

THE RINGING WORLD

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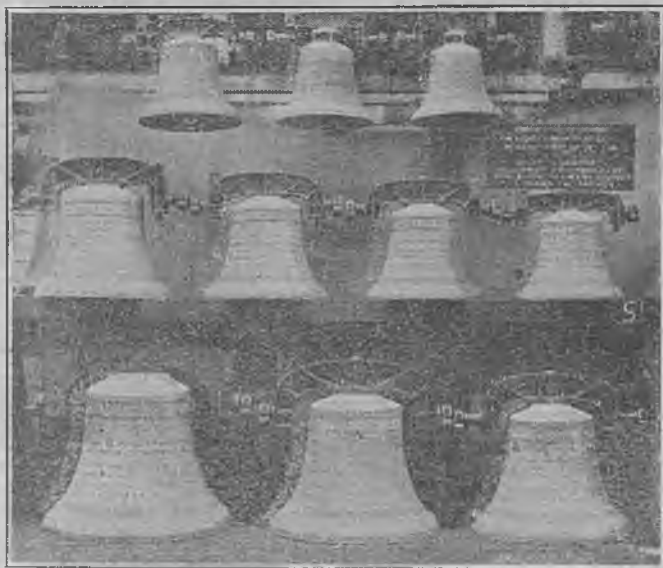
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BELL MUSIC.

The article on 'Bells,' which recently appeared in the leader columns of 'The Times,' has created quite a considerable interest, and the correspondence which it has produced has included letters on the rival merits of Simpson and the old standard tuning. This is a subject which hitherto has been of interest almost exclusively to bell experts, and those contemplating the recasting of an old or the erection of a new peal. The letters in 'The Times' should widen the circle of interest, and ringers may find that a question which they looked upon as peculiarly their own bone of contention is becoming a topic of discussion in the musical world generally. But 'The Times' article touched another side of bell 'music.' The writer said :—

'One might hazard the view that nine cultivated people out of ten regard bells as an accidental survival of the primitive, and the Sunday-morning chimes, sounding against each other, as a logical cacophony, tolerable only for its purpose. On the other hand, there remains the indisputable fact that, considered ideally as a musical instrument, the three-toned bell is perfect, as the violin is perfect. The grace of its form—the curve of "haunch," "waist," and "mouth"—is not merely coincident with the grace of its music, but the cause of it. The probability seems to be that the only 'primitive' thing about great bells is the way in which they are commonly used. Certainly nothing could be more worthy of such a word than the clumsy and false-noted tune occasionally replacing that abstruse arithmetic of the campanologists which has afforded combined mental and physical exercise to white-bearded "College Youths" through so many centuries. It seems possible that we are just now on the verge of very great discoveries in this matter.'

This phase of bell 'music' is taken further in an interesting letter, which will be found on another page, in which Mr. Edgar Shepherd points out how some, at any rate, of the discoveries referred to by 'The Times' writer have long since been made, and the 'tittum' and 'handstroke' course-ends, particularly in Caters and Cinques, are analogous to the repetition of themes in orchestral music. Mr. Shepherd puts forward a view which we think has been, up to now, hardly sufficiently realised by the vast majority of ringers. We talk of 'musical' compositions as if they were only for the ear of the ringers, who, for example, prefer to hear the sixth rather than the second dodging behind with the tenor, but our correspondent points out that these musical properties are equally important where the outside listener is concerned, and he goes even further, and suggests that if the layman could be taught to listen for the course ends, or the sequences in which the 'music' is most pronounced, we should go a long way towards inculcating in the general public a greater appreciation of our art. But here let us emphasise an important point in this matter. Ringers themselves must not only ring 'musical' peals and touches, but they must for ever strive to ring well. Indifferent, let alone bad, striking

(Continued on page 66.)

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will mar the most perfect composition, and therefore the aim of every band should be, as we have often said, to strike perfectly before everything else.

TWELVE BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Four Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR, SOUTHWARK,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 50 cwt.

WILLIAM J. NUDDS 2	Treble	EDWIN F. FIRE 7
GEORGE R. PYE 2		JAMES E. DAVIS 8
WILLIAM H. HEWITT... .. 3		CHARLES W. R. GRIMWOOD 9
CHARLES T. COLES 4		HAROLD W. CLARK 10
FRANK I. HAIRS 5		RICHARD F. DEAL 11
ALBERT W. COLES 6		WILLIAM PYE Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK DENCH. Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Four Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET.

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 33 cwt.

JOSIAH MORRIS 2	Treble	JOSEPH S. CARTER 7
GEORGE S. MORRIS 2		HAROLD G. JENNEY 8
HAROLD J. POOLE 3		HARRY BROUGHTON 9
SHIRLEY BURTON... .. 4		EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 10
ERNEST MORRIS 5		WILLIAM WILLSON. SEN. ... 11
E. HARRY STONELEY 6		FREDERICK H. DEXTER ... Tenor

Composed by F. DENCH.

Conducted by F. H. DEXTER.

First peal of Maximus by ringers of 6th, 7th, 8th and 10th. First peal of Cambridge Maximus by ringer of 11th, also first of Maximus as conductor. It was the first peal of Surprise Maximus by an entire Leicestershire band. Ringers of treble, 2nd, 5th and 10th belong to St. Margaret's, 3rd, 4th, 8th, 9th and tenor to the Cathedral Church of St. Martin, 11th to St. John-the-Divine, 6th to Stoke Golding, and 7th to Wigston Magna.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BUCKLEY, NORTH WALES.

THE NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 11, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 1, 1/2 cwt.

JOHN HAYES 2	Treble	SAMUEL BIRKS 5
ALBERT H. JONES 2		JOHN T. HOPWOOD 6
EDWIN R. USHER 3		ENOCH MESSHAM 7
JOHN E. USHER 4		ROBERT DUNN Tenor

Conducted by ENOCH MESSHAM.

This peal was rung with the bells half-muffled, as a token of respect to the late Mrs. Drow, through whose generosity the peal of eight bells were installed and the tower restored at St. Matthew's.

RISHTON, LANCOS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb.

*JOHN BRATTY 2	Treble	ARTHUR LORD 5
MISS ELLEN SHAW 2		FRED READ 6
ALBERT YATES 3		JOHN HIRST 7
ARTHUR INGHAM 4		LAURENCE J. WILLIAMS ... Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by L. J. WILLIAMS.

* First peal, and was proposed a member of Lancs Association before starting. The thanks of the band are due to Miss Shaw for so kindly filling a vacancy at short notice.

BUXTED, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

*PERCY MARCHANT Treble	PHILIP S. THOMPSON 5
ALFRED J. PIERPOINT 2	JAMES A. HART 6
ALBERT HOBDEN 3	FREDK. J. LAMBERT, JUN. 7
HAROLD S. HOBDEN... .. 4	ALBERT E. EDWARDS Tenor

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD. Conducted by A. E. EDWARDS.

* First peal in the method.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES

Tenor 23 cwt. in D flat.

STEDMAN H. SYMONDS ... Treble	*FREDERICK BOREHAM ... 5
FREDERICK F. MORZLOCK 2	LAURENCE POULSON ... 6
*THOMAS CHINERY ... 3	FREDERICK POULSON... 7
ARTHUR SYMONDS ... 4	WILLIAM R. J. POULSON ... Tenor

Composed by J. PAGETT. Conducted by S. H. SYMONDS.

* First peal in the method. Rung to celebrate the 69th birthday of A. Symonds, who has been a ringer at this tower 48 years, instructor 38 years, and towerkeeper 22 years.

ABERAVON, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Monday, January 24, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Holy's TEN-PART.

Tenor 16 cwt.

*CYRIL HUGHES Treble	ARTHUR PRINCE 5
G. WILLIAM HOLLIS... .. 2	ALBERT J. PITMAN 6
CHARLES H. PERRY 3	ERNEST STITCH 7
WALTER NURTON 4	FREDERICK E. STONE Tenor

Conducted by A. PRINCE.

* First peal and first attempt. Ringers of treble and 5th were proposed members before commencing the peal.

BRIDSTOW, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 25, 1927, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BRIDGET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 9 cwt.

*ARTHUR J. JONES Treble	ERNEST COX... .. 5
JOHN CLARK 2	ARTHUR J. LLEWELLYN ... 6
ALFRED T. POULTON... .. 3	WILLIAM POSTON... .. 7
WILLIAM T. POSTON... .. 4	ROBERT SUMMERS Tenor

Conducted by W. POSTON.

* First peal.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

EDWIN J. BOTTLE Treble	STANLEY B. DOBBIE 5
SAM TAYLOR 2	WILLIAM J. WALKER 6
*GEORGE M. EASTMAN 3	GEORGE GILBERT... .. 7
WILLIAM SPICE 4	ERNEST J. DOBBIE Tenor

Conducted by Gzo. GILBERT.

* First peal of Triples. Arranged and rung specially as a birthday compliment to the treble ringer, Sittingbourne's veteran, who is 71 years of age.

CRANLEIGH.—On Wednesday, January 26th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: H. Charman 1, R. Whittington 2, Mrs. R. Whittington 3, H. Tidy 4, L. Warner 5, E. Warner 6, A. Charman (conductor) 7, C. Mitchell 8. Arranged and rung as a farewell to C. Mitchell, who, to the regret of the Cranleigh band, is leaving the village.

PENKRIDGE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Wednesday, January 26, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 16 cwt.

*CHARLES J. BASTONE ... Treble	EDWARD F. MITCHELL ... 5
JOHN W. PERRY... .. 2	ALBERT G. HUNT... .. 6
FREDERICK BIRKS 3	JOHN PERRY... .. 7
WILLIAM H. JONES 4	EDMUND WESTWOOD ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN PERRY.

* First peal, and belongs to the local band. Rung as a compliment to the Rev. J. H. and Mrs. Kempson upon the celebration of their silver wedding.

HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF J. CARTER'S TEN-PART, No. 48. Tenor 22 cwt.

