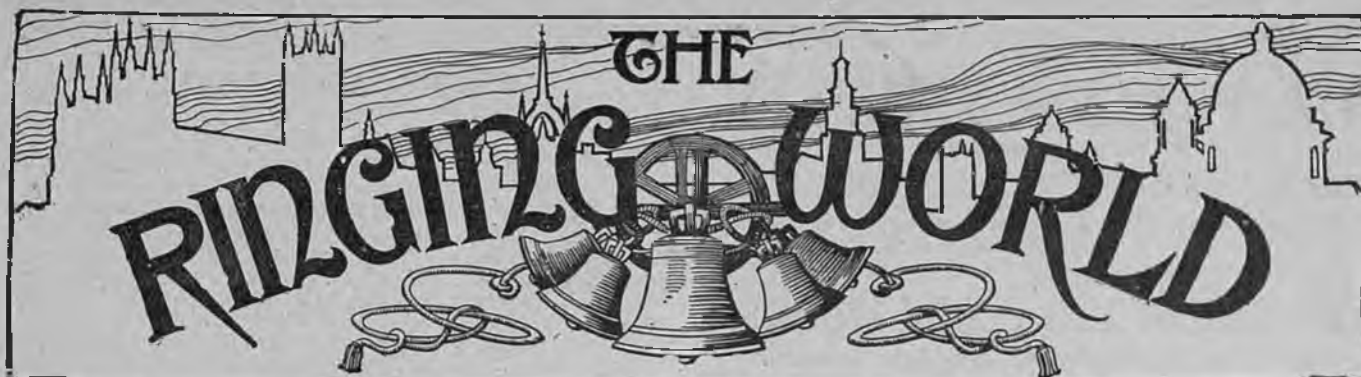




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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24th, 1937.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.]

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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION'S MEMBERSHIP.

The annual report of the Lancashire Association, which has just been published, states that the subscriptions received from ringing members in the past year account for only 718 out of the 1,122 on the roll, that 87 are two years in arrear, and that 54 have been crossed off. Knowing something of the work which is put into the association by its officials, this seems to us a rather lamentable state of affairs. Making every allowance for financial stringency among members in an industrial area like Lancashire, that more than one-third should be in arrears with their subscriptions points to a lack of appreciation of the relation which the members hold to the association. No wonder, therefore, that the committee appeal to all the members to be loyal to this side of the association's work.

In these days the banding together of ringers into associations for the promotion of their art and interests is so well established, that no one questions the necessity of it or the advantages to be derived. The growth of ringing to its present standard and the level of recognition which ringers have attained has been largely due to the organisation of the belfry personnel into a wider union than merely local bands, giving an impetus to the art and a higher conception of the ringers' duties both on the part of the ringers themselves and of the Church authorities. Without the associations the fabric of the Exercise would quickly crumble, but they can only exist by the support of the individuals. In every instance, of course, it is the enthusiasts who bear the brunt of the task and very largely carry the organisation to whatever success it may attain. And this is done often in the face of many discouragements.

Not everyone, perhaps, has the opportunity to put into a cause the energy which others are able to exert, but every ringer should feel it a duty to do the least that is required of him—pay his small annual subscription promptly. It may be that in many cases failure to do so is just negligence, but that does not make it any easier for the officers to carry on their work, and when the proportion of subscriptions left unpaid is as large as that in the Lancashire Association it becomes a severe handicap to the activities of the organisation. The 'defaulters' continue to enjoy all the privileges of membership, but do not contribute their share to the funds—and the individual subscription is such a small share, too. It should be a matter of honour among ringers, not only in Lancashire but everywhere, to pay their dues promptly, as it is only by their so doing that the organisation can be kept efficient and carry on the work which it exists to perform.

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Manchester, Durban and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

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

TWELVE BELL PEALS.

CROYDON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Three Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 36 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lb. in C sharp.

JOHN S. GOLDSMITH Treble	*FRANK E. MITCHELL 7
FRANK E. DARBY 2	†GEORGE H. HUMPHRIES 8
WILLIAM H. HEWITT 3	DANIEL D. COOPER 9
WILFRED WILLIAMS 4	FREDERICK E. COLLINS 10
HERBERT J. SKELT 5	REUBEN SANDERS 11
*ROYDON DAVIES 6	CHARLES H. KIPPEN Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by DANIEL D. COOPER.

* First peal of Stedman Cinques. † First peal in the method.
First peal of Stedman Cinques as conductor. Rung to commemorate
the first anniversary of the dedication of the bells.

SHOREDITCH, LONDON.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Three Hours and Forty Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 28½ cwt.

WILLIAM J. NUDDS Treble	ERNEST W. FURBANK 7
*ARTHUR RADLEY 2	THOMAS BRVAN 8
GEORGE N. CROSS 3	STANLEY SHELLOCK 9
HERBERT E. AUBSLEY 4	EDWARD J. BEER 10
NORMAN SUMMERHAYES 5	HARRY HOVERD 11
THOMAS NEWMAN 6	GEORGE W. STEERE Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by HERBERT E. AUBSLEY.

* First peal of Stedman Cinques and first attempt. First peal of
Cinques as conductor and first attempt. Rung in honour of the wed-
ding of Miss Kathleen Beer and Mr. Stuart Sandford, two members
of the society, who were married on the 16th inst.

TEN BELL PEALS.

CHESTER.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 30 cwt.

ROBERT SPERRING Treble	JOHN COOK 6
*WALTER J. BATTLE 2	JAMES MORGAN 7
KENNETH LEWIS 3	RICHARD D. LANGFORD 8
HARRY PARKER 4	GEORGE W. BIDDULPH 9
JOHN E. BIBBY 5	JOHN WORTHE Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

* First peal of Royal. First peal on the bells since they were aug-
mented to ten by the Guild in celebration of its jubilee. Mr. J.
Morgan's 250th peal.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 14, 1937, in Three Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 6000 CHANGES;

Tenor 25½ cwt. in D.

JOSEPH BROADLEY Treble	ERNEST H. SIMPSON 6
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS 2	GEORGE ROBINSON 7
*FRED DAVISON 3	WILLIAM WOODHEAD 8
†ARTHUR ARMITAGE 4	JOHN AMBLER 9
†HARRY DAVISON 5	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING Tenor

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

* First peal on ten bells and first peal in the method. † First peal
of Royal and first peal in the method. † First peal on ten bells.

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CARDIFF, SOUTH WALES.
THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Thursday, December 16, 1937, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 6043 CHANGES;

Tenor 27 cwt. in D.

ERNEST STITCH Treble	FRANK ROWSELL 6
GEORGE TALBOT 2	GEORGE POPNELL 7
*HOWARD L. MORGAN 3	THOMAS J. SETTER 8
JOHN W. JONES 4	JOHN PHILLIPS 9
GEORGE LARGE 5	SEYMOUR R. BARKER Tenor

Composed by GEO. T. DALTRY. Conducted by JOHN PHILLIPS.

* First peal of Stedman. Rung as a compliment to the tenor ringer on his 61st birthday.

HERTFORD.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB ROYAL, 6043 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. 23 lb. in D.

*MISS CONSTANCE T. DITTON Treble	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 6
MRS. EDITH K. FLETCHER 2	GEORGE W. DEBENHAM 7
GEORGE GRAY 3	STANLEY A. CARTER 8
MRS. FRANCES BOTHAM ... 4	ERNEST BRIT 9
JOHN H. BOTHAM 5	GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... Tenor

Composed by W. BARTON. Conducted by GEORGE W. DEBENHAM.

* First peal on ten bells. First peal in the method on these bells and by all the band, except by the ringers of 2nd, 7th and tenor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BLACKHILL, CO. DURHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 4, 1937, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At the Church of St. Aidan,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt.

*JOHN H. ELLIOTT Treble	*THOMAS W. DODDS 5
*CHRIS. T. LAMB 2	RICHARD OLIVER 6
*ROBERT CLARK 3	†HENRY RAWLINGS 7
WILLIAM H. BARBER 4	GEORGE WILKINSON Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by W. H. BARBER.

* First peal in the method. † First peal and first attempt. Ringers of the 3rd, 6th, 7th and tenor are regular service ringers at St. Aidan's. Rung with the bells half-muffled in memory of the late Mrs. Annie Lee, 91, donor of the bells, who was buried on November 11th, 1937.

WHITTLESEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Taylor's Six-Part.

Tenor 19 cwt.

*WILLIAM ROSE Treble	*HERBERT GOAKES 5
*WILLIAM H. WALDRON ... 2	†FRANK WARRINGTON ... 6
FRANK CREASEY 3	WALTER H. FREEMAN ... 7
*LEWIS BUSH 4	ALFRED JOYCE Tenor

Conducted by FRANK WARRINGTON.

* First peal of Grandsire. † First peal of Grandsire away from the tenor. Rung as a farewell to the Rev. A. E. T. Newman, M.A., Vicar of St. Andrew's since 1907. A birthday peal to Mr. Rose.

LEYTON, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At the Parish Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

CHARLES A. HUGHES ... Treble	*FRANCIS D. BISHOP ... 5
*DENNIS BROCK 2	ERNEST W. PYE 6
*NORMAN H. MANNING ... 3	ALFRED PRIOR 7
ARTHUR C. CHAPLING ... 4	ERNEST W. FORBANK ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by ALFRED PRIOR.

* First peal of Bob Major. Rung half-muffled on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the death of the Rev. John Strype, Vicar of Leyton for 68 years. Also as a tribute to the late Right Rev. Guy Bullen, Assistant Bishop of the Sudan and a native of Leyton.

BARWELL, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

FREDERICK H. DEXTER ... Treble	ALFRED BALLARD 5
JOSEPH H. W. WHITE 2	FRANK E. PERVIN 6
SHIRLEY BORTON 3	HARRY BROUGHTON 7
FRANK W. PERRENS 4	HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor

Composed by G. R. PYE. Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

First peal in the method on the bells.

EAST DEREHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 23 cwt. 2 qr. 17 lb. in E flat.

*A. HECTOR HOLLIDAY ... Treble	*JOHN A. GODFREY 5
GEORGE MAYERS 2	CLAUDE COUSINS 6
NOLAN GOLDEN 3	WILLIAM CLOVER 7
WALLACE W. COUSINS ... 4	HENRY TOOKE Tenor

Conducted by HENRY TOOKE.

