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A NOTABLE TRIO

DOUBTLESS it is true to say that in the making of any collection of peal compositions, for either practical or historical purposes, there are certain ones that could in no circumstances be omitted. Among those that would very naturally form the nucleus of an anthology (if, indeed, such a word may be used of a selection of peals) perhaps the most certain of inclusion are Middleton's peal of Cambridge, Thurstans' 4-part peal of Stedman Triples, and Parker's 12-part peal of Grandsire Triples. These works, remarkable for a number of points of comparison and contrast, have on occasions been described as the three indispensable compositions of the ringing Exercise.

They are alike in the unobtrusiveness of their appearance in the world of change ringing. Thurstans' 4-part peal was certainly composed after a great struggle lasting many years, but in the final triumph the figures were kept secret and the peal was rung almost accidentally in 1846; and once the problem it solved had been overcome there was little comment on the extraordinary qualities of the masterpiece. Middleton's peal, unless one is mistaken, appeared in Hubbard's book as a peal of London Surprise, and its enormous significance as a peal of Cambridge was not immediately apparent. Parker's 12-part, a truly magnificent achievement, was published very modestly in the columns of 'The Bell News' on November 12th, 1892, and the Exercise received it without comment. Parker's peal was rung almost as soon as it appeared in print, and Thurstans' 4-part was rung before it was published; but Middleton's 5,600 had to wait for some years before it was finally rung by the Bennington people.

It is interesting to note the historical position these peals occupy, and then to observe how little was their immediate effect on composition. Not one of the three was, of course, the first true composition in the method. But the Four-Part marked an epoch and sounded the death knell of special calls. Parker's peal was not the first of Grandsire

Triples with common bobs and singles only, but it was, for the ordinary conductor, an immense improvement on most of the old compositions, and it almost completely drove out of use the splendid 10-part peal by John Holt, which necessitated the use of two special calls. Middleton was probably not conscious of having solved any particular problem, but his peal was the terminus of at least one line of inquiry, for it was found to be the only possible one in that method with the tenors together throughout.

The three peals seem, then, at first sight not to have stimulated composition in the particular branch they represented. After Thurstans' there were forty years of apathy, a period when interest in Stedman Triples ceased; after Middleton's no further progress was possible without parting the tenors; and Parker's 12-part reigned supreme for a very long time, and it is still, one may venture to say, unequalled.

Transposition of these masterpieces has, nevertheless, given us some very interesting results. It was natural, of course, that Middleton's composition should be varied, for the original length of 5,600 was inconvenient. Henry Johnson reduced it to 5,056, and other famous composers have given us valuable variations. Thurstans' peal inspired Heywood, Davies, Washbrook and other masters, and the resulting transpositions and variations have enriched the conductor's repertoire. Parker's composition allows of numerous transpositions, and the peal may be rung in many very interesting forms. The transpositions, good as they may be, are, nevertheless, of the simplest nature, requiring little or no particular skill to produce, and the transposer can scarcely claim that he has improved the peal or added much to the great gift Parker gave us.

So there stand the three great compositions. Together with their variations and transpositions they form a remarkable galaxy, two of them notable for their extraordinary beauty and symmetry and one for its stern unpromising utility; and because of them the names of Thurstans, Middleton and Parker will live as long as change ringing persists.

E. C. S.

TEN BELL PEAL

LEICESTER.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., March 13, 1954, in 3 Hours and 30 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF 5040 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE ROYAL

Tenor 33 cwt.

*BRIAN MARTIN Treble	COLIN WALKER 6
MRS. H. J. POOLE 2	ALFRED BALLARD 7
HAROLD J. POOLE 3	JOHN B. BENNETT 8
JOHN R. SMITH 4	E. ALAN JACQUES 9
J. FREDERICK MILNER .. 5	†TERENCE A. THORNER .. Tenor

Composed by CHAS. J. SEDGLEY. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal of Royal. † 200th peal.

A birthday compliment to Norman Gerard McCrum.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

GREASLEY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 27, 1954, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt.

*MRS. M. I. PAILING .. Treble	FREDERICK A. SALTER .. 5
ALAN CATTALL 2	FREDERICK R. SCOTT .. 6
JOHN E. COOK 3	S. ANTHONY JESSON .. 7
HERBERT LEWIN 4	DENIS MOTTERSHEAD .. Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by DENIS MOTTERSHEAD.

* First peal in the method.

QUEENSBURY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., March 8, 1954, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Middleton's. Tenor 14½ cwt.

SAM LONGBOTTOM .. Treble	HARRY WILD 5
M. VIVIEN COPPING .. 2	*KENNETH PALMER 6
*GEOFFREY INGHAM .. 3	ROBERT E. MOULDS .. 7
JOHN F. BRYANT 4	VERNON BOTTOMLEY .. Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT E. MOULDS.

* First peal of Surprise. First peal as conductor.

BOURN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 13, 1954, in 2 Hours and 51 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. HELEN AND MARY,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Johnson's Variation. Tenor 14½ cwt. in F.

GILLIAN A. SMITH .. Treble	WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN .. 5
*MARIE K. ROBERTS .. 2	JOHN G. GIPSON 6
ROGER B. MORRIS 3	CHRISTOPHER M. P. JOHNSON 7
PHILIP A. F. CHALK .. 4	PETER BORDER Tenor

Conducted by PETER BORDER.

* First peal of Major away from the treble.

FAIRWARP, SUSSEX.

THE EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Sat., March 13, 1954, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 15½ cwt.

*STANLEY G. PONTING .. Treble	WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE 5
†EDWARD J. JENNER 2	†CHARLES A. BASSETT .. 6
FREDERICK J. LAMBERT .. 3	*KEVIN S. HOHL 7
†ARTHUR F. LEWRY 4	ERNEST J. LADD Tenor

Composed by A. F. LEWRY.

Conducted by ERNEST J. LADD.

* First peal in method. † First peal in method 'inside.' ‡ 50th peal together.

Rung for the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Ponting.

LONGSTANTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., March 16, 1954, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 7½ cwt. in A flat.

*HAROLD J. F. MUNCEY .. Treble	GEORGE E. CRISP 5
MARIE K. ROBERTS 2	MANSFIELD GINN 6
GILLIAN A. SMITH 3	CHRISTOPHER M. P. JOHNSON 7
*L. VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN 4	WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN .. Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN.

* First peal on eight bells.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., March 17, 1954, in 2 Hours and 25 Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF 5056 LYME SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 6½ cwt.

*DEREK G. GOODMAN .. Treble	*JOHN R. SMITH 5
MRS. H. J. POOLE 2	*JOHN A. ACRES 6
HAROLD J. POOLE 3	*S. ANTHONY JESSON .. 7
*G. RONALD EDWARDS .. 4	*TERENCE A. THORNER .. Tenor

Composed by E. W. TIPLER.

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

* First peal in the method.

NEW ROMNEY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., March 17, 1954, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 19 cwt.

*STEPHEN J. BOULDEN .. Treble	HIGHWOOD S. HUMPHREY 5
OLIVE M. BOULDEN 2	JOHN R. COOPER 6
MAISIE VANTOM 3	ALBERT J. LANCEFIELD .. 7
HARRY BAKER 4	MARK S. LANCEFIELD .. Tenor

Composed by G. H. CROSS.

Conducted by MARK S. LANCEFIELD.

* First peal of Major.

Rung as a welcome to the Rev. John F. S. Martin.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., March 18, 1954, in 2 Hours and 30 Minutes,

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF 5120 BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 6½ cwt.

MRS. H. J. POOLE .. Treble	SHIRLEY BURTON 5
WINIFRED M. BURTON .. 2	J. FREDERICK MILNER .. 6
ERNEST MORRIS 3	S. ANTHONY JESSON .. 7
WILLIAM THORNEY 4	HAROLD J. POOLE Tenor

Composed by FREDERICK H. DEXTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., March 18, 1954, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5280 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR

Comprising 960 London, 928 Watford, 896 Bristol, 832 Cambridge, 832 Superlative and 832 Pudsey, with 127 changes of method.

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb.

C. EDWARD LANKESTER .. Treble	THOMAS H. FRANCIS .. 5
ALFRED J. HOUSE 2	BRIAN D. THRELFALL .. 5
THOMAS J. LOCK 3	RICHARD F. B. SPEED .. 7
ALICK CUTLER 4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS .. Tenor

Composed by ALBERT J. PITMAN. Conducted by RICHARD F. B. SPEED.

In this composition all the bells do all the work of all the methods.

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ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., March 19, 1954, in 2 Hours and 53 Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Middleton's.	Tenor 15 cwt. in G.
FRANK E. WALKER Treble	RALPH BIRD 5
FRANCES A. THRELFALL .. 2	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY .. 6
ARTHUR G. MASON 3	BRIAN D. THRELFALL .. 7
ARTHUR S. RICHARDS .. 4	GEORGE BUTCHER Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT E. AUDSLEY.

Specially arranged as a birthday compliment to Frederick J. Cullum and Arthur G. Mason; also in honour of the engagement of Miss Betty Mason.

CLIFFE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 3 Hours and 8 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Helen,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

PATRICIA SMEE Treble	Tenor 14½ cwt.
FRANCIS J. CHEAL 2	TREVOR A. CROSS 5
JOHN L. MORRIS 3	*GEORGE KENWARD 6
HARRY SPRINGATE 4	ALBERT E. BEANEY 7
	PETER F. BORER Tenor

Composed by C. CHARGE.

* First peal.

Rung half-muffled as a token of deep respect to Victor A. Jarrett, a long and valued member of the above Association, who passed away on Friday, March 19th.

CHIPPING BARNET, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF 5024 BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR

LEONARD H. BOWLER .. Treble	Tenor 24 cwt.
FRANK E. DARBY 2	THOMAS J. LOCK 5
ALICK CUTLER 3	JOHN S. MASON 6
THOMAS H. FRANCIS .. 4	BRIAN D. THRELFALL .. 7
	WILFRED WILLIAMS Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

DOUGLAS-IN-PARBOLD, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,

At Christ Church.

A PEAL OF 5088 BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR

JEAN MARSHALL Treble	Tenor 12 cwt.
RONALD KENRICK 2	THOMAS MARSHALL 5
JACK ASHCROFT 3	THOMAS HESKETH 6
PETER COXALL 4	EDWIN C. BIRKETT 7
	JOSEPH RIDYARD Tenor

Composed by E. TIMBRELL. Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.

Rung to celebrate the 77th birthday of Mrs. Marshall, the donor of the 2nd bell and mother of the 5th ringer and grandmother of the treble ringer.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(Southern Branch.)

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew, Hampton,

A PEAL OF 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

GEOFFREY J. HEMMING .. Treble	Tenor 12½ cwt.
GERALD C. HEMMING .. 2	*R. ROGER SAVORY 5
VINCENT A. HEMMING .. 3	PATRICK HARRIS 6
RALPH HARRIS 4	*WILFRED J. NEWMAN .. 7
	JOSEPH E. NEWMAN Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by GEOFFREY J. HEMMING.

* 50th peal. † First peal of Treble Bob 'inside.'

The conductor has now 'completed the circle' at this tower.

GREAT BADDOW, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF 5056 LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

EDWARD W. ROAST Treble	Tenor 14½ cwt.
HOWARD W. EGGLESTONE .. 2	JOE E. G. ROAST 5
PETER J. CAME 3	PERCY GREEN 6
ERNEST E. S. JOHNSON .. 4	DENNIS A. S. SYMONDS .. 7
	PETER J. EVES Tenor

Composed by JAMES TOPP. Conducted by PERCY GREEN.

First peal in the method on the bells and by all the band.

HATFIELD BROAD OAK, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF 5088 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

EDWARD ROCHESTER .. Treble	Tenor 19 cwt.
*AUDREY M. BAILEY .. 2	ERNEST W. FURBANK .. 5
JOHN H. CRAMPION .. 3	DAVID W. BEARD 6
THOMAS G. FOX 4	JOHN H. SITCH 7
	CHARLES E. WILLMINGTON Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by JOHN H. CRAMPION.

* First peal in the method.

A birthday compliment to Mr. Edward Rochester.

HORRINGER, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Leonard,

A PEAL OF 5152 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

JOHN S. WYBREW Treble	Tenor 10 cwt.
ROBERT E. LESTER 2	†PRESTON G. EVERETT .. 5
WILLIAM STANNARD .. 3	HARRY D. LISTER 6
*JAMES G. STANNARD .. 4	ALAN G. FEVER 7
	†JOHN W. BANKS Tenor

Composed by WM. WIGHTMAN. Conducted by HARRY D. LISTER.

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

LODDON, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 51 Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF 5136 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

DAVID HEIGHTON Treble	Tenor 11 cwt. in G.
STANLEY W. COPLING .. 2	NOLAN GOLDEN 5
H. WILLIAM BARRETT .. 3	GEORGE W. PIPE 6
CHARLES BAILEY 4	JOHN MOORE 7
	ARTHUR G. BASON Tenor

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

Birthday compliments to Miss Evelyn Killington, of the local band, and Mr. R. E. Browne (82), churchwarden.

