

THE RINGING WORLD

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FRIDAY, APRIL 9th, 1915.

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Price 1d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey. BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1912.
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

MODERN WORK.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

In the annual report presented to the members of the Hertford County Association on Monday, the hon. secretary laid some stress upon the lack of financial help which is accorded to the Association by the clergy of those churches where, Sunday by Sunday, the ringers give their assistance by regularly ringing the bells for the services. This is a subject to which we have more than once referred in this column, and, even at the risk of being held to labour the point we return to it because of its importance. The proportion of clergy who support the ringing associations is very small and, in reality, nothing approaching the number which, we feel, ringers are entitled to expect. The Herts Association, as an instance, has over thirty towers where service ringing is regularly carried on, yet there are only seven incumbents who support the organisation.

It must not be thought that the absence of the names of clergy from the hon. members' list of a ringing society is evidence that the incumbents do not take any interest in the welfare of their own ringers. We believe that in the vast majority of cases in these days, the belfry does see something of the parson and that the ringers are made to feel that their office is recognised. Are we not, however, entitled to expect something more than this? The band of ringers affiliated to this or that tower is, usually, but a part of a larger body—the county or diocesan association—without the agency of which, it is only too well known, the conditions of the belfry would not be as satisfactory as they are to-day. The improvements which have taken place are the outcome of the work of the associations, and these improvements are no less in the direction of raising the standard of the ringers' ideals than of the ringing. Both should be, and in many cases are, the personal concern of the clergy, but there are, obviously, far too many instances in which the clergy fail to realise the source from which these improvements have arisen.

If they fully appreciated this we believe there would be no reason to lament the lack of clerical names on the hon. members' lists of our associations. Indeed, we do not think it is altogether due to the clergy themselves that so few of them, comparatively, financially support the ringing organisations. It is the rule rather than the exception to find the incumbent joining as an hon. member, if he is not already in the ranks. When an association meeting is held in his parish, which only goes to show that if the work of the organisation is properly brought before his notice his support can generally be counted upon. How best this may be accomplished is for the associations to decide to circularise the clergy, as the Yorkshire Association has done, is one of the means, and the personal appeal, which usually can best be made through the local bands, is another, while a third is provided by the means of meetings, as already mentioned.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



OPINION OF OUR MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,
CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

3552, C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your Contract,—we may be able to assist you.

**SMETHWICK,
BIRMINGHAM**

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SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.**

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CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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OF ALL INDS.

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REPAIRS AND BEHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

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TEN BELL PEAL.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 5, 1915, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5055 CHANCES;

JOSEPH A. LAMBERT Treble	WILLIAM S. SMITH 6
J. HOWARD R. FREEBORN 2	HENRY L. GARFATH 7
ALFRED H. WINCH 3	C. W. ROBERT GRIMWOOD 8
DAVID WRIGHT 4	WILLIAM GROVES 9
ALFRED CLAYTON 5	ARTHUR DEAN Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK, and
Conducted by WILLIAM S. SMITH.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HURST, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(READING BRANCH.)

On Saturday, April 3, 1915, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

WASHBROOK'S FIVE-PART.

JOHN WADHAMS Treble	ARTHUR W. PIKE 5
HARRY BUNGAY 2	WALTER A. WEBB 6
LEONARD OSBORNE 3	CHARLES GILES 7
ALFRED T. REEVES 4	JOHN SWAIN Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES GILES.

This peal, with the ready consent of the Vicar, Rev. E. Broome, was rung to celebrate the wedding of Mr. Joseph White, the captain of the Hurst band. Immediately after the ceremony the ladies' band rang the bells in rounds for a time, the peal following. The Vicar very kindly entertained the ringers to tea in the Parish Room and he was accorded the thanks of the company. H. Bungay hails from Binfield, J. Wadhams and A. W. Pike from Sonning, the remainder from Reading.

DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, April 3, 1915, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

LINDOFF'S TEN-PART. Tenor, 15½ cwt.

WILLIAM TAYLOR Treble	THOMAS WHITE 5
PTE. FRANK R. CUNDALE ... 2	EDWIN BLACKWALL ... 6
HENRY GREGORY 3	JAMES L. WRIGHT 7
ALFRED C. WRIGHT 4	JOHN W. DERBYSHIRE ... Tenor

Conducted by JAMES L. WRIGHT.

Rung for the wedding of Miss E. Lindop and Mr. H. Keeling. Pte. F. R. Cundale belongs to Leeds and is stationed at Darley Dale with the 8th West Yorks. Regt.

SIX BELL PEAL.

SAPCOTE, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
(HINCKLEY BRANCH.)

On Monday, April 5th, 1915, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Seven different 720's. Tenor 10½ cwt. in A flat.

HENRY BRIGGS Treble	GEORGE WOOD 4
W. HYDE INGLESANT ... 2	JOHN GARRATT 5
*CHARLES BROWN 3	HARRY WRIGHT Tenor

Conducted by HENRY BRIGGS.

*First peal. Rung for the Easter festival. The band, through the medium of the "Ringing World," wish to thank the Vicar, Rev. A. G. Lound, for permission to ring the peal.

HANDBELL PEALS.

STOCKPORT.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
(STOCKPORT AND BOWDON BRANCH.)

On Monday, March 29, 1915, in Two Hours and Thirty-two Minutes,
At 22, WILLIS ROAD.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
GROVE'S VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

*WILLIAM JACKSON ... 1-2	HAROLD JACKSON ... 5-6
JOHN THOMAS ... 3-4	†EDWARD A. JACKSON ... 7-8

Conducted by J. THOMAS.
Umpire: THOS. JACKSON.

* First peal in hand. † First peal.

