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FRIDAY, JANUARY 12th, 1940.

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## AN OPPORTUNITY IN LONDON.

Last week we referred to the opportunity, presented by the restricted activities in ringing, of reorganising the Exercise in those directions where, in the past, unproductive rivalries have tended to hold up progress. There should be no place in ringing for anything that divides ringers into opposing camps. It may be, perhaps, that these things are not so marked as they were years ago, but there still remain cross currents which keep ringers apart. Personal jealousies will, of course, always be liable to come to the surface and cause friction, as long as human nature remains what it is, but there is no reason in these days why artificial barriers should be retained for the special purpose of creating divisions.

More than once we have referred to the utterly useless rule which continues to keep College Youths and Cumberland Youths segregated from one another. It is apparently still thought, in some quarters, that the prohibition which automatically cuts off the membership of a ringer from one society if he joins the other is a contribution to 'friendly rivalry' between the two organisations and to be in the best interests of the art of change ringing. Nothing could be further from the truth. This rule, which both societies act upon, is only a survival of the feuds which once upon a time existed between rival companies in London; gives disgruntled members an opportunity of spurning the society of their first choice, and results in keeping them officially at arm's length. It does nothing to develop 'friendly rivalry,' or even remotely encourage the art of ringing, and it would be a good thing if the barrier could be swept away. What drawback could there be, for instance, to any good ringer being a member of both societies at the same time? He would not be any less enthusiastic, and both organisations might benefit from the exercise of his skill, instead of only one as at present.

The only possible ground upon which anyone attempts to justify the preservation of this rule is that of tradition, but no tradition is worth preserving if it defeats its own purpose. The maxim that 'what was good for grandfather is good enough for me' is a hollow myth in any event; in this particular instance it was not even good for grandfather. It led to a state of affairs in ringing in London which was no credit to the art and the perpetuation of the fallacy that such a rule promotes friendly rivalry and the art of ringing is as out of place to-day as it is untrue.

Nowhere else in the country do ringing societies of repute prohibit their members from joining other associations on pain of expulsion, and in London itself members

(Continued on page 14.)

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of the College Youths and Cumberlands are free to join other organisations which have sprung up in their midst. In this the two old societies show their inconsistency, for while they have persisted in the obstacle to their own intermingling, they have allowed other and more vigorous organisations to step in and enrol their members without let or hindrance—and it has been all for the good of the Exercise. In these troubled times many things are in the melting pot and it might well be of great advantage if the hoary tradition, which rivalry, other than friendly, once forced upon the old societies, were relegated, if not to the limbo of a forgotten past, at any rate to the realms of memory. There is a new generation of ringers rising in London; they will reconstruct the Exercise there after the war, free from some of the trammels to which others have clung tenaciously. Theirs will be the opportunity to raise a new structure which might well embrace all the conflicting factions that during the past generation have brought division and friction. There is an immense field for an expansion of the art in London; no city offers such great opportunity. In the present enforced lull in belfry activity, therefore, thoughtful men will, we hope, find time to plan a fruitful reconstruction of the Exercise in the Metropolis.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

POOLE, DORSET.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY	Treble	WILLIAM C. SHUTE	... .. 6
CYRIL F. TURNER	... .. 2	*A. EDWIN HOARE	... .. 7
HARRY SMAILE	... .. 3	†REGINALD H. TRUE	... .. 8
*WILLIAM G. YOUNG	... .. 4	WILLIAM E. CHEATER	... .. 9
EDWARD T. GRIFFIN	... .. 5	ARTHUR V. DAVIS	... .. Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM WILLSON. Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS

\* First peal on ten bells. † First peal. First peal of Royal as conductor, first attempt. First peal on the ten bells since augmentation in 1937 by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank (two trebles added). Rung on the feast of the Epiphany and as a compliment to the Rev. Arthur W. White, curate at St. James', who was recently ordained priest.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

KIRBY-LE-SOKEN, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 30, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 8 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb. in G.

ALAN R. ANDREWS	... .. Treble	EDWARD E. DAVEY	... .. 5
CHARLES A. ANDREWS	... .. 2	EDWARD B. SMITH	... .. 6
MRS. W. A. ROUSE	... .. 3	†LESLIE WRIGHT	... .. 7
*MISS VIOLET FROST	... .. 4	URBAN W. WILDNEY	... .. Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by U. W. WILDNEY.

\* First peal in the method. † First peal on eight bells.

GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 30, 1939, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 21½ cwt. in E.

FRANK HARRISON	... .. Treble	†GEORGE SAUNDERS	... .. 5
*MISS MAY MILLAR	... .. 2	RONALD SUCKLING	... .. 6
DONALD JENNINGS	... .. 3	JOSEPH C. JENNINGS	... .. 7
GEORGE PIPER	... .. 4	H. WALTER SMITH	... .. Tenor

Composed by G. F. WILLIAMS. Conducted by H. WALTER SMITH.

\* First peal on eight bells. † First peal of Bob Major.

## REDENHALL, NORFOLK.

## THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 31, 1939, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

## A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

FREDERICK C. GUNTON ... Treble	EDWARD ETHERIDGE ... 5
GEORGE W. HOWLETT ... 2	FREDERICK W. MUNNINGS ... 6
ERNEST WHITING ... 3	RUSSELL RICHES ... 7
WILLIAM J. FLATT ... 4	CHARLES W. LOOME ... Tenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS.

Conducted by ERNEST WHITING.

The conductor has now conducted a peal from every bell in this tower.

## BROADCLYST, DEVON.

## THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 2, 1940, in Three Hours,

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

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.

CRCIL BREALY ... Treble	HARRY G. WILMINGTON ... 5
ERNEST RETTER ... 2	JOHN SALWAY ... 6
*ALBERT COLLEY ... 3	JOSEPH BREALY ... 7
CHARLES R. LILLEY ... 4	CHARLES R. SANDFORD ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

\* First peal of Grandsire Triples. The first peal rung in the black-out in the West of England. Best thanks of the band to Mr. A. Lovering for making the arrangements.

## EAST MARKHAM, NOTTS.

## THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 6, 1940, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

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

## A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

*FREDERICK FLINT ... Treble	*ARTHUR E. CHILTON ... 5
MISS GRACE BURCHNALL ... 2	ARTHUR J. CHAMBERLAIN ... 6
HAROLD DENMAN ... 3	GEORGE E. FOSTER ... 7
MISS KATHERINE BURCHNALL ... 4	HERBERT T. ROOKE ... Tenor

Composed by A. J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Conducted by G. E. FOSTER.

\* First peal on eight bells.

## SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

## BOZEAT, NORTHANTS.

## THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 26, 1939, in Three Hours,

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

## A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being six extents of April Day and twelve each of Canterbury, Grandsire and Plain Bob. Tenor 18½ cwt. in E.

THOMAS W. FLEMING ... Treble	MAX LAUGHTON ... 3
A. JAMES STUART ... 2	EDWARD SMART ... 4
DONALD L. COCKINGS ... Tenor	

Conducted by D. L. COCKINGS.