MEASHAM, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Laurence,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Pitstow's Transposition.	Tenor 10 cwt.
MRS. S. H. JONES Treble	JOAN BERESFORD 5
CLEMENT GLENN 2	ALBERT E. THOMPSON .. 6
JOSEPH WM. COTTON .. 3	GEORGE E. OLIVER 7
WALTER G. SOAR 4	SIDNEY H. JONES Tenor

Conducted by CLEMENT GLENN.

MOTTRAM-IN-LONGDENDALE, CHESHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Michael,

A PEAL OF 5056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

BASIL JONES Treble	Tenor 15½ cwt.
*M. VIVIEN COPPING .. 2	*JOHN F. BRYANT 5
*SHEILA M. TAYLOR .. 3	EDWARD JENKINS 6
*GEOFFREY INGHAM .. 4	*ROBERT E. MOULDS .. 7
	VERNON BOTTOMLEY .. Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by VERNON BOTTOMLEY.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor.

NORTHFLEET, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 41 Minutes,

At the Church of St. Botolph,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Washbrook's Variation.	Tenor 16½ cwt.
ARTHUR G. MASON Treble	DORIS E. COLGATE 5
THOMAS E. TAYLOR .. 2	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY .. 6
RALPH BIRD 3	GEORGE J. BUTCHER .. 7
FRANK V. GANT 4	KENNETH H. J. DYKE .. Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT E. AUDSLEY.

SHRIVENHAM, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 3 Hours and 6 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF 5056 SOUTHWELL SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 lb. in F.

FRANCIS WILTON	Treble	EDWARD W. COLLEY	5
HERBERT H. ALEXANDER	2	GEORGE F. BURTON	6
BRIAN BLADON	3	MALCOLM S. CLOKE	7
ANTHONY R. PEAKE	4	ALAN R. PINK	Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON.

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.

First peal in the method by all the band, on the bells, and for the Guild.

Rung for the Feast of St. Cuthbert.

STONEY STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., March 25, 1954, in 2 Hours and 29 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Dexter's Variation.		Tenor 14 cwt.	
MRS. H. J. POOLE	Treble	ALFRED BALLARD	5
*C. ROGER HAYWARD	2	J. FREDERICK MILNER	6
HAROLD J. POOLE	3	MICHAEL E. BROWN	7
*JOHN VERNON	4	*JOHN A. SMITH	Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

*First peal of Stedman by members of the local band. Specially arranged and rung as a 21st birthday compliment to C. Roger Hayward.

WITNEY, OXFORDSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., March 25, 1954, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5024 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor 17 cwt. (approx.).

*LESLIE T. OLIFFE	Treble	†HARRY P. FLOYD	5
ALAN R. PINK	2	BERTRAM J. COGGINS	6
DOUGLAS O. WILKS	3	*GILBERT WRIGHT	7
†ERNEST J. HILL	4	EDGAR J. SMITH	Tenor

Composed by CHARLES W. ROBERTS. Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.
*First peal in the method. †First peal on eight bells. ‡100th peal.

Rung for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

YOXALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sat., March 6, 1954, in 3 Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven 720's, different callings.		Tenor 14 cwt.	
ERIC EDGINGTON	Treble	*ARTHUR R. WRIGHT	4
WILLIAM J. LEACH	2	GEORGE L. ROOBOTTOM	5
DOROTHY T. GARDINER	3	BARNABAS G. KEY	Tenor

Conducted by BARNABAS G. KEY.

*First peal. First peal on the bells.

EAST SUTTON, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., March 10, 1954, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being 720 each of Cambridge, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, St. Clement's, Double Court, Single Oxford and Plain Bob.

	Tenor 10 cwt.		
MARY TAPLEY	Treble	GEORGE F. CANTRILL	4
FREDK. S. MACEY	2	LUTHER J. HONESS	5
E. S. JOHN HATCHER	3	REGINALD L. SILLS	Tenor

Conducted by REGINALD L. SILLS.

Rung as a farewell peal to the Rev. W. E. Purcell, Vicar of Sutton Valence with East Sutton.

FLITTON, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., March 18, 1954, in 2 Hours and 25 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

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

	Tenor 6½ cwt.		
RONALD J. SHARP	Treble	DENNIS KNOX	4
JOHN W. SINFIELD	2	DEREK P. JONES	5
ANDREW C. SINFIELD	3	C. EDWARD JEFFRIES	Tenor

Conducted by C. EDWARD JEFFRIES.

Rung to welcome home Mr. J. W. Sinfield from H.M. Forces.

BASFORD, NOTTINGHAM.

THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEODEGARIUS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Consisting of three extents of Plain Bob and two each of Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

HERBERT LEWIN	Treble	WILLIAM LANCASTER	4
PAT LEWIN	2	J. KENNETH WAGSTAFF	5
EDWARD C. GOBEY	3	DENNIS MOTTERSHEAD	Tenor

Conducted by DENIS MOTTERSHEAD.

GREAT WAKERING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 49 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents in 14 methods, viz.: 1, College Bob IV. and Willesden Delight; 2, College Exercise, Norbury and Duke of Norfolk Treble Bob; 3, Cambridge Surprise; 4, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob; 5, St. Clement's and Childwall Bob; 6, Double Oxford and Thelwell Bob; 7, Double and Plain Bob.

FRANK C. MAY	Treble	DONALD COOMBS	4
BERNARD SADLER	2	FRANK B. LUFKIN	5
PHILIP SADLER	3	LAWRENCE J. BEAL	Tenor

Conducted by FRANK B. LUFKIN.

First peal in 14 methods by all.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Benny Lufkin.

LONG BUCKBY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 720 each of St. Simon, Norfolk, Old Bob, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, April Day, Plain Bob and Grandsire.

*RHONA C. PEBODY	Treble	MALCOLM J. V. CHOWN	3
DAWN V. ELSON	2	RICHARD S. HOLLAND	4
		SYDNEY G. OSBORNE	Tenor

Conducted by SYDNEY G. OSBORNE.

*First peal.

Rung on the occasion of the marriage of Miss Daphne Muddiman to Mr. Kenneth Maycock; also a 21st birthday compliment to Brenda Orland.

NEATH, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 37 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being 720 Oxford Treble Bob, 720 Cambridge Surprise, 1,440 Kent Treble Bob and 2,160 Plain Bob.

ALFRED HANNINGTON	Treble	BENJAMIN WILLIAMS	4
TREVOR M. RODERICK	2	EDMUND MORRIS	5
J. ARTHUR HOARE	3	GWYN I. LEWIS	Tenor

Conducted by GWYN I. LEWIS.

SEND, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being four methods, viz.: 1,440 each of Reverse Canterbury, Old and Plain Bob and 720 Grandsire.

WINIFRED OLIVER	Treble	*JOHN A. ETHERINGTON	4
GEORGE L. GROVER	2	*G. BRIAN GROVER	5
*JOHN A. MARTIN	3	†SIDNEY M. STRUDWICK	Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE L. GROVER.

*First peal in four Doubles methods. †First peal.

Rung for "Our Lady's Day."

SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE.

THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 30 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents.

*ROBERT NICHOLLS	Treble	ALFRED E. G. OWEN	4
CLIFFORD A. BARRON	2	*STANLEY R. HILLS	5
JOHN N. LINDON	3	FREDERICK G. BEDDOW	Tenor

Conducted by CLIFFORD A. BARRON.

*First peal.

SHIPTON MOYNE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being 42 six-scores (10 callings).

Tenor 14 cwt. (approx.).

*DENNIS GANT Treble	HERBERT G. BLANCHARD 4
*JOHN E. BILLINGS 2	HAROLD E. BLACKER 5
COLIN A. TESTER 3	HARRY HEATH Tenor

Conducted by HAROLD E. BLACKER.

* First peal.

WILLINGHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 20, 1954, in 2 Hours and 36 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents.

Tenor 12 cwt. 2 qr.

*ALEC T. DENSON Treble	GEORGE E. CRISP 4
FRANK ELSOM 2	*GEOFFREY A. LUCAS 5
*KEITH F. BONUS 3	MANSFIELD GINN Tenor

Conducted by MANSFIELD GINN.

* First peal.

BLYTHBURGH, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sun., March 21, 1954, in 2 Hours and 47 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF 5040 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR

Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

WALTER KERRISON Treble	C. JACK GIBSON 4
JOHN W. BLYTHE 2	†G. A. SUTHERLAND 5
*MARGOT R. THOMPSON 3	†REGINALD J. DARCH Tenor

Conducted by JOHN W. BLYTHE.

* First peal of Treble Bob Minor. † First peal of Treble Bob.
 Birthday compliments to C. J. Gibson's wife and son and J. W. Blythe (father of conductor).

BUNWELL, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., March 21, 1954, in 2 Hours and 25 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one 720 each of: Norwich Surprise, Cambridge, Combined Oxford and Kent, Plain Bob, Double Oxford, Double Court and St. Clement's College.

*C. FRANK W. PHILLIPPO Treble	GEORGE W. PIPE 4
*†C. FRANK J. ARNOLD 2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT 5
STANLEY W. COPLING 3	F. CHARLES GOODMAN Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE W. PIPE.

* 50th peal together. † 50th peal.

HANDBELL PEALS

HELLESDON, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., March 10, 1954, in 2 Hours and 22 Minutes,

AT 87, REEPHAM ROAD,

A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 15 in C.

H. WILLIAM BARRETT 1—2	BERT GOGLE 5—6
NOLAN GOLDEN 3—4	ARTHUR G. BASON 7—8

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

Mr. Bert Gogle's 200th peal for the Norwich Association.

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

THE ST. PAUL'S SOCIETY.

On Sun., March 14, 1954, in 2 Hours and 44 Minutes,

AT RATTRAY ROAD, MONTMORENCY,

A PEAL OF 5039 GRANDSIRE CATERS

Tenor size 15 in C sharp.

JOHN J. CUMMINS 1—2	THOMAS W. GOODYER 5—6
VALERIE W. WILLARD 3—4	*MARGARET E. WINTER 7—8

PHILIP M. J. GRAY 9—10

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by PHILIP M. J. GRAY.

* First peal. First peal of Caters 'in hand' for all, and first of Caters as conductor.

Rung to commemorate the visit to Australia of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.



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CROYDON



ON CONDUCTING

By WILFRID G. WILSON

XII.—CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE

Now we have reached a method which bears what to some is that magic word 'Surprise,' and we will try to show that what we have demonstrated in relation to Plain Bob is also applicable. One thing is certain—that if you are only a bob-caller you have now reached the type of method that you cannot call from one of the 'working' bells, because you will not find it easy at the same time to watch the tenor for the calling positions.

One thing I would emphasise here is that, if you are going to give your mind fully to the art of conducting, you should be able to ring the actual method almost automatically. And in methods like Cambridge you should have spent some time studying their construction and finding out where you meet or dodge with your course bell or after bell, etc. You can find these things out for yourself, either with pencil and paper or when ringing with someone else as conductor. Most people nowadays who ring Surprise methods learn the order in which the leads come—i.e., the position of their bell at the respective lead ends—2, 6, 7, 3, 4, 8, 5 in Cambridge Major. In a plain course you will notice that the bells do their slow work (on the front with the treble) in exactly the reverse order to this.

Here first of all is our example of a peal—Middleton's, of course. It is a five-part peal of 5,600 changes, but is usually reduced to 5,056 changes by substituting a bob Before and 3 bobs at Home for the whole of the second part.

Course Ends				Coursing Orders from 53246			
23456	M.	W.	H.	M.	W.	H.	
43652	—	—	—	53462			
56234	—	—	—	53624	36524		
23564	—	—	—		65324		63254
52364	—	—	—				62534
35264	—	—	—				65324

On the left of the calling are the course ends, as you will see them in the text books. On the right are the actual Coursing Orders, starting from the plain course Coursing Order 53246 and changing at every bob.

You will notice first of all that the M. position comes before the W. But that doesn't matter. This being a method with a fourths place bob (like Plain Bob or Kent Treble Bob, etc.), we know that at a bob M. we apply our code (A B C into B C A) to the last three bells. Therefore we change 53246 into 53462—4 runs out, 6 runs in and 2 makes fourths place. We now ring a whole course until the next M. position, but if you did not know that 4, 6 and 2 are the bells which are to be concerned in the bob and that 6 has to run out, 2 run in and 4 make fourths place you would have a most anxious time watching for the tenor to reach the M. position. It doesn't come conveniently next to the course end in Cambridge. However, our M. position is safely recognised and the bob called. The new Coursing Order being 53624. The bob W. comes at the next lead end, which should not be difficult to spot, but it is very comforting to know beforehand that the first three bells 5, 3 and 6 will be the ones affected and that 3 will run out, 6 run in and 5 make fourths place, giving us 36524 as our new Coursing Order.

Now we have to run another whole course until the next bob W. and we shall know we have got there when the same three bells get into position for the bob. 6 out, 5 in and 3 make fourths and we get Coursing Order 65324. After that we have only to call three Homes—on the middle three bells of our Coursing Order—i.e., from 65324 to 63254; then to 62534 and then to 65324 again for our part end.

