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## THE PROTECTION OF TOWERS.

The recent destructive fires which have occurred, as the result of enemy action, in London and other cities, bringing about the loss of churches among other valuable buildings, have led to an overhaul of the methods to combat the menace which the dropping of incendiary bombs creates. New measures are to be taken, and we hope that they will include provision for the watching of churches as well as other structures. Had this practice been insisted upon in the past it is likely that we should have had to regret the loss of fewer churches than we do to-day. It has been proved that, when promptly attacked, fire bombs can often be extinguished before real destruction of property takes place, and it is as essential to preserve our churches as it is buildings of other types. The damage which has occurred among churches has shown that, so far as the structure is concerned, the tower has best withstood the fire, but, unfortunately, the contents, including the bells, have in most cases been destroyed. This is not surprising, because, once the blaze, sweeping through the church itself, reaches the tower, the latter tends to act as a shaft, and the fire roars up it as through a chimney flue. How far this can be guarded against must depend upon the circumstances of each building and the practicable steps that are open to those responsible.

Mr. E. A. Young, a member of the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council, and himself an architect with a vast experience of fire protection in London buildings, writes in this issue on the subject and makes suggestions which ringers might well bring to the notice of their Church Councils. There may be many instances where it will be impossible to take any effective steps, on the ground of lack of the essential materials or labour, or for other reasons, but there will be other cases where protection may well be possible. No building wherever situated is now safe from enemy action, although, of course, some places are more liable to attack than others, but the more vulnerable the position the more important it is that steps should be taken for the safety of the towers and their contents. It is sometimes overlooked that the bells are among the most valuable and often the most historic possessions in the church, and where it is possible to protect them by blocking up with fire-resisting material any openings leading from the church into the tower, such action ought assuredly to be taken. Where the tower opens into the church with an arch or even a doorway, the problem is, of course, a much more difficult one, but the protection of the underside of the first floor should receive consideration. There may

(Continued on page 14.)

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be many places where this matter has never even been given thought, and ringers may be doing a great service by calling attention to risks which might be averted.

Next to protecting the interior of the tower itself is the safeguarding of the contents. The general removal of bells would be a prodigious task which, we imagine, is out of the question, and at this stage even the removal of historic bells appears almost an impossibility. Bells, therefore, seem destined to be left to their fate unless they can be safeguarded where they hang. There are, however, minor possessions which might well be removed, and we particularly refer to peal boards and any interesting books which may be in the towers. Some historic boards have been lost in the last week or two, including the record of the first peal ever rung by the College Youths, which was also the first peal on twelve bells. This has been destroyed at St. Bride's, in London. The question, of course, at once arises as to whether it is safer to leave such things in a church or take them away, but if they can be taken to fireproof protection we feel that recent experience points to removal with, of course, the official approval of responsible church authorities. Merely to take them from the tower to a private house, when one is as likely to be bombed as the other, would be of no advantage; if anything is done it should be to store these treasures in places of increased safety. An example of this may be seen in the wise action taken by the College Youths when they placed their most valuable property in the strong room at St. Paul's Cathedral. The chances of losing it in its customary keeping were at one time not very great; but fire fell upon the headquarters premises of the society on Sunday week and, but for the foresight exercised, many valuable and irreplaceable records might have been lost. It may be that in some places it will be felt that the church tower is still the safest spot in which to keep these old boards. That is a matter which the ringers, in conjunction with the church authorities, must decide, but whatever is or is not done, where there are boards of any interest and value they should be carefully copied, so that at any rate future generations may have precise details of what these ancient records had to tell us.

### DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM BOLTON, FORMER MASTER OF LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.

The death took place on Sunday, December 29th, of Mr. William Bolton, of Cardiff. He had been ill for a long time and had taken no actual part in ringing for the last few years. Previous to his going to South Wales Mr. Bolton was a ringer at Bradford, Yorkshire. He joined the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association on July 2nd, 1910, at Bridgend, prior to the ringing of a peal of Grandsire Triples. He soon became a useful and helpful member and did his Sunday service ringing at Cardiff and Llandaff Cathedral. In 1918 Mr. Bolton was elected Master. In 1925 he was one of the representatives of the association on the Central Council, which he attended at Chester. On this occasion he rang a peal of Stedman Triples, conducted by Mr. Harold J. Poole. He rang many peals in the four standard methods from Triples to Royal and was always to be found on the heavy end.

His profession as a clerk of works for several years took him to many parts of the country, where he made many friends.

The funeral took place on Friday, January 3rd, at Marshfield, near Cardiff, two of his oldest peal ringing colleagues being present, namely, Mr. G. Large and Mr. J. W. Jones (hon. secretary of the association). A contingent of the 5th Battalion South Wales Borderers stationed at Marshfield also attended. He was buried close to the tower where he had rung several peals.

**HIGHWEEK, DEVON.**—At Perry Farm on handbells on December 15th, 120 each of London Doubles, Morning Star, Hudebras, College Doubles and April Day. Also 180 Bob Minor. On December 22nd, 360 Bob Minor: J. E. Lilley 1-2, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 3-4, E. W. Beckworth 5-6.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, December 22, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,  
At 21, STONARD ROAD, PALMERS GREEN, N.13.

### A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSCRIPTION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

*JOHN C. NASH ... ..	1-2	ISAAC J. ATTWATER ... ..	5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... ..	3-4	WALTER J. BOWDEN ... ..	7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

\* First peal of Triples. W. J. Bowden's 100th peal.

STONEY STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.  
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.  
(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, December 28, 1940, in One Hour and Fifty-Eight Minutes,  
At BROOKLYN COTTAGE, HINCKLEY ROAD.

### A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 1,440 Canterbury, 2,160 Plain Bob and 1,440 Grandsire.  
Tenor size 15 in C.

ALFRED JORDON ... ..	1-2	ALFRED BALLARD ... ..	3-4
		WALTER J. CLOUGH ... ..	5-6

Conducted by A. BALLARD.

Rung on the occasion of the wedding of Mr. J. H. Bailess, of Croft, and Miss I. Jervis, of Stoney Stanton. The bridegroom is a very active member of the Hinckley District of the M.C.A.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON  
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, December 29, 1940, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,  
At 21, STONARD ROAD, PALMERS GREEN, N.13.

### A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSCRIPTION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

MRS. J. THOMAS ... ..	1-2	ISAAC J. ATTWATER ... ..	5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... ..	3-4	WALTER J. BOWDEN ... ..	7-8

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.

THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS AND  
THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS,  
MANCHESTER UNITY.

On Tuesday, December 31, 1940, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,  
At PERRY FARM,

### A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one six-score each of Morning Star and London Doubles and  
40 of Grandsire (10 callings).

JAMES E. LILLEY, Earl of Mount Edcombe Lodge ... ..	1-2
CHARLES R. LILLEY, P.G.M. Hearts of Oak Lodge ... ..	3-4
*BRIAN PIDGEON, Sir Walter Raleigh Lodge ... ..	5-6

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY, P.G.M.

Umpire—Herbert Till.

\* First handbell peal, also first in three methods. Also first Odd-fellows' handbell peal.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 4, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,  
At 19, HOWARD ROAD,

### A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

BASIL REDGWELL ... ..	1-2	LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... ..	5-6
CHRIS. W. WOOLLEY ... ..	3-4	ALBERT WIFFEN ... ..	7-8

Composed by CORNELIUS CHARGE. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY

## SAMUEL THURSTON.

### APPRECIATION OF FAMOUS NORWICH RINGER.

By CHARLES E. BORRETT.

