought every man's ambition was to be a 'white man' and to 'play the game.' The question was which was the game they were going to play? They wanted to go straight and know the skipper and the rules of the game. There was such a thing as overdoing it, and a person who, so to speak, was thinking, eating, and drinking golf was not a man—he was a maniac! There was also the game of self, which was played by large numbers in politics, business and sport. The principal point in this game was not to be found out. But the real man played for the team—the game was not the main thing. What was wanted was the team spirit, each filling his own part and all working for the good of the team as a whole. Then there was the great game of humanity, with one goal, the Kingdom of God, and one Captain, Christ. They had the book of rules, and this game was one in which saint and sportsman could meet together, and by doing so win the world for Christ.

A splendid tea was provided in the Church Hall, and at the business meeting which followed Mr. Milner (president of the branch) occupied the chair.—The Vicar appealed to the ringers not just to ring the bells on Sundays and then go home, but to come into church and join in the service.

A brief resume of the Guild committee meeting at Stockport on the previous Saturday was given by the branch representative, and a question of a picnic for the branch was raised.

A discussion arose on the question of inducing one or two towers still outside to throw in their lot with the Guild, and the good offices of the Rev. A. Ball were invoked in two instances.

LONDON.—On Sunday, January 8th, at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, City, for evening service, 1,280 Bristol Surprise Major: H. Becher 1, Miss E. E. Chapman 2, W. Hewett 3, Wm. Madgwick 4, E. F. Pike 5, C. Roberts 6, J. E. Davis (conductor) 7, R. Sanders 8.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

The February meeting was held at Darton. The church and parish are at present without a Vicar, but the churchwardens extended a warm welcome to the association and took great interest in the meeting. Members attended from Barnsley, Darfield, Hoylandswaine, Felkirk, Sandal, Shilley, Royston, and members of the local company. During the afternoon, touches of Plain Bob and Treble Bob were freely indulged in.

Tea was provided in Church Schoolroom, and much enjoyed, the attendance by the ladies giving an added charm to the proceedings. The business meeting followed. Correspondence was dealt with. Messrs. Gillett and Johnston gave a hearty invitation to the members to attend the ringers' rally on March 3rd, which was much appreciated, but owing to distance, time and expense, it was feared the pleasures would have to be reluctantly missed.

A discussion took place on the suggestion of having a central summer meeting, at which the association might have the presence of the Bishop of Wakefield and clergy. This idea is to be accomplished if at all possible.

The churchwardens, ladies and local ringers were warmly thanked.

'ALBION TREBLE BOB.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—It would have been much more to the point if the Rev. H. E. James had given the resultant lead-heads of each pair of places made independently in the Treble Bob Principle. They are as follow:—

Lead-head. Transpositions.

First pair made in 5-6	= 12346578	12346578
Second " " " "	= 12346578	12345678
Third " " " "	= 12845673	12845673
Fourth " " " "	= 12845673	12345678
Fifth " " " 3-4	= 18345672	18345672
Sixth " " " "	= 18345672	12345678
Seventh, " " " "	= 12375648	12375648
Eighth " " " "	= 12375648	12345678

It will be seen above that in each lead-head two bells only have been shifted, and in the transpositions that rounds turn up at every second row, proving the statement that Albion Treble Bob is Plain Bob, with the Treble Bob hunt added.—Yours faithfully,

GEORGE BAKER.

BALCOMBE, SUSSEX.—For evening service, on Sunday, January 15th, 720 Bob Minor in 21 mins., standing as follows: R. Wood 1, A. C. Gasson 2, A. Laker 3, T. E. Exeter 4, A. Steele 5, A. E. Gasson (conductor) 6.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

MEARS & STAINBANK,

Foundry
Established
A.D. 1570

(12th year
of reign of
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In Sets of any number.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

During evensong at Kingston Magna, Dorset, on Sunday week, the organ went out of action. The Rector's handbells were immediately brought into use, and the entire service was chorally rendered without any other accompaniment. The Rector of Kingston Magna is Rev. F. L. Edwards, hon. secretary of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild.

The peal at Thirsk, the report of which was published last week, was rung with the bells fully muffled for the late Earl Haig, and was conducted by J. W. Neesam.

Appleton 'anniversary' is to take place this year on March 10th. This event has been celebrated without a break since 1818, when the bells were made into a ring of six. Formerly the whole village used to keep the day as a holiday.

To-morrow is the 150th anniversary of a peal of 10,260 Grandsire Caters, rung at St. Mary's, Nottingham, and conducted by W. D. Crofts.

The first peal of Cambridge Surprise Major by the Yorkshire Association was rung at Drighlington on March 4th, 1899.

On March 8th, 1737, 12,605 Grandsire Caters was rung at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. Considering that this was little more than 20 years after the first peal in any method, this was a great performance.

The first peal of Stedman Caters, on the famous bells of Bow, Chappside, was rung 120 years ago next Wednesday. It was composed and conducted by George Gross, and William Shipway took part in it.

It is forty years on Saturday next, March 3rd, when the first peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on the grand old peal of bells at Lavenham. Hollis' five-part was conducted by the late Chas. Sillitoe, the band being A. Symonds, C. Sillitoe, J. Campin, A. Scott, W. Griggs, W. Howell, H. Harper and W. Moore. All have passed away except the treble man, who is a native of Preston, Suffolk.

THE CURFEW.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Will not the Rev. F. L. Edwards find out for us something really certain about the curfew? The tale we were told in our histories was that William the Conqueror, among his acts of tyranny, ordered the church bell to be rung at eight o'clock, and that then all lights must be put out; and that this was called the curfew (which is short for 'couvre-feu,' or 'cover-fire'). Also that in many places this bell is still rung. It is quite true that a bell rung at various hours in different places is called the curfew; but the fact that our oldest bells are much later than the Conquest makes the whole thing read, to ringers, more like a fairy tale than sober history. Moreover, it would seem probable that all the different bells that are rung in different places are survivals of bells that were rung for different services before the Reformation. When the services were no longer held, it was found that in certain cases people had got so accustomed to timing themselves by a bell rung at that time that the ringing of the bell was kept on, although there was no longer any service; or it may have been that the sexton was paid for ringing at certain times, and in order to still get his money he went on ringing the bell.

The last service, at bedtime, was Compline, and it is pretty certain that when a bell is rung at nine or ten it is the old Compline bell. Mr. Edwards says that at Seville 'The Curfew' is rung at ten. What exactly does this mean? Is it called the curfew in Spanish, or are fires and lights then put out, or is it simply an evening bell?

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory.

CHESHIRE SURVIVALS.

Dear Sir,—I know three places in Cheshire where the curfew is rung, viz.: Chester Cathedral, every night at nine o'clock; Frodsham, from November 2nd to February 2nd, at 8 o'clock p.m., except Saturday and Sunday, and Christmas week, when it is rung at 7 p.m.; also at Tarvin, the times of ringing being similar to Frodsham.

