THE RINGING WORLD

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THE VOICES OF THE BELLS.

The war has brought along several things which are unmitigated evils, and which have no compensations. Such is the black-out, and such to us ringers appears the ban on the use of church bells. We do not grudge the sacrifice we are called upon to make, but we do think it is useless and unnecessary.

However, it is well to take wide views on these matters, and it may turn out that in the long run the ban will prove a blessing. It has already shown that there are very many people besides ringers who value the bells, and who desire to have them rung, and the victory ringing proved how well their sound can express the sentiments and feelings of the people.

This is the most wonderful thing about bells. In some mysterious way they have the power of appealing to the deepest thoughts and feelings of men and giving them expression as no other thing can. This quality is not confined to our English bells or our English change ringing. It is common in varying degree throughout the world and from the remotest ages. Among musical instruments a bell is one of those least capable of variations in expression. It can be sounded only in one way (by being struck by an iron clapper) and its note is always the same. Yet it can be heard by the listener so that it expresses the full range of emotions, from the profoundest sorrow to the brightest joy, from gaiety and merriment to solemnity, from alarm and terror to deep religious contemplation.

Not all men are thus susceptible to the appeal of bells, nor are many men often deeply moved by them, least of all perhaps ringers who have other reasons for loving them. But the power is there and is attested in all ages, not merely by poets and writers, but by the experience of ordinary people.

It is difficult to say wherein lies this power. It certainly does not lie in the mere sound of the bell; that does not vary, or varies very little. All the great range of expression and feeling are supplied by the listener himself out of his own heart and his own brain. Bells can bring no message to any man (beyond perhaps that of marking the time) which he has not already within his own subconscious being.

Few people realise this, for if they did, they surely would not think it possible to ring bells in such a way that a war alarm could not possibly be mistaken for an ordinary summons to worship. This erroneous view found full expression among the speakers in the recent debate in the House of Lords. Lord Quickswood men-

(Continued on page 166.)

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tioned the old use of the tocsin and referred to the Massacre of St. Bartholomew which was started by the tolling of the bell of St. Germain's Church. 'No one in Paris,' he said, 'could have mistaken the frantic clanging from the steeple of St. Germain l'Auxerrois for the ordinary summons to Mass. No verger had to explain to devout ladies expecting a Mass that the bells were being rung because of some trouble with the Huguenots.' Of course not, because when the bell was rung no devout ladies were expecting to go to Mass. Instead, in the darkness of the narrow and winding lanes of old Paris hundreds of armed men were lurking, waiting for the signal, and when it came they knew what it meant. All over the city was already the tense feeling of impending doom. The bell rang as it would have rung to Mass, but it was a very different message it sent forth.

To draw present day parallels with the tocsin of olden times is entirely fallacious. Conditions have completely changed. Never could bells have served to warn people other than those in the immediate vicinity and who were expecting something. To-day, with our vastly greater and more widely scattered population, only a tiny fraction could hear them, and of those only a tiny fraction could pretend to distinguish how the bells were being rung.

There is but one sound conclusion. Church bells as invasion warnings would be a complete failure however used, and the sooner the authorities recognise it, the better it will be for the country.

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I do not intend to occupy your valuable space with a detailed reply to Mr. Spears' letter. If he will re-read the letter from Kenneth Croft and myself in 'The Ringing World' for March 5th, and the report of the foundation meeting in the issue of March 12th, he will find a full discussion of the whole question. In particular, I would draw his attention to the summary of purpose, aims and organisation, in the March 5th issue.

In order to avoid any further confusion, however, I would re-emphasise that for the present membership is restricted to those who have at any time been full-time, internal students at a university. 'University' refers, in the first instance, to the universities of the British Isles, which are Oxford, Cambridge, London, Durham, Bristol, Birmingham, Reading, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, St. Andrew's, Belfast, Dublin and the University of Wales.

JOHN E. SPICE.

New College, Oxford.

THE OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Dear Sir,—Mr Russell Spears' letter would have looked much better if it had appeared several weeks ago when the matters to which it refers were fresh in our minds. As it is the letter draws attention to several things which many of your readers will have neither the inclination nor the opportunity to verify for themselves.

Mr. Spears complains that only those who have been to Oxford or London, Cambridge or Durham are eligible for membership. The actual wording in 'The Ringing World' of March 12th to which he refers is, 'It was decided to restrict membership at present to those who had at some time been full-time members of a university proper.'

The arranging of ringing tours in the summer time is only one of the aims of the society; but another aim which Mr. Spears overlooks is, 'To do everything possible to assist and initiate the formation of change ringing societies in universities other than Oxford and Cambridge.'

Mr. Spears seems to be accusing the Universities Association of being just another clique, and, therefore, should be condemned. We can all have our own opinions about cliques, but if a clique is going to help to raise the general standard of our art, then let's have them. For Mr. Green to say that with a National Association ringing tours would be open to anybody who wanted is just nonsense. If a National Association arranged ringing tours on those lines, then they would be a failure. Tours are primarily for the amusement of those who spend time and money in arranging them, and they have every right to decide who should go on them.

MALCOLM MELVILLE.

The Knowls, Lichfield.

HANDBELL PEALS.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, April 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT BEECHCROFT,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor size 15 in C.

*V. JOAN BUDDEN	1-2	BRENDA M. RICHARDSON ...	5-6
JOHN E. SPICE	3-4	MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON	7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON
* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung to celebrate the 21st birthday of Brenda M. Richardson.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sunday, April 4, 1943, in One Hour and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT BEECHCROFT,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being two extents of Double Bob, two of Reverse and three of Plain.

*CHRISTINE J. RICHARDSON	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	3-4
		DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON...	5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.
* First peal of Minor and in more than one method.

LEICESTER.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
On Tuesday, April 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT 202, FOSSE ROAD SOUTH,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor size 15 in C.
DEXTER'S VARIATION OF BROOKS'. Tenor size 15 in C.

