THE RINGING WORLD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

CENTRAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

When, half a century ago, the Central Council was founded, the aim was to form a body which should not only have the knowledge needed to investigate the many problems connected with ringing, and to come to decisions and lay down rules; but should command the respect of ringers so that the rules should be obeyed. The latter was quite as essential as the former, and as difficult to attain. The obvious idea was to form a council by popular election based on a wide territorial franchise so that every ringer might feel that he had an equal share in the Council, and its decisions were made by men who were his direct representatives.

That was the idea, and it was one which all along has formed the basis of the Council; but it was, and still is, quite impossible to put it into force on strictly logical lines. The Exercise has never been organised on a strict territorial basis, and fifty-five years ago it was still less so than it is now. In the provinces the great diocesan and county guilds and associations were gradually absorbing the bands in the various towers where there was any change ringing, but in London, and to some extent in Birmingham, there were societies which claimed to be entirely independent of any other body and to rank equal in status with them. For the true purposes of representation they were usually no more than single bands, but the old custom of electing a member for life gave them a nominal roll call which in some cases much exaggerated their real importance. Most of these bodies have now disappeared, and one at least, the St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham, has ranged itself with the great territorial associations. It was the College Youths and the Cumberland Youths that really stood in the way of the election of a Council on a franchise which could give every ringer in the country an approximately equal vote.

So far as actual ringing was concerned each of those two bodies was one band, a far more skilful and generally a more numerous band than those elsewhere, but still one band. Each of them enjoyed an immense prestige derived from the long history of the past, and each of them had a very long list of names on its books, most of whom were no more than nominal members and the exact number of whom no one knew. It was unthinkable in those days to allot to either College Youths or Cumberlands less than the maximum number of representatives, but if only those members had been counted who in the ordinary way

(Continued on page 186.)

would have reckoned as active members, neither would have been entitled to much more than one. The territorial associations, too, had long lists of non-resident life members who counted in the qualification for representation and were able to vote for representatives.

It is clear, therefore, that the electoral basis of the Council was anything but an ideal and logical one. In its favour it may be said (and the argument is a weighty one) that it worked very well. The provision of honorary members ensured that no man, whose presence was really needed on the Council, was missing. For a long time there was no attempt and no desire to remove the anomalies. Indeed, the admission of the Cambridge University Guild added to them. Here was a society which, in its active form, consisted of a mere handful of men, and which derived its qualification for representation from the life membership of persons who never took the least part in its activities. In the particular circumstances, however, no one would say that that particular society ought not to have been admitted.

The Ladies' Guild was really another anomally, but those who formed it and who pressed for its recognition by the Council and those who worked and voted for its inclusion were fully justified in what they did. It was really part of woman's fight for a position in the belfry, and if now that she has gained it, the society is no longer necessary (we cannot say), everyone would regret if circumstances led to its disappearance.

The Council began with anomalies and has added to the anomalies, yet all along there have been men who have hoped for a franchise of equality, in which there should be no distinction of persons, and the principle of (as far as possible) one man one vote. Some few years ago a definite step was made in that direction when the Council rules were last overhauled. We think the best opinion in the Exercise is that there should be no rigid law on the matter, but, while any genuine territorial association can claim and receive representation almost automatically, any other society whose claim is based on a nominal roll-call must first satisfy the Council that the Exercise as a whole will be benefited if it does return a representative.

VICTORY BELLS.

Whatever intentions or views there may be in the minds of the ringers who ring English church bells at the present time, there can be no doubt that, for the people of England, the sound of the bells, except when it is to call the people to prayer, means one thing and one thing only. Everything else must give place to that. We shall therefore ignore any reason, except in the case of muffled ringing, and treat footnotes as generally superfluous.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Oxford University Society was held in New College on May 1st, about 35 members being present. The treasurer's and Master's reports were presented. The Rev. C. E. Wigg was re-elected president, and Mr. H. Miles, the Rev. T. R. Milford and Dr. R. E. Havard vice-presidents. Two further vice-presidents were elected—Dr. L. E. Sutton, Fellow of Magdalen College, an active member of the society, and Mr. J. E. Spice, in recognition of his services to the society. Miss B. Spice was elected Master in succession to Mr. J. E. Spice, who is shortly leaving Oxford. Miss J. A. Southerst was elected secretary, Mr. J. V. Lonsbrough treasurer, and the Misses M. L. Tutt and A. Sellors and Mr. J. A. Colley as committee members. The Rev. C. E. Wigg and Mr. J. E. Spice were re-elected Central Council representatives.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Tues., May 1, 1945, *in Three Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES;

Tenor 37 cwt.

