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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19th, 1943.

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A NOTABLE ANNIVERSARY.

Last Monday was the first anniversary of a day which will long be remembered by the Exercise, and may quite well go down in history as the turning point in the great struggle with Germany. It was the day on which we rang the bells for the victory of El Alamein.

For us ringers the occasion could not be other than important, for it was the first break in the long silence which had been imposed on our belfries, and, apart from any national considerations, it gave us an opportunity once more of practising our art and of meeting our friends in the old familiar conditions and surroundings.

But, of course, it was much more than that, and the wonderful way in which the public responded to the sound of the bells was perhaps a sure sign that they felt, rather than realised, that the crisis of the war had been reached and passed. The people of England were like a man who has long been toiling painfully and dangerously up a steep and rugged path. Pitfalls and precipices surround him and mist covers his way. Suddenly he reaches a point where the ground seems more level, a momentary gust of wind clears the fog for an instant, and he sees in a flash before him, not indeed the end of his journey, nor the end of his toil, but that the path in front, though still hard and painful, is on the whole downwards, while in the far distance there is a brightness in the sky which is the assurance of his journey's end. The mists close in again and the vision is hidden almost as soon as it is revealed, but the effect remains.

Until the day the bells rang, England never doubted that victory would be won. Faith and hope were never dimmed. When the bells rang, knowledge and assurance were added, and they have grown increasingly during the months which have followed.

It was no spirit of boastfulness that prompted the ringing, and it is well to remember the message which was issued from Downing Street, asking that 'church bells should be rung throughout the land in celebrating the success granted to the Forces of the Empire and our allies in the Battle of Egypt, and as a call to thanksgiving and renewed prayer. Although the future of war is always full of hazards and uncertainties, nevertheless there are occasions when thanksgiving for mercies received may be offered in all humility.'

It was our great privilege as ringers to be the ministers and representatives of the nation on that occasion. We are entitled to feel restrained pride that we did not fail in our duty, and we are now reaping our reward, full measure, pressed down and overflowing. Never before,

(Continued on page 502.)

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certainly never before in recent times, have ringers and their art been so highly esteemed as they are to-day. We have great cause for thankfulness, but we must not forget that it gives us a great opportunity and lays on us great responsibilities. There are stern and difficult days yet ahead, and we shall not be able to get full enjoyment out of change ringing until those days are past, but now there is a general call for the bells to be rung, and it is our duty to do what we can to satisfy it. The very best ringing any band is capable of is needed, and the best ringing is not that in the most complex methods, but that which sounds the best and gives the most pleasure, not only to the general public but to any competent ringer who may be listening critically outside.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, November 9, 1943, in Three Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CINQUES, 5016 CHANGES;

Tenor 31 cwt

WALTER F. JUDGE Treble	JOHN E. SPICE 7
*MISS VALHALLA V. H. HILL 2	†FREDERICK A. H. WILKINS 8
*MISS BETTY SPICE 3	GEORGE HOLIFIELD 9
MISS MARIE R. CROSS 4	J. HOWARD R. FREEBORN 10
VICTOR J. F. BENNETT 5	RICHARD WHITE 11
*WILLIAM C. PORTER 6	GORDON CAUDWELL Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE
* First attempt for a peal on twelve bells. † First peal of Grandsire Cinques.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 13, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF SPLICED SUPERLATIVE, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE AND LONDON
SURPRISE MAJOR, 8024 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

JOHN E. ROOTES Treble	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 5
FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 2	EDWIN JENNINGS 6
PHILIP A. CORBY 3	ERNEST C. S. TURNER 7
FRANCIS KIRK 4	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT Tenor

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.
This composition contained 1,440 Superlative, 1,280 Bristol, 1,216 Cambridge and 1,088 London, with 107 changes of method.

EWELL, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 13, 1943, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

*MISS E. HARRINGTON Treble	ALFRED H. WINCH 5
WILLIAM NEWBERRY 2	ARTHUR H. SMITH 6
JOHN HOLLIS 3	ALBERT HARMAN 7
GEORGE MARRINER 4	DANIEL D. COOPER Tenor

Composed by I. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by A. HARMAN.
* First peal. Rung after meeting short for Treble Bob.

STONE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 13, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLY'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 12 cwt

*LESLIE BUCKLEY Treble	JOHN H. HEAD 5
WILLIS BUCKLEY 2	ARTHUR ROWLEY 6
ANDREW THOMPSON 3	CHARLES H. PAGE 7
CLAUDE TEMPLETON 4	*HAROLD PRITCHARD Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. PAGE.

* First peal.

LIVERPOOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 13, 1943, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, WOOLTON,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION.

Tenor 20 cwt.

*THOMAS LEE Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON 5
GEORGE H. HESKETH 2	EDWIN C. BIRKETT 6
THOMAS W. HAMMOND 3	PERCIVAL W. CAVE 7
THOMAS W. HESKETH 4	FRANK VARTY Tenor

(Conducted by PERCIVAL W. CAVE,

* First peal of Stedman. Rung with the bells half-muffled and as a memorial peal for the late Archdeacon Howson, who was for many years Rector of this church and warden of the Liverpool Diocesan Guild.

HANDBELL PEALS.

COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sunday, November 7, 1943, in Two Hours and twenty-seven Minutes,

AT 31, GEORGE ELIOT ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*ERNEST STONE 1-2	JOSEPH H. W. WHITE 5-6
FRANK W. PERRENS 3-4	FRANK E. PERVIN 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

Conducted by F. E. PERVIN.

* First peal of Major in hand. First peal of Major in hand as conductor.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 10, 1943, in Two Hours and Three Minutes,

AT 57, THE HEADROW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

MRS L. K. BOWLING 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 3-4	JOHN AMBLER 7-8

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 13, 1943, in Two Hours and thirty-five Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

WILFRED F. MORETON 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	CYRIL F. TURNER 7-8

Composed by F. DENCH.