When you come to the second part (B. and 3 H.) you will find that the bob B. has just the same effect on the Coursing Order as it had in our earlier examples. That is that the bell last of the five in the Coursing Order will make fourths place and become first in the Coursing Order. But a practical difference you will find when conducting is that the course which contains a bob B. has no calling positions of M. and W., your next calling position being the Home.

Now having found that we can call our peal just as easily, let us look at the Coursing Order of the bells within each lead. To save space I ask you to write out a lead of Cambridge Major—or look it up in a text book or your Ringers' Diary.

Look at the order in which the bells go up to the back after the tenor and 7th. They are 5, then 3, then treble, then 2, 4 and 6, and back to the tenor again. But that is **exactly** the same as in our simple methods and you can check all through the plain course and find it is still the same. When you consider all that happens in the middle of a lead of Cambridge, it is perhaps rather a surprise, but a very pleasant one for the conductor.

If you look at the order in which the bells go down to the lead you will notice that they are not nearly so obliging. They vary from the standard Coursing Order because of the fact that one bell stays on the front a long while to do its front work after making seconds place at the lead end and because in the second half of the lead another bell stays on the front a long while doing its front work before the lead end. If you ring a lot of Cambridge you will find it is not too difficult to allow for these variations in Coursing Order—they are the same in each lead—and so know in what order the bells ought to go down to the front. But in fact you will find that you will be able to make quite a good job of your conducting if you watch your Coursing Orders as the bells go up to the back.

Once again this technique applies just as easily to Cambridge Royal and Maximus.

For my example peal of Cambridge Surprise Major I chose Middleton's composition because it is most commonly called, but you will find that as you become more proficient at conducting—or perhaps more lazy as you get older—you will learn to pick out compositions which, for one reason or another, prove less difficult to remember or contain more easy landmarks. This means that you can give more of your attention to the quality of the ringing and to any weaker members of the band.

If you start Middleton's composition with two of the last three bobs H. you get what is known as Johnson's variation—the first part is as follows:—

Course Ends				Coursing Orders from 53246			
23456	M.	W.	H.	M.	W.	H.	
42356	—	—	—				52436
34256	—	—	—				54326
24653	—	—	—	54263			
56342	—	—	—	54632	46532		
34562	—	—	—		65432		64352

Look first of all at the part end—34562. The second part end will be 45623; the third—56234; the fourth—62345; and the last—23456. Just as from whatever hour you start you meet the hours on a clock face in the order 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, etc., so all your part ends are in rounds order, 23456, merely starting at the next one along. These part ends are called cyclical part ends and are, of course, very easy to remember.

Now examine the bells which are in bob-making positions at the various calling positions. At the first M. position a bob would affect 2, 4 and 6. These three bells are not next to each other in the cyclical order 23456, so we do not call a bob. At the following W. position, the three bells which would be affected are 5, 3 and 2. Once again these three bells are not next to each other in the cyclical order so we do not call a bob. (Note—6, 3 and 2 would be next to each other in the cyclical order 2345623456, etc.—but 5, 3 and 2 are not.) At the H. position we find that 3, 2 and 4 are the bells which would be affected by a bob. These are next to each other in the cyclical order so we do call a bob H. And you will find if you examine the affected bells at each calling position M., W. and H. that this is the case all through.

So if you call this variation you need only learn 2H., 2M., 2W., 1H. part end 34562. All the other part ends are cyclical. You keep a check on the Coursing Order with the code ABC into BCA and, as a guide to correct calling, you can remember simply that you always call a bob whenever three consecutive bells in the cyclical order are affected by the call and you never call a bob when the three bells which would be affected are not consecutive bells in the cyclical order.

Just as in Middleton's peal, you can shorten any one of the five parts—but this time call 2H., B. and H. (i.e.—start with 2H. the same as in the main calling in this variation).

(To be continued)

QUARTER PEALS

ALDRINGTON, SUSSEX.—On Feb. 28th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Diana Gough (first of Minor) 1, Valerie Mephram 2, D. H. Paine (first of Minor 'inside') 3, Mary W. Brown 4, H. W. Brown 5, S. W. Brown (cond.) 6. A welcome home to Kenneth Sharpe, a local ringer, on his return from the Diocese of the Upper Nile. Also on Mar. 21st, 1,272 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: Beryl Reynolds (first of Treble Bob) 1, Valerie Mephram (first of Oxford 'inside') 2, Mary W. Brown 3, E. E. Trusler 4, H. W. Brown 5, S. W. Brown (cond.) 6. Rung by the local band as a farewell to Mr. G. A. Steele, a ringer at this tower for 64 years and verging 44 years.

ASHBRITTON, SOMERSET.—On Mar. 17th, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: S. N. Bristow 1, Miss M. Alderman 2, Miss E. A. Yarde 3, G. Walford 4, G. J. Gammon 5, D. T. North (first as cond.) 6. First of Minor for 2 days. A 21st birthday compliment to Miss F. Norman, a local ringer.

BEDFORD.—At St. Paul's Church, on Feb. 26th, 1,260 Grandisle Triples: B. Harlow 1, S. J. Woodcock 2, S. Foskett 3, M. Orme 4, D. P. Jones 5, C. E. Jeffries 6, B. Pattison (cond.) 7, D. Thompson 8. Rung half-muffled as a tribute to Canon F. L. Hilditch, Vicar of St. Paul's, interred this day.

BLUNHAM, BEDS.—On Feb. 28th, 1,260 Grandisle Doubles: W. Sims 1, C. H. Harding 2, C. Clarke 3, F. Hull 4, B. Pattison (cond.) 5. Rung as a farewell to the Rector of Blunham (the Rev. T. C. W. C. Teape-Fugard), who is leaving the parish.

BOCKING, ESSEX.—At St. Mary's Church, on Feb. 28th, 1,260 Grandisle Doubles: T. Senior 1, Mrs. Moore 2, H. W. Moore 3, J. Brown 4, R. Suckling (cond.) 5, W. Wintrop 6. Rung as a compliment to Mrs. Piner on her 104th birthday.

BEOLEY, WORCS.—On Mar. 20th, 1,260 Grandisle Doubles: Miss M. A. Balls (first quarter) 1, Miss J. E. Archer (first quarter) 2, Miss E. Boffey 3, E. D. Wilson 4, R. D. Wilson (first quarter as cond.) 5, F. C. Ison (first quarter) 6.

BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH, ESSEX.—On Mar. 21st, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: D. Sims 1, K. Everett 2, E. Deacon 3, E. Potter (first quarter) 4, G. Rouse 5, H. Stebbings (cond.) 6.

BURSTOW, SURREY.—On Mar. 17th, 1,260 Doubles (Canterbury Plain Bob and Grandisle): S. Mews (first quarter) 1, D. Wilson (first 'inside') 2, L. Penfold 3, H. Parsons 4, A. J. Bull (cond.) 5, W. Slaughter 6. Rung in memory of Daniel D. Cooper, ringing master of Surrey Association.

QUARTER PEALS

DOVER, KENT.—On Mar. 17th, at St. Mary's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. H. George 1, T. Ellender 2, H. J. Saunders 3, G. Gray 4, J. E. Chittenden 5, J. E. Walker 6, C. George (cond.) 7, D. J. Thomas 8.

DUNSTER, SOMERSET.—On Mar. 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. Meddick 1, J. Tudball 2, J. Pugsley 3, J. Haydon 4, G. Maidment 5, I. Farmer (cond.) 6, A. R. Tudball 7, J. Herrod 8. Rung half-muffled in memoriam J. J. Hole, a ringier at Dunster for over 50 years, who was interred this day at Exeter.

EBBW VALE, MON.—On Mar. 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss B. Stephens 1, R. Alsop 2, Miss D. Evans 3, Miss A. Stephens 4, D. Bruten 5, T. Stephens 6, J. Alsop (cond.) 7, J. Jaynes 8. Rung for morning service.

EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM.—On Mar. 17th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: A. Walker 1, F. E. Haynes 2, Evelyn M. Fletcher 3, W. Mumford 4, A. Jones 5, A. Timmins 6, C. A. Barron 7, W. C. Dowding (cond.) 8. Rung for Confirmation service.

EVESHAM, WORCS.—On Mar. 21st, at the Bell Tower on the back 8, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Elizabeth Hale 1, R. W. Cole 2, A. J. Brazier 3, G. C. Hemming (cond.) 4, W. J. Newman 5, G. J. Hemming 6, R. R. Savory 7, Brenda M. Smith 8. Rung for morning service, and a 19th birthday compliment for Brenda M. Smith.

FARNHAM, SURREY.—On Mar. 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss R. Hidd (first quarter) 1, Miss M. Wells 2, Miss M. A. Cass 3, C. W. Denyer 4, S. Meadows 5, E. J. Wells 6, C. J. Beadle (cond.) 7, A. C. Beadle 8. A farewell to the conductor on his impending departure to Egypt on National Service.

FRAMPTON, DORSET.—On Mar. 20th, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: Betty J. Marsh 1, Mrs. A. J. Slade 2, G. J. W. Abbott (first quarter of Plain Bob Minor) 3, A. J. Slade 4, J. W. Rose 5, H. J. Ford (cond.) 6.

GOLDINGTON, BEDS.—On Mar. 17th, 1,260 Doubles (780 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob): Sheila Cope (first quarter) 1, Mrs. M. Marshall 2, C. H. Harding (cond.) 3, E. Duffield 4, E. White 5, R. Perry (first quarter) 6. First quarter by the local band, except the conductor on their bells, which were augmented from four to six at Coronation-tide.

GREAT WYMONDELEY, HERTS.—On Mar. 21st, 1,440 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: R. Head (first of Treble Bob) 1, J. Church 2, G. Cherry 3, K. Timbury (first of Treble Bob 'inside') 4, F. Croft 5, P. Croft (first of Treble Bob as cond.) 6.

GRANTHAM, Lincs.—On Mar. 16th, 1,007 Grandsire Caters: Joan Duggan 1, R. P. Armstrong (first 'inside') 2, D. A. Frith 3, F. W. Pinchbeck 4, J. Watson 5, T. A. Relf 6, C. Blakey 7, H. R. Woods (cond.) 8, J. Royce 9, L. Squires 10. Rung half-muffled in memory of George Pacey, verger of this church, who was interred in Grantham Cemetery same day.

GRIMSBY, Lincs.—On Mar. 23rd, at the Church of St. James, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Kennington 1, H. Mingay 2, C. Kennington 3, J. Parker 4, G. I. Rusby 5, A. Pashley 6, S. Bromfield (first quarter as cond.) 7, H. Hadwick 8. Rung prior to a Confirmation service by the Bishop of Lincoln.

HUTTON, ESSEX.—On Mar. 18th, 1,260 Doubles (All Saints' and Plain Bob): C. E. Hill 1, Gwenda A. Davies 2, W. G. Wright 3, W. T. Hill (cond.) 4, E. M. Baker 5. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Major Cyril S. Crofton, late treasurer of Church Council.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLEX.—On Mar. 21st, 1,440 Lincolnshire Surprise Royal: A. J. Boyack 1, W. G. Wilson 2, Mrs. O. L. Rogers 3, Miss E. Farrell 4, Mrs. K. F. Parr 5, T. E. Davies 6, S. Croft 7, F. D. Bishop 8, J. R. Mayne 9, H. W. Rogers (cond.) 10. First touch in the method by all.

KEDINGTON, SUFFOLK.—On Mar. 6th, 1,440 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Mrs. Moore 1, T. Earle 2, H. W. Moore 3, J. Warner 4, R. Suckling 5, A. Syder (cond.) 6.

LADOCK, CORNWALL.—On Mar. 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Harper 1, D. N. Penrose (first 'inside') 2, H. Harper 3, Mrs. J. M. Simpkin 4, Miss V. M. Matthews 5, D. Burnett 6, C. A. Wratten (cond.) 7, A. Carveth 8.

LEYTONSTONE, E.—On Mar. 21st, 1,280 Lincolnshire Surprise Major: P. J. Batley 1, C. R. Smith 2, J. H. Crampion (cond.) 3, C. A. Hughes (first in the method) 4, D. W. Beard 5, C. E. Willmington 6, E. D. Smith 7, J. F. Grove 8.

LITTLE WALTHAM, ESSEX.—On Mar. 13th, 1,440 Minor (i, Newdigate, Old Oxford, Willesden and College Bob IV, Delight; ii, Ockley, Duke of Norfolk, Norbury and College Exercise Treble Bob): Mary Dowsett 1, D. A. S. Symonds 2, P. J. Came 3, P. J. Eves 4, J. E. G. Roast (cond.) 5, T. Earle 6.

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.—On Mar. 7th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major, on handbells: John J. Cummins 1-2, T. W. Goodyer 3-4, Joan Gray 5-6, P. M. J. Gray (cond.) 7-8.

