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A. GOLDSMITH MEMORIAL.

At the annual meeting of the Guildford Diocesan Guild reference was made to the sanctus bell, which the guild has undertaken to provide for the new Cathedral, and it was decided that the bell should be made the association's memorial to John Sparkes Goldsmith.

Nothing could be fitter. The provision of the bell was one of the things which greatly interested Goldsmith, and it is the only way in which a prominent ringer of the diocese can be commemorated in the Cathedral by something which is distinctly connected with the ringers' art. The installation of any ringing bell is not now possible, nor will be for a very long time, for the great central tower is not yet built.

We therefore welcome the project and wish it every success. But the thought arises: Why should the scheme be confined to the Guildford Diocese? Would it not be better to make it a national memorial in which the whole Exercise can have part?

There is a good deal to be said for and against. John Goldsmith belonged to the whole Exercise, and every ringer will be anxious to honour his memory. But he belonged to the Guildford Diocesan Guild in a very special way. He lived and worked in the diocese. He was one of the founders of the guild. He was for many years its secretary, and when he died he was a vice-president. We cannot wonder that the guild desires to have its own memorial to him.

That desire must be respected. In any case, the scheme, begun by the Guildford Guild, must be left in its hands, and even if it is found possible to expand it into a national memorial, it must not cease to be a Guildford memorial.

Can this be done? We think it can, and with advantage to everybody. While the war lasts nothing definite will be settled, and of course the consent and co-operation of the Cathedral authorities would have to be obtained. The one important thing now is to collect money.

We suggest that the officers and committee of the guild should consider the matter, and, if they approve, should issue a formal appeal to all ringers for subscriptions. They can make it clear that they are not committed to any detailed scheme. That must come later. What they want to do is to be in a financial position to launch a scheme at the proper time.

For it must not be forgotten that when peace comes the provision of new bells is not likely to be an easy thing for some time. We do not doubt that the founders will have

(Continued on page 274.)

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many orders, as they had after the last war, but things will not be quite the same. There will be a world shortage of raw material and metals, and especially of tin, for Malaya, which was the greatest producer of tin, has been for long in enemy hands, and when it is recovered the mines will probably be wrecked. This will mean not only delay but also high prices. That in itself is a good reason why the Guildford Diocesan Guild should extend the scope of its appeal.

That the Exercise will desire to have some way of showing its respect for the memory of John Goldsmith and its gratitude for the services he gave, we are sure. In a real sense his memorial must be 'The Ringing World,' and its support and maintenance must have the first claim on the Exercise; but ringers have other and less altruistic motives for supporting this journal, and it will not be a bad thing if there is a memorial from which they can expect no personal or selfish advantages.

ST. MARGARET'S, LEICESTER.

A NEW HISTORY.

Among the chief architectural glories of England are her ancient parish churches. Other countries have large and magnificent churches, and some of them like those in Italy and Belgium, possess art treasures far beyond any of our cathedrals, but the parish churches of England are unequalled elsewhere.

These buildings are not only very fine examples of architecture, they represent the life of the people, and the story of the growth of this country is to be read in their stories. That story goes back for fifteen hundred years, and though many of the present buildings may not be more than four or five hundred years old, they are usually the successors and heirs of far older churches, and in almost every case they bear visible marks of the activities, the tastes and the opinions of successive generations. There are few parishes whose history is not centred in and expressed by its parish church.

That being so, it was inevitable that men who value the past life of their home districts should seek to tell its story, and in increasing numbers the histories of parish churches all over the country have been written and published by men who have devoted much time, patience and loving care to the task.

One of these books has just appeared. It concerns the ancient Church of St. Margaret, Leicester, and is the work of Mr. Ernest Morris, who, by inclination and through the opportunities afforded by his official position, is well qualified for the job.

The book, which is of 28 pages, tells a story which begins with a timber church built about the year 656 by Bishop Diuma, and follows the fortunes of the various buildings which succeeded it, first a Saxon church, and then by reconstruction and addition through alterations which finally created the building as it is now.

But the fabric itself is not the only thing dealt with by Mr. Morris. He describes some of the old customs of the parish and relates some incidents. He gives an account of the church fittings and ornaments, and mentions several distinguished men who have been rectors. Finally he discusses St. Margaret's claim to be the cathedral of the ancient See of Leicester, and concludes that 'St. Margaret's was always the Bishop's Church or Cathedral and its parish the Bishop's See. No other church in Leicester has—or could have—claimed this distinction.'

Mr. Morris' book is published at 1s., and the profits will go to the Church Maintenance Fund. It may be obtained of the author at his address, 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

AN ARCHDEACON OF BELLRINGING.

A week or two ago the Archdeacon of Wrexham paid his annual visitation to Wrexham, when he spoke to representatives of the churches in the Archdeaconry. In the course of his address he said:—

'When passing through Wrexham on the Sunday when the bells were first rung during this war, I was much impressed by the number of young people about listening, some perhaps for the first time, to church bells being pealed. It occurs to me that to-day there is a great opportunity to interest youth in this fascinating art of bell-ringing. Without necessarily clanging bells, it is possible to teach people how to use and ring them. There must be here and there a great number of old ringers who could devote some of their time in helping in this way, and lessons could be given, not only in belfries, but preliminary ones at any rate with handbells in country places, and there probably will be a great dearth of ringers after the war.'

HATFIELD.—On Sunday, June 6th, for evening service, 500 Stedman Triples: J. T. Kentish (conductor) 1, T. J. Lock 2, D. Ellingham 3, A. Shepherd 4, W. Nash 5, A. R. Lawrence 6, A. Lawrence 7, L. F. Cull 8

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

SALEHURST, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
(HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.)

On Saturday, June 19, 1943, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

EDWARD AVERY Treble	JAMES G. POWELL 5
ARCHIBALD STEVENSON ... 2	JOHN DOWNING 6
WILLIAM H. HOAD 3	WILLIAM GORRINGE 7
GEORGE KING 4	ALBERT HOAD Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM GORRINGE,

Rung to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the weddings of Messrs. King and Hoad, captain and vice-captain of the local band.

SIX BELL PEALS.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Monday, June 14, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 Canterbury, 720 Plain Bob and 3,600 Grandsire in various callings. Tenor 6½ cwt.

MRS. M. E. DENNIS Treble	WILLIAM A. WOOD 4
PTE. J. H. BAILLES, A.M.P.C. 2	HENRY BIRD 5
GUNNER F. BAILLES, R.A. 3	FREDERICK WATSON Tenor

Conducted by HENRY BIRD.