* First peal in the method. First peal as conductor in the method on eight bells.

TADCASTER, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

HENRY CLAYTON Treble	ERNEST LINDLEY 5
FRED. E. ADDISON 2	ROBERT LANCASTER 6
WALTER HICK 3	NORMAN BARTON 7
ALAN DENNISON 4	ALFRED BARKER Tenor

Composed by Rev. C. D. P. DAVIES. Conducted by F. E. ADDISON.

Rung as a farewell peal to the Vicar (the Rev. R. Jones), who is retiring.

NETHERTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

CHARLES E. PERKINS ... Treble	JOHN BASS 5
ROBERT MATTHEWS 2	*WILLIAM DAVIES 6
ARTHUR E. WHATMORE ... 3	*STANLEY PRESTIDGE ... 7
JOHN LLOYD 4	ALFRED DAVIES Tenor

Composed by F. ROBINSON.

Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

* First peal of Treble Bob.

BUCKLEY, FLINTSHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Matthew,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

CHRISTOPHER GUDGEON ... Treble	WILLIAM E. FLETCHER ... 5
*JOHN BEST 2	SAMUEL JONES, JUN. ... 6
*FRED HARTMAN 3	PERCY SWINDLEY 7
STANLEY HARRISON 4	†WALTER PRICE Tenor

Conducted by CHRISTOPHER GUDGEON.

* First peal of Stedman Triples. † First peal on eight bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Samuel Jones, sen., of Eccleston.

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GRAVESEND, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Four Minutes.

At the Church of St. George,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 18½ cwt. in E.

CYRIL W. HAMMOND... .. Treble	HERBERT A. HOLDEN 5
JOHN WHEADON 2	E. GEORGE MORRAD 6
GEORGE J. BUTCHER 3	JAMES E. BAILEY... .. 7
HORACE H. BARDEN 4	RICHARD A. CONSTANCE ... Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by GEORGE J. BUTCHER.

* First peal of Major.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 13, 1937, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

EDWIN F. PIKE Treble	EDWIN A. BARNETT 5
HARRY HOSKINS 2	CHARLES T. COLES 6
GEORGE R. PYE 3	REUBEN SANDERS 7
GEORGE W. STEERE 4	JAMES C. E. SIMPSON ... Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH.

Conducted by J. C. E. SIMPSON.

HALEWOOD, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(LIVERPOOL BRANCH.)

On Monday, December 13, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt.

WILLIAM MADDOCK Treble	THOMAS ROBINSON 5
JAMES ROBINSON 2	JOHN ROBINSON 6
HERBERT LUDKIN 3	WILLIAM ROBINSON 7
*ARTHUR MADDOCK 4	JOHN W. GARDNER ... Tenor

Composed by H. LUDKIN.

Conducted by J. W. GARDNER.

* First peal and first attempt. The first peal of Major by the local band.

BATTLE, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 15, 1937, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt.

REGINALD V. JOHNSON ... Treble	NELSON ELLIOTT 5
KEITH HART 2	JACK M. CRIPPS 6
KENNETH SNELLING 3	FREDERICK PAGE 7
RAYMOND OVERY 4	OLIVER SIPPETTS ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

First Surprise peal on the bells.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Friday, December 17, 1937, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MONEWDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

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

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by T. W. LAST.

First peal in this method, Lindoff's No. 67.

GRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 17, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Paulinus,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT Treble	GEOFFREY V. MURPHY ... 5
RENE REDPATH 2	EDWIN A. BARNETT 6
ALAN J. HOPPER 3	DEREK M. SHARP 7
THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 4	WILLIAM E. BOND ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to William E. Bond.

PRIVETT, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

KENNETH SNELLING Treble	TOWER R. TAYLOR 5
C. ERNEST SMITH 2	FREDERICK S. BAYLEY ... 6
CHARLES E. BASSETT 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON 7
FREDERICK W. ROGERS ... 4	OLIVER SIPPETTS ... Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by OLIVER SIPPETTS.

WICKEN, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Evangelist,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb.

*HARRY G. RIDGWAY ... Treble	CHARLES W. BIRD 5
THOMAS E. ROBERTS ... 2	HERBERT C. EDWARDS ... 6
ERNEST C. LANBERT ... 3	JOHN A. GREEN 7
A. NUNNELEY WOOD ... 4	ALBERT J. GREEN ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER.

Conducted by ALBERT J. GREEN.

* First peal in the method.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S TEN-PART, No. 1, C.C. Collection. Tenor 14 cwt.

ALFRED J. BATTIN Treble	BERNARD V. COLLISON ... 5
ERNEST J. LADD 2	FREDERICK W. HOUSDEN ... 6
ALBERT WORSFOLD 3	ALEC E. RICHARDSON ... 7
MRS. F. W. HOUSDEN ... 4	WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE ... Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST J. LADD.

First peal in the method by all the band.

SELLY OAK, BIRMINGHAM.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lb. in G.

WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT Treble	HENRY H. FEARN 5
C. HOWARD STANLEY ... 2	THOMAS HEMMING 6
*NORMAN J. GOODMAN ... 3	FRANK E. HAYNES 7
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... 4	GEORGE E. FEARN ... Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT (No. 20)

Conducted by W. CARTWRIGHT

* First peal of Surprise 'inside.' Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to James Dowler, for upwards of 50 years a ringer at this church.

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pleased to carry out restorations or give reports regarding
any make of Tower Clock

HARMSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
**A PEAL OF SPLICED LONDON BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE & SUPERLATIVE
SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

Tenor 12 cwt.

GEORGE FLINTHAM Treble	JACK L. MILLHOUSE 5
JOHN FREEMAN 2	JOHN WALDEN 6
CHARLES MCGUINNESS 3	*WALTER TOMLINSON 7
FREDERICK W. STOKES 4	JOHN A. FREEMAN Tenor

Composed by REV. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by JOHN A. FREEMAN.
* First peal of Major. First peal of Spliced Surprise Major by all the band, in the county and by the Guild. This peal contains 2,944 London, 608 Bristol and 736 each of Cambridge and Superlative, with 111 changes of method.

WARNHAM, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES

Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb. in F.

WALTER CHARMAN Treble	JOHN COOK 5
RAYMOND WOOD, JUN. 2	ERNEST J. AYLIEFF 6
PETER CHARMAN 3	JOHN H. B. HASSE 7
THOMAS ADAMS 4	ALFRED H. POLLING Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by A. H. POLLING.

WATH-ON-DEARNE, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

WILLIE GREEN Treble	JOHN H. BROTHWELL 5
HAROLD CHANT 2	JOHN J. L. GILBERT 6
TOM BROTHWELL 3	ARTHUR GILL 7
REGINALD PAYNE 4	ALBERT NASH Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Conducted by A. NASH.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, LANCASHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Three Hours and Twelve-and-a-Half Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

WILFRED STEVENSON Treble	JAMES A. MILNER 5
WILLIAM FERNLEY 2	JOHN WORTH 6
C. KENNETH LEWIS 3	LIONEL CLOUGH 7
JAMES FERNLEY 4	WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

HARWELL, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lb.

HUGH J. BALCOMBE Treble	RICHARD G. RICE 5
MRS. ALBERT E. LOCK 2	ALBERT E. LOCK 6
WALTER F. JUDGE 3	RICHARD A. POST 7
JOHN NOBES 4	ERNST MOLFORD Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE

MITCHAM, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 16 cwt.

DAVID WRIGHT Treble	REUBEN CHARGE 5
WILLIAM H. JOINER 2	CHARLES POTHECARY 6
FREDERICK G. WOODISS 3	CHARLES W. R. GRIMWOOD 7
JOHN HOBDEN 4	WILLIAM S. SMITH Tenor

Conducted by C. POTHECARY.

SIX BELL PEALS.

BUXTON, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 20, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Kent Treble Bob and four 720's of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 12½ cwt.

GEORGE BELL Treble	DENNIS F. BELL 4
JACK N. A. PUMFREY 2	WALTER C. MEDLER 5
ALFRED W. KING 3	WILLIAM C. DUFFIELD Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM C. DUFFIELD.

Bung with half-muffled bells as a tribute to Miss Margaret Jewell, aged 86 years, whose remains were interred at Buxton earlier in the day.

TRYSULL, STAFFS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being eight six-scores of Reverse Canterbury, 12 of Plain Bob and 22 of Grandsire. Tenor 11 cwt.

*ARCHIBALD CLARKE Treble	BARNABAS G. KEY 4
*SIDNEY HOLLAWAY 2	HOWARD HOWELL 5
†CYRIL TABERNER 3	†JAMES DAVIS Tenor

Conducted by B. G. KEY.

* First peal in three methods. † First peal away from tenor.
‡ First attempt for a peal.

RANWORTH, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Cambridge Surprise and two 720's each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob, each called differently.

Tenor 12 cwt. in F.

HERBERT C. READ Treble	ERIC DORRANT 4
WILLIAM C. DUFFIELD 2	WALTER C. MEDLAR 5
R. WILLIAM BARBER 3	GEORGE BAILEY Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE BAILEY.

First peal on the bells since they were augmented and rehung by Alfred Bowell, of Ipswich.

ALGARKIRK, LINES.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EASTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

MISS LOIS M. NEAL Treble	ARTHUR YOUNG 4
*MISS C. NEAL 2	WILLIAM WILKINSON 5
JOHN R. YOUNG 3	GEORGE W. BURRELL Tenor

Composed by REV. E. BANKES JAMES. Conducted by JOHN R. YOUNG

* First peal of Cambridge away from the treble.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents of Oxford Treble Bob and one each of Kent, Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's and Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

ALBERT J. LANCEFIELD Treble	CHARLES L. SMITH 4
*RAYMOND G. CARLTON 2	WILLIAM J. LANCEFIELD 5
*KENNETH J. CARLTON 3	EDWARD S. RUCK Tenor

Conducted by EDWARD S. RUCK.

* First peal in six methods 'inside.' Rung to celebrate the 88th birthday of Mr. F. Exell, Rector's warden for nearly 40 years.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—A quarter-peal of Bob Triples, the first by all the band, who are all Sunday service ringers, was rung for practice on Tuesday, October 26th, at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-on-Avon: J. A. Print 1, W. Rawlings 2, H. Price 3, F. Lyne 4, C. R. Steed 5, H. Brooks 6, V. B. Hunt (conductor) 7, R. Chapman 8.