WEST EALING, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND
LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 29, 1915, in Two Hours and Twenty-three Minutes,
At 24, WIMBORNE GARDENS.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S TEN-PART. Bells, Size 15 in C.

GEORGE E. HARBOUR ... 1-2	ARTHUR F. SHEPHERD ... 5-6
WILLIAM SHEPHERD ... 3-4	WILLIAM LAWRENCE ... 7-8

Conducted by WILLIAM SHEPHERD.

This peal was rung on the 56th anniversary of the birthday of the ringer of 7-8; and upon handbells, part of a set of 52 in chromatic scale, cast at Aldbourne, Wilts. his birthplace; founder, Robert Wells; date of casting, 1788. During the peal the bells "before" were checked by Mr. C. Edwards.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

The following further contributions to the Prince of Wales' Fund have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged ...	76	6	0
Bushey Society, March contribution ...	0	4	6
"Wanderer," March contribution ...	0	2	0
Mrs. "Wanderer," March contribution ...	0	2	0
Total ...	£76	14	0

SITTINGBOURNE'S PATRIOTIC CHURCH OFFICIALS.

Sittingbourne's Church of St. Michael must nearly hold the record for its patriotic list of church officials. The only curate, the organist, sixteen choirmen and ten of the bell ringers have gone on active service. The names of three of the ringers have already been published, those of the other seven will be found in the "Roll of Honour" to-day.

Despite the absence of so many of the band, a company was whipped up for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day, which event was kept up in great style at Sittingbourne, where the 4th and 5th Battalions of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers are stationed. In the evening, at St. Michael's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by: J. Excell 1, E. J. Bottle 2, S. Taylor 3, W. Spice 4, F. S. Macey 5, H. E. Simpson (conductor) 6, E. J. Dobbie 7, A. Burley 8

RINGERS' BEREAVEMENTS.

Much sympathy, we are sure, will be extended by members of the Exercise to two well-known ringers who have sustained heavy bereavement.

Mr. William Pye, the Master of the Middlesex Association, who resides at 8, Sansom Road, Leytonstone, has lost his wife by death. Mrs. Pye had been ill for some four months, and despite all that medical skill could do she passed away on the afternoon of Good Friday.

Mr. Robert H. Brundle, a much-respected member of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, and of the Norwich Association, has also suffered a great loss by the death of his wife, Mrs. Louisa Brundle, who died after only five days' illness on March 25th, at the age of 62 years. The funeral took place on Tuesday of last week, and in the evening, by the permission of the church authorities, the members of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society rang the bells half-muffled as a last mark of respect, and as a token of sympathy with Mr. Brundle and his four sons in their sudden bereavement. The touches included Stedman Triples, Gaters and Cinques, conducted by Mr. James Motts.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

The members of the Hertford County Association gathered at St. Albans on Monday as usual for their annual festival. During the day the towers of the churches of the city were thrown open to them, and touches rung in various methods. At five o'clock they assembled in the choir of the Cathedral for choral evensong, at which the Dean of St. Albans (the Very Rev. G. W. Blenkin) delivered a very appropriate address on the words, "That I may finish my course with joy" (Acts xx. 24).

After the service tea was served at the Abbey Institute. Over a hundred sat down, and, at the conclusion of the repast, the business was transacted.

The Rev. Canon Papillon (President) was in the chair, and was supported by the Dean of St. Albans, the Rev. Canon Glossop, Mr. C. H. Howard and the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre (Master and secretary respectively of the Essex Association). Mr. C. T. Coles (secretary of the Middlesex Association), Mr. E. P. Debenham (hon. treasurer), Mr. G. W. Cartmel (hon. secretary), Mr. H. Lewis, the Rev. B. Tyrwhitt-Drake, and others

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President said his year of office, from a ringing point of view, had been very uneventful. Of course, there had been events of absorbing interest—events that were changing the history and re-making the geography of Europe—going on all the time, but these events had imposed upon ringers, by general consent, a programme of masterly inactivity—they had abstained from bell ringing and done the best they could to keep things going until happier times returned, and they could ring peals in welcome of peace (applause). The President went on to say they all missed that day the genial presence of the late Dean Lawrence, who assisted at the birth of that Association, who sat by its cradle, and watched it grow to maturity with continued kindly interest. In welcoming his successor (the Very Rev. Dean Blenkin), he would say no more at present than that they were very glad to see him present, and accepted it as an earnest of the interest he would take in the ringers of St. Albans and Hertfordshire. They had also lost another old friend and staunch supporter of ringing in the city, namely, Mr. H. Lee Waddington, since they last met. They were glad to welcome with them that day the Master and hon. secretary of the Essex Association—Mr. C. H. Howard and the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, and also the secretary of the Middlesex Association, Mr. Coles (applause). They were always pleased when members of other associations visited them at their annual festival, and he hoped that on that occasion their visitors would see by the large number who attended that gathering that the Hertfordshire Association was living, and flourishing, and keen. He was particularly glad to welcome the head of the Essex Association. Perhaps he knew more than anybody else what they had done for ringing in Essex, and for the management of an Association which now numbered about nine hundred members.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. Charles Howard, Master of the Essex Association, was elected an honorary life member of the Association, and the Dean of St. Albans was also elected an honorary member.

A number of ringing members were also elected, including the following: A. J. Trappitt (Barnet), Cyril Wright and Wm. C. Lawrence (Aldenham), Bertram Coots (Harpenden), R. Melville (Tring), Ernest Day (Hitchin), H. C. Childs, A. Groom and F. Bennett (North Mymms), J. H. H. Dye, C. Pentliman and W. Page (All Saints', Hertford), F. Downan and G. Radley, junr. (Broxbourne), W. Williams (Little Munden), H. E. Browne, H. Haines, W. F. Codling, A. E. Cooper, G. A. French and J. Vernon (Oxhey), W. B. Manning (Royston), F. Sear and Bert Arnold (St. Albans Abbey), W. H. Newell, Owen Bayes, and Ernest Smith (Berkhamsted), P. Parslow and A. Andrews (Bushey), and C. S. Burden (Bermondsey), life member: L. Rush, R. Smith and H. Cheshire (St. Stephen's, St. Albans), F. G. Tegg, N. A. Tomlinson, E. G. Tomlinson, and G. W. Fletcher (Southgate).

