THE RINGING WORLD

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SOME FEATURES OF 1946

The last week of 1946 has arrived, a year that has brought many blessings to the Exercise. Most significant of all has been the return of men and women from the Services; hardly a tower in the land has not had the pleasure of welcoming them home and they have made a difference to our ringing. A quickening of interest has been taken in ringing generally and Associations and Guilds have been able to report marked increases in membership, notably the Oxford Diocesan Guild with an influx of 229 members.

The same interest has been manifest in regard to peals, and we can assert with confidence that the Peal Analysis Committee will report a substantial rise on the total of 1,304 peals rung during 1945. And there have been peals that will make history. The peal of 12,663 changes of Stedman Cinques rung on August 24th in eight hours and 48 minutes established another ringing record, and Mr. Walter F. Judge and his band received many congratulations. Then there were 'the peals of controversy' — the Basingstoke peals of Grandsire Caters without a covering bell on February 16th and Kent Treble Bob Major with the tenor covering, on October 12th. Associated with both these performances was Mr. Charles H. Kippin. In 'The Ringing World' and also at the Central Council meeting at Norwich the point at issue regarding the peal on February 16th has been discussed. It is anticipated that the subject will be reopened at the Central Council meeting for 1947, which will take place at Exeter.

As the controlling body of the Exercise, the Central Council can truly be regarded as the Bellringers' Parliament. The meeting at Norwich was well attended. Among the matters discussed was the editorial policy of 'The Ringing World,' and the Council showed their appreciation of the services of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher by an expression of gratitude and a gift. In a desire to interpret the wishes of the Norwich Conference, changes have been made in 'The Ringing World,' which, judging from letters to the editor, have found general acceptance. In any review of 1946 we feel that the work of Mr. J. A. Trollope as editor during the difficult war years, when the journal was kept alive largely through his personal initiative, should be recorded. It was not the Council's wish, but Mr. Trollope's, that the sudden change took place in editorship.

There has been no shortage of live topics before the Exercise. Peal ringing and its relationship to meetings generally have been discussed in its various aspects. The letters of Churchwarden Dark and others were of widespread interest and, looking back, it might be advisable to quote the words of the Bishop of Norwich in his speech of welcome to the Central Council: 'Bells ought not to be a noise on the air, but a reminder of religion—a voice from God to the people who listen to them.' With the public it can truly be said that bells are generally appreciated, and the number of orders received by the foundries adds confirmation to this opinion. The B.B.C. have introduced bells into a number of broadcasts—probably not so many as ringers would like—and we trust that this association will grow. Mr. A. A. Hughes gave an interesting talk in the schools' programme.

The year has been marked by the passing of a number of ringers who have made conspicuous contributions to the extension of the art of change ringing. We recall such names as Charles T. Coles, a secretary of the Middlesex Association; R. T. Hibbert, secretary of the Oxford Diocesan Guild from 1917 to 1946; Major John H. B. Hesse, a former Master of the Guildford Diocesan Guild; Mr. Edwin Shepherd, a pioneer of change ringing in Devonshire; Mr. William Spice, of Kent; Mr. W. E. Bason, one time Ringing Master of St. Peter, Mancroft, Norwich; Mr. F. W. Romaine, of Salisbury; Mr. Arthur E. Pegler, who rang in such record lengths as 17,824 Oxford Treble Bob and 11,111 Stedman Cinques; Mr. Joseph Gould, a past master of the Gloucester and Bristol Association; Mr. Harry Hoskins, a member of St. Paul's Cathedral Branch; Mr. Douglas H. Argyle, captain of the Nuneaton Parish Church ringers, and many others. Each has made his special contribution to furthering an art that is truly English and has a centuries' old tradition behind it. The maintenance of that tradition is now our special trust.

TWELVE BELL PEAL

IPSWICH.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On Sat., Dec. 14, 1946, in Three Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER,
A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;
Tenor 32 cwt.

WM. J. G. BROWN	*Treble*	HERBERT G. JILLINGS	7
MRS. SYLVIA R. E. PIPE	2	GEORGE A. FLEMING	8
HOBART E. SMITH	3	LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN	9
LESLIE G. BRETT	4	OLIVER G. BARNARD	10
WILLIAM P. GARRETT	5	GEORGE E. SYMONDS	11
FRANK FISHER	6	CECIL W. PIPE	*Tenor*

Composed by J. REEVES (No. 12 C.C.C.).
Conducted by GEORGE E. SYMONDS.

First peal in the method by all the band, on the bells and for the Guild. Rung in honour of the 51st birthday of H.M. King George VI.; also to the memory of Messrs. John Arbon, William E. Bason, George More and William C. Rumsey, members of the Guild who recently died.

TEN BELL PEALS

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 14, 1946, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, PRITTLEWELL,
A PEAL OF BELGRAVE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 18¼ cwt.

LUCILE M. HUBBERT	*Treble*	GEOFFREY V. MURPHY	6
*ERIC A. DENCH	2	J. FRANK SMALLWOOD	7
FREDK. J. CULLUM	3	FRANK B. LUFKIN	8
THOS. J. LOCK	4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS	9
ARTHUR S. RICHARDS	5	PHILIP A. CORBY	*Tenor*

Arranged by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by P. A. CORBY.
* First peal of Surprise Royal 'inside.' The first peal of Royal in the method.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Dec. 14, 1946, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;
Tenor 27½ cwt. in D flat.

WILKINS MASSEY	*Treble*	GEORGE C. GOODMAN	6
CHAS. W. R. GRIMWOOD	2	*HAROLD A. MAY	7
ALFRED H. PULLING	3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE	8
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON	4	H. WILLIAM BARRETT	9
HERBERT G. ANDREWS	5	FRANK E. HAWTHORNE	*Tenor*

Composed by JAMES GEORGE. Conducted by A. H. PULLING
* First peal of Grandsire Caters.

WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 14, 1946, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;
Tenor 24 cwt.

ARTHUR TOMLINSON	*Treble*	WALTER WOLSTENCROFT	6
LAURENCE J. WILLIAMS	2	PETER CROOK, SEN.	7
HERBERT LUDKIN	3	*ARTHUR MAWDESLEY	8
ROBERT ALLRED	4	PERCY H. DERBYSHIRE	9
FRED GRUNDY	5	JOSEPH RIDYARD	*Tenor*

Composed by HENRY W. HALEY. Conducted by P CROOK, SEN.
* First peal of Stedman Caters. First peal of Stedman Caters as conductor.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.
THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Dec. 14, 1946, is Three Hours and Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5000 CHANGES;

*MRS. K. F. J. PARR	*Treble*	EDWIN A. BARNETT	6
THOMAS W. TAFFENDER	2	WILLIAM SIMMONDS	7
GEOFFREY DODDS	3	FRANCIS D. BISHOP	8
CHARLES W. OTTLEY	4	HAROLD W. ROGERS	9
ALBERT M. HOUGHTON	5	†DAVID J. CHARNLEY	*Tenor*

Composed by G. NEWSON. Conducted by EDWIN A. BARNETT.
* First peal of Stedman Caters. † First peal. First peal of Stedman Caters as conductor. Rung in honour of the King's birthday.

TROWBRIDGE, WILTSHIRE.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Dec. 14, 1946, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;
Tenor 24 cwt.

SAMUEL J. HECTOR	*Treble*	*FREDERICK S. SLATFORD	6
STANLEY J. T. SHELLOCK	2	†P. W. J. HARDING	7
GILBERT H. HARDING	3	THOMAS F. KING	8
WILLIAM J. PRESCOTT	4	*ROGER O. FRY	9
*GEORGE J. HAWKINS	5	SYDNEY J. FRANCIS	*Tenor*

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by GEO. J. HAWKINS.
* First peal of Caters. † First peal of Grandsire Caters. Rung in honour of the King's birthday and of the birth of a daughter to Mrs. A. E. Barnett and grandchild to T. F. King.

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EIGHT BELL PEALS.

MARKET HARBOROUGH.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Nov. 30, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DIONYSIUS,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Dexter's Variation No. 2.

JILL POOLE	*Treble*	HARRY G. WAYNE ...	5
SHIRLEY BURTON	2	*HERRICK B. BOWLEY ...	6
HAROLD G. JENNEY ...	3	HAROLD J. POOLE ...	7
GEO. A. HOLLICK	4	WILLIAM HECTOR ...	*Tenor*

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.
* First peal of Stedman Triples.

TOTTENHAM, LONDON.
THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., Dec. 2, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL HALLOWS,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Heywood's Transposition. Tenor 20 cwt.