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

'REAL.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—At least one peal of Superlative with twin bobs throughout has been rung of recent years, i.e., within six or seven, and another of Real Double Norwich not mentioned by Mr. E. Barnett in his letter in your current issue. The compositions of these peals found their way into the pages of 'The Ringing World,' and the peal of Double Norwich was the first to be rung, if memory serves me right, with any pretensions to musical qualities. Since both these peals were rung in a rather remote part of the Empire, it is easily understandable that they have passed unnoticed.

Hearty congratulations to 'Nil Desperandum' and his accomplices. May Stapleton third justify the courage of these worthies.

NOLAN GOLDEN.

BELGRAVE.—On November 11th, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: O. Castleman 1, G. Tilson 2, L. H. Whitehead 3, J. W. Udale 4, A. Debenham 5, K. Elliott 6, A. Skinner (conductor) 7, B. Barrow 8. Rang half-muffled for Armistice Day.

MR. JUSTICE WITHENS.

A FOOTNOTE TO ENGLISH HISTORY.

In the 'Historical Account of the Rise and Progress of the Ancient Society of College Youths,' included in the rule book published in 1894, we are told that 'the society has on its time-honoured roll of members many names of eminence,' and a list of some of them is given. We rather suspect that the plan adopted was to go through the name book and pick out those with titles, of which there is a fair number. Who these people really were, and in what respect and degree they were eminent, we fancy the writer did not know. Actually some of them (and not only those with titles) were persons who in their own circles were of some importance, though none is entitled to be called eminent. Only one of the lot earned a small place in the general history of England, and he was anything but eminent. Francis Geary did command for a while the main battle fleet in war time, but it was not his fortune to be engaged in any great naval victory.

Francis Withens was born at Eltham about the year 1634. He was educated at Oxford, at St. John's College, where he matriculated in 1650, and where most likely he first learned to ring. He joined the Society of College Youths in 1655, and was called to the bar from the Middle Temple in 1660. By 1680 he was on the high road to prosperity. He became Benchet of his Inn, gained the favour of the King, was knighted, and was chosen to represent Westminster in Parliament.

Those were times when events were taking place which had a vast influence on the destinies of England. Throughout the seventeenth century a continual struggle was waged between the Crown and Parliament for the right to impose taxes and to make or dispense with laws. The struggle went through several phases. Charles the First appealed to force and drew the sword, with the result that both Church and throne went down for a time in the common ruin. Charles the Second was a far astuter man than his father. He carefully avoided any armed conflict with his people, and the letter and forms of law were not violated; but he was as much set on creating a despotism as was any of the Stuarts. The constitutional struggle was just as fierce in his reign as in his father's, but it was fought in other ways, and the men who fell perished on the scaffold and not on the battlefield.

The political question was complicated by a religious question—in fact, the two were one. For years English people had looked on Popery with fear and dread, and now they began to believe in a deep and widespread plot to overthrow the religion and the liberties of the country and to substitute Roman Catholicism. There was some reason for this belief. Charles was secretly a Papist; he had made a secret agreement with the French king by which he bound himself, in return for money, to establish the Roman Church in England; his brother and heir-presumptive was an avowed Roman; and more than one of

(Continued on next page.)

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MR. JUSTICE WITHENS

(Continued from previous page.)

the Crown ministers were only waiting for a favourable opportunity to declare themselves Papists. And then it began to be noised abroad that a deep-laid and widespread plot had been discovered to kill Charles, put his brother on the throne, and hand over the Church and people of England to the Jesuits. The Papists were to burn London as (so it was believed) they had burnt it a few years before, and Protestants were to be massacred.

A man named Titus Oates went and swore this information before a Justice of the Peace, and when a few days later the body of the magistrate was discovered in a lonely field, foully done to death, the whole country went mad with anger and excitement. Oates was an infamous wretch who had been a Baptist minister, a Church of England priest, and a Roman convert; and had been ejected from every position he had held on account of his scandalous character. In ordinary times no one would have believed his tale for a minute; but these were not ordinary times. There were unscrupulous men in high places, who professed to believe him in order to gain their own ends. Many Roman Catholics were put to death by the forms of law, and in Parliament a determined attempt was made to exclude James from the succession to the Crown.

The King dissolved Parliament, carried on the government by means of French subsidies, and waited until the excitement should die down before summoning another Parliament. That was not what the opposition, or country party as they were called, wanted, and they promoted petitions from all over the country, praying that the two Houses of Parliament might speedily be called together. To petition the King was an old, jealously guarded, and much-used right, and could not be forbidden though a proclamation against petitions was issued in 1679. The Court party thought of a more astute move, and began on their side to organise addresses to the King in which disagreement was expressed with the petitioners. The cities of London and Westminster were the two most important in the country, and it was from them that the first two addresses were presented.

This it was which first brought Francis Withens into notice. He was then Chief Steward of the Franchise Court of Westminster, an office in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of the Abbey. He was selected to present the address from that city, while the one from London was presented by George Jeffreys, the Recorder, who afterwards earned the most infamous name in the history of English judicature. The addresses declared 'that way of petitioning to be the Method of Forty-one and intended to bring his Majesty to the block as his Father was brought, all of which doings they abhorred.'

Similar addresses were presented from many other places, and the country was divided into 'petitioners' and 'abhorrrers,' names which shortly afterwards gave

way to those of 'whig' and 'tory,' the titles by which the two political parties of England were long known.

As a reward for his action, Francis Withens received the honour of knighthood, and when at last Parliament was summoned to meet, he was chosen member for Westminster. And then the storm broke.

The opposition party had a large majority in the new House of Commons. They were in an ugly temper; they determined to assert the right of the people to petition for a Parliament, and to punish those who had promoted the addresses of abhorrence. Withens as the presenter of the first address was one of those selected to be made an example of. There were some cunning persons who made up their minds that he should not only be punished, but brought into contempt and his party with him. They knew the man. He was weak and timid, self indulgent, and, like many another lawyer at the time, a slave of the bottle. They told him that the Commons were resolved to punish most severely all those who had promoted the addresses, and he would be lucky if he escaped being hanged as the ringleader of all the business. His only chance was to submit himself without question, he must by no means justify what he had done; no, that would be but to irritate, and the House would make their examples of those who disputed upon the right which they were resolved to vindicate to the last degree. They had no dislike to his person, and if he would do the cause right, though a ringleader, he might come off. Else—

Withens was a lawyer and he knew quite well that in presenting an address to the King he had broken no law, and he had as much right to petition the throne in favour of his views as his opponents had in favour of theirs. But he knew also quite well the real value of such a plea in the political trials of the time. The lives of men were being sworn away by perjured witnesses, and Parliament had always the power to put a person to death by an Act of Attainder, a power which they were quite ready to use if they thought it necessary.