Rung for the festival of Christmas and in honour of St. Stephen.

## FELKIRK, YORKS.

## THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 1, 1940, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

## A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London, Wells, Cambridge, York, Durham, Rossendale and Stamford. Tenor 10 cwt.

SIDNEY BRIGGS ... Treble	ERNEST BROOKES ... 4
J. THOMAS WHITE ... 2	ARTHUR GILL ... 5
HAROLD CHANT ... 3	DANIEL SMITH ... Tenor

Conducted by D. SMITH.

Rung as a compliment to Leading Aircraft Gunner John Copley, who received the D.F.M. for bravery in the raid on enemy ships at Heligoland on December 3rd, 1939.

## MILTON REGIS, KENT.

## THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, January 7, 1940, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

## A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two different extents each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and one of Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb.

ERNEST J. DOBBIE ... Treble	WALTER H. DOBBIE ... 4
DORIS G. DOBBIE ... 2	STANLEY B. DOBBIE ... 5
ARTHUR S. BOAR ... 3	GEORGE A. NAYLOR ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE A. NAYLOR.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

## BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINGS.

## THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Thursday, December 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT TRENTWOOD,

## A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor 14½ in C sharp.

MRS. J. BRAY ... 1-2	JACK BRAY ... 5-6
*FRED JEFFERY ... 3-4	*PHILIP BARNES ... 7-8

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

\* First peal of Triples 'in hand.'

## CAMBRIDGE.

## THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 28, 1939, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At 3, St. PAUL'S ROAD,

## A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

ALWYN BEALE ... 1-2	WILFRID H. J. HOOTON ... 5-6
ALBERT E. AUSTIN ... 3-4	JOHN A. ACRES ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS.

Conducted by W. H. J. HOOTON.

## BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

## THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, December 30, 1939, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

At STEDMAN, SKETCHLEY ROAD,

## A PEAL OF STEDMAN DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 12.

ALFRED BALLARD ... 1-2	*FRANK K. MEASURES ... 3-4
JOHN H. BAILESS ... 5-6	

Conducted by A. BALLARD.

\* 50th peal for the Midland Counties Association. First peal of Stedman Doubles 'in hand' by all and by entirely Hinckley District members. The conductor has now rung Stedman from Doubles to Cinques on both handbells and tower bells.

## WOODDITTON, CAMBS.

## THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 4, 1940, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

At SUNNY VIEW,

## A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

ALWYN BEALE ... 1-2	SIDNEY BROWN ... 5-6
ALBERT E. AUSTIN ... 3-4	JOHN A. ACRES ... 7-8

Composed by FREDK. DENCH.

Conducted by ALBERT E. AUSTIN.

## PRESTBURY, CHELTENHAM.

## THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 6, 1940, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,

At THE PRIORY,

## A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents with three different callings.

MONICA J. RICHARDSON ... 1-2	BRENDA M. RICHARDSON ... 3-4
DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 5-6	

Conducted by DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON.

First peal as conductor. First peal of Minor by all.

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## FELKIRK RINGER'S AWARD FOR BRAVERY

MR. J. COPLEY RECEIVES THE D.F.M.

Among the peals recorded this week is one rung at Felkirk in honour of Leading Aircraftman John Copley, who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal in the New Year's Honours List for the R.A.F.

The rear gunner in a bomber, he was engaged in the aerial battle over Heligoland on December 3rd and shot down a Messerschmitt fighter. When the bomber got back home the wings were hanging in strips and the petrol tank was punctured.

Gunner Copley had a very narrow escape and was hit by a bullet which fortunately stuck in the belt of his parachute and stopped just touching his flesh.

Until he joined the R.A.F. in 1934 Mr. Copley was a regular service ringer at Felkirk, and he rejoined his old band this year to ring the old year out and the new year in.

## THE LATE MR. JOHN H. CHEESMAN.

AN APPRECIATION FROM DARTFORD.

On Saturday afternoon, December 23rd, the bells of Holy Trinity Church, Dartford, were rung half-muffled in memory of John H. Cheesman. Remembered by a big circle of ringers as a quiet unassuming man and an excellent ringer and conductor, he will be greatly missed at Dartford, which tower he used to visit regularly for many years.

He made the three-mile journey from Greenhithe on practice night and on Sundays and was always ready to come to assist with the ringing on any special occasions; in fact, he was always ready to join in anything that went on in connection with Dartford ringing. The tower has lost a great friend, whose influence on the standard of striking and encouragement in attempting higher methods will be a great loss.

His total of 82 is almost certainly the greatest number of peals rung by one man in Dartford tower.

They include two non-conducted peals, one of Stedman in 1924 and one of Double Norwich in 1929; peals rung in connection with the Silver Jubilee in 1935 and the Coronation of King George VI., and a peal of Stedman conducted by Mr. Cheesman in honour of Dartford receiving a Charter of Incorporation in September, 1933.

All these performances are recorded in the ringing chamber, and they will serve to perpetuate the memory of a great ringer and a real gentleman.

## THE LATE J. H. CHEESMAN AND THE FIRST 'JOHN' PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was with great regret that I read of the passing of John H. Cheesman, after his long and painful illness. I also regret that I was unaware earlier of his death, as I certainly would have made an effort to attend his funeral.

I think I am one of the last of those who rang in his early peals in North Kent, for he was in my fourth peal, one of Bob Major at Erith on September 12th, 1891, which was conducted by W. J. Sevier. It was my first peal of Major. Jack was 19 and I was 20. In later years I rang in peals with him in various methods, including Surprise peals up to London. I always found him most helpful, modest and unassuming. I deeply regret his death. He was, as all the ringing fraternity knows, a splendid ringer and conductor, and his record of over a thousand peals with many outstanding performances tells its own story. But he did not conduct the first John peal, as here is a copy of what I believe is the first that ever was rung, from the old peal book of 'The Bromley Youths.'

I. EMERY.

October 15th, 1828.

A

Select Band

Whose Christian Names were John,

Rang at Lewisham

A Complete Peal of Grandsire Tripples, 5,040 changes,

In 3 hours and 12 minutes.

John Read (Deptford) ...	1	John Jones (Lewisham) ...	5
John Wilbie (Greenwich) ...	2	John Allen (Bromley) ...	6
John Arnold (Deptford) ...	3	John Bray (Lewisham) ...	7
John Saunders (Bromley) ...	4	John Green (Bromley) ...	Tenor

Conducted by John Allen.

## EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.

MEETING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

New Year resolutions prevailed over the miserable weather on Saturday January 6th, when 32 ringers, representing 15 towers, attended the East Grinstead Guild meeting at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells. With so many capable ringers present there was some excellent ringing. One touch of Plain Bob made a false start, and Superlative required two attempts, but the bells responded well to Stedman and Cambridge.

To comply with the local police regulations, ringers took turns in acting as air raid sentries outside the tower. The company was entertained to tea by the St. Peter's ringers, which was much appreciated by all. At the business meeting afterwards eleven new members were elected, a very good start for 1940.