Rung on the anniversary of the dedication of the bells and as a compliment to the ringer of the treble, as owing to the ban no peal could be rung on her wedding day.

TICKNALL, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 19, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's called differently. Tenor 11½ cwt.

HORACE HOUGH Treble	WILLIAM A. PARSONS... .. 4
JOSEPH HULSE 2	WILLIAM LANCASTER 5
WILLIAM H. CURSON... .. 3	JACK BAILEY... .. Tenor

Conducted by JACK BAILEY.

Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to Mr. John Hough, who was interred at Melbourne on Saturday, June 5th.

CHATTERIS, CAMBS.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 19, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of two 720's Plain Bob, two 720's Oxford Treble Bob and three 720's Kent Treble Bob, each called differently.

PERCY SMITH Treble	WALTER JARVIS 4
WILLIAM SEEKINGS 2	ERNEST WAKELING 5
STANLEY MURPHY 3	FRANK WARRINGTON Tenor

Conducted by FRANK WARRINGTON.

DAYBROOK, NOTTS.—On Sunday, May 30th, at the Church of St. Paul, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Paling 1, Miss I. B. Thompson 2, T. Groombridge, jun. (conductor) 3, W. H. Johnson, V.C. 4, C. W. Towers 5, F. Bradley 6, J. H. Barratt 7, R. Ward 8. Rung on the conductor's birthday.

CHIMING HYMN TUNES.

WHAT NOT TO DO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I hope Mr. J. W. Dyer's advice will not be followed in one thing. He says that when there are half notes, or higher or lower notes than the bells, you can substitute other notes within the octave.

That should never be done. If the tune requires notes which you have not got on the bells, then leave it alone. Confine yourself to tunes which are within the major scale, there are plenty of them, quite enough for ordinary requirements.

The people who hear a familiar tune altered, even when it is musically correct, are only irritated, and say nasty things about the man who is doing it. Leave tunes like 'Abide with me,' which has an accidental, or the National Anthem, or the example Mr. Dyer gives, 'Fight the good fight,' which go below the tenor, alone.

If the chimner cannot read musical notation from a hymn book, he can easily get his organist, or some other person, to write out familiar hymns by numbers. He should never attempt to chime a tune he does not know himself. If he knows the tune he can play the time and the expression correctly by how he knows it should be played, and without any special markings on his paper.

One thing is important. Have the ropes of the chiming hammers properly adjusted, so that the chiming can be done easily, regularly and, if necessary, fairly rapidly.

CHARLES GREEN.

EXPERIENCE AND ADVICE.

Dear Sir,—I agree with Mr. Smith that some of our best hymn tunes cannot be played, and perhaps my own experience may be of interest to Mr. A. C. Webber.

I have worked out many hymn tunes from the tonic so fa system, and I number the tenor 8 and the treble 1. I am assuming, of course, that Mr. Webber has eight bells. I then practise them over on the piano and also I am fortunate to have a set of handbells which I also can practise on. When I play a hymn tune I also sing it, and one gets the time and makes a better job, but one often finds that it does not matter how much one practises, you are sure to strike a wrong bell.

I do not understand music, and if one is musical I think that you can put up a good show if one keeps on and perseveres, also most towers have a set of handbells, and if you put them on the cleaner's broom handle you can practise and find out what tunes will fit the bells you are playing on. Some readers will say that my way is very crude, but personally I don't think there is any royal road to success. One must love bells and also be musical, and with practice I think Mr. A. C. Webber will soon master it.

I find that it is difficult, owing to the calls of national service, for bells to be rung every Sunday, and we have to depend on the chiming apparatus to fill the gap. Some time ago, about 1938, I used to chime for a children's service at 6 p.m. on a Wednesday evening, and I missed twice, and I was very surprised to find that the public missed the hymn tunes, and enquired from the Vicar, 'Where was the person who was playing the bells?' I was greatly surprised and really did not think that anyone really listened to the bells. There is a large public who like hymn tunes, but, personally, I prefer the actual ringing.

Every Sunday many people leave Carmarthen to spend a few hours at Ferryside, and at 5.30 p.m. they would listen to the beautiful octave of Mears and Stainbank's bells of Llanstephen coming across the water. These bells are chimed and ringing has ceased for some years. Morris, in his great work, 'History of Change Ringing,' says that when the Ancient Society of College Youths opened these bells in 1875 this was their first visit to Wales.

Many people sing the hymns with the bells, and think it a wonderful experience to hear the tunes. I wish Mr. Webber all success, and, whatever the critics say, there is no denying that the public do like to hear hymn tunes on the bells.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

DEATH OF MR. F. GOOSEY.

The death is announced of Mr. F. Goosey, sen., who had been a ringer at Mears Ashby, Northampton, for more than 40 years. He was 76 years of age.

At the funeral on June 4th several six-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung half-muffled on the church bells.

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THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from page 271.)

THE TRADITIONAL SHAPE OF THE BELL.

We have now reproduced the first of the two articles which form Canon Simpson's book on bell tuning—the one in which he states his general argument—and before we give the second, in which he goes into details, it may be well to offer some comments. In doing so we disclaim any expert or technical knowledge either of music or of bell tuning; our standpoint is that of the ordinary people who listen to and hear the bells.

It may seem, perhaps, that any comment is really superfluous. Simpson's theories have been put to the test and, during half a century, experience has shown that they are sound. Every bell which goes from Loughborough, or Croydon, or Whitechapel, is a justification of his views, and a proof of their truth.

That is so; but it does not follow that all the arguments on which he based his conclusions are sound, or that all he says carries conviction; still less that his theories cover the whole of the ground.

Simpson begins by saying that every true bell should give out a fundamental note, its third, fifth and octave above, and its octave below. This, he says, was the theory before the minds of the original designers of the present form of bell, but later founders, through ignorance or indifference, either for convenience in ringing or some other reason, fell short of the ideal and produced bells which are faulty in tune.

Now it is impossible to say definitely what was in the minds of people who lived four or five hundred years ago. We can only surmise. Some reasons there must have been to induce them to fix on the general shape of the bell with which we are familiar; it could hardly have been due to mere chance. But, whatever the reason, we feel quite sure that founders did not consciously and deliberately adopt this form, because it gave certain sought-after musical effects. It was the best form they knew of. It answered the purposes they had in view. But it was not adopted as the result of experiments and investigations, and in the proper sense of the word it was not 'designed' at all. How, then, did the traditional form of church bells come into use?