The honorary treasurer's financial statement showed that the year commenced with a balance in hand of £4 8s. 7d. The subscriptions amounted to £21 5s. 1d. The expenses of the annual meeting which fell upon the society amounted to £4 9s. 9d. The year ended with a balance in hand of £2 1s. 6d. The reserve fund amounted to £21 6s. 5d.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

In his annual report, the Hon. Secretary first referred to the momentous times in which we are living, and pointed out that as a result they missed many faces from their meeting, of men whose years and physique befitted them for the task of actively defending the cause of King and country, who had joined His Majesty's forces on land and sea. They honoured them for their courage and patriotism, and wished them God-speed and a safe return. In this terrible conflict they needed a long pull, and a strong pull, and he felt sure that their ringers at the front, and in the home defence, would not cry "Stand" until they heard the welcome call, or its equivalent, "This is all." In consequence, their bellfries were somewhat depleted in ringers, and what were strong bands a few months ago were now very weak, and often a difficulty was experienced in getting sufficient to ring. The circumstances warranted an appeal to many older ringers who had laid ring-

(Continued on next page).

ing aside for awhile to again take up the work. The advisability of instructing new men (preferably lads) in the mysteries of ringing, should also not be forgotten. It needed a little sacrifice of time; but they must remember that it was the same sacrifice that enabled themselves to learn.

SUGGESTED MEMORIAL TO DEAN LAWRENCE.

Continuing, the report stated that during the year death had removed from the ranks of the Association three of their oldest supporters: Mr. Henry Lee Waddington, who acted as President in 1911 and was present at the inaugural meeting of the Association in 1884; the Rev. Canon Davys, a most consistent supporter from the very beginning; and Dean Lawrence. "I can unhesitatingly say," remarked the Hon. Secretary, "that the Association has never had a better friend than Dean Lawrence. He ever regarded it an honour that this Association was formed under his roof at the Rectory, and rejoiced with us at the success attained, after much patient toil. However tired, after the exertion of Easter Sunday, he could not resist the opportunity afforded of meeting the members round the tea table, and by his vivacious and inimitable remarks, seasoned always with pregnant words of counsel, contributed greatly to the success of our gatherings. From the annual meeting in 1896, up to last year, he never missed a meeting, and as he preached on two occasions previous to that date, in all probability he never missed a single one of the annual meetings held in St. Albans—24 in number. It fell to his choice to give the address at the annual service on fourteen occasions, and he always unearched some 'fresh touch.' In 1913 he became our honoured President, and in acknowledging the honour conferred upon him, said: 'The Association had well justified the hopes expressed for its future when formed at his house.'"

Half-muffled touches were rung upon the bells throughout the county as a token of sympathy and to the memory of a good friend. Anticipating that some day, when the war clouds have rolled away, a movement might be initiated to raise a memorial to the late Dean, might I suggest, with your concurrence, the feasibility of augmenting the Cathedral ring to a peal of ten or even twelve bells, as a project worthy of consideration, and a befitting memorial to perpetuate the late Dean's love of church bells, and his keen association with the bell ringers of Hertfordshire. Death has also called away Miss Margery Sampson, a talented ringer of great promise, and Mr. J. Wells, of Tring.

NO PEAL RINGING.

As regards peal ringing achievements very little can be said, as only two peals have been rung, both conducted by Mr. W. H. Lawrence: a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, at Bennington, believed to be the first peal in the method on the bells; and a peal of Minor, in seven methods, at Little Munden, half-muffled.

As regards the work of the district secretaries, actual aggressive work has been out of the question. Our western secretary having joined the forces, the work has remained in abeyance in his division. In the Northern Division Mr. Bacon tried to arrange a meeting at Knebworth, but without success. Mr. Lawrence did not arrange any meetings in his district. The work of collecting the subscriptions has, of course, been continued by them, and whatever they have done, whether much or little, we are grateful to them for the services so faithfully rendered. They have their disappointments (we all have) when appeals fail to meet with response, and consequently the treasurer's funds fall short of the silver coins. But, Macawber-like, they are always optimistic enough to expect that something will turn up. We are grateful to our honorary members for their most welcome support, but I should like to see a more general sympathy shown by the benefited clergy. We have between 30 and 40 bands, who ring year in and year out, yet we have only seven benefited clergy attached as honorary members. A little practical sympathy would be appreciated in this direction.

After paying a tribute to the thoroughness with which the auditor did his work, the Hon. Secretary concluded his report with a few homely maxims: "Let us," he said, "never be late for ringing, Sundays especially. The ten minutes multiplied by six, eight or ten, is a lamentable loss of valuable time, and often prevents a probationer from having a pull. In a word, be thoughtful for others: forget self. Let us always ring our best; it is a service rendered to God. Bad ringing satisfies nobody, pleases nobody, encourages nobody—not even the ringers. The best that can be said of it is—it is bad. Let the belfry steps lead to the pew whenever possible. If the parson won't come into the tower, let him see us in the pew. It may even capture his interest in the ringers. Lastly, let us all strive to be manly and true to Almighty God, diligent in our service as bell ringers, that when in His good Providence peace is restored to the nations, we may be able to take our part in sending forth a joyous peal of thanksgiving and praise from the belfries of our churches."