One hundred years ago yesterday died Samuel Thurston, a famous Norwich ringer, whose name crops up even in these days of 'The Ringing World.'

Ringling in his time was in a more leisurely way than now, but although his score of peals amounted to only 36 and his peal ringing career (1809 to 1839) barely 30 years, he crowded in some meritorious performances.

These are well known—the first peals of Court Bob Twelve, Double Oxford Major and London Surprise, the second of Superlative and various lengths of Double Norwich and Treble Bob Major and others.

But his individuality concerns me more, as it is so great a contrast to that of John Chamberlin, who flourished 40 years earlier, and of whom I have recently written. The latter was clearly a man of lovable character, but Samuel Thurston must have been an 'awkward' man in any ringing band. We know that frequently 'star' performers, in any line, can be very trying, and I fear Thurston's brother ringers were well aware of the fact. While no steeple-boards proclaim the deeds of Chamberlin, Thurston evidently saw to it that most of his peals, even down to Holt's Ten-Part, should be perpetuated in the belfry, and always in the extravagant language of the times in which he lived.

He rang 17 peals in Norwich churches and 15 of them are so recorded, and in the county of Norfolk the same thing occurs. He was a great man for publicity and took pains that no bushel was big enough to hide his light. Even tapping three courses of Bob Major on handbells was described in most of the Norwich papers as 'most nobly brought round in 14 minutes, being the greatest performance in the art in the British Dominions.'

He had two presentations made him—one for the peal of Court Twelve, and the other for a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples double-handed, rung in 1822, and, I think, the first on record. I have never understood the delay in making the first of these presentations 'for his eminent services in composing the peal of 5,016 of Norwich Court Twelve in, and ringing the tenor in a superior style.' The peal was rung in 1817 and the presentation was made in 1825, by which time the conductor of the peal and two others in the band were dead. Sometimes presentations are organised by the recipient, and this may well have been an instance.

The two following announcements in the newspapers of the day are typical of the man, and make amusing reading:—

'Bell-hanging. April 16th, 1825.—A short time since the tenor of St. Peter's Mancroft was rehung and repaired by Mr. Samuel Thurston of this city. Formerly the strength of three men were necessary to raise the bell, from its great weight, but by Mr. Thurston's alteration it is now raised with great ease by one man with a single hand.'

April 23rd, 1825.—Mr. Hurry has called upon us and requested us to state that the paragraph concerning St. Peter's tenor bell was totally incorrect, Mr. Hurry having repaired the bell four years ago, since which period it has never been altered by any other person.'

I like the idea of raising Mancroft tenor 'with great ease with a single hand.' And—recent writers please note—in plain bearings too!

No. Thurston would have publicity, and I think his celebrated 'challenge,' which appeared in your issue of September 20th last, was simply for that purpose. It was all too silly and bombastic to be taken seriously. The stars of Hollywood were not first in the field in this line of business.

The registers of the Church of St. Martin at Oak, Norwich, show that Thurston's mother was Frances Thurston and unmarried, and it is evident her son was a boastful and arrogant type of man, and not at all an easy bed-fellow in a band of ringers.

He must have been in and out of the company at Mancroft more than once, for it is significant that in 30 years he rang only two peals there, the Court Twelve and Oxford Royal, which latter he conducted. Except for the years from 1830 to 1835, he did not appear to command the help of the same men for long at a time, and in short appears to have been the exact opposite of John Chamberlin in every way.

He died very suddenly and was buried near the belfry door at Mancroft. His obituary notice is all in keeping with the man:—

'1841. On Saturday, January 9th, died suddenly in the 52nd year of his age. Mr. Samuel Thurston, who was for more than 30 years one of St. Peter Mancroft ringers. As a practical ringer and theorist combined, the Art has lost one of its brightest ornaments, but though dead, the tablets erected in different parishes throughout the City and County will yet live to record his fame as a ringer, and those who best knew him can testify that the best ringers our City can boast of are indebted to this great artist in the profession for the knowledge they possess in the Art of Ringing, Norwich being able to compete with any other band of ringers.'

I am glad Thurston's 'publicity agent' was spared to write this eulogy!

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**DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, CRANTHAM**

## RESURGAM.

### THE RUINED CITY CHURCHES.

Two and a half centuries ago a little group of men were standing in an open space on the summit of the hill that marks the centre of the city of London. An open space then, but ground which for untold centuries had been dedicated to the service of religion, and where a few short years before had stood one of the largest and most magnificent churches in the world. Now it was all gone, and only heaps of broken stones here and there were left, while all around, far and wide, were the signs of the most famous fire that had ever devastated a great city. Hundreds of houses, scores of churches, and all the public buildings, had been ruined.

The leader of the party was Christopher Wren, and the great architect was giving instructions for the beginning of a new Cathedral. He wanted to mark a spot, and called for a piece of stone. When the workmen brought it to him, it proved to be a broken part of a memorial, and on it was carved the word Resurgam—I shall rise again. It was an omen, a promise of hope, and a prophecy which was abundantly fulfilled; for on that open space not many years later stood the glorious Church of St. Paul we know so well to-day.

I could not help thinking of this scene when just now I walked up the same hill from Ludgate amid scenes which have not been paralleled in London since 1666.

But between then and now, while in both cases the damage was immense, there is this difference: then the fire swept in one steady stream right across the City, destroying everything that lay in its path, now the destruction is in patches, and one continually passes from a burnt out area, through streets which appear to be untouched, and then into another burnt area. So it happens fortunately that heavy and grievous as has been the loss of famous churches, there are many more that stand unharmed.

This is especially the case with the great Cathedral. How St. Paul's escaped is a marvel. All around, even within a few feet, are great buildings entirely gutted. Those who watched the fires from a distance or who saw the red glow in the sky can imagine something of what that Sunday night was like, but to those who had to be on the spot it must have been awesome.

The object of my visit was to see, if possible, what had happened to the steeples and bells which are so famous in the story of the Exercise. St. Andrew's, Holborn, and St. Sepulchre's hard by, are untouched, though the Central Criminal Court is said to have been damaged. In the distance St. Bride's steeple seems to stand up as it always has done, though the white stone appears to be smoke blackened. Or is it fancy? A nearer view shows gaping holes where the belfry louvres were, and we know, alas, that the fine ring of bells is destroyed with all that was in the church.

Of St. Lawrence Jewry nothing is left but the bare walls of church and tower. All the fittings, all the woodwork, are utterly destroyed, and not even a trace of the bells can be seen amid the ruins. Yet, strange to say, the stark walls struck me with a sense of nobility and an admiration for the genius of the architect which I never felt when I saw the unburnt church.

The bells of St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, are gone, and so, I fear, are those of St. Vedast's. That steeple stands as it ever did, but any close inspection is impossible.

St. Michael's, Cornhill, is untouched, and St. Mary Woolnoth, which was one of those reported to be burnt, does not appear to have suffered much damage. Nor does St. Magnus', though there are signs of earlier raids. The graceful spire of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East still stands above the narrow and dirty lanes of Billingsgate, though masses of broken masonry block the streets that lead to it. A little further on another famous church and a ring of eight bells at All Hallows', Barking, have been destroyed. This was a pre-Reformation building which escaped the great fire of 1666 with nothing worse than a burnt clock face. St. Olave's, Hart Street, another pre-Reformation church, with eight bells, is safe.

