68th HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER

THE RINGING WORLD

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SUNDAY SERVICE RINGING

Some Problems Involved In Its Maintenance

WHERE are the instructors? pleads a recent leading article. The author continues with a statement no church bell-ringer worthy of the name dares refute; that is, that 'the yardstick of a good ringer is his effectiveness in Sunday service ringing.' Yet we are all aware of towers, now silent, where since the war there has been a flourishing band. Another problem is the apathy of some bands. On a recent Sunday the writer was obliged to be in a village away from his own tower. No bells were rung for the morning service, and in the evening the band didn't muster till five minutes before the service was due to commence, when some well-struck changes were rung. A band of this ability should not allow itself, as it regularly is doing, I understand, to become so indifferent about its Sunday ringing. Who is to blame? Is it the fault of the captain? Should the band be criticised collectively? Or is it the Vicar's lack of interest?. It certainly isn't the bells which are to blame—they run perfectly.

Some bells are occasionally found in an unringable state. More often than not, as the founders will acknowledge, regular ringing and proper care would have prevented their deterioration until a large sum of money would have to be raised before they could be restored to ringing order. Quite often an enthusiastic band with a will to succeed can themselves rectify any deficiencies in their bells without calling on their parish for help.

Before considering instructors we must turn our thoughts to the material upon which they will have to work. Recruitment of ringers is no easy task. One encounters various obstacles. One is a misinformed public. Recently the writer appealed to the headmaster of the local Boys' Grammar School. There was not a single volunteer. It transpired later that the head stressed that bell-ringing was very strenuous, and only boys of exceptional physique would be suitable candidates! Obviously a different approach will be made next time. A similar request to the Girls' High School resulted in so many volunteers that the headmistress had to whittle the number down to four by a process of elimination. One's own church can be an obstructionist. The writer regarded the choir as a natural recruiting ground, the choirboys already having a faithful attachment to their church, which they would probably like to continue after their voices broke. Two lads already plain hunting were discovered by the choirmaster to be ringers and singers, and plainly told that they could not be BOTH and that they were singers first! Fortunately this attitude is not universal. There is much to commend the recruitment of young people. Teaching elderly folk is a painstakingly slow, patient task and hours are wasted which could more profitably be spent on youngsters. Very few old pupils make first-class change ringers, and acquiring this art is a joint objective, with Sunday ringing, of all ringing associations.

It is unwise to have too many learners all at the same stage. Each has to be considered, with the result that he may get something for his benefit only once or twice throughout a whole practice. Sitting watching others ring is neither going to advance his progress nor satisfy his enthusiasm for his new pastime. An investigation of a potential recruit's outside interests should be made. If he has already several evenings committed to other organisations, he should be passed over. No one can do many jobs thoroughly. An encumbered ringer will either fail through a clash of loyalties, or make little headway because of insufficient time to study, or be one of those people who are constantly attempting something fresh and tiring of it as soon as the novelty has worn off. It takes a long time to make a proficient ringer, and one should not throw away hours of practice time on a beginner who is likely to become one of the drifters.

Potential ringers should be made to understand that ringing is not just a pleasurable hobby, but a duty to the Church, which demands their regular attendance twice on Sundays and on practice night. Sunday ringing should be held up as something very special, ringing which is not practice, but the performance of what one has already learned to do, and do with perfection, if possible. Learners should be encouraged to read AND STUDY ringing books. They should constantly be given 'homework,' but not forced to study matter beyond their grasp. Thus they will be always in a state of preparedness for their next advance.

The responsibility for this recruiting and teaching lies on the instructor. A good instructor needs many qualities.

First, he must be an enthusiast. If he is apathetic, or puts other activities before his belfry, he loses the respect of his ringers, and kills their ardour. If he is keen, his band will share his enthusiasm.

The second attribute is his own ability. An instructor can take his pupil no further than he has gone himself. He should therefore seek to keep himself a proficient ringer and conductor: he should encourage his pupils to conduct, so they can step into the breach in his absence, and be initiated into a branch of change ringing they can pursue at home by patient study, thus eventually outstripping their teacher through their own initiative.

An instructor must maintain discipline in the belfry and not allow interference in his teaching methods. He must always be prepared to learn some better method; but when he has decided on a teaching system he must keep to it, or his pupils will be confused. He must secure the co-operation of his band in ringing mainly humble methods when he has learners. They have opportunities for peals, and at Guild practices, which the beginners have not.

There are times when an instructor needs the courage of his convictions. He may be unwilling, for reasons of charity or numerical strength, to tell someone that he ought to give up ringing, as he will never make a good ringer. A choir or an orchestra would not keep a performer who is not up to standard; neither should a belfry retain a ringer who is a danger to himself and others with a bellrope in his hand, or who is such a bad striker that (after long perseverance) he will always ruin all the ringing in which he participates. After all, it is GOOD Sunday ringing we desire, and the outside listeners are only concerned with good striking.

A good instructor will urge his pupils to attend Guild practices and other local weekly practices—but not the latter before they can hunt, or they will hold up their neighbours' practices and be unwelcome. These visits will start young ringers 'tower-snatching,' a diversion which helps to keep them from giving up. Other diversions, such as organised visits to other towers or handbell ringing (especially tune ringing), all help to maintain a band.

Yes, instructors are vital. A good band should be prepared to release any good ringer who will undertake the raising of a band in a neighbouring parish where the bells are silent. One of the ringers in the writer's tower left, to the regret of his colleagues, and soon had a flourishing band in a tower which had become silent. Could one really do other than commend his action, or be unwilling to lose a good and faithful member who is undertaking a difficult and honourable task?

Might we hope that others with nearby silent bells will follow his example if their towers can possibly spare them. Thus will the call for instructors be answered and silent bells be heard again. With the right instructors, and the right type of pupils properly taught, we shall have our bells rung on Sundays: but we also need the older hands who should be prepared to sacrifice their Sunday morning 'lie-in' and often their breakfast to their duty. Even the garden should wait.

When EVERY ringer views his Sunday ringing as a DUTY the problem will be solved.

W. BIRMINGHAM.

TEN BELL PEAL

WEST HARTLEPOOL, COUNTY DURHAM.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 3 Hours and 12 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. OSWALD,
A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL
Tenor 21 cwt. 2 qr. 12 lb. in E.

*WILLIAM MAUGHAN	*Treble*	BRIAN HARRIS	6
†E. ALAN RAWLINSON	2	A. NEVILLE BROWN	7
‡ROBIN G. LEALE	3	J. ALAN AINSWORTH	8
FRANK G. BLOOMFIELD	4	DENIS A. BAYLES	9
‡KENNETH LAWSON	5	ROLAND PARK	*Tenor*

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by DENIS A. BAYLES.
* First of Surprise Royal. † First of Royal 'inside.' ‡ First of Cambridge Royal. J. A. Ainsworth's 100th tower bell peal.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 18, 1956, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES
Tenor 15 cwt. 2 qr. 20 lb. in F.

*MICHAEL H. PAULSON	*Treble*	REV. G. GORDON GRAHAM	5
RONALD H. BULLEN	2	ALEX. RICHARDSON	6
MRS. GLADYS RICHARDSON	3	BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE	7
WILLIAM A. SMITH	4	GEORGE H. PAULSON	*Tenor*

Composed by H. HUBBARD. Conducted by BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE.
* First peal. First peal of Plain Bob Triples by all except the tenor ringer. First peal of Triples as conductor. First peal of Plain Bob Triples on the bells.
Rung half-muffled in memoriam Mrs. Hugh Gregory, wife of a local ringer.

GREAT GRIMSBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 18, 1956, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
Parker's Twelve-part (seventh observation).
Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb. in E.

*ROLAND DRURY	*Treble*	*FRANK KENNINGTON	5
GWEN I. RUSBY	2	STEPHEN BROMFIELD	6
JACK L. MILLHOUSE	3	ARTHUR PASHLEY	7
J. BENJAMIN BUDD	4	*DAVID J. KENNINGTON	*Tenor*

Conducted by JACK L. MILLHOUSE.
* First peal and first attempt.
Rung for the appointment to the Canonry and Prebendal Stall of Nassington of the Rev. G. W. Markham, M.A., Vicar of this parish.

PENDLETON, LANCASHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sun., Feb. 19, 1956, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET,
A PEAL OF 5120 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 18 cwt. 10 lb. in F.

FRANK BARRACLOUGH	*Treble*	LESLIE BOUMPHREY	5
DAVID VINCENT	2	*NEIL LOMAS	6
BASIL JONES	3	ALAN J. BROWN	7
RUTH M. JACKSON	4	PETER BORDER	*Tenor*

Composed by F. DENCH. Conducted by PETER BORDER.
* First peal of Cambridge Surprise Major.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Wed., Feb. 22, 1956, in 2 Hours and 15 Minutes,
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,
A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES
F. H. Dexter's Variation of Thurstans' Four-part.
Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in C.

ERNEST MORRIS	*Treble*	JOHN A. SMITH	5
JOHN A. ACRES	2	JOHN M. JELLEY	6
MRS. H. J. POOLE	3	BRIAN G. WARWICK	7
G. RONALD EDWARDS	4	*JOAN M. BROWN	*Tenor*

Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.
* First peal.

BOCKING, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,
AT THE DEANERY CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5024 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR
Tenor 18¾ cwt.

HENRY PRATT	*Treble*	RONALD SUCKLING	5
CECIL BARKER	2	ALAN R. SYDER	6
JOHN WARNER	3	WALTER ARNOLD	7
FRANK B. LUFKIN	4	TERRY EARLE	*Tenor*

Composed by A. KNIGHT. Conducted by RONALD SUCKLING.

BULKINGTON, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb.

JUNE KNIGHT	*Treble*	ALFRED BALLARD	5
ANN BARR	2	EDMUND MALIN	6
JOAN BERESFORD	3	J. EDWARD CAWSER	7
PETER BERESFORD	4	GEORGE E. OLIVER	*Tenor*

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by J. EDWARD CAWSER.

CHATHAM, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor 25 cwt.

DEREK NORRIS	*Treble*	THOMAS BEAUMONT	5
PETER F. BORER	2	RONALD E. NORRIS	6
HARRY SPRINGATE	3	WILLIAM A. J. KNIGHT	7
FRANCIS J. CHEAL	4	CHARLES E. J. NORRIS	*Tenor*

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by WILLIAM A. J. KNIGHT.
Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

ECCLES, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 3 Hours and 7 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5120 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 20 cwt.

FRANK BARRACLOUGH	*Treble*	RONALD KENRICK	5
MARGARET E. RIDYARD	2	JACK ASHCROFT	6
*BRIAN A. TOMLINSON	3	JAMES W. GROUNDS	7
ARTHUR TOMLINSON	4	JOSEPH RIDYARD	*Tenor*

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.
* First peal of Surprise.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. REMIGIUS,
A PEAL OF 5184 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 9 cwt. 74 lb. in G.

RAYMOND G. LOFTY	*Treble*	STANLEY W. COPLING	5
JOHN S. BARNES	2	REV. GILBERT THURLOW	6
GEORGE SAYER	3	H. WILLIAM BARRETT	7
ARTHUR G. BASON	4	NOLAN GOLDEN	*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN

HIGHER WALTON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(Preston Branch.)
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 3 Hours and 15 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5152 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Middleton's. Tenor 16 cwt.

PHILIP DUNDERDALE	*Treble*	CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE	5
THOMAS BARKER	2	JAMES BLACKBURN	6
G. ALEC DIMMOCK	3	ARTHUR HATCH	7
LAWRENCE WALMSLEY	4	FRANK STEAD	*Tenor*

Conducted by CYRIL CROSSTHWAITE.
Rung to commemorate the unveiling and dedicating of a plaque on February 4th to mark the birthplace of the late Kathleen Mary Ferrier, the well-known contralto.

HODNET, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 3 Hours and 3 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,
A PEAL OF 5040 LITTLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 12 cwt. 24 lb.

F. HECTOR BENNETT	*Treble*	EDWARD V. RODENHURST	5
PERCY SWINDLEY	2	DENNIS H. B. MILLWARD	6
*FREDERICK LEECH	3	JOHN W. GRIFFITHS	7
GEORGE F. SPERRING	4	HARRY W. HOWARD	*Tenor*

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by HARRY W. HOWARD.
* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.
Rung on the birthdays of, and as birthday compliments to, Kenneth Parker and the conductor.

MORECAMBE, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor 10 cwt.

*DOROTHY NELSON	*Treble*	GEORGE E. BRAITHWAITE	5
MARION HAYTOR	2	*HERBERT RAINFORD	6
†ROLAND F. ECCLES	3	‡ALAN CAPSTICK	7
‡JAMES E. BURLES	4	JACK BAGNALL	*Tenor*

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by GEORGE E. BRAITHWAITE.
* First peal of Major. † 25th peal. ‡ 25th peal together
Rung as a compliment to Janet Patricia (born January 3rd, 1956), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Eccles.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,
A PEAL OF 5088 ROTHERHAM SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb. in F.

JOSEPH W. WHITTAKER	*Treble*	C. KENNETH LEWIS	5
FRED DUNKERLEY	2	LESLIE BOUMPHREY	6
EDWARD JENKINS	3	PETER LAFLIN	7
BASIL JONES	4	JOHN WORTH	*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by C. KENNETH LEWIS.
Rung with a fourth's place bob. First peal in the method by the Guild, on the bells and by all the band.

