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RECORDS OF 1950

SUBJECT to adjustments by the Peals Analysis Committee, it is now possible to give the Exercise statistics relating to peal ringing in 1950. While the high figure of 2,906 peals recorded in 1949 has not been reached, the total for the past 12 months of 2,724 is the second highest on record.

The following table is illuminating as showing the monthly totals for the past four years:—

	1950	1949	1948	1947
January ...	197	242	207	140
February ...	224	234	193	101
March ...	205	199	188	138
April ...	240	232	253	180
May ...	239	214	234	201
June ...	166	209	177	161
July ...	197	199	184	137
August ...	266	249	231	170
September ...	224	238	177	167
October ...	218	270	236	184
November ...	256	251	334	349
December ...	292	369	225	246
Totals ...	2724	2906	2639	2174
Tower bells	2370	2527	2365	1953
Handbells ...	354	378	274	221

It will be noted that in five months of 1950 the totals for 1949 were exceeded. The most prolific month of the year was December with 292, but this was 77 peals less than the corresponding month of last year. Why is December such a favoured month? The Christmas holiday undoubtedly accounts for a number of extra peals, but against that in the weeks preceding Christmas many ringers' leisure is restricted.

There was no occasion for national rejoicing during 1950. In the table above will be noted the high November figure in 1947 when 349 peals were rung, many of which were for Princess Elizabeth's wedding. The birth of Prince Charles a year later was a similar occasion for the nation expressing its feelings by the ringing of peals.

If the blessing of peace is vouchsafed to us in 1951, there are likely to be many additional peals rung in connection with the Festival of Britain, particularly in towers where a peal is a special occasion. There are in the country some thousands of ringers whose names rarely appear in 'The Ringing World,' and if a national request

is made to ring the bells then they respond. Members of the Standing Committee are still deliberating on Dr. Hatcher's and Mr. Spice's report and doubtless there will be plenty of time to pass on the conclusions to the Guilds and to the Exercise at large.

It is likely, however, that there will be towns and villages where the Festival will not be regarded as a special occasion. Some people put every obstacle in the way of a peal and this week we record the remarkable attitude of Church authorities in Adelaide, who on the occasion of the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the first Primate of All England to visit the Commonwealth, felt that the event did not warrant a peal attempt and the ringers were consequently disappointed.

We do not think that the fact that there were 182 peals less rung in 1950 as compared with 1949 can in any sense be interpreted as a sign of dwindling enthusiasm, or that recruits are not forthcoming. Last week, for example, we recorded seven first peals and this can be taken as a fair average. One of the reasons among regular and leading peal ringers is the desire to explore uncharted and more difficult peals in the way of Spliced Surprise. Few of the leading bands can conscientiously say that they climbed each new pinnacle at the first attempt. One tower with which the writer is familiar had a series of disappointments before the company could master a peal in a particular Surprise method. And it is right that such conditions should prevail. The idea of a 'cast iron' peal with a 'cast iron' band is repugnant to many ringers. The element of uncertainty is one of the joys of the game. Many ringers take more pride in the quality of their peals than the quantity, and this is a commendable feature second only to instructional peals for advancing young ringers in the art.

As regards handbell ringing there was only a difference of 24 in the two years' totals. We are pleased to find new companies appearing in our lists and trust that this side of the Exercise will not be neglected. Here again it is quality and not quantity that has been the objective of certain bands, and the new laurels gained by Mr. G. E. Feirn's band in Lincolnshire and those by Mr. Christopher Woolley's band in Hertfordshire have only been gained after weeks of steady practice. It is, however, from Bournemouth and Leicester that the biggest contribution to handbell ringing has been made. Obliging conductors in both towns are ever ready to place their time and experience at the disposal of visitors.

TWELVE BELL PEALS

LONDON.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 3 Hours and 57 Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR, SOUTHWARK,

A PEAL OF 5007 STEDMAN CINQUES

Tenor 48 cwt. 9 lb. in B flat.

JOHN PHILLIPS Treble	ALFRED J. HOUSE 7
ERNEST C. S. TURNER .. 2	THOMAS J. LOCK 8
CHARLES W. ROBERTS .. 3	RICHARD F. DEAL 9
*RICHARD E. PRICE 4	JOHN H. CRAMPION 10
FREDK. W. HOUSDEN .. 5	PHILIP A. CORBY 11
HERBERT E. AUDSLEY .. 6	TONY PRICE Tenor

Composed and Conducted by CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

* First peal on twelve bells. A wedding compliment to Mr. J. and Mrs. E. M. Wayman.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 3 Hours and 17 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF 5019 STEDMAN CINQUES

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 9 lb.

MRS. F. I. HAIRS Treble	JOHN WALDEN 7
HAROLD J. POOLE 2	PETER J. STANFORTH .. 8
MRS. H. J. POOLE 3	JOHN A. FREEMAN 9
JILL POOLE 4	JOHN FREEMAN 10
CHARLES MCGUINNESS .. 5	JACK BRAY 11
ALBERT W. COLES 6	FRANK I. HAIRS Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

Rung to celebrate the wedding of Enid Mary Wayman and Jack Hubert Wayman, which took place earlier in the day.

TEN BELL PEAL

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 3 Hours and 27 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF 5079 STEDMAN CATERS

Tenor 20½ cwt.

HOWARD HOWELL Treble	WILLIAM DAVIES 6
ERNEST STITCH 2	†STANLEY PRESTIDGE .. 7
J. NORMAN HADLEY 3	†ARTHUR S. WILLIAMS .. 8
*MAURICE G. TURNER .. 4	EDWARD V. RODENHURST 9
*ALAN ELSMORE 5	HENRY HUBBALL Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER.

Conducted by HOWARD HOWELL.

* 50th peal together. † First peal of Stedman Caters. ‡ First peal of Stedman Caters 'inside.'

EIGHT BELL PEALS

WILLESSEN, MIDDLESEX.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Jan. 4, 1951, in 2 Hours and 41 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5088 WIRRAL SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 10 cwt.

C. EDWARD LANKESTER ..Treble	ALICK CUTLER 5
LEONARD H. BOWLER .. 2	MAURICE HODGSON 6
BRIAN D. THRELFALL .. 3	RICHARD F. B. SPEED .. 7
THOMAS J. LOCK 4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ..Tenor

Arranged and Conducted by CHARLES W. ROBERTS.

This is the first peal rung in this method, and it was rung as a birthday compliment to Brian D. Threlfall.

WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 6, 1951, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CANDIDA AND HOLY CROSS,

A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 17½ cwt. in D.

*JOSEPH T. BARRETT ..Treble	*J. LEONARD GLYDE .. 5
*NORMAN MALLETT .. 2	HENRY G. KEELEY 6
ROGER KEELEY 3	*ARTHUR J. SCOTT 7
G. STEDMAN MORRIS .. 4	CUTHBERT W. POWELL ..Tenor

Composed by JOHN MARTIN.

Conducted by G. STEDMAN MORRIS.

* First peal in the method. The tenor ringer has now 'circled' this tower.

WALKDEN, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Jan. 9, 1951, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Holt's Original.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

JOHN CHEETHAM Treble	JOSEPH THORNLEY 5
ARTHUR TOMLINSON 2	ARTHUR BURTON 6
NORMAN TOMPKINS 3	PERCY DERBYSHIRE 7
RAYMOND SCOTT 4	WILFRED SCOTT Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR TOMLINSON.

Rung with deeply muffled bells in memory of John Denner, a ringer at this church, who, with his wife, was interred in this churchyard on this day.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Wed., Jan. 10, 1951, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,
AT BISHOP RYDER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Parker's Twelve-part.

Tenor 12 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb. in F sharp.

*EDWARD M. SIMMONDS ..Treble	RODNEY B. MEADOWS .. 5
†HARRY POYNER 2	EDWARD T. LLOYD 6
JOHN LINDON 3	GEORGE E. FEARN 7
WILLIAM E. THOMPSETT .. 4	H. JAMES TURNER Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal. † First peal of Grandsire Triples on tower bells.

LUGWARDINE, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Jan. 10, 1951, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5096 SPLICED MAJOR

Comprising 3,416 Plain Bob and 1,680 Little Bob, with 35 changes of method.

Tenor 12 cwt.

LESLIE EVANS Treble	F. ERIC ROBERTS 5
MONICA DAVIS 2	REGINALD T. JONES 6
FREDERICK R. HARRIS .. 3	AUSTIN T. WINGATE 7
E. PETER ROCK 4	WILFRID F. MORETON ..Tenor

Arranged and Conducted by WILFRID F. MORETON.

The first peal of Spliced Major for the Guild.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Jan. 11, 1951, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. 28 lb.

*C. AUBREY HARRISON ..Treble	RONALD CHAFER 5
†G. EDWARD BRUMPTON .. 2	ARTHUR CROWDER 6
HAROLD MORWOOD 3	HARRY HALL 7
PHILIP BARNES 4	JACK BRAY Tenor

Composed by J. E. BURTON.

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

* First peal of Major. † First peal of Major 'inside.' In memoriam Rupert Richardson.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Jan. 12, 1951, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF 5088 BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 15 cwt. in G.

PHILIP A. CORBY Treble	ARTHUR S. RICHARDS .. 5
HERBERT E. AUDSLEY .. 2	JAMES BENNETT 6
RALPH BIRD 3	FREDK. J. CULLUM 7
ALFRED G. HILL 4	HARRY PARKES Tenor

Composed by J. W. PARKER.

Conducted by FREDERICK J. CULLUM

BRIDSTOW, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 3 Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BRIDGET,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 8½ cwt.

*ARNOLD G. HAZELDEN ..Treble	REGINALD T. JONES .. 5
REGINALD POSTON 2	WILLIAM T. POSTON 6
F. ERIC ROBERTS 3	†WILLIAM POSTON 7
FREDK. R. HARRIS 4	ALFRED T. POULTON ..Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE.

Conducted by WILLIAM POSTON.

* First peal of Major. † 100th peal on Bridstow bells.

BULKINGTON, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,
At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Johnson's Arrangement of Middleton's. Tenor 12½ cwt.
JOHN E. S. MORETON .. Treble .. HUBERT E. ASHLEY .. 5
FRANK E. PERVIN .. 2 .. JOHN A. L. THOMPSON .. 6
MARGARET E. L. BEAMISH .. 3 .. *ALFRED J. HINDE .. 7
JOHN W. T. TAYLOR .. 4 .. LEONARD TREVOR .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

* First peal of Surprise Major.

EWHRST, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,
At the Church of SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5152 BERKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 8 lb.

LEONARD STILWELL .. Treble .. *KENNETH SNELLING .. 5
*RAYMOND OVERY .. 2 .. *WILLIAM T. BEESON .. 6
*HAROLD A. MAY .. 3 .. *FREDK. A. MUNDAY .. 7
EDGAR R. RAPLEY .. 4 .. *C. ERNEST SMITH .. Tenor

Composed by GEORGE MARRINER. Conducted by C. ERNEST SMITH.

* First peal in the method. First in the method on the bells and by the Guild.

HODNET, SALOP.
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,
At the Church of St. Luke,

A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. 24 lb.

*WILFRED KERR .. Treble .. RICHARD D. LANGFORD .. 5
GEORGE A. PACKER .. 2 .. EDWARD V. RODENHURST .. 6
RICHARD T. HOLDING .. 3 .. †HOWARD HOWELL .. 7
HARRY F. HOLDING .. 4 .. †MAURICE G. TURNER .. Tenor

Composed by J. NICHOLLS. Conducted by MAURICE G. TURNER.

* First peal in the method. † 75th peal together. First peal in the method on the bells.

KINGSWINFORD, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 11 cwt.

*W. GEORGE PAGE .. Treble .. J. DENNIS HOLDEN .. 5
ERIC E. SPEAKE .. 2 .. SAMUEL BIRCH .. 6
ALBERT D. COLLINS .. 3 .. HARRY GRIFFITHS .. 7
TREVOR REYNOLDS .. 4 .. ARTHUR V. PEARSON .. Tenor

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by ERIC E. SPEAKE.

* First peal of Major.

MEOPHAM, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,
At the Church of St. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 12½ cwt. in F sharp.

*MICHAEL FULLER .. Treble .. †ANTHONY E. COX .. 5
ARTHUR S. RICHARDS .. 2 .. PERCY J. SPICE .. 6
†BARBARA A. MITCHELL .. 3 .. JACK DAFTERS .. 7
†JOHN E. CANNELL .. 4 .. PHILIP A. CORBY .. Tenor

Composed by E. WIGHTMAN. Conducted by PHILIP A. CORBY.

* First peal. † First peal in the method. ‡ 25th peal.

NEWCHURCH, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,
At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF 5088 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. in F sharp.

