

THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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RINGING AND AIR RAIDS.

When a year ago the order relating to the use of church bells was withdrawn every official war time restriction on ringing came to an end, and it was left to the church authorities and to ringers to decide when and how far the bells should be used. The only restraints are common law, common sense, and a right judgment of what is fitting in these abnormal times.

We can say definitely that the liberty gained has not been abused, and indeed has not been used to its fullest legitimate extent. The public generally has welcomed the ringing and complaints have been few and almost non-existent. There is, however, one point on which there still seems to be some difference of opinion, and that is whether it is permissible or advisable to continue ringing after an air raid warning has been sounded. Many, ringers, and others too, are under the impression that the police have not only the power, but the duty to forbid such ringing.

That is a mistake. The order was withdrawn without any qualification, and the police have no special authority to interfere with ringing as such. They have the right which belongs to every citizen to ask that any practice shall stop if they consider on good grounds it is contrary to public interest, but the duty and responsibility of deciding in the case of ringing rests with the parson and the ringers.

Should ringing cease directly an alert has been sounded? This is a question which has hardly presented itself during the past twelve months because enemy air activity over this country has been mainly confined to the hours of darkness, and ringing has generally, for various reasons, ceased with the black-out.

A new phase of the question has now arisen. By using pilotless planes the enemy is able (for the present at any rate) to launch an air attack on a widely spread area of southern England, and to do so at any time during the day or night. Warnings may be given at any moment, and not only when peal ringing and practice ringing is in progress, but also when the bells are ringing for Sunday service. What is the best and right thing to do?

When there is an air raid in the immediate vicinity of the church, when the guns are shooting, and bombs perhaps dropping, most ringers would think that the only thing to do is to stop ringing, but circumstances are not always like that. It usually happens (especially in

(Continued on page 258.)

the present phase), that an alert may last for hours, and apart from the sound of occasional distant gun fire, the people in a particular locality may see and hear nothing. Consequently they quite properly go about their business as if nothing unusual was happening. Why should not ringers do the same?

If ringers had to consider themselves only we think they would be quite justified in ignoring everything but an immediate attack, but there are others to think about. It certainly is not true that the sound of the bells would attract the attention of enemy planes, but there are nervous and ill-instructed persons who think it would. It is difficult to see how it could in any way interfere with the messages given by the sirens or hamper the work of the A.R.P. personnel, yet there are those who think it would. And there are people who think it wrong and unseemly for the bells to be ringing when an air raid is in progress and would resent it accordingly.

These opinions may not be sound or reasonable, but it will not pay ringers to ignore them. It would be foolish to give any excuse to those persons who are always ready to find fault with the bells, or to discourage those who like bells but would disapprove of their use in what they think improper circumstances.

Speaking generally, we may say it is wise and prudent not to ring while an alert is pending, but no general rule can be laid down. Much will depend on locality. In open country it might be quite safe and proper to ignore an alert, but in populous districts and especially in large towns it is better to stop at once.

This particular phase of enemy air activity will pass, and pass probably very quickly. It need not interfere much with ringing, even with peal ringing, but so long as the war lasts no band should ever lock themselves in a belfry so that they are isolated from the outside world. It should always be possible for a message to reach them without loss of time either through the unlocked door or through someone who is immediately available with a key.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 17, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation). Tenor 24 cwt.

MISS ANNIE POTTER ... Treble	JOHN POTTER ... 5
*BRIAN ROYLE ... 2	FRED GRUNDY ... 6
*TREVOR ROYLE ... 3	PERCY H. DERBYSHIRE ... 7
CHARLES RIDYARD ... 4	ROBERT ALLRED ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN POTTER.

* First peal. Rung for the centenary of the church.

KIRTLINGTON, OXON.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 17, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt. in E.

JOHN E. JUDGE ... Treble	PHILIP A. CORBY ... 5
*WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 2	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 6
MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 3	*NEIL ALLNATE ... 7
*JOHN E. SPICE ... 4	WALTER F. JUDGE ... Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal in the method.

TEN BELL PEAL.

WARWICK.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sat., June 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERERS, 5065 CHANGES;

ALBERT WALKER ... Treble	†LEONARD TREVOR ... 6
*JOSEPH H. W. WHITE ... 2	FRANK E. PERVIN ... 7
FRANK W. PERRENS ... 3	†DOUGLAS H. ARGYLE ... 8
WILLIAM COLLETT ... 4	†LESLIE BRAMALL ... 9
ADOLPHUS ROBERTS ... 5	†ERNEST BOSWORTH ... Tenor

Composed by F. W. PERRENS.

Conducted by F. E. PERVIN.

* First peal of Stedman Caterers on tower bells. † First peal of Stedman Caterers.

SIX BELL PEALS.

NANTWICH, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., June 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven extents.	Tenor 14 cwt.
FRANK BARNARD ... Treble	FRANK OLLIER ... 4
JOHN E. BROUGH ... 2	ALBERT CRAWLEY ... 5
CHARLES E. PAGE ... 3	HARRY PARKER ... Tenor

Conducted by H. PARKER.

Rung half-muffled for Mr. W. C. Sutton.

NAILSEA, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 16 of Bob Doubles and 26 of Grandsire.
*Tenor 11 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lb.

*E. J. BAKER ... Treble	*C. KORTRIGHT ... 4
*J. YEATES ... 2	†E. F. SHEARN ... 5
†H. L. F. DERRICK ... 3	*R. E. DURBIN ... Tenor

Conducted by E. F. SHEARN.

* First peal. † First peal of Doubles. First peal on the bells.

SILEBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., June 10, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten callings.	Tenor 23 cwt.
*MRS. BENE ROBERTS ... Treble	*WILLIAM SWAN ... 4
*G. LESLIE LOVETT ... 2	*WILLIAM W. DRAPER ... 5
GEORGE T. H. WALKER ... 3	*THOMAS DEXTER ... Tenor

Conducted by G. LESLIE LOVETT.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung for the silver wedding of William Swan.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., June 15, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT 45, WALSINGHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2	MRS. G. W. FLETCHER ... 7-8
MRS. J. THOMAS ... 3-4	WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 9-10
JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6	DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 11-12

Arranged and Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Fri., June 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF MAIDSTONE BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

ALAN WHITE ... 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE ... 3-4	SHEILA M. MCKAY ... 7-8

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

The first peal in the method.

ST. PAUL'S, HAMMERSMITH.

The old parish of Fulham stretched from the Thames to the borders of Willesden. At the extreme south were the village and the church, and from them a road ran northward until it joined the great road from London to the west, and here a large hamlet had grown up with several gentlemen's houses nearby. To meet the needs of this district St. Paul's, Hammersmith, was built in 1631, as a chapel of ease, on land given by the Bishop of London, Dr. William Laud.

The full cost was supplied by the inhabitants, and a number of leading parishioners signed an undertaking in which they acknowledged their liability to be rated for the repairs and maintenance of Fulham parish church and recognised the rights of the vicar. Every inhabitant of Hammersmith was bound to communicate at Easter time at the parish church and had the right to do so at any other time he chose, and also the benefit of other sacraments and ministrations; but no charges for the upkeep of the new chapel were to fall on the parish funds.

Among the leading subscribers was Sir Nicholas Crispe, a wealthy London citizen, who had built himself a lordly mansion on the banks of the Thames at Hammersmith, and on which he is said to have spent nearly £25,000. During the Civil War he was a prominent Royalist and suffered much for his loyalty. Largely through his generosity a ring of five bells was hung in St. Paul's tower, and four still remain which bear his name, though the tenor has twice been recast. In 1657 a treble was added and in 1813 the octave was completed.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the bells were rung regularly and the following are among the entries in the churchwardens' accounts.

1656	Nov. 5. Spent upon the Ringers on Gunpowder Treason Day	00 17 00
1657	Mar. 7. Payd. for a new sett of Bellropes weighing forty-two pounds at ninepence the pound	01 01 06
1658	Paide to the ringers and on Legg of Porke at Mr. ffrenches	0 13 07
1659	Pd. to Southey the Shoemaker for goatherd for the bells	00 12 00
1667	Aprill 23. Given to the Ringers at twice when ye king past bie	000 04 00
1672	April 23. Laid out on the ringers on St. George's Day	000 08 00
1681	Spent on the Ringers on Queen Elizabeth's birthday	0 06 00
1685	May 20. Gave to the Ringers and other Assistants in mete and Drinke being the King's restoration and birthday	00 15 00
1685	July 8. Gave to ye Ringers upon ye News of ye Rebells routing in the west	00 08 06
1685	July 10. Gave to ye Ringers and other expenses upon ye news of Monmouth being taken	00 04 06
1688	When the Quen dined at Hamssmeth	08 00
	When the King returned from his progris	08 00
	When the king returned to London	08 00

When ye king Dined at Quen Dogeres

08 00

1696	Ye 28 day of July. paid to ye Ringers for ye taking of Namgar	00 07 00
1702	The thanksgiving day for taking Vigo ffor ringing	00 15 00
	Paid for ringing when Prince Eugene beat ye French	00 06 08
1706	May 25. Paid for Ringing for ye Victory of Ramiles	00 02 06

Towards the end of the eighteenth century there was a number of young ringers connected with the tower who called themselves the Hammersmith Youths, and in 1774 they rang seven 720's of Bob Minor. James Worster was the conductor and he and some of the others were afterwards prominent members of the London Exercise.

The first peal on the bells, after they were increased to eight, was rung in 1814 by a band of College Youths made up of men from Kensington and Isleworth, in addition to two local ringers, Hallett and Paris. The method was Grandsire Triples, and so was every peal known to have been rung in the old tower. William Hallett and William Paris rang in a five-thousand in December, 1826, nearly fifty-three later than the peal of Minor in which both had taken part.

In 1820 the attempt of George the Fourth to obtain a divorce from his wife, Queen Caroline, caused a great amount of excitement and feeling throughout the country and nowhere more so than in Hammersmith, where the Queen was living. When the House of Lords decided in her favour St. Paul's bells were rung for four days, and on one of them nine bottles of wine were drunk in the belfry in honour of the event. There were nine ringers, but we may suppose they had others to help them to consume the wine, including Mr. James Gomme, the churchwarden, Mr. James Moody, the landlord of the Six Bells, who presented the wine, and Mr. Thomas Wescombe, the plumber, who paid for the board which still records the ringing and the drinking. Either Wescombe, or, more likely, his son of the same name, was a ringer, and rang the tenor to a peal of Grandsire Triples in 1841.

Twelve peals are known to have been rung in the old tower, the last in 1848. The church was pulled down in 1882, and when the present fine building was built the bells were rehung in the new steeple and the old boards replaced in the belfry. The Cumberland Youths rang the first peal after rehanging. It was one of Double Norwich Major in December, 1891, conducted by George Newson, and the band included men still well remembered—Henry Dains, Benjamin Foskett, E. F. Cole, A. Pittam and Arthur Jacob.

The bells are not a good peal and they were not well hung. For several years now they have been practically unringable.

HAVERHILL, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, June 11th, 720 Bob Minor: N. Nunn 1, Muriel C. Backler 2, Mrs. L. Wright 3, H. Backler 4, J. W. Jennings 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6.