THE NEW PRESIDENT.

The President announced that the committee had selected Mr. E. P. Debenham, of St. Albans, as the most suitable person to be President this year. They all knew what Mr. Debenham had done for ringing in St. Albans. If every churchwarden throughout the country took a quarter of the interest in ringing, and if they were seen even one-tenth of the times in the belfry that the churchwarden of St. Peter's might be seen, there would be a very different state of things in many of the belfries of the country. He had very great pleasure in proposing that Mr. Debenham should be their President for the ensuing year.

Mr. R. Hammond seconded. He said all who knew Mr. Debenham had learned to respect and love him as a ringer. The interest he had taken in the Association was second to none, and they could not have done better than secure him as their President. He hoped they would see him round the different towers in the course of the year, although he knew there was very great pressure upon his time.

The proposition was carried unanimously.

The President-elect, when returning thanks for his election, recalled the fact that he was the second honorary secretary of the Association in 1888, and held office for some fifteen years. He had had a great deal of assistance from Mr. Cartmel throughout his connection with the Association. The fact that, during its thirty and a half years of existence the Association had had only three honorary secretaries—Canon Wigram being the first, himself the second, and Mr. Cartmel the third—spoke very well for the Association. Mr. Debenham recalled that he served as President seven years ago, and that this year he had completed forty years in St. Peter's tower. Mr. Arthur Hull and Mr. Ted Hull had also accomplished a similar period of time in the same belfry. This was rather a unique experience. Until better days came the ringers would be ready and willing to do all in their power to keep the bells ringing in the best way they could. Meanwhile, they were not idle, and though the bells might not be ringing frequently, that did not prevent change ringing being taught in the various towers. There was a good deal of quiet work going on, not only in Hertfordshire, but in other places.

Mr. E. P. Debenham was also re-elected honorary treasurer.

THE HON. SECRETARY.

The newly-elected President proceeded to propose the re-election of Mr. G. W. Cartmel as hon. secretary with thanks for the services he had so ungrudgingly rendered to the Association for many years past.

Mr. R. Hammond seconded, and said the members of the Cathedral Society of Change Ringers had been very grateful to Mr. Cartmel for filling a breach in the band caused by the absence of members on active service.

Mr. G. W. Cartmel, replying, thanked the members for electing him for the twelfth time to the position of hon. secretary. He said it was a great pleasure to him to do anything he could to help forward ringing. When they had year by year these gatherings of ringers, it was a great inspiration to go forward with this work of the Church. There was a great deal for him to do, but when one's heart was in that task it made it ten times lighter.

Mr. Bertram Prewett was re-elected hon. auditor and representative on the Central Council, and Messrs. F. R. Bacon, W. H. Lawrence and H. Eden were re-elected hon. district secretaries, Mr. R. Kirby being re-elected hon. librarian.

THANKS.

Canon Papillon proposed a vote of thanks to the Dean of St. Albans for his address, which, he said, they regarded as an earnest of the Dean's desire to be friendly and sympathetic with the ringers. Those who had heard that address must have thought that the Dean had been a ringer all his life.

The Rev. B. Tyrwhitt-Drake, supporting the vote of thanks, suggested that as the Dean had evidently learned the most difficult part of ringing—the language—he would suggest that he should learn the other part, which was ringing (applause).

The Dean of St. Albans, replying to the last speaker's suggestion, said he was among those who had what had been described by some speakers on that occasion as "increasing weight," and, as they used to sing in an old Harrow song, he was now "Shorter in wind as in memory long" (laughter). For a great many years he was in Cambridge, where there was a good deal of ringing, but his days were so fully occupied that he had no opportunity of practising the art. He had, however, a number of friends and pupils who were good ringers, including the Rev. G. W. O. Jenkyn, who was, perhaps, the only bridegroom who rang his bride to church. When he was at Brading, in the Isle of Wight, for the first time in a hundred years, an Island band succeeded in getting a peal, and one of his curates who used to chime for daily service managed to chime seven bells himself—taking one rope with each hand, one with each foot, one under each arm-pit, and one round his neck (laughter). In that way he could chime seven and make them ring true, and he had said he was determined to get eight. The Dean added that when quite a small boy at Boston Stump he used to chime the bells. There there was a clear drop of 200 feet from the ringing chamber to the ground floor, and he was able to chime them, but when he was installed Dean of St. Albans they tied a string to the clapper and he could only make the bell speak once. Though he had taken no actual part in change ringing, he wished the Association every success and every blessing, and he hoped, now that the diocese had been reconstituted, they might have a little welcome to the Bedfordshire Association (hear, hear). He was afraid that would not take place this year unless we experienced the blessing of peace earlier than they contemplated. The Dean closed by emphasising the passage in the annual report, in which the ringers were urged to visit the pews, and said he always liked to regard ringers in a very real sense as being church workers.

The proceedings of the annual meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Dean and the Vicars of St. Peter's, St. Michael's and St. Stephen's for granting the use of their bells for the day, and to Canon Papillon for presiding.

THE BELL OF RUGBY SCHOOL CHAPEL

(Weight 64cwt. 2qrs. 20lbs.)

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Price ...	9/-	13/6	17/6	22/6	27/6	35/-	46/6

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HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION'S NEW PRESIDENT.

MR. E. P. DEBENHAM'S WORK FOR RINGING.

For some years past it has been the custom of the Hertford County Association to pass round the honour of occupancy of the presidential office, and on Monday, at the annual meeting, Mr. E. P. Debenham, one of the society's oldest and most esteemed members, and its present treasurer, was elected to the position, in succession to Canon Papillon. Although Mr. Debenham has once before filled the post, his appointment this year is but a just recognition of his continued service in furthering the work of the



MR. E. P. DEBENHAM.