*MARJORIE ABBOTT .. Treble .. *ALBERT GREENHALGH .. 5
*MURIEL REAY .. 2 .. *JOHN ASHCROFT .. 6
JOSEPH LEATHERBARROW .. 3 .. *SYDNEY LEATHERBARROW .. 7
†JAMES W. GROUNDS .. 4 .. JAMES L. WRIGHT .. Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by JOSEPH LEATHERHEAD.

* First peal in the method. † 200th peal.

PETERSFIELD, HAMPSHIRE.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,
At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Heywood's Transposition. Tenor 16½ cwt.
*E. WINIFRED KEYS .. Treble .. *ARTHUR H. FISHER .. 5
BLANCHE M. BALL .. 2 .. FREDK. W. BURNETT .. 6
MRS. G. W. TAMPLIN .. 3 .. JOHN H. HUNT .. 7
*HENRY W. STOVELD .. 4 .. *NORMAN J. SMITH .. Tenor

Conducted by JOHN H. HUNT.

* First peal in the method.

ROTHERFIELD, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 3 Hours and 15 Minutes,
At the Church of St. DENYS,

A PEAL OF 5056 SPICED SURPRISE MAJOR

Comprising 2,880 Cambridge, 2,176 Superlative, with 134 changes of method. Tenor 23 cwt. 23 lb. in D.

*WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE Treble WILFRED W. RING .. 5
*ROBERT COLLINS .. 2 .. THOMAS CULLINGWORTH .. 6
*DORIS E. COLGATE .. 3 .. MARK S. LANCEFIELD .. 7
*WILLIAM ROGERS .. 4 .. HARRY PARKES .. Tenor

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

* First peal of Spiced Surprise Major. Rung as a 76th birthday compliment to Mr. C. Brasier, who was captain at this tower for 30 years, also a 19th birthday compliment to Miss Margaret Rogers, youngest daughter of the conductor.

THURCASTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,
At the Church of ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Tenor 10 cwt.

*JEAN M. WOOD .. Treble .. REDVERS F. ELKINGTON .. 5
MRS. H. J. POOLE .. 2 .. PETER J. STANFORTH .. 6
JILL POOLE .. 3 .. †JOHN HILL .. 7
GORDON H. ARGUILL .. 4 .. †FREDK. T. BINDLEY .. Tenor

Composed by E. TAYLOR. Conducted by REDVERS F. ELKINGTON.

* First peal. † First peal of Triples on tower bells and 25th peal. ‡ First peal on eight. A compliment to Mr. J. O. Lancashire on his 87th birthday.

WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 3 Hours and 25 Minutes,
At the ABBEY CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND THOMAS OF CANTERBURY,

A PEAL OF 5184 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 25½ cwt. in D.

*DENNIS CHAPMAN .. Treble .. NOLAN GOLDEN .. 5
H. WILLIAM BARRETT .. 2 .. WILLIAM CLOVER .. 6
NORMAN V. HARDING .. 3 .. GEORGE SAYER .. 7
ARTHUR G. BASON .. 4 .. HENRY TOOKE .. Tenor

Composed by CHARLES W. ROBERTS. Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal of Major. Rung in honour of the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Archie Lock and a third birthday compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Bason's grandson.

GRUNDISBURGH, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On Mon., Jan. 15, 1951, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 8 cwt. 23 lb. in G.

RONALD W. STEWARD .. Treble .. URBAN W. WILDNEY .. 5
FRANK L. FISHER .. 2 .. CECIL W. PIPE .. 6
GEORGE W. PIPE .. 3 .. GARNHAM A. BLAXCELL .. 7
FRANK G. BLOOMFIELD .. 4 .. ERNEST W. PYE .. Tenor

Composed by F. N. HOLDEN. Conducted by ERNEST W. PYE.

First peal of Double Norwich Court Bob as conductor. Rung on the 180th anniversary of the first peal of Double Norwich rung at Norwich on Monday, January 15th, 1771.



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WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.
MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Thurs., Jan. 18, 1951, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5088 CORNWALL SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 10 cwt.

RICHARD F. B. SPEED .. Treble	BRIAN D. THRELFALL .. 5
C. EDWARD JEFFRIES .. 2	LEONARD H. BOWLER .. 6
MAURICE HODGSON .. 3	ALFRED J. HOUSE .. 7
ALICK CUTLER .. 4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS .. Tenor

Arranged and Conducted by CHARLES W. ROBERTS.
This is the 250th peal in the tower.

WOBURN, BEDFORDSHIRE.
THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Jan. 19, 1951, in 3 Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Groves' Variation of Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 24½ cwt.

RICHARD KENDALL .. Treble	ANDREW C. SINFIELD .. 5
*RONALD J. SHARP .. 2	ALFRED E. RUSTON .. 6
C. HENRY HARDING .. 3	LEWIS H. BYWATERS .. 7
EDMUND J. HOBBS .. 4	HORACE H. SMITH .. Tenor

Conducted by LEWIS H. BYWATERS.

* 150th peal. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to Sydney A. Avis. E. J. Hobbs has now completed the circle of this tower.

BANSTEAD, SURREY.
THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 3 Hours and 4 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Middleton's.	Tenor 21 cwt. 27 lb. in E flat.
HAROLD N. PITSTOW .. Treble	NORMAN HOBDEN .. 5
*MICHAEL F. LAYTON .. 2	ALBERT E. CHEESMAN .. 6
†PETER R. LAYTON .. 3	DENIS N. LAYTON .. 7
ALBERT HARMAN .. 4	ALBERT J. ADAMS .. Tenor

Conducted by ALBERT J. ADAMS.

* First peal of Surprise. † First peal in the method. First peal of Surprise as conductor. A birthday compliment to the Vicar, the Rev. Canon F. N. Skene, M.A.

BEXLEY, KENT.
THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 2 Hours and 41 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5152 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Middleton's.	Tenor 7½ cwt. in A.
MRS. ELLEN E. DAVIS .. Treble	GEORGE H. CROSS .. 5
MRS. C. J. MATTHEWS .. 2	LEONARD H. BAYBUT .. 6
*MARJORIE JACKSON .. 3	*FRANK MATTHEWS .. 7
*A. RONALD LING .. 4	THOMAS H. FRANCIS .. Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

* Specially arranged for Leonard H. Baybut, who returned to India on January 23rd, all the ringers taking part in the peal wishing him bon voyage.

COSELEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes.

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF 5088 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 11 cwt. 61 lb.

SAMUEL BIRCH .. Treble	FRANCIS BROTHERTON .. 5
ARTHUR V. PEARSON .. 2	GEORGE E. OLIVER .. 6
RICHARD J. WARRILLOW .. 3	*J. DENIS HOLDEN .. 7
BARNABAS G. KEY .. 4	ARTHUR PRITCHARD .. Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by ARTHUR V. PEARSON.

* First peal of Superlative. First of Surprise on the bells.

CHURCH LAWTON, CHESHIRE.
THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5152 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 8½ cwt.

CATHARINE M. TRIST .. Treble	FREDK. E. WILSHAW .. 5
ARTHUR PEAKE .. 2	FREDK. WM. GROCOTT .. 6
*RONALD BARLOW .. 3	NEVILLE R. HOLLAND .. 7
†DENNIS KNOX .. 4	CHARLES H. PAGE .. Tenor

Composed by J. COX. Conducted by ARTHUR PEAKE.
* First peal in the method. † First peal of Surprise Major. First peal of Surprise Major as conductor.

EAST HAGBOURNE, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Holt's Ten-part.

Tenor 21½ cwt.

*MICHAEL BISHOP .. Treble	D. JORDAN .. 5
†ALEX WOODLEY .. 2	R. B. BLOND .. 6
H. K. WHITE .. 3	A. H. WEBB .. 7
J. P. BLOND .. 4	J. C. NAPPER .. Tenor

Conducted by R. B. BLOND.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.'

EAST TYTHERLEY, HAMPSHIRE.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lb.

*MONTAGUE NORTHWAY .. Treble	JOHN HARTLESS .. 5
YVONNE ELOIE .. 2	FRANK L. HARRIS .. 6
HERBERT H. ABRAHAMS .. 3	*THOMAS DREW .. 7
RONALD N. MARLOW .. 4	JACK MUSSELL .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK L. HARRIS.

* First peal.

GREAT BUDWORTH, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 3 Hours and 15 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5024 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 20 cwt. 2 qr. 4 lb. in E flat.

WILLIAM E. ALLMAN .. Treble	JOHN E. BIBBY .. 5
WALTER ALLMAN .. 2	ERIC J. GILBERT .. 6
*DENIS MADDOCK .. 3	RALPH G. EDWARDS .. 7
HENRY O. BAKER .. 4	JAMES C. E. SIMPSON .. Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by JAMES C. E. SIMPSON.

* First peal of London. A birthday compliment to Anthea, daughter of H. O. Baker.

HARLOW COMMON, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF 5024 PUDSEY SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. 9 lb. in G.

T. MARK WHITE .. Treble	*GEOFFREY DODDS .. 5
*DAVID W. BEARD .. 2	LEONARD H. BOWLER .. 6
ALICK CUTLER .. 3	*RICHARD F. B. SPEED .. 7
*ANNE B. STOCKDALE .. 4	*BRIAN D. THRELFALL .. Tenor

Composed by R. F. B. SPEED.

Conducted by BRIAN D. THRELFALL.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

HIGHER WALTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Preston Branch.)

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 3 Hours and 19 Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5184 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 16½ cwt. in F.

*FRANK STEAD .. Treble	G. ALEC DIMMOCK .. 5
CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE .. 2	JOHN JACKSON .. 6
THOMAS BARKER .. 3	ARTHUR HATCH .. 7
SIDNEY TUSON .. 4	JOHN CHARNOCK .. Tenor

Composed by E. TIMBRELL.

Conducted by CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE.

* First peal. Rung as a welcome to the new incumbent, Canon B. E. Hughes. M.A.. B.D.

PORTISHEAD, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 3 Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

*RONALD J. GALE .. Treble	HAROLD L. PARFREY .. 5
ELIZABETH M. HANNAM .. 2	WILLIAM J. PRESCOTT .. 6
MRS. DORA EVANS .. 3	EDWARD J. FRY .. 7
PHILLIP W. WEEKS .. 4	ROGER O. FRY .. Tenor

Composed by C. H. MARTIN.

Conducted by ROGER O. FRY.

* First peal of Major. Rung as a coming-of-age compliment to the conductor.

RFADING, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 3 Hours and 30 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5088 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 25½ cwt.

EDWIN G. MOORE Treble	FRANK P. WRIGHT 5
ELIZABETH BROWN 2	NOEL J. DISERENS 6
MARGARET L. TUTT 3	FREDK. A. H. WILKINS .. 7
WALTER F. JUDGE 4	ALAN R. PINK Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

SANDBACH, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 LITTLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 16½ cwt.

*A. DOREEN EDWARDS .. Treble	ALFRED WILKINSON 5
†DAVID GODFREY 2	A. GORDON LAWRENCE .. 6
ERIC HORNBY 3	DAVID SMITH 7
ALBERT H. BOOTH 4	HARRY W. HOWARD Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by HARRY W. HOWARD.

* First peal of Major. † First peal in the method.

SEFTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 20, 1951, in 3 Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF 5056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb.

SIDNEY FLINT Treble	THOMAS HESKETH 5
*JOHN ROBERTS 2	JACK ASHCROFT 6
THOMAS HAMMOND 3	RONALD KENRICK 7
THOMAS HORRIDGE 4	JOSEPH RIDYARD Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.

* First peal in the method. Rung in honour of the appointment of the Rev. Edwin Preston, of Sefton, as Precentor of Hereford Cathedral.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

WARSOP, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Dec. 28, 1950, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 15 cwt.

*MARY WEBSTER Treble	GEORGE CHALLANS 4
DONALD CHADWICK 2	*FRANK BRADLEY 5
†DOUGLAS H. ROOKE .. 3	HERBERT T. ROOKE Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT T. ROOKE.

* First peal of Surprise. † First peal of Cambridge Surprise.

EASTON MAUDIT, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Jan. 8, 1951, in 2 Hours and 51 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 480 Canterbury, 480 Old Doubles, 360 April Day, 360 St. Dunstan's, 240 Chase, 2,880 Grandsire and 240 Morris's arrangement.

Tenor 15 cwt.

*JOHN E. LABUTT Treble	PERCY AMOS 3
JOSHUA J. PARTRIDGE .. 2	*HARRY WOODING 4
†FRED HOLLY Tenor	

Conducted by JOSHUA J. PARTRIDGE.

* First peal in six methods. † First peal of Doubles. Rung in honour of the 65th birthday of John E. Labutt.

