

THE RINGING WORLD

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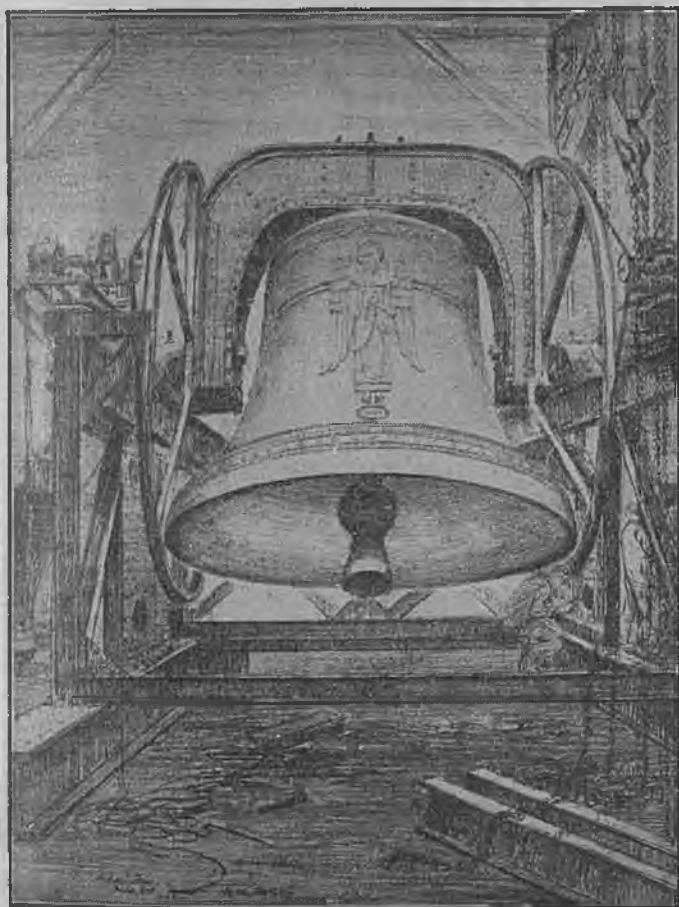
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A PEAL OF MINOR.

The question of what should be the conditions governing a peal of Minor is again coming into the arena of controversy, as a result of the suggested definitions put forward by the Rev. H. Law James in recent issues of 'The Ringing World.' Stripped of superfluities Mr. James' proposals are that the changes in a peal of Minor may come up in any order as long as in 5,040 none appears more than seven times, and he puts forward the proposals in order to get rid of what he calls an 'absurdity.' The absurdity is, however, only of his own making. Ringers whose standard for a peal of Minor is that each 720 shall end with rounds will disagree entirely with Mr. James when he says, in effect, that a peal rung with seven different callings or in seven different methods does not come within this standard. To the practical ringer it will sound equally absurd to be told that, because each 720 ends with rounds, each other of the 719 rows must fall in exactly the same place in each extent if it is to come within the limits of the above mentioned standard. Practice does not require it; common sense does not demand it and whatever justification there may be for a definition which permits the repetition of changes within the limits of each 720, let us avoid false reasoning as to the need for it.

In his letter justifying the definition which he puts forward, Mr. James remarks, 'The truth is that the peal is really one round block, not seven.' We do not want to do Mr. James an injustice, but if this statement refers to all peals of Minor, including those in which each 720 ends with rounds, is he not asking the Exercise to stretch its credulity a bit too far? A 'round block' is described in 'The Glossary,' as 'a block which comes round to the same row or point from which it started.' Although Mr. James may think differently, we imagine that the majority of ringers, with this definition before them, will have no hesitation in saying that seven 720's, each beginning from and ending with rounds, constitute seven round blocks. The theory of the 'one round block' is, of course, one of the essentials to Mr. James' proposal to permit the rows to come up in any order, irrespective of the truth of individual 720's. Unless he can convince the Exercise of this, one of his main props goes. If he is correct that seven 720's each ending in rounds is one round block and not seven round blocks, then two 5,040's of Grandsire Triples, rung without interval, would be one round block and not two. If Mr. James' proposals are to be accepted, the Exercise has got to alter its whole conception of a peal of Minor and in this connection it is interesting to recall that it was only about 40 years ago that the term 'peal' was applied to seven 720's.

(Continued on page 162.)

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Muffers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

Just prior to that time these performances were described as '5,040 changes of Minor,' and earlier still as 'seven peals of Minor, 5,040 changes,' showing that our forefathers, at any rate, looked upon the 720, and not the 5,040, as the unit of truth.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

SHEFFIELD, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 40 cwt.

JOHN HOLMAN Treble	SIDNEY F. PALMER 7
SIDNEY BRIGGS 2	JOHN H. BROTHWELL 8
COLIN HARRISON 3	MAURICE E. WILSON 9
WILLIAM BARTON 4	HAYDN THORPE 10
ALBERT H. WARD 5	JOHN THORPE 11
ARTHUR KNIGHTS... .. 6	A. PERCIVAL KNIGHTS... .. Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by A. P. KNIGHTS.
First peal of Maximus in the method by all, and first in the county.

TEN BELL PEALS.

ROTHERHAM, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, March 4, 1930, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5070 CHANGES;
Tenor 34½ cwt.

SIDNEY BRIGGS Treble	JOHN THORPE 6
MISS NOEL L. CAWTHORNE 2	ARTHUR FIRTH 7
ARTHUR KNIGHTS... .. 3	JOHN H. BROTHWELL 8
ALBERT NASH 4	A. PERCIVAL KNIGHTS... .. 9
T. COLIN RYDER 5	PERCY MAUGHAM... .. Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by JOHN THORPE.

Rung on the 14th anniversary of the conductor's wedding. Also as a first birthday compliment to his daughter, and for the conductor's 50th and the composer's 70th birthday, the peal containing 5,070 changes.

LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 4, 1930, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 39 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

ERNEST JONES Treble	JAMES MARTIN 6
THOMAS HAMMOND 2	JAMES C. E. SIMPSON 7
GEORGE R. NEWTON 3	LESTER L. GREY 8
JOHN BROWN 4	EDWARD CAUNCE 9
ERNEST L. HUMPHRISS 5	HARRY SMALE Tenor

Composed by C. CHARGE. Conducted by GEORGE R. NEWTON.

* First peal on ten bells. First peal of Bob Royal by all except J. Martin.

MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL AND COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF SS. GEORGE,

DENIS AND MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;
Tenor 27½ cwt.

WILLIAM H. LUKER Treble	ARTHUR RIDYARD 6
WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT 2	JOSEPH H. RIDYARD... .. 7
DONALD BROWN... .. 3	F. RALPH WILLIAMS... .. 8
WILLIAM R. MADGWICK 4	BEN THORPE... .. 9
SAM HOLT 5	FRED PAGE... .. Tenor

Composed and Conducted by BEN THORPE.

* First peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal. This peal was rung to commemorate the centenary of the long peal of Kent Treble Royal, which was rung at Manchester Cathedral, February 23rd (Shrove Tuesday), 1830.

HERTFORD, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

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

Tenor 25 cwt.

HORACE BELCHER Treble	*JOHN A. WAUGH... .. 6
WILLIAM H. HEWETT... .. 2	CHARLES W. GRIMWOOD... .. 7
CHARLES W. ROBERTS 3	JAMES E. DAVIS... .. 8
WILFRED WILLIAMS 4	*WALTER AYRE 9
JOHN T. KENTISH... .. 5	RICHARD F. DEAL Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by W. H. HEWETT.

* First peal of Double Norwich Royal, also first by the association and in the county of Herts. This composition has 19 courses in the titlums.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

CHAUVERLEY, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, March 1, 1930, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

ARTHUR BAKER Treble	HARRY BOSWELL... .. 5
ALBERT D. COLLINS 2	WILLIAM H. LAWLEY 6
HERBERT PICKERING 3	ALFRED FALLON 7
WILLIAM A. JONES 4	HERBERT BOOTH Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED FALLON.

First peal on the bells since the augmentation to eight in September, 1929.

BADSEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 1, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 17 cwt.

JAMES HEMMING Treble	HARRY MIDDLETON 5
JOHN HALL 2	JOSEPH D. JOHNSON 6
MISS AMY JOHNSON 3	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING 7
FREDERICK J. JOHNSON 4	ARTHUR J. TAYLOR Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

FROME, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1930, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 30 cwt.

*LEONARD WILLMOTT... .. Treble	WILLIAM C. SHUTE 5
CAPT. W. LINTER 2	WILLIAM J. PRESCOTT 6
FREDERICK A. COWARD 3	GILBERT H. HARDING 7
*WILLIAM MILLS... .. 4	EDWARD G. COWARD Tenor
	*ALBERT BAVERSTOCK Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM J. PRESCOTT.

* First peal on eight. Rung as a birthday compliment to the father of E. G. Coward.

OXENHOPE, KEIGHLEY.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1930, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

ROBERT W. JENNISON, SEN. Treble	*WILLIE PROCTOR 5
*JOHN WINDLE 2	SAM LONGBOTTOM 6
VERNEY BAIRSTOW 3	ARTHUR BAIRSTOW 7
EDGAR WHITELEY 4	WILLIAM AMBLER Tenor

Composed by YORK GREEN.

Conducted by WM. AMBLER.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. Ambler, wife of the conductor, also to R. W. Jennison, jun.

WITHYHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1930, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt.

RICHARD B. LAMBERT Treble	JOHN R. DENTON... .. 5
ERNEST J. LADD 2	JOSEPH WREN 6
FREDK. J. LAMBERT, JUN. 3	ALBERT E. EDWARDS 7
GEORGE LAMBERT 4	WILLIAM D. ASHDOWN Tenor

Composed by the Rev. E. B. JAMES. Conducted by A. E. EDWARDS. Rung to commemorate the birth of a granddaughter to the conductor. Mr. Ashdown was elected a member before starting.

BUSHEY HEATH, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1930, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 11½ cwt.