OFFLEY, HERTS.—On Mar. 21st, 1,440 Primrose Surprise Minor: M. Orme 1, R. Dixon 2, Miss A. Willes 3, M. Collins 4, D. Jones (cond.) 5, P. Mehew 6. First of Primrose by all. To welcome the advent of spring.

PACKWOOD, WARWICKS.—On Mar. 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss J. A. Walker 1, Miss H. B. M. Leatherland (first quarter) 2, R. E. Tallis (first as cond.) 3, R. G. Morris 4, J. D. Walker 5, R. Houghton 6. Rung for Evensong. Believed to be the first quarter peal by a local band.

SHEFFIELD, YORKS.—At St. Marie's R.C. Church, on Mar. 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Hurst 1, B. Holland 2, G. R. Hiner 3, R. C. Preston (first as cond.) 4, W. Holland 5, H. Mortimore 6, H. O. Chad-dock 7, R. Birch 8.

SOWTON, DEVON.—On Mar. 17th, 1,320 Kent Treble Bob Minor: A. Tapley (first of Treble Bob) 1, W. Panter 2, J. Salway 3, W. D. Ashdown 4, W. Reeks 5, G. E. Retter (cond.) 6. First 'inside' by 2 and 3.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCS.—On Mar. 22nd, at St. Thomas' Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Jill Tombs (first quarter) 1, D. N. Layton (cond.) 2, F. V. Nicholls 3, R. Smith 4, R. Cooper 5, A. L. Dunn 6, D. H. Watson 7, W. H. Cooper 8.

WESTON FAVELL, NORTHANTS.—On Mar. 20th, 1,260 Doubles (comprising 240 each of St. Martin's, St. Simon's, Reverse Canterbury and Plain Bob and 300 Grandsire): S. Earl 1, F. Benfield 2, G. Roome 3, E. Frost 4, P. Amos (cond.) 5. For the wedding of Miss J. E. Hill and Mr. J. R. Underwood. Also 720 Grandsire and Plain Bob for the wedding of Miss K. Claridge and Mr. E. Needham.

WHITBY, YORKS.—On Feb. 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. Tindale 1, A. V. Coates 2, J. R. Waller 3, S. R. Elwick 4, D. Elwick 5, H. Waters 6, H. Short (cond.) 7, H. Lamerton (first quarter) 8. Rung to celebrate the birth of a son and heir to the Marquis and Marchioness of Normanby.

WITHAM, ESSEX.—On Mar. 20th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: Miss J. Sims 1, Miss W. Mellin 2, W. S. Butler 3, W. H. P. Mellin 4, B. Rice 5, D. Portway 6, S. Bones 7, E. W. Bright (cond.) 8. Rung for evening service.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

'THE RINGING WORLD'

The Official Journal of the Central
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LATE NEWS

Mr. J. Frederick Milner rang his 500th peal
last Saturday at Southwell Minster. He cele-
brated the occasion by calling for the first time
a peal of London Surprise Major.

The Ladies' Guild has its
youngest honorary member—
Miss Rosemary Staniforth,
who was elected at the age of two weeks when
the Midland District held their meeting at
Rushden. It will be a happy day when Rose-
mary is elected a practising member.

Mr. C. Frank W. Phillippo has rung in each
of Mr. C. Frank J. Arnold's first 50 peals.

Weston Favell, Northants, ringers are meet-
ing the cost of a peal plaque from wedding
fees.

Spring was welcomed at Offley, Herts, on
March 21st, by a quarter of Primrose Surprise
Minor.

Three Sydney ringers—Miss M. Winter, Mr.
J. J. Cummins and Mr. T. W. Goodyear—
have been on holiday in Victoria and scored
two peals and a quarter.

Congratulations to Miss Jill Toombs, of
Stourbridge, Worcs. She took her first ringing
lesson on December 14th and on March 22nd
scored her first quarter—the treble to Grand-
sire Triples.

The co-operation of Mr. Wright sen. has
enabled the first peal to be rung on the bells
of Yoxall, Staffs. The band are indebted to
him and also to Mrs. Wright, who kindly pro-
vided an excellent meal after the peal.

The first quarter by the local band at Pack-
wood, Warwickshire, was rung on March 21st.
Unfortunately the whole band can only meet
about every three months as J. D. Walker has
joined the Merchant Navy. Keen recruits are
apparently needed in this tower.

Unless a peal was rung there before 1881,
the peal of Stedman Doubles at Great Barring-
ton, Gloucestershire, on March 13th, recorded
in our last issue, was the first on the bells.
The peals at Blaisdon, Gloucestershire, and
Wenhaston, Suffolk, also reported last week,
were the first on the bells for 20 years.

BELFRY GOSSIP

A remarkable record of
service is that of Mr. George
A. Steele, at Aldrington, Sus-
sex. A ringer for 64 years and verger for 44
years, he retired last week and is going to live
in Kent. At a farewell social, the Rev. Canon
Mogridge presented Mr. Steele with a cheque
for £50 subscribed by the parishioners, and the
ringers presented an ash tray on a floor stand,
suitably inscribed.

Among our lady tenor ringers 19-year-old
Miss Brenda Smith has definitely a place. She
has rung the 36-cwt. Evesham tenor to a quar-
ter peal. Brute force is not necessary to ring
a tenor bell which goes well.

A titanic task has been undertaken by the
Rev. K. W. H. Felstead in tabulating the
90,000 peals rung since 1881. The first of his
articles appears this week, and later ones deal-
ing with different counties will be most accept-
able to the Exercise.

A peal of Stedman Caters was rung on the
beautiful bells of Lichfield Cathedral last Satur-
day as a welcome to the Ven. W. S. Macpher-
son, Archdeacon of Richmond, on the occasion
of his installation as 55th Dean of Lichfield.

When the Beverley and District Ringing
Society visited Market Weighton on March 20th
they were the guests at tea of Mr. H. Musk, an
elder member of the local company. Such a
kind gesture was much appreciated.

It has taken Mr. Roger C. Preston, of Shef-
field, over two years to score his first quarter
as conductor, as opportunities have been few
and far between. His first attempt, in his
home tower at Prescott, Lancs, came to grief
five minutes before time when the tenor rope
broke. Another attempt, before evening ser-
vice, overran its time and 'Stand' was called.
Success came after a breakdown in a peal
attempt.

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PEAL RINGING, 1881-1954

By the Rev. K. W. H. Felstead

SINCE 1881 when the 'Bell News' issued its first number, just over 90,000 peals have been rung and published in the ringing papers. This article and those which follow are the results of compiling a card index showing the towers in which these peals have been rung. It is proposed to give a short account of the peals rung in each county in turn with any points of interest. These will appear at regular intervals in the 'Ringing World.' It is not very likely that the conclusions reached would be altered significantly by peals rung before 1881. At an estimate, there are probably not more than about 5,000 from the time of the first peal in 1715 to this date (an attempt is being made to record all these peals also, and if they do make any difference it will be mentioned later). I would like to acknowledge, at the outset, the help given by Mr. Dove's book, 'Guide to the Church Bells of Britain.' In fact, I don't think the job would have been possible without some such book of reference. I have been extremely grateful for it. Of course, certain observations depend entirely on it, and I hope this will be remembered when particular towers are mentioned, for I may be echoing one of the very few mistakes which appear in the book.

And now for the 90,000 peals. I suppose it is probable that, if my estimate of pre-1881 peals is anything like, the 100,000th peal will be rung within the next three or four years. I fear we shall never know where. These 90,000 peals have been rung in just over 4,000 towers. Thus there are still about 1,200 towers which have not had a peal rung in them (tower grabbers please note!). Of course, most of these are 5 and 6 bell towers (590 of the former and 540 of the latter), but there are still 41 8-bell towers which haven't had a peal on them since 1881, two 10-bell towers (St. Andrew's, Norwich, where peals were rung earlier in the 19th century; and Dunham Massey), and one 12-bell tower (Liverpool Cathedral!). So there is still quite a lot of scope for those who like to claim 'First peal on the bells.' Talking of the latter, it has been surprising how many times a 'first peal on the bells' has been claimed when peals have been rung before, and not always a long time before, either—on more than one occasion it was claimed within a year of a previous peal.

LOUGHBOROUGH COMPLIMENTED

The tower with the greatest number of peals to its credit is Loughborough Bell Foundry. At the moment it stands at 544, having passed its 500 mark unnoticed in October, 1952. It also holds the record for the largest number of peals rung in a single year—50 in 1949 (thanks chiefly to Mr. H. J. Poole). Readers may remember that in February, 1952, there was an article by Mr. E. A. Barnett about the 500 peals which had been rung at Crayford and suggesting that it was the first church to accomplish this feat. It is now clear that the claim was justified, although mention of a challenge made in 1943, to which no answer was made, could have been taken up by Erith (St. John) then. This latter tower led in the number of peals rung for nearly 40 years, until, in fact, it was overhauled by Crayford about the end of 1943. It is now third in the list with a total of 489, so there should be another 500-peal tower to be celebrated within a year or two.

If length of time in ringing these 500 peals is taken into account we shall probably find that Erith will come second after Loughborough.

The Loughborough peals took 51 years, Crayford 75 years, whilst Erith's first peal was rung on November 18th, 1882, nearly 72 years ago, so it has still three years to go to beat Crayford's time. No other tower comes within 150 of these three, so they have a tremendous lead on the others. Six towers come between 300 and 330—Beddington; Birmingham, St. Martin; Brighton, St. Peter; Burton-on-Trent, St. Paul; Crawley; Warnham. Willesden is very near (297), and since peals were rung before 1881 at Ipswich, St. Mary-le-Tower, its total of 290 would probably be over the 300 mark. There are actually 24 towers between the 200 and 300 mark. These and the 114 between 100 and 200 will be mentioned in the articles on the different counties. I shall mention also those which are approaching centuries and the 250 mark, so that they can be duly celebrated.

SIX-BELL TOWERS

It has been surprising to find that only one 6-bell tower has passed the 100 peal mark. This goal was achieved as long ago as 1922, too, and still there are only three others approaching this total (Wickham Skeith, Hanley Castle and Lamberhurst). The tower is Thornham Magna, with a grand total of 136. It is not often seen in the peal list now—only two peals have been rung there since the last war. This brings to mind a very obvious fact which has happened over and over again. It is seen that the majority of towers have 'spasms' of activity. This is often due to the efforts of one or two men who get together a good band, ring many peals for a few years, and then fade out for various reasons—often death or the break-up of the band by war, etc. Thus Duffield was very prominent during the life of Sir A. P. Heywood: Drayton, under the Rev. F. E. Robinson, etc. Sometimes 'popular' towers cease to appear in the peal lists through the bells gradually becoming more or less unringable, or through a new incumbent not liking ringing! An example of the former (due more to the state of the tower than the 'go' of the bells) is Chesterfield, which had reached 220 when the bells were silenced for about 25 years in 1923. At the rate they were going, it is likely they would be approaching the 500 mark now. One of the most amazing examples of this sudden cessation is St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, where 40 peals were rung in 1934 and five in 1935 and very few since (two since the war). Angmering is a 6-bell tower where something must have 'happened.' Between October, 1889, and December, 1891, 45 peals were rung (10 of them in December, 1889!), which is an amazing number for those days (over 20 a year). There is then complete silence for nearly 60 years (from December 22nd, 1891, to January 9th, 1950). The three 500-peal towers are the exceptions—their large numbers are due to the consistency of peal ringing at them over the whole period. But there was only one peal at Crayford last year! Is this tower also going to have a 'lean' time at last?

BECOME A POSTAL SUBSCRIBER TO-DAY

This is an appropriate week to become a postal subscriber, being the first issue of the second quarter of 1954. For the remainder of 1954 the cost of having 'The Ringing World' delivered by post is 17s. 6d. Remittances should be sent to Mr. J. E. Jeater, Greystones, Cusgarne, Truro, Cornwall.

Remember—every new postal subscriber is a step towards the solvency of the journal.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

Preliminary Notice

The first session of the 22nd Council (57th annual meeting) will be held at Newcastle-on-Tyne on Whitsun Tuesday, June 8th, 1954.

In accordance with Rule 13, notices of motion, signed by two members of the Council, must be received by the secretary not later than six weeks prior to the meeting.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR WHITSUN

Peal Attempts.

Those desiring to attempt peals should communicate with the official organiser, Mr. W. N. Park, 10a, Woodlands Terrace, Darlington. It is expected that towers mainly in, County Durham will be available on the Saturday, and those within easy reach of Newcastle on the Monday.

Sightseeing and Ringing Trips.

Two buses have been reserved on Whit Sunday and Whit Monday for sightseeing and ringing tours. Details will be settled when it is seen whether sufficient support is forthcoming, but the broad outlines are:—

Whit Sunday:—

Depart Newcastle 1.30 p.m. Return 8.30-9 p.m. Cost approximately 7s. per head.

Tour No. 1: Northumberland, probably including ringing on the eights at Hexham Abbey, Rothbury and Morpeth Watch Tower.

Tour No. 2: Durham County, probably including ringing on the eights at Durham Cathedral, Consett and Hexham.