St. Botolph's, Aldgate, stands, as of old, sentinel to the eastern approaches of the City, and as one looks down the Whitechapel Road the lofty spire of St. Mary's appears the same as ever. But as we draw nearer we can see that all that is left is the brick walls of the church and steeple. The famous old bell foundry had a miraculous escape. It is hemmed in by buildings and these on three sides were destroyed. Even the roof caught alight and there was no means to put the fire out. Fortunately it burnt out without doing much damage.

The whole area between St. Paul's and Newgate Street has been gutted, and here stood The Coffee Pot, where for so many years the Society of College Youths have held their meetings. Here they kept their property, which is of no small value, not only to the society, but to the Exercise at large. It was contained in two fireproof safes, one other safe, three boxes of handbells, and a box of books. At

present all lie buried in a mass of ruins, and it is impossible even to get near the place. We may trust that the two safes will be salvaged, but there is little hope for the others. Very fortunately the irreplaceable peal and name books, the silver bell and other trophies, and the engraved plate by Bartolozzi, were removed to a place of safety some time ago.

London will be built up again. Some at least of the churches will be restored, St. Bride's and St. Lawrence certainly, we hope. Once



WREN'S STEEPLE AT ST. BRIDE'S.

again a peal of bells will ring out from St. Lawrence's steeple, but St. Bride's bells had already fulfilled their mission and were of very little use where they hung. We cannot expect, nor should we particularly wish, that they will be replaced. If all the other ruined churches are not rebuilt in their old positions, there are many places in new districts where new churches, built by money provided by the sale of their sites and bearing their names, will still carry on the work they have performed for a thousand years. For them and for London as a whole the promise given to old St. Paul's still stands, Resurgam.

J. A. T.

Since the above was written, the churchwarden of St. Lawrence Jewry, in a broadcast speech, has promised that the metal from the bells will be recast into a new peal at the foundry whence they originally came.

**DEATH OF DEAN OF HOBART.**

**INSTALLED BELLS IN ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL.**

The death took place at Hobart, Tasmania, on November 1st, of the Very Rev. A. R. Rivers, Dean of Hobart since 1920. Dean Rivers, who was born at Teignmouth, Devon, went to Australia in 1884 as precentor and choirmaster of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, and later became Archdeacon of Wide Bay and Burnett in Queensland, and afterwards of Toowoomba.

Since his appointment as Dean of Hobart, St. David's Cathedral has been his life's work. When the English ringers visited Tasmania in 1934 he was about to begin the erection of the tower and the provision of bells. The Dean's desire was for a carillon, but as a result of the contact with the English ringers it was decided to have eight of the bells hung for ringing.

The Dean was a brilliant scholar, accomplished musician and painter, and a cultured linguist. He studied at St. John's College, Oxford, and proceeded to M.A. in 1884. He was ordained deacon in 1882 and priest in 1883 in Gloucester Cathedral. He had composed many beautiful carols and hymns and was the author of many books, including 'A History of the Church of England.'

**FOR THE BENEFIT OF SECRETARIES.**

**MOONLIGHT NIGHTS IN 1941.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I append a lunar calendar for the benefit of secretaries and others arranging ringers' meetings and handbell practices which may be found useful if you will kindly publish it, as you did last January.

Moonlight nights are from the period between the end of the first quarter to the beginning of the last quarter of the moon. These periods for 1941, with date of full moon, are as follow:—

Moonlight	Full Moon	Moonlight	Full Moon
Jan. 5 to 20	Jan. 13	July 2 to 16	July 8
Feb. 4 to 12	Feb. 12	July 31 to Aug. 15	Aug. 7
Mar. 6 to 20	Mar. 13	Aug. 29 to Sept. 13	Sept. 5
April 5 to 18	April 11	Sept. 27 to Oct. 13	Oct. 5
May 4 to 18	May 11	Oct. 27 to Nov. 12	Nov. 4
June 4 to 16	June 9	Nov. 25 to Dec. 11	Dec. 3

Wishing you all prosperity, an early peace and a restoration of our tower activities.

C. L. ROUTLEDGE.

62, Jesmond Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2.

**SEAGE'S APPARATUS.**

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—In reply to Mr. Sargent's inquiry as to apparatus for dumb practice, we have one fixed to eight bells at Devizes, Wiltshire. It was put in about 45 years ago, made by Messrs. Seage, of Exeter, and, as nearly as I can remember, the cost was about £2 a bell complete without fixing.

It is a good job; nothing to get out of order after fixed. If any ringer would like more details about it I would be pleased to give it.

When the apparatus was first erected it was on a wood frame, but when our bells were rehung it was fitted to the iron frame by Messrs. Taylor and Co.

About 35 years ago I fitted the same apparatus to the bells at St. Mary's, Abergavenny, Mon.

I don't know whether the firm that made it still exists or not.

S. HILLIER.

26, Southbroom, Devizes, Wilts.

**INSTALLATION AT CAMBRIDGE.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Leslie Evans' enquiry re apparatus for tower bells, I presume he refers to Seage's apparatus, such as is installed at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, and St. Mary's, Ely.

If Mr. Evans is anticipating installation of such an apparatus and cares to communicate with me, I could furnish him with necessary illustrations which it would be difficult for the Press to show.

HAROLD J. HAZELL.

15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

**RINGING IN OLDEN TIMES.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Trollope is very good at getting past history for us bellringers. He is very interesting to read. At a sale recently I bought some old books, and among them is one of 1838, which records a passage of bells being rung in Oxford for King Henry II. about 1149. This, I presume, would be his accession to the throne. Perhaps someone can get the dates in Oxford. Later mention is made of London bells being rung to notify of an invasion. Perhaps Mr. Trollope can help here. Best wishes to you and all.

FRANK WARRINGTON.

Swavesey, Cambs.

**John Taylor & Co.**

**LOUGHBOROUGH.**

.....

**THE**

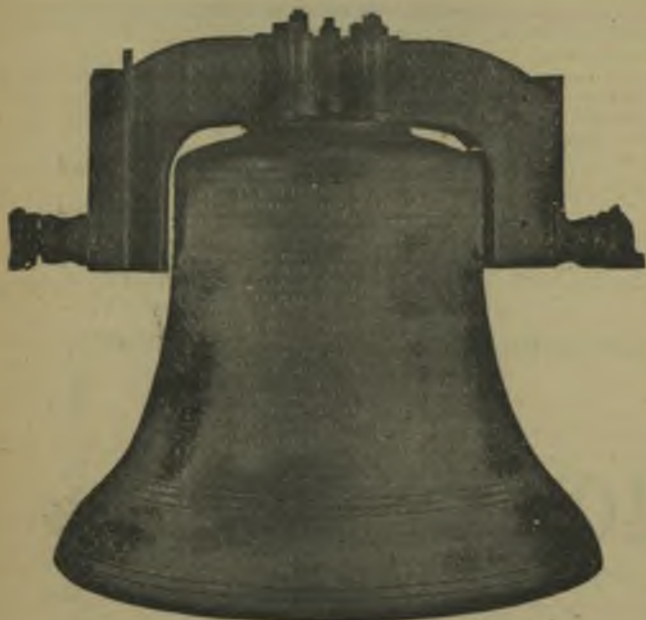
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Broadcasting on Monday evening upon the capture of Bardia, the Minister of Information (Mr. Duff Cooper) said it was a victory of the first order, and added, 'If it were not for the good reason against it, of which you know, we might well be ringing our church bells.'

The Duke of Kent visited Fleet Street on Monday, and, referring to the result of a recent raid, said he very much regretted the damage done to St. Bride's, 'the Cathedral of Fleet Street.'

