THE RINGING WORLD

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SOME THOUGHTS ON ST. MARTHA'S

IT IS STRANGE that no letter of appreciation or even comment seems to have appeared in 'The Ringing World' on what to many of us must have been one of the most inspiring episodes of its kind in the history of bell-ringing, namely, the work of Peter Minchin and his colleagues at the Army Church of St. Martha in Korea, as reported in 'The Ringing World' No. 2325 for October 21st, which showed pictures of them hanging small bells in frames which they had built, and told how they had taken on learners to build up a service band.

Here is a case in which a church has been built for special needs in unusual circumstances, and but for the keenness and enthusiasm of local ringers it would have had no sacred music outside its walls as a reminder of man's highest duty—to offer himself in worship before God.

The recent sad loss of Bill Matthew, the radio handyman, brings home to one the common ground which exists in the urge that thousands have expressed in the 'do it yourself' philosophy, and the enterprise culminating in the establishment of a ringable tower thousands of miles away in the Far East. The difficulties of such a task, increased as they were by the isolation and the exigencies of army life, must have been very considerable. Without initiative, without determination and a very deep sense of the value of bells in the life of the English Church, the job could never have been done.

The future course of events at St. Martha's, separated as it is from the rest of the ringing world, must of necessity be somewhat shrouded in uncertainty. But as is the whole Church, the community of the people rather than the bricks and mortar of the building, even so St. Martha's symbolises a community of ringer-handymen whose spirit will survive long after the building itself crumbles away.

Strange though it may be that these events should apparently pass unnoticed, but stranger still that they should have occurred in what seems to be the most remote and unlikely spot in all the world. It is doubtful if ever there was a clearer case of being unable to see the wood for trees. Sapper Peter Minchin, by standing well back—several thousand miles in fact—was able to 'see the wood' and to show that these Ringing Isles are even now bristling with potential 'St. Martha's' which cry out for that spirit of enterprise and sense of the value of bells, and a community of ringers within the Church to ring them.

Let us for a little while stand back in thought with Peter Minchin and his colleagues and view with them the prospect of a potential 'St. Martha' right in our very midst. The one chosen is a new church, one of many that are being planned, built or already completed up and down the country. It is in an area which a short time ago was just fields and hedgerows, and is now being developed under the New Towns Act of 1946. It is what is described as a dual purpose church, consisting in the main of chancel, nave and stage, each section being separated from the others if desired by a heavy screen of the roller blind type, according to whether the building is required at a given moment as a church or a parish hall. This idea in itself, even before we look further at the details of the building and its furnishings, shows how very much alive the Church is to the constantly changing needs of the people. The design is revolutionary and the materials used in its construction are modern, from the nylon curtains to the cellulin floor; from the tubular chairs to the African Agba wood font. All is up-to-date in concept, design and manufacture, except one thing—the bell!

The bell is modern neither in its conception nor in its execution, for it is dated 1793, and was taken from an old church school. But it seems that in some way the architect must have been trying to appeal to what is sometimes referred to as the 'listening public,' only in this case, not perhaps knowing about or caring for campanology, he has appealed to the 'seeing public' by placing an outside stone altar and cross visible from the road.

In his notes on the church the architect says that this outside altar is probably the first of its kind in this country, and is a reminder to those who do not attend church services of the central symbol of Christian worship and, like the wayside cross so often seen abroad, may perhaps have an effect on those who pass by. He also believes that few will quarrel with the view that a new church should be an expression of our own times, and that a style that has lived and died cannot be made to live again! It is natural to wonder whether such an outside altar will in future years come to be associated with a 'pseudo' architecture of the '50s, or can it be taken to foreshadow a gradual change from the audible to the visual aid to worship?

Whenever the question of bells in modern churches is discussed we are always confronted with the apparently unassailable argument that bells are extremely expensive, and with so many other pressing needs it would be quite impossible to include them. The same argument would also seem to apply to such things as four-foot stone walls, lead roofs, stained glass windows and similar features of the ancient parish church. But these we do not find in the modern church. In place of the massive stone font we find a neat wooden one with inlaid copper bowl light enough to lift aside with one hand. Everyhing is designed with an eye to modern needs and produced at a price in keeping with the limited funds available.

As long as we continue to think of ringing only in terms of massive buttressed towers supporting bells whose weights often run into tons rather than hundredweights, we shall certainly never be able to keep abreast of the other developments which are taking place in church architecture. Surely there is a pointer to the right approach in what has been done at St. Martha's—the real St. Martha's in Korea, with its light dovecote belfry and 20 lb. tenor.

By the door is a table. Among the many booklets displayed there is a brochure on the building of this church. In his foreword the priest-in-charge speaks of the growth of a new town as a challenge to the institutions and services of the area in which it develops, and not least among these is the Church. Here may we pause for one moment to consider whether or not the territorial Ringing Associations should be included in these institutions and services. And the answer according to the rules of the five Associations of which I have the reports is, perhaps somewhat surprisingly—No.

It seems that the growth of a new town is not a challenge to us as ringers as regards the installation of bells. Only if such bells be installed by some other body does it become a challenge to us 'to care for those bells, and to establish, maintain and encourage service ringing, and to cultivate the art of change ringing and belfry reform.' The idea of belfry reform in a modern hall-church does seem to raise the question whether there might not be a case for a revision of the rules, but as they now stand the challenge to install new bells comes to us not as ringers but as members of the Church.

There is, however, another institution or service to which this challenge could be a target, namely, our friends the leading bell-founders. With all due respects it is pertinent to enquire if the research departments of the great bellfounding and hanging firms are planning ringing equipment which in design and price can satisfy the present-day requirements of the new churches. There has been nothing lately in 'The Ringing World' to indicate that such work is going on, nor do their advertisements suggest that there is any special urge to capture new markets. The situation in our potential 'St. Martha's' seems to be somewhat like this: We must build a church for £20,000. We can spend so much on this, and so much on that, and so much on the bells.

A nice little ring of six, Mr. Bellfounder, planned for future augmentations. Now what can you do for us?

With copper at over £400 a ton, and tin at about double that price, it is obvious that to meet the situation either the weight of the bells must be very materially decreased from the present norm, or a cheaper substance must be found, or a combination of both factors employed.

With regard to the former. Peter Minchin, besides being an active follower of the 'do it yourself' philosophy is also a bell-hanger by trade. Perhaps he might be able to offer a few useful hints, for he must have almost unique experience in the hanging and subsequent handling of such lightweights. As to the latter. Many long years have rolled by since the days when Naylor Vickers first produced steel bells which, after the inevitable results of rust and scale, 'murder the music of Double Norwich,' as someone once put it. Surely after years of improvements the time must be ripe for re-examining the suitability of steel for bells. The chairman of one of our great steel companies speaks of the constant work being done by their research department on the development of better steels to meet more exacting requirements, and another says that new outlets for alloy steels are constantly being sought.

As we pass on our way we cannot but feel that the Church is answering her challenge to minister to the spiritual needs of the people with what staff and funds she can obtain. And the Church does want us as ringers. No less than three diocesan bishops have recently made special references to this need. But she is interested in ringing only in so far as it aids her in her work. If she finds it cheaper or more expedient to appeal to the eye of the people through an outside altar, rather than to their ear through bells, she will choose the former.

We can see this white altar now, as we go out into the road, and scores of school children in the playground opposite can see it too. But will they ever hear the bells? Will they grow up to regard bells as not of our church—only the old churches have bells—the style that has lived and died and cannot be made to live again?

It is said that an oak tree spends 300 years in growth, 300 at maturity and 300 in slow decay. If there are any who feel secure in the belief that the maintenance of our art at its present levels is sufficient to ensure its indefinite survival, they are deceiving themselves, for it takes no account of the constant increase of the number of churches both here and abroad. When, as is the case, nearly all the new churches are without bells, the effect is a constant watering down of the proportion of churches with bells to those without. And this effect is made even worse by the fact that whereas these new silent churches must necessarily be in new and growing centres, old churches are frequently found in localities from which the population has drifted. This watering down effect results in a kind of inflationary process in which it is necessary actually to increase the number of ringable towers to prevent the gap from widening and to add our own contribution to our heritage to hand on unimpaired.

It must be apparent to all those who have given this aspect of ringing a thought that this is not being done. The restorations and augmentations that have taken place in the older churches have tended to blind the eye to the omissions of bells from the newer buildings. It seems that some obscuring cloud has risen up between the old and the new as happened in the States, where ringing never 'caught on'—a cloud which has already dappled the English countryside with 'Little Americas' as far as bells are concerned.

There is danger here to the Exercise, for like the Roman Empire, it is not inherently immune from decline and fall, and it is certain that if nothing is done to arrest this neglect we shall eventually find that our art, like the oak tree, is slowly and imperceptibly sliding into those last 300 years.

Fortunately there are signs that the danger may be averted if and when it becomes more widely realised. But time is pressing, and the sooner the St. Martha's spirit of enterprise begins to awake the sooner shall we be able to take a greater part as ringers in that rising spiritual wave in which our clergy have expressed their belief. C. E.

TWELVE BELL PEAL

CAMBRIDGE.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Easter Monday, April 2, 1956, in 3 Hours and 48 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5280 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS

Tenor 27¼ cwt. in C sharp.

FRANK E. HAYNES	*Treble*	JOHN S. MASON	7
WILFRED WILLIAMS	2	CECIL W. PIPE	8
G. WILLIAM CRITCHLEY	3	FRANK E. DARBY	9
RICHARD E. PRICE	4	GEORGE W. PIPE	10
JOHN CHILCOTT	5	JOHN H. CRAMPION	11
*MICHAEL P. MORETON	6	EDWARD P. DUFFIELD	*Tenor*

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal of Surprise Maximus.

TEN BELL PEALS

BLACKBURN, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., April 2, 1956, in 3 Hours and 30 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL

Tenor 25½ cwt.

ERNEST GOWER	*Treble*	*WALTER E. WILKINSON	6
DOREEN DUTTON	2	ROGER LEIGH	7
PATRICIA BOURNE	3	JACK ASHCROFT	8
ARTHUR TOMLINSON	4	RONALD KENRICK	9
*BRIAN A. TOMLINSON	5	JOSEPH RIDYARD	*Tenor*

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.

* First peal of Cambridge and Surprise Royal.

CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., April 2, 1956, in 3 Hours and 17 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF 5000 KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL

No. 313. Tenor 25¼ cwt.

*DENNIS SMEDLEY	*Treble*	*H. WAGSTAFFE	6
J. TURLEY	2	D. COOPER	7
R. BULLEN	3	W. ROBINSON	8
†E. A. RAWLINSON	4	G. W. DEBENHAM	9
S. SCATTERGOOD	5	T. J. SOUTHAM	*Tenor*

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by G. W. DEBENHAM.

* First peal of Royal. † First peal of Kent Royal.

Believed to be the late A. Knights' last composition of Kent Royal, rung for the first time. Has the sixth its extent at home in both positions.

PRESTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., April 2, 1956, in 3 Hours and 15 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF 5040 PRITTLEWELL SURPRISE ROYAL

Tenor 24 cwt.

E. ROGER MARTIN	*Treble*	PATRICIA BOURNE	6
MARGARET E. RIDYARD	2	G. ALEX. DIMMOCK	7
DOREEN DUTTON	3	RONALD KENRICK	8
ERNEST GOWER	4	NOEL J. DISERENS	9
JOHN N. DISERENS	5	JOSEPH RIDYARD	*Tenor*

Composed by C. SEDGLEY. Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.

First peal in the method by the band, on the bells, and by the Association.

ROTHERHAM, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(Sheffield and District Society.)

On Mon., April 2, 1956, in 3 Hours and 30 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF 5093 GRANDSIRE CATERS

No. 14. Tenor 34½ cwt.

MILTON C. FOWLER	*Treble*	NORMAN CHADDOCK	6
*MARGARET MILLS	2	†IAN M. HOLLAND	7
*ELIZABETH A. WARDILL	3	†FRED FISHER	8
W. ERIC CRITCHLEY	4	HERBERT O. CHADDOCK	9
JOHN J. L. GILBERT	5	†GORDON K. CHADDOCK	*Tenor*

Composed by M. J. MORRIS. Conducted by NORMAN CHADDOCK.

* First peal on ten bells. † First peal of Caters.

Rung for the Easter Festival.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

CHARLTON KINGS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 17, 1956, in 2 Hours and 56 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Parker's Twelve-part. Tenor 2[illegible] cwt.

*JOHN TYLER	*Treble*	†FRANK A. STEPHENS	5
SHIRLEY M. PARSONS	2	CYRIL A. WRATTEN	6
DAVID W. BEARD	3	THOMAS BOREHAM	7
†GEORGE W. SIMMONS	4	LESLIE BARRY	*Tenor*

Conducted by DAVID W. BEARD.

* First peal. † First peal of Grandsire Triples.

Rung as a birthday compliment to F. Simmons, a ringer at this church for over 50 years, and to J. Tyler.

OXFORD.—On April 1st, at the Church of St. Ebbe, 1,260 Stedman Triples: N. C. Chamberlain (first of Stedman) 1, W. H. B. Wilkins 2, W. F. Judge (cond.) 3, C. Holloway (first of Stedman) 4, C. Coles 5, F. A. Barrett (first of Stedman) 6, E. G. Moore 7, D. O. Wilks 8.

MATLOCK, DERBYSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 17, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 52 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,
A PEAL OF 5008 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor 14 cwt.

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

Composed by W. GARRARD. Conducted by BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE.
* First peal of Major. First peal of Major as conductor.