RICHARD J. B. HADDEN	*Treble*	JAMES F. HARVEY ...	7
ALBERT WALKER	2	GEORGE E. FEARN	8
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD ...	3	HENRY H. FEARN	9
*JOHN N. LINDON	4	JOHN PINFOLD	10
LEONARD TUFFREY ...	5	HERBERT C. SPENCER ...	11
ARTHUR D. COOK ...	6	WILLIAM T. FROGGATT ...	*Tenor*

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by RICHARD J. B. HADDEN.

* First peal on twelve bells. First peal as conductor on twelve bells.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

FRODSHAM, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., April 21, 1945, *in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12¼ cwt.

*ROLAND SHELBOURNE ...	*Treble*	JOHN E. BIBBY	5
*MRS. S. HOUGH	2	THOMAS MATHER	6
MISS NORAH M. BIBBY	3	WALTER ALLMAN	7
ROBERT HULSE	4	CECIL RADDON	*Tenor*

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JOHN E. BIBBY.

* First peal.

HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., April 28, 1945, *in Three Hours and Four Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation). Tenor 10½ cwt.

JOSEPH E. NEWMAN	*Treble*	*WILFRED NEWMAN ...	5
GEOFFREY J. HEMMING	2	JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ...	6
JOHN HALL	3	RALPH HARRIS	7
*RAYMOND JELFS	4	†PATRICK HARRIS ...	*Tenor*

Conducted by RALPH HARRIS.

* First peal of Triples. † First peal.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., April 28, 1945, *in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 17¼ cwt.

MRS. F. I. HAIRS ...	*Treble*	ALBERT E. LAKER	5
FRANK I. HAIRS	2	EDWIN BARNETT	6
FRANK BENNETT	3	EDWIN A. BARNETT ...	7
GEORGE W. CECIL	4	PHILIP A. CORBY ...	*Tenor*

Composed by E. BARNETT, SEN. Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

ENDERBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., May 3, 1945, *in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt.

*MRS. F. E. WILSON ...	*Treble*	†GORDON A. OLLIFFE ...	5
ERNEST MORRIS	2	HERRICK B. BOWLEY ...	6
JOSIAH MORRIS	3	†CORPL. S. G. PECK ...	7
FREDERICK E. WILSON	4	*DONALD E. WATSON ...	*Tenor*

Composed by J. J. PARKER. Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

* First peal. † First 'inside.'

STRATTON ST. MARGARET, WILTS.—On Saturday, May 5th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: C. J. Gardner 1, W. W. T. Daniell 2, F. J. Daniell 3, *W. A. T. Carter 4, H. Taylor 5, A. G. Wells 6, T. Cullingworth (conductor) 7, †H. Austin 8. * First quarter of Stedman Triples. † First quarter of Triples. First quarter in the method as conductor.

WOODBRIDGE, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On St., May 5, 1945, in Three Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 25¼ cwt. in D.

CHARLES CLARKE ...	...*Treble*	GEORGE A. FLEMING ...	5
HARRY HALL	2	CHARLES A. ANDREWS ...	6
FRANK L. FISHER	3	CECIL W. PIPE	7
MRS. CECIL W. PIPE ...	4	PHILIP C. BICKNELL ...	*Tenor*

Composed by J. E. BURTON. Conducted by MRS. C. W. PIPE.

BEXLEY, KENT.
THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.
On Sat., May 5, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES
MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 7¾ cwt. in A.

HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ...	*Treble*	HARRY HOVERD	5
HERBERT A. HOLDEN ...	2	GEORGE H. CROSS ...	6
MRS. C. J. MATTHEWS ...	3	GEORGE W. STEERE ...	7
JAMES E. BAILEY	4	FREDERICK J. CULLUM ...	*Tenor*

Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

WARBURTON, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., May 5, 1945, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WERBURGH,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
DEXTER'S VARIATION. Tenor 25¾ cwt.

ARTHUR LINTOTT	*Treble*	THOMAS W. HESKETH ...	5
THOMAS R. BUTTLER ...	2	EDWIN C. BIRKETT ...	6
GEORGE R. NEWTON ...	3	PERCIVAL W. CAVE ...	7
DAVID VINCENT	4	FRANK VARTY	*Tenor*

Conducted by THOMAS R. BUTLER.
First peal of Stedman on the bells.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., May 5, 1945, in Three Hours,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

GEORGE L. GROVER ...	*Treble*	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ...	5
FREDERICK OLDROYD ...	2	RONALD J. C. HAGLEY...	6
ALFRED H. PULLING ...	3	CPL. C. F. ANDREWS ...	7
*HAROLD A. MAY	4	WILLIAM T. BEESON ...	*Tenor*

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.
* First peal on an inside bell.

DORCHESTER, OXFORDSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., May 5, 1945, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
Tenor 17 cwt.