W. BIBBY.

NEW BELL FOR TINY DEVON PARISH.

On February 21st, the tiny parish of Bradstone, Devon, which has only about 70 inhabitants, was en fete for the dedication of a new treble bell to the existing five, which were cast by Taylor in 1809. The service was conducted by the Lord Bishop of Exeter, and it is believed that this was the first visit which the parish had received from its diocesan in the memory of man. A very large number of people attended; in fact, the church was quite full. There were nine sets of ringers from neighbouring parishes, who all had a ring on the bells, which were set going by the Kelly band, who rang two well-struck six-scores of Grandsire Doubles and one of Bob Minor, in which they were assisted by Rev. E. S. Powell, president of the Devon Guild.

The subject of the Bishop's address was 'Co-operation,' and the part it should play in our religious life. The effort of supplying funds for this undertaking had been carried out by the parishioners, so the Bishop's words were most appropriate to the occasion.

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank supplied the new bell, and also tuned the old ring, and there was a general testimony that the tone of the peal had been greatly improved. The work of hanging had been skillfully carried out by Mr. N. Stokes, of Woodbury. By the end of the day it was found that the whole cost of the undertaking had been met.

THE 'ALL-ENGLAND' MEETING.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TO-MORROW'S GREAT GATHERING.
OVER 2,000 EXPECTED AT CROYDON.

To-morrow's great meeting at Croydon, at the invitation of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, will be the largest assembly of ringers which has ever been gathered together, more than 2,100 applications having been made for tickets.

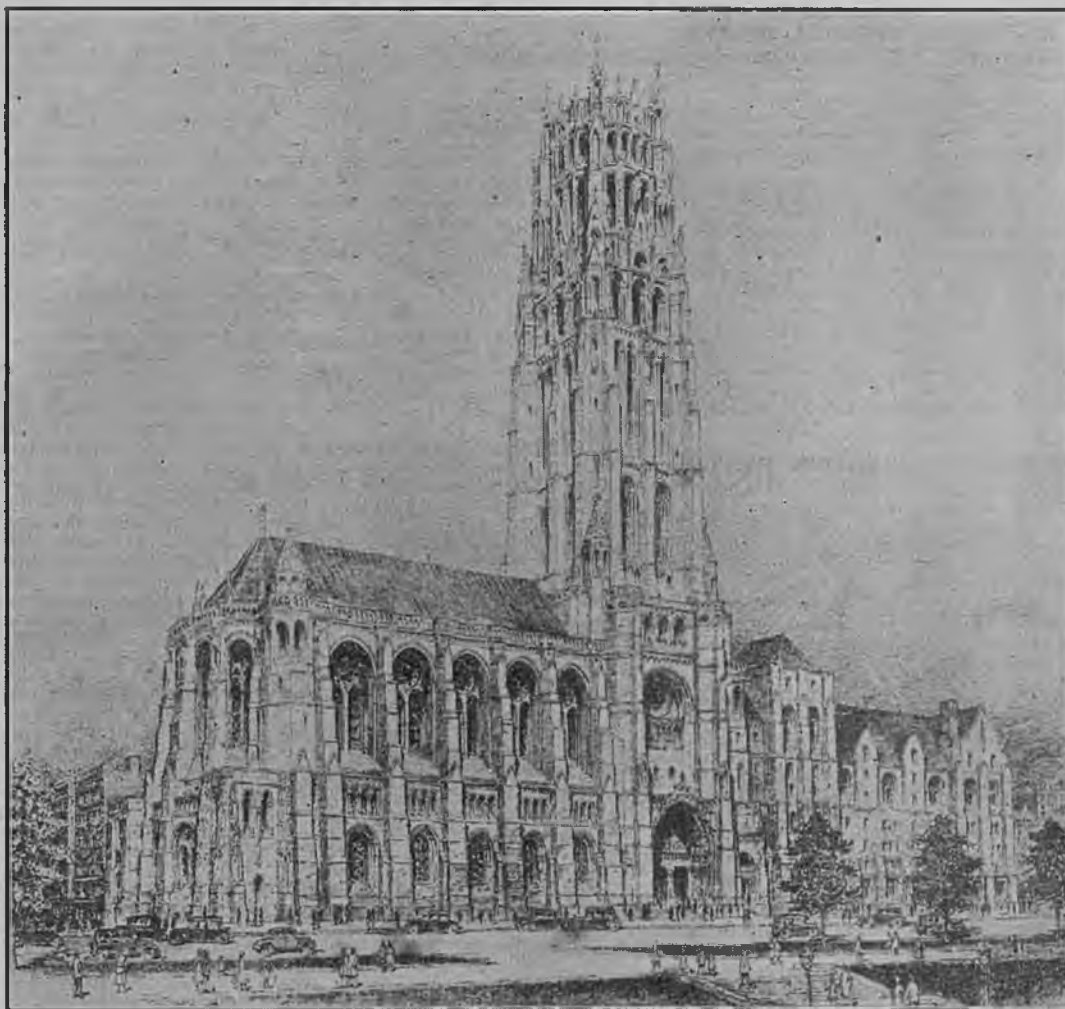
This is a wonderful testimony to the interest which ringers all over the country are taking in the work now being done at the Croydon Bell Foundry, and to handle and feed this great body of people will tax the resources of everyone concerned.

There will be some distinguished guests among the visitors, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Randall Davidson, the Bishop of Winchester and Mrs. Woods, the Bishop of Rochester and his

making, with nine others, the heaviest 'chime' in the world—a ring weighing in all 67½ tons! These bells will be chimed in changes to a lead of Bob Caters, by a picked band of ringers. The works, the bells and the carillon will be open for inspection, and at intervals the firm's employees' band will perform selections.

Those who come early to inspect the works will be able to go on to St. Peter's Church (ten bells) and the Parish Church (eight bells) for ringing. There will be special ringing stewards at the exits to assist those desirous of ringing, and a special service of buses and trams is being arranged.

In view of the large number who wish to partake of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston's hospitality, it has been found necessary to engage Croydon's four largest halls for the tea. Three of them are adjacent in Scarbrook Road, viz., the Baths Hall, the Polytechnic and the Welcome Hall. The fourth hall is the Adult School Hall, in Friends' Road,



RIVERSIDE CHURCH, NEW YORK

Where the bells from Croydon Bell Foundry are to be erected.

wife, the Bishop of Guildford and Mrs. Greig. Every association in England will be represented, and those who are going to the foundry will find a great deal to interest them.