If we want to trace the bell to its ultimate origin, we must go back to the twilight of human history. The first metal that man made use of was not a simple metal like iron, but an alloy composed of copper and tin. It is rather curious that it should have been so, but the fact is generally accepted by those who speak with authority. For centuries bronze was used for a great variety of purposes. One of the things that those early men found out naturally and inevitably, was that an empty cup made of bronze, when struck, will give out a pleasant sound, and as soon as that discovery was made there was the original bell. Early man combined copper and tin in different proportions to suit his different needs, and he soon discovered, roughly, which of the proportions would give the best and most musical sound.

The early development of the bell was bound to be very slow and gradual. It was hampered by the difficulties of casting and the scarcity of metal. But as soon as men began to emerge from barbarism they were using bells much as they have used them during the ages that followed. In China and the ancient civilisations of the East

very large bells were cast, and they did not differ from the primitive inverted metal cup except in size.

So far as our own English bells and those of Northern Europe are concerned, though they were a development of the universal bell, we may say that their history begins somewhat over a thousand years ago. They, too, were primarily instruments for making a noise, but more attention was paid to the quality of the noise, and in course of time they reached the stage of development when they can be classed as musical instruments, and, later still, they were cast and tuned so they could be rung together in harmony. The most important development and the chief thing which distinguishes European bells from those of the East is the thickening of the metal towards the edge, which is called the sound-bow.

All this was a gradual process spread over many years. Exact dates cannot be given, but it is pretty certain that it was somewhere about the fourteenth century when the custom of ringing several bells 'in peal' began, and it was during the fifteenth century that rings of five became common in parish churches all over the country. By that time the traditional shape had been adopted, and there is sufficient evidence that great attention was paid to tuning, so that the notes of the bells should be in accord with each other.

Canon Simpson thought that the two things were closely related and that the founders deliberately made their bells in a certain form because they aimed at getting the three principal notes in perfect octaves, and knew that this was the proper way to do it. It sounds plausible, but it cannot be correct.

It is no doubt true that every founder aimed at getting the best possible musical result, and copied, as far as he could, what he thought were the good points in other bells, and omitted or modified what he thought were bad points. In that way the shape of the bell was gradually altered, but we are convinced that the factor which finally determined the matter was the endeavour to find the most graceful form for the bell.

At first sight that may not seem very likely. It may be said that the founders knew quite well that the object of a bell is to sound well, not to look well; and, like sensible men, they would concentrate on the first and let the other take its chance. So we might think, but there is plenty of evidence that it was not so.

It will hardly be disputed that the traditional form of English bells is about the most graceful that can be designed. We need only to compare it with the bells of China and the East, or with the shape of the bells that artists usually draw, to see that. And we have abundant evidence that the founders did devote the utmost care and pains to the appearance of their bells. In some cases, and especially on the Continent, they almost covered them with elaborate decorations, though they knew quite well that scarcely anyone would ever see them. H. R. Haweis, it will be remembered, used, in the articles we lately reproduced, his utmost powers to stress the artistry of the Belgian founders, in contrast with their English contemporaries, whose bells are comparatively free from decoration. But Haweis forgot that the true beauty of a bell depends (apart from its sound) on its form. Ornamentation, however elaborate, can never make an ugly bell beautiful, but form unadorned can be a thing of beauty and a joy for ever.

That the founders, being natural artists, did pay great attention to the form of their bells, we cannot doubt. But, of course, they were business men, too. They knew that the principal thing which mattered was how the bell sounded, not how it looked. They knew that how it sounded depended very largely on its shape, and they certainly would have altered the shape to improve the sound, if they had known how to do so. But they did not know. They knew, when they were fashioning the strickles which settled the shape of the bell, how it would look; but they did not know, until they heard it, how it would sound. All they had to guide them was their knowledge of other bells, and that for the purpose of making improvements was very superficial.

A modern founder who wished to improve his bells would make elaborate experiments based on exact knowledge and calculations. No such thing was possible to the old men. They could not design and cast a number of bells and then compare the results. The cost alone would have prohibited it. Nor had they the instruments to enable them to measure the shapes and notes of the bells which already hung in the steeples.

The form of a bell depends almost entirely on two curves, one for the outside, the other for the inside. These two curves are settled by the templates or strickles which shape the mould, and in making the strickles the founders undoubtedly did aim at beauty of curve. It is significant that the time when the traditional form of the bell was settled was the time when the curve more dominated art than at any other period in England and Northern Europe. It was the middle period of Gothic architecture which owes its excellence to the beauty of the curved line in arch and tracery. The supremacy of

the curve did not last for very long. In France it was lost in extravagance. In England it gave way to the supremacy of colour, and tracery in window, and on wall and screen, instead of being an end in itself, became the frame for coloured glass and mural painting. But meanwhile the form of the bell had been evolved...

Thus (as we believe) the founders, seeking the most graceful form of the bell, found that which is approximately the best for tone producing. They were not the first nor the last men who, by aiming at one perfection, discovered another; nor need we wonder at it, for the principles of art are general.

Once the standard form of the bell had been discovered the founders did not seek to alter it. It gave them what they wanted, and it was handed down through the ages from father to son, and from master to apprentice, not only by the bells which hung in the steeples, but also, and chiefly, by the strickles which were preserved for generations and closely copied when they needed renewal. The difference between the quality of the work done by different men was not a difference of methods and designs, but the difference between the work done by a good and competent craftsman and that by one more slovenly or less able.

(To be continued.)

TEACHING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Allow me to congratulate the writer of the leading article in 'The Ringing World' this week, but may I suggest that the following be added to it:—

That a learner should be shown the bell while in motion and that it should be explained to him when the bell is at hand stroke and back and that he should be shown the different positions of the rope and how the bell sets on the stay and slider.

I have always found this most helpful to those that I have taught to handle a bell.

JOHN H. B. HESSE.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Those members of the Lancashire Association who wish to visit the tower of Liverpool Cathedral should be at the works entrance to-morrow not later than half-past five.

Sixty years ago last Monday, Mr. Joseph Griffin called Holt's Six-part peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent.

Sixty years ago to-morrow the Ipswich company rang 5,059 changes of Grandsire Cinques. Mr. Robert H. Brundle rang the third.

Fifty years ago last Tuesday Mr. C. L. Routledge called the first peal of Superlative Surprise Major on the bells of Hexham Abbey.

Fifty years ago yesterday Mr. William Short called a peal of Double Oxford Bob Major at Kidderminster. Mr. William H. Barber rang the treble.