MISS VALHALLA HILL ...	*Treble*	WILLIAM C. PORTER ...	5
*MISS M. D. TELFORD...	2	REGINALD W. REX	6
MAJ. J. H. R. FREEBORN	3	ALBERT DISERENS	7
WILLIAM JUDGE	4	WALTER F. JUDGE	*Tenor*

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.
* First peal in the method on tower bells.

LITTLEPORT, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., May 5, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 18½ cwt.

ERNEST H. MASTIN ...	*Treble*	CLAUDE COUSINS	5
WILLIAM BUCKENHAM ...	2	T. REGINALD DENNIS ...	6
ALBERT E. AUSTIN	3	RONALD H. BULLEN ...	7
WALLACE W. COUSINS ...	4	PHILIP A. CORBY	*Tenor*

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by P. A. CORBY.

STANFORD-LE-HOPE, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., May 5, 1945, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 11½ cwt.

*LEONARD BULLOCK ...	*Treble*	FREDERICK SOWTER ...	5
JOHN CORNFORD	2	SYDNEY M. BAILEY ...	6
WILLIAM PERRY	3	FRANK B. LUFKIN	7
RICHARD W. STANNARD	4	ARNOLD BRUNTON	*Tenor*

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by FRANK B. LUFKIN.
* First peal of Kent Treble Bob Major

SIX BELL PEAL.

SHIRLEY, BIRMINGHAM.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.
On Mon., April 30, 1945, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES-THE-GREAT,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 6¼ cwt.

ARTHUR D. COOK	*Treble*	RICHARD J. B. HADDEN...	4
JOHN PINFOLD	2	HENRY H. FEARN	5
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD ...	3	GEORGE E. FEARN	*Tenor*

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.
First peal of Surprise Minor by all the band.

HANDBELL PEALS.

WOODTHORPE, NOTTINGHAM.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., May 1, 1945, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
AT 42, ARNO VALE ROAD,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

*MRS. R. A. WARD	1-2	JOHN THOMAS	5-6
T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. ...	3-4	*ROBERT A. WARD	7-8

Composed by G. WILLIAMS. Conducted by T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.
* First peal of Major.

OXFORD
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.
On Sat., May 5, 1945, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,
AT SPRINGFIELD ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor size 15 in C.

*JULIA M. PRESTON ...	1-2	JOHN E. SPICE	5-6
BETTY SPICE	3-4	*ROSEMARY HOOD	7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.
* First peal in the method and first of Triples.

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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.
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.
Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,
34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WHITSUN MEETING.

All ringing arrangements are in the hands of Mr. A. Walker, 86, Scribers Lane, Hall Green, Birmingham 28.

WHIT SUNDAY:—
St. Martin's (12), 10-11 a.m., 5.30-6.30 p.m.
Cathedral (10), 10-11 a.m.
St. Chad's (R.C.) Cathedral (8), 10.15-11 a.m.
Aston (12) and other towers will also be available if desired.

WHIT MONDAY:—
St. Martin's bells will be available.

WHIT TUESDAY:—
Meeting in the City Council Chamber.
Will all members be in their places at 10.55 a.m.
After the meeting St. Martin's bells will be available.
A meeting room is being arranged. Details next week.

An incomplete report of a peal rung at Swindon on April 28th has been received. The account must be written out in the style usual in this journal.

Watford (Herts) Parish Church bells have been rehung and Sunday service and Tuesday night practice ringing has been resumed.

DEATH OF MR. W. H. JOHNSON, V.C.

The death took place at his home at Daybrook on Thursday, April 26th, of Mr. William Henry Johnson, formerly a sergeant in the 1/5th Batt. Notts and Derby Regiment (T.F.), who won the V.C. in 1918. He was also awarded the Medaile Militaire by the French Government.

Before the last war, Mr. Johnson was a ringer in the Worksop district, being a member of the North Notts Association. Afterwards he became a member of the Midland Counties Association and a member of Daybrook band.

At the funeral on Saturday, April 28th, six sergeants of his former regiment were the bearers, and buglers from the regiment played the Last Post. Members of the Home Guard, British Legion, Army Cadets, together with representatives of his workmates and the local ringers, were present. A plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung at the graveside by Messrs. H. Pailing, A. Barratt, F. Bradley and R. A. Ward.

On Monday, April 30th, at Daybrook, a muffled quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by Mrs. R. A. Ward 1, T. Groombridge, jun. 2, P. Ball 3, T. H. Snook 4, H. Pailing 5, R. A. Ward 6, A. Barratt (conductor) 7, F. Bradley 8.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The agenda of the Central Council is interesting and much of it, of course, is inevitable business. I am sorry to note that there is no item connected with the subject of young ringers. Perhaps someone will talk about them in 'Other business' when everybody is thoroughly tired.