HOOLE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Jan. 9, 1951, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being three 240's (one calling) and 36 120's (10 callings). Tenor 6½ cwt.

*M. JENNIFER LEE (The Queen's School, Chester), aged 13 .. Treble	
†BETTY GRIFFITHS (Chester City High School) 2	
SHIRLEY GOLDING (Chester City High School) 3	
JOHN BOUTLAND (The King's School, Chester) 4	
BRIAN HARRIS (The King's School, Chester) 5	
*HEATHER M. LOGAN (The Queen's School, Chester), aged 15 .. Tenor	

Conducted by BRIAN HARRIS.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.' Rung in connection with the 'Universal Week of Prayer' and as an 18th birthday compliment to B. Harris. Average age of band 15 years 5 months.

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BASSINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE. THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Jan. 10, 1951, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Double Bob, Fulbeck Bob, Double Oxford,
Thelwall, St. Clement's, Childwall and Oxford Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb. in G.

*JOHN R. WORSDELL .. Treble	CHARLES MCGUINNESS .. 4
MARGARET A. SWANN .. 2	JACK L. MILLHOUSE .. 5
JOHN E. COOK .. 3	OWEN A. NEEDHAM .. Tenor

Conducted by JACK L. MILLHOUSE.

* First peal.

LYDIARD MILLICENT, WILTSHIRE. THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Jan. 10, 1951, in 2 Hours and 35 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR

Being two 2,160's and one 720 (C.C.C. 75, 79, 80; 81, 82, 83; 58).

Tenor 8 cwt.

*MARY I. KENNELLY .. Treble	*BRIAN BLADON .. 4
CHARLES J. GARDNER .. 2	†IVOR H. TRUEMAN .. 5
*B. ENID LLOYD ROBERTS .. 3	JACK R. WORRALL .. Tenor

Conducted by JACK R. WORRALL.

* First peal of Surprise. † First peal of Surprise Minor. First peal
of Cambridge Minor and of Surprise as conductor. First peal of Sur-
prise on the bells.

LEICESTER.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Jan. 11, 1951, in 2 Hours and 19 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different 720's. Tenor 8½ cwt.

COLIN A. KIRK .. Treble	MICHAEL BROWN .. 4
HARRY DUNCOMBE .. 2	ERNEST MORRIS .. 5
WINIFRED MAY BURTON .. 3	ALAN CATTELL .. Tenor

Conducted by ALAN CATTELL.

WESTONING, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Jan. 11, 1951, in 2 Hours and 39 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven extents: (1) Norwich, (2) London, (3) Spliced Ipswich
and Cambridge, (4) Durham, (5) York, (6) Beverley, (7) Surfleet.

Tenor 12 cwt.

SYDNEY WOODCOCK .. Treble	C. HENRY HARDING .. 4
C. EDWARD JEFFRIES .. 2	ANDREW C. SINFIELD .. 5
RONALD J. SHARP .. 3	*BRYAN F. SIMS .. Tenor

Conducted by C. EDWARD JEFFRIES...

* 75th peal. A wedding compliment to Arthur D. Cook and Molly
Westoby.

CRAMLINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN DOUBLES

Being ten different callings. Tenor 20 cwt.

JOHN ANDERSON .. Treble	JOHN HEDLEY .. 4
MARGARET FIDELL .. 2	ERNEST WALLACE .. 5
THOMAS W. CROWE .. 3	WILLIAM E. ROBINSON .. Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST WALLACE.

First peal of Stedman Doubles by all the band, on the bells and for
the Association.

LANGLEY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Jan. 13, 1951, in 3 Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

Being 720 each of Carlisle, Chester, Alnwick, London, York, Beverley
and Cambridge. Tenor 16 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb. in E.

GEOFFREY DODDS .. Treble	*†BRIAN D. THRELFALL .. 4
WILLIAM WELLING .. 2	TONY PRICE .. 5
*RICHARD F. B. SPEED .. 3	RICHARD E. PRICE .. Tenor

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

* 25th peal together. † First seven-Surprise peal.

EAGLE, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Jan. 19, 1951, in 2 Hours and 37 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 WELLS SURPRISE MINOR

Tenor 9 cwt. in A.

GEOFFREY A. PARKER .. Treble	OWEN A. NEEDHAM .. 4
CHARLES MCGUINNESS .. 2	COLIN W. REED .. 5
WILLIAM R. PARKER .. 3	JACK L. MILLHOUSE .. Tenor

Arranged by REV. H. L. JAMES. Conducted by JACK L. MILLHOUSE.

The first peal in the method by all the band and on the bells.

HANDBELL PEALS

ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

On Mon., Jan. 1, 1951, in 2 Hours and 10 Minutes,

AT ST. ANDREW'S BELFRY, WALKERVILLE,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being eight extents each of Plain Bob, Old and Norfolk and six ex-
tents each of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, Southrepps and St. Columb.

Tenor size 8 in C.

CATHERINE E. LAMPHEE .. 1-2 | JONATHAN F. EGGLETON .. 3-4

PHILIP L. COOPER .. 5-6

Conducted by PHILIP L. COOPER.

First handbell peal in six methods in Australia. Rung to commemo-
rate the opening of the jubilee year of the Australian Commonwealth.

SWINDON, WILTSHIRE.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SOCIETY.

On Sun., Jan. 7, 1951, in 1 Hour and 58 Minutes,

AT 22A, ST. PHILIP'S ROAD, UPPER STRATTON,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor size 15 in C.

IVOR H. TRUEMAN .. 1-2 | B. ENID LLOYD ROBERTS .. 3-4

JACK R. WORRALL .. 5-6

Conducted by JACK R. WORRALL.

Specially rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor's mother.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Jan. 8, 1951, in 2 Hours and 20 Minutes,

AT 47, HAYWARD ROAD, REDFIELD, BRISTOL,

A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

ANNIE BROWN .. 1-2 | JOHN THOMAS .. 5-6

EDWIN J. BROWN .. 3-4 | RAYMOND C. SEAGER .. 7-8

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

A birthday compliment to Mrs. E. J. Brown.

NEWCASTLE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Jan. 8, 1951, in 2 Hours and 7 Minutes,

IN THE BELFERY OF ST GILES,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

C.C.C. No. 98. Tenor size 16½ in B flat.

ERIC NIXON .. 1-2 | FREDK. E. WILSHAW .. 5-6

FREDK. WM. GROCOTT .. 3-4 | RONALD BARLOW .. 7-8

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by FREDK. WILLIAM GROCOTT.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Jan. 10, 1951, in 1 Hour and 44 Minutes,

AT 22, YORK STREET,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents. Tenor size 15 in C.

ERIC SUTTON .. 1-2 | FREDERICK J. SAMPSON .. 3-4

REGINALD G. HOOPER .. 5-6

Conducted by REGINALD G. HOOPER.

LEICESTER.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Jan. 11, 1951, in 2 Hours and 16 Minutes,

AT THE WAYSIDE, 150, NARBOROUGH ROAD SOUTH,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Dexter's Variation. Tenor size 15 in C.

JILL POOLE .. 1-2 | PETER J. STANFORTH .. 5-6

HAROLD J. POOLE .. 3-4 | MRS. H. J. POOLE .. 7-8

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

In memoriam Rupert Richardson.

ST. BEES, CUMBERLAND.

CUMBERLAND AND NORTH WESTMORLAND ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Jan. 11, 1951, in 2 Hours and 7 Minutes,

AT 1, MAIN STREET,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being eight extents each of St. Simon's, Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury
Pleasure, April Day and ten of Plain Bob. Tenor size 10 in A.

*J. NEVILLE HAILE .. 1-2 | †STANLEY RICHARDSON .. 3-4

†JOHN A. HAILE .. 5-6

Conducted by J. NEVILLE HAILE.

* First peal in five Doubles methods. † First peal 'in hand.' First
peal as conductor. First peal 'in hand' for the Association and on
the bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. D. Haile, mother
of the ringers of 1-2 and 5-6.

TRING, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Jan. 12, 1951, in 2 Hours and 13 Minutes,

AT OSMINGTON SCHOOL,

A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY .. 1-2 | WILFRID H. J. HOOTON .. 5-6

HAROLD G. CASHMORE .. 3-4 | RICHARD F. B. SPEED .. 7-8

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by W. H. J. HOOTON.

ALDRINGTON, SUSSEX.—On Jan. 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Wendy E. Turnbull 1, Mary W. Brown 2, B. K. Turnbull (first 'inside') 3, S. W. Brown 4, H. W. Brown (cond.) 5, D. A. Hibbitt 6. First quarter 2 and 6.

BARWELL, LEICS.—On Jan. 13th, 1,260 Plain Bob Major: J. Hough 1, G. Armstrong (first quarter in method) 2, Miss B. Colver (first quarter in method) 3, J. Hill 4, C. R. Belton 5, A. H. Hough 6, T. K. Deacon 7, G. P. Garner (cond.) 8. Rung for the christening of the Rector's grandson, Nicholas John Wood.—Also on Jan. 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Hough 1, Miss B. Colver 2, T. C. Belton 3, J. Armstrong 4, C. R. Belton (cond.) 5, T. K. Deacon 6, G. P. Garner 7, J. Hill 8. A 21st birthday compliment to the ringer of the 2nd.

BLEDLOW, BUCKS.—On Jan. 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. Hunt (first quarter) 1, G. Strathdee 2, A. Seymour 3, A. Strathdee (first quarter) 4, R. Witney (first quarter as cond.) 5. To commemorate the dedication of the altar rails by the Bishop of Oxford.

EASTON-IN-GORDANO, SOMERSET.—On Jan. 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss K. Wingate 1, G. Watt 2, S. Delve 3, L. Allen 4, F. Neate (cond.) 5, H. Carlsson 6. First quarter by all.

EAST RETFORD, NOTTS.—On Jan. 14th, 1,344 Spliced Grandsire, Oxford Bob and Court Triples: Miss W. Wilkinson 1, J. Segar 2, C. Cook 3, J. Bartram 4, H. Denman 5, W. Coates 6, K. Beardsall (cond.) 7, H. Willows 8. First spliced quarter in these methods by all the band.

EVERLEIGH, WILTS.—On Jan. 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: F. Giddings 1, J. Deer G. W. Ashdown (cond.) 3, G. Vines 4, G. Buckland 5, C. Drewitt 6.

FARINGDON, BERKS.—On Jan. 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. Walker 1, J. Hutt (first quarter) 2, F. Wheeler 3, E. Cadie 4, C. I. J. Pearce (cond.) 5, E. C. Hughes 6, F. Whipp 7, D. Vincent and J. Belcher 8. A golden wedding compliment to Mr. and Mrs. J. Betterton. Mrs. Betterton is vergar and caretaker of the church.

HOLLOWAY, LONDON.—On Dec. 10th, 1,264 Bob Major: G. A. Parsons 1, J. S. Hawkins (first quarter) 2, Miss M. Prockson 3, R. W. Green 4, F. A. Barker 5, R. Charge 6, R. H. Begrie (cond.) 7, J. W. Euston 8. A birthday compliment to the conductor.

KENSINGTON, LONDON.—On Jan. 14th, at St. Mary Abbot's, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: Miss F. A. Edgar 1, G. Dodds 2, D. W. Beard 3, L. Fox 4, R. H. Begrie 5, C. W. Ottley 6, R. F. B. Speed (cond.) 7, B. D. Threlfall 8.

QUARTER PEALS

LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.—On Jan. 14th, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: A. H. Winch 1, A. J. Smith (first of Surprise 'inside') 2, H. V. Young 3, G. Peters 4, B. Hawkins 5, C. Smart 6, A. Harman 7, A. H. Smith (cond.) 8.

LEIGH, KENT.—On Jan. 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss D. Spillet (first quarter) 1, G. Hitchcock 2, D. Pankhurst 3, G. Whitehead 4, B. Pankhurst (cond.) 5, A. Stubbins 6. Rung for the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Whitehead (formerly members of the band). Ringers of 3, 4 and 5 are grandfather, uncle and great-uncle respectively.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—On Jan. 14th, 1,280 Stratford Surprise Major: Miss D. Keeley 1, Mrs. C. W. Powell 2, Rev. C. C. Cox 3, R. Keeley 4, H. G. Keeley 5, C. W. Powell 6, G. H. Whitmore 7, G. S. Morris (cond.) 8. First in the method by all, on the bells, in Dorset and for the Salisbury Guild.

MANCHESTER.—At the Cathedral on Jan. 18th, 1,295 Grandsire Caters: J. Simkins 1, F. Barraclough 2, H. Longden 3, D. Ogden 4, N. Aires 5, A. Ridyard 6, B. Walshaw 7, F. Brotherton 8, R. Longden (cond.) 9, G. Longden 10. Rung on the 80th birthday of the Rev. Canon Green, Sub-Dean of Manchester.