MAURICE SWINFIELD ... Treble	PERCIVAL A. ALDHAM... .. 5
RICHARD C. BELTON 2	E. HARRY STONELEY 6
CHARLES DRAPER 3	FRED COTTON 7
JOHN H. SWINFIELD 4	THOMAS K. DEACON Tenor

Conducted by M. SWINFIELD.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. F. Cotton. First peal in the method on the bells.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 26, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

ROBERT J. DAWE... .. Treble	GEORGE PIPER 5
DOUGLAS H. S. WHITE 2	JAMES A. HART 6
JOHN T. RICKMAN 3	ALFRED J. TURNER 7
WILLIAM PELLING 4	KEITH HART... .. Tenor

Composed by H. HUBBARD.

Conducted by KEITH HART.

NORTH WINGFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

ARTHUR KNIGHTS Treble	WILLIAM T. PALMER 5
ERNEST T. MALLENDER 2	BENJAMIN GREATOREX 6
*FREDERICK A. ADAMS 3	WILLIAM H. WAIN 7
JOHN P. TARLTON 4	A. PERCIVAL KNIGHTS ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

Conducted by A. P. KNIGHTS.

* First peal in the method.

MACHEN, MON.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

J. PATRICK'S ONE-PART.

Tenor 12 cwt.

WILLIAM PIKE Treble	CHARLES GREEDY 5
PERCY JONES... .. 2	GEORGE POPNELL 6
ALBERT ADDICOTT 3	GEORGE COOKE 7
ALBAN E. SLATTER 4	JOHN HAMMOND Tenor

Conducted by J. HAMMOND.

First peal of Kent for all except ringers of 5th and 8th, and first of Kent on the bells.

A DATE TOUCH.

At All Saints' Church, Darfield, Yorkshire, on Sunday, January 30th, for evening service, a date touch of 1,927 changes of Treble Bob Minor in 1 hour 15 minutes, consisting of 487 Kent, 720 Violet and 720 Oxford: Cyril Bell 1, A. Marshall 2, Chas. Boll 3, T. Hilton, jun., 4, G. Welford 5, T. Hilton (conductor) 6. Rung on the occasion of the visit of the Bishop of Sheffield to Darfield to license the Rev. G. Turner to the curacy of Darfield, also in honour of the 21st birthday of T. Hilton, jun.

SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE RECORD.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Seven Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 11232 CHANGES,

Tenor 15 cwt. in F.

ERNEST CUTSFORTH Treble	ALLAN F. BAILEY 5
THOMAS B. WORSLEY... .. 2	TITUS BARLOW 6
EDWARD JENKINS... .. 3	JAMES H. RIDING... .. 7
JOHN E. BIBBY 4	GABRIEL LINDOFF Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by E. JENKINS.

First peal of Surprise on the bells. The band wish to associate with this performance the name of Mr. Harry Chapman, who was unable to stand in through illness, Mr. A. F. Bailey filling the gap at the last minute.

CHURCHKIRK, LANGS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Three Hours,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

*ANTHONY CHADWICK... .. Treble	†JAMES PARR 5
ARTHUR INGHAM 2	*WILLIE AARON 6
†JOHN BEATTY 3	FRED READ... .. 7
THOMAS HOWARTH 4	LAURENCE J. WILLIAMS Tenor

Composed by F. E. W. MEADOWS. Conducted by L. J. WILLIAMS.

* First peal of eight bells. † First peal inside. ‡ First peal. First peal on the bells since they were augmented. Ringers of 3rd from Accrington, 4th from Oswaldtwistle, and 7th from Rishton, the rest are local.

TETTENHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

ROBERT PICKERING Treble	BENJAMIN GOUGH 5
WILLIAM FISHER... .. 2	WILLIAM A. COOPER 6
JOHN PERRY 3	ABRAHAM GREENFIELD 7
ALFRED ROWLEY... .. 4	EDWARD V. RODENHORST Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by ABRAHAM GREENFIELD

First peal in the method on the bells. The ringer of the treble has now rung each bell in the above tower to a peal.

HALESOWEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF STEOMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 17 cwt.

ROBERT MATTHEWS Treble	WILLIAM BROWN... .. 5
WILLIAM GIBBS 2	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE 6
VICTOR WHITE 3	HECTOR G. BIRD... .. 7
JOSEPH H. COX 4	ALFRED HACKETT... .. Tenor

Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

Arranged specially as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Hackett on the 48th anniversary of their wedding, Mr. Hackett having been a ringer and towerkeeper for many years at this church.

RUARDEAN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSCRIPTION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 14 cwt, 2 qr. 14 lb.

LEONARD NELMES Treble	JOHN CLARK 5
BRUCE P. CHEW 2	WILLIAM BISHOP... .. 6
JAMES BISHOP 3	WILLIAM POSTON... .. 7
GEORGE WILKES 4	WILLIAM BEARD Tenor

Conducted by W. POSTON.

Rung half-muffled as a last tribute of respect to the memory of the late Rev. E. Parnell, for over 30 years Rector of Ruardean, who died on January 19th, and was interred at Ruardean on Sunday, January 23rd.

RYE, SUSSEX.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

CHARLES TRIBE Treble	WILLIAM P. TICKNER... .. 5
ROBERT EDWARDS 2	KENNETH PATTENDEN... .. 6
WILLIAM E. PITMAN 3	WILLIAM WENBAN 7
CHARLES W. PLAYER... .. 4	ALFRED J. BATTIN Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by W. WENBAN.

This composition was published in 'The Ringing World' December 17th, 1926, page 795.

CHESTER.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD AND NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-WITHOUT-THE-WALLS,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

ROBERT SPERRING Treble	JAMES SWINDLEY... .. 5
JOHN HAYES 2	HENRY W. WILDE 6
ALBERT J. HUGHES 3	JAMES MORGAN 7
GEORGE R. JONES 4	SAMUEL JONES, JUN. Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

First peal in the method on the bells, and by all the band, and second by the Guild.

TODMORDEN, YORKSHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes, } 2

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, CROSS STONE,

A PEAL OF STEOMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIAM HORAN... .. Treble	ALBERT CRAWLEY 5
JOHN NASH 2	GEORGE PINCOTT 6
FRANK FIELDEN 3	PETER CROOK 7
FREDERICK H. CRAWLEY 4	*ARTHUR BOTTOMLEY Tenor

Composed by JAMES W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by PETER CROOK

* First peal in the method.

SIX BELL PEALS.

WEST DEEPIING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, January 10, 1927, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob, Double Court, Court Bob, and Bob Minor. Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLIAM NEAL Treble	CUTHBERT T. H. BRADLEY 4
WILLIAM TILLEY... .. 2	WALTER H. FREEMAN ... 5
JOSEPH O. LANDAN 3	HORACE M. DAY Tenor

Conducted by H. M. DAY.

Mr. Freeman was elected a life member of the Guild before starting, and this was his first peal in seven methods.

WOLLASTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, January 18, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, two of Kent and two of Plain Bob. Tenor 12½ cwt.

ROBERT MATTHEWS Treble	ARTHUR E. WHATMORE ... 4
WILLIAM GIBBS 2	HAROLD V. COOPER 5
RALPH MOORS 3	*WILLIAM BEDDARD Tenor

Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

* First peal of Minor away from the treble. Rung as a birthday compliment to Arthur E. Whatmore.

RAINHILL, LANGS.—On Friday, January 14th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire and Bob Doubles (1,260 changes): W. Eustace 1, J. Timblin 2, J. Darwin 3, H. Ashton (conductor) 4, W. Gilroy 5, W. Smith 6.

**MUCH MARCLE, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

On Tuesday, January 18, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

42 six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor 13 cwt.
*CHARLES COX Treble | ERNEST COX... .. 4
SAMUEL ENGLAND 2 | ALFRED T. POULTON 5
*CECIL COX 3 | HARRY E. COX Tenor

Conducted by A. T. POULTON.

* First peal and first attempt. First peal as conductor. Rung as a farewell to the Vicar (Rev. J. M. Duncan). All are regular Sunday service ringers.

**LAMBERHURST, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's.

*JAMES BASSETT Treble | WALTER MARSHALL 4
BERTRAM LUCK 2 | JAMES WAGHORN, SEN. 5
GEORGE FOLLER 3 | ALBERT RELFE Tenor

Conducted by A. RELFE.

* First peal.

**HEMINGFORD GREY, HUNTS.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's. Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr.

*KEN SUART Treble | FRED GINN 4
*FRANCIS G. GLEAVES 2 | *ARTHUR J. GINN 5
GEORGE L. PERKINS 3 | FRANK WARRINGTON... .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK WARRINGTON.

* First peal in the method.

BURSLEM, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE NORTH STAFFS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each in the following methods: Cambridge and Ipswich Surprise, Duke of York, Violet, Woodbine, Kent and Oxford.

THOMAS HORD Treble | CHARLES PRESTON 4
EDWIN CARTLIDGE 2 | *WILLIAM P. DEANE 5
*CHARLES S. RYLES 3 | JAMES WALLEY Tenor

Conducted by EDWIN CARTLIDGE.

* First peal in seven methods. First as conductor.

BERKSWELL, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

THOMAS W. CHAPMAN ... Treble | ABRAHAM WILKERSON ... 4
*FRANK W. PERRENS 2 | *SAMUEL GROVE 5
*JOSEPH H. W. WHITE ... 3 | JAMES GEORGE Tenor

Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

* First peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor. First peal of Minor on the bells.

EGG BUCKLAND, DEVONSHIRE.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, each called differently. Tenor 9 cwt. in A.

*ROBERT J. BALDRY Treble | CHARLES R. LILLY... .. 4
JAMES E. LILLY 2 | *THOMAS G. MYERS 5
†ALFRED W. MYERS 3 | JOSEPH WOODLEY Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLY.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor. First peal on the bells.

HANDBELL PEALS.

MANCHESTER.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 27, 1927, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT 26, KIRKMANSHULME LANE.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12 in F.

FREDERICK PAGE 1-2 | ALLEN F. BAILEY 5-6
*HAROLD JACKSON 3-4 | ALFRED BARNES 7-8

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by A. F. BAILEY.
WITNESS H. T. JONES.