HAROLD J. POOLE	1-2	ERNEST MORRIS...	5-6
GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS ...	3-4	MRS. LAURA M. POWELL ...	7-8

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE,
Umpire—J. Morris.
Arranged for Mrs. Powell, Lyme Regis, Dorset, and is her first handbell peal.

ROTHWELL, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)
On Tuesday, April 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,
IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;
Tenor size 13 in E.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY	1-2	PERCY MASSAM	5-6
THOMAS W. STRANGEWAYS	3-4	ARTHUR G. WOOD	7-8

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
(WIMBORNE BRANCH.)
On Wednesday, April 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
AT CHAILEY, 36, DEAN PARK ROAD,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

*PETER J. SMALL	1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY	3-4	†CYRIL F. TURNER	7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.
* First peal of Triples 'in hand.' † First peal 'in hand.' Rung in grateful appreciation of the late W. J. Bastable's life's work for the Salisbury Diocesan Guild.

LONDON.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Thursday, April 8, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,
AT 2, SEAMORE PLACE, CURZON STREET, W 1,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;
Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. J. THOMAS...	1-2	JOHN THOMAS	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT	3-4	EDWIN H. LEWIS	7-8
		EDWIN BARNETT...	9-10

Composed by WILLIAM KENT. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 159.)

NEW NAMES.

William Shipway, we may be quite certain, cherished in his early days the ambition of becoming the leading composer and conductor in the Society of Cumberland Youths, and we may be equally certain that in both capacities he found his path, if not blocked, at least hindered, by the ambition of George Gross and his son. Shipway rang in many of the peals accomplished by the Cumberlands at this time, but not in so many as we should have expected. He called a peal of Treble Bob



LEWISHAM PARISH CHURCH.

Major at St. Clement Danes, in 1793, with George Gross in the band, and after that did not again act as conductor until November 12th, 1796, when he called the first 'name' peal on ten bells.

This was 5,129 changes of Grandsire Caters at Shoreditch by a band, all of whom were named William. Actually there were eleven of them, for William Castle, who rang the tenor, had, as usual, an assistant. He was a man with more money than the others, and he owed his place in the band rather to his willingness to spend it, than to his ability as a ringer.

The others were Whitehead, Richardson, West, Stephens, Gibson, Shipway, Brown, Court and Tyler.

By this time the fortunes of the Society of Junior Cumberland Youths had been revived, and they were again ringing peals. For this, two men, William Williams and John Noonan, were mainly responsible.

In February, 1793, Williams called a peal of Bob Major at Hackney, to which James Marlton rang the tenor. He lived at Greenwich and later was to make a name as one of the most famous heavy bell ringers of all time. He possibly was a son or relative of the Norfolk farmer who subscribed to the 'Clavis.'

Later in the year John Noonan joined the company. He was a Birmingham man and, like John Holt before

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

him, a shoemaker by trade. The story goes that he made a pair of shoes for Joshua Short, the Witton farmer, who, in 1793, rang Aston tenor to 15,360 changes of Bob Major. With the money he received for the job he set out for London, like Shipway, to try his fortune and get greater opportunities for change ringing. Like Shipway, too, he made his way to the Junior Cumberlands.

The first peal he rang with them was at Lewisham on October 6th. It was 5,264 changes of Grandsire Major, composed and conducted by Williams, and was claimed to be 'the first in that method ever brought round backstroke.' That, however, was not so, for on July 30th in the previous year the Birmingham men had rung 7,552 changes at Aston. The third at Lewisham was rung by Henry Symondson. This is the first time we come across his name. Later on he became one of the best known of London ringers.

Three weeks after the Lewisham peal the Junior Cumberlands rang Grandsire Triples at Whitechapel, and on December 10th 5,111 changes of Grandsire Caters at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill. It was sixteen years since the last peal had been rung in that steeple, and forty years more were to elapse before the next was accomplished. It was quite evidently a much bigger performance than appears at first sight. Williams was the composer and conductor, Noonan rang the third, Symondson the fourth, and Marlton the ninth. The ringer of the fifth, Joseph Ladley, in due time, became the leading conductor to the society, and later on to the Society of Junior College Youths.

On the second day of January in the next year the Junior Cumberlands achieved one of their greatest performances by ringing 5,453 changes of Grandsire Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow with ten men only. This was James Marlton's first outstanding feat as a heavy bell ringer, and one which showed him as a worthy successor of Allan Grant, Samuel Muggeridge, and Philip Pilgrim.

Only nine peals are known to have been rung at Bow Church during the eighteenth century. The first, on January 12th, 1730, was one of Bob Triples, the second on February 11th, 1733, was Bob Major. Both were by the College Youths, and in both there were three men to the tenor. On December 13th, 1761, Joseph



ST. SEPULCHRE'S, SNOW HILL

Monk, aided by John Lokes, turned the bell in to a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major. In April, 1765, the College Youths rang 5,363 Grandsire Caters, the first peal on the ten bells. Three men were needed to the tenor, and the same number in the next peal—5,111 Grandsire Caters by the Cumberlands, in February, 1775.

Two years later, the London Youths rang 5,219 Grandsire Caters with only two men to the tenor, and in 1782 Samuel Muggeridge and William Lyford together rang the bell to the first peal of Royal in the steeple.

The first man to ring Bow tenor single-handed to a peal was Philip Pilgrim. This he did on January 19th, 1787, with a band of College Youths. The method was Grandsire. Samuel Muggeridge was not in the band. His best heavy bell performances were all in even methods, and it is probable he had no desire to ring a bell behind whatever its weight and reputation.

On January 20th, 1796, the Junior Cumberlands started for the longest length on Spitalfields bells, and rang 7,001 changes of Grandsire Caters in four hours

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

and fifty-two minutes. But, says the peal book, 'the third and fifth were out of course five courses about the middle of the peal, after which they took their right course again to the end of the peal.'