LONG SUTTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., March 24, 1956, *in* 3 *Hours and* 3 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor 15 cwt.

*ELAINE RICHARDSON	*Treble*	W. ALLAN RICHARDSON	5
RONALD C. NOON	2	WILLIAM ROSE	6
NORMAN V. HARDING	3	HORACE BENNETT	7
ROY WITHYMAN	4	C. HAROLD WHITTON	*Tenor*

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by C. HAROLD WHITTON.
* First peal.
A birthday compliment to the ringers of the treble and sixth, and to Mark H. Whitton, son of the conductor, on his first birthday.

EDENHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., March 25, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 58 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF 5000 LITTLE BOB MAJOR
Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb. in F sharp.

*GEOFFREY R. PARKER	*Treble*	*JOHN H. BLUFF	5
WILLIAM A. HOLMES	2	RONALD RUSSELL	6
*PERCY D. BALDOCK	3	*WILLIAM R. PARKER	7
*LOUIS WILDERS	4	JACK L. MILLHOUSE	*Tenor*

Composed by E. MORRIS. Conducted by JACK L. MILLHOUSE.
* First peal of Little Bob Major.

EWELL, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.
On Mon., April 2, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 53 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5152 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Tenor 13 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb. in F sharp.

*DEREK G. SPITTLE	*Treble*	*RAYMOND I. F. PARSONS	5
GILLIAN R. PARSONS	2	MICHAEL V. CHILCOTT	6
KATHLEEN E. WELLER	3	STEWART F. W. KIMBER	7
JOHN HILL	4	RALPH BIRD	*Tenor*

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by JOHN HILL.
* First peal of Cambridge.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Mon., April 2, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 44 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. REMIGIUS,
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor 9 cwt. 74 lb. in G.

WILLIAM CLOVER	*Treble*	HENRY TOOKE	5
EDWARD G. CURSON	2	RAYMOND G. LOFTY	6
SHEILA BARKER	3	CHARLES H. MOORE	7
GEORGE H. MOORE	4	JOHN MOORE	*Tenor*

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by HENRY TOOKE.
A compliment to Mrs. R. F. Alborough, who on Easter Day completed 30 years as organist at St. Remigius' Church. Also a coming-of-age compliment to G. H. Moore.

LYMINGTON, HAMPSHIRE.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., April 2, 1956, *in* 3 *Hours,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,
A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES
Dexter's Variation. Tenor 20 cwt.

MARGARET PAGE	*Treble*	DANIEL T. MATKIN	5
MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY	2	WILLIAM A. THEOBALD	6
DOROTHY T. GARDINER	3	FRANK L. HARRIS	7
*PHILIP N. TUBBS	4	RONALD N. MARLOW	*Tenor*

Conducted by FRANK L. HARRIS.
* First peal of Stedman.
Rung as a compliment to Mr. J. E. Daniels and Miss S. Parker on the occasion of their wedding.

MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND.
THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Mon., April 2, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 54 *Minutes,*
AT THE WATCH TOWER,
A PEAL OF 5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES
Washbrook's Variation. Tenor 10 cwt. 26 lb.

ERIC N. HARRISON	*Treble*	CHARLES McGUINESS	5
*MARGARET GIBSON	2	J. ALAN AINSWORTH	6
MARGARET A. SOFTLEY	3	KENNETH ARTHUR	7
*GEORGE STEDMAN DEAS	4	†NICHOLAS I. WRIGHT	*Tenor*

Conducted by KENNETH ARTHUR.
* First peal of Stedman. † First peal. First peal of Stedman on the bells since restoration.
Rung for the joy of Easter.

MEASHAM, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., April 3, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 39 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,
A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR
Middleton's. Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

WM. F. WOODWARD	*Treble*	JOSEPH W. COTTON	5
ERNEST W. RAWSON	2	S. ANTHONY JESSON	6
HARRY POYNER	3	ROLAND BENISTON	7
ARTHUR E. ROWLEY	4	PETER J. STANIFORTH	*Tenor*

Conducted by HARRY POYNER.
Rung for Easter.

PENDLEBURY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Tues., April 3, 1956, *in* 3 *Hours and* 10 *Minutes,*
AT CHRIST CHURCH,
A PEAL OF 5056 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
Tenor 13¼ cwt. in F.

*G. BARBARA COOKE	*Treble*	GEOFFREY MILLS	5
DEREK TAYLOR	2	†BRIAN N. COOPER	6
NORMAN TOMPKINS	3	PETER CROOK, SEN.	7
RAYMOND JOHNSON	4	JOSEPH THORNLEY	*Tenor*

Conducted by PETER CROOK, SEN.
* First peal. † First peal of Major.
Rung to celebrate the Feast of Holy Easter.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

TAXAL, DERBYSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Thurs., March 15, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 48 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR
Four callings (C.C.C. Nos. 73, 74, 58 and 59). Tenor 11¼ cwt.

WILLIAM A. SMITH	*Treble*	*RONALD DAWSON	4
*ELIZABETH M. BAGSHAW	2	*BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE	5
*MRS. GLADYS RICHARDSON	3	ALEX RICHARDSON	*Tenor*

Conducted by BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE.
* First peal in the method.

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WORMHILL, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Wed., March 21, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 6 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET.
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
Being 42 extents (four callings). Tenor 1 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb.

MRS. GLADYS RICHARDSON	*Treble*	BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE ..	3
ALEX. RICHARDSON	2	WILLIAM A. SMITH	4
HENRY KIRK	*Tenor*		

The ringers of 2, 3, 4 and tenor conducted ten extents each, and two extents were non-conducted.
First peal of Doubles by all, and on the bells.

BUNWELL, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 24, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 37 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR
Being one extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Oxford Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Kent Treble Bob, St. Clement's and Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

HENRY TOOKE	*Treble*	FRANK C. J. ARNOLD.. ..	4
WILFRED G. SAUNDERS ..	2	JOHN S. BARNES	5
JAMES B. MORLEY	3	CEDRIC F. W. PHILLIPPO ..	*Tenor*

Conducted by CEDRIC F. W. PHILLIPPO.

CHARLTON-ON-OTMOOR, OXFORDSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sat., March 24, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 57 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN.
A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES
Being 42 extents (ten callings). Tenor 17 cwt., approx.

ROBIN TREBILCOCK	*Treble*	DAVID C. WOODWARD ..	3
VERNON GREEN	2	FRANK A. BARRETT	4
CLIVE HOLLOWAY	*Tenor*		

Conducted by CLIVE HOLLOWAY.
The average age of the band is 16.2.
Rung for the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

LYMPNE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 24, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 48 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR
Comprising one extent each of Oxford Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, St. Clement's Bob, Double Oxford Bob and Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 12 cwt.

CRAWFORD T. HILLIS ..	*Treble*	JOHN R. COOPER..	4
DAVID STAPLES	2	THOMAS CULLINGWORTH ..	5
GEOFFREY PEARSON	3	MARK W. MARSHALL.. ..	*Tenor*

Conducted by MARK W. MARSHALL.
The first peal on the bells.

TAMERTON FOLIOTT, DEVON.
THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.
On Sat., March 24, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 45 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven extents, called differently. Tenor 11 cwt. in F.

*DAVID FARNHAM	*Treble*	HARRY HARPER	4
YVONNE PORTER	2	DAVID N. PENROSE	5
ARTHUR F. BURLEY ..	3	ALAN CARVETH	*Tenor*

Conducted by ALAN CARVETH.
* First peal. The first peal on the bells since they were rehung in 1936.

WATTON-AT-STONE, HERTFORDSHIRE.
THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Sat., March 24, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 58 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. ANDREW AND MARY,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR
Being an extent each of Single Oxford, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, and Plain Bob. Tenor 13¼ cwt. in F.

PHILIP MEHEW..	*Treble*	BRIAN BLADON	4
*RONALD J. SHARP	2	†A. PATRICK CANNON ..	5
ANDREW C. SINFIELD ..	3	DEREK P. JONES	*Tenor*

Conducted by DEREK P. JONES.
* 300th peal. † 475th peal. First peal on the bells for 25 years. They were last rehung, by Messrs. C. and G. Mears, in 1852.

BRAYWOOD, BERKS.—On April 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. Mitchell 1, G. Mitchell 2, H. P. Schofield 3, J. Schofield 4, A. Jackson (first as cond.) 5. For morning service.

HOLME HALE, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Sun., March 25, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 57 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Tenor 14 cwt.

CHARLES E. G. BANHAM ..	*Treble*	SAMUEL H. WATERFIELD ..	4
THOMAS A. A. POTTER ..	2	CECIL V. EBBERSON	5
GEOFFREY R. DREW	3	TONY OWEN	*Tenor*

Conducted by CECIL V. EBBERSON.
A peal for Mr. and Mrs. Tony Owen's first wedding anniversary.

CHAPEL ALLERTON, LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Mon., April 2, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 39 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,
A PEAL OF 5040 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR
Being one 2,160 and four extents. Tenor 7½ cwt.

DAVID THORLEY..	*Treble*	D. MARGARET HAWLEY ..	4
JAMES THORLEY	2	ALAN E. HARTLEY	5
J. MARTIN THORLEY	3	EDWARD M. BRADLEY.. ..	*Tenor*

Conducted by J. MARTIN THORLEY.
Rung to welcome Katharine May Thorley.

FOLKINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., April 2, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 43 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Being seven different 720's. Tenor 13 cwt.

DONALD H. METTAM.. ..	*Treble*	WILLIAM R. PARKER ..	4
RONALD RUSSELL	2	*LOUIS WILLDERS	5
AMOS INGALL	3	JAMES H. MUSSON	*Tenor*

Conducted by JAMES H. MUSSON.
* 100th peal for the Guild.

HORBLING, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Mon., April 2, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 34 *Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR
Being one extent of Single Court and three each of Single Oxford and Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

LOUIS WILLDERS..	*Treble*	WILLIAM R. PARKER	4
PERCY D. BALDOCK	2	DONALD H. METTAM.. ..	5
AMOS INGALL	3	JAMES H. MUSSON	*Tenor*

Conducted by JAMES H. MUSSON.

HANDBELL PEALS

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Wed., March 21, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 7 *Minutes,*
AT 13, KNOWSLEY ROAD.
A PEAL OF 5152 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR
Composition: Trad. Tenor size 15 in C.

WILFRED L. ROBINSON ..	1—2	FREDK. WM. GROCOTT ..	5—6
ROBIN G. TURNER	3—4	*LESLIE BOUMPHREY	7—8

Conducted by FREDERICK. WM. GROCOTT.
* First peal of Double Norwich 'in hand.'

NORWICH.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Thurs., March 22, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 2 *Minutes,*
AT 27, CHALK HILL ROAD,
A PEAL OF 5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR
Consisting of seven different extents.

*WILLIAM LOVE	1—2	WILLIAM H. BARRETT.. ..	3—4
ARTHUR G. BASON	5—6		

Conducted by ARTHUR G. BASON.
* First handbell peal.

LEICESTER.
THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sun., March 25, 1956, *in* 2 *Hours and* 5 *Minutes,*
AT 12, DOROTHY AVENUE, GLEN HILLS,
A PEAL OF 5004 SPLICED MAJOR
In four methods, consisting of 3,040 Plain Bob, 1,000 Little Bob, 832 Double Bob and 132 Gainsborough Little Bob, with 296 changes of method. Tenor size 15 in C.

BRIAN G. WARWICK	1—2	JOHN A. ACRES	5—6
ERNEST MORRIS	3—4	MRS. B. G. WARWICK ..	7—8

Composed by F. NOLAN GOLDEN. Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.
First peal in four Spliced Major methods 'in hand' by all and for the Guild.

QUARTER PEALS

CHATHAM, KENT.—On March 31st, 1,344 Stedman Triples (Heywood's Variation): H. Springate 1, C. S. Jarrett 2, T. Beaumont 3, F. J. Cheal 4, C. E. J. Norris 5, R. E. Norris 6, W. A. J. Knight (cond.) 7, D. Norris 8. First of Stedman Triples for 6 and 8.

CHELSFIELD, KENT.—On Easter Day, 480 Bob Doubles, 780 Grandsire Doubles: Eileen Moore 1, John Pannell 2, John Parker 3, James Salmond 4, David Hanger (first as cond.) 5, A. Smith 6. Rung for Evensong.

CROYDON.—On April 1st, at St. John-the-Baptist Church, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: Miss H. Talbot (first of Caters) 1, F. E. Mitchell 2, Mrs. W. F. Oatway 3, N. Brown 4, N. Steere 5, G. H. Humphries 6, H. G. Pratt 7, F. E. Collins 8, W. F. Oatway (cond.) 9, P. Humphries 10. Rung for the Easter Festival, and as a farewell to the Bishop of Croydon, who preached his last sermon at this service before leaving to become Bishop of Coventry. Also as a compliment to the Rt. Rev. H. M. Harland, a former Bishop of Croydon, on his preferment to the See of Durham.

FRAMPTON, LINCS.—On March 25th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: B. Hunt 1, E. Flintham 2, J. Green 3, R. Bamber 4, J. R. Kemp 5, A. E. Flatters (cond.) 6. Rung as a compliment to Mr. Harold Yardley and Miss Mary Hepenstal, of Aston, Birmingham, on the occasion of their engagement.

KIMPTON, HERTS.—On Easter Sunday, 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles: J. Gatward (14) 1, J. G. Cull 2, R. Hand (15) 3, Mrs. H. Price 4, D. C. Price (first of Doubles as cond.) 5, J. Newbold 6. For Evensong. First quarter peal by a local band since the last world war. First quarter for 1, 2, 3 and 6.