Next Wednesday, Mr. and Mrs. Frank I. Hairs will celebrate their silver wedding. Congratulations of their many ringing friends will be extended to them.

A handbell practice is held each week at Mr. and Mrs. Hairs' home, Restormel, James Lane, Burgess Hill, Sussex. If any ringers who may be stationed in the neighbourhood will communicate with Mr. Hairs, he will be pleased to welcome them at the practice.

The loss by fire of the carillon at Cattistock, which we announced last September, was not due to enemy action.

Alfred W. Grimes died on January 5th, 1917. In his time he was one of the best known and most active of ringers, and his record of 250 peals rung in two years has never been equalled. Among his performances were the 15,264 Bristol Surprise Major at Hornchurch, the first peal of Waterloo Major, and the first peal of Brighton Surprise Major.

On the same date in 1912, Tom Reynolds, of Birmingham, died.

The St. Martin's Youths of Birmingham rang in that city on January 7th, 1817, the first and only peal of Oxford Treble Bob Caters. It was composed and conducted by Thomas Thurstans.

Henry Johnson, who holds an honoured place in the history of the Exercise both as a ringer and a composer, died at Aston on January 7th, 1809.

To-day is the 224th anniversary of the first peal on the famous bells of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, which perished in the recent great fire raid. The method was Grandsire Caters, and it was rung by the London Scholars.

Fifty years ago to-day five peals were rung. One was Bob Triples, two were Grandsire Triples, and two were Kent Treble Bob Major.

A very fine heavy bell feat was performed on January 11th, 1911, when Mr. Henry R. Newton turned the old tenor at St. Mary-le-Bow in to 5,088 changes of London Surprise Major. No other bell of equal weight has ever been rung single handed to a peal of Major.

## GOOD REASON FOR BAN.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I regret no less than other of your correspondents the ban on the use of church bells and the loss which it means to us. I happen to know, on excellent authority, however, that there is a very good reason for the complete silence of the bells at the present time.

J. H. B. HESSE.

Olivers, Haslemere.

## RINGING NOT AN ACT OF WORSHIP.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—The dictionary definition of worship is 'The act of paying divine honours to the Supreme Being,' and for Mr. Elphick to say that 'we are all agreed that ringing of church bells is an act of worship' is pure imagination. Why not include the organ blower, the church cleaner and others? If the 'State has forbidden ringers to worship God in the way that they feel best able' (i.e., ringing), I suggest it is a poor compliment to the spiritual lives of ringers. But it is not so, for there is no worship in ringing, it is simply a cheerful and fascinating recreative hobby, to many, and to others, a duty as a church worker. To state that by 'one stroke of the pen' the State has destroyed our 'most precious freedom of worship' is rubbish. It has stopped ringing, certainly, and that is all, for no power on earth, not even the devil himself, can take away the blood-bought freedom that Jesus Christ has bestowed upon His Church. Ringers and churchpeople regret the stoppage, and think it a grave injustice; but with the war many injustices have accumulated. The Archbishop of Canterbury has failed to get the ban removed, and it is not right to suggest that the ringers should strive to impede the work of those responsible for the present war effort.

ASSOCIATION SECRETARY.

## RINGERS' HOMES 'BLITZED.'

Owing to air raid damage to their houses, Mr. C. A. Hughes, of 92, Stanley Road, Woodford, has now removed to 21, Malford Court, South Woodford, E.18, and Mr. A. Prior (late Master, S.W. District, Essex Association) to 12, Walwood Road, Leytonstone, E.11.

Mr. G. Dawson, of the Leytonstone band, has also suffered air raid damage, but is able to continue at 143, Norman Road, Leytonstone. They send greetings for 1941 to all ringing friends.

## THE 'COFFEE POT' HAS GONE. COLLEGE YOUTHS' HEADQUARTERS DESTROYED.

### Society Meets in Fire Area.

The 'Coffee Pot' has gone.

It went down in fire and ruin when many more famous buildings perished in the German attack on London on the night of the last Sunday of the year.

And with the 'Coffee Pot' have gone, it is feared, some of the possessions of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Nothing but debris remains on the site where stood this house, so well known, by name at any rate, to the present generation of ringers and so intimately associated with the College Youths for more than forty years.

Under this debris are the safes which the society owns. It is hoped their contents will be found intact, but in boxes were the society's three sets of handbells and cup bells, and minute books going back for something like a hundred years, as well as pictures, books and other things. It is feared that these may be lost.

Happily the most valuable of the society's property is deposited for safe keeping in the strong room at St. Paul's Cathedral. This includes four peal books, three name books, the silver mace, the silver cups, the Wellington candlesticks, the Master's badge, and the Bartolozzi engraved plate used for the membership certificate. The present happening shows how wise was the precaution taken to safeguard these irreplaceable possessions.

Last Saturday the society should have held its fortnightly meeting at the 'Coffee Pot,' which has been the headquarters since September, 1897. Formerly, of course, these meetings were on Tuesday evenings after practice at St. Paul's Cathedral or some other famous city church, but war-time conditions had made that impossible. The continuity of the meetings, however, was maintained by holding them during daylight hours on Saturday afternoons.

#### A DARING PROCEDURE.

The demolition of the 'Coffee Pot' presented a sudden difficulty this week, but hasty arrangements were made to hold Saturday's meeting at the Holborn Viaduct Station Buffet, where, it will be remembered, one of the social gatherings was staged when last the Central Council met in London. As many as possible of the 'regulars' were notified by telephone or post that 'owing to enemy action' the venue of the meeting had been changed.

It was, in a way, a daring procedure—not the changing of the venue, which was imperative if a meeting was to be held, but to hold the meeting at all, and those responsible are to be congratulated upon their action. For well over forty years the business of the society had been transacted at the 'Coffee Pot,' until, last November, the annual meeting followed the anniversary luncheon at Slater's Restaurant in Basinghall Street. That, of course, broke away from precedent.

Saturday's meeting, however, was something different. It was held in a city that, less than a week before, had gone through an ordeal of fire such as no city had ever suffered from the air. The Ancient Society, which in its early days had witnessed many of London's churches perish in the Great Fire of 1666, has again seen some of the most cherished city churches swallowed up in flames, and it held its meeting almost among the ruins, determined, with the rest of that which constitutes what is best expressed as 'the life of the city,' to show its proud spirit and its unshakable resolution to 'carry on.'

In this respect the meeting was a memorable one and one which I determined, if possible, not to miss. To keep an appointment in town in these days is something of a gamble, with trains arriving late and unexpected traffic diversions in many places, and I found in this case that what should have been a short walk from the Underground station needed a considerable detour, but it provided a glimpse of some of the terrific damage done in the city. The walk through St. Paul's Churchyard revealed the miraculous escape which this shrine had from the inferno that blazed around it. Incidentally I arrived half an hour late, but well in time for the meeting.

The party of College Youths that assembled to 'keep the flag flying' was not a large one—the marvel is that there was a party at all. They sat at one of the round tables in the buffet and transacted their business, what time other customers came in and sat about consuming refreshment.

#### THE SOCIETY'S PROPERTY.

The Master (Mr. Ernest Fenn) presided, but it was not in the atmosphere we were wont to see him. He wore no badge of office, no silver adorned the table, there was no ceremony of lighting the candles in those famous candlesticks which the Duke of Wellington used in his Peninsular campaign. In fact, the onlooker would not have known who was chairman, so informal were the proceedings. The others present were the hon. secretary (Mr. A. B. Peck), the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. A. Hughes), Mr. E. Alex. Young, Mr. H. Langdon, Mr. R. F. Deal, Mr. E. Murrell and Mr. H. Belcher.