William Williams was the conductor, and he evidently was calling John Reeves' peal with the sixty course-ends, or possibly the similar composition by George Gross. What must have happened was that when the time came for either the third or the fifth to be behind the ninth, he found the two shifted, and put them back into their places. It could only have been by asking questions after the peal was finished that he knew they had been wrong for five courses.

In Grandsire Caters all the changes are in-course unless a single is made; therefore in such a peal as Williams was calling, if two bells shifted and were afterwards put right at no matter what interval, there would be no repetition of rows. This fact may have been just sufficient for the band to claim the performance as a true peal; for there have been other ringers who have maintained that a peal is true so long as the bells do not strike twice in the same order.

One of the two culprits in the peals, the man who rang the fifth, was John Hints. This is the first time his name appears, and he was then a young and very enthusiastic ringer. He seems to have been connected with St. James', Clerkenwell, where there was a band of young ringers under his leadership who called themselves the St. James' Youths, and who may perhaps be considered to be the ultimate beginnings of the later St. James' Society and the present London County Association.

A fortnight after the Spitalfields peal these young men, with the help of William Williams, rang a peal of Grandsire Triples at Edmonton, Hints calling the bobs.

During these years the 'ancient' Society of London Youths, which we last heard of in connection with John Frazier's peals, had existed in a quiet and inglorious fashion, probably as a band who met at the Whittington and Cat, and held a regular practice at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green. Once, on January 1st, 1792, the company emerged from obscurity and rang a peal of Bob Major at Bishopsgate. The younger George Gross called it, and among the other ringers were John Wooding, James Stichbury, and James Nash.

Stichbury became an active London peal ringer and his name frequently occurs in the records. Nash joined the Society of Cumberland Youths and lived to a great age. He supplied Osborn with a good deal of information about the ringers of his time.

John Noonan was now coming to the fore as a composer and conductor. On September 12th, 1796, he called 5,040 changes of Bob Major at St. Clement Danes, and in the following month 5,007 changes of Grandsire Major at Whitechapel, both his own composition.

On November 13th, 1797, he achieved his first outstanding performance by calling 6,003 changes of Stedman Caters at Christ Church, at the time the longest length in the method. For this peal Henry Symondson and William Tyler came back from the 'old' Cumberlands.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Fifty years ago last Monday, Mr. Charles E. Borrett rang the tenors and called on handbells 5,040 Bob Major. It was his first peal as conductor; and the time, 2 hours and 14 minutes, was supposed to be the quickest of any peal of Major so far rung.

Mr. Thomas Groombridge rang his first peal as conductor (Hollis' five-part of Grandsire Triples) at Tonbridge 50 years ago yesterday. Mr. William Latter, whose death was announced recently, rang the sixth.

On April 11th, 1888, 13,265 changes of Grandsire Caters were rung at Appleton, composed and conducted by James W. Washbrook. It was the longest at the time, beating the 12,312 rung at Painswick in 1817, and was itself beaten in 1889 by 15,227 at Cheltenham.

At the time a long peal contest was going on between Appleton and Cheltenham comparable to the famous Treble Bob contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands. The following peals were rung in just over twelve months: March 5th, 1888, 12,041 Stedman, at Appleton; April 11th, 13,265 Grandsire, at Appleton; May 21st, 13,054 Stedman at Cheltenham; December 31st, 15,041 Stedman at Appleton; April 22nd, 1889, 15,227 Grandsire, at Cheltenham.

The Appleton peal of Stedman stood until April 12th, 1909, when a mixed band rang 18,027 changes at Loughborough Parish Church. William Pye rang the 30½ cwt. tenor and conducted, Gabriel Lindoff rang the ninth, and the others included Isaac G. Shade, John H. Cheesman, Bertram Prewett and William Willson. Messrs. George R. Pye and William J. Nudds, who rang the treble and eighth, are still with us.

The first peal of Otley Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham on April 12th, 1937. It was the 40th Surprise Major method rung on the bells.

Owing to Good Friday falling in next week, 'The Ringing World' will be published one day earlier, Thursday instead of Friday. Will correspondents kindly send all communications to reach the Editor not later than the first post on Monday morning?

RECONSTRUCTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Throughout the country there is much talk of reconstruction and much planning for the future, but to date I have read very little and heard nothing about the future of change ringing, so, with permission, I venture to express opinions on a matter which should be the concern of all ringers.

Happy days will come again and we shall be allowed to ring at will, many peals will be attempted in various methods and many will be scored. This will be all to the good, and I hope to take my part in the general rejoicing. But what of ringing for the church services?

All ringing guilds and societies are formed for the furtherance and the improvement of change ringing as a branch of church work and as a recreation and study, but are our guild officials aware that at many churches where there are peals of bells there was before the war little or no ringing or chiming for the services?

It is safe to predict that the number will be increased after the war, and is also safe to say the towers which boasted of a complete band will be short of their full complement of members when we are permitted to restart ringing in full. Here it is that guild ringing masters can make themselves useful.

The office of guild ringing master has always appeared to me to be more titular than effectual, the holder being elected by virtue of his knowledge of the more exalted methods of the Exercise rather than by his abilities to instruct, which I suggest is all wrong. A guild ringing master need not of necessity be an exponent of the higher methods, but he should be able to conduct in the standard methods, he should be a free and tactful man, and should take an interest in all the towers of his guild, giving or organising assistance where it is required.

I further suggest that quarterly and monthly guild meetings are held at churches with peals of bells, but where there is little ringing for the services, the clergy be cordially invited to attend and urged to bring their ringers with them whatever their abilities, half the ringing time should be devoted to the latter's tuition, thus service ringing will be improved and a steady flow of new members into the guilds will be assured.

Opposition from certain quarters will come to these suggestions, but my answer will be that for a time, perhaps for some time to come, seraphical heights must be abandoned for plebeian levels, retrospective reflections must give place to prospective activities and fruitful construction.

To be a member of a ringing band visiting some church for a peal attempt is a delightful experience, the pleasure intensified when the attempt is successful, but I submit our guilds prompted by their officials should devote more attention to the less spectacular side of ringing, that of the services of the Church as being the only use to which all peals of church bells are dedicated.