NORTHOWRAM, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 3 Hours and 12 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,
A PEAL OF 5280 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR
In seven methods, being 960 London, 928 Watford, 896 Bristol, 672 Cambridge, 608 Dorchester, 640 Superlative and 576 Pudsey, with 125 changes of method. All the work of each method for every bell.
Tenor 16 cwt

JOHN J. L. GILBERT	*Treble*	J. FREDERICK MILNER	5
MILTON C. FOWLER	2	W. ERIC CRITCHLEY	6
HOWARD SCOTT	3	GORDON BENFIELD	7
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS	4	NORMAN CHADDOCK	*Tenor*

Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by W. ERIC CRITCHLEY.

PETERSFIELD, HAMPSHIRE.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 3 Hours and 6 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5088 LYME SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 16½ cwt.

ROGER BALDWIN	*Treble*	R. ROGER SAVORY	5
MARGARET E. L. BEAMISH	2	PETER NASH	6
S. KATHLEEN M. KNIGHT	3	CHARLES H. KIPPIN	7
ADRIAN J. TUMBER	4	J. MICHAEL LAKIN	*Tenor*

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by J. MICHAEL LAKIN.
First peal in the method by all the band, and for the Guild.

PONTEFRACT, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
Parker's Twelve-part (seventh observation). Tenor 18 cwt.

D. MARGARET HAWLEY	*Treble*	*JOHN POTTS	5
HORACE S. MORLEY	2	ALAN SHEPPARD	6
G. FRED TERRY	3	LESLIE M. WOODHEAD	7
EDWARD M. BRADLEY	4	DOUGLAS BARKER	*Tenor*

Conducted by LESLIE M. WOODHEAD.
* First peal of Triples.
Rung for the christening of Carol May Sheppard, daughter of the ringer of the sixth bell.

SOBERTON, HAMPSHIRE.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, in 2 Hours and 59 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5088 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 4 lb.

RUSSELL H. R. PARKER	*Treble*	TOWER R. TAYLOR	5
MARION J. PARKER	2	ALFRED T. GREENWOOD	6
E. WINIFRED KEYS	3	FREDERICK W. ROGERS	7
LESLIE D. DUGUID	4	WILLIAM T. BEESON	*Tenor*

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by FREDERICK W. ROGERS.
Rung as a welcome to the new vicar (Rev. K. G. P. King), who was inducted to the living of Soberton with Newtown on February 14th.

CHISLEHURST, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., Feb. 28, 1956, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,
A PEAL OF 5056 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 17¼ cwt.

A. PATRICK CANNON	*Treble*	ALAN F. THIRST	5
*JOHN L. MORRIS	2	THOMAS J. LOCK	6
*BRIAN BLADON	3	FREDERICK J. CULLUM	7
*DENNIS BERESFORD	4	THOMAS H. FRANCIS	*Tenor*

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by FREDERICK J. CULLUM.
* First peal in the method.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

NORTH CREAKE, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., Feb. 8, 1956, in 2 Hours and 43 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR
Being one extent of Kent T.B. and six extents of Plain Bob.
Tenor 12 cwt.

BOB ALLCOCK	*Treble*	BERNARD G. MOORE	4
*DOROTHY PALMER	2	GEOFFREY R. DREW	5
DOUG. HARRISON	3	TONY OWEN	*Tenor*

Conducted by TONY OWEN.
* First peal in two methods. The ringer of the treble has now 'circled the tower.'
An 87th birthday compliment to the treble ringer's mother.

WHATLEY, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., Feb. 8, 1956, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES
Being 42 six-scores (ten callings). Tenor 12 cwt.

*THELMA HALL	*Treble*	*PETER J. H. WYCHERLEY	4
PERCY BRAY	2	ERNEST E. BRAY	5
W. JOHN PHIPPEN	3	CHARLES PEARCE	*Tenor*

Conducted by ERNEST E. BRAY.
* First peal.

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CODFORD, WILTSHIRE.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 11, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 37 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 30 extents of Grandsire Doubles and 12 extents of Plain Bob.
Tenor 10½ cwt.

PERCY BRAY	*Treble*	NORMAN KNEE	4
W. JOHN PHIPPEN	2	THOMAS E. MALLARD	5
ERNEST E. BRAY	3	HUBERT A. PERRETT	*Tenor*

Conducted by ERNEST E. BRAY.

HONILEY, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Wed., Feb. 15, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 32 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 12 extents of Plain Bob (four callings), 30 extents of Grandsire (ten callings). Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 4 lb. in B flat.

A. CHARLES MORRIS	*Treble*	ANTHONY A. UPTON	3
DOROTHY M. PALMER	2	J. THOMAS GWILT	4
DOUGLAS HARRISON	*Tenor*		

Conducted by DOUGLAS HARRISON.
The first peal on the bells since rehanging.

HORNINGSHAM, WILTSHIRE.
NON-ASSOCIATION.
On Fri., Feb. 17, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 46 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 24 extents of Grandsire, 16 extents of Plain Bob and two extents of April Day. Tenor 18 cwt.

PERCY BRAY	*Treble*	W. JOHN PHIPPEN	4
DAVID ROBERTSON	2	ERNEST E. BRAY	5
PETER J. H. WYCHERLEY	3	HUGH VENNELL	*Tenor*

Conducted by ERNEST E. BRAY.
First peal on the bells.
Rung for the conductor's 21st birthday.

BUCKNALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 18, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 47 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 CASTLETON 3rd's PLACE DELIGHT MINOR

Being two 2,160's and one 720. Tenor 11 cwt.

GEORGE MOUNTFORD	*Treble*	EWART H. EDGE	4
REGINALD O. PRESTON	2	FREDK. E. WILSHAW	5
FREDK. WM. GROCOTT, SEN.	3	FREDK. WM. GROCOTT, JUN.	*Tenor*

Conducted by FREDK. WM. GROCOTT, JUN.
First peal in the method by all the band, on the bells and for the Association. 50th peal on the bells.
Rung as part of the Centenary celebrations of the church, also as a wedding compliment to the Rev. W. G. J. James and Miss N. Twigg.

CLEEVE PRIOR, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 18, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 48 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one 720 of Kent Treble Bob and two each of Single Oxford and Plain Bob, rung alternately with different callings. Tenor 9 cwt. in G.

WILFRED J. NEWMAN	*Treble*	ROBERT W. COLE	4
*REV. ALBERT WEBB	2	*HAROLD E. RAXTER	5
GERALD C. HEMMING	3	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING	*Tenor*

Conducted by GERALD C. HEMMING.
* First peal of Minor.

HATTON, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 18, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 39 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two extents each of Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob and three extents of Plain Bob, each called differently.
Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb. in F sharp.

WILLIAM C. RHODES	*Treble*	*J. WILLIAM HOVEY	4
*LESLIE L. WILLIS	2	†D. KEITH LANE	5
*DONALD L. HOOPER	3	GORDON H. LANE	*Tenor*

Conducted by GORDON H. LANE.
* First peal in three Minor methods. † First peal of Minor. First peal of Minor as conductor.

WILLINGHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 18, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 41 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ALL SAINTS.
A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven extents (two callings). Tenor 12½ cwt.

*ALEC T. DENSON	*Treble*	*DONALD A. MORTLOCK	4
DONALD E. R. KNIGHTS	2	GEOFFREY A. LUCAS	5
STANLEY SHIPP	3	MANSFIELD GINN	*Tenor*

Conducted by MANSFIELD GINN.
* First peal of Surprise.

APPLEFORD, BERKSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., Feb. 20, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 43 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Comprising seven extents in 18 methods with 119 changes of method, viz.: (1) College Exercise, Norbury, Duke of Norfolk and Ockley Treble Bob; (2) Cambridge and Primrose Surprise; (3) Oxford and Kent Treble Bob; (4) Double Bob, Canterbury Pleasure, Reverse Bob and Fulbeck; (5) Thelwall and Childwall; (6) Double Oxford and St. Clement's; (7) Plain Bob and Single Oxford. Tenor 8 cwt.

*WILLIAM L. GILKS	*Treble*	*MALCOLM S. CLOKE	4
DOUGLAS O. WILKS	2	HARRY P. FLOYD	5
*DONALD H. NIBLETT	3	ALAN R. PINK	*Tenor*

Conducted by ALAN R. PINK.
* First peal in more than 16 Minor methods. The greatest number of methods yet rung to a peal on these bells.

BUNWELL, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., Feb. 22, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 35 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS.
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being three extents of Plain Bob, two extents of Oxford Treble Bob and one extent each of Kent Treble Bob and St. Clement's.
Tenor 10 cwt.

LEONARD G. TOOKE	*Treble*	FRANK C. J. ARNOLD	4
RONALD E. BURT	2	WILFRED G. SAUNDERS	5
T. CHARLES BROWNE	3	*C. FRANK W. PHILLIPPO	*Tenor*

Conducted by C. FRANK W. PHILLIPPO.
* 100th peal.

BLACKWELL, DERBYSHIRE.
THE EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.
On Thurs., Feb. 23, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 40 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WERBURGH,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two extents of St. Clement's Bob, one of Plain Bob, one of Single Oxford Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 7 cwt.

*JUNE HIND	*Treble*	FRANK BRADLEY	4
DOREEN ARMSTRONG	2	J. PHILLIP EASTLAND	5
WALTER DAVIS	3	ALBERT E. WHEELER	*Tenor*

Conducted by DOREEN ARMSTRONG.
* First peal, first attempt. First Plain method peal as conductor. All Blackwell ringers except third.

HARTFIELD, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 38 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Consisting of a 720 each of (1) Cambridge Surprise, (2) Oxford Treble Bob, (3) Double Court, (4) Double Oxford, (5) St. Clement's, (6) Kent Treble Bob and (7) Single Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.
Tenor 12½ cwt. in F sharp.

*EVELYN D. ADAMS	*Treble*	WILLIAM A. KITCHENSIDE	4
†IVAN A. C. BUTCHER	2	FREDERICK J. LAMBERT	5
†STANLEY G. PONTING	3	FRANK H. HICKS	*Tenor*

Conducted by FRANK H. HICKS.
* First peal of Minor and in eight methods. † First peal in eight methods.
Rung to celebrate both the 21st birthday and the engagement (Feb. 19th) of the treble ringer.

RAMPTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 9 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES

Being 42 extents (two callings). Tenor 4½ cwt.

STANLEY SHIPP	*Treble*	WILLIAM J. RIDGEMAN	3
DONALD E. R. KNIGHTS	2	ARTHUR YARROW	4
GEOFFREY A. LUCAS	*Tenor*		

Conducted by GEOFFREY A. LUCAS.
First peal as conductor.

ST. EVAL, CORNWALL.
(R.A.F. Station.)
THE TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 34 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EVAL,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 6 cwt.

ROBERT A. SOUTHWOOD ..	*Treble*	ARTHUR F. BURLEY	4
*A. HUBERT EPLETT	2	DAVID N. PENROSE	5
V. MARY MATTHEWS ..	3	ALAN CARVETH	*Tenor*

Conducted by ROBERT A. SOUTHWOOD.
* 75th peal.

STOCKBURY, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 47 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being 14 six-scores each of Plain Bob, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure and Grandsire Doubles. Tenor 15 cwt.

*ANTHONY BAX	*Treble*	†GEORGE A. NAYLOR.. ..	3
†EDWARD C. BARTON ..	2	‡ALBERT J. DUNK	4

GEORGE KENWARD .. .. *Tenor*
Conducted by GEORGE A. NAYLOR.
* First peal. † 25th peal together. ‡ 25th peal.
Rung half-muffled as a last token of respect to William Hughes, for many years captain of the Stockbury ringers, who died during the week in his 90th year, and was laid to rest the day previous to the peal in the churchyard near the tower.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., Feb. 25, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 51 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 6 cwt. 6 lb.

R. ANTHONY TRICKETT ..	*Treble*	LEONARD COPNALL	4
*ROSEMARY G. SEATON ..	2	MICHAEL G. MORGAN-WYNNE	5
JOHN E. BROUGH	3	J. DEREK SMITH..	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN E. BROUGH.
* First peal 'inside.'
Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to the ringer of the second.

ETWALL, DERBYSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., Feb. 29, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 24 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN.
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 8 cwt. 2 qr. 24 lb. in A flat.

*FREDERICK G. MURFIN ..	*Treble*	VIVIENNE M. HORTON ..	4
GORDON A. HALLS	2	†ROY MARSDEN	5
PATRICIA A. M. FORSTER	3	DEREK P. JONES	*Tenor*

Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.
* First peal away from tenor cover. † First peal 'inside.'
Rung for the 20th anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. J. Forster, parents of Miss P. A. M. Forster.

WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD
On Wed., Feb. 29, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 34 *Minutes.*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MAURICE,
A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR

Being seven different callings. Tenor 7¼ cwt. in A flat.

DEREK C. JACKSON.. ..	*Treble*	RAYMOND E. FINCH	4
*RUTH A. CAREY	2	TREVOR A. CROSS	5
MARGARET E. L. BEAMISH	3	J. MICHAEL LAKIN	*Tenor*

Conducted by J. MICHAEL LAKIN.
* First peal of Cambridge Minor.