The bells of St. Stephen's, Clapham Park, and the Parish Church, Croydon, are likely to be in full use in the morning, as many visitors have indicated that they desire to ring on them. The foundry will be opened at 2 p.m., and ringers will enter by the door in Union Road, where the first thing of special interest will be a peal of eight, hanging in their frame, and they will hear a heavy carillon of 23 bells, with a bass bell of 3½ tons in B flat being played.

In the distance they will also hear the great bourdon bell for the Riverside Church, New York, which is to crown the carillon presented by Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, booming out its deep note. The bell is the largest ever cast in England, its net weight being 18½ tons. As the guests move on they will see the bell being swung in its frame and

which is a few minutes' walk from the rest. This hall has a capacity of 500, and visitors who are to take their tea in this hall will exchange the tea half of the ticket for a special ticket.

After tea, the great Baths Hall will be cleared of tables, and the whole of the huge company will combine. While these arrangements are being carried out, the company will have the opportunity of hearing the smallest carillon in the world, the bass bell of which is only 1 cwt., in contrast to the 18½ ton bell which will previously have been heard. Miss Nora Johnston will play tunes on this carillon, and Mr. Harry Withers is to tap out a course of Erin Caters.

When the company has been massed, the Archbishop will address them, and commencing at eight o'clock there will be a social and concert, two or three eminent professional artistes having been engaged for this latter. A buffet will be provided and refreshments supplied at the usual prices.

(Continued on next page.)

THE 'ALL-ENGLAND' MEETING—continued.

As has already been announced, there are to be cheap trains from every station in the kingdom to Croydon, and the tickets at a fare and a third will be issued on presentation at the booking office of the official voucher. Croydon is reached from London from either Victoria or London Bridge Stations, and the tickets will be available to either East Croydon or West Croydon Station. The latter is the nearer to the foundry.

We are asked to state that the senior representative of each Guild or Association will be given a ticket notifying the seat reserved for him at the tea tables in the Baths Hall, which seat will also be shown on the plan printed in the souvenir leaflet which is to be distributed on arrival.

A special illustrated supplement will be printed with next week's issue of 'The Ringing World,' describing the scenes.

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH BELFRY.

The magnificent new Baptist Church in New York, for which some of the bells, on view to-morrow at the Croydon Bell Foundry, are destined, has been built on the most prominent site in the city—Riverside Drive. It stands within a few yards of Grant's tomb, overlooking the Hudson River, with an enormous panorama, extending both up and down the famous waterway, and with the Palisade in the far distance.

The building itself is as high as most of the English cathedrals, and is crowned by a beautiful tower, which is pure Gothic, and is about 400ft. high. The bells will hang about 300ft. above the side walk, in a chamber measuring approximately 36ft. octagonal inside, and 5ft. 6in. high. The nucleus of the carillon is that previously sent from the Croydon Foundry to the Park Avenue Church. These are being removed to the new building, and the number of the bells will be brought up to 64 by the bells which are shortly to be shipped from Croydon.

In the tower will be provided the various church offices and also the Sunday School, and it will be served by two high-speed elevators. At the very top of the tower is a minister's 'look-out' room.

CHIDDINGFOLD RINGER'S DEATH.

The death occurred on Saturday, February 4th, at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, of Mr. T. Luff, hon. secretary of the Chiddingfold Company, who passed away at the comparatively early age of 48 years. Deceased had been a member of the company for a good many years, and had been in the church choir for quite forty years.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, February 8th, the service being fully choral. The Rector (Rev. E. P. Pelloe) officiated, with Mr. E. Howard at the organ. The bearers were three fellow-ringers and a churchwarden, and a course of 'Grandsire Triples' was rung on handbells at the graveside by G. Luff 1-2 (who kindly took the place of W. G. Brockhurst, absent owing to illness), A. J. Bartlett 3-4, M. Smither 5-6, T. Attwell 7-8. In the evening, on the church bells, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (deceased's favourite method), with half-muffled clappers, was rung by Miss M. Attwell 1, G. Luff 2, A. J. Bartlett (conductor) 3, E. Mullard (first quarter inside) 4, M. Smither 5, D. Ayling 6, T. Attwell 7, G. Johnson 8. Ringers of 4th and 6th are old friends of the deceased from Witley. Among the numerous wreaths was one from the ringers and one from the choir. Mr. Luff is the first member of the new Guildford Diocesan Guild to 'cross the bourne.'

LINCOLN GUILD.**SOUTHERN BRANCH SECRETARY'S RETIREMENT.**

The annual meeting of the Southern Branch of the above Guild was held at Grantham on February 21st. The weather being fine, there was a good attendance. Tea was provided at the Globe Cafe, after which the business meeting was held in St. Wulfram's belfry, at which the Rev. C. J. Stanton presided. There was only one change among the officers for the ensuing year, the secretary, Mr. S. Proctor, of Grantham, after 16 years' good service, being unable to continue his duties.—Mr. Proctor was given a hearty vote of thanks for his past services.

Mr. C. T. H. Bradley, of Folkingham, was unanimously elected as secretary in his place.

The place of the next meeting was fixed for Market Deeping.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Rector for the use of the bells, also to Rev. C. J. Stanton for presiding.

The peal of ten were made good use of during the afternoon and evening, and a variety of touches in the standard methods were rung.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS.—On Thursday, February 9th, in 48 mins. a quarter-peal of Minor, consisting of 360 College Single, 720 Oxford Bob and 180 Plain Bob, by the following band, with the tenor covering: J. Stopp 1, A. V. Good 3, H. Gates 4, J. Floyd 5, W. Shepherd 6, H. Gidding (conductor) 7, C. F. Winney 8. Rung on the occasion of the induction of the Rev. A. L. Harkness, which took place the previous day at St. Paul's Church.