* First peal of Stedman Triples 'in hand.' Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. A. F. Bailey.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 29, 1927, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
AT 7, NOTLEY ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

BASIL REDGEWELL 1-2 | WILLIAM KEEBLE 5-6
LEWIS W. WIFFEN 3-4 | ALBERT WIFFEN 7-8

Composed by ARTHUR T. KING. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

VARIATIONS OF THURSTANS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Cave has no need to reiterate his views for my benefit as to what is or is not a variation, for my views are diametrically opposed to his. I can only trust that both of us will live sufficiently long to bear what another generation will have to say to a claim put forward on a composition several generations earlier.

In reference to myself forgoing the rights to this particular variation, will Mr. Cave please note the following dates: Mr. Fowler passed away in 1914; obviously the figures were sent earlier, because he sent them. Mr. Washbrook called it in 1918.

Mr. Cave suggested he never saw them as mine, but Mr. Morris confirms my statement. Also in one of his letters Mr. Cave bluntly asserts there is no Dexter variation. Perhaps there is not. It is a detail either way, but it may interest him to know that I can give him every variation of the four parts, either with singles or by omits and extras.

Everyone knows that the quarter-peal must be connected either by singles or by omits and extras. Mr. Cave tells us that when connected by singles they (the variations) are all Washbrook's, therefore when connected up by omits and extras they must be all Thurstans', so there cannot be any Pitstow's or anyone else's variation, for you cannot have it both ways.

The following variation may interest some of your readers:

	A.	B.	C.
	34 78 S14	34 78	S2 —
		3456 12 13	3456 12 13
		56	56
(246351)	A 315426	152436	523416
(546213)	A 541326	C 245136	C 342516
(146532)	A 435216	B 412356	B 453126
143256	B 324156	B 134526	B 514236
421536	B 213546	B 351246	B 125346
254316	B 152436	B 523416	B 231456
532146	B		
315126	B		

Yours truly,
F. H. DEXTER.

INSURANCE OF RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think Mr. Dyke's letter re Insurance of Ringers should interest all concerned. It is a fact that some Church Councils insure their ringers, but I take it that they are only so insured when ringing in their own towers. Accidents are more likely to happen when visiting strange towers, and in my opinion what is required is an individual policy for all ringers. This, I believe, could be secured for an annual premium of not more than one shilling to cover all risks whenever and wherever a man was ringing. I believe that this would be a profitable business for any insurance company, as the risks are really not very great.

Such a policy would help any who were unfortunate enough to meet with an accident, or the relative of any ringer who might be killed while ringing or getting about the tower.

I sincerely hope that now the matter has been raised it will not be allowed to drop until something has been done in the matter.—Yours truly,

E. J. ELLIOTT.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Mr. Lukis further writes:—

* In the second place, and this I take to be the principal cause of the evil, the churchwardens have been sadly negligent. With a little grease, and new ropes allowed now and then, they have imagined that their duty to the bells and to the parish has been faithfully done, whereas mischief of a three-fold nature has been growing and increasing—mischief to the building, to the bells, and to the parishioners—the one ending in its dilapidation and ruin; the second in their utter destruction; and the third to the prejudice of their pockets. In a tower in this county I found three of the six bells broken, as I firmly believe, from this cause, and several peals of bells rendered nearly useless in consequence of the shaky state of the towers. As an instance of the way in which some, I may say many, churchwardens speak and act, I will mention that I was warned by a parish clerk to be very careful where I stepped in the bell-loft, for, said he, "the tower be main crazy." On asking the churchwarden for the key of the church, and mentioning the clerk's humane warning, he said, "Sir, I have known the tower these forty years, and he never was no better than he is now. He's quite safe. I'll tell'ee what, sir; one day the bishop come, and he said, muster churchwarden, you've a very pretty church, and he's in very good order. Another day another gentleman came. I think they call'un a rural dean, and he said, muster churchwarden, you've a very pretty church and he's sadly out of repair." When I returned the key, I did not see the churchwarden, or I should have told him that in my humble opinion both the rural dean and the parish clerk were right; for I had seen very many churches and many bellfries, but few in a worse condition.

* And to illustrate the way in which these good easy parish officers will sometimes suffer the house of God to fall into decay, while I fear they spend what they rob Him of in their own bodily comforts, I will tell you that in ascending a Wiltshire tower with careful step I sank through the rotten floor of one of its stages and was preserved from a broken limb, if not an untimely end, by the joists, which happened to be less decayed.

* Bells require very constant attention to keep them in proper ringing order. When you consider their enormous weight, the different parts of their gear, the iron and wood of which it is composed, bolted and screwed together, the frame work on which they hang, and in revolving which they violently shake and vibrate; and then reflect that the iron and wood are both exposed to continual changes of atmosphere; and that under our condition of atmosphere, when one of these materials expands the other contracts, and that then the bells cannot oscillate so easily, you will form some idea of the care and attention they require to keep them in ringing order. Well, suppose screws to get loose and to remain so during many successive generations of churchwardens, the iron straps to become corroded, thin, weak, and then to snap; the gudgeons to wear unequally by the friction, and thereby to throw the bells out of the horizontal, you can imagine what the consequences must be. The bells revolve heavily, the frame work shakes and creaks, and the ringers, who have no voice in the vestry, and no power over parish moneys, do what they can to remedy some of the evil, and the very thing they do only increases the mischief. They put

wedges between the frame work and the walls of the tower to stop the creaking; but the result of this is to set the walls shaking, and finally to destroy them. Or if this does not immediately happen, the clappers of the bells get out of order, and striking the sound bow suddenly in a fresh place cause them to crack instantly.

* I have frequently been much pained by observing the shameful state of filth and neglect of many of Wiltshire bell-lofts. Generally speaking, the dark winding stone staircases (when they have any) leading to them are dirty, worn and difficult to tread; and you have to corkscrew your way up with very careful step, and when you have secured your footing and are beginning to congratulate yourself on having passed every obstacle, you suddenly come upon a huge heap of sticks, straw, feathers, bits of cloth and other rubbish, the patient and laborious work of indefatigable jackdaws. When the towers have no stone staircase the bells have to be reached by a succession of crazy ladders, planted on equally crazy floors.

* How very shameful that any part of God's house should be so neglected! Why should towers be so desecrated? Are they not as much a portion of the church as any other part? Why should they be left to the sole occupation of unclean birds and profane and irreverent ringers? Why, the very jackdaws, starlings and owls used to stare at me and linger among the bells before they took flight, wondering, perhaps, what kind of evil bird I was, and with what possible object I had intruded unbidden into the territory to which generations of parishioners had given them a prescriptive right.

* We may, I think, attribute this state of things to two causes, first, to a want of interest in the art of bell-ringing; and, secondly, to the difficulty which is experienced by the clergy in managing the generally most unruly set of men in a parish—the ringers. However, there has been a salutary reform effected of late years among another branch of church musicians, and we may hope to witness a reform in this respect also before long.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

LEWISHAM DISTRICT.

The quarterly meeting of the Lewisham District was held at Holy Trinity, Dartford, on Saturday. The bells were raised at 3 p.m., and kept going throughout the afternoon and evening. The methods rung ranged from Grandfire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Major. Service was held at five o'clock, the association form being used, and the Vicar gave a short address.

About forty members then repaired to the Church House to partake of a splendid tea, kindly supplied by the Vicar (the Rev. L. Hammond). Afterwards, six members entertained the company with touches on the handbells.

The business meeting followed, the Vicar presiding. The chairman and the Rev. W. E. Bott, Vicar of Christ Church, Erith, were elected hon. members of the association. Eight new members were elected, and the election of two members previous to peals was ratified.

Mr. W. J. Jeffries read a concise report of proceedings at the general committee meeting held at Maidstone in November last.—This was adopted, with a vote of thanks to Mr. Jeffries for his careful attention to his duties.

The next business was the selection of the place of next meeting. Chislehurst was proposed, and an invitation to visit St. Mary Cray was extended to the meeting.—On being put to the gathering, St. Mary Cray was chosen.

The meeting was notified of the death of Mr. W. Harper, of Swanscombe, and expressed their sympathy and respect by standing in silence for one minute.

Mr. W. J. Jeffries informed the meeting that an application to the Benevolent Fund on behalf of Mr. W. J. Law had been successful.

Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, for conducting the service and his address, for presiding at the meeting and for his generous hospitality in providing the tea, and to the organist for his kind services.—The Vicar responded, and this closed a very successful meeting.

The members then adjourned to the tower for further ringing.

LADIES' GUILD.

NORTHERN DISTRICT MEETING.

The quarterly meeting of the Northern District of the Ladies' Guild was held on Saturday, at St. John's, Miles Platting, Manchester, where a nice ring of eight was made good use of in the various standard methods. About 40 ringers were present, and among the towers represented were the following: Ashton-under-Lyne, Crosstones, Dore, Handsworth, Hyde, Middleton, Prestwich, Stockport, Todmorden, Walsden and Worksop.

The local company are to be congratulated on the very excellent arrangements that were made.

A service was held in the church, at which the preacher, Canon Elsee (president of the Lancashire Association), delighted those present with a most interesting analysis of the fascination of change ringing for followers of the Exercise.

After tea, thanks were expressed by Miss Tayler, of Worksop, and the secretary to the Vicar and the church authorities for their kindness, and to Canon Elsee for having honoured the ladies by his presence at their meeting, and for his address.

Miss Taylor presided over the business meeting, at which 16 ladies were present, seven of them being elected new members of the Guild.

The next meeting was fixed for Easter Monday at Gainsborough, and the possibility of a ladies' peal for the Northern District discussed.

A feature of the ringing was a touch of Bob Major and a course of Grandsire Triples by bands of ladies.

The secretary would like to take this opportunity of expressing his very grateful thanks to all who contributed to the success of the meeting.

SILVER WEDDING.

On Saturday evening, January 22nd, to celebrate the silver wedding anniversary of Mr. Arthur Goad, a member of the St. Thomas' band, Exeter, an attempt for a peal of Grandsire Triples was made at the Parish Church, but after 2½ hours' ringing a change course brought it to an end: H. H. Thomas 1, E. W. Biffin (conductor) 2, R. Davey 3, J. Hoegood 4, A. Monkby 5, W. Howe 6, A. H. Goad 7, W. Bailey 8.