## VETERAN CLENT RINGER'S DEATH.

SEVENTY YEARS' CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH.

The Worcestershire Association has lost one of its oldest members by the sad death of Mr. William Boughton, of Clent. He was 84 years of age, and on Friday, December 8th, after leaving work and going home, went out again about 4.45 p.m. to fetch his old age pension. Outside his house a van going in the same direction knocked him down. He sustained a broken shoulder and severe head injuries. He passed away on the following Monday.

The funeral was attended by many friends, and wreaths were sent by numerous parishioners, and there was one from the choir and organist and one from his fellow-ringers.

Mr. Boughton had been a chorister from a boy until last year—a period of over 70 years. He had been a ringer about 60 years, his best peal ringing year being in 1889. On December 26th that year he rang a peal of Minor in seven methods at Clent, and in the afternoon the same six ringers walked to Hagley, met T. Lees, of Hagley, and W. F. Hartshorne, of Brierley Hill, and rang Holt's Six-Part peal of Grandsire Triples, both conducted by Mr. William Short. Mr. Boughton's last peal was rung half-muffled in April, 1920, at the dedication of the Parish Churchyard.

Throughout the many years Mr. Boughton carried on his duties both in the choir and belfry he was most regular and punctual in his attendances. Even in 1938 he was present 103 times in the ringing chamber and in the 11 months of 1939 had made 75 attendances.

On the Saturday afternoon after the funeral ringers met in Clent belfry, and with the bells half-muffled rang touches of Grandsire Triples, six 84's all called differently, also a plain course and a bobbed course of Stedman Triples. At the grave a splendid course of Grandsire Triples was rung in slow time.

Returning to the tower the 'whole pull and stand' was rung 84 times and the bells lowered in peal. Visiting ringers came from Belbroughton, Brierley Hill, Hagley, Stourbridge, Wollaston, Kidderminster and six local ringers also took part, ringing being conducted by Mr. Boughton's old friend, William Short.

Mr. Boughton has left two sons and a daughter in bereavement. Both sons are ringers, Frank Boughton being in Australia. When the English tourists were in Melbourne in 1934 Mr. Boughton met them on several occasions and rang the tenth to the memorable peal of Grandsire Cinques at St. Paul's Cathedral on Armistice Day, when the Duke of Gloucester attended the dedication of the Shrine of Remembrance.

## DEATH OF MR. W. T. BILLINGHURST.

FIFTY YEARS WITH TAYLOR'S, OF LOUGHBOROUGH.

Loughborough has lost one of its old ringers and the Midland Counties Association one of its earliest members by the passing of Mr. William T. Billingham, at the age of 76 years. He was interred at Loughborough Cemetery.

Deceased, who was a bachelor, was born at Shiplake, near Reading, and in his 'teens' journeyed to Loughborough, where he obtained employment at Taylor's Bell Foundry. He became a first-class bell-hanger and carried out work for the firm not only in all parts of the British Isles, but also on the Continent and in the United States of America. He was with the firm for more than 50 years.

He joined the M.C.A. in 1883 and for this association he rang 60 peals—he was a safe ringer and excellent striker. During the last few years he led a quiet, unassuming life, and although he had taken no active part in ringing for about 10 years, he will nevertheless be sadly missed, particularly by his contemporaries.

## RINGING ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

A DISAPPOINTMENT AT ACCRINGTON.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On Christmas Eve, eight men assembled outside Accrington Parish Church for the purpose of ringing in Christmas at midnight. The sanction of the Chief Constable and church authorities had been obtained, but the sexton, the key man of the situation, could not be found, and the tower door was locked. A long ladder was obtained, but the window in the ringing chamber was securely fastened. In 25 years' ringing I have never seen more disappointed men. I believe ours was the only church for miles around where the custom of ringing in the festival at midnight was to be carried on.

CHARLES W. BLAKEY.

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Staverton Vicarage, near Daventry.



**KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. Trollope, in his letter in 'The Ringing World' of December 22nd, acknowledges the fact that the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus was without doubt rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, in 1820.

Mr. Trollope follows on with a list of peals rung by the Cumberlands in various methods from 1769 to 1795, viz., Double Bob Major, Double Grandsire Caters, Double Grandsire Cinques, Royal Treble Bob and Treble Bob Maximus. Each peal has the prefix 'Cumberland', evidently a habit of the society at that time.

The St. Martin's Youths, Birmingham, during the period 1768 to 1793, rang several peals at St. Martin's, including Grandsire Caters, Grandsire Cinques, Plain Bob Royal, Plain Bob Maximus, Oxford Treble Bob Royal and Oxford Treble Bob Maximus (1793), followed closely with Grandsire Maximus, Kent Treble Bob Maximus (1820) and Kent Treble Bob Cinques in 1832, all recorded in St. Martin's Guild peal books.

In the 'Clavis' and Shipway's book there are variations of Treble Bob Minor and Major, including Oxford, Kent, London and Cumberland Exercise, etc. Is this the 'Cumberland' Mr. Trollope refers to?

ALBERT WALKER.

Birmingham.

**BIRTHDAY COMPLIMENT TO VETERAN WESTBURY RINGER**

At Westbury, Wilts, on Sunday morning, December 31st, to commemorate the 80th birthday of Mr. William Hart, the oldest ringing member of the tower, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: R. Gale 1, P. Chapman 2, C. Hughes 3, F. Brown 4, T. B. Holloway (conductor) 5, E. F. White 6, R. Newton 7, R. Clayton 8. Mr. Hart has been a ringer at the Parish Church for 55 years and in 1921 was chairman of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild.

**DEATH OF A STOCKPORT RINGER.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Mottershead, of the St. George's, Stockport, band, which took place on December 29th at the age of 66 years.

At the funeral on January 1st a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave, and afterwards on the tower bells half-muffled 323 changes of Grandsire Caters and a plain course of Bob Major. Mr. Mottershead was the last of the original band formed at St. George's in 1896 before the consecration of the church in February, 1897.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.****SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT CLAPTON.**

Ringers from Essex, Surrey and Middlesex, including West London, defied all attendant discomforts of fog and black-out and met at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, on Saturday, January 6th, to make another successful war-time ringing meeting of the North and East District of the above association. Such a meeting is enjoyed by all and is a pleasure to arrange. Well-known ringers, of the expert class, ensured a high standard of ringing, which ranged from call changes to two touches of Spliced Surprise Major to cater for all present. The former was for members of the young local band, who are manfully striving to keep their bells ringing and holding their practices each Saturday afternoon.

No service could be held owing to the Light Restriction Order, but an excellent tea was provided and served by some local ladies.

Before the business meeting, Mr. C. T. Coles, hon. secretary of the association, referred to the loss by death of two long-standing members, namely, Messrs. A. Pye and J. H. Cheesman. Both joined in 1898, were highly respected, had great ringing records, and were of the type that the Exercise could ill afford to lose. The meeting stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect to these deceased gentlemen.