KINGSTON-ON-SOAR, NOTTS.—On March 28th. 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss A. N. Dakin (first quarter) 1, W. Dakin 2, W. D. Cheverton 3, P. J. Sutton 4, C. W. Towers (cond.) 5, G. H. Hill 6. Rung half-muffled in tribute to Lord Belper of Kingston Hall, Patron of the Living, who died at sea.

LITTLE MISSENDEN, BUCKS.—On April 1st, 1,260 Doubles (720 Plain Bob, 540 Grandsire): D. Baldwin (first quarter) 1, Miss M. Goodship 2, S. J. Orchard (cond.) 3, G. Orchard 4, H. Baldwin 5, A. Sear 6. Rung for Easter Evensong.

MERROW, SURREY.—On March 24th. 1,440 Plain Bob Minor (two different 720's): Rosamund May (first of Minor) 1, Jillian H. Wilson 2, Eva Taussig 3, Pamela Warren 4, Gerald M. Battersby 5, John A. Etherington (first of Minor as cond.) 6. Longest length of Minor 'inside' for 2, 3 and 5. First quarter of Minor ever rung by a local band. A birthday compliment and farewell to Miss Eva Taussig, who is leaving for Farnborough.

SEALE, SURREY.—On Easter Day, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss M. Davies (first quarter) 1, J. W. Carter 2, Miss M. Cass 3, Mrs. M. Merrett 4, E. Gardner (cond.) 5, Miss E. Young 6. Rung by the local band for Evensong.

SLOUGH, BUCKS.—On March 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Ann Gauntlett (first quarter) 1, A. D. Rivers 2, Janet Adamson 3, Sylvia Wickenden (first as cond.) 4, J. C. Birt 5, E. L. A. Hudson 6, W. Birmingham 7, B. T. Lister 8. Rung for Palm Sunday and for progress. Also on April 1st, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor: Ann Gauntlett 1, Sylvia Wickenden (first 'inside' of Minor) 2, Janet Adamson 3, J. C. Birt 4, A. D. Rivers 5, W. Birmingham (cond.) 6. First of Minor by 1 and 3. Rung for the Easter Festival. Also on April 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Jennifer Hussey (first quarter) 1, W. W. Wolstencroft 2, Mrs. W. F. Butler 3, Sylvia Wickenden 4, Janet Adamson (first as cond.) 5, J. C. Birt 6, W. Birmingham 7, E. L. A. Hudson 8. Rung for the Easter Festival and for progress.

TILNEY, NORFOLK.—On March 21st, 1,440 Plain Bob Minor: G. Rich 1, R. G. Russell 2, G. Mann (13, first quarter) 3, G. Mason 4, M. R. Reed 5, W. Rose (cond.) 6.

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX.—On April 1st, at St. Mary's Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: R. J. Chapman 1, H. Rumens 2, D. Hewitt (first in method) 3, F. C. Maynard 4, A. J. Boyack 5, C. T. W. Coles 6, E. E. Holman (cond.) 7, B. Collard 8. Rung for Easter Evensong.

WESTERHAM, KENT.—On March 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss Cosgrove 1, J. Taylor 2, J. Igglesden 3, R. Waterhouse 4, R. Hammond 5, G. Pickett 6, J. Weller 7, D. Matthews 8. Also on March 24th, 1,260 Plain Bob Minor (with 7, 8 cover): H. Igglesden 1, J. Taylor 2, J. Igglesden 3, J. Weller 4, G. Pickett 5, R. Waterhouse 6, M. Cosgrove 7, E. Connor 8.

WOODBURY, DEVON.—On April 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: B. J. Glanvill 1, H. Burton 2, T. Gooding 3, C. Deem (cond.) 4, J. H. Glanvill 5, L. K. Dawe 6, J. L. S. Glanvill 7, J. Gooding 8. For the Festival of Easter.

WRINGTON, SOMERSET.—On March 18th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Hilda M. Kingcott 1, Cyril Lewington 2, Eveline Kingcott 3, Mackenzie Collins 4, John Waters 5, William H. Kingcott 6, Herbert W. Knight 7, Michael Board 8. Farewell to Cyril Lewington, on leaving for the Far East.



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AND

JOHNSTON

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

BELL FOUNDERS

AND

CLOCK MAKERS

CROYDON



THE SUNDAY SERVICE CONDUCTOR

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD

(Continued from page 221)

2.—PLAIN BOB MINOR

TO the conductor of Sunday service touches Plain Bob Minor will offer scope for much interesting experiment. The standard extents are well known and are easy to call, and there is a vast collection of 720's from which the conductor may draw when he wishes for something out of the ordinary. We shall, therefore, not spend time on the extents, but shall confine ourselves to the principles upon which shorter touches may be constructed and upon which the bells are called round.

The composing of touches and the calling into rounds depend chiefly upon the ability to make certain bells course each other, and in order to be able to do this the conductor must be capable of something more than just calling from an observation bell according to certain fixed rules. His observation bells, mainly the fifth or the sixth (or both in combination) will, of course, be very important factors in the procedure, but he needs to be free from the necessity of ringing either of these bells to be able to note their relation to the treble and to call them into what positions he will, no matter what bell he is ringing. If he can do this he will be equally at home with his calling whether ringing the observation bell or some other bell; but if his practice has led him no further than calling from the observation bell then his skill is but half formed.

First efforts should be made to call from the second, third or fourth, some simple touch such as the one shown here. It is short and easy, and it provides useful study. The part shown should be called in something like this manner. Watch the third come down in front of the treble and call the bob by noting 3 I. on the front. (Note, if possible, that the fifth makes the bob.) Watch again for the third to come down in front of the treble and call again by noting 3 I. on the front. (Note, if possible, that the sixth makes the bob.) Remember now that a third bob will bring the bells round, and let this remembrance prevent the calling of a third bob. Let the course-end run up neatly, and be ready for Part 2.

	23456
	———
—	23564
—	23645
	34256

Twice repeated

In Part 2 call by watching the fourth come down before the treble, and in Part 3 call by watching the second come down before treble.

The value of calling these simple touches by observing which bell courses in front of the treble cannot be too strongly emphasised. To this observation must presently be added that of noting which bell courses **after** the treble.

The young conductor should note the construction of the simple touch given above. Each part is built alike. The first bob parts the fifth and the sixth, the fifth making the bob. The second bob restores the fifth and the sixth to their plain course coursing order, the sixth making the bob. The touch should also be observed from another angle, in that it provides a short way of producing the three (In-course) course-ends 34256, 42356 and 23456. This means that if in any touch we arrive at 34256 or 42356 we know a simple way to get the bells round. This bit of elementary knowledge should be stored in the conductor's mind or in his notebook.

The other way of producing the three course-ends 34256, 42356 and 23456 is well known, and consists in calling 5-6 home three times. The first part of the touch is shown here, and the aspiring bob caller should consider by what means he will ensure that he calls his bobs at the right lead. To attempt to count the number of leads is far too precarious a plan, and one that will sooner or later deceive him. It is, indeed, possible to call this touch by learning what one bell (either 2, 3 or 4) does at each bob, but this pins the caller to one bell and is the very negation of the practice he is trying to give himself in calling from a non-observation bell. By far the best plan is to base the calling upon the principle of watching the sixth (and the fifth, if possible).

	23456
	———
	35264
	56342
	64523
	42635
—	42356

It should not be too difficult, whichever bell is being rung, to see when the sixth makes seconds place. It is when the sixth comes down in front of the treble, and that should make the matter easy. Now commonsense will insist that the bob cannot be called at the next lead, for at this lead the sixth is following the treble down and would run in if a call were put. The lead following is clearly the one for the bob, and, indeed, the conductor, ringing either 2, 3 or 4, will have little doubt, if he watches carefully, that both 5 and 6 are safely tucked away up behind, clear of any impact of the bob.

The above doubtless seems very elementary, but the secret of confidence and happiness in calling Plain Bob Minor is found in a secure handling of these very primitive phenomena.

Let the conductor master the calling of the two touches already examined, and let him be capable of doubling these touches by two singles, doing these things from the non-observation bell, and it may be said that he is not far off the pleasure of being able to twist the bells about just as he wishes and of calling them into rounds just when he likes. For note this: The calling of the bells into rounds consists chiefly in getting 5 and 6 into plain course order if they happen to be parted. If they are not parted, then, as the above touches show, rounds can be reached in not too great a distance of time.

Our immediate consideration must be the question of getting 5 and 6 together if they are parted or are reversed. The latter point should be noted, for there are two chief ways in which 5 and 6 may vary from the plain course order: 1. They may not be coursing each other: 2. They may be coursing the opposite way from the plain course, that is, with 6 coming to lead after 5. Let us consider how, in each of these contingencies, we may get 5 and 6 into their plain course partnership.

If 5 and 6 are parted there are two simple ways of getting them together:—

1. Call the fifth to run out until the sixth dodges in 5-6 up. (It cannot possibly require more than two bobs: the reason for this must be left for the student to find out by pricking for himself.)
2. Call the sixth to run in until the fifth makes a bob. (It cannot possibly require more than two bobs, and once again the student should prove this statement by use of pencil and paper.)

Examples of both these processes are given below:—

Plan 1	Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 2
42563	26543	36542	42563
26435	64235	64325	26435
63254	43652	— 64253	63254
35642	35426	— 64532	— 63542
— 35426	— 35264	43625	34625
— 35264	56342	32456	42356
56342	64523		
64523	42635		
42635	23456		
23456			

After some brief study of the above the student may take any random row that has 5 and 6 apart, and proceeding on Plan 1 or Plan 2, may get the fifth and sixth together. In the examples given, the rows after the tenors have come together have been pricked as far as a course-end, and the following important facts should be noted. In Plan 1 the tenors come together near the beginning of a course; in Plan 2 they come together near the end of a course. This may give certain advantages in the use of Plan 1 if we are anxious to get the bells round very quickly. To this point some attention will now be given.

Examine again Plan 1. When the tenors finally come together (and are heard and seen to go behind in partnership) the position is this:—

0 5 0 6 0

which means that if the bells are in course the lead we have arrived at is bound to be 35264 or 45362 or 25463. Now 35264 is the plain course and the bells will run home in four more leads. From 45362 or from 25463 the bells may be put into the plain course in a very short time by the use of Bobs Before, that is, calling bobs for the sixth to run out, and the fifth to run in.

The process is shown here and will, with a little care and practice, be found very simple. The conductor must, of course, be able to recognise the plain course when he reaches it, and he must make up his own mind as to his best plan for carrying out this indispensable piece of identification. The lead-end 56342 is a well-known one, and the beginner should lose no opportunity of familiarising himself with the sound of it and with the order (3—2—4) in which the little bells come to lead.

45362	25463	
56423	56234	
— 56234	— 56342	
— 56342	64523	
64523	42635	
42635	23456	
23456		

However clear the above explanation may be, the earnest inquirer is bound sooner or later to remark that instead of 35264 or 45362 or 25463, the calling together of 5 and 6 might (and, indeed, would if the bells were Out of Course) produce 35462 or 25364 or 45263. If this should be so it is evident that a single is needed somewhere. Where shall it be put? One could, of course, let the bells run on and call a single at the course-end, that is, where 5-6 dodge together behind. This would produce either 23456 or 42356 or 34256, and the conductor knows, of course, from his previous study, how to get the bells round easily from 42356 or 34256.

The experienced conductor will, however, be able to make a short cut. Having got to 35462 or 25364 or 45263, whichever it may be, he will proceed to call Bobs Before until 56432 comes up, **because 56432 is only the plain course with 3 and 4 reversed,** and a single at the course-end brings rounds.

The three possibilities are shown below. From 45263 nothing is required but a single at the course-end. The figures of the other two explain themselves and the process.

45263	25364	35462
56432	56243	56324
63524	— 56432	— 56243
32645	63524	— 56432
S 23456	32645	63524
	S 23456	32645
		S 23456

Mention has been made earlier of the possibility of 5 and 6 varying from their plain course order by being reversed. In this situation 5 will be found to be coming to lead in front of 6, and when the two bells go behind they will strike 6-5 instead of 5-6 at backstroke. Should 5-6 be thus reversed no amount of calling the sixth to run in or the fifth to run out will avail to bring them together the right way. One of two things will have to be done. Either they must be parted by some convenient means or else a single must be called when the two bells are Before. This latter plan is the sim-

plest and by far the quickest, for it turns 5 and over 6 immediately.

In the example shown 5 and 6 are reversed, and when the Before is reached the position is 65000 instead of the plain course 56000. If a single is now called instead of 5 running out and 6 running in (which would preserve the inverted position), 5 makes seconds and 6 makes thirds, and the two bells are the right way round.

46352
65423
S 56234

It is not, of course, desirable to have 5 and 6 reversed in Minor, for the music in that position is inferior and not greatly admired. It may happen, nevertheless, that in the course of experimental callings the conductor will, voluntarily or involuntarily, get 6-5's at back-stroke. If this should happen he need have no difficulty, as the above note demonstrates, in getting the two bells right again.

Enough has now been written, it is hoped, to guide the aspiring conductor in—

1.—Calling from a non-observation bell;

2.—Calling the bells round from any position.

Armed with this knowledge the student should be in a position to experiment freely in calling, both in the standard touches and extents, and also, what is more to the point in these articles, in the practice of calling bobs at random and then bringing the bells home at will. It is in the latter procedure, possibly, that the greatest entertainment is secured. No lists of rules have been given here, but general principles have been exposed and explained. Final success must rest on abundant paper work and bold experiment in the tower.