Afterwards, the ringers spent a very pleasant hour at Mr. Goad's house, where light refreshments were partaken of. Plain courses of Stedman Doubles were rung on the handbells by Mr. and Mrs. Goad and Miss Goad, which greatly delighted the company, who also took part with the handbells in other items. Through indisposition, Mr. T. J. Stokes, the district secretary, was unable to take part in the ringing, but met the company at Mr. Goad's house.

ANOTHER BIG CROYDON CARILLON.

Members of the American Society in London visited Messrs. Gillett and Johnston's bell foundry at Croydon on Thursday of last week, and inspected a carillon of 43 bells which will shortly be installed at St. Chrysostom's Church, Chicago, as a memorial to Richard Tower Crane, a pioneer bell founder of that city. The visitors also witnessed the casting of one of the bells of a carillon ordered for Princeton University. As the molten metal was being poured into the mould, Mr. A. H. Rowan, a Princeton graduate of 1899, threw in a silver coin for luck.

A carillon recital was given, of which, it was stated, gramophone records had recently been made, Mr. Kamiel Lefevere, of Malines, being the carillonneur.

Messrs. Gillett and Johnston are also making a large carillon and clock for Toronto University, and are about to dispatch a clock for the memorial tower of the Canadian Houses of Parliament at Ottawa, where they are also placing the biggest carillon in the world.

YORKTOWN'S OLDEST RINGER.

DEATH OF A RESPECTED LEADER.

On Tuesday, January 25th, the death took place of Mr. T. P. Kemp, of King's Ride, Camberley, Surrey, after a short illness. Mr. Kemp, who was 78 years of age, joined the Yorktown band in 1893, and was captain for some years and also a regular Sunday service ringer.

He carried on a business as builder and undertaker in the town. The funeral took place on Friday last at St. Michael's Church, the ringers being represented by Mr. G. Prime, bearing a wreath from his colleagues of the belfry. Mr. Prime joined the band with the deceased in 1893.

After the burial, the bells were rung fully muffled with the tenor open at the back stroke, and they were rung again in the evening, the ringing being conducted by Mr. F. Ewens. The sympathy of the ringers is extended to Mr. Kemp's family in their sad bereavement.

CADOXTON.—On Sunday, December 12th, a quarter-peal of Grand-sire Doubles (1,250 changes) in 40 mins.: R. Bendle (first quarter away from tenor) 1, H. Matthews (first quarter inside) 2, J. E. Bloxham 3, G. I. Lewis 4, C. Lake (conductor) 5, M. Walters (first quarter) 6.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—On Sunday, December 12th, at St. Peter's Church, 840 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. A. Wolstencroft 1, Miss Ida Wolstencroft 2, E. Johnson 3, Jas. Clayton 4, Wm. Hawke 5, Arthur Prestwick 6, W. W. Wolstencroft (conductor) 7, F. Robinson 8. Rung on the 102nd anniversary of the church, and as a farewell to the Rev. C. L. Schofield, whose induction to Ashworth, Rochdale, took place on December 18th.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The bells of Edgbaston Old Church are now at the Loughborough foundry. The old six are to be recast and trebles added to complete the octave. They are to be hung in a new iron frame with modern fittings.

Tickets for the Johnson Commemoration Dinner, on February 19th, are going rapidly, and intending visitors are advised to apply early.

An appeal has been issued for funds for the 'renovation and re-decoration of the interior of Bow Church,' but no mention is made of the bells. We hope that the important scheme for dealing with the bells is not intentionally omitted.

The bells of St. Martin's, Birmingham, are to be broadcast on Sunday evening, February 6th, and the Cathedral bells on Sunday evening, February 13th, both from 8 to 8.14 p.m.

To-morrow is the anniversary of two long peals. On February 5th, 1783, 12,672 Bob Major was rung at Bromley, Kent, in 7 hrs. 48 mins.

The first peal of London Surprise on handbells were rung at Roufard on February 6th, 1904.

There was a rare day's ringing on February 7th, 1783, when the bells of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, were opened. Three different bands rang three peals in one day: 5,120 Oxford Treble Bob by the College Youths, 5,040 Grandsire Triples by the Cumberlands, and 5,216 Oxford Treble Bob by the College Youths.

The first Surprise peal in the Metropolis was rung at Bethnal Green on February 8th, 1850.

In reference to the peal of Cambridge Minor rung at Sproughton, Suffolk, on Friday, January 14th, 1927, and published as first of Cambridge Minor in either Suffolk or Norfolk, a peal of Minor in the above method was rung at Wreutham, Suffolk, for the Norfolk Guild on Thursday, July 3rd, 1924, conducted by F. W. Naunton.

The tea and service at the annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association at Isleworth on Saturday, have been advanced one hour. The service is now to be held at 4 p.m., and the tea at 4.45.

Members of the Eastern Division of the Yorkshire Association and friends will be sorry to hear of the loss sustained by Mr. W. Gibson, local secretary, of Beverley, on the death of his wife after a long and painful illness. The late Mrs. Gibson was always a willing helper at ringers' meetings and other church functions.

Mr. Edward Wallage, to whom we referred in this column last week as steeplekeeper at St. Mary's, Whitechapel, tells us that he has held that position upwards of 52 years. He has been a member of the College Youths for 57 years, and although he is now 76 he chimes at Whitechapel three times every Sunday and rings twice at St. Paul's Cathedral.

Mr. Wallage rang in a peal of Grandsire Triples at Whitechapel, conducted by J. R. Haworth, on January 7th, 1875, previous to the demolition of the old tower, and also took part in the first peal in the present tower—Stedman Triples—on February 5th, 1887, conducted by James Pettitt. He is the only survivor of those two bands.

More power to your elbow, Ted, and we hope you will long be spared to carry on the duties you now so ably discharge.

We referred last week to the ill-luck which pursues Mr. A. H. Pulling in regard to Surprise peals at Warnham, where the attempts have been made for the record peal of London. Last Saturday he got within half an hour of the end of a peal of Guildford Surprise, when the tenor clapper broke, which recalls the fact that one day last summer a band, of which the writer was one, visited Warnham for a Surprise peal. They met one short—Ike Shade was the absentee, a thing never known before—and thus Mr. Pulling was baulked of that elusive Surprise peal, although a peal of Stedman was rung.

Considering that their opportunities of practising the method are extremely limited, the Leicester men are to be heartily congratulated upon their peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus.

THE LATE MR. WM. HALEY.

The late Mr. William Haley, whose death we briefly recorded in a recent issue, was born in 1857, and was a son of Henry William Haley, the well-known ringer and composer. He himself, however, did not take any practical part in ringing.

He was employed as church and musical handbell tuner to Messrs. Warner and Sons for over 40 years.

He had a particularly keen ear, and had on more than one occasion been complimented by well-known musicians on the accuracy of his work. When the late Sir Arthur Sullivan came to inspect the bells which he had tuned for a performance of his 'Golden Legend,' Sir Arthur told him that he had a better ear than he himself had.

About three years ago Mr. Haley commenced business on his own account as a manufacturer of handbells, which he carried on successfully until a few days before he died.

He was the author of several books, the best known being the 'Bell Hymn Book,' published by Messrs. J. Warner and Sons, for which he received a testimonial from Sir George C. Martin, organist of St. Paul's Cathedral.

No definite decision has yet been come to as to the future of the business.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN CARTER. PASSING OF A GENIUS.

It is our sad duty to record to-day the death of Mr. John Carter who passed away, after a lingering illness, at the age of 72 years, on Saturday at his residence, 25, Lessing Street, Honor Oak Park, London, S.E.

Mr. Carter was one of the outstanding figures of the Exercise for a great many years. He was a man of genius, both in the mechanical world and in the realm of composition. His creative brain enabled him to produce his wonderful ringing machine, admitted by all competent judges to be one of the most marvellous and ingenious productions of man. Since his retirement from business, Mr. Carter perfected the machine which now finds a resting place in the Science Museum at South Kensington.

Mr. Carter's work in the composition of peals is well known, and his knowledge of Stedman was unsurpassed.

Next week we hope to give a more detailed account of his career.

THE SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE RECORD. PERFECT RINGING.

On Saturday last, the record length of Superlative Surprise Major, 11,232 changes, was rung at the Bolton Parish Church in seven hours and ten minutes.

The church selected was an ideal one, as the tower is over 200 feet high, and although situated in the centre of a large town the ringing was in no way a nuisance. The bells are a spliced octave, five by Henry Bagley, 1699, and the three trebles cast from an old bell of the 12th century, in 1806. It was a good splice, and the bells are of good tone. Last year they were tuned and rehung in ball bearings. The tenor is 15½ cwt.

At 10 a.m., the appointed time, with the exception of Allan Bailey for Harry Chapman, who was suffering from an injured knee, the same band who had been foiled by being unfortunately plunged into darkness after 5 hours and 6 minutes' ringing, met again. They were delayed in starting owing to the Press photographer.

At 10.33 a.m., 'Go' was called with a beat of 23 changes to the minute, and during the 5½ hours that I heard them this beat was maintained, and the striking coincided with the name of the method. In my opinion it was the best part of the performance. Hour after hour rolled by without a miss blow, every hand stroke lead shown, and whatever record is set up in the number of changes, the striking will never be beaten. This was the general opinion of all who heard the ringing.

I think the conductor is worthy of praise in conducting the peal from a non-observation bell.

The bells came round at 5.43 p.m., and waiting to congratulate the band were ringers from Crewe, Huddersfield, Fendleton and Walkden, along with many local and district men.

The only regret the band had was that Mr. Harry Chapman had not been able to take part, as he had been one of the most interested men in the attempt, having rung in long peals before, and conducted the first peal of Superlative Surprise Major for the Lancashire Association.

Great interest was shown by the public also, probably owing to a paragraph in the local newspaper on Thursday evening, as large crowds gathered during the afternoon to hear the ringing, and ringers outside were bombarded with some awkward technical questions to answer.

The band wish to thank the Vicar for the use of the bells, the authorities for their trouble and expense of putting in gas fittings so as to doubly ensure the safety of the lighting, and the local ringers for all they did in preparation, and doing 'guard' over that fatal electric light switch.