These young ringers are the backbone of the Exercise, for upon them will depend its future. I think the Central Council, now that it owns 'The Ringing World,' might try to find some means of making our paper more attractive to these young people.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

Bournemouth.

RINGING IN WAR TIME.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letter from the Rev. St. John Smith upon the lack of teaching by ringers whose names appear in peals in advanced methods prompts me to quote the position at Leicester Cathedral and let the Exercise judge for itself the amount of teaching which has been done.

During the ban on ringing the clappers were removed from the bells and no less than 15 persons were taught to handle a bell. To-day we have two distinct bands for Sunday service ringing. The learners attend in the mornings and usually the ringing consists of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and rounds on twelve. In the evening the more experienced ringers attend and the ringing consists of Stedman Cinques and Surprise ringing up to Maximus. Similarly the practice night is divided, the first hour being given to learners and the last hour to Surprise ringing. Including those away in the Services there are no less than 31 members of the band. In re-establishing the band for Sunday service ringing at the Cathedral, I consider that a service has been rendered to the Church and to the Exercise generally.

With regard to peals, 70 ringers have rung their first peals in methods conducted by me since the ban was lifted. The majority of peals I arrange are for the pleasure of those taking part. Personally, they simply take the place of pictures and other entertainment enjoyed by others.

It is impossible under his present circumstances for Mr. Smith to know what teaching generally is being done, and such criticism should not be based upon assumptions, but on facts. Only those who teach know the difficulties, and it should be for them to say what should be done, not for others—unable to do it—to dictate. The writer suggests that he is entitled to expect this teaching. Are not the teacher and the learner entitled to some encouragement?

If this kill-joy attitude persists, ringing a peal for pleasure will become a crime and the peal ringers will become the outcasts of the Exercise.

All good wishes to Mr. Smith, and may he, upon his return, profit by the efforts of those who have struggled to revive ringing and bring it back to pre-war standards.

HAROLD J. POOLE.

150, Narborough Road South, Leicester.

SYNTHETIC BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Birkett has erred on the side of moderation and not fully explored the possibilities.

I quite realise the effect of these bells, as I live and work near (too near) to a church so equipped—a sham tower with sham bells to match, and at times it is quite disconcerting to look out of the window and realise that one is in Mansfield Road and not Cheapside or Warwick Lane.

I was discussing this matter with a local clergyman recently and he remarked, 'You know, there are great possibilities in this. My organ is not all it might be and I have thought how nice it could be to reproduce some of the recorded works.'

This opens up a wonderful field. If the choir is below standard you can have the services of the noted boy soprano for your anthem, in fact you can dispense with the choir altogether (see H.M.V. and Columbia catalogues).

A little enterprise on the part of the recorders and we could have sermons in albums like symphonies and save the parsons a lot of meditation before the week-end.

Having carried our 'sham' so far, I imagine it would not be long before the B.B.C. recorded some services to suit each denomination and we should no longer need churches, chapels, bells, organs or parsons, but should be able to do as they did in Bellamy's 'Looking Backward,' where they pressed button No. 1 for church or No. 2 for chapel service. There would be this advantage. With the return of television they would probably broadcast a picture of the sort of church from which this particular type of service used to emanate before they became redundant.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Jun.

Nottingham.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT NORTHFLEET.

There was a good attendance at a meeting of the Kent County Association held at Northfleet on April 28th. Ringing was under the direction of Mr. G. Butcher, and service was followed by tea, provided and served by the Northfleet ringers and their friends. Meetings were arranged to be held at Bobbing in June and Tunstall in July.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

MEETING AT BISHOPSGATE.

At a special meeting of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths held at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on April 28th, Mr. Frank Blondell was elected trustee in the place of the late Mr. Arthur Harding, and three new members, Mr. Raymond A. Clist, Miss Patricia Holmes and Miss Holdsworth, were elected.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

By Ernest Morris.

(Continued from page 156.)