Withens' real safety lay in his comparative insignificance, for he was no Stafford or Laud, and what his enemies desired was his disgrace, not his death. So, when Parliament met and the Commons proceeded to take his case into consideration, after 'a few wimpers and a wipe,' he admitted that he did promote and carry up that abhorrence, and he knew at the time he was doing wrong; but he did it to please the King; and so, owning the thing was against the law, begged pardon.

All the members were not of the country party. There were many gallant gentlemen who had come prepared to back him up and make a fight of it, but this sneaking come-off so disgusted even his friends that they joined with the country party, and with one consent kicked him out of the House as not fit for gentlemen's company.

His sentence was that he should, on his knees, be reprimanded by the Speaker, and be expelled the House.

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'You, being a lawyer,' said Williams the Speaker, 'have offended against your own profession, you have offended against yourself, your own right, your own liberty as an Englishman. That is not only a crime against the living, but a crime against the unborn. You are dismembered from this body.'

Withens' fortunes were not seriously affected by his disgrace. He was employed in several Crown cases, and showed himself, if not a great lawyer, a competent one. One of his cases was a murder trial which made a great stir at the time. A man named Thomas Thynne, a wealthy rake, had married Lady Ogle, a girl of fifteen and heiress of the Percys, Earls of Northumberland. She quickly repented of her bargain, and 'before they were bedded' left him and fled to Holland, where she met a Count Coningsmark, one of a noble Brandenburg family. The Count shortly afterwards came to London and was followed by three of his dependants. About eight o'clock in the evening of one Sunday in February, 1682, when Thynne was driving in his coach in Pall Mall, the three rode alongside and shot him with a blunderbuss, whereof he died next day.

All four men were arrested and charged with murder, Coningsmark as an accessory before the fact. The trial was before the Lord Chief Justice and two other Judges. Withens led for the Crown, and one of the counsel with him was Williams, the same Williams who, as Speaker, a few years before, had pronounced the sentence on him. As there were no politics involved, the trial was a perfectly fair one. The three servants were found guilty and hanged, but the Count managed to escape. To-day you may see in Westminster Abbey sculptured on Thynne's tomb a picture of the murder scene.

(To be continued.)

LEONARD PROCTOR.

Leonard Proctor, whose name has been mentioned several times lately in our columns, was born in January, 1816, at Benington, where his family had been seated for about three hundred years. He took an interest in bells from a very early time, and while he was at school at Eton he rang the bell for the death of King George the Fourth.

He went to Cambridge in 1834 and graduated from Trinity College. It was during his university days that he learnt change ringing, and when he returned to live as squire at Benington, he added two trebles to the ring of six there and got together what at the time was the best method ringing band in the country. They were the first to accomplish peals in all three standard Surprise methods, and they rang some five-thousands made up of touches in several methods. Nearly all the ringers were employed on his estate. He died in 1902 at the age of 86.

A STORY FROM HODDESDON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very pleased to read what my old friend, William Lawrence, had to say about the Benington ringers. In my boyhood days they were looked upon as the par excellence among the ringing bands in the country.

I remember two of the younger members of the band, who came to work in Hoddesdon, where I resided at that time. Of course, they made their way to the belfry on practice nights, and to our surprise they could not ring Stedman or Grandsire Triples, only London or Superlative Major, but after a time we managed a touch of Kent Treble Bob Major. They used to tell us a lot about the old band. They were conveyed about in farm waggons to various places to ring. I should like to see an account by someone local, who has some knowledge of the old band. It would be interesting reading to the younger generation of ringers.

JESSE PUPLETT.

23, Victoria Park Road, Buxton.

CHURCHILL.—On Wednesday, November 3rd, 720 Bob Minor: *T. T. Roynon 1, O. Reason 2, E. J. Avery (conductor) 3, *E. E. Fisher 4, H. W. Knight 5, G. Gilling 6. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to Mrs. E. Roynon, who was buried the same day. *First 720.

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's, on Sunday, November 14th, for morning service, 1,263 Stedman Caters: H. Street, J. H. Wilkins, H. Rumens, C. T. Coles (conductor), R. Maynard, J. C. Adams, H. Smith (first quarter-peal on ten bells), E. E. Holman, F. C. Maynard F. C. Taylor. Rung on the occasion of the official attendance at church of the Mayor and Corporation of Walthamstow.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. John Austin, who to-day reaches the age of eighty.

On November 27th, Mr. James George will reach his 90th birthday. He writes that he is feeling fairly well and comfortable. His many friends will send him every good wish.

The peal of Grandsire Cinques at Christ Church, Oxford, was rung as a compliment to Councillor Harry Ingle, the president of the Oxford Society, who has been elected Mayor of the City of Oxford.

Last Wednesday was the 109th anniversary of the first peal of London Surprise Major, and last Tuesday was the 95th anniversary of the first peal of Double Norwich in which bobs were made behind as well as in front.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

To-day Mr. William Spice, of Tunstall, and Mrs. Spice celebrate their golden wedding. Mr. Spice, who is in his 83rd year, has been a ringer for more than fifty years. He learnt his first ringing at Charing and afterwards he lived at Penshurst, where for four years he was leader of the band. Since then he has lived at Tunstall.

Mr. Spice is one of the best known of the Kent ringers. He is a regular Sunday service ringer and has taken part in about 350 peals ranging from six to twelve bells. His three sons and his two grandchildren are prominent ringers.