MARCH, CAMBS.—On Jan. 13th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: W. Leeden 1, A. W. Palmer 2, E. R. Christmas (first quarter) 3, R. Williams 4, T. A. Bevis (cond.) 5, W. Moore 6. Rung as a welcome to the Rev. A. C. Turnbull.

OLDHAM, LANCs.—On Jan. 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. Seville 1, H. Standley (first quarter 'inside') 2, J. T. Walmsley 3, H. Barlow 4, D. J. Gay 5, V. Sykes 6, P. H. Tocock (cond.) 7, T. B. Hartley (first quarter) 8.

PIDDLEHINTON, DORSET.—On Jan. 14th, 1,260 Doubles (being 600 Grandsire and 660 Plain Bob): B. Cheeseman (16) 1, N. B. Davis (13) 2, Dorothy A. Walden (14) 3, I. T. Read (15) 4, E. T. P. Field (cond.) 5, F. C. Davis 6. First in two methods 'inside' for 2 and 3. A compliment to Canon A. W. Markby, the popular branch chairman, on his completion of 21 years as Rector of St. Peter's, Dorchester.

RAUNDS, NORTHANTS.—On Jan. 8th, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: A. Bellamy 1, A. Gibbs 2, W. Whitmore 3, W. Copperwheat 4, L. Groom 5, A. Wilson 6, H. Richardson 7, E. Whitmore (cond.) 8. To celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. A. Wilson, of Higham Ferrers.

ROTHERHAM, YORKS.—On Jan. 14th, 1,260 Plain Bob Royal: D. Adams 1, Mrs. T. C. Ryder 2, A. Stamp 3, C. R. Wright 4, J. Coad 5, H. E. North 6, G. E. Tuke 7, A. Firth 8, P. E. North (first quarter of Royal as cond.) 9, T. C. Ryder 10. First quarter of Royal for 1 and 6. Rung half-muffled in memory of Mrs. M. North, who passed away on Jan. 11th and whose son and grandson (conductor) were ringers.

SALEHURST, SUSSEX.—On Jan. 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Hook 1, Helen Gorringe 2, E. Avery 3, J. Harris 4, A. Hoad 5, W. Hoad 6, W. Gorringe (cond.) 7, G. King 8.

SOUTHAMPTON, HANTS.—On Jan. 14th at St. Mary's, 1,296 Grandsire Caters: J. W. Faithfull (cond.) 1, D. C. Williams 2, W. Glasspool (first 'inside' Caters) 3, R. Faithfull 4, Mrs. R. Faithfull 5, Miss J. Cox 6, R. Brown 7, M. J. Butler 8, R. W. Rex 9, D. Longman (first quarter peal) 10. Arranged for R. W. Rex, of Newbury.

ST. BEES, CUMBERLAND.—On Jan. 12th, 1,320 Stedman Doubles: J. N. Haile 1, G. McKay 2, J. A. Haile 3, H. Wilson 4, S. Richardson (cond.) 5, T. McKay 6. First quarter peal of Stedman Doubles by all the band. Rung as a compliment to Mr. I. Marsden, who has completed 50 years' service as a ringer.

ST. BRIAVELS, GLOS.—On Jan. 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: C. Addis 1, Walter Reynolds 2, Wilfred Reynolds 3, S. Goodwin 4, L. H. Jones (first as cond.) 5, H. Wilce 6. Rung in honour of the birth of a son to Mrs. Heal, wife of the Rev. H. F. Heal, Vicar.

ST. IVES, HUNTS.—On Jan. 14th, 1,260 Bob Minor: J. P. Stocker 1, W. Noble 2, G. Nicholls 3, H. W. Pratt 4, F. Warrington (cond.) 5, L. W. Fisher 6, S. Clements 7 (covering). This is believed to be the first quarter rung on these bells by all St. Ives Guild ringers.

SOUTHGATE, MIDDLESEX.—On Jan. 17th, 1,263 Stedman Caters: W. J. Bowden 1, Mrs. N. A. Tomlinson 2, Miss M. Prockson 3, Miss E. Fadden (first quarter of Stedman Caters) 4, Mrs. N. O. Manchip 5, S. G. Peck 6, H. Miller 7, J. G. Nash 8, S. Wade (cond.) 9, M. Fensom 10. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to the Vicar of Southgate, the Rev. G. W. Stainsby, who was laid to rest earlier in the day.

WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH, DEVON.—On Jan. 14th, 1,280 Plain Bob Major: J. Deem 1, W. Hayman 2, P. Davis 3, R. Pike 4, C. Deem 5, J. Skinner 6, E. Rowe 7, J. L. S. Glanville (cond.) 8. First quarter Bob Major by 3, 4 and 7.

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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MRS. E. K. FLETCHER.

EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

There are still some subscriptions outstanding for 1951. These should be despatched immediately to Mrs. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

The seventh bell, cast in 1541, has been incorporated in the restored ring of eight at Yatton, Somerset. Is there any other tower that can claim a bell as old or older still in a ring of bells, enquires Mr. H. A. Price, of Yatton.

By calling 1,260 Grandsire Triples on his 19th birthday, Mr. G. Armstrong becomes the seventh Barwell ringer to conduct a quarter peal. Six methods have now been covered.

Mr. W. J. Paice, of Binsted, Hants, writes that he called the peal of Grandsire Triples, published on page 48, at Wokingham over 40 years ago when it was given to him by a friend as the composition of J. Carter and known at the time as Carter's 12 part.

Portishead, Somerset, is again in the news. Mr. Ronald J. Gale, the local tower master, has rung his first peal of Major, having agreed to stand in at short notice. The peal was to have been conducted by Mr. D. Hoare, of Radstock, who was suddenly taken ill with influenza.

Since the publication of leading peal-ringers of 1950, Mr. Michael J. E. Best, of Bourne-mouth, has informed us that he rang 52 peals during the year under review. Of these, 48 were on handbells (conducted one) and four on tower bells.

Adelaide ringers, during 1950, rang nine tower quarter peals, 15 handbell quarters and three handbell peals. In these, 20 Adelaide ringers have participated. Permission for a tower bell peal was refused. A peal attempt was planned for the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury but the ringers were told it was not sufficient reason for a peal.

Regarding the enquiry from Lyme Regis as to the first performance of Stratford Surprise Major, Mr. E. W. Tipler (Lutterworth) and Mr. J. H. W. White (Coventry) inform us that it was first rung at Nuneaton on April 28th, 1938, conducted by Mr. F. W. Perrens.

BELFRY GOSSIP

Mr. E. Weatherby, of Los Angeles, writes telling how he and Mr. Ralph Maklum rang the old year out and the new year in at the First Congregational Church, Los Angeles, on a recently-augmented set of handbells. The Westminster hour chimes and the hour of midnight was followed by Queens, Tittums and Whittington, which was much appreciated by the congregation. A letter from Mr. Maklum some months back was the subject of an editorial: 'An American Wants to Know.'

We regret the passing of Mr. George H. Walters, of Prestbury, Cheltenham, on January 23rd. He was a well-known conductor in the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

The Rev P. J. Boulsover, his wife and two children sailed for Australia last Tuesday to take up work at Atherton, N. Queensland. For seven years he has been ringing captain at St. Peter's, Bexhill, Sussex, and has done a lot of hard work teaching boys and people of all ages to ring. Following so soon after the departure of Mr. Smeaton to Australia this is a severe blow to Bexhill. At a farewell meeting the St. Peter's ringers presented him with an initialled Ronson lighter. A farewell peal was arranged, but unfortunately the band met one short. Every success is extended to him in his new pioneer work.

Mr. Louis A. Wilson, of Wootton Bassett, has resigned as secretary of the Calne Branch, Salisbury Association, after 27 years' continuous service because he feels it is a job for a younger man. At a recent meeting the chairman, Canon White, paid tribute to the amount of good work Mr. Wilson had done during his long term of office. Mr. Wilson is still an able ringer as the following shows:—Finding the rope rather short on the 2nd at Calne, he just takes one of the belfry chairs, stands on that, and rings a perfect touch of Stedman Triples.

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MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD

Annual Meeting at Repton

For the beginning of Repton's history, one must go back to early times when the Saxons were slowly becoming converts to the Christian faith: it was for a time the ancient capital of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia and is older, probably, than Derby. Most of Repton Church, dedicated to St. Wystan, an early Christian martyr, was rebuilt about 1340 but the chancel of the old building was retained.

Beneath this is a unique Saxon crypt which was discovered in the 18th century. The crypt has always been regarded by archaeologists as a remarkable example of ancient Saxon work, the roof being supported by four spiral columns.

Just as Repton's ancient story is associated with its church, so its modern history centres on the school where the late Archbishop and the present Archbishop of Canterbury were at one time headmasters.

It was at this church, so steeped in ancient history, that the Guild held its fifth annual meeting when upwards of 70 ringers were present from a wide area. The Vicar (the Rev. Harcombe) conducted the service and gave the address. Ringing was supervised by Mr. S. H. Jones. An excellent tea followed in the Court Room when the company were the guests of the local ringers.

Following tea, the annual meeting was held at which the chairman, Mr. W. H. Curson (in the unavoidable absence of the president, the Ven. H. E. FitzHerbert) presided.

Five new members were elected before the secretary (Mr. J. W. Cotton) presented the yearly report. He spoke of the loss the Guild had sustained by the death of Mr. L. C. Smith (Rolleston) and Mr. G. Brown (Winshill). Nine meetings had been held during the year and all these had been well attended, the average being 36 per meeting. Twelve resident ringing members had been elected, four honorary and 12 non-resident life-members.

RECORD YEAR FOR PEALS

The past year had seen a record established in peal ringing with a total of 77. These were rung at 28 churches and 10 handbell centres. Mr. W. P. Whitehead headed the list of conductors with a total of 25, followed by J. W. F. Trotman 12, Ernest Morris 6, A. Cattell 4, J. W. Cotton 4, S. H. Jones 3, B. G. Key 2, W. F. Woodward 2, A. Hough 2, R. Beniston 2, F. W. Grocott 2, J. Bramley, P. W. Grice, W. G. Soar, J. J. Morris, J. Bailey and A. E. Rowley one each. Five peals were rung 'nonducted' and one peal 'silent'.

The balance sheet, read by Mr. J. H. Brittan, showed that receipts balanced the payments.

Officers elected for 1951 were as follows:—President, The Ven. H. E. FitzHerbert; chairman, Mr. W. H. Curson; Ringing Master, Mr. S. H. Jones; treasurer, Mr. J. H. Brittan; secretary, Mr. J. W. Cotton; auditor, Mr. T. Pryce; Central Council Representatives, Messrs. B. G. Key and J. W. Cotton; committee—Miss R. Hemmings, Messrs. W. G. Soar, E. W. Beadsmoore and W. F. Westward.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar and to the local ringers for their hospitality.

Meeting cards for 1951 were distributed and it is hoped that the necessary arrangements will be made to carry out the list as follows:—February 24th, All Saints' and Parish Church, Burton; April 7th, Winshill or Appleby; May 19th, Measham; June 30th, Ashby; August 18th, Hanbury; September 29th, Rolleston; November 10th, Ticknall. Ringing during the afternoon and evening ranged from rounds to London Surprise Major.

Towers represented were Burton (St. Paul's and St. Modwen's), Ashby, Measham, Rolleston, Ticknall, Seales, Lullington, King's Bromley, Derby (Cathedral, St. Andrew's, St. Luke's and St. Peter's), Hoar Cross, Kingsbury, Ockbrook, Barwell, Nuneaton and the local company.

A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Mr. F. H. Dexter's First Peal

On January 19th, 1901, a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Stanford-on-Soar, Notts. This was the first peal to be rung by the newly-formed Society of St. Martin's, Leicester, and was also the first peal by the two youngest members of the band. Of this twain, fate decreed that one was soon to be called to the land of his fathers whilst the other was destined to become the ringer who was to do more than any other individual to place Leicester on the ringing map. Frederick H. Dexter, big-hearted ringer, gifted composer and conductor, a great leader and a prince of good fellows.



MR. F. H. DEXTER

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary a party of Cathedral ringers and friends assembled at his home on the evening of January 19th. Whilst six of the company were attempting a peal of Stedman Cinques in honour of the event the remainder joined Fred in another room to partake of refreshments and to talk over bygone days. Eventually the Stedman Cinques ran into rounds and the ringers joined the main party. And then the lid blew off!