DAVENHAM, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 11, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRID,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.			Tenor 15 cwt.		
Cecil Radon	...	Treble	Reginald W. Worrall	...	4
Robert Hulser	...	2	Albert H. Booth	...	5
† Walter Allman	...	3	Harry W. Howard	...	Tenor

Conducted by H. Howard.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor.

HINDERCLAY, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sunday, December 12, 1937, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court and Plain Bob, and two 720's each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob.			Tenor 12 cwt.		
Frederick C. Roper	...	Treble	Albert G. Harrison	...	4
Walter Elsey	...	2	Charles V. Orves	...	5
Arthur Cook	...	3	Eric G. Bennett	...	Tenor

Conducted by E. G. Bennett.

WAVERTON, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 14, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents, each called differently.			Tenor 8 cwt.		
Robert Sperring	...	Treble	Walter Thomas	...	4
J. William Clarke	...	2	John Griffiths	...	5
Albert E. Richards	...	3	James Morgan	...	Tenor

Conducted by James Morgan.

Rung to commemorate the 50th anniversary of a peal of Bob Minor at Pulford on December 12th, 1887, in which Mr. Morgan and Mr. W. Thomas both rang their first peal.

HOLMER, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 16, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Kent Treble Bob, three extents of Oxford Bob and three of Plain Bob.			Tenor 11 cwt.		
* Austin T. Wingate	...	Treble	Walter S. Evans	...	4
* John D. Worsey	...	2	William Duggan	...	5
George T. Cousins	...	3	Ernest F. Salmons	...	Tenor

Conducted by Ernest F. Salmons.

* First peal of Minor in three methods.

NUDDENHAM, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Thursday, December 16, 1937, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three extents of Plain and two each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob.			Tenor 8 cwt.		
Oliver J. Kidby	...	Treble	George R. Finch	...	4
Percy K. Parker	...	2	Henry J. Vince	...	5
Alfred J. Ford	...	3	William J. G. Brown	...	Tenor

Conducted by William J. G. Brown.

WOOL, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 18, 1937, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY ROOD,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Court, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob, Reverse Canterbury, St. Clement's and Plain Bob.
Tenor 11 cwt, 24 lb.

Harold C. R. Vine	...	Treble	† Robert Wake	...	4
* Arthur G. Chubb	...	2	William C. Shute	...	5
H. Dennis W. Bishop	...	3	† Philip H. Toccock	...	Tenor

Conducted by W. C. Shute.

* First peal of Minor in seven methods. † First peal. ‡ First peal in seven methods.

(Other peal reports are unavoidably held over.)

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The annual meeting of the South-Eastern Division of the Essex Association, which was held at Writtle, was a very successful and pleasant gathering, there being present 55 ringers from 18 towers. Good use was made of the bells during the afternoon and evening in a variety of methods, including rounds for the beginners.

The Vicar (the Rev. J. H. Upton) conducted the association form of service, and at the commencement of a very encouraging address warmly welcomed the ringers to Writtle. He trusted that the temperature of the church (the heating apparatus having broken down) would not be taken as a sample of the welcome.

The singing of the hymns was lead by the deputy organist, and the lesson read by the hon. secretary (Mr. H. W. Shadrack).

After a very welcome tea at the Rose and Crown, the business meeting was presided over by the Vicar.

The hon. secretary reported that during the year two members had passed away, Mr. W. Sharpton, of Galleywood, and Mr. A. G. Maskell, an hon. member, of Chelmsford. Nine ringing and one honorary member had been elected, and five meetings had been held with an average attendance of 32, this representing 16 towers in the division and visitors from 16 other towers. Fifteen peals had been rung, the methods being Superlative, Cambridge Surprise, Double Norwich, St. Clement's, Plain Bob Major, Stedman and Grand sire Triples, 1 each; Kent Treble Bob Major, 5; Oxford Treble Bob Major, 2; and Minor in four methods, 1. The conductors were G. Green, L. J. Clark and P. Green, 3 each; H. Edwards, 2; W. Keeble, E. P. Duffield, E. Kemp and H. Mansfield, 1 each. Five members had rung their first peal, 28 their first in the method, and two their first as conductor in the method. The peal of St. Clement's Major was the first in the method for the association.

In conclusion, the hon. secretary thanked the Divisional Master and hon. general secretary for their help and assistance, and the tower masters and secretaries and all those who had helped at and attended the meetings and made them successful.

Mr. H. Mansfield was re-elected Divisional Master, and Mr. H. W. Shadrack re-elected hon. secretary.

Four ringing members were elected, C. F. Jaguard, of Boreham, E. Clark and D. A. Symons, of Chelmsford, and A. Hubble, of All Saints', Maldon.

It was decided, subject to permission being granted, to hold the next meeting at Broomfield on February 12th.

The visitors were welcomed by the Divisional Master (Mr. H. Mansfield), and the Master (Dr. P. T. Spencer-Phillips) thanked the Vicar for the use of the bells and for his address, the organist and organ blower, and Mr. T. Lincoln for making the arrangements for tea. The towers represented were Great Baddow, Boreham, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Danbury, Goldhanger, Maldon, Rettenden, Springfield, Little Waltham, Widford and Writtle, and visitors were present from Sudbury, Braintree, Halsted, Sible Hedingham, Bocking and Harlow Common.

'BELLS OVER LONDON.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the letter signed by P. W. Cave, Mr. Roughton, or anybody else for that matter, has a perfect right to collaborate in a broadcast on the Ancient Society of College Youths, and he has an equal right to withdraw from it if he wishes to do so. Such an arrangement is an entirely private affair between Mr. Roughton and the B.B.C., and is for them, and them only, to agree or quarrel about as they choose. It would be different if Mr. Roughton had been nominated as the society's spokesman and had been instructed to withdraw on their behalf, but this is not so and there should be no misunderstanding as to the rights of the individual in these circumstances.

If Mr. Cave thinks deeply enough he will find that the most deplorable aspects of the whole thing are, firstly, the failure of the B.B.C. to obtain agreement with participants before publishing their programmes; secondly, the readiness of the daily Press to disseminate private differences, and, thirdly, the readiness of some individuals to make mountains out of molehills, especially when concerning themselves over business which is in no way their own. It is very difficult also to see what earthly good can come from making spiteful personal references to the individuals concerned. Clear thinking and considered speaking are indeed virtues.

Also your correspondent, Mr. W. A. Birmingham, seems to be making over much of Mr. Lewis' references to the Leander R.C. and the M.C.C. It must have been obvious to most people that our president was trying to illustrate the fact that ringers value membership of the A.S.C.Y. on account of its history and traditions. He said nothing to indicate superiority as such, and, indeed, I cannot see how any one of a number of well-organised associations can, of itself only, possess superiority over the others. It is traditions that impart a degree of distinction, and Mr. Lewis is fully justified in trying to point out to his audience that the A.S.C.Y. possesses them.

J. A. WAUGH.

Woodford. December 13th, 1937.

[This letter reached us too late for insertion in our last issue.—Editor, 'Ringing World'.]

SWANSEA AND BRECON GUILD. SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT ABERAVON.

The annual district meeting of the Swansea and Brecon Guild was held at Aberavon, when about 40 members attended. The eight bells were raised in peal and then a touch of Stedman Triples was followed, with further ringing. Service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Jones), assisted by the curate (the Rev. G. T. Vadden). Mr. H. Cound presided at the organ. Tea, in the Schoolroom, had been kindly provided by the churchwardens and a few ladies of the church, who also waited at the tables.

The Vicar presided at the meeting, at which a vote of condolence was passed by the members standing in silence with the relatives of two members who have recently passed away, Mr. H. Morse (Sketty) and Mr. J. A. Hoare (Swansea), also with the secretary on the death of his father.

Mr. E. Stith was re-elected district secretary, Mr. D. Williams was elected auditor, and Swansea was chosen for the next meeting in March.

One new life member was elected and a few new members elected for 1938.

A hearty welcome was extended to all the visitors who were present, and votes of thanks were accorded with acclamation to the Vicar, curate, churchwardens, ladies and the organist.

Ringling was afterwards carried on till about 8.30, when the bells were lowered in peal, thus bringing to a close one of the best attended meetings of the district.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Eastern Division of the Sussex County Association was held at Christ Church, Blacklands, Hastings, on Saturday, December 4th, when members attended from Battle, Brede, Heathfield, Eastbourne (St. Saviour's), Hailsham, Northiam, Hastings (St. Clement's and Christ Church). The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards, hon. secretary of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, Mr. W. Haigh, of Etchingham, and Mr. Piper, of Eastbourne, were also present. Good ringing practice was put in during the afternoon and evening.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. James Morgan), who gave a most interesting address on bells and ringers.

The Rev. F. Ll. Edwards presided at the tea and business meeting which followed, and was elected a non-resident life member. Mr. A. H. Kemp, of Northiam, was also made a member.

Mr. A. C. Pankhurst (hon. secretary) proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, to the Rev. F. Ll. Edwards for presiding, and also to Mr. Piper for bearing the cost of the tea. The members then returned to the tower and kept the bells going until 8 o'clock.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The South and West District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild held its final meeting of the year at Uxbridge on Saturday, December 11th. Conditions and circumstances indicated a good meeting, for the weather was kind and there was no competition from similar events! The attendance, however, was disappointing, the total not exceeding 25. Ringing at St. John's, Hillingdon, in the afternoon included Grandsire and Stedman Caters, while later, at St. Andrew's Church, a little more variety was obtained when only an octave was in use.

Evensong was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. R. Home). During the service a brief pause for silent prayer was made when the congregation were asked to remember three members of the association who had died recently—Edward Cornwall Jones, priest, Henry Folkard and James Lucas. The first named was an hon. member and Vicar of Ruislip. He was present at the association meeting held at his tower in September. He had been in indifferent health for some time, but his decease came on November 13th, after only a short period in a nursing home.

After tea, the quarterly business was quickly completed. Notice was given of the sixth annual supper and social to be held at Heston on Saturday, January 22nd, while the district annual general meeting would be held at the same place on February 12th. It was decided to hold the meeting in March at St. Mary's, Ealing, probably on the 12th.

Before returning to the tower, several touches were rung on handbells.

Tickets for the supper are now on sale, price 3s. 6d. each, and may be obtained from association officers.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SWINDON BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Christ Church, Swindon, on Saturday, December 11th, when good use was made of the ten bells in ringing, ranging from rounds to Kent Treble Bob Doyal.