NORTON-IN-THE-MOORS.—On Sunday, June 11th, 720 Biddulph Surprise Minor: G. Lawrence 1, S. Ryles 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6. Also 720 Milton Surprise Minor: J. Jolley 1, S. Ryles 2, J. E. Wheeldon 3, W. Lawrence 4, W. P. Deane (conductor) 5, J. Walley 6.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On June 16th, two 720's of Bob Minor, 26 singles: H. Pratt 1, S. Sgt. E. J. Coe, R.A.F. 2, P. Skipworth 3, F. Warrington (conductor) 4, L.A.C. E. Nobles 5, L. W. Fisher 6.

ROBERT ROANE.

THE COMPOSER OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES.

Not so very long ago it was universally believed in the Exercise that the first man to compose anything like our modern style of changes was Fabian Stedman. He was often called the Father of the Art, and it was stated that 'he invented the method of hunting the treble up and down.' Actually there was change ringing before he was born and some of the methods still in use were composed and rung while he was yet only a boy. One of these was our present Bob Doubles, except that the bob was made on the three back bells instead of on the bells in 2-3-4. In the year 1667 this was already Old Doubles, which shows that it had then been in use for a considerable time.

Who the composer was and where it was first rung we do not know, nor do we know anything of the men who produced the earliest forms of change ringing out of which our modern art has developed by an orderly and logical process; but we do know who was the man who produced the first method which in every respect and detail agreed with the modern standards.

Changes in the first instance were produced by changing only one pair of bells at a time, as is the case with modern stoney, but the old Plain Changes were worked out on a thoroughly scientific and mathematical basis, with strict regard to truth. Then came Cross Peals, which were largely constructed of double changes, with a certain proportion of single changes intermixed. Of these, those most familiar to-day are Bob Doubles and New Doubles.

Robert Roane set himself the task of producing an extent on five bells with double changes throughout, and though he did not quite succeed (for the task was an impossible one), he did compose Grandsire Doubles, 'the best and most ingenious peal that ever was composed to be rung on five bells.' Afterwards, using it as a basis, he produced Grandsire Bob on Six Bells, which is what we now know as the standard 720 of Bob Minor.

These two peals have probably been more rung than any others on any number of bells, and whether we consider that fact or the vast development which has come out of them, we must admit that Roane earned a prominent place among the composers of all time.

Yet his name was clean forgotten. It is characteristic of Stedman and his age that, though he refers to Roane as a worthy and knowing member of the Society of College Youths, who, 'when the art of cross pricking lay enveloped in such obscurity, that it was thought impossible that double changes on five bells could be made to extend further than ten and triple and double changes on six further than sixty, dissipated those mists of ignorance,' yet he does not mention his name. No doubt his readers knew well enough who was referred to, and probably it did not occur to anyone that there might be people who two hundred and fifty years and more later would be interested in the matter. The only means of identification is that Richard Duckworth printed in the 'Tintinnalogia' the lines Roane wrote when he presented Grandsire Bob to the College Youths and added the initials R.R. These lines, thirty in number, show that Roane was a better composer of changes than he was a poet, but he did achieve a rather difficult feat; throughout the rhyme is the same and only three words are used twice.

Robert Roane was for many years in the service of the household of King Charles the First and held the office of sworn clerk of the pantry. Apparently he retained the office during the Civil War and the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, but at the Restoration of Charles the Second it was given to another man. As compensation he was granted £50 a year board wages, but this fell into arrears and in 1662 he petitioned the King for its restoration. He stated that he had been daily employed by the officers of the Greencloth (a section of the Lord Steward's department which, among other things, had charge of the kitchens and dining rooms of the palace) about the accounts of the house (the palace at Whitehall) and that he had served for 44 years, but the last quarter he was reduced £25 per annum board wages.

Whether his petition had any effect is doubtful, but five years later another petition of his referring perhaps to another transaction was read by the Treasury officials, who ordered him 'to attend Mr. George on Monday next.' Later a warrant was issued to pay him £100.

Robert Roane joined the Society of College Youths in 1647 and held the office of Master in 1652.

I have said that Roane used Grandsire Doubles as the basis on which he composed Grandsire Bob, the standard 720 of Plain Bob Minor. At first sight the connection does not seem very clear, but we are fortunate enough to have Duckworth's definite statement (which probably he got through Fabian Stedman) as to how the 720 actually was produced. Roane pricked a six-score of Reverse Grandsire Doubles on 23456, using the second as the whole hunt and the fourth as the half hunt. He then wrote a 1 in front of every row and there were the lead heads and ends of a 720 of Minor.

12345	23456
21435	
24153	32546
42513	35264
45231	
54321	53624
45312	56342
54132	65432
51423	56423
15243	
12534	65243
21354	62534
23145	26354
32415	23645
23451	
32541	32465
23514	34256
32154	43526
31245	34562
13425	
14352	43652
etc.	34625
	43265
	42356
	24536
	25463
	etc.

To get the full extent on both five and six bells Roane found he had to use two singles, and to avoid this he adopted an ingenious plan. In each half of the six-score at one of the bobs the bell in thirds moved straight into fifths.

41325 instead of 41325

14253 14352

Then he called Grandsire True. It was ingenious, but it is just as well it was never adopted by the Exercise.

Thomas Roane, who was Steward of the Society of College Youths in 1682 and Master in 1689, was most likely Robert's son. He, too, was in Government employ, and was appointed Controller of Customs at Chichester port in 1673. He resigned the office in the next year.

GLoucester and Bristol Association.

MEETING AT MAISEMORE.

A meeting of the Gloucester Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Maisemore on June 3rd. The visitors were welcomed by the Rector, the Rev. M. Playfoot. He and Mrs. Playfoot are members of a new band which is being taught by Mr. W. B. Etheridge. It numbers 13 and all have joined the association.

Tea was provided by Mrs. Playfoot, Mrs. Tompkins and Mrs. Cornock, who were thanked on behalf of the members by Mr. Romans. It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Quedgeley.