A vote of congratulation was passed to the two Lincolnshire bands on ringing the spliced peals recorded in our last issue.

The usual formalities of the business meeting were duly carried through and a few general items were discussed.

The Chairman, Mr. G. W. Fletcher, as hon. secretary of the Central Council, explained the present position of ringers and ringing in relation to the Control of Noise Order (No. 2). He pointed out that ringing is permitted under law and that, except in a few isolated cases, service and practice ringing and ringing at meetings would not be affected if co-operation with the local police authorities was sought and carried out. Two points were stressed, firstly, the Light Restriction Order must be complied with in the tower during the black-out period; secondly, a watch must be kept outside the tower during ringing to stop activities in the event of an air raid warning. The speaker was of opinion that the control authorities were ready and willing to assist the Ringing Exercise within the scope of their power. The meeting closed after the usual votes of thanks had been accorded.

Further ringing took place in the tower, while others enjoyed some handbell ringing, which consisted of a course of each of Double Norwich, Double Oxford, London Surprise and Cambridge Surprise, a short course of Spliced (London, Cambridge and London), and a touch of Stedman Triples.

# John Taylor & Co.

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

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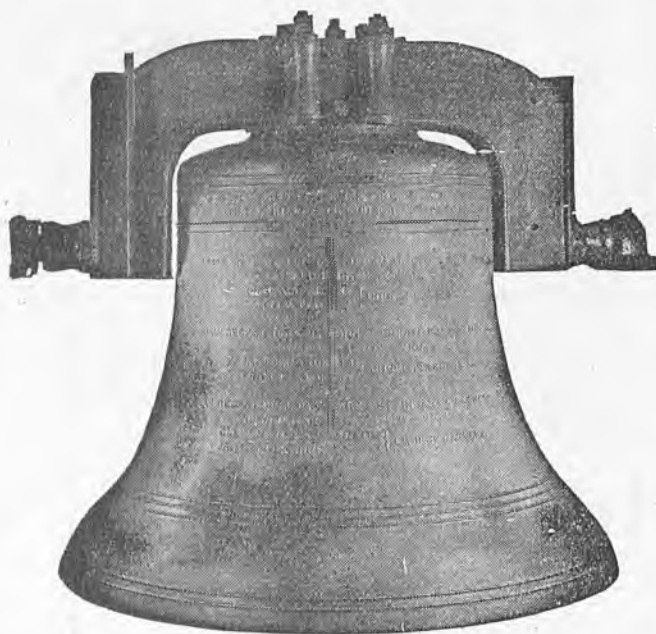
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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The date of the next meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths is January 16th, not January 9th as published in our last issue.

We congratulate the Misses Richardson on what we believe is the first peal of Minor rung by ladies in hand. The three sisters are the daughters of the late Rev. H. S. T. Richardson and nieces of Mr. E. H. Lewis, the President of the Central Council. Dorothy is 13 years old, Monica 15 and Brenda 17.

On January 8th, 1769, 6,160 changes of Bob Major were rung at St. Mary's, Twickenham. John Cole, who conducted, was a member of a family of ringers whose name appears on many peal boards and also in the peal books of the College Youths. Three of the ringers were called Redknap, a name which you will see to-day in Twickenham. The board which recorded this peal is not now in the belfry.

Samuel Thurston died on January 9th, 1841. He had been for several years the leading man among the Norwich Scholars. His most notable performance was to call the first peal of London Surprise Major ever rung.

On January 10th, 1837, the Junior Society of College Youths rang 5,016 changes of Stedman Cinques at St. Saviour's, Southwark, the first peal in the method on the bells. It was composed and conducted by John Cox.

On January 11th, 1717, the London Scholars rang at St. Bride's the first ten-bell peal ever achieved. It was 5,040 changes of Grandsire Caters, but as the peal board was destroyed in 1796, further particulars are lacking.

Mr. George Popnell tells us that the augmented ring at St. Woolos' Cathedral, Newport, is a great success. The founders, Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, have made a good job, and the bells are one of the handiest rings of twelve in the country. The tower also has a full service band able to ring the twelve every Sunday. It is hoped to hold a practice on one Saturday in every month.

A famous heavy bell feat was performed at St. Mary-le-Bow on January 3rd, 1803, when James Marlon turned in the old tenor to 5,200 changes of Oxford Treble Bob. Marlon had already rung the bell single-handed to Grandsire Caters, but the first man to do so was Philip Pilgrim.

On January 4th, 1794, the Birmingham St. Martin's Youths rang 8,000 Grandsire Major at St. John's, Deritend. Grandsire on even numbers is not now considered proper, but it had a considerable amount of popularity in Birmingham, and earlier still several peals were rung in London.

## ALDERMAN J. S. PRITCHETT.

Many of our readers will join us in congratulating Alderman J. S. Pritchett on his 85th birthday, which occurred on Monday last.

Alderman Pritchett was one of the early members of the Oxford University Society. He joined the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1873 and is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, living member of that society. He is still the Master of St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, and Recorder of Lincoln.

## ACCIDENT TO MR. ALBERT W. COLES.

We regret to learn that Mr. A. W. Coles, late Ringing Master of the Middlesex Association, met with an accident last Saturday when cycling. It is understood that his front wheel skidded on a slippery road and in falling he broke a thigh. He is now in Oster House Hospital, St. Albans.

## A PUBLIC SCHOOL RINGING SOCIETY.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In the December issue of the 'Doningtonian,' the magazine of Donington Grammar School, Spalding, occurs the following:—  
'The Campanological Society.—We welcome a large number of fresh talent to our society this term and we hope they will not only take a keen interest in tune ringing, but that they will also take a still greater interest in change ringing. The older members, after three and a half terms of hard work and not a few disappointments, have achieved their first victory. We congratulate them on bringing several plain courses of Bob Minor into "rounds." We next want a 720 of this method and then a peal of 5,040 changes.'

All ringers will hope that this ambition is satisfied. In these times, when new ringers are sure to be hard to find, an organisation such as this, however limited its scope, is worthy of every encouragement, and it would be interesting to learn a little more of the origin and activities of the society, as I do not recall any previous news of its existence.

E. A. BARNETT.

## PEAL DELETED FROM RECORD.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I wish to state that the peal of Minor rung at Bucknall on Friday, July 14th, 1939, has been deleted from the records of the North Staffordshire Association, owing to their secession, through their views on the annual dinners.

ANDREW THOMPSON, Hon. Sec.

## A CHESTER RING.

### THE BELLS OF ST. MARY-ON-THE-HILL.

#### Beginning of Another Phase in their Long History.

The bells of the Church of St. Mary-on-the-Hill, Chester, have just undergone restoration, and have begun another phase in their long and interesting history, successfully told in the following article by Mr. J. W. Clarke, who has also supplied the sketch of the church.

The Church of St. Mary-on-the-Hill, Chester, was probably built in the 12th century, but little is known of its early history except that it was in the possession of the rich abbey of St. Werburgh until the dissolution of 1540. The advowson was then granted to the newly-created Dean and Chapter, but by 1554 it was in the hands of the Brereton family. The churchwardens' accounts, beginning in 1536, enable much of the later history of this church, architecturally the best of its type in the city, to be clearly deduced.



THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-ON-THE-HILL.

[From a sketch by Mr. J. W. Clarke.]

In 1553, Chester was visited by the commissioners appointed by the Privy Council for the purpose of making an inventory of church goods. St. Mary's list, of which a copy is preserved, includes

'Five great bells in the steeple and an anthem bell and a clock.' The term 'anthem bell' is uncommon. It doubtless refers to the sanctus bell, which, after the Reformation, was put to other uses. In some places it became known as the 'St. Anthony bell'—the bell being one of the emblems of the Saint—which was contracted to 'Tantony,' 'Tanton' and even Anton, and 'anthem' appears to be the local contraction at the time.

Of the five great bells little is known. Certainly some of them were recast and the frame either renewed or repaired in 1597, but the founder's name does not appear. The old timber and iron was sold and the proceeds put towards the cost of the new work. The anthem bell—now referred to as the 'tanton'—was recast by Hutton, of Congleton, in 1617.

'Spent vpon our selues goeing to Congerton with the Tanton bell and coming whome (home) and being there ... .. iij s. vj d.

There was a flourishing foundry at Congleton in Cheshire at that time, in the hands of Paul Hutton, who took over the foundry from George Lee, its first owner in 1616. Lee had made something of a reputation locally by recasting Wilmslow tenor in 1602 and Nantwich in 1608, both of them bells of no little weight. It would appear, however, that St. Mary's wardens were not greatly impressed by Hutton's work, for, later in the same year, when the tenor was

rehung in new bearings, Scott, of Wigan, was called in to do the work. In 1623 it was decided to recast the tenors. Two founders were consulted, Hutton and William Clibbery (or Clivery), of Holt, a small town on the Welsh border, a few miles from the city. The wardens failed to reach an agreement with the former, but seem to have treated the people well and 'bestoed vpon the Congleton Bellfounders ijs.' as a parting gift. The work was, therefore, done at Holt, and no doubt the bells would be carried there by barge up the Dee and returned the same way.

Pd to William Clifree bellfounder for castinge the bells all newe ... .. xij li (£12)

Pd at the hovlre (Holt) in castinge the towe biggest great belles ... .. xvj s.

There are many references to this founder to be found in the middle west. His trade mark is a plain shield bearing his initials separated by an arrow pointing downwards. Allowing for the variety in spelling of the times, a possible connection with William Clibury (1605-1642), of Wellington, Shropshire, is suggested. Clibury used the same trade mark minus the arrow.

The tenor at St. Mary's was again recast in 1632 by the same founder. The wardens appear to have themselves had the bell taken down, borrowing a windlass from the Cathedral for the purpose. She returned with 'a hundred & odd waight of mettall that was added to the bell more than the waight was before.'

St. Mary's Church suffered greatly during the Civil War. The tower was badly damaged and the bells smashed to pieces. In 1657 the wardens set about a complete restoration of the tower and bells, money being raised both by subscription and levy. Geoffrey Scott, of Wigan, who had that same year succeeded John at the foundry, was consulted and agreed to cast the broken metal into a ring of four.

Payd for carrying of the broken bell mettall to Wigan, staying there till the bells were new cast and bringing them to the church againe 3 li

To be present at the casting, the wardens made the journey to Wigan on horseback, being away four days. Meanwhile a new roof was put on the tower, the bell frame repaired, and the damaged clappers made good in readiness for the bells. Scott and his son returned with the bells and superintended the hanging, completing the job by tuning. The following item in the accounts throws an interesting light on the tuning methods of the day—a method which, in this country, changed little until comparatively recent times:—

Spent on the Bell-founder & his Sone in Chester they being here six days to see the bells hanged and to chipp them to make them tunable ix s. iij d.

These four bells bore the following inscriptions, together with the wardens' initials and founder's mark on each:—

Treble.—Jesvs be ovr spede.

2nd.—Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

3rd.—Dylcedine vocis Cantabo tvo Nomine.

4th.—Jvcvnditate soni Sonabo tibi Domine.

The following year the tenor was recast. The reason for this is not apparent, but the bell was used daily by the sexton and was possibly cracked by clocking. At any rate, no blame seems to have been attached to the founder, for he received £12 for carrying out the work. The original date appeared on the bell after recasting, and of this ring of four three are still in use in the present ring of eight.

In 1659 a meeting of parishioners was held to draw up regulations about the use of the bells. Evidently there were complaints about ringing even in those days! The meeting decided that the ropes should be kept locked up except that of the tenor which the sexton used for 'tollinge of a passinge bell' and for ringing daily at 5 a.m. and 8 p.m. The wardens were to arrange for ringing on November 5th and other notable occasions. The daily ringing, morning and evening, was a long established custom at St. Mary's, for in 1551 the following item appears in the accounts:—

It payd to mest (Mr.) Daueport for kyepyng of the cloke (clock) & the deybell ... .. iij s. viij d.

The Cheshire Rising, a prelude to the Restoration, broke out in August, 1659. The Governor of Chester Castle, which was overlooked (Continued on next page.)

## CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON.

### ST. GILES', CRIPPLEGATE.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

(Continued from page 8.)

The first peal in St. Giles' tower was one of Grand-sire Caters rung on Thursday, March 17th, 1726, by the College Youths, with Benjamin Annable as conductor. Two men were needed for the tenor, one of whom was John Cundell, and this was the first time a bell was rung to a five-thousand double handed.

Six years later, on November 23rd, 1732, the City Scholars accomplished what was then the longest peal of Caters (6,012) and they had three men to the tenor. We know very little of this society, which evidently had a very short, though active, life. They rang one other peal, 10,080 changes of Bob Major on the light eight at Bermondsey.

Three peals only are known to have been scored on the old ring of ten at St. Giles', the third being 5,040 changes of Bob Royal by the Eastern Scholars in 1752. To that the tenor was rung single handed, but George Meakins, who conducted, had to have assistance at the ninth, the reason being (so the peal book says) 'on account of her going so very hard and the company being desirous to complete the peal at that time.'

On November 3rd, 1772, the College Youths rang the first peal (5,057 changes of Grand-sire Caters) on Pack and Chapman's new bells. Very likely it was the opening peal, and the bells had not 'settled to their bearings,' as the phrase was, for two good men were required for the ninth and three for the tenor. A month later the Cumberlands rang 5,111 changes in the same method with only eleven men.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Treble Bob Royal, again with the tenor double handed; and in 1777 the London Youths rang 5,021 Grand-sire Caters, conducted by William Jones, the chief author of the 'Clavis,' and John Reeves' extent of Treble Bob Royal in nine courses, conducted by Christopher Wells.

This was the time of the famous long peal contest between the College Youths and the Cumberlands, and St. Giles' was the scene of one phase of the struggle. The Cumberlands scored the first peal (Oxford Ten-in) ever rung on the bells with ten men only, but their rivals beat it two months later by ringing 6,000 changes in the same method. The younger Samuel Muggeridge was then at the tenor.