A short service was conducted by the Rev. L. Colledge, and Mr. W. H. Truman presided at the business meeting, at which all the officers were re-elected. No meeting was fixed for January, while Blunsdon and Rodbourne Cheney were the towers proposed for February and March respectively.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

We extend our heartiest greetings to all our friends and wish them sincerely 'A merry Christmas.'

There is talk of yet another peal being increased to twelve. Efforts are being made at Beddington, Surrey, to get permission to add two trebles to the existing peal of ten. The tenor at Beddington is 18½ cwt.

The annual report of the Lancashire Association for 1936-37 has just been issued. It covers nearly 90 pages.

Broadcasting from Croydon Parish Church will be resumed in January. On the first Sunday in alternate months the bells will be heard on the National long wavelength, at 9.25 a.m. In the alternate month, the bells of Lichfield Cathedral will be heard prior to service. Dr. Woods, who, as Bishop of Croydon, formerly conducted the services at his Parish Church, is now Bishop of Lichfield.

A RINGER IN INDIA.

GOOD WISHES FROM KASHMIR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I once again wish you and all readers 'a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.' I also hope to hear over the 'air' some good 'striking' at Christmastide. How homely bells do sound to us so far away!

I have enclosed a few photos that I hope may interest you. I often think how W.H.F. would love to unearth some of the mysteries these old places must hide. I often delve deep to find that my search is in vain for 'Invincible Peal Shoes'!

I have tried to get information re bells from Burmah, Tibet, Russian and Chinese Turkestan, etc. Hindus have given me information, obtained from their priests, where to get information. I have sent stamped addressed reply envelopes without any result whatsoever.

Not having seen, as yet, any replies to 'Ringer's Wife,' my advice to her would be, 'Learn to ring and so keep your husband company.' I fail to see where one can complain of man having his few hours' ringing. He certainly is safe and in good company. Three weeks ago I had to leave my wife and children for a journey over dangerous mountain roads, as I often have to, but never a word of complaint. I returned to find my house cracked and cornices fallen down by a terrible earth-shake. How 'Ringers' Wives' can differ is evident to me.

I fail to see how some correspondents in their letters advance the art of ringing. Constructive criticism helps, but when it comes to throwing mud at each other it leads nowhere. Possibly 'Francis Bacon' has met this type of ringer, as he seems to have caught a swarm in his net. His opinion as to ringers is the opposite to that of

LEONARD H. BAYBUT.

Srinagar, Kashmir.

November 30th, 1937.

[The photographs which Mr. Baybut has so kindly sent us include pictures of the mountainous country in Northern India and of the ruins of ancient temples.—Editor, 'Ringing World'.]

NEARLY, BUT NOT QUITE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Whilst not wishing, even in the smallest degree, to depreciate what 'C.L.G.' writes in to-day's issue of your paper about ringing at St. Andrew's, Plymouth, I feel that it is only doing justice to my own band to point out that the peal at St. Andrew's was not 'the only peal rung in Devon for the Coronation,' seeing that on Coronation Day we scored the first local peal of Minor ever rung on the bells. With reference to the further remark that 'Mr. Myers . . . has now under his charge the most progressive band in the county who can ring Surprise methods for Sunday service,' my band—all the members of which live within the ecclesiastical parish of about 280 people—has just scored its first 360 of Cambridge Surprise Minor, and has recently rung this method for Sunday services. We do not claim to be more progressive than St. Andrew's, but we would like to feel that we were allowed to share with St. Andrew's this progressive spirit, which I sincerely hope may spread in the county. Already there are signs of this spirit in a few other towers.

May I conclude my letter by bearing my testimony to the magnificent work which Mr. G. H. Myers has been doing, in the cause of change ringing, for so many years, and place on record the esteem in which he is held by all members of our Guild.

E. V. COX,

President of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers,
and Captain of Brampford Speke Ringers.

The Vicarage, Brampford Speke, Exeter.
December 17th.

A DATE TOUCH MIXTURE.

At All Saints' Church, Rettendon, on December 13th, a date touch was rung in 1 hour 7 minutes. It consisted of 359 of Cambridge Surprise, 432 of Woodbine Treble Bob, 240 of College Exercise, 288 of Kent, 288 of Oxford Treble Bob, 240 of Plain Bob, 60 of Double Court and 30 of Grandsire Doubles: Frank C. May (composer and conductor) 1, Harry Jay 2, William May 3, Gerald Frost 4, Charles Jay 5, Frank Jay 6.

DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH J. PARKER. A GREAT COMPOSER.

We much regret to record the death of Mr. Joseph J. Parker, of Farnham Royal, Bucks, who, after having been in failing health for some time, passed away early on Tuesday morning at the advanced age of 84 years.

To the present generation his name is chiefly associated with the famous Twelve-part peal of Grandsire Triples, which has become something of a classic, and, for its simplicity and symmetrical qualities, has gained a popularity among conductors unequalled by any other peal in the method.

Joseph J. Parker was one of the little group of men who, fifty or sixty years ago, seriously set their minds to the then unsolved problems of composition. His work was contemporary with that of men like C. D. P. Davies, Arthur Heywood, A. B. Carpenter and Earle Bulwer, whose researches were laying the foundation upon which much present-day knowledge is based.

Mr. Parker devoted himself principally to Triples methods—the most difficult of all in which to get true peals—and he produced compositions in Grandsire, Stedman, Oxford Bob, Court Bob and Union. Because of their more general practice his peals of Grandsire and Stedman are best known, and, indeed, his work in both these methods won high praise from the composers and writers of that time. They showed an unexcelled insight into the subject and an unsurpassed ingenuity of construction. Mr. Parker has left a legacy to the Exercise the value of which it is impossible to over-estimate.

His services to practical ringing were also great. Attached all his life to Farnham Royal Church, he not only kept a band going in his own tower, but went far and wide teaching change ringing at a time when pioneer work was an uphill struggle. He was one of the founders of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, served on its committee and was one of its most esteemed members.

He was devoted to his Parish Church, and, in addition to being the leader of the belfry for many, many years, sang in the choir for forty years. Ill-health and the increasing infirmity of age kept him from his beloved bells for about three years, but his interest in ringing was sustained to the end.

The funeral took place at Farnham Royal yesterday (Thursday).

OLDHAM AND DISTRICT SOCIETY REVIVED. FOUR TOWERS' ACTION.

As was briefly mentioned in our last issue, the four towers in Oldham have resuscitated the Oldham and District Society. Ringers of the four belfries held a meeting on December 10th at Whitehead's Cafe, and after discussion decided to take the necessary action to re-form the society.

The meeting was presided over by the Vicar of St. Mark's, Glodwick, and was well attended. In the effort that is being made the clergy are behind the project; in fact, they were the instigators of the meeting, to see if there could be some means of improvement in the social side of ringing, by bringing the ringers together more often. It is hoped, by making a push in that direction, also to improve the ringing capabilities of the members, thus making for individual progress, team spirit and service. Membership of the Lancashire Association will still be retained.

Mr. Ogden Moores, of 31, Ronald Street, Clarksfield, Oldham, is the hon. secretary of the revived society, which includes the towers of St. Mary's (12 bells), and Glodwick, Leesfield and Moerside (each 8 bells).

MUFFLED BELLS.

At SS. Peter and Paul's Church, Lavenham, Suffolk, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): M. T. Symonds 1, L. Poulson 2, W. Faiers 3, L. Pryke 4, F. Boreham 5, J. Offord 6, W. R. J. Poulson 7, S. H. Symonds (conductor) 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Mrs. B. Lennox-Conyngham, widow of the late Rector, the Rev. G. Lennox-Conyngham.



MR. JOSEPH J. PARKER.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES DOWLER.

OLD SELLY OAK RINGER.

It is with regret that we have to record the death on Friday, December 17th, of Mr. Ernest James Dowler, of Selly Oak, Birmingham.

'Jimmy' Dowler commenced his ringing at St. Mary's, Selly Oak, in 1884, on the old peal of six, and was an active member of St. Mary's Guild up to 1922, when ringing was stopped at St. Mary's Church owing to the tower being reported unsafe. Some time after this his health began to fail, and, in consequence, he had been absent from ringing circles for the last few years, although he has made one or two appearances since the bolls and tower were restored.

He has rung peals in all the standard methods from Grandsire to London Surprise. He had occupied the position of Ringing Master at Selly Oak, and was for some time secretary of the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association, retiring from this latter office in 1919.

In addition to a half-muffled peal of London Surprise Major rung at Selly Oak on December 18th, there was rung at the same church on Sunday, December 19th, for evensong, also half-muffled, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples by C. H. Stanley 1, J. L. Boylin 2, H. Haslam 3, William B. Cartwright (conductor) 4, N. J. Goodman 5, Harry Withers (composer) 6, V. G. H. Hemus 7, Ed. Holt 8. (This quarter-peal starts at backstroke, i.e., with the 3rd in the hunt and the 2nd making 3rd's.)

RINGERS' TRIBUTE TO LATE MAYOR.

NORTHAMPTON LOSES CHIEF MAGISTRATE.

On Tuesday, November 9th, at the Guildhall, Northampton, Alderman J. V. Collier, J.P., was elected Mayor of that borough for the succeeding twelve months. Suddenly within 34 days of his installation he was taken ill and died. Mr. Collier, who was 67 years of age, was the principal of a firm of engineers and ironfounders. He was interred on Thursday, December 16th, in the family grave at Duston, Northampton, the funeral being attended by the civic authorities amidst many impressive scenes. As the family mourners left the graveside, the following rang a quarter-peal of Doubles, 1,260 changes (comprising 720 of Grandsire and 540 of Plain Bob), upon the Duston Parish Church bells, with half-muffled clappers: F. Burgess 1, P. Amos 2, J. Dunkley 3, J. Clifton (conductor) 4, G. E. Perkins 5, D. Lovell 6.