We offer Mr. and Mrs. Spice our congratulations.

DEATH OF THE REV. R. L. C. NEWHOUSE.

The death is announced of the Rev. R. L. C. Newhouse, of Bournemouth, following injuries received from a fall from his bicycle on Sunday, November 14th.

He was for many years Vicar of Buckland in the Diocese of Oxford and had lived in Bournemouth for some ten years for health reasons.

He had been a member of the Oxford University Society during his varsity days, and often took a rope at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, though he could do little more than hunt the treble. He was very keen in the activities of the local branches of the neighbouring diocesan guilds.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT SEEND.

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Seend on November 6th and 36 members were present from Seend, Trowbridge, Melksham, Warminster, Keevil, North Bradley, Longbridge Deverell, Erchfont, Bishop's Cannings, Holt, Calne, Devizes (St. John's and Mary's) and Southbroom.

Ringing began at half-past two and the bells were kept going in Grandsire, Stedman, Bob Minor and a few call changes for the learners, who handled their bells very well.

The Guild Office, which was choral, was conducted by the Rev. E. B. Brooks (priest in charge of St. Mary's, Devizes), himself a ringer. Tea was at the Vicarage.

Mr. E. F. White presided at the business meeting, and several new members were elected, after which ringing was indulged in on the set of handbells belonging to the late Mr. S. Hillier, and presented to the branch by Mrs. Hillier in memory of her husband. Another touch on the tower bells concluded the meeting.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT DERBY.

Before the meeting of the Derby Branch of the Midland Counties Association at St. Peter's, Derby, on November 13th, the local band rang for the wedding of one of their fellow ringers, Reginald Wallis, of the R.A.F.

During the meeting methods rung reached a high standard. Cambridge Surprise being rung several times, in addition to Double Norwich, Stedman, Duffield, Little Bob, Treble Bob, Grandsire, Plain Bob, with rounds and Queens for the learners.

Tea was served in the Parochial Hall by Miss Wickman and her lady helpers, when ringers from Ashley, Hilton, Ilkeston and the local towers were entertained. One new member was elected, Ronald Weston, of Ripley. It was decided to hold the next monthly meeting on Dec. 11th at St. Luke's, Derby, where there is a splendid peal by Taylors, tenor 30 cwt.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

From Mr. J. H. Goldsmith.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was happy to see in last week's issue the president's announcement of the Council's proprietorship of 'The Ringing World.'

I am sure that all ringers will share with Mr. Lewis his feeling of relief and thankfulness that 'The Ringing World' has survived the death of the late Editor, my father, whose singlemindedness alone ensured the life and vitality of this journal. The Council, the associations and guilds, and all readers have my sincere good wishes for the vigorous future of 'The Ringing World' and the Exercise.

'The Ringing World' has been preserved by negotiations which have demanded great sacrifices of time, of energy, and of patience by all the people concerned, to whom the president and the Editor referred last week. May I add my recognition of the kindly services of Mr. A. A. Hughes, who has helped in so many ways, and of my sister, Mrs. Renshaw, who for fifteen months accommodated 'The Ringing World' Office, addressed wrappers and kept accounts. I trust that all ringers will give to 'The Ringing World' the increasing support which these efforts so well deserve, and to you, Mr. Editor, the support which your devotion to 'The Ringing World' has already earned.

Again my good wishes.

J. H. GOLDSMITH.

5, Cobnar Gardens,
Sheffield, 8.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION MEETING AT BLAYDON.

The first meeting of the Western District of the Durham and Newcastle Association since the lifting of the ban was held at Blaydon on November 6th. Learners were in the majority and some good work was done teaching them.

Ringers were present from Chester-le-Street, Blackhill, Whickham, Benfieldside, Newcastle (Cathedral), Tanfield, Gateshead and the local tower.

Four new members were elected from St. Mary's, Whickham.

Tea was provided in a nearby room by lady friends of the Blaydon ringers, at which the Rector (the Rev. H. O. Duncan) welcomed the visitors. A vote of thanks to the Rector and churchwardens and to the ladies was proposed by Mr. D. A. Bayles. The Rector and the ladies replied.

It was arranged to hold the next meeting at Whickham on Saturday, January 22nd, 1944.

JOINT MEETING AT PORT SUNLIGHT.

A joint meeting of the Wirral Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild and the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association, held at Port Sunlight on October 30th, was attended by about 50 ringers, most of whom were enabled to have a pull in rounds or in methods which included Stedman Triples and Cambridge Surprise Major. There were many young ringers and many visitors from outside Merseyside.

The Rev. H. Storer, minister of the church, in his address, welcomed the ringers. He was assisted in the service by the Rev. D. P. Roberts and the Rev. E. L. A. Thomas, Vicar of Bidston.

At the tea Mr. Roberts proposed a vote of thanks to the church authorities, to Mr. S. Bailey and to the ladies who prepared the tea.

DEATH OF MR. ALFRED ROWLEY.

The death is announced of Mr. Alfred Rowley, of Tipton, which occurred on October 25th at the age of 75 years.

Mr. Rowley held the position of tower ringing master at St. Martin's Church, Tipton, since 1920 until recently, when illness overtook him. During his ringing career he took part in 147 peals, many of which he conducted. His favourite method was Stedman, and some of his associates met at St. Martin's on Saturday, November 13th, to ring a peal of Stedman Triples half-muffled, but the attempt did not mature, and instead a quarter-peal was successfully completed: J. Goodman treble, H. Knight (conductor) 2, H. Griffiths 3, H. J. Shuck 4, C. Skidmore 5, A. D. Collins 6, G. Hughes 7, J. Freeman tenor.

SOME DEBATABLE POINTS.

NEED FOR DISCUSSION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The ringer in a strange belfry often finds himself subconsciously making a comparison between the bells or the ringing or the usages of the belfry he is in with those of his own tower and district. Who is to judge what is correct or best? Very often no one is in a position to judge, for it may be purely a matter of taste or what one is familiar with.