At the outset, the Master congratulated Mr. Hughes upon his escape in the air raid of the previous Sunday night. Knowing a little of what happened on that occasion, he said, they were very pleased to see the hon. treasurer with them.

Mr. Hughes thanked the Master and said it was an experience he hoped he would never have to go through again.

The secretary then read the minutes of the last meeting. Two of the items, routine matters at the time, had a new significance. One

was 'that the rent of the meeting room be paid'; the other was, 'Notice was given that the next meeting will be held at the Coffee Pot on January 4th at 3 p.m.'

The Hon. Treasurer said that on the day after the raid he went to the City and found the Coffee Pot no longer there. He wanted to see what the position was with regard to their property, and was told by the police to get a permit. After waiting an hour in a queue and with the prospect of waiting another hour and a half he gave up the idea and communicated with the owners of the premises, to whom he had supplied information as to the society's property left at the Coffee Pot. He had also informed the insurance company. The brewers had promised to do their best to salvage everything that was possible. Whatever was recovered from the ruins he would arrange to take possession of for the time being.

Mr. Hughes was thanked for his prompt action, and the meeting confirmed the steps he had taken.

#### CONTINUITY OF MEETINGS.

Mr. Hughes said there was another question about which he felt strongly, and that was that, although they had lost their headquarters, they ought not to let any dirty Germans upset the continuity of their meetings. They should keep the meetings going as long as they could, and he suggested that under the circumstances there was no better place to meet than where they were then assembled. Until the longer days came they could not expect to get a much larger attendance.

Other members expressed similar views, and the proposal was agreed to, but Mr. Langdon suggested they might consider the possibility of migrating to some safer district for their meetings.

The Whitecapel Foundry was suggested as a last resource, and Mr. Hughes said that if it came to a last extremity the society would be welcome there.

A letter from Mr. Albert Walker, of Birmingham, enclosing a contribution to the 'Challis Winney Memorial Fund,' conveyed his greetings to the members and referred to some of Birmingham's recent experiences.

Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., also sent his good wishes in a letter apologising for his absence from the meetings in these days, and greetings were also received from Major J. H. B. Hesse (Haslemere), Mr. Roland Fenn (Cheltenham) and Mr. A. W. Davis (Hereford).

It was resolved to meet again—blitz permitting—on Saturday, January 18th.

And so the informal 'formalities' ended. The College Youths had met and discharged their business under the grimmest conditions of their long history.

The members lingered awhile to discuss experiences, as people will do in these momentous times, and once or twice loud explosions reminded them of the work of demolition going on near at hand.

The 'Coffee Pot' has gone, but not the memories of many interesting meetings of the College Youths held there and the notable ringers who have spent happy evenings in the meeting room.

The 'Coffee Pot' has gone, but the College Youths carry on.

J. S. G.

## A SUSSEX CHURCH SOLD.

### MODEL OF DURHAM CATHEDRAL.

It is a rare thing to find a church offered for sale by public auction, yet this has been the fate of a very beautiful little building, the Church of St. Richard de Wych, standing in Ashdown Forest. A model of Durham Cathedral, it was built in 1886 by Thomas Charles Thompson and his wife, of Ashdown Park and Sherburn Hall, Durham, in memory of their two sons.

At one time services were regularly held there, but a dwindling population in the area resulted in its being used only seldom. There has been no incumbent for over a year. The church was never consecrated, and after being privately owned for some time it passed to the Chichester Diocesan Board, but became a considerable liability.

At first, attempts were made to dispose of the building privately, but the offers were so small that it was decided to put it up to public auction. The sale took place at the Dorset Arms Hotel, East Grinstead, and the bidding, which began at £200, rose by sums of £50 and £25 to £1,275, at which figure the church and its contents, which includes six bells, became the property of Mr. Stephen Easton, a well-known Sussex landowner, chairman of the Worthing Rural Council and a member of the Shoreham Urban District Council. It is understood that he proposes to have the church dismantled and removed to a parish which is in need of one, but the actual work will not be undertaken until after the war.

Conditions of the sale were that the purchaser might retain the church in its present condition with the memorials and fittings, but, if it should be sold for demolition, provision was made for the removal of the memorials.

A tablet in the church records that the building is 'Sacred to the dear memory of Thomas Charles Thompson, of Sherburn Hall, Durham, and Ashdown Park, Sussex, by whom, and his wife, Marianne Thompson, this church was built, 1886, as a memorial to their two sons, Thomas Moore and Harold. He died September 26th, 1892. This tablet was erected by George Carnac Fisher, Bishop of Ipswich (son-in-law), and Mary Penelope Gwendoline, his wife, and their children.'

From the ringers' point of view, the strange thing seems to be that they were not aware of the existence of the ring of six bells in the tower, although at Coleman's Hatch, in which parish the church is situated, there is a peal of eight put up not many years ago.

## LOSS OF CHURCH BELLS.

### SUGGESTED PRECAUTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—From your pages and from other sources of information the Exercise is learning of the great losses which it is now sustaining by enemy action.

It is generally known that we in London have lost rings of outstanding interest, and there are others elsewhere. These bells cannot be replaced; it is true that their fragments could be collected and recast with further metal, but their identity, linked with the men who made them and the ringers who rang them, is gone for ever.

The time is come when ringers should take every possible action. For instance, we can urge our clergy and the Church authority to have the bells isolated, fire partitioned, asbestos jacketed, etc., all inflammable linings, peal boards, etc., temporarily taken down and the remaining carcass timber made more fire-resisting. Then, in regard to the towers, the unnecessary openings into the church, or those overlooking roofs, should be completely sealed and the others fitted with fire-resisting curtains or screens. Isolate the tower, for at one period of the fire it will become its own blow-pipe generating enormous heat!

Again, we ringers can offer with others of the parishioners to form a fire-watch and become properly trained. (I myself joined that at St. Paul's Cathedral 1915-18, where I was allotted to the Thursdays and various Saturdays and Sundays during those years.)

I observe that much of the most valuable stained glass has been removed for safety, as has other property of the Church. Is it not time for us to urge that outstanding rings of bells should also be saved? They could be soon lowered to the churchyard and protected by sandbags.

I should be glad to hear, as a beginning, that St. Michael's, Cornhill, the Abbey, Southwark, Fulham, St. Clement's, St. Magnus', St. Martin's, and the Holborn, Aldgate and Smithfield (2) rings are saved. Of the newer ones, St. Paul's should come first.

The country would soon follow London's lead.

E. ALEX. YOUNG, A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I. (retd.).

## THE FIRE RAID ON LONDON.

### FURTHER PARTICULARS OF DAMAGED CHURCHES.

In addition to the churches mentioned in our last issue, St. Alban's, Wood Street, was destroyed recently by enemy action.

At the time of King Edward VI. there were 'in the Belfry, a Chime and a Clocke, v belles and one small belle called a saintes bell.'

In 1633 the old church had become so dilapidated that it was in danger of falling down and people were afraid to enter it. A Commission reported that it was beyond repair, and it was pulled down and rebuilt by Inigo Jones. It was partly destroyed by the fire of 1666 and afterwards restored by Wren at a cost of £3,165. Wren built the very striking Gothic tower, which contained two bells, one of them by I.P. dated 1704.

The old Church of St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe had in 1552 'iij bells in the Steple and a vestry bell.' The latter was an unusual name; probably it was the sanctus which hung at the east end of the church in a cot over the vestry, instead of, as was usual in London churches, with the ringing peal in the steeple. After the fire of 1666 Wren rebuilt the church and only one bell was hung in the tower.