*GEOFFREY MARLBOROUGH Treble	CHARLES COOK 5
THOMAS NORRIS 2	*FREDRICK EDWARDS 6
EDWARD ASHLEY 3	*ALBERT DEAMER 7
JOHN E. ROOTES 4	HENRY J. COCHRAN Tenor

Conducted by FREDRICK EDWARDS.

* First peal in any method. The ringers of the treble and 7th were elected members of the association previous to starting.

FRAMSDEN, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Monday, March 3, 1930, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5066 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

ALBERT E. WHITING Treble	WILLIAM C. RUMSEY 5
GEORGE PRYKE 2	T. WILLIAM LAST 6
JAMES BENNETT, JUN. 3	LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN 7
GEORGE BENNETT 4	LESLIE G. BRETT... .. Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE G. BRETT.

First touch in the method as conductor.

BRENTWOOD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, March 3, 1930, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

ERNEST J. BUTLER Treble	ROBERT HEAZEL 5
*ALBERT RAINBIRD 2	FREDERICK W. RICHARDSON 6
GEORGE R. PYE... .. 3	ERNEST W. FURBANK... .. 7
FRANK G. RINGE 4	JAMES BENNETT Tenor

Composed by J. PAGET.

Conducted by G. R. PYE.

* First peal in the method.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE) CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(STOCKPORT & BOWDON BRANCH)

On Monday, March 3, 1930, in Two Hours and Forty Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF NEW CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5066 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb. in F.

*RICHARD E. JONES Treble	WILLIAM FERNLEY 5
*ERNEST BENNETT 2	*WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT 6
*JAMES FERNLEY, JUN. 3	TOM WILDE 7
JAMES FERNLEY, SEN. 4	*JOHN W. HARTLEY Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Conducted by TOM WILDE.

* First peal in the method. Rung as a farewell to the curate, Rev. E. D. Reeman, B.A., who is leaving this parish for St. Mary Magdalene, Broadbottom, Mottram-in-Longendale.

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GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, March 4, 1930, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 23½ cwt.

WILLIAM J. ROBINSON Treble	GEORGE WILSON 5
HENRY HUTTON 2	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE 6
C. ERNEST SMITH 3	RAYMOND PHILPOTT 7
GEORGE E. CLODE 4	ALFRED H. PULLING Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

Rung for the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Jelley, Mr. Jelley being an esteemed member of the Cathedral Society. The same composition was rung for Mr. and Mrs. Jelley's wedding 25 years ago.

WARMINSTER, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE MINSTER CHURCH OF ST. DENYS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 28 cwt.

D. FLOWERS Treble	N. V. ANDREWS 5
J. FRANCIS 2	W. E. FLETCHER 6
E. COWARD 3	W. C. WEST 7
W. H. MILLS 4	ED. MARLOW Tenor

Conducted by W. C. WEST.

Rung as a farewell to Mrs. Witts, who is leaving the district, and who was an esteemed and valuable ringer at the above tower for some years.

BELGRAVE, LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 23 lb. in F.

ERNEST MORRIS Treble	ERNEST F. PAYNE 5
FREDERICK W. SHARMAN 2	LEONARD W. JOHNSON 6
* HARRY W. MARTIN 3	JOSIAH MORRIS 7
ROWLAND BARROW 4	† FRANK A. GRAHAM Tenor

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

* First peal 'inside.' † First peal. R. Barrow has now rung each bell in this tower to a peal. Rung with congratulations to L. W. Johnson on the birth of a son and heir. This composition, on a new plan, is now rung for the first time.

PENSURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. in E flat.

GEORGE EDWARDS Treble	WILLIAM ASHDOWN 5
MRS. H. BAKER 2	THOMAS E. SONE 6
* HARRY BAKER 3	WILLIAM WENBAN 7
JAMES W. KNIGHT 4	ALBERT RELFE Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS (340). Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE

* 25th peal of Kent Treble Bob. The visitors wish to thank Mr. Edwards for his kind invitation to Penshurst, and also his hospitality after the peal.

GREAT TEY, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt. in G.

WILLIAM KEEBLE Treble	STANLEY PYE 5
HERBERT WEBB 2	FRANK CLAYDON 6
BERTIE WEBB 3	WALTER ARNOLD 7
JOSEPH DYER 4	ARTHUR SAUNDERS Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

First peal by ringers of 2, 3 and 4, who belong to local company. First peal on the bells since rehanging by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. Rung on the 71st birthday of the Vicar, the Rev. G. Sant.

UPTON ST. LEONARDS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(GLOUCESTER BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt.

WILLIAM HASTINGS Treble	THOMAS BALDWIN 5
JESSE GILLETT 2	ERNEST E. DAVIS 6
JOHN AUSTIN 3	ALFRED G. HANNIS 7
EX-SERG'T J. WILLIAMS 4	GEORGE CONDIK Tenor

Composed by H. J. TUCKER.

Conducted by JOHN AUSTIN.

NORTH STONEHAM, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 26 lb. in G.

FREDERICK W. ROGERS Treble	WILLIAM E. CHEATERS 5
FREDERICK A. BURNETT 2	ALFRED T. GREENWOOD 6
FREDERICK S. BAYLEY 3	GEORGE WILLIAMS 7
JOSIAH D. HARRIS 4	EDWIN J. HARDING, SEN. Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. F. S. Bayley and Messrs. F. S. Bayley and E. J. Harding, sen.

LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 22½ cwt.

HUBERT JONES Treble	GEOFFREY W. TAYSON 5
ALLEN E. GWYNNE 2	CHARLES EDWARDS 6
WILLIAM R. NASH 3	FRANCIS EVANS 7
WILLIAM J. BENIAMS 4	ARTHUR W. DAVIES Tenor

Conducted by FRANCIS EVANS.

Rung with bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to the Rev. A. E. Ll. Kenyon, late Rector of the above church.

WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE ABBY CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt.

* DUDLEY GRIMBLE Treble	WALTER R. FARROW 5
GEORGE MAYERS 2	WILLIAM B. DUNCAN 6
WILLIAM J. WASRY 3	CHARLES E. LOVETT 7
† HENRY TOOKE 4	WILLIAM CLOVER Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by WM. B. DUNCAN.

* First peal in the method. † First peal 'inside.'

HIGHER WALTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

JACK CHARNOCK Treble	* FRANK COFFE 5
BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS 2	ARTHUR HARTLEY 6
HERMON NELSON 3	WILLIAM TAYLOR 7
JAMES ARMSTRONG 4	† WILLIAM KING Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS (372). Conducted by B. A. KNIGHTS
* First peal and first attempt. † First peal of Major. First peal in the method on the bells.

'ODDS & ENDS OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES'

Being mainly an explanation of the nature and working of the Q sets in ordinary ringing phraseology, with one or two other matters.

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REV. C. D. P. DAVIES, KEMERTON, TEWKESBURY

REDENHALL, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

HERBERT FULCHER Treble	GEORGE GOWER 5
BENJAMIN THOMPSON 2	RUSSELL RICHES 6
GEORGE HOWLETT 3	FREDERICK BORRETT 7
WALTER BARRETT 4	WILLIAM C. DUFFIELD ... Tenor

Composed by F. HOPGOOD.

Conducted by F. BORRETT.

SIX BELL PEALS.

EDENHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 1, 1930, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Oxford, Single Oxford, Double Court, Single Court, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 13 cwt.

ARTHUR I. HOLMES Treble	CUTHBERT T. H. BRADLEY ... 4
* CLEMENT BOTHAMLEY 2	ALBERT S. ALLEN 5
JOHN W. LAKE 3	THOMAS L. BAINBRIDGE ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN W. LAKE.

* First peal and first attempt.

WICKHAM SKEPETH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 1, 1930, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 11 cwt.

ALPHÆUS J. BERRY Treble	DAVID WHITING 4
PERCY L. JOHNSON 2	ERIC G. BENNETT 5
* CHARLES TAYLOR 3	† GARNHAM A. BLAXCELL ... Tenor

Conducted by GARNHAM A. BLAXCELL.

* First peal of Minor. † 50th peal. It was on these bells that the conductor rang his first peal of Minor on January 5th, 1925.

STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 1, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE & ST. DUNSTAN'S DOUBLES. 5040 CHANGES.

Being 10 six-scores of Grandsire and 32 of St. Dunstan's, each called differently.

TREVOR PRITCHARD Treble	LESLIE BARRY 4
EDWARD JEFFERIES 2	P. I. GEORGE HASTINGS ... 5
FREDERICK PHELPS 3	* ARTHUR WILKINS Tenor

Conducted by LESLIE BARRY.

* First peal. Rung after meeting short for Grandsire Triples.

HEYTESBURY, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 2, 1930, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

Tenor 21 cwt.

SAMUEL J. HECTOR Treble	JESSE FRANCIS 4
WILLIAM LOUD 2	NORMAN V. ANDREWS ... 5
FREDERICK PRECEY 3	CHARLES F. ANDREWS ... Tenor

Conducted by C. F. ANDREWS.

First peal on the bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringers of the treble and 5th.

SPLICED SURPRISE.

Recently, for practice, at Bushey, Herts, a quarter-peal of Spliced Superlative, Cambridge, Bristol and London Surprise Major (1,440 changes) in 51 mins.: S. H. Hoare 1, H. Hodgetts 2, Mrs. C. Mayne 3, C. C. Mayne 4, H. G. Cashmore 5, M. F. R. Hibbert (conductor) 6, W. G. Whitehead 7, F. W. Brinklow 8. The Superlative and Cambridge were rung in alternate courses.

HORTON, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, March 4, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of St. Clement's Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Canterbury Pleasure, Oxford Treble Bob, Oxford Single Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 14½ cwt. in F.

WILLIAM E. TAYLOR Treble	LEONARD STILWELL 4
MISS STELLA DAVIS 2	WILLIAM HENLEY 5
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE ... 3	GEORGE GILBERT Tenor

Conducted by GEO. GILBERT.

First peal in seven methods on the bells.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Tuesday, March 4, 1930, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's.