THE JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER**SATURDAY'S GATHERING AT BIRMINGHAM.**

With all the interest and enthusiasm which has marked so many of its predecessors, the 40th annual Henry Johnson Commemoration dinner was held at Birmingham on Saturday and attracted a company of nearly 160 ringers, coming from many parts of the country to take part in what has become one of the greatest social events of the year in the ringing Exercise. There was ringing in the afternoon on the twelve bells at St. Martin's Church, the ten at the Cathedral, and the eight at the R.C. Church of St. Chad. At 6 p.m. the company assembled at the Imperial Hotel, where in the Connaught Room the tables had been spread. The chair was taken by Rev. Canon Guy Rogers, Rector of Birmingham, who was supported by Alderman J. S. Pritchett (presiding Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild), Messrs. J. J. Kendall and F. W. Blake (churchwardens of St. Martin's), Canon Blofeld, Vicar of Edgbaston, Rev. C. E. Wormald, Rector of Solihull and Mrs. Wormald, Mr. J. Bellios (churchwarden of Edgbaston), Mr. W. R. Heaton (Solihull), Lt.-Col. the Rev. F. J. Cheverton (Vicar of Rowley Regis), Rev. J. W. Lyon (Rector of Sutton Coldfield), Rev. S. P. Riley (Vicar of Shirley), Mr. A. Paddon Smith (hon. secretary of St. Martin's Guild), and Mrs. Smith, Mr. A. Walker (Deputy Ringing Master) and Mrs. Walker, Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, J. George and T. Russam (vice-presidents) and Mrs. Russam, T. H. Reeves (trustee), Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Parsons (Old Hill), Mr. H. Mason (Hagley), Mr. E. Alex Young (hon. secretary of the Central Council) and Mrs. Young, Mr. F. B. Yates (presiding Ringing Master of St. Nicholas' Guild, King's Norton) and Mrs. Yates, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Goldsmith (Woking), Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hughes (London), Mr. C. E. Johnston and Capt. J. H. R. Freeborn (Croydon), Messrs. J. Oldham and J. P. Fidler (Loughborough), Messrs. J. S. Hawkins (Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths), E. W. Elwell (hon. secretary of the Chester Diocesan Guild), J. W. Jones (hon. secretary of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association), Colin Harrison (hon. secretary of the Sheffield District Society), A. Coppock (Master of the Sherwood Youths), Miss Coppock and Miss I. Thompson (Nottingham), Messrs. W. T. Pates (Cheltenham), T. King (Bath), H. Waghorn (London), S. Palmer (Sheffield), A. Ward (Derby), Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Smallwood (Derby), Mrs. Wilkins, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Cave, Messrs. W. Knight, W. Pring, and W. Thomas (Bristol), H. W. Wilde (Chester), A. Crawley (Crewe), T. H. Beams (Bridport), F. H. W. Sergison, G. R. Fardon (London), G. Holifield (Appleton), and others, including Mr. Joseph Johnson, Henry Johnson's younger son. The towers in and around Birmingham were well represented, and the company was a very jolly one. After an excellent dinner, the toast of 'The King' was honoured, and a 'ten minutes' interval' was fully occupied by an interchange of greetings between old friends.

Afterwards, Mr. W. H. Heaton proposed the toast of 'Church and State,' and in a graceful speech said it would be interesting to discover when Church and State were first allied—he did not mean in England alone. He wondered whether in some of the wonderful explorations which were being made in Ur they might not some day find a tablet recording that at some ancient banquet someone proposed that toast.

Canon Guy Rogers, who responded, first took the opportunity to express on behalf of those who had organised the gathering their great pleasure at seeing their guests present from the remotest parts of the country, from north, south, east and west. That was the third year he had been present, and he was beginning to feel that he had a number of friends at that annual dinner. It was a great pleasure to him to know that St. Martin's Guild continued to be so strong and so representative an institution. Referring to the toast, he said he did not think there had for a long time been the strain between the Church and State that there was at present on account of the revision of the Prayer Book, but he felt sure they would find a way through (hear, hear), and that in the future a strong Church and State would be able to co-operate for the good of the Christian religion and for the good of this people as a whole (hear, hear). It would be a disastrous thing if there were any real quarrel between them which would disturb the happy relations which had existed so long between them. They all desired that the nation should continue to be a Christian nation, and should recognise its Christianity by recognising the Christian Church. They hoped that the differences which had arisen on the ecclesiastical horizon might presently disappear, and that nothing would disturb the relations between Church and State which had existed so happily for many a generation. Proceeding, Canon Rogers referred to the strong fellowship and mutual understanding which existed among ringers, and spoke of the need in these days of making fellowship among all humanity throughout the world a great reality.

A LINK WITH HENRY JOHNSON.

Mr. Walter Bryant, an old Birmingham ringer, made an admirable little speech in proposing the toast of the evening, 'The memory of the late Henry Johnson.' He said he first met Henry Johnson as far back as 1872, and became well acquainted with him later. He rang his first peal with St. Martin's Youths, as they were then called, and it was conducted by Mr. Johnson. Five of that band had long since joined the great majority, the three remaining being Mr. William Kent, Mr. Henry Johnson, junior, and himself. He (the speaker)

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THE JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER—continued.

afterwards joined the St. Martin's band, and there he came under the influence of Mr. Johnson as a ringer. Mr. Johnson had a very strict sense of discipline, and above all he would have good striking. He was a jovial old soul, and often used to tell some good stories about the old ringers of his day. He was a man of great personality—a man who in all his undertakings was the soul of integrity and a man worthy in every way of the tributes which were paid to him at that memorial gathering.

The toast having been drunk in silence, those present who had known Henry Johnson in the flesh were asked to stand up, and out of the company there were only thirteen.

Alderman Pritchett, as usual, submitted the toast of 'Continued prosperity to St. Martin's Guild.' He said he did so on this occasion with a slightly increased tinge of sadness, in that those who knew Henry Johnson were becoming every year such a diminishing band, and especially because of the great losses the Guild had sustained in those who had passed away from them during the year. They mourned the loss of eight of their members, the first of whom to go since their last dinner being Mr. Sidney Smith, the father of their worthy secretary, Mr. Paddon Smith. They sympathised with their secretary in his irreparable loss. The next was Charles Dickens, one of a worthy pair of brothers, who had rung many peals for the Guild. Then Mr. Pryce Taylor, of Loughborough, and afterwards Mr. Stanley Bragg, of Solihull, a member of a well-known ringing family, whose death reminded them in a startling way of the uncertainty of human life. He was a stalwart man, whom one might have expected to live for many years, but he died at an early age. Then there was another worthy, whom they all knew well and remembered with affection and esteem. He referred to Mr. Reuben Hall, of West Bromwich. The great gathering at his funeral, at which that Guild was represented, was the best testimony to his worth. The next was a notable loss, their former secretary, Mr. Godden, who was in harness up to the last, and passed peacefully away from the scene of his toil. He need not dwell on his merits and his services to the Guild. Of late years they did not see so much of him as they wished, but he was one of those worthies who helped to bring the Guild to the state of prosperity which it enjoyed at the present day. The next whose loss they had to mourn was that dear friend of the Guild, the late Dean Willink, Dean of Norwich, who presided over those gatherings on several occasions during the tenure of the Rectory of St. Martin's. He was a most genial man, and he and his wife and daughters were real friends of the Guild. It was with regret that he departed from them to Norwich; it was with still deeper regret they heard of his decease. The last he had to mention was Mr. Arthur Cliff, a most sociable member of the Guild, though not a ringer, who took the warmest interest in their doings. This was a long and melancholy list, but they congratulated themselves that there were still so many of the old members alive, and apparently in the enjoyment of excellent health. They regretted the absence through indisposition of Mr. Thomas Miller, but they welcomed Mr. Wagborn, from London, who was now 85 years of age, and they also had with them Mr. Frank Banks, who celebrated his 80th birthday on the previous day, and had for the last 24 years been their steeple-keeper—an office which he worthily filled (applause). They also had with them Mr. Tom Russam, and Mr. James George, who was continuing to add to his peal record, although in his 75th year, and had now rung 974 peals. They hoped he would get a good way past his thousand before their next annual gathering (applause). Another gentleman, who, although not actually a ringer, was one in spirit, was Mr. Churchwarden Kendall, who celebrated his 79th birthday on the previous Monday. To him also they offered their congratulations and the earnest wish that he might be spared for many years to come. He had honourably served in the office of churchwarden for 40 years, and he hoped he would serve for many more years to come.