ALFRED W. BRIGHTON	*Treble*	FRANK. B. LUFKIN ...	5
THOS. H. TAFFENDER...	2	*ROBERT H. BEGRIE ...	6
*EDGAR R. RAPLEY ...	3	JAMES BULLOCK	7
WM. J. ELLIS	4	SQUIRE CROFT	*Tenor*

Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.
* First peal in the method.

BUSHEY, HERTS.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;
Tenor 13 cwt.

*KENNETH JONES	*Treble*	H. E. C. GOODENOUGH...	5
HENRY HODGETTS ...	2	ALFRED J. HOUSE	6
*THOMAS J. SOUTHAM ...	3	GEORGE W. DEBENHAM ...	7
CHARLES F. SAYER ...	4	DENIS A. BAYLES ...	*Tenor*

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Composed by G. W. DEBENHAM.
* First peal in the method.

STRATTON ST. MARGARET, WILTS.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Parker's Twelve-part (7th the observation). Tenor 8 cwt.

CHARLES J. GARDNER ...	*Treble*	*IVOR H. TRUEMAN ...	5
WILLIAM A. T. CARTER...	2	†HENRY AUSTIN	6
MARGARET E. RICHARDS...	3	WALTER H. TRUEMAN ...	7
NANCY A. DAVIES	4	THOMAS MOULDEN ...	*Tenor*

Conducted by W. H. TRUEMAN.
* First peal of Grandsire Triples. † First peal of Grandsire Triples on a working bell. First peal of Grandsire Triples as conductor.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, OLDSWINFORD,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Middleton's. Tenor 10 cwt.

JOHN W. SMITH	*Treble*	*THOMAS GREENHALL ...	5
CHARLES RICHARDS ...	2	JOHN LLOYD	6
ROBERT MATTHEWS ...	3	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ...	7
WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT	4	THOMAS HEMMING ...	*Tenor*

Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.
* First peal of Cambridge. A 71st birthday compliment to Mr. A. J. Skelding, of the local band.

COLWALL, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;
Tenor 11 cwt.

CHARLES L. SADLER ...	*Treble*	GEORGE DAVIS	5
GEOFFREY J. LEWIS ...	2	BETTY SPICE	6
WM. H. SYMONDS	3	*ERNEST PRICE	7
WILLIAM C. NUTT	4	WILFRID F. MORETON...	*Tenor*

Composed by G. R. NEWTON. Conducted by W. F. MORETON.
* First peal on eight bells.

QUEENSBURY, BRADFORD.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sun., Dec. 8, 1946, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

PAUL BIRKETT	*Treble*	HARRY WILDE	5
WILLIAM AMBLER	2	ALBERT PICKLES	6
CLIFFORD ELLISON ...	3	ROLAND KENDALL ...	7
EDGAR DRAKE	4	SAM LONGBOTTOM ...	*Tenor*

Composed by THOS. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by SAM LONGBOTTOM.
Rung as a welcome home from H.M.F. to the ringers of the 4th, 5th and 7th. The ringer of the second has now 'completed the circle.'

HIGH BARNET, HERTS.
THE UNIVERSITIES' ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., Dec. 11, 1946, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF WINCHESTER BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
Tenor 24 cwt.

E. J. LINDLEY (Camb.)	*Treble*	S. E. DARMON (Camb.)	5
D. N. LAYTON (Lond.)...	2	R. F. B. SPEED (Camb.)	6
P. M. J. GRAY (Lond.)	3	V J. BENNING (Lond.)...	7
G. DODDS (Camb. and Lond.)	4	C. A. VESSEY (Lond.)...	*Tenor*

Composed by J. W. PARKER. Conducted by D. N. LAYTON.
First peal in the method by all the band.

PORTSMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Wed., Dec. 11, 1946, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
Tenor 25½ cwt.

ERNEST A. JURD	*Treble*	AUBREY D. MILLS	5
JOSIAH D. HARRIS	2	EDWIN S. SMITH	6
FREDK. A. BURNETT ...	3	JOHN H. HUNT	7
HAROLD A. NORES	4	FREDK. W. BURNETT ...	*Tenor*

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by JOHN H. HUNT.

DARTFORD, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Thurs., Dec. 12, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Washbrook's Variation. Tenor 18½ cwt.

JOHN WHEADON	*Treble*	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ...	5
FRED A. COLEY	2	HARRY HOVERD	6
FRANK E. WALKER ...	3	JAMES E. BAILEY	7
ARTHUR S. RICHARDS ...	4	FRED J. CULLUM	*Tenor*

Conducted by J. E. BAILEY.

WILLENHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Thurs., Dec. 12, 1946, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Parker's Twelve-part (7th the observation). Tenor 14¼ cwt.

CHRISTOPHER WALLATER	*Treble*	JOHN LUCK	5
HERBERT KNIGHT ...	2	J. DENNIS HOLDEN ...	6
TREVOR REYNOLDS ...	3	KENNETH W. KNOWLES	7
*DEREK J. TRANTER ...	4	*ERIC CRADDOCK	*Tenor*

Conducted by HERBERT KNIGHT.
* First peal. The conductor's 450th peal for the society. Rung half-muffled as a token of respect to Mr. Arthur E. Reed, a much-respected member of the local band.

BIDDENDEN, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 14, 1946, in Three Hours and One Minute,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 23 cwt. in E flat.

F. J. LAMBERT, SEN....	*Treble*	REGINALD E. LAMBERT...	5
WILLIAM ROGERS	2	THOMAS E. SONE	6
*FRANCIS BROMLEY ...	3	ALFRED W. DURHAM ...	7
FRANK H. HICKS ...	4	ROBERT T. LAMBERT ...	*Tenor*

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE.
* First peal in the method. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. F. J. Lambert (who was 79 the previous day), wife of the ringer of the treble and mother of the ringers of 5 and tenor.

SIX BELL PEALS

NORTHIAM, SUSSEX.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Nov. 30, 1946, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 20 extents Bob Doubles (4 callings), 20 extents Grandsire Doubles (10 callings), and one 240 Grandsire (Morris').

*LAURENCE POPE	*Treble*	*GEOFFREY WATERS	4
*ROY TAPPENDEN	2	LESLIE W. JARVIS	5
WILLIAM GORRINGE	3	*DONALD WOOD	*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM GORRINGE
* First peal.

MAULDEN, BEDFORDSHIRE.
THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Thurs., Dec. 5, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 720 each of Double Bob, Single Court, Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Single Oxford and Plain Bob. Tenor 10¾ cwt.

BRIAN SIMS	*Treble*	EDMUND J. HOBBS	4
*C. HENRY HARDING	2	CYRIL PRINDEVILLE	5
C. EDWARD JEFFRIES	3	ANDREW C. SINFIELD	*Tenor*

Conducted by C. E. JEFFRIES.
* 75th peal. First peal in seven plain methods by all. Rung as a birthday compliment to C. W. Sinfield, 45 years churchwarden.

APSLEY END, HERTS.
THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being one extent each of Hereward, Thelwall, Double Oxford, Chilwall, St. Clement's, Fulbeck and Double Bob. Tenor 14¾ cwt.

*TERENCE G. MORTON	*Treble*	AUGUSTIN V. GOOD	4
WM. J. PUDDIFOOT	2	HERBERT GATES	5
WM. C. HUGHES	3	WALTER AYRE	*Tenor*

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.
* First peal (aged 15).

FINCHLEY, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being one 720 each of Double Court, College Single, Oxford Bob, Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and two 720's of Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

FREDK. TUBB	*Treble*	PHILIP BLAKE	4
*LEONARD TUBB	2	BERT TUBB	5
†ARTHUR WARREN	3	FREDK. A. BARKER	*Tenor*

Conducted by FREDERICK A. BARKER.
* First peal 'inside.' † First peal in six methods.

HOCKWOLD-CUM-WILTON, NORFOLK.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being one extent each of Double Oxford, Single Oxford, St. Clement's, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and two extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt. (approx.).

ARTHUR ROLFE	*Treble*	WALLACE W. COUSINS	4
EDWARD BARKER	2	WILLIAM BUCKENHAM	5
CECIL V. EBBERSON	3	CLAUDE COUSINS	*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM BUCKENHAM.
First peal on the bells.

SHIRLEY, BIRMINGHAM.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.
On Mon., Dec. 9, 1946, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES-THE-GREAT,
A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 6¼ cwt.