G. H. WILLIAMS.

137, Balden Road, Harborne, Birmingham.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

OPINION OF 'THE CHURCH TIMES.'

Commenting on the debate in the House of Lords, 'The Church Times' remarks:—

'Few churchmen will withhold support from the Archbishop of York in his plea that the time has come for lifting the ban on ringing. His argument in the House of Lords was not based on any frivolous assumption that the danger of invasion was past. On the contrary, he contended that the danger remains a very real one. In many cases, however, the ringing of bells would give no useful warning, and in other cases the bells could be clashed and clanged in an unmistakeable manner, without interfering with ordinary ringing.

'This was a sensible and practical line to take, and we are not surprised that Lord Croft's answer was merely an unconvincing rechauffée of War Office obscurantism. Any experimental test of ringing church bells as a warning (it is perhaps curious that none has been made) would prove how right Dr. Garbett was. On the other hand, evidence continues to accumulate that the silence of the bells has psychologically a bad effect on the people. Again and again parish priests report how useful a part the bells play in reminding their parishioners of the obligations of divine service, and how grave an injury the tying of their tongues has done to parish life in the past three years.'

OFFICIAL IGNORANCE

To the Editor.

Sir,—'E. T.' makes what appears at first sight to be a good point on the latest decree, but there is another side if one considers it sufficiently.

In the Home Guard in Middlesex we had an interesting lecture on the prospects of invasion and what we were to do 'when we had rung the bells.' In all simplicity I caused the question to be put, 'Just who is to do the ringing—and how?' After a fortnight's lapse the C.O. told the truth—he didn't know!

Recently I was approached to give a lecture to the Home Guard in this part of the country on 'Bellringing.' This should have been a proper bombshell, but the C.O. eventually found out that 'it was a job for the police.'

The only intelligent statement by a Government spokesman that I have heard on the subject of ringing was in the Prime Minister's last broadcast, when he said, speaking of the end of hostilities, 'When the bells clash (or crash, I am quoting from memory) out.' I couldn't help wondering if he had been taken to a silent practice.

Now for the sequel to 'E. T.'s' point. What is the position of any responsible church official who removes, or causes to be removed or otherwise renders unworkable, any of these alleged indispensable instruments of warning—sabotage, subversive action, or merely high treason?

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

Nottingham.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF RINGING.

Dear Sir,—Your leader in the current 'Ringing World' has revealed a point, relating to the ban, which I have been intending to raise for some time.

If I may make an extraction from your article, I quote: '. . . . but it is pretty certain it never occurred to any of them that there would be any difficulty in the matter. If bells can be rung twice every Sunday, and whenever anyone wants them for a wedding, surely they can be rung when they are needed at a time of national importance.'

Undoubtedly the powers that be do think that there is not the slightest difficulty in setting the church bells ringing. When one considers this point, the view taken by the Ministers is not at all surprising, when one looks back at our performance last November. On that occasion the Government said that the bells will ring, and ring they did, with very few exceptions. The man in the street might almost have thought that at 9 o'clock on that Sunday morning a big switch, marked 'bells,' was thrown at the Ministry of Home Security, and behold—bells.

In view of all this, is it not possible that we made a mistake when we dashed to the towers, as we will again at Easter, I suppose, should the ban be lifted? It might be to the common good if we failed to ring on any future occasion until the ban is lifted entirely.

RUSSELL G. SPEARS.

7, Glenwood Gro , Kingsbury.

SUPPORT THE ARCHBISHOP.

Dear Sir,—One continually reads in your columns of the opinions of various ringers and others regarding the ban on ringing, which is still likely to remain, but I feel sure we all appreciate the action of the Archbishop of York in his recent effort in the House of Lords to get the ban lifted or modified. His Lordship did not merely take 'No' for an answer; he went further to state that if something was not done in the near future he would endeavour to force a division. Here surely is an opportunity for our heads to approach the Archbishop and give him all the support he richly deserves.

A. L. BENNETT.

Cornerways, Elliott Plain, Buckfastleigh, Devon.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

QUARTERLY MEETING AT ASTON.

The St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham has for very many years held its first quarterly meeting at Aston Parish Church, and it is always a very popular meeting. It is easy to account for this, as it has many attractions, among them a beautiful church (the gem of the Midlands), a popular Vicar, the Rev. H. McGowan, Archdeacon of Aston and a vice-president of the Guild; the burial place of the Guild's famous Ringing Master, Henry Johnson, where a pilgrimage is always made on this occasion; a famous peal of bells, unfortunately silent in these days, and, in addition, an excellent tea is always provided by the local company and their ladies.

Those members who went to inspect the grave of Henry Johnson received somewhat of a shock when they saw the headstone removed and laid down, but were reassured when the Vicar informed the company later that the cause was that Selina Johnson, the widow of Henry Johnson, jun., aged 89, was buried there on November 24th, 1942, and that the stone would be carefully replaced in due course.

The Vicar conducted the service and presided at the organ. In his instructive and helpful address he referred to the ban on bellringing and said that the two silver trumpets which Moses was ordered to make were used for several purposes, amongst them being the sounding of an alarm. He commended the Guild for continuing to hold their meetings and various functions, which served a good purpose in keeping the community life of the members alive and ready for the time when the ban would be removed.

Tea was served in the schoolroom. Later on a hearty vote of thanks was proposed by the Vicar to the Aston ringers, their wives and sweethearts for the wonderful tea provided and the enthusiastic way they had served it. He referred to the engagement of Mr. Fred Price and Miss Parkes, of Leicester, and on behalf of the company present wished them all success and happiness.

Mrs. Davies replied for the ladies and said how pleased they were to be able to do it. It had been a real pleasure to them.

The short business meeting followed with the Vicar in the chair, supported by the Master, Councillor A. Paddon Smith. Apologies were announced from Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, W. Short and W. L. Whiston.

THE GUILD'S PEAL BOOKS.