This section concludes on a slightly heretical note. The Central Council will not recognise peals of Minor rung with a covering tenor, and it may, therefore, seem in doubtful taste to mention such a possibility. But there are bands who, in Sunday service touches, for some reason or other, do occasionally ring Plain Bob Minor on seven bells. Where this may be done it is not without interest to remark that 3-5 Behind is similar in musical value to 4-6 in Triples, and 6-3 is similar in musical value to 7-4 in Triples. The construction of touches of Plain Bob Minor to be rung with a covering tenor may therefore follow a slightly different plan from those made for ordinary Minor ringing and the musical effects of 3-5 and 6-3 Behind are by no means to be despised.

(To be continued)

QUARTER PEALS

SHOREHAM-BY-SEA, SUSSEX.—On Mar. 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: I. Challen 1, Miss E. Everest 2, Miss A. Millam 3, R. Challen 4, Miss J. Pike 5, W. Hargreaves 6, P. F. Romney 7, T. Drinkwater 8. For Confirmation service.

SOUTH HACKNEY, E.—On Mar. 25th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: L. W. Bardley 1, C. W. Ottley 2, J. A. Hales 3, E. E. Holman 4, F. Ranson 5, P. J. Hutchings 6, J. Hales (cond.) 7, J. McPhail 8. For Evensong.

WENDOVER, BUCKS.—On Mar. 25th, 1,260 Doubles (240 St. Simon's, 240 St. Martin's, 240 Plain Bob, 540 Grandsire): R. Eggleton 1, W. Lee (cond.) 2, Mary Hobbs 3, H. C. Jones 4, R. Woodruff 5, D. Harding 6.

WILLINGHAM, CAMBS.—On Mar. 25th, 1,440 Kent Treble Bob Minor: A. Denson 1, N. Robinson 2, G. E. Crisp 3, D. Morlock 4, D. E. R. Knights (cond.) 5, G. A. Lucas 6. In memoriam John Huckell, a faithful member of this church, also churchwarden for 30 years.

ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY

For the first time in its history the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford held a meeting at Shareshill on March 24th. Situated midway between Wolverhampton and Cannock and lying half a mile from the main road, Shareshill manages to preserve its rural nature and quiet, together with a sense of remoteness.

In his address at the service the Vicar of Shareshill, the Rev. A. Walkerdyne, mentioned that all that now remained of the church built in the 15th century was the tower.

The pleasing light ring of six bells is rung from a very small ringing chamber, but as this opens out to the gallery, ample room is thus available for those awaiting their turn to ring. Mr. H. Butler and his young band made the visitors very welcome and they are to be congratulated on the arrangements they made for this meeting, including a bountiful tea served in the village school. The attendance of 65 included a good proportion of young ringers.

At the business meeting after tea it was decided to send a donation of £4 4s. to Bow Bells Appeal Fund and another of £1 1s. to St. Modwen, Burton-on-Trent, Restoration Fund.

The next meeting of the Society will be the joint meeting with the Midland Counties Guild and Shropshire Association at Burton-on-Trent on April 14th. F. C. A. B.

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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Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

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BELFRY

Listeners to the B.B.C. programme 'Gardeners' Question Time,' to be broadcast in the North of England Home Service on April 15th will hear a certain band of ringers in the background 'pricking out the seedlings.' Only five 'perennials,' two 'biennials' and two 'seedlings' were present, which may account for the varied 'spacings.'

'The seating arrangements for the homeward journey by coach looked rather like the result of a well-organised matrimonial agency,' writes a North of England correspondent in describing his branch's second annual outing on Easter Monday.

The six bells of Pilton, Somerset, have been retuned, hung on ball bearings and the third recast. A big assembly of ringers is expected for the rededication ceremony on April 21st. The Rev. M. Hurst-Bannister, president of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, is Vicar of Pilton.

St. Mary's, Twyford, Berks, held their second annual outing on Easter Monday. Towers visited were Marshfield (Glos); Swainswick; St. Mark's, Lyncombe; St. Michael's and St. Paul's, Bath (where the best ringing of the day took place); St. Mary's, Bathwick; Bathampton and Bathford.

Miss Florence C. Brown, of Melbourne, writes in 'The Ringing Towers,' the journal of the New South Wales Association, of her experiences while ringing in England during the past year. She has rung in 50 towers, and writes: 'Wherever I have gone I have had the same welcome that seems part of the Exercise itself—if you can ring, 'Catch hold'—and no matter how little your experience the rest of the band will ring with you, helping you and guiding your path with a word, a beckon, a smile or a nod.'

GOSSIP

Congratulations to Mr. P. L. Taylor, of Loughborough, upon his selection as president of the Leicester Diocesan Guild. Other officers elected at the annual meeting were: Vice-presidents, Mr. E. C. Turner and Mr. P. A. Corby; hon. general secretary, Mr. B. G. Warwick, 12, Dorothy Avenue, Glen Hills, Leicester; hon. peal secretary, Mr. S. Burton; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. E. Rowley.

Miss E. Bate, of Handsworth, Sheffield, is the new hon. secretary of the Yorkshire District of the Ladies' Guild. She succeeds Mrs. E. D. Kelly, who has held the office for 21 years.

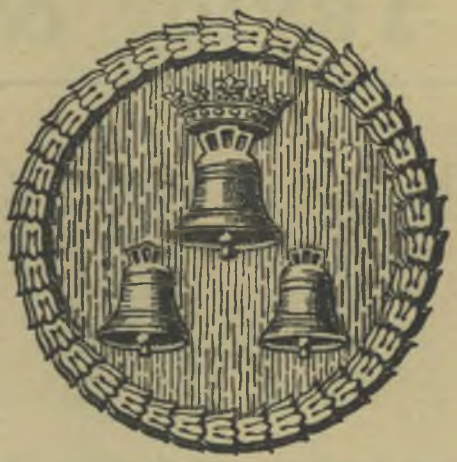
News to hand last week-end was that Mr. W. H. Hewett, who is in St. Giles' Hospital, Camberwell, is 'improving very well.' He finds it difficult at the moment to write and answer letters he has received, but will do so later.

Mr. Ernest Morris rang his 1,600th peal at Thurcaston, Leics, on April 3rd. There are only three ringers who have previously reached the 1,600 mark—W. Pye, 1,969; G. R. Pye, 1,878; and F. Bennett.

Miss Barbara Mitchell arrived home on leave from the Persian Gulf on Easter Saturday. She is hoping to ring her 100th peal during her holiday, having at present 97 to her credit. She scored her 98th (London Surprise) at Willesden on April 5th, and her 99th (Cambridge Surprise Major) at St. Albans on April 7th for the Ladies' Guild.

Mr. F. Bennett, of Brighton, writes correcting the footnote to the peal of Minor in seven methods rung at Bosham (page 196). He points out that it was not the first peal in seven methods rung at Bosham (page 196). He points Minor in seven methods was rung on July 16th, 1904, conducted by Mr. George Williams, in which Mr. Bennett took part.

THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY



ESTABLISHED 1570

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

ANOTHER LONDON INSTALLATION

At the Church of St. James, Prebend Square, Islington, there is a ring of six bells (tenor 7 cwt.) by Warner. These were regularly rung up to the outbreak of the war, although nothing advanced was ever attempted. The bells were hideously noisy in the street below and complaints were fairly frequent. Still, as is usual in such cases, nothing was done, and eventually the war stopped ringing altogether. Since the war there has been no local band, and very occasionally visiting bands arrived to perform. For some years a ringing parson was the incumbent, but the best in the way of assistance that the local Association could attempt was to ring a peal there, causing more antagonism. (The committee of welcome waiting outside the tower is still a vivid memory in some people's minds.)

The last time these bells were rung was on May 15th, 1954, on the occasion of the return of H.M. The Queen after her tour abroad; shortly after, the bells were condemned as unsafe and the tower given over to the birds. It is worthy of note that the bells had, some years ago, been rehung on ball bearings.

The writer was informed that the bells were to be retuned and rehung and the old ringing gallery restored. This, however, appears to have fallen through, as the cost was beyond all possible consideration, and a record player has now been installed and the ringing fittings removed. I have heard of many towers where these players have been fitted, but it seems the height of tragedy to install such an apparatus over the top of six perfectly good bells.

What, however, is most annoying, is the fact that the recordings (about a dozen are provided) are apparently being made for the company by various groups of ringers. What hope have we of stamping out this pernicious fraud when our own members are actively assisting the enemy? E. J. R.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

This is the second number of present quarter of 'The Ringing World.' Postal subscriptions are due and new readers will be welcome. A prompt renewal saves hours of work on our small staff. Please remit to Mr. J. E. Jeater, Greystones, Cusgarne, Truro, Cornwall.

LIVERPOOL FAREWELL TO MR. P. W. CAVE

The members of the Liverpool Parish Church Society of Bellringers have been sorry to say goodbye to Mr. P. W. Cave. Percy Cave has been connected with St. Nicholas tower ever since 1924, except for a few years in the 1930's, when his business took him to Derby. Since 1952, when the new bells were hung and the band reconstituted, he has been Ringing Master. Many peal boards in the tower testify to his enthusiasm in pre-war days, while since 1952 he has brought the band up to peal-ringing standard in Stedman Cinques quicker than most other men could have done. Now his work has again called him away from Liverpool, this time probably for good, and he is to settle at Beckenham, Kent.

On Sunday, February 12th, he was presented with a pipe and tobacco as a small token of appreciation from the St. Nicholas' ringers. The previous day the ringers of the Liverpool branch of the Lancashire Association (of which the was Branch secretary) had presented him with a brief case.

On Easter Monday there was a farewell of a different kind when, after meeting short for Cinques, a good peal of Stedman Caters was rung. All the band are regular Sunday service ringers at St. Nicholas', with the exception of Alan Cave, Percy's son.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

Arrangements for Whitsun

LORD MAYOR'S RECEPTION

Members are invited to a reception to be given by the Lord Mayor of Leicester in the Town Hall at 5 p.m. on Whit Tuesday, May 22nd. Invitations will be sent out only to those who apply to:—

Mr. Paul Taylor,
The Bell Foundry,
Loughborough, Leics.

Applications must be made **by May 1st.** It will not be possible for more than two tickets to be sent to any one member.

RINGING TOURS

The following coach tours have been arranged:—

Whit Sunday, May 20th.

A half-day tour with ringing at Market Bosworth (8), Chilvers Coton (10), Hinckley (8) and Claybrooke (8) for Evensong.

The coach will leave the Council's Headquarters, The Bell Hotel, Leicester, at 1 p.m. Tea has been arranged at Hinckley. The coach will return in time to ring after service at the Cathedral and St. Margaret's, Leicester. The charge, including tea, will be 10s. 6d. per head.

Whit Monday, May 21st.

A full-day tour of Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland, leaving the Bell Hotel at 9.30 a.m. The tour will include visits to Loughborough, All Saints' (10), Melton Mowbray (10), Bottesford (8), Grantham (10) and Oakham (8). Lunch at Melton Mowbray and tea at Oakham. The coach will return about 8 p.m. for a special evening at headquarters. The inclusive charge for the day tour will be 26s. Applications for tickets for the above tours should be made as soon as possible, accompanied by remittance, and in any case **not later than May 5th,** either to Mr. B. S. Payne, 10, Woodgate, Rothley, Leics, or Mr. S. Burton, 78, Edward Avenue, Braunstone, Leicester.

RINGING ARRANGEMENTS

Applications for peal attempts should be sent to Mr. S. Burton (address above).

Details of other ringing will be published later.

AFFILIATION FEES

The affiliation fees of 17 Societies are still outstanding (in one case for two years) and these should be forwarded without delay.

E. A. BARNETT,
Hon. Secretary.

A CORNISH WEDDING

Taylor — Carveth

On Easter Monday the little Church of St. Cuby, Kenwyn, Cornwall, was packed to capacity for the wedding of Miss Judy Ann Carveth, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. L. N. Carveth, of Truro, with Mr. Brian Samson Taylor, elder son of Mrs. E. L. Taylor, also of Truro. The bride, charmingly arrayed in white, was given away by her father, who, with his daughter, is a ringer at Kenwyn Church.

A full choir was in attendance and after the singing of 'The Lord's My Shepherd' the happy couple left the church to the accompaniment of rounds and call changes on the bells.

After a sumptuous reception at the Red Lion Hotel in Truro, the couple departed by road for London and thence by air to Spain for the honeymoon.

Later in the day an excellent peal of Plain Bob Major was rung on Kenwyn bells in honour of the event by members of the local team. Taking part in the peal was the bride's brother, Alan Carveth, who is president of the Truro Guild. R. A. S.

MISS PATRICIA AYRIS MARRIED

Miss Patricia Joan Ayris, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Ayris, of 10, Sherwood Close, Launton, Oxon, who is in charge of the sales section of the Central Council Library and an honorary member of the Council, was married on March 24th to Mr. John Gordon Steeples, only son of Mr. F. T. Steeples and the late Mrs. Steeples, of Launton. Miss Ayris played hockey for Oxfordshire in 1951. She rang her first peal at Caversfield for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.; she has taken part in two television performances and four sound broadcasts with the handbell ringers of St. Mary's, Launton.

The ceremony was performed at St. Mary's Church, Launton. The bride was met at the church door by the choir (of which she was a member), and the ceremony was performed by the Rector (the Rev. E. S. Tarrant), with Miss E. Sharpe as organist.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a full-length taffeta gown with fitted bodice trimmed with diamante, full-length veil, and carried a bouquet of deep red carnations. Her bridesmaids were Miss Veronica Ayris (sister) and Miss Doreen Timms (cousin), and Mr. M. W. Spencer was best man.