Although Fred no longer rings and the belfry knows him no more, he can still talk and two hilarious hours passed whilst he was recalling his adventures (and misadventures!) over the fifty years in his own inimitable manner and using his own specific variety of Basic English in the telling! The evening will long be remembered by all who were present; the kind of evening that only ringers can have; but what a pity it is that golden anniversaries only happen every fifty years!

Farewells were said and the party wended their several ways home, happy in the knowledge that the old 'Sergeant Major' was the happier for their visit.

By a coincidence, January 19th was also the 30th anniversary of the first peal rung by Alban Disney, of Anstey, which was rung in 1921 at Birstall, where his father was then Vicar. Mr. Ernest Morris was the conductor and during the peal he took off his tie, then his collar, then loosened his shirt! Had it not been Alban's first peal, also the first (and as yet the only) peal on the bells, he declared he would have given up the attempt.

WEDDING BELLS AT SURFLEET

Marriage of Mrs. Enid Wayman

The wedding took place on January 20th, at the Church of St. Lawrence, Surfleet, Lincs, of Enid Mary, only daughter of the late Mr. Rupert Richardson and of Mrs. Richardson, of Surfleet, and Jack Hubert, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wayman, of Teddington, Middlesex. Mr. Richardson was for a number of years Master of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild and one of the best known and most respected ringers in the country. He was captain of the local band, of which his wife and daughter are members, Mrs. Richardson having succeeded her husband in this office.

There was a large congregation at the service including representatives of the Mothers' Union and several other village organisations of which the bride is a member, and numerous ringers from Donington, Spalding, Leicester, Burton-on-Stather, Lincoln and the London area. The bride, who wore a dress of gold brocade, was attended by her cousin, Miss Lois Farr, and two young bridesmaids, Pat Wayman, daughter of the bride, and Jean Barnett. Mr. R. L. Wayman, brother of the bridegroom, was best man. Some 70 guests were present at the reception, which was held in Spalding.

A touch of Stedman Cinques was rung on the light ring of 12 before the wedding, after which the bells were 'fired.' Later in the day a peal of Stedman Cinques was successfully brought round on them, as was one of Kent Treble Bob in the neighbouring parish of Pinchbeck. An attempt which should have been made at Donington unfortunately had to be postponed owing to illness.

A VISIT TO KENT SCHOOL

Dear Sir,—Whilst on a business visit to the United States of America recently, I had the good fortune to be invited to ring on the bells at Kent School, Connecticut.

The opportunity came quite unexpectedly and was the result of my glancing through a school magazine at the home of George Ramsey, a business friend, whose son, Graham, is a prefect at Kent. Although not a ringer himself, Graham Ramsey worked at tower grabber's speed to arrange for my visit and 'phoned to me at 10 p.m. to tell me that everything was arranged for the following Sunday.

Kent, which is set in delightful surroundings, has 309 boys, of whom eight are ringers at the present time. Unfortunately, I was not able to meet two of them as, due to the close proximity of Christmas, they were busy swotting for exams; the need for quiet during this important period also explained why the bells were fully muffled for our ringing.

The ten bells of Kent School (tenor 24 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lb.) were installed by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank and were given to the school by Frank J. Humphrey and his wife, Katherine, as a thankoffering for the preservation of the life of their son through a dangerous illness. They were rung for the first time on Easter Day, 1932.

For some time the school engaged Mr. Isaac Attwater to train the ringers but after he left, the work of training has been handed on from boy to boy to ensure that there is always a team capable of keeping up the tradition of ringing the bells at dusk each day. I was tremendously impressed when I realised that these boys, none of whom stay at the school more than five years, had been able to keep alive the art of bellringing without any material outside assistance since the middle 1930's. The team as it now exists is able to ring Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Grandsire Triples.

Father West, the assistant headmaster, gave me a warm welcome and was very appreciative of the little advice I could give during a very short stay. In return I extended the good wishes of all church bellringers to them in their work.—Yours, etc., GEORGE H. HANCOCK.

Willoughby, near Rugby.

STORY OF A GREAT RINGING CAREER

DIARY OF THE LATE MR. W. H. FUSSELL—8

Edited by ERNEST MORRIS

During 1883 Mr. Fussell took part in six peals, viz:—Grandsire Triples at St. Chad's R.C., Birmingham, conducted by John Carter; similar peal at St. Paul's, Wokingham, Berks, called by H. Edgely; another at St. George's, Camberwell, called by W. H. Gardams; Holt's Original at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, called by H. J. Tucker; Stedman Triples at Christ Church, Southgate, N., called by G. Newson; and Kent Treble Bob Major at St. Anne's, Highgate, N., called by Jas. Barrett.

Of the Wokingham peal he says:—'We rang 40 minutes and broke down. The second attempt was successful, the striking being very good in the first half. The second half was not so good and the bells were out of course at one time but put right at the 5th part end. However, the Wokingham men say it was a better peal than the first one rung there.'

Of the Camberwell peal he says he worked till 4.30, caught train to Vauxhall 4.40, and got to St. George's, Camberwell, at 6.20; had tea and went up the tower. Commenced ringing 7.15 and completed 5.040 in two hours 59 minutes, this being his fifth peal and 'the second best for striking throughout.' Came down at 10.30 and stayed till 11.10 returning to Datchet by 12.5 from Vauxhall; arrived home 2 a.m. One wonders what would be said to-day if we rang a peal so late?

AN ENJOYABLE OUTING

In September, 1883, Mr. Fussell records that 'Father and I went to Farnham where J. Parker, Fells, Chapman and others rode in the wagonette to Chalfont St. Peter and rang 720 Doubles called differently. Then to St. Giles' for 720 Bob Minor and at Amersham 720 Grandsire and 720 Bob Minor; also to Little Missenden where 720 Doubles was rung. After having a very enjoyable day got home at 11 p.m., the weather being very fine and warm.'

'During the day there was not a single cross word spoken and no unpleasantness whatever, rather an unusual thing when ringers meet! There were scarcely any mistakes and everything seemed very successful. We did not go to Cheneys as intended owing to illness at the Manor House, nor to Chesham as the 5th and 6th require two to ring each of them properly.'

'Father (75th year) although he does not ring and has never done so (in fact he does not like bells) quite liked the outing, and had a very pleasant time looking round the villages. Mr. Elbourn, of Amersham, was very kind and it was chiefly through him we were able to get on so well. He intends putting up a board for our 720. Each 720 was the first performed on the bells.'

Sunday, September 16th, was Mr. Fussell's 22nd birthday, and he walked to Farnham and rang 720 Grandsire Minor for morning service. In the afternoon he went to St. George's Chapel, Windsor. September 22nd was his brother Alf's 30th birthday, but on October 22nd he records: 'My brother's birthday. September, as we all thought, being a mistake in the registering.'

In October he and his brother walked to Iver, through Langley, and in the churchyard there saw John Steel's gravestone with a bell carved on top. At Iver they met the ringers and at 5.30 went to the tower where Mr. Fussell rang the tenor (20 cwt.) and his brother the 5th. He writes: 'After a good many preliminary words of caution we began and when the call changes were finished the small board with the changes on was carefully put away and I was complimented for ringing the tenor so well; in fact they said the best that had rung out for some years. In 1874 their own men rang for two hours and 40 minutes without stopping.'

VISIT TO LONDON

On October 20th he went to London and on to Walthamstow where he called on Mr. T. Maynard and later copied inscriptions from St. Mary's bells. S. Hayes came up and afterwards Parker, Clarke, his brother and H. Tucker. They started for and were successful with a peal of Grandsire Triples in three hours seven minutes.

He stayed the night in Walthamstow and went to the new church and rang for 11 a.m. service a touch of Minor and call changes on seven bells (one man not turning up). 'Went to the office of "Bell News" and met Mr. Alexander (partner with Harvey Reeves in printing) and had a chat with the other ringers there.'

Then he went to Haverstock Hill, via Hackney, but could not see any ringers of the Gospel Oak so went to Finsbury Park, thence to the Chapel of Ease, Holloway, but there was no ringing on. The next evening at St. Clement Danes, Strand, he met the Waterloo Society and rang in touches of Stedman and Grandsire Caters, afterwards retiring to the Club Room for handbell ringing, etc.

The following evening he met Barrett, Leach, Titchener, Page and others at St. Anne's, Highgate, and rang 500 Bob Major, also Kent Treble Bob, and other methods. Later that week he rang in 720 Oxford Treble Bob at Gospel Oak. While in London he did quite a lot of practice and service ringing and on October 27th he went to Christ Church, Southgate, and after waiting about we at length went up to the tower and rang a complete peal of Stedman Triples (Brook's Variation) in three hours 21 minutes, called by Geo. Newson.'

At the end of October he went back to Slough where he 'saw that the ringing room had been done out and thoroughly coloured, dado round the walls and other improvements. Deceased ringers' names also added to the memorial board. Still, if they were real "change ringers" the whole crew would not stick to call changes so much. Not even a 720 has been rung during the year yet.'

In November (1883) at St. Anne's, Highgate, he rang his first peal of Kent Treble Bob Major in three hours five minutes, afterwards went to the meeting house for refreshments and 'had a jolly evening to commemorate Barrett's 47th and Page's 60th birthdays. On account of being late coming away I went to Hornsey with A. Jacobs and G. Griffin and slept at latter's house, and left next morning.'

LORD MAYOR'S DAY

On Friday, November 9th, Lord Mayor's Day, he went on the roof of St. Clement Danes' and had a good view of the procession, then walked up Ludgate Hill to the Goose and Gridiron College Youths' House in St. Paul's Churchyard but no ringers there, so he went back to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields and rang till 8.30, thence to their meeting room till 12 o'clock.

'Saw Alford, Tucker, Davis (promised him 5s. for the Cox fund), saw J. Cox and treated him, also Newson, Baron, Mansfield, Nelms and others. Jacobs and I had to run nearly all the way to King's Cross to catch the last train.'

The next day they went to Enfield with Newson and Pitstow to ring a peal of Kent Treble Bob. 'Met one short so Gardam went to Edmonston for Ellsmore. Started the peal at 4.20 but after two hours 18 minutes good striking J. Barrett gave up at the tenor owing to it going badly. The bells were hung by Warners, being a new church, tower and frames all complete. When we came down the Vicar gave us refreshments, wine, cake and biscuits.'

Later he went to Uxbridge and called on the steeplekeeper, Mr. Warren Hastings, now in his 69th year. 'As he had to toll for a funeral I

pulled the tenor up for him. Afterwards at his house up the "Bell Yard" he gave me an old, curiously written document dated 1697. I learned that he was born at Farringdon, Berks, and was apprenticed to the shoe trade in Oxford with Sam Hounslow, the great swimmer, brother of Charles Hounslow, the ringer (who called my first peal at Bicester), this being the means of his learning to ring.' In December he says: 'I was pleased to see by the "Bell News" that a peal of Caters on handbells by my Birmingham friends, also the College Youths were successful at Fulham. Alf Thomas of Birmingham is in the records in ringing a West Bromwich.'

During 1883 he rang, in addition to the six peals already noted, 68 different 720's, 43 being at Farnham. They were in 16 different towers, in six counties, with six different conductors.

NEW YEAR'S MORN

'The night was dark
And the way was drear.'

'Such were my thoughts trudging alone along the road from Farnham at one o'clock in the morning of the New Year (1884) after ringing out the old year at St. Mary's Church. C. Clarke failed to set the tenor after tolling midnight, so we all pulled off together making a very noisy crash, to sound the advent of another year. However, we finished with a good 720 Bob Minor (called by J. Parker). The weather all Christmas time was very unseasonable, wet and cold fogs prevailing, and the roads as muddy as could be. When I got home, went to bed and did not get up till 12 a.m.'

Next day Mr. Fussell says he bought small books for his diary at Luff's but found they would not do! He did quite a lot of writing up of peal records for many different ringers, and there are scores of mentions of this in his diary. On January 4th he says: 'Got "Bell News" wherein I was pleased to see St. Lawrence Society, Reading, had been successful in their peal called by Mr. Wm. Newell. I can pity poor Williams who no doubt had to coach Newell through most of it. For Newell, though a good man and one who tries very much, was always a duffer at calling and always misses a bob somewhere if not called in the wrong place.'

'I've known him to start calling the 168 (Queens and Tittums—six singles) and then make a wrong call at the last 40 changes. He must have improved wonderfully to have been successful in the peal and have stuck to it very hard.' Mr. Fussell notes next day 'pencilling in two peals No. 86-87 for H. Hopkins, also Newell's peal for him.'

