THE BICENTENARY OF THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD

THE RINGING WORLD

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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THE QUESTION

ON May 31st, 1955, the Central Council will have to make a decision on the Bob Triples and Irregular Minor Methods question. This was referred back for one year at the Newcastle meeting, so it cannot be delayed any longer. It is well that ringers should discuss this matter between now and Whitsuntide, but they should do so without rancour or bitterness as this will get us nowhere. Also the subject should be approached with an open mind. The attitude that 'We have always rung Churchyard Bob at Little Slopton for the past fifty years and will continue to do so whatever the C.C. may decide' is all wrong. A well-known ringer said recently to the writer, 'If you don't progress you go backwards.' We may not agree wholly with this, but certainly you stagnate if you don't progress.

There have been some curious views put forward recently, such as that 'Grandsire is a dead end' and only Plain Bob can lead you on. The writer considers Grandsire *is* Plain Bob with two hunt bells and leads on to Oxford Bob Triples and Court Bob Triples. Can anyone say that these are dead end methods, for they are much superior to Bob Triples? The late John Goldsmith once wrote an article on musical methods, and he placed Grandsire Caters at the top of the list. Nobody ever contradicted him on this point. Bob Triples may have been all right in Benjamin Annable's time when tenors were not as easy to turn in as they are to-day; also a lot more is known about methods than formerly. When we say that we ring Triples let us be honest and not put a lot of Doubles in; also we are compelled to have one cover bell, but we don't need two.

Now let us admit that there are Irregular Minor Methods which will produce an extent and keep 5.6 the right way. Still, if Plain Bob is the foundation of all our methods, why not keep the connection by using its lead heads? In some cases very little adjustment of these Irregular Methods is necessary to put matters right. Take Woodbine Treble Bob and put 5ths place in when the treble is behind with adjustments in 1.2 and 3.4. The result is a good Delight method which retains all the Woodbine features. It can now rightly be assumed that the writer is in favour of the Methods Committee's recommendations, but it cannot be assumed that he is afraid to criticise the Central Council. The recent letters on this subject should be answered by someone who is competent to speak for the Council. To just ignore them is wrong, as some of the views put forward can do harm if not refuted. One last word: the views of the Methods Committee as expressed by its convener have been described as puerile. Very well, let us see some reasons put forward *for* the retention of Bob Triples and Irregular Minor Methods. M. R. P.

ESSENTIAL TO EVERY TOWER

ONE of the first tasks the Central Council set itself was the preparation in 1891 of a handbook on the installation, preservation and repair of bells, bell-frames and fittings. Nearly 40 years later the book was thoroughly revised and since then two more editions have been published, each accompanied by a thorough revision. The fourth edition is now available for the modest sum of 2s. This is a handbook of which each church should have two copies—one for the ringers and a second in possession of the secretary of the Parochial Church Council.

A practical knowledge of bells and frames and all the other ancillaries of the ringing chamber should be possessed by each ringer, and a few hours of quiet study of the handbook would well repay time spent. Too frequently these matters are left to the steeplekeeper, and in cases of illness neglect arises. Almost every problem that confronts the belfry is dealt with, even draughty stairways, and many of us have suffered from such discomforts in the recent cold spell.

One chapter is devoted to the responsibility of church authorities in regard to ringers. It is only by the study of every detail of the belfry and the comfort of those who discharge their duties Sunday by Sunday that a proper relationship will exist, as, for example, between clergy and choir. Girls and young women form a substantial percentage of the ringers to-day and the ringing chamber should be maintained at a reasonable standard of comfort.

Another chapter deals with that complicated matter of sound control. Examples are given as to methods employed to solve various problems. If the answer to a particular difficulty is not provided, individual members of the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Council are available for advice and consultations. This is one of the great services the Central Council places at the disposal of Church authorities. Criticism of the Council flows easily from many pens, but we feel that this solid, practical work would never have been available to the Church and ringers if the Council was not in existence. Of all the many publications of the Council this handbook is pre-eminent and it is written in straightforward, understandable language.

TEN BELL PEALS

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.
MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF 5040 LONDON SURPRISE ROYAL

No. 3 Version. Tenor 21 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb. in E flat.

*FRANK T. BLAGROVE	*Treble*	ROBERT G. LAY	6
*FREDERICK W. GOODFELLOW	2	JOHN D. ROCK	7
*JOHN R. MAYNE	3	*FRANK C. PRICE	8
THOMAS G. BANNISTER	4	TONY PRICE	9
THOMAS J. LOCK	5	DR. RICHARD E. PRICE	*Tenor*

Arranged by RICHARD F. B. SPEED. Conducted by JOHN R. MAYNE.
* First peal of London Surprise Royal.
Rung in honour of the birth of a second son to Mr. and Mrs. R. F. B. Speed.

WALSALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 3 Hours and 21 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,
A PEAL OF 5067 STEDMAN CATERS
Tenor 26¼ cwt. in D.

STELLA HUGHES	*Treble*	ARTHUR T. DUTTON	6
HERBERT KNIGHT	2	WALTER R. HUGHES	7
WILLIAM DAVIES	3	HOWARD HOWELL	8
CHRISTOPHER WALLATER	4	KENNETH W. KNOWLES	9
GEORGE W. HUGHES	5	ERNEST STITCH	*Tenor*

Composed by JAMES E. GROVES. Conducted by STELLA HUGHES.
First peal as conductor.
Arranged for the 74th birthday of Mr. W. R. Hughes and the 15th birthday of the conductor. The ringer of the tenor has now 'circled' the tower.

WORSLEY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 3 Hours and 25 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK.
A PEAL OF 5040 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE ROYAL
Tenor 24 cwt.

LESTER L. GRAY	*Treble*	*G. ALEX. DIMMOCK	6
*MARGARET E. RIDYARD	2	*E. ROGER MARTIN	7
*DOREEN DUTTON	3	*ALEXANDER J. MARTIN	8
RONALD KENRICK	4	*CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE	9
*PETER COXALL	5	JOSEPH RIDYARD	*Tenor*

Composed by CHAS. J. SEDGLEY. Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.
* First peal in the method.

NORWICH.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., Mar. 1, 1955, in 3 Hours and 31 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, MANCROFT,
A PEAL OF 5022 GRANDSIRE CATERS

Composer's Three-part No. 3. Tenor 37 cwt. 99 lb. in C.

ARTHUR G. BASON	*Treble*	WALTER J. HOUGHTON	6
CEDRIC CURSON	2	WILLIAM LOVE	7
ERNEST G. SHORTING	3	GEORGE SAYER	8
H. WILLIAM BARRETT	4	BERT GOGLE	9
GEORGE P. ADAMS	5	NOLAN GOLDEN	*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.
Rung half muffled in memoriam the Revd. Alick St. John Heard, the respected and beloved President of the Association, 1942-1955.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

THRAPSTON, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 12, 1955, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES.
A PEAL OF 5056 ALDENHAM SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 14¼ cwt.

C. HENRY HARDING	*Treble*	ERNEST E. WHITMORE	5
JOHN KING	2	WILLIAM J. WHITMORE	6
PATRICK I. CHAPMAN	3	R. GEORGE CARE	7
*BARRIE HENDRY	4	GEOFFREY E. WATSON	*Tenor*

Composed by H. DAINS (C.C.C. 26).
Conducted by GEOFFREY E. WATSON.
* First peal of Surprise: First peal in the method for the Guild and by all the band except the ringer of the treble.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., Feb. 16, 1955, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. REMIGIUS,
A PEAL OF 5280 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 9 cwt. 74 lb. in G.

SHEILA BARKER	*Treble*	CHARLES H. MOORE	5
CEDRIC CURSON	2	RAYMOND G. LOFTY	6
*MICHAEL DAY	3	NOLAN GOLDEN	7
EILEEN G. BRACEY	4	BERT GOGLE	*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.
* First peal of Treble Bob.
Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to Miss Sheila Barker of the local band. Composition, a regular three-part, contains extent of 3-4-5-6 in 5-6 at course-ends without 2nd there.

BLEWBURY, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 3 Hours and 4 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
Taylor's Six-part. Tenor 19 cwt.

*EDWARD G. SAWYER	*Treble*	C. JOHN CASTELL	5
HARRY WELLS	2	ROBERT B. BLOND	6
ALFRED R. T. GREENOUGH	3	JAMES P. BLOND	7
†WILLIAM L. GILKS	4	CLAUDE CORDEROY	*Tenor*

Conducted by ROBERT B. BLOND.
* First peal away from covering bell. † First peal of Triples.

DEVIZES, WILTSHIRE.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 3 Hours and 14 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
J. J. Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 19¼ in D.

ALEX. T. WEEKS	*Treble*	JOHN ROMAIN	5
STANLEY R. COCKELL	2	SIDNEY G. GRANT	6
PERCIVAL W. J. HARDING	3	WILLIAM C. WEST	7
JOSEPH S. WEEKS	4	HARRY J. STURGESS	*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM C. WEST.
In memoriam Chas. David Heginbotham, Chairman, Frank Green, Hon. Secretary, Sidney Hillier, Ringing Master, late officers of the Devizes Branch.

ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Mon., Feb. 21, 1955, in 3 Hours and 4 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES.
A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 11 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb. in G.

ARTHUR TOMLINSON	*Treble*	*MAURICE HOLGATE	5
HAROLD PARKINSON	2	*GORDON R. WHEWELL	6
*GEOFFREY F. GARNETT	3	CHARLES CLEGG	7
*WILLIAM RAMSBOTTOM	4	ROGER LEIGH	*Tenor*

Composed by H. DAINS. Conducted by ROGER LEIGH.
* First peal of Kent T.B. Major. First in the method as conductor. First in the method on the bells.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION
On Tues., Feb. 22, 1955, in 3 Hours and 16 Minutes.
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER.
A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 25¼ cwt.

SAM LONGBOTTOM	*Treble*	GEOFFREY INGHAM	5
*MRS. H. B. SCHOFIELD	2	ERNEST H. SIMPSON	6
M. VIVIEN COPPING	3	ROBERT E. MOULDS	7
HAROLD B. SCHOFIELD	4	VERNON BOTTOMLEY	*Tenor*

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by VERNON BOTTOMLEY.
* First peal of Surprise.

CHISLEHURST, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., Feb. 22, 1955, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.
A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 17¼ cwt.

HERBERT E. AUDSLEY	*Treble*	JOHN W. EUSTON	5
ARTHUR G. MASON	2	JOHN L. MORRIS	6
DENNIS BERESFORD	3	RALPH BIRD	7
*IAN H. ORAM	4	FREDERICK J. CULLUM	*Tenor*

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by FREDERICK J. CULLUM.
* First peal of Cambridge Surprise and of Treble Bob 'inside.' First peal in the method on the bells.

GAINSBOROUGH, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Tues., Feb. 22, 1955, in 3 Hours.
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Parker's Twelve-part (seventh observation). Tenor 19 cwt. 1 qr. 23 lb.

*MRS. F. BULL	*Treble*	C. AUBREY HARRISON	5
*MICHAEL ROBERTS	2	G. LESLIE A. LUNN	6
MRS. E. GREY	3	GEORGE E. FEIRN	7
CHARLES H. BAKER	4	*DENIS A. COLE	*Tenor*

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEIRN.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples.

Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to the Rev. and Mrs. P. M. Freeman. Also a farewell to Michael Roberts, son of the Vicar, Canon Roberts, who is joining H.M. Forces.

HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Tues., Feb. 22, 1955, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Dexter's Variation. Tenor 22 cwt.

CHARLES E. TURNER	*Treble*	ALFRED BALLARD	5
EDWARD SOWMAN	2	JOHN A. L. THOMPSON	6
NANCY MARKLEW	3	FRANK K. MEASURES	7
*FRANK LONG	4	FRANK MELLOR	*Tenor*

* First peal in the method.

Rung half-muffled to the memory of Mr. B. Ridgeway, for 50 years a ringer at this church.

CONISBROUGH, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Fri., Feb. 25, 1955, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5088 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 13¼ cwt.

MILTON C. FOWLER	*Treble*	W. ERIC CRITCHLEY	5
DENNIS A. CHAPMAN	2	JOHN J. L. GILBERT	6
HOWARD SCOTT	3	WILFRID F. MORETON	7
J. FREDERICK MILNER	4	NORMAN CHADDOCK	*Tenor*

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by W. ERIC CRITCHLEY.

A welcome to Robin Charles, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. R. F. B. Speed.

BADSEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES.
A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

Heywood's Transposition of Thurstans' Four-part. Tenor 15 cwt.

JOHN THOMAS	*Treble*	GERALD C. HEMMING	5
R. ROGER SAVORY	2	WILFRED J. NEWMAN	6
*ANTHONY J. BRAZIER	3	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING	7
HAROLD HUXLEY	4	GORDON A. CROPPER	*Tenor*

Conducted by GEOFFREY J. HEMMING.

* First peal and rung at the first attempt.

BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 3 Hours and 1 Minute.
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND LAWRENCE,
A PEAL OF 5088 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR
Tenor 14¼ cwt. in F.

WILFRED L. ROBINSON	*Treble*	HAROLD WAGSTAFFE	5
CYRIL WRIGHT	2	A. BENJAMIN COOPER	6
MRS. L. HOLMES	3	JOSEPH SAXTON	7
PAMELA J. LEANING	4	REV. G. GORDON GRAHAM	*Tenor*

Composed by J. HUNT. Conducted by REV. G. GORDON GRAHAM.

First peal in the method as conductor.

BREWOOD, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 3 Hours and 8 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND CHAD,
A PEAL OF 5184 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 21 cwt 2 qr. 21 lb. in E flat.