HANDBELL PEAL

STONEY STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
(Hinckley District.)
On Wed., Feb. 15, 1956, *in* 1 *Hour and* 32 *Minutes,*
AT THE BLUE BELL INN,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

Being seven extents. Tenor size 11 in G.

JOHN A. SMITH	1—2	*JOHN VERNON	3—4
*MICHAEL VERNON	5—6		

Conducted by MICHAEL VERNON.
* First peal of Minor 'in hand.'

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AND
JOHNSTON
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BELL FOUNDERS
AND
CLOCK MAKERS

CROYDON

THE SOCIETY OF ROVING RINGERS

Ninth Annual Reunion

Despite the weather and bad road conditions 41 members and friends attended the ninth reunion held at Nottingham on February 4th and 5th.

Most members reached Nottingham in time to visit the light eight at Daybrook, where we were given a very warm welcome by Mr. Ball. After some enjoyable ringing we all left by car for Nottingham. At St. Mary's we were met and welcomed by Mr. Nichols and everyone was soon eager to begin ringing on these fine bells. Unfortunately several touches came to an untimely end through the sixth rope slipping wheel but, with Mr. Nichols' able assistance, we soon rectified this and concluded by ringing a half course of Yorkshire Royal.

Whilst some people had tea the rest went on to St. Peter's, where we found a little difficulty with our striking but enjoyed a very pleasant hour's ringing before leaving for our hotel—The Flying Horse.

After an excellent dinner we adjourned to the residents' lounge and began our meeting.

Mr. Roger Fry was elected chairman and the meeting began with the secretaries' report. Letters of apology were received from several members, including Simon Barley, who unfortunately had to go into hospital for a slight operation. We were pleased to see John Hill back with us and three members of H.M. Forces, who managed to obtain leave for the occasion. The 1955 tour, commencing at Cambridge and finishing in Cheltenham, had been very successful, with 16 members taking part during the week and 30 at the Bank Holiday week-end. The report concluded with the notice of two forthcoming marriages and the announcement of the engagement between Terry and Sheila, to whom we extend our congratulations.

The following new members were elected:—Marjorie Hunter (London), Doreen Dutton (Leicester) and Ann Cox (Guildford). It was decided that in future, to be eligible for election, the ringer must attend at least one tour.

Before electing the new officers for 1956 we expressed our thanks to all those who had held office in 1955, particularly the retiring Master (Mr. N. J. Diserens) and Miss A. Bailey, who has been our recorder since the beginning of the S.R.R. and is going to Canada for 18 months.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Society a new office, that of president, has been created, and Mr. Mark White (one of our founders and the original secretary) was proposed and unanimously elected. George Evenden was elected Master, John Sansom takes over from Audrey Bailey and the other officers were re-elected.

As we have no funds it was decided on the treasurer's advice that members would make a small contribution at all future reunions and tour week-ends, to be placed in a Post Office account as a permanent backing to cover the Society's expenses.

Proposals for the 1956 tour were made and North Yorkshire received the most votes.

The meeting ended with an invitation from Bill and Hilda Kingcott to Wrington for a peal on April 7th. The rest of the evening passed quickly and pleasantly.

The party divided for Sunday morning ringing, some of the six-bell enthusiasts rang at Woolaton and the rest attended St. Mary's and St. Peter's. After lunch we rang at Radcliffe-on-Trent, where the incumbent came up to the belfry to welcome us to his church. Then some farewells were said and the rest of us went on to Bulwell. After a regretfully short visit the party went their various ways home, but seven met again at Leicester Cathedral and six stopped at Birmingham Cathedral to help ring for Evensong.

We would like to express our thanks to all the people who helped to make the week-end so enjoyable, especially the tower captains who made us so very welcome to Nottingham.

J. W.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH

In bitterly cold weather, 51 members attended the annual Llandaff Branch meeting held at Bonvilston on February 11th, coming from as far away as Chepstow, Bedwellty and Swansea. The bells were ringing quite early, under the direction of the General Master, Mr. Fred Bailey.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Trevor Bevan, and following this visitors were invited to the village hall, where a variety of delightful refreshments in abundance was placed before them. For this, a vote of thanks was given to the ladies of the church by the Branch secretary. Taking the chair, the Vicar opened the business meeting with prayer, and asked members to stand in silent tribute to the memory of the late Mr. W. Heath, of St. John's Church, Cardiff.

Mr. R. E. Coles was re-elected as secretary and Mr. T. Yeomans Ringing Master. Eight new members were elected. The next meeting will be held at Llangynwyd. Further ringing followed.

R. E. C.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

In spite of the persistence of wintry conditions some 30 members, representing 12 towers, attended the meeting held at St. Michael's, Headingley, on February 25th. Of those present more than half could count themselves as belonging to the younger generation of ringers—a sign which augurs well for this Society in particular and for the Exercise in general.

Tea was served in a local cafe and was followed by the business meeting, at which three new members were elected, and the Vicar, churchwardens and local company thanked for the use of the bells and the arrangements for the meeting. It was decided to defer until the annual meeting in April consideration of the 'Bow Bells' appeal.

Ringing ranged from rounds to Cambridge and continued until 8.30 p.m. The next meeting, at which nominations will be received for officers for the ensuing year, will be held at Drighlington on March 24th.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION

Organists and Ringers Meet

Some time ago the secretary of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association gave a talk on bells and bellringing to the members of the Incorporated Association of Organists (Swindon Branch) and at the organists' request a further meeting was arranged.

This consisted of a practical demonstration of change ringing on tower bells and was held at Stratton-St. Margaret on February 18th. The ringing room is on the ground floor and partly open to the church so the visitors were able to watch the ringing and listen to the commentary. After showing how a bell was raised, examples were given of dodging, plain hunting and simple change ringing on six bells. Considerable interest was aroused and a number of questions were dealt with by the ringers. After tea Mr. G. H. Harris. F.R.C.O., gave a short talk on the evolution of the organ and explained to the ringers the mechanism of the present-day instrument.

Although we are not likely to gain any recruits to bell ringing as a result of this meeting it was generally agreed that a gathering of two groups of church workers such as this was a good thing and should help to produce mutual understanding between them.

W. B. K.

Ladies' Guild Recruit 30 Members In Herefordshire

On February 4th the first meeting of the Hereford District of the Ladies' Guild was held in conjunction with the Hereford Guild.

It was a very cold day and very few ladies attended. However, at the meeting, which was held round the fire in the north transept of the Cathedral, 30 new members and two honorary members were elected. It was proposed that the quarterly meeting should be held in Leominster.

Following the meeting Evensong was attended in the Cathedral, after which a very pleasant tea was provided by Mrs. Davis and her helpers in the College Hall. Ringing was then continued at All Saints' until 8.30 p.m.

R. J.

Midland District

Despite the wintry weather a successful annual meeting of the Midland District was held at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on February 18th. Ringing was enjoyed on the ten bells of St. Mary's in the afternoon and St. Peter's in the evening.

After a short service, conducted by the Vicar, who welcomed the Ladies' Guild to St. Mary's, a most enjoyable tea was partaken in the nearby Church Hall. Miss Thompson, vice-president, expressed thanks to all concerned, before the gentlemen left for St. Peter's, whilst the ladies held their business meeting.

Miss I. B. Thompson was re-elected vice-president. Miss J. M. Simpson resigned her position as secretary, and Mrs. P. A. Corby was elected in her place. Committee members were elected as follows:—General Committee, Mrs. B. G. Warwick and Miss J. M. Simpson; District Committee, Miss B. Endall, Miss L. Foulk, Mrs. P. Poole and Mrs. C. Walker.

One honorary member and three new ringing members were elected.

The vice-president thanked the members for their good attendance at meetings during the past year and said that she hoped they would keep it up. It is hoped to hold the next meeting at Melton Mowbray on April 14th. It was agreed that a day's outing should be arranged for June 2nd to Darley Dale, Derbyshire, and other towers in that vicinity. A bus will leave Leicester, calling at Nottingham and Derby en route. This outing will not be exclusive to members only, and any other ringers and friends who would like to go will be very welcome. Anyone interested should contact Mrs. P. A. Corby, 11, Bowley Avenue, Melton Mowbray, Leics, as soon as possible.

J. M. S.

HAYES, KENT.—On Feb. 19th, 1,440 Minor (720 each of Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob): Susan Porter 1, F. Keech 2, M. Armstrong (first 'inside') 3, R. W. Stephens 4, A. S. Richards (cond.) 5, J. H. Cannell 6.

ARLESEY, BEDS.—On Feb. 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: M. Fox 1, Miss F. Smith 2, A. Simpson (cond.) 3, B. Pike (first 'inside') 4, F. Skelton (first 'inside') 5, K. Barnes 6. Rung for Evensong.

CHIPPING NORTON, OXON.—On Feb. 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Francis 1, C. Taplin 2, S. Pulker 3, J. Benfield 4, I. Harris 5, R. Jarvis (cond.) 6, J. Jarvis 7, C. Tompkins 8. A compliment to H. E. Cook on the occasion of his 85th birthday. For a great many years he has been a regular Sunday service ringer.

CURRY RIVEL, SOMERSET.—On Feb. 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Perry 1, H. Burge 2, Miss J. L. Taylor 3, R. D. Wilson 4, J. C. Taylor 5, G. A. Hartland 6, H. J. Gaylard (cond.) 7, H. J. Taylor 8. Arranged for the ringer of the 4th, in H.M. Forces.

DEVIZES, WILTS.—At the Church of St. James, on Feb. 26th, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: A. T. Weeks 1, W. Mortimer 2, P. Hunt 3, H. Gummer 4, J. Potter 5, J. S. Weeks (cond.) 6. Rung for the silver wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. H. Gummer.

EYNSHAM, OXON.—On Feb. 18th, 1,260 Doubles (180 Stedman, 480 Plain Bob, 360 April Day, 240 Grandsire): Miss J. Winterbourne 1, Miss L. Pimm 2, Miss P. Hale 3, C. Calcutt (cond.) 4, C. Bennett 5, A. Harris 6.

HARLOW COMMON, ESSEX.—On Feb. 19th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: J. Stole 1, F. Whitby 2, V. Tipton 3, L. Cordell 4, W. Wheeler 5, S. Clark 6, J. Aley 7, L. Whitby (cond.) 8. Also on Feb. 26th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: F. Whitby 1, V. Tipton 2, S. Clark 3, W. Wheeler 4, J. Aley 5, D. Collins 6, J. Stole (first 'inside') 7, L. Whitby (cond.) 8.

HENFIELD, SUSSEX.—On Feb. 26th, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: Miss C. M. Jupp 1, Mrs. C. A. Cruttenden 2, A. L. Ryman 3, F. E. Cruttenden 4, E. F. Packham 5, R. Langridge 6, B. W. White (cond.) 7, W. L. Jupp (first quarter) 8. Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Basil White, both members of the band.

QUARTER PEALS

HEREFORD.—On Feb. 25th, at All Saints' Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Moxley (first quarter) 1, G. Davis 2, Miss R. Jarrett 3, A. T. Wingate 4, L. Evans 5, J. J. Webb 6, A. W. Davis (cond.) 7, L. L. Quartermain 8. For the institution and induction of the Rev. F. H. Mountney, M.A., as Vicar.

HONILEY, WARWICKS.—On Feb. 12th, 1,260 Doubles (480 Plain Bob, 780 Grandsire): T. G. Hill (first quarter) 1, A. J. Hobley 2, A. C. Morris 3, D. Harrison (cond.) 4, Miss D. M. Palmer 5. First quarter on the bells since rehanging. For Evensong.

KING'S BROMLEY, STAFFS.—On Feb. 4th, 2,520 Doubles (1,200 Plain Bob and 1,320 Grandsire): L. Chamberlain 1, A. G. Foster (cond.) 2, Valerie W. Smith 3, G. Harrison 4, B. G. Key 5, E. Edginton 6.

KNOWLE, WARWICKS.—On Feb. 16th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: B. Nix (first of Minor) 1, Miss D. Palmer 2, K. R. Foot (first of Minor) 3, T. Gwilt 4, A. C. Morris (first of Minor as cond.) 5, D. Harrison 6.

LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.—On Feb. 19th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: A. S. Harris (first of Major) 1, A. H. Winch (cond.) 2, G. Marriner 3, E. L. Coward 4, A. P. Cannon 5, B. Hawkins 6, A. H. Smith 7, H. V. Young 8.

LLANBADARN FAWR, CARDS.—On Feb. 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Una Hopkins (first quarter) 1, Glenys Thomas (first quarter) 2, E. W. Winstanley (first as cond.) 3, R. Hitchcock 4, A. Evans 5, T. Gwilym 6. Also 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Ann Jones (first quarter) 1, Anne Morgan 2, R. Hitchcock (cond.) 3, W. Harris 4, G. Harris 5, P. Roberts 6.

RAUNDS, NORTHANTS.—On Feb. 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Nutt (first of Triples) 1, A. Gibbs 2, H. Richardson 3, E. E. Whitmore 4, S. G. Robinson 5, A. Wilson 6, W. J. Whitmore (cond.) 7, W. J. C. Colson (first quarter) 8.