The tower of the Church of St. Anne and St. Agnes does not appear to have been destroyed. It contains only one bell, not two as stated last week.

The old church had 'v greate belles in the steple and a lyttle bell,' but about 1560 the building was destroyed by fire 'as far as it was combustible,' and there is no evidence of any bells later.

St. Mary Aldermanbury possessed in 1552 'v bells in the steple one greater than another and a litle sanctus bell—vj belles greate and small.'

St. Mary's was burnt in the fire of 1666. The vestry paid £8 2s. 6d. for removing stones and rubbish and gathering up the lead and bell metal. Instead of keeping the latter as some parishes did with the idea of having new bells, they sold it for £41 10s.

The new church was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and on April 30th, 1673, 'twenty guineas were paid to Dr. Professor Wren and ten to Mr. Hooke that they may be encouraged to assist in the perfecting the building.'

In 1675 a bell was hung in the new tower and there was

paid for ye treble bell ...	37 10 0
paid ye bell hangars ...	3 18 0

The small bell hung in the lantern was by Mears and Son and was dated 1809.

Though badly damaged, the church is not completely destroyed, and the tower, which largely survived the fire of 1666, still stands. But the bell turret at the top is gone and it looks as if the steeple has been gutted.

St. Mary Woolnoth, which has not been destroyed, had in Edward VI.'s reign 'in the Steple fyve greatt bells and a littill bell wt. a clocke and a chyme and ropes to the same.' There are now three bells, all by William Eldridge, the treble and tenor dated 1670 and the second 1672.

## ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, LIVERPOOL.

### DESTROYED BY ENEMY ACTION.

#### Bells Safe.

The Ministry of Information has released the news that St. Nicholas', the old Parish Church of Liverpool, was destroyed in a recent air raid. We understand, however, that the tower is standing and the bells are safe.

In the eighteenth century a new spire was added to the old tower, which was raised in height. It was completed in 1750 and stood for 60 years, but on Sunday morning, February 11th, 1810, 'a few minutes' before the commencement of divine service, while the bells were ringing the second peal, the whole structure collapsed, and falling on the church killed 25 people, including 18 children.'



ST. NICHOLAS' TOWER HAS DEFIED THE FIRE.

The present tower was begun in 1810 and finished in 1815.

William Dobson, of Downham Market, in Norfolk, was given an order for a new ring of twelve, and his instructions were to make a replica of the bells at St. Peter, Mancroft, Norwich, which had the reputation of being the best in England. Dobson is said to have taken careful measurements of the Norwich bells, but he did not succeed in reproducing their peculiar qualities.

The tenor, which weighed 41 cwt. 14 lb., was recast by Warners in 1911 and now weighs 39 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

The new bells were opened on June 4th, 1814, 'when a numerous assemblage of amateurs were invited,' and a beautiful silver cup of the value of 20 guineas was presented by the town for the best performance of the day.

The prize was won by a band who rang under the auspices of the St. Martin's Society of Birmingham; but it included such famous ringers as James Dovey from Stourbridge, William Hudson and William Booth from Sheffield, and Samuel Lawrence from Shifnal.

The touch was 3,000 changes of Grandsire Cinques, and 14 men took part, two to each of the big bells, which looks as if the 'go' was not of the best.

Henry Cooper, who rang the seventh and probably conducted, was afterwards entrusted with the custody of the cup. He was a silver plater by trade, and as the cup disappeared in a mysterious manner, nasty things were said and Cooper's reputation suffered.

On the day after the opening, the St. Martin's Youths rang a peal of Grandsire Cinques.

(Continued on next page)



**NEW YEAR'S EVE.****RINGING AT THE LYCH GATE.**

As Christmas, in the past most astonishing and eventful year—now happily past—could not be welcomed in by the ringing of church tower bells, so that year could not be rung out, or the New Year rung in, in the immemorial and time honoured way.

Yet there were some who determined hopefully not to be quite beaten by the ban on tower bells and thought that possibly a substitute—though of necessity only a poor one—might be found in handbells, rung out of doors by the church lych-gate. Such ringing could not, of course, be done on large bells, which might have been heard at some distance away; but fortunately the parish in which the above mentioned 'some' live, but which must remain unnamed, possesses a ring of ten handbells in G; and also, fortunately, the Rector saw the possibility and gave his sanction and encouragement.

The first step was taken by obtaining leave of the local military authority, readily granted on the assurance that these bells would not be heard above a distance of 200 yards. Due thanks for this permission have been gratefully given to this authority.

So in the evening of the last day of the old year, in the home of one of the ringers, a band of five assembled, including one of the most experienced ringers in England to conduct, and a boy who had never rung a handbell before. After some two hours' practice, it was found possible to ring rounds and certain call changes, including tittums, the plain course of Original Doubles (each ringer ringing his two bells, one after the other, as one), and a carol, 'The First Noel.'

The hour of midnight was struck by 'firing,' and the ten bells broke out into rounds.

At 11.50 p.m. ringing at the lych-gate began, and there was only time to ring these changes and the carol a few times each before midnight. The changes were repeated after midnight, when some half-dozen people from nearby cottages came out of doors to listen and welcome the ringers; though several more, who live farther away, said afterwards that they wished that they had heard them, as they would have come and joined in the welcome.

So 'somewhere in England,' in a country parish in a safe area, the old year of 1940 was rung—limpingly—out, and the new year of 1941 was rung—more hopefully—in.

**HOBART RINGERS' ASSOCIATION.****CHANGE IN MASTERSHIP.**

At the annual meeting of the Holy Trinity Bell Ringers' Association, Hobart, Tasmania, Mr. J. Quarmby resigned the Mastership, after many years in that office. Mr. Smith, a native of Suffolk, who went to Hobart a few years ago, succeeds him, and under him the society hope to make further progress. Mr. R. A. Wilson was re-elected hon. secretary.

The membership of the association is now eleven and the funds show a balance in hand of £8 13s. 1d.

It was decided to have the bell frame inspected and, where necessary, renew the timbers.

The bell frame was put in when the bells were sent out from the Whitechapel Foundry in 1847. Before the visit of the English ringers in 1934 only two peals had been rung on them, both Grandsire Triples, by Melbourne ringers, on December 29th and December 31st, 1890. The English ringers rang two peals, Kent Treble Bob and Bob Major, and failed in two other attempts—Treble Bob lost near the end through a rope slipping wheel, and Grandsire Triples, in which Mr. Quarmby was ringing the tenor.

The Hobart ringers send their greetings to all ringers in this country.

**PEALS AT LIVERPOOL.**

(Continued from previous page.)

Between 1815 and 1850 five peals of Grandsire Cinques and one of Stedman Cinques were rung in the steeple, and in every case two men were needed for each of the two big bells.

For some years St. Nicholas' has had a skilled and energetic band, and their performances included peals of Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, and Cambridge Surprise Minor, Major, Royal and Maximus.

Mr. George R. Newton is the enthusiastic and popular leader of the company.

**A SOMERSET MEETING.****ENJOYABLE GATHERING AT WATCHET.**

The quarterly meeting of the Dunster Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held in December at St. Decuman's, Watchet. The six bells (tenor 18½ cwt.) had been rendered mute by boarding the clappers in the centre, and these were raised at about 3 p.m. and rung to touches of Grandsire and Stedman. Service was held at 3.30 p.m., and those present soon raised the echoes of the old church with the well-known hymns and psalms.