RICHARD J. WARRILOW	*Treble*	BRYAN D. A. WOOLLEY	5
MURIEL REAY	2	HARRY GRIFFITHS	6
ARTHUR V. PEARSON	3	ARTHUR PRITCHARD	7
GEORGE E. FEARN	4	RALPH G. EDWARDS	*Tenor*

Composed by R. F. B. SPEED. Conducted by ARTHUR V. PEARSON.

BROADCLYST, DEVON.
THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 3 Hours and 12 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF 5008 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.

NORMAN MALLETT	*Treble*	FREDERICK WREFORD	5
*MARIELLA MUNDY	2	DAVID BEACHAM	6
DEREK JEWELL	3	HARRY J. GAYLARD	7
GEORGE BURTON	4	GEORGE STEDMAN MORRIS	*Tenor*

Composed by F. H. DEXTER. Conducted by GEO. STEDMAN MORRIS.

* First peal of Major 'inside.' Rung as a compliment to Miss M. Mundy and Norman Mallett on their engagement this day.

DEDDINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE.
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 3 Hours and 1 Minute.
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF 5088 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 17 cwt. 10 lb. in E.

R. JOHN NASH	*Treble*	DAVID A. EDWARDS	5
*GEOFFREY HARPER	2	GLYN F. JENKINS	6
†KENNETH W. MACKINTOSH	3	RODNEY B. MEADOWS	7
†DONALD H. NIBLETT	4	PETER BORDER	*Tenor*

Composed by C. J. SEDGLEY. Conducted by PETER BORDER.

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

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 3 Hours.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS,
A PEAL OF 5056 BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. in F.

EDMUND MALIN	*Treble*	DENNIS BERESFORD	5
LEONARD TREVOR	2	JEFFREY B. WEBB	6
J. EDWARD CAWSER	3	PETER BERESFORD	7
JOAN BERESFORD	4	GEORGE E. OLIVER	*Tenor*

Composed by W. ERIC CRITCHLEY. Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSER.

HARLOW, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN.
A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 21 cwt.

WILLIAM H. WHEELER	*Treble*	DAVID W. BEARD	5
ALBERT W. BEARD	2	STANLEY CLARK	6
REGINALD HAYDEN	3	ROBERT H. YOUNG	7
HENRY BIRD	4	EDWARD J. ROCHESTER	*Tenor*

Composed by EDWIN TIMBRELL. Conducted by DAVID W. BEARD.

A compliment to Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Rochester on the occasion of their silver wedding and to S. Clark's daughter on her recent marriage.

HARMSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor 12 cwt. in A.

*ELAINE GREATHEAD	*Treble*	GWEN I. RUSBY	5
JACK L. MILLHOUSE	2	GEORGE H. RANDLES	6
NORAH M. BIBBY	3	DENIS A. FRITH	7
†DEREK E. SMITH	4	SYDNEY A. CHAMBERS	*Tenor*

Composed by GEO. H. CROSS. Conducted by JACK L. MILLHOUSE.

* First peal. † First peal on an 'inside' bell.

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New Installations : Repairs : Maintenance
Estimates and Advice Free
JOHN SMITH & SON, Midland Clock Works, DERBY, LTD.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 2 Hours and 20 Minutes.
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,
A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Middleton's. Tenor 6¼ cwt.

MRS. H. J. POOLE	*Treble*	ROLAND BENISTON	5
JOHN A. UNDERWOOD	2	ARTHUR E. ROWLEY	6
ERNEST MORRIS	3	JOSEPH W. COTTON	7
PETER J. STANIFORTH	4	HAROLD J. POOLE	*Tenor*

Conducted by PETER J. STANIFORTH.

Rung on the occasion of the institution and induction of the Rev. Lawrence Jackson, A.K.C., (formerly curate of St. Margaret's, Leicester), to the Vicarage of Wymeswold.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 2 Hours and 29 Minutes.
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE.
A PEAL OF 5088 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 6¼ cwt.

JOHN A. UNDERWOOD	*Treble*	ERNEST MORRIS	5
GORDON A. HALLS	2	*ALBERT E. THOMPSON	6
HAROLD TAYLOR	3	JOSEPH WM. COTTON	7
*†WALTER G. SOAR	4	DENIS R. CARLISLE	*Tenor*

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by DENIS R. CARLISLE.

* First peal of Superlative Surprise Major. † 100th peal.

Rung for the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Underwood.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST GEORGE, JESMOND.
A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 18 cwt. 2 qr. 24 lb.

*MICHAEL S. BRIDGES	*Treble*	‡E. ALAN RAWLINSON	5
†J. BRENDA SOFTLEY	2	FRANK G. BLOOMFIELD	6
†ENID SOFTLEY	3	*ROBIN G. LEALE	7
MARGARET A. SOFTLEY	4	ALAN N. BROWN	*Tenor*

Composed by J. THORPE. Conducted by FRANK G. BLOOMFIELD.

* First peal in the method. † First peal in the method 'inside.' ‡ First peal. First peal in the method as conductor.

WEST HARTLEPOOL, COUNTY DURHAM.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, STRANTON,
A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 12 cwt.

*THOMAS W. TEMPLEMAN	*Treble*	ROLAND PARK	5
MRS. W. MAUGHAN	2	*WILLIAM MAUGHAN	6
*P. MARGARET JAMES	3	KENNETH LAWSON	7
MRS. K. LAWSON	4	W. NORMAN PARK	*Tenor*

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by ROLAND PARK.

* First peal of Surprise.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., Mar. 2, 1955, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST REMIGIUS.
A PEAL OF 5184 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 9 cwt. 74 lb. in G.

RAYMOND G. LOFTY	*Treble*	CHARLES H. MOORE	5
CEDRIC CURSON	2	ARTHUR G. BASON	6
EILEEN G. BRACEY	3	GEORGE SAYER	7
RICHARD J. W. HOUSDEN	4	NOLAN GOLDEN	*Tenor*

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

A half muffled tribute to the memory of the Rev. Alick St. John Heard, President of the Association, 1942-1955, sometime priest-in-charge at this church.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

RUSHTON, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Thurs., Feb. 17, 1955, in 2 Hours and 28 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES
Comprising 10 six-scores each of Reverse Canterbury, St. Simon's and Grandsire and 12 of Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

*RICHARD COLES	*Treble*	ALBERT HINTON	3
PATRICK I. CHAPMAN	2	†BARRIE HENDRY	4

BRYAN S. COPE .. *Tenor*
Conducted by BRYAN S. COPE.

* First peal, age 14. † First peal of Doubles.

STAPLEFORD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Fri., Feb. 18, 1955, in 2 Hours and 37 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF 5040 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR
Being seven extents. Tenor 7 cwt. in A flat.

GILLIAN A. SMITH	*Treble*	T. REGINALD DENNIS	4
*JANE THORPE	2	WILLIAM T. COOK	5
*EUSTACE W. BULLMAN	3	WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN	*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM J. RIDGMAN.

* First peal of Treble Bob.

SILK-WILLOUGHBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 19, 1955, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DENIS,
A PEAL OF 5040 SPLICED SURPRISE MINOR
Seven 720's in 16 methods: (1) Berwick, Hexham; (2) Lightfoot, Stamford, Rossendale, Wearmouth; (3) Cambridge, Ipswich; (4) Norfolk, Primrose; (5) Beverley, Surflect; (6) York, Durham.; (7) Cambridge, Norfolk, Ipswich, Hull, Bourne, Primrose.
Tenor 8 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lb. in A.

RUTH MORGAN	*Treble*	LEONARD C. BLANCHARD	4
CECIL WADE	2	JAMES H. MUSSON	5
ALBERT E. SCOTT	3	JAMES W. HAW	*Tenor*

Conducted by CECIL WADE.

Rung for the birthday of Desmond Walter, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Musson, 1 year old on February 15th.

BARLASTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Monday, Feb. 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 40 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.
A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN DOUBLES
Twelve different callings. Tenor 6 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb.

FREDK. E. WILSHAW	*Treble*	†CHARLES S. RYLES	3
*SHELAGH R. COLLINS	2	*EWART H. EDGE	4

CHARLES H. PAGE .. *Tenor*
Conducted by FREDK. E. WILSHAW.

* First peal of Stedman Doubles. † First peal of Doubles.

COSSINGTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD and
THE HUMPHREY PERKINS' SCHOOL CAMPANOLOGICAL SOCIETY.
On Mon., Feb. 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 22 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
Being 42 extents. Tenor 12¼ cwt.

*MICHAEL WHITE	*Treble*	†PETER CHAMBERS	3
B. STEDMAN PAYNE	2	†JOHN CHAMBERS	4

F. KEVON THOMPSON .. *Tenor*
Conducted by B. STEDMAN PAYNE.

* First peal. † First peal of Bob Doubles.

MESSINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., Feb. 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Seven different extents. Tenor 9¼ cwt.

*MOLLY LLYAL	*Treble*	C. AUBREY HARRISON	4
†JOHN ELLERTON	2	HARRY HALL	5
*JEAN BLACKBURN	3	GEORGE E. FEIRN	*Tenor*

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEIRN.

* First peal. † First peal 'inside.'

PINHOE, DEVON.
THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.
On Fri., Feb. 25, 1955, in 2 Hours and 34 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF 5040 ALL SAINTS' DOUBLES
Being 42 extents. Tenor 11 cwt.

CECIL PARKER	*Treble*	CYRIL DEEM	4
SIDNEY SKINNER	2	JOHN QUICK	5
WILFRED PANTER	3	A. COURTNEY THORNE	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN QUICK.

First complete peal in the method for all, in the county and for the Guild. First peal on the bells since rehanging.

BRISTOL.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 26, 1955, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-ON-THE-MOUNT-WITHOUT,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent of Cambridge Surprise, one extent of Kent Treble Bob, two extents of Oxford Treble Bob and three extents of Plain Bob.
Tenor 14¼ cwt.

*MONICA E. FRAY	*Treble*	†TUDOR P. EDWARDS	4
MICHAEL J. HORSEMAN	2	REGINALD G. HOOPER	5
†‡DAVID J. MARSHALL	3	†PATRICIA M. BOURN	*Tenor*

Conducted by DAVID J. MARSHALL.
* First peal of Minor. † First peal in four methods. ‡ 50th peal.
Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to the conductor.

MADELEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat. Feb. 26, 1955, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each: London and Cambridge Surprise, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob.
Tenor 11 cwt. 26 lb.

CHARLES H. PAGE	*Treble*	CHARLES S. RYLES	4
*SHELAGH K. SEERY	2	FREDK. E. WILSHAW	5
SHELAGH R. COLLINS	3	EWART H. EDGE	*Tenor*

Conducted by FREDK. E. WILSHAW.
* First peal of Minor.
A 75th birthday compliment to the Vicar, Rev. Wm. Garner, a highly esteemed friend of N. Staffs ringers.

MULBARTON, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., Mar. 1, 1955, in 2 Hours and 50 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents. Tenor 8¼ cwt.

HARRY TOOKE	*Treble*	*MICHAEL D. GOODMAN	4
STANLEY COPLAND	2	F. CHARLES GOODMAN	5
FRANK C. ARNOLD	3	HARRY J. HALL	*Tenor*

Conducted by F. CHARLES GOODMAN.
* First peal.
Rung half muffled in memoriam Rev. A. St. J. Heard, M.A., President of the Norwich Diocesan Association and Rector of this parish 1942-1955. R.I.P

HANDBELL PEALS

TRINCOMALEE, CEYLON.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Tues., Feb. 15, 1955, in 1 Hour and 58 Minutes.
AT 4, MARGOSA TERRACE, FORT FREDERICK.
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES

Being 42 six-scores, four callings. Tenor size 19.

*BLANCHE M. HUNT	1-2	†JOHN H. HUNT	3-4
*ROBERT C. BEAL	5-6		

Conducted by JOHN H. HUNT.
* First peal on handbells. † First peal on six handbells. First peal of Plain Bob Doubles by all.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Mon., Feb. 21, 1955, in 2 Hours and 29 Minutes.
AT 36, PEEWIT ROAD, HAMPTON.
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Parker's Twelve-part (7th Observation). Tenor size 16 in B.

GERALD C. HEMMING	1-2	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING	5-6
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON	3-4	*BRENDA M. SMITH	7-8

Conducted by GEOFFREY J. HEMMING.
* First peal on handbells.

NORWICH, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Thurs., Feb. 24, 1955, in 2 Hours and 3 Minutes.
AT 27, CHALK HILL ROAD.
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents.

RICHARD J. W. HOUSDEN	1-2	*JAMES B. MORLEY	3-4
*ARTHUR G. BASON	5-6		

Conducted by ARTHUR G. BASON.
* First peal of Minor 'in hand.'

GILLETT
AND
JOHNSTON
LIMITED

No matter in which corner of the country you happen to be, as likely as not you will come across Gillett & Johnston bells or tower clocks. Gillett & Johnston craftsmanship is embodied in an all-embracing service — as much in the preservation and restoration of old rings of antiquarian interest as in the installation of new.

BELL FOUNDERS
AND
CLOCK MAKERS

CROYDON

ALDRINGTON, SUSSEX.—On Feb. 20th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Pamela Law (first of Minor) 1, Mary W. Brown 2, Derek H. Paine 3, Valerie Mepham 4, M. W. Stephenson 5, S. W. Brown (cond.) 6. Rung as a birthday compliment to Gwyneth Brown, a member of the band.

BICESTER, OXON.—On Feb. 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: B. Crutchfield 1, E. J. Smith (cond.) 2, E. G. Jones 3, H. Hatfield 4, W. Baggett 5, C. H. Kinch 6, H. Mathewman (first of Triples) 7, H. Clifton 8. Rung on Shrove Tuesday. Also on Feb. 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: B. Crutchfield 1, H. Hatfield 2, E. G. Jones 3, H. Clifton 4, W. Baggett 5, C. H. Kinch 6, E. J. Smith (cond.) 7, W. Whiting 8. Rung for the wedding of Miss Marjorie Skelton (a ringer at Bicester) and Mr. Ronald Dean.