On a large number of points, however, where customs differ—judgment of what is generally best could be assessed after open discussion by competent correspondents in the columns of 'The Ringing World' on topics where there is at present divergence, but where uniformity on the lines of best practice would appear to bring improvement.

I suggest that more extensive discussion on the technique and practical aspects of ringing might help to speed progress in the right direction and thus bring about an increase in the public's appreciation of ringing. Nor would the space taken up by such matters in your columns be wasted, but would be a valuable addition to the excellent advice and guidance already appearing from time to time in the editorial columns of 'The Ringing World.'

As an example of topics which might suitably come under the foregoing remarks, I note below one or two points which have come to mind, as a result of being removed from my own district. Some of these points may have been raised before, but further discussion would do no harm, and the views of more experienced and competent ringers than myself would be interesting and helpful, particularly to those who are newcomers to ringing.

(1) SIX-BELL RINGING.

Two customs are prevalent as regards leads, viz., 'open leads' and 'closed leads.' It is argued that the former sound best, but that the latter lead to more perfect beat and striking. Another argument in favour of open leads is that since they are accepted as proper on higher numbers, closed leads on six bells tend to spoil the ringer's ability to lead well on higher numbers, where he must ring 'open leads.' Yet many capable ringers favour closed leads on six. Which should be practised on six? 'Open leads' or 'closed leads.'

(2) HALF-MUFFLED RINGING.

When half-muffled ringing is done, some towers muffle the handstroke, others the backstroke. Probably most muffle the handstroke so that the more musical changes are produced 'loud.' On the other hand, if handstroke is open and 'open leads' are rung, the muffled backstroke following straight after the loud handstroke sounds more like an echo, and to a certain extent has a pleasing effect. Which is the correct method?

(3) DURATION OF RINGING FOR SUNDAY SERVICE AND FOR PRACTICE.

Sunday service ringing varies from a nominal half-hour to one hour, and though this may be governed by local conditions, it would appear that in order to maintain a good standard of ringing an hour would be advisable wherever possible.

In many districts it is customary never to ring after 9 p.m. at night unless in very exceptional circumstances; on the other hand, other companies ring on until well after 9.30 p.m. Is this justified even if ringers do find it difficult to make an early start?

(4) BEGINNERS.

On the whole, where the job of teaching new ringers is in hand, it seems to be being well tackled, but there seems to be different opinions as to the stage at which a beginner should be allowed to ring 'open.' No doubt there are arguments for not letting the new recruit ring open until the maximum amount of bell control that can be obtained with clapper tied is achieved. On the other hand others might argue that the recruit is encouraged by taking an early hand in the game. Another point on which there is divergence is as to which hand the backstroke end should be held in, left, right, or either. Lastly, there is the question of how the ringer stands. Jasper Snowden laid down that this is important. It is evident that sometimes even learners in most capable hands apparently receive no instruction on this point. How far is this an aid to good striking?

(5) THE QUESTION OF RAISING AND FALLING IN PEAL.

This is an old timer. Some regard this as part of the ringing, others do not. Can a ringer who is not adept at rising or falling in peal regard himself as an accomplished ringer?

When bells cannot be raised in peal, is it satisfactory to raise two that harmonise together, e.g., 6th and tenor, 5th and 7th? When raising and falling in peal, what is the best method of achieving success from a listener's point of view, having due regard to the weight of the bells?

(6) MINIMUM NUMBER OF BELLS WORTH RINGING FOR SERVICE.

In some towers, notably those possessing more than six bells, the company are very reluctant or sometimes refuse to ring less than six bells. Others don't mind ringing five (which can sound quite pleasant sometimes) or even less when the band meets short for service ringing. It would be interesting to know the general opinion on this matter. If it is in favour of ringing a small number of bells (say five) in these circumstances, bands who do not favour ringing five out of eight or ten when unavoidable might be encouraged to do so. Weight and breath of the bells are, of course, limiting factors in some cases.

'FORUM.'

ST. MARY'S, WALTHAMSTOW.

A LECTURE GIVEN IN 1935.

By C. T. COLES.

(Continued from page 496.)

We have dealt with the history of the bells up to the formation of the St. Mary's Society in 1874, and with the personnel of the society up to date. We now turn to the general record of the society, first dealing with its social life and its attitude towards local matters, and following this by a survey of the connection of the St. Mary's Society with the larger ringing organisations in the neighbourhood.

Following the example of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the St. Mary's Society held its annual dinner from the year of its formation, as well as an annual outing. In later years the dinner has not been held, but the annual outing continues. The dinners were used to foster good relations with Church authorities and local celebrities. It was reported in 'The Walthamstow Guardian' in January, 1886, that on the 13th of that month the annual dinner of the ringers was held at the Tower Hotel, some 40 people being present. The chairman was Dr. Wellington Lake, and it would appear that the majority of the company was visitors and not members of the society.

In 1894 the dinner was held at the Boys' National School, and the Rev. W. H. Langhorne took the chair. On this occasion other friends were invited to attend. The 1899 dinner appears to have been a much more pretentious affair. It was held at the Lord Brooke Hotel, Shern Hall Street, and the Rev. W. H. Langhorne presided.

The annual outing was also a regular function, usually by brake or train to a town where could be found a church with a good peal of bells, say Hertford, Chelmsford, or Bishop's Stortford. Usually some ringing friends were invited to accompany the party, as well as the verger and one or two other church workers. In later years these outings have taken a different form. Travelling facilities being much better, a visit to the seaside becomes possible. Ringing is forgotten for the day, and wives and lady friends accompany the men.

The attitude towards neighbouring bodies has usually been very friendly. For instance, it has for many years been the practice of the ringers to ring the bells at the annual service of the Friendly Societies, and as recently as December 22nd, 1934, the bells were rung on the occasion of a service of rededication of some ancient brasses, restored by the Walthamstow Antiquarian Society.

Nor have the bells been neglected by the ringers. Two years after the formation of the society it was found necessary to provide the bells with new wheels and fittings. The ringers collected the necessary £30 from prominent parishioners, making a substantial donation to the funds themselves. When, in 1896, the restoration and augmentation took place, the ringers voted £4 4s. towards the cost, with a further £4 4s. from Mr. T. Mavnard, the ringing master.