EDWARD T. LLOYD	*Treble*	*JOHN PINFOLD	4
HENRY H. FEARN	2	RICHARD J. B. HADDEN	5
EDGAR C. SHEPHERD	3	GEORGE E. FEARN	*Tenor*

Conducted by RICHARD J. B. HADDEN.
* 50th peal this year. First peal of London Minor for the Guild and by all the band.

HARDWICKE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Dec. 7, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Consisting of 40 six-scores of Grandsire and 240 changes Morris' Arrangement.

PATRICK ALLEN	*Treble*	GEORGE LATHAM	4
TREVOR PRITCHARD	2	HAROLD HOBBS	5
THOMAS WITTS	3	LESLIE BARRY	*Tenor*

Conducted by THOMAS WITTS.
First peal of Doubles as conductor.

FRAMPTON, LINCS.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(Eastern Branch.)
On Mon., Dec. 9, 1946, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF SPLICED SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Consisting of 1 Lightfoot, Stamford, Rossendale and Wearmouth, 2 London, 3 Wells, 4 York, 5 Durham, 6 Netherseale, 7 Cambridge, Norfolk, Ipswich, Hull, Primrose and Bourne. Tenor 13 cwt.

*MISS RHODA BROWN	*Treble*	ALBERT E. FLATTERS	4
WM. WILKINSON	2	JOHN R. KEMP	5
ARTHUR YOUNG	3	JOHN R. YOUNG	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN R. YOUNG.
* First peal. First peal in 15 Surprise methods by all the band.

HANDBELL PEALS

WHITLEY BAY, NORTHUMBERLAND.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Fri., Dec. 6, 1946, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,
AT 6, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, MONKSEATON,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being seven extents of Plain Bob.

*MISS MARGARET FIDELL	1-2	†WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON	3-4
†WILLIAM H. BARBER	5-6		

Conducted by WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON.
* First peal on handbells. † First peal of Minor on handbells. Rung as a compliment to Miss Margaret Fidell on her birthday.

CAMBRIDGE.
THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.
On Sun., Dec. 8, 1946, in Two Hours and Fourteen Minutes,
AT 12, PARK STREET,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor size 13 in E.

*R. F. B. SPEED (Caius)	1-2	P. K. WILLIAMSON (Trin.)	5-6
C. W. WOOLLEY (Sel.)	3-4	S. E. DARMON (St. John's)	7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.
* 50th peal. First peal in the method on handbells by all except the conductor.

BIRMINGHAM.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.
On Mon., Dec. 9, 1946, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT 34, ASTON LANE,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;
Tenor size 15 in C.

RICHARD C. INGRAM	1-2	ALLAN SHORT	5-6
FRED PRICE	3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN	7-8

MORRIS J. MORRIS ... 9-10
Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by G. F. SWANN.
* Referee: FREDK. W. RISHWORTH.

SOLIHULL, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.
On Wed., Dec. 11, 1946, in One Hour and Forty-Seven Minutes.
AT SHARMAN'S CROSS JUNIOR SCHOOL.
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES:
14 six-scores of Plain Bob and 28 of Grandsire.

RICHARD J. B. HADDEN	1-2	EDGAR C. SHEPHERD	3-4
*JOHN N. JUKES	5-6		

Conducted by EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.
* First peal on handbells.

LEICESTER.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Thurs., Dec. 12, 1946, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,
IN ST. MARGARET'S SELECT VESTRY HALL,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES:
Washbrook's. Tenor size 17 in A.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD	1-2	CHARLES MARSHALL	5-6
ERNEST MORRIS	3-4	JOSIAH MORRIS	7-8

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

BANBURY, OXON. — On Dec. 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss A. Grainge 1, R. H. Cave 2, W. Watson 3, R. Grainge 4, T. Impey 5, J. Stratton (first quarter as conductor) 6, J. Simons 7, S. Grange 8. Rung as a compliment to Mr. T. Impey on the occasion of his birthday.

BARKING, ESSEX.—On Dec. 8th, 1,280 Bob Major: E. G. Cottis 1, C. E. Faulkner 2, H. Worboys 3, J. Groves 4, F. V Gant 5, G. W. Faulkner 6, C. Fenn (conductor) 7, F. Freestone 8.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Dec. 8th, 1,264 Bob Major: H. Robinson 1, F. Sear 2, S. Smith 3, F. Stonton 4, W. Sear 5, J. E. Rootes 6, H. Sear 7, R. Cadamy (conductor) 8. First quarter of Bob Major for ringers of 1, 3 and 4.

BLEWBURY, BERKS.—At St. Michael's on Dec. 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Walker 1, C. Gregory 2, A. Greenough 3, C. Corderoy 4, F. James (conductor) 5, H. Dunsden 6, H. Aldridge 7, C. Corderoy 8.

BIRMINGHAM. — On Dec. 8th, at the Memorial Church of Bishop Ryder, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: John Scott 1, H. H. Fearn 2, J. W. Critchley 3, R. J. B. Hadden (conductor) 4, J. F. Harvey 5, E. T. Lloyd 6, G. E. Fearn 7, John S. Mason 8.

BROUGHTON ASTLEY, LEICESTER. — On Dec. 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: R. J. Flint (first quarter) 1, Miss J. Taylor (first quarter) 2, G. F. Ball 3, W. R. Drury 4, C. E. Carr (conductor) 5, R. C. Tipler 6.

DOWNTON, WILTS. — At St Lawrence's Church on Dec. 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. A. Theobald 1, M. Northway (first quarter inside) 2, F. C. Manns (conductor) 3, L. Page 4, J. Mussell 5, C. Churchill (first quarter) 6.

DEPTFORD, KENT.—At the Church of St. John on Dec. 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Morris 1, E. S. Owen 2, P. G. Parrott 3, R. G. Long (first as conductor) 4, F. W. Richardson 5, A. F. Bennington 6, J. E. Warner 7, R. E. Last 8.

QUARTER PEALS

HIGHGATE, LONDON. — At St. Anne's Church on Dec. 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. F. Carter 1, Miss J. M. Preston 2, A. W. J. Butler 3, A. F. Warren 4, T. Bevan 5, C. A. Vessey 6, F. C. W. Knight (composer and conductor) 7, J. T. O'Dell 8.

HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, WORCS. — On Dec. 8th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: P. Harris 1, A. J. Martin 2, R. Harris 3, Mrs. J. Thomas 4, J. Thomas 5, T. W. Lewis 6, J. E. Newman 7, J. D. Johnson (conductor) 8.

HEAVITREE, EXETER, DEVON.—On Dec. 1si, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. G. Glass 1, A. W. Searle 2, R. B. Roberts 3, B. Pidgeon (conductor) 4, J. Glanville 5, A. Mitchell 6, G. Skinner 7, E. Glass 8.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES, SURREY. — On Dec. 8th, at All Saints' Parish Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. A. Peck 1, L. R. Trussler (first quarter away from treble) 2, Miss P. Kitchen (first quarter in method) 3, F. E. Hawthorne (conductor) 4, G. C. Goodman 5, W. H. Seabrook 6, H. G. Andrews 7, H. W. Barrett 8.

KNOWLE, WARWICKSHIRE.—On Dec. 8th 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. Statham (conductor) 1, J. W. H. Smith 2, J. Prentice 3, W. Hayes 4, W. H. Smith 5, T. Chambers 6. Rung as a birthdway compliment to W. Hayes, ringer of the 4th.

LUTON, BEDS.—At St. Mary's on Dec. 8th, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: R. Kendall 1, H. Burton 2, C. E. Jeffries 3, A. J. Smith 4, A. Day 5, A. E. Rushton 6, H. Wood 7, L. A. Goodenough (conductor) 8.

SEVENOAKS, KENT.—On Dec. 8th, 1,280 Plain Bob Major: S. Etheridge 1, Miss D. Corke (first of Major inside) 2, P. Turley 3, L. Turley 4, H. Baker 5, Miss D. Colgate 6, R. Collins (composer and conductor) 7, F. Budgen 8. Rung to celebrate the birth of a granddaughter for Mr. E. Andrews, captain at the tower.

STEPNEY, LONDON.—On Dec. 9th at St. Dunstan's, 1,260 Bob Minor: A. T. Boomsma (first quarter) 1, G. J. Boomsma 2, T. G. Fox 3, H. A. Pinchbeck 4, H. E. Thompson 5, L. J. Fox (conductor) 6. All the band are local service ringers and ex-Service men. Rung to celebrate their safe return from the three Services.