BILTON, WARWICKS.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss G. C. Hardwick 1, Miss P. Wincott 2, P. C. Taylor (first 'inside') 3, W. E. Burnell 4, J. A. Tole (cond.) 5, A. Campden 6. First quarter for 1 and 2.

BRENCHLEY, KENT.—On Feb. 28th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Miss J. Barden (first quarter) 1, Miss J. Grenham 2, Miss B. Tester 3, T. Barton 4, C. A. Tester (cond.) 5, R. E. Lambert 6. Rung for Evensong.

BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH, ESSEX.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Minor (360 each of Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob and 240 Plain Bob): D. Sims 1, S. W. Bismore 2, G. M. Rouse 3, K. Everett 4, A. T. M. Perry 5, H. Stebbings (cond.) 6. Rhng for morning service.

CAWTHORNE, YORKS.—On Feb. 27th, 1,272 Treble Bob Minor (600 Duke of York, 600 Violet, 72 Oxford): W. Broadhead 1, C. Rusby 2, F. Cowling 3, R. Brogan 4, H. Rusby 5, N. F. Moxon (cond.) 6. A silver wedding compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rusby.

CONSETT, CO. DURHAM.—On Feb. 11th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Miss E. Foreman 1, D. R. Micklethwait (first quarter) 2, Miss M. Wilson 3, E. Oliver 4, R. Oliver 5, P. G. Draffan (cond) 6. A birthday compliment to the treble ringer.

DARLEY DALE, DERBYS.—On Feb 20th, 1,260 Plain Bob Triples: A. Hopkinson (first quarter) 1, M. H. Paulson (first quarter) 2, Mrs. G. Holmes 3, R. H. Bullen 4, H. E. Taylor 5, D. S. Gregory 6, G. H. Paulson 7, N. Hotchin 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to David Mellor, ringer at this church, now serving in H.M. Forces in the Middle East; also to Ruth Hodgson, born February, 1955.

DISS, NORFOLK.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Miss K. Harrison 1, Miss B. Syrett 2, A. G. Harrison 3, H. Moss 4, J. B. Morley (cond.) 5, C. F. W. Phillippo 6. Rung for morning service.

DUFFIELD, DERBYS.—On Jan. 30th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Brenda Nelson 1, M. F. Hatch (cond.) 2, Miss E. Foulke 3, Miss R. Carr 4, D. Gebbet 5, Vivienne Horton 6, F. W. Stone 7, J. MacArthur 8. First of Triples for 1, 4, 5 and 8. Rung for the visit of Miss R. Carr, a former member of the Duffield Society.

EALING, MIDDLX.—On Feb. 17th, at St. Mary's Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: B. Lunn 1, H. Belcher 2, M. Stacey 3, J. Kent 4, W. Ellis 5, J. M. Harrop 6, J. E. Chilcott (cond.) 7, A. Harding 8. Rung to celebrate the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. A. Harding, of Ash Grove, South Ealing; also as a birthday compliment to Mr. A. Harding.

ELTHAM, KENT.—On Ash Wednesday, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles, 6–8 covering: E. Coode (first quarter) 1, F. Hurrell (first of Grandsire Doubles) 3, J. Hurrell 4, I. Oram (first of Grandsire) 5, G. Hurrell 6, B. Aldridge (cond.) 7, J. Sims 8. Also on Feb. 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Sims 1, P. Spice 2, D. H. Holland 3, J. Hurrell 4, J. Dafters 5, W. Rawlings 6, B. Aldridge (cond.) 7, F. Hurrell 8. Birthday compliment to W. Rawlings, J. Dafters and the conductor's son-in-law.

FARNINGHAM, KENT.—On Feb. 26th, 1,440 Minor (720 each Double Court and Single Oxford): J. E. Cannell 1, M. Fuller 2, Mary Fuller 3, S. Kimber 4, A. S. Richards (cond.) 5, R. Bird 6.

QUARTER PEALS

GRANTHAM, LINCS.—On Feb. 24th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor (on the front six): T. W. Charity 1, R. Read 2, B. Hunt 3, F. W. Pinchbeck 4, B. Buttery 5, D. A. Frith (cond.) 6. First quarter of Minor by 2, 3 and 5.

GREAT WYMONDLEY, HERTS.—On Feb. 20th, 1,320 Plain Bob Doubles: S. H. Ashton (first of Doubles) 1, G. Cherry 2, P. W. Croft (cond.) 3, R. Head 4, K. C. Timbury 5. Rung on the back five for Quinquagesima.

HASTINGS, SUSSEX.—At Christ Church, Blacklands, on Feb. 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Joan Downing (first of Triples) 1, Mrs. C. R. O'Dwyer 2, P. Brooks 3, O. Wood 4, F. H. Dallaway 5, J. Downing (cond) 6, A. A. Price 7, J. Cole 8.

HELLINGLY, SUSSEX.—On Feb. 20th, 1,260 Reverse St. Bartholomew: Laura Beeney 1, Kathleen Yeo (first in method 'inside') 2, B. Stepney (first in method) 3, F. Beeney 4, G. Beeney (cond.) 5, A. Ellis 6. Also On Feb. 27th, 1,320 Reverse Canterbury Doubles: Ann Tanner 1, Laura M. Beeney 2, Kathleen Yeo 3, B. Stepney 4, G. Beeney (cond.) 5, P. Message 6. First in the method by all.

HELMDON, NORTHANTS.—On Feb 27th, 1,440 Surprise Minor (720 London and 720 Cambridge): G. Shellard 1, W. J. Chester 2, B. Saunders 3, M. Saunders 4, R. Keeley 5, W. A. Yates (cond.) 6.

HINCKLEY, LEICS.—On Feb. 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: G. Powers (first quarter) 1, Nancy Marklew 2, M. Vernon 3, F. Lang 5, A. Ballard (cond.) 5, J. Vernon 6, J. Smith 7, C. R. Haywood 8. Rung to celebrate the diamond wedding of Mr. and Mr. J. Clarke, who were married in this church on February 17th, 1895.

MERROW, SURREY.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Doubles (300 Reverse St. Bartholomew, 480 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob): Rosamund A. May (first quarter) 1, Jillian H. Wilson 2, Eva Taussig 3, A. Pamela Warren 4, J. A. Etherington (first in three methods as cond.) 5, G. M. Battersby 6. First in three methods for 2 and 3. Rung for Evensong, the bells being half-muffled for Lent.

NORTH STONEHAM, HANTS.—On Jan. 9th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Payne 1, C. Murphy 2, Mrs. M. Hayes 3, R. A. Reed 4, Mrs. A. Reed 5, C. Taylor 6, N. Hayes (cond.) 7, L. Stead 8. Also on February 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: L. Stead (first quarter) 1, R. A. Reed 2, C. Murphy 3, D. C. Jackson 4, R. E. Finch (first of Triples) 5, C. Taylor 6, N. Hayes (cond.) 7, R. Payne 8. Rung in honour of the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. C. Taylor.

NUNNEY, SOMERSET.—On Feb. 19th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: E. Connock 1, Rosemary Cook 2, J. Phippin 3, E. Bray 4, R. Smith 5, G. Massey (cond.) 6. A birthday compliment to the ringer of the 4th.

PIRTON, HERTS.—On Feb. 25th, 1,320 Plain Bob Doubles: S. H. Ashton 1, Marion Jackson 2, K. C. Timbury (first as cond.) 3, C. M. R. Orme 4, R. Head 5. Rung for the visit of the Bishop of Bedford for the commissioning of the Church Army campaign, which started this day.

RICHMOND, YORKS.—On Mar. 1st, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: G. Holmes 1, M. P. Hammond 2, D. M. Killingley (first as cond.) 3, J. Hemstock 4, D. V. Moreton 5, B. Harris 6. First quarter for ringers of 2 and 4.

ROADE, NORTHANTS.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: Miss P. Wilson (first quarter) 1, W. Richardson 2, A. G. Osborne 3, K. D. Perkins (cond.) 4, A. C. Cozens 5. Rung for morning service.

RICKMANSWORTH, HERTS.—On Feb. 28th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Angela E. Berry (first quarter) 1, P. Hart (first quarter) 2, T. Clark 3, H. A. Bradbury 4, F. W. Elliott 5, D. C. Bartholomew (cond.) 6. A 21st birthday compliment for the treble ringer.

ROMFORD, ESSEX.—On Feb. 22nd, 1,272 Minor (480 Little Bob and 792 Plain Bob): H. F. Perry 1, Mrs. E. Merrett 3, J. Merrett 4, H. Corney 5, J. Barrance 6, L. W. Bullock (cond.) 7, J. R. Brice 8. Rung with tenor covering.

ROSS-ON-WYE, HEREFORDS.—On Feb. 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: L. F. Morgan (14, first quarter) 1, Miss O. Taysom (17, first quarter) 2, Miss F. Taysom 3, R. T. Jones 4, P. G. Morgan (15, cond.) 5, J. J. Webb 6.

ROTHLEY, LEICS.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Doubles (240 Plain Bob, 420 Grandsire, 600 April Day): R. Brewin 1, R. Wilmore 2, G. Brewin 3, J. Handford 4, B. S. Payne (cond.) 5, M. Bishop 6. First quarter for 1 and 6. First in three methods for 2 and 4. Rung before Matins to welcome the Lord Bishop of Leicester.

RUGBY, WARWICKS.—At St. Andrew's Church, on Feb. 23rd, a quarter peal of Doubles (Plain Bob, Grandsire, April Day, Old Bob, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure and Norfolk): J. Click (first quarter) 1, A. R. Pocklington 2 D. J. Pitstow (cond.) 3, S. Osborne 4, A. E. Barlow 5. Rung half-muffled in memory of Mr. T. B. Fenton (ringing master at Rugby from 1913–1934), whose funeral took place that morning.

SAPCOTE, LEICS.—On Feb. 22nd, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Pamela Grewcock (first quarter) 1, Kathleen M. Proctor 2, Christine Stratford 3, Rita Stratford 4, J. A. W. Bayliss 5, M. E. Brown (cond.) 6.

SILSOE, BEDS.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss A. Culpin (first quarter) 1, P. J. Lawton (first 'inside') 2, Miss J. Godfrey (first away from tenor) 3, T. P. Harris 4, J. F. Olney (cond.) 5, Miss S. J. Devereux (first quarter) 6. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. H. I. Godfrey, grandmother of the ringer of the third.

STANMORE, MIDDLX.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: D. Hapwood 1, M. Mesley 2, J. Powell Bedwellty) 3, J. Wilcockson 4, A. Wenban 5, E. J. Leversuch (cond.) 6. First of Bob Minor by 1, 2, 3 and 4.

SWANAGE, DORSET.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Lewis 1, W. S. Brown 2, H. Abrahams 3, J. Sutton 4, W. Damer 5, K. Orchard 6, R. W. Marlow (cond.) 7, J. Clarke 8.

SYSTON, LEICS.—On Feb. 22nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Joan Sharpe 1, Mrs. A. D. Sayer 2, B. S. Payne (cond.) 3, Audrey Mansfield 4, Jean A. Brooks 5, H. Humphrey 6, H. M. Payne 7, A. D. Sayer 8. A birthday compliment to Jean A. Brooks.

TOTTERNHOE, BEDS.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Minor (720 Double Oxford and 540 Plain Bob): Mrs. J. Newman 1, Mrs. J. Brooks 2, R. J. Scott 3, D. G. Broyd 4, J. G. Newman 5, J. W. Sinfield (cond.) 6. Rung for evening service.

TWINEHAM, SUSSEX.—On Feb. 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: G. A. Packham 1, C. H. Wickens (cond.) 2, K. C. Knight 3, J. Dearlove (first of Doubles) 4, F. F. Godsmark 5. Half-muffled in memory of the late Rector (the Rev. E. A. Peirce-Scriven).

WEST HARTLEPOOL, CO. DURHAM.—On Feb. 27th, at All Saints' Church, Stranton, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Pamela James 1, Mrs. W. Maughan 2, Cynthia Mudd 3, M. Austin (first of Triples) 4, W. Maughan 5, Mrs. K. Lawson 6, K. Lawson (cond.) 7, J. Maughan 8. Rung for Evensong.

WIMBLEDON, SURREY.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: C. Wilkinson 1, Mrs. Devenish 2, J. Tomsett 3, P. Devenish 4, F. Corfield (cond.) 5, J. Brickell 6.

5,056 LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

By ROGER BALDWIN

23456	B	M	W	H
52436			—	
63425		—	—	—
32654	x			
53624			—	
46325		—	3	—
62534		—	2	
43526		—	—	—
35426			3	2
56423		—		2
34625		—		—
42635			2	
36524		—	—	
45623		—		—
23456		2	—	

2nd never in 6ths at C.E.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD

Wirral Branch Make Merry

The seventh annual dinner, entertainment and dance held at the Coach and Horses Inn, Moreton, on February 12th, proved to be as enjoyable as previous functions. The company of over 120 was welcomed by the chairman, Mr. W. R. Stanley, supported by the Ringing Master (Mr. T. Rogers), the hon. secretary and treasurer (Mr. A. J. Martin) and Assistant Ringing Master (Mr. C. B. Pemberton). Ringers were present from Birkenhead, Bebington, Bromborough, Bidston, Moreton, Oxton, Upton, Wallasey (St. Hilary's and St. Nicholas') and West Kirby. Guest of honour was the Rev. T. A. Rockley (Vicar of Oxton), who was presented with a bouquet of spring flowers for his wife, who was prevented by ill-health from attending.