'A NOISY INTERLUDE'

On January 5th, Mr. Fussell 'got to Farnham a little earlier owing to a ride up in a tradesman's cart. Five of us mustered at the church rather sharp and Edely soon after turned up and we raised the bells in peal, afterwards starting for a 720 Kent Treble Bob. When two-thirds through a boy came in the tower to see Mr. Parker, breaking us down at once. His message for Joe was from a Mrs. Wheeler to stop ringing at once owing to a burial in the churchyard that afternoon. The woman came in a very off-hand sort of manner, and had evidently been worked up to a high pitch by someone not in our favour. Brown, the sexton, perhaps. She complained about respect to the dead and feelings, etc., etc., and finished by saying she should stop it. Parker had put it to her plainly by stating they had rung before when two dead persons were lying in the village and no complaints made, while she lived halfway up the common—it was all a question of her asking us to leave off. The person was not a parishioner and was brought from London to be interred. Joe was slightly put out, for lately good luck was entirely against us.'

'I afterwards heard from Basden, who lodged with the woman, that their grief was allayed by spending the evening in a pub boozing. This annoyed us all the more to think we were pre-

(Continued on next page)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW'

Dear Sir,—A very good effort—but I would advise your young poet (and others) that ringers who have any consideration for their fellows do not spit upon their hands—it is a very nasty and insanitary custom, which I hope is becoming obsolete. In my youth I often protested against it, but usually only managed to get myself laughed at.

In the best ringing circles, an application of glycerine is considered the correct thing—it is much more effective, and, as it need be used very sparingly, should not 'mess up' the ropes. Yours faithfully, R. F. DEAL.

London, E.6

FOR THE METHODS COMMITTEE

Third Place Bobs in Reverse Grandsire Triples

Dear Sir,—I should like to ask the Methods Committee if they object to a thirds place bob in Reverse Grandsire Triples. Examination of the collections of Major, Triples and Minor methods is very confusing. Reverse Bob Major is shown with two bobs: one when the treble is behind and the other when it is at lead. Reverse Grandsire Triples and Reverse Bob Minor are allowed one kind of bob each, but in Triples the treble is behind and in Minor it is at lead.

Further, there are eleven Minor methods to which a bell in the hunt can be added, becoming eleven legitimate Triples methods. Ten of these have a thirds place bob. Why the exceptional treatment of the eleventh method, namely, Reverse Grandsire?

Is it possible to call the seventh 'before' 18 times in a quarter peal of Spliced Triples, 1,260, which has 19 calls? Full courses of any number of methods from two to eleven can be spliced between these 'befores.' I hope the decision of the Methods Committee will not make it necessary to exclude Reverse Grandsire.—Yours faithfully,

Retford, Notts.

J. SEGAR.

W. H. FUSSELL'S DIARY—Cont.

vented from ringing our Treble Bob after so many difficulties and Edgely coming all the way from Reading. We did no more that night except a touch of Oxford Treble Bob on handbells, and chatting over things generally. Got home 11, the rain ceased when we left Slough and the moon came out beautifully to liven up our damp spirits after Edgely's fruitless journey as we cannot ring Sunday night now.

(Sunday, 6th) Got up at 9 a.m. and walked to Farnham to be again fooled. This time Clarke had gone off to London without any warning, except he was going to see his brother who was going away. Edgely took a walk to Stoke and came back with Batten so we began ringing with four when up rushed Chapman and Basden and we then rang 504 Grandsire Minor. Parker spoke to Basden about the woman coming last night. He did not acknowledge anything to do with in the affair though he lives with her and could have made matters all right if he cared to. But the fact is, we don't take enough interest in him and trouble very little about him because his striking is so bad and his ringing detestable.

While as for Brown (the Clerk of the Parish) he is the biggest duffer I have ever had to deal with in teaching ringing. Both don't care to be told and never know what they are doing one treble lead to another. I expect Brown was annoyed at not being at the supper in the school on New Year's eve. Came home to dinner but being a roast goose it was not ready till three o'clock, so I had dinner with Alf, my brother, and we walked up together to the church. Met short but J. Parker's brother came over from Horton and we rang five, changing the first four bells. I gave Edgely an illuminated copy of the Wokingham peal which seemed to please him.

(To be continued.)

SCIENTIFIC TRIPLES

Dear Sir,—The method 'Scientific Triples' has been much overrated. The plain course, a seven-part course of 210 changes, is not symmetrical, i.e., although the work of each bell is the same, there are no turning places so that it can hardly be called a method at all. John Carter advanced it merely as a curiosity difficult to ring, and I suggest that it would be a relatively simple matter to produce other similar courses. Far harder is it to compose a new peal of Stedman or Spliced Surprise.

A second criticism is that the calls take place at three essentially different places in the section, a property which would never be tolerated in any method or principle. The method is based on the Group of 168, part-ends which J. W. Parker dealt with in his 'Mysteries Unveiled.' The 5,040 changes are classified by this Group into 30 different Groups, and each section of Scientific Triples contains one of each. J. W. Parker thoroughly investigated this system in the limited case when a section consists of five sixes, quick or slow, and linked by 5ths or 7ths places, and he informed me shortly before his death that he had many years ago discovered many different principles which have the distinction of being symmetrical though long dodges rather spoil them. There is also a touch of Original Triples which belongs to this system—bobs at 1, 8, 15; repeat six times; 210 changes—and I produced a double symmetrical method some years ago which unfortunately does not succumb to acceptable calls. In all these systems the 168 sections in the extent cannot be transposed, and calls must keep within them.

No doubt it would be possible to compose a three-part peal with a fixed observation bell. The structure of the part-ends would not allow of a greater number of parts with a fixed bell.—Yours sincerely,

Brynmaur.

B. D. PRICE.

THE SISTERS WOOD

Dear Sir,—In your issue No. 2076 you quote a peal of Plain Bob Major at St. John-the-Baptist, Tunstall, Kent, to which I rang the 7th.

I would like to point out that the ringer of the treble was Miss Alison Wood, whose first peal it was, and the ringer of the 5th was Miss Frances Wood, for whom it was the first peal in the method. In 'The Ringing World' the Christian names of these two sisters have been reversed.

The girls are easily confused and it is not the first time this has happened to people who do not know them well.—Yours sincerely,

MALCOLM S. CLOKE

Chislehurst.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, SMITHFIELD

Dear Sir,—We have used Mr. Dore's admirable guide since it was published and have found it most useful.

Under the heading, City of London, he records—St. Bartholomew, Smithfield, E.C.1, 5, 8 cwt. in A.

There are, however, two churches of that name in Smithfield, St. Bartholomew the Great and St. Bartholomew the Less, which is actually in the grounds of the hospital of the same name. Inquiry proved that the five bells of St. Bartholomew the Great rest in the foundry, awaiting rehanging. In St. Bartholomew the Less investigation showed a frame constructed for a swinging peal containing two bells; and two further bells were found in the ringing chamber. Can any reader suggest if there was ever a fifth bell here and when this peal was rung?—Yours faithfully,

M. and G. ASHDOWN.

Eltham, S.E.9.

IN DEFENCE OF RECORDING

Dear Sir,—I have just been shown an article in the October issue of your magazine, entitled 'This Recording Business,' and would like to reply to some of the points raised there.

Last May I became Vicar of this parish, inheriting a glorious, modern church, just 18 years old. Part of the equipment is an amplifying equipment for 'Recorded Bells,' so that I speak as an interested party.

As your correspondent implies, bellringing is an ancient and revered art in this country, and church bells are a rich heritage from the past: I believe that methods of ringing in England are unique, and therefore to be preserved. But I cannot see why natural developments of art and science should be therefore dismissed as 'not consistent with the Church's teaching': the Church is not tied to the inventions of the past, and should be glad and happy to employ the best discoveries of science and art.

No one objects to B.B.C. recordings and, for those churches which are not in a position to install a tower and bells (a doubtful extravagance in these times), recorded chimes make a very happy substitute. I believe that I was concerned in a very early experiment in this direction many years ago, and had many favourable comments on a temporary installation.

Merely to dismiss such modern developments is redolent of the early opponents of the railway or the handworkers in the factories resisting mechanical improvements. Fortunately, such opposition defeats its own ends, as history records.

It is true that the acoustic construction of amplifying apparatus requires much research and study, and many installations were made without sufficient acoustic knowledge; but that does nothing to support the extraordinary theories of your correspondent.—I am, Yours faithfully,

IVAN T. PAGE-WOOD.

Vicar of St. Cuthbert's, Bridlington.

OLD BOYS' PEALS

Dear Sir,—With reference to the peals by Old Boys' Associations, a peal of Doubles in three methods was rung at All Saints' Norton, Northamptonshire, on May 20th, 1950. All those taking part were Old Daventryans, and though no footnote was added to the peal report, the performance was noted in the school magazine.—Yours sincerely,

E. G. ORLAND

Long Buckby, Northants.

TWO EARLY PEALS

Sir,—While looking through some papers, I came across the following which will interest our Nottingham and Derby friends:—

'Leicester and Nottingham Journal,' Saturday, January 28th, 1786:—'On Monday evening, Mr. Holt's Peal of Five Thousand and Forty Grandsire Triples was completely rung at St. Peter's Church, in Nottingham, by the Hopeful Youths (or Junior Society) in that tower, being the first performed by them, and justly allowed to be a capital achievement, as that Society has not been established six months and the majority of them under the age of twenty years. The time, three hours and twenty-seven minutes.'

The same journal, March 18th, 1786:—

'On Monday last was rung by the Derby Youths at All Saints' Church (after 3 months' practice) Mr. Holt's Peal of 5,040 Grandsire Triples by the second. Performed by Richard Walthall 1st: Richard Sherah 2d: Wm. Edwards 3d: Fdw. Woodward 4th: Stephen Cocker 5th: Benjamin Walthall 6th: H. Viccars Fletcher 7th: William Forester 8th. The time of performing the above, 3 hours 24 minutes. The peal was called by Richard Sherah, being the first true peal ever performed on these bells.'—Yours sincerely,

ERNEST MORRIS.

St. Margaret's, Leicester.

MORE REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTMAS DAY BROADCAST

BAD STRIKER WANTS BROADCASTING FREEDOM

Dear Sir,—I am most definitely against any restriction in the selection of towers to be broadcast. Ringing is primarily done for the service of God, and if done in good faith by the ringer, however humble, is acceptable in the sight of God. But strangely enough, the same ringing is not acceptable in the sight of the 'elite'.

Some of the great musicians of our time have not a high opinion of some of the choirs broadcast, but do they make their views known? Do they advocate that all services should be held at cathedrals where good singing can be heard? It is the same basic argument really!

I myself am a very bad 'striker.' I admit it, although it is not for the want of trying, but still I try to do my best on Sunday, and if my efforts have not been too good, at least I have done it wholeheartedly, and that, I am sure, is the case of countless ringers throughout the land.—Yours sincerely,

Branston, Lincs. JOHN E. COOK.

NOTE.—Before choirs are selected for broadcasting, they are visited by B.B.C. music specialists to see if they are of the appropriate standard. The suggestion made by Mr. Lewis is that a competent judge should hear the ringing first.—Ed.

LOCAL, NOT NATIONALISED, BANDS

Dear Sir,—Christmas Bells!!! 'Peace on earth and goodwill to men' is their message, but, by your columns, I wonder?

Let us at Christmas have local, unadulterated ringing: the place for ringers, 'Brass Hats' or otherwise, at this season is in their own towers. There should be, as in this diocese, men without bias, who know where the standard of ringing is reasonable and could advise the B.B.C. In any case, local bands please, and not nationalised bands.

VICE-CAPTAIN,
Bath and Wells.

STONEY RINGING: A COMPARISON

Dear Sir,—Mr. Bailey is wrong if he thinks that 'stone' ringers ring their bells slower than change ringers. In South Devon, at least, where call-change ringing is of the highest quality, the bells are seldom near the balance, and at least five whole pulls warning is given before they are set. In competitions a time limit is imposed which forces the ringers to 'keep them moving.'

The real secret of 'stone' ringing is more instructive than any detail of bell-handling. Call-change ringers derive little intellectual pleasure from their ringing, but they genuinely and passionately love bell-music above all else and will not have shoddy striking even if it means ringing rounds and nothing else. It is this which makes them pay such attention to rising and falling in peal, which in turn has created a style of ringing which for their purposes is as near the ideal as can be. And they know that fast ringing, by bringing the bells closer, improves the music and gives greater power to the harmonics of the ring as a whole.

This lesson, far from refuting Mr. Bailey's argument, confirms it, for much bad striking is caused by ringing bells at a speed too great for 'method ringing' except by very experienced ringers, and by too much attention to the intellectual, and not enough to the musical side of our Exercise. It is the latter which we share with the world at large, and it should be the best we can give.—Yours truly,

Kingsbridge, Devon JOHN G. M. SCOTT.