Whit Monday:—

Depart Newcastle 9.30 a.m. Return about 6.30 p.m. Cost approximately 8s. 6d. per head.

Tour No. 3: Similar to Tour No. 1 but extended to include Bamburgh.

Tour No. 4: Northumberland and Durham, probably including ringing on the eights at Hexham, Barnard Castle, Staindrop and Durham Cathedral.

The prices quoted are exclusive of meals. It is hoped to arrange tea on Sunday and lunch on Monday.

Members interested should communicate with Mr. D. A. Bayles, 12, Crichton Avenue, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, as soon as possible. If sufficient support is received the final details will be settled and definite bookings will be required not later than May 1st.

Details of other arrangements will be given later.

E. A. BARNETT, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STONEHAM RINGERS' WEDDING

Saturday, March 20th, was a day of rejoicing at North Stoneham, Hants, when two members of the local band, Mr. Norman Hayes and Miss Molly Denby, were married at St. Nicholas' Church. Mr. Hayes is tower secretary and recorder of peals for the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild.

The ceremony was preceded by a peal of 5,040 Southwell Surprise Royal conducted by Mr. C. H. Kippin, and was the first peal of Royal in this method to be rung.

After the wedding the bells were 'fired' in excellent style by the local band, many of whom accepted invitations to the reception in the Church Hall. It was unfortunate that the date happened to clash with a District meeting at Romsey, so that most of the peal band adjourned there.

Handbells were rung at the reception as a 'send-off' to the couple, and the reception itself continued in fine style until about 11.30.

As the couple left the church they had to go through the traditional archway of handbells. One of the many gifts was a barometer from their ringing friends.

The honeymoon is being spent at Sidmouth.

AN INSIGHT INTO THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION

Leg-Pulls and Humour at the Second Annual Dinner

THE Derbyshire Association, formed in 1946 after the liquidation of the Midland Counties Association, began life in not very favourable circumstances. Although endowed with many rings of beautiful bells, there was no really strong association-minded band to give impetus to the new organisation.

In spite of this, however, steady progress has been made and, although there are many voids to be filled, the Association is well established and friends with itself and its neighbours.

Whilst lacking the outstanding ringing personalities with whom some Associations are blessed, and who seem to be able to stimulate a whole organisation with their vitality, the Derbyshire Association is fortunate in its principal officers.

The Right Reverend R. S. M. O'Ferrall, Assistant Bishop of Derby, served until this year as president and, although a non-ringer, he appreciated the value of ringing organisations and supported them. He added dignity and efficiency to the annual general meetings, and it is to be hoped that the Association will be as fortunate in his successor.

Mr. W. Lancaster is now vice-president, after steering the Association through its first few years in that most important office of general secretary.

The vacant office of general secretary was most ably filled by Mr. A. B. Cooper, of Bolsover, who has proved to be most keen and efficient, and, in fact, one would have to search far to find a better secretary. He is also secretary of the Chesterfield district and, when one finds that he is also the Sunday School superintendent, chairman and pillar of his church, one realises something of his value.

For treasurer the Association is fortunate in having the services of Mr. E. Fletcher, of Ilkeston, a most reliable and experienced man, who has put the finances on a simple and systematic basis and, while in office, has seen the balance swing over to the right side.

The Association firmly supports the Central Council, and is proud of the fact that Sir Arthur Heywood, of Duffield, who was a prime mover in its foundation, came from the Derby area. Two representatives, Mr. A. Mould and Mr. D. R. Carlisle (also peal secretary), bring back each year a clear report of the Central Council's meeting.

MEMBERSHIP OF 250

Membership totals about 250 residents, but there is a steady intake of young members who are very keen, and some have formed amongst themselves a small school society.

In the Derby area itself ringing has improved appreciably in the past few years, both in scope and quality, due to several factors, such as the interest in peal ringing, despite what critics say to the contrary, contact with other Associations, good practices and meetings.

The improvement in standard is exemplified by a recent peal attempt for Pudsey Royal, when the peal was successfully brought round, but not accepted because of a bad course near the end. Disappointment by the band, who were all new to the method, was outweighed by the satisfaction of maintaining a standard.

In the earlier post-war years the St. Peter's practice in Derby was outstanding in promoting interest and advancement under the amiable leadership of Mr. John Clew, whose death last year was felt very deeply. Mr. Freebrey, ringing master at St. Andrew's, also has done useful work in pressing forward with advanced methods and peal arrangements. The practices at All Saints' Cathedral Church of Derby, have, during the last few years, become very

popular and fostered ten-bell ringing, particularly Surprise Royal. Mr. Harold Taylor is the Ringing Master and has succeeded during his few years in that office of building up a Sunday service band almost from nothing.

District meetings are always well supported, and, under the successive District Masters, Messrs. G. Freebrey, A. Mould, F. R. Lowe and H. Taylor, cater for learners and less advanced equally with more proficient ringers. Joint meetings with neighbouring districts are frequently held and particularly friendly relations exist between the Derby District and the Midland Counties Guild.

SECOND ANNUAL DINNER

The success of the first annual dinner held last year was evidenced by the increased demand for tickets, which, unfortunately, had to be limited to 90, and resulted in some applicants being disappointed. All districts, Derby, Chesterfield, Ilkeston and Peak, were represented this year, and guests included members of the Southwell Diocesan Guild, the Midland Counties Guild, the Sheffield and District Society and the Archdeaconry of Stafford Society. The dinner was again held at the Corporation Hotel.

Speechmaking was subject to one rule, one speech only, limited to a maximum duration of two minutes. Vice-President W. Lancaster observed the rule, but managed to convey a warm welcome to those present, particularly to visitors from other Associations. He also drew attention to the presence of several veterans, pointing out that it was their groundwork in the past which had led to the organisation that made possible these functions.

Change ringing on handbells headed the programme of entertainment. The methods rung were Grandsire Caters and Stedman Triples by Miss Joan Beresford and George Oliver (Lichfield), A. Mould and D. R. Carlisle (Derby), Brian Buswell (Nottingham) and David Marshall (Sawley).

Several games were played during the evening, though not always strictly to the rules. In the well known T.V. game of passing an egg on a spoon held in the mouth, a team of men from Derby, who were opposed by a team of ladies, were disqualified for jostling. They had to redeem themselves by singing the signature tune, 'Herr von Schmit'.

As a break from the more energetic entertainment Messrs. Carlisle, A. Mould and J. Mould rang tunes whose melodies were so recognisable that the company was able to sing to them.

PRESENTATION TO MR. A. E. THOMPSON

Mr. Cooper, of Bolsover, then announced that a presentation was about to be made to Mr. A. E. Thompson, of St. Andrew's, Derby. Mr. Thompson, who is renowned for his peal ringing activities and also for his partiality for mussels, has only recently broken his first stay after some years of ringing. The citation, condensed below, was read by Mr. Cooper.

'The setting was St. Andrew's belfry on a Monday evening. The occasion, an attempt for a quarter peal of Bristol S. Major, a worthy venture since it was practice night. The type of bob, colloquially "barb," "burp" or "bip," was fourths place.

'With Mr. Thompson on the second a start was made. Soon, probably due to weakness resulting from his partiality to mussels. Mr. Thompson's bell had dropped to half swing. This caused much consternation to the ringer to whom he should have been giving "one." With admirable effort, in view of his mussel-bound condition, Mr. Thompson gave a mighty heave, which not only brought the bell up to full swing, but set it spinning like a top.

'The rope neatly disappeared aloft with Mr. Thompson attached. His return slickly coincided with the call to stand. He was immediately showered with congratulations by his fellow ringers, while the conductor stood speechless in admiration.'

Mr. Thompson was presented with an illuminated certificate and a newly-instituted order, 'Capita Magnissima' (Biggest Head), was conferred upon him. The medallion of the order was pinned upon his chest. Mr. Cooper warned the assembly not to confuse this order with 'Capita Magna' or 'big 'ead,' which is normally reserved for Surprise ringers!

Two duets and a trio were sung by Messrs. R. E. Carlisle, H. Bates and R. W. Carlisle, of Nottingham, and the vice-president obliged when called upon to 'give us a song.'

Another highlight of the evening was a song with words specially composed for the occasion by Mr. G. A. Halls and Mr. D. R. Carlisle. The tune should have been 'John Brown's Body,' and was rendered by the Derby Ringers' Male Voice Choir, augmented by the St. Leodegarius, Nottingham, Glee Singers.

After community singing many of the ringers had to leave, and the remainder spent the rest of the evening dancing or in ringing conversation.

TO PEAL CONDUCTORS

Will peal conductors please put their name and address on the same sheet on which the peal report is written.

When sending a quarter peal report with a peal please write same on a separate sheet.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD A Cold Day at Wednesbury

It was a grey, cold day on the occasion of the Society's March meeting held at Wednesbury on March 13th. The fine Parish Church of St. Bartholomew is in an exposed position on top of a hill and the ringers attending the meeting were quick to get into the belfry right away from the biting wind. Ringing on the grand ring of ten bells (tenor 24 cwt.) was under the direction of Mr. Maurice Turner, Ringing Master.

The service was conducted by Dr. A. B. Lavelle, Vicar and Rural Dean of Wednesbury, and the Parish Church organist, Mr. Gurney Harper, kindly officiated on the organ. In his address Dr. Lavelle drew attention to a recent memorial in the church to a former verger which bore the inscription: 'I had rather be a doorkeeper in the House of the Lord than dwell in the tents of the ungodly.' Dr. Lavelle appealed to ringers to follow this precept and be faithful in their appointed ministry in the belfry.

Tea was served at Wadsworth's Restaurant, after which Mr. Fred Bennett thanked the Wednesbury ringers for arranging the meeting at short notice (following a cancellation), Dr. Lavelle for taking the service, and Mr. Harper for playing the organ.

Three new members, all ladies, the Misses Ann Ward, Valerie Cubley and Judith Rundle from Rugeley were welcomed.

The attendance of 43 was the smallest since 1950. The next meeting of the Society will be at Cannock on May 22nd. Preliminary notice is also given that the joint meeting with the Shropshire Association will be held at Shrewsbury on July 10th.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RINGERS' ROLL OF HONOUR

Dear Sir,—Well over one half of the Associations have sent their contribution towards the cost of the oak case which is to contain the Ringers' Roll of Honour in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The first roll contains 1,076 names and the last more than 300. Therefore it is quite likely that casualties from every Association in the British Isles are recorded in one or both of the rolls.

It is hoped that every Association will have sent a subscription before the Council meeting on June 8th, so that the rolls may be in their case and open to inspection not long after the meeting of the Council.

It is very heartening to find such a ready response from so many Associations and it would be wonderful if it could be reported to the Council on June 8th that there had been a 100 per cent. response to the Council's request.—Yours sincerely,

HARRY MILES.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dear Sir,—As a ringer, I have reached the stage, or age, when peals, as such, are of little interest to me. They have become 'two a penny'! I much prefer to spend my leisure hours enjoying some outdoor recreation. I would, however, as one who took part in the previous record peal of Spliced Surprise Major, like to congratulate, most sincerely, the Lincolnshire and Yorkshire ringers who have recently rung peals in 32 and 36 methods respectively.

Can we have the 32 method composition published? I make this request as I believe, and here I may be 'sticking my neck out,' that the number of changes (160) rung in each method would prove it to be collectively the better achievement of the two.—Yours faithfully,

W. F. JUDGE.

Oxford.

Note.—Mr. Judge's letter was received after our last issue had gone to press. The composition referred to appears on page 205.—Ed.

'QUICKEST PEAL OF ROYAL EVER RUNG'

Dear Sir,—On page 192 of 'The Ringing World' of March 19th you publish the achievement of ringing a 5,000 Royal in two hours and 28 minutes, and add that there have been such peals even quicker. These, of course, are peals 'in hand.'

Undoubtedly these are achievements to record, but, apart from the fact that a big number of changes on a lot of bells have been rung in a short time, is it really worth while?

After all, what does it *sound* like? Is not the *sound* of a bell or of a ring of bells what really counts?

As far as tower bells are concerned, I think the sound of the bells is miles ahead of any other factor concerning ringing.

It seems to me that rings of ten are often rung too quickly—jingle-jingle-dong, ting-boom-swish and on and on. . . . Let's have a clear open lead and let there be sufficient space between strikes so that each bell has a chance to speak and its tone heard and appreciated.

My opinion—for what it is worth—is that ringing is often on the fast side, and if half-muffled, can hardly be too slow. I know that the weight of the ring makes a difference; but, whatever the reason, I say that all dignity is lost if ringing is too fast, and that eight bells often sound better than ten unless the ten are hung properly and in very competent ringers' hands.—Yours faithfully,

CLAUDE RUSH.

Eye, Suffolk.

LONDON SURPRISE ROYAL AT HILLINGDON

Dear Sir,—I would like through this medium to congratulate the band who rang the peal of London Surprise Royal at Hillingdon on February 27th last.