On June 20th, 1756, a peal of Catharan's Tripples was rung at St. Peter-at-Arches, Lincoln. It was John Garthons's peal of Grandsire Triples, and the conductor, John Foster, was one of the band who rang the first peal of Stedman Triples, at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, in 1731. St. Peter-at-Arches has been pulled down and the bells removed to another steeple.

The College Youths rang 6,016 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Battersea on November 20th, 1790. Israel Johnson was the conductor.

William Pye called the first peal in eight Spliced Surprise Major methods, at Willesden on June 21st, 1932. The methods were London, Rutland, Cambridge, Bristol, Superlative, New Gloucester, Norfolk and Yorkshire.

On June 23rd 1882, a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Alkmund's, Derby, by the Derby and Districts Association, which shortly afterwards became the Midland Counties Association.

A famous prize ringing contest was held at Flixton on June 24th, 1808. There is a rather interesting story about this match, and we may tell it one of these days.

The only peal on more than twelve bells as yet rung was one of Stedman Sextuples by the Birmingham men on June 24th, 1922. Mr. Albert Walker rang 3-4 and conducted.

Samuel Thomas, a well-known Sheffield ringer, died on June 24th, 1924.

The first peal of Wigston Surprise Major was rung at Wigston on June 24th, 1933, and the first peal of Fulbeck Bob Major by the Norwich Diocesan Association on June 24th, 1939.

Taunton bells were opened and a peal of Stedman Caters rung on June 25th, 1885. The peal was afterwards withdrawn.

To-day is Mr. Isaac Emery's birthday.

The peal of Superlative rung at Bennington in 1855 (mentioned last week) had not the extent with the tenors together, and so far, we believe, a peal with that quality has not been accomplished.

CAPT. FREDERICK G. COLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Will you please allow me a small space to acknowledge the very large number of letters received from ringing friends, sending their condolences on the death of my son, Capt. F. G. Coles, M.C., who was recently killed in action in Tunisia.

The news of his award, followed by his promotion, the report as missing, and news of his death, came so quickly in succession that I feel it impossible adequately to reply to everybody, and I trust they will accept this brief acknowledgment.

A letter from his Commanding Officer, recently received, speaks of him as a very fine officer and brave soldier, whom he hoped would have gone still higher. He added that his opinion was shared by the Brigade Commander, who personally conveyed to him (the C.O.) his regrets on hearing of my son's death.

My wife and I wish to thank our many friends for their sympathy.

C. T. COLES.

Higams Park, E.4.

MR. FREDERICK J. TILLET.

On May 27th, Mr. Frederick J. Tillett completed 62 years' service with Messrs. Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies, the well-known engineering firm of Ipswich. He has received the following letter from the directors:—

'To-day marks the anniversary of a remarkably long period of continuous service on your part in the employment of this firm—a period extending over no less than 62 years, which is a record in the annals of Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies.

'The directors wish to congratulate you upon this fine record, during which you have consistently and continually displayed ability as a craftsman, and thought for the interests of your firm.

'It is the earnest hope of the directors that for some time to come you may be able to continue in their service and enjoy good health.

'To mark the completion of this long period of service, which you have good reason to be proud of, they ask your acceptance of 25 National Savings Certificates, which I have pleasure in handing to you with this letter.'

Mr. Tillett has an equally long and distinguished record in the Exercise, and ringers everywhere will add their congratulations.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**MEETING AT LONG SUTTON.**

The quarterly meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Long Sutton on Whit Monday, and ringers were present from Spalding, Pinchbeck, Surfleet, Gosberton, Donington, Deeping St. Nicholas, Whaplode, Holbeach, Fleet, Gedney, Algar-kirk, Boston, Grantham, Doncaster and Terrington. In the absence of the president (the Rev. E. C. Gee), the Rev. Cuthbert Powell, Vicar of Long Sutton, was chairman; he was also elected an honorary member of the Guild.

Five ringing members were elected, Messrs. G. A. Coleman, H. Carbutt and S. R. Mumby, of Long Sutton, and Messrs. George and Fred Pearson, of Donington.

The Guild Master, Mr. R. Richardson, congratulated the branch on maintaining a high membership, the number being almost the same as before the ban. Other branches had diminished, some as much as 50 per cent.

Mr. King, of Grantham, spoke of the lowering of the bells of Great Hale for retuning and rehanging, which is being done at his expense by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. and Mrs. Harrison and the Misses Harrison for providing the tea, and light refreshment for those who forgot to bring their own, and to the Rev. Cuthbert Powell for conducting the service and giving an excellent address.

Ringling during the evening included methods from Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise Major.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**ANNUAL MEETING AT THRAPSTON.**

Over eighty members were present at the twentieth annual meeting of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild at Thrapston on Whit Monday.

The service in church was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. R. S. Mundy, who gave an address on bells and their uses through the ages. The business meeting in the Girl Guide Hall was presided over by the Master, the Rev. E. S. Powell, who was supported by the Ven. C. J. Grimes (Archdeacon of Northampton), Mrs. Powell, Canon Luckock, the Rev. W. R. M. Chaplin, the Rev. D. A. Jones and Mr. W. Rose (chairmen of branches), Messrs. A. Bigley, H. Baxter, W. R. Butcher and W. H. Waldron (branch secretaries), Mr. H. Chambers (Central Council representative) and Mr. R. G. Black (general secretary).

The Chairman referred to the awakening interest in ringing since the lifting of the ban. He had found that owing to the length of the ban and the fact that people in the country as a whole realised what they had missed, there was more willingness to learn change ringing than he could remember for a great number of years. It was a very difficult time and it was not easy to teach learners, but they had an opportunity which was not likely to be repeated, and he appealed to them to make the best use of it. They regretted they had lost their president, the Dean of Peterborough, who has left the diocese, and the position was, therefore, vacant.

On the proposition of Mr. B. P. Morris, seconded by Mr. H. Goakes, the Archdeacon of Northampton was unanimously elected.

The new president said that if he was not an expert ringer he was very keen on ringing and he believed in its value to the Church. He hoped to take part in their ringing and share in their social gatherings.

The Master and general secretary were both re-elected, the latter for the eighteenth time.

The general secretary moved a vote of thanks to the Rector of Thrapston, the organist and to Mr. G. W. Jeffs, Ringing Master of the Thrapston Branch, and everyone who had assisted towards the success of the meeting. Mr. F. Barber moved a vote of thanks to the general secretary for his services throughout the year.