It is sad to relate that only nine days before the tragic occurrence Mr. P. Amos paid a personal visit to His Worship, at the latter's home, for the purpose of soliciting his support towards the fund for the new bells for St. Andrew's Church, Northampton—the scheme for which Mr. Amos has initiated and had the satisfaction of seeing adopted by the Church Council. Mention had been made of inviting His Worship to give one of the new bells to commemorate his year of office. For many years Mr. Collier represented the ward in which St. Andrew's Church is situated on the Town Council. Of recent years tragedy has seemed to overhang the Mayoralty in Northampton. In 1933 the then Mayor (Councillor Percy F. Hanafy) collapsed and died while at a public function five months after taking office, and in 1931 a deputy was called upon to take the office of one who had been selected as Mayor and died a few days before his formal election.

ST. STEPHEN'S GUILD, BRISTOL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the interests of historical truth, it would be a good thing if we were told what authority there is for the statements made in your last issue. I should think that it is extremely unlikely that the society severed its connection with the belfry so long ago as 1648, and the legend that it was founded by a charter promised by Elizabeth and granted by James I. is based, I believe, on no sounder foundation than some man's fancy. At any rate, there is no record among the patent rolls of any such charter having been granted.

I possess a notebook written by Osborn in which is the following entry: 'Queen Elizabeth arrived at Bristol on Saty Augt 14 1574 and the St. Stephen's Bells were rung to congratulate her on her arrival, for which she promised the ringers a charter web was afterwards granted by James 1st bearing date 17 Novr 1620. She was reed by John Young, the then Mayor of Bristol (afterwards Sir John Young)—he resided at St. Augustine's back Bristol.'

This has all the appearance of being fiction founded on fact. Why should Elizabeth reward the ringers? It was an understood thing that, wherever she went, the bells should be rung. If they were not the parish was fined.

The last occasion I know of on which a parish was fined for not ringing for royalty was at Twickenham in 1647. Readers who have studied seventeenth century history will realise the significance of the date. The King at the time was a prisoner and was passing by under escort.

Probably the so-called 'charter' was really the code of rules, which the St. Stephen's company, like the other societies of the time, drew up to regulate their proceedings. There is nothing unique about them.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

52, Lammas Park Road, Ealing, W.5.

A RESTORED CHESHIRE RING. HALLOWING OF CHEADLE BELLS.

In February last, it was decided to cease ringing the peal of eight at St. Mary's Church, Cheadle, Cheshire, in consequence of their dangerous condition. Estimates were obtained for a complete restoration, and Messrs. Gillett and Johnston were entrusted with the contract. The work was made possible by the munificent offer of Mr. Percy H. Shiers, of Brookfield, Cheadle, to defray the entire cost in memory of his wife, Hilda Shiers, who died in March, 1937.

The popular Rector, the Rev. W. J. Wilkinson, M.A., does nothing by halves. This was demonstrated when the bells were reopened by a whole week-end of thanksgiving. Saturday was given over as a ringers' day, when upwards of 40 stalwarts from various towers in the district foregathered at Cheadle. The number would undoubtedly have been considerably greater but for the coincidence of the jubilee dinner of the Chester Diocesan Guild occurring on the same day.

The ceremonies opened on Saturday afternoon with a few rounds by the local band, led by Mr. A. Carr, who has recently been presented with an illuminated address by the parish in recognition of his 50 years of service as a ringer.

Following short touches, which included two well-struck courses of Stedman Triples, a special service for ringers was held in the church, a great number of the parishioners also attending. The sermon was preached by the Rev. R. D. Humphries, Rural Dean of Stockport and Vicar of Norbury, who took as his text 'In that day there shall be upon the bells holiness unto the Lord,' from the book of Zachariah.

After the service full justice was done to an excellent tea provided in the Church Hall, Mr. W. Wolstencroft expressing thanks on behalf of those present to the Rector and his people. Ringing was then resumed and continued until a late hour.

On Sunday morning the hallowing and rededication was performed by the Ven. Archdeacon of Macclesfield, Canon J. H. Armitstead, M.A., assisted by the Rector.

The Archdeacon, clergy and churchwardens proceeded to the tower for the ceremony, at the conclusion of which the bells were rung in rounds by the local band: A. Cailins 1, H. Cook 2, L. Burrows 3, H. Claydon 4, P. Cook 5, A. Mulliner 6, F. Carr 7, A. Carr 8.

The Archdeacon, addressing the crowded congregation, told of the uses of bells and their importance to the Church. He further said that the people of Cheadle were indebted to Almighty God for putting the thought into the mind of Mr. Shiers to restore their bells in memory of his wife. He could think, he said, of no better form of memorial, and on behalf of the parish he thanked Mr. Shiers, who was present, for his generosity.

At the evening service another large congregation listened to a most interesting talk on bells, given by the Rev. F. H. Gibbs, B.A., Rector of Christ Church, Salford. Mr. Gibbs, who is himself a ringer, naturally gave a most able exposition of the arts of bell founding and bell ringing.

The bells were set going again after the service, the Rev. Gibbs himself taking part, thus happily concluding an interesting week-end.

Mr. S. Roper, who represented Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, was heartily congratulated on all sides on the splendid manner in which the firm had carried out the work of restoration, and for the great improvement in the tone and tune of the bells. In spite of the long draught of rope, the 'go' and clapping of the peal is perfect.

Cheadle now possesses one of the finest rings of eight in the county, and with a tenor of 13½ cwt., of a most handy size. Messrs. Gillett and Johnston have rehung them with the most modern fittings in a new electrically welded steel frame of special design, ensuring an exceptionally rigid construction.

INSCRIPTIONS.

The back six were cast by Abel Rudhall in 1749, and the trebles added in 1882 by Taylor and Co. The inscriptions are:—

Treble.—Let him that heareth say Come. Isaac Broome, Donor, 1882.
2nd.—The Spirit and the Bride say Come. Isaac Broome, Donor, 1882.

3rd.—Vigint Eccllesia Anglicana. A.R. 1749.

4th.—Floreat Episcopatus. A.R. 1749.

5th.—Pereat Schisma. A.R. 1749.

6th.—Abigatur Infidelitas. We were all cast at Gloucester by Abel Rudhall. 1749.

7th.—Pristina Fidelitas Restauratur. John Robinson, Peter Starkey, Thos. Gracegirdle, Churchwardens. A.R. 1749.

Tenor.—Gloria Deo in Excelsis. Thos. Egerton. A.R. 1749 (13 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb. in F sharp).

A SURFLEET TRAGEDY

Many ringers who have visited Surfleet will regret to hear of the death, under tragic circumstances, of Miss Emma Wander, who for many years was housekeeper at the Vicarage to the late Rev. H. Law James, and had since had the care of a cottage for his brother, the Rev. E. Banks James. She was 66 years of age.

It appears that on Friday evening she went out of the house and walked straight across the road and into the side of a passing car. She only lived a few minutes.

The funeral took place on Monday, when, among the wreaths, was one 'In respectful memory, from the St. Laurence Church Bellringers, on behalf of the many ringers of England who, in the past, have been entertained at Surfleet Vicarage.'

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT BIRSTALL.

The November meeting of the Leeds and District Society was held at St. Peter's, Birstall. Ringing was enjoyed on the magnificent peal of eight bells. Owing to the fact that there is no cafe near the church, the ringers were invited to have tea at the church sale of work, which was being held in the Day Schools. The business meeting was held in the tower in the evening, the president (Mr. Senior) being in the chair.

Two new members were elected, Messrs. J. H. Brothwell, of Rotherham, and William Hawley, of Sherburn-in-Elmet.

Mr. W. H. Senior proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens of Birstall and to the local company for the excellent arrangements throughout the day. This was seconded by Mr. R. H. Vigor, and Mr. H. Peel replied for the local company.

The next meeting will be held in January, and members are asked to watch the columns of 'The Ringing World' for details.

Members and friends were present from Armley, Batley, Bradford Cathedral, Burley, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Rotherham, Rothwell, Sherburn, Shipley, Handsworth and the local company.

Methods rung were Plain Bob, Little Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major, Stedman Triples, Cambridge Surprise, Superlative Surprise and London Surprise Major.

LADIES' GUILD.

CENTRAL DISTRICT AT ISLEWORTH.

A meeting of the Central District of the Ladies' Guild was held at All Saints, Isleworth, on a recent Saturday, and was very well attended. The service was conducted by the Rev. P. W. Shepherd-Smith, assisted, at the harmonium, by Mrs. Shepherd-Smith.

A very enjoyable tea was partaken of in the Church Hall, the Vicar being present among the party, numbering 35.

Following tea a short business meeting was held, Mrs. R. F. Deal presiding.

St. George's, Southwark, was confirmed as the place of the next meeting, to be held on January 1st.

Erith was proposed for the meeting to be held on the second Saturday in March, providing permission be granted.

Mrs. Fletcher (the general secretary) announced that she would have the annual reports out in about three weeks' time.

A letter of thanks was read from Mrs. Fletcher for the presentation she received at the Guild dinner.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar for his services, and to Sister Cates for the tea.

The members then adjourned to the tower, where further ringing took place until 8 p.m.

Three leads of Treble Bob Royal were rung by a complete band of ladies, and a course of Cambridge Royal, about two-thirds of the band being members. Grandsire and Stedman Caters were also rung, with the addition of a few rounds for beginners.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

GRATIFYING ATTENDANCE AT SOUTHERN DISTRICT MEETING.

The meeting of the Southern District of the London County Association, held at Putney and Fulham on a recent Saturday, was exceptionally well attended, as during the afternoon and evening some 45 members and friends appeared, which was a considerable improvement on previous meetings, and an encouragement to the officers. Ringing commenced at Putney at 3 p.m. and continued until 5 p.m., when the business meeting was held in the tower, the District Master, Mr. H. Mance, presiding.

Two new members were elected, viz., Mr. W. W. Webb, of Heston, and Mr. F. Wicks, of Putney. The place of the annual meeting was fixed for St. Giles', Camberwell, the date being Saturday, January 15th. As the Bishop of Southwark has kindly promised to preach at the service, it is hoped that as many members and friends will attend as possible.

Mr. J. Herbert was appointed the auditor of the year's accounts.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicars of Putney and Fulham for the use of the bells at their respective churches, and also Messrs. T. Bolton and H. M. Page, the towerkeepers, for their kind welcome. A party of 30 sat down to tea at Lyons'.

At 7 p.m. the bells of Fulham were available for one hour, and good use was made of them, the belfry being filled to overflowing.

During the day the following methods were rung: Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Caters, Bob Major, Treble Bob Major and Royal, Double Norwich, Superlative and Cambridge Major and Royal. It is hoped that the good attendance at this meeting will be continued at every meeting during 1938.