Careful, too, for their reputation in the locality, we find that in 1898 the unseemly conduct of a member was considered, with the object of striking his name off the books if thought necessary, and not allowing him to use the bells again. The minute recording this adds, 'this being a "notty" point, and as we were informed he was

going to leave the neighbourhood for good, the matter was dropped.' The line of least resistance was, perhaps, under the circumstances, justified.

In 1898 it was proposed to start a Ringers' Benevolent Fund, the subscription not to be less than one penny per week. This was definitely started in the following year, and subscriptions were evidently paid into the fund for a year or two, as entries appear in the minutes showing small balances existing. After two or three years, however, the Benevolent Fund apparently ceased to exist, for we find no further trace of it in the records. Occasionally, however, cash payments have been made to members in straitened circumstances, which, although small, have shown that the spirit which started the Benevolent Fund has continued to influence the conduct of the society towards its members.

At times, of course, there are complaints about the ringing, usually from disgruntled individuals who find fault with most things, but if such complaints are justified, say in the case of illness adjacent to the church, the society has always shown the utmost consideration. During the early days of the society a spiteful attack was made on the bells and the ringers in the columns of 'The Walthamstow Guardian,' by a correspondent signing himself (or herself) 'An Anti-Campanologist.' This brought forth a vigorous defence by 'One Fond of Bells' and 'One of the St. Mary's Society of Ringers.' The former says, quoting 'Anti-Campanologist,' 'In times gone by one of the bells was cracked,' and makes the pungent retort that 'unfortunately bells have not a monopoly in this respect.' He goes on to say that 'the ringing at the Parish Church is performed to the general satisfaction of the whole parish, and in a manner not excelled in the county of Essex, and equalled by no Ringing Society in the neighbourhood. The steeple and its appointments are kept in good condition, and order reigns supreme. The company of ringers, by the way a most respectable body, have at a great expense incurred wholly by themselves become proficient ringers. They ring three times every Sunday throughout the year, for which they receive not one farthing remuneration, and the magnificent sum of £5 5s. per annum is allowed them to ring on special occasions connected with the Church, and days of note connected with royalty.' There is a great deal more in similar strain, but whether 'Anti-Campanologist' replied to this vigorous defence I am not in a position to say.

We have heard how, when the society was formed, it was as a branch of the Ancient Society of College Youths. This did not, however, prevent membership of other societies, so that when the Essex Association was formed in 1879 the St. Mary's ringers were amongst the first to join up. Some years later a dispute arose between the then general secretary of the County Association and the Walthamstow Parish Church ringers, which caused them to lapse membership. This dispute has, however, long been forgotten, and at the present time all the St. Mary's ringers are members of the Essex Association of Change Ringers.

(To be continued.)

It was my chance lately abroad to be,
In place where I bell-musick sweet did heare.
Still I did stand, minding those strains so high,
Which at ye first strange to me did appeare.
Such sublime Sallies in ye same I found
That I was forced awhile to stand my ground.

—Edmund Allen, 17th century.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 485.)

Of all the exterior beauties of Gloucester Cathedral, the most striking is its most beautiful and graceful central tower. Placed where it is, almost in the centre of the long line of the nave, continued in the choir and Lady Chapel, at a point where the transept line intersects it, it is the chief feature of the massive pile. All else seems to be grouped with a view to the enhancing of the effect of the central position of the tower. No matter from whence one looks at it, the charm is still there. The tower is 225ft. high to the top of the pinnacles, and the effect of it is extremely fine. From the main cornice upwards, the whole of the stonework is open, and composed of what at a distance appears to be delicate tracery and mullions and crocketed pinnacles.

It is, in all probability, the third tower that has been built since Aldred's time. There are piers still remaining of the Norman tower erected by Serlo in the years that elapsed between 1089 and 1100 and, as we are told in the 'Saxon Chronicle' that in 1122 a fire which originated in the upper part of the steeple burnt the whole monastery, it must be inferred that the superstructure was of wood. A hundred years later it is known that a great eastern tower was built with the help of Helias of Hereford. This tower was in great part taken down by the monk, Tully, and rebuilt in the Perpendicular style in the time of Abbot Seabroke (1450-7).

The ascent to the belfry is somewhat curious, and is made by passing through the pilgrims' door on the south side of the cathedral. Immediately to the left when inside are the steps which lead to the belfry. It is a wide and well-lit stairway of some 130 steps. At the top you pass through a small doorway, up four wooden steps to a wood platform built over the roof of the transept. At the other end of this platform you ascend four steps, and through a narrow doorway on to a parapet outside the tower. This parapet is about ten feet in length by two feet, fenced by iron railings some five feet in height. At the end of the parapet you turn left through a doorway and ascend to the upper part of the tower. About 30 steps bring you to the ringing chamber.

On entering, the first thing that catches your eye is Great Peter, a 3 ton 5 cwt. bell hung in an oak frame. This bell was originally hung for ringing; it had a large half-wheel. This is now removed and now stands in the belfry together with the original stock. The bell is now stationary, and is used in connection with the clock and chimes, and strikes the hour. The ring of eight bells is hung in a corner of the big square tower, and the ringers stand just under the open louvres—not too cosy a position during the winter months.

From an antiquarian point of view these bells are as interesting as those of any cathedral in England. The treble was cast by 'Robarte Nevcome, of Leicester,' in 1598; second with a black-letter invocation, 'Sancte Petre ora pro nobis'; third and fourth by John Rudhall, 1810; fifth, sixth and seventh inscriptions are also in black letter character thus: 5th, 'May the bell of John sound for many years'; 6th, 'I being struck, am called Mary, Rose of the World'; 7th, 'I have the name of Gabriel, who was sent down from heaven.' The tenor is by A. Rudhall, and dated 1736.