The following new members were elected: Mr. F. W. Allaway, of Stratford-on-Avon, as a life member, proposed by Mr. A. Walker and seconded by Mr. F. E. Haynes; Mr. Arthur D. Cook and Mr. Richard J. B. Hadden, both connected with Shirley tower, as full ringing members, proposed by Mr. G. E. Fearn and seconded by Mr. A. Morris

On the proposition of Mr. A. Walker, seconded by Mr. W. C. Dowding, it was unanimously agreed to hold the next quarterly meeting at Solihull on Saturday, July 3rd.

Mr. Walker reported that the Guild's peal books, which during the bad blitz period had been transferred for greater safety to the care of some friends of his at Belbroughton, had now been brought back to Birmingham owing to the removal of his friends, and were now at his address. They were in a fairly safe area, but he thought the members should decide if they were to remain there. After some discussion it was proposed by Mr. F. E. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Fred Price, and agreed, that they should be transferred into the care of the librarian, Mr. G. F. Swann, who resided in an equally safe district. It was decided that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Walker's friends for so kindly taking care of the books.

Councillor Paddon Smith proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman for having presided at that meeting and for his interesting and helpful address. The Archdeacon was a very busy man, particularly in these days, yet he never failed to give them a hearty welcome and something inspiring to think about in his address. This was seconded by Mr. Haynes and carried with acclamation.

The handbells were then brought out and several good touches and tunes were rung. Amongst the visitors were C. H. Webb and Ernest and Percy Stone, of Coventry.

GLASGOW CATHEDRAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your article on the ringing tour in Scotland and the North of England 40 years ago, in one paragraph you say a peal was lost at 'Glasgow Cathedral.'

This is not the case, as at Glasgow Cathedral there has only ever been one bell. If a peal was attempted in Glasgow during the tour then the attempt must have been made at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, which is a totally different building and is at the other end of the city.

I point this out to you and would be grateful if you would correct the error, as the confusion between these two buildings is the source of much inconvenience to visitors to our tower at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Glasgow.

W. H. PICKETT.

1214, Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow.

[No peal on the tour was attempted at Glasgow. We were misled by a statement in the contemporary Norwich Diocesan Association report.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.']

LONDON CHURCHES

OF THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY.

By Richard F. Deal.

The latter half of the eighteenth century saw great expansion in the area of the Metropolis, both north and south of the Thames, and existing places of worship became inadequate to deal with the spiritual needs of the rapidly increasing population. To overcome the difficulty, and as a token of thanksgiving for the victory of Waterloo, Parliament in the year 1818 voted £1,000,000 'for building churches in London and populous towns in the provinces.'

The circumstances were, in fact, similar to those which about a hundred years earlier led to the building of the 'Queen Anne' churches, of which a good number remain. Under the later scheme provision was made for between forty and fifty churches in the London area alone, and while this work was in progress some of the ancient parish churches were rebuilt, consequent upon their inconvenience or dilapidated condition.

At that time, architecture, like some of the other arts, had fallen into rather low water, and it must be admitted that the churches we are now considering, though generally of sound construction, are sadly lacking in interest when compared with the buildings of Wren and his followers. The high standard displayed in the work of the joiner, plasterer and carvers in wood and stone, which gave charm and interest to the earlier work, is no longer evident. Many of the Waterloo churches were designed by men like our friend, Mr. Gold, of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, architects 'otherwise unknown,' but some are the work of such eminent men as Sir John Soane, designer of the Bank of England, and Sir Robert Smirke, whose masterpiece is the British Museum.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century, the attention of our architects was directed to the monumental buildings of ancient Greece, and study of these and appreciation of their beauty influenced the design of many buildings of the time. Sometimes the Greek characteristics were closely followed, but very often Roman details (such as the arch, which was not known to the Greeks) were introduced. This hybrid style was used in most of the early nineteenth-century churches, the few exceptions being in Gothic based on work of the fifteenth century, usually called Perpendicular.

The requirements of bells and their ringers were as a rule indifferently met; the Graeco-Roman architecture did not lend itself to the design of broad and sturdy towers such as our art requires, and the ingenuity of the bell-hangers must have been severely taxed in disposing the bells in the inadequate spaces usually provided. But such defects in design do not trouble ringers if the bells can be made to go, and some of these towers have certain claims on our affections.

St. John's, Waterloo Road, St. George's, Camberwell, and Holy Trinity, Newington, were built about 1822-1824 from designs by Francis L. Bedford. The fourth church in this group, St. Luke's, Norwood, is the only one not provided with bells. It has the most graceful spire, and perhaps the most imposing portico, though the Corinthian order is of curious proportions. The interior has been reconstructed in a florid Romanesque style. At Waterloo and Camberwell, Mr. Bedford used a simplified Greek Doric order, which could have been improved by giving the cornices the conventional projection.

Ringing at Newington was discontinued many years ago, it is said through the opposition of the wife of a former incumbent. According to old ringers, the bells are of fair tone, but were not improved by amateur attempts to correct a defect in tuning.

St. Peter's, Walworth, was built 1823-1825 by Sir John Soane. There is little of interest in the church, which has a tiny tower of the pepper-box type, with eight bells, on which a great number of peals have been rung in spite of difficulties due to cramped conditions.

A year or two earlier, a very remarkable building was completed, the great Church of St. Pancras, Euston Road, said to be the first place of worship erected in England in strict Grecian style. The designer was William Inwood. He was assisted by his son, Henry William, who had travelled extensively in the East.

The proposal to build a new church for St. Pancras did not meet with general approval, and there were violent scenes at vestry meetings while it was under discussion. The foundation stone was laid in the presence of a distinguished company, on the first of July, 1819, by His Royal Highness Frederick, Duke of York, the expert London pickpockets seizing the opportunity to gather a rich harvest. The dedication was in May, 1822.