The dinner was thoroughly enjoyed and the toastmaster ensured that speechmakers kept to time allocated to expedite the programme. The able manner in which Miss Wendy Jones, Upton tower secretary, responded (in a maiden speech) to the toast of 'The Ladies' was warmly commended.

During the speeches token presentations were made to the hon. secretary and treasurer and Mrs. Martin and the Ringing Master for services rendered to the Branch.

The entertainment was provided by Jack Nolan (comedian) and Tommy James, with his performance on concertinas of all shapes and sizes. The Wirral Handbell Ringers rendered a selection of tunes, old and new, and met with popular acclamation.

Dancing continued until midnight with only a short break for light refreshments. Sunday morning came all too quickly, and the departing company was glad of door-to-door transport.

TADCASTER LONG SERVICE RECORD

The completion of 50 years as a bellringer by Mr. H. Clayton, of Tadcaster, Yorks, was recognised by the presentation to him of two pipes and some tobacco by his fellow ringers at St. Mary's Church, when they assembled for their annual dinner. The presentation was made by Mr. Ernest Lindley, the tower captain, who has 45 years' ringing to his credit. Other ringers of the tower and periods of service are: Mr. R. Lancaster (40), Mr. A. Barker (36), Mr. J. Harrison (41), Mr. Walter Hick (30), Mr. A. Hick (20), Mr. C. Sollett (14), Mr. E. W. Tiplady and Mr. P. Harrison (12). Four young learners who attended were Keith Marshall, Geoffrey Hawkins, Peter Bailey and Raymond Booth.

The Vicar, the Rev. R. J. Hall, congratulated Mr. Clayton on reaching 50 years as a ringer and said it showed a wonderful spirit, loyalty and perseverance which was an example to the younger ringers. Many churches were finding it difficult to maintain a team of ringers, but he hoped that the bells would long continue to ring at Tadcaster.

Mr. Lindley urged the youthful learners to persevere and tackle the job and assured them that it was not all hard work as the ringers had some enjoyable outings and visits to other belfries.

Mr. Clayton, acknowledging the gifts, said he had two life ambitions. One he had realised in that celebration. The other was to ring a peal on his 80th birthday, which meant that he had two years to go. During the first world war he felt it his duty to keep the bells ringing and he managed this by teaching several ladies the art of change ringing.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

Snow. That one word sums up the reasons for a very poor attendance at the February meeting of the Leeds Society at Birstall on February 26th. The faithful few had a very enjoyable time on this grand ring of eight, which was kept going to a good variety of methods from 3 till 5 p.m. and again after tea.

At the business meeting the president took the chair. The following new members were elected on the proposition of H. Lofthouse, seconded by L. Drake: Misses Barbara Morton, Shirley Marshall, Barbara Chappel, Dorothy Wood and Mr. Keith Davies (all of Batley) and Misses Sylvia Holt and June Jefferson (of Leeds Parish Church).

The vote of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens and local company was proposed by Mr. H. Lofthouse. Mr. D. North replied for the local company.

The annual nomination meeting will be at Armley on March 26th; a good attendance would be greatly appreciated.

Gratefully Acknowledged

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

Personal.—J. H. Hunt 13s. 6d., G. W. J. 5s.

Peals.—Hardwicke 4s., Devizes 4s., Chislehurst 1s. 6d., Walsall 2s. 6d., Pinhoe 2s. 6d.

Quarter Peals.—Hastings 2s., Wimbledon 2s. 6d., Nunney 3s., Bicester 4s. 6d., North Stoneham 2s. 6d., Shoreham 2s., Rickmansworth 3s., Swanage 4s., Bilton 3s., Burnham-on-Crouch 3s., Helmdon 2s. 6d.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

'THE RINGING WORLD'

The Official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

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Remittances to Mr. J. E. Jeater, Greystones, Cusgarne, Truro, Cornwall.

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

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EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

BELFRY GOSSIP

During a peal at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on March 1st, the movements of Mr. R. J. W. Housden, who was listening for about two hours, were trailed by a detective, who suggested there was something suspicious about Dick's actions! In the belfry a lady artist sketched the scene for three hours, when she was asked to leave owing to an embarrassing situation that appeared likely to develop.

The Ladies' Guild, we are sure, will make a note of the performance of Miss Stella Hughes. For her 15th birthday she conducted at Walsall a peal of Stedman Caters.

Mr. John Dearlove, the popular peal secretary to the Sussex County Association, has made his first essay into Doubles ringing with a quarter at Twineham.

In a touch of Stedman Cinques at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on Sunday, two one-armed ringers rang side by side. They were Mr. George Pullinger, Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, and Mr. Basil Jones, of Macclesfield. In Mr. Albert Walker's long experience of ringing this is unique.

It gave great pleasure to the Bicester ringers to ring a quarter for the wedding of Miss Marjorie Skelton. While still at school Marjorie joined the tower with her friend and they have both become very good ringers. Her marriage takes her from Bicester and it is only when she visits her parents that the band will have the pleasure of her company.

With the peal at Harlow, congratulations were accorded to 'Ted' Rochester, tower captain at Sawbridgeworth, on the occasion of his silver wedding anniversary. The band would like to associate with this peal Miss Audrey Bailey and Messrs. David Collins and Edward Elliott, who stood in an unsuccessful attempt the week previous. Incidentally, the peal was the first on the bells for 20 years.

St. Nicholas' Guild, Itchingfield, has a novel library. Each member makes all his books on ringing, churches, etc., available for others to borrow. A list of all books and owners is kept in the ringing chamber. Books are borrowed direct from the owner and each transaction is recorded. It is the duty of the librarian to see that the book is returned within a month or a fine is imposed.

The peal at Hardwicke reported in our last issue was rung for the Gloucester Guild of United Bell Ringers.

Mr. P. Amos has brought up to date 'The Church Bells of Rutland,' which is about to go into the hands of publishers.

After the meeting at Chepstow on February 12th a very nice green Tootal scarf was left behind. Will the owner kindly communicate with Miss Jacqueline S. Evans, 1, Hughes Crescent, Hardwick, Chepstow, Mon.

We welcome to our peal columns a handbell peal from Trincomalee, Ceylon, conducted by that ardent peal ringer, Mr. John H. Hunt. Until accepting an overseas appointment, Mr. Hunt rang many peals for the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.

A great friend of North Staffs ringers is the Rev. William Garner, Vicar of Madeley. As a 75th birthday compliment to him a peal of Minor in seven methods was rung. Afterwards the band were kindly entertained to tea at the Vicarage.

As a token of respect to the late Mr. Frederick White, for many years a well-known ringer in Kent, a half-muffled peal was attempted at Marden, Kent, on February 12th, which unfortunately broke down after an hour and a half's ringing. The band stood: Miss J. Grenham 1, G. Fry 2, R. E. Lambert 3, C. A. Tester 4, L. J. Honess 5, I. A. C. Butcher 6, J. W. Meade 7, R. T. Lambert (conductor) 8.

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BICENTENARY OF ST. MARTIN'S GUILD

MASTER'S BADGE PRESENTED AT 67th HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER

THE bicentenary celebration of the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham at the 67th annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, on Saturday, was honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham and representatives of the diocese and city churches. The day will go down in the annals of the Guild, as it marked the investing for the first time of a Master's badge to the Guild. It is of an exquisite design embodying the arms of the diocese and St. Martin, the work of Miss Muriel Reay. That 'grand little man of Birmingham,' Mr. Albert Walker, the present Master, was invested with this badge of office by Ald. Paddon Smith. It was indeed a great moment in the history of the Guild and in the life of Mr. Albert Walker, the occasion being marked by much enthusiasm.

Mr. Frank E. Haynes was the chairman for this year's dinner. With a membership of a quarter of a century of St. Martin's Guild, a wide knowledge of its history and as a ringer who has added lustre with others to its standards of ringing and fellowship, he was a happy choice for the evening. A company of 143 attended.

The chairman, in a welcome to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress,, said it was the seventh occasion on which the Lord Mayor had been present at that dinner. Two of those Lord Mayors—Ald. Sir Theodore Pritchett and Ald. Paddon Smith—had been associated with their dinner in another direction. He also welcomed the Archdeacon of Birmingham, Mrs. Bryan Green, Canon Warman, the Rev. G. C. Potts (lecturer of St. Martin's) and Mrs. Potts. Apologies had been received from the Lord Bishop, the Provost and the Bishop of Aston.

Ald. H. Paddon Smith proposed the toast of 'The City of Birmingham,' and referred to its problems—traffic, housing with a waiting list of over 6,000, the colour bar and smokeless zones.

The Lord Mayor, Ald. J. R. Balmer, in his reply, said it was very gratifying to him that their Guild had been in existence for 200 years and was still flourishing. He wondered what would happen if he called a 'Bob' or what would happen if he was told to catch hold of 'Sally.' Would it mean clearing the tables for a dance?

GOODWILL OF THE CLERGY

Ald. Sir Theodore Pritchett proposed the toast of 'The Church and State.' This was, he said, the bicentenary dinner and they were looking back that day 200 years. It was an occasion when they should express their gratitude to the Church, for without the goodwill of the clergy it would not have been possible for 200 years to ring the bells of the country in expressing public sentiment. They all looked forward to another 100 years or more in which the same goodwill would be preserved, and they would be able to call on the clergy to hand over the keys of the belfry. If they were to earn that goodwill they must see that their behaviour was worthy of it and their ringing was of the best possible standard and nothing was done to upset that harmony.

The Archdeacon of Birmingham (the Ven. S. Harvie Clark) said it might surprise some of them that he had been a bell-ringer for a quarter of a century—of door bells. At his first church, Gateshead, there was a fine team of ringers, and while there he learnt what they were doing for the Church. Afterwards he was at Portsea—and he was pleased that one of the company present remembered him there as a curate. Then came Jarrow—with the church of the Venerable Bede dating back to 685 A.D. Although it had only two bells, they rang out morning and evening and one was almost as old as the church itself. As to Harborne, he was told it was the only ring of bells in Birmingham which had not been recast since the first world war. Whatever the condition of the bells, they had the best band of ringers, who rang each Sunday morning and evening.

The Church appreciated very deeply what ringers did for the life of the Church. They realised that many people did not come to church, but the bells ringing Sunday by Sunday reminded them that it was God's day and that people were being called to worship. 'I assure you that the keys of the belfry will always be in your hands as long as you ring to the glory of God.'

A NAME THAT MEANT SOMETHING

'The Memory of the late Henry Johnson' was submitted by the chairman. Henry Johnson, he said, was a famous Birmingham ringer well known all over the country, and it was to him that they owed the existence of that annual gathering. It started as a birthday party in his honour, and the first occasion was 67 years ago when guests were invited from every part of the country. Before that it had been very much a parochial affair. In recent years it had grown and they were honoured by the presence of bell-ringers from all over the country. It was natural so many years after a man's death that his memory tended to fade. There were few people remaining who were actually associated with him, and to many of the younger members of the Guild Henry Johnson was merely a name, but they wanted it to be a name that meant something—it should stand for all that was best in their ringing exercise.

He had heard it suggested that at some future date they might consider altering the title of the dinner and even their association—to the Birmingham Diocesan Association. But the names of Henry Johnson and St. Martin stood for something that was very dear to them.

As is customary, the toast was drunk in silence.

Unfortunately, there was no one present who rang with Henry Johnson — Mr. George Mitchison, who is believed to be the only man alive who rang with him, was unfortunately in hospital. At the suggestion of Ald. Paddon Smith, the company drank to Mr. Mitchison's speedy recovery.

'THE FINISHING SCHOOL'

Mr. Frank Smallwood submitted the toast of 'Continued Prosperity of the St. Martin's Guild.' He said he could only speak personally of the prosperity of the Guild for the past 52 years. The Guild had been well served by its officers and he would mention Henry Johnson, John Day, Henry Bastable, Ald. Pritchett, Ald. Paddon Smith, Tom Reeves and now George E. Fearn. As he moved up and down the country he met people who valued their membership of St. Martin's Guild. 'I always regard Birmingham as the finishing school. Many promising young men have come into this city with a small knowledge of ringing, but in a short time they have become efficient exponents of the art. I remember one such young man who came from a six-bell tower and before very long he was calling Stedman Cinques. That young man is now sitting in the chair as our chairman.

'And what of the prosperity of the future? Do we wish them more wealth? No, I don't think they are hard up. Do we want them to ring more peals? No, I think they have rung enough. Our wish is that young men will still come forward and under the influence of this Guild become as able exponents as those who have gone before and maintain the wonderfully high tradition it has enjoyed.'

In coupling the name of Mr. Albert Walker with the toast, Mr. Smallwood emphasised that it was to him that they owed much of their prosperity.

The chairman announced that to mark the bicentenary the Guild had purchased a badge of office for the Master. He asked Ald. Paddon Smith, as the senior vice-president, to invest their well-loved Master with his badge.

In performing the ceremony Ald. Paddon Smith said: 'I assure you everybody in the Guild appreciates the way you have conducted its affairs. We are very proud of you, and you have the honour of being the first Ringing Master who will have an official badge.'

'A proud and historical moment in the annals of the Guild,' was how Mr. Albert Walker acknowledged this bicentenary gift. The badge, he said, had been designed by Miss Muriel Reay, and he was very grateful to be the first Master to wear the official badge.

The Society, said Mr. Walker, was established in 1755 and their first peal book dated from 1822 although peals had been rung by the Society before that date. They had had a glorious past and had had an excellent year. Service ringing was regarded as a pre-eminent duty; they kept the bells of the City going and also those in the outside towers.