At Kirkby Stephen, Westmorland, the tower, which is the finest in that county, was built in the 16th century. The original tower was between the transepts, but the builders of the Perpendicular campanile for some reason chose the west end of the nave. It is of beautiful design, well proportioned and rising in correct and graceful graduated stages from a good basement. On the west of the tower is a good display of heraldry, comprising the arms of families connected with the parish. The coats of arms—which are unfortunately perishing—are those of Clifford, Lord of Westmorland, 1454; Beauchamp with Musgrave, who held Waitby in 1527; Warcop of Smardale, 1468; Musgrave of Hartley quartering Ward, 1490; and Wharton with Stapleton, 1568. These arms tell us when the tower was built. There is a ring of eight with a very long draught of rope assisted by iron rope-guides in the tower walls. The ringers ring round the font in full view of the congregation as they enter the church. Four of the bells were given in 1877, three dating from 1631 have been recast, and one (the 7th), cast 1749, remains as it was. They were rehung in 1928. The curfew is rung nightly at 8 p.m., followed by a number of tolls representing the day of the month. This is a very ancient custom and locally called 'Taggy.' This possibly comes from the old Danish word 'tag,' or 'takka,' to cover, just as the word 'curfew' means 'coverfire.' There is another theory, and that is that 'Taggi' is still known in Sweden as the traditional demon of the mist. (There is also the Dano-Norwegian word, Taage—fog or mist.) So that the old warning given to children to this day that 'Taggy will catch you if you don't go to bed,' meant the demon of mist and darkness would catch them. On Sundays, when the mid-day congregation is leaving church, the 'kale bell' is rung. This was originally a warning to those preparing dinner to hasten on the broth or 'kale' for the men were on their way from church.

At Greenstead Green, Essex, the Church of St. James has a ring of six, tenor 12½ cwt. in F. They have been described to me in this way: 'The four biggest bells hang in the bell chamber thus: 6, 5, 4, 3, with the wall ground out and the beams of the frame cut to let the bells swing. The treble and second are hung in a frame on top of these four, but the ropes in the belfry—what a mix-up! The 5th, treble and 2nd ringers face east; the 4th and 3rd face west, with the tenor looking north-east, so they are 4, 3, 2, 6, 5, with the treble in the middle, back to tenor—but they go well.' The bells are all by C. and G. Mears, 1845, and were restored by Bowell, of Ipswich, in 1931.

St. Mary-the-Virgin, Studley, Warwickshire, has a ring of five, all by Matthew Bagley, 1688. They hang in an embattled western tower in a straight line, and are rung from a kind of narrow bridge.

At Keresley, near Coventry, St. Thomas' Church has a ring of five, all by C. and G. Mears, 1848, with tenor 6¼ cwt. There the ringing chamber was very peculiar. It is behind an organ case, and the ringers stood on a series of steps which once was a gallery. The fourth ringer's head was on a level with the treble ringer's knees. Of recent years, however, this has been levelled up.

At Brinklow, in the same county, there is a ring of six, five being by Joseph Smith, 1705. There the ringers' chamber is unusual, the ropes falling three on either side in straight lines. The floor slopes at least eight inches from the 3rd to treble and 4th to tenor.

At Berkswell, also in Warwickshire, there are six bells and a Sanctus; tenor, 16 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb. Formerly three, the first two and tenor being added by J. Taylor and Co., in 1898. The 3rd has coarse, rough letters, reading, 'Galfridus Giles me fesit anno Dm 1584,' and the only other known bells by this founder are two broken ones at Weston-under-Weatherley. The 4th is by Johannes de Stafford, who was Mayor of Leicester in 1370. The 5th is by Newcombe and Watts, circa 1600. Here the ropes are crowded together in a narrow space at the back of the organ, which is at the foot of the tower. The ringers of 4th and 5th have to stand well forward or they cannot see one another.

At St. Peter's, Harborne, Birmingham, the ringing chamber is very small, and to allow the ringers to stand in a good circle a recess has been made in the wall behind one of the ropes (all of which are very close to the walls), in which the 4th ringer stands. Locally this is known as 'the coffin.' The bells, originally six by W. Bagley, 1691, were increased to eight in 1877 by Warners. The 4th was recast by T. Mears, 1799.

I have given a few instances where ringers go *down* to the ringing floor. Another example is at All Saints', Kemble, Glos, where there is a western tower surmounted by a spire 120ft. high. Here is a ring of five bells, and they are rung from the ground floor. The ringers go down three or four steps.

At St. Mary's Church, Mucklestone, Staffs, where there is a ring of five, tenor 11 cwt., by Rudhall, 1742, the ringing is done from the ground floor, which until recently was also the clergy vestry. When service ringing finished five minutes before the actual service commenced, everyone used to grab their hats and coats and clear out, leaving the sexton (who was also one of the local ringers) to chime the last bell. Then the Rector would come in to robe for service. The poor man had always to wait till ringing was done before he could robe.

At St. Peter's Church, Brackley, Northants, the fine embattled west tower has a ring of six. Five of these are by Hugh Watts, of Leicester, dated 1628. The ropes here hang peculiarly, the first four on one side of the tower and 5, 6 on the other, but these are reversed. The bells were rehung and restored in 1939, but I am not sure if the reversed bells were rectified.