GOOSTREY, CHESHIRE.—On Jan. 19th, 1.260 Grandsire Doubles: Jean Cooke 1, A. Worth 2, J. Lawrence 3, E. Pimlott (cond.) 4, R. J. Ongley (first quarter) 5, B. J. Ongley 6.

RINGING AT WOOLTON

Dear Sir,—May one who has neither met the officials concerned nor previously even heard of the English towers selected for the Christmas morning broadcast enquire why the very condemnatory criticisms should not have been extended to cover the ringing of the Bethlehem bells? Would the critics have them ring to orders after due examination?

Ringling on our bells on Christmas Eve and noting, as the changes were rhythmically tapped out, the very serious expressions on the faces of ringers and visitors (nearly every Sunday we have six and more ringers and friends watching and listening), I brought the bells into Queens, held this change, and sneezed, until we just held control. This alone brought a light of excitement to the eyes of all, but especially to one small girl of eight—a visitor from the Midlands. Being a carol service, and I thought a very joyful occasion, after a warning to hold the beat, we fired the bells, then to Queens and Whittington, and repeat. This while the change-over brought the ringers back to the serious, brought a very joyful expression to the faces of all our visitors, the small girl was really alive with excitement: obviously this was Christmas ringing.

On a previous occasion—a Mothers' Union service—the same technique so thrilled visitors from another parish who were to be married in our beautiful church that we were booked to repeat the ringing at their wedding. On all three occasions we received a number of compliments, mostly 'How nice the bells sounded.' Having rung here since 1920 (except for five years) I am still waiting for anyone to say how nice the bells sounded after normal change-ringing. Would it be possible that the B.B.C. are better acquainted with the general public's bellringing taste and appreciation and the sound of typical English country bellringing than are our officials?

Some few years ago I had a letter from a leading music house (Messrs. Rushworth and Dreaper) engaging, without an audition, my hand of handbell ringers. They added, not knowing themselves of a band able to fulfil the engagement, they had approached the B.B.C. and the Northern Musical Director had referred them to St. Peter's, Woolton. The B.B.C. do know. Enquiries of numerous non-ringing friends, acquaintances and associates are convincing that the Christmas morning bells increased the spirit of joy and goodwill and gave much happiness, especially to the children. The ringing was for this purpose and for these, not the few whose harsh words, coupled with the attitude of some very clever ringers towards the not so clever, do little credit to themselves and could do much harm to the Exercise.

Is it the spirit of the age for officials to rush in where angels fear to tread?

E. L. HUMPHRIS.

Woolton, Liverpool.

CRITICISM A LITTLE UNFAIR

Dear Sir,—Not knowing the 'individual circumstances,' I think some of the recent criticism in 'The Ringing World,' re the Christmas ringing, a little unfair. The ringers concerned would no doubt have the broadcast uppermost in mind and one man, forgetting his position, would soon put the rest in a 'heap.' Only being on the air a very short time, the rest would endeavour to 'get right' without setting. The best of bands have had periods of excellent ringing marred by these trips.

Re Mr. L. Bailey's 'Crave for Speed,' my experience of 'stone' ringing is that, with their absence of 'open leads,' that type of ringing is faster than good 'open lead' change-ringing.—Yours sincerely

A. BIGLEY.

Irthingborough, Northants.

STEADY BEAT PREFERRED

Dear Sir,—Much has appeared in the last two or three issues of 'The Ringing World' on the poor standard of ringing broadcast by the B.B.C. on Christmas Day. This, we know, did not approach anything like it could or should be.

On this subject, I feel that I agree with Mr. L. Bailey, of Godshill, I. of W., when he says that 'one of the causes of bad striking is the craze for speed.' I recently took part in a peal of Double Norwich at our local tower which came round after three hours 22 minutes and was regarded by some as a slow peal for this tower. Even our capable conductor, Mr. Jack Worrall, said that it was 'a bit slow.' If all the future peals I take part in are as good as this one, then I shall feel very satisfied with the standard of ringing in Wales, and hope that we will not sacrifice good striking for speed. I know that our old hands will say that you cannot get ringing of a good standard without a 'good beat,' but I would prefer a steady beat to that of a fast and uneasy one.

The majority of peal attempts are carried out by selected bands which may account for possible better striking than that of service bands. The Christmas broadcast is certainly not a true picture of the standard of ringing today and so let us hope that all local Sunday service ringers will always endeavour to give of their best, whether they broadcast or not.

However, to give a brighter side to the present discussion on the standard of ringing, may I congratulate those who took part in the broadcast ringing from Aston Parish Church, Jan. 21st on their excellent striking. If this is an example of their service ringing, then they can be very proud of themselves. Keep it up, Aston.—Yours faithfully,

ROBERT E. COLES.

Cowbridge, Glam.

STRIKING SACRIFICED TO SPEED

Dear Sir,—Mr. Bailey, in the issue of January 19th, raises the question of good striking being sacrificed to speed of ringing. He asks whether 'stone' ringers are better strikers because they are inclined to ring more slowly. In Devon, a county providing, unfortunately, the vast majority of 'stone' ringing at present, the ringers have their bells so far away from the balance during ringing that a special preliminary order of 'Upward' is required some dozen or so pulls before the order to stand is given (usually by the treble man stamping on the floor).

The whole question of rate of striking has been thrashed out at length in your columns some time ago but in general every ring of bells has an optimum speed of ringing, which can only be found by experiment. At other speeds, striking is harder to attain.

With regard to the Christmas broadcast, I wish to join with many others as you, sir, surmised, in regretting Group Captain Lister's remarks in his last paragraph. Having taken part in two broadcasts myself, I know that, while being an honour, it also occasions considerable preparation and anxiety. On one of the occasions, both previous Sundays, the touch to be rung was practised and carefully timed to finish at the correct moment. It was a considerable relief when we heard the final buzzer and all the bells were set correctly.

That the majority of B.B.C. listeners would not know what was good and what bad striking, is no defence of poor ringing being allowed on the air. An inferior symphony concert would not be broadcast, even although a small majority of the listeners would appreciate that it was a poor performance.—Yours faithfully,

PETER W. B. SEMMENS.

Middlesbrough, Yorks.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION Hunts District

An interesting proposition was submitted to the annual meeting of the Hunts District at Huntingdon on January 20th by Mr. F. Baker with a view to getting more of the public interested in the art of ringing.

It was that the committee should select places where the bells were not rung on Sundays and, after consultation with the incumbent, arrange for a meeting of parishioners with the object of forming a band. If recruits were forthcoming instruction would be provided.

The Rev. J. M. E. Bagley, Rector of All Saints', presided at the business meeting and also took the service at All Saints' Church.

The secretary (Mr. S. Gilbert) reported that 1950 had been a very successful year and that 14 meetings had been held. He also thanked all the ringers who had supported him so regularly at the meetings.

Officers elected for 1951 were as follows:—President, The Rev. B. Freer Sheppard; secretary, Mr. S. Gilbert; Ringing Master, Mr. F. Warrington; deputy Ringing Master, F. W. Lack; Representatives on Diocesan Committee, Messrs. F. Warrington and F. W. Lack; District committee—Miss C. Dunnington, Messrs. F. H. Newman, F. Baker, D. T. Austin, H. Fields, S. Jack, C. J. Young, W. Ransome and H. S. Peacock.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Rev. J. M. E. Bagley and to the Rev. A. Morris for the use of St. Mary's bells, to Mr. H. Dew, the organist, and the ladies who arranged the tea.

The bells of All Saints' and St. Mary's were available during the afternoon and evening and ringers were present from Elv, Downham Market, Yaxley, Brampton, Eynesbury, St. Ives, Tempsford, Blunham, Somersham, Great Staughton and Huntingdon.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSN. North Norfolk Branch

The annual meeting held at St. George's, Colegate, on January 6th, was attended by the Rev. A. St. J. Heard (oresident), Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow (general secretary and treasurer), Mr. F. Nolan Golden (Ringing Master), Mr. H. Tooke (branch secretary) and members from Bunwell, Diss, Caston, Fornsett, Bureton, Norwich, Mulbarton, Somerleyton, Great Yarmouth, Wymondham, Hockwold, Stowmarket and Ipswich.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, who, in his address, stated that it was the first meeting ever to be held at that church.

Tea was served in St. Clement's Hall by the ladies of St. George's who were thanked on the proposition of Mr. N. Golden. Thanks were also expressed to the Vicars of St. George's and St. Miles' for the use of the bells and to the Rev. Thurlow for conducting the service.

The next meeting is on April 7th at Foxley.

GUILD of DEVONSHIRE RINGERS South-West Branch

Thirty-five members and friends attended the annual meeting held at Buckland Monachorum on January 13th. The fine ring of eight bells was heard in rounds and touches of Grandire, Stedman and Plain Bob. The Guild's form of service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. F. J. Cornish). Tea was served at 5 p.m. in the Schoolroom.

At the business meeting the following officers were elected to serve for 1951:—Chairman, Mr. H. H. Thomas; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. T. G. Myers; Ringing Master, Mr. T. G. Myers; hon. auditor, Mr. H. O. Thomas; representatives to the Guild's general committee, W. G. Lavers, J. P. Sims and S. O'Shaughnessy.

It was also agreed to carry out the following programme (subject to permission):—Bickington, April 7th; joint meeting with Mid-Devon branch at Dittisham, June 23rd; Holbeton, September 29th; Plymouth Emmanuel, December 1st (annual meeting).

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD

Daventry Branch

The Daventry Branch held its annual meeting at Staverton on January 13th, by kind permission of the Vicar (the Rev. E. G. Glascodine). The meeting was well attended, 40 members and friends from neighbouring branches being present.

The Vicar conducted the Guild's service and gave an inspiring address. Mrs. Glascodine and lady members of the Staverton belfry provided an excellent tea which was served at the Vicarage.

The branch chairman, Mr. G. H. Hancock, presided at the business meeting. The secretary, Mr. F. W. Hancock, reported that 12 meetings had been held during the year with an average attendance of 30 members. An increased balance in hand was shown by the accounts. The retiring chairman and secretary were re-elected as were the representatives to the Guild Committee, Messrs. S. Osborne and W. Collins. Mrs. W. Collins, Mr. H. Haynes and Mr. F. W. Hutt are to form the branch committee.

The committee were asked to consider the formation of a branch library and to look into the possibility of obtaining photographs of founder members of the branch which would be placed in an album and kept in the mother church at Daventry.

Wellingborough Branch

Ringers from most parts of Northamptonshire attended the annual meeting of the Wellingborough branch at Higham Ferrers on January 13th when good use was made of the fine ring of eight.

Ringers were present from Irthlingborough, Wellingborough, Easton Mauduit, Wilby, Finedon, Mears Ashby, Ecton, Desborough, Burton Latimer, Blisworth, Earls Barton, Irchester, Bozeat, Raunds, Warkton, Wollaston and Higham Ferrers. Some from Bedford also attended.

The Guild service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. H. L. Hoar) who also gave the address. Tea in the Church Rooms was served by members of the Mothers' Union.

The Rev. J. C. R. Creagh Coen (president, Wollaston) presided at the business meeting. The secretary's report and balance sheet, presented by Mr. A. Bigley (Irthlingborough), showed a balance in hand of £5 10s., which was considered very satisfactory.

Officers elected were:—President, the Rev. J. C. R. Creagh Coen; secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. Bigley; Ringing Master, Mr. J. King (Wellingborough); central committee, Mr. J. King and Mr. J. Skeritt; branch committee, Messrs. A. Tyler, C. Payne and C. W. Partidge; auditor, Mr. E. W. Johnson; branch organist, Mr. E. J. Holloway.

New ringing members elected were from Finedon (5), Irthlingborough (2), Wellingborough (2), Yardley Hastings (2).

Thanks to all who helped make the meeting a success were proposed by Mr. W. G. Callis and seconded by Mr. J. R. Main.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION

Bristol Rural Branch

On January 20th about 56 members took part in the branch's third annual social and supper held once again at Mansotfield. After a most enjoyable supper in The Crown Hotel, everyone settled down to the evening of song, music, handbell ringing (tune and method), conjuring and a comic sketch, all first class by the artists and much appreciated by all.

Mr. C. R. Harding was the evening's chairman, whilst Mr. W. B. Kynaston (Association Master), Mr. P. C. Williams (Association treasurer), and Mr. A. Bennett (Bristol City branch secretary) were among the guests and visitors to a very happy evening.

OBITUARY

MR. WILLIAM BIGGIN

An outstanding record of faithful service to St. James' Church, Norton, Sheffield, had Mr. William Biggin, who died on January 11th, aged 86 years.

He was a regular service ringer for over 60 years, captain of the local company for 57 years and for many years steeplekeeper. The bells to-day testify to his care and the good work of his successors.