Association, which has received his most active assistance ever since its foundation in 1884.

Mr. Edward Percy Debenham was born on Sunday, November 28th, 1858, at Ivy House, St. Albans (adjacent to St. Peter's Church) so he has probably heard the sound of bells from the day of his birth. The ringing of bells has always had a fascination for him, and it was no matter for wonder that at the age of only 16 years he sought participation in the Art. On March 18th, 1875—exactly 40 years ago—he had his first practice in St. Peter's belfry.

Mr. Debenham was identified first of all with the St. Albans Association of Change Ringers, which was formed in January, 1876, chiefly through the energies of Messrs. T. Bamford, A. Godman, H. Younger, T. Waller, Henry Lewis and W. Heath. The late Mr. J. R. Haworth was engaged as instructor, and the band met twice weekly, the

late Mr. J. Cox and Mr. J. Pettit also giving assistance. The band progressed as far as Grandsire Triples, and disbanded about the years 1880-1. In 1878 Mr. Debenham was asked to take over the conductorship of St. Peter's Society, and he has remained at his post ever since, also adding to his office that of treasurer to the society.

He is essentially fond of "spade" work, and the hours spent in the belfry (often going straight from his office without thinking of his meal) coaching beginners, testifies to the reality of his keenness for bell ringing. Business appointments, both on Saturday and other evenings, however, have prevented him from taking part in as much peal ringing as he wished; at the same time he has rung a fair number, and is always considered safe whether in the tower or with a pair of handbells. He is passionately fond of handbell ringing, and in the early days formed one of the band of St. Albans' men who took up handbell ringing so successfully. If he lacks time on week days, no one could be more regular in his Sunday attendance in the belfry, and from the discharge of this duty he is scarcely ever missing.

He scored his first peal at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, on March 2nd, 1878. It was conducted by Matt. Wood, and Mr. Debenham also rang his first of Stedman Triples and Treble Bob Major at the same church. He took part in the first local peal at the Cathedral at St. Albans on the 4th April, 1883. He joined the Herts Association on its inception in October, 1884, and was secretary for many years, succeeding the late Canon Wigram, and resigning in 1905, owing to pressure of professional business. At the same meeting, however, he was appointed its treasurer, which post he still holds. In the year 1907 he was elected President of the Herts Association, and it was at his suggestion during the time he held the post that the office was made an annual appointment. He felt that as the society had few honours to bestow the presidency should be offered to other members.

Besides his ringing activities Mr. Debenham has been a churchwarden of St. Peter's Church since Easter, 1896, and a more active representative could not be found. The church is his home. If you wish to find him on a Sunday he is either in the church or the belfry. He is a member of the St. Albans Diocesan Conference, and the Ruri-Decanal Conference. He became a Freemason in 1882, and received honours in the Grand Lodge of England in April, 1914. He holds the post of Past Provincial Grand Registrar of Hertfordshire, and is treasurer of the Halsey Lodge, which meets at St. Albans, and is named after the Right Hon. T. F. Halsey, the present Deputy Grand Master of England.

He was admitted a solicitor in April, 1881, and in 1883 joined the firm of Messrs. Thompson and Debenhams, of London and St. Albans, of which firm he is now senior partner. In 1894 he was appointed clerk to the St. Albans School Board, and still acts as clerk to the Managers of the County Council Schools of St. Albans. In 1899 he was appointed clerk to the Income Tax and Land Tax Commissioners of the district, and in 1909, on the death of his brother, succeeded him as town clerk of the City of St. Albans and clerk to the governors of the St. Albans Grammar School, where he was educated.

In April, 1897, he married Miss Bessie Harriet Burt, of Needham Market, Suffolk, and has four children, two boys and two girls. The eldest, known familiarly as Master George, has already exhibited a great love of bells, pursu-

ing his hobby of collecting dates and inscriptions in the belfries where he can gain access. He is learning to handle a bell, and but for the fact that his opportunities are few, would probably have scored some touch before now.

Despite the many claims upon his time, Mr. E. P. Debenham is still heart and soul in ringing, and it was due to his perseverance, aided by other young enthusiasts, that change ringing became general in St. Peter's belfry. The band was formerly a "stoney" company, but by tact the whole of the members were retained and all have succeeded in ringing peals. Under Mr. Debenham's conductorship there has sprung up a wonderful cohesion among the members of St. Peter's, and one of the band, Mr. T. Conley, has rung at the church for over 50 years, and still takes his place each Sunday. Mr. Debenham is extremely keen when ringing, and his stamp upon the belfry floor, when a mistake is made, is proverbial. He has a retentive memory, and a quick ear, and can follow the coursing order of bells when out of the tower, and can tell the touch of Grandsire that has been called, or where a mistake was made. His willingness to help beginners has been extended beyond the towers of St. Albans, and several bands in the district have benefited by the assistance he has been ready to give at every opportunity. In addition to his long connection with the Hertford County Association, Mr. Debenham is a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

As mentioned above, Mr. Debenham's first peal was rung at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, on March 2nd, 1878, but it was not until April, 1883, that he rang another, and it was Sept., 1885, before he rang his third, and Feb., 1887, before he scored his fourth. All these were Grandsire Triples. It was towards the end of 1887 that the St. Alban's handbell band started peal ringing operations. Mr. Debenham rang 3—4 to Grandsire Triples on Sept. 12th, 1887, and thereafter, up to 1890, there followed peals of Grandsire Caters and Triples, Bob Triples, Major and Royal, in 18 of which Mr. Debenham took part. His first peal as conductor was on tower bells at St. Peter's Church in December, 1887, and altogether he has scored 53 tower bell peals, the last of which was in 1909. We hope Mr. Debenham and others, like the hon. sec. of the Association (Mr. G. W. Cartmel) who was associated with him in much of his early ringing, and who have now been out of peal ringing for some years, may at least come back again to join in those peals of joy and thanksgiving when peace is proclaimed. Appended is the list of Mr. Debenham's peals:—