Apologies were received from the Rev. — Norcock, Messrs. S. G. Munton, J. C. Dean, T. Tebbutt, E. C. Lambert and G. Basford.

A variety of methods were rung up to Surprise Major, one course of Superlative being very good.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT NEWHALL.**

At a meeting of the Burton District of the Midland Counties Association, held at St. John's, Newhall, on June 12th, about 24 members were present from Derby Cathedral and St. Peter's, Ashby, Measham, Overseal, Netherseale, Ticknall and the local company. A welcome visitor was Sgt. John Hough, of the Canadian Forces.

Various touches were brought round before tea, which was partaken of on the Vicarage lawn. The Vicar, the Rev. J. D. Hooley, presided at the short meeting which followed. Reference was made to the death of Mr. John Hough, who for many years had been a prominent member of the Newhall band.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Measham on July 24th. Mr. W. H. Curson proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar for presiding and for the use of the bells, and to the members of the Mothers' Union for preparing the cups of tea.

The tower was revisited and touches in the following methods were brought round: Double Court, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob Minor, Stedman and Grandsire Doubles, with rounds for the beginners.

ST. PETER'S, BOURNEMOUTH.**WHITSUNTIDE MEETING.**

On the Saturday before Whit Sunday a very successful meeting at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, was attended by upwards of forty members of the Winchester and Salisbury Diocesan Guilds from Christchurch, Ringwood, Milford, Sopley, Poole and Bournemouth (St. John's and St. Peter's). Mr. George Williams, Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, was unable to attend, and apologies were received from Messrs. L. J. Lockyer (Wimborne) and W. C. Shute. The methods rung during the afternoon were Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain and Double Norwich Court Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, and some very good Cambridge Major in spite of the fact that the course was not completed.

Striking varied, some was of a high standard, but opportunity was given to any learner who wished to try something, so that a little bad striking resulted; this was kept within bounds.

Evensong at 5.30 was fully choral, and tea followed in the hall, generously provided by two ladies interested in the local band.

Canon Hedley Burrows, the Vicar, talked to the ringers after tea and said he felt that the bells that afternoon had conveyed a message of hope and encouragement to many in spite of everything. It was almost like peace time, for the telephone had brought the inevitable complaint just after 4 p.m. Fortunately he knew the 'type' of complaint and complainer and could deal with it accordingly. He also knew of many hundreds who were glad to hear the bells once again. He had discussed the question of practice with his 'captain of bells' and was glad to think that the ringers themselves felt that (for a time, at any rate) practice should be very much curtailed. St. Peter's was in the middle of a town which had suffered enemy attack, and while he would not say 'No practice,' he suggested that the ringers might be able to get practice at some of the better placed towers until times were more normal. No reasonable request, however, would be refused at St. Peter's.

A discussion showed that the feeling of the ringers themselves was with Canon Burrows in the matter, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to him for his services to the Exercise in general and to the local bands in particular.

The Vicar presented a copy of 'The Ringers' Handbook' to each of the six recruits to St. Peter's tower after four of them had rung a course of Grandsire Triples 'in hand.' These young people can each take a pair of handbells in courses of Grandsire Triples or Doubles and are making excellent progress in the matter of managing a tower bell.

Handbell ringing concluded a very successful meeting, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples being rung and a course of Kent Treble Bob Major. Among the Guild officers present were Mr. George Preston, the Rev. C. A. Phillips and Mr. F. W. Townsend. Mr. A. F. Martin Stewart, past Master of Salisbury Guild, and Messrs. V. Bottomley (Halifax) and H. B. Warne (Portsmouth) were also present.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HOWDEN.**

The annual meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Howden on Saturday, June 12th, and was attended by about 30 ringers and friends from Eastington, Goole, Headingley, Hemingbrough, Hessle, Hull, Kirk Ella, Pontefract, Rotherham, Selby, Sherburn-in-Elmet, York and the local company, as well as by Mr. P. J. Johnson, vice-president of the association, and Mrs. Johnson.

The service in church was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. Waring, and the address was given by the Rev. T. Bottomley, Vicar of Newport.

Tea in the Manor House Cafe was followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Vicar of Howden, who gave the association a hearty welcome. The retiring officers, Messrs. E. Bradley, Ringing Master, and R. B. Smith, A. B. Cook and W. Pearson, committeemen, were re-elected. Mr. Allan Sheppard and Mr. Fred Thornton, of Sherburn-in-Elmet, were elected members. Sherburn-in-Elmet was selected as the next place of meeting, to be held on the Saturday before August Bank Holiday.

Mr. P. J. Johnson proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, to the Rev. T. Bottomley for his address, and to Mr. A. H. Fox, of Kirk Ella, for playing the organ. Mr. C. Hill seconded. A vote of thanks to the local company for the arrangements was proposed by Mr. F. Cryer and seconded by Mr. T. Steel. Mr. J. W. Thompson responded.

A collection for the Bell Repairs Fund realised 12s. 4d.

The tower bells were made good use of and the following methods were rung: Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob and Treble Bob Major.

CHESTER.—On Sunday, June 6th, at St. Mary's-without-the-Walls, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major: George Lee 1, John Hayes 2, Harry Lewis 3, John W. Griffiths 4, James Swindley 5, Harry Pye 6, Thomas Griffiths 7, Percy Swindley (conductor) 8.

ECCELESTON, CHESHIRE.—On June 7th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: R. Sperring 1, G. Jones 2, W. Hopgood 3, D. F. Ferguson 4, J. W. Clarke 5, S. Jones, jun. (conductor) 6, H. Thomas 7, E. Price 8. Rung in celebration of the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. S. Jones.

THE BELLS OF MARPLE, CHESHIRE.

By JOHN P. FIDLER.

The parishioners of Marple worship in one church and the bells hang in another—the two churches stand side by side, but the old church is gradually becoming a ruin. It was built in the very early part of the 19th century, and no doubt it replaced an older church.

About this time Marple was beginning to grow. Samuel Oldknow, one of the pioneers of the cotton industry, built a cotton factory close by the river Goyt where it passed through the parish, and he had a hand in the building of the church. Its design reflects the spirit of that era, possessing very severe lines without any outstanding architectural features. Oldknow was not only a manufacturer of cotton goods (muslin being his speciality), but was responsible for the construction of the High Peak Canal which passes through Marple and he also built roads in order to transport his products to the Manchester Market. The development of the lime burning industry was due in no small measure to his enterprise, and the population of Marple increased to such an extent that it became necessary to have the present old church built.