P. C.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. THE OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The annual general meeting was held at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Saturday, January 22nd. The attendance was quite good, although unfortunately bad weather prevented many from being present. The most noticeable absentee was Mr. Benjamin Foskett (the 'father' of the society), who had not missed an 'annual' for many a year. Ringing commenced at 4.15, and as permission had been given for the use of the bells up to 6 o'clock and again after the business meeting, up to 9 o'clock, everyone present had the opportunity of a pull, either in Cinques, Maximus, Royal or Caters. Tea was served in the crypt at 6 o'clock, and after a short touch of Stedman Cinques and a course of Grandfire Cinques on handbells, for the benefit of the ladies who assisted at the tables, the members proceeded to the Church Room for the business meeting.

The treasurer presented the balance sheet, which showed a satisfactory increase on the year 1925. All the officers were re-elected as follows: Master, Mr. J. D. Matthews; secretary, Mr. J. Sparrow; treasurer, Mr. J. W. Cornford; senior steward, Mr. C. J. Matthews; junior steward, Mr. T. Bevan; trustees, Messrs. F. Smith and A. Hardy. New members having been elected, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to all officers for their services during the past year.

THE 'MUSIC' OF CHANGE RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The interesting little article in a recent number of the 'Times' deserves more than passing attention. The writer, in the course of his remarks, ventures the opinion that the world is on the verge of a musical discovery in the mysterious regions of change ringing. The fact is that this discovery has long been made, and the thoughtful change ringer realises what the lay mind has so far failed to appreciate—that a peal of bells is a musical instrument, and that however circumscribed its powers it has certain definite musical possibilities.

The music of bells depends not upon combinations of notes but upon sequence and rhythm; that is, well ordered arrangement of notes and regular and stately beat. Even thus, there are, in change ringing, two clear and distinct ways of considering musical values. In Triples, and to a great extent in Major, the musical effect is secured by a judicious handling of terminations. We have discovered the value of such terminations as 468, 748, 678, 857, 867, and we strive to arrange our rows so as to produce these as often as possible.

In the wider regions of Caters and Cinques, more is possible. Here we approach much nearer to the ordinary scheme of musical composition. A symphony is built upon one or more themes, often simple pieces of tune, announced, repeated, varied, and woven into one whole. The music of Caters and Cinques depends on a theme. Annable, by throwing the heavy bells into the Tittums, showed us how to use such a theme, and in long touches and peals the back bells can be heard proclaiming this snatch of tune as they course to and fro among their smaller brethren. We have, in fact, something that resembles a fugue, in so far as the theme or subject must be listened for inside the 'trimmings.' (It is, of course, impossible to press the analogy.) The stroke of genius that fixed the 6th behind the 9th in Caters, and that which revealed the properties of the handstroke homo position, developed still further this little known method of producing music.

It seems to me that the subject, so imperfectly hinted at above, is really worthy of exploration. The general public must be quite ignorant of any prescribed attempt at musical composition in change ringing. Now in all attempts to develop musical appreciation the beginner is taught how to listen. In a lull, his attention is drawn to balance and climax; in a sonata or symphony, to recurring themes. Some of our enthusiasts are endeavouring to educate the public by means of lectures on bell ringing. It would be well at any such lecture to try by means of a handbell band or a piano to interest the audience in demonstrations of musical properties. The layman may never master the intricacies of change ringing, but if he can be brought to realise that it is a systematic attempt to produce music, and if he can but listen intelligently outside a tower for a few minutes, the bells will be to him more than a mere rhythmic jumble of apparently unrelated sounds.—Yours sincerely,

EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

New Road, Solihull.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

SUGGESTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUILDFORD DIOCESE.

The annual general meeting of the Surrey Association was held at Leatherhead on Saturday. The bells at the Parish Church were raised at 3 p.m., and except for the tea interval were kept going until 9 p.m. in various methods from Grandfire Triples to Cambridge Surprise Royal.

The meeting took place at the Institute, there being 60 members present, and Mr. James D. Drowett (Master) occupying the chair.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Guildford. The following were elected as officers of the association for the ensuing year: Master, Mr. James Douglas Drowett, J.P.; hon. secretary, Mr. Chas. H. Kippen, jun.; hon. assistant secretary and treasurer, Mr. Chas. Dean.

It was left to the district branches to elect their own officers.

Messrs. J. D. Drowett and Chas. Dean were appointed delegates to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

It was decided to print the annual report of the association for the year 1926, but in view of the shortage of funds it was resolved that a charge be made of sixpence per copy.

Mr. James W. Trappitt, who claimed to be the only living founder of the association, drew attention to the approaching jubilee of the association (May, 1930), and hoped the meeting for that year would be held at Reddington.

A discussion ensued with regard to the relations between the association and the Guildford diocese. No precise information was forthcoming as to the position and aims of the proposed new association for the latter area, and it was ultimately decided that a committee consisting of the officers of the association should endeavour to get into touch with the Guildford committee for the purposes of negotiation, and that a report should be presented to an emergency meeting of the association if occasion required.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and to Mr. Arthur Dean for making such excellent arrangements concluded the meeting.

MODERN BELLS.

The following letter has been addressed to the Editor of the 'Times' by Mr. W. H. Jackson:

Sir.—Canon Noloth's letter, published in your issue of the 20th instant, in which he comments upon your interesting article on bells (published by you on the 15th inst.), raises a question of great public interest, especially so as the famous bells of Bow Church may perchance become involved in the matter.

Put briefly, there is a considerable difference of opinion, both expert and amateur, as to the relative merits of the old standard tuning and the new method advocated by the late Canon Simpson.

The casting of bells, like Gothic architecture, developed along traditional lines from father to son, and exactly as we find in architecture the peerless structures of the late thirteenth century as the supreme glory of the craft, so in bells we have the exquisite tones, founded on years of experience, which the bell founders produced previous to the introduction of so-called scientific tuning by the late Canon.

Mr. Thomas C. Lewis, the famous organ builder, and, incidentally, himself a bell founder, wrote:

Large bells must have two distinct notes—its "tap tone" and that which is called its "hum tone."

The first supposition very naturally is that these two notes should be one to the other in relation to octaves, the "hum note" the lower note in pitch.

Now, in fact, he continues, 'there is nothing poorer than a large bell having the "tap note" of a definite stated pitch and a "hum note" accompanying it an exact octave deeper.

'On the contrary,' he proceeds, 'a fine bell with a "tap note" of F should have its "hum note" a major seventh below flattened, or, broadly speaking, it should be a flat F, and this, although it might be supposed to be discordant, really gives the best possible result for a bell, because,' he claims, 'the ear seeks the two blended tones,' and this, of course, is exactly what the old standard method of tuning gives.

With regard to what has been said in the foregoing, it is interesting to note that very ancient bells were tuned with the octave 'hum note,' and it was only after experience that this was altered by official expert craftsmen, therefore it would appear that the new Simpson tuning is merely a throw-back.

I wonder, Sir, how many of your readers have stood in the quiet presence of Amen Court and listened to 'Great Paul' at the Cathedral booming out his invitation to prayer, and I wonder, Sir, how many of them would dare to say that the bell, although not scientifically tuned, is totally wrong, merely scrap iron, and only fit for the melting pot?

As a matter of fact, the bell is full of majesty. 'Boom! Boom!' he seems to say; 'listen to me. I am king of bells.'

May I suggest, therefore, that before anything is done with such an historic ring of bells as that at Bow the position should be carefully explored, in order that we may not lose the substance in seeking the shadow and give our descendants power, in their turn, to call us vandals, much the same as we do those who in the 1850's destroyed beautiful Gothic tracery to design new upon 'improved scientific principles.'

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD!**ANNUAL MEETING OF WIRRAL BRANCH.**

On Saturday, January 22nd, the Wirral Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild held their annual meeting at St. Peter's Church, Rock Ferry. This is a very accessible six-bell tower, and it was not surprising to find a goodly number of members putting in an appearance. Touches in methods ranging from Plain Bob to Surprise Minor were rung, everyone being assured of a ring, no matter how elementary or advanced his ringing status might be. After a hearty service in the church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. Ball, M.A.), an adjournment was made to the Parish Hall, where the annual meeting was held. Mr. J. W. Milner (president of the branch) taking the chair, supported by Mr. E. W. Elwell (general secretary of the Guild) and Rev. A. Ball.

The balance sheet having been read and passed, and the various officers having been elected for the ensuing year, in the course of which Mr. Milner paid a high, but well deserved, tribute to the work of the hon. secretary, Mr. H. Brocklebank, Mr. Elwell stated that he hoped, at the annual meeting of the Guild, to bring forward some scheme whereby the subscriptions of members could be reduced.

Then came the event of the evening, an innovation so far as this branch is concerned, in the form of a 'hot-pot' supper, to which between 60 and 70 members and friends sat down, and did full justice to a splendid repast. This was followed by an excellent concert, contributed to by some of the Rock Ferry ringers and their friends. It was an altogether successful gathering, and everyone went away well satisfied with the arrangements that had been made for their enjoyment. To Messrs. F. C. Amos and J. Cooke, and the other members of the Rock Ferry band of ringers, who were responsible for all the arrangements, the hearty thanks of the branch are due for their untiring efforts.

W. J. B.

THE CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letter in last week's 'Ringing World' on this subject should have been written years ago, and I emphatically agree with its purport. I have visited Cambridge on several occasions on ringing expeditions, and the lethargic state of ringing affairs at Gt. St. Mary's has always been a matter of regret to me, and a stain on the Ely Diocesan Association. It was noticeable to any observant stranger that there was an undercurrent of hostility towards progressive ringing running through the belfry. I remember on one occasion, when I visited Cambridge with another Ealing ringer, a scene took place in the belfry because the conductor endeavoured to correct mistakes of certain ringers during a touch. My friend and I, coming from a tower where youth and enthusiasm were prevalent, were appalled to find such ill feeling in a belfry. I should advise the Church Council to hold an inquiry into the present distressing state of affairs, and would suggest that last week's leading article should be placed before them by the signatories of last week's letter.