ST. MARTIN'S BELLS.

With regard to the progress of the Guild, Alderman Pritchett said that during the year they had rung 28 peals. That was not so many as in some former years, because St. Martin's bells had been out of action for reasons well known to the Church authorities. He thought he was correct in saying that it had been decided to recast and reling the bells; the difficulty was to know who should do it. There were three celebrated firms of bell founders in the country, all of them of equal merit. Their partisans in the committee which had to deal with the matter were equal in number, and no one had yet succeeded in getting a majority (laughter). How it would turn out it was impossible to say, but he was quite certain that whichever of those firms was chosen for the job, it would be done excellently (hear, hear). A notable peal was that at Hereford Cathedral on Easter Monday, and he thought their Guild had established a record for peals on cathedral bells. He only hoped the Guild would be able to ring the first peal on Worcester Cathedral bells when they had been recast and reling. The bells of Worcester Cathedral had been a disgrace for many years, but things were to be put right now, and he hoped their Guild would get the opportunity of ringing the first peal on them. Alderman Pritchett went on to speak of the Masonic peals that had been rung by the Guild, including the first Masonic peal on ten bells at Solihull. They had established a connection between bellringing and freemasonry, and they inoculated Solihull Masons with an interest in

(Continued in next column.)

ASPENDEN'S OLD BELLS.**A LITTLE-KNOWN HERTFORDSHIRE OCTAVE.**

Although Aspenden, Herts, has an old ring of eight—there has been an octave in the tower since 1736—very little peal ringing has been done there. On Saturday week Mr. Challis Winney called what was probably the first peal of Stedman on the bells, but in the ringing chamber there is a board in quite good order, recording the following:—

'October 24th, 1746, was rung here ye first peal of 5.640 Tripples by: Wm. Sanders treble, Geo. Nichols 2, Edw. Pillbrow 3, Sam. Thorp 4, Wm. Wallis 5, Wm. Bruce 6, Tho. Harvey 7, Wm. Green tenor, Ringers of this parish. Ex Dono Gulielm Freman Armigeri.'

Mr. F. W. Richardson, who sends us this information, says the only mention he can find of Aspenden is on page 61 of the Rev. F. E. Robinson's book. The bells, which hang the reverse way, are very much out of tune, especially 1, 2, 3, which were added by Robert Phelps in 1736. The original five bells were cast in 1681.

There is a band of seven ringers at this church, and there is a great chance for an instructor. The local men met the visitors, and seemed very keen.

Mr. Richardson would be glad if information about this 1746 peal could be given, as no method is stated, or time or conductor.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**A 'FAREWELL' TO ST. JOHN'S, DEANS GATE.**

The monthly meeting of the Manchester Branch was held at St. John's, Deansgate, on Saturday, February 18th, and was well attended, visitors being present from Staffordshire and other branches of the Lanes Association. It was a 'farewell' to St. John's bells, as the church is shortly to be pulled down. The bells were raised shortly after three o'clock, and were kept going till 5.30, when the ringers adjourned to the schoolroom to partake of a splendid tea kindly provided by the church authorities.

At the business meeting, the chair was taken by the Rev. W. Tonge, Rector of St. Matthew's, who is taking charge of the parish when St. John's closes. He gave a hearty welcome to the ringers, and also said how pleased he was to be asked to preside at the meeting, and hoped it would not be the last time if things went aright.

Christ Church, West Didsbury, was chosen for the next meeting on Saturday, March 17th, and a good muster is expected, as these bells have recently been rehung.

The election of Mr. H. G. Jenny, of Leicester, and Mr. W. Dowding, King's Heath, Birmingham, was confirmed.

A collection on behalf of Mr. A. T. Baker ('Ireneus Pistor') realised 22s.

Votes of thanks to the local ringers, church officials, and the chairman, and to all who helped to make a pleasant meeting, were passed with acclamation. The ringers then proceeded to the tower, and further ringing took place till 8.30, when the bells were lowered. This closed the last meeting which will be held here, much to the regret of the ringers.

MUFFLED BELLS.

On Friday, February 3rd, 1,260 of Stedman Triples was rung in 50 mins. at the Bell Foundry Campanile, Loughborough, with bells half-muffled, as a last token of respect to Mrs. Amelia Elizabeth Lane, wife of Richard Lane, an esteemed member of All Saints' Society, Loughborough: H. F. Stubbs 1, J. Saddington 2, J. Huichbay 3, W. Thorley 4, C. Allsopp 5, E. Cartwright 6, E. Reader (conductor) 7, W. Smith 8.

(Continued from previous column.)

change ringing, which was another illustration of the growing intimacy between the two societies. He referred to a performance which Mrs. Hughes had given with her handbells at a gathering of Scottish Masons that afternoon, and which had been greatly appreciated. Proceeding, Alderman Pritchett mentioned, among the events of the year, the opening of Edgbaston bells and the fraternal gathering of Midland Counties, Sheffield and Birmingham ringers held at Duffield last summer. In conclusion he paid a tribute to the services which Mr. Albert Walker, his Deputy Ringing Master, had rendered to the Guild, and coupled his name with the toast, which was drunk with musical honours.

Mr. Albert Walker was warmly received on rising to respond—a task which, he said, had been thrust upon him by the usefulness of their secretary, Mr. Paddon Smith (laughter). He had been very pleased to be able again to step into the breach while their secretary had been abroad, and he was amply rewarded by seeing around him such a happy gathering. Their presiding Ringing Master had emphasised the social side of their Guild, and he felt sure that the more they could get into touch with each other the better it would be. He hoped they would have many more such gatherings as they had with the Sheffield and Derby ringers.

Other toasts honoured were 'The Visitors,' 'The Ringing World,' and 'The Chairman,' and reports of these speeches will appear in our next issue.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**TONBRIDGE DISTRICT'S SATISFACTORY POSITION.**

The annual meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Sevenoaks recently, when the towers represented included Chiddingstone, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Lambhurst, Penshurst, Seal Chart, Edenbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Chislehurst, Godstone, Limpsfield, Leigh and Mayfield.