Outwardly, the church is an enlarged copy (with certain variations) of a famous temple, the Erechtheum at Athens. The steeple (an inappropriate addition) is modelled on another Grecian monument, the Athenian Temple, or Tower of the Winds, surmounted by the Cross in place of Triton, a figure of Greek mythology. The height is 165ft. The Ionic portico of six columns is the finest external feature. The church now has a rather gloomy and sepulchral appearance, due to the action of the London atmosphere, but no doubt it looked very fine when the Portland stone was new and clean.

I have little information about the bells, which were originally four by Thomas Mears; they were increased to eight (for chiming only) by John Warner and Sons about 1882. The tenor is said to be 30 cwt.

(To be continued.)

RICHARD DUCKWORTH

AND THE PARISH OF TOLLAND.

Mr. B. T. Jeanes writes that 20 years ago he was often in the village of Tolland, Somerset, an interesting place, off the beaten track, where there are three bells.

One of the old ringers told him that the first ringing parson was rector there, and had written a book on ringing. Mr. Jeanes enquired whether any copy still remained in the village, but could get no definite reply.

It is remarkable how the tradition that Duckworth had written the 'Tintinnalogia' lingered in strange places, while the Exercise as a whole thought that Stedman was the author.

HANDBELLS IN HOSPITAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Having recently returned from hospital, and being there during Christmas and New Year, I would like to bring forward to all handbell ringers the great pleasure that patients in hospitals and institutions would receive from handbell ringing at Christmas and New Year.

We thoroughly enjoyed the singing of Christmas carols, sung by a small choir along each floor of the hospital, and that was the only reminder that it was the Christmas season. It was a pleasure that I shall never forget, and I am sure that handbell ringing at Christmas would be appreciated by all those who are not able to be with their friends and families.

With best regards to all old friends.

E. WEATHERBY.

4511, Raymond Avenue, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

LEANING TOWERS.

By Ernest Morris.

(Continued from page 162.)

Lincolnshire has several examples of deviating towers and spires, the best known of course being Surfleet—home of those world-travelled ringers — Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson (not forgetting their daughter Enid); and the tower made famous by the late Rev. H. Law James.

At St. Lawrence's Church the tower and spire reaches a height of 120 feet, and it leans 6 feet 4 inches out of plumb. The probable cause of it going thus, was that they built two big buttresses on the west side to hold it up against the church. This, however, had the reverse effect. The added weight on that side pulled it over. The tower went before the spire was built. Had the spire been plumb with the tower it would have been approximately 13 feet over.

Originally there was a ring of five bells of varying dates from 1607 to 1694, and North, in his description, remarks that the third bell was cracked, and the belfry was in a dirty, unsatisfactory state.

This was all altered when the Rev. H. Law James became Vicar. With the aid of the village carpenter he patched up the wheels, and begged all ropes from his former parish; cleaned out the ball bearings, and generally put things in as good order as possible. Soon he got a local band together, and the next step was the addition of a sixth bell. Later, through the generosity of Mr. James, these were augmented to ten by the addition of four new trebles, thus making them the lightest ring of ten in the country (Loughborough Foundry tower excepted). On these bells many notable peals were performed both by local and visiting ringers.

In 1933 two further trebles were added as a memorial to this worthy Vicar, and so Surfleet possesses the lightest twelve in England, the tenor being 12 cwt. 9 lbs. The new bells were cast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. in mediæval style in like manner to the four trebles added in 1913, with lettering of the same kind. At the same time a memorial tablet, cast in bell metal, was placed in the belfry bearing the inscription:—

'The ring of ten bells hanging in this tower was augmented to twelve by the members and friends of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Change Ringers in affectionate remembrance of the Revd. Henry Law James, some time Master, and in appreciation of his work for the Guild and for the Art of ringing. 1933.'

Since this time peals in all Standard and some Surprise Methods have been rung here and Surfleet has become the 'home from home' to many visiting ringers either singly or in crowds.

At Pinchbeck and Spalding nearby both towers are leaning, and a local rhyme thus describes them:—

'Gosberton church is very high,
Surfleet church is all awry:
Pinchbeck church is in a hole,
And Spalding church is big with foal.'

Pinchbeck tower leans quite two feet out of the perpendicular and towards the west; while Spalding spire is some eighteen inches out of straight. Both possess rings of eight bells which are regularly rung. Spalding tower was built about 1360, and the spire probably in the first half of the fifteenth century. It leans distinctly towards the north-east, and became extremely unsafe towards the middle of the sixteenth century. The eastern arch of the tower was walled up to strengthen it in 1688. It received special attention at the restoration of the church in 1865-7, at which time it was said to be on the point of falling. In 1925 it was again deemed unsafe, so two concrete floors were then inserted, broken stones replaced, and the masonry grouted in several places.

The ring of eight bells (of various dates from 1629 to 1885) were recast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., rehung at a lower level, and a new clock provided. The bells were more than once the cause of dispute between the Priory of Spalding and the parishioners. The Priory agreed to provide two bells at the building of the church about 1284, which were not to be rung while the monks were in their dormitory. It appears, however, that the parishioners later obtained a dispensation from the Pope to break this agreement. The Prior thereupon appealed to the King (Henry IV.), the parishioners submitted an address (written in French) to the King in reply to the appeal, and the King referred the dispute for settlement to Henry de Beaufort, then Bishop of Lincoln (A.D. 1401). The Bishop's decision, unfortunately, does not seem to be known.

The total height of the tower and spire is over 150 feet.

Another Lincolnshire leaning tower is at St. Mary's Church, Cowbitt, where, although only 47 feet high, the tower leans twenty-three inches westward. The inside floor is a foot below the outside level, and the Vicar informs me that there were three bells here once, but now only two remain which are fixed on a beam. The old bell frame was rotten and removed some years ago.

Originally the tower had a candle-snuffer shaped thatched roof, but the present embattled roof was put on about 1885. The louvres of the bell chamber are made of slabs containing the Ten Commandments from the east wall of the church. The tower is nine feet square inside and remarkable for fine joints of masonry throughout. It was dated about 1480.