STROUD, GLOS.—On Dec. 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss J. Cowlard 1, P. Allen 2, L. Dawson 3, B. Latham 4, G. Latham 5, T. Witts (conductor) 6, L. Barry 7, R. Sharpe 8.

WATFORD, HERTS. — On Dec. 8th, 1,280 Bob Major: C. N. Leman 1, P. H. Watts (first of Major) 2, W. G. Paul 3, Dr. F. S. Poole 4, H. Timms 5, S. H. Hoare (conductor) 6, F. H. Crook 7, R. G. Bell 8.

WEEDON, NORTHANTS.—On Dec. 10th, at St. Peter's, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: E. Elsigood 1, J. Webb 2, S. Osborne 3, V. Perry 4, W. Elsigood 5, E. Nobles (conductor) 6. Longest length of Minor for ringers of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Bells were rung 'up in peal,' touch rung and 'fell in peal' without interval.

WEST EALING, MIDDLESEX. — On Dec. 8th at the Church of St. Stephen, a quarter-peal of Bob Major: A. Jones 1, K. L. Brown 2, J. King 3, J. C. Birt 4, J. E. L. Cockey 5, F. Smallwood 6, D. R. Judd (conductor) 7, E. C. S. Turner 8. First in the method for ringers of 2 and 3.

WESTBOURNE, SUSSEX.—On Dec. 8th, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: R. G. Blackman 1, L. P. Cook 2, E. J. Treagus 3, W. Tate 4, P. N. Bond 5, H. Weaver 6, J. H. Hunt 7, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 8. First quarter-peal in the method for 3, 5 and 6.

WOODSTOCK, OXFORDSHIRE. — On Dec. 5th, at the Church of St. Mary Madgalene, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss L. Pimm 1, H. P. Floyd 2, A. Cornish 3, T. W. Bond 4, L. Oliffe 5, G. Wright 6, A. R. Pink (conductor) 7, C. Bustin 8. Rung at the conclusion of the wedding of Lady Caroline Spencer-Churchill and Major Hugo Waterhouse.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

'THE RINGING WORLD'

The Official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

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EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

'The Ringing World' was founded in the year 1911 by John Sparkes Goldsmith, who remained its proprietor and editor until his death in 1942.

BELFRY GOSSIP

The Editor expresses his deep appreciation of the many greetings he has received from readers His most encouraging gift from ringing friends was an order for an additional 250 copies of this issue from the Oxford Diocesan Guild. If notified in advance we can always supply additional copies.

Through the kindness of Mr. Frederick Sharpe, we are enabled to publish on another page illustrations of mediæval bellfounders' marks. The illustrations in question were taken from Mr. Sharpe's book, 'The Church Bells of Radnorshire.'

Date touches at one time were very popular. At Bolton, Lancs, on December 7th, 1.946 Grandsire Triples was rung by Edward B. Webster 1, Everest Ford 2, Jack Kay 3, Albert E. Sandiford 4, John F. Wood 5, Edward Iddon (conductor) 6, Peter Crook, sen. 7, John H. Hamer 8.

A peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Brierley Hill, Staffs, as a 75th birthday compliment to Mr. William Potter, who has completed 50 years as a service ringer at St. Michael's Church. Will the conductor kindly notify the Editor name of the association under whose auspices the peal was rung?

Mr. Ernest E. Whitmore, of Raunds, Northants, who used to ring with the Portsmouth band, and was demobilised from the Royal Navy in May last, has conducted peals of Doubles, Minor, Triples and Major for the first time for the Peterborough Diocesan Guild during the year.

A progressive 720 was rung at Christ Church, Swindon, Wilts, on December 10th, which included four first 720's of Cambridge Surprise Minor. The band was Miss P. Townsend 1, Miss M. Richards 2, C. J. Gardner 3, W. E. Court 4, W. B. Kynaston (conductor) 5, W. W. T. Daniell 6. First 720 in method by ringers of 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Mr. Percy H. Derbyshire commemorated his 50 years a ringer by ringing the ninth to a peal at St. Mark's, Worsley, Lancs, and then entertaining his fellow ringers to a hot pot supper. Canon Renshaw, the Vicar and Rural Dean, attended the supper and spoke of Mr. Derbyshire's long and faithful service. St. Mark's band have a fine record, the average length of service being 35 years with three members with over 40 years to their credit.

The cold snap caused Leicester handbell 'pealites' to forsake the 14th century belfry of St. Margaret's. Their temporary home was the officers' room, Juvenile Court, St. Margaret's Select Vestry Hall. Still performing is the Leicester veteran, 'Joe' Morris (father of Ernest), who is well into his 80th year. The time taken by the peal indicates that 'Joe' enjoys a peal rung at a real brisk pace.

To shepherd five ringers through their first peal was the achievement of Mr. Eric Nobles at Weedon Bec, Northants, on December 14th. Mr. E. W. Elsigood on the treble has 60 years to his credit, while James G. Webb, the ringer of the second, is only 15. Comments the conductor: 'Their enthusiasm was superb from start to finish with remarkably good striking.

Rarely does the name of a ringer appear on a bell. The inscription on the 2nd of the new bells at Deddington, Oxon, dedicated on Dec. 14th, bears the name of Mr. E. C. Pearson, one of the churchwardens. Mr. Pearson has been a change ringer since 1908, starting at Gestingthorpe, Essex, after the six were rehung there in 1908.

Mr. James Bennett, of Beckenham, writing with reference to 5.024 of Treble Bob Major by A. Knights (No. 377), states that it was one of several sent to him by the author, the late Mr. Arthur Knights, and was rung at St. Mary's, Lewisham, on November 2nd, 1933.

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IN AFFILIATION WITH CENTRAL COUNCIL

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

'Thus in the kernel's intricate disguise,
In miniature a little orchard lies;
The fibrous labyrinths by just degrees
Stretch their swoln cells, replete with further trees;
By time evolved, the spreading branches rise,
Yield their rich fruit, and shoot into the skies.'

So wrote the poet! No doubt he had in his mind the pips of an apple, but his words may be applied to all manner of seeds, each developing after its kind, leading us on to remember that many a society has been formed for all manner of purposes, beginning in a small way, but steadily developing in membership till they, 'by time evolved,' become important features in our national life.

Our poet probably knew nothing about bell-ringing; still less the use of his lines as a foundation on which to build up a short history of a Ringers' Guild—yet so it is—with his theme before us our readers may like to know something about the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers. Societies, associations and guilds have been formed in various ways, sometimes by individuals, sometimes by drawing several existing small bodies of ringers into one harmonious whole, to cover a large district such as a county or diocese, or, in days earlier than ours, for one reason or another, a breakaway from a society and the forming of another in opposition.

In the case of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, at the date of its foundation, on January 17th, 1881, there existed a comparatively small body known as 'The Sonning Deanery Society,' which had come into being in this way. Many of the deanery clergy met from time to time in each other's houses for discussion; many of these were very learned men, in fact it was asserted that at that time the two deaneries of Sonning and Maidenhead contained more brains than were to be found in the other seven deaneries in Berkshire put together! Not always, however, were the discussions based on deep theological and doctrinal truths, or the particular force of a single word in a single verse of Holy Scripture; now and then some practical subject was discussed such as church work in many forms affecting the laity as well as the clergy.

MR. R. T. HIBBERT
Secretary of the Guild from 1917-1946.

At one of these meetings held late in 1879 a paper on bells and ringers was read by the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis, discussed and, what is more important, promptly put into execution, the result being the formation of the Sonning Deanery Society. The Rev. J. T. Brown, Rural Dean, convened a meeting at Wokingham on January 26th, 1880, at which several clergy were present with representatives from the towers of Wargrave, Hurst, Arborfield, Sonning, Wokingham (2). Mr. J. Walter, M.P., Bearwood, proprietor of 'The Times' newspaper, was elected president; the Rev. J. T. Brown, Rector of St. Paul's, Wokingham, and the Rev. Dolben Paul, Rector of Bearwood, vice-presidents; the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis, Vicar of Dunsden, treasurer; and the Rev. J. F. Llewelyn, curate of St. Paul's, secretary. This young society flourished for 12 months only, the Diocesan Guild having been founded on January 17th, 1881, and having elected a treasurer and secretary from it. What more natural than that rank and file should follow their leaders and be grafted into the larger body? All to its advantage, no longer a little twig but a sturdy branch of the great guild tree, the first of the 15 branches which now adorn the tree, each having its own chairman, secretary and committee, each branch represented on the General Guild Committee, now 62 in number, viz., six guild officers, 12 elected members and 44 representatives of branches.