In the afternoon the tower of St. Nicholas, Sevenoaks, was visited and touches of various methods rung. This was followed by a service in the church, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. W. E. Gilliatt, with Mr. W. A. Sayer at the organ. The Rector later presided over the tea at the Lime Tree Hotel. Mr. Gilliatt had to leave early, but before going he was accorded a vote of thanks on the motion of Mr. W. Steed (Tonbridge).

The business part of the meeting was conducted in the St. Nicholas' Parish Room, when Mr. J. B. Rowell (Rector's Warden) presided, accompanied on the platform by Mr. H. Markwell (Tunbridge Wells, secretary pro tem), and Mr. G. Edwards.

Mr. Markwell submitted the annual report, in which it was stated that although there had been no increase of membership it could fairly be said that the district was in a flourishing condition. The various meetings had been well attended, which showed that the members had the interest of change ringing at heart, although one tower had been lost owing to lack of interest on the part of the local ringers. They still had 17 towers and 151 practising members. They had also 5 unattached members and 20 honorary members. They were financially sound, the income for the year being £21 7s., and the expenditure only £6 18s. 6d.

Mr. W. Steed (Tonbridge) moved the re-election as secretary of Mr. W. Latter (Tunbridge Wells), who was unable to be present owing to illness. Mr. Steed remarked that Mr. Latter had served them well for 34 years, and expressed the hope that he would soon be again in his normal health.

Mr. R. Ford (Sevenoaks) seconding, the election was made unanimously.

Messrs. Markwell and Edwards were re-elected representatives on the Central Committee.

Messrs. J. Horton (Penshurst), John Crude (Chiddingstone), F. Oaten (Sevenoaks) and Charles West (Hawkhurst) were elected members, and Messrs. George Spender and Arthur J. Collier (Tonbridge), W. Turley and G. Simmons (Sevenoaks) probationers.

It was agreed that the next annual meeting be at Edenbridge, and that the other meetings be at Breckley (spring), Penshurst (summer) and Cowden (autumn).

Mr. Rowell was accorded a vote of thanks for presiding, and in acknowledging the vote said that although not an 'expert' he was a member of the county association. In a humorous aside Mr. Rowell said bellringers of to-day were a most respectable body of people, but he did not think that in the olden days they were quite so virtuous, judging by records in belfries and the 'Ringers' rules.' He quoted from these rules such lines as:—

'For every fault a jug of beer,'

and

'If in this place you curse or swear

Sixpence to pay,

For one that swears shall not go free.'

Even the best of us, he said amid laughter, sometimes felt a little that way at times!

CANTERBURY DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING.

Thirty-three members attended the annual meeting of Canterbury District at Elham on Saturday week, the following towers being represented: Canterbury (St. Nicholas'), Wingham, Brabourne, Lyvinge, Wickham, Littlebourne, Dover, Maidstone, and Elham. The Rev. De Bouchell (Vicar of Elham) conducted the association's form of service in the church. This was followed by tea, held at the King's Arms, the association providing the tea.

The Rev. Canon F. J. O. Helmore presided over the business meeting, when five new practising members were elected, viz.: Mr. W. A. Goodhew, St. Alphege, Canterbury; Mr. R. Webb and Mr. W. Rains, Lyvinge; Mr. A. A. Prett and Mr. A. Ireland, St. Nicholas'. Three hon. members were also elected: Col. Kent, Wickhambreux; Major Norman, Ickham; and Rev. De Bouchell, Vicar of Elham.

The election of officers resulted in the district secretary (Mr. Percy W. Smith) and the two district representatives (Mr. Harrison Smith and Mr. F. Brett) being re-elected.

The quarterly meetings of the district were arranged as follows: Summer meeting, Margate; autumn meeting, Sellinge; and the annual district meeting at Canterbury.

After tea, the ringers adjourned to the belfry, and numerous touches in the usual methods were rung.

MUFFLED RINGING FOR EARL HAIG.

At St. Mary's Church, Lewisham, London, on February 9th, an attempt for a peal of Grandsire Triples, with the bells half-muffled, as a tribute to the late Earl Haig, but owing to a change course after one and a half hours' good ringing, the bells were brought round: H. Warnett, sen. (conductor) 1, C. H. Walker 2, H. Warnett, jun., 3, A. E. Darvill 4, W. W. Fox 5, J. Hurrell 6, J. Dafters 7, C. Moulton 8.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**NEWBURY BRANCH.**

A meeting of the Newbury Branch was held at Hampstead Norris on Saturday, February 11th, when the following towers were represented: Bucklebury, Brightwalton, Beedon, East Ilsley, Compton, Newbury, and the local ringers. Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Lock and Mr. G. Caldwell, of Abingdon, were also present. Service was held at 4.30, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. W. A. Lowsley), who gave a very interesting address.

Tea was served in the Memorial Hall at 5 p.m. by Mrs. W. A. Lowsley, assisted by other ladies, when 22 sat down to tea.

The business meeting followed, with the Rev. W. A. Lowsley in the chair, supported by the branch secretary and treasurer (Mr. H. W. Curtis).

Ten new members were elected from Hungerford tower.

The next meeting was fixed for Bucklebury on Saturday, April 21st. Votes of thanks to the Vicar, the organist, and the ladies, for providing the tea, were proposed by the secretary and seconded by Miss S. Davis.

Mrs. Lock and Mr. G. Caldwell then played several tunes on the handbells, which were very much appreciated. The tower was again visited, and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Minor were brought round.

'IRENEUS PISTOR.'

We are glad to record a further valuable addition to this fund this week, and would ask all those who intend to contribute to send their donations as soon as possible.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following further subscriptions:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	150	4	11
Ringers of West Clandon, Surrey	10	0	0
Bellringers of All Saints' Church, Weston, Bath	13	0	0
Collected at the Manchester Branch meeting of the Lancashire Association	1	2	0
York Minster ringers, per G. Horner	1	1	0
Collected at the meeting of the S.E. Division of the Essex Association, per R. C. Clark	12	0	0
All Saints' Society, Allesley, and friends	1	0	0
Collected at a meeting of the Maidstone District of the Kent County Association	15	6	0
Rev. R. F. Wilkinson, Ordsall Rectory, Notts	2	0	0
Anonymous	5	0	0
T. B. Worsley, Bolton	5	0	0
T. Barlow, Bolton	2	6	0
E. E. H., London	3	0	0
J. Parker, Edmonton	10	0	0
G. W. and Mrs. Fletcher, Edmonton	10	0	0
W. Hobbs, Harlow, Essex	5	0	0
J. E. and Mrs. Groves, Birmingham	10	0	0
W. H. Curson, Grangewood	2	6	0
	£163	8	5

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN DIVISION.**

The annual meeting of the above association was held at Lyminster on Saturday, February 18th. There was a representative attendance from Angmering, Arundel, Chichester, Billingshurst, Heene, Shipley, and members of the local band. During the afternoon the bells were kept going to the tune of Grandsire, Stedman Doubles, Kent, Oxford and Cambridge Minor. Tea for members and friends was kindly provided by the Vicar, the Rev. S. P. Duval, at the Parish Rooms. The Vicar also presided at the business meeting which followed, when the following new members were elected: P. Slaughter, of Lyminster, R. Rayner, Itchingfield, Frank Preasy, Peter Powell, and the brothers Albert, Charles, E. J. Percy and W. Merritt, of Shipley.