The first peal on the twelve was one of Grand-sire Cinques by the College Youths, rung on February 2nd, 1799. John Povey conducted and two first-class heavy bell men, Pilgrim and Mariton, were needed for the tenor.

After that there was a break of 45 years before the next peal. In 1844 the Cumberlands rang 5,016 changes of Stedman Cinques and followed it up by two peals of Treble Twelve in 1847 and 1848 and another of Stedman Cinques in 1850.

In the year 1848 the Birmingham men regained the record for Stedman Cinques, which they had temporarily lost to the Norwich Scholars. They held it for a couple of years, and then the College Youths, by ringing 7,528 changes at St. Giles', brought it back to London. The peal was rung on Monday, January 6th, 1851, and took five hours and twenty-four minutes. John Cox was the composer and conductor and in the band were several men who are still remembered by older ringers, such as William Cooter, William Banister, Matthew Wood, Robert Haworth and James Dwight.

The Cumberlands made a couple of attempts at St. Michael's, Cornhill, to score a longer length, but found the task too great for them. In the first attempt they failed after having rung just under 6,000 changes; in the second they reached the 7,746th change. Heavy bells were not hung in those days as they are now.

In 'The Era' of January 19th, 1851, there appeared the following letter:—

Mr. Editor.—In your journal of Saturday last, under the head of Change Ringing, I there perceived a report of a performance of a peal on the bells of St. Giles', Cripplegate, attributed to the Society of College Youths. I readily admit that such a performance did take place, but deny the existence of any such society in London as the one alluded to. The company to which Mr. F. Steadman belonged has long since been extinct. It is, therefore, nothing more or less than a fiction for the purpose of ringing the money out of the pockets of the provincial ringers who visit London at various periods of the year, and are induced to join them under the idea that it is a regularly organised national society, as such pay what is termed the entrance money without ever receiving a copy of rules (for the very obvious reason that there is no such thing) and return home with a credulousness craftily palmed upon them by individuals who, upon investigation,

turn out to be the parochial ringers of St. Saviour's, Southwark. I might also mention the names of Bradford and Lambert inserted in the report is a wilful misstatement, there being no such persons in any way connected with the science in London. I might also mention for the information of the ringers of England that there is but one regular organised society in London, viz., the London Cumberland Change Ringing Society, under the sanction and patronage of several of the clergy and influential laymen of the metropolis.

GEORGE WOOLF, Bow.  
12th Jan., 1851.

The editor added a cautious note that 'We insert this, but have our doubts of the London Cumberland being the only regularly organised society of London.'

Woolf was one of the leading Cumberlands, his letter shows a bitter partisan spirit, and it, of course, is entirely valueless as proof of any breach of continuity in the Society of College Youths.

Its interest for us lies solely in the evidence it affords of the relationship between the two leading societies. It was about this time, when the London Exercise was at its lowest level, that the rules were formally adopted by the two companies forbidding the members of one to be members of the other. The exclusive spirit had been common to all ringing societies from the earliest times, but these rules are definitely directed against another society by name.

Present-day members are usually inclined to look on these rules as having been framed to cultivate 'friendly rivalry,' and they think that they are a part of the traditions and heritage of the past which it would be a pity to part with. Actually they are survivals of the very worst side of the old London companies, and the first one of the two societies which has the courage to rescind the rule will be doing something for its own good and for the good of London ringing generally.

In modern times a number of peals have been rung at St. Giles' by various societies. On November 12th, 1912, a 'John' peal of Stedman Cinques was rung for the Waterloo Society. The society at that time was dead though not buried, and the corpse was dragged out to serve the occasion. The second peal of Cambridge Maximus in London was rung on these bells by the Middlesex County Association, on April 5th, 1913, conducted by William Pye.

## OLD CHESTER PEAL RESTORED.

(Continued from previous page.)

by St. Mary's tower, ordered part of the tower to be pulled down in case it should be used as a stronghold against the castle. Soldiers demolished a considerable portion, leaving the tower squat and insignificant, and in this state it remained until 1861, when it was raised to its present height.

A treble was added to Scott's ring of four in 1783, but no details of this are available. Other than the date, the bell has neither inscription nor ornament. The possibility of its being cast by Rudhall cannot be overlooked, but it is unusual to find such a bell having no mark of identification. It seems evident that the ring was in the minor key, for Rudhall added a tenor in 1786. Except for the usual repairs and upkeep of ropes, nothing further was done until late last century.

In 1887 St. Mary's was constituted the parish church of the united parishes of St. Bridget and St. Martin. St. Bridget's Church was pulled down and two of its four bells (dated 1629) were eventually used to complete the octave at St. Mary's. A restoration scheme was carried out by Warner in 1895. The fifth was recast, as also were the two St. Bridget's bells, and the eight hung in a new iron frame. It is perhaps unfortunate that little attention seems to have been paid to the tonal qualities of the bells, although the hanging was well done.

In the present restoration, which has been effectively carried out by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, the tenor has been recast with a considerable amount of new metal added, and the whole ring tuned and rehung on ball bearings.

A large congregation witnessed the rededication on Christmas Eve. The ceremony was performed by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Rt. Rev. D. H. Crick, and the customary rounds were rung as he proceeded from the west end to the chancel. His Lordship took his text from I. Cor. ix. 16—'Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel,' and in the course of a delightful address said that he had chosen these words because they appear in their Latin from 'Vae mihi si non evangelisavero,' as the inscription on the famous English bell, 'Great Paul,' which hangs in the south-west tower of St. Paul's Cathedral. This great bell had come from the same foundry to which St. Mary's bells had been taken for restoration. He felt that of all inanimate things which played a part in helping to preach the Gospel, bells were surely the chief. A recent order from the county authorities forbidding the use of church bells had brought him many letters asking him to protest strongly against it. Fortunately that order had almost immediately been rescinded, but the incident had shown very clearly the place that our church bells occupy in the lives of so many people.

After the service touches were rung by members of the Chester Diocesan Guild, and the parishioners had an opportunity of listening to their bells again after some months of silence. They were the same bells—and yet not the same. The tuning machine, skilfully used, had made them more completely a ring, and the recast tenor possesses that resonance so noticeably absent before. The blocking up of the louvre openings, too, has had a mellowing effect. In the ringing chamber the opening and re-glazing of a window long covered has given additional light, and the room has been cleaned and decorated. Thus St. Mary's bells, on which so many peals have been rung, begin another phase in their long history.



**PRESENTATION TO MR. JAMES HUNT.****LONG SERVICE TO TAUNTON DEANERY.**

At the annual meeting of the Taunton Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, a presentation was made to Mr. James Hunt to mark his retirement from the position of Ringing Master of the branch, an office he had ably filled for some 21 years. The gift—a silver inkstand in the shape of a bell—was handed to Mr. Hunt by the new president of the branch, the Rev. J. W. Storey, Rector of Staple-grove.