As to the chief officials of the Guild, the master, deputy master, secretary and treasurer, it may be noted that during its 65 years of growth up to the annual meeting held in July, 1946, only three have held the office of Master, viz., the Rev. F. E. Robinson, the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn and Canon Coleridge. The first, the Rev. F. E. Robinson, was the best known clerical ringer of all time: born in 1833, he learnt how to handle a bell in his undergraduate days at Oxford (1850-53), becoming at a later date acquainted with the well-known Appleton White family, who, in the persons of Alfred, Henry and Fred, taught him all they knew about change ringing, eventually persuading him to be their conductor. His first peal was at Appleton, Grandsire Trinles, on October 13th, 1859, followed by a peal of Kent Treble Bob on December 13th. Then after an interval of some five years he did no ringing till a peal of Grandsire Caters was rung 'on March the 4th day,' 1865, composed and conducted by Fred White; but it was not till 15 years later, when the Diocesan Guild was founded, that the flow of peals rose rapidly: here, there and everywhere the Master was invited to give advice on bells and towers, to preach at festivals, dedications of bells, etc., and to join in ringing tours. These he gladly accepted as thereby he was enabled to fulfil his desire to be the first to ring a thousand peals, a desire accomplished with about 260 overplus before his death, when Sir Arthur Heywood, president of the Central Council, wrote, 'We lose a good friend and coadjutor, whose work for the Exercise has been invaluable.'

It is a good thing that masters are not all cast in the same mould: whereas Mr. Robinson made a great point of ringing a peal with a picked band before the annual festival service in whatever church it was held, deeming that listening was the best way to bring ringers to understand what good ringing should be, our second Master, the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, judged otherwise: he felt that the Master should make himself personally known to every member of the Guild he could meet: to this end, though enjoying every peal he could

THE REV. G. F. COLERIDGE
Former Master and author of this article.

manage to ring, his big Mercedes car was seen almost every Saturday carrying him with an officer of the Guild or other friends to every part of Oxon, Berks and Bucks, in many cases to six-bell towers where he would see that everyone, even the merest tyro, had a pull, enabling him to go home (as the Psalmist says) with 'a proud look and high stomach,' swelling with joy in that 'he had rung with the Master.' By such actions he endeared himself to all; it is not too much to say that he revolutionised the Guild.

To him as third Master Canon Coleridge was elected 12 years in succession, though much against his wish, age, bodily infirmity and transport difficulties preventing him from doing much more than the giving of advice, routine duties, presiding at committees and the annual meetings of the Guild and deanery branch, etc., and, what he felt to be a great honour, preaching the festival sermon in the Cathedral as his last effort for the Guild. His successor as Master, the Rev. C. E. Wigg, Deputy Master, who had done great service for many years, was installed in his stead at the meeting held immediately after, when Capt. Poyntz was elected Deputy Master, and honour conferred on the late Master by his election as vice-president of the Guild, an honour conferred many years ago on Mr. J. Evans for most meritorious service in earlier years in the Hughenden belfry and neighbourhood. Only three Masters in 65 years! Not a bad record, but it is equalled by the three treasurers, the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis (Sonning Deanery), Mr. A. J. Wright (Reading Branch) and Mr. A. D. Barker (East Berks and South Bucks Branch)—long may he keep a tight hold on the purse strings! Four secretaries have served the Guild, the Rev. Dolben Paul, the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis, Mr. A. E. Reeves and Mr. R. T. Hibbert, 1917-1946, now succeeded by his son, William Hibbert. The moral—when you get a good man, stick to him, and, it should be added, 'help him in every possible way.'

Never has the Guild failed to produce a goodly array of conductors, composers and instructors. In its early days there were to hand in Oxford Mr. J. Field, Mr. W. J. Smith and Mr. Charles Hounslow, the conductor of the first Guild peal at Kirtlington on Nov. 27th, 1881; next Mr. J. J. Parker, of Farnham Royal, a most eminent ringer and composer. 'Parker's 12-part' has been called 'the acme and perfection of composition.' Then comes the renowned J. W. Washbrook, the first to ring a pair of bells in a tower peal, untiring in mind or body, a splendid all-round man, who was whole-time instructor in the Guild; Rev. F. E. Robinson, with his 861 peals of Stedman Triples, conducting 719 of them, and lastly R. Tom Hibbert, prince of ringers, a magnificent heavy bell man, revelling in a well-struck peal, but more than content to give most of his spare time to the instruction of lads and lasses. These, having given of their best in service to the Guild, have gone the way of all flesh. There now arise two others, the first well in the limelight, Mr. W. F. Judge, whose abilities bid fair to win him great fame in future generations in the way of peal ringing; the other a most painstaking instructor of youth, Mr. G Gilbert, of Burnham. Assuredly he holds the record in his pre-war band of boys, averaging 15½ years, and his post-war band of girls, averaging only 14½ years—all with peals to their credit — two boys having scored 48 and 43 and two girls 17 and 12 respectively.

Concerning towers and their ringers, four only must suffice owing to limited space — mere notes and little more.

(1) ALL SAINTS', BOYNE HILL. Ringing much encouraged by the Vicar, Canon Drummond, who did all that a non-ringer could do for the benefit of his company, and for the good of the Guild during his life. A notable band in the earlier years of the Guild's history.

(2) CAVERSHAM. Originally six, but increased to eight when Canon Coleridge was curate for 10 years. Peal after peal was rung with Tom Newman, a most capable conductor and exponent of the higher methods which the band tackled and rang up to London and Bristol Surprise. It was all on a par with a highly trained crew of a racing eight-oar: mishandling of ropes or any sloppiness in ringing was never tolerated for one moment: perfect striking was the one chief aim throughout, largely ensured by the compulsory observance of the golden rule, 'Never look down on the floor, but keep your eyes on those of your partners in the circle.'

(3) APPLETON. Always a fine parochial band, largely recruited from the White and Holifield families through three generations, a band which has always welcomed visitors from far and near to ring in their belfry, which is covered with peal tablets, records of the past, notably 10,080 Double Norwich, 12,041 Stedman, 13,265 Grandsire and 15,041 Stedman—this last was rung on the last day of December, 1888, and supplanted a peal of 13,043 rung at Cheltenham on the previous Whit Monday, holding the record length for 20 years, when Loughborough rang a peal of some 18,000 changes, supplanting it, only to be displaced in turn by Appleton, which regained the honour by a peal of 21,363 changes in 12 hours 25 minutes on April 22nd, 1922. Good old Appleton! 'Those were the days.' Many years may the record peal of all time be in the keeping of the Guild.

(4) DRAYTON. Unlike Appleton, the tower was never manned by a parochial band of change ringers. Though Vicar for near 30 years and Master of the Guild, the Rev. F. E. Robinson never succeeded in forming one. Peal after peal has been rung, but in every case it was by non-parishioners, as may be seen by an inspection of the peal tablets in stone or marble on the tower walls. Visitors often had peals arranged for them. On one occasion seven College Youths came down from Town to enable the Vicar to conduct a peal of Kent Treble Bob in his own tower. On another seven members of the Caversham band came over for a peal of Cambridge for the same purpose. These two peals are recorded on a large stone tablet with six others—the first Oxford University peal of Stedman, the first clerical peal of Stedman, Holt's Original, Double Norwich, Superlative and London Surprise, all conducted by him. Three other tablets of marble record a peal of Stedman, the first unconducted on tower bells, one of London, 11,328 changes in 6 hours 6 minutes, conducted by J. W. Washbrook, and lastly the 1,000th peal rung by the Master and conducted by him, August 9th, 1905. Over these is set a large stone tablet recording three peals, Cambridge, Superlative and Double Norwich, all three rung on the same day by the same ringers, conducted by J. W. Washbrook, a good sample out of the 3,979 peals in the Guild's peal book.

Of the 220 towers affiliated to the Guild, Oxon, Berks and Bucks each possesses a twelve-bell tower, with 10's, 8's and 6's spread over the diocese. With these notes the story of the Guild is finished, pro tem. The little pip sown in the soil of the Sonning Deanery has, 'as time evolved,' grown into a mighty tree with 15 branches yielding much rich and refreshing fruit, to wit, 1,569 active ringing members, with 229 (a record number) gathered in at the last annual festival in July—a good augury for future years of abundant fruitage.

APPLETON CHURCH, BERKS, Famed for its many record peals. The Rev. G. F Coleridge rang the 9th in 10,000 Stedman Caters here on December 31st, 1888.