At the reception at the Village Hall handbells were rung by the Misses S. Gilpin, S. Clarke and E. Sharpe and Messrs. S. Holtom, C. Kinch and F. Sharpe.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Steeples' address is Hall View, Launton, Bicester, Oxon, and orders for Central Council publications should be sent there.

WEST DORSET SECRETARY MARRIED

The picturesque old village church at Netherbury, Dorset, was an ideal setting for the wedding of two local ringers on April 2nd. The bride was Miss Edna G. Russell, of Netherbury, who is hon. secretary of the West Dorset branch of the Salisbury Guild, and the bridegroom Mr. Edward Pannell, of Beaminster. The ceremony was choral and the officiating clergy were the Rev. P. B. May, Vicar of Netherbury, and the Rev. J. S. Arthur, M.C., Vicar of Beaminster.

The bride wore a full-length white satin dress with a three-quarter length veil held with orange blossom, and carried a bouquet of red carnations and white freesias. She was attended by two bridesmaids, who wore cyclamen pink figured taffeta dresses with juliet caps to match.

As the couple left the church in brilliant sunshine the bells were rung by the Netherbury band. The reception was held in the Village Hall and among the many guests were ringing friends and members of Toc H. Prior to cutting the cake the bride and bridegroom, with Mr. J. T. Barrett, rang a course of Grandsire Doubles on a set of handbells that have been in the Pannell family for generations, although they have recently been recast. Mr. and Mrs. Pannell had a rousing send-off as they left for their honeymoon.

Gratefully Acknowledged

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

Personal.—Anon. 7s. 6d., Anon. 5s., Anon. 5s.

Peals. — Allesley 4s., Quedgley 1s. 6d., Charlton Kings 2s., Charlton-in-Otmoor 2s. 6d., Ixworth 3s.

Quarter Peals.—Ashtead 5s., Belgrave 2s. 6d., Merrow 3s., Croydon 5s., Braywood 2s. 6d., Chelsfield 2s. 6d., Kimpton 2s. 6d., Walthamstow 4s., Chatham 2s., Woodbury 2s., Seale 5s., Kingston-on-Soar 2s. 6d., Upper Clapton 1s. 6d., Frampton 1s., Streatham 2s., Little Missenden 2s. 6d., Whitstone 2s.

GAWSWORTH, CHESHIRE, BELLS REDEDICATED

The weather was on its very best behaviour on March 17th, when the bells of St. James', Gawsworth, were rededicated. The visitors were delighted when they found that the Rector (the Rev. W. E. Clarke) had laid on a running buffet tea in his charming Rectory. The ring has been rehung in the original oak frame with new wheels, clappers, ball bearings, etc., by Messrs. John Taylor and Co.

Gawsworth Church, situated about three miles from Macclesfield, is well known for its picturesque setting and the many features of historic interest which it contains. Amongst these are the bells, some of which contain bell metal from the 15th century. There were three bells in the tower as early as 1549, and a treble was added in 1614; this bell appears to have been cast at home by Sir Edward Fytton, Lord of the Manor.

Over 150 years elapsed before any further alteration was made to the bells, and then, in 1776, after this long period of apparent discordancy, the four were sent to Gloucester, where Thomas Rudhall recast them into a ring of five. (Perhaps hung in one of their 'off the peg' frames.) The next change came as a result of the third bell parting from its bearings and breaking, in 1850. The curate-in-charge at the time promised a sixth bell if the parish would recast the broken bell; this work being entrusted to C. and G. Mears and completed in 1857.

So the restored ring remained until 1889, when the parish magazine stated that: 'The fifth and tenor are very seriously cracked, damage has been done to the second and third which has injured their tone. The treble is unmusical in character, while the fourth is an excellent bell and will not be recast but will be taken to London and the other bells tuned to its note.' Surely this was not the work of the Grandsire band of the 1870's? For restoring the bells once more and hanging them in a frame for eight, the sum of £250 was paid to Mears and Stainbank, and in 1890 the ring stood as follows:—

Treble.—'Make a cheerful noise unto God. 1857—1890.'

Second.—'Peace and good neighbourhood. 1776.'

Third.—'Mears and Stainbank, London. Ring out the false, ring in the true. 1776—1890.'

Fourth.—'C. and G. Mears, London. 1857.'

Fifth.—Ring every bell and sweetly tell That Christ hath conquered death and hell. 1776—1890.'

Sixth.—'I to the church the living call, And to the grave do summon all. 1776—1890.'

The empty spaces in the frame were filled in 1907, when the ringers raised the necessary £90. These two remaining bells were cast and installed by the Loughborough Foundry, this being the last visit from the bellhangers until the present time.

Peal boards in the ringing chamber record the ringing in 1870 of 1,870 Grandsire Doubles (in 'excellent Stile'); the first peal on the bells, Grandsire Minor, in 1904; and the first on the eight bells, Grandsire Triples, in 1909. Altogether 13 peals have been rung on the bells, the last one being rung in 1939. Incidentally, although the first peal board records the tenor as being 18 cwt., it is, in fact, approximately 11 cwt.

In Edwardian days this was the leading tower of the district, probably through the influence of the Lomas family. In 1913 a band composed entirely of members of this family rang a 'peal,' probably Grandsire Triples, as a farewell to one of their number who was emigrating to Canada. However, as this was not published in a ringing journal it is thought that it was only a part peal, but still quite an achievement. Subsequently Mr. Andrew Lomas became a leading ringer at Vancouver Cathedral, and when he died, a few years ago, his ashes were flown to England and buried under the yew tree at the foot of Gawsworth tower. A band of ringers has been formed for this tower, which has been 'stoney' for several years due to the bad state of the bells, and is now progressing very well.

The church was full to capacity for the service, which commenced at 3 p.m. and was conducted by the Rector. In rededicating the bells, the Rural Dean of Macclesfield, the Rev. Tom Clarke, president of the local branch of the Guild, was acting for the Archdeacon, whose illness prevented him from attending. The Rural Dean, in his address, said that: 'In these critical days the Church needs the bells more than ever to ring out a call,' and said that in this calling the 'ringers were at one with the clergy.'

The opening rounds were rung by Miss May Lomas, Charles W. Lawton, Arthur Baxter, Miss Mary Worth, Harry Lomas, Harold C. Lonyon, Barry Corbishley and Alan A. Potts. The opening touch was Stedman Triples, and afterwards the bells were ringing until 9 p.m., with ringing to suit all tastes, from rounds to Spliced Surprise Major. Visitors included Mr. J. W. Clarke (Master of the Chester Diocesan Guild), the Rev. J. Kingdon (Guild secretary) and others from Glasgow, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and several Guild branches.

Altogether, a very successful day. B. C.

THE LADIES' GUILD

Kent Branch

The Kent Branch had a lovely day for their meeting at West Malling on March 17th, where 19 ladies and a few gentlemen gathered for ringing ranging from rounds to Stedman Triples.

An enjoyable service was conducted by the Vicar, who, in his address, stressed the great importance of regular Sunday service ringing. The ringers then partook of a very satisfying tea, which was followed by the business meeting, where several new members were elected and other matters of general interest were discussed. After the usual votes of thanks the ladies returned to join the gentlemen for further ringing. M. R. A.

Western Branch

The annual meeting of the Western District of the Ladies' Guild took place at Corston, near Bath, on March 10th. Good use was made of this light ring of eight before the service, which was immediately preceded by an all-ladies' touch of Stedman Triples ably conducted by Miss B. Johnson, of Bristol.

After a somewhat unusual service conducted by the Rector, the Rev. J. W. Tunwell, tea was taken in the Church Hall, and whilst the ladies were at their business meeting some of the gentlemen nobly gave up their ringing and tackled the washing up!

The meeting accepted with regret the resignation of Mrs. H. Knight from the vice-presidency, a position she has held for a good many years. The new officers are as follows: Vice-president, Mrs. Parfrey; hon. secretary, Mrs. de Jong; committee, Mrs. Bennett, Miss Johnson and Miss Williams.

The next meeting is to be held at Witheycombe Raleigh, near Exmouth, on June 9th, and the usual coach will run from the Bath-Bristol district. Other towers available will be Heavitree and Clyst St. George. The September meeting will be at Melksham, subject to the necessary permission being obtained.

M. J. de J.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

Manchester Ringers in West Yorkshire

The Manchester Branch held its second annual outing on Easter Monday, when 28 of the 'junior' members (average age 21 years one month) set off by coach to visit five towers in West Yorkshire.

Marsden (10, 16¼ cwt.) was surprisingly reached half an hour ahead of schedule, and the local inhabitants were roused rather early in the morning to standard methods on this grand ring. After observing the good 'go' of the bells, 10 of the 12 lady ringers took the opportunity to ring a few rounds 'unassisted.'

Several members just managed to finish their breakfast on the way to the second tower, Huddersfield (10, 23¼ cwt.), where a funeral delayed the start. Quite early the treble suddenly went up at back stroke and refused to come down again, leaving its somewhat bewildered ringer swinging on the rope. This restricted the ringing to the back eight, and Double Norwich proved to be the most successful method.

After lunch came Ossett (10, 27¼ cwt.), a really fine ring, where unfortunately the striking did not do full justice to the bells. Once again the ladies managed to ring the 10 bells on their own, and Little Bob Royal seemed to be the method of the moment. The fourth tower was Tadcaster (8, 20¼ cwt.), and here the standard of striking was much better. The ladies, by now in fine form, rang a touch of Stedman Triples, which was found to be the first occasion on which the eight bells at this tower had ever been rung by ladies.

The main tower of the day, Leeds (13, 42¼ cwt.), came after tea. Mr. Ronald Dove met the party. Stedman Cinques unfortunately came to grief, but Kent Maximus, Stedman and Grandsire Caters went quite well. Once again the ladies, undaunted by the tenor weight, took over for a few rounds on the 12, and to finish the day's ringing the males rang a course each of Double Norwich and Stedman on the back eight.

Thanks are due to incumbents and local ringers at the churches for having their bells in readiness for us, and also to Joan Cordwell and Alan Ward, who organised a very enjoyable outing. D. O.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION

Record Gathering at Woburn

A very successful meeting of the Bedfordshire Association was held at Woburn with 74 ringers attending on March 31st. At one stage the fairly large belfry was so tightly packed that it was only with difficulty that one could enter or leave. Mr. H. D. Harris, tower captain here for nearly 60 years, remarked that it was the largest gathering that he had seen here.

Tea was arranged in the Town Hall by a lady member of the local band, after which the Vicar (the Rev. T. N. Gunner) spoke a few words of welcome and invited all to join him at Evensong, which they did. Miss E. Steel, president of the Bedfordshire Association, and Mr. B. Grainger, a local ringer, read the lessons. After the service ringing continued until 9 p.m.

Ringing included rounds, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Superlative, Cambridge, London, Bristol and Spliced Surprise. K. G. S.

'I believe it is no longer true, if there ever had been any truth in the statement, that the youngster of to-day is not interested in ringing.'—Mr. R. O. Fry, general secretary of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, in reporting a record membership of his Association of 1,600 at Taunton.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RINGING MEETINGS

Dear Sir,—The letter from Mrs. Chamberlain (March 23rd) raises a question of concern to all ringers at meetings; particularly those sufficiently experienced to stand in whatever method is rung, whom she considers selfish. While one can only sympathise with her in her unfortunate experiences, I think she is quite mistaken in attributing the cause to selfishness. Most ringers, I am sure, would feel it selfish on their part to monopolise the ringing by doing too much and keeping others out. So it is only natural that after a course in some advanced method, the band as a whole will sit out and leave the ropes to others. A difficult position may then arise if the remainder do not form a strong enough band to ring the bells properly; nor is it always possible for the Ringing Master to strengthen it by asking some of the weaker members to stand down in favour of others, as this may cause offence.

In my opinion the average experienced ringer does go to meetings with the idea of helping others; he knows also that he can get much more. and better, ringing by standing in peals. At the same time he has a right to expect that some of the ringing at meetings will be of the best order possible. I would suggest to Mrs. Chamberlain that next time she is disappointed she goes to whoever is acting as Ringing Master and asks for what she wants, pointing out, if need be, that the band needs to be strengthened—and I am sure she will get what she wants.

The eastern part of Hertfordshire has, in the past, produced some fine bands, including that under Squire Proctor at Benington, which I consider must rank as one of the finest of all time. Of late years ringing has been through a somewhat lean time in this district. Recently, under a very enthusiastic non-resident secretary. there has been a revival. During my year as president of the Association I have been to several of these meetings and have been impressed by the number of young ringers present and the general enthusiasm shown. On each occasion I have felt that the meeting has been well managed and successful, in that as good a turn as possible has been afforded to all classes present. C. W. WOOLLEY.

Bushey Heath.

THE SILENT BELLS OF SWAFFHAM

Dear Sir,—I visited my birthplace, Swaffham, Norfolk, this past summer, after an absence of 27 years. I was most disappointed at not hearing the Swaffham bells—not even a chime did I hear! It was a shame. Hearing the bells was something I had dreamed of for years; they played such a big part in my childhood, and the enjoyment of which I was deprived last summer by 'no bell ringing' was frustrating. Why should Swaffham be without ringers? The small town of Caston, in Norfolk, has a team. The population of Swaffham before the war was approximately 3,000, and Caston, at this time, is only about 400. It is hard to believe that tiny Caston has it '**all over**' Swaffham.

In a couple of years I hope to return to Swaffham. and I truly hope I shall have the belated pleasure of hearing 'the bells.'—Yours truly,

ELIZABETH G. FREESLAND (MRS.).

Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A.