A LONDON TRIBUTE

He mentioned how much the Society appreciated the attempt of a peal of Stedman Cinques at Southwark Cathedral by the College Youths and how sorry they were that the peal was lost through the breaking of the tenor rope. At St. Martin's they had a bell rope fund and it was a great pity that other cathedrals and churches had not such a fund. If they heard of a peal at St. Martin's breaking down through a rope they must blame the tower warden — himself.

He was pleased to announce that in honour of the bicentenary a peal of Stedman Cinques was successful at St. Martin's the previous Tuesday in 3 hours and 38 minutes (applause).

As regarded the activities of the year their total of peals had been kept going and at their practices at St. Martin's on a Tuesday there were never less than 14 or 16, including many young men. The bells at Handsworth had been recast and there was now only one more to be recast —at Harborne. They had an excellent Ringing Master in Mr. John Pinfold, and their librarian (Mr. Edgar Shepherd) had written some splendid articles. His latest was in regard to Mr. Joshua Short, who was a famous ringer born in 1764. A well-preserved oil painting of him had been secured and, with the co-operation of the Vicar, that portrait now hung in Aston belfry beside that of Henry Johnson.

The chairman announced that greetings and good wishes on reaching the bicentenary had been received from the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths and from Mr. John Freeman on behalf of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild.

A warm welcome to the visitors present was extended by Mr. Frank W. Perrens when he proposed their health. There had been suggestions, he said, in 'The Ringing World' for reducing the number of changes in a peal. He could not help thinking why the advocates of this change did not ring half-peals if they wished to. There was nothing to stop them. It was like when butter was scarce during the war for the Government to sell half a pound and call it a pound. Such an action would not persuade people they had a pound of butter (hear, hear).

Their visitors that day came from as far north as Newcastle and from the South Coast. He gave a special welcome to Mr. W. T. Elson, who in a fortnight's time would reach the age of 88.

(Continued next page)

BICENTENARY OF ST. MARTIN'S GUILD — Cont.

Mr. Cyril J. Watts, Master of the College Youths, in reply on behalf of the London members of the Society, congratulated St. Martin's Guild on their bicentenary and said he was sure that many county members would desire to join him in those good wishes. They all had a great affection for St. Martin's.

Mr. R. S. Anderson, North Staffordshire Association, also replied, and spoke of how much St. Martin's owed to their present secretary, Mr. G. E. Fearn.

Mr. J. L. Garner-Hayward proposed the toast of 'The Ringing World' and mentioned what pleasure it gave them to have the convener of that committee and his shop stewards with them. Ringers, he said, were very fortunate in having a paper like 'The Ringing World.' An extra 2d. a week would not break anybody and if that would bring the paper financial success no one would object.

The Editor, in his reply, mentioned that the effect of increasing the price had resulted in a drop of three and a half per cent. in circulation since December 31st, but he was very happy to state that they were still selling more 'Ringing Worlds' than when he spoke at Birmingham a year ago. He expressed, on behalf of the Editorial Committee, their deep appreciation of those who contributed to the 'Gratefully Acknowledged' column. It was essential for the Central Council that 'The Ringing World' should not only be solvent but make a substantial contribution to the general expenses of the Council. The affiliation fees paid by Guilds and Associations had not in the past few years met the expenses of the Council. It was time the Council looked into its own affairs and paid the travelling and out-of-pocket expenses of the hon. secretary and treasurer in attending its meetings.

The concluding toast was that of 'The Chairman' submitted by Mr. Edgar C. Shepherd. This year, said Mr. Shepherd, Mr. Haynes had completed 25 years as a member of their Guild, and his daughter came of age.

The chairman acknowledged the compliment.

The musical programme included delightful selections on handbells by Mrs. A. A. Hughes, the usual course of Stedman Cinques rung 'in hand' and songs by Mr. Albert E. Barley, with Mr. Raymond Pearson as a very efficient accompanist. The arrangements for the dinner were admirably carried out by Mr. G. E. Fearn.

MEMORIAL TO MR. BERT CHALLEN

An inscription engraved in stone above the belfry door was dedicated at the Church of St. Mary ad Haura, Shoreham-by-Sea, to the memory of Mr. Bert Challen, who died on September 8th, after 70 years' service as a ringer at this church. The service was conducted by the Vicar and was attended by members of the family and ringers from Shoreham and nearby towers. During the service a plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung by members of the Sussex County Association, and the Vicar, in an address, spoke of the great service Mr. Challen had rendered, not only as a ringer, but as a devout and loyal parishioner throughout his long life.

After the service 1,260 Grandsire Triples was rung half-muffled by the following: I. Challen 1, J. V. Lonsbrough 2, Miss J. Pike 3, A. W. Bond 4, A. W. Gravett 5, R. Challen 6, H. Stalham (conductor) 7, G. North 8.

The peal of Minor in seven methods rung at Dilhorne on January 1st appeared in 'The Ringing World' on January 28th and was duplicated in the issue of February 11th. Will the Peal Analysis Committee and other keepers of records please note?

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION

Some Reminiscences from Mr. E. Alexander Young

On the night of Saturday, December 8th, 1940, St. John's, Waterloo Road, was struck by a high explosive bomb, which ripped off the roof and destroyed the interior—the bells being also badly damaged, but not destroyed.

'This Waterloo church, stoutly built by fine builders, took the shock and shuddered to her depths. In these depths, 150 people, including the Parish Priest, were assembled. The old church, the Mother of Souls in the Parish, true to her maternal instinct, gathered the full fury of the blow into her heart, and gave her life for her children. No one was hurt. Give God the praise.'

These moving words form part of an inscription at the west end of the interior of this now beautifully restored church.

The inscription relates that the church was built by a grateful nation in 1824, to commemorate the victory of Waterloo—and was consecrated by the then Bishop of Winchester.

The story continues: '1951—Give God the Praise. On April 26th, this building, finely reconstructed, was rededicated as a Parish Church, and a Christian Centre for the Festival of Britain, by the Bishop of Southwark, in the presence of the Princess Elizabeth and the Archbishop of Canterbury.'

When the London County Association visited the church on February 12th many members and friends took pleasure in inspecting this beautiful restoration, ringing on the restored bells and admiring the neatly appointed ringing chamber—much of this being due to the efforts of Mr. Grainger. Ringing was from 2.45 to 4.45 p.m. and ranged from rounds to Surprise Major.

Shortly after 3.45 p.m. ringing commenced at Southwark Cathedral, where the ringing chamber is being redecorated, and the magnificent ring of 12 was put to full use, under the direction of the Master—rounds to Cambridge being rung, and a number of ringers had their first pull on 12 bells.

At 5 p.m. Choral Evensong was conducted by the Rev. J. Biwers in the absence of the Provost. The choral portion was beautifully rendered by the choir of St. Matthew's, Surbiton, who gave a fine effect to the anthem 'Before the Ending of the Day.' The prayers also included special reference to the ringers.

Tea at 6 p.m. for over 50 was provided in the Chapter House, the old Church of St, Thomas, which still retains its gallery and a beautiful oak reredos and makes a fine setting for such gatherings.

The annual business meeting commenced about 7 p.m., presided over by the Master (Mr. T. H. Taffender), supported by the secretaries and treasurer. The Master gave a résumé of the year's work and particularly referred to the peal book, which has now been satisfactorily brought up to date. He also thanked those ringers who had helped him with the Sunday service ringing all through the year, a service greatly appreciated by the various incumbents. Twelve peals had been rung, including the first peals at Isleworth of Belgrave Surprise Major, Lincolnshire Surprise Royal, and Prittlewell, Rutland and Southwell Surprise Major and Royal. The Master further referred to the new publication 'The History and Rules of the Association,' a beautifully produced booklet. This will cost the Association a considerable sum, but is well worth the money. It is issued free to new members, and at a cost of 1s. 6d. to others. The Master appealed to everyone to obtain copies to help meet the cost.

All the officers were unanimously re-elected as follows:—Master, Mr. T. H. Taffender; hon. secretary, Capt. H. W. Rogers; assistant secretary No. 1, Mr. Wilfrid G. Wilson; assistant secretary No. 2, Mrs. O. L. Rogers; hon. treasurer, Mr. J. E. Lewis Cockey; stewards, senior Mr. C. M. Meyer, junior Mr. T. F Victor Neil; trustees, Messrs. Frank Blewer and J. A. Hales. The two auditors elected were Messrs A. D. Barker and F. Bishop.

Several new members were elected.

MR. E. A. YOUNG AND PEALS

A letter from a good friend of the Association, Mr. E. Alexander Young, was read, sending his greetings and good wishes, adding: 'How I wish I could be present, but I am 90 in May, if I attain it—my doctor hopes so, but is keeping me indoors meanwhile.' Mr. Young then referred to the current discussion in 'The Ringing World' relating to the proposed standard half-peals and mentioned that he was strongly in favour of this, and strangely enough had held this opinion since 1893, when he decided never to ring a peal unless on handbells. Incidentally, the above presumably relates to notes made by Mr. Young relating to his experience as a learner in the early 1890's. He first learned to handle a bell in 1890, being taught by the late Mr. E. Albone, then steeplekeeper at St. Clement Danes'. In January. 1891, Mr. Young was elected a member of the St. James' Society, and in the same year steward, and secretary in 1892, and his notes relate to many vicissitudes, both to himself and others, some amusing, some otherwise. In 1893 Mr. Young suggested a bicentenary peal on St. Clement's bells. The idea was taken up with enthusiasm by the Rector, and the churchwardens promised both a supper and a peal tablet if successful. To Mr. Young's chagrin, however, when the list was made up his name was omitted. However, he states, he was adamant, and at length the others agreed that he should stand in, though there was evidently some ill-feeling in he matter.

Before the attempt, however, Mr. Young states that some spiteful individual inserted grit in the tenor bearings, the bell that he was to ring, in order to make it a trying job for him. The job was overdone though, and after 40 minutes' ringing the tenor set vertically, and so remained. The attempt, therefore, was postponed for three months while Mr. Albone tinkered with the bearings, not very successfully, and eventually she had to be rehung. In the meantime she had to be rung with a second rope, and when, in the October following, the peal was rung, the tablet recording it relates that it was with two men on the tenor. This tablet was placed in the porch and remained there until destroyed in the blitz.

Bitterly disappointed, Mr. Young swore that peals were the curse of the Exercise, and that never, no never, would he ring one; but he did later relent somewhat. He adds that at that time the friction in the bearings found a counterpart in the friction between the 'scroof' and other members, leading eventually to an interview with the churchwardens, after which, apparently, things settled down for a while.

Following the usual votes of thanks the meeting closed and the annual handbell competition followed. Three teams entered—two from St. Luke's, Chelsea, and one from Isleworth. After some good ringing St. Luke's No. 1 were declared the winners by Mr. A. D. Barker on behalf of the umpires.

Some good tune-playing on handbells by members of St. Luke's, Chelsea, band closed the proceedings. J. C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A DISPUTED PEAL

Dear Sir,—Would you be kind enough, through the columns of 'The Ringing World,' to help settle a dispute which has arisen between some of my friends and which affects or will affect the whole of the Association to which I belong?

The dispute is over the matter of publishing a peal(?) in our annual report which has already been printed in 'The Ringing World.'

Since then, however, our peal secretary has received a letter from the conductor in which he states that 'it cannot be denied that the ropes fell in the order 12345678 two courses from the end of the peal,' and yet apparently the bells were put back in the order in which they should have been (it was a bob lead and the bob was called) and the peal(?) finished. Now, sir, is this a true peal?

I should like to add that this is not a case of washing dirty linen in public, as the two sides in the dispute are willing to accept the ruling of the Central Council and the Exercise at large.—Yours truly,

JOHN E. FOX.

Wisbech.

[Note.—Decisions of the Council are: On all numbers of bells a true peal shall in all cases start from and end with rounds, and any shift occurring among the bells shall invalidate the performance, unless it is perceived at the time, and immediately corrected. . . . That peals of Minor consist of at least seven true and complete 720's, the bells striking round only once at the end of each and immediately going into the next. We ask the convener of the Peals Analysis Committee to give a ruling.—Ed.]

DOUBLE CHANGES

Dear Sir,—Perhaps Mr. Martin could explain what is wrong with 360 double changes in a peal of 5,040. If double changes in Triples are wrong, surely they are worse if Major. Or would he perhaps like to see banned all peals of Cambridge and Somerset (316 double changes), or even Diss and Stanton Surprise Major (632 double changes).

Neither I nor my fellow-critics have ever denied that the Central Council, its officers and 'The Ringing World' have done, and will no doubt continue to do, a great deal of good. But what we are kicking against are the few officers who take advantage of their office to impose their own puritanical ideas.

There are many reasons why there should be a different set of rules governing 5, 6 or 7 bell ringing. There are no reasons why irregular Minor, Doubles variations and Plain Bob Triples should be banned from the analysis.—Yours sincerely,

F. T. BLAGROVE.

Stanwell, Middlesex.

HYMN TUNES

Dear Sir,—From time to time requests have been read for tunes on various numbers of bells.

The range on five is very limited, but at this season of Lent it may be very appropriate to those who have a chiming apparatus in a tower with five tuned to the major key (it is not possible on a minor five) to quote the Lenten vesper: 'God the Father, God the Son,' each verse but one finishing up, 'Hear us, Holy Jesu':—

1,1,3; 2,1,**1,3**; 1.1,3; 2,1,**1,3**; 3.3,3,4,3,**1,2**; 3,3,4,5,4,5.

Another five-bell tune fitting to Passiontide runs: 5; 5,4,3,1,3; **5,5,5,4.3**,3,4,5; 5; 5,4,3,1,3; **5,5,5,4.3**,3,4,5; 1; 3,4,3,1.3; 4; 4,5,4,4,3,1; 1; 3,4,3,1,3; **5,5,5,4.3**.3,4,5. The tune is that set to the hymn played by the Salvation Army quite frequently: 'Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.'