The following officers were unanimously elected for the ensuing year: A. W. Groves, secretary; Messrs. G. Norris, Tucker and Adams, representatives on the Central Committee; and Messrs. Lindup, Retley and Hills, committee of advice.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Billingshurst. After the vote of thanks had been accorded to the Vicar for presiding, for granting the use of the bells, and for providing the excellent tea, the company again visited the belfry for further ringing, the Vicar and curate being interested spectators. It is encouraging to note that Lyminster has now a very keen band of young ringers.

Arundel bells being available, some of the members called there on their way home, and were welcomed by the Rev. C. J. Winn, Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Double Norwich were rung here. Some of the bells do not run quite like tops, but the Vicar stated that the authorities hoped to have them put in order as soon as the funds are available.

Thanks are due to all those who made the local arrangements, and also the ladies who provided for the wants of the visitors at the tea table.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. 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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meeting for practice will be held at St. Magnus' on March 15th, 29th; *St. Michael's, Cornhill, on the 6th; St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 8th (8 p.m.); *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 20th; Southwark Cathedral on the 22nd; all at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells available 3 o'clock, service in church 4.30. Tea and business meeting afterwards.—Herbert Sheppard, 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Rossendale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Ramsbottom, on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells ready at 3 o'clock, meeting at 6.30. Subscriptions are now due. Reports to hand, also certificates, 3d. each.—John H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 8, Oaklands Road, Edenfield.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. A ringing meeting of the above branch will be held at St. Leonard's Church, Padiham, on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Everybody welcome. Reports to hand.—F. Hindle, Hon. Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting of above will be held at Newport Pagnell on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. All ringers welcome. — Walter Sear, Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

NORTH STAFFS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION. —A meeting will be held at Silverdale (8 bells) on Saturday, March 3rd.—C. S. Ryles, Hon. Sec., 72, Station Road, Milton, Stoke-on-Trent.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meetings for March: St. Clement Danes', Sunday, the 4th, at 10 a.m.; Monday, the 12th and 26th, at 7.30. St. Mary's Lambeth, Tuesday, the 20th, at 8.—S. C. Moye, Gen. Sec., 14, Great Bland Street, S.E.1.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Preston Parish Church on Saturday, March 10th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. A good attendance is requested. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

SWANSEA AND BRECON GUILD.—Southern District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Sketty on March 10th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Meeting after. All ringers welcome. — E. Stitch, Hon. Dis. Sec., 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Goole on Saturday, March 10th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. onward. Service in Parish Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea in Church Schools at 5 p.m., at 1s. 6d. per head, to those who notify Mr. J. Drake, 29, Second Avenue, Goole, on or before Wednesday, March 7th, followed by business meeting. Subscriptions are now due, and annual reports ready for distribution.—A. B. Cook, Hon. Dis. Sec., 58, Wyndham Street, Hull.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Guildsbrough Branch.—The meeting arranged for Feb. 25th at Long Buckby is postponed until March 10th. Usual arrangements.—K. Cater, Althorp Park Station, East Haddon, Northants.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at Rainhill on Saturday, March 10th. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m., 9d. each. Meeting to follow. Special attention to Bob Minor and Kent Treble Bob Minor. Those intending being present please notify me before Tuesday, March 6th.—Claude I. Davies, Branch Sec., Caerleon, Dunbabin Road, Wavertree.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at St. Saviour's, Larkhall, Bath, on Saturday, March 10th. Bells available from 3.15 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at the Red House. Will those desiring tea kindly let me know by March 7th.—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Bath.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Lenton on March 10th. Bells (8) will be available from 5 p.m. till 9 p.m.—Fredk. W. Bailey, Local Hon. Sec., 42, Rupert Street, Nottingham.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Rochester District.—A bye-meeting will be held at Higham on Saturday, March 10th. Bells available at 3. Association service at 5, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. P. A. Lasbrey. Tea will be provided for those who notify me by first post Wednesday, March 7th. All outstanding subscriptions for 1928 should now be paid.—Fred M. Mitchell, Dis. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—Annual meeting on Saturday, March 10th. Sheffield Cathedral bells (12) available from 2.30 to 5.45 p.m., St. Marie's (8) from 2.30 onwards. Business meeting in St. Marie's Presbytery, Norfolk Row, at 6 p.m. prompt, when Canon Dolan will preside. Principal business: Annual report, election of officers and passing of new rules. Visitors make own arrangements for tea.—Colin Harrison, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting of the Forest branch to be held at Lydney on March 10th. Bells available 2.30. Service at 3.30. Tea and meeting 4.30, which will be held in the Church School Room. All ringers who intend to be present for tea must let the branch secretary know by March 8th. — Oliver Thomas, 44, Newerne Street, Lydney, Glos.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Shore on Saturday, March 10th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. Methods: Plain Bob to Double Norwich. All ringers welcome.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Royston on Saturday, March 10th. Bells ready early. The Vicar (Rev. Lambert) desires short service, 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m., Schoolroom, provided by ladies. Will members desiring same send word to Mr. W. Hemmings, The Avenue, Royston, near Barnsley, before March 8th? All ringers welcome. Business meeting after tea in Schoolroom.—C. D. Potter, Hon. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—There will be a ringing meeting at Limpsfield Chart on Saturday, March 10th. Tower open 2.30. All ringers welcome. — G. Lambert, Drummond Hay, East Grinstead.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Eaton Socan on Saturday, March 10th. Bells (6) available 3 o'clock. Tea at 5. All ringers welcome. A good company is requested.—C. J. Ball, 2, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A practice meeting will be held at Sawston on March 10th. Bells (8) ready 3 p.m. Methods: Double Norwich, Cambridge and Stedman. Will those requiring tea notify by March 7th?—F. Warrington, Dis. Sec., Long Stanton, Cambs.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Meeting for the election of district officers, etc., will be held at Hersham (Walton Station) on Saturday, March 10th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.45 p.m. Tea (1s. each) in the Church Room, 5.30; business meeting afterwards. Oatlands Park bells (8) available from 3 to 4.15 p.m. Those requiring tea please notify me by Tuesday, March 6th.—Guildford District meeting at Guildford, March 17th. — J. S. Goldsmith, Hon. Gen. Sec., 63, Commercial Road, Woking.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at Sapcote on Saturday, March 10th. Bells available from 4 p.m. Owing to special business, it is hoped that at least one representative from each tower in the district will be present. All ringers are cordially invited. — W. Cope, Smockington, Hinckley.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch. The monthly meeting will be held at Market Lavington on Saturday, March 10th. Bells (6) ready at 3 p.m. Service 4.40. Tea 5. Business meeting follows tea. All ringers welcome.—F. Green, Branch Hon. Sec., 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Next meeting at Hornsey, Saturday, March 17th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Short service at 5. Tea at 5.30, 1s. each. Please let me know if you require same.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Chiswick on Saturday, March 17th. Tower open at 2.45. A social and dance will be held at Acton, Saturday, April 7th, for Isleworth Bell Fund, tickets 1s. 6d. Details later.—Wm. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford and District Branch.—A half-yearly business meeting will be held on Saturday, March 17th, at St. Giles' Church. Ringing 6 to 8 p.m. Service in church 8 p.m., followed by business meeting in Parish Room.—W. Collett, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Hemel Hempstead on Saturday, March 17th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Short service, followed by tea. Cheap tickets to Boxmoor Station. Frequent bus service to Hemelstead. Let me know early if you are coming.—W. Ayre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead. **EXTRA NOTICE.**—Will those who have received notices from me, and mean to answer, please do so by March 9th at the latest? Thanks.—W. Ayre.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Tickhill, near Rotherham, on Saturday, March 17th. Tower open at 3 o'clock. Tea at 5.30, at 1s. 6d. each, to those who notify Mr. A. Hill, Sunderland Street, Tickhill, near Rotherham, by March 14th. Full particulars for meeting will be sent to tower secretaries by circular.—F. Clark, Hon. Sec., 18, Royston Avenue, Doncaster.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Overseal on Saturday, March 17th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Tea (1s. each) and meeting 5 p.m. All members are requested to attend, as matters of vital importance will be discussed. All ringers and friends welcome.—R. H. Dove, Dis. Sec., 128, Station Street, Burton-on-Trent.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Next meeting, Lambeth, Saturday, March 17th. Ringing 2.30 to 4.30. Short service, tea and business till 6. More ringing till 7.30. A social hour is being arranged to follow, handbells, songs, etc. Please be prompt, and send me a card if you desire tea by March 14th.—J. Herbert, Hon. Dis. Sec., 17, Grimston Road, S.W.6.