Drastic reform is urgently needed, and when it is effected I fully expect to hear that the twelve bells are once again pealing forth on the Sabbath, manned by ringers who ring from a sense of duty to the church and a love of their art, and not for a meagre pecuniary gain.

FRED W. GOODEFELLOW.

Hounslow.

PAID RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your leading article of January 28th it is implied that all bands of service ringers should be purely voluntary, and that remuneration should not be given to the local bands who on Sunday ring the bells for the church services. This procedure might be possible in 'Utopia,' but in our (ringing) world as at present constituted I think it is far preferable to give a regular quarterly or annual remuneration to the bellringers of the local band. The amount given is usually small, and it might properly be called an honorarium.

Every right-minded and nice man when he accepts remuneration (however small) for doing some specific work will always endeavour to carry out that work to the full and conform willingly to any rules that may necessarily be drawn up. They will assemble punctually at the stated times for service, and carry out the work to the best of their ability. On the other hand, if the work is voluntary there must be a great danger of slackness and irregularity of ringing unless there happens to be an exceptionally keen local band, and even then this keenness must be lasting and not merely spasmodic. It is quite possible and probable that the local band which accepts remuneration will be just as keen as the voluntary band which receives no remuneration.—Yours truly,

T. P. WALKER,
Churchwarden and Ringer.

Woking, Surrey.

A LONDON EXPERIENCE.

Dear Sir,—As a constant reader of 'The Ringing World' I should like to express an opinion on the matter referred to in your leading article in the issue of January 28th.

I also have reason to deplore the existence of 'paid ringing.'

A year ago we had, at a church not many miles from Bow, Cheap-side, a band of very keen young fellows, who, as regular as clock-work, turned up to ring for Sunday Services. We did not aspire to half-pull ringing, but used to strike some excellent call changes.

Unfortunately this particular church paid the ringers for the various festivals. Consequently, on these occasions, we were ousted out by some elderly and more experienced men, who, after collecting the few shillings due to them, vanished and did not reappear until the next 'pay-day.'

We put up with this for a year, and then, after raising an ineffectual protest, left, and thus ended a very promising band.

One often sees in 'The Ringing World' the question, 'How can we fill up the vacant gaps in our bands?' There are many eager and willing to be taught, but it is the 'rottenness' of the 'paying system' that keeps them away. Such, at any rate, is the opinion of

JAMES A. HALES.

20, Aspland Grove, Hackney, E.8.

YORKSHIRE TREASURER'S WEDDING.

The Church of St. Michael, Headingley, Leeds, was the scene of a very interesting event on January 8th, when the wedding was solemnised of Mr. J. Cotterell, treasurer of the Yorkshire Association, and Miss O. L. Lumley, a member of the local company.

The ceremony was performed, in the presence of a large gathering of ringers, by the Rev. C. C. Marshall, Vicar of St. Chad's, Headingley, and president of the Yorkshire Association. Later, a reception was held at the Mount Hotel, Leeds.

After the service, 'firing' and touches of Stedman were rung by the local company. On the following Wednesday evening, a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, which has already been recorded in its proper place, was rung in honour of the event.

THE PROPOSED GUILDFORD DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**YORKTOWN DISTRICT COMES INTO THE SCHEME.**

The proposal to form an independent association of ringers for the diocese of Guildford, when this is carved out of the existing diocese of Winchester—an event which it is expected will take place about the middle of this year—was carried a step further on Saturday. The proposal was first put forward by the Guildford District of the Winchester Guild, and the Yorktown District, which includes an important part of the new diocese, has now decided to give its support to the scheme. At first, there was a feeling in this district against cutting up the existing Guild, and as long ago as 1923 resolutions were passed expressing a desire that the present Guild should remain, subject to various administrative changes and an altered title. Last December, however, representatives of the two districts met in conference, and at a special meeting at Bagshot on Saturday the Yorktown District again discussed the subject. The Vicar (Canon W. H. Stewart) presided, and members were present from Bagshot, Chertsey, Egham, Farnborough, Weybridge and Yorktown.

A memorandum setting out the Guildford District's views had been circulated to the towers. Replies had been received from a number including the following: From the Rev. G. R. M. Ellwood, Hawley, who was strongly in favour of forming a new association on the grounds given in the memorandum; from the Rev. F. Tritton, Weybridge, who favoured a new association, but thought any decision should not be final until the new Bishop had been consulted; from the Rev. C. E. C. Lefroy (Hersham), who thought an independent association would be altogether desirable; and from Mr. A. Woodrow, on behalf of the Hersham band, who were unanimous that they should follow the new diocese to which they would be attached.

Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, at the request of the members of the conference, explained in some detail the steps which had led up to that meeting, and also the proposals upon which it was suggested the new association should be formed. These included a reciprocal arrangement between the old and the new Guilds, whereby members of one could, on payment of one shilling, become compounding members of the other, thereby enabling them to retain their connection between the ringing organisations of the two areas; a suggestion that 75 per cent. of district income should be available for district purposes, and a proposal that there should be a small affiliation fee for towers in order to give the church authorities a direct interest in the association, coupled, if found practicable, with representation on the Management Committee.

Mr. H. J. Chaffey, Mr. S. G. Armstrong, Mr. F. Nye, and Mr. Crocker (who represented the district at the conference) spoke in favour of supporting the scheme for a separate association, subject to its receiving the approval of the new Bishop.

Representatives of Egham and Yorktown towers reported that the members of these branches had decided in favour of supporting the new association.

A number of resolutions were then put to the meeting. The first rescinded the motion passed in 1923.

It was then proposed by Mr. F. Nye (Bagshot), seconded by Mr. Gasson (Farnborough), and carried nem. con., that in the opinion of this meeting of the Yorktown District it is desirable that, on the formation of the diocese of Guildford, and subject to the approval of the Bishop, a separate and independent association of church bell-ringers be formed for the new diocese.

Resolutions were next passed instructing the district's representatives on the Winchester Guild Committee to support proposals recommending that the area of the existing Guild shall, as from January 1st, 1928, be confined to the parishes comprising the dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth, and that reciprocal arrangements be made to enable present members residing in one area to become compounding members of the other Guild on payment of a nominal fee of 1s.

The following were then elected to represent the district on the Organising Committee: Messrs. F. Nye, S. G. Armstrong, J. Corbett, H. J. Chaffey and Crocker, and, subject to his being willing to serve, Mr. A. Woodrow (Hersham).

On the motion of the Chairman, Mr. Goldsmith was thanked for his lucid explanation of the whole scheme, and his assistance at the meeting.

Cordial thanks were passed to Mr. Corbett for having kindly entertained the ringers to tea, to the ladies who had served the meal, and to the chairman for presiding.

Before and after the meeting, ringing took place on the Parish Church bells, opportunity being taken to give practice to a number of beginners in the art.

A QUARTER-PEAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) has been rung at St. Mary's Church, Greville, Durban, South Africa, by the following: W. H. Royston 1, F. May 2, Miss M. Clarkson 3, T. Nash 4, F. W. Simpson 5, J. Prickett 6, E. Prickett 7, C. Clarkson 8. It was conducted by J. Prickett, and occupied 52 minutes. This is the longest completed number of changes rung by the reconstituted band of St. Mary's Church, and was rung with the thermometer registering a temperature of about 90 degrees between 7 and 8 p.m.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Cirencester Branch was held at Cirencester on Saturday, January 22nd, and, despite the wintry weather, was well attended. The following towers were represented: Cirencester, Fairford, Northleach, Maiseyhampton, South Cerney and Swindon. Watermoor bells were rung during the afternoon, and the ringers' service was taken by the Vicar (the Rev. Canon Westmacott). Tea was served at Messrs. Viner's restaurant, and was followed by the business meeting, the Vicar taking the chair.

The following officers were re-elected: Chairman, Mr. F. Edwards; hon. secretary, Mr. E. J. Lewis; member on Management Committee, Mr. J. Hope.

Several new members were elected, and Letchlade was chosen for the next meeting.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for conducting the service and for granting the use of the bells.

The Parish Church was then visited, and the bells made good use of. During the afternoon and evening, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doube, Triples and Caters and Bob Major were rung, and also a course of Grandsire Cinques, several members having their first pull on twelve bells.

BRISTOL BRANCH'S RECORD YEAR.

The annual meeting of the Bristol Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association was held on Saturday last at St. Philip's, Bristol. There was an excellent attendance of members, representing 16 towers, namely: St. Michael's, SS. Philip and Jacob's, St. Stephen's, St. Thomas', St. Werburgh's, St. Luke's and St. Peter's, Bristol; Henbury, Mangotsfield, Marshfield, Olveston and Westbury-on-Trym, while Miss N. G. Williams (Bath), Miss G. Staddon (Portishead), Mr. F. H. Fussell (Dursley), Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Tanner, and Mr. J. R. Jones (Weston-super-Mare) were welcome visitors. Touches in different methods were rung on the bells during the afternoon, and choral service was held in the church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. M. E. Thorold), who also gave an excellent address, taking for his text: 'Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men.' Tea was afterwards served in the schoolroom, where 75 members and friends sat down.

The Chairman (Mr. J. Gould) presided at the annual business meeting, at which Mr. L. G. Tanner (Weston-super-Mare) was elected a life member, Miss G. Stadden (Portishead), Mr. W. Cook (Henbury), and Mr. Saunders (St. Thomas', Bristol), were elected performing members.

Warmley was chosen for the February meeting, and St. Michael's, Bristol, for March. For the quarterly meetings, Marshfield was selected for April, Coalpit Heath for July, Mangotsfield for October, and St. James', Bristol, for the annual meeting in January.

The Chairman said he was very pleased with the work of the branch for the past year, with its record attendances at the meetings, and especially the fine fellowship that existed. He hoped they would continue to go forward and progress, and he would do his best to help on the work. He thanked their hon. secretary (Mr. C. H. Jennings) for the time and work he put in for the cause.