Tenor 6½ cwt.

* WILLIAM LOMAS Treble	* EDWARD WATSON 4
CECIL CARR 2	* WILLIAM A. WOOD 5
ALFRED BALLARD 3	TOM ATKINS Tenor

Conducted by TOM ATKINS.

* First peal in the method. First in the method as conductor. Rung to celebrate the coming of age of the ringer of the 4th. Also rung on the birthday of Joseph Bates and Charles Gee, aged 76 and 65 respectively, two of the local ringers. The peal also commemorated the 61st birthday of William Watson, father of the ringer of the 4th, and sexton at the Parish Church.

MISTLEY, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, March 6, 1930, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents, each called differently.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

GEORGE W. MOSS Treble	WILLIAM STIFF 4
* HARRY MEADOWS 2	† CHARLES A. ANDREWS ... 5
STANLEY G. MOSS 3	WALTER HONEYWOOD ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE W. MOSS.

* First peal in the method. † First peal of Minor in the method. Rung as a birthday compliment to the wife and eldest daughter of the conductor, who attained her 21st birthday on March 4th.

CAXTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(OVER SOCIETY.)

On Thursday, March 6, 1930, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF ANNABLE'S LONDON SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. (approx.).

A. WILLIAM T. GINN Treble	FRANCIS G. GLEAVES 4
FRED C. GINN 2	ARTHUR J. GINN 5
BERRY WAYMAN 3	FRANK WARRINGTON ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANK WARRINGTON.

First peal in the method by all, and believed to be the first by a local society for the Ely Association.

GAMSTON, NOTTS.

THE LADIES' GUILD.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD AND THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

MRS. PHYLLIS HUMPHREYS Treble	MRS. JACK BRAY 4
MRS. LAURA L. EAST 2	MISS KATHARINE BURCHNALL 5
MISS GRACE BURCHNALL ... 3	MRS. ROBERT RICHARDSON Tenor

Conducted by Mrs. ROBERT RICHARDSON.

First ladies' peal in three methods, and by the band, also the first ladies' peal for the Lincoln Diocesan Guild and the North Notts Association. Great credit is due to the band, and particularly to Mrs. Richardson, for the admirable way she conducted the peal.

NETHER ALDERLEY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 6040 CHANGES;

Consisting of seven different extents, viz., two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, two 720's of Kent Treble Bob and three 720's Plain Bob.

*ALBERT V. REES Treble	JACK TIPPER 4
ALFRED W. FROST 2	WILFRED STEVENSON 5
ERNEST BENNETT 3	JOHN WORTH Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal of Minor. First peal in three methods by all the band.

MINCHINHAMPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours.

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents, including two 18-Bob extents by C. Severn. Tenor 13 cwt.

FRANK CANTER Treble	HENRY NEWMAN 4
EDWARD JEFFERIES 2	*HARRY PHELPS 5
FRANK SIMMONDS 3	FRANK PONTING Tenor

Conducted by F. PONTING.

* First peal of Minor. First peal of Cambridge by all. First peal of Minor as conductor. Believed to be the first peal of Minor in this method for the above association. All are local ringers.

BELBROUGHTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 8, 1930, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, with ten different callings.

Tenor 13½ cwt. (approx.).

JOHN NEALE Treble	WALTER RAXTER 4
CHARLES HARRISON 2	ERNEST CALCUTT 5
FREDERICK SUMMERTON 3	HUBERT STARKES Tenor

Conducted by E. CALCUTT.

F. Summerton was proposed a member of the association before starting.

HANDBELL PEALS

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Wednesday, March 8, 1930, in One Hour and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

IN THE TOWER OF THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

*LEONARD OFFORD 1	STEDMAN H. SYMONDS 3-4
WILFRED JARVIS 2	ARTHUR SYMONDS 5-6

Conducted by S. H. SYMONDS.

* First peal. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. S. H. Symonds.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 9, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT 3, CRESSING WAY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

LEWIS W. WIFFEN 1-2	GEORGE WIFFEN 5-6
WILLIAM KEEBLE 3-4	GEORGE GREEN 7-8

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Umpire: ERNEST BRIGHT.

SURPRISE PRACTICE IN ELY ASSOCIATION.

A special practice of Ely Diocesan Association members was held at Ickleton on Thursday evening, February 13th, for Surprise Major, and courses of Cambridge, Superlative and London were accomplished. This is the first time a course of London has been rung in the district by a band of local ringers: P. Webb 1, F. Harper 2, E. G. Hibbins 3, R. Howard 4, A. E. Austin 5, C. Cook 6, E. Finch 7, R. King 8. The local men also had good practice for Double Norwich and Stedman Triples. The visitors greatly appreciated the action of the local company in allowing them to practise on their regular practice night.

RESTORATION OF FAVERSHAM BELLS.

The octave at the Parish Church of St. Mary of Charity, Faversham, Kent, have been reopened after a silence of fifteen months. The blessing of the recast bell prior to the ordinary evensong was performed by the Archdeacon of Canterbury, Canon Hardecastle.

Immediately after the dedicatory prayers, visiting ringers from Sittingbourne, Boughton-under-Blean, and other towers in the Ashford District, rang touches of Stedman, Grandsire, Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob, while the bells were also rung for a short while after the service.

The Archdeacon preached to a large congregation, and referred to the history and uses of bells in general, and particularly to the English science of ringing.

The whole peal has been rehung on ball bearings, the oak frame strengthened, No. 6 bell, which was cracked, having been recast. The work has been carried out by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, who have made an excellent 'splice,' the new bell blending perfectly with the remainder of the peal. Messrs. Gillett and Johnston were represented on the occasion by Mr. R. H. Dove.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

WESTERN DISTRICT'S RESOLUTIONS.

The meeting held at Northchurch on February 22nd was only fairly attended by small numbers from Tring, Berkhamsted, King's Langley, Redbourn, Abbots Langley, Watford, Leighton Buzzard and Hemel Hempstead. The ringing done was of a very low order.

The Rector kindly held a service and used the county association's form, after which he generously invited the members to tea in the Church Room. After tea, the Rector presided over a brisk meeting. One member's election was confirmed, and, providing the bells are ready, Hemel Hempstead was chosen for the next meeting, to be held before Easter.

It was proposed and seconded that, before the district committed itself, full particulars as to the working, etc., of the proposed Necessitous County Members' Fund be obtained.

Another measure carried was that 'a committee meeting be held once in each quarter, and that the agenda for the same be forwarded to each member of the committee before the said meeting.' It was also proposed and seconded that 'a record of compositions rung for the association be kept,' and, in addition, 'a schedule of all peals rung up to date be included in the annual report.'

The following was also passed, that 'the annual reports be issued within a month of the annual meeting.' An additional proposition was carried, that 'the agenda of the annual meeting be sent to each tower prior to that meeting.'

The meeting was unanimous that peal booking fees be paid by all or none.

The question of a new district secretary was left over until the Hemel Hempstead meeting. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector for providing the tea and service, and also for the use of the bells.

The Rector replied and gave the ringers a hearty invitation to come whenever they wished.

This concluded the meeting, and the members adjourned for a little more ringing.

The secretary is very grateful to those members who attended, particularly those who did so at much inconvenience to themselves.

W. A.

KENT ASSOCIATION'S JUBILEE MEETING.

SPECIAL RAILWAY FACILITIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In connection with the jubilee meeting of the Kent County Association, which will be held at Canterbury on Easter Monday, and at which His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury will address the members and preside at the luncheon, I should like to bring to the notice of members and intending visitors that the Southern Railway Company have kindly granted concessions for travelling. Tickets for the return journey at single fare can be obtained from any station in Kent, Surrey, Sussex and London on presentation of a voucher, which can be obtained from the hon. secretary on receipt of a stamped envelope.

Trains have been arranged to enable visitors to arrive at Canterbury by 11 o'clock from London stations, viz., Cannon Street 7.26, Charing Cross 8.7, via North Kent, London Bridge 8.30, via Chatham, Charing Cross 8.15, via Ashford, Victoria 9.20, via Faversham. Connections between intermediate stations can be supplied when applying for voucher.

It is hoped a large number will attend and show their appreciation of the Archbishop's presence.

The bells at the Cathedral (12) and outlying districts will be available during the day, and particulars will be announced later.

Luncheon tickets for non-members can also be had on application, with remittance, 3s. each.—Yours faithfully,

FRED M. MITCHELL.

Hon. Secretary.

114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

GUILDFORD RINGER'S SILVER WEDDING.

The silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Jelley, of Guildford, was celebrated last week. Twenty-five years ago a peal of Bob Major was rung at what was then Holy Trinity Church, where Mr. Jelley was a ringer, in honour of the marriage. On Tuesday week, the same composition was rung in the same tower. Mr. Jelley has been a ringer for 30 years, and although he has rung only a few peals he has been a valued member of the Holy Trinity, now the Cathedral, Society. Mr. Jelley has also been a prominent Surrey footballer, having gained county honours as a goalkeeper.

On Saturday, at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Jelley, a gathering of friends, numbering nearly 60, celebrated the silver wedding. The proceedings took place at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, and the company included the Provost of the Cathedral (Canon Kirwan) and the ringers. A most enjoyable evening was spent, the programme including touches on the handbells.

Opportunity was also taken to present Mr. Jelley with a silver bell inkstand, which was inscribed: 'Presented to Mr. W. E. Jelley by the Provost and ringers of the Cathedral Church, Guildford, on the occasion of his silver wedding, March 4th, 1930.' The presentation was made by the Provost, who congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Jelley on the auspicious event which they were celebrating.

OIL MADE THE BELLS GO.

A meeting of the Fylde Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Bispham on Saturday last in glorious spring-like weather. The bells were set going with a touch of Grandsire Triples for the benefit of new members, followed by Bob Major, Little Bob and Stedman Triples. Through the generosity of the Rector and churchwardens, a substantial tea was provided at Ivy Cottage, the number being augmented by a few late comers, who could not resist watching the football match, Blackpool v. Notts County.