A FIRST 'SPLICED' 720.

At St. Werburgh's Church, Kingsley, Staffordshire, on November 9th, a 720 Spliced Treble Bob Minor in five methods, viz., Capel, Sandal, Oxford, London Scholars' Pleasure and Kingston Treble Bob, was rung by H. Carnwell 1, E. Twigg 2, T. Edwards 3, J. G. Cartledge (conductor) 4, W. Edwards 5, W. Carnwell 6. This was the first spliced 720 by all the band.

PEAL NOTES.

FIRST PEAL ON CHESTER CATHEDRAL TEN.

Each branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was represented in the first peal on the ten bells at the Cathedral, rung on December 11th for the first anniversary of His Majesty's accession.

The two treble bells, it will be remembered, were given by the Guild to commemorate its jubilee. A previous attempt for a peal was lost through the Dean inadvertently switching off the electric light.

The peal, successfully rung, on Saturday week was not without incident. When the ringing had been in progress for about half an hour, the seventh and its clapper parted company. Repair work was commenced immediately, and after pressing a piece of wire into service the bell was pronounced safe. It was then 6.20 p.m. The important question was 'Is it too late to start again?' but Mr. J. Worth's reply that he would 'push her along' decided the matter, and a good peal was brought round in the rather astonishing time of 3 hours 24 minutes. Great credit is due to the 'back-enders.' The tenor is 30 cwt.

This peal was Mr. James Morgan's 250th and rung almost exactly on the fiftieth anniversary of his first, which was a peal of Bob Minor at Pulford on December 12th, 1887.

On Tuesday of last week he fittingly celebrated the 'jubilee.' Mr. Morgan, who called his own first peal, called the same extents at Waverton and again rang the tenor. Mr. Walter Thomas, who had also rung his first peal at the same time, 50 years ago, once more rang the fourth in the commemorative performance.

It must be a matter of satisfaction to these two veterans to have the pleasure of celebrating together the fiftieth anniversary of their first peal.

Mr. Morgan's 250 peals consist of 1 of Doubles; 38 of Minor; 51 of Triples, in ten methods; 141 of Major, in 23 methods; 6 of Caters; 11 of Royal; and 1 each of Cinques and Maximus.

FALSE PEAL REPLACED.

The peal of Kent Treble Bob at Netherton on December 11th was specially arranged to replace the false peal (F. Robinson's composition in shortened form) rung on December 9th, 1907, at this church. The available original members of the band (except Mr. Harry Price, who could not stand in at the last minute, and Mr. C. Rollinson, who has given up ringing) took the same places as they did 30 years ago. These were Messrs. Perkins, Matthews, Whatmore and Bass, the remainder of the band being made up by local friends. It was regretted that Mr. Price was not present, as it was at this church he rang his first peal 40 years ago this month.

Rector's warden for nearly 40 years, Mr. F. Excell, of Willesborough, Kent, has just celebrated his 88th birthday, and a peal of Minor was rung in honour of the event on December 11th.

The birthday of another churchwarden, Mr. Charles W. Sinfeld, of Maulden, Beds, was also commemorated with a 5,040 of Minor at his Parish Church. It was Reginald J. Houghton's twenty-fifth peal.

On the 200th anniversary of the death of the Rev. John Strype, aged 94 years, who was Vicar of Leyton for 68 years, a half-muffled peal of Bob Major was rung at St. Mary's Church on December 11th. Previous to the peal the Leyton Antiquarian Society commemorated the bi-centenary with a service in the church.

The peal was also a tribute to the memory of the Rt. Rev. Guy Bullen, Assistant Bishop of the Sudan, who was killed in an air crash on December 7th. Bishop Bullen was a native of Leyton. The Vicar of Leyton is having a tablet placed in the church to record the peal.

'ALL TENORS.'

The bells of the village of Privett, Hants, on which a peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major was rung on Saturday, were something of an 'exhibition piece' when they were put up some fifty years or so ago. They were one of the best peals of eight of their day, and, despite the fact that they are on the 'light' side, were described by Henry Huley, a great authority on bell tones, as 'a peal of all tenors.'

'Stars' attached to names in peal reports are always interesting. If, as was indicated last week, they do not always mark the stages of a ringer's progress, they indicate something fresh. Mr. Frank Warrington, who is the leading conductor in the Over district of Cambridgeshire and has called methods up to London Surprise, 'wears a decoration' this week for his first peal of Grandsire Triples away from the tenor!

He called Taylor's Six-part at Whittlesey on December 10th as a farewell to the Vicar (the Rev. A. E. T. Newman). A previous attempt for the peal on November 20th came round at the end of the fourth part.

Twice during the peal of Bristol Surprise at Barwell, Leicestershire, on Saturday, the electric light went out, after well over a half of the peal had been rung. Happily it was only out for the duration of a few changes on each occasion, and although there were one or two faulty blows during the total darkness, the light came on again just in time to save the situation.

Mr. Seymour R. Barker, who was honoured with a birthday peal at Cardiff on December 16th, has rung nearly a hundred peals on the tenor. He has had charge of the bells at St. John's Church for many years and the 'go' of them speaks well for the way he has cared for them. It is between thirty and forty years since Messrs. Taylor restored them. There is always a hearty welcome at St. John's, Cardiff, by Mr. Barker to any ringer.

The first peal of Major by a local band at Halewood, Lancashire, was rung on December 13th, when 5,088 Bob Major was brought round. It was not only rung by the local band, but also composed by one of them (Mr. Herbert Ludkin).

The donor of the bells at St. Aidan's Church, Blackhill, Co. Durham, Mrs. Annie Lee, of Seymour House, Consett, died recently at the advanced age of 91 years. The first half-muffled peal on the bells was rung to her memory on December 4th, and included in the band were four of the regular service ringers, one of them, Mr. Henry Rawlings, ringing his first peal at the first attempt.

Another lady who gave great service to the Church has passed away at Buxton, Norfolk, at the age of 86 years. She was Miss Margaret Jewell, who spent her life in helping others, and after her funeral on November 20th a half-muffled peal was rung at Buxton.

The bells at Ranworth, Norfolk, were augmented to six and hung in a teak frame by Mr. Alfred Bowell, of Ipswich. The first peal on them was rung on December 11th in four Minor methods, and the band who took part are extremely grateful for the welcome extended to them by the Vicar (the Rev. E. D. Everard).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL COMPANY'S ACHIEVEMENT.

Congratulations to the Lincoln Cathedral company upon securing their first peal of Spliced Surprise Major. It is still a rare performance for a band belonging to one tower to ring a peal of this kind, which is an outstanding achievement at any time.

We are asked to say that the band desire to associate with the peal the name of Donovan White, a member of the Cathedral company. Mr. White is one of those keen ringers whose occupation prevents him from ringing peals on Saturdays, but he has been a very great help on practice nights.

It was the first Spliced Surprise peal in the county of Lincoln and by the Diocesan Guild as well as by all the band, and was rung on the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. J. Walden.

A peal at Gravesend, Kent, on December 11th, was a delayed birthday compliment to Mr. E. G. Morrad, a peal, previously arranged, having had to be postponed at the last minute. Mr. Richard Constance, who rang the tenor, has now rung a peal on each bell in the tower.

Mr. B. G. Key rang his fiftieth peal for the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford when he called a peal of Doubles in three methods on December 11th at Trysull, Staffs.

The peal of Treble Bob Royal at Bradford Cathedral on December 14th was arranged for Mr. G. J. Hemming, who was on a visit from Evesham, Worcestershire.

Mr. Joe Broadley, one of Yorkshire's oldest ringers, still 'keeps his end up' with the rest and rang the treble to this peal. He has rung over 400 peals for the Yorkshire Association, which he joined in 1879! The care of Bradford Cathedral bells has been one of Joe's greatest joys in life.

HARWELL'S OLD BELLS.

The peal of Stedman Triples at Harwell, Berks, on Saturday, was intended to be rung for the College Youths to commemorate the tercentenary, but owing to various reasons it was found impossible to get sufficient members to complete the band.

J. W. Washbrook, whose composition was rung, always held a high opinion of the Harwell tenor, which he 'turned in' to Minor in the first Minor rung on the bells, when they were rehung in 1886 by Bond and Son, of Burford, and when they were rung from the ground floor. The rest of the band consisted of the late Rev. F. E. Robinson, the late W. Newell (Reading), the late W. Napper (Hagbourne), the late A. Thomas (Harwell and Birmingham) and R. T. Hibbert (Caversham).

There was a ring of six at Harwell in 1615, and these bells are the same now as then, with the exception that they have had their cannons removed and been tuned.

Mr. Raymond Wood, jun., on Saturday, 'completed the circle' of the tower at Warnham, Sussex, which recalls the fact that the Editor of 'The Ringing World' (long before there was a 'Ringing World') did the same thing in this tower, in eight consecutive peals rung in seven visits to the village.

Oxford Bob Triples is receiving more attention than it used to do, and on Saturday a band ringing at Tunbridge Wells all scored their first peal in the method at the first attempt. Oxford Bob is an interesting change from Grandsire. The peal was a birthday compliment to Mrs. A. J. Battin, whose husband rang the treble.

Battle, Sussex, where a peal of London, the first peal in a Surprise method on the bells, was rung last week, is one of the few places outside the Cathedrals of the country where the incumbent has the title of Dean. Mr. George Williams will very probably recall the fatal interruption of 'the Very Reverend' almost at the end of what would have been the first peal of Stedman on the bells, just about forty years ago.

The Helmingham men have added another to their long list of peals of 'first ever,' in the Surprise class, by ringing 'Monewdon' Surprise last Friday. The method is Mr. Gabriel Lindoff's No. 67 and was given its name at the request of Mr. Joseph Tarrant, an old ringer at Monewdon. Mr. J. H. Arbon, who took part in the peal, also belongs to that parish.

Monewdon is the twentieth new method on tower bells rung this year.

(Continued on page 857.)

INSTRUCTION

SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE BEGINNER.

To the Editor.

Sir,—While agreeing with the arguments in Mr. Stephen Wood's excellent articles, I cannot agree with his conclusion. Although he rather toys with the idea of four and six bell ringing, evidently he really thinks every ringer should begin his change ringing on eight bells.