The Hon. Secretary, in presenting his report, said it was gratifying to know the work of the branch had been well maintained. They had held 12 monthly meetings, and at Abson, Almondsbury, Dyrham, and St. Thomas', Bristol, about 60 were present at each meeting. The average for the 12 meetings constituted a record of about 40. They had an increase of 17 performing, 5 honorary and 2 associate members. The ancient ring of six at Abson had been overhauled and rebung in a new frame, and attention had been also given to the bells at Christ Church and St. Nicholas', Bristol. He hoped other churches would undertake similar work where needed. Change ringing had been up to the usual good standard, and he asked where possible for some of the other towers to bring on some of the younger generation in the art to fill the gaps. He hoped also that arrangements would be made at more towers to ring for the Sunday services. The hand of death had taken two of their active ringers, Mr. Walter Lewis (Marshfield) and Mr. Wm. Short (St. James', Bristol). Thanks were accorded to the incumbents of the various towers had had placed their bells at the disposal of the association, and to the incumbents of Almondsbury, Bristol, and Dyrham, for their hospitality, to the Rev. T. C. Fowler, who had taken the services on different occasions, to Mr. Wm. Stafford for auditing the balance sheet, to the chairman for his continued help, to Mr. P. C. Williams, the late hon. secretary, and all concerned.

The balance sheet showed a record on the right side. The receipts had been £42 15s., and expenditure £23 19s. 8½d., leaving a balance of £18 15s. 3½d.—This was adopted.

The election of officers next took place. Mr. J. Gould (chairman), Mr. J. G. Jefferies (representative on the management committee), and Mr. C. H. Jennings (hon. secretary) were re-elected en bloc, and thanks were given to them for their past services.

Heartly votes of thanks were passed with acclamation to the Vicar for all his kindness to them that day, to the organist and choir, to Mr., Mrs. and Miss Williams, assisted by the lady ringers at St. Philip's, Mrs. E. J. Brown, and the Misses B. and D. Jorden, for arranging such a splendid tea.—The Vicar (who is a real ringers' friend), responded, and this concluded another happy meeting.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

TOTTENHAM, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, January 30th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 45 mins.: H. W. H. Strickland 1, H. A. Barnett 2, C. T. Coles (conductor) 3, S. W. Crabb 4, C. Button 5, H. Ellis 6, E. A. Hull 7, W. Barnett (first quarter-peal) 8.

DARTFORD.—At Holy Trinity Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples for men's service on Sunday afternoon, January 30th: A. H. Audsley 1, F. Walker 2, L. Cullum 3, E. Brown 4, T. H. Cheesman (conductor) 5, H. Simmons 6, F. Cullum 7, R. A. Jenkins 8.

KIDLINGTON.—On Sunday, January 30th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): A. Hancox 1, G. Bennett 2, J. Judge 3, F. Tuffrey 4, J. Franklin 5, W. H. Thorne 6, W. F. Judge (conductor) 7, A. Morris 8.

CHICHESTER.—On Sunday, January 30th, for morning service at the Cathedral, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 48 mins.: F. Arthur 1, H. J. Tucker (conductor) 2, F. B. Tompkins 3, W. E. Teekurst 4, G. Marshall 5, J. H. Blake 6, M. R. Heffer 7, A. Tugwell 8. Rung also as a birthday compliment to the ringers of 6 and 7. The combined ages of the band amount to 489 years.

LONDON.—At the Church of St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, for evening on Sunday, January 30th, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes) in 50 mins.: H. C. Taylor 1, F. J. Parrott 2, J. H. Parrott 3, W. W. Stevens 4, I. J. Atwater (conductor) 5, J. Martin 6, F. Smith 7, H. Hill 8. First quarter in the method by ringers of 1 and 8.

ERITH, KENT.—On Sunday, January 30th, at the Church of St. John-the-Baptist, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes) in 44 mins., by the following: E. J. Lott 1, F. J. Cullum, sen., 2, S. A. Stagg 3, L. J. Cullum 4, G. Cullum 5, J. S. Morton 6, F. J. Cullum, jun. (conductor) 7, W. Darke 8.

KENSINGTON, LONDON.—At the Church of St. Mary Abbots, for evening on January 30th, 1,263 Stedman Caters in 54 mins.: H. G. Miles 1, P. L. Miles 2, R. G. Rice 3, W. E. Judd (conductor) 4, F. V. Sinkins 5, E. G. Locke 6, R. E. Sadler 7, G. C. Rice 8, A. F. Harris 9, H. Waskalam 10. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Sinkins.

LONDON.—On Sunday, January 30th, at St. Clement Danes', Strand, for evening, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Miss E. E. Hardecastle 1, E. F. Pike 2, Miss F. E. Orr 3, Miss B. M. Mills 4, B. H. Swinson 5, C. W. Roberts (conductor) 6, F. E. Collins 7, E. G. Garrard 8.

CHESTER.—On Sunday, January 29th, at the Church of St. Mary-without-the-Wall, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): A. Watkin, jun. (first quarter-peal) 1, A. Minns 2, M. Harris 3, John Hayes (first quarter-peal as conductor) 4, W. Scounce 5, A. Gregory 6, James Swindley 7, A. Watkin, sen., 8.

LAVENHAM.—On Sunday, January 29th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Superlative Surprise (1,280 changes, J. Wilde's): S. H. Symonds (conductor) 1, W. E. J. Poulson 2, F. L. Leeks 3, M. T. Symonds 4, A. Symonds 5, F. F. Mortlock 6, F. A. Turner 7, F. A. Poulson 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to A. Symonds.

HARWELL, BERKS.—On January 29th, 720 Grandsire Doubles: C. Hitchman 1, H. Palmer 2, W. Hitchman 3, R. G. Rice (conductor) 4, W. Corderoy 5, T. Mulford 6. First 720 by 5th (inside) and 6th.

PORTMADOC, CARNARVONSHIRE.—At St. John's Church, on Sunday, December 19th, before evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): H. Jones 1, R. McMillan 2, F. Williams 3, J. V. Humphreys 4, H. Roberts 5, P. Roberts 6, John Owen (conductor) 7, E. Humphreys 8.—On Christmas Day, December 25th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): H. Jones 1, R. McMillan 2, P. Roberts 3, J. V. Humphreys 4, F. Williams 5, H. Roberts 6, John Owen (conductor) 7, E. Humphreys 8.

HEANOR, DERBYSHIRE.—At the Parish Church on Sunday, January 16th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: S. Attewell (first quarter-peal) 1, W. Stirling 2, E. Walker 3, J. Murrell 4, E. C. Williamson 5, J. W. Stirling 6, J. E. Hobbs (conductor) 7, L. Farnsworth 8. The conductor wishes to thank the local band for allowing him to call the above at the church where he rang his first peal of Triples in 1912.

WHITFIELD, GLOSSOP.—On Sunday, January 16th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in honour of Mr. W. P. Fairclough, Mus.Bac., F.R.C.O., who has completed fifty years' service as organist and choir-master of Whitfield Parish Church: J. L. Buckley 1, F. Garside 2, Tom Jackson 3, H. Bradshaw 4, Ben Bradley 5, C. Garside 6, H. Bradley (conductor) 7, William Hall 8.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS.—On Sunday, January 16th, at St. Mary's Church for evening service, 720 Oxford Bob Minor: R. Walker 1, W. Hughes 2, J. Floyd 3, J. W. Shepherd (conductor) 4, H. Gates 5, H. Golding 6.

NOTICE.

BARNESLEY & DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A monthly meeting will be held at Darfield on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells ready early. Tea in Church Schools at 5 p.m. Apply for tickets to Mr. T. Hilton, Victoria Street, Darfield, Near Barnsley.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
LEOMINSTER DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of the Leominster district of the Hereford Diocesan Guild took place at Leominster on Saturday, January 15th.

Ringing commenced at the Priory Church at 4 p.m., and touches of Bob Minor, Stedman Triples, and Grandsire Caters were rung. A service was afterwards conducted by the Vicar (Rev. R. Gillenders).

Members of the Guild were entertained to tea at the Church Institute by the Vicar, who presided over the business meeting.

Mr. J. W. Worsley resigned the secretaryship during the year, and the statement of accounts was presented by the Acting Secretary (Mr. A. W. Davies, Hereford). This showed a balance of £5 3s. 2d., but other amounts have yet to come in.

Mr. E. Jayne, Kimbolton, was appointed Ringing Master and Secretary.

Mr. C. Edwards (Master of the Guild), in proposing that Mr. G. E. Wright be appointed an honorary member, said it was hoped to do something for the bells at Pudleston when the repairs to the church roof were completed. He was interested to find a pre-Reformation bell there, one of the oldest in the county.

In thanking the Vicar of Leominster for the use of the bells, for arranging the service, for providing the tea, and for presiding over the meeting, Mr. Edwards spoke of the encouragement given to the ringers when the Vicar of the parish took an interest in the work. He said they hoped to ring the first ten-bell peal at Leominster, but the attempt failed; they had, however, succeeded in accomplishing the first ten-bell peal by local ringers at Hereford Cathedral.

Preb. Turner, Madley, seconded the vote of thanks, and the Vicar replied, saying that he regarded bell-ringing as a very important piece of work for the Church.

The offer of Mr. A. W. Davies to bring over ringers from Hereford to assist the Leominster ringers, if other districts would also help, was accepted.

AN INTERESTING MEMORIAL AT NEWPORT.
RINGER'S GENEROUS GIFT.

The belfry of the Parish Church, Newport, Isle of Wight, has recently been embellished with a handsome tablet recording two peals that were rung upon the bells—May 15th and 16th, 1923—in which a fair share of Islanders took part, to commemorate 'Rayner's centenary,' viz., Stedman Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major at Newport and Carisbrooke respectively, each conducted by George Williams, under the auspices of the Winchester Diocesan Guild.

The tablet is of polished slate, 23 x 32 inches, the lettering incised and painted white enamel, the work of Messrs. Cooper, of Newport. It was duly unveiled and dedicated by the Vicar, Canon Thompson, M.A., in the presence of the local ringers and neighbouring friends, the ceremony being of rather a private nature due to the modesty of the generous donor, who has been a ringer of the parish for upwards of 42 years.