Oldknow was a very strict Churchman, and I have heard old folks talk of the procession of young apprentices and workpeople to church each Sunday. Apparently they had no choice in the matter; Oldknow made them go. It was due to his influence that Marple became the possessor of a peal of bells, not a new peal, but one that had gained a good reputation and, being the astute business man he was, Oldknow was pleased with the bargain.

The bells are a ring of six by Rudhall, 1731, with a tenor 43½ inches diameter, and were cast for the Parish Church of Stockport to replace a ring of five which were taken out early in the 18th century. A portion of that tower gave way and some rude buttresses were erected. It is reputed that in 1805, after ringing for several days in succession for Nelson's great victory at Trafalgar, the old tower was so shaken that they were seldom rung again, and the last time their notes were heard from that tower was on October 13th, 1809, at the Jubilee, when George III. was King.

In the following year the tower was taken down and the bells stowed away, some in an old mill in Portwood and some in the hearsehouse. When the new tower was built their place was taken by a new, complete and much heavier ring (eight bells, tenor 24 cwt., increased to ten by John Taylor and Co., in 1897), and they lay unheard and unring, which called forth the following lines:

'A remonstrance from the bells of St. Mary's Church, Stockport, addressed to the churchwardens and trustees of that building.'

Torn from the tower where long we hung,
And borne on sledge away,
Our tuneful voices all unstrung,
We've linger'd many a day.

No more with cheerful, solemn sound
The Sabbath we declare,
Nor call the pious folk around
To fill the House of Prayer.

No more resounding through the vale
On summer's evening sweet,
Our wandering changes swell the gale
With harmony replete.

When Lubin weds his Susan Gay
And all around is glee,
They long one merry peal to hear;
Yet here, alas, lie we.

Ah! when shall our glad notes again
Salute the new-made Mayor
As in procession with his train
He walks at Stockport fair?

Full oft when Nelson on the Main
The British thunderer bore,
Our pleasing notes have caught the strain
And echoed to the roar.

When Wellington, whose matchless fame
Brings glory to our Isle,
How can our notes his praise proclaim
Pent up in durance vile?

Oh, ye, who took the work in hand,
Churchwardens and Trustees,
Why do ye thus inactive stand
And linger at your ease?

If bells, as ancient records say,
Have toll'd, untouched, unring,
Beware lest at your long delay
We too should find a tongue.

And therefore, we beseech you all,
Consider well our case,
And let us in a steeple fall
Most quickly find a place!

Then shall the joy inspiring peal
Or sweetly soothing chimes
Your spirits raise, your sorrows heal,
In these disastrous times.

Rudhall, who had provided the new ring of eight, offered £407 for the old six, but as there were many people who did not wish them to leave the parish, the trustees, at a large meeting in March, 1816, unanimously resolved that the township of Marple should have the option to purchase at the price offered by Rudhall. Following on the resolution, the following appeal, dated March 28th, 1816, was made:—

'To the inhabitants of Marple and its vicinity. The trustees appointed by Act of Parliament for the taking down and rebuilding of the Parish Church of Stockport having made the Township of Marple an offer of the peal of bells belonging to the former edifice, it is earnestly hoped that a subscription may be raised equal to the purchase of them. The sum required is four hundred pounds, being the price at which Mr. Rudhall, of Gloucester, a descendant of the original founder, has offered to take them from the trustees. Little, it is hoped, need be urged to prevail upon the inhabitants of Marple not to suffer these bells to be conveyed away from amongst them for ever. The real excellence of their tone must be well remembered by them; and scarcely an individual is there that has not listened to them with feelings such as few but would wish to experience again.

The site of the chapel is a consideration that ought to have its weight. On an eminence that commands an extensive view of the bold swelling hills of Derbyshire as of the more fertile plains of Cheshire, no situation could be better adapted to give full effect to their uncommonly fine tone. From this hill the sound of them will go forth far and wide; and it cannot be doubted but that the inhabitants of the other townships when they hear them will rejoice that their neighbours did not suffer them to be removed for ever out of the parish, and will applaud both the spirit and the liberality of the Township of Marple.'

The appeal had such an effect that Samuel Oldknow, Esq., Nathaniel Wright, Esq., and the Rev. C. K. Presscott, curate of Marple, concluded the bargain and became personally responsible for the amount. On April 29th Mr. Oldknow sent his dray for the treble and tenor, and Mr. Wright sent two carts for the remaining four.

On the day that Miriam Isherwood, of Marple Hall, was christened, June 30th, 1816, they were opened, and the day kept as a gala day, and prizes given which were competed for by ringers of the district. The cost was as follows: The price of the bells £400, hanging and

(Continued on next page.)

TWIN TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 260.)

Blakeney Church, Norfolk, has two towers. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Thomas of Canterbury. Of the towers, one is at the west end of the church and the other at the north-east angle of the chancel. The latter—and smaller of the two—was probably used as a beacon. The west tower is embattled and rises 104ft. The church stands among the trees on a hilltop, 115ft. above the sea, and the slender tower at the north-east corner of the chancel used to shine a beacon light to guide those at sea. Both towers are of the 15th century and, inside, the west tower opens to the nave with a soaring arch that would grace a cathedral. There were four bells here in 6 Ed. VI., but it appears from a faculty dated 1802 'that the expense of re-roofing the chancel would be £309 18s. 9d.; that there were at Blakeney Church five bells, four whereof were broken: that the chapel of Glenford had been in ruins many years, and that there were belonging to the said chapel one bell and twelve pigs of lead, which with four broken bells were worth £120.' There is now but one bell here inscribed: 'Charles Newman made mee, 1699, I.B.: T.T.: C.W.'

At Wymondham, Norfolk, the church of SS. Mary the Virgin and Thomas of Canterbury has two towers. The church was formerly attached to the Abbey of SS. Mary and Alban, and is a noble edifice now consisting of the central tower (at present forming the eastern termination of the structure), a clerestoried nave of nine bays, aisles, north porch, and a stately western tower 142 feet high, built 1445-76 with octagonal buttress turrets at the angles, containing a clock and eight bells. The choir, with its adjacent chapels, formed the conventional church, the nave and north aisles having been assigned in 1249 to the parishioners who, on account of disputes which arose as to the respective rights of the regular and secular clergy to ring their bells, erected the western tower.