Now just think what this means. First, it is absolutely essential to have eight ringers who are sufficiently expert to ring correctly with a beginner, and, moreover, who are willing to spend time in doing this. There may be two or three such hands in this county. Then you have to bring the beginners to them. In this county the distance may be anything up to 40 miles. A little calculation will show that if the teaching bands were to do nothing else but teach beginners, and were to spend every night of the year at it, including Sundays, they would not be able to keep our present numbers going. No, I fear that the ringers who can learn to ring on eight bells must always be so small and select a band that their tuition can never be an example to others. If Mr. Wood were to say that beginners should learn all their early change ringing on four bells I should be with him all the time.

I think most ringers about here must have smiled when they read what he wrote about the majority of ringers starting their change ringing on Grandsire Triples. While it is possible that one or two in this county have done this, it is practically universal here to begin on either Grandsire or Plain Doubles. Again, practical considerations have to be taken into account. Plain Doubles are only rung where it is traditional to ring that and nothing else, and need not further delay us. But Grandsire Doubles is rung as the first method in all other towers for the simple reason that a Doubles method with two hunts only needs three working ringers for the other bells. When good ringers are few in number, and are needed for practising higher methods, the fewer that can be employed for teaching beginners, the more advance there will be made by the band as a whole. My argument, and I gather I shall have Mr. Wood on my side, is that four bells takes no more skilled ringers than five, and is infinitely superior in teaching good striking. No pupil of mine goes on to hunting on higher numbers until he knows how to strike his bell in 'the Eight,' i.e., the eight changes of plain hunting on four bells. And, if possible, none goes on to an inside bell on higher numbers until he can ring any bell in the 'Four and Twenty' on four. I say if possible, as so often circumstances prevent one following the ideal order of teaching.

Twice Mr. Wood says emphatically that we ought to tell people that they are bad ringers. But he omits to say what possible good that can do. If I were told this, my reaction would be to think how stupid it was to say anything so unhelpful, and I should not be likely to pay any very great attention to such an instructor in future. If I am open to receive instruction on, say, ringing, it means that I know that I am a bad ringer, and to tell me that I am is, to say the least, a waste of time, when I am anxious to be told what to do to improve matters. If I am not anxious, being told that I am a bad ringer is the last thing that will make me any better.

We all know men who are good ringers, but who are impatient with beginners, usually without knowing it. We have to do our best to keep them apart! Also there are those who have found learning easy and have never understood the difficulties that others find. I always think that the best teachers are those who (like myself) have found ringing very difficult, and have made such slow progress that they can not only sympathise with each difficulty a beginner meets with, but have not forgotten the remedy. On the other hand, there are those who are at the top of the tree themselves, and are able and willing to tell to others who are nearly there what course to follow if they are to succeed. In other spheres we call these latter 'coaches'; and it would, I think, be greatly to the advantage of ringing if we had two classes of instructors—teachers and coaches.

There are a few of our number who are not only capable of both spheres of work, but do carry both out with success. But is it not always a waste both of manpower and of time? At first sight one would say that there are not enough of us to go round as it is. But the result would actually be that not only would there be a greater number of good ringers, but there would be a more regular succession of learners and experts. Each tower would have two companies of ringers, not necessarily a full company in either case; indeed, often the junior company would contain only one or two members, with a separate practice night, when the bells would usually be rung silent; and sometimes a service on Sundays would be allotted to round ringing only. Many towers have already some such arrangement, which works very well, and might be in universal practice. What is new is the suggestion that every tower should have both a recognised Teacher as well as a Coach.

Now with regard to the unknown teacher who has my initials. I have known bands who profess to have begun with Stedman, and have wondered how it is done. 'H.D.' however, it seems, does not really begin with Stedman, but with the first seven changes of Plain Minimus. I can suggest a way in which beginners would really start with Stedman. Our conductor lately, anxious not to lose any time, when only three ringers had arrived, showed how we three could ring

the 36 changes of Stedman, including the full slow and quick work on each of the three tower bells. A teacher could by this teach two beginners all the front work of Stedman (if necessary, each could be taught by himself). When someone else arrived he might be put to ring the tenor behind. When a fifth has come, two ringers can be taught double dodging, with the three bells in front ringing rounds. Would this satisfy Mr. Wood? Although it would seem to fill most of his requirements, the beginner starts on an odd number of bells.

It is, however, time to get to the true conclusion from Mr. Wood's arguments. It is that every ringer should be carefully taught how to ring changes on eight bells, and not allowed (as at present) to fall into any habits, good or bad, that may be in his way. Speaking for myself, I was never taught anything on this difficult step; and though I have watched quite a number of ringers taking this step for the first time, never once have I heard any special instruction given them. In whatever part of country I have happened to be. It seems to be thought that if anyone has got as far as seven bell ringing, they may be then safely left to themselves to find out what is necessary. It would hardly do to treat them, now they have got so far, as beginners, or even as learners.

In my own case the result is that I can now tell, by listening outside the tower (if I can take my time), whether it is Stedman or Grandsire which is being rung; at any rate, I have some idea what the music of the two methods should be in each case. This, of course, helps me in the tower. I see where I ought to pull my rope, and, having done so, and while looking for my next place, I am listening to the music of the changes, and I hear whether my bell has dropped slick into its place, as it should have done, or not.

This is so, provided the bells are nicely quiet. If the bells are noisy in the tower, I cannot distinguish my own bell, and am content to rely only on sight; the result is not always very pleasant! I expect this may be a defect of my hearing, as some ringers seem to prefer noisy bells!

But on eight bells, no one has told me what to listen for, and try as I may, I cannot distinguish the music of the different methods. I can, of course, tell if the bells are well rung or not, but do not distinguish even the leads, or where to start from in listening. The result in the tower is that I have to ring only with my eyes; I do not even know when I am leading properly. Perhaps I am exaggerating. One does not always exactly know one's own reactions. But, at any rate, I cannot manage eight bell ringing as I should like to do. It may be that eight bell ringing is a taste that has to be acquired, for I know some very good ringers who are not ashamed to confess that they do not care either to ring it or to listen to it. At present I am decidedly of that opinion!

I do not see how it would help matters to teach eight bell ringing before seven bells; even if it were practically possible, which it is not. It would mean that in the case of some of us we should never learn change ringing at all, as the first step would be such a difficult one. I can imagine that there are some ringers who would heave a sigh of relief, and say, even if under their breath, 'so much the better.' Indeed, it may have been Mr. Stephen Wood's fell purpose to try to keep the Exercise to the select few, as in years gone by. If, however, this is not so, and we bunnies may still be allowed to ring, and even to teach, may we be told what it is we ought to look out for in order to lead properly with eight bells? I have never rung with Mr. Wood, and it may be that he is more of a coach than a teacher, and can only say, 'You must look out for the lead and keep an even distance.' In that case will someone who can see my difficulty try to solve it? If so, I think I know some helpful exercises.

In the meantime would it help, if it were made the practice, never to let a ringer attempt five, or a higher number of bells, in changes, until he was fairly satisfactory in leading, in the changes on four bells, without any bell or bells as cover?

HERBERT DRAKE.

Ufford Rectory, Suffolk.

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RINGING IN DISTANT LANDS. THE ART OVERSEAS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have read the letter of Mr. A. E. F. Trotman and your article of September 17th last with great interest. To those resident in the British Isles, who love the art for its own sake, the subject is of vital importance, for all such inevitably desire to see campanology spread to other lands. In the main, I agree with the views expressed, but one point, I think, has been overlooked. It is this. When bells have been received in Australia, hung in the tower and duly blessed or consecrated, those in authority and in whose care the bells were placed by generous donors, in most if not all instances appear to lose interest therein and fail to recognise any responsibility for their upkeep or ringing in changes. In this State of Victoria, except in one instance (the Ballarat City Hall), this refers to church authorities.

Here in this great city of Melbourne bells, as you are aware, are rung in changes in two places of worship only—(1) at St. Paul's Cathedral, and (2) at St. Patrick's Cathedral. At the latter place the bells are not attractive, and the 'go' of five bells out of the ring of eight is unsatisfactory. But we have three other peals of eight in or around Melbourne, and in each instance the bells are chimed. At Geelong and at Bendigo attractive peals of eight exist, and at Ballarat two peals exist, one of six bells and one of eight, and at each place the bells are also chimed. Thus, out of a total of nine peals of bells in Victoria, no less than seven of them are subject to the woeful system called chiming. In Sydney a similar state of things exists. In Queensland there are two instances—one at Brisbane and one at Maryborough. It is incredible to think that, did church or other authorities realise the vast ocean between chiming and change ringing, they would be content with or even permit the former. Yet such is the case, and the question arises how can this state of things be remedied? How many of these peals of bells are now fit for changes I cannot state off-hand. As bells left hanging in a tower year after year without receiving the slightest attention soon become unfit for ringing, probably none of these 'chimed' peals could now be rung without first receiving a thorough, and probably costly, overhaul.

Personally I often think that did we possess one or more ringing parsons among us the position would in time right itself, and so far as possible I have made an effort in this direction, but to date without effect. I went to the extent of turning up 'The Ringing World' containing a full account of the last splendid, earthly tribute paid to the late Rev. Charles D. P. Davies at Tewkesbury Abbey some three and a half years ago by the ringers of the British Isles. Further, I mentioned something (a little only, for 'The Ringing World' did the rest) of the great work he did so well; how he loved and worked unceasingly for the science, and for those who rang the bells in changes. I also mentioned the visit of the Rev. E. Banks James with the tourists of 1934, nine men who travelled 25,000 miles at their own expense to show us ringers in Australia what could be done and to try to help us do it. I then mentioned that a cleric, the late Rev. F. E. Robinson, was the first man to ring 1,000 peals, and that the number who had taken up the art and become active ringers themselves was legion. All saw nothing derogatory in change ringing and mixed with men as ringers and equals, and made time to do it. All this was for the good of the Church, of the science and of all ringers concerned, whether clerical or lay. It failed, however, to move the gentleman in question. If other means exist of changing the state of things here briefly narrated, many ringers here would be glad to know thereof, and any help or suggestions through the columns of 'The Ringing World' would be gladly welcomed.

With reference to the suggestion of transferring bells no longer required to Australasia or any other Dominion, unless an absolute guarantee is given that such bells will be cared for and a band formed to ring them in changes, I shall certainly oppose any such scheme; for the last condition would be worse than the first. Further, I will do everything possible to prevent any generous man or woman donating a peal of bells to any church, city or town in Australasia until the guarantee mentioned is forthcoming.