	Tower bells.		Handbells.	
	Rung.	Cond.	Rung.	Cond.
Grandsire Triples ...	29	15	4	1
Grandsire Caters ...	8	5	5	
Stedman Triples ...	4			
Stedman Caters ...	2			
Bob Triples ...	4		3	
Bob Major ...	4		5	
Bob Royal ...	1		1	
Treble Bob Major ...	1			
	53	20	18	1

WRITTLE, ESSEX.—On March 21st, for Evening Service, 1260 Stedman Triples (Thurstans'), in 46 mins.: R. Wood 1, F. W. Edwards 2, F. G. Radley 3, G. W. Lorrell 4, H. Head 5, Pte. V. Bennett 6, W. Lincoln (conductor) 7, F. Edwards 8. Arranged as a farewell touch for Pte. V. Bennett, 4th Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, now leaving for the front.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following is a further list of ringers who have joined H.M. Forces:—

- Lance-Corpl Abberley, of St. Michael's, Stone, Staffs (4018193), 18th Divisional Train, 152 Company A.S.C., at Earl's Colne, Essex.
 - Driver H. Goodall, of St. Michael's, Stone, Staffs (1559), Transport Section 1—5, North Staffs Regiment, 1st North Midland Brigade, British Expeditionary Force.
 - Corpl. A. C. Otway, of Leatherhead, Surrey, 5th (Reserve) Batt. East Surrey Regiment.
 - Sergt. Robt. W. Falconer, of All Saints', Gosforth, Sergeant-Instructor of Musketry, 16th Service Batt., Northumberland Fusiliers, now at Alnwick Park, Northumberland.
 - Sydney Ernest Daynes, of St. Nicholas', Deptford, Rifle Brigade, now at High Wycombe.
 - Pte W. Siddall, of All Saints', Stand, Whitefield, Lancs, 13th Middlesex Regiment, now at Shoreham.
 - Pte H. Huntley Noakes, of St. Stephen's, West Ealing, 25th County of London Cyclist Battalion.
- From St. Michael's Church, Sittingbourne:—
- Rev. H. McCalman, Chaplain to the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd Battalions of the Lancashire Regiment stationed at Morecambe.
 - Sergt. H. J. Tidy, Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles.
 - Tpr. B. Tidy, Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles.
 - Pte J. Jarrett, Army Service Corps.
 - Pte S. Bottle, 4th Buffs.
 - Tpr. W. Measday, 12th Lancers.
 - Lance-Corpl. F. Maxted, 16th Lancers.

THE LATE MR. G. J. CLARKSON,



whose death, at Stockton-on-Tees, we recorded in a recent issue. He was one of the founders of the Durham and Newcastle Association, of which he was secretary for some years, and of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association, in which he occupied the position of President. He was mainly instrumental in increasing the peal at Stockton from six to ten, giving one of the new bells himself. His genial presence will be much missed in northern ringing circles.

NEW PEAL AT ERITH.

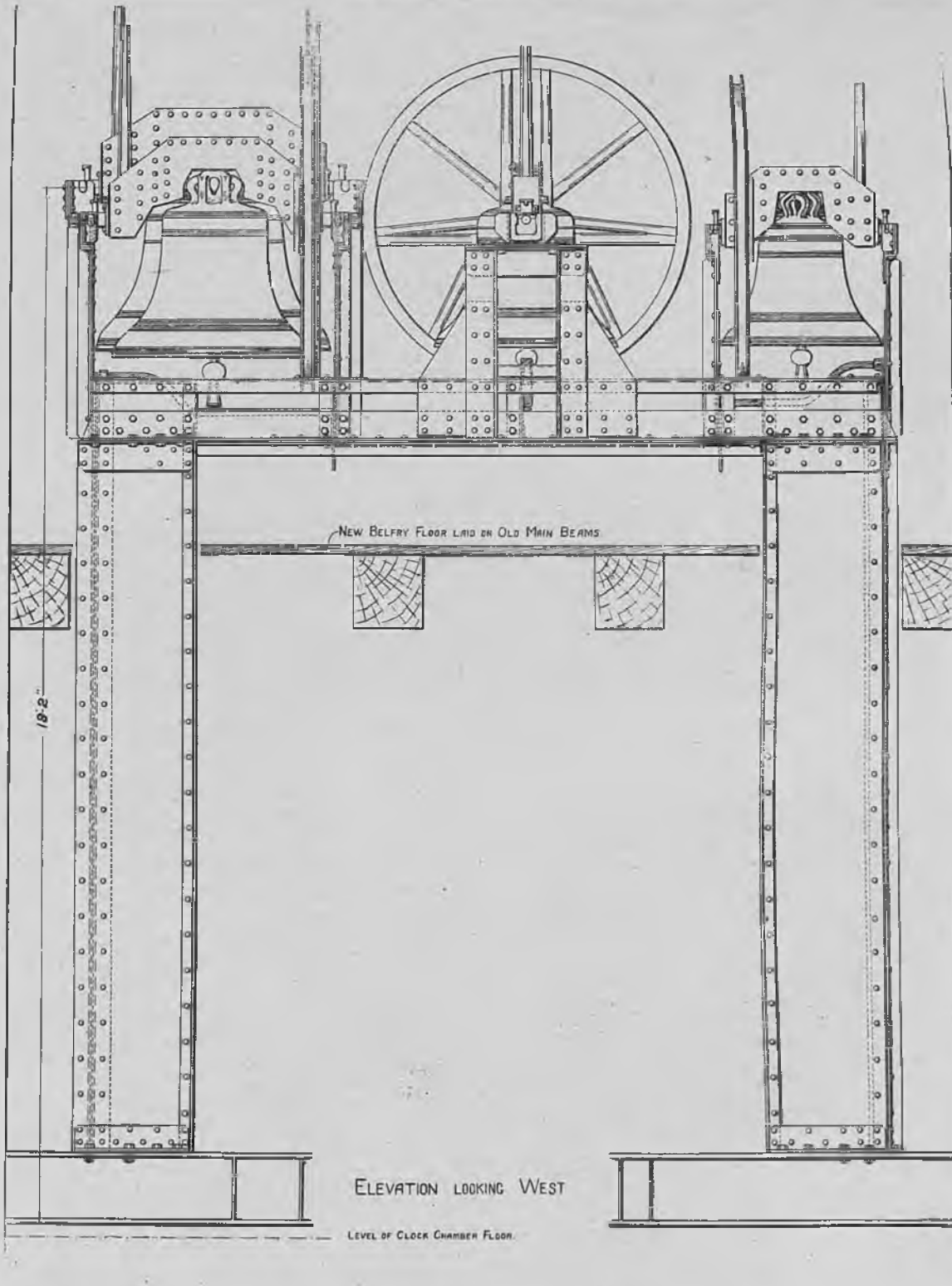
A new ring of eight bells have just been placed in a new tower at Christ Church, Erith, by Messrs. Warner and Sons, of the Spitalfields Foundry. At a trial of the new bells on Thursday of last week, the ringers found everything to their satisfaction. The tenor is 17 cwt. 23 lbs., in E flat.