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT BRETT

The death is announced of Mr. Robert Brett, of Warren Farm, Mickleham, Surrey, which occurred on June 2nd. Mr. Brett, who had rung over fifty peals, chiefly for the Kent County Association, was for many years a member of the Newdigate band before going to Mickleham.

The funeral at Mickleham Church was attended by many relatives and friends, including ringers from Leatherhead, Ashted and Newdigate. In accordance with his wishes, Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells at the graveside by Messrs. A. H. Winch, A. Harman, A. H. Smith and J. Hoyle.

CHIMING AND RINGING.

A MID-VICTORIAN OPINION.

From the 'Ecclesiologist' of June, 1864.

We have always considered chiming the bells to be the legitimate way of assembling the congregation to the public worship of the sanctuary. There is something in the soft tones which are thereby produced, more in harmony with the subdued joyfulness with which we should enter the courts of the Lord, than the louder and overpowering sound of bells in full swing, ringing out at the full extent of their power, peals which are properly suited to times of public rejoicing and thanksgiving.

And where this latter practice prevails, as it does in the northern and eastern counties, it is generally found that the ringers who have been thus calling their neighbours to church seldom enter themselves, but walk stealthily away as soon as the time is up for the parson to enter; and he has often the pain of seeing in the distance one or more escaping his observation—it may be in their everyday dirty working dress—retreating like those who feel ashamed of being seen by their more decently attired neighbours. Therefore, if for no other reason, we are opposed to peal-ringing on Sundays as a mode of calling to church and we advocate chiming in preference.

But it is sometimes found difficult to secure the regular attendance of a sufficient number of persons to do this, and so the work is left to the sexton to do the best he can with some chance help.

We are at a loss to know why there should be any difficulty in getting persons to chime. There is not much art in it nor is it at all laborious as we know from our own personal experience; neither can we conceive that any—the most respectable parishioner—would be thereby damaged in his position; and he might take a pleasure in helping to call his neighbours together to prayer, and if the ropes fall to the pavement of the sacred building, as we hold they should, there is no need of climbing up the narrow staircase of a tower to perform the work in some gloomy and dirty ringing loft above.

DEATH OF MR. W. C. SUTTON.

The death is announced of Mr. William C. Sutton, head ringer and sidesman at Nantwich Parish Church, which occurred on June 8th. Mr. Sutton, who was 70 years of age, had been a ringer for about 54 years. He was not a great peal ringer, having only rung seven peals, but was always ready to teach the younger ringers. The funeral was at Acton on June 10th, when a large number of ringers from the district attended. The bells at Acton were rung half-muffled before and after the interment, and a peal of Bob Minor was rung at Nantwich.

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THE RINGING WORLD.

The official journal of the Central Council of
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.
Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.
45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, Middlesex.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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NOTICE.

Secretaries of associations and readers generally are reminded of the rule that no notices can be published unless they are prepaid.

The peal of Stedman Oaters at Warwick was rung for the 90th birthday of Mr. William Male, a member of the local band and the oldest resident member of the Warwickshire Guild.

Mr. E. J. Baker, who rang the treble in the peal of Doubles at Nailsea, has been a ringer at the church for 50 years.

A band of ringers has been formed at Bramley, Surrey, consisting entirely of members of the Red Cross Cadet Unit under the supervision of Mrs. Moore, their commandant. They are being trained by Mr. J. R. Mackman.

ENGLISH BELLS IN NORMANDY.

In 'The Church Times' last week there was an attractive article by Mr. B. C. Boulter on Normandy, from which the following is an extract:—

'I lunched at Dives-sur-Mer, which is now, like our own Sandwich, deserted by the sea, and no longer a port of note, but a sleepy and very attractive little place. My ancient inn was the Hostellerie de Guillaume le Conquerant, for it was from Dives that the Conqueror and his fellow-bandits set out for the only invasion of England which succeeded. When Edward III. battered down the old church of Dives, fortunately the west wall survived, for over the door on the inside wall are painted the names of Williams Knights, names, that is, of the Norman villages nearby from which they took their titles—Vernon and Harcourt and Rosel (or Russell) and so on.

'I met the parish cure of Rosel walking among the apple orchards with his book. He told me that the sweetest bell in the church tower was made in England by a firm which had been making bells ever since the time when "England" (this with a twinkling eye) "was a Christian country." I climbed the old stairway among jackdaws' nests and found a bell made in Whitechapel and presented to the Church of St. Martin, Rosel, by Francis Rosel, or Russell, fifth Duke of Bedford, and I looked down on the orchards and thought of the apples in the Duke of Bedford's Co(n)vent Garden by Russell Square.'

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HAGLEY.

A quarterly meeting of the Northern Branch of the Worcester and Districts Association, held at Hagley on June 17th, was attended by 82 members.

The service, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. Robert Burns, was followed by a picnic tea in Hagley Park, by permission of the Viscount Cobham, and the beauties of this lovely hill-country were fully enjoyed by all.

At the business meeting 31 new members were elected from Cradley, Kidderminster, Lye, Wollaston, Brierley Hill, Belbroughton and Chad-desley Corbett towers, and it was decided to hold the annual meeting at Clent on Saturday, September 16th, as well as monthly meetings at Kingswinford on Saturday, July 15th, and Halesowen on Saturday, August 19th.

Thanks were given to the Rector and those who had worked to make the gathering enjoyable.

ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

By MAJOR J. HOWARD FREEBORN, M.A.

Lic. : Royal Institute of British Architects.

Fellow : Chartered Surveyors' Institution.

(Continued from page 253.)

THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD (1160—1200).