At the business meeting, reference was made to the excellent running of the bells compared with their condition about three months ago. One of the ringers accounted for the bells' good running by the fact that he had given the bells a good oiling previous to the meeting, and suggested that when a team wanted to make use of the bells for practice or a peal they should oil the bells themselves.

This oiling business is one of difficulty, owing to the small size of the tower, which is less than ten feet square, the bells, with a tenor of 10 cwt., being in two tiers. It is a clever engineering feat on the part of the bell hangers to have got the bells in the tower and such a good circle of ropes.

DEVON GUILD.

The spring meeting of the Exeter Branch was held at Whimble on Saturday, March 1st. The Rector, the Rev. E. A. Jullian, conducted a very hearty service in church, at which an interesting address was given by the president of the Guild (Rev. E. S. Powell, of Clyst St. George).

A tea and short business meeting followed in the Victory Hall, between 70 and 80 members and their friends being present. The Rev. E. V. Cox, chairman of the branch, presided, and was supported by the Rev. and Mrs. Powell, the Rev. E. A. Jullian, the Rev. G. E. F. Molineux (chairman of the N.E. Devon Branch), Mr. E. W. Marsh (hon. secretary of the S.W. Devon Branch), Mr. E. Shepherd (late chairman), and many honorary members.

A very hearty vote of thanks was carried, amidst acclamation, to the Rector, the president, the organist, and the ladies who had helped to dispense the tea. The Rector suitably replied, and said Whimble was very honoured to have members of the Guild meeting together in the parish twice within a few weeks, and he hoped they would not stop at that, but would come again.

Miss E. Lomas, hon. secretary of the branch, put forward the names of six new members, who were subsequently elected, and the autumn meeting was fixed for September 6th, at Clyst St. George.

Full use was made of the bells, which have recently been very successfully rehung in a metal frame, with entirely new fittings, by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, and all the visitors expressed entire satisfaction with the enormous improvement in the 'go' and tone of the bells.

Members also visited Rockbeare, Lowton, Exminster, Feinton, Payhembury and other towers in the district during the afternoon and evening.

AN OXFORD BIRTHDAY TOUCH.

A novel performance was accomplished on St. Giles' bells, Oxford, on Sunday, February 16th, when seven members of the Oxford Society, all of whose birthdays occur in February, met together and rang a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 47 mins. The eighth man, whose little daughter's birthday also occurs in February, rang the tenor, thus making up the band for this unique occasion. Their names and birthdays are as follows: R. Allaworth (February 24th) 1, Miss M. Reynolds (February 23rd) 2, F. Taylor (February 17th) 3, F. Sharpe (February 22nd) 4, J. R. Chaundy (February 25th) 5, V. Bennett (February 25th) 6, R. Post (February 21st, conductor) 7, W. Judge (daughter's birthday, February 19th) 8.

John Taylor & Co.

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PICTURES OF CHURCH TOWERS FOR
PUBLICATION IN 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The Editor of 'The Ringing World' will be glad to receive photographs of churches, with a view to their future publication when suitable occasion arises.

The photographs should be accompanied by brief particulars of the bells, with their inscriptions and dates if possible, and any other interesting information about them.

Pictures should, for preference, be photographic postcards, and, where there is any choice, the tower should be a feature.

Obviously, of course, all the pictures cannot be published at once, the object of getting a collection being that the photographs may be ready at hand for use when fitting opportunity occurs.

Will each tower secretary be good enough to send a photograph of his own tower? It should be forwarded in an envelope for protection, and addressed to The Editor, 'The Ringing World,' Woking, Surrey, and the sender should enclose his name and address.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Harry Withers now holds the record for having attended a greater consecutive number of Johnson dinners than anyone else, viz., 32. And he looks well on it.

The Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild (Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn) has promised to preach at the annual meeting of the Guildford Diocesan Guild on March 29th.

The late Mr. George Bowen, of Ilfracombe, was well known to many ringers who visited London for the College Youths' dinner. For something like thirty years—except, of course, during the war—Mr. Bowen made a pilgrimage to the Metropolis to meet his old friends at this gathering.

The six members of the Ladies' Guild who took part in the performance are to be congratulated on ringing a peal in three Minor methods at Gamston, Notts. We have it on the authority of an independent listener that the peal was a particularly good one.

Mr. U. Braven, leader of St. Luke's Church, Bristol, has been appointed pro. vice-chairman of the United Guilds. This will be the first six-bell tower to be represented in the chair of the Bristol United Ringing Guild's annual dinner. Mr. P. C. Williams is chairman and Mr. H. Burt is vice-chairman.

When we observed the other day to a prominent member of the Oxford Guild that it was a pity that 'March the 4th' at Appleton so often clashed with the Johnson dinner, we were reminded that the fault lay with the organisers of the Birmingham feast. March the 4th at Appleton has been celebrated for 112 years.

But the Gloucester and Leicester dinners cannot lay claim to the same antiquity. Perhaps next year the promoters will avoid February 28th.

On this day, 203 years ago, the first peal was rung at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, when the London Scholars (now the Royal Cumberland Youths) rang 6,006 Grandsire Cinques. On the following day, the College Youths had the use of the bells and went one better, by ringing 6,314 in the same method.

On March 14th, 1837, a peal of 10,133 Grandsire Caters was rung at Christ Church, Bristol.

A cryptic postcard has reached us from Norwich containing division sums to prove that the peal of Grandsire Caters recorded at St. Peter Mancroft, which stated that 12,603 changes were rung on March 8th, 1737, is three changes over 700 leads—a rather unusual length truly, if the record is correct. Perhaps the peal was actually 12,600.

The attention of Suffolk ringers is called to the alteration of date of the meeting at Ufford. The meeting will be held on March 22nd.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The first session of the Fourteenth Council (38th annual meeting) will be held by the courtesy of the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, at Lambeth Palace, London, on Whitsun Tuesday, June 10th. Full particulars of the meeting will appear later.

Notices of motion should reach me ten weeks beforehand in order that they may be included in the agenda, which, under the rules, has to be published eight weeks before the meeting.

Subscriptions (on the revised scale) are now due.

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

155, Rushey Green, Catford, S.E.6.

WRINGTON BELLS. ONE OF THE GLORIES OF SOMERSET.

Somerset is a particularly fortunate county in regard to its rings of bells, for there are many glorious peals within its boundaries. Not far from the foot of the Mendips lies Wrington, a fine old-world village, with a magnificent church, whose tower is said to have formed the model upon which the architect of the Houses of Parliament modelled the Victoria tower. And Wrington has one of the finest rings of bells in all Somerset—a ring of ten with tenor of 37 cwt. in C sharp. The foundation of the peal is some old ones cast by the Bilbies, of Chewstoke, who put the back six into the tower at various dates in the eighteenth century. Treble and tenor were recast in 1845; and in 1911 four trebles were added by the Whitechapel Foundry. Previous to 1845, the treble of the six weighed 10½ cwt., and the tenor 33½ cwt. Recently the bells have been overhauled by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and there is an enthusiastic local band who are making headway in change ringing.



WRINGTON CHURCH.

It is curious that the old bells, while giving the names of the churchwardens of their day, do not give the name of the incumbent. The inscriptions are as follow:—

- Treble.—Mears and Stainbank, 1911.
- 2.—Mears and Stainbank, 1911. The gift of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Wills.
- 3.—Mears and Stainbank. The gift of the Rev. G. M. Ashdown and his wife.
- 4.—Mears and Stainbank, 1911. The gift of Mr. E. Hanison.
- 5.—The Rev. John Vane, Rector; James Cockburn, John Young, Churchwardens. Mears, Founder, 1845.
- 6.—Mr. Purnell, Mr. Parsley, Churchwardens. Thomas Bilbie, Founder, 1750.
- 7.—Mr. Peter Hill, Mr. Edward Burrough, Churchwardens. Thomas Bilbie, Founder, 1765.
- 8.—Mr. W. Purnell, Mr. Parsley, Churchwardens. Thomas Bilbie, Founder, 1750.
- 9.—Mr. Walters, Mr. Breane, Churchwardens. Bilbie, Chewstoke, Founder, 1712.
- Tenor.—The Rev. John Vane, Rector; James Cockburn, John Young, Churchwardens. Mears, Founder, 1845.

AN ANCIENT PEAL OF SIX RESTORED

The ancient ring of six bells at Sedlescombe, Sussex, which have been retuned and rehung, were recently dedicated by the Archbishop of Hastings. These bells are one of the oldest rings of six in the country, and came from the Whitechapel Foundry. Messrs. Mears and Stainbank have carried out the work, the cost of which was defrayed by Mr. and Mrs. Kingdon. A special band of members of the Sussex Association did the opening ringing.

LEICESTER SOCIETIES UNITE AT DINNER.

ENJOYABLE FIRST GATHERING.

The first of what is hoped will be a series of many annual dinners held by Leicester and District Societies took place at the King Richard III. Hotel, Higheross Street, Leicester, on Saturday, March 1st. The bells of St. Margaret's (12), the Cathedral (10) and All Saints' (5) were open for ringing from 3.30 till 6 p.m. Unfortunately, the fine peal of ten at St. John's were unavailable owing to serious illness near the church. Visitors to St. Margaret's were very interested in the magnificent peal book at that church. This is a real work of art. It has been beautifully executed in coloured inks, and is the result of many hours' labour on the part of the painstaking Ringing Master of St. Margaret's, Mr. Ernest Morris. The ringing varied from Grandsire Doubles to Stedman Cinques and Cambridge Surprise Royal. Rounds and call changes were also rung on St. Margaret's bells, which gave some of the ringers an opportunity of ringing on 12 bells for the first time.