A tablet in the tower records that on September 22nd, 1820, 'was rung in this tower a peal of Grandsire Tripples, containing 5,040 changes, brought round in three hours and sixteen minutes by the following band of College Youths.' Then follows the names of the ringers who must not be confused with the College Youths of London, this term being used by the cathedral men, and that of the 'Crypt Youths' by those of St. Mary-de-Crypt, Gloucester, already noticed.

The See of Swansea and Brecon was formed in 1923, the cathedral being the ancient Priory Church of St. John-the-Evangelist, Brecon. This is only a small cathedral, the total length of nave and chancel being 205ft. It has a central tower 34½ft. square, and containing five bells. The first three are by Abel Rudhall, 1745, the fourth by T. Rudhall, 1763, and tenor, which is approximately 17 cwt., by I. Rudhall, 1795. There were obviously six bells at one time, as they hang in a mediæval frame of oak for five largest bells, with a pit added for treble. All the bells swing in one direction, and the frame is cut to allow the former tenor to pass. The space measured 51in., thus this bell was probably about 49in. diameter. In 1933 the fourth and tenor were cracked, and the others are unringable.

Like many of the central towers I am describing, the approach to the ringing chamber here is very quaint. As you enter the cathedral down the nave, you turn right to the south transept, and the door is in the right-hand corner. Ascending a short flight of steps, you proceed to the south wall of the tower, inside of which you walk, then up a few steps, thence along to the next corner, and so on, walking right round the inside of the tower walls. You finish by climbing another twelve or more steps to enter the large ringing room.

Colyton, St. Andrew's Church is said to have the heaviest ring of six in Devon. It is unique in having a central square embattled tower with pinnacles dominated by an octagonal lantern of late Decorated period. The church contains many ancient and interesting monuments, principally to the Yonge and Pole families, while in the chancel there is a canopied tomb of Perpendicular work with effigy traditionally to Margaret, Countess of Devon (d. 1449), daughter of John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset, and granddaughter of John of Gaunt. On October 2nd, 1933, a very disastrous fire did many thousands of pounds worth of damage to the nave, south aisle and transept. During the restoration it was considered necessary to strengthen the tower, when part of a Celtic cross dating back to about 800 A.D. was found embedded in the west face. Another part—the base—was discovered in use as a corbel between the belfry and bell chamber, and a third portion came to light elsewhere.

The bells were not hurt by the fire, but it was deemed advisable to have them overhauled. Messrs. Gillett and Johnston did the work of strengthening the frame, recasting the second, tuning the others and supplying new fittings. The tenor of 1711, recast in 1837, weighs 24 cwt. 3 qr. 16 lb.

To get to the ringing chamber one ascends a stone spiral in a corner of the church, then proceed along a gallery at the end of the south aisle, turn right along another gallery and into the ringing room door. These galleries are inside the church. Here, too, the ropes are not a circle.

(To be continued.)

DOUBLE NORWICH COURT B. B. CATERS.

BY MAJOR J. HOWARD FREEBORN.

Plain Lead	Bob Lead
123456789	123456789
214365879	B 214365879
241638597	241638597
426135879	426135879
462318597	246318597
643281579	423681579
463825197	243825197
648352917	428356917
46385271	243859671
64839521	428395761
684937512	482937516
869473152	849273156
684971325	482971365
869417235	849217635
689142753	489126753
861924735	841962735
816297453	814697253
182694735	186492735
128967453	168947253

To quote 'The Ringing World,' this is the most musical of Cater methods, and deserves to be more widely practised. The duty of each bell is the same as in Major, both from the front and from behind, viz.: First work, Treble bob work, Last work, Near places, Full work, Far places.

An easy way to memorise this is to learn the jingle: 'First, Treble, Last, Near, Full, Far, First.'

It is just as important, as in other methods, to work to your course bell and to learn where you work with or pass her. This may best be done by pricking-out the Plain Course. In the lead given below, 8 courses 6 and 7 courses 9, and so on.

The difference between Major and Caters is that, while in Major there is only one bell in the Hunt, which admits of places being made in 3.4 and 5.6, in Caters there are two bells in the Hunt, and places are made in thirds and fifths and in fifths and sevenths, in order to allow the extra Hunt bell to pass through. The intermediate dodging, both for place-making bells and the treble bob-bell, is in 3.4, as in Major, and in 6.7 as in Triples.

The Bob is called as the Treble leaves the lead, and is made, as in Grandsire, by one bell leaving the Hunt, another going into the Hunt, and a third 'making' the Bob. The bell leaving the Hunt is leading when the Bob is called, and does a three-pull dodge on the Front and becomes the Treble Bob bell. The bell which has come down from Near places makes Thirds (when the Treble is in 4.5) and becomes the Hunt bell, while the bell which has just done Far Places makes the bob by doing a three-pull dodge on the Front (with the bell which has left the Hunt), leads and does a double-dodge, i.e., Full work. A Single causes the bells in 1-2-3 to lie still for a whole-pull.

Additional aids in ringing the method are that, if you leave the Front (or behind) with a dodge, you begin your Place-making with a dodge—and the same is true of the Treble Bob bell—and that, if you leave the Front (or behind) without a dodge, you begin your Place-making with the Places and dodge afterwards. Ring not only by the Course-method, but by the Treble also.

A LETTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor.

Sir,—After 24 years in this country without any means of keeping in practice with our noble art, I have at last managed to contact a couple of ringers in the Gwelo area, one of whom has managed to procure a set of handbells from Johannesburg.

Notices have been inserted in 'Daily Routine Orders' of various stations near, requesting all interested to contact us, and up to the moment have had five fellows answer the call, and practices are being arranged twice or three times weekly. It is our ambition to ring a handbell peal in this country before we leave, and perhaps in time to introduce a great number of newcomers to the art and thus endeavour to swell the bands at home after the war.

My home tower is St. Mary's, Ashford, Kent, where, before the war, most of my happiest hours have been spent, and if it be possible I should like to be remembered to the local band, and to the numerous ringers with whom I have been associated in Kent.

As far as I am aware, there are only two towers in South Africa with bells hung for ringing. These are at Johannesburg and Durban. I hope to visit each of them very soon.

Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

W. H. PRIOR.

SURPRISE ON ALL NUMBERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Re a discussion I heard recently, also on previous occasions, I should be glad to know if anyone rang Surprise on all numbers, any methods, previous to April, 1922.

M. F. R. HIBBERT.

36, Herne Road, Bushey, Herts.

SERVICE TOUCHES.

BOB MAJOR.

448	448
W M R	W M R
23456	23456
64235	42635
52436	62534
35426	45236
23456	23456
464	464
W B M R	W B M
23456	23456
35264	23564
42356	52436
34256	35426
23456	23456
480	496
W B M R	W B M R
23456	23456
23564	23645
45236	42356
45362	34256
23456	23456

TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

1,248	1,248
M B W R	M B W R
23456	23456
52364	43526
34625	45236
23456	25346
2	23456
1,248	1,248
M B W R	M B W R
23456	23456
54326	54632
34256	35426
52436	45236
23456	23456
1,248	1,248
M B W R	M B W R
23456	23456
63254	26354
43652	62453
35426	32654
52436	23456
23456	2

A BAND'S PROGRESS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—A short account of the Sunday ringing for the month of October at Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, may be of interest to your readers.

A few months ago Doubles was the limit and training of recruits continues, and it is hoped that it will not be long before Triples and Major can be achieved.

During the month of October we rang a 720 of Bob Minor on each Sunday, and on the third and fifth Sundays scored two 720's. Some were rung with covering bells and others without. All were called differently, including one with 42 singles. Those taking part were Misses E. Bertie and M. A. P. Bertie and Messrs. D. A. Bayles, J. Brewster, J. A. Brown, J. Cowey, H. Jarrett, W. Robson and F. Sheraton. The seven 720's were conducted by J. A. Brown (2) and D. A. Bayles (5).

In addition to our own ringing, on two Sunday afternoons, the 10th and 24th, four of the Chester-le-Street ringers joined forces with four from Houghton-le-Spring to attempt a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples at the latter church. In neither case was the quarter-peal achieved, but on each occasion a touch of 630 changes was brought round successfully under the conducting of the writer. Those taking part were Miss M. A. P. Bertie, Messrs. D. A. Bayles, J. Brewster, J. A. Brown, of Chester, and Messrs. S. W. Robinson, J. Masters, W. Sheraton and W. F. Sheraton, of Houghton.

I have been interested in the efforts of other bands as recorded in 'The Ringing World' recently, and should be grateful if you could find some space for a short account of our activities.

DENIS A. BAYLES.

Fatfield, Co. Durham.

GREAT BADDOW.—On Sunday, November 7th for Armistice Day service, 896 Kent Treble Bob Major: R. C. Thrift 1. A. H. Everett 2. E. Runter 3. H. Allen 4. H. Bradley 5. H. Devonish 6. L. A. Simmonds 7. P. Green (conductor) 8.

SOUTHGATE.—On Sunday, November 14th, for morning service, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: D. Wright 1. S. Wade 2. W. J. Bowden 3. J. Armstrong (conductor) 4. N. A. Tomlinson 5. H. Miller 6. J. Miller 7. J. G. Nash 8.

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.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Higher Walton, Saturday, November 20th, 2.30. Bring own food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Heston, Saturday, November 20th, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cups of tea at Westbrook Hall, 5 p.m., small charge. Names to J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 1, Listoke Edgehill Road, W.13.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Annual general meeting Newbury on Saturday, Nov. 20th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at New Buckenham, 2 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 20th. Service 4.15. Tea (bring own food) 4.45. Buses leave Norwich 12.15 and 2.20; leave New Buckenham 5.22 and 6.17.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, Close, Norwich.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, Nov. 20th, 3 p.m. Service ringing, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, Sunday, Nov. 21st, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Harpenden, Nov. 20th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—R. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Carshalton on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Notifications for tea to Mr. L. Reece, 6, Carshalton Place Terrace, Carshalton.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting at Leighton Buzzard on Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. J. Nichols, 20, Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard, by Thursday, Nov. 25th.—Edwin A. Belson, Hon. Dis. Sec., 105, Stoke Road, Leighton Buzzard.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Deeping St. Nicholas on Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (6) 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m., only for those who notify Mr. Frank Taylor, Deeping St. Nicholas, before Tuesday, Nov. 23rd. Business meeting after tea.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Meeting at Seale, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Names to Mr. E. Gardner, Ivy House, The Sands, near Farnham, by Wednesday, 24th.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual district meeting at Bushey, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 2.30. Service 5. Tea 5.30. Names for tea to Mr. E. Jennings, 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, by 24th.—H. G. Cashmore, Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Combined practice at Binfield (6 bells) on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 6 to 9 p.m.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at East Brent, Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (6) 6.30.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Meeting at Turvey, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. John Hilson, High Street, Turvey, Beds.—Frank C. Tysoe, Hon. Dis. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch.—Meeting at St. Giles', Northampton, Saturday, Nov. 27th. Bells (10) at 3.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Bring own food.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Adwick-le-Street, Doncaster, on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Names for tea before Nov. 23rd.—W. E. Lloyd, Sec., 3, Cranbrook Road, Doncaster.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowdon Branch.—Meeting at Reddish, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring own food.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting Bradford Cathedral, Saturday, Nov. 27th, 3 p.m. Tea may be obtained near the Cathedral. Business meeting 7 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Giles', Norwich on Saturday, December 4th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45 (bring own food). Names for tea by Nov. 28th.—A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Braintree, Saturday, December 4th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Meeting afterwards. Tea available in town.—H. G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Stony Stratford, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. Names by November 29th.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION and EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 4th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea in Parish Hall 5 p.m. for only those who let Mr. B. Collison, 169, Queen's Road, Tunbridge Wells, know by Dec. 2nd.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—Annual meeting at the Parish Church, Cheltenham, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (12) 2 p.m. Belfry blacked out. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 by kind invitation. Names by Dec. 1st.—Walter Yeend, Branch Hon. Sec., Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting Brierley Hill, Saturday, Dec. 4th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

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