

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

CHANGE-RINGING.

The Norwich Diocesan Association.

At St. Mary's, Coddendam, Suffolk, on September 24th, a peal of DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5120 changes, in 2 hrs. 54 mins. Tenor, 16 cwt.

Hawkins English ..	1	Edward Evane ..	5
Edgar Pemberton ..	2	Robert H. Brundle ..	6
William Motts ..	3	James Motts ..	7
Edward Sherwood ..	4	Lewis W. Wiff-n ..	8

Composed by Henry Dains, and conducted by James Motts.

At All Saints', Stradbroke, Suffolk, on September 24th, a peal of DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5003 changes, in 3 hrs. 32 mins. Tenor, 25 cwt.

Harry J. Borrett ..	1	Egbert Borrett ..	5
George Howchin ..	2	Ernest Poppy ..	6
Oliver Brock ..	3	Fredk. R. Borrett ..	7
James Betts ..	4	George E. Symonds ..	8

Composed by Sir A. P. Heywood, Bart., and conducted by George E. Symonds. This is believed to be the first peal on the bells for twenty-two years.

At St. Mary's, Helmingham, Suffolk, on September 24th, a peal of SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 changes, in 3 hrs. 2 mins. Tenor, 19 cwt.

William Wightman ..	1	Edgar Hicks ..	5
Ernest E. Lanham ..	2	John J. Creasy ..	6
George Whiting ..	3	Alfred S. Wightman ..	7
William J. Groom ..	4	George Wightman ..	8

Composed by T. T. Gofton, and conducted by G. Wightman. First peal in the method on the bells.

The Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.

At St. George's, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on September 24th, a peal of SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 changes, in 3 hrs. 24 mins. Tenor, 18½ cwt.

Ernest E. Ferry ..	1	Robert S. Story ..	5
Joseph E. R. Keen ..	2	Alfred F. Hillier ..	6
Hon. Alexander Erskine* ..	3	William Story ..	7
Charles L. Routledge ..	4	Thomas T. Gofton ..	8

Composed by C. H. Hattersley, and conducted by C. L. Routledge. First peal of SURPRISE.]

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.

At the Parish Church, Bletchley, Bucks, on September 24th, a Variation of Taurstans' Four-part peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 5 mins. Tenor, 16 cwt.

Harry Judge ..	1	Frederick Webb ..	5
Harry Sear ..	2	Rev. Cyril Jenkyn ..	6
Frank Webb ..	3	Rev. F. E. Robinson (condr.) ..	7
Harry Miles ..	4	Valentine Sear ..	8

This is the conductor's 924th peal, and 550th of STEDMAN TRIPLES.

The Central Northamptonshire Association.

At St. Peter's, Irthlingborough, Northants, on September 26th, a peal of SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 changes, in 2 hrs. 59 mins.

Walter Perkins ..	1	William Pettitt ..	5
Clifton Newman ..	2	James Garratt ..	6
Fred Palmer ..	3	John J. Mawby ..	7
Thomas R. Hensher ..	4	Anderson Y. Tyler ..	8

Composed by Edgar Wightman, and conducted by Anderson Y. Tyler. A farewell peal to W. Pettitt, who is leaving Irthlingborough for Kettering; also a birthday compliment to F. Palmer.

The Yorkshire Association.

At Holy Trinity, Hull, on September 29th, J. J. Parker's One-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 15 mins.

Tom Stockdale ..	1	Harry Driffeld ..	5
Alfred Naylor ..	2	George T. Miller ..	6
Frederick Morrison ..	3	Charles Jackson (condr.) ..	7
George T. Marshall ..	4	John W. Dale ..	8

The above are also members of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild.

The Ancient Society of College Youths.

At St. Mary's, Knebworth, Herts, on September 15th, a peal of LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 changes, in 2 hrs. 56 mins.

Henry Hodgetts ..	1	Harry R. Pasmore ..	5
George N. Price ..	2	Alfred E. Peck ..	6
Frederick W. Brinklow ..	3	Herbert Baker ..	7
Hubert Eden ..	4	John W. Golding ..	8

Composed by J. W. Washbrook, and conducted by Harry Pasmore. First peal in the method on the bells.

The Midland Counties' Association.

(LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH.)

At the Loughborough Bell-foundry Tower, on September 30th, a peal of DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 changes, in 2 hrs. 59 mins.

Richard F. Lane ..	1	Frank Pervin ..	5
Thomas H. Coltman ..	2	Horace W. Abbott ..	6
Rev. Arthur T. Beeston ..	3	James L. Wells ..	7
William H. Inglesant ..	4	Frank G. Burleigh ..	8

Composed by H. Whittle and conducted by F. G. Burleigh. The Rev. A. T. Beeston came from New Mills, the remainder belonging to Loughborough.

ROYSTON RINGERS' SOCIETY.—Sunday being the second anniversary of the reopening of the bells after rehanging, the Ringers' Society marked the occasion by some extra ringing. For morning service 480 well-struck changes of BOB DOUBLES were rung, each 6-score being called differently by Ernest Bonnett. For evening service, Messrs. Craft and Spicer, of the Baldock Company, attended, and, together with four of the local band, rang a complete 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR, Mr. Spicer conducting. At the conclusion of the service, several touches of GRANDSIRE MINOR were rung. It may be of interest to those inhabitants who live near the church to know that, if the funds were forthcoming, the noise from the bells could be very greatly modified by nearly closing up the bell-chamber windows, which has been recommended by an expert.

STANDON CHURCH BELLS.—In 1552 there were 'in the steeple fyve bells and a saunce bell,' and this continued the number until 1843, when the ring was augmented to six. From centuries of lengthy use the bells had become much worn and urgently in need of repair. The Rev. W. d'A. Crofton kindly undertook to bear the whole expense of the renovation, amounting to a consid'able sum, and the work has been carried out by Mr. J. R. Gray, of Hereford. The bells have been rehung on new fittings of a modern principle and quarter-turned. The old tenor bell, bearing the name of Mott, a former Vicar of Standon, was found to have a weak framework, and this has been strengthened by the addition of a new cast-iron plate. Two new treble bells, estimated to cost about £200, are needed to make the ring complete, and these will no doubt be added in the future by some well-wisher of Standon and liberal benefactor to the church.

ORIGIN OF BELLS AT A FUNERAL.—The ringing of bells at funerals is a custom of ancient origin. It was a popular belief that the sound of the bell had power to drive away evil spirits. In England, Bishop Grandison, of Exeter, in 1339, found it necessary to check the long ringings at burials, on the ground that 'they do no good to the departed, are an annoyance to the living, and injurious to the fabric and bells.' Gifts of bells to churches, particularly in the earlier ages, were always deemed the most acceptable of gifts, and during the Middle Ages these bells were not uncommonly given as a memorial of some deceased friend or relation. Kings and queens may be found amongst the donors of bells, and one of the earliest of royal bell-givers was probably Canute, who presented a pair of bells to Winchester Cathedral in 1033.

DEATH OF A BURTON-ON-TRENT RINGER.—The St. Paul's (Burton-on-Trent) company have to mourn the loss of a well-known member, Frederick G. Attenborough, who died after an illness of nine months' duration, at the early age of 31 years. Always an enthusiastic lover of bells and bell-ringing Mr. Attenborough, on settling in Burton half-a-dozen years ago, at once identified himself with the St. Paul's Society, and took part in a number of peals in the methods of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES and CATERS, STEDMAN TRIPLES, DOUBLE NORWICH and NEW CUMBERLAND SURPRISE. He was a regular attendant at meetings of the Midland County Association.

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