Mr. J. Alsop is the new Master of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association.

The tenor at the Cathedral of St. Mary, Basilica, Sydney, is 25 cwt. and not 15 cwt. as given on p. 185.

ANOTHER HOME FOR IMPERIAL INSTITUTE BELLS SUGGESTED

Dear Sir,—So Mr. Stote would present the Imperial Institute bells to the Church of St. Mary le-Bow! This might be a fine gesture if Her Majesty, whose personal property they are (as a columnist in the 'Sunday Times' recently pointed out) chose to let them go there. I would suggest they would be better in another Royal tower, the Curfew Tower, Windsor Castle. The tuneless old bells there would be better in a museum—they are too old to be destroyed. Windsor Castle is a national shrine and worthy of a ring of bells as glorious as St. George's Chapel, under whose authority the Castle bells are rung.

Most of us have learned from hearsay of the excellence of the Institute's bells, as of those at Westminster Abbey, but how many ringers have ever had first-hand experience of the grandeur of either ring? Novices apart, no ringer is barred from ringing the Castle bells, and if the Institute bells were removed to Windsor they would not be subject to the London 'closed shop' custom.

Not knowing the facts, one cannot open a discussion on this subject. Perhaps that old evil, paid ringing, has something to do with it; but the Castle ringers are paid, too! I cannot help feeling that, until there is perfectly free intercourse between all ringers and towers in the country the territorial Associations and the Central Council have not done all they should in promoting goodwill among ringers.

The Imperial Institute's, and other privately-owned rings of bells, are, of course, in a peculiar position, and one has no **right** to ring them, but most of these are not 'closed shops.' Not being in the possession of the Church places them in a different category from the Abbey bells, and there seems to me no valid reason why any church officer (which is what a ringer is) should be denied access to any church belfry. Even village choirs are invited to sing in their Diocesan Cathedral. One would hardly expect a village chorister to take a place in the cathedral choir, but surely a cathedral chorister of equal ability and experience could do so. Why should not the same courtesy and honour be accorded to any experienced change ringer? As far as my experience goes this 'closed shop' practice exists only in London, or perhaps I am misinformed.

I am not in favour of Mr. Stote's suggestion. Few ringers, I am sure, would support the idea of placing an alien ring in Bow tower, adding two trebles and passing them off as Bow Bells. Both ringers and public would prefer to contribute towards a new ring, Bow Bells from birth.

Judging by the violent public reaction to the proposal to demolish the Imperial Institute it would appear more likely that its bells will stay where they are. But Mr. Stote has staked his claim, so I have made mine! Would anyone else like to claim a nice ring of bells if they become homeless? But please remember they are the Queen's, and that many ringers' hearts are yearning for them!—Yours truly,

W. BIRMINGHAM.

Slough.

BOW BELLS — SUBSCRIBERS' PRIVILEGE

Dear Sir,—In view of the fact that all Associations and Guilds are being asked to subscribe to the Bow Bells fund, it would be of interest to many, I am sure, to read in the columns of 'The Ringing World' whether or not the subscribers will be allowed to ring on them when they are rehung.—Yours sincerely,

KENNETH G. SPAVINS.

Woburn.

SOME TIPS ON THE CARE OF BELLS

Dear Sir,—It is surprising when reading your journal to hear so little about the engineering side of bellringing, which is obviously taken for granted in these days of self-aligning ball bearings, etc., that perhaps a few tips that I have learned may not prove amiss.

In the course of carrying out some general maintenance and 'servicing' on the six bells at SS. Peter and Paul's, East Harling, I found that the advice given to us by the bellfounders —John Taylor and Co.—was helpful and correct, but I also pass on a few things which we were not told about.

Cleaning grease, dust and dirt off the bell itself was found to be most efficiently done with petrol, after preliminary scraping. The improvement in tone was so noticeable that parishioners remarked about it. The plain bearings were also cleaned with petrol. Congealed muck found inside is due to mixing of motor-car oil gear oil and vegetable oil. Once clean, new wicks are easily made and castor oil (veterinary, not N.H.S.) should be used. This retains high surface tension at all temperatures likely to be encountered when ringing at speeds of up to 40 r.p.m. It is ridiculous to use an oil designed for high speed revolutions as such oils only give of their best when very hot. We were most surprised at the improvement in 'go' of the bells when castor oil was used.

Do not forget the clapper bearings. These are usually steel on lignum vitæ or a soft metal. It is less formidable to drop a clapper than at first supposed. 'Plus gas' solution will free rusty staple bolts and nuts and it is wise to replace split pins with new ones.

On iron frames it is advisable not to tighten the frame bolts excessively as the old iron types soon shear off.

Pulley shafts are often neglected, and this is surprising as the central pin is easy to withdraw and lubricate.

Last, but not least, a well-made stay carefully fitted and properly adjusted well repays time spent on it—especially the Hastings type. Go to it now—Spring is here.—Yours faithfully.

PAUL JONASON.

East Harling, Norfolk.

FIRST PEAL ON 12 IN IRELAND

Dear Sir,—With reference to the article on peal ringing in Ireland in a recent 'Ringing World.' We have a peal board in our ringing room recording a peal of Grandsire Cinques, rung on Saturday, January 14th, 1911, in 3 hours 50 minutes. The footnote on the board reads as follows: 'This is the first peal on 12 bells ever rung outside England. Composed and conducted by G. Lindoff.'

Richard R. Cherry, former Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, who gave the two new trebles, rang the 11th, and the present president of our Society, R. S. F. Murphy, P.C. (Peace Commissioner), rang the tenth.—Yours faithfully,

W. H. WILSON, Hon. Sec.,
St. Patrick's Cathedral Society.

Dublin.

SERVICE RINGING

Dear Sir.—I read with interest, a little late, perhaps, the leading article by Mr. W. Birmingham (March 9th issue) and feel it partly concerns me. I agree with what he says about getting recruits, the way to teach them and hold their interest, but what do we do when all these efforts fail? Space is too limited for me to explain the reasons why our service ringing is of such a short duration, but isn't five minutes' well-struck changes better than half an hour's 'rough music'?—Yours, etc..

EDGAR C. BELSON.

Nettlebed, Oxon.

FAMOUS PEAL RINGING TOWERS

By The Rev. K. W. H. FELSTEAD

AFTER nearly two years, we come to the final article in this attempt to survey the activities of peal ringers in all parts of the country and the world over the past 75 years or so. From the amount of correspondence it has produced, I think (and certainly hope) the articles have not been without interest to many ringers and I would like to take this opportunity of saying once again that I shall always be very pleased to help compile tower lists of peals, etc., and put my records at the disposal of anyone requiring the kind of information they can give.

I now have tabulated under their various towers (about 4,350 of them) roughly 94,000 peals rung since 1881 together with over 3,000 rung before that date. I believe I have collected the majority of the latter—but the search still goes on there. If my estimate that there were about 5,000 peals rung before 1881 is correct (and I believe it is a good guess), it would mean that this year at some time and somewhere, the 100,000th peal will be rung (I am talking of tower bells, of course—there have been about 8,000 handbell peals rung also). Only 2,100 or so of these have been rung outside England (most of these in Wales). Now for some further information about one or two items.

First of all, the number of peals rung in the different counties. Without any doubt the first prize for most peals goes to Kent, where over 6,700 peals have been rung. This total is 1,000 more than its closest rival—Lancashire, whose total is about 5,700. Suffolk and Yorkshire have totals about the same with Suffolk probably just ahead. The number here is around the 4,800 mark. Surrey has 4,600 approximately, and then Middlesex, with round about 4,200. Sussex has just under this total, then follow Essex (3,900), Leicestershire (3,800) and Staffordshire (3,800). All these are approximate totals, of course, and refer to the time when the particular article on the county appeared in 'The Ringing World.'

Then a note about 'unconquered' towers. Liverpool Cathedral is the one 12-bell tower still needing a peal. All the 160 or so 10-bell towers have had one or more at some time in their history (St. Andrew's Norwich, not in the past 75 years). There appear to be 35 8-bell towers still virgin territory, nearly a quarter of them in Devon. This is not many out of the total of nearly 1,600. About one-fifth of the 6-bell towers have still to have a peal (nearly 500 out of 2,600 approx.). A large number of these are also in the West Country. Just over half the 5-bell towers have still to record their first peal—about 550 out of 1,050 or so. These figures show that more than four-fifths of the churches with rings of bells have been visited by peal-ringing bands, which is quite a good proportion, even though it leaves plenty of scope still, especially for the experts on five and six bells.

I now give a list of towers in order of numbers of peals. The totals include **all** the peals I have been able to trace from such towers, not only those since 1881—so numbers will be different from those which have appeared in the county articles. All towers which have had more than 150 peals are included, and there are 79 of them. Altogether, 17,954 peals have been rung in these towers—nearly one-fifth of the country's grand total. This is a very high proportion considering (as I have said above) there are about 4,350 towers which have had peals. Here, then, are the 79 in order of peals:—

Loughborough Bell Foundry	625
Crayford	514
Erith	507
Birmingham, St. Martin's	354
Brighton, St. Peter's	330
Burton-on-Trent, St Paul's	326
Willesden	323
Warnham	320
Crawley	316
Beddington	308
Ipswich, St. Mary-le-Tower	306
Guildford, Holy Trinity	301
Leiston	301
Hughenden	298
Ashtead	293
Debenham	293
Bushey	265
Appleton	257
Birmingham Cathedral	257
Framsden	255
Chesterfield	253
North Stoneham	249
Lewes	248
Duffield	245
Helmingham	239
Aston-juxta-Birmingham	235
Drayton	234
Hazel Grove	232
Irthlingborough	228
Southwark Cathedral	228
Bristol, St. Stephen's	226
St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate	226
Brierley Hill	223
Walsall	215
Fulham	214
Nuneaton	209
Henley	207
Bolsover	207
Worsley	207
Lambeth, St. John's	206
Redenhall	204
St. Clement Danes'	203
Hethersett	202
Woolwich	197
Edmonton	196
Isleworth	194
Dartford	193
Lewisham	191
Leicester Cathedral	190
Loughborough, All Saints'	190
Newcastle, St. John's	190
Norwich, Mancroft	189
Pulham, St. Mary Magdalene's	187
Frodsham	186
Dudley	185
Walthamstow	185
Diss	181
Romford	181
Pulford	176
Pulham, St. Mary-the-Virgin's	173
Painswick	173
Westminster, St. Margaret's	171
Bethnal Green	170
Wolverhampton, St. Peter's	168
Steyning	167
Ashton-under Lyne, St. Michael's	166
Ashton-under-Lyne, St. Peter's	164
Kidderminster	164
Chester, St. Mary-within-the-Walls	163
Birmingham, Bishop Ryder's	161
Heene	156
Ipswich, St. Margaret's	156
Stanstead	155
Gravesend	155
Caversham	154
Manchester Cathedral	154
Prittlewell	154
Netherton	152
Stepney, St. Dunstan's	151
Deane	147
Hyde	147
Sheffield Cathedral	147

Thus of the 12-bell towers, St. Martin's, Birmingham (as will be expected), has had most peals. Of the 10-bell towers, it is Loughborough Bell Foundry, or (as far as churches are concerned) St. Peter's, Brighton. Crayford leads the way in the 8-bell towers. No 6-bell tower appears in the above list but, as I have said on one or two previous occasions, the lead here is held by the only centenarian 6-bell tower—Thornham Magna, with 136 peals.

Ringers in the 6-bell and 5-bell towers might like to have a list of those with most peals. Those with over 50 peals amongst the 6-bell towers (after Thornham Magna) are:—

Croft	97
Wickham Skeith	93
Lamberhurst	92
Hanley Castle	90
Darlington, Holy Trinity	86
Wistaston	81
Biddenham	74
Horsmonden	73
Limpsfield (Chart)	73
Apsley End	72
Little Munden	69
Stisted	69
Wrentham	69
Isham	68
Blaxhall	67
Bunwell	67
Disley	67
Silk Willoughby	67
Wollaston	67
Killamarsh	65
Gamston	63
Deeping St. Nicholas	61
Halsall	60
Hasketon	60
Wissett	60
Hitcham	58
Cranford	57
Harrold	56
Madresfield	56
Willington	56
Sproughton	55
Bobbing	53
Sutton	53
Burgh	52
Stretton	52
Stapleford	51
Angmering	50
Davenham	49
Peterborough, St. Mary's	48

Five-bell towers with double figures are:—

Warkton	32
Barton Segrave	29
Pytchley	22
Whitney	17
Weston Favell	15
Oakley	14
Dalby Magna	13
Grafton Underwood	13
Hutton	13
Keresley	13
Kirby Muxloe	13
Easton Maudit	12
Orlingbury	12
Roade	12
Bramfield	11
Rumburgh	11
Little Glemham	10

And so this series of articles is ended. I hope they have been of use to many ringers. May I finally acknowledge once again the debt I owe to Mr. Dove and his book the 'Ringers' Guide,' without which it would have been almost impossible to have attempted my self-appointed task.

ISLIP, NORTHANTS.—On Mar. 24th, 1,260 Bob Minor: Mrs. P. E. Clarke (first quarter) 1, T. Jervis 2, A. B. Clarke 3, T. Briggs 4, D. Edwards 5, L. Witten (cond.) 6.

PRODUCING PEAL COMPOSITIONS

Dear Sir,—Recent correspondence in 'The Ringing World' concerning the production of peals from certain 'blocks' prompts me to make a few observations.

It is possible to take a simple extension in certain Treble Bob Major methods and further extend them to produce peals of 5,000 and upwards. In certain methods these peals are easier to produce than Bob Major.