Mr. Biggin loved his church and Norton village, which still retains its old-world character. The bells are reputed to be the first octave to be Simpson tuned. 'Uncle Bill,' as he was generally known in the village, leaves behind him a record of willing and faithful service to his church. Most of his working life was spent as a foundry worker but in his latter days he was a gardener at the Rectory.

He rang his first peal at St. Marie's, Sheffield, on March 5th, 1887, the method being Plain Bob Major. In all he rang 218 peals, 15 of which he conducted. For the Yorkshire Association he rang 191 peals. His record is:—Stedman Cinqes 2, Caters 4, Triples 15; Grandire Caters 6, Triples 20 (2); Erin Triples 1; Kent Treble Bob Royal, 9; Major 69 (12), Minor 2; Oxford Treble Bob Royal 2, Major 27; Spliced Treble Bob Royal 1, Major 1; Plain Bob Royal 3, Major 29 (1); Double Norwich Court Bob Royal 2, Major 13; Superlative 4; Forward Major 2; one each of Yorkshire, London, New Cambridge and Bristol Surprise Major, Little Bob and Original Major.

The funeral on January 16th was preceded by a service at Norton Parish Church attended by relatives and friends including a number of local ringers. The bells were rung half-muffled before and after the service, the last touch being a well-struck course of his favourite method, Kent Treble Bob Major.

In his memory a half-muffled peal of Grandire Triples was rung by the Sheffield and District Society the following Saturday.

MR. J. L. BLEBY

For 30 years a ringer at St. Mary's, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts, Mr. John Lucas Bleby died on January 16th, aged 78.

A native of Stanley, Gloucestershire, he was employed as a railway guard which brought him to Nottinghamshire. He was captain of the Sutton band for some years until failing health made him resign in 1947. Mr. Bleby was a former member of the executive of the East Derby and Notts Association.

The Association was reconstituted at the funeral by Mr. Cyril Heathcote (treasurer) and the ringers by Mr. Colin Evans (captain). In accordance with Mr. Bleby's wishes the bells were rung half-muffled for Sunday services on January 21st.

MR. CHARLES EDWARDS

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent who supplied the notice of the death of Mr. Charles Edwards, of Ealing and Farnham, has confused him with the Mr. Charles Edwards of Farnham and Hereford. A not unnatural mistake since it is very rare that two men of the same name but of different families ring at the same tower.

I am happy to say that Mr. Charles Edwards, of Hereford and Farnham, my wife's grandfather, is in excellent health and spirits and is, at the age of 81, still keenly interested in ringing matters and follows with interest the exploits of some of his old friends. Scarcely a week passes but what we are revealed by the story of what happened at such and such a place when he went there for a real forty years or more ago. He is, like Mark Twain was, not a little amused and points out that 'the news of his death is somewhat exaggerated.'—Yours faithfully,

C. KENNETH LEWIS.

Altrincham, Cheshire.

3rd (not Feb. 8th. as given in error on programme card). Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. by kind invitation. Names to Dr. E. J. Hatcher, Kimmeridge, Ditton, Maidstone. 8274

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District. — The annual district meeting, Chertsey (8), Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m.—F. Hawthorne. 8265

HEREFORD GUILD.—Hereford Branch.—Annual meeting, St. Nicholas', Hereford, Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names.—J. Downes, The Cottage, Roundway, South Bank Road, Hereford. 8301

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual meeting, Watford (10), Feb. 3rd, 3 p.m. Service 5. Tea 5.30.—S. Hoare, 56, Acme Road, Watford. 8280

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch (Sleaford District).—The annual meeting will be held at Sleaford on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Bells (8) available afternoon and evening. Service 4.15. Tea 5. followed by business meeting.—Mrs. D. Wray, Hon. Sec. 8291

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Annual meeting, Feb. 3rd, at St. Mary Magdalen, Holloway (opposite Central Library). Ringing 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Business 6. Ringing afterwards.—Boyack, Dis. Sec. 8307

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—Meeting, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30.—R. Gilling, Fernham, Faringdon. 8304

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting is at Dronfield, Feb. 3rd. Bells (8) at 3 p.m. Cups of tea and sandwiches for all in Green Dragon at 5 p.m.—J. E. Turley, Hon. Sec. 8296

SOUTHWELL GUILD.—Nottingham District.—Monthly meeting, St. Mary's, Nottingham, Feb. 3rd. Ringing from 2.30. Own tea arrangements.—S. P. M. Lewin (Miss), Dis. Sec. 8321

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Annual meeting, Crawley (8), Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 3 p.m.—G. T. Jennings, 5, Malthouse Road, Crawley. 8314

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Christchurch District.—Annual meeting, Christchurch Priory, Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Business. Please notify for tea. This is an important meeting. Please attend.—Davis, 16, Alma Road, Bournemouth. 8306

OXFORD UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION.—Annual lunch, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 1 p.m., at The Forum. Service 12.30 at St. Mary-the-Virgin. Ringing 11 a.m., St. Thomas', St. Mary Magdalen; 3 p.m., New College; 4 p.m., Magdalen; 6 p.m., All Saints'. 8333

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Monday, Feb. 4th, St. Mary's, Lambeth. Practice 7.15. Feb. 17th, annual general meeting, St. Mary's, Lambeth. 3-4; St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 3-4.30; Southwark Cathedral 4-5. Service, Cathedral, 5. Tea, business and handbell competition, Chapter House, 6. Further ringing, Cathedral, 8. Names for tea please. Everyone welcome. Feb. 21st, St. Stephen's, Westminster, practice, 7.45.—Rogers, 14, The Grove, Isleworth. 8353

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Holborn, W.C.1, on Monday, February 5th, at 7 p.m.—T. J. Lock. 8325

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—South Norfolk Branch.—Annual meeting at Diss, Saturday, Feb. 10th. Bells 2 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. in Corn Hall. Business and election of officers. Suffolk Guild invited. Names by Tuesday, Feb. 6th.—A. G. Harrison, 10, Mount Pleasant, Diss. 8312

GUILDFORD GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—Annual meeting, Leatherhead, Feb. 10th. Bells 3-9. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. The Institute. Names for tea to reach G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Feb. 8th. 8318

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 10th, at Havering-atte-Bower (6) 3-4.30 p.m. (Buses 250, 175 or 123 from Romford Station to Havering Green.) Tea 4.45 p.m. Names please, by Feb. 8th, to Mrs. Osborne, 7, Albany Road, Hornchurch. Ringing at Romford (8) 6-8 p.m.—D. E. Lidbetter, Hon. Dis. Sec. 8319

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hinckley District.—Annual dinner and social, Feb. 10th. Working Men's Club, Stoney Stanton. Bells available 4.30. Dinner 6.15. Tickets 6s. Late buses to all parts of district. Names for dinner and bus, with remittance, by Feb. 5th, to Mr. C. Turner, Barian, Cowper Road, Hinckley. 8303

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—Meeting at Great Chart, Feb. 10th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Names for tea to Mr. T. Cullingworth, 95a, High Street, Ashford, Kent. 8317

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Mildenhall District.—Annual meeting at Mildenhall (10), Feb. 10th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—D. M. Reeve. 8322

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Isle of Wight District.—Annual meeting, Newport, Feb. 10th. Bells 2.30. Names for tea by Feb. 8th.—Mrs. Guy, Dis. Sec. 8299

BARNSELY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Royston, 2.30 p.m., on Saturday, Feb. 10th. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. S. Dance, 64, Church Street, Royston, near Barnsley.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley. 8351

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Southill on Saturday, Feb. 10th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea at 5.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempersford Road, Sandy. 8345

BEVERLEY AND DISTRICT RINGING SOCIETY.—Meeting at Patrington on Saturday, Feb. 10th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea for all who notify, before Wednesday, Feb. 7th, Mr. D. Fewster, Glenross, North Side, Patrington. 8354

COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Nuneaton District.—Meeting at Bulkington, near Nuneaton, Saturday, Feb. 10th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea not later than Feb. 6th.—A. J. Hinde, Dis. Sec., 15, Church Street, Bulkington, Nuneaton. 8342

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Chesterfield District.—Monthly meeting, Tibshelf (6), Feb. 10th. 3 p.m. Bring own food. Business very important.—A. B. Cooper. 8352

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—Brampton, Saturday, Feb. 10th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.—S. Gilbert, Dis. Sec. 8341

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Purton (6), Feb. 10. Tea.—W. B. Kynaston, 37, Vicarage Road, Rodbourne Cheney, Swindon. 8330

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chester Branch.—Annual meeting, Cathedral, Saturday, Feb. 10th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Names for tea by Feb. 7th please.—Griffiths, 38, Beeston View, Chester. 8355

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Whittle-le-Woods, Saturday, Feb. 10th. Tea will be provided for those sending names by Wednesday, 7th, to Mr. J. Charnock, 2, Carwood Lane, Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley.—L. Walmsley. 8348

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Maresfield (8), Feb. 10th. Tea at Chestnuts Tea Room. Names to R. Bennett, The Limes, Maresfield.—C. A. Bassett. 8343

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Practice meeting, Ulverston, on Saturday, Feb. 10th. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Names for tea to N. M. Newby, 19, Union Place, Ulverston.—N. M. Newby, Branch Sec. 8350

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Annual meeting, Southover, Lewes (10), Saturday, Feb. 10th. Tower open 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5.15. Names by Wednesday, Feb. 7th.—B. W. White, 14, South View, Henfield. 8359

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at Emmanuel Church, Everton, on Saturday, Feb. 10th. All names for tea to Mr. E. Radcliffe, 8, Radnor Place, Tuebrook, Liverpool, 6.—Julia M. Preston, Branch Sec. 8347

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge Branch.—Meeting, Stone (6), Feb. 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Notify by Feb. 6th to Mary Drew, Bibstone Farm, Cromhall. 8337

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Loughborough District.—Hathern, Saturday, Feb. 10th. Ringing 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45. Names by Wednesday, Feb. 7th, to C. W. Hall, The Terrace, Copt Oak, Markfield. 8338

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Market Harborough District.—Meeting, Lubenham, Feb. 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Subscriptions now due.—L. W. Allen, Dis. Sec. 8336

SOUTHWELL GUILD.—North Notts Branch.—The meeting at Gamston on Feb. 10th is cancelled owing to serious illness near church. It will be at Tuxford (6) on same date. For tea, notify, by Feb. 6th, Mr. W. Brett, 1, Ashvale, Tuxford, Newark.—H. Denman. 8339

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Alton and Petersfield District.—Annual meeting, Petersfield, Saturday, Feb. 10th. 2.30. Tea at St. Peter's Hall. Numbers by Feb. 5th to C. E. Bassett, Warsash, Hants. 8326

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—St. John's, Darlington (8), 2.30, Feb. 17th. Tea. Church Hall, for those who notify by Feb. 14th.—J. T. Titt, 54, Stoopersdale Avenue, Darlington. 8331

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Sacred Heart, Blackpool, Saturday, Feb. 17th. Bells (8) 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.—J. H. Foster. 8349

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Quarterly meeting, Syston, Saturday, Feb. 17th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5, Parish Room, Broad Street. Names not later than Wednesday, Feb. 14th to Mr. E. Payne, The Green, Syston.—Wm. A. Wood, Hon. Gen. Sec. 8334

(Continued on next page)

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NOTICES—Continued

SOUTHWELL and LINCOLN GUILDS.—Joint meeting of the Newark and Lincoln Districts at Newark (10) on Feb. 17th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea for those who notify me by the previous Tuesday.—F. Vernon, 33, Shakespeare Street, New Balderton, Newark. 8329

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Andover District.—Annual meeting, Andover (8), Feb. 17th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5.15, Stuart Cafe, for those who notify by Feb. 16th.—J. A. Hill, Anna Valley, Andover. 8335

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Owing to the failure to obtain permission at Christ Church, Ealing, the District annual meeting will now be held at St. Mary's, Acton, on Saturday, Feb. 17th. Bells 3 to 4.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Business meeting in vestries at 6.30. Names for tea by Tuesday, Feb. 13th, to the District Secretary. Bells of St. Mary's, Ealing, available 2.30 to 4.—F. Finch, Dis. Sec., 14, Lancaster Gardens, W.13. 8346

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Next meeting, Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Feb. 17th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate. 8360

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—General committee meeting at the Hind Hotel, Wellingborough, on Sat., Feb. 24th, at 3 p.m. Tea served after meeting for those requiring at 2s. per head. Names need not be sent in. Bells (18) available from 5.30 p.m. 8344

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Preliminary Notice.—Annual committee meeting, Reading, March 10th, followed by special general meeting. Agenda—Canon Coleridge Memorial. Details of meeting, service, tea and ringing times later.—W. Hibbert, General Secretary. 8313

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