At Llangibby, Mon, the church is dedicated to St. Cybi, and has a ring of eight, tenor 15 cwt. The base of the west tower forms the main entrance to the church. The tenor rope comes down right in the centre of high steps which form a fine ringing platform; 2, 3, 4 hang in a straight line on one side, and 6, 7 on the other side, while the 5th rope comes down right in the centre of the doorway leading to the church. When ringing is in progress it is impossible to enter church. The two trebles were added in 1907 to the former six by Rudhall, 1712. These had as inscription, 'Sir Hopton A. Williams, churchwarden.' After a lapse of nearly two centuries one of the same name and family, also churchwarden of the same church, gave the trebles to his memory. There not being enough room to hang all on one level, the two tenors hang below in a steel frame. The work was done by J. Taylor and Co.

(Continued on next page.)

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

(Continued from previous page.)

At Llandefailog-Fach, near Brecon, the six bells are very awkwardly placed. They are rung from the ground floor, and the ropes fall very close to the walls. The 2, 3, 4, 5 ropes are in a straight line on the south side, while the treble and tenor are in the corners on the other side. There are no stairs to get to the bells, and the only way up is by placing an extending ladder with its foot against the font, to a small trapdoor in the ceiling above the treble man. The bells hang near the ceiling about 20ft. high. There are two vaults in this churchyard where one can see the coffins on shelves. One vault is very old and has a long slab with ancient carving, said to be a thousand years old.

At Llanbadarn-Fawr, Radnorshire, the bells hang in a small tower about 8ft. square. They are a ring of five, tenor 6½ cwt. The ropes fall in a semi-circle in the porch. Ringers of treble and second stand on the step of the door into the church, and when anyone wishes to enter the ringers step aside to allow them to pass between them. The fourth rope comes down in the doorway of the porch, and tenor rope behind the door.

ST. BOTOLPH'S, ALDERSGATE.

One of the London City churches which used to be fairly well known to visitors (not for its own sake but for the pretty little garden which once was the churchyard) is St. Botolph's, Aldersgate. It stands next to the General Post Office, and the church and its tiny steeple are completely overshadowed by the public buildings which afford a sorry sight, the result of the air raids on London.

At the time of King Edward the Sixth there were 'in the steple iij bells and a saunce bell'; and at the same time, probably in the early days of the seventeenth century, the ring was increased to five.

The church escaped the fire of 1666 with some damage, and in 1708 it was 'of the old Gothic order with galleries to the north and west sides, also good oak pews and a pulpit carved of the same species of timber. There is little ornament.' By the middle of the eighteenth century the building had become very dilapidated and, after some attempts at restoration, an Act of Parliament was obtained in 1792, under which it was rebuilt. It was described as being very ancient and in an extremely decayed state, and mention was made that the work undertaken had cost £12,225. The sum of £1,500 was raised by annuities at 8 per cent. and to pay them a rate was levied on the parish which was not to exceed sixpence in the pound. As was customary, two-thirds were paid by the landlord and the balance by the tenant.

Laughton had a good deal to say about the old church and bells. He tells us that the east end had lately been repaired and contrasted strongly with the other part of the building which was 'foul.' The belfry was a scandal, a 'dungeon of a hool,' where daylight never came. There were no straps to put one's foot in, and the floors of the tower were so ruinous and decayed that the bells could be seen from the ringing chamber. The bells themselves, five in number, were not amiss, and the tenor (so he was told) was six hundred and twenty-five years old. He was writing in 1730.

The bells apparently were sold when the church was rebuilt.

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.

WORCESTERSHIRE.—Northern.—Chaddesley Corbett, Saturday, May 12th, 3 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSN.—Tewkesbury Abbey, Saturday, May 12th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—W. Yeend, Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

OXFORD GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—Shaw-cum-Donnington (6), Saturday, May 12th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—T. J. Fisen, Hon. Sec.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—May 12th, Fairwarp (8) (Uckfield not available), 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN.—Annual, Clerkenwell, May 12th. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., at 1s. 3d. Ringing: Clerkenwell 2.30 to 4.30 and 7 to 8.30; St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, 2.30 to 4. Another tower will be announced at the meeting.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSN.—Western District.—Apsley End (6), Saturday, May 12th, 3 p.m. Usual arrangements.