There are 22 11-course extensions with the sixth in 6 on the simple (complete course) extension plan, each one being capable of producing innumerable peals.

With a simple extension two things are obvious:

(i.) No 'ordinary' proof is required as the courses used are shown in the course-ends.

(ii.) The sixth being 'at home' throughout, no 'internal' falseness can occur in methods that have f.c.e. that does not have the sixth in 6 (e.g., f.c.e. 24365, 32465, etc., etc.).

The inversions M.B.W. or W.M.B. can be used, according to circumstances, in methods like Yorkshire, Pudsey, Superlative, etc., to supply the missing course-end (in the case of an 11-course extension) and the remainder 'inflated' by further extension to produce the desired lengths.

Scores, perhaps hundreds, of peals in various methods have been 'composed' on this plan, and a scrutiny of the Yorkshire Association reports over, say, the last 20 or 30 years will reveal quite a few, many being by the composers mentioned by Mr. W. Barton in his letter.

My object is not to belittle the peals of these composers, two of whom it was my privilege to know personally, but merely to point out that such peals may be produced ad nauseam by applying the principles given above.

The advantages of using the inversion given here is twofold:

(i.) Any part of the course used is visible at the course-end.

(ii.) It keeps the sixth out of 5ths.

The first point makes proof, both ordinary and internal, merely a matter of scanning the course-ends; the advantages of the second are, I think, self-evident.

The above principles may be applied to extensions of less than 11 courses: perhaps the following may serve as an example of the application of these principles and a clarification of what I have already written (which admittedly is somewhat hotch-potch!).

Take the following nine-course extension:

23456	W	H
42356		—
34256		—
25346	—	—
32546		—
53246		—
24536	—	—
52436		—
45236		—
23456	—	—

The intention being to turn it into a peal of, say, Yorkshire.

Between the 4th and 5th 'Homes' insert W (3H) M and B. This gives:

23456	B	M	W	H
42356				—
34256				—
25346			—	—
32546				—
54326			—	—
35426				—
43526				—
53624		—		
53246	X			—
24536			—	—
52436				—
45236				—
23456			—	—

This achieves the object of giving us the 6th the extent in 6. No ordinary or internal proof is required beyond comparing the course ends. The fact that the 6th has never been in 5ths or the 2nd in 6ths practically eliminates 'internal' proof.

The remainder is simply 'inflation'—a horrible modern word—care being taken to keep the peal as musical as possible.

5056 Yorkshire

23456	B	M	W	H
42356				—
34256				—
25346			—	—
32546				—
54326			—	—
35426				—
43526				—
53624		—		
53246	X			—
24536			—	—
52436				—
63425		—	—	—
46325				—
34625				—
62345			—	—
36245				—
23645				—
64235			—	—
26435				—
42635				—
62534		—		
45236		—		—
23456			—	—

As can be seen from the brackets, a little thought can make a decent peal (5th and 6th extent in 6ths, 2-3 never in 6).

Hundreds of such peals can be, and no doubt have been, composed.

I may, in conclusion, point out that many peals of Surprise have been produced as simple extensions. The principle is the same: cutting out the necessity for long and laborious proofs whilst at the same time producing musical peals.

—Yours very sincerely,

H. CHANT.

QUARTER PEALS

EDENSOR, DERBYS.—On Feb. 25th, 1,440 Minor (720 each of College Exercise Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise): A. Richardnson 1, G. H. Paulson 2, W. A. Smith 3, H. E. Taylor 4, B. J. Woodruffe 5, Rev. G. G. Graham (cond.) 6.

EXETER, DEVON.—On April 1st, at St. Thomas' Church, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: N. Mallett (cond.) 1, A. Truman 2, W. Howe 3, Miss M. Mundy 4, R. Truman 5, F. Wills 6, E. W. Biffin 7, F. Wreford 8. For Evensong on Easter Day.

HARLOW TOWN, ESSEX.—1,280 Plain Bob Major: R. Little (first quarter) 1, S. Clark 2, W. Wheeler 3, Mrs. Jackson (first quarter) 4, E. Elliott 5, J. Stowell 6, R. Young 7, L. Whitby (cond.) 8. Rung as a farewell to Mrs. Jackson, who is leaving the district.

HELLINGLY, SUSSEX.—On Mar. 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Sarah Scruby (first quarter) 1, E. Sybil M. Tonkin 2, Laura M. Beeney 3, Kathleen M. Yeo 4, G. Beeney (cond.) 5, F. H. Beeney 6.

QUARTER PEALS

ALDRINGTON, SUSSEX.—On April 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Gwyneth R. Brown 1, Hazel N. Craven (first 'inside' to Grandsire Doubles) 2, Valerie Mepham 3, D. H. Paine 4, C. D. Linington (cond.) 5, A. H. Craven (first in method) 6. Rung for the Festival of Easter.

BARKING, SUFFOLK.—On Mar. 25th, 1,320 Plain Bob Minor: Mrs. R. E. Lester 1, P. R. J. Lester (12) 2, A. E. J. Lester 3, W. Girling (14) 4, J. J. Prentice 5, R. E. Lester (cond.) 6. First quarter by 2 and 4.

BURES, SUFFOLK.—On April 1st, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: R. H. Davies 1, Mrs. L. Mills 2, Miss E. Cansdale 3, A. W. Cansdale 4, Miss J. Spurgin 5, S. T. Hume 6, D. L. Mills (cond.) 7, L. D. Mills 8. For Matins. Also 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. L. Mills 1, Mrs. L. Mills 2, A. W. Cansdale 3, Miss J. Spurgin 4, Miss E. Cansdale 5, L. D. Mills 6, E. C. Hynard (cond.) 7, S. T. Hume 8. For Evensong.

CRESWELL, DERBYS.—On Mar. 17th, 1,264 Plain Bob Major: C. Wright (cond.) 1, Mary Barlow (first quarter) 2, D. Smedley 3, L. Barlow 4, K. Rutland 5, L. Hemstock 6, A. B. Cooper 7, J. Saxton 8.

DODDERHILL, WORCS.—On Mar. 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles (rung on the back six): J. Poynter 1, Miss B. Downing 2, T. Sparkes (cond.) 3, D. Raxter 4, J. Lyndon 5, G. Rawlings 6.

DONCASTER, YORKS.—At the Church of St. George, on Mar. 22nd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. C. Stacey 1, E. Baldwin 2, L. G. Wegg 3, F. A. Staveley 4, H. Wagstaffo 5, C. W. Toyne 6, D. A. Chapman (cond.) 7, J. McCluskey 8. Rung half-muffled as a last token of respect to Mr. George Halksworth, ringing master at Doncaster, 1903-1938.

EDENBRIDGE, KENT.—On Mar. 6th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: N. Greenaway (first quarter) 1, E. C. Leigh (first in method) 2, E. J. Jenner 3, D. E. Leigh (first in method) 4, S. Jenner (cond.) 5, W. A. Leigh 6. Rung by the local band as a farewell to the Rev. Shepheard-Walwyn. Also on Mar. 20th, 450 Plain Bob and 750 Grandsire Doubles: N. Greenaway 1, E. C. Leigh 2, E. J. Jenner 3, D. E. Leigh 4, S. Jenner (cond.) 5, W. A. Leigh 6. First in two methods by all the band. Rung for the induction of the Rev. Shepheard-Walwyn as Vicar of Rosherville.

HONITON CLYST, DEVON.—On Mar. 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples (containing 50 Singles, 35 Bobs, with only 5 Plain leads): W. D. Ashdown 1, Mrs. G. E. Retter 2, W. Seldon 3, B. Pidgeon 4, E. E. Retter 5, D. Callard 6, G. E. Retter (cond.) 7, A. Holway 8.

OLD WHITTINGTON, DERBYS.—On Mar. 24th, 1,320 Minor (720 Cambridge Surprise and 600 Kent Treble Bob): J. J. L. Gilbert 1, C. Rusby 2, H. D. Holland 3, J. S. Segar 4, H. Rusby 5, I. M. Holland (cond.) 6.

PLYMTREE, DEVON.—On Mar. 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: A. Hodge 1, O. Griffen 2, C. Webb 3, W. Sparks 4, W. Webb (cond.) 5, J. Real 6.

ROTHLEY, LEICS.—On Mar. 21st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: R. A. Brewin 1, R. Wilmore 2, G. M. Brewin 3, B. S. Payne (cond.) 4, P. Plowright 5, M. Westbury 6. For Confirmation service

SCARBOROUGH, YORKS.—On Mar. 25th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Wellock 1, J. A. Robertshaw 2, P. F. Windley 3, W. B. Kirby 4, H. Spencer 5, G. W. Frayne 6, B. Sutton (cond.) 7, G. Beach 8. A tribute to George Halksworth, former member of this tower, and for 54 years a member of the Y.A.C.R., who died March 19th, aged 90.

WILLESBOROUGH, KENT.—On Mar. 25th, 1,260 Double Oxford Bob Minor: Miss R. A. Gower 1, Miss P. Lawes 2, C. T. Hillis 3, M. S. Lancefield (cond.) 4, R. J. Carlton 5, J. R. Cooper 6. For morning service. Also 1,272 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Miss R. E. Gower 1, C. T. Hillis 2, M. S. Lancefield (cond.) 3, W. P. Garner 4, W. J. Lancefield 5, D. Staples 6. For Evensong.

WOLLATON, NOTTS.—On Mar. 25th, 1,260 Bob Doubles: Susan Moore (first quarter) 1, Marjory Twells 2, B. M. Buswell 3, C. Hammond 4, P. M. Giles (first as cond.) 5, C. A. White (first quarter) 6. Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to C. Hammond.

WYRARDISBURY, BUCKS.—On Mar. 17th, 1,260 Spliced Plain Bob and Little Bob Minor: F. T. Blagrove (cond.) 1, Monica Howard 2, Dr. D. J. Neal Smith 3, P. A. Lawrence 4, G. Coussins 5, A. Hartley 6. Rung on St. Patrick's Day.

OBITUARY

MR. FREDERICK R. BORRETT

An Appreciation

With the passing of this great ringer on February 27th the Norwich Association lost one of its greatest ringers, as his peal total of 614 for that Association will testify, and the greater number of these he conducted. He was one of the few remaining links with the vintage years of the Norwich Association.

He was a man with a personality—was very sparing with words and had a very dry sense of humour: as an example of his brevity the first time I heard from him, a postcard in March, 1910, which read: 'Saxlingham, 29th, 3 p.m., Stedman.—F. R. B.' That peal was rung.

One had really to know him to appreciate his qualities; he loved his ringing not alone for its own sake, but as a staunch churchman, as a personal service to his church. He was also a lover of church music and his criticisms of this, as with ringing, were terse and to the point.

Ideas and theories of his own he had in plenty, and often expressed them in a practical way; one of his contentions was that ringing long touches was the only way to make a young ringer into anything of a striker. This theory was not always popular, more especially when it was put into practice at meetings, but nevertheless there is a lot to be said for it.

He was a cousin of Charles E. Borrett, for many years the popular secretary of the Norwich Association. His brother, Egbert Borrett, was associated with him in a great number of peals until leaving the country in the early part of the century.

Should much like to tell some stories of F. R. B., but space will not permit. B. S. T.

MR. G. W DIXON

The sudden death in hospital of Mr. George William Dixon, of East Harling, Norfolk, on March 26th, in his 67th year, came as a shock to the local band.

Although he never graduated to change ringing, 'Will' Dixon was a regular Sunday service ringer and sidesman for many years. His fine, upright figure, white hair and imperial moustache made him unmistakable as a man to be respected. He could 'blow' the tenor behind to a nicety and was always willing to let a younger ringer take his place if need be.

Unfortunately failing health over the last two years restricted his ringing, but nevertheless he came with the touring company on Christmas Eve last and assisted in touches in eight different churches in the course of a strenuous three hours.

Our sympathy is extended to his wife, son and sister. Half-muffled ringing was carried out by the East Harling company after the funeral. P. J.

In Memoriam Quarter Peals

ITCHINGFIELD, SUSSEX.—On Mar. 25th, 1,260 Spliced Doubles in 20 methods, being 120 each of (1) Plain Bob and Candlesby S.C.; (2) Reverse Canterbury and Raveningham S.C.; (3) St. Simon's and Rugby S.C.; (4) St. Nicholas' and Longford S.C.; (5) Westminster II. and Chesham; (6) New Bob and Itchingfield S.C.; (7) Reverse Union and Bedfont S.C.; (8) St. Martin's and Slapton S.C.; (9) St. Martin's, St. Osmund's, Merton S.C. and Slapton S.C.; (10) Winchendon and Thornborough S.C.; and 60 of St. Simon's (66 changes of method): F. W. Weller 1, Miss S. A. Richardson 2, B. B. Dibben 3, G. Francis (cond.) 4, W. L. Weller 5. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Sir Ewart Greaves, many years churchwarden at Itchingfield.

MIDDLESBROUGH, YORKS.—On Mar. 10th, 1,840 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: Doris M. Killingley 1, C. J. Herbert 2, T. Cooke 3, M. P. Hammond 4, E. P. Rock 5, P. Wishart 6, T. M. Cox 7, B. Harris (cond.) 8. Rung in memoriam Wilfred Addison, captain of St. Paul's, Thornaby.

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.