(To be continued.)

AN OLD LONDON RINGER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On seeing a peal recalled in Belfry Gossip rung at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, 109 years ago, it struck me that the conductor, Mr. Thomas Tolladay, must have been born quite near if not in the eighteenth century, yet I knew an old gentleman, Mr. E. J. Coombs, who knew him and frequently rang with him.

Mr. Coombs was well known to London ringers about 45 years ago. He used to be present at all St. James' Society practices at St. Clement Danes', and it was most interesting to hear him talk of the old days with Thomas Tolladay.

Mr. Coombs only rang one peal, that was one of Grandsire Triples at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields with him. He also had a young friend, and they were successful in ringing their first peal together. But Mr. Coombs was so thoroughly uncomfortable during the ringing that he resolved there and then that, successful or not, he would never again attempt another. He never did, but remained a ringer for the rest of his life, and I believe he was over 80 when he died. But his friend, on the other hand, went on until his name was one of the best known in England. He was Matthew A. Wood. I believe they at one time lived together in the Bethnal Green district.

ERNEST H. OXENHAM.

34, North Street, Bexleyheath, Kent.

VILLAGE BELLS.

Dear bells! How sweet the sound of village bells
When on the undulating air they swim
Now loud as welcomes, faint now as farewells,
And trembling all about the breezy dells
As fluttered by the wings of Cherubim.

—Hood.

A VISIT TO RUSSIA.

THE BELLS OF MOSCOW.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In 1934 my wife and I visited Moscow and spent nearly a week there. We were able to see two bells, the big one in the Kremlin and another big fellow outside Moscow. We also watched the mixed bathing in the Moskva river and I jumped off a parachute tower.

We joined the queue of sightseers in the Kremlin in charge of a lady Intourist guide and a Russian Army officer.

When we came to the Czar bell I silently detached myself, got inside it and took a few notes. These notes are not actually at my elbow now, so I am writing from memory. A large number of facts about the bell are well known. I noticed, however, that the rim has the flat surface on the inside like the bells at St. Augustine's, Kilburn. There are about a dozen major cracks, fairly equally spaced round the bell, running vertically down from the waist to the rim, but two of them very nearly meet at their upper ends.

If they had done so a second triangular piece would have split off bigger than the existing broken piece. There were two clappers, very badly shaped, lying inside the bell, but they did not appear to fit it in any way. A tower nearby did not seem to be big enough to take the bell, nor would any of the others have been big enough either as far as I could see. The lady guide gave several reasons for the bell being cracked, but not the correct one, which must, I think, have been a flaw in the casting process (see Canon Papillon in the 'Encyclopædia Britannica').

A DISAPPOINTING BELL.

The other bell, said to be the second largest in the world, is in actual use and is hung dead in a tower, which it completely occupies, in a former religious house 60 kilometres from Moscow. It is a lovely colour and is sounded by getting under and pulling the clapper with a short rope. The superintendent of this place, now a rest camp and barracks, very kindly sounded the bell for us and we retired outside about 30 yards to listen. The sound was disappointing as it was probably not hit hard enough. I sounded it myself with no better result. This bell has the flat rim inside. There was a lot of tarred rope at the top of the clapper shaft, but whether there was anything else holding it I do not know.

As we were coming away a Russian officer came up and asked Tania, our charming lady guide, for her telephone number, and she, later, firmly insisted that she gave him a false one. On the way home we passed a delightful limpid stream and I could not resist stopping and having a swim. I expected Tania to leap in as well, but she did not. Almost at that moment the soles of her shoes came off and this may have worried her. We gave the superintendent a lift for 20 kilometres and after that six or seven children, who all stood up in the car and became quite hysterical with joy, one little girl falling down flat on the floor screaming with laughter.

Going out over Russia our plane flew at 12 to 14,000ft. Planes come back at a few hundred feet, making flying real fun, and you can see people quite plainly coming out to look and horses and cows and hares scampering out of the way.

The villages are quite attractive, all log huts, no bricks or stone, nicely grouped with no metalled roads or pavements between them, just paths on the grass, like a forest village in England. The wells supplying the villages with water are lined with logs placed horizontally, and they are, therefore, square in section. The log huts came right up into the suburbs of Moscow. The appearance of the Russians was not improved by the widespread custom of shaving the head.

'BELLITIS.'

THE BELLS OF BATH.

In the eighteenth century whenever a visitor with money came to Bath the ringers would ring the Abbey bells, and the visitor was expected to pay half a guinea for the compliment.

'No city, dear mother, this city excels
In charming sweet sound both of fiddles and bells.
I thought like a fool that they only would ring
For a wedding, a judge, or the birth of a king:
But I found 'twas for me that the good-natured people
Rung so hard that I thought they would pull down the steeple;
So I took out my purse, as I hate to be shabby,
And paid all the men when they came from the Abbey.'

MEMORIES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was given recently a number of old 'Ringing Worlds' and while perusing them with keen interest I was very much taken with Mr. Morris' articles on detached towers, especially that of Woburn old St. Mary, whose bells were merged with the large tenor in the new church, of which Mr. H. D. Harris gave additional details in a later issue.

I am fast approaching 80 years of age and a native of Apsley Guise. It brought to my mind 60 years ago in 1883 when the Rev. A. C. Maltby installed a new peal of six bells there in lieu of an old peal of four.

I remember the interest taken in us by the late Mr. Charles Herbert, who compiled 'Church bells of Bedfordshire,' and the help we received from him in acquiring the art of change ringing. How vividly I recall, too, tramping over to the old tower at Woburn full of zeal, sometimes not finding enough to ring. On these occasions we would retire to Mr. Herbert's house for handbells or some music by his sons, Cyril and Ernest plodding home again at all hours, but like the man and woman tramping to London, 'blithe and hearty (?) were we.' The late Canon W. W. C. Baker, whose home was a mile or two away, frequently came to Apsley Guise to give us a hand.