The Transition can hardly rank as a style of Architecture; it was a brief phase linking the Norman and Early English, and occurring by no means all over the country. Up to this time the Benedictine Order of monks had been the leading church builders; they derived their knowledge entirely from the Romanesque, with its round arch. But in the later years of the twelfth century there was an influx of Cistercians, who brought with them the pointed arch then coming into use in western Europe. They quickly supplanted the older Benedictines as the ruling Order in monastic life, and wherever they settled we see the pointed arch used in conjunction with late Norman piers and decoration, a curious but attractive intermingling of styles. The arches are not the narrow and very pointed type of the first early English builders; they have a more generous curve and are to be seen side by side with the round arch.

The Quire at Canterbury is an outstanding example of this brief but eloquent phase, which is also to be seen in the great and romantic ruins at Fountains and Glastonbury. Parish churches which possess transitional work are, among others, Deeping St. James, Eastbourne (St. Mary), Selby Abbey, New Shoreham and Woodford.

THE EARLY ENGLISH PERIOD (1189—1307), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS FIRST POINTED OR XIII. CENTURY.

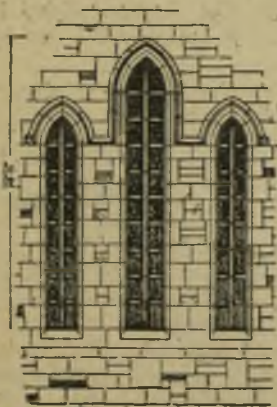


FIG. 14.
Lancet Windows.

with the death of Edward III., by which time Perpendicular detail had been increasingly used for a quarter of a century. By the death of Henry II. the Normans had been finally absorbed by the conquered English, and a new and vigorous nation entered upon a new and vigorous native architecture, which developed with extraordinary rapidity. The pointed arch permitted a freedom of design unknown in former times, construc-

tion became lighter, and was marked by great dignity and simplicity.

The tall, narrow and acutely-pointed arch epitomised the new idea of height, as of churches soaring heavenwards. These lancet windows are deeply splayed and often occur in twos, threes (Fig. 14), or even a group of five, under one arch. The tracery thus formed is known as plate-tracery (Fig. 15), and was followed in the later phases by the more interesting and logical bar-tracery, upon which all window-heads continued to be designed throughout the Gothic Age. Piers became slenderer than the Norman, often taking the form of a cluster of detached shafts around a central column, and supporting the vaulting ribs.



FIG. 15.
Plate Tracery.

The vaulting of wide spans was now made possible by the use of the pointed arch, with a series of structural ribs, the quadripartite (four-part) being the common form (Fig. 16), though it was sometimes increased to one of six parts (sexpartite). The intersections of the ribs presented the carvers with an opportunity they were not slow to take, and henceforth beautifully carved



FIG. 16.
Groined Vault.

bosses become an attractive feature of vaulting. The outward thrust of these vaults was met by narrower buttresses of deeper projection, replacing the flat and shallow Norman variety. Buttresses also appear at each angle of the building, usually in pairs.

The doorways have detached shafts and are deeply recessed; the mouldings are a series of bold rolls and deep hollows, the latter often decorated with the dog-tooth ornament, characteristic of the period (Fig. 17). The capital and abacus are now formed from a single stone, and are round or octagonal; they are either moulded or surmounted with conventional (stiff leaf) foliage (Fig. 18). The pyramid roof of the Normans gave way to a tall and graceful spire, with an octagonal base formed from the square by means of four 'broaches,' and springing without a parapet from the tower walls (see Fig. 3). Roofs are steep-pitched, and gabled porches become a feature, often of great beauty, as at West Walton. The plan was more usually cruciform, and aisles are more numerous.

Of the many fine churches of this period, there are good examples at Bampton (Oxon), Grantham, Hexham, Pershore Abbey, Shrewsbury (St. Mary), Stone (Kent), Stamford (St. Mary), Uffingham, Witney, and that perfect monument, West Walton.



FIG. 17.
Dog-tooth Enrichment.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 244.)

The church of St. Mary, Harting, Sussex, near Petersfield, has a central tower and spire with clock, and six bells, all by Chapman and Mears, of London, 1782. These are rung from the ground floor in full view of the congregation, and I have received the following two amusing notes on this place. First, Major F. A. Yorke writes: 'I recall it as a boy some 47 years ago. There were six bells and the fall of ropes made a circle at the head of the nave and thereby took up all the room between the first pews and entrance to choir. We boys hoped to high heaven the tenor man would get the bight of his rope round the "dicky bird," and he and the lectern soar up—but that never came off. Rolled up sleeves, fustian and corduroys were a bit oppressive on hot summer days. How I wish those days back!'

The Rev. A. J. Roberts, Rector of Harting, writes: 'There are six bells hung in the central tower, and the ringers ring from the floor of church. The church was built in 1180. The distance from church floor to the bell chamber floor is about 30 feet, and so the length of rope—without guides—makes ringing rather difficult. I have been a ringer myself nearly all my life, and I am now in my 85th year. Alas, during the war the bells are silent, but we had, years ago, two teams of men ringers and one team of boy ringers. Their enthusiasm made ringing a joy, but for some years past, as the older members died off, the younger generation succumbed to other attractions, and at the present time only three or four ringers are left and we have to depend upon a mechanical apparatus fixed in the bell chamber. The ascent from the church floor to the bell chamber is by a fine oak circular staircase. I remember on one occasion, one of the ringers lost his rope completely, and it flung about and entwined itself round one of the seats (or pews), which it wrenched from its base and swung it up and down in face of the assembled congregation. Also on a week-day once, I happened to be in church when two or three lady visitors came in, and the bells, quite contrary to the rules, had not been rung down before the ringers left, and one of these daring damsels took hold of a rope, gave a pull, and up she went—up and down—in the 30 feet of space above her head. Red petticoats and patent shoes, etc., were wangling above our heads for some time, till her weight brought her down to terra-firma. We never succeeded to be efficient enough to ring the bells by ropesight in the service—though we did manage now and again on practice nights. Bennett, of Midhurst—a fine ringer—brought his team, thrice did some fine ringing for some hours, but he always said it would be impossible to ring a peal with the people coming and going by you, and the rope was directly over their heads in one pew. My predecessor's wife had two seats added to those which were originally the front pews, and two of the ringers had to stand in these added front pews to ring. Your friend's—Major Yorke's—reference to the choirboys' hopes to see a ringer get his rope round the "dicky bird"—meaning the lectern—was quite a possibility, as this lectern was literally standing amongst the ringers. When I became Vicar in 1897 (I was curate for some years) I had the intrusive pews removed, and

moved the lectern to another position; and the ringers robed in black cassocks.'