A company of 58 ringers and friends sat down to dinner, and six or seven more came in for the concert afterwards. The only thing that could be at all regretted was that members were a little pressed for room, but it is hoped that next year, when a still larger gathering is looked for, a more spacious room will be obtained. The following towers in the areas were represented at the dinner: Anstey, Billesdon, Edmondthorpe, Hallaton, Husbands Bosworth, Leicester (St. Margaret's), the Cathedral, St. John's, St. Peter's, Belgrave, and St. Saviour's), Ratby, Rothley, Syston, Thrusington, Waltham, Wigston Magna and Wymondham. Welcome visitors were Mr. Albert H. Ward, of Derby, and Messrs. Edward C. Gobey and James F. George, of Ilkeston.

After the tables had been cleared, the party settled down to a really enjoyable impromptu concert. The following seven tunes were excellently rendered on the handbells (four 'in hand') by Messrs. W. Willson, E. Morris, H. J. Poole and P. Harrison: 'Drink to me only,' 'Blue Bells of Scotland,' 'Annie Laurie,' 'Men of Harlech,' 'Swanee River,' 'Soldier's Joy,' and 'The Bells of St. Mary.' An excellent course of Stedman Caters was also rung by E. Morris 1-2, H. J. Poole 3-4, A. H. Ward 5-6, W. Willson 7-8, R. F. Elkington 9-10. The remainder of the handbell ringing consisted of a course of 'Rugby Triples Major' ('Cag-Mag') by J. Morris 1-2, R. F. Elkington 3-4, E. Morris 5-6, H. J. Poole 7-8; and a course of Grandsire Triples, '4 in hand,' by W. P. Whitehead 1-2-3-4, E. R. Whitehead 5-6-7-8.

Mr. C. Turner entertained those present in his own witty manner, and the following kindly contributed songs: Mr. F. Howe ('The Sentinel'), Mr. J. Morris ('The Coffee Mill'), Mr. H. J. Poole ('Topical Song'), Mr. A. H. Mansfield ('Come landlord, fill the flowing bowl,' and 'Billy Muggins'). The audience wholeheartedly joined in the chorus of the four latter songs. One of the most enjoyable items of the evening was Mr. Harold Poole's 'Topical Song,' in which the bells of local towers and prominent Leicester ringers were skillfully introduced into a rollicking ditty, the chorus of which was sung with considerable vigour.

Previous to the commencement of the concert, the Chairman, Mr. A. J. Harris, submitted the toast of 'The King,' which was duly honoured. Other toasts were given at intervals during the evening. Mr. W. Willson submitted 'The Visitors.' He said that he could remember the time when there were differences of opinion between the ringers of the different churches in Leicester, but these had now happily passed away, and they were that evening all gathered together under one roof as a big united family. He also spoke a word of welcome to those who had come from towers outside the city, mentioning by name Mr. P. Hardy, of Thrusington, with whom he rang over 40 years ago. Mr. Willson went on to say that he hoped that that gathering would be the forerunner of many annual dinners, and that he was pleased to see so many present. He hoped that next year they would have still more there, and that they would hold it in a larger room.

Mr. E. C. Gobey (Ilkeston) responded, and thanked Mr. Willson for his welcome to the visitors. Mr. P. Hardy, of Thrusington (for very many years hon. secretary of the Goscombe Deanery Society of Church Bellringers), supported Mr. Gobey in his remarks. He said that he had had a good many years' experience of ringers, and knew the difficulties that those who held any official position had to contend with. He said how very much he had enjoyed the evening, and expressed thanks for the invitation given to him.

Mr. H. G. Jenney submitted the toast of 'The Leicester and District Societies.' He said this was one of the occasions which helped one to realise what a good thing it was to be a bellringer. He said that other places had these annual gatherings, and he saw no reason why Leicester should not do the same, and that an evening such as they had enjoyed made him realise what they had been missing in the past.

During the last half-hour, those present were given an opportunity of exercising their voices, when they were divided in four groups, and the old 'round song,' 'London's Burning,' was sung with vigour for a few minutes. The singing of 'Auld Lang Syne' a few minutes before 11 p.m. brought a very enjoyable evening to a conclusion.

THE JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER.

(Continued from page 154.)

In replying to the toast of 'Continued prosperity to St. Martin's Guild,' proposed by the chairman (Alderman J. S. Pritchett), Mr. T. H. Reeves (the hon. secretary) said that prosperity needed fidelity. That was the secret of the whole matter, and they of St. Martin's had been extremely fortunate in the very enthusiastic band of officers they had had. So long as that continued, he was sure the prosperity of the Guild was assured.

Mr. A. Paddon Smith, also called upon to respond, said the Guild was exceedingly fortunate in having the services of Mr. Reeves as secretary, and with him and their esteemed Presiding Ringing Master still holding office, the Guild would go on and prosper.

THE CATHEDRAL BELLS.

Mr. Albert Walker also had to reply, and took the opportunity of impressing on the Bishop the need for a complete restoration of the bells at the Cathedral. It was very regrettable, he said, that when the authorities carried out their recent renovations of the Cathedral and the organ they did not do something to the bells, which ought to come right out and be recast and re-erected in a new frame. They ought to have the best peal of bells possible at the Cathedral, but, unfortunately, they had not only the worst in the diocese, but the worst in the world (laughter and hear, hear). Out of the ten, five were cracked as far as they could tell. The Guild were always impressing on the various authorities the need for putting and keeping these bells in order, equally with any other part of the church property. They were fortunate in that diocese that the bells generally were well looked after, and he hoped the Bishop would use his influence to obtain a thorough restoration of the bells at the Cathedral. It would have an important bearing on the structure of the tower, for a modern framework would strengthen it by one hundred per cent. He hoped before another twelve months had gone by something might be done. He believed if an appeal were made to the citizens of Birmingham for money for the renovation of the Cathedral bells it would come in just as fast as for the fabric and the beautiful organ (applause).

Mr. J. F. Smallwood proposed 'The Visitors,' whom, he said, they were always glad to see and welcome. They valued the presence of those who came from near and far, and they appreciated the honour which the visitors thus conferred upon them.

A RUMOUR.

Mr. E. W. Elwell, who first responded, said it was difficult for visitors, when they came to that gathering, to believe that they were visitors. St. Martin's Guild made them so welcome that they felt completely at home. They were among people they knew; all were friends, and it was a thoroughly pleasant evening. Continuing, Mr. Elwell said he found his name had been associated with rumours that someone was wanted to undertake a certain amount of work in the Exercise. That rumour did not hold the truth that he personally would like it to hold. There were so many calls made upon his time at present that he was unable to do everything he would like to do for the Exercise.

Mr. E. A. Young also replied, and said, in regard to the rumours referred to, if they could only be upheld with truth to Mr. Elwell, the office in question would be filled with the utmost ability. The way in which Mr. Elwell met any emergency and said the right thing at the right time would make him a very useful officer of the Central Council if he was able to add the duties to his many fields of activity.

Mr. F. W. Perrins, in proposing the toast of 'The Ringing World,' said it was now 19 years since the paper began publication. What amount of progress the Exercise had made as a result could not be measured any more than they were able to measure the good done to the Exercise by the man whose memory they were honouring that night. They could not, however, deny for one moment the advantage to ringers of having their own journal. There were, he remarked, no less than 27 ringers' gatherings in various parts of the country that day; without the aid of 'The Ringing World,' through which ringers were able to learn what was taking place, few of those gatherings would be the success that they were. Mr. Perrins urged all those who now supported 'The Ringing World' to do all in their power to get others to support it, so that the circulation might be considerably increased. He suggested that ringers would welcome in the columns of 'The Ringing World' a series of sketches of the lives, with portraits, if possible, of past stalwarts of the Exercise. Those who came to the Henry Johnson dinner, who had seen his portrait regularly on the programme, and had heard the reminiscences of him by people who knew him, really felt as if they had themselves known Henry Johnson, and he felt sure that ringers generally would like to make acquaintance in the same way with many of the other worthies of the past.

With the toast was associated the names of both Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith, whose health was drunk with musical honours. Mr. Goldsmith replied.

The Chairman thanked those who had contributed to the programme, especially the St. Martin's Quartette, with whom the ringers were co-workers in the church.

(Continued in next column.)

PEALS OF MINOR.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I heartily agree with all Mr. Whittington says in your last issue, and unless the Council definitely decides as to what shall constitute peals of Doubles and Minor, this controversy will keep coming up.

Reverting to the definition of peal of Minor as given by Mr. James in your issue of February 28th, I am surprised that Mr. James should take up your valuable space by sending such examples as A and B, especially after condemning so strongly 720's of Cambridge and London which bring up 5-6 at hand. As he rightly says, A consists of three true and complete 720's, containing 9, 12 and 15 bobs, each having nine 5-6's at hand, whilst B contains three 720's, none of them true or complete, and bringing up no less than thirty-six 5-6's at hand, one being rounds. Which would six-bell ringers prefer to ring?

With reference to Mr. James' statement that there are only five possible 720's of Minor, viz., 9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 bobs, I give below four 720's, and would like Mr. James to explain that, if Nos. 1 and 2 are one and the same, what are Nos. 3 and 4?

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
56423 3	42356 1	23564 4	64235 1
45623 1	63425 2	45236 1	52643 1
36452 2	46325 1	45362 4	36524 1
43652 1	53462 2	34256 1P	62453 3
43526 5	45362 1		34625 1
54326 1	45623 5		56342 1
63542 2	64523 1		42356 2
56342 1	35642 2		
23564 2	63542 1	Each twice repeated.	
45236 2	42563 3		
36245 3	54263 1		
23645 1	63254 3		
56234 2	42635 2		
34256 3	64235 1		
23456 1	35264 3		
	23456 1P		

Norwich Nos. 1 and 2, London Nos. 3 and 4.

Killamarsh.

Yours etc.,

C. SEVERN.

Sir,—With reference to Rev. Law James' Bob Minor in 'The Ringing World' of February 28th, surely, with six variations of 18 Bobs, 2 Singles, six variations of 16 Bobs, 2 Singles, and 'unpleen' other 720's in 'Ropesight,' there is no need for anything in the nature of a freak in Bob Minor. I think it is nearly time we got to the definition between a variation of a calling and seven different 720's.