Numbers in heavy type indicate those to be played at half value to others.

P. AMOS.

Weston Favell, Northants.

A REPLY TO MR. FELSTEAD

Dear Sir,—I read with great interest Mr. Felstead's reply to his critics. In spite of the criticism which I have during the past and (D.V.) shall in the future continue to direct against him and the Methods Committee, I can but be grateful for the amount of voluntary work that he and his confederates do. It is good that we have such people who are prepared to give so freely of their time and talents.

So much for the bouquets — now for the brickbats!

As I see it, the crux of the matter seems to lie in Mr. Felstead's belief in his statement that the Central Council 'represent a far better cross-section of ringers than any with which our critics come into contact.'

This is, of course, fallacious. A cross-section of the upper stratum no doubt, but a truer cross-section can be seen at any local gathering.

Let Mr. Felstead, who is fond of statistics anyway, compile a percentage analysis of six-bell ringers who have been members of the Central Council over, say, the last three years. By six-bell ringers I mean those who ring regularly Sunday by Sunday at their own local six-bell tower, not those who ring Minor 'on meeting short for Major,' or those who ring Minor in order to impress poor six-bell ringers how simple they are compared with men who can produce a cacophonous howl from TWELVE bells!

Of course, the Council accepted the committee's recommendations on irregular methods. Nobody wanted irregular lead-ends (or heads) in Major and above and very few were interested below. If the committee had recommended that Doubles and Minor be excepted the Council would have agreed with apathy and indifference.

But with Method Extension—that was a different kettle of fish—that concerned THEM!

No wonder you had trouble there, Mr. Felstead.

The statement that the critics are in the minority may or may not be true; probably it is for the whole country, but it is irrelevant nevertheless.

If there is only one Minor team in one six-bell tower who want to ring one irregular method and the committee and the Council cannot produce (as Mr. Felstead admits twice in his letter) ONE good reason why they should not do so, then the Council should be prepared to accept the fact and recognise the method.

Contrary to the committee and the Council, the critics can advance many good reasons in support of irregular Minor methods any of which are worthy of consideration. Here are a few.

1. Because ringers want to ring them. Yes—we have all heard the old argument that there is nothing to stop them from doing so if they wish, but many ringers (in spite of much evidence to the contrary) are still human and, if they ring a peal, like to see their names in print in, say, the associations' reports, etc.
2. They extend the 'vocabulary.' In anticipation of the usual remark that there are plenty of methods without them, may I point out that on the Treble Bob system only two methods have a complete slow-work, whereas by the use of irregular methods these are extended to seven; an increase of 250 per cent. where it is most urgently required.
3. Interest. It has been admitted that, in this respect, many of the irregular methods are superior to many so-called regular ones, e.g., compare Oxford Treble Bob and New London, Kent and Woodbine, Old Oxford and—practically any irregular method!
4. Range of method splicing increased. On the Treble Bob system alone the range is increased from a maximum of 15 to a maximum of 23 methods in a 720; an increase of over 50 per cent.

What harm would be done in relaxing the rules in favour of Doubles and Minor ringers?

What would it cost the Council or the committee apart from admission of error or misunderstanding?

What should we think of any other sect or society that passed a rule which in effect stated: 'Here we have a rule formulated without a reason, which benefits nobody but injures not a few; but, by golly, we made it and we are going to stick to it'?

I sometimes wonder which side of the fence is aping Canute!—Yours sincerely,

H. CHANT.

Ryhill, Wakefield.

NEW PEALABLE METHODS

Dear Sir,—Regarding Mr. Roe's letter. In his challenge he asked for ONE 'new' pealable method with no double changes, no adjacent places and P.B. coursing order in 7–8. He did not say 'pealable with 7–8 together.' Of the 'new' methods I submitted, all of which are probably pealable somehow, at least FOUR are pealable with 7–8 together. Surely that is sufficient answer to his challenge.

As for his definition, I would suggest that he himself gets up to date. A band of ringers rang a method which they called Bristol Surprise. They were informed that it was not a Surprise method since it did not have internal places at the link or junction. So the definition of Surprise was changed by the C.C., and nowadays the definition of Surprise or Treble Bob depends only on the presence or absence of internal places at all cross sections, other methods being Delight, the half lead and lead end places being irrelevant in classification. So the methods that I submitted ARE strictly Surprise. London Marvel is only London Surprise.

As for his classification of simple or difficult, are we to have a Difficulty Index? If so, how will he evaluate it? Will he find the 'average ringer' and count the number of mistakes that he makes in a peal in the method? Or will he take it to be proportional to, say, the number of right places per course, the square of the number of spot blows per course and the cube of the number of wrong places per course?

Regarding 'Fresh Possibilities,' E. C. S. says, 'All that is of value in Doubles is known.' Bunk! We have as yet not even started to explore this field seriously. There are thousands of extents (legitimate at that) that have yet to be put down on paper, even in the simple case of plain methods.—Yours sincerely,

F. T. BLAGROVE.

West Bedfont, Middlesex.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION

Northern District

The Northern District held its meeting in Baldock on February 26th. Ringing began at 3 p.m. and continued until 4.30, when the service was conducted by Canon Smith, with Miss Bate at the organ.

Mr. Butler was chairman for the business meeting, at which Mr. R. Agg, of Stevenage, was elected a member. The next meeting will be at Great Wymondley on March 26th, when the special method will be Norwich Surprise. The ringing festival at Benington is being revived and will take place on May 28th, so the monthly meeting will be brought forward to May 21st, and the July meeting will be on July 16th.

It is hoped that the Association badges will be ready in time for the annual general meeting at Watford, to which a coach will be going from this District.

After the meeting the bells were rung to a variety of methods, including Ealing Surprise.

J. S.

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD

Melton Mowbray District

Not many readers of 'The Ringing World' will have heard of Hose. The road to Hose is one of the pleasant byways for which rural England is so justly famous, and the village stands well back from the road, quietly minding its own business. This is not to say that Hose is a place to be forgotten, as it has a small but lovely church and, as far as ringers are concerned, a pretty little ring of five, rung from the ground floor, the bells of which go very well.

Hose has been for many months without a Vicar, but the Rev. C. and Mrs. Stewart-Robinson have now been installed about six weeks, and the ringers who attended the meeting on February 26th were delighted to meet them. Apparently Mr. Stewart-Robinson served his apprenticeship to the church at Keighley, Yorkshire, famous for its ring of eight, where his father was Vicar some years ago. On one occasion the special preacher at Keighley was the Bishop of Sodor and Man and one member of the congregation was heard telling her neighbour that the visitor was the Bishop of Sodom and Gomorrah!

Only 23 turned up for the service and tea, but this was not surprising as the main road had been completely blocked with snowdrifts earlier in the week and travelling was still an adventure. The service was delightful and included such old favourites as the 'Old Hundredth,' 'Praise, my Soul' and 'We love the place, O God.' At least one member of the congregation was reminded of a great occasion of state—the official opening of the Royal Festival Hall in London—when the 'Old Hundredth' was sung by a mighty choir and orchestra. The singing at Hose was less accomplished but no less fervent.

Tea was in the very best tradition of ringers' teas. The business meeting was conducted with the usual high spirits under the firm hand of Mr. Fred Williams, District chairman, and with secretary Harry Cook to dot the 'i's' and cross the 't's.'

The next District meeting is to take place at Somerby on April 2nd. The District outing on Whit Monday is to Lincolnshire the route and timetable to be decided by the committee. A bus is being arranged for the general meeting of the Guild at Lutterworth on March 19th.

FIRST PEAL IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Dear Sir,—Mr. Felstead and many other ringers will be interested to know that the conductor of the first peal rung in Huntingdonshire in 1888 at Keyston is still with us. He is Mr. Richard Dunkley, who is now 91 years of age and lives at the Crispin Arms, Wollaston, Northants.

As to whether there was anything wrong with the peal I can't say. I never heard Mr. Dunkley say there was. Nor have I heard the late Harry Chapman say there was. He knew of the peal and was a great friend of Mr. Dunkley's before going to Manchester in 1888. He retired to Keyston in 1928, lived there 20 years and is buried at the foot of the tower.

As to the record for silence at Keyston tower which Mr. Felstead mentions, that was because the bells were never really pealable. I first went there about 30 years ago, and it was 'donkey's work' to ring there. They are now unringable altogether. The band who rang that one and only peal on those bells, hung right down, with cannons below the gudgeon line, huge wheels, thick sallies and four-strand ropes with a long ground floor pull, ought to have had a medal.

Mr. Dunkley, by the way, called his first peal—Minor in seven methods—at Raunds on December 11th, 1886, and it would be interesting to know if there are any other conductors of peals prior to that date still with us. The Keyston peal was in seven methods; time taken, 3 hours and 30 minutes.

Raunds, Northants. W. J. WHITMORE.

DEDICATION

DEANE, BOLTON, LANCASHIRE

On February 12th the recast bells of the Church of St. Mary, Deane, Bolton, were dedicated by the Archdeacon of Manchester, the Venerable A. Selwyn Bean, Chaplain to the Queen. This is an old church which last year celebrated its quincentenary, and has much of historical interest. The old bells were poor in quality, having been augmented at different times from three to eight by different founders. Although faced with renovation schemes which will cost in the region of £10,000, the authorities realised that the bells were in need of a first-class job. The work was placed in the hands of Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough. The bells are now a beautiful ring of eight with a tenor of 1¼ cwt. in F sharp.

All the bells were gifts and as memorials to individuals who have passed to higher service. The second was the gift of the Ringing Master and churchwarden, Major Crook, and his wife. An old stalwart, not only to Deane, but to Lancashire ringing, Titus Barlow was commemorated by the tenor, the gift of his son Titus. Fellow ringers provided the sixth to the memory of Thomas B. Worsley and Titus Barlow, and the seventh is the gift of Titus Barlow's daughter to the memory of her mother. Another ringer, Thomas Cort, gave the fourth in memory of his parents. A former ringer's daughter gave a generous donation towards the cost of the installation in memory of Henry and Ellen Bentley. The tower clock, renewed by Messrs. William Potts and Sons, Ltd., of Leeds, was the gift of Elizabeth Settle in memory of her son.

In spite of the bad weather there was a large attendance at the service; it was the largest gathering of ringers ever seen in Bolton except at annual meetings. A splendid tea was provided free for all ringers.

The Vicar, the Rev. K. M. Bishop, himself a ringer, the president and secretary of the Lancashire Association the Rev. R. D. St. John Smith and Mr. Fred Dunkerley, were present, and ringers from as far north as Barrow-in-Furness, south, Stoke-on-Trent, west, Liverpool, and east, Leeds and Huddersfield. Every tower in the district was represented.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION

The very successful annual meeting of the Bedford District was held at St. Peter's, Bedford, on February 5th. Ringing was started promptly at 3 and continued until 4.30, when the curate, the Rev. R. Spencer, conducted a short Evensong. Tea was taken in the Church Hall, after which the business meeting began, with the president, Miss E. Steel, in the chair.

The retiring secretary, Mr. B. Pattison, read his report for 1954. It was most encouraging and a tribute to his hard work. Membership had increased by ten to 116. Five non-resident life members were elected during 1954. Sixteen peals had been rung (an increase of seven), which was very promising. The General Account and the Belfry Repair Fund both rose substantially.

The retiring secretary was heartily thanked for his hard work, and Mr. P. Shipton was elected to the vacated position. Messrs. J. Hillson and H. Gayton were elected to the General Committee, and Messrs. G. Hutchings and L. Duffield were elected to the District Committee.

The next meetings for the following months were agreed upon and six new members were elected. It may be noted that the meeting generally deplored peals of Plain Bob on the higher odd numbers, but welcomed the method for Sunday service ringing if it brought good striking.

Ringing was resumed on the light eight of St. Peter's.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

Eastern Branch at Loddon

Despite almost arctic weather conditions, 27 members and friends converged on Loddon on February 19th, where ringing was soon under way to suit all capabilities. In the unavoidable absence of the incumbent (the Rev. C. Ninham) the service was conducted by the Rector of Chedgrave (the Rev. Wynter Blathwayt), who, in the course of an interesting address, revealed himself to have been a ringer in his undergraduate days at Oxford. He aptly illustrated how ringing and that other great Varsity physical activity, rowing, depended on rhythm and team work. This, he impressed, was necessary in all forms of church work.

The meeting, following a sumptuous tea, was presided over by the Branch chairman (Mr. E. R. Goate), supported by the Association Ringing Master (Mr. N. Golden), the Branch Ringing Master (Mr. H. W. Barrett), who is also Master of the local band, and Mr. R. E. Browne, bell-loving member of the Parochial Church Council and a veteran honorary member of the Association.

The Branch officers and committee members were all re-elected for a further year.

Mr. J. G. W. Harwood, who was for 21 years secretary of the Branch and was recently made a vice-president of the Association, becomes an ex-officio member of the Standing Committee. Miss D. Lidbetter, of Acle, was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Standing Committee. S. Satterley, J. Fisher, B. Hammond and V. Hills (all of Blofield) were elected as new members of the Association.

The next meeting is to be held at Pakefield on May 21st, subject to arrangements being satisfactory.

Under 'any other business' Mr. Nolan Golden held the floor and spoke entertainingly on such diverse subjects as obstacles which arise in designing and producing economically a new Association badge, the pros and cons of the Central Council attitude towards Plain Bob on odd bells, and the work generally of the Methods Committee concerning which he considered much ill-formed criticism was too often heard. He concluded with an able exposition of certain of the more controversial of the Central Council's rulings.