RICKINGHALL SUPERIOR, SUFFOLK.—On Feb. 18th, 1,260 Minor (720 Kent Treble Bob and 540 Plain Bob): K. G. Brown 1, A. E. Cook 2, L. Sharpe 3, C. V. Orves 4, R. E. Lester (cond.) 5, Jas. Bailey 6.

STREATHAM, S.W.—At Immanuel Church, on Feb. 19th, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: G. Peters 1, S. Howard (first quarter Double Norwich) 2, Mary Fuller 3, M. Oakshett 4, G. Parsons 5, J. Euston 6, E. Talbot 7, D. Beresford 8.

SUTTON-ON-HULL, YORKS.—On Feb. 15th, 1,272 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. Rodmell 1, Mrs. R. Ducker (first 'inside') 2, T. Goodin 3, I. Glenton 4, J. A. Broughton 5, R. Ducker (first as cond.) 6. Rung for Ash Wednesday service and to celebrate the wedding of Sylvia Iredale and Michael Harrop.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT.—On Feb. 5th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss P. Price (aged 14) 1, B. V. Collison 2, R. D. Divall 3, A. F. Wellington 4, G. Price 5, J. A. Hilton 6, E. J. Ladd (cond.) 7, E. Brunger 8. A birthday compliment to the treble and tenor ringers.

WESTERHAM, KENT.—On Feb. 19th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor (with tenor covering): R. Myhill 1, Miss Cosgrove 2, J. Igglesden 3, R. Hammond 4, G. Pickett 5, R. Waterhouse (cond.) 6, J. Taylor tenor. First in method for 4, 5, and 6, all three under 18 years of age.

WOLVERCOTE, OXON.—On Feb. 11th, 1,260 Doubles (240 April Day, 360 Bob, 660 Grandsire): Miss V. Godwin 1, N. Chamberlain 2, W. F. Holloway (cond.) 3, Miss D. R. Castell 4, A. Edens 5, W. Godwin 6.

YATTON, SOMERSET.—On Feb. 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: M. N. Price 1, P. H. Marshall 2, Miss P. Barnard 3, L. W. Pullin 4, R. H. Brice 5, E. A. Price 6, H. A. Price (cond.) 7, S. G. Smith 8. Rung to mark 21 years' service as tower captain by E. A. Price on his retirement from office.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

'THE RINGING WORLD'

The Official Journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

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EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

BELFRY GOSSIP

An eerie experience befell ringers at Bucknall, Staffs. A peal had been satisfactorily completed and the bells just lowered when they heard the peal being rung again! The explanation was that the Rector, unknown to the ringers, had recorded some ten minutes of the peal and was playing it back in the church.

A one-time ringer at Pitsford, Northants, has died (rather tragically) in Northampton in the person of Mr. Cyril Maltby. He rang a few peals around the late 1920's, but had done no ringing of recent years.

An Erin man writes: 'Page 90, issue Feb. 10th, reports that the Cumberland Youths rang a peal of Erin Cinques at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. Should that not read "Eerie Cinques"?'

The many friends of Mr. William Hewett will regret to hear that he was taken to St. Giles' Hospital, Camberwell, Ward E 3, and is under observation. He wishes to state that the ringing at St. Margaret's, Westminster, will continue in his absence.

Visitors to Edinburgh for the Scotland v. England Rugby international on March 17th will be welcome at the joint practice at St. Cuthbert's Parish Church (opposite Princes Street Station) from 5 to 7 p.m. on that day. Sunday ringing in the City centre is available at St. Mary's Cathedral (Palmerston Place), 10.30 and 6, and St. Cuthbert's 10.20 and 6.

Included in the 'Home Town' Leicester programme of the Midlands I.T.V. (Commercial Television) on Saturday, March 10th, 7.30 to 8.15 p.m., is a performance of tune ringing on handbells by the Beltonian Handbell Ringers, members of the band of St. John-the-Divine Church, Leicester. There will be 32 bells operating by eight persons. St. John's, which is under the leadership of Mr. S. Harrison, has the youngest change-ringing band in Leicester.

Six members of the Huyton Parish Church Girl Guide Company rang for the Girl Guide Thinking Day service at Huyton on February 19th. They were Sheila Cameron 1, Jean Flanagan 2, Janet Peers 3, Margaret Daniels 4, Margaret Hardman 5, Audrey Adshead 6. The ringers of 1, 3, 4 and 5 have learned to handle a bell since last September. The whole band are service ringers. Can any other tower produce a Girl Guide band?

Anthony Bax had an unusual experience in his first peal attempt at Stockbury. A late start resulted in the last half-hour of the peal being rung in nearly total darkness. Well done, Tony!

Members of the Hertfordshire County Association and old friends in the West Country will wish to congratulate Mr. J. Ferris, of Knebworth, on his 90th birthday. He has only recently given up active ringing but remains the veteran captain of the local band.

On February 4th a plaque was unveiled and dedicated at Higher Walton, Lancs, to mark the birthplace of the late Kathleen Mary Ferrier. Unfortunately a peal attempt on Higher Walton bells that day was unsuccessful, and as time was short a quartet peal was rung instead. On February 25th, at the request of the local Council, a peal was successfully accomplished to mark the occasion.

Mr. A. W. Osborne, of Reading, desires to thank his many ringing friends who sent him complimentary letters on the occasion of his diamond wedding. He desires especially to thank his old pal, Mr. Sinkins, Miss Cross, of Radley, a lad of 70 whom he taught change ringing 60 years ago, the ringers of St. Laurence's, Reading, who rang a peal in his favourite method (Stedman Caters), and Mrs. F. M. Mitchell. Mr. Osborne's one regret is that he cannot take a rope in the belfry as arthritis prevents him climbing the steps.

THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY

ESTABLISHED

1570

MEARS & STAINBANK, 34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD,
BISHOPSGATE 2599. LONDON, E.1.

68th HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER

HIS GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE RINGING OF STEDMAN CINQUES AND A RECORD LENGTH ON HIS 72nd BIRTHDAY

HENRY JOHNSON died on January 7th, 1890, and the 68th annual commemoration dinner to his memory on February 25th at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, was the first occasion when no ringer was present who knew this outstanding character in English ringing in the flesh.

Ald. A. Paddon Smith was this year's chairman. With that geniality that ever accompanies him, that wide knowledge of the affairs of St. Martin's Guild, of which he was secretary for 20 years, and his extensive service to the public life of Birmingham, including the office of Lord Mayor, he was an ideal chairman. Visitors and members of the Guild had a very enjoyable evening.

Apologies for absence were received from the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Lord Bishop of Birmingham, the Archdeacon of Birmingham, Miss Marie Cross, Messrs. A. A. Hughes, Herbert Langdon, A. B. Peck, Arthur Jones, F. E. Collins and C. McGuiness.

Mr. R. S. Anderson, in submitting the toast of 'The Church and State,' said they were fortunate in this country that such good relations existed between the Established Church and successive Governments of varying colour. Differences did arise, it would be wrong to suppose otherwise, but these never developed into open breaches. What better example to Christian life and sincerity could they have from the head of a State than that of their beloved Queen and her family.

THE CHURCH'S MOST POWERFUL VOICE

To the Church they as ringers were its most powerful voice to the people at large. He knew the radio and television reached millions at the same moment, but they were announcing the presence of the Church by the bells long before those mediums, and, please God, they would continue their work. Unfortunately to-day too many belfries were suffering from a lack of ringers, and there were few districts where recruits were not urgently needed.

'One reflects on the facilities now provided for the enjoyment of leisure and wonders whether we are becoming a nation of listeners and lookers rather than being active doers. Are the young people of to-day disinclined to do anything without reward? Surely not; and is not work for the Church its own and sufficient reward?

'We all realise the heavy burden of duties our clergy are carrying, but I do appeal to them to spare a little help to the struggling ringers. The belfry is a natural step for the choirboy when his voice breaks. Ringing is a fascinating art and in joining the belfry our young boys and girls are helping to continue their work in the Church.'

The Provost of Birmingham (the Very Rev. H. G. Michael Clarke), in reply, said he was not entirely satisfied with the relationship between Church and State or that the perfect co-operation, as was suggested, existed. There was always bound to be a degree of uneasy partnership between Church and State, and he had often turned over in his mind the advantages of separation. It was called disestablishment of the Church or the unsanctification of the State. Whether it would be worth while he was not prepared to state, but it was an open question.

In human marriage one had to be married or not married, but in regard to Church and State the relationship could be considerably modified without a breach. He felt that the present situation could not continue indefinitely, and if there was to be a new form of contract he hoped that the bells would still remain with the religious bodies and not be taken over by the State. He thought it was one of the sentimental attachments of English life that the bells should summon people to church. He had one request to make—that the bells should always stop ringing at the time the service was due to start, and not encroach a minute or two on the service time. On behalf of the clergy he thanked the Guild for their services in 'doing something for the expression of church life which they could not do without.'

'The Memory of the late Henry Johnson' was proposed by the chairman, who said that much had been said about Henry Johnson in that room and many other rooms over the years and the story of his life had also been printed.

HENRY JOHNSON AND STEDMAN CINQUES

Henry Johnson was born in Lichfield on February 28th, 1809, and was a distant relative of the more famous Samuel Johnson. They were both good eaters and, he was told, good drinkers, and both lived to a ripe old age. Henry Johnson in his day and generation was by far the most outstanding personality in the world of bell ringing. He was the greatest composer in his day, and amongst other things he did he invented the idea of placing the turning course in Stedman Caters and Stedman Cinques in the centre of the peal instead of at the end, because in the early days many peals of Stedman Cinques were lost at the turning course, and as the turning course was then at the end much effort was spent in vain. Johnson felt it would be better to have the turning course from tittums position into the handstroke home position so that if they lost peals of Stedman Cinques they would lose them at the middle and not at the end.

He could recount many interesting anecdotes related to him concerning Henry Johnson by people who knew him in the flesh. 'I am sorry to think,' continued the chairman, 'that possibly we have arrived for the first time in the history of this commemoration dinner when there will be no one to stand up who actually knew Henry Johnson in the flesh. I am afraid they have passed on.'

Johnson was a remarkable man in many ways. He was a business man and for many years he was in charge of the canal wharf in the centre of the city when he imported timber for building purposes.

Those who had been in St. Martin's belfry would have seen a tablet recording a peal of Stedman Cinques rung on his 72nd birthday in which he took part. It reads: 'This tablet is erected by the St. Martin's Society to record the longest peal of Stedman Cinques ever accomplished and rung by them on the 28th February, 1891, being the composer's 72nd birthday. 9,238 changes in 6 hours 48 minutes, the band being placed as follows:—

Amos Cresson	Treble
Job Joynes	2
Henry Johnson, jun.	3
C. H. Hattersley	4
Samuel Reeves	5
Hy. Johnson, sen	6
John Dunn	7
John Buffery	8
John James	9
F. H. James	10
Wm. Hallsworth	11
Thomas Reynolds	Tenor

Composed by Henry Johnson
Conducted by Wm. Hallsworth

Thomas Reynolds, said Ald. Paddon Smith, was a man who in later years weighed over 20 stones and he was an excellent ringer. On one occasion the band went to the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow to attempt a peal of Stedman Cinques on the original 12 bells there. This was before the bells destroyed by the war had been recast. They were 'chest-cracker' bells to ring. For three and a quarter hours they rang and then, unfortunately, the two tenor men could ring no longer. They adjourned to the house of the College Youths, and afterwards, on the way home, Thomas Reynolds found that he was wearing an overcoat—and he never possessed an overcoat. A few days later it was found that the coat belonged to John Buffery, who declared that he must have been among thieves!

Henry Johnson died on January 7th, 1890, at the age of 81 years, and he was buried in Aston Churchyard. Aston Churchyard had been divided up and most of the gravestones had been laid flat, but the blue-grey granite stone to Henry Johnson, erected by the ringers of England, still stood.

The toast was honoured in silence and was followed by a touch of Stedman Cinques rung by John Chilcott, Frank Perrens, Albert Walker, J. F. Smallwood, Frank E. Haynes and George E. Fearn.

Mr. Rodney B. Meadows proposed 'Continued Prosperity to the St. Martin's Guild.' Deploring his great misfortune in having been moved from Birmingham, he noticed on his return that the bells of St. Martin's were silent, and he hoped that it would not be for long. He was particularly fascinated by the clock in Bishop Ryder's Church. He noticed that it was still five minutes past six, the time they started peals, and had been showing that time for seven years.

FAMOUS AND WONDERFUL

The Guild he was proposing was very famous and wonderful. It was wonderful in its ringing, not only in quantity but quality, and particularly in the thing the chairman mentioned, Stedman Cinques. He would like to quote from a letter written by Tommy Butler on the occasion of the visit of St. Martin's Guild to ring a peal of Stedman Cinques on the bells of St. Nicholas', Liverpool: 'I have told my nephew to listen, even for a short time, as he would hear 12 bells rung as they should be rung and as few bands could ring them.'

He knew that tradition was not popular in some quarters. Tradition was something that was handed on, and in this particular case it was Stedman Cinques. In Stedman Cinques and its ringing they had not a science but an art, and in Birmingham they had one of the few places in the country where good Stedman Cinques was rung. There was little of it in the country and little of it of good quality. They were told that Stedman Cinques in Birmingham reached its peak 20 to 30 years ago, but they had still people in Birmingham who knew Stedman Cinques in those days and could hand on to them the quality of the Stedman Cinques that was then rung.