This seems to adhere to my letter some months ago. Once you may have rung the true 720 changes, it matters not an iota as to how the next six come up, provided you repeat nothing more than five times.

I hope when the Central Council meet again they will make this subject a strong point, and state what is legal and what is otherwise.—Yours faithfully,
Longstanton.

F. WARRINGTON

(Continued from previous column.)

HAPPY ANYWHERE.

Mr. A. E. Parsons gave 'The Chairman,' and congratulated Alderman Pritchett on having rung a peal of Stedman Cinques to celebrate his 75th birthday. There were, he said, few men in the Exercise who could ring a peal in that method at that age.

The toast was musically honoured.

Alderman Pritchett made a characteristic response. The proposer had asked whether he was happiest in performing his masonic duties or amongst ringers, and had anticipated his reply by suggesting he was equally happy with both. 'I am happy all the time,' said the Chairman, 'whatever I am doing. Under the providence of God, I have good health, as far as I know my mind and body are unimpaired, and that is a condition in which one enjoys life in all circumstances. I am happiest at the moment wherever I happen to be. At the present moment I cannot imagine myself happier than in your company, and responding to this toast. We may pride ourselves on this gathering, and we thank Mr. Reeves for the arrangements made for it.'

The Rector of Birmingham who came in late in the proceedings, then addressed a few words to the company, expressing regret that he had been prevented by another engagement from joining them earlier.

This concluded the proceedings, and the gathering broke up after singing the National Anthem.

The delightful programme of music which interspersed the speeches was sustained by Madame Lilley McCormack, Mr. A. S. Downes, Mr. W. C. Dowding, who contributed songs, and St. Martin's quartette, whose finely rendered glees and part-songs were a feature of the evening's entertainment.

Many of the visitors spent another happy day on Sunday, and a number made an excursion in the morning to Walsall to ring on the new peal of twelve bells there.

THE LATE MR. GEORGE BOWEN.

LIFELONG ASSOCIATION WITH ILFRACOMBE CHURCH.

As briefly recorded in our last issue, Mr. George Bowen, of Ilfracombe, passed away on Saturday week. Mr. Bowen, who was 83 years of age, was a descendant of a famous Ilfracombe family. One of his ancestors, Capt. Richard Bowen, commanded H.M.S. 'Terpsichore' and lost his life at Tenerife in 1797. Capt. Bowen was one of those who were ordered to stay and spike the guns so that they would be useless to the enemy. The task was fulfilled, but all who took part lost their lives.

George Bowen had been associated with Holy Trinity Church, Ilfracombe, practically all his life. He had been a chorister for over 70 years, a ringer for more than 60 years, and parish clerk during nearly as long a period. He served under four incumbents, and literally lived for his church. His life was one of the most selfless and beautiful that a man could live. Thinking always of others and how best he could be of service, Mr. Bowen was loved by all who knew him intimately.

He was not a great ringer as ringers are reckoned in these days, but his whole life and work leave a splendid example. He was responsible for the introduction of change ringing to Ilfracombe when only six bells hung in the tower, and when two trebles were offered in 1893 he undertook to raise the funds for the necessary framework and the hanging. He was ever ready to help young ringers, and those who know the coast hills of North Devon will realise what it meant for him to cycle the 20 miles to Lynton and back every week to give instruction to the local band. It was his efforts, also, which resulted in the only peal that has been rung on Lundy Island. In addition to being a member of the Devon Guild, he was also a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and he attended the annual dinner in London regularly for about 30 years.

Mr. Bowen was also a Freemason and a member of the Oddfellows' Friendly Society.

The funeral service took place on Thursday of last week, and was conducted by the Vicar, who was assisted by the Revs. F. Nesbit (of Exeter, a former curate at Ilfracombe), W. Pigot (West Down), and N. Phillips. The cortege was met at the lych gate by the choir and clergy, the path being lined by a guard of honour of Oddfellows. The coffin was borne from deceased's residence to the church by Oddfellows. The bearers in church were members of the choir, and the coffin was borne from the porch to the graveside by the following bellringers: Messrs. H. G. Ridge, C. W. Filer, F. Blackmore, A. Turner, J. Sprague, and J. Richards. The 90th Psalm was chanted, and the hymns, 'Nearer, my God, to Thee,' and 'Now the labourer's task is o'er,' were sung. The organist (Mr. R. D. Finch) played appropriate music, and muffled peals were rung on the bells. Mr. W. Butler read the Oddfellows' order of service at the graveside.

The mourners were Mrs. Bowen (widow), Mrs. Vickory (sister-in-law), Mr. Ernest Phillippe and Mr. Charles Belben (nephews), Mrs. E. Hughes, Mr. A. Hughes (London), and Sister Sergeant.

A large congregation assembled to pay their last tribute of respect.

SUFFOLK GUILD VISITED BY ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL JOINT MEETING AT CLARE.

The joint meeting of the Suffolk Guild and the Essex Association was the most successful meeting held at Clare for some years. Over 50 members from 19 parishes (ten from Suffolk and nine from Essex) were present. The Vicar (Canon Vatcher) gave a hearty welcome to the visitors, and at the service gave an inspiring address on the messages of the bells. The Rev. H. Drake (hon. secretary of the Suffolk Guild) also took part in the service.

At the business meeting, Canon Vatcher presided, and was supported by Mr. Chas. Sedgely (Master) and Rev. Drake (secretary of the Suffolk Guild), Mr. C. H. Howard (Master) and Mr. F. Ridge-well (district secretary of the Essex Association).

Mr. Howard spoke of the friendly relations that existed between neighbouring associations, and of the mutual help one could be to the other.

The Chairman spoke of the restoration of the tower at Clare which was carried out some years ago. He said that it was a most wonderful piece of work, and was carried out under the supervision of three famous architects of the day.

Four new members of the Suffolk Guild were elected. Mr. J. Ince was elected secretary of the Clare District. The members adjourned to the tower for further ringing, which included Bob Major, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Stedman, Superlative, Cambridge and London Surprise and Double Norwich.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A very successful meeting of this association was held at Wylam-on-Tyne on Saturday, March 1st, about 20 members from Tanfield, Winton, Newton Hall, Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, and Sunderland being present. The fine peal of six at St. Oswin's (tenor 22 cwt.) was kept going during the afternoon and evening, and an excellent tea, presided over by Mr. E. E. Ferry, was provided at the Ship Hotel.

THE GLOUCESTER DINNER.

A HAPPY GATHERING.

The annual dinner of the Gloucester Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held on Saturday, March 1st, at the Park End Hotel. The Rev. H. M. Braithwaite (Rural Dean) presided, supported by Mr. J. Austin (branch chairman), Mr. W. H. Harris (hon. branch secretary), Mr. T. Baldwin, Mr. Sidney Romans, Mr. and Mrs. E. Evans, Mr. Geo. Jackson (churchwarden, St. Mary de Lode), Mr. E. Wilkins (Bristol), ex-Sergt. Williams (Newent), Captain C. Lodge (Quedgeley), Mr. J. Clarke (Ross), and the veteran of the branch, Mr. B. Etheridge (Maisemore), who is in his 83rd year. The visitors included Messrs. Bishop and Kynaston (Swindon), Jeffries (Mangotsfield), Fussell and Burcombe (Dursley), Mr. and Mrs. Clements (Bourton-on-the-Water), and Messrs. Ballinger, Townsend and Waters (Leckhampton). Altogether a party of 50 sat down. After dinner, the loyal toast was duly honoured. Before proceeding further with the programme, the Chairman referred to the loss the branch had sustained by the death of Mr. G. L. Brunsdon, who had been connected with ringing since 1888, and who had been looking forward to the present function. They would, said the Chairman, all miss his genial presence and his willingness to assist the branch and anyone in the art of ringing. The Chairman also made reference to the death of Mr. T. Mansfield, of Quedgeley, and he asked the branch secretary to write to the relatives of both families on behalf of the members, expressing their deepest sympathy with them in their sad bereavement. He asked those present to stand in silence as a last tribute of respect to the departed.

The toast of 'The Church' was proposed by Captain Lodge, who incidentally remarked that they had a nice peal of bells at Quedgeley but did not have a full band of ringers. He wished to thank the Gloucester ringers for coming to their assistance when required. He also apologised for the absence of the Rev. G. H. Hadow, Vicar of Quedgeley.

The Chairman, in responding to the toast, said he was placed in a difficult position as regards St. Michael's bells. Experts had given advice on the matter, and he hoped in the near future something would be done.

The toast of 'The Gloucester and Bristol Association' was submitted by Mr. T. Baldwin, who wished the association every success. Mr. J. Austin, responding, said he was pleased to see such a large gathering that evening, and hoped to see more ladies attending these functions in the future. In the course of his remarks, the speaker said he should like to see more of the younger generation take a greater interest in the art of ringing.

The health of 'The Branch Secretary' was given by Captain C. Lodge, who said there was always a lot of spade work for a secretary to do on such occasions as that, and he was pleased to see it had been carried out in such an efficient manner. The toast was received with musical honours, and the Secretary, in replying, said that without the help of the excellent Dinner Committee he could not have had such a good result.

The toast of 'Kindred Guilds and Associations' was proposed by Mr. Geo. Jackson, and responded to by ex-Sergt. Williams, while that of 'The Visitors' was proposed by Mr. Sidney Romans and acknowledged by Mr. Townsend.

A capital programme of music and songs was given by the Tuffley Revellers' Concert Party, through the kindness of Mr. T. Baldwin, courses of Triples on handbells by Messrs. Baldwin, Etheridge, Williams and Harris, and selection on handbells by Mr. Harold Holford, of Cheltenham.

At the close of the enjoyable evening, Captain C. Lodge proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for his kindness in presiding. This was endorsed by Mr. J. Austin, and the Chairman (Rev. H. M. Braithwaite), who was received with musical honours, said it was a pleasure to be able to preside over such a large gathering of campanologists and friends, and he trusted next year it would be larger still.