WEST RETFORD, NOTTS.—On Dec. 8th, 1,260 Bob Minor: F. Robinson 1, D. Sarjent 2, Miss J. Salt 3, F. Jackson 4, W. Coates 5, H. Denman (conductor) 6.

Devon Guild of Ringers

EXETER TRIBUTES TO 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

St. David's bells were not available for the annual meeting of the Exeter Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers owing to serious illness near the church, but those of St. Thomas' (afternoon) and Heavitree (evening) were available and fully used for Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Major. The attendance of members and visitors totalled about 50. At service in St. David's Church the Rev. C. E. Gover (Vicar) commented on the help ringers could render and expressed appreciation of the loyalty of St. David's ringers.

A buffet tea in St. David's Institute was followed by business. Messrs. A. W. Searle (chairman) and E. W. Biffen (Ringing Master) were re-elected, and Mr. E. J. Ryall (a former chairman) was heartily accepted as hon. secretary in place of Mr. W. Howe, who resigned after about 15 years' service. Prebendary E. V. Cox (president) eulogised the devoted work of Mr. Howe, and on his motion it was resolved that special entry be made in the minutes. Mr. Howe, returning thanks, said much of the secretarial duties had been done by Mr. Searle and appealed to members to co-operate in facilitating the work of the new hon. secretary. The Branch Committee was instructed to consider a presentation.

The President directed attention to the current issue of 'The Ringing World,' which contained an outline of the history of the Devon Guild by the hon. secretary (Mr. F. C. Smale), who had devoted much time and labour to the compilation, but was unable to be present through indisposition, which has happily proved temporary. Preb. Cox also commented on improvements effected in recent months in the character of 'The Ringing World,' and thought that the issue of 16 pages constituted a record.

Mr. Searle, a journalist for half a century, endorsed the president's remarks. Formerly the general contents of 'The Ringing World' were usually too academic, but some allowance must be made for circumstances during the war. Now the paper was being conducted on more popular lines and was endeavouring to cater for all interested in campanology from novices to proficients. He anticipated increased circulation with benefit to the Exercise as a whole and mentioned that copies of the issue with the Guild's history would be available for members. He concluded by inviting co-operation in resuscitating bands that had been affected by the war, welcomed members demobilised from the Forces, and thanked those who had assisted with the meeting.

Thorverton (8) was chosen for a meeting on February 15th.

WISBOROUGH GREEN, SUSSEX. — On Nov. 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss P. Streeter 1, W. Edwards 2, Miss J. Edwards 3, L. Stilwell (conductor) 4, H. Wood 5, T. Gumbrell 6. First quarter-peal by 1, 3 and 6. Rung as a farewell to the Vicar.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'The Strange God Campanology'

Dear Sir,—The views expressed by Mr. Richard A. Post will undoubtedly cause serious thought to all bellringers, and I am sure all will deeply appreciate and respect his convictions, especially as his opinions are so sincere that he has the courage to state them openly.

Whilst the installation of mechanical contrivances in towers in lieu of bells is to be deplored, I cannot think it is a threat of a serious nature, for the following reasons: It is my experience that these records with amplifiers have been installed only in churches without towers or towers strong enough to take bells, or where the parish is a poor one or where the raising of money for a peal of bells would be a very difficult and heartbreaking job.

Such is the Britisher's love of bells and the traditions attached to them and the sound of them, coupled with the local pride in possessing them, that the general reaction of the public will always be heavily in favour of a peal of bells rather than any artificiality, and while, of course, the incumbent of any church has authority to choose, he would be a bold man and risking the horror and wrath of his parishioners were he to have installed a record of bells and amplifier before giving them the opportunity of contributing towards a peal of real ones.

With regard to the attendance of ringers at divine worship. Frankly, I disagree with Mr. Post that full attendance by ringers would give them a stronger voice than at present—only representation on church councils will achieve that, and at present there are among ringers one or two at each tower who regularly attend service and who would therefore feel justified in seeking a seat on the council. For the rest, the non-attenders, myself included, I don't think much can be done. It is a matter of choice, and no amount of persuasion will change the attitude. I, personally, have no inclination to attend church service; I enjoy the service at association meetings, but if a condition of my bellringing was that I should attend service, my love of bells would cause me to capitulate, but it would be with bad grace. After all, the percentage of church attendance by ringers compares very favourably with any of the members of the parish—among ringers it is approximately 20, among the public generally about 1.

I think all ringers have a consciousness of their efforts being for the Church, and I think the right attitude is to make it a hobby on practice nights and a duty on Sundays and holy days, and, having rung for service, to become a free agent and go home or to church according to temperament.

The fascination bell music and well-struck changes has for me would have drawn me to campanology wherever it was practised, and to me the fact that bells are installed in churches is an accident, and I wish they were all to be found in local village or town campaniles.—Yours faithfully,

C. BRETT-SMITH.

58, Picardy Road, Belvedere, Kent.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND ACTION

Dear Sir,—Mr. Richard A. Post is to be congratulated on his letter which appeared in the issue of December 13th of 'The Ringing World.' His observations are, generally speaking, most accurate and leave much food for thought and action.

Although I am not personally acquainted with Mr. Post, I look forward to that privilege and pleasure.—Yours faithfully,

HERBERT G. ANDREWS.

Hampton Wick, Kingston-on-Thames.

WHEELS AND SPEED OF RINGING

Dear Sir,—The question of large wheels affecting the speed of ringing has been discussed in your columns and the correct answer was given that, other things being equal, the size of the wheel makes no difference to the average speed of ringing. There is, however, one small point to be noticed, namely, that the larger the wheel the easier to mark the open lead.

With a 4lb. rope and a 6ft. diameter wheel, the rope gives up to the bell, when pulled off at backstroke, about 36 ft. lbs. of energy, sending it so much nearer to the balance. If the wheel is replaced by one of 7ft. diameter, the corresponding amount of energy transferred would be 42 ft. lbs., and the difference in the natural timing of the two strokes would be correspondingly more marked.—I am, yours, etc.,

EDWIN H. LEWIS.

Moat Farm Cottages, Pitstone,
Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

'BEST IN MIND AND BODY'

Dear Sir,—I read with interest the 'Strange God Campanology' letter by Richard Post, and wish to say how true are the points he raises.

Peal ringing is of very great interest to me, and I can't do as much as I would like, but I have always belonged to a church tower and regularly attended service. My belief is that the best one can offer to God and Christ is something done by one's own mind and body. Something which you strive for, and love. To me this means a good band of service ringers, who are in harmony themselves and are willing to work hard and aim for perfection in their ringing. Far too many towers have ringers who do not even attend to ring for service, let alone attend a service in church. Many do not like a short service on a meeting day.

I do feel that if we can find real harmony with God, Christ and ourselves, our ringing will become a real offering to God and Christ and will necessarily improve. Also those unfortunate towers which have no ringers would once again become like ships with a good happy crew trying to reach that land of perfection.—Yours sincerely,

N. HEAPS.

Southport, Lancs.

RINGERS NOT ONLY TO BLAME

Dear Sir,—Why does Mr. R. A. Post single out campanology as a strange god? Do not all departments wreak with hypocrisy? As a lad I heard the saying about a clergyman, 'Don't do as I do, do as I tell you'; also that when the pedals of an organ would not function, the repairer found the obstruction was caused by empty beer bottles! The choirmen of an East Coast church, years ago, slipped out by a side door, just at the commencement of the sermon, to a 'pub' for a drink, arriving back in their places in time to bellow out the last hymn.

I believe there would be few employes in the churches if it were not for the 'loaves and fishes.'

With radio and gramophone records why not have amplifiers for everything in services from the parsons downwards?

Being an honorary ringer and chorister for 60 years, I average 50 services annually.—Yours truly,

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

LLANTRISANT, GLAM.—On Nov. 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Jefferies (first quarter) 1, W. Huish 2, J. Westcott (first quarter inside) 3, R. Westcott 4, J. A. Evans 5, G. Westcott (first quarter) 6, F. Rowsell (conductor) 7, R. Collins 8.—On Dec. 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Jefferies 1, W. Huish 2, J. Westcott 3, J. A. Evans 4, R. Westcott 5, G. Westcott 6, F. Rowsell (conductor) 7, R. Collins 8.

Devon Lady Ringer's Death

A correspondent (A.W.S.) has written as follows: The late Mrs. Holway, of Honiton Clyst, was held in high esteem by a large number of ringing friends. She had a charming personality and was always ready to do anyone a kindness. She had been handicapped by ill-health and infirmity for some years, but until the last few months of her life courageously overcame difficulties and participated in the meetings of various branches of the Devon Guild, being cordially welcomed by all who knew her. The district has been distressed by her death and offers sincere sympathy to her devoted husband, Mr. Arthur Holway, who is also a ringer at Honiton Clyst.