As to the present state of the Guild they had still famous men. Of the seniors there was their chairman and Albert Walker to give them good advice. The golden age between 1920 and 1930 was well represented and they had a number of young people coming on and John Pinfold, the Ringing Master, ensured that on Tuesday evenings they had good Guild practices. It was, therefore, with full confidence and pleasure that he asked them to drink the toast with emphasis on the words 'continued prosperity.'

The Master, Mr. Frank E. Haynes, who replied, said Mr. Meadows rightly mentioned

(Continued next page)

Henry Johnson Dinner—Cont.

that they associated their prosperity with their ability to ring Stedman Cinques, and while it might be true to say that they did not quite approach the standard of the old masters, nevertheless they did maintain a tolerably good standard and he was not without hope that they would recover the striking of 30 years ago.

'A MERRY AND JOYFUL NOISE'

In the 'Oxford Companion of Music' he noticed that under the heading of bellringing they gave a definition he had never met before. It said: 'Change ringing may not properly be considered as a branch of music but rather as a branch of mathematics applied with physical skill to produce a merry and joyful noise.' In applying that to their prosperity they should remember they had great athletes in Mr. George Fearn, who could ring peals for hours and ride bicycles for hundreds of miles, and as to mathematics, Peter Border, who lived in Coventry and rang in Birmingham regularly, was no doubt a first-class mathematician, and there were others who could still put two and two together, although it sometimes made three. As to making a joyful noise, the first one he would mention was Albert Walker, who formerly at times could be heard tinkling on the piano, and Harry Withers, who used to play the dulcimer.

He had been in Birmingham 27 years, with a break, and it seemed to him that the calibre of the ringing Exercise had changed considerably during that time. Ringing was now far more of a social activity and the number of lady ringers in the last 20 years had increased tremendously. There was a time when if they saw two or three girls in the belfry they did not expect decent ringing. That was all gone, and a fortnight ago in Bishop Ryder's Church a young Grammar School girl came along and rang London Surprise faultlessly at her first attempt.

There were two yardsticks they could apply to their prosperity. One was the enthusiasm of their ringers, and that had been prevalent for some years although their attendance had been rather less than it had been. Another was the ability of the Guild to associate with other ringing bodies, and in that respect St. Martin's Guild had been very fortunate. To mention one, St. Martin's Guild had always maintained a close ringing association with the Ancient Society of College Youths, and they had the Master of the College Youths with them that evening. He understood that the Ancient Society contemplated holding their summer meeting at Birmingham this year.

On such an occasion as that they remembered ringers who had passed on. One was a national figure and a non-resident member—Mr. Harold Poole, of Leicester, and the other was Mr. Fred Rishworth, who rang for many years at Aston and died at the age of 80. He was a kindly old man.

MYSTERIOUS PEOPLE

Canon Bryan S. W. Green, who arrived back in England two days previously from America, proposed the toast of 'The Visitors,' and he assured the company that St. Martin's bells would be available for ringing at 10 a.m. the following day. To the visitors he gave a most cordial welcome to Birmingham.

Bellringers, said the Canon, were mysterious people. They came and crept upstairs and then they made joyous noises with the most serious expressions on their faces. The bells stop at the time of the service and then the ringers creep away.

The Canon said he did not think there was any danger of competition from radio or television, and that the beauty of their music would be heard Sunday mornings and evenings. In the countryside particularly there was something very uplifting in church bells summoning them to the worship of God, and for that they welcomed their visitors.

Squadron Leader John S. Mason, Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, said he was not really a visitor as he had been exported from Birmingham, imported and re-exported. A close bond of friendship had existed between St. Martin's Guild and the College Youths and in the past 70 years there had been three Masters from Birmingham of the College Youths—J. Frank Smallwood, the late Samuel Reeves, who conducted the first peal in the tower where he learned to ring, and himself.

The suggestion that the summer meeting of the Ancient Society should be held in Birmingham appealed to him very much and it would be discussed at their next meeting. The last occasion the College Youths visited Birmingham was in 1951, when Mr. Smallwood was Master. Unfortunately he was not able to be present—he was 13,000 miles away ringing a peal in New Zealand, although he did not go to that country for that purpose.

Ringing in strange towers was a pleasant function and many visitors took advantage of the facilities offered in their city—in fact some survive to come again. If any of them could visit them in London in November, when they held their annual feast, they would receive an equally cordial welcome as the visitors to Birmingham had received that day.

Mr. T. W. White, who also replied, said he was reminded of a saying of the late Dr. Johnson that 'a man needs to keep his friendships in a state of constant repair,' and this annual pilgrimage to Birmingham enabled one to put a timely stitch in any rent in the human fabric that might have occurred in the interim. He came across that day a saying new to him, 'A girl hanging in the bell ropes.' It was thought to be of North Country origin. If a girl was not married within three weeks of the third calling of her banns her friends would say to her, 'Be careful you don't hang in the bell ropes,' implying, of course, the danger of the wedding being broken off.

LOYALTY APPRECIATED

Speaking as Editor of 'The Ringing World,' he said that although 80 weekly and monthly periodicals failed to appear that week, the production of their journal had been normal thanks to the loyalty of those associated with him (applause). Despite rising costs he did not think they would be disappointed with the results of their trading in 1956. They were certainly not in the red. But the position for 1957 was uncertain and they had to wait for the result of the present wage negotiations. It might give concern to the Editorial Committee and the loyal support of all friends of ringing was necessary.

Sir Theodore Pritchett, in proposing the toast of 'The Chairman,' that was accorded musical honours, felt that the qualities Ald. Paddon Smith had inherited through his association with St. Martin's Guild in his early years had given him an important standing in the commercial life of the city, had given him the right ideas of life and the proper way to relate affairs spiritual with ordinary business life.

Acknowledging the compliment, Ald. Paddon Smith said he was reminded by Sir Theodore of his uncle when he was Master of the Guild. He used to make speeches which left some of them rather helpless.

THE VISITORS

The visitors present included the Provost and Rector of Birmingham, Ald. Sir Theodore and Lady Pritchett, Canon F. F. Guy Worman, Messrs. R. B. Meadows, E. H. Edge, A. P. Cannon, T. J. Lock, G. J. Lewis, F. E. Watshaw, R. S. Anderson, J. Chilcott, A. F. Thirst, W. Williams, D. T. Matkin, P. L. Taylor, J. F. Smallwood, W. T. Elson, W. F. Stenson, J. L. Millhourse, S. Foskett, J. S. Mason, R. J. Bowden, P. A. Corby, Miss G. I. Rusby and Miss E. Grime.

(Continued next column)

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD

West Dorset Branch

Nine towers were represented and visitors were present from Stalbridge, Yetminster, Wool and Wareham at the quarterly meeting of the West Dorset Branch at Bridport on February 18th. The Guild service was conducted by the Rev. J. P. Hinton (Rector). The 'Service Touch' was of Stedman Triples.

Forty members sat down to tea in the Church House, the tea being served by the Bridport ringers' wives.

Ringing during the afternoon and evening ranged from rounds and call changes, through Grandsire Doubles and Triples, Stedman Doubles and Triples and Plain Bob Major to London, Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise and Double Norwich.

Grateful thanks are due to Bridport ringers and their wives for their hospitality and to all who helped to make this a very enjoyable meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Hawkchurch on April 28th. E. G. R.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION

Northern District

The Northern District met at Baldock on the spring-like Saturday of February 25th. A handrail beside the steps in the ringing chamber is a welcome addition. Ringing ceased at five o'clock for a short service conducted by Canon Smith, at which Miss Bates played the organ.

At the business meeting Messrs. J. Welsh (Walkern) and R. Werrett (Norton) were elected members. The next local meeting will be at St. Ippolyts, the special method being Hull Surprise. The secretary gave a report on the last officers' meeting and asked for more support if a coach is to be run from the district to the annual general meeting on April 7th at Bishops Stortford. It is hoped that the Benington Ringing Festival will be on May 26th.

Ringing began again, but attempts at Killamarsh Treble Bob Major, the special method for the day, were unsuccessful. J. S.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD

The annual meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch took place as usual at Spalding on the Saturday previous to Lent. Ringing commenced at 3 p.m., and a service at 4 p.m. was conducted by the Rev. M. Apps, with an interesting address by the Vicar, Canon M. L. Synge.

An excellent tea was provided at the Greyhound Hotel, and the business meeting followed with Canon Synge in the chair. The balance sheets were accepted and showed a good balance in hand. All officers were re-elected with the addition of the Rev. M. Apps as a vice-president. Quarterly meetings were arranged at Holbeach, May 12th; Tydd St. Mary, June 23rd; Deeping St. Nicholas, September 22nd; Bicker, November 17th. The meeting also decided to subscribe five guineas to the 'Bow Bells' appeal.

Votes of thanks were expressed to all who had made the meeting such a success. Ringing continued in numerous methods till 8.30 p.m.

R. C. N.

(Continued from previous column)

The songs of Mr. Albert Barley, accompanied by Miss Owen, were very popular, and in a second touch of Stedman Cinques the chairman took a pair of bells. The last occasion he rang 'in hand' was in 1951, when he was Lord Mayor of Birmingham and entertained ringers at the City Hall.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AN APOLOGY

Dear Sir,—As hon. secretary of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, and the organiser of the Stoke D'Abernon peal attempt, I write to offer sincere apologies to Mr. Grover and the Guildford Diocesan Guild if I have in any way —and completely unwittingly—attempted to usurp the prerogatives and privileges of that Guild. There was no question whatever of underhand dealings with the Church authorities, and had the matter been mentioned to me after the dedication service, at which both Mr. Grover and myself were present, I would have at once withdrawn my application. I do feel that Mr. Grover's letter was couched in unnecessarily strong terms which are quite unjustified, but, be that as it may, I do, as I say, wish to offer apologies for inadvertent discourtesy.

In common with many ringers and lovers of ancient churches, I have known this little church and its magnificent brasses for years, and I look forward, in the not too distant future, to attempting a peal on its new bells—our Society is just as interested in furthering the Art in five-bell towers as on the higher numbers! May I offer good wishes to the Guildford Guild, and success in their attempt for the first peal on Stoke bells!—Yours sincerely,

PETER N. BOND.

Hildenborough, Kent.

Dear Sir,—As a member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, I would like to back up the letter of George Grover re Stoke D'Abernon, one of my reasons being that I have been in correspondence with both the Rector and donor of these bells, and some may think that I was in the rush for the first peal on the bells. To prove that this is not the case, and also to say that my first knowledge of a peal attempt on them was your publication of February 3rd of this year, I have before me a letter from the Rector, dated **July 15th, 1955.**

An extract reads: 'Perhaps your Society of Change Ringers (meaning St. Peter's, Burnham, Bucks) will visit us in due course and show us how these old bells restored should sound.' To which I replied to the effect that there was 'honour among thieves' and that if we in this area were opening a new ring of bells our Association would feel rather hurt if we fetched a band from another area to carry out this function. I also sent the names and addresses of some members in Stoke's own area so that the Rector could get in touch with those members who, I assured him, would give him all the help that was in their power, and I added that later on, when the newness had worn off, I would be pleased to accept his kind invitation to my band and self.

Why must we have these people who **must** be in the first peal on every new ring, at cost of causing lasting discontent. I would not like our old Society (Society of Royal Cumberland Youths) to get a bad name owing to the greediness of one or two of its members. Well do we all remember a few years ago when an augmentation took place in our own diocese. The opening peal was rung for another Society, although our own Guild had at the time, a competent band for the job. I can assure our readers that the wound is not yet healed amongst many of our older members. Let us always remember that sanction for a peal on any bells is our privilege and not our right.

Burnham, Bucks. GEORGE GILBERT.

Owing to one of the ringers contracting cramp, the peal attempt at King's Bromley on February 4th was called round at the 18th extent and a half-peal registered. Had the peal been accomplished it would have been the first for Miss V. W. Smith, who stood in at short notice to make up the band.

WHOSE PREROGATIVE?

Dear Sir,—Why is it the prerogative of the Guildford Diocesan Guild to ring the first peal at Stoke D'Abernon?. The place is in Surrey and so the Surrey Association has an equal 'right' to the first peal. For all I know it may be in the obscure diocese of North Southwark, in which case there will be others to have a go at this magnificent ring of bells.

After all, what does it matter? There is no special merit in the footnote 'First peal on the bells,' except when it is a great achievement—in any case judging by the number of peals on five bells rung by the Guildford Guild I imagine there would have been no particular rush to ring one at Stoke D'Abernon—if someone else had not got in first!—Yours sincerely,

RICHARD F. B. SPEED.

Hampton Wick.

[NOTE.—Stoke D'Abernon is in the diocese of Guildford.—Ed.]

PEAL FOOTNOTES

Dear Sir,—I would like to make a suggestion on this matter of peal footnotes. How about having a footnote to all peal reports in which the organiser of the attempt tells us exactly why he organised it? The sort of footnotes we might expect to see are:—

'Rung to enable X to turn the tenor in to a peal of Surprise.'

'To enable Y to ring a peal in this tower.'

'These ringers always attempt a peal on Saturday afternoon.'

The last peal I rang in was arranged because it was the first Monday in the month—a most satisfactory reason in my view.