The Vicar also sends the following amusing account of an incident which occurred here: 'A young curate brought the members of a Mothers' Meeting for a holiday—and asked me to show them the bells. I consented to take six at a time. Among the first six was a fat old gal of rather alarming proportions for such a venture, but she was insistent on trying. When the time came for ascent through the trapdoor she managed with great effort to get there, but the return journey was another matter. For a full half-hour the old lady was trying to force her way through the small trapdoor to the descending ladder, but all in vain. When I took the matter in hand, I dismissed everyone from the bell chamber, had a talk with the old lady, told her what I intended to do, and she was to divest herself of every bit of clothing she could spare. Then I took off a couple of the bell ropes—they must be 40 feet long—and wound one round her body, like the string on a cricket bat handle. She was quite ready to do anything I wished. Then, having one rope for safety preventive, and another attached to her body and which was under my command, I quietly shifted her to the top of the descending ladder, and, with some care and constant adjustments, I got her to the floor of the clock chamber, she murmuring from time to time: "If ever I gets out of this—never no more—never no more," which, by the bye, became a catchword in the village for long afterwards.'

Another tower that should be added to my list of places where ringing under a central tower is done from the ground floor in full view of the congregation is that of Branscombe, Devon. Here at the church of St. Winifred are six bells. This Norman cruciform building is peculiar, as the transepts are to the west of the tower and not—as is usual—abutting or contiguous to it. Originally five bells, all of differing dates, viz., 1669, 1696, 1635, 1747, 1741, one was recast and another added in 1898, making six. The latter work was carried out by H. Stokes, of Woodbury.

The church of St. Mary, Hanley Castle, near Malvern, Worcs., has a central tower with a ring of six bells, where the ropes come down in the chancel and ringers perform in full view of the congregation. It is built of brick and stone in the Decorated style and dating from 1674, the nave alone being a portion of the original Norman building built by the Earl of Warwick in the 15th century. There are many interesting monuments and tablets to the Lechmere family. The bells were originally six by Abraham Rudhall, 1699, but the treble was recast 1895 by Llewellyn and James, and again in 1925 by J. Taylor and Co., who also recast the second at the same time. The fifth was recast by G. Mears in 1858. In 1925 they were rehung in a new iron frame for eight bells; the tenor being 14 cwt. in F. There is also a Sanctus by I. B., of Gloucester, 1600.

The glorious church of Hemingbrough, Yorkshire, is a cruciform building with central tower, and a spire rising 120 feet above its tower and visible for miles around the Selby district. This spire has recently undergone considerable repairs. Of the six bells, five are by E. Seller, Ebor (York), and treble by J. Taylor and Co., 1907, in which year the whole were rehung. The tenor is 10 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. (F). Ringers here stand at the

crossing of the transepts and before the chancel in full view of the congregation. The writer visited this church on Sunday, June 2nd, 1918, for an afternoon peal. Owing to a false start we were late finishing. The congregation had assembled, and choir waiting for rounds to come some five or more minutes after service time. They were very patient, and so I had the pleasure of conducting a very good peal, now recorded on a tablet placed on one of the tower piers.

The Glamorganshire village of St. Athan, whose parish church bears the same name, is a small place on the Llantwit and Barry road, five miles from Cowbridge. The small but ancient church has a central embattled tower containing a ring of six (tenor about 8 cwt.) and a clock. Originally four old bells, two of which were cracked, they were increased to six by addition of two trebles and recasting the old bells by J. Warner and Sons in 1919. For this work the cost was defrayed by Alderman W. Roberts, Lord Mayor of Cardiff, 1917-18, a native of St. Athan. To get to the ringing room one goes up an iron staircase out of the chancel, thence through a hole or doorway and down a staircase into the room. There is no window or ventilation in the ringing room except for the doorway mentioned, so it is necessary to always have a light to ring by. The bells are hung in an iron frame.

The massive square central tower of Tawstock, near Barnstaple, Devon, according to Risden, 'hath a delightful tuneable ring of bells.' Five of these were cast by W. Evans in 1753, and one—the second, was cast by 'Ino. Rudhall' in 1794. In 1908, the old wooden frame, having become unsafe, a new iron frame was inserted and the 4th bell recast, and thirty years later—1938—Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. again rehung the bells and added two trebles, making the octave. The tenor is 16 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb. The tower is 70 feet 7 inches to the battlements and 86 feet to top of pinnacles.

The approach to the ringing room is somewhat unusual. First one enters a small door on the outside of the north transept, then climbs a few steps of stone—seven or eight—at the top of which is a door. Passing through this turning sharp right, one enters a small gallery some 20 feet long and 4 feet broad, and 20 feet above the floor of the transept, fixed on the inner west wall of the transept. The late Sir Gilbert Scott, who some 70 years ago superintended the restoration of this church, considered this gallery to be quite the best piece of carving in the building. Its beauty consists in the 'vignette,' which is a running ornament of leaves and tendrils such as is frequently carved in the hollow mouldings of Gothic architecture. This gallery leads to some wooden steps with a guard rail, and then you enter a circular stone staircase which leads to the ringing chamber, and then on up to the bell chamber and tower roof. From the ringing room two 'squints' can be used by the ringers, one looking towards the altar rails and vestry to watch the wedding couples leave the church, and the other looking to the south door to stop tolling the bell for a funeral. There was, until recently, living evidence that the ringers rang in sight of the worshippers in the church, on a platform immediately below the present ringing chamber, but, unfortunately, the problem of how they got there is unsolved.