As I listened to parts of this peal I was delighted with the manner that the first peal in this musical and difficult method was being rung for our Middlesex Association, especially to know that so many of our young element were in the band. I know it gave our modest Ringing Master, Tony Price, a great deal of pleasure that his two sons and others he has taught and encouraged were in this creditable performance.

I would also express the pleasure I feel that our young District Master, Richard Speed, conducted the peal. Of course, he had his wife at his side, ringing her first 'touch' in the method—what an inspiration!

I know I can speak for the local band that we are honoured by this peal being rung at Hillingdon, also that our new captain, T. G. Bannister, took part.

It was good that our old friends, Tom Lock and Tom Francis, came to see us again and were associated with the occasion.

I would conclude by 'Thank you all from Hillingdon,' especially for that 'copybook' finish to a good peal.

W. H. COLES.

ST. JOHN-THE-DIVINE, LEICESTER

Dear Sir,—May I take this opportunity of thanking you and all readers of 'The Ringing World' and others who have taken such an active interest in a resistance against the proposal to demolish the Church of St. John-the-Divine, Leicester, and say how happy I am to be able to announce that their efforts have met with the success they have so richly deserved.—Yours sincerely,

S. HARRISON,

Ringing Master and Deputy Warden.
Leicester.

ANONYMOUS LETTERS

Dear Sir,—Your reference in last week's 'Belfry Gossip' to an anonymous letter compels me to raise the matter of the ban upon such correspondence.

Our paper must now have the unenviable distinction of being the only magazine in the United Kingdom which imposes such a ban. An even sadder thought is the fact that nobody has protested, so it would seem that this attack on freedom of speech and writing has been accepted without a murmur. Are we bell-ringers a particularly sensitive class, afraid to have our behaviour and institutions examined in your columns? To reject these letters seems to indicate a totalitarian outlook which should be quite foreign to all of us. We should remember that the preservation of the right to criticise always entails a risk that the privilege may be abused, but we ought not to be afraid on that account so long as an impartial editor permits both sides to air their views.

I would emphasise that I am not condoning poison-pen writers. The editor has a waste-paper basket for missives of this nature.

If a letter is critical of a person or association, why not forward it *before publication*, to the attacked party, who can then pen a reply which will appear in the paper beside the anonymous letter?

I am not convinced by the argument that the signed letter is a satisfactory solution, for it is obvious that anyone with a grievance to air (which could be just) will shrink from it if he is liable to suffer social ostracism.—Yours faithfully,

H. P. CLIFF.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

PEAL COMPOSITION

Dear Sir,—I have read much of the literature and, at least for Surprise methods, have found no systematic method shown for producing peal compositions. Reference is made to round blocks and Q-sets but not much to their actual use.

One is shown how to determine the internal falseness and from this it is a simple matter to derive the maximum number of courses available for a composition. To fit these courses together is not, however, very clear.

I have produced quite a number of compositions in different Surprise methods but always by the method of trial and error or inspired guesswork. There must be many composers who have systematic methods of producing compositions and no doubt there are many ringers like myself who would be interested to learn of these systems.

The reason for desiring this knowledge is not so much to put one's name to a composition as to obtain one in, say, a new method to suit one's own style of conducting (or, to be honest, as simple as possible consistent with good music).

I would be grateful to anyone who could either recommend suitable literature or indicate their own system to me directly or by publication in 'The Ringing World.'—Yours sincerely,

D. R. CARLISLE.

85, Derby Road,
Risley, Derby.

FIRST PEAL OF SURPRISE AT ALDERMASTON

Dear Sir,—I beg to inform Mr. Pink that the first peal of Surprise at Aldermaston, Berks, was rung on Thursday, July 31st, 1902, in 2 hours 54 minutes, 5,088 of Superlative, conducted by William Pye.—Yours sincerely,

E. W. PYE.

Mrs. Joan Gray's 100 Peals

Mrs. Joan Gray, of Montmorency, Victoria, has just completed her 100 peals, of which 86 were rung in England and 14 in Australia. Her list is appended:

Tower (62). Cinques: Stedman 1. Royal: Plain Bob 1, Little Bob 1. Caters: Stedman 2, Grandsire 4.

Major: Double Norwich 16, Real Double Norwich 2, Kent Treble Bob 6, Oxford Treble Bob 1, Plain Bob 4, Marlborough 1, St. Clement's 1.

Surprise Major: Spliced Cambridge and Superlative 1, London 1, Superlative 3, Cambridge 2, Yorkshire 2, Bristol 1, Lincolnshire 1. Triples: Grandsire 7.

Minor: Seven methods 1, three methods 1, Plain Bob 2.

Hand (38). Maximus: Kent Treble Bob 1, Plain Bob 1; Royal: Kent Treble Bob 2, Oxford Treble Bob 1, Plain Bob 8.

Major: Double Norwich 2, Combined Kent and Oxford T.B. 1, Spliced Plain and Gainsborough 1, Double Bob 2, Reverse Bob 1, Plain Bob 13.

Triples: Grandsire 2. Minor: Plain Bob 2.

Gratefully Acknowledged

The Editorial Committee acknowledge with gratitude the following contributions received towards meeting the cost of producing 'The Ringing World':—

Personal.—A. C. Mason £1 16s. 9d., 'Sender' 3s.

Peals.—Great Baddow 4s., Willingham 2s., Walburton 2s., Shipton Moyne 3s., Church Kirk 5s., Measham 2s.

Quarter peals.—Edghaston 2s., Ebbw Vale 2s. 6d., Burstow 3s., Watford 4s., Whitby 2s. 6d., Hutton 2s. 6d., Dover 2s. 6d., Farnham 6d., Frampton 2s., Frome 2s. 6d., Sowton 1s. 6d., Packwood 6s., Beoley 8s. 6d., Burnham-on-Crouch 3s., Isleworth 2s. 6d., Stourbridge 2s., Dunster 2s.

Pixies' 500-Year-Threat to Ottery St. Mary's Bells

Midsummer's Night Challenge by Local Ringers

If you are superstitious you will enjoy this article from the 'Pulman's Weekly News' of the threat of the pixies to Ottery St. Mary's bells. The ringers are accepting a 500-year-old challenge.

WHAT will happen to the bells of Ottery St. Mary Parish Church on Midsummer's night (June 24th)? According to Mr. Fred Godfrey and an Ottery committee that is the date when the wee folk—the pixies—will try and get their revenge on the town for ringing the bells for the first time on June 24th, 1454—500 years ago.

'Most people in this atomic age pooh-pooh such talk,' says Mr. Godfrey, 'but not everyone. There are some men and women alive to-day who still believe in the little folk and they are dreading what harm may yet befall the lovely bells of the beautiful church of St. Mary.'

It is planned to hold celebrations on June 24th and when the bells start ringing at 9 p.m. Otterregians will wonder if anything is going to happen to their bells.

Pixie-lore is strong in Devon and near Ottery one of their 'parlours' can be seen on the banks of the River Otter.

'HISTORY' OF BELLS

Mr. Godfrey, relating the history of the pixies and Ottery, said, 'When the foundations of the church were laid much interest was shown by the pixies, but they were not unduly perturbed, for they felt their hold over the people was much too strong to be shaken by the building of a church. But when mention was made of a bell named St. Mary they were alarmed because the ringing of a church bell is to the little folk what holy water is to the devil.'

'The pixies then set about trying to stop the bell being cast or erected. An attempt to stop the monks getting the metal failed and they then tried to crack the bell in casting by pouring dew on it. But the flowers forestalled them by mixing honey with the dew which made the note of the bell far sweeter than it would have been.'

MONKS 'PIXIE-LED'

'Foiled again, the pixies started again the day the monks commenced towing the bell from Exeter to Ottery. They made themselves very pleasant to the monks at first, fetching delicious cold water and telling them stories. As the journey progressed the monks became "pixie-led" and the pixies got the cavalcade on the very edge of a steep cliff at Sidmouth. They danced with joy at the success of their scheme, but just as the leading monk was about to step over the edge, he trod on a prickle and shouted "God bless my soul and St. Mary." This broke the spell and eventually the bell was safely fixed in the belfry at Ottery.'

'Some people say they tried once more on the day the bell was to be blessed. On this occasion the bell was found tightly bound with magic cords. However, the bell was freed after some delay and at 9 p.m. it rang out triumphant.'

500 YEARS WAIT

'The pixies decided to lie low for 500 years—time means nothing to them—but at 9 p.m., on June 24th, 1954, they would have their revenge.'

With this 'history' in mind the Coronation Committee decided to organise a celebration with the climax at 9 p.m. to see if anything does happen when the bells ring out. The celebrations may include a summer carnival.

The Organising Committee—and some people in Ottery—had a shock recently when the bell of King's School 'mysteriously' broke down and they asked 'Is this the start of the pixies' revenge?'

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION Western District at Bradford

The annual meeting of the Western District was held on March 20th at the Cathedral, Bradford. Upwards of 50 members attended and methods rung during the day ranged from Bob Minor to Cambridge Surprise Royal.

It was unfortunate that no tea arrangements could be made, but having sought refreshment in divers restaurants, members were reunited in the Cathedral Hall for the business meeting.

The vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson, took the chair and votes of thanks were accorded to the Cathedral authorities and to the local company for their arrangements. Five new members were elected.

The annual election of officers then took place. Mr. P. J. Johnson was re-elected vice-president for a further term of three years, and Messrs. H. Armitage and W. Dixon were re-elected to the District Committee for a similar period. Miss S. E. M. Barton did not seek re-election and is succeeded by Miss M. Barker, of Collingham. Mr. H. Armitage was also re-elected to serve on General Committee of the Association.

Mr. W. Barton made mention of the recent passing of Mr. J. W. Cundall, an old and valued member of the Cathedral company, and members stood in silence as a mark of respect. Mr. P. J. Johnson was pleased to report that Mr. J. Hardcastle, another member of the old Bradford company, whom he had visited earlier in the day, was in the best of spirits, despite an infirmity which confined him permanently to his bed.

This concluded the business meeting and members returned to the tower for further ringing.

THE QUEEN IN MELBOURNE

'We spent quite a lot of time ringing during the Queen's visit to Melbourne,' writes Mrs. Joan Gray, of Montmorency, Victoria.

'On February 28th when the Queen attended divine service in the Cathedral we rang before and after the service, and then in the afternoon tried for a peal of Grandsire Caters. This went well for over two hours, when the tenor man found he could no longer keep the bell up. Investigations revealed a broken bolt in the headstock. This has now been mended and we hope to try again shortly.'

'Last Saturday (March 13th) a party of four ringers from Melbourne and three from Sydney motored 70 miles to Ballarat, where they met a ringer from Adelaide, to try and mark the Queen's visit to that city by ringing the first peal of Surprise outside the British Isles. Unfortunately we were again beaten by two back-going bells. I believe the seventh nearly beat George Martin in the famous (and only) peal in 1934, so we did well to get through three-quarters of our peal of Cambridge with hardly a trip.'

'Our visitors have gone back to Sydney, so we shall have to wait patiently for a few months before we can try again for Surprise. Best wishes to all ringing friends in England.'

5,136 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

By N. GOLDEN
I O 23456

—	—	34256
—	3	45236
—	3	53246
S	3	43256
—	3	35246
—	A	62345
—	—	23645

A = Additional calls at 2, 3, 4, 5, Twice repeated.

Contains all combinations of 4-5-6 in 5-6 with 2nds never about 4ths at course-ends, with six singles only.

Rung at Loddon, March 20th, 1954.

BARNSELEY & DISTRICT SOCIETY

Not since 1938 has the Barnsley District Society visited Ecclesfield, the reasons being the ban on ringing during the war years and the state of the bells. These, however, have been overhauled and repaired and are a pleasure to ring.

The meeting was most happy and successful. Afternoon ringing was followed by tea—a good square meal—in the Church Hall.

At the business meeting the curate (the Rev. Charles Whitfield) presided in the regretted absence of the Vicar. The business was mainly of a routine character but five new members were elected viz:—L. E. Smith, A. Gregory, D. Greaves, R. Harrison and N. Clark, all of Ecclesfield.

A committee meeting is to be held at Barnsley on April 3rd at 6 p.m. to arrange the shield and cup contests. The next monthly meeting will be held at Felkirk on April 10th.

The following towers were represented:—Bolsterstone, Darfield, Cawthorne, Felkirk, Handsworth, Horbury, Thrybergh, Leeds Parish, Wath-on-Dearne, Sutton-in-Mansfield with a good muster of the local company.

Further ringing followed until about 8 p.m. in a variety of Minor and Major methods.

FORTY YEARS AGO

Extract from 'The Ringing World'
April 3rd, 1914

HALIFAX

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION
(Officers' Peal)

On Saturday, March 28th, 1914, in 3 hours and 28 minutes

At the Parish Church

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS
5,163 CHANGES
Tenor 25 cwt.

Joe Hardcastle		Treble
James Cotterell		2
Albert C. Fearnley		3
Harry Williams		4
Joseph Broadley		5
Arthur Gill		6
Charles Jackson		7
John McKell		8
Clement Glenn		9
James T. Rew		Tenor

Composed by C. H. Hattersley. Conducted by Clement Glenn.