What frequently intrigues me is not why a band should ring a peal for somebody's birthday, but why a band should ring a peal for apparently no reason whatever.

What we want is not fewer footnotes, but more. They would make interesting reading.—Yours sincerely,

PHILIP GRAY.

Bristol.

JOINT MEETING AT BURTON-ON-TRENT

Dear Sir,—It is not my practice to deal with domestic issues through your correspondence columns, but Mr. E. H. Edge's letter leaves me with no alternative. For the information of members of the North Staffordshire Association and others concerned, I give the following facts:—

At the annual meeting of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford it was decided to hold the April meeting at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent. Subsequently Mr. B. G. Key, of St. Paul's band, thought it would be a good idea to make this a joint meeting with the Midland Counties Guild and the Shropshire Association. Then, at the January meeting of the 'Staffords,' it was decided to issue an invitation to the North Staffordshire Association, and I sent such invitation to Mr. Edge on February 21st. I would point out that the members of the North Staffordshire Association are not being asked to assist with any of the arrangements for the meeting, but have just been invited to join in what I hope will be a most enjoyable occasion. In any case what appeared in your issue of January 10th was merely intended as a preliminary announcement.

Surely under the circumstances it would have been more courteous and discreet on Mr. Edge's part had he first approached me direct rather than rushing headlong into print.—Yours very truly,

F. C. A. BENNETT,
Hon. Lay Secretary,
Society of Change Ringers
for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

WHO'S FOR A RAILWAYMEN'S GUILD?

Dear Sir,—I welcome Mr. Walker's letter in connection with the above, which is only a question, except for that bit of bad taste—'Anything coming off the London Midland [Region] to be treated with a certain amount of suspicion.'

My experience of Regions is greater and longer than Mr. Walker's, and I don't know that there is much, if any, difference between them.

In answer to his two questions, 'Is such a Guild really going to be of any practical use?' Well, we have not formed one yet, we are only asking the question. Secondly, 'Is it going to advance the cause of Sunday service ringing?' That being the primary object of all our ringing —or should be—I would say, I sincerely hope so; and any rules and regulations to that effect, should a Guild be formed, should and would be the first consideration in forming one.

Mr. Walker continues: 'At York there are some nine "ringers of sorts" who are railway employees, but I cannot say that any of these would wish to join such a group.' What does he mean, 'ringers of sorts'? Are they regular, conscientious Sunday service ringers; if so, does it matter what sort, and how does he know their minds?

At 67 I am not seeking more work, unless it will be to the good of ringing in general, and Sunday service ringing in particular. Let Mr. Walker attend the proposed meeting and see and hear everyone's point of view, and if decided on, to help to make it what he would like it to be.

Our general manager told us what Mr. Walker told us regarding the Staff Association and Inter-Regional point of view.—Yours sincerely,

W. FRANK STENSON.

Crewe.

WHERE ARE THE INSTRUCTORS?

Dear Sir,—I feel Mr. Norman Chaddock has struck a very important note in his leading article on 'Where are the instructors?'

Casting my thoughts within a 15 mile radius of here, not more than two towers are fully manned for Sunday service ringing. There are also a few towers which are silent altogether due to lack of ringers. This must be typical of the state of affairs throughout the country.

There would be enormous scope if a representative committee were set up by the Central Council. I am sure much good could be done by a committee of this kind and sincerely hope Mr. Chaddock's suggestion to form this is put into operation as soon as possible.

The report that this committee would make could be handed down to the various Associations and Guilds for further use.

While meetings and peals are excellent in themselves, is not our main and most important duty to help and stimulate Sunday service ringing, whether it be with the help of the Central Council, meetings or as individuals? — Yours sincerely,

PAUL BIRKETT.

Elland, Yorks.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE

Dear Sir,—Following the success of the protest against the demolition of St. John the Divine's, Leicester, I am wondering if something similar could be done to save the Imperial Institute. The destruction of this building is included in the plan for the expansion of London University. Its great campanile contains the highest ring of bells in London, but although they are seldom heard and few have rung on them, for this and other reasons, I am sure that most will agree that it would be an act of sheer vandalism to destroy the Institute for the sake of the land it stands on.—Yours faithfully,

ALAN J. BLAIR.

London, W.3.

THE SPEED OF RINGING

Dear Sir,—I think Mr. W. Williams was justified in querying the times of the Somerset peals, though no doubt the peals were performed correctly. I was glad to see Mr. A. P. Cannon's advice on the matter of quick and slow peals, as it aptly sums up some of the considerations.

I would like to add a little to the discussion by first expressing a little surprise at the speed of the peals by the ringers in question, as I was told, when I first suggested visiting Somerset, that they were very particular about the finer points of striking, and I should have to watch my step; yet I cannot see how at those speeds you can concentrate on more than good rhythm, for a slight lapse of concentration—not a trip—is certain to cause a break or clip, as, if a tenor is well off-balance, no matter how strong the ringer, it must bash devastatingly through any waverers. Yet it is easy to accommodate such slight unevenness imperceptibly with slower, deliberate ringing.

Secondly, while agreeing with Mr J. T. Dyke that it is wise to avoid the balance in a tall, swaying tower, it is not necessary to drive the bells hard to do this, for at any speed the front bells will be temperamental, and he who rings them must be as prepared to fight his own difficulties there, just as the tenor man must overcome difficulties of another sort.

I do not agree, however, that a bad going tenor should be rung faster than usual—it probably wants to go faster, especially when you try to turn it round on the front! From bitter experiences on some very bad ones, with dry bearings, loose fittings, and shuddering frames, I find that it is impossible to ring them properly and control them on dodges as one of a band, not with the rest trying to avoid getting smacked by you, unless rung right up to the balance. In that way, only, can a long enough pull be made to prevent the bell fulfilling its earnest desire to ring itself down as soon as possible. The alternative is strapping. Similarly it is best to ring peals of five more steadily than six because of the bigger variations of speed necessary in doing dodges properly.

There seem to be two styles of tenor ringing: the fast, strongly rhythmical style, best suited to light, old bells, and the deliberate up-to-the-balance style with time to attend to the finer points of striking. These vary from how to slow a peal down imperceptibly, even from a light bell, when you see that, from previous knowledge of the tenor ringer and the bell he is ringing, it is unlikely that the last quarter of the peal will be properly struck at the present speed.

I would like to see more attention paid to roll-ups. I find that many younger ringers simply do not know what you are talking about when you mention that 'there is a good roll-up coming at the next Wrong,' yet to me half the joy of ringing Surprise in particular comes from the anticipation and satisfying fulfilment of a great variety of these musical changes. They vary from the course ends (which need a slight easing by the back bells for the best effect), e.g., 13254678, to the sequence around the Wrong, e.g., in Pudsey, 12436758, 12347685; 21436758; 12346578; which one can begin to look forward to as soon as the coursing order becomes 32465. Hence the conductor's anguished cry, 'You are ruining this beautiful composition,' when some rabbit blots such a sequence. Then there are the little-bell roll-ups in the middle of the lead: the 1234's at the back, and 6543's, and even the back-change starting at the hand-stroke and being completed at back stroke—if the ringer who is making the back stroke lead has anticipated the sequence and got his lead spot-on!

Looking for such things makes a peal not so many changes to be got through as fast as possible, but a masterpiece of composition, to be given its full value and enjoyed all the way through. How can the tenor man enjoy it when he is caning himself to achieve some fantastic time? All this is probably as old as the hills to some, but it may help some improvers to enjoy their ringing more: nobody ever pointed these things out to me when I began to ring Surprise, and I am sure my striking must have been a lot worse even than it is now before I paid attention to this sort of thing.

Therefore on these grounds I think the slow, deliberate peal is the one to aim for if circumstances permit, and the only one to be considered if you, as tenor man, are of only average physique, or the bells heavy, bad going, or highly-musical.—Yours sincerely,

DEREK P. JONES.

Derby.

FOUR QUESTIONS

Dear Sir,— Could I ask Messrs. Carlisle and Halls how they get the **maximum** extent from a given set of courses, and, in the case of Treble Bob, keep clear of f.c.h.'s?

Also, could Mr. P. Wright say why the calling of the second half of Parker's six-part commences from a different lead-end, and is this necessary?

Next, if one curtails the 29-course block (to gain an easy calling for a certain method, for instance), could Mr. C. K. Lewis say to whom the composition should be ascribed, please?

And, lastly, is the attached composition one of the Pritchard variations, or am I correct in thinking it by John Carter?

5,056 BOB MAJOR

23456	W	B	M	H
23564	—	x		3
24536	—		—	2
32546	—			3
32465	—	x		3

Repeat thrice, singles half-way and end.

Yours sincerely,

DENIS A. FRITH.

Grantham.

MR. JOE HARDCASTLE

A correspondent suggests that Mr. Joe Hardcastle, to whose 86th birthday celebration reference was made recently, must have behind him the longest family ringing history. The Tilletts, of Ipswich, go back more generations, to John Naunton who rang peals about 1810, but Mr. Hardcastle's great-grandfather, William, rang his first peal in 1807, and in 1815 took part in the first peal of Treble Ten on Halifax bells. William's last peal, in 1862, also had in it his grandson, Mr. Hardcastle's father, an interesting account of whom appeared in 'The Bell News' of September 7th, 1889.

Gratefully Acknowledged

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

Personal.—D. A. Frith 4s.

Peals.—Honiley 2s. 6d., Grimsby 5s., Chatham, Stockbury 2s. 6d.

Quarter Peals.—Raunds 4s., Curry Rivel 2s., Streatham 2s., Westerham 4s., Chipping Norton 4s., Hereford 2s. 6d., Yatton 4s., Henfield 2s., Devizes 2s. 6d., Harlow Common 4s.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

Leatherhead District

There was a smaller attendance than usual at the Leatherhead District's annual meeting at Leatherhead on February 11th, partly owing to the wintry weather and also to the memorial service at Esher for Wilkins Massey. The Guild service was taken by the Vicar, Miss Collins was at the organ, and Mr. H. N. Pitstow read the lesson. Having enlisted help to overcome 'no water,' due to frozen pipes, the ladies prepared tea in St. Nicholas' Hall to which just over 30, including the Vicar and the verger, sat down.

The business meeting was held round the fire, with the Ringing Master (Mr. H. N. Pitstow) in the chair. The meeting stood in silence to mark the recent deaths of Tom Smith, of Newdigate, and Wilkins Massey, of Claygate, whose original tower was also Newdigate.

The balance sheet showed a slight decrease in the balance.

The year's report stated that only two District peals had been rung, but a large number of quarter peals for service ringing was a good sign, for in this increasingly suburban area it is becoming more difficult to get peals put on.

Two changes were made in the District officers, Mr. H. V. Young becoming assistant secretary as Alan Smith had gone to Bristol University, and Frank Oakshott in place of Gordon Peters, who now lives in the London area, on the Executive Committee.

The general officers were renominated, but a motion to the annual general meeting, that the office of Master should not be held for more than three consecutive years, was proposed by Ted Coward, seconded by Pat Cannon, and passed by a narrow majority. Surrounding towers offered to lend a band in training a local band to ring at Stoke D'Abernon.

Farnham District

The outstanding and most cheering factor at the annual general meeting of the Farnham District on February 18th was the high percentage of young ringers present.

Despite the cold weather a very large number of ringers arrived at St. Andrew's Parish Church, Farnham, and enjoyed an afternoon's ringing under the leadership of Mr. E. J. Wells. The ringers' service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. H. R. Wills) with Mr. F. Anthony at the organ.

Tea was served in the Owen Hall to over 80 ringers and friends. A most exciting business meeting followed, due chiefly to the fact that Mr. E. J. Wells (Ringing Master) and Mr. S. Joyce (secretary) did not seek re-election. Mr. C. W. Denyer, a vice-president of the Guild, was in the chair, and on behalf of the ringers thanked Mr. Wells and Mr. Joyce for their good work during their terms of office. The annual report and the financial report were read and adopted. Seven peals were rung in the District during the year, six by District ringers. Mr. E. J. Wells had rung in 20 peals during the year, having conducted 15 of them. Nineteen new members were nominated.

After a ballot Mr. R. Corke, of Aldershot, was elected Ringing Master, with Mr. D. McPherson (Aldershot) his assistant. Mr. C. J. Beadle (Farnham) was elected hon. secretary, with Mr. R. Mills carrying on as assistant secretary and treasurer. Mr. W. H. Viggers was re-elected auditor. Mr. F. Cherryman (Pirbright) was nominated to the Executive Committee, and Miss M. A. Cass correspondent to 'The Ringing World.' Mr. R. Mills expressed the ringers' thanks to the Rector and organist.

An enjoyable social followed, Mr. R. I. Whitford, of Aldershot, being the M.C.

THE ANCIENT BELLS OF DEVON

Dear Sir,—I am very grateful to Mr. Smale for his further letter, and for drawing my attention to the bells of Marland St. Peter. I intended to visit that tower last summer on my way home from Torrington, as it seems to be a very interesting one, but the lateness of the hour and the persistence of the rain made me decide against the detour, and instead I called at another tower which he mentions—Huish—where I found the mediæval three—Exeter foundry, late 15th century, I think, and all the same casting without a doubt—to have been rehung fairly recently, in a good little oak frame which looked like one of Stokes's.