The singing of the 'National Anthem' brought a very happy gathering to an end.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL GUILD.

After the peal of Stedman Cinques rung on January 23th, to celebrate Mr. William Story's 70th birthday, he intimated his intention of giving the whole of the active members of the Guild a dinner. This promise was faithfully and handsomely kept on a subsequent Saturday evening, when twenty members sat down to an excellent meal in the Princess Restaurant. Mr. Story occupied the chair, and was supported by every active member of the Guild except Messrs. J. W. Parker, George Pickering and R. Thompson, sen., who all sent apologies for absence. A varied musical programme was carried out, the treat of the evening being tune ringing by Messrs. Barber, Davidson and R. Anderson 'four in hand.'

The Ringing Master, Mr. Routledge, proposed the health and prosperity of 'The Host,' and wished him many more years of active ringing. The toast was greeted with musical honours, and Mr. Story suitably replied.

The evening finished appropriately with a course of Grandsire Cinques on handbells.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH.

A quarterly meeting of the North Bucks Branch was held at Twyford on Saturday, March 1st, and a very representative gathering was present considering that this place is rather wide of the scope of activities in North Bucks. Towers represented were Blechley, Beachampton, Penny Stratford, Stony Stratford, Simpson, Whaddon, and the local ringers, with representatives from the Central Bucks Branch, including the secretary, the Rev. J. F. Amies, of Edgecote. Service was conducted by the Vicar of Twyford (Rev. A. S. St. Ledger Westall), who gave a very interesting address. Tea was provided in the schoolroom, when about 25 sat down.

After tea, the Secretary (Mr. W. Sear) took the opportunity of making reference to the death of an old and very respected member of North Bucks Branch in the person of Mr. W. Bouham, of Stony Stratford. He asked the meeting to show their respect to his memory by standing in silence. This having been done, the Secretary said there was no special business to bring forward, but he welcomed the secretary of Central Bucks Branch and its members to that meeting.

The usual vote of thanks to the Vicar for making the visit to Twyford so pleasant was suitably responded to by the Rev. A. St. L. Westall, who asked the branch to come more frequently. During the day, touches were rung in methods ranging from Grandsire and Stedman Doubles to Cambridge Minor.

NEW CHAIRMAN OF NEWBURY BRANCH.

A successful meeting of the Newbury Branch was held at Chieveley on Saturday, March 1st, when the following towers were represented: Bucklebury, Beeton, Brightwalton, Newbury, Peasemore, Shaw, Thatcham, and the local ringers. Visitors were also present from Binfield. A short service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. H. Bonsey), who gave a very helpful address. Tea was served in the Vicarage Barn, when 29 sat down to an excellent tea, kindly given by the Rev. H. Bonsey.

The business meeting followed, at which the first item on the agenda was the election of a chairman for the branch, owing to the departure from the district of the Rev. L. R. Majendie.

The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer (Mr. H. W. Curtis), taking the chair for a few moments, proposed the Rev. H. Bonsey as chairman pro. tem., which was seconded by Mr. E. Crocker and carried unanimously. The Vicar, taking the chair, presided over the meeting.

The spring meeting was fixed for Thatcham on Saturday, April 26th. One new ringing member was elected, and a hearty vote of thanks, proposed by the secretary, was accorded to the Rev. H. Bonsey for his kindness in giving the tea, and for his address, and also to the ladies for their services, and carried with applause. The Vicar suitably responded, and thanked the meeting for his election as chairman of the branch.

The tower was again visited, and Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob Minor were rung.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

A most successful by-meeting was held at Springfield on Saturday, when 23 members were present from Braintree, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Croydon, Galleywood, Great Baddow, Rettendon and Springfield. After two hours' ringing in the afternoon, a short service was conducted by the Rector (Rev. C. Hargreaves), the lesson being read by Mr. C. H. Howard, Master of the association.

An excellent tea was served in the Women's Institute, presided over by the Rector, supported by Rev. F. A. Roughton (Vicar of Galleywood) and Mr. C. H. Howard. The District Master presided at the business meeting, when it was arranged to hold the next meeting at Boreham on Saturday, April 12th, and also a meeting at Burnham-on-Crouch and Southminster on Saturday, June 21st.

One new ringing member was elected.

Mr. C. H. Howard proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells, for taking the service, and for his address, and also to the organist. The Rector, in reply, said he was very pleased to welcome the ringers to Springfield, and hoped he would soon have the pleasure of doing so again.

Some members remained for handbell ringing, while others returned to the tower, where the bells were kept going till 9 p.m. in various methods.

WERE THE UMPIRES QUALIFIED?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the footnote to the handbell peal of Bob Major at Higham's Park, kindly permit me to offer congratulations to those two promising ringers. But, the umpires. Who are these fellows? Are they themselves ringers? Are they both fully qualified to act in this capacity? Umpires of such peals should be competent ringers. However, I trust these two ringers and umpires, too, will progress sufficiently that ultimately they will each secure a place in the 1st eleven.—Yours sincerely,

F. W. RICHARDSON.

Brockley.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

HORNSEY.—On Sunday, March 9th, at St. Mary's Church, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor (1,260 changes) in 47 mins.: G. W. Blee 1, E. G. Hibble 2, H. Blee 3, F. Fensom 4, M. Fensom 5, J. G. Nash (conductor) 6.

SWINDON, WILTS.—On Sunday, March 9th, at Christ Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters (1,301 changes) in 50 mins.: C. J. Gardiner 1, R. G. Townsend 2, W. G. Townsend 3, S. Palmer 4, H. W. Bishop (conductor) 5, J. Berry 6, H. W. L. Wells 7, W. B. Kynaston 8, T. Townsend 9, W. A. Bullock 10.

SANDIACRE, DERBYSHIRE.—At St. Giles' Church, for evening service, on March 9th, 720 London Surprise: G. Cliff 1, W. R. Drage 2, J. Hall 3, F. Morton (first in the method) 4, R. H. Cox (conductor) 5, H. Turner 6.

WICKEN, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, March 9th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): J. A. Green 1, A. J. Green 2, L. Smith 3, F. Pateman 4, H. Cashmore 5, F. Case 6, T. Roberts (conductor) 7, G. Foddy 8. First quarter by the treble ringer, on his 13th birthday, and by the ringer of the 4th.

OXBRIDGE.—At the Church of St. Margaret, for morning service, on March 2nd, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 45 mins.: G. H. Gutteridge 1, E. Hancox 2, P. E. Jones 3, J. H. Lucas 4, R. Warnett 5, C. Nicholls (first inside) 6, F. Corke (conductor) 7, A. Bray 8.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.—On Sunday, March 2nd, for morning service, at the Parish Church of St. Michael, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: W. T. Prior 1, V. Matthews 2, R. Hayden 3, H. A. Wacey 4, H. M. White 5, H. Bull 6, F. Bird (conductor) 7, E. Ansell 8. All are local Sunday service ringers.

PUTNEY.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, March 2nd, for evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples in 46 mins.: W. F. Ellingham 1, C. Collis 2, W. H. Ball 3, R. Bullen 4, C. E. G. Moody 5, E. Cassell 6, W. Mains (conductor) 7, A. C. Williams 8. Rung on the anniversary of the wedding of the ringer of the 5th.

EALING.—On Sunday, March 2nd, at the Church of St. Mary, for evensong, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: C. W. Roberts 1, E. F. Pike 2, J. E. Churchill 3, W. H. Hewett (conductor) 4, A. M. Stacey 5, E. C. S. Turner 6, A. Harding 7, H. Belcher 8.

THE MASONIC PEAL BOOK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—This book is now completed, and as soon as we are satisfied that the records are up to date an early opportunity will be taken of depositing it in the Library and Museum of Grand Lodge. The peals recorded therein are as follows:—

Grandsire Caters at St. Clement Danes on December 4th, 1919.

Kent Treble Bob Major at Garston on March 29th, 1924.

Stedman Triples at Bushey on February 14th, 1925.

Stedman Triples at Erdington on February 27th, 1926.

Stedman Caters at Solihull on April 24th, 1926.

Stedman Cinques at Chelmsford on July 17th, 1926.

Cambridge Major at Crayford on April 9th, 1927.

Kent Treble Bob Royal at Solihull on November 19th, 1927.

Stedman Triples at Chester-le-Street on October 31st, 1927.

If there be other peals I shall be obliged if the conductors will supply me with the usual particulars, as published in 'The Ringing World,' together with the number and name of lodge of each ringer, also whether Bro. or W.Bro. I shall then be pleased to make arrangements for the writing of the peal and insertion in the book. I hope that any omissions will be supplied to me at an early date, but I shall keep it open until the end of March.

For the information of ringing brethren, I give the technical description of the book as given by the maker: 'The leaves are of Jap vellum, gilt edges, book sewn with sutured silk, silk ends, sewn blue silk, and the book bound in Sumach tanned morocco of a Masonic blue, and the lettering of embellishments are of pure gold.'

The book is 11in. x 9in., and on the outside is printed in gold lettering: 'Antient Free and Accepted Masons of England Peal Book,' with the Masonic device of the Square and Compasses above the last two words. The fly leaf contains the same wording within an ornamental border with this further wording: 'An account of peals rung upon bells by hands consisting entirely of Freemasons, presented to Grand Lodge by ringing Brethren.'

The peals are written by the writer who does the entries in the College Youths' Peal Book, and are in his best style.

The Grand Librarian has consented to receive the book for Grand Lodge, but stipulates that it be not removed from the Library when once deposited. The book has, therefore, been made upon the loose-leaf principle, with fly leaves to permit of the insertion of further peals. Accommodation and additional leaves are provided for as many peals as are likely to be rung for many years to come (there are some eighty or so additional leaves). When any further peals fall to be recorded, a sheet may be obtained from the Grand Librarian, who will insert it in the book after the peal is written up. The writer's usual charge is about 7s. each.—Yours, etc.,

F. WHITE.

Westfield, Cranbrook, Kent.