Without going into details, I do not think we Australians can be justly termed a backward race. One has only to look and think a little to prove to the contrary. But in change ringing we have never had a chance, and as shown herein, largely owing to the apathy if not complete indifference of those in whose possession the bells were placed.

Other views might here be mentioned, but, being of a somewhat contentious nature, I refrain for the present from doing so.

ERNEST F. BEHAN,

Member of St. Paul's Cathedral Society, Melbourne.

November 14th, 1937.

ACCESSION DAY.

At St. Mary's Church, Over, Cambs, the usual ringing took place for the anniversary of the King's Accession on December 10th and included a 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Ben Norman (first 720 Treble Bob) 1, F. C. Ginn 2, A. W. T. Ginn 3, F. Warrington 4, C. Robinson (conductor) 5, R. Thoday 6.

On Sunday, December 12th, at St. Andrew's Church, Farnham, in celebration of the anniversary of H.M. King George VI.'s Accession to the Throne, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (from Washbrook's 20-part peal): J. Beagley 1, F. Hammett 2, G. Upshall 3, S. Meadows 4, H. Kemp 5, T. Upshall 6, R. Hasted (conductor) 7, A. E. King 8.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

NEXT YEAR'S MEETINGS OF STOCKPORT BRANCH.

A meeting of the Stockport Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held on November 27th at St. Paul's Church, Stalybridge, when some 60 members and friends were present. The bells were busily employed during the afternoon and evening, and service was conducted by the Vicar (Canon B. B. Slater), who also gave a very interesting and encouraging address. He spoke of the part bells play in the religious and civic life of this country. The introduction of watches and clocks into every home had reduced the service of the bells to some extent; nevertheless, they were of great service to the sick and invalids, reminding them of God's mercy, and they undoubtedly comforted those who were unable to attend divine worship.

Tea was served in the schools, and the business meeting followed under the chairmanship of the Vicar, supported by the branch chairman, Mr. W. W. Wolstencroft.

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to St. Paul's.

The list of meetings for the coming year was compiled as follows: Cheshire, January 29th; Mossley, April 30th; Knutsford, June 25th; Disley, September 24th; Hyde, November 26th. As Mr. J. Harrison, of Ashton, was prevented by illness from being present at the meeting, and as he attained his 85th birthday on the following day, it was decided to send a message of congratulation to him with the best wishes of the meeting for his speedy recovery.

Reference was made to the passing of a highly esteemed member of the branch, Mr. H. Haythorn, of Disley.

It was decided to send a letter of congratulation to the College Youths and to the B.B.C. on the excellent way in which the broadcast, 'Bells over London,' had been carried out.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Vicar and wardens, the ringers, the ladies who prepared tea, and to the organist. These were responded to by the Vicar and by one of the wardens.

Ringings were then enjoyed until late in the evening, the methods ranging from Grandsire Triples to Bristol Surprise.

FIRST QUARTER-PEALS.

EDINBURGH.—A quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,295 changes) was rung at St. Mary's, Edinburgh, for the dedication festival of the Cathedral. Three English visitors took part, viz., Mr. K. Arthur, Mr. H. Griffiths, Wolverhampton, and Mr. H. Chandler, Royal Navy; G. Prior (first quarter-peal) 1, M. A. K. Simpson 2, H. Chandler 3, H. Griffiths 4, H. White 5, B. F. Vernon 6, K. Arthur (first quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters) 7, J. Marshall 8, C. R. Raine (conductor) 9, J. Pryde 10.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Thursday, October 18th, at Bishop Ryder's Church, a quarter-peal of London Surprise Major (1,280 changes): J. George 1, *N. J. Goodman 2, C. H. Stanley 3, *P. N. G. Rainey 4, *S. O. Holloway 5, H. H. Fearn 6, *J. S. Mason 7, G. E. Fearn (conductor) 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

UXBRIDGE, MIDDLESEX.—For morning service at St. Margaret's Church on November 5th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Mrs. A. Bray (first quarter-peal) 1, F. Corke (conductor) 2, Miss E. Bedford 3, A. Bray 4, C. Nicholls 5, R. Bray 6, S. Childs 7, Mrs. R. Bray 8.

HESTON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday morning, December 12th, at St. Leonard's Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: W. H. Stevens 1, C. S. Bird 2, H. C. Chandler 3, W. F. Ellingham 4, F. J. Catermole 5, E. R. Gladman 6, F. E. Hawthorne (first quarter-peal of Stedman as conductor) 7, W. W. Webb 8.

PEAL NOTES.—Continued from page 855.

Mr. George Soley has been a regular member of the local band at Holmer, Herefordshire, for 45 years, and on December 16th a peal of Minor was rung there as a birthday compliment to him. It was also a birthday compliment to Austin Wingate and William Duggan. The bells at Selly Oak, Birmingham, were half-muffled on Saturday when a peal of London Surprise Major was rung. Mr. James Dowler, an old member of the local band, had died the previous day.

To commemorate the first anniversary of the dedication of the new bells, the first peal of Stedman Cinques was rung at Croydon on Saturday. Four peals have now been rung on the bells in four attempts, viz., two peals of Grandsire Cinques, one of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, and one of Stedman Cinques.

This peal made Mr. 'Bill' Hewett's total up to 450, of which 73 have been on twelve bells.

Another veteran in the peal records this week is Mr. David Wright, of Croydon, whose ringing activities go back farther than those of most living men. He rang the treble on Saturday to a peal of Grandsire Triples at Mitcham.

A peal of London Surprise Major, the first in Ashton-under-Lyne, was rung on Saturday as a birthday compliment to both Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wolstencroft, and to Mr. W. Stevenson.

The peal of Bob Major at Netherseale on December 4th was rung for the Midland Counties Association and was a composition by J. K. Pritchard. Both these facts were omitted from the report sent to us for publication.

In honour of the wedding of Miss Kathleen Beer and Mr. Stuart Sandford, two members of the society, the Royal Cumberland Youths rang a peal of Stedman Cinques at Shoreditch on Saturday.

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 the minimum charge of 1/6.

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ST. GILES', CAMBERWELL.—All ringers welcome on Boxing morning, December 27th, 10.30 a.m. till 1 p.m.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meeting for practice will be held at St. Andrew's, Holborn, December 30th, at 8 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 1st, 1938, at St. George's, Southwark, S.E. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. All those requiring tea please notify me not later than Thursday, December 30th. Gentlemen cordially invited.—M. L. Cross, Hon. Sec., 9, Beverley Road, Barnehurst, Kent.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 1st, 1938, at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street. Ringing at St. Martin's Church from 5 to 6 p.m. Business meeting at 6.15 p.m. prompt.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Maurice Hall, Colebrook Street, Winchester, on Saturday, January 1st, 1938. Business meeting at 3.15, followed by tea at 4 o'clock. Service in the Cathedral at 5.15; preacher, Rev. P. H. McGuire, Rector of Leckford. Cathedral bells and St. Maurice's bells available at 1.30. Please let us know if you are coming.—G. and Miss Noice, Hon. Dis. Secs., 6, Cathedral View, High Cliffe, Winchester.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Eastwood Church, Rotherham, on Saturday, January 1st, 1938. Tea, 1s. each. Please notify Mr. N. Chaddock, 33, Brecklands, Broom, Rotherham. All welcome.—M. E. Wilson, Hon. Sec., 13, St. Ronan's Road, Sheffield, 7.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, January 1st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—J. T. Dyke, Hon. Sec., Chilcompton.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the West Norfolk Branch will be held at Fakenham on Saturday, January 1st, 1938. Bells at 2.30. Service at 4.30.—W. J. Eldred, Branch Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—The annual district meeting will be held on Saturday, January 8th, 1938, in the City. St. Lawrence

Jewry will be available in the afternoon from 3 p.m., and another tower, probably Bow, after tea. Full details later.—James G. A. Prior, Dis. Sec., 31, Limerston Street, S.W.10.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual Dinner, Saturday, January 8th, 1938, at the Lion Hotel, Guildford, at 6 p.m. Tickets 5s. 6d. each, from J. S. Goldsmith, Hon. Sec., Southover Cottage, Lower Pyrford Road, Woking, Surrey.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—North-East Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Tiverton on Saturday, January 8th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Will those intending to be present please notify me by Monday, January 3rd?—R. Harris, Park, Silverton, near Exeter.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The next practice meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Barrow-in-Furness, on Saturday, January 8th, 1938. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Reports to hand.—N. M. Newby, Hon. Sec., Brewery Mount, Ulverston.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Leeds (10 bells) on Saturday, January 8th. Usual arrangements. Everybody welcome.—A. Waddington, Hon. Dis. Sec., Egerton.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Howden on Saturday, January 8th, 1938. Bells (8) available from 2 till 8 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d., at 5 o'clock. Please advise Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northalmy Street, Howden, by Wednesday, January 5th.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The third general quarterly meeting will be held at Repton, on Saturday, January 15th. Committee meet 3.45. Full details later.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

GREETINGS.

MR. FRANCIS E. DAWE again extends the heartiest greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all his ringing friends at home and in the Dominions beyond the seas, and hopes that even the many 'Surprises' may be rendered as melodious and well-struck as possible!—Woking, 1937.

S. R. ROPER, of Croydon, sends his heartiest good wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all his many friends.

MR. AND MRS. W. H. COLES (Sheila and Malcolm) wish all their ringing friends happy days for Christmas and the New Year.—Staplegrave, Hayes End Drive, Middlesex.

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BANSTEAD, SURREY.—At All Saints' Church on Sunday, October 31st, for the patronal festival, Thurstans' quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: H. Cheesman 1, H. N. Pitstow 2, A. J. Adams 3, S. R. L. Dearle 4, A. E. Cheesman 5, T. Norman 6, J. Hobden (first quarter-peal as conductor) 7, E. T. Woolloff 8. All are members of the local band.

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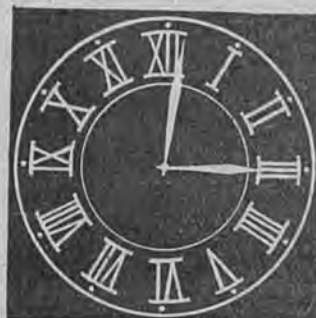
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