I can't pass any judgment on the fifth at Marland St. Peter until I've seen it; Mr. Smale's reading of the inscription is very different from Ellacombe's, but the mark he mentions sounds like an Exeter foundry mark, and Ellacombe gives it as such. Mr. H. B. Walters regarded the tenor there as being the work of Richard de Wymbish, a London founder of about 1320, which makes it one of the county's oldest bells.

Byrdan or Byrdall? There are very few bells remaining with the name in full, and I have seen only one, at Woodbury. Only the elder, Thomas, signed his bells with his full name; John used his initials, I.B., in very unusual letters, which appear on the bell named 'Byrdan' after him in Exeter Cathedral (the fourth). However, the name is never spelt with a 'LL' on any known bell, so until recently the generally accepted spelling was 'Byrdan.' But Ellacombe gives, on p. 296 of my copy of his 'Church Bells of Devon,' some entries from the Cathedral Act Book in all of which the 'LL' is used: he assumed, reasonably enough, that the Chapter Clerk had misspelt it, and stuck to 'Byrdan.'

Three years ago two further sources turned up information about the family; one was the City Archives of Exeter, with a deed relating to Thomas Byrdall of the parish of St. Thomas. The other was the St. Thomas registers, which contain a great number of entries relating to this quite numerous family between 1550 and 1700. The identification of the founder with the man in the deed is supported by the registers, which include the two founders, Thomas and John, sometimes with the note 'brazier'; the years of their respective deaths tally with the dates on their last surviving bells.

In the registers the name is sometimes spelt Byrdall, sometimes 'Birdall.' It is never spelt 'Byrdan.'

The 'LL' in the Cathedral archives, then, is not a clerical error, and it seems almost certain that for some reason best known to himself, Thomas Byrdall spelt his name with a final 'N' only on his bells. Or did he? He used black-letter characters for his name, and except for its greater height 'll' in black-letter is almost indistinguishable from 'n.' Thomas Byrdall and his son used a plant of stamps which were very mixed, probably incomplete, and some of them over 150 years old. The most likely answer to the puzzle is that Thomas used either a 'll' of a smaller set than the rest of his name, or else that he used a 'n' instead, trusting on its resemblance to 'll.' I should like to see more of his bells to be certain which of these theories is correct, but I am fully satisfied, from the unanimous evidence of the documents (none of which spell his name with an 'n') that we must call these two founders—and, I suggest, the bell named after them in the Cathedral—by what seems certain to have been their true surname, Byrdall.

I fully support Mr. Smale in urging young ringers to make part of their equipment for a ringing expedition a piece of heel-ball and some cartridge paper—not forgetting a torch. And if they are in Devon, or the western parts of Somerset, they would do well to look in the crown of any mediæval bells they may find; they will sometimes see, between the cannons, impressions of coins. Pencil rubbings, two or three for each coin, each rubbed in a different direction, are best for these, and I will be very glad to see any such rubbings of coins, for they are a great help in dating the bells on which they appear. Awliscombe, Northleigh and Bradford (near Taunton) are places where these coins can certainly be found, but I am sure there are many more waiting for some enterprising ringer's pencil and paper.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN G. M. SCOTT.

Newton Abbot.

YATTON HONOURS RETIRING CAPTAIN

During an interval in ringing at Yatton, Somerset, for morning service on February 26th, a presentation was made to Mr. A. E. Price (retiring tower captain) to mark his completion of 21 years in office. In the presence of the Vicar, Preb. G. A. Beechey and Mr. Royle (Vicar's warden) and a full company of ringers, Mr. L. W. Pullin, Mr. Price's successor, presented him with a cigarette lighter suitably inscribed.

'During Mr. Price's leadership,' said Mr. Pullin, 'the band has grown in knowledge from call change ringers to a very useful change ringing company, practising several Triples methods. The other ringers and I are proud to have served the tower during this time.' The Vicar endorsed these remarks.

Mr. Price (who is parish warden), in replying, said that the whole proceedings had taken him completely by surprise and all he could say was 'Thank you all, and I hope to be a ringer here for another 21 years.'

In the evening a quarter peal was rung to mark the occasion. P. H. M.

NEWARK, NOTTS.—On Feb. 15th, 1,260 Minor (720 St. Clement's, 540 Plain Bob), on the front six: F. G. Hooper 1, A. E. Chilton 2, F. W. Midwinter 3, F. W. Vernon 4, H. Stevenson 5, W. L. Exton (cond.) 6.

5,104 DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR

By NOLAN GOLDEN.

M	I	4	B	5	W	H	234567
			—		—	2	326547
					2	2	562347
					—		352647
	—			—			523647
	—			—			235647
			—		—	3	432657
	—			S		3	324756
	—	—				2	345267
					—	3	235467
					—	3	425367
					—	—	534267
—			—			3	324567

Repeated, calling bob B only in the first course and continuing calling from the 6th course end.

Contains 6th extent in 5-6 without 2-3 in 5-6 and all the 7568s.

Rung at Hethersett, January 23rd, 1956.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD

Despite the rough weather, visitors from Witham, Essex, Beccles and Melton attended the meeting of the Saxmundham District at Leiston on Feb. 11th. The Rector of Theberton, Rev. H. Greenway, conducted the service, and was thanked at the tea for his address. No ringing took place after tea as an early start for home was thought advisable for the visitors.

QUARTER PEALS

ALDRINGTON, SUSSEX.—On Feb. 12th, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: Pamela R. Gough 1, June A. Grieveson 2, Diana M. Gough 3, R. D. Brown 4, D. H. Paine (first as cond.) 5, D. Hibbitt 6. Rung for George Steele's 84th birthday.

BOSTON, LINCS.—On Feb. 14th, at St. Botolph's Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: T. Freiston 1, R. Brown 2, F. P. Harwood 3, S. Jessop 4, F. Leggott 5, F. Dewey (cond.) 6, W. E. Clarke 7, J. Petch 8. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Miss Edith Aldrid, a church worker for many years.

CALVERLEY, YORKS.—On Feb. 16th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: H. B. Schofield 1, Mrs. H. B. Schofield 2, Christine Pedder 3, P. M. Dawson 4, D. Thorp 5, F. Rayment 6, D. Atkins (cond.) 7, S. Longbottom 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the 4th.

CAMBERWELL, S.E.—At the Church of St. George, on Feb. 19th, 1,272 Kent Treble Bob Minor: E. R. Iveson 1, L. G. Roberts 2, E. G. Webb 3, B. Danbury 4, D. E. J. Watts 5, F. R. L. Blewer (first of Treble Bob as cond.) 6. First of Treble Bob by all except the 6th. For Evensong.

CLAVERLEY, SALOP.—On Feb. 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: W. Francis, jun, 1, J. Marsh 2, G. Goodson 3, E. Drew (cond.) 4, C. Jones 5, F. Bennett 6, F. Hinton 7, J. Courtman 8. A farewell to the organist (Mr. R. Wagstaff), who was leaving after nine years to take up a similar position at St. Paul's, Wolverhampton.

CHIPPING NORTON, OXON.—On Feb. 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Francis 1, C. Taplin 2, S. Pulker 3, J. Benfield 4, R. Jarvis 5, I. Harris (cond.) 6, J. Jarvis 7, C. Tompkins 8. For Evensong. Also on Feb. 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. Francis 1, J. Benfield 2, P. Coombes 3, S. Pulker 4, R. Jarvis (cond.) 5, I. Harris 6, J. Jarvis 7, C. Tompkins 8.

LIGHTCLIFFE, YORKS.—On Feb. 11th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: F. Popplewell 1, F. Linfoot 2, A. Rogers 3, C. F. Sutcliffe 4, A. W. Bond 5, A. Hinchcliffe 6, J. Pearson (cond.) 7, A. Rothery 8. Rung following the induction of the Rev. Frank White as Vicar.

RINGWOOD, HANTS.—On Feb. 19th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. Turner 1, Miss A. House (first quarter) 2, R. Hoare 3, R. Marlow 4, W. Shute 5, L. Cobb 6, W. Cheater (cond.) 7, E. Turner (first of Triples) 8. First in method 1 and 3.

RINGWOULD, KENT.—On Jan. 30th, 1,260 Doubles (630 St. Nicholas, 630 Winchendon Place Bob): A. Furminger 1, G. E. Ruck (cond.) 2, Mrs. F. W. Lawrence 3, J. F. Penfold 4, F. W. Lawrence 5.

SOUTHWOLD, SUFFOLK.—On Feb. 14th, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: Mrs. E. Le Blanc Smith 1, Mrs. J. W. Blythe (first as cond.) 2, Miss C. E. Payne 3, C. J. Gibson 4, R. S. Payne 5, J. W. Blythe 6.

SPRATTON, NORTHANTS.—On Feb. 19th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: P. J. Griffen (13, first quarter) 1, G. Wykes 2, R. Buckby 3, J. Griffen, sen., 4, W. Brown (cond.) 5. For Confirmation and thanksgiving service.

THRAPSTON, NORTHANTS.—On Feb. 18th, 1,248 Kent Treble Bob Major: J. Bluff 1, H. Goakes 2, L. Witten 3, G. Jeffs 4, T. Bevis 5, G. Bush 6, J. Haw 7, R. Price (cond.) 8.

WARBOROUGH, OXON.—On Feb. 18th, 1,380 Doubles (240 Stedman, 240 Place Bob, 240 St. Simon's, 240 Plain Bob, 120 St. Martin's, 120 St. Nicholas', 120 Grandsire): F. Smith 1, J. Godman 2, F. Godden 3, R. Tuckwell 4, F. Absolom (cond.) 5.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.—On Feb. 12th, 1,260 Double Bob Minor: Miss R. E. Gower 1, Miss P. Lawes 2, M. S. Lancefield (cond.) 3, C. T. Hillis 4, R. J. Carlton 5, D. Staples 6. Also 1,272 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: W. P. Garner 1, C. T. Hills 2, A. J. Lancefield 3, R. J. Carlton 4, W. J. Lancefield 5, M. S. Lancefield (cond.) 6.

WORCESTER.—At the Cathedral, on Feb. 11th, 1,231 Grandsire Cirques: W. J. Newman 1, W. B. Cartwright 2, S. T. Holt 3, J. D. Johnson (cond.) 4, N. J. Goodman 5, C. Skidmore 6, J. Lloyd 7, P. Harris 8, J. E. Newman 9, D. Beacham 10, R. Woodyatt 11, T. W. Lewis 12. For the enthronement of the Rt. Rev. Charles Edwardes as Lord Bishop of Worcester.

OBITUARY

MR. F. RIDOUT

The death took place on February 19th of Mr. Frank Ridout, of Okeford Fitzpaine, Dorset, aged 77.

He was a ringer for over 60 years, a good ringer of five-and six-bell methods, and was known as a good striker. He took his ringing certificate over 50 years ago. Always punctual for Sunday service ringing in St. Andrew's Church, and also for practice, Mr. Ridout continued ringing up to the week before his death. He will be missed locally, especially by the Okeford Fitzpaine band. He had five sons, all of whom are ringers.

The funeral took place on February 22nd at St. Andrew's Church. The bells were rung half-muffled before and after the service, when a full church testified to the esteem in which he was held.

Mr. W. Shute (Ringing Master) and Mrs. Vacher were present.

MR. J. W. ADDISON

The death took place suddenly at his home at Thornaby, Yorks, on March 1st, of Mr. Joseph Wilfred Addison. For many years he had worked hard with his brother, Ray, to keep ringing going at St. Paul's Church, which he lived opposite. Numerous people owe their introduction to ringing to his efforts.

His daughter is now Mrs. T. Francis, the wife of the previous Master of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. Wilf Addison had been a vice-president and auditor of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association since its re-formation in 1951, and had been throughout a most conscientious attender of the monthly meetings. His presence will be missed in many belfries on Tees-side. P. W. B. S.

5,280 PUDSEY SURPRISE MAJOR

By W. ERIC CRITCHLEY.

23456	B	M	W	H	
45236			—	—	A
62534		—		—	A
62345	X			—	A
54326		—	—	—	A
35426				—	A
43526				—	A
32465	X				A
26354	X				A
35264			—	—	A
23564				—	A
23645	A				
64235			—	—	
52436		—		—	
63425		—	—	—	
32654	X				
25346	X				
34256			—	—	
23456				—	

Contains 4th and 6th each 14 times in 5-6, without 2nd or 3rd in 6ths.

This composition, as any other composition for Pudsey, is true to Lincoln, and was first rung as such at Thorne, Yorkshire, on January 7th, 1956, conducted by the composer.

A ringing visit to Weston Favell one Sunday recently will not be forgotten in a hurry by a well-known Daventry District ringer. Locking his car door, leaving the key inside, cost him 8s. 6d. to get it unlocked—and a few looks from the local police, who wanted to be satisfied he was not the wanted man for six burglaries in Northampton a day previously!

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.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

Preliminary Notice

The third session of the 22nd Council (59th annual meeting) will be held at Leicester on Whitsun Tuesday, May 22nd, 1956.