The peal of eight bells at Darlington have just been restored by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, and have been re-dedicated by the Archdeacon of Auckland.

Further particulars of these bells will be given in our next issue.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of some of the Essex members of the Ely Association was held at Earl's Colne on Easter Monday, the bells of the Parish Church being kindly placed at the disposal of members by the Vicar (the Rev. D. Methuen). The first touch was 1120 Superlative Surprise, which was followed by a course of Double Court Minor, in which one of the old local ringers, Mr. D. Claydon, who is now enjoying his well-deserved old age pension, took part. A capital tea was partaken of at the Lion Hotel, after which other touches were rung in various methods, including London, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise, Double Norwich, etc. A social hour was afterwards spent at the Lion Hotel, where handbell ringing was indulged in till closing time, which, owing to the presence of gentlemen in khaki, is no later than 9.15.



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THE MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION. DEATH OF AN OLD AND VALUED MEMBER.

A meeting of the North and East District, held on Saturday week at Walthamstow, was a very successful and enjoyable one. Ringing took place in the afternoon at St. Saviour's Church, touches of Grandshire and Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob, Superlative and Bristol Surprise being rung. A short service was held, at which an address was given by the Vicar (the Rev. G. H. Siddans), whose remarks were much appreciated by the ringers present.

Tea was served in the Mission Room adjoining, and was followed by the business meeting. The chair was taken by the district vice-president (Mr. F. A. Milne), and three new members were elected.

The Chairman proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for his address at the service, and for the use of the bells, and also to the Rev. H. D. Lampen for the use of the bells at St. Mary's Church, which were placed at the disposal of the members for ringing in the evening. Mr. Milne also thanked the ringers at each tower for their kind welcome to the Association, and also the caterer and the ladies who had helped at tea.

The Hon. Secretary referred to the death of Mr. W. Tubb, of Finchley, which had taken place a few days previously. Mr. Tubb had been a member of the Association since its formation, and was a member of the old North Middlesex Association, previous to the present society being formed. He had been connected with the Finchley band for about 50 years. Mr. Coles proposed that a vote of condolence be passed and forwarded to the family of the late Mr. Tubb, expressing the great sympathy of the members in their bereavement. — This was seconded by Mr. Milne, who spoke of the great help given to the society in its early days by Mr. Tubb. He suggested that the resolution should be placed on the minutes as a token of their appreciation of the work done for the Association by the late member.—This was unanimously agreed to.

After the meeting the members adjourned to St. Mary's Church, where they were welcomed by Mr. F. Rumens, on behalf of the local society. Touches of Stedman and Grandshire Caters, and Kent Treble Bob Royal were very much enjoyed, and the ringing concluded with a course of London Surprise Major. Over 40 members and friends were present during the afternoon and evening, and all went away with pleasant recollections of a most enjoyable meeting.

EASTER RINGING.

The following touches were rung on Easter Day:—

WOKING.—At St. Peter Church, for morning service, 720 Bow Minor: L. Street 1, J. Lloyd 2, G. Harding 3, D. Hampton 4, J. Brackley 5, T. Strudwick 6. For evening service, 720 Bob Minor: W. Edwards 1, J. Lloyd 2, G. Harding 3, G. Huxley (Bromley, Kent) 4, I. Brackley 5, T. Strudwick 6.

IPSWICH.—At St. Mary-le-Tower Church, for morning service, a course of Cambridge Surprise Maximus: E. Pemberton 1, A. S. Boar 2, W. Garrett 3, W. Motts 4, C. Sedgley 5, *W. Kinsey 6, W. L. Catchpole 7, C. A. Catchpole 8, H. C. Gillingham 9, *E. Burgess 10, E. Evans 11, J. Motts 12. * First course in method.

BRAINTREE.—For the 5.30 a.m. celebration of Holy Communion, a touch of Grandshire Triples, and for evensong, 768 Kent Treble Bob: F. Webb 1, H. E. Hammond 2, C. H. Howard 3, Q.-M.-S. Cave, R.E. (conductor) 4, H. W. Dyson 5, Sapper E. Ridler 6, G. Lindridge 7, H. J. Collins 8.