Votes of thanks were accorded to all who helped towards a very successful meeting and especially to Mr. H. W. Barrett, who, together with Mrs. Barrett and other local ladies, served such an excellent tea.

In conclusion reference was also made amidst applause to the presence of Mr. R. Browne's 'young' brother, Neville, who last year, at the age of 70, rang his first quarter peal!

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION

In spite of the cold and unfavourable weather conditions, 60 ringers and friends attended the annual meeting of the Llandaff Branch at Pontypridd on February 19th. This musical ring of eight was soon going in the afternoon, with Mr. Fred Bailey in charge.

Following the service, conducted by the Rev. Stanley Mogford, the visitors were entertained to tea in the Church Hall. This was provided by the Mothers' Union and the St. Catherine's Guild of Ringers, and they were sincerely thanked by Mr. Fred Bailey.

With the Vicar in the chair, the business meeting was proceeded with. Mr. R. E. Coles was re-elected secretary-treasurer, and Mr. Fred Bailey continues as Branch Master and was also nominated for the office of General Master at the annual general meeting on Easter Monday. New members included seven from Pontypridd and five from Porthkerry.

Further ringing followed and a most delightful meeting eventually came to a close.

ROVING RINGERS' TOUR – 1954

A WIT amongst ringers was once heard to remark that the most attractive feature of the report on the Society of Roving Ringers' summer tour was that it made interesting reading in the winter months. To explode this theory once and for all an account is now given of the Society's eighth annual tour.

It started on the penultimate Saturday of July, and after a rather ragged assembly in Winchester, the proceedings began in earnest at Twyford; a few 'warming-up' touches in the tower were followed by the ringing of handbells in the churchyard, which brought forth the Vicar and a brief historical survey of the parish. The first night, disturbed only by the sound of many waters, was spent at the picturesque City Mill in Winchester, the country's first youth hostel, incidentally. On Sunday the party, by now at full strength, derived much pleasure from joining the Cathedral band in ringing for morning service; as a result of this liaison, Grandsire and Stedman Cinques were produced on these fine bells.

The memory of the rest of that day will doubtless linger in the minds of all those members who travelled 20 miles from Winchester in the pouring rain—first to Curdridge (a Taylor eight which generate a peculiar howl in the ringing chamber) and from thence to Southampton. It was a particularly bedraggled collection of specimens which presented itself to ring for Evensong at St. Michael's in that city, and it is quite likely that the Rev. K. W. H. Felstead was under the impression that the party represented a county where no peals had been rung since 1881. Be that as it may, we enjoyed some well-struck touches and a course of Cambridge Royal that was exceedingly pleasant to the ear.

The drying facilities at the Southampton youth hostel were a trifle inadequate to cope with the vast amount of sodden clothing festooned about the building, and therefore it was still to some accompaniment of squelching shoes that on Monday we visited North Stoneham (a very pleasant ring), Romsey Abbey (possessing a sonorous eight by Mears, 1797, and an outstandingly good organ by Walker, 1855 and later, both of which were put to good use) on the way to Fordingbridge and Cranborne. The cycle ride between Romsey and Fordingbridge was even more arduous than that of the previous day due to a head-on gale in unmercifully exposed terrain: the result of this was that several people were unable to disport themselves on the Warner octave at the latter tower. At Cranborne, as at the first two towers on Tuesday, we were pleased to have the company of Mr. A. R. Macdonald, of Poole, who was not unduly impressed by our Spliced Surprise, rung with rather more enthusiasm than success.

MEETING WITH THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY

At Wimborne St. Giles, the first tower on Tuesday, the Society was privileged to be met by the Earl of Shaftesbury, who received members individually and agreed to be present in a group photograph; gestures which were much appreciated. We understand that his Lordship commented favourably upon our performances on these pleasant but odd-struck bells. Some found the ten at Poole to be rather inaudible inside the tower, but Swanage, reached by traversing a chain-ferry and battling against a sandstorm, was a great improvement in this respect. As we were staying in the town overnight and as it was the local practice night, through the generosity of the Swanage ringers two sessions were held on this melliferous Taylor eight.

The following morning, in ideal weather, we arrived, after a good deal of slogging (uphill all the way) at Kingston, to be rewarded with a magnificent view and a heavy octave (by Taylor). Good use was made of these bells before we departed for Wareham (downhill all the way), where we were confronted with a rather different type of eight; tenor of uncertain weight, and tuning slightly at variance with Simpsonian principles. Two towers remained to be attacked on Wednesday and both entailed prolonged bouts of cycling. The bells of Blandford Forum were found to be very rewarding, and the organ (a superb specimen by George Pike, England, 1794) particularly so. But by the time members severally reached Marnhull a lack of energy was evident, consequently our performance on this typically village six (if the Marnhull ringers will permit this description) lacked that precision which is the hall-mark of the expert. The evening's entertainment did not finish when we left the tower, however; fortified in no uncertain manner by the chef of a Marnhull youth hostel, we were engaged in a skirmish in the hostel dormitory with some charming fellows, to wit, the West Ruislip Razor Slashers (motto: 'Slash yer from ear to ear'), who doubtless were enjoying a few days' slashing in the provinces.

Three towers were invaded on Thursday: Mere, the writer's 300th tower (not a prime number!); Westbury, a tribute to the bell founders' and hangers' arts (a lady member rang the 35-cwt. tenor with ease and grace); and Beckington—pleasant enough, but one or two had a little difficulty on account of the long draught. As the night was being spent at Bath, we were able to enjoy the company of a number of the Bath ringers in a suitable hostelry for an hour or so (the steep hill up to the hostel was alone responsible for the hiring of taxis at the end of this pleasant evening!); moreover, it meant that little exertion was required to reach Friday's first tower, Twerton. We then made a brief return to Wiltshire to further the cause at Holy Trinity, Bradford-on-Avon (a rather olde-worlde heavy eight with rather olde-worlde hanging, it seemed), and Trowbridge, where some delightful Stedman Cinques was sent floating over the town.

After the last scheduled ringing of the day at Mells (bells which met with general approval) a spot of tower snatching was indulged in (insult to the admirable arrangements of our competent secretaries!). The tower in question was Croscombe, and this necessitated interrupting the local tower captain in the course of his nocturnal pint.

WEEK-END AT SHERBORNE

It is a custom of the Society to stop itinerating from one youth hostel to another at the end of the week and to confine activities to a much smaller area; to this end, accommodation is secured at an hotel in some suitable town. This year the week-end was spent at Sherborne and our forces became progressively augmented as we travelled thither from Shepton Mallet, the first tower on Saturday via Evercreech (a delightful course of Yorkshire Royal was rung on these now famous bells), Ditcheat (Taylor again), where a broken rope brought matters to an untimely conclusion, and Queen Camel.

Dinner at the Half Moon was followed by 'the usual social activities,' to use a phrase which appears frequently in these columns; also (as the general feeling of well-being became more pronounced) by one or two rather anti-social activities—judging from some memorable observations of a gentleman who happened to be standing in the way of a quantity of water (or something) which was intended, incidentally, for a party who thought fit to serenade us from without. (Apologies to said gent.)

Ringing on Sunday took place first of all at the Abbey Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, where the tenor seemed to hold no terrors for the heavy-bell merchants. Then, after lunch, while the rest travelled in a time-honoured manner, some were bold and affluent enough to charter a couple of cars to reach St. Bartholomew's, Crewkerne, with its ring of eight—not particularly egregious, but a ladies' band had obvious pleasure in ringing them to Triples—and by the same means ventured forth to East Coker to sample the products of Mr. Bilbie in an extremely well-kept tower (there were even curtains at the ringing room windows!).

The tour ended on Monday, August 2nd. Two towers were visited on that day: Martock, famed for its nave roof, with its interesting mixture of bells by both obscure and famous (almost infamous!) founders, and, after a picnic lunch in the local (hats off to Mr. and Mrs. W. Kingcott for this), Yeovil, whose heavy ten were a fitting conclusion to a most enjoyable and profitable holiday. R. M.

A WINTER'S ADVENTURE IN TROWBRIDGE AREA

Three cars bearing ringers from Bridgwater and N.S.T.G. with 'supporters,' converged upon the village of Steeple Ashton on February 12th, just as snow began to fall. When we emerged from the tower after ringing on this very fine six (19 cwt.) it was to find the cars turned into three white statues. Not until the windscreens had been cleared could the party move off to the next tower, the good-going six at Seend (14½ cwt.).

Before going on to the third tower, Bratton (6, 7 cwt. 1 qr. 13 lb.), we returned to Steeple Ashton, where the local captain and his wife had kindly boiled a kettle of water for our tea. To Bratton was a perilous journey up an icy lane, at the end of which each car was manually assisted in turning round. These bells went well and the sallies almost touched the top of the low-ceilinged ringing chamber. Farleigh Hungerford bells (4) have a long draught. An inhabitant was heard to say that he had not heard any ringing there for 20 years, but there is reason to believe that this is an exaggeration! We were joined by E. T. P. F. and two ringing associates here and at the last tower of the day, Norton St. Philip (6, 10 cwt.). This village is better known for its famous inn, the George, than for its bells. Thanks are due to the organiser, Michael Horseman. M. E. F.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

There was a smaller attendance than usual at the meeting of the Scottish Association held at St. John's, Alloa, on February 19th.

In the unforeseen absence of the Ringing Master his duties were ably performed by Mr. H. Sargent, of Glasgow, a past Master of the Association, and by Mr. Donald Marshall, of St. Andrew's University Society.

The bells, the lightest ring of eight in Scotland, were rung to rounds, Grandsire, Stedman, Erin, Plain Bob, Little Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob. Towers represented at the meeting were St. Mary's Cathedrals, Glasgow and Edinburgh, Dunblane Cathedral, St. Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, and the local tower.

Members of the Social Committee of the parish very kindly entertained the members to tea in the Church Hall. The Rector, Canon Sturrock Clarke, joined the party at tea and told those present that it was always a pleasure for him to welcome the Association to Alloa.

An Average of 67.5 Peals a Year

In our issue of January 28th we referred to ringers who achieved big totals of peals in the past four or five years. To these should be added the name of Mr. Arthur V. Pearson, of Wolverhampton, who in the last four years has rung 270 peals, giving an average of 67.5 peals per year.

OBITUARY

MR. JOSEPH B. FENTON

Mr. Joseph B. Fenton, who passed away on February 20th, aged 84, learned to ring at Sleaford, Lincs. At the age of 18 he went to work at Lincoln and joined the St. Peter-at-Arches band, which then included such well-known ringers as Lindoff and Craven. A Surprise band in the 1890's was rare, and the Lincoln band accomplished many fine feats of Surprise Major.

In 1900 Mr. Fenton went to Rugby, where James George was trying to get a band for his new octave. By 1908 Surprise peals were being rung, conducted by Mr. Fenton, the peal of London Surprise Major at Rugby by the local band at the first attempt being considered a great performance in those days. He was a founder member of the Warwickshire Guild, now the Coventry Diocesan Guild, and rang over 100 peals for the Guild. Mr. W. Vann represented the Rugby ringers at the funeral.

MR. B. RIDGEWAY

It is with deep regret we report the death of Mr. Bartin Ridgeway, of Hinckley, who passed away in hospital at Nuneaton on February 18th, after a short illness.

Not a great peal ringer, he was always punctual for service ringing and ever ready to help with teaching youngsters. He was a trustee of the Hinckley and Atherstone districts of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, and a Past Provincial Grand Master.

The funeral service was attended by a large congregation including St. Mary's ringers and Mr. C. E. Turner (vice-president of the Leicester Diocesan Guild) and representatives of organisations with which he was connected.

At the graveside a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells by N. Marklow 1–2, E. Vallance 3–4, A. Ballard 5–6, C. E. Turner 7–8.

Later in the evening a peal of Stedman Triples was rung half-muffled as a last respect to a truly Christian gentleman. A. B.

MR. JAMES F. SMITH

By the passing of Mr. James Floyd Smith on Sunday, February 27th, the Oxford Diocesan Guild lost one of the best instructors it ever had. He was in his heyday on either side of the 1914-18 war, when resident in the Pangbourne area of the Thames Valley, where are numerous six-bell towers. His prowess as a six-bell ringer was generally acknowledged, and the late Tom Hibbert (secretary) and the late Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn (Master) each said that he was the best instructor in six-bell ringing the Guild possessed, and always advised any tower needing help with a new method to get his assistance.

Born in 1880, he served with distinction in the South African War, but could never be persuaded to speak of his exploits. His medals are adorned with a host of battle honours. Serving in the 18th Hussars, he twice survived having his horse shot beneath him, and was in Ladysmith with Sir Winston Churchill.

On his return home to Chalgrove he learned to ring with his brother Sydney under the tuition of the late Fred Woodward. An engineer by trade, his work took him to the middle Thames Valley, where he soon became a most able ringer and conductor. As a teacher, he insisted on good striking and on the proper study of a method at home, and would cycle miles to any tower to help a band.

In 1926 he moved to Nettlebed, near Henley, and taught a complete band, converting a call change tower into one with an enthusiastic Treble Bob band with no help from outside. An isolated village offers little scope for employment and one by one the band left for other areas, but the six-bell grounding they had received had been thorough, and progress on higher numbers was certain. 'Jim' persevered, however, and Nettlebed still has ringers taught by him before he left to go to Hungerford soon after the 1939-45 war.

To his bitter disappointment he found himself in a 'stoney' area and could get none of the local ringers to make any effort to change. Here he stagnated till ill-health forced him to go in retirement, to live with his daughter in Marlow. Heart trouble prevented his ringing and his only consolations were to listen with his window open to the Marlow band performing and to hear bells broadcast by the B.B.C.