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

Details of other arrangements will be given later.—E. A. Barnett, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

JOHN CRAWLEY has now moved into a permanent residence at 2, Hillside Grove, Chelmsford, Essex. 7941

HANDBELLS FOR SALE

SET OF 12 HANDBELLS, Key G, as new, and in excellent ringing condition. Further particulars, write to H. Bashford, 33, Lynwood Road, Redhill, Surrey. 7915

PUBLICATIONS

AN IDEAL GIFT

'TOWERS AND BELLS OF BRITAIN.'—This beautifully produced book will soon be out of print. Obtain your copy **now**, before too late. Direct from the author: Ernest Morris, F.R.Hist.S., F.R.G.S., M.R.S.L., Verger's Lodge, St. Margaret's Vicarage, Leicester. Price 21s. net. 7100

CENTRAL COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS.—Owing to the forthcoming marriage of Miss Patricia J. Ayris, will all intending purchasers of the Council's publications during the month of March, 1956, please communicate with Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Readers are warned that there may be delay in receiving publications as Mr. Sharpe is very frequently away from home.

MISCELLANEOUS

GAWSWORTH, Cheshire, at the Church of St. James, rededication of the rehung ring of eight bells (John Taylor and Co.), Saturday, March 17th, at 3 p.m., by the Archdeacon of Macclesfield. All ringers welcome. Names for refreshments to John Worth, 261, Peter Street, Macclesfield. 7917

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SOCIETY.—A ringing week-end is being arranged at Whitsun (Saturday, Sunday and Monday) in Dorset. The main purpose is to enable past and present members to meet each other. Cheap accommodation available. All members who can come write Dr. C. T. Brown, 14a, North Street, Wareham, before March 31st, and state if they can bring a car. 7933

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL. — Ringing commences again on Sunday, March 11th. Ringing times: Sundays, 9.45 and 2.30; Wednesdays, 7 (first Wednesdays 12-bell practice).—J. A. C. King. 7927

COMPLETE YOUR FILES.—Back numbers of 'The Ringing World' are available at the 'R.W.' Office, price 6d. per copy.

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

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

MEETINGS

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Saturday, March 10th, The Ship, Talbot Court, E.C., 6 p.m. Ringing at St. Stephen's, Clapham Park, S.W., at 3.30 p.m.—A. B. Peck. 7879

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Langford Budville, on March 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Names for tea.—A. H. Reed, George Street, Taunton. 7921

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Chesterfield District.—Monthly meeting, Clowne (6), Saturday, March 10th, 3 p.m.—A. B. Cooper, Wickstead, Rectory Lane, Duckmanton, Chesterfield. 7908

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Peak District.—Burbage, Buxton, on Saturday, March 10th, 3 p.m. Cups of tea only. All welcome.—H. E. Taylor, Dis. Sec. 7914

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Annual, East Grinstead, Mar. 10th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 5. Service 6 p.m., followed by business meeting.—C. A. Bassett. 7846

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. — Cambridge District.—Meeting at Whittlesford on Saturday, March 10th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—H. L. Martin, Dis. Sec. 7881

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.-E. District.—Meeting at Mistley, Saturday, Mar. 10th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. 7847

HERTS COUNTY.—Eastern District.—Bengeo, March 10th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea, please, to E. J. Phillips, 8, Page Road, Hertford.—T. J. Southam, Dis. Sec. 7882

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—By-meeting at Cobham on Saturday, Mar. 10th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Please note change of date.—Cyril S. Jarrett, 38, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. 7843

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Bartholomew, Whitworth, March 10th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea in café.—F. Pritchard. 7926

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern District.—Saturday, March 10th, St. Margaret's, Lee, 3. Own tea. Business 6.15. St. Alphege's, Greenwich, 7. Practice meeting, Thursday, March 15th, Clapham Common (R.C.), 7.30.—Hutchings. Tel. TUL 0800. 7883

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at South Hackney Parish Church, Lauriston Road, Well Street, on Saturday, March 10th, 3.15 p.m. Service 4 p.m., tea and business. Trolleybus route 677. Bus route 6.—T. J. Lock. 7872

SURREY ASSOCIATION. — The annaul general meeting will be held in the Vestry, Kingston-on-Thames, Mar. 10th. Service 4.30, followed by tea in Parish Hall. Bells: Esher 2.45 to 4, Kingston, after meeting only.—W. F. Oatway, Hon. Sec. 7838

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Northern District.—March programme. Wednesday, 14th, St. John's, South Hackney, E.9 (8), 6.30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, 17th, as above, 3 to 5 p.m. Own arrangements for tea. St. Matthew's Bethnal Green (8), 6 to 8.30 p.m. Wednesday, 21st, St. Mary-atte-Bow, Stratford East (8), 6.30 to 8 p.m. (learners). A cordial welcome extended to all.—Bullock, Sec. 7919

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting, Dundry, March 17th, 4 o'clock.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton. 7922

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Shepton Beauchamp, Saturday, March 17th. Service 4.30 p.m. Please notify early for tea to J. T. Locke, School Street, Drayton, Langport, Somerset. 7935

CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Hilda's Middlesbrough, on Saturday, March 17th. Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea, for those notifying the secretary by Wednesday, March 14th, at 5.15 p.m. in the Church Hall. Meeting follows tea.—P. W. B. Semmens, Hon. Sec., 52, Belle Vue Grove, Middlesbrough. 7928

COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Branch.—Meeting, Bulkington (8), Saturday, March 17th. Ringing 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by March 14th to J. L. Garner Hayward, 8, Orchard Crescent, Coventry. Phone: Greyfriars 474. 7925

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—J. W. Parker commemoration meeting, St. Ignatius', Sunderland, March 17th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Committee 3.30. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea by March 14th to F. Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Sunderland. 7906

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—Meeting at Yaxley (6), Saturday, March 17th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—H. S. Peacock, Dis. Sec. 7937

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N. District.—Meeting at Pebmarsh (6), Saturday, March 17th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Buses from Halstead and Bures. Numbers for tea to G. Trendell, Manor House, Pebmarsh, Halstead. 7893

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Cirencester Branch.—Northleach (8), March 17th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and business 5 p.m. Names essential by March 14th.—R. Wenban, Williamstrip Cottages, Coln-St. Aldwyns, Cirencester. 7912

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ludlow and Church Stretton District.—Combined practice, Stokesay, Saturday, March 17th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Teas.—G. Randle, Ashford, Ludlow. 7929

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION (Ashford District) and HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Combined meeting at Benenden (8) on March 17th. Bells 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to S. G. Waters, Bishopsdale Farm, Biddenden, by Tuesday, March 13th.—W. P. Garner. 7894

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—By-meeting, Lynsted, Saturday, March 17th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea, 2s. per head. Names, with cash, please, to Mr. N. E. Taylor, Vicarage Farm, Lynsted, near Sittingbourne, by Wednesday, March 14th.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Sec. 7884

LADIES' GUILD.—Kent Branch.—Meeting at West Malling on Saturday, March 17th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mrs. P. Carter, The Ringers, West Malling, Kent. All ladies welcome—gentlemen cordially invited.—Jill Haffenden. 7834

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Manchester Branch.—Quarterly meeting at St. Michael's, Flixton, 3 p.m., March 17th. Business meeting 6 p.m. Cups of tea.—R. Benson.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Furness and Lake District Branch.—Annual meeting, Ambleside, Saturday, March 17th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting follow. Names to A. Capstick, Kirkwood, Millans Park, Ambleside. — N. M. Newby, Branch Sec. 7943

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Market Harborough District.—Meeting, Great Bowden, March 17th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m.—L. W. Allen, Dis. Sec. 7923

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Syston District.—Rothley, March 17th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea in Village Hall at 5 p.m. to G. M. Brewin, 5, Cossington Lane, Rothley, by 14th, please.—B. Stedman Payne, Hon. Sec. 7936

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—S. and W. District.—Evening meeting at Brentford, Saturday, March 17th. Bells from 6 p.m. Chiswick not available in afternoon.—F. A. Finch, Hon. Sec. 7934

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—Combined practice will be held at Easthampstead on March 17th at 6 p.m. —B. C. Castle. 7913

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Rutland Branch.—Annual meeting, Uppingham (8), Saturday, March 17th. Names for tea by March 12th.—E. E. Gibson, Hon Sec. 7876

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northampton Branch. — Meeting at Little Houghton, Saturday, March 17th. Bells (5) 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Names for tea by Tuesday previous, please, to Mr. A. Henman, 47, Lodge Road, Little Houghton, Northants. —G. F. Roome. 7910

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Towcester Branch. — Quarterly meeting at Paulerspury, March 17th. Names for tea by Tuesday previous to W. A. Yates, Welsh Lane, Boycott, Buckingham. 7920

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Calne Branch.—March 17th, Mr. L. A. Wilson's 80th birthday—a special meeting at Wootton Bassett. Invitation to old friends. Bells 3.30. Guild service 4.30. Names for tea essential.—E. Brooks, 14, Templars Firs, Wootton Bassett, Wilts. 7932

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Marlborough Branch.—Next meeting, Chiseldon, March 17th. Names to T. A. Palmer, 16, Oxford Street, Aldbourne, Marlborough, Wilts. 7931

SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD. — Newark District.—Meeting at Orston on Saturday, March 17th. Bells 2.30. p.m. Service 4.30 Tea 5 p.m. at Durham Ox, for those who notify me by Wednesday previous. Buses leave Newark at 1.35 and 4.35 only.—W. L. Exton, Hon. Sec., 60, Albert Street, Newark. 7869

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern Division.—Practice meeting, Chailey (6), March 17th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., only for those who notify by March 14th.—K. C. Knight, Spinney Farm, High Hatch Lane, Hassocks. 7940

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Southampton District. — Quarterly meeting at North Stoneham on March 17th. Usual arrangements. Names for tea by March 13th to M. J. Butler, 8, St. Peter's Road, Southampton. 7930

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Western Branch.—Quarterly meeting, St. John's, Worcester, Saturday, March 17th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Names by Tuesday, March 13th, to E. F. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester. 7939

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Western District.—Quarterly meeting on Saturday, Mar. 17th, at Halifax. Bells available: All Souls', Haley Hill (8), from 2.30 to 5 p.m.; Parish Church (12), after business meeting to 9 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. in All Souls' Church Hall, followed by business meeting. Those requiring tea must send names to Mr. V. Bottomley, 21, Bankfield View, Halifax, no later than Tuesday, March 13th.—A. E. Marsh, Hon. Dis. Sec. 7905

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—A monthly meeting will be held at Aspley Guise on Saturday, March 24th. Bells 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. for those who send their names to Mr. A. Kershaw, 58, Mount Pleasant, Aspley Guise.—K. G. Spavins, Dis. Sec. 7942

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Monthly meeting, Sandiacre, March 24th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Frequent bus service from Derby–Nottingham, bus No. 8. All welcome.—V. Horton, Dis. Sec. 7918

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Quarterly meeting at Linton, March 24th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. Please send names for tea.—R. L. Sills, The Square, Wrotham, Kent. 7888

LADIES' GUILD. — Yorkshire District. — Annual meeting (joint), Drighlington, March 24th, 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. S. H. Barron, 40, West Street, Drighlington.—E. D. Kelly, Hon. Dis. Sec. 7945

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Meeting at Shareshill, near Wolverhampton, March 24th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. Names for tea not later than March 21st to Mr. H. Butler, 5, Pool Cottages, Shareshill, near Wolverhampton. 7916

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting, Taunton, Easter Monday, April 2nd. Ringing at St. James' Church 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Service at 12.30 p.m. Lunch at Gaumont Café for ticket-holders only. Applications, enclosing stamped addressed envelope, to R. O. Fry, 5, Morford Street, Bath. Business meeting in St. James' Church Hall at 3 p.m. Details of further ringing later.—R. O. Fry, Gen. Sec. 7903

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, Bedford, Easter Monday. Luncheon, 1 p.m., at Dujon, followed by business meeting. St. Paul's (majestic 10): 10 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., 2.45 to 4.30 p.m., and 6 p.m. onwards. St. Peter's (8): 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and 2.45 to 4.30 p.m. All ringers most welcome. Names for lunch before March 26th, please, to Mr. J. W. Sinfield, 4, Queen Street, Houghton Regis, Beds. 7924

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting, Rochester, Easter Monday, April 2nd. Service at Cathedral at noon. Luncheon, followed by business, at Corn Exchange, 1 p.m. Tickets, members 4s. 6d., others 6s. 6d. Please apply early, and not later than March 26th, with remittance and stamped addressed envelope, to the assistant hon. treasurer, Mr. B. W. May, Keithston, Keycol Hill, Bobbing, near Sittingbourne. Ringing, morning and after meeting, at Gillingham, Rainham, Chatham, Frindsbury and Rochester Cathedral.—Dr. E. S. J. Hatcher, Hon. Sec. 7889

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Preliminary Notice.—The Festival and annual general meeting will be held at Sherborne on May 12th, 1956.—W. C. West, Hon. Sec. 7911

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION

The cold weather experienced lately no doubt affected the attendance on February 23rd at the meeting held at Darlington's lovely Parish Church with its tall spire, which has recently gone through considerable restoration. The Rev. P. Wansey conducted a short service and the chairman (Mr. T. Cooke) read the lesson.

A very ample tea was provided in the Parish Hall, and thanks to the Vicar and warden were expressed by Mr. F. W. Cooke, and to the ladies for the tea by Mr. P. Rock.

Methods rung consisted of Grandsire, Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Double Norwich and Kent Treble Bob Minor. F. W. C.

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