RAYNE.—For first evensong, 720 Oxford and 720 Kent Treble Bob: F. Webb 1, C. H. Howard 2, H. E. Hammond 3, H. W. Dyson 4, Sapper E. Ridler, R.E., 5, Q.-M.-S. Cave, R.E. (conductor) 6.

BRIDGEND, GLAMORGAN.—At St. Mary's Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes), in 45 mins.: R. Evans 1, W. Smith 2, A. J. Stanley 3, C. H. Perry 4, J. Cox 5, R. Bunstone 6, D. R. James (conductor) 7, B. Toby 8.

EALING.—For the morning service, at the Parish Church of St. Mary, 574 Grandshire Triples: C. Edwards 1, J. Walsom (conductor) 2, J. Hunnisett 3, A. Himes 4, Pte J. A. Snow ("Devous") 5, W. Lawrence 6, A. Harding 7, F. Harris 8.

WEST EALING.—For evening service, at St. Stephen's Church, 636 Grandshire Triples: C. Edwards 1, J. Hunnisett 2, Pte J. A. Snow 3, G. Harbour 4, J. A. Trollope 5, G. Spencer (conductor) 6, A. Harding 7, W. Lawrence 8.

PRESENTATION.

At Langport Church, Somerset, on Easter Day, a presentation was made to Mr. A. Kentfield, one of the ringers, who, to the great regret of the band, is leaving the district for Plymouth. The gifts consisted of a clock, subscribed to by the Langport ringers, and a framed photo of the vestry door of the church. The Vicar made the presentation in a few well-chosen words, wishing Mr. Kentfield success in his new position.

As a farewell, two touches of Bob Minor were rung, the first, a 300, by: W. White 1, T. Creed 2, T. J. Lloyd 3, K. Kentfield 4, C. Sandford 5, G. Locke 6; the second, a full 720: T. W. Creed 1, A. Whendon 2, T. J. Lloyd (conductor) 3, A. Kentfield 4, C. Sandford (first 720) 5, G. Locke 6.

NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Ringing for Divine service at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields the first Sunday in the month, and at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, the third Sunday, both at 10 o'clock. Meetings for practice at Shoreditch every third Monday at 8 p.m.—H. J. Bradley, Parish Church, Shoreditch.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.—All being well on Saturday evening, April 10th, from 5 to 6 o'clock, Mr. Harry Withers, of Bournbrook, Birmingham, will give a selection of tunes, etc., on Coalbrookdale bells, also on Sunday morning, 10 to 11; afternoon, 2.30 to 3; evening, 5.45 to 6.30. There will be a short musical service in the afternoon at 3 o'clock. Mr. Withers will probably give selections upon his dulcimer. Mr. Wallace Wall will also give a short organ recital.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Brindle on Saturday, April 10th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 5.30.—A. E. Woodhouse, Hon. Branch Secretary.

CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Special ringing meeting at Kettering on Saturday, April 10th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock.—F. Wilford, General Secretary, 149, Ashburnham Road, Northampton.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting of this society will be held at Worksop on Saturday, April 11th, at the Priory Church of St. Cuthbert; 8 bells, available from 2.30 p.m. to 6.15 and from 7 to 8.30 p.m.—Sam Thomas, Secretary pro. tem., 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Holt on Saturday, April 10th, 1915. Bells available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., 6d. each. Intending visitors please advise early.—H. Brownlee West, Honorary Branch Secretary, Avalon, Devizes.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Established 1637.—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell practice on April 22nd, and for business on the 13th and 27th; all at 8 p.m. Also at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, for practice on Saturdays, at 7.30 p.m.—W. T. Cockerell, Honorary Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The 17th annual general meeting will be held at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch (by kind permission of the Rev. F. E. Birch), on Saturday, April 10th. Service at 5 p.m., with an address by the Rev. A. G. Langdon, M.A., Rector of Great Munden, Herts. Tea at 6 p.m. Business meeting to follow, for election of officers, Central Council representatives, etc. The following towers will be open for ringing: St. Leonard's from 3 to 5, and after the meeting; St. Botolph's, Bishops-gate, from 7.30 to 9. — C. T. Coles, 49, Wood Street, Walthamstow, H. C. Chandler, Church Road, Heston, Honorary Secretaries.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Maidstone District.—The annual meeting will be held at Aylesford on Saturday, April 17th, 1915. Bells available for ringing at 3 o'clock. Short service at 5.30. Tea at 6 o'clock at George Inn. Business to follow. Association ringers are invited.—Stephen Hayzelden, District Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION (Bolton Branch).—The next meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, April 17th. Bells available from 5 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.—G. Pincott, Branch Secretary.

PRACTICE AT CROYDON.—A meeting for practice will be held at St. Peter's, Croydon (10), on Saturday, April 17th, at 6.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—Charles Dean.

THE LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Trevethin, Pontypool, on Saturday, April 17th, at 4.30. Tea will be provided and the bells (8) available for ringing.—Rev. Connop L. Price, M.A. and John W. Jones, Piercefield, Barrack Hill, Newport, Mon., Hon. Secretaries.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Willenhall on Saturday, April 17th. Bells available at 3. Service in Church at 5.15. Tea (9d.) in the Institute at 6. Please send word not later than Tuesday, 13th inst.—H. Knight, Hon. Secretary, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mathew's, Stretford, on Saturday, April 17th. Bells at 4.30; meeting at 7.—W. W. Wolstencroft.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.—Established 1755.—Quarterly meeting will be held at St. John's, Deritend, on Saturday, April 24th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Tea will be provided free for those members who advise me not later than the 20th inst. of their intention to be present.—A. Paddon Smith, Honorary Secretary, 11, Albert Road, Wandsworth, Birmingham.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

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