His body was brought to church on Thursday, March 3rd, to the sound of his beloved bells, and as the cortege moved to the local cemetery (still within earshot) a beautiful half-muffled quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung, conducted by one of his former pupils, who learned to ring at Nettlebed under his instruction 25 years ago. He is survived by his widow and daughter. Those taking part in the funeral quarter were G. Gilbert (a very old friend) 1, R. I. Shepherd 2, W. W. Wolstencroft 3, W. Welling 4, E. D. Poole 5, R. E. Dean 6, W. Birmingham (conductor) 7, L. J. Young 8.

He kept no record of his peals, but his brother estimates that he must have rung at least 50, mainly of Minor. His last peal was at Hungerford in September, 1947, when the writer arranged a peal of Bob Major to enable him to enjoy at least one peal with some old friends.

HATFIELD SURPRISE MAJOR

The method:—

—38—14—1258—36—34—38—14—58.

2nds place lead end, 4ths place bob.

FCEs 24365, 32546, 46253, 53624 and 65432.

5,056 By W. E. CRITCHLEY

23456	B	W	M	H
65324		2	2	
23564		2	3	2
36245	x			
26543			—	3
35642			—	—
64235		2	—	3
24536			—	
43265	x			
52364			—	—
35426		—	—	3
23456		—		

First rung at Conisbrough, Yorks, on Jan. 31st, 1955, conducted by the composer.

5,056 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

By E. W. TIPLER (No. 16)

23456	B	M	W	H
42356				—
32654		—		3
62453		—		
54326		—	—	3
34625		—		3
34256	x			—
53246			—	3
52436			—	2
42635		—		
62534		—		3
45236		—		—
23456			—	—

First rung at Watlington, Oxon, on November 6th, 1954.

LATE NOTICES

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Tewkesbury Branch. — Meeting at Kemerton, March 26th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Business meeting follows. Names for tea, please, by 22nd to S. Devereux, Charmaine, Kemerton, near Tewkesbury. — J. Beech, Hon. Sec. 6000

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Towcester Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Helmdon on March 26th. Names for tea by Tuesday previous to W. A. Yates, Welsh Lane, Boycott, Buckingham. 6001

NOTICES

Scale of Charges

The charge of Notices for meetings is one penny a word, minimum 3s. 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. 6d.

All Notices must be prepaid.

Notices must be received on the Monday preceding publication.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The present address of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. S. Symonds is now: 29, Forest Drive, Westlands, Chelmsford, Essex. 5962

HANDBELLS FOR SALE

FOR SALE.—Complete set of 25 musical handbells. 'Mears.' Nos. 4—18 excellent condition. Also 11 G handbell. Seen by appointment. £60 or near offer.—Davis, Netherby, Monks Road, Virginia Water, Surrey. 5923

TWELVE handbells; tenor 19 F. Warner's casting. £20 or near offer.—D. Brett Smith, 76, White Horse Hill, Chislehurst, Kent. 5963

HANDBELLS WANTED

WANTED.—Octave or ten handbells; prepared to pay good price for sound set of bells, leather immaterial. — Baker, 48, Goodwood Avenue, Hutton, Essex. Phone Brentwood 2237 any time. 5930

WANTED.—A good secondhand set of handbells suitable for starting a boys' handbell band. Write: Hardwick, 18, Lister Avenue, Hitchin, Herts. 5968

PUBLICATION

EVERY TOWER should have a copy of the Central Council's Handbook on the Installation, Preservation and Repair of Bells, Bell Frames and Fittings and other kindred matters. Fourth edition just published. Price 2s. post free from Miss P. J. Ayris, 10, Sherwood Close, Launton, Bicester, Oxon.

MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED.—Secondhand books: 'Bells of the Church,' by H. T. Ellacombe; 'English Bells,' by T. North; 'The Bells of England,' by Rev. J. J. Raven.—Write Rev. P. J. Nixseaman, Northill Rectory, Biggleswade, Beds. 5894

MEETINGS

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Ship, Talbot Court, Saturday, March 12th, 6 p.m. Ringing, St. Giles', Cripplegate, 4 p.m.—A. B. Peck. 5947

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Taunton Branch.—Meeting at Trull, Saturday, March 12th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. —A. H. Reed, George Street, Taunton. 5914

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Chesterfield District.—Monthly meeting, Eckington (8) Saturday, March 12th, 3.30 p.m.—A. B. Cooper. 5935

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—West Hartlepool (St. Aidan's), Saturday, March 12th, 3 p.m.—W. F. Sheraton. 5976

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Cowden (6), March 12th. Tea at the Crown. Names by March 11th. Hammerwood not available.—C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Sussex.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Cambridge District. — Meeting at Meldreth. Saturday, March 12th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—H. L. Martin, Dis. Sec. 5958

5921

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern District. —Meeting at Great Easton (6). Saturday, March 12th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. 5892

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District. — Combined practice, Horsell, Saturday, March 12th, 6–9 p.m.—R. Collins.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Eastern District.—Meeting, Broxbourne, Saturday, March 12th, 3 p.m.—T. J. Southam. 5937

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Western District.—Redbourn (6), March 12th, 3 p.m. Names for tea Mr. Hobbs, 84, High Street, Redbourn, Herts.—R. Shutter, Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District. — By-meeting, Chilham, March 12th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea at 2s. 3d. per head. 5888

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Preston Branch.—Meeting at Walton-le-Dale, Saturday, March 12th. Bring own food.—L. Walmsley. 5980

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Northern District.—**Special Notice:** Meeting, Saturday, March 12th, St. Mary-atte-Bow (8) 3-4 p.m.; St. Dunstan's, Stepney (10) 4.30-6 p.m. Own arrangements for tea. Service, meeting, ringing, St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green (8), 7-9 p.m. Everyone welcome.—L. W. Bullock, Dis. Sec. 5994

SELBY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — Monthly meeting to be held at Carlton-juxta-Snaith, Saturday, March 12th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Please provide own food; cups of tea only available.—L. M. Woodhead, Hon. Sec. 5969

SURREY ASSOCIATION. — Southern District.—Combined practice at Nutfield (6) on Monday, March 14th, from 7 to 9 p.m. 5981

BARNSLEY DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Ossett, March 19th. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Tea 4.45 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify, not later than March 16th, Mr. F. Bennett, Carlton House, Ossett, near Wakefield. — D. Smith, Hon. Sec. 5997

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Chew Deanery. — Meeting at Clutton, March 19th, 4 o'clock.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Luton District. — Meeting at Dunstable Saturday, March 19th, 3 p.m. Look up Bedfordshire Surprise Major. All welcome.—D. Knox, Dis. Sec. 5983

BEVERLEY AND DISTRICT R.S.—Due to cancellation of Annual Dinner, meeting at Beverley, St. Mary's, Saturday, March 19th. Bells (10) available 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Bells until 9 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. A. Taylor, 28, Albert Terrace, Beverley.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Crewe Branch.—Church Lawton, March 19th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea must be received by March 16th.—W. Kerr, 102, Moreton Road, Crewe. 5986

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Grappenhall-Northwich joint Branch meeting at Daresbury advertised for to-morrow will now take place on Sat., March 19th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Names for tea to W. S. Booth, The Square, Daresbury. 5996

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Wirral Branch. — Meeting, Birkenhead, St. Mary's, March 19th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea free for those notifying by 16th at latest.—Alexander J. Martin, 19, Falcon Road, Birkenhead. 5999

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—J. W. Parker Commemoration meeting, St. Ignatius', Sunderland, March 19th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea, by March 16th, to D. A. Bayles, 12, Crichton Avenue, Chester-le-Street. 5995

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION. — Monthly meetiig, Tibshelf, Saturday, March 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names to Mr. T. Radford, 64, High Street, Tibshelf.—B. A. Sollis, Hon. Sec. 5975

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch. — Meeting, Hilgay, Saturday, March 19th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Names, please.—J. Fox, Walpole Marsh, Wisbech. 5990

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ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — N.E. District. — Meeting, Great Bentley, Saturday, March 19th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.45 p.m. Numbers for tea by Wednesday, March 16th, please.—J. Gould, Fir Tree Cottages, Great Bromley. 5985

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Cirencester Branch.—Spring quarterly, Maiseyhampton (6), March 19th, 3 p.m. Tea 4.45. Notify by March 16th. **No name, no tea.** Service 6 p.m.—R. Wenban, Williamstrip Cottages, Coln-St. Aldwyn, Cirencester. 5967

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—Combined practice at Seale (6) on Saturday, March 19th, 6-9 p.m.—G. S. Joyce, Hon. Dis. Sec. 5973

HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD. — Meeting, Saturday, March 19th, Rolvenden. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Names for tea by March 16th, to G. Billenness, 3, Grasmere Terrace, Hawkhurst. 5965

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — St. Albans District. — Meeting, Harpenden, Saturday, March 19th, at 3 p.m. Bells (8). Names for tea to Mr. A. Day, 58, Craveles Road, Harpenden.—S. Huckle, Dis. Sec. 5974

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Quarterly meeting, Swanscombe (8), March 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Names for tea, by March 14th, to Mr. E. O. Newbury, 94, Broomfield Road, Swanscombe.—Cyril S. Jarrett, Hon. Sec. 5991

LADIES' GUILD.—Kent Branch.—Meeting at Wrotham (8) on Saturday, March 19th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. R. Sills, The Square, Wrotham. All ladies welcome, gentlemen cordially invited.—Jill Haffenden. 5964

LADIES' GUILD.—Yorkshire District and Doncaster and District Society.—Joint meeting at Thrybergh, near Rotherham, March 19th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. For tea at 5 p.m. notify Miss D. Shaw, Deer Park Farm, Doncaster Road, Thrybergh. 20 minutes bus service from Sheffield, Rotherham and Doncaster.—E. D. Kelly, F. Jackson, Secs. 5978

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch. — Meeting at St. Wilfred's, Northenden, March 19th, 3 p.m. Business after tea. Cups of tea at cafe. 50 or 64 bus Piccadilly. Note changed arrangements.—R. Benson.

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Quarterly meeting at Lutterworth on March 19th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting in Town Hall 5. General Committee meet in Hall at 3.30. Names for tea, by 16th, to W. A. Wood, Fosseway, Croft, near Leicester. 5933

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Lincoln District. — Meeting at Bardney (6), Saturday, March 19th. Names for tea, by Wednesday previous, to C. Brown, 3, Altham Terrace, Lincoln. 5949

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION — S. and W. District.—Meeting at Stanwell (6), March 19th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. followed by tea. Ringing at Bedfont (6) 6.30-8 p.m. Names for tea to J. D. Rock, 346, Staines Road, Bedfont, Feltham. 5971

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Marlborough Branch. — Next meeting, Chiseldon, March 19th. Names to T. A. Palmer, 16, Oxford Street, Aldbourne, Marlborough, Wilts.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD. — Meeting at Christ Church, West Bromwich March 19th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Names for tea, not later than Tuesday, 15th, to Mr. D. C. Jinks, 5, Raleigh Street, West Bromwich. 5940

SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD. — Newark District.—Meeting at Bingham (8) on Saturday, March 19th. Bells 2.30. Service. Tea (2s.) at 5. — S. L. Barley. 5909

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting, Reigate, March 19th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Notifications for tea, by March 16th, please, to Miss B. Saggers, 28, Clarence Road, Redhill.—W. F. Oatway, Hon. Gen. Sec. 5932

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern Division.—Practice meeting, Maresfield, March 19th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Please notify by March 16th.—C. W. Linington, 11, Queen's Drive, Hassocks. 5913

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Winchester District.—Practice meeting, Stockbridge, March 19th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5, Vine Inn. Names, by previous Tuesday, to R. F. Brewer, Dean, Sparsholt, Winchester. 5987

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Western District.—The quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19th, at Leeds Parish Church. Bells (12) available from 2.30 p.m. Committee meeting 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea, no later than Wednesday, March 16th, to Mr. R. H. Dove, 26, Sycamore Avenue, Leeds, 8.—A. E. Marsh, Hon. Dis. Sec. 5946

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—Meeting at Hythe (8) on March 26th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Names for tea must reach Mr. W. J. Bidnell, Kenora, London Road, Hythe, Kent, by March 22nd.—W. P. G. 5992

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Maidstone District.—Quarterly meeting at Lenham, Saturday, March 26th. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names to R. L. Sills, The Square, Wrotham. 5993

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Northampton Branch. — Meeting, Brixworth, Saturday, March 26th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea, please, by March 21st, to G. F. Roome, 116, Derby Road, Northampton. 5966

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Quarterly meeting at Thames Ditton, Surrey, Saturday, March 26th. Bells (6) available 2 p.m. Service (probably) 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Kingston bells (10) available after tea. Names for tea, by Monday, March 21st, please, to Mrs. F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey.—P. N. Bond, Hon. Sec. 5970

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Annual general meeting, Yeovil, on Easter Monday, April 11th. Ringing at St. John's 11. Service at 12 noon. Luncheon, limited to 100, for **ticket holders only.** Applications for tickets, enclosing stamped addressed envelope, to R. O. Fry, 5, Morford Street, Bath. Details of further ringing later. 5977

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, Bedford, Easter Monday. Lunch 1 p.m at Dujon followed by meeting. St. Paul's (majestic ring of 10) 10.30 a.m.-12.30 and 5.30 onwards; St. Peter's, Bedford (8), and Clapham (6) 3-4.30. All ringers most welcome. Names for lunch, please, to Mr. J. W. Sinfield, 4, Queen Street, Houghton Regis, Beds. 5982

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—Meeting at Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, April 30th. All members and friends welcome. Coach transport to and from this meeting at about 6s. per person will be available if enough support is forthcoming. Please write to Mrs. T. J. Lock, 57, Holloways Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Herts. 5988

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