William Plomer, of Wymondham, by will dated June 19th, 1535, 'gave vnto the shotyng of the bell being at Norwich with the belfovnder xj^e viij^d.' In the will of John Drye, clerk, Vicar of Wymondham, dated October 12th, 1558, is the following: 'Also I gyve unto the exchange and purchase of the bells XX^s to be paid by myn executors vnto the chvrch wardens of the said church at such tyme as the sayde bells shall be exchanged and perfightley hangen up in the steple of the sayde church.'

Up to 1903 there were five bells here, the treble and 4th by T. Newman, of Norwich, dated 1739; the 2nd, dated 1606, the 3rd by John Brand 1638, and tenor by John Brand, jun., 1653, weighing 24½ cwt. In 1903 Messrs. John Warner and Sons recast the 2nd, which was split, and added three trebles, making the ring to eight. There is also a clock bell by Warners, dated 1856.

The church of St. Mary the Virgin, Bruton, Somerset, whilst not exactly possessing twin towers, has, in addition to its stately western tower, a three-storey porch, which, being battlemented, gives it the appearance of a second tower. This latter building has Perpendicular windows in its upper stage, and at its south-west corner is a square turret also embattled and rising above the merlons of the parapet. The west tower

is strengthened by angle buttresses rising into crocketed pinnacles, and it has a pierced embattled parapet and octagonal turret at its north-east angle. It was repaired in 1910. Here is a ring of six bells, tenor 26 cwt., the inscriptions of the treble and second being very quaint, thus:—

(1) 'Once I'd a note that none could beare
But Bilbie made me sweet and clear (1752).'

(2) This is written all backwards and reads thus:—
'I am the first of those five
Cries loud to those that are alive.'

It is dated 1649, but the founder's name is not known. The third is also by Bilbie (1752) and says:—

'Pray ring the bells and praise the Lord
With tyneful notes and sweet accord.'

The 5th is dated 1618, and the 4th and tenor were pre-Reformation Bells; 4th was an invocation to 'Sancta Maria' and tenor to 'Sancta Clemens.' The latter was recast by C. and G. Mears, of London, in 1848.

THE BELLS OF MARPLE.

(Continued from previous page.)

expenses £324 13s. The first list of subscriptions amounted to £528 17s. 6d.

For very many years these bells defied the attempts of many bands to ring a peal on them, and they gained an unenviable reputation, but on October 10th, 1925, a seven method peal of Treble Bob Minor was rung on them in three hours and four minutes by the following: James Fernley, sen., treble, John P. Fidler 2nd, William Fernley 3rd, John W. Hartley 4th, W. W. Wolstencroft 5th and Fred Holt Tenor. The conductor was James Farnley, sen. To say the least of it, Jim Fernley was pleased the attempt was successful. He had made many fruitless journeys to Marple and had many interesting stories to tell of former attempts. John W. Hartley and Fred Holt, too, had also joined in the struggle and returned home with more than one wet shirt. There was one famous attempt when, towards the tail end of the last 750, the light went out. One can imagine the keen disappointment felt by the band to be robbed of a successful peal by a circumstance beyond their control.

Those vain attempts are past and unrecorded history, and, perhaps, the better for it. In 1936 the bells were re-hung by John Taylor and Co. Mr. K. Lewis had, by his patience and endeavour, built up a keen and enthusiastic company by the time the war had broken out. They had scored several peals on their own bells; but, alas, like many more deserving bands, now are scattered. Happily these bells are not 'pent up in durance vile,' as in the days of Wellington; but, like the other bells of this fair isle, are awaiting until—

"Then shall the joy inspiring peal
Or sweetly soothing chimes

Your spirits raise, your sorrows heal,
In these disastrous times."

DEATH OF OSWALDTWISTLE RINGER.

News has come from North Africa of the death of Harry Littlefair, for many years a ringer at Immanuel Church, Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire. Although he had not rung a peal, he was a steady and regular member of the band. His grandfather was one of the band formed when the old six bells were put in the tower in 1878. He was 26 years old.

HEAVY RINGS OF BELLS.

COLD ASHBY AND KINGSDON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Amos' letter in your issue of June 11th, Cold Ashby peal was rung by John Taylor and Co. in 1903; the diameter of the tenor is 4ft. 2½in., note between D and E flat, weight 19 cwt. 2 qr. 24 lb. The bell was cast by Robert Taylor, Oxford, in 1826 and has no canons.

Since my last letter I have been looking into various records and find that, unless a treble has been added in recent years to make six, there is a heavy five at Kingsdon, Somerset. The tenor of this peal is 4ft. 5½in. diameter, weight approximately 24 cwt. No doubt this will be of interest to Messrs. Cannon and Amos.

J. OLDHAM.

The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

SOME SOMERSET RINGS.

Dear Sir,—It all depends on what you mean by a heavy ring of bells. Do you mean the ring having the heaviest tenor, or the ring of bells whose aggregate weight exceeds that of any other ring of the same number? According to tenor weights, Exeter Cathedral has the heaviest ring of twelve. However, on the total weight of metal in the ring of twelve, St. Paul's Cathedral takes precedence. When Liverpool Cathedral bells are installed there will be no room for doubt.

In the West of England there are a number of rings where the weight increases normally from the treble downwards until it increases abnormally for the tenor. An example of this can be seen at St. Michael's, East Teignmouth, Devon. The seventh weighs 7 cwt. odd, and the tenor 22 cwt. Similarly at West Pennard, Somerset, there are six bells with a big difference in weight between the 5th and tenor. At Shaftesbury, in St. Peter's Church, the tenor is not the heaviest bell in the ring. Presumably there was originally a ring of five tuned to the minor scale, a tenor being added later. This bell weighs 18 cwt. and the 5th over a ton. From this it might be inferred that to judge the weights of rings of bells by the weight of the tenor alone is not always a reliable method.

Somerset can boast of many fine rings of bells and many magnificent towers. Among her rings of bells there are three of interest, the heaviest of five, the heaviest of six and the heaviest of ten. The village of Kingsdon has a rather short tower (for Somerset) containing five bells, the tenor weighing 25 cwt. (I do not know the exact figure). Some years ago the fourth bell was recast and the whole ring restored by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. Wrington once had the heaviest ring of six, the tenor being listed as 38½ cwt. When Messrs. Mears and Stainbank restored the bells and increased their number to ten, that distinction passed to Queen Camel, where the tenor weighs 36½ cwt. Wells Cathedral houses the heaviest ring of ten.

Not far away from Queen Camel in the neighbouring county of Dorset we find Sherborne with its Abbey (now parish) church housing the heaviest ring of eight. I have an idea that many years ago Sherborne possessed only six bells and so at that time these would constitute the heaviest six. If this is so, Sherborne has a double distinction.