[A simultaneous attempt for Kent Major at Headingley by eight other Association officers was ended by a broken rope. The only member of the executive not taking part was Mr. C. H. Hattersley, who provided the compositions for both peals.]

RINGING IN AFRICA

Members of a Great Brotherhood

During a recent tour around Africa we have been privileged to ring at St. Mary's, Greyville (Durban), St. Paul's (Durban) and St. Mary's, Woodstock (Cape Town). These, we are told, are the only ringable rings in that vast continent, since some structural alterations have caused an obstruction to the swinging of at least one of Grahamstown's eight bells. We should like to record our hearty appreciation of the welcome we received at each of these three towers, a welcome which emphasised the fraternity existing between all ringers everywhere.

In this country we often hear of a band of ringers struggling along and making only slow progress because they are in an isolated village. How much more, then, must our friends in Africa feel their isolation. Having seen what efforts they are making to improve in the art of change ringing, we must ponder and count our own blessings. For example, in most parts of England we have a wealth of bells within a reasonable distance, many able and experienced ringers anxious to give assistance to all willing learners, and Guilds where both the practical and social side of our art can be furthered for our delight.

AT DURBAN

Our first visit was to St. Mary's, Greyville. Here we were able to join in a weekly practice in a very pleasant ringing chamber, and also to ring for Sunday morning service. The captain, Mr. T. J. Maeder, and his band are working manfully at Grandsire Doubles, and are fortunate in having as their instructor Mr. Cyril Chambers, late of Kidderminster. They are using handbells to help them in their studies, and rang a course of Grandsire Triples (single-handed) while we were there. We wish them all success and hope that in time all the ten bells of this tower will have learned the ways of change ringing.

The next evening we visited St. Paul's, in the very centre of Durban, where Mr. William Gardiner (hon. secretary of the Church Bell-ringers' Guild) had gathered together some ringers. The belfry ladder-and-trap-door entry did not in any way mar the enjoyment of ringing call changes on this octave. ('If we'd had one more we could have rung Grandsire Doubles'—haven't we often heard a corresponding cry in this country?) One remarkable thing in this tower was that the plain white sallies did not seem to be at all soiled either by the warm hands of ringers or by the dust which inevitably got into the ringing chamber through the open louvres from the city outside. The evening ended again with handbells, this time Grandsire Doubles with a few cautious bobs.

Besides the church work of ringing at these two towers in Durban there is a weekly handbell practice held in the city in the lunch hour. This was started not long ago by Mr. Chambers in an effort to arouse interest in change ringing after he had given an open lecture on the subject. His enthusiasm certainly deserves encouragement and his efforts success.

CAPE TOWN'S ENTHUSIASM

The next tower, some 800 miles away, was St. Mary's, Woodstock, Cape Town. Here was another 'ladder-and-trap-door' entry, but beyond it a keen band of enthusiasts whose captain is Mr. J. G. Wood. Unfortunately, Mr. Wood himself was in hospital at the time of our visit and we wish him a speedy and complete recovery from his operation. Meanwhile ringing was in the hands of Mr. Robert H. Stickley, late of Hereford, who conducted the Cape Town Coronation peal last June. Moreover, around the walls were numerous

records of recent quarter peals by a band which deserves to progress. At this practice the methods rung were Grandsire Doubles and Triples and Plain Bob Doubles and Minor. Stedman was also on the list but pressure of time and uncertainty on the part of one or two of the ringers combined to call it off.

When we set sail from England last December we were resigned to the idea of three and a half months without the feel of a bellrope. How could we dare to hope that our very tentative letters to the three ringing towers of Africa, inquiring whether by any chance their days of ringing would coincide with our days of call, would bear fruit? As it was very soon received answers showing that, in spite of our own vagueness about dates, everything would be done at the other end to make practices available. The welcome and the hospitality given left no doubt about their genuineness, and made us realise that, after all, ringers are ringers all the world over and members of a great brotherhood. We definitely felt that our friends in South Africa liked entertaining ringing visitors and would like to have more opportunity of doing so. So if it falls to the lot of any reader to travel to Africa, let him see that his route be made to include Durban and Cape Town, where he will be sure to find a warm ringing welcome.

A. F. GODLEY,
M. M. GODLEY.

Yetminster, Sherborne, Dorset.

THE LADIES' GUILD

Midland District at Rushden

The Midland District of the Ladies' Guild held a meeting at Rushden, Northants, on March 20th. Members from Leicester and district travelled to the meeting by special bus and were met at the tower by Mr. A. L. Priestley, the tower captain.

Ringing commenced at 3 p.m. and despite the doubts of some of the 'supporters' club' a service touch of Grandsire Triples was brought round by a band of ladies. The service was conducted by the Rector (Canon E. A. Green).

About 55 ringers and friends sat down to an excellent tea provided by the catering committee. Before the business meeting Miss Thompson, the vice-president, expressed thanks to the Rector for his welcome, for the use of the bells and for conducting the service, to the organist, to Mr. Priestley for making the local arrangements, and to the ladies for tea. One honorary member was elected, Miss Rosemary Stanforth, who at the tender age of two weeks becomes the youngest member of the Ladies' Guild.

During the evening further ringing took place on this very good ring of eight, bringing to a close a successful meeting.

Mrs. Priestley and the other ladies at Rushden, not content with providing a delightful tea, very kindly packed the Leicester contingent a hamper of sandwiches and cakes for their homeward journey. These were very much appreciated by the members and even more so by the supporters!

The next meeting is hoped to be arranged at Ibstock, Leicester, on May 22nd.

MR. J. J. HOLE

Dunster ringers regret the passing of Mr. J. J. Hole, who was elected a member of this Somerset tower on December 31st, 1896. He was interred at Exeter on March 22nd and on that day a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung half-muffled on Dunster bells. The band included a very old friend of Mr. Hole, Mr. J. Pugsley, of Minehead.

OBITUARY

MR. W. J. BUNCE

With sincere regret we announce the death of Mr. W. J. Bunce, captain of the Ruislip band since 1922, and a member of the St. Martin's (Ruislip) Guild for just 50 years.

He rang in nine peals, six for the Middlesex Association and three for the Royal Cumberland Youths, these being four Plain Bob Major, one Kent Treble Bob Major, two Stedman Triples and two Grandsire Triples. He rang for every important occasion since the funeral of King Edward VII. and was the owner of a silver matchbox presented by the Ruislip residents for ringing at the Coronation of King George V.

Mr. Bunce was much loved by all who knew him and will be greatly missed by the Ruislip band. He was a very keen member of Ruislip Bowls Club and was also a founder of the Ruislip Town Football Club. He was in charge of the church clock for 32 years, doing all minor repairs himself and attending to the weekly winding, all on a voluntary basis. He leaves three sons, all ringers.

I shall miss him a lot, having been his constant friend and companion for 66 years. May he rest in peace. TOM COLLINS.

MR. W. R. J. POULSON

It is with sincere regret that we record the death on March 17th of Mr. William R. J. Poulson, of Lavenham, at the age of 65. He has been a member of the Lavenham band since 1908 and was for many years its deputy conductor.

Mr. Poulson was a regular Sunday service ringer for both Matins and Evensong throughout his whole ringing career. He was a splendid striker whether at the 'light' or 'heavy' end. His peals totalled 131 (24 of them being on handbells), his longest being 6,000 and 6,240, both Plain Bob. He will be greatly missed by his many ringing friends.

He was laid to rest on March 24th. At the graveside a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells over the open grave by Messrs. F. A. Turner, M. T. S. Symonds, S. H. Symonds and F. F. Mortlock. In the evening a half-muffled quarter peal of Grandsire Triples (his own composition) was rung to his memory by S. H. Symonds (conductor) 1, W. Jarvis 2, S. Smith 3, W. Faiers 4, F. Borcham 5, L. Pryke 6, F. Mortlock 7, L. Offord 8.

Among the many floral tributes was one from his fellow ringers of Lavenham tower, also one from St. Mary's ringers, Preston. S. H. S.

5,248 Double Norwich C.B. Major

By E. F. GOBEY

23456	1	4	5	6
53624	—	—	—	—
62435	S	—	—	—
24635	—	—	—	—
46235	—	—	—	—
32645	—	—	—	—
26345	—	—	—	—
43625	—	—	—	—
36425	—	—	—	—
64325	—	—	—	—
23465	—	—	—	—
34265	—	—	—	—
42365	—	—	—	—

Three times repeated. Calling bob for S in 2nd and 4th parts.

For 5,024 omit three bobs at 6 in any block of three in one part only.

Rung at Ilkeston, February 6th, 1954, as 5,024.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

South Oxon Branch

A meeting of the South Oxon Branch was held at Warborough on March 20th. Over 40 members and visitors were present, and it was said that 40 years had elapsed since a meeting was held in this delightful village.

The service was conducted by the Vicar of Warborough (the Rev. Canon Barker), the address was given by the Provost and the lesson was read by the Vicar of Watlington (the Rev. J. Lewis, vice-chairman of the Branch). A full choir was in attendance, drawn from the villages of Warborough and Benson.

An excellent tea was served in the Village Hall under the supervision of the Ringing Master (Mr. Frank Absalom), assisted by ladies of the village.

At the meeting which followed it was decided to have the Branch annual meeting at Watlington on June 19th and it was suggested that the Bishop of Dorchester be approached with a view to preaching at the service.

During the evening ringing took place at Dorchester Abbey, where touches in the standard methods were enjoyed for upwards of an hour and a half.

ST. DAVID'S DIOCESAN GUILD

A quarterly meeting of the St. David's Guild was held at the Church of St. Mary, Burry Port, on March 13th. The bells were available to the ringers at 2.30 p.m. and although the attendance of ringers was small, possibly due to only five bells in the tower, it did not stop the older members of the Guild from coming along. The Vicar (the Rev. T. J. Thomas) was at the belfry ready to greet the ringers as they arrived.

The service was at 4 p.m. at which the Vicar very kindly officiated, assisted by Mr. Scaife and Mr. Richards attended to the organ. Members were afterwards entertained to tea at the Church Hall. Altogether 27 members sat down to enjoy themselves.

The Vicar presided at the usual business meeting and the agenda was expeditiously dealt with. The secretary reminded the members of the competition which takes place at Llandilo on May 8th, at which Mr. F. Sharpe, of Oxford, has kindly promised to carry out the adjudication.

The annual meeting of the Guild will take place at Carmarthen on Saturday, June 19th. A very hearty vote of thanks was extended by Mr. W. Williams, of Carmarthen, to the Vicar for having the Guild at Burry Port; also to Mr. Scaife and Mr. Richards and the ladies who attended at the tea.

The Vicar and Mr. E. Sage, captain of the Burry Port ringers, responded. The meeting closed with a prayer and the ringers returned to the tower to finish off the evening.

QUARTER PEALS

FROME, SOMERSET.—At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist, on Mar. 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Phippen (first of Triples) 1. W. Mills 2. Eunice D. Overend 3. J. Topp 4. E. Bray (first of Triples) 5. G. Massey 6. D. Flower (cond.) 7. H. Vennell (first quarter) 8. For Evensong, and as a compliment to Miss W. Harvey, member of the band, on her marriage to Mr. J. Scudamore.

WATFORD, HERTS.—On Mar. 16th, 1,260 Stedman Triples (Carter's Odd Bob): R. Rowley 1. J. Mayne (cond.) 2. A. Dix 3. W. Wenban 4. D. K. Adkins 5. R. King 6. S. Hoare 7. G. Seaman 8.

NOTICES

Scale of Charges

The charge of Notices for meetings is one penny a word, minimum 2s. 6d. For additional insertions with no change of type one half of the above charge for each insertion.

Other Notices one penny per word, minimum 3s.

All notices must be prepaid.

Notices must be received on the Monday preceding publication.

RETURN THANKS

MRS. DAN COOPER wishes to thank all kind friends for their messages of sympathy and encouragement in her recent bereavement. 4179

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The address of Mr. F. W. Wicks is now Fosbury, 10, Tudor Road, Farncombe, near Godalming, Surrey. 4191

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

SCARBOROUGH.—At 12, Highfield, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Sutton welcome old friends and new. Board-residence, bed-breakfast and high tea or bed and breakfast only. Terms on application. Personal attention. One minute to buses all parts. Garage adjoining. 4011

LLANDUDNO.—Close to sea, bowls, tennis, golf and buses. Full board 16s. per day.—Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Griffiths, Maesteg, Clarence Road, Llandudno, Tel. No. 7271. 4192

FOR SALE

ONE SET of 12 handbells (by Mears and Stainbank, 1948), key C, tenor size 15; one set of 8 handbells (by Mears and Stainbank, 1950), key B flat, tenor 16. Both sets very little used and in new condition. 1946-52 complete 'Ringing Worlds', several instruction books and sheets. Offers around 54 guineas secures the lot, or would sell separately.—R. Beale, Shepton Beauchamp, Ilminster, Somerset. 4157

PUBLICATIONS

'CHURCH BELLS AND RINGERS OF NORWICH,' by A. G. G. Thurlow, 5s. 6d. post free from the author, 67a, The Close, Norwich. An account of the bells of one of England's most historic cities, well illustrated with plans, cross sections and pictures. Second edition, much improved; no increase in price.