ENGAGEMENT

HARDING—ARKINSTALL. — The engagement is announced between Charles Henry, eldest son of Mrs. and the late Mr. H. G. Harding, 2, Grange Road, Blunham, Beds, and Mary, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Arkinstall, 88, The Ridgeway, Enfield, Middx. 8068

MARRIAGES

CHAMPION—MAXWELL. — At St. Cuthbert's Church, Dunoon, Argyll, on April 2nd, 1956, Colin James, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Champion, 1, Rectory Lane, Buckland, Surrey, to Myrtle, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Maxwell, Caerlaverock, Argyll Street, Dunoon, Argyll. 8127

MALLETT—MUNDY. — At St. Thomas' Church, Exeter, on April 2nd, 1956, by Rev. J. P. Henton and Rev. Preb. E. V. Cox, Mariella to Norman. Future address: 98, Alphington Road, Exeter. 8083

MUNDAY—RAWSON. — On Wednesday, April 4th, 1956, Ernest John, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Munday, of Rogate, Sussex, to Monica Anthea Ann, daughter of the late Capt. G. Coulthard Rawson, of Horley, Surrey, and of Mrs. G. Coulthard Rawson, of Horsham, Sussex. 8124

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The future address of Mr. H. Denman, from April 5th will be 2, Askham Road, Rockley, near Retford, Notts. 8071

The address of A. Edwin Hoare is now 41, Lynton Road, South Chingford, E.4. Correspondence for All Hallows', Tottenham, to W. J. A. Dutton, 738, High Road, Tottenham, N.17. 8082

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

LLANDUDNO.—Close to sea, buses, tennis, golf and bowls. Highly recommended. Moderate terms.—Mrs. L. S. Griffiths, Maesteg, Clarence Road, Llandudno, Caerns. Tel. No. 7271. 8120

PUBLICATION

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MISCELLANEOUS

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS. — The monthly practice for Saturday, April 21st, has been cancelled.—P. Newton. 8111

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

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Frome Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Whatley, Saturday, April 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow.—E. Chivers, Chilcompton. 8067

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Bath Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Marksbury (6) on Saturday, April 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. Names for tea essential to Mr. W. Prescott, Oakleigh, Timsbury Bottom, Timsbury, Bath. 8003

DEVON GUILD.—Exeter Branch.—Meeting, Alphington, Saturday, April 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. St. Thomas', Exeter, available after tea; Alphington not. 8057

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—April 14th: East Peckham 3 to 5, Mereworth 6 to 9. Tea at Torington Arms, Mereworth. Method for practice, Netherseale.—C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, Sussex. 8051

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cambridge District.—Meeting at Barrington on Saturday, April 14th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at the Vicarage, 5.15 p.m. Foxton (5) after tea.—H. L. Martin, Dis. Sec. 8046

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Quarterly meeting, Saturday, April 14th, at Shorne (6).—Cyril S. Jarrett, 38, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Kent. 8024

LADIES' GUILD. — Hereford District. — Meeting at Leominster, Herefordshire, Saturday, April 14th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—Miss R. Jarrett, 22, Bulmer Avenue, Garden City, Hereford. 8063

LADIES' GUILD.—Midland Branch.—Meeting on April 14th at Waltham-on-the-Wolds (on main bus route Leicester–Grantham). Service 4.15.—L. M. Corby, 11, Bowley Avenue, Melton Mowbray. 8080

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Branch.—Ringing practice meeting on April 14th at Lowestoft, St. Margaret's (8). No business; own arrangements for tea. Bells from 3 p.m.—P. Newstead. 8036

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — Reading Branch.—Practice, South Stoke, Saturday, April 14th, 3.30; Goring 6 p.m. Kemp's bus leaves Reading Station 2.50 p.m.—R. G. Burton. 8095

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Warkton (5) on Saturday, April 14th. Bells 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Weekley bells (6) available during evening. Special method: Carter's Principle. 8044

SALISBURY GUILD.—Dorchester Branch.—Meeting at Upwey, April 14th. Bells 2.30. Service 4. Tea and meeting to follow.—Hayne, Sec., Abbotsbury, Weymouth. 8055

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Andover District.—Quarterly meeting at Whitchurch, April 14th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. in Parish Room. 8066

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern District.—Practice meeting, Thursday, April 19th, St. Mary's, Clapham Common, 7.30-9. Learners and visitors especially welcome. Next business meeting June 9th.—P. J. Hutchings, Dis. Sec. Tulse Hill 0800. 8113

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Chew Deanery.—Quarterly meeting, Portishead, April 21st. Bells 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5.15 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Long Ashton. 8115

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Crewe Branch. — Acton, April 21st. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 6 p.m. Names for tea must be received by April 18th.—W. Kerr, 102, Moreton Road, Crewe. 8100

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Wirral Branch.—Meeting, St. Saviour's, Oxton, Birkenhead, April 21st. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea provided free for those notifying by 18th.—Alexander J. Martin, 19, Falcon Road, Birkenhead. 8122

COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting, Stratford-on-Avon, April 21st. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Tea 4.30, followed by business. Bells until 8.30. Names for tea, by Tuesday, April 17th, please, to F. C. Lyne, 107, Shipston Road, Stratford-on-Avon.—D. E. Beamish, Hon. Gen. Sec. 8097

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting, Saturday, April 21st, Whickham St. Mary's, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Also presentation to Canon Stephenson. Names to Mr. S. Thompson, Poplar Villa, Whickham.—C. T. Lamb, Hon. Dis. Sec. 8060

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—Meeting at Holywell (6), Saturday, April 21st. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—H. S. Peacock, Dis. Sec. 8096

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION. — Gloucester Branch. — Meeting at Brockworth, April 21st. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. Names for tea, by April 18th, to R. G. Corby, 2a, Innsworth Lane, Longlevens, Gloucester. 8084

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Stroud Branch.—Meeting, Haresfield (6 bells), April 21st, 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Notify for tea April 17th.—S. T. Price, 12, Regent Street, Stonehouse, Glos. 8110

HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting, Beckley, Saturday, April 21st. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Numbers for tea, by April 18th, to G. Billenness, 3, Grasmere Terrace, Hawkhurst, Kent. 8087

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Bridgnorth Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Coalbrookdale (10), Saturday, April 21st. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea, by previous Wednesday, to H. Edge, 10, The Crescent, Much Wenlock, Salop. 8094

HEREFORD GUILD. — Ross District. — Meeting at Much Marcle (6), April 21st. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4. Tea 4.30. Names, by April 18th, to M. Tilbury, 34, Claytons, Bridstow. (Coach leaves Royal Hotel, Ross, 2.30 p.m.; when ordering tea please state whether seat required.) 8107

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — St. Albans District.—Meeting, Wheathampstead, Saturday, April 21st. Bells (6) at 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—S. Huckle, Dis. Sec. 8104

LADIES' GUILD.—South Wales District.—Meeting, April 21st, at Llanfrechfa, near Newport. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea and meeting. Gentlemen cordially invited. Names for tea by April 18th, please.—Jacqueline Evans, 1, Hughes Crescent, Chepstow, Mon. 8075

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The next Rossendale Branch meeting will be held at Radcliffe on Saturday, April 21st. Tower open for ringing at 3. Cups of tea at 5. Meeting in tower at 6. Members and non-members are cordially invited.—J. Porter, Branch Sec. 8098

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Bolton Branch.—Meeting at St. Bartholomew's, Bolton, Saturday, April 21st. Bells 3. Tea 5 (cups only). Business 6. N.B.—Note change. —J. Thornley, Sec. 8121

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. — Leicester District.—Meeting at Groby (6) on April 21st. Ringing at 2.30. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea after service. Names for tea to reach me before Wednesday, April 18th, please, at 117, Church Lane, Anstey.—W. A. Lacey, Hon. Dis. Sec. 8102

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Market Harborough District. — Meeting, Saddington, April 21st. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. at the Queen's Head.—L. W. Allen, Dis. Sec. 8103

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Gainsborough District.—Next meeting at Corringham on Saturday, April 21st. Bells (6) afternoon and evening. Service 4.15. Tea for those who notify me by previous Tuesday.—George L. C. Lunn, Hon. Sec., Crow Garth, Lea, Gainsborough. Tel. 2623. 8091

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Northern District—Programme April: Quarterly, Walthamstow, Saturday, 21st, St. Mary's (10), 3-5 p.m. Own arrangements for tea. St. Saviour's (8), Markhouse Road, 6 p.m. Business in belfry and further ringing. Learners' practice, St. Mary-atte-Bow East (8), Wednesday, 25th, 6.30–8 p.m. A cordial welcome to all.—L. Bullock, Hon. Sec. 8108

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual general meeting, St. Mary's, Twickenham, Saturday, April 21st. Bells (8) 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. St. Mary's and All Hallows' (10) after. Names for tea, by Thursday, 19th, please, to W. N. Genna, 17, Tintern Way, West Harrow, Middlesex. Tel. Byron 5197. 8088

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—North Norfolk Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Aylsham (10) on Saturday, April 21st. Service 4 p.m. Ringing from 2 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. N. J. A. Pumphrey, 14, Buxton Road, Aylsham, as early as possible, please.—C. Bird, Branch Sec. 8034

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — South Oxon Branch.—The annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at Thame on Saturday, April 21st. Bells available at 3. Service 4. Tea and meeting afterwards. Names for tea by April 17th to H. Badger, Branch Sec., The Blue Man, Thame, Oxon. Tel.: Thame 193. 8047

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—A combined practice at Waltham St. Lawrence on April 21st at 6 p.m. —B. C. Castle. 8093

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Culworth Branch.—Meeting, Sulgrave, on Saturday, April 21st. Please notify not later than Tuesday previous of those requiring tea.—A. E. R. Walker, Eydon, Rugby. 8112

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD. — Wellingborough Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Bozeat, Saturday, April 21st. Names early.—A. Bigley, Hon. Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough. 8106

PILTON, SOMERSET.—On Saturday, April 21st, at 3.30 p.m., the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells will rededicate the bells, St. John-the-Baptist Church. The bells (6) have been retuned, hung on ball bearings and the third bell recast. All ringers will be most welcome.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Salisbury Branch.—Quarterly meeting, April 21st, Compton Chamberlayne. Bells (6) 2.15 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m., and business meeting. Bells available after meeting: Compton Chamberlayne, Fovant (5), also Barford St. Martin. Tea for those who send names by April 17th to Miss Eloie, 8, Albany Road, Salisbury. 8048

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Marlborough Branch. — Next meeting, Everleigh, April 21st. Names to T. A. Palmer, 16, Oxford Street, Aldbourne, Marlborough, Wilts.

SELBY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — Monthly meeting, Escrick, Saturday, April 21st. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Please provide own food, cups of tea only available.—L. M. Woodhead, Hon. Sec. 8126

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Halesworth District.—Meeting at Wrentham (6) on April 21st at 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by April 18th to R. S. Gayne, Hotson Road, Southwold. 8076

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Quarterly meeting, Oxted, April 21st. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by April 18th to Mr. J. Hollands, Dormolleen, Woldingham Road, Oxted. 8069

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Southern Division.—Practice meeting, Buxted (8), April 21st, 2.30. Tea 5 p.m. for those who notify, by April 11th, Mr. E. Eade, Beacon View, Buxted.—K. C. Knight, Hon. Div. Sec. 8090

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD. — Portsmouth District. — Quarterly meeting, Saturday, April 21st, Soberton. Bells from 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. in White Lion Inn. Business meeting follows. Names by April 17th to Mr. M. Dudman, Priestfield, Station Road, Droxford. 8079

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Chew Deanery. — Corporate Communion, Wraxall, April 22nd, 8 a.m. Bells 7 a.m. Breakfast for those notifying by April 20th.—P. Gardner, 37a, Tyntesfield Park, Wraxall. Phone Flax Bourton 334. 8116

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Glaston Branch.—Quarterly meeting, St. Benedict's, Glastonbury, Saturday, April 28th. Bells 3 p.m. Notify for tea by Tuesday, April 24th. —William Marsh, 4, Dovecotes, Street, Som. 8105

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. — N.W. District — Meeting at Arkesden (6) on Saturday, April 28th, at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. in the Green Man Inn. Names, please, to G. Blake, Hamlet House, Roydon Hamlet, Harlow, Essex. 8109

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—South-West Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Stowford on April 28th. Bells (6) from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by April 23rd to T. G. Myers, 79, Regent Street, Plymouth 8030

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District. — Quarterly meeting, Ospringe, April 28th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea and business to follow. Names for tea (with cash, please, 2s. per head), not later than Wednesday, April 25th, to Mr. F. C Farnsworth, 14, King's Road, Faversham. — B. J. Luck, 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury. 8114

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Derby District. — Monthly meeting, Heanor, April 28th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Trent bus No. 55 or 55A. All welcome.—V. H. Morton, Dis. Sec. 8092

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District. — Meeting at Hayes, Saturday, April 28th, 3 p.m. Service 5. Names for tea, by Monday, 23rd, to A. Hill, 24, Stanmore Road, Belvedere. 8089

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. — Annual general meeting, Lincoln, April 28th. Cathedral Evensong 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., Eastgate Court Cafe, only to those who notify, by Wednesday previous, Mr. J. A. Freeman, 95, Sincil Bank. Business meeting, Chapter House, 6 p.m. Usual ringing arrangements at Cathedral and other city churches. 8101

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Northern District.—Meeting, Thirsk, April 28th. Bells (8) from 2.30. Names for tea to me by April 26th.—Edward Hudson, Hon. Sec., Lister Cottages, Sharow, Ripon. 8119

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Advance notice. — Meeting, Birmingham, May 5th. Further details later. 8123

CUMBERLAND AND N. WESTMORLAND ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—Ringing Festival at Carlisle on Sept. 15th. All Associations within reach invited. Particulars later.—J. W. Brownrigg, Sec. 8086

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