An excellent address was given by the Rev. W. Cottrell, who took as his text the words, 'How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?' He said he wanted to see handbells brought into the services of the church instead of being rung only beforehand, and suggested that they might be introduced into the Communion service to the greater glory of God. Dwelling upon his own reminiscences of the sound of church bells, he said that it was indeed a poor compliment from the State to the ringers of this country that no differentiation was to be made between the careful ringing of bells as practised by a band of ringers, and the harsh tocsin when they were clashed in alarm. 'How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?' Truly, a strange land of war, in which there was never so much need of the bells as now.

Tea, provided by the Vicar and local band, was ready in the Church Room, and a touch of colour was provided by fresh flowers on the tables and flags on the walls. About thirty sat down to a repast which would not be frowned upon in peace time, and did justice to farmhouse butter, tea with sugar in it, and all the other mysteriously-present items. It was a most regrettable fact that cream was unavailable, as otherwise this commodity, so popular at ringers' teas in this part of the country, would have been present, as it was at the Hawkridge meeting.

After tea the business meeting was opened by the Rev. Newman, of Timberscombe, in the absence of the president, the Rev. Etherington, who was prevented by weather and lack of petrol from leaving his eyrie in the hills. (It was rumoured that he was busily engaged in the Witherpool Winter Sports, but this story was found to be no more reliable than the one about the 'Ark Royal'). Mr. George Stacey, the hon. secretary, enlivened the meeting, as usual, with an inexhaustible store of jokes at the expense of those present; his accomplice, Mr. Jack Pugsley, assisting, while contriving (somehow) to assume an innocent expression.

On the proposition of Mr. W. E. Challice, seconded by Mr. H. J. Prole, Miss S. B. Chidgey (St. Decuman's) was elected a performing member. Cutcombe was selected for the annual meeting, to be held in March, whether Hitler permits or not.

Messrs. Stacey and Pugsley approached the Vicar of St. Decuman's (Canon R. J. Pearce) with regard to the augmenting of St. Decuman's bells from six to eight for the years of peace which are soon to come.

The Vicar said he would certainly do his best to secure the necessary precious metal for the purchase of two new trebles at as early date as possible, but mentioned that there was still a pound or two owing on the organ restoration fund.

Touches and courses of Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob on handbells followed, ending with rounds and Queens on the twelve. A very enjoyable meeting then terminated with a cordial invitation, from Canon R. J. Pearce to the ringers, to come to Watchet at any time they liked, 'the sooner the better.'

General dispersal followed, some going in the direction of the bus-stop some dart-wards, and others to sundry places of refreshment. Just at this time Mr. Stacey forgot where he had put his bag, and an immediate search of all the neighbouring hostleries was contemplated when one member produced it from beneath his arm. Farewells were said, hands shaken, and away they all went until the spring meeting.

W. E. C.

**CHRISTMAS BELLS.**

On Christmas morning, touches of Grandsire Doubles were rung in the nave of St. Leonard's Church, Eynsham, Oxon: Cecil Calcutt 1-2, Harry Floyd 3-4, Thomas W. Bond 5-6. The ringing was much appreciated by members of the congregation.

At the Parish Church, Selston, Nottingham, handbells were rung for the early Communion service and also at 11 a.m. The ringers were warmly thanked for their services by the Vicar and members of the congregation, who hope for a repetition.

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**TOWER CLOCK MANUFACTURERS.**  
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## STEDMAN TRIPLES.

### THURSTANS' FOUR-PART REVERSED.

To get an absolute reversal of Thurstans' Four-Part peal of Stedman Triples we should take the original composition as it stands. We should start at backstroke in the middle of a quick Six, rounds being a handstroke row and 1325476 the first backstroke row. We should then ring or prick out the rows in exactly the reverse order of the original, beginning at the end and ending at the beginning.

Everything, rows, bobs, course-ends, observation bells, and the rest, would be exactly as in the original version except only in the order they appear. That would be an absolute reversal.

But we object, and with good reason, to any start other than at handstroke, and though we allow (also with good reason) various starts in Stedman Caters, we do not like to begin Stedman Triples except in the traditional manner.

For that reason an absolute reversal of Thurstans' composition has little more than an academic interest for us, but with a very slight variation it can be turned into a very good and useful peal.

Take the absolute reversal, and instead of starting at backstroke, start in the usual way. Put rounds where 1325476 comes in the absolute reversal and ring or prick the peal in exactly the same manner.

The treble will do throughout the same work, in the same order, as in Thurstans' original composition. The Sixth will do the same work as the Seventh, and so be the observation bell. The Seventh will do the same work as the Sixth and be the sub-observation bell. Two and Three will interchange their work; and Four and Five. All as in the original, but, of course, backwards.

When we study this peal we shall find that it is not just a curiosity. It is a very useful composition, quite as good in every way as the original, and is fully worthy of the Stedman conductor's notice. The calling positions are fixed by the work of the Sixth and are similar to those when the Seventh is the observation bell, but, of course, they come at different Sixes in the course. The course-end is when the Sixth is dodging in 6-7 down, and therefore Q, S, H and L come at 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12. The Singles are made after Slow instead of after Quick; the Fifth makes the first and the Sixth the second, the Seventh lying behind at both.

A comparison of this variation with the original will show several very interesting features. Actually the quarter-peal on which Thurstans' four-part is based reverses to the same composition, which is the reason why the out-of-course half of the peal is called in the same way (except for the omits) as the in-course half. This gives the result that the reversal of the whole peal is much the same thing as the variation produced by altering the observation bell. We shall notice that in the standard calling (which is marked A), the order of the bobs is just the same as in the original.

The figures as we now give them are the only composition which has the right to be called Thurstans' Four-Part reversed, without any qualification.

2314567	Q	S	H	L	Q	S	H	L
3457261	(a)				4351267	A		
4572361	x		x	x	(3457261)		x	(b)
3612467		x		x	3217564		x	
A 5317462			x		2175364	x	x	x
3174562	x		x	x	3145267		x	x
5124367		x		x	B 5247361		x	x
C 1527364			x		2473561	x	x	x
5273164	x		x	x	5413267		x	x
5342167				x	41325	A		
34215	A				13254	A		
42153	A				32541	A		
21534	A				25413	A		
15342	A				14523	B		
12435	C				45231	A		
24351	A				52314	A		
(a) Single VI. at 1.					23145	A		
					(b) Single V. at 13.			

### HENRY JOHNSON'S REVERSAL.

Mr. Albert Walker, of Birmingham, sends us the following figures of Thurstans' peal as reversed by Henry Johnson, at the request of one of the St. Martin's ringers of that day, who wished to call the peal from the light end and wanted also to ring an observation bell. It will be observed that 1-2 take the place of 7-6 in the original, and

(Continued on next page.)

### WATH RINGER MARRIED

On Boxing Day at Huddersfield Parish Church, Mr. W. Bramham, of Wath, was married. Mr. Bramham has been a ringer at Wath-on-Dearne, Yorks, for a number of years, and is a member of the Yorkshire Association and of the smaller societies within the Southern District of Yorks. His new abode will be at Huddersfield.

To celebrate the happy event, 720 of Bob Minor was rung on the same date at 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, by Daniel Smith 1-2, Harold Chant (conductor) 3-4, Arthur Gill 5-6.

## ROBERT PERRY.

### A RINGER WHO TURNED OUT ROGUE.

Mr. Theodore Slater, of Glemsford, has supplied us with further notes taken from his father's notebooks concerning old Suffolk ringers. Here is the story of one ringer who, while he had his good qualities, turned rogue and presumably left the country for his country's good. He must, however, have been thought something of in London, for when news of his death came from America, a muffled peal was rung.