Some Saturdays Charlie Clarke and Isaac Hills would come from Bedford. Also the late Jim Frossell. It is one of my regrets that I did not know in later years he was steeplekeeper at Kingston-on-Thames, as I lived for a short time at Hampton Court and would have loved to have seen him again. Mr. W. Turney, too, was a bulwark with the handbells.

I left Bedfordshire 50 years ago and spent many years at sea, when I was forced to neglect the art. I have heard bells at Melbourne and other overseas towers, but circumstances prevented me from taking part.

During a spell ashore at Newport, Mon, in 1902, I took up ringing again and rang my first 5,000 on a new peal of bells there, which Mr. W. Coombes, of Cardiff and Llandaff, conducted. Mr. J. W. Jones was also one of the band.

I have not been in the district I am now living very long, but have received every assistance from men whose names are household words in the Exercise as well as the tower. A wound in my right shoulder received while serving in a minesweeper during the last war handicaps me somewhat; nevertheless, my happiest hours until the ban were spent in the belfry. Taken all round, the ringing fraternity is unique for comradeship. I was able to take part again on the two occasions recently we were permitted to ring, and I look forward to that pleasure again, I hope, in the near future.

I fear that most of my contemporaries have passed away, but would like to know if Mr. Ernest Herbert is still alive. I visited Mr. Cyril a few months before his death. He, like his father, was a generous host. I also saw Mr. Ernest at the same time.

I wish Mr. Harris every good wish, but fear that most of his dear ones at Aston, Birmingham, whom I remember in 1894, have passed away.

Browsing through these 'Ringing Worlds,' often until 2 a.m., I have revisited and lived in the past, and from now on I intend becoming a regular subscriber.

All honour and respect to many old associates passed away, and the most delightful memories of the late Mr. Herbert and his sons.

I enclose my name and address, but prefer to sign myself

'MARINER.'

PLAIN BOB AND GRANDSIRE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I like your leading article in the April 2nd issue, which prompts me to write on a matter on which I have held very strong views during a good many years past.

I have often wondered why, in some parts of the country, a beginner is taught Plain Bob as his first method and in other districts Grandsire seems to hold so much sway.

I have noticed that in East Anglia a young ringer is first of all taught Plain Bob, but in other counties excepting Yorkshire we find bands practising Grandsire.

In East Anglia a greater variety of methods can be obtained, while in other counties, apart from the crack bands, one generally cannot get beyond Grandsire.

This fact seems to me very significant indeed.

C. W. PIPE.

Grundisburgh, Suffolk.

THE MUSIC OF BELLS.—Bells, the music bordering nearest heaven.—Charles Lamb.

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NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

' The Ringing World ' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

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

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 17th, at the Griff Colliery Club and Institute, Heath End Road, Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton. Tea provided (at approximately 1s. 9d. a head) at 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting and social evening.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Sefton on Saturday, April 17th. Tower bells, with fixed clappers, from 3 o'clock. Handbells will be provided and cups of tea. Please bring a little food. Short service at 5 o'clock, followed by the meeting.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Ampthill Road, Liverpool 17.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Syston on Saturday, April 17th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting near church at 5 p.m.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 24th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. —A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — A joint meeting will be held at Ticknall on Saturday, April 24th. Silent tower bells (6) at 3.30. Tea in School at 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. Will members take own eatables and sugar? Cups of tea provided. Handbells before and after meeting.—W. Lancaster and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch. — The annual meeting, Cookham, on Saturday, April 24th. Bells (silent) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea for those who notify me by April 19th. Business meeting to follow. Subscriptions now due. Annual reports can be obtained at meeting. — A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans, on Saturday, May 1st. Silent ringing at St. Peter's tower at 2.30 p.m. Choral evensong in the Cathedral 4 p.m. Preacher, Rev. D. Bickerton, Vicar of Redbourn. Tea and annual meeting at Waterend Barn, 5.30. Those who require tea must notify secretary not later than April 30th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held in the tower of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 1st. Handbells 3.30 p.m. Address by the Vicar of Brighton.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Gen. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on May 1st. Meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House 3 p.m. Evensong 4 p.m. ' Silent ' ringing on the Cathedral bells during the afternoon and evening. Will all members please make own arrangements for tea?—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — The annual general meeting will be held at Norwich on Saturday, May 1st. St. Giles' bells (silent) 1.45 p.m. Handbells in Cathedral 2.45 to 3. Evensong in Cathedral 3. Preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Tea and meeting at Cathedral Restaurant 4.15. Names for tea must be sent to me by April 26th. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, May 1st. The tower of Croydon Parish Church will be open for handbell ringing at 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at the Parish Hall, Sylverdale Road, followed by business meeting. Please notify Mr. D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon, for tea, not later than April 27th. Nominations for general officers to reach me at least 14 days before the meeting.—C. de Ste C. Parks, Assistant Sec., 44, Torridge Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Annual meeting at Leicester (not Burton), Saturday, May 1st. Bells of St. John's (10), near Midland Station, and Cathedral (12) open for silent ringing, 2 p.m. to 4.45. Committee meet 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by general meeting, in Cathedral Church House. Handbells, etc., afterwards. Only those who notify me by April 28th can be accommodated for tea at reasonable price. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—Saturday, May 1st, at St. Peter's, Colchester. Handbells in the belfry 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 4.15 p.m. at Crispen Court. Bring own food.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., 113a, Great Thurlow, Suffolk.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, South Parade, Leeds, on Saaturday, May 1st, at 3 p.m. A social evening on the same premises from 6-8.30 p.m. Handbells available. Tea obtainable at the many city cafes. Reports will be available, and subscriptions are now due. — L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District. —A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Epsom, on Easter Monday, April 26th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Christ Church Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to be sent to Mrs. Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey, by Wednesday, April 21st. —D. Cooper, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at St. James' Schoolroom, Cardiff, on Easter Monday, April 26th, at 3 o'clock. — J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., Cartref, Alteryn View, Newport, Mon.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting is postponed until the summer.—Kitty Willers, Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

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