The following is a copy of the footnote on the tablet, which forms an interesting link with the old Newport and Carisbrooke Society and the existing Diocesan Guild:

'These two memorable peals were rung in the evening of each day, and were brought round in a masterly manner to commemorate the centenary of the death of William Rayner, who was himself a prominent ringer of Newport, I.W. To my fellow ringers of this tower, a gift from Walter Scott, sen.'

It will be recalled that Mr. Walter Scott, sen., was responsible for the recovery of one of the old peal hooks of the Union Society, lost for nearly three-quarters of a century, which he kindly handed over to the tower trustees.

In thanking him for his latest handsome gift, the band who took part in these performances congratulated him on recently becoming a 'grandfather,' so we expect to hear, some day, of a 'Walter Scott Minor,' carrying on the work of Scott Major and Maximus in this belfry. In these days, when young ringers are hard to get and more difficult to keep, it is refreshing to quote the words of this veteran change-ringer: 'During the whole of my 43 years in the belfry nothing has given me greater pleasure than this opportunity of recording the names of my fellow-ringers upon its walls.'

W. H. F.

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NOTICES.

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The **EDITORIAL OFFICE** of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, **COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.**

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ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members who have not attended twenty times in the past year to vote on financial matters, should be paid before February 28th. Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus' on Feb. 17th, *St. Michael's, Cornhill, on the 8th, St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 10th (at 8 p.m.), *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 22nd; all at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—The annual meeting will be held at Biggleswade on Saturday, February 5th. Bells (8) available at 2.30. Tea at 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. A good attendance is requested.—C. J. Ball, Dis. Sec., 2, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Tower open at 2.30. Service at 4.30. Tea in the Parish Room, North Street, after service, followed by business meeting. Subscriptions are now due, and should be paid at the meeting or sent to the district secretary.—W. Latter, Hon. Dis. Sec., 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. Taunton Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be at St. Mary's, Taunton, on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (1s. each) and meeting in the Church Room after. Wilton (6) available 2.30 to 4 p.m., and after business meeting.—P. Merson, Bishop's Hull.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Macclesfield Branch.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at the Parish Church, Macclesfield, on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 6 o'clock.—J. Norbury, Branch Sec.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—A quarterly meeting of the Winchester District will be held at Alresford on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells at 2.30, also Old Alresford (6) and Bishop Sutton (5) if required.—W. T. Tucker, Dis. Sec., 71, High Street, Eastleigh.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—A quarterly meeting is to be held at Cranborne on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Ringing from 3 o'clock. Service at 4.30. Address by Vicar, Rev. L. Addison. Tea 5.15, followed by business. The new treble to be dedicated at Hampreston, Sunday, Feb. 6th, at 3 o'clock.—C. A. Phillips, Hon. Branch Sec.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A district meeting will be held at Cranleigh on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. It is hoped as many as possible will attend.—E. Raddon, Hillcrest, Baillie Road, Guildford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held at Isleworth on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Tower open at 3. Service at 4. Tea at 4.45 in the Church Hall.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., W.4.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—The first meeting of the year will be held at West Retford on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells (6) available from 2 p.m. to 8.30. Will ringers please make own arrangements for tea. There are several good cafes in the town.—H. Haig and H. Revill, Hon. Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Newport on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30, to be followed by business meeting. Those requiring tea kindly advise me.—C. Beeston, 5, King Street, Bishop's Stortford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Poolstock, on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. A good attendance requested.—James Wm. Grounds, Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Chesterfield District.—A ringing meeting will be held at Dore, near Sheffield, on Saturday, February 5th. Bells (8) available 2.30 to 7.30. Tea at Hurst's Café 5 p.m. Frequent trains L.M.S. from Sheffield and Chesterfield. Buses direct to church from Ecclesfield. A good meeting is hoped for.—Arthur Knights, Local Hon. Sec., Chesterfield.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ledbury District.—The annual meeting will be held at Bosbury on Saturday, February 5th. Bells available at 6 p.m.—R. Thomas, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at Stoke Golding on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells available from 4 p.m. Business meeting will follow. All ringers cordially invited.—Wm. Cope, Smockington, Hinckley.

ST. CLEMENT YOUTHS.—St. Clement Danes', Strand, W.C.—Practice every Wednesday evening 6.30 to 8 o'clock. Ringing: Sundays at 10 a.m. The quarterly combined practice with the Central District Ladies' Guild on Wednesday, Feb. 9th, at 6.30 p.m. All lady ringers specially invited.—F. W. H. Sergison, Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A mid-week practice meeting will be held at St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, on Thursday, Feb. 10th. Bells from 6.45 to 8.45 p.m. Members and friends welcomed.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 49, Wood Street, E.17.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—The next meeting will be held at Baldock on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at the White Lion at 5.30. All are welcome.—E. W. Day, Dis. Sec., 58, King's Road, Hitchin.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Bushey.—Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells open 3.15. Tea 5.30, at Institute. Business Meeting after. Ringing till 8.30 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, Feb. 9th. Cheap tickets from London.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. Note.—Subscriptions are now due.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Glodwick on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. Subscriptions now due. Reports to hand.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—V.W.H. Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Tower open at 2.30. Service 3.30. All desiring tea must notify the secretary, G. A. Webley, Southampton Street, Faringdon, not later than Wednesday, Feb. 9th.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will take place on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Ringing at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East from 2.30 to 4, and at St. Clement Danes' from 2.30. Service at the latter at 4.30, address by the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford, Rector and Honorary Chaplain. Tea in the Parish Room, tickets for which should be obtained in advance from the Masters or secretaries, followed by the business meeting. A good gathering is desired. Other meetings for February: St. Clement Danes', Sunday, the 6th, at 10 a.m., and Mondays, the 14th and the 28th, at 7.30; St. John's, Wilton Road, Monday, the 7th, at 8; and St. Mary's, Lambeth, Tuesday, the 22nd, at 8. — A. H. Keyghley, Gen. Sec., 19, Pepys Road, S.E.14.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's R.C. Church, Chorley, on Saturday, Feb. 12th. The bells (8, recently rehung and tuned) will be available from 3 p.m. Tea at 1s. 6d. a head to all who notify Mr. J. Smith, 85, Anderson Street, Chorley, not later than Wednesday, Feb. 9th. All ringers welcome.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Manchester, on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells at liberty 4 o'clock. Meeting at 7. Reports to hand. All ringers welcome.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting, Manchester.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Ufford on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells available all day. Tea, 4.30, free to all sending me word before Feb. 9th. Meeting afterwards in St. Mary's Hall. — H. Drake, Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ichester Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting of the above branch will be held at Martock on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock. Meeting to follow. Those who require tea please notify by Tuesday, Feb. 8th.—F. Farrant, Hon. Local Sec., North Street, Martock.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A ringing meeting of the above branch will be held at Padiham on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells ready at 3 p.m.—J. Watson, Hon. Branch Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at Tue Brook on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells ready at 4.30. Members intending being present please send word to secretary, W. Hughes, 3, Shrewsbury Place, Garston.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Charing on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Tea will be arranged.—C. W. Franklin, Hon. Sec., 18, Kingsnorth Road, Ashford

LADIES' GUILD.—Northamptonshire District. — A meeting will be held at Woodston, Peterborough, on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Ringing from 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea in Church Hall 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—S. Thursfield, Cranford Rectory, Kettering.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—The annual meeting of the Reading branch of the above Guild will be held at Reading on Saturday, Feb. 12th. St. Giles' belfry will be open for ringing from 3 p.m. Ringers' service at St. Lawrence's Church at 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting, followed by a smoking concert, by the 'Maxims' party, at the Central Cafe, Friar Street, at 6 p.m. Tickets for tea, etc., 2s. 6d. each, but 1s. 3d. only to any ringer who lets me know his intention of being present by Wednesday morning, Feb. 9th.—F. W. Hoppood, Hon. Branch Sec.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Bridgnorth Branch.—The annual meeting of the above branch will be held at Bridgnorth on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells (8 and 6) available from 3 p.m. Service in St. Leonard's at 5 o'clock. Tea at 5.30, followed by meeting. Will all those who intend being present kindly notify the secretary by Thursday, the 10th inst.—W. Hayward, Dis. Hon. Sec., 3, North Gate, Bridgnorth.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Sheffield on Saturday, Feb. 12th. The rings of 12 at the Cathedral and eight at St. Marie's are available for ringing from 2.30 p.m. A charge of 1s. 6d. per head will be made for tea, and all applications for same must reach Mr. S. F. Palmer, 87, Bradley Street, Crookes, Sheffield, not later than first post Wednesday, Feb. 9th. Divine service will be held in the Cathedral at 5 p.m. Preacher, Archdeacon of Sheffield. Subscriptions are now due, and reports will be issued at this meeting on payment of same.—P. J. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., 396, Meanwood Road, Leeds.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Meeting for united practice at St. Peter's Church, Colchester, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Ringing from 3 to 5 p.m., followed by tea and social at St. Peter's Parish Room. Tea 1s. 4d. each. Will those who propose being present send in their names not later than Tuesday, Feb. 15th? Opening of peal of 6 bells at St. Leonard's, Colchester, on Thursday, Feb. 17th, at 3 p.m.—R. W. Stannard, Hon. Sec., N.E. District, 12, Marton Road, Colchester.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 39th Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, Feb. 19th, at 6 o'clock prompt, when the chair will be taken by Canon T. Guy Rogers, B.D., M.C., Rector of Birmingham, Chaplain to the King. To fully qualified members tickets will be issued on payment of 2s., to other members and friends, 6s. 6d. each. Every full member should be clear on the books not later than Saturday, Feb. 12th. The bells of St. Martin's (12) will be available from 3 to 5 o'clock, the Cathedral (10) from 4 to 5.30. Bishop Ryder's (8) 3 to 4.30 p.m. An informal conference is being arranged (details later). Early application for tickets (with remittance) should be made to Albert Walker, 81, Baker Street, Sparkhill, Birmingham

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Barking on Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells from 3 p.m. Short service 4.30 p.m. Tea at Municipal Restaurant, East Street, 5.15 p.m. Will all those wanting tea advise me by Tuesday, Feb. 15th, as exact number has to be given? Subscriptions for 1927 are now due.—E. Butler, Hon. Sec., 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

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