Tawstock treasures a 'Ringers' Jug' made of cloam,

a clay dug in the neighbourhood which still provides the raw material for the noted Royal Barum ware. The jug is glazed a bright yellow, and on the front is the crude outline of a bell, inside which is inscribed: '1812. Succes to the hearty Ringers of Tawstock.' Then are drawings of five bells, and further 'The youngest ringers shall carry the jug.' On the back is inscribed 'E. Fishley, Fremington, 1850,' which refers to the repairing of the jug. It is 15½ inches high, and 3 feet 2½ inches in circumference.

Another ringers' jug belonging to a well-known central tower is that at Witney, Oxon. Here is preserved in the rectory a vessel of semi-glazed earthenware capable of holding 16 quarts, of which the neck alone takes one. This ringers' jug is reputed to be at least 250 years old, and an old ringer—Howell Ball, a tinker—some 70 years ago stated that his grandfather, also a tinker, repaired this jug, it having been broken. This was done by neatly placing three bands of iron round it, and also inserting eight brass rivets.

Witney is 11 miles from Oxford, and is chiefly famous for its long established and still thriving manufacture of blankets. Its splendid church, with central tower and spire rising 156 feet high, is a landmark for all the country round. The present cruciform church was built in Early English times, and there are traces of an early Norman structure. The central piers with tower and spire are Early English. Above the roof the tower has twelve tall lancets and turret pinnacles. A great array of grotesques run along the cornice, and the buttresses of the walls have elaborate niches. Here are eight bells, tenor 18½ cwt., by T. Mears, jun., 1815, the others dating from 1660 to 1885.

The church of St. Mary the Virgin, Magor, Monmouthshire, situated some six miles from Newport, has a central tower with six bells rung from the ground floor near chancel, and seats have to be moved to accommodate the ringers. It was once the seat of a Priory, an offshoot of the Cistercian Abbey of Tintern. The monks left a lasting memorial of their connection with the district in the addition they made to the parish church, which, in consequence, was long known as the 'Cathedral of the Moors.' They found it a small building with a massive west tower, having a square turret at the N.W. corner, and transformed it into a handsome cruciform minster by taking the original building for the chancel, attaching to the west face of the tower a spacious Perpendicular nave, and throwing out transepts north and south. The old weather moulding on the west face of the tower still remains as evidence of the earlier dimension of the church. It was thoroughly restored in 1868.

Another Monmouth church with a central tower is that of St. Mary, Caldecot. The church is a somewhat heterogeneous and unsymmetrical structure with many features of merit, but spoilt as a whole by its lop-sidedness. Though the builders have given it a central tower they have abandoned the usual cruciform design by omitting the transepts and, by way of compensation, added a north aisle. In style the building is a blend of Decorated and Perpendicular. There is a ring of eight bells, tenor 13 cwt. 6 lb., which is a pre-Reformation bell. In 1913 Messrs. Gillett and Johnston rehung the whole in a new steel and iron frame.

(To be continued.)

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336

2314567

3154276 Every course called
1524367 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 12, 13
5234176
2314567

In every course call the 4th. In Slow, First Whole Turn, three times in 6-7 up and twice in 6-7 down.

480

2314567

1243576 1, 3, 4, 10
4132567 1, 3, 4, 10
3421576 1, 3, 4, 10
3241567 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10
Repeated.

In the first three courses call the 5th to make the bob, out Quick and make the bob, out Slow. In the fourth course add bobs at First Whole Turn and First Half Turn.

STEDMAN CATERS.

249

231456789

256431978 2, 5, 11
643152879 5, 7, 9, 10
165243978 7, 9, 10
214365879 7, 9, 10

Call bobs when the 9th is in 8-9 down, and in 4-5 down before going in Slow. The 6th will make the latter and 1-2 dodge behind. Then call a bob when the 9th is dodging in 4-5 up after coming out Slow. The treble will make it, and 7-8 dodge behind. This will bring up the course end in the next Six—a slow one.

In the second course call a bob when the 9th is dodging in 4-5 down before going in Quick. The 2nd will make it, and 4-6 dodge behind. Miss a Six and call a bob when the 9th is in 4-5 up after coming out Quick. The 7th will dodge in 8-9 up. Miss another Six and allow the 9th to go up to the 7th. Then call two bobs with 9-7 behind, and after the second of them the 8th will come up into 6-7 and the course end will be at the end of a Slow Six.

The bobs in the third and fourth courses are at the same intervals as those in the third course except that the first bob, when the 9th is dodging in 4-5 down, is not made. But as there are no fixed bells the observation is different. In the third course call a bob when the 9th is about to make its last Half Turn, miss one Six, then call the 9th out Slow and in 4-5 up.

The fourth course is called as the second except for the first bob.

ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

(Continued from page 263.)

GLOSSARY.

BROACH SPIRE. A spire without a parapet, of two pitches, the lower being the flatter.

BOSS. Carved ornament covering intersection of ribs in vaulting.

CLERESTORY. The upper walls of the nave, lit by windows clear of the nave roof.

COLUMN. Circular vertical support.

DOG-TOOTH. A small E.E. ornament set in a hollow moulding.

LANCET. Narrow E.E. pointed window, like a lancet blade.

QUIRE (CHOIR). The eastern limb of a Cathedral church, containing the stalls.

RIB. Structural member of a vault.

SHAFT. A small column used in conjunction with piers or at the jambs of doors and windows.