This man was Robert Perry, who rang a peal at St. Giles', Cripplegate. He was a native of Long Melford, and, as a boy, went to work at Churchyard's hair factory and rose to be manager of the factory. When he got this position he soon betrayed the trust put in him and was dismissed for dishonest practices. After this he went to Glemsford and obtained work at a horse hair factory, and again rose to be manager, but he was soon at his tricks again and was dismissed for dishonesty. Then he went to London and there found work in a gas works. What he did in London is not really known, but the old ringers who knew him used to say that when things got 'too hot' he emigrated and went to Boston, U.S.A., and there worked in a gas works for some time.

He was found dead in the stokehole, suffocated, while working on a night shift. The news of his death did not reach London for some time, but when it did the St. James' Society rang a muffled peal for him at St. Clement Danes. Perry knew every process in the manufacture of horse hair.

He called, from the 4th, a peal of Bob Major on Long Melford bells and rang the 3rd in a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Lavenham in 1853.

When Perry went to Glemsford many men were working on the land as agricultural labourers; single men for 7s. 6d. a week and married men for 8s. 6d. a week, the week's work being 60 hours. Perry took pity on these men and taught some of them various processes in the manufacture of horse hair, thereby reducing their hours of labour and doubling their wages. Perry thus had some good characteristics in his make-up.

The peal of Bob Major that Perry called at Melford is described on a tablet in Melford steeple as being the composition of Mr. H. Haley. Some time before his death Samuel Slater had a pocket book lent him by Hirham Ambrose, and the calling of the peal was copied by Samuel Slater. It proves to be one of Annable's in three parts.

On looking over an old note book Mr. Theodore Slater has found that Perry died at Boston in America on November 27th, 1874, at the age of 56 years, and the muffled peal for him was rung at St. Clement Danes, January 11th, 1875, by the St. James' Society.

Here are notes about other Suffolk ringers who figured later in London peal ringing:—

William Brett, who rang the tenor at Clerkenwell in 1840 to a peal of Double Norwich, was born at Somerton, Suffolk, in 1808, and learned to ring on the four bells at Somerton, the five bells at Hartest, the six bells at Glemsford, and eight and ten bells at Bury St. Edmunds.

In 1835 an attempt was made to ring a peal of Bob Royal on the Norman Tower bells, Bury St. Edmunds, but the attempt failed after ringing 3 hours and 35 minutes. Brett acted as conductor and rang the 9th bell. He is described by those who have seen him to have been a fine well-built man, dark complexion and a pork butcher. His sister died at Hartest in 1902. Her name was Clarke. She was then a widow.

Augustus George Frost, who rang the tenor at St. Mary-le-Bow to a peal of Royal, was a painter, signwriter and house decorator by trade. He was a native of Bury St. Edmunds and a member of the Norman Tower band before migrating to London.

James Marlton, who rang the tenor at St. Mary-le-Bow to another peal of Royal, is said to have belonged to East Anglia. At one time there was a James Marlton a ringer at Redenhall, Norfolk, and it has been wondered if they were one and the same man.

We are able to add that James Marlton's feats included ringing the tenors at Southwark and Spitalfields to 7,104 changes of Treble Bob Maximus and Bow tenor to 5,200 Treble Bob Royal.

J. A. TROLLOPE'S

## 'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

### A History of the Society

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**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.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

**ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting will be held in the Synod Hall, Holyrood, Quadrant, W.3, on Saturday, January 11th, at 3 p.m. Tea 4 p.m., followed by tower bells (10). All ringers welcome. We extend the compliments of the season to all.—E. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Pudsey on Saturday, January 11th. Handbells in the Park Hotel from 2.30 p.m., other arrangements as usual. A good attendance is desired.—H. Lofthouse, 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Newcastle-under-Lyme, on Saturday, Jan. 11th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Bells (6) without clappers and handbells available. Fourth annual dinner February 22nd.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—General quarterly meeting at Derby on Saturday, January 11th. Committee meet 3 p.m. General meeting 4 p.m., in St. Peter's Parish Hall (adjoining church). Tea at nearby cafe. Handbells will be available, and it is hoped a good muster of members and friends will attend.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol City Branch.—The annual meeting, which was not held on December 14th, has been re-arranged for Saturday, January 11th, at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James' Church in the Horsefair). Handbells from 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. The meeting will be over by 5 o'clock for those who wish to get away.—A. M. Tyler, Hon. Sec.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, January 11th. Handbell contest at Rectory Rooms at

3.30 p.m., followed by the general meeting. Tea at Royal Hotel at 5.30 p.m., followed by social evening and handbell ringing. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**HERTS ASSOCIATION.**—Watford District.—Meeting at Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, Bushey, Saturday, January 18th. Open from 2.30. Handbell practice and social chats. Tea arranged. All who are interested in ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at Lea in the Institute on Saturday, January 18th. Business meeting at 6 p.m., followed by whist drive at 7 p.m. Refreshments, but bring your own sugar. Please come and bring your friends.—Geo. L. A. Lunn, Hon. Sec.

**DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The annual general meeting will be held in the Clergy House, Doncaster, on Saturday, January 18th, at 3 p.m. Handbells available. Refreshments can be obtained from the canteen in the Memorial Hall.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec., 6, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, Doncaster.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Luke's, Derby, on Saturday, January 18th. Handbells available 3 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers 4 p.m. Will all towers please send representatives? All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Stourbridge St. Thomas (D.V.), 3 p.m., Saturday, January 18th. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea, business meeting, handbell practice and social evening. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, January 15th, if possible, please.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be held in Leicester on January 18th. Silent ringing on Cathedral bells if required, from 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Globe opposite the cathedral at 5 p.m. Those intending to be present for tea must notify me not later than Wednesday, January 16th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Two meetings of the Guildford District will be held at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, at 2 p.m., on Saturday, January 25th. The first a district meeting to receive nominations for officers; secondly, the annual district meeting. Neither service nor tea has yet been arranged. These arrangements depend entirely on the number and promptness of notifications, which are requested by January 16th.—G. L. Grover, Acting Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

**DEATH.**

**WILLSON.**—On January 3rd, Ada, the beloved wife of William Willson, 3, Winchester Avenue, Leicester, aged 71 years, the devoted mother of Lily, Hilda, Muriel and Winnie. 'Underneath are the everlasting arms.'

**HANDELLS WANTED.**

**WANTED.**—Set of 12 HANDBELLS by Shaw in B flat, with extra semitone if possible.—Box 33, 'The Ringing World.'

**STEDMAN TRIPLES**

(Continued from previous page.)

it follows closely the plan of the original in that the extras are in the 4th and 9th parts and the omits in the 13th and 15th parts.

2314567	Q	S	H	L	4356721	S	H	L	Q
4675321	1	4(S)			A 3647521				
					A 6735421				
A 4526371	x		x		C 4725631	x			
5643271	x	x		x	7546231	x	x		x
6543721		x			5746321		x		
A 5367421					A 7653421				
A 3754621					A 6374521				
B 3427651	x		x		A 3465721				
4736251	x	x		x	A 4537621				
5634721		x	x		C 7564321				
					A 5473621				
A 6457321									
A 4763521					5324671	x		x	
A 7345621					2314567	x	x	x	x
A 3576421					4356721		x	14(S)	17.18
B 7436521									
7624531	x		x						
6475231	x	x		x					

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