E. B. HARTLEY.

Wembley Park.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT HALSTEAD.**

A meeting of the Northern Division of the Essex Association was held at Halstead on May 22nd, at which 14 ringers attended from Chelmsford, Braintree, Bocking, Earls Colne, Greenstead Green, Thurlow and Halstead.

Handbells were rung in church before the service, which was conducted by Canon T. H. Curling, with Mr. I. T. Chapman at the organ.

Tea at the residence of Mrs. A. Snowden was followed by the business meeting, with Canon Curling in the chair. An apology for absence was received from the Master. The secretary referred to the death of Mr. W. Sillitoe, of Earls Colne. Two members, A. Mason and G. Keeble, of Kelvedon, were re-elected. Witham was chosen as place of meeting in early September.

Mr. L. W. Wiffen referred to the Sunday service ringing. Some parishes had not been able to have their bells rung owing to the shortage of ringers, and he wondered whether some effort could not be made to help. It was decided after some discussion to ring on July 11th at Halstead in the evening, and Bocking on August 15th in the evening.

Mr. Wiffen proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, Mr. Chapman and Mrs. Snowden for what they had done to make the meeting a success.

LINCOLNSHIRE RINGER MISSING.

News has been received that Elvin Howsam, one of Bigby's ringers, is reported missing after a raid on Dusseldorf. He held the rank of warrant officer and was a navigator-observer in a Lancaster squadron.

Elvin Howsam was a good ringer and has rung several peals of Minor, both 'in hand' and in the tower. We hope some further news will be heard of him.

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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch. — Meeting on Saturday, June 26th, at St. Michael's, Ashton-under-Lyne, 3 p.m. No arrangements will be made for food.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch. —Meeting at Todmorden Unitarian Church, Saturday, June 26th. Bells from 3 p.m. Business meeting 6.30. Bring own food.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of Western Division and Leeds and District Society at Shipley on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Ramble arranged to start from Church Schools at 3 p.m. Business meeting in Schools at 6.30 p.m.—F. Rayment and H. Lofthouse, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting of Maidstone and Tonbridge Districts, East Peckham, Saturday, June 26th. Service 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting. Bus service No. 7 from Tunbridge Wells to Maidstone. Get out at Forge Gate. Ten minutes' walk. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. will be paid.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District. — Meeting at Duffield, Saturday, June 26th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Meeting in belfry 5 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Witney and Woodstock Branch.—Annual meeting at Bampton (8) on Saturday, June 26th. Service 3.30 p.m.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Burgess Hill on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Short service at 6 p.m.—E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., Restormel, Janes Lane, Burgess Hill.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Stokes Poges (8 bells) on Saturday, June 26th, at 6 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Branch Sec. and Treas., Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District. — Meeting at Ospringe on Saturday, June 26th. Bells (8) from 2.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—Annual meeting at Boston on June 26th. Bells (10) from 3 p.m. Service 6.30. Business meeting afterwards. Tea obtainable at nearby cafes.—W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Whittle-le-Woods, Saturday, June 26th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 3rd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Ewell, Saturday, July 3rd. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to Mrs. J. E. Beams, 4, Cottage Road, West Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, by Wednesday, June 30th.—D. Cooper, Act. Hon. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at Solihull on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (10) 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15, followed by business meeting. Names for tea not later than June 30th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting on Saturday, July 3rd, at Christ Church, Southport, 2.30 p.m. Emmanuel in the evening. Make own arrangements for tea.—S. Forshaw, Branch Sec.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Hereford on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells from 2.30: All Saints' (8), St. Nicholas' (6), Cathedral (10). Service at St. Nicholas' at 4.30 p.m., followed by meeting at the College Hall of Cathedral at 5 p.m. No arrangements for tea.—Rev. E. G. Benson, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Mary's, Braughing, on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. Tea for those who notify me by Wednesday, June 30th.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Portsmouth District.—Meeting at Shedfield on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Tea only for those who inform me by Wednesday, June 30th.—R. J. Stone, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, Penhale Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Meeting at Newbury on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. H. W. Curtis, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, by Wednesday, June 30th.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Manor Lane, Newbury.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Dagenham on Saturday, July 3rd. Bells at 3, service 4.15, tea and business 5 p.m. Names before June 29th.—J. H. Crampton, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Stone (8 bells), Saturday, July 3rd, at 3 p.m. Bring own sandwiches.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury and District Branch.—Annual meeting at Adderbury, Saturday, July 3rd. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea to follow. Kindly notify for tea.—E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting Saturday, July 10th, at Oswaldtwistle. Bells 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea will be provided.—F. Hindle, Branch Secretary, 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Wellington Parish Church, Saturday, July 10th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. till 8.30. Tea at cafes in town, 4.30.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North-West District.—Meeting at St. James', Clerkenwell on Saturday, July 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Names must be sent not later than previous Tuesday.—T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts; G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting at Oxford on Saturday, July 17th at 3.15 p.m. in the Rectory Room, Pembroke Street, St. Aldate's. Tea at 1s. 6d. for all members who apply, accompanied by remittance, by Saturday, July 10th. Service in St. Aldate's Church at 5.15 p.m.—R. T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

HORNCHURCH, ESSEX.—Practice first and third Tuesday in the month, beginning July 6th, 7.30.

CORRESPONDENCE for Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Barnett should for the time being be sent to Restormel, Janes Lane, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

ENGAGEMENT.

MASSEY—MILLS.—The engagement is announced between L.A.C. George W. Massey, R.A.F., only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey, and Hilda M. Mills, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Mills, 144, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey.

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RINGER'S WEDDING AT MEARS ASHBY.

On Saturday, June 5th, at All Saints', Mears Ashby, the wedding took place of Mr. H. F. Walden and Miss Eva Scarr. The bride has been a member of the local band and of the choir. The bells were rung before and after the ceremony.

NEWTON NOTTAGE, PORTHCAWL, GLAM.—For Sunday evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1,260 changes): *Mrs. T. M. Roderick 1, D. Thomas 2, I. Lewis 3, A. Hannington (conductor) 4, A. E. Williams 5, W. Surman 6. *First quarter-peal and first attempt.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Saturday, June 19th, at 11, Aylesbury End, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles: Dorothy R. Fletcher (conductor) 1-2, Kathleen E. Fletcher 3-4, Ethel M. Fletcher (first quarter-peal) 5-6.

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