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.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE of 'THE RINGING WORLD,' WOKING, SURREY.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus' on March 27th, *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 18th, and Southwark Cathedral on the 20th, at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Coleman's Hatch on Saturday, March 15th. Tower opened 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—G. Lambert, Drummond Hay, Moat Road, East Grinstead.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Bexhill on Saturday, March 15th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock. Business meeting to follow. Half rail fares (maximum 1s. 6d.).—Geo. W. Stokes, Hon. Dis. Sec., 22, Melbourne Road, Eastbourne.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Burnley, on Saturday, March 15th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due.—F. Hindle, Hon. Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The spring meeting of the Cheltenham branch will be held at Badgeworth on Saturday, March 15th. Bells open 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.30, by kind invitation of the Vicar (Rev. W. Downes). Business meeting after tea. — Walter Yeend, Branch Sec., Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at All Saints', Sheffield, on Saturday, March 15th. Bells (8) available from 3. Short service at 5. Tea 5.30, in the Church Institute, Grimesthorpe Road, at 1s. per head. Business meeting for election of officers after tea. Subscriptions for 1929-30 are now due and the annual report available at this meeting.—F. Clark, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Goole on Saturday, March 15th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Tea, at 4.30 p.m., in National Schools, at 1s. per head. Short service in Parish Church 5.30 p.m., with an address by the Vicar of Goole, followed by the business meeting in the Schools. For further details see circular.—A. B. Cook, Hon. Dis. Sec., 58, Wyndham Street, Hull.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A meeting will be held at Ewhurst on Saturday, March 15th.—G. L. Grover, Merrow Cottage, East Clandon, Guildford.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—A meeting will be held at Woodchurch on Saturday, March 15th. Tower open at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 5.30 p.m.—H. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Calne Branch.—The reopening of the bells of All Saints', Wootton Bassett, will take place on Saturday, March 15th, at 3 o'clock, having been rehung by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon. Tea will be provided at the Vicarage at 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—Louis A. Wilson, Hon. Sec., Calne Branch.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Christ Church, West Didsbury, on Saturday, March 15th. Bells ready 6 p.m. Mr. R. Davies, ringing master. Will members make an effort to attend and help the branch officials in their efforts to create more interest in these meetings?—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Stoke-in-Coventry on Saturday, March 15th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock in St. Andrew's Hall, Binley Road.—D. E. Lewis, Gen. Hon. Sec., Firholm, King Edward Road, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—The next meeting will be held at Kegworth on Saturday, March 15th. Bells (6) will be ready from 3.30 p.m.—D. S. Collins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Twerton-on-Avon on Saturday, March 15th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 4.15. Tea and meeting to follow in Church Hall. — N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern District.—A meeting will be held at the Church of St. Mary, Lambeth, on Saturday, March 15th. Bells available 3 to 7.30 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m. Social hour. — J. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 17, Grimston Road, Fulham, S.W.6.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Peak District.—The next meeting will be held at Matlock on Saturday next, March 15th. Church of St. Giles (8 bells, tenor 15 cwt.), available afternoon and evening. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Members from other districts welcome.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., Leamwood, Dore.

LADIES' GUILD.—Northern District. — A meeting will be held at North Wingfield on Saturday, March 22nd. Gentlemen cordially invited. Arrangements for tea please notify, Miss D. Tarlton, 16, Bright Street, North Wingfield, near Chesterfield. — N. Cawthorne, Dis. Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Beddington on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells (10) available from 2.30 to 5.30. Service at 5.30. Tea (Harvest Home Hall, Beddington Lane) at 6.15. Meeting 7. Social (with handbells) 8 to 10. Those requiring tea must notify me by Wednesday, March 19th. This year is the jubilee of the association, and Beddington is the foundation tower. Come and make this meeting a record gathering.—Chas. H. Kippin, Hon. Sec., 18, Guy Road, Beddington, Croydon.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Next meeting at Finchley on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells from 3 p.m. Short service at 5. Tea, usual charge, at 5.30. All members and friends welcomed, but please let me know if you require tea.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—A general meeting will be held on March 22nd (postponed from March 15th) at Ufford. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Tea 4.30, in St. Mary's Hall. Meeting after.—Drake, Ufford, Woodbridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Newchurch-in-Rossendale, on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells ready at 3.30. Meeting at 6.30. Subscriptions are due. Reports and diagrams to hand.—John H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 8, Oaklands Road, Edenfield.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—The spring quarterly meeting will be held at Purton on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea at the Vicarage by kind invitation of the Rev. and Mrs. N. S. Willis. Those who intend being present for tea please notify me early.—S. Hopper, 72, Edinburgh Street, Swindon.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—A district meeting will be held at Frensham on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting in Village Hall. Those requiring tea please notify by Wednesday, March 19th.—C. W. Denyer, Hon. Sec., 120, Ash Road, Aldershot.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next practice has been arranged at Fulmer (6 bells) on Saturday, March 22nd. at 3.30 p.m. Guild Service 5 p.m. Tea at 1/- per head for those who notify me by March 19th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The society's nomination meeting will be held at Armley on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea, 1/6 per head, will be arranged for all who send in their names to me by Thursday, March 20th. Day membership will be granted by the Armley Conservative Club (which adjoins the church grounds) to all who send in, to me, before March 20th.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Biggleswade on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. Tea at 5. All ringers welcome. A good company is requested.—C. J. Ball, Dis. Sec., 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Glodwick, Oldham, on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at Sapcote on Saturday, March 22nd. Bells available from 3.30 p.m. Tea provided. A good meeting is requested. All ringers will be cordially welcomed.—W. A. Cope, Smockington, Hinckley.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Lightcliffe on Sat., March 29th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Tea at 1/3 per head to all those who send in their names to Mr. E. Lawson, 5, Northedge Lane, Hipperholme, near Halifax, not later than Wednesday, March 26th. Subscriptions for 1929-30 are now due, and the Annual Reports may be had at this meeting.—F. Hutchinson, Dis. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Ely Archdeaconry will be held at Longstanton on Saturday, March 29th. Bells 2.45 p.m. Will those requiring tea please notify by 26th? Methods: Bob Major, Stedman, Cambridge and Superlative.—F. Warrington, Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, March 29th. Bells at the Cathedral and S. Nicolas' Church 3 p.m. Service in the Cathedral 4.30 p.m. (preacher, Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn). Tea and business meeting in Holy Trinity Parish Hall. Numbers for tea must reach me by Tuesday, March 25th. This is important as accommodation is limited.—J. S. Goldsmith, Hon. Sec., Southover, Hockering Gardens, Woking.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cary Deavery Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Babcary on Saturday, March 29th. Bells (6) at 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in Schoolroom 5 p.m. Meeting to follow.—E. Creed, 6, West Park, Castle Cary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Annes-on-Sea on Saturday, March 29th. Bells ready 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Owing to re-naming of streets by the Corporation, the address of the Fylde Branch Secretary has been changed to 118, Dickson Road, Blackpool.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec.

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—A meeting will be held at Stanmore on Saturday, March 29th. Fuller particulars next week.—E. K. Fletcher.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual general committee meeting will be held at Oxford in the Chapter House 'Ch. Ch.' on Saturday, April 5th, at 3.15 p.m.—Richard T. Hibbert, General Secretary.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary notice.—The management committee meeting will be held at Stonehouse on Saturday, May 3rd, about 4 p.m.—The general annual meeting will be held at Lydney, Forest of Dean, on Saturday, May 31st, at 3.30, at Feathers Hotel (provisionally). Notice to move the alteration, deletion, or addition to rules must be given before May 3rd.—Edgar Guise, Hon. Sec., 39, Tankard's Close, St. Michael's, Bristol.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. C. J. Partridge has removed to 20, Lime Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.

REPORTS WANTED.

Kent County Association Reports wanted. Those previous to 1891, also 1894, 1905-6-8, and 1915.—T. E. Sone, Paddock Wood, Kent.

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A TENOR WITH A PREFERENCE.

On March 8th a very successful meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Ruddington. The bells were kept going in various methods from 3 p.m. until 8.30 p.m. About 25 members turned up, and they put their backs into it well, but the tenor would insist on playing nasty tricks, and would not go to Double Norwich. After a time, however, she was coaxed to go to Cambridge and Treble Bob, but she preferred keeping behind in Stedman.

A most enjoyable afternoon was spent looking round this beautiful church, inside and out, but the bells want the bell founders round them. There has never been a peal rung on them yet, and none of the party seemed to be anxious to fix up a peal.

The next monthly meeting of the district is to be held at Southwell, if the bells are available, if not, at Radcliffe-on-Trent (six bells), on the first Saturday in April.

SHIPLAKE RINGERS' LOSS.

On Thursday, March 6th, were laid to rest at Shiplake, Oxon, the mortal remains of Mr. F. W. Nicholson, on the eve of his 80th birthday. He was interred by the side of Mrs. Nicholson, who predeceased him in September, 1928. In August last, Mr. Nicholson gave up the Old Vicarage to live with his son, and he passed away on the 3rd inst. at Wester Close, Withypool, Dulverton, Somerset. It was Mr. Nicholson's wish that the writer of these lines should make his coffin. The wish was carried out, and on Tuesday, March 4th, a distance of 320 miles was covered, and, as the body was reverently being placed in the belfry, the tenor bell singularly started to speak out—it was the hour of 10 p.m.

'The Ringing World' has contained many accounts of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson's hospitality to the Shiplake ringers, who have lost these noble hearts in which 'the milk of human kindness made the whole world kin.'

The funeral service was fully choral; half-muffled touches were rung before and after, and in the evening a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by: A. Hirstead 1, W. Wicks 2, E. Smith 3, O. W. Porter 4, G. Cleave (conductor) 5, J. Hiscock 6, O. W. Porter, jun., 7, R. Allum, 8. The striking in this touch was of a very high standard. The men at the ropes gave of their best to the glory of God and in memory of a gentleman. O. W. P.

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