'THE ART AND SCIENCE OF HANDBELL RINGING.'—A few copies left at 3s. 6d.—J. M. Turner, Waterloo House, Moulton, Northampton. 4160

MISCELLANEOUS

OVERSEAS RINGER wishes to purchase books and pamphlets on campanology for establishment of a 'campanological library.' Send list of items offered, with price expected and description of condition, to Box 4015, c/o 'The Ringing World,' Guildford, Surrey. 4015

PEAL CARDS & QUARTER PEAL CARDS can now be ordered at 5s. a set of 12, post free (minimum charge). Order and remittances must be sent with peal report. For quarter peals write separate copy in same style as peals.

EXTRA COPIES.—It is an advantage if those requiring extra copies will send their orders at the time copy of peals or quarter peals is submitted.

MEETINGS

COVENTRY GUILD.—Southern District.—Saturday, April 3rd, practice meeting at Ilmington. No service. Tea being arranged.—R. J. E. 4167

ELY ASSOCIATION.—Ely and Wisbech Districts.—Joint meeting, Littleport (8), Saturday, April 3rd. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—Miss M. Grain, Ely Dis. Sec. 4137

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western.—Quarterly meeting, Chigwell Row, Saturday, April 3rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. followed by tea at nearby cafe. 4085

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Tunbridge Wells (8) on Saturday, April 3rd. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Individual names for tea, please, to Mr. B. Collison, 169, Queen's Road, Tunbridge Wells. 4087

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting, Holy Trinity, Burnley, April 3rd. Ringing at 3.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Meeting to follow. Cups of tea provided.—Charles W. Blakey, Branch Sec. 4165

MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.—Meeting at Overseale, Saturday, April 3rd. Bells (8) 3. Tea 5 p.m.—J. Cotton, Overseal 264. 4149

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Interim meeting, Gressenhall (6) April 3rd. Bells available 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names for tea to G. Bunning, Gressenhall, East Dereham.—C. Tovell, Hon. Sec. 4153

OXFORD GUILD.—Reading Branch.—Monthly practice on Saturday, April 3rd at Whitechurch (6) at 6 p.m. and Pangbourne (6) at 7 p.m.—N. E. Swann. 4171

SALISBURY GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Frampton, near Dorchester, April 3rd. Usual arrangements.—Hayne, Abbotsbury, Weymouth. 4131

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Monday, April 5th. 7.15 p.m., practice, St. Mary's, Lambeth Bridge. Also first Monday in each month. Everyone welcome.—H. Rogers, Hon. Sec. 4194

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Ship, Talbot Court, E.C., April 10th, 6 p.m.—A. B. Peck. 4189

BARNESLEY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Felkirk, near Barnsley, April 10th, 2.30 p.m. Tea for those who notify me not later than April 8th.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 18, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley. 4186

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Bridgwater Branch.—Practice meeting at Spaxton, April 10th, 6.30 p.m.—R. Short, Chilton Trinity. 4176

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Silsoe on Saturday, April 10th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Tea at 4.45. Service at 6. All ringers welcome.—L. H. Bywaters, Hon. Sec. 4159

BEVERLEY AND DISTRICT R.S.—Meeting, Saturday, April 10th, at Rise. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names, by Wednesday, April 7th, to Mr. C. W. Gray-Nicholson, Hind House, Park Farm, Rise, Hull. 4187

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION (Chesterfield District) and SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD (North Notts District).—Joint meeting, Barlborough (6), Saturday, April 10th, 3 p.m. Names for tea, by April 6th, to Mr. A. Ashley, 76, Boughton Lane, Clowne, Chesterfield.—A. B. Cooper. 4169

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Newick (6), April 10th. Bells 3. Tea 5. Wattles Cafe, Pilt-down. Names to me by 8th.—C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst. Look up Double Oxford. 4170

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South Eastern Division.—Meeting, Great Baddow (8), Saturday, April 10th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Numbers for tea to A. Everett, 24, The Chase, Boreham. 4144

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Swindon Branch.—Blunsdon (6), April 10th. For tea advise Mr. W. Trueman, Ashbury, Blunsdon Hill, Blunsdon.—W. B. Kynaston. 4163

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting, Guildford, Saturday, April 10th. Bells of Cathedral Church in afternoon and evening. St. Mary's in afternoon for service there at 3.30. S. Nicolas' in evening. Tea and business meeting S. Nicolas' Hall 4.15. Numbers for tea, by April 6th, please, to Miss W. Oliver, 36, North Place, Guildford.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec. 4155

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Bridgnorth Branch.—A joint meeting with the Shropshire Association will be held at Claverley on Saturday, April 10th. Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at 5 p.m. Notifications for tea, by Thursday, April 8th, please, to Mr. Fred Bennett, Rydale, Pool House Road, Wombourne, near Wolverhampton. 4128

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Quarterly meeting, Whitstable, April 10th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea at 2s. per head for those notifying, not later than Wednesday, April 7th, Miss H. M. Palmer, 37, Clare Road, Tankerton, Whitstable, enclosing cash, please.—B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury. 4145

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Luke's, Crosby, on Saturday, April 10th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea, followed by business meeting at 5.30 p.m. Names for tea must be sent before Wednesday, April 7th, to Mr. E. Porter, 1a, Endbutt Lane, Crosby, Liverpool 23. 4125

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—Practice meeting at Ulverston Parish Church on Saturday, April 10th. Bells (6) available 2.30 p.m. Names for tea to N. M. Newby, 19, Union Place, Ulverston.—N. M. Newby, Branch Sec. 4183

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Christ Church, Pendlebury, April 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea provided. All names, by April 7th, to A. Lomas, 47, Normanby Street, Swinton.—R. Benson. 4184

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Hoghton, Saturday, April 10th. Bring own food. Please look up Double Norwich.—L. Walmsley. 4161

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Thomas', Moorside, Oldham, April 10th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Dedication of Coronation peal board. Meat tea at nominal charge. Names, please, by Wednesday, 7th, to F. Mellor, 596, Ripponden Road, Oldham. Practice method: Cambridge.—F. Pritchard. 4185

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hinckley District.—Sharnford, April 10th. Bells 3. Service 4.30. Tea at Star Inn 5. Please notify, by April 6th, Mr. H. Wood, 68, Leicester Road, Sharnford, Hinckley. 4174

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leicester District.—Meeting, Knighton, April 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 in Church Hall. Names for tea, by April 6th, to J. B. Bennett, 41, Valence Road, Leicester. 4173

A NEW QUARTER

This is the first issue of the new quarter. May we remind quarterly postal subscribers that their subscription (6s.) is now due, and prompt payment to Mr. J. E. Jeater, Greystones, Cusgarne, Truro, Cornwall, facilitates the clerical work at this office.

The time is opportune for new subscribers to be enrolled. Rates: 6s. quarterly; 11s. 8d. half-yearly; 17s. 6d. to the end of 1954.

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Melton District.—Meeting at Buckminster, Saturday, April 10th. Bells 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 o'clock. Names must be sent, by the 7th, to Mr. T. H. Simpkins, Buckminster, Grantham.—J. H. Cook. 4158

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Loughborough District.—Kegworth, Saturday, April 10th. Ringing 3. Service 4.30. Tea in Cafe 5. Names, by April 6th, to C. W. Hall, Charnwood Heath, Coalville. 4126

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Saturday, April 10th, Ealing.—St. Stephen's, 3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Christ Church, 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Own tea arrangements. 4190

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Margaret's, Station Road, Edgware, on Saturday, April 10th, 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and business to follow. Ringing also at Stanmore in evening.—T. J. Lock. 4166

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oundle Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Nassington (5), Saturday, April 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Names for tea, by Tuesday previous, to Mrs. Clarke, 7, Bassett Place, Oundle. 4177

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Members are asked to attend meeting at Claverley, with Hereford Guild on April 10th. Good bells and warm welcome. Buses near, from Bridgnorth best at 2 p.m., 2.30 p.m., etc.—W. A. Farmer. 4182

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Fressingfield District.—A meeting will be held on April 10th at Stradbroke (10 bells) and Wingfield (6) The bells will be available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at 5 p.m. at 2s. per head. Let me have names for tea by the 5th, please.—J. Barber, Hillside, Wingfield, Diss. 4138

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting, Betchworth, April 10th. Bells (8) 3. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting (Red Lion) 5. Business includes nominations for General Master. Names for tea, by April 7th, to C. J. Champion, 1, Rectory Lane, Buckland, Betchworth. 4181

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Practice meeting, Barcombe (6), April 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. for those who notify, by April 7th, C. W. Linington, 11, Queen's Drive, Hassocks. 4164

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Practice meeting, Wisborough Green (6), April 10th, 2.30. Names for tea, please, by April 7th.—W. L. Weller, Sunnyside, Itchingfield, Horsham. 4178

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Leiston.—Rededication of Leiston bells, Saturday, April 17th. Service 3 p.m. Buffet tea in Church Hall and short business meeting to elect secretary for Saxmundham District.—A. R. Bridger, Theberton, Leiston. 4162

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, Bedford, Easter Monday. Business meeting in St. Peter's Church Hall 11.30. Lunch 1 p.m. at Granada Restaurant (names to me by April 12th). Ringing arrangements: St. Paul's 10-11.15 and 2 p.m. onwards; St. Peter's 2-4.30. Goldington 2-4.—J. M. Stephens, 24, Durler Avenue, Kempston. 4175

DEVON GUILD.—East Devon Branch.—Annual, Seaton, Easter Monday. Service 4.15 Tea and business, Axe Vale Cafe. Names not later than April 9th.—J. Arbury, Hon. Sec. Ottery St. Mary. 4130

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at Cambridge on Easter Monday. Bells available: Great St. Mary's (12) 2-4 p.m. and after tea; Roman Catholic Church (8) 12 noon-1 p.m. and after tea; St. Andrew's (8) 10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. and 1.45-4.30 p.m.; St. Benet's (6) 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6.30-8 p.m.; St. Andrew's, Chesterton (6) 1.30-3.45 p.m. Service at St. Andrew's 4.30 p.m. followed by tea and business meeting at Round Church Hall. Please send names for tea to H. L. Martin, 60, Birdwood Road, Cambridge.—W. J. Ridgman, Hon. Gen. Sec. 4188

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, Bromley, Easter Monday. Particulars as already advertised. Latest date for lunch tickets April 12th.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Sec. 4110

LLANFAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, St. Woolos' Newport, Easter Monday. Bells (12) available 12 noon. Service 4 o'clock. Tea and business to follow. Names for tea, by April 13th, to F. J. Hannington, 32, Surrey Street, Canton, Cardiff. 4172

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, Worcester, Easter Monday, April 19th. Service, All Saints', 11 a.m. General business meeting in College Hall, 12 noon PROMPT. Coffee obtainable, College Hall, 1.15 (bring own lunch sandwiches). Tea (3s. per head) at Deansway Cafe, 5 p.m., for all who notify me by Wednesday, April 14th. Bells available: All Saints' (10), from 10 a.m.; Claines (10); St. John's (8); Kempsey (6), all 2-4.30 p.m.; Cathedral (12), 6-7.30 p.m.—J. D. Johnson, Gen. Sec., Sedgeberrow, Evesham. 4193

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—Quarterly meeting and six-bell contest, Holmfirth, April 24th. For tea notify, by April 10th, Miss A. Haigh, Royd House, Rotcher, Holmfirth.—A. Farrand, Hon. Sec. 4081

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting at Leicester on Saturday, April 24th. Details next week.—W. A. Wood, Hon. Gen. Sec. 4180

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY GUILD.—Annual general meeting, May 1st, St. Philip's, Hulme, 3 p.m. Ringing after tea. Tour, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, July 5th-15th, 60s., to secretary before Easter.—Valerie Gutteridge, Hon. Sec. 4168

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THE PARISH CHURCH

(O how amiable are Thy dwellings)

O Parish Church! so fair, so old,
Thy welcome music brings to mind
As Sabbath bells their notes unfold.
That God is near—that God is kind.
Forlorn our town if thou weren't near us,
Who'd point the way if thou wert gone?
When nations wept, yet thou didst cheer us.
Parish Church—old friend, live on!

Parish Church!—'tis well to enter
Oft 'unto Thy courts with praise.'
By God's Grace, of Faith the centre,
Where Hope doth like beacon blaze.
With these our fathers came—through pray-
ing—
To Love and trust the Holy One.
So 'tis but meet we follow saying—
Parish Church—old friend, live on!

O Parish Church—how sad thy knelling
When a townsman's 'course is run.'
Yet how glad thy pealing, telling
Of a wedded life begun.
So 'to the task!'—we spurn delaying,
Then, having done and homeward gone.
Our children will, in turn, be saying:
'Parish Church—old friend, live on!'

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