GLOUCESTER AND DISTRICT DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The spring meeting of the Cheltenham Branch will be held at St. Mark's, Cheltenham, on Saturday, March 17th. Bells open at 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.30, kindly given by the Vicar and Parochial Church Council. Business meeting to follow. Will all those intending being present please notify me by the 13th inst.? —Walter Yeend, Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, West Didsbury, on Saturday, March 17th. Bells at liberty 4 o'clock, meeting at 7 p.m.; as these bells have recently been rehung a good attendance is requested.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Come to Bushey, March 24th, and have an enjoyable Saturday afternoon and evening. Particulars next week.—C. H. Horton.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A special general meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, March 24th, to consider the proposed amalgamation of the association with the Guildford Diocesan Guild, and other business. Full particulars will appear later. Will all those interested in the future of the association please reserve this date?—Chas. H. Kippin, Hon. Sec.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.—The Jubilee meeting of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association will be held at Bristol on Whit-Monday, May 28th. A Life Member's peal is being arranged and other peals for visitors on Saturday, May 26th. Will those wishing to take part kindly advise soon? Arrangements for ringing.

etc., on Sunday are being made. Monday's programme, ringing up till noon at any or all city churches. Service at St. Mary Redcliffe, 12 noon. Luncheon 1 p.m. Business meeting 2 p.m. Tea to follow. Social evening arrangements (good train service to Hereford), luncheon 3s. 6d., tea 1s. (a grant will be made towards this cost). Will members and visitors kindly advise early now so that extra accommodation can be sought if necessary. The 1928 Report will be issued in souvenir form on May 28th. Life members and visitors wishing to take part in peals for Saturday should apply early. Hotel accommodation will be arranged at reasonable cost.—Edgar Guise, Hon. Sec., 39, Tankard's Close, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol.

The ADDRESS of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher is 45, Walsingham Road, Enfield.

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SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

HACKNEY.—At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist, for evensong, on Sunday, February 26th, 720 Grandsire Doubles: G. W. T. Briggs 1, H. C. Alford 2, F. A. Alloway 3, A. Waugh 4, J. Waugh 5, L. Dawling 6, J. A. Hales 7, L. Farmer 8. Rung with 4, 6, 8 covering; 360 conducted by F. A. Alloway and 360 by J. A. Hales.

BREWOOD, STAFFORD.—On Sunday, February 26th, after morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 47 mins.: H. Hood (first quarter-peal in the method) 1, H. E. Booth 2, E. R. Blewitt 3, A. E. Winterton 4, A. G. Hunt 5, J. W. Perry 6, J. Perry (conductor) 7, E. Speake 8. The above was rung on the occasion of the dedication by the Bishop of Lichfield of five new windows in the north aisle of the Parish Church, four of which are memorial windows.

ELTHAM, KENT.—At the Parish Church, for morning service, on Sunday, February 26th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes): H. Flower 1, F. Fraser 2, J. Hurrell 3, H. Wood 4, C. A. Bines 5, R. Brett Smith (conductor) 6, W. Watchorn 7, W. Anderson 8.

KENDAL, WESTMORLAND.—On Sunday, February 19th, for evening service at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal (1,260 changes) of Grandsire Triples: R. Dennison 1, W. Atkinson (conductor) 2, L. Townley 3, E. Towers 4, T. Haslam 5, F. Martindale 6, I. J. Heap 7, W. Salmon 8. Rung for the 60th birthday of the tenor ringer.

PULHAM MARKET, NORFOLK.—On Sunday, February 19th, for evening service, 1,376 Oxford Treble Bob Major by: F. Borrett 1, G. Curson 2, G. Hawlett 3, E. Whiting 4, H. Fulcher 5, H. Adcock 6, G. Gower 7, T. Adcock 8.

FAIRFIELD, GLOS.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, February 19th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: G. Law 1, O. G. Farmer 2, J. Hope (conductor) 3, B. Guy 4, H. Adcock 5, G. J. Winter 6, J. Smith 7, E. Gardener 8. All Sunday service ringers. First quarter-peal on the bells since they were recast.

GUILDFORD.—For evensong on February 12th, at St. Nicolas' Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,296 changes) in 55 mins.: H. Radford 1, S. Radford 2, F. Radford 3, E. Etheridge 4, Mrs. Hazelden 5, W. Thorn 6, G. Tompsett 7, E. Radford 8, C. Hazelden (conductor) 9, G. Gibbs 10.

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