Mr. R. W. Hayward (hon. secretary) said the presentation was made possible through the practical co-operation of the various towers in the Deanery.

Mr. Storey observed that the gift would always be a reminder to Mr. Hunt of his work as a ringer.

Expressing his appreciation, Mr. Hunt said he had been 21 years in their service. He did not pretend that he had been a perfect Ringing Master, but he had stood for the cause of change ringing. No one could ever say he had 'jibbed' at ringing Grandsire Doubles. He had always tried to teach youngsters the art of change ringing, which started from Grandsire Doubles. Giving advice which he himself had endeavoured to follow, Mr. Hunt urged his fellow-ringers to ring whatever the conductor asked them, to ring it to the best of their ability, and to be punctual and regular in their attendance at the tower. Remarking that he had rung in many parts of the country, Mr. Hunt said not many towns could stand where Taunton stood to-day. 'I could pick a band in Taunton who would ring with any band I have ever come across, and in some high-class methods at that,' he declared. 'I can assure you that no town in the South-West of England will touch Taunton.'

**MR. JAMES HUNT.**

Mr. Hunt mentioned that he had been connected with St. James', Taunton, since 1919, during which time 37 peals had been rung there by Deanery men. Ten had conducted peals on these bells, and, curiously, each conductor had called some method he had never called before. Seventy-three had rung something they had never rung before. He had been into towers where men perfectly capable of conducting a touch had never been asked to do so, but that was not his principle. In conclusion, he thanked them sincerely for the kindness they had always shown him.

**THE NEW RINGING MASTER.**

The Rev. W. H. Heaton-Renshaw, of St. Mary's, Taunton, presided at the meeting.

The Hon. Secretary stated that since his last report 12 peals had been rung, 11 of them in the first half of the year. The declaration of war at the beginning of September put an end to further activities in that direction. Peals were rung in the following methods: Eight of Grandsire Doubles, one of Stedman Doubles, one of Plain Bob Minor, one of Treble Bob Minor, and one of Grandsire Triples. Meetings during the year were held at Pitminster, North Curry and Staplegrave. He thanked the incumbents for placing towers at their disposal. Mr. Hayward concluded his report by expressing the hope that towers would make every effort to maintain activity during the difficult conditions at present existing, and to endeavour to obtain new members.

The balance sheet showed that receipts amounted to £4 17s., and expenditure to 15s. 10d., leaving a balance of £4 1s. 2d.

The report and balance sheet were adopted.—Mr. Hayward was thanked for his services, and unanimously re-elected.

Mr. A. J. Wyntt (Wilton) was appointed to succeed Mr. Hunt as Branch Ringing Master and was appointed branch representative on the Association Committee.

It was decided to hold quarterly meetings at Creech St. Michael (in March), Wellington (June), and Fitzhead (September).

The members heard with regret of the illness of Mr. Jim Reed (Staplegrave), a ringer for more than 50 years, and asked the president to convey a message of good wishes to him.

The service at St. Mary's Church, which preceded the meeting, was conducted by the Vicar. Touches in various standard methods were rung on the bells during the afternoon and evening.