OXFORD GUILD.—Reading Branch. — Annual, Saturday, May 12th, at 29, Chain Street, Reading, 3.30 p.m., followed by tea at 1s. per head. Service in St. Mary's 5.15 p.m. St. Mary's and St. Giles' bells in evening.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—Dunster Deanery.—Carhampton (6), Saturday, May 12th. 3 p.m. Service 4.15, Tea and meeting at Village Hall 5.—Geo. Stacey. Minehead.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSN.—Hunts District.—Buckden, Saturday, May 12th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, E.1, Saturday, May 19th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Bolton Branch.—St. Paul's, Walkden, Saturday, May 19th, 2.30 p.m. Business 6.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Rossendale Branch.—Ramsbottom, Saturday, May 19th, 3 p.m. Tea in School 5 p.m. Bring refreshments; hot water provided.—H. Parkinson, Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Chew Deanery.—Kingston Seymour, Saturday, May 19th, 4 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Northern Division.—Practice, May 19th, 3 p.m.—A. E. Laker, Hon. Dis. Sec.

CHESTER GUILD.—Crewe Branch.—Holmes Chapel (6), Saturday, May 19th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Names by 16th.—Richard D. Langford, 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Coventry District.—Church Lawford, May 19th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names by May 15th. Important business.—W. A. Stote, 47, Cedars Avenue, Coundon, Coventry.

LANCASHIRE ASSN.—Manchester Branch.—Mossley, Saturday, May 19th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec.

HERTFORD ASSN.—St. Albans District.—Barnet, Saturday, May 19th, 3 p.m. Tea Jeans Cafe. Names by May 16th.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

CHESTER GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—Oxton (8), Saturday, May 19th, 2.30. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting afterwards. Names to Harry Brocklebank, 30, South Hill Road.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSN.—Burton District.—Tutbury (6), Saturday, May 19th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

ELY ASSN.—Central Branch.—Annual, Chatteris (6), May 19th, 2.30. Tea notify by 18th.—F. Warrington, 4, Needingworth Road, St. Ives, Hunts.

ELY ASSN.—Wisbech Branch.—Walpole, St. Andrew (6), Whit Monday, May 21st, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea provided.—W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John.

PETERBOROUGH GUILD. — Annual, Kettering, Whit Monday, May 21st. Committee 2.45. Service 3.30. Tea and business after. Names for certain by May 12th. Ringing: Burton Latimer (8), Rothwell (8), 10.30 to 12.30, Kettering from 1 p.m., Weekley (6), Warkton (5) after tea, Burton Latimer.—R. G. Black, Hon. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

ESSEX ASSN.—Annual, Chelmsford, Whit Monday, May 21st. Service in Cathedral 11.30 a.m., followed by business in Chapter House. Lunch at County Hotel, 1.15 p.m. Send numbers as soon as possible. Bells: Cathedral 12, Great Baddow, Galleywood, Writtle, Widford 8, Broomfield and Springfield 6.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec., Southdene, Petersfield Lane, Gosfield, near Halstead, Essex.

DEVON GUILD.—Annual, Whit Monday, May 21st, St. Thomas', Exeter. Service 12.15 p.m. Luncheon 1 p.m. in Buller Hall. Cathedral bells (12), 4 to 8 p.m.; Heavitree (8), St. Thomas' (8), St. David's (8), 10 to 12 noon, and after meeting. Tickets, members 2s., non-members 4s., from F. C. Smale, Hon. Sec., Oakfield, Station Road, Okehampton, before May 16th.

CHESTER GUILD.—Annual, At Mary's, Birkenhead, Saturday, May 26th. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting afterwards. Tea tickets 6d. each, obtainable from branch secretaries before May 22nd. Three neighbouring towers open at 2 p.m.

NORWICH ASSN.—South Norfolk Branch.—Kenninghall (8), May 26th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.45 p.m. in Church Hall. Quidenham (8) after meeting. Names by 22nd to A. G. Harrison, Hon. Sec., 10, Mount Pleasant, Diss, Norfolk.

GUILDFORD GUILD.—Annual, Guildford, May 26th. Ringing: Cathedral 3-4, St. Nicolas' 3, and in evening. Service, St. Nicolas', 4.30. Tea and meeting, Ayres Cafe (next St. Nicolas'). Numbers to me by May 22nd. —G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, Surrey.

MIDDLESEX ASSN.—Feltham, Saturday, May 26th, 3 to 5 and 6 to 8. Meeting in belfry, 5 p.m. No tea.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec. Perival 5320.

LINCOLN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—Annual, St. Giles', Lincoln, Saturday, May 26th. Service 4.15. Tea 5. Names to Mr. H. Marcon, 269, Wragby Road, Lincoln, by Wednesday previous.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND MIDDLESEX ASSN. — Christ Church, Manchester Road, Isle of Dogs (near Greenwich Tunnel), Saturday, May 26th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—T. J. Lock and G. W. Steere, Hon. Secs.

NOTTINGHAM. — St. Peter's. Ringing Sundays 10.15 a.m. and 6 p.m., Thursdays 7.30 p.m.—Frank Bradley, Ringing Master, 60, Dame Agnes Street, Nottingham.