The large attendance and wealth of floral tributes at the funeral must have been some consolation to him. The weather was extremely wintry, but during the committal there was a gleam of sunshine and a neighbouring songthrush burst into what seemed to be a farewell to one who had an outstanding love for nature in all forms.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION

TAUNTON DEANERY BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Taunton Branch was held at Wilton on December 14th. Ringers attended from Bristol, Bridgwater, Exeter, Langport, Shepton-Beauchamp, Yeovil and the local towers. The Guild service was ably conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. R. D. Maddock).

At the business meeting the chairman of the branch, the Rev. J. W. Storey, presided, and the following officials were elected for the coming year: Chairman, the Rev. J. W. Storey; hon. secretary, Mr. A. H. Reed; Ringing Master, Mr. R. W. Hayward. Bradford-on-Tone was chosen for the next quarterly meeting. A vote of thanks to the Vicar, the organist and the ladies for their services was proposed by Mr. G. Coles and seconded by Mr. C. Tarr. Ringing continued at all the three town towers until 9 p.m.

DUNSFOLD BELLS BECAST

Attuned and in harmony once again, the bells of Dunsfold Parish Church will ring out the Christmas message over the Surrey countryside. Recast and rehung in the old frame, with new fittings, the six bells were rededicated on December 15th as a thanksgiving to God for preservation during the second world war.

The work, carried out by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, Ltd., Croydon, cost over £600. The inscription on the tenor bell, originally cast in 1649, reads: 'Recast in 1946. A thanksgiving from the people of Dunsfold, 1939-1945. The Lord hath been our refuge.' The tenor weighs 10 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb. The oldest bell is dated 1583 and another 1621. They were recast in 1892 when the other three were added.

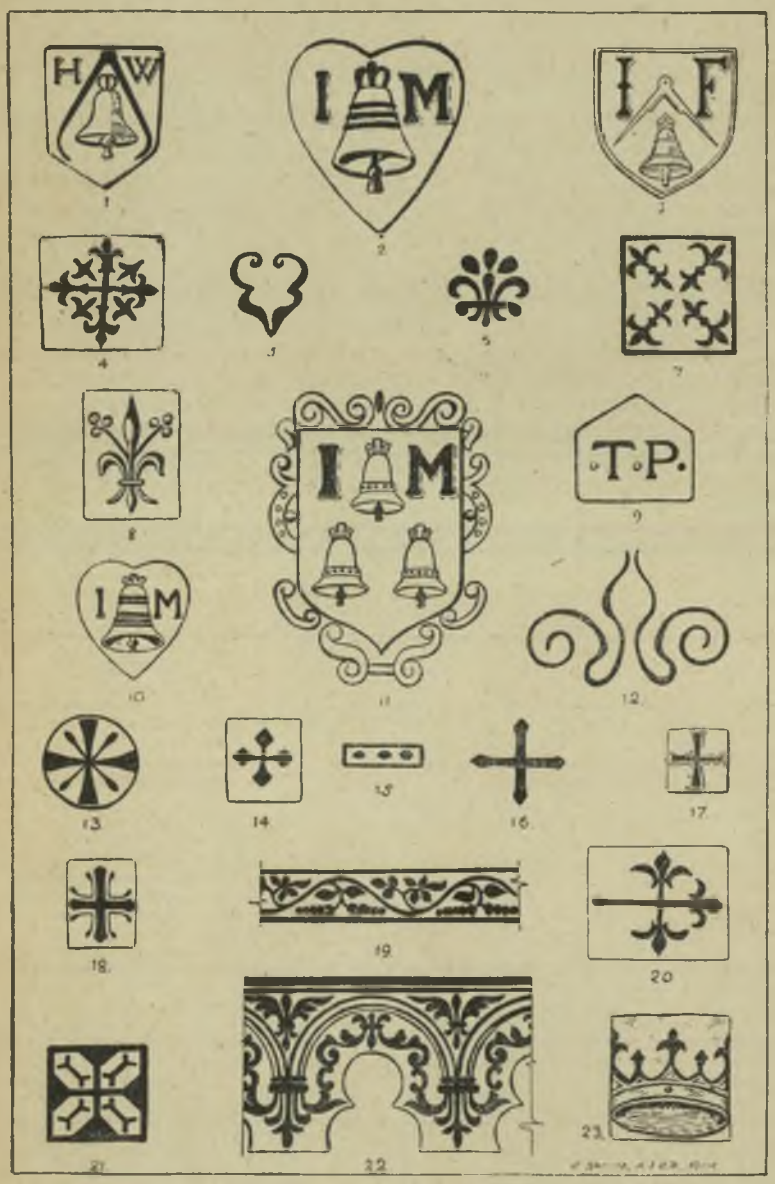
The Archdeacon of Dorking (the Ven. E. J. Newill), who performed the ceremony of rededication, said in these early post-war years, when there was so much to be done, the people had given first priority to the restoration of their church bells.

The bells of their parish churches, especially perhaps in their English villages, were a distinctive feature of English life and churches. Bells, and change ringing on them, seemed to have an extraordinary fascination for a lot of men and a considerable number of women.

Church bells had a meaning and a value greater, perhaps, than was sometimes thought. It was right and proper that they should have a Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers. That Guild encouraged a proper care of the bells, the good and skilful ringing of them, and organised visits to different towers. Every tower in the diocese should be represented on the Guild's roll of members.

After the service touches were rung on the bells by members of the Guildford Diocesan Guild under Mr. C. E. Smith, District Ringing Master. Some 20 ringers attended the service and they were afterwards entertained to tea by the Rector and Mrs. Crowhurst.

MEDIÆVAL BELLFOUNDERS' MARKS



Half-scale details of bell founders' marks, with references to the founders' names, places of business, and approximate *working* dates. Only the principal users of the marks are listed: they were frequently handed down from one founder to another, and used in combination with other marks Figs. 1, Henry Williams (locality unknown, but believed to be Brecon), 1677-1719; 2, 6, 10, 11, 19, 21 and 22, John Martin, of Worcester, 1644-1693; 3, 8, and 17, John Finch, of Hereford, 1628-1664; 4, 20 and 23, Robert Hendley, of Gloucester, 1450-1500; 5, 9 and 12, a founder, whose initials were T.P., working in mid-Wales *circa* 1675; or, a partnership of founders with the initials T.B. and I.B.; 7, John Barber, of Salisbury, *circa* 1400; and Richard-le-Belyetere, of Worcester, *circa* 1450; 13 and 15, Bristol mediæval foundry; 14, Henry Clibury, of Wellington, 1673-1682; 16, Richard Dawkes, of Worcester, 1606-1636; 18, an unknown 14th century founder.

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Merrow Bells Rehung

AN ASSET TO THE GUILDFORD GUILD.

When Messrs. Mears and Stainbank installed a ring of six with a 13 cwt. tenor in the Parish Church at Merrow, near Guildford, in the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the village was little more than an agricultural hamlet, but in the half-century which has intervened the district has grown out of all recognition, and Merrow is now an important residential suburb of Guildford, within the boundaries of which borough it is now incorporated. Unfortunately interest in the bells did not keep pace with the prosperity of the parish, and except in one or two brief interludes change ringing has been a little known art there.

In the circumstances it occasions little wonder that for long periods in their history the fittings escaped even that minimum amount of attention which is necessary to keep a peal in good going order, and of recent years, although the bells have always merited praise for their musical and tonal qualities, they have been notorious for their bad going.

However, after some years of effort, Guildford Guild officials persuaded the local authorities that some repair work was necessary, and at long last Messrs. Mears and Stainbank were called in to rehang the peal on ball bearings, renew the fittings and secure the frame. After a try-out on the previous Wednesday, when among other touches of Doubles and Minor an opening 120 of Grandsire Doubles was rung by Brian Grover 1, J. O. Glanville 2, R. G. Walker 3, H. A. May 4, F Bennett (conductor) 5, J. Gould (local band) tenor, the bells were formally reopened and rededicated on Wednesday, December 4th, by the Rector, the Rev. A. C. G. Oldham, at a service held in the ringing room. Messrs. Mears and Stainbank were represented by Mr. F. Hutchings, who, in view of the labour difficulties and shortage of craftsmen, very kindly came back into harness after several years of retirement.