**NOTICES.**

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. per quarter.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting of the Lincoln District will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13th, at Washington. Bells (8, tenor 14 cwt.) available from 2 to 4.30 p.m., short service to follow. Tea at moderate charge.—Kenneth W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 31, Vine Street, Lincoln.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—The district annual meeting will be held at Sapcote on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Ringing during the afternoon and evening.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Chorley Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells available from 2.30. A good attendance is requested.—F. Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Frome and Midsomer Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Midsomer Norton (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells available 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea and meeting to follow.—E. H. Nash, The Talbot, Mells.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—A meeting will be held at Bispham on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells ready at 3 p.m.; business meeting 5 p.m.—C. S. Sharples, Branch Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—A practice will be held at Sible Hedingham on Saturday, Jan. 13th, 2.30 p.m. sharp.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Daven-try Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Daven-try (8) on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Usual arrangements.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daven-try, Northants.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSO- CIATION.**—Cheltenham Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Cheltenham on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Parish Church bells (12) available from 2 p.m. till black-out. Short business meeting at 3.30 in the ringing chamber.—Walter Yeend, Hon. Branch Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—Newport Pagnell Deanery.—A meeting will be held at Emberton on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Service 3.30. Learners and beginners invited.—Rev. J. F. Amies, Ravenstone Vicarage, Olney, Bucks.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Annual meeting of Southampton District at St. Mary's, Southampton, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells 1.30 to 4.30.—G. Pullinger, 17, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke, Hants.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Derby, on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Ringing from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. only. Business meeting for the election of officers will be held in the belfry. All ringers welcome.—Wm. Lancaster, Local Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Biggleswade District.—The annual meeting will be held at Biggleswade on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Tea if possible to arrange. All ringers welcome. Please come. A good company is requested. — C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13th, at St. James' Church, Poolstock. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. — S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA, SOMERSET.**—The recast 5th and 7th bells will be dedicated by the Bishop of Bath and Wells on Sunday, Jan. 14th, at 11 a.m. All the eight bells are now on ball-bearings. The work has been carried out by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.** — The next meeting will be held at headquarters, The Coffee Pot, on Tuesday, Jan. 16th, at 7 p.m. Practice at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, Saturday, Jan. 13th, and at St. Lawrence Jewry on Saturday, Jan. 20th; both at 3 p.m. — A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.** —The annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on January 20th, at 4.30 p.m., in the Vestry Hall. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Owing to the present conditions no arrangements can be made for tea at this meeting.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Wellingborough Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, January 20th. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea, at 1/- each, in the Co-operative Hall. Important: Don't forget to let me know you are coming. — A. Bigley, 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough, Wellingborough.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** — Annual meeting Jan. 20th. Business meeting in St. Chad's belfry at 3 p.m. prompt. Service, St. Aiden's Chapel, 5.30 p.m. Tea 6 p.m. St. Chad's bells (12) available 2.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 to 5.30 p.m., subject to war restrictions. Handbells otherwise and after tea. Names for tea to W. A. Farmer, 14, Swan Hill, Shrewsbury.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Guildford District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Guildford on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Holy Trinity bells (8) available 3 to 4 p.m., St. Nicolas' (10) 3 to 4.30 p.m. and during evening. Service at St. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Hall. Those requiring tea must notify me not later than Thursday, Jan. 18th.—W. F. J. Cope, 26, Curling Vale, Onslow Village, Guildford.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.** — Chesterfield District.—Annual district meeting, Eckington, Jan. 20th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Short service prior to business meeting. Election of officers for ensuing year. Will all intending to be present please acquaint Mr. G. C. Graham, 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, by Thursday, 17th, so that all possible arrangements may be made?—Sam Scattergood, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The next practice meeting will be held at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Broughton-in-Furness, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m. Reports to hand.—N. M. Newby, Sec., Furness and Lake District.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.**—The first quarterly meeting of the year is to be held at Allesley, near Coventry, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells available from 3 to 8 p.m. Tea will be provided at the Rainbow Inn at 5 p.m. to all who notify Mr. J. W. Taylor, Paybody Cottage, Allesley. Business meeting to follow tea. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance. There is to be a practice meeting at Chilvers Coton on Saturday, Jan. 13th, from 7 to 9 p.m. Visitors welcomed.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Childwall on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m. It is hoped to arrange for tea at a small charge for all who send in their names to Mr. G. Sergeant, 7, Tower Cottages, Childwall, Liverpool 16, not later than Wednesday, Jan. 17th. There will be a business meeting after tea, 5.30, which will be followed by further ringing.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deanery Branch. — Annual meeting at Wokingham, Saturday, Jan. 20th. Service in St. Paul's Church 3.45 p.m. Preacher, Rev. A. P. Carr, M.A. Tea in St. Paul's Parish Room 4.30, charge to be announced at the tea. Business meeting 5.15. Those requiring tea must notify by Jan. 15th. Ringing at both churches from 2 p.m. till service time.—W. J. Paice, Hon. Sec., Merrel, California, Wokingham.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—The annual meeting will be held on Jan. 20th. St. Margaret's bells (12) will be available from 2 p.m. till 5.45 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d., followed by the meeting, will be at the George Hotel, Clock Tower. Please notify me by the 18th inst. Please note that it will be moonlight from about 5 p.m. onwards.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.** — Northern District.—Annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 20th, at St. Lawrence Jewry, City, E.C. Bells available 2.45 p.m. till 'black-out.'—James G. A. Prior, Hon. Sec., 2, Thorncliffe Road, Clapham Park, S.W.2.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.** — Northampton Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Usual arrangements. Names to me, please, by Jan. 17th. — J. Dean, Hon. Sec., 4, Court Road, Northampton.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.** — Rutland Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at Uppingham on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Please notify for tea early to S. H. Towell, Hon. Sec., 27, West Road, Oakham.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.** — Southern District. — Annual meeting will be held at Reigate on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., followed by tea (1s. 3d. each) at 6.15 p.m., and meeting at the Parish Hall (1st floor), Lesbourne Road. Please notify me by Wednesday, the 17th, as to numbers for tea.—A. T. Shelton, Act. Hon. Sec., The Cottage, Oakway, Reigate. Tel. Redhill 371.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.** — The next meeting will be held at Pudsey on Jan. 20th. Bells available from 3 p.m. until dark. Other arrangements indefinite. Business meeting, Park Hotel. — H. Loft-house, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds 12.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Crewe Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Christ Church, Crewe (10 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea (by kind invitation of the Vicar and wardens) will be provided only for those who send notice to me by Jan. 16th, as catering is difficult. Business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. — Rich. D. Langford, Hon. Branch Sec., 118, Ruskin Road, Crewe.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual meeting of the Wirral Branch will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20th, at Birkenhead St. Mary's (6 bells). Tower open at 3 o'clock. Service at 5.30. Tea at 6 o'clock. Meeting afterwards. — H. S. Brocklebank, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch. — Quarterly meeting at Wordsley, Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea, meeting and ringing afterwards. Plenty of moonlight, so please book date, and advise me re tea by Wednesday, Jan. 17th. Thank you. — Bernard C. Ashford, Hon. Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.** — Southern District. — Annual meeting to-morrow week, Jan. 20th. St. Mary's, Putney, 2 to 4 p.m. Tea and business in Church Hall. Ringing at All Saints', Fulham, afterwards, if possible.—P. A. Corby, Dis. Master.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Portsmouth District.—The annual meeting will be held at Portsmouth on Saturday, January 20th. Cathedral bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. and after the meeting. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in the Y.M.C.A., High Street, followed by business meeting. All those requiring tea MUST notify me by the 18th. All ringers welcome.—F. W. Rogers, Dis. Sec. pro tem., 52, Samuel Road, Portsmouth.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Nottingham District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held on Saturday, January 20th, in St. Mary's belfry, Nottingham. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting for election of officers at 5.30 p.m.—E. C. Gobey, Dis. Sec., Trowell, Notts.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.** — Stockport Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at Norbury on Saturday, January 20th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. For tea please advise Mr. W. Fernley, 4, Grove Street, Hazel Grove.—C. K. Lewis, Hon. Sec.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Farnham District.—The district annual meeting at Farnham (8 bells) on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Service 2.30. Ringing 3 p.m. and after business until 8 p.m. Tea and business at Darracott's, West Street, 5 p.m. Note time of service! It is necessary, if tea is required, to notify the hon. secretary by Jan. 24th. Your support is requested by C. W. Denyer, Hon. Sec., 120, Ash Road, Aldershot.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Alton and Petersfield District.—The annual meeting will be held at Alton on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available 2 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea in Parish Room 4.30. Business meeting afterwards. Will those requiring tea please be certain to let me know numbers by Tuesday, Jan. 23rd.—C. E. Bassett, Hon. Dis. Sec., 32, Charles Street, Petersfield.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—On account of clashing with the annual district meeting at Guildford, the combined practice arranged for Cranleigh on Jan. 20th will be postponed until Jan. 27th.—R. Whittington.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—North-Western District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Beddington on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Full details later.—F. G. Woodiss, Hon. Dis. Sec., 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton, Surrey.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Banbury and District Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Adderbury on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells (8) open from 2.30. Service 3.30. Tea cannot be provided. Meeting follows service. Ringing after dark. All welcome.—E. Pearson, Branch Hon. Sec.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting of the association will be held at Hunslet, near Leeds, on Saturday, Jan. 27th. The recently restored bells will be available from 2 p.m. A brief service will take place at 4 p.m., followed by tea in the Parish Room at 5 p.m. A charge of 1s. 4d. per head will be made for tea, and all requiring same MUST notify Mr. C. W. Beaumont, Hunslet Parish Church, Leeds, not later than the first post on Thursday, Jan. 25th. The annual general meeting will be held on the same premises immediately afterwards. As urgent and important business will be dealt with, it is hoped for a large and representative attendance. Reports will be available, and subscriptions are now due. Balm Road cars from Leeds (City Square) pass the church.—L. W. G. Morris, Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—Annual meeting will be held at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields Church on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow at the Express Dairy Co., High Street, W.C.2, Branch. It is essential that I should receive names for tea by first post on Wednesday, 24th. Handbells will be available.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mimms, Hatfield, Herts.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.** — General quarterly meeting, Saturday, January 27th, at Earl Shilton. Bells (8) open from 2.30. Good bus service from Leicester and Nuneaton. Committee meet 3.30. Tea 4.30, followed by meeting in High Street Schools. Tower open till 8 p.m. and convivial at Roebuck Inn afterwards with handbells. Tea, 1s. per head, can only be served to those who apply not later than Jan. 25th to Mr. G. A. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton, Leicester. Those failing to notify must cater for themselves. — Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.** — Preliminary Notice.—The annual meeting will be held at East Grinstead on Saturday, Feb. 10th. Tea by kind invitation. Make a note of the date and come and hear all about the Guild.—C. A. Bassett, Assist. Sec.

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