TRACERY. Design in the head of a window.

E.E.: Plate, bar, geometrical.

Dec.: Geometrical, reticulated, curvilinear.

Perp.: Rectilinear.

TREFOIL. Ornament representing the three-leaf clover; an arch of three curves.

TYMPANUM. The space between the lintel and arch of a doorway. (To be continued.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Black Notley, Saturday, June 24th. Service 4 p.m. Tea afterwards. Ringing at Braintree in the evening.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at Harrow Weald, Saturday, June 24th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.45 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. No. 114 bus from Edgware Tube Station to Brockhurst Corner.—T. J. Lock.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Burnham-on-Sea, Saturday, June 24th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business, Blue Bird Tea Rooms, 5 p.m.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—Meeting at Hersham, Saturday, June 24th, 3.30. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting in Church Hall.—D. Cooper, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting at Terrington St. John, Saturday, June 24th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5. Bring food.—W. W. Cousins, Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford City Branch.—Half-yearly meeting at Marston, Saturday, June 24th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea afterwards. Headington, ringing, 6 p.m.—M. R. Cross, The School House, Radley, Abingdon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Great Wymondley, June 24th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. No teas.—A. E. Symonds, The Cottage, Windmill Hill, Hitchin.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—Meeting at Netherseale, Saturday, June 24th. Bells (8) 3.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chester Branch.—Practice meeting at St. Mary's, Handbridge, Chester, on Saturday, June 24th. Bells (8) from 5.30.—J. W. Clarke, Hon. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—A meeting at Turvey on Saturday, June 24th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. It is hoped to arrange tea.—Frank C. Tysoe, Hon. Sec.

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LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. —Meeting at Padiham on Saturday, June 24th, 2.30 p.m. Business 6 p.m. Bring food.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at Tonbridge every Friday evening from 7.30 to 9 p.m., commencing June 30th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Meeting at Uckfield, Saturday, July 1st, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mrs. E. L. Hairs, The Oaks, Theobolds Road, Burgess Hill, by June 27th.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Meeting at Bingham, Saturday, July 1st, 2.30. Tea at 5. Names by Monday, June 26th. — T. Groombridge, Jun., Hon. Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Meeting at King's Norton Parish Church; Saturday, July 1st. Business meeting at 3.30. Tea 4.15. Bells 5. Names to Mr. W. B. Cartwright, 115, Westhill Road, King's Norton, Birmingham 30, by June 28th.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Stone (8 bells) on Saturday, July 1st. Cups of tea provided, so bring food.—Andrew Thompson.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, July 1st. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 3 p.m. Summer meeting at Bushey July 15th. Further details later. Names for tea to A. G. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch (Grimsby District). — Annual meeting at Barton-on-Humber (8 bells), Saturday, July 1st, 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Assembly Rooms 4.45. Names to Mr. A. W. Hoodless, 11, Holydyke, Barton-on-Humber, Lincs, by June 28th.—H. I. Mingay, Hon. Dis. Sec., Grimsby.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at St. Cuthbert's, Benfieldside (6 bells), Saturday, July 1st, 2.30 p.m. Bring food, cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting at Westoning, Saturday, July 1st. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Bring food. Cups of tea provided.—D. E. Lidbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—Meeting at Wool, Saturday, July 1st. Bells (6) 2 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Notify for tea by June 27th.—J. T. Godwin, Acting Hon. Sec., 10, High West Street, Dorchester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The annual meeting at Whittle-le-Woods, near Chorley, on Saturday, July 1st, 2.30 p.m. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Meeting at Kingston-on-Thames on Saturday, July 1st. Ringing from 2.30 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. No arrangements for tea.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Annual meeting at Basingstoke, Saturday, July 1st. Central Committee 2 p.m. General meeting 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. B. Woodley, 40, Mortimer Lane, Basingstoke, Tuesday, June 27th. The towers of St. Michael's and All Saints' available.—G. Williams, Master, for F. W. Rogers, Hon. Gen. Sec.

LADIES' GUILD (Southern District) and GUILD-FORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Farnham District).—Combined meeting at Aldershot, July 8th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Cups of tea provided. Bring food.—Miss H. F. Mills, W. H. Viggers, Hon. Secs.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Rowley Regis, Saturday, July 8th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting afterwards. Send names. — F. Colclough, Hon. Sec., 27, Hall Park Street, Bilston.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Rothwell, Leeds, on Saturday, July 8th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. A charge of 1s. 3d. will be made. Names to Mr. H. Homer, 37, Temple Avenue, Rothwell, before Thursday, July 6th. Business meeting after tea.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Whaplode, July 8th. Service 3.45. Light refreshment 4.30. Names to Mr. H. Lawson, Ainsgarth, Whaplode, by July 4th.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Banbury Branch.—Annual meeting at Banbury, Saturday, July 8th, 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea at 5. Notify H. Impey, 1, George Crescent, Easington, Banbury.

BARNSELY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Shield Contest, Hoylandswaine, near Penistone, July 8th. Draw 2.45 p.m. Ringing 3 p.m. Entrance fee 6s. Entries must reach me by July 7th. Tea provided, 2s. each, only for those who notify me by July 4th. — D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Swaffham on Saturday, July 15th, 2 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea and business meeting 5.15. — A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

NOTTINGHAM.—If any ringers (Forces or civilians) are drafted to the Nottingham area, I shall be pleased to hear from them, and fix them up for ringing—tower or hand bells.—T. Groombridge, jun., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood; Nottingham.

MARRIAGE.

SWANN—WOOLLARD.—On June 10th, 1944, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Royston, Herts, at 2 p.m., Joyce Dorothy, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Woollard, of Ashlea, Driftways, Royston, to Raymond Eccleston, only son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Swann, of 2, Church Lane, Royston, Herts.

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