SOCIETY OF CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—St. Martin's, Gospel Oak. Practice every Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m. —G. W. Steere.

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MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BEVERLEY, YORKS.—At the Minster on April 21st, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: R. Owen 1, G. Williams 2, G. H. Shepherd 3, G. W. Dowling 4, K. Moon 5, C. G. Constable 6, T. Southwick 7, F. Osgerby 8, C. Barker (conductor) 9, R. Collins 10.

SOUTH WIGSTON.—On Monday, April 23rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. L. Willars 1, D. Dalby 2, J. E. Clarke 3, G. Deacon 4, G. Olliffe (first in the method) 5, C. Marshall (conductor) 6, A. Patrick 7, F. Ford 8.

LONDON.—At Westminster Abbey on April 26th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Langdon 1, W. H. Pasmore 2, T. Langdon 3, J. E. L Cockey 4, H. G. Miles 5, H. N. Pitstow (conductor) 6, A. B. Peck 7, J. Rumley 8.

BOLTON.—At All Souls, on Friday, April 27th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. W. Kay 1, Mrs. M. Kenyon 2, E. Ford 3, T. Wood 4, C. Brownlow 5, A. Heywood (conductor) 6, H. Johnson 7, N. Critchley 8.

BOLTON.—At St. George's on Saturday, April 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. Webster 1, C. Brownlow 2, Mrs. M. Kenyon 3, E. Ford 4, J. Crossley 5, A. Heywood (conductor) 6, H. Johnson 7, J. E. Thornton 8.

QUORNDON, LEICESTERSHIRE.—On April 28th, 720 Bob Minor: *C. Teagle 1, Miss M. Smith 2, Mrs. R. Edwards 3, J. Bowley 4, *H. Myott 5, G. R. Edwards (conductor) 6. * First in method.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.—On Sunday, April 29th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: E. S. Ruck 1, J. Ireland (first of Kent) 2, P. Page 3, P. A. Cannon 4, W. J. Lancefield 5, M. Lancefield (conductor) 6.

NEWMARKET.—On Sunday, April 29th, 720 Bob Minor: R. Heath 1, S. Forwood 2, A. E. Austin (conductor) 3, R. C. Sharpe 4, A. Beale 5, C. N. Austin 6.

ROTHERFIELD.—On Sunday, April 29th, 720 Bob Minor: L. W. Rogers (first 720) 1, E. Bishop, jun. 2, A. R. Miles 3, A. F. Lewry (conductor) 4, F. Hammond 5, W. Rogers 6, E. Bishop, sen. 7.

BOLTON, LANCS.—On Sunday, April 29th, at Holy Trinity, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: William Walmsley 1, James W. Kay 2, Mrs. G. Annie Paine 3, L.A.C. A. E. Sandiford, R.A.F. 4, Peter Crook, jun. (conductor) 5, Edward Iddon 6, Peter Crook 7, Owen Olive 8.

HARROW WEALD.—On Sunday, April 29th, 720 Bob Minor: F. J. Wilcox 1, Miss E. K. Fulton (conductor) 2, Miss F. Clayton 3, H. G. Hart 4, F. A. Vincett 5, H. D. Butler 6.

SELLY OAK, BIRMINGHAM.—On Sunday, April 29th, 1,248 Superlative Surprise Major: A. D. Cook 1, William B. Cartwright (conductor) 2, D. T. Matkin 3, H. H. Fearn 4, J. F. Harvey 5, R. J. B. Hadden 6, J. Pinfold 7, G. E. Fearn 8.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, April 29th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. R. Judd 1, M. R. D. Harford (first in the method) 2, J. C. Birt 3, Miss K. Brooks 4, F. D. Bishop 5, H. W. Rogers (conductor) 6, A. F. Thirst 7, A. A. Tomblin (first quarter-peal) 8.

SWINDON.—On Sunday, April 29th, at St. Mark's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss M. Richards 1, Neil I. Allnatt (conductor) 2, Miss N. Davis 3, C. J. Hathaway 4, F. J. Daniell 5, J. Woodruff 6, W. Carter 7, W. W. T. Daniell 8.

TEMPSFORD, BEDS.—On Sunday, April 29th, 720 Bob Minor: Florence Reed 1, R. J. Houghton 2, Beryl Bull 3, Betty King 4, C. H. Harding (conductor) 5, Sergt.-Pilot H. E. Harding 6.

CHATHAM.—On Sunday, April 29th, 720 Bob Minor: H. Heath (first 720 of Minor) 1, D. T. Hills 3, F. Richardson 4, C. E. J. Norris 5, W. J. Walker 6, W. A. J. Knight (conductor) 7, G. Lawrence 8.

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