After this service, a few 120's of Doubles were rung by ringers mostly from West Clandon, interspersed with rounds in which local ringers joined. All present agreed that the bell hangers had effected a transformation, and the job leaves no room whatever for an excuse that any bad ringing there may be is occasioned by imperfect 'go.'

A parishioner, Mrs. Eustace, has defrayed the whole cost of the restoration as a memorial to her husband, the late Mr. S. C. G. Eustace, who was for some years a churchwarden at Merrow. It is to be hoped that with the immeasurably better conditions which now prevail, Merrow will become an active centre of change ringing, although the degree of appreciation and enthusiasm with which your correspondent's efforts to promote interest have been received by local talent during the last three years does not incline him to the optimistic belief that any startling improvement in the standard of ringing is likely to materialise in the immediate future.—G. L. G.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

SWINDON BRANCH RE-ELECT OFFICERS.

The annual meeting of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held at Christ Church, Swindon, on December 14th. In addition to the branch members, there were ringers present from Aldbourne, Bristol, Shrivenham, Faringdon, Fairford, Chiseldon, Barnwood and Wootton Bassett.

Various methods were rung up to Stedman Caters and Kent Royal. The Vicar (Canon J. Gilbert) conducted the association form of service, and at the business meeting the chairman and secretary (W. H. Trueman and W. B. Kynaston respectively) were re-elected, and Mr. W. T. Daniell was appointed branch representative on the Management Committee. Places of next three meetings were provisionally arranged as St. Mark's, Swindon, Stratton-St.-Margaret and Rodbourne Cheney.

W. B. KYNASTON.

DEATH OF MR. A. E. REED

The death occurred on December 6th of Mr. Arthur E. Reed in his 80th year. Always of a genial disposition and punctual in attendance for Sunday service ringing, he will be greatly missed by his comrades at St. Giles', Willenhall, where he rang the tenor. The funeral took place on Dec. 11th, conducted by the Vicar, Rev. S. B. Ashley, assisted by Rev. C. F. Hambury. Ringers who attended the funeral were F. Colclough (Bilston), W. Bayliss (Bradley), I. Evans, J. Luck and C. Wallater of the local band.

On the following day a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung half-muffled as a token of respect by his colleagues.

NOTICES

The charge for one insertion of a notice of a meeting is *one penny per word, minimum 2s.* For additional insertions with no change, one half above charge for each insertion.

Other notices one penny per word, minimum 2s. 6d.

All notices must be prepaid.

Notices must be received not later than Monday.

ENGAGEMENTS

The engagement is announced between Dr. John E. Spice, only son of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Spice, of 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, and Miss Betty R. Hollingworth, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Hollingworth, of 42, Gorse Road, Blackpool, Lancs.

The engagement is announced of Arthur R. Burgess, of Hatfield, Herts, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Burgess, of Coventry, and Barbara W. Smith, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith, of Headingley, Leeds.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

A happy New Year to all ringing friends.—Les W. Jarvis, Hawkhurst, Kent.

E. T. P. Field wishes his ringing friends a happy New Year. — Bleak House, Bookham Lane, Alton Pancras, Dorchester.

To old friends and new, near and far, we send greetings for a happy and successful New Year.—From St. Margaret's Society, Barking.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Next meeting, Whitechapel Bell Foundry, Saturday, Dec. 28th, 3 p.m. Ringing after the meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

SUSSEX ASSN.—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Hellingly, Saturday, Dec. 28th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names, please, to John Downing, 128, Elphinstone Road, Hastings.

UNIVERSITIES' ASSN. — The programme of ringing on Wednesday, Jan. 1st (in connection with the annual dinner) will be as follows: St. Mary, Battersea, 9.30 to 10.30; St. Mary Abbots, 10.45 to 12; St. Mary, Lambeth, 1.30 to 3; St. Stephen, Westminster, 2.30 to 3.45; St. Gabriel, Pimlico, 3.30 to 5.15.—J. E. Spice, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Annual meeting, Saturday, January 4th. Ringing at St. Martin's, 4 to 6 p.m. Meeting at Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, City, at 6.15 p.m. prompt.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSN.—Cheltenham Branch. — Annual meeting at St. Mary's, Cheltenham, Saturday, Jan. 4th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea by invitation to those only who notify W. Dyer, 69, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham, by first post, Thursday, Jan. 2nd.—S. Taylor.

KENT ASSN.—Tonbridge District. —Meeting Edenbridge (8), Jan. 4th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Names for tea should be sent to me not later than Dec. 28th.—R. A. Whitehead, Sec., Leigh, near Tonbridge, Kent.

ESSEX ASSN.—N.E. Division.—Annual district meeting, Saturday, Jan. 4th, at Thorrington (6). Bells available 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Meeting in Church Room 5 p.m. Bring own food; cups of tea provided.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Park Farm Cottages, Shimpling, Bury St. Edmunds.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD. — Devizes Branch.—Annual meeting at Westbury, Saturday, Jan. 4th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Please advise by Jan. 1st.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham.

SHEFFIELD SOCIETY. — Eastwood (8), Sat., Jan. 4th, 3 p.m. Tea obtainable at British Restaurant, High Street. Business: Cup Competition. All welcome. — H. Chaddock.

NORTH STAFFS ASSN.—Meeting at Audley (8), Saturday, Jan. 4th. Names for tea to Mr. R. Rowley, Swanley, Nantwich Road, Audley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. — W. Carnwell, Hon. Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Winchester District. — Annual meeting at Winchester, Jan. 4th. Cathedral (12), St. Maurice (6) bells 2.30. Meeting, Dumpers' Restaurant, 3.45. Tea 4.30. Service in Cathedral 5.15. Bells afterwards till 8.30. Names for tea by Wednesday, Jan. 1st.—W. G. Goodchild, 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSN.—District Annual Meeting.—Watford (10), Saturday, Jan. 4th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at Odeon Cafe, High Street, 4.45 p.m. Please help caterers by notifying S. H. Hoare, 56, Acme Road, Watford, Herts.

BATH AND WELLS ASSN.—Bridgwater Deanery.—Annual meeting, Bridgwater, Saturday, Jan. 4th, 3 p.m. Service 4. Tea 5. Names by Dec. 31st.—R. Short, Chilton Trinity.

SELBY AND DISTRICT SOC.—Annual meeting, Selby, Jan. 4th. Tea 3s. Notify T. H. Foster, 3, Richardson's Yard, Church Lane, Selby, by Jan. 1st.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Kettering Branch. — Branch annual meeting at Burton Latimer on Saturday, Jan. 4th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Tea for those only who notify Mr. B. J. Saddington, 48, Finedon Road, Burton Latimer, by Dec. 30th.—H. Baxter, Branch Sec.

LONDON COUNTY ASSN. — Monday, Jan. 6th. Practice at St. Gabriel's, Warwick Square, Pimlico, 6.15 to 7.30 p.m. — H. W. Rogers, 14, The Grove, Isleworth.

LONDON COUNTY ASSN. — Saturday, Jan. 11th. St. Mary's, Battersea, 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Business and handbells 6 p.m. Further ringing 7.30 to 9 p.m. Names for tea, please. — H. W. Rogers, 14, The Grove, Isleworth.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kington District.—Preliminary Notice. Annual meeting at Eardisland, Saturday, Jan. 11th. Full details later. Other districts please note.—J. C. Preece, Dis. Sec.

CHESTER GUILD. — Chester Branch. — Annual at the Cathedral, Saturday, Jan. 11th. Bells from 3. Service 4.15. Tea provided if notified by previous Wednesday. — J. W. Clarke, Mollington, Chester.

SUFFOLK GUILD. — Bury St. Edmunds District. — Meeting at Ixworth (6), Saturday, Jan. 11th, at 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring own food.—A. Gillings, Dis. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District. — Annual meeting (district) at Metheringham, Saturday, Jan. 11th. Service 4.30. Cups of tea only. Bring own food. — K. W. Mayer, Dis. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSN. — Crewkerne Deanery. — Annual meeting at Ilminster (8 bells), Saturday, Jan. 11th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Please notify by Jan. 7th for tea to J. T. Locke, School Street, Drayton, Taunton.

MELKSHAM, WILTS. — At the Parish Church on Sunday, Dec. 8th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss Ruby Gibbons (first 720) 1, Stanley R. Cockel 2, Arthur W. Angel 3, Walter Hunt 4, William C. West 5, Harold Smith (conductor) 6. Rung on the wedding anniversary of the conductor to celebrate the christening of his daughter, Gillian Mary.

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