


# THE RINGING WORLD



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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## PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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*These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.*

## THE FUTURE.

The end of the war, at least on this side of the world, cannot be delayed very much longer. All the indications seem to show that it may come soon, but when and how no one as yet can say. One thing is fairly certain, it will not come in the way it did the last time. There will be no day of which we can say, This is the end. There will be no signing of an armistice, no general cease-fire at 'the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.' Our leaders have clearly said that nothing short of total surrender will be accepted, and that they will not treat with Hitler and those who are associated with him. There are no others who can speak for Germany, and therefore, though general organised resistance may collapse at any time, we shall have to go on until we have occupied and taken over the whole country. And that probably will be many months ahead.

This is not the sort of ending we were looking forward to not so long back. Less than a couple of years ago we were expecting that we should have to endure the full war-time restrictions and drawbacks and to contend with an intact, if beaten, enemy up to the last; and then at a definite minute the guns would cease firing, the lights would go up again in the streets, our long silent bells would ring out, and we should be able to turn from war to peace, as we did, or tried to do, after the last war.

But there will be no such sudden and sharply cut finish this time. The coming of peace may be delayed for long after the ending of the war, and we shall risk bitter disappointment if we imagine we shall be able to pick up at once the threads of our old life where we dropped them five years ago.

The long-drawn-out period of transition from full war to full peace is pretty sure to be a period of disillusionment and frustrated hopes, but in the long run it may prove a blessing. Perhaps it is as well we are getting rid of war-time restrictions and dangers one by one. We recovered our ringing over a year ago. The detestable black-out comes practically to an end on Sunday. The bomb menace to London was to all intents and purposes ended a week ago. People will be better able to adapt themselves to the new and altered conditions of the future if they come somewhat gradually, than if they were suddenly confronted with them.

For many months after the outbreak of war, and especially after the imposition of the ban on ringing, the general feeling in the Exercise was that ringing had suffered such a setback that disaster could only

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be averted if strong and united efforts were made. How could ringing be rehabilitated? was the question asked. What is the Central Council going to do? What are the associations going to do? We know the answers now. No spectacular or drastic measures or action are required or could be effectual. All that is needed is that each ringer who values his art shall quietly do what he can and make the best of the circumstances he finds himself in. The time of transition to fully normal conditions may be long, but they will come in the end, and the art will be stronger than ever it was.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE.  
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Sept. 3, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

### A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S FIVE-PART. Tenor 15 cwt.  
ROBERT ALSOP ... .. Treble \*VERNON BOTTOMLEY ... 5  
GEORGE H. PAULSON ... 2 JOHN SAUNDERS ... 6  
BERNARD ALSOP ... 3 HERBERT E. TAYLOR ... 7  
RAYMOND GREATORIX ... 4 ERNEST PAULSON ... Tenor

Conducted by G. H. PAULSON.

\* First peal in the method. Rung as a thanksgiving for victory.

FARNHAM, SURREY.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

### A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION. Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.  
GEORGE UPSHALL ... .. Treble WILLIAM T. BEESON ... 5  
FREDERICK OLDROYD ... 2 CHARLES F. ANDREWS ... 6  
GEORGE L. GROVER ... 3 ALFRED H. PULLING ... 7  
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 4 FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

### A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation). Tenor 16 cwt.  
\*FREDA D. MURKITT ... Treble C. ALFRED LEVEIT ... 5  
ALBERT DISERENS ... 2 WILLIAM WELLING ... 6  
GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE 3 GEORGE GILBERT ... 7  
†JEAN M. BROOMFIELD ... 4 FRANK H. HICKS ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE GILBERT.

\* First attempt for a peal. † First attempt away from the treble.

PORTISHEAD, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,  
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

### A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 16 cwt.  
\*JENNY PYM ... .. Treble THOMAS W. KIMBER ... 5  
DONALD G. CLIFT ... 2 †EMLYN F. HANCOCK ... 6  
†MONICA J. RICHARDSON 3 RONALD G. BECK ... 7  
JOHN H. B. HESSE ... 4 FREDERICK A. TARGETT Tenor

Conducted by DONALD G. CLIFT.

\* First peal. † First peal on tower bells. ‡ First peal of Triples.

HAGLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sun., Sept. 10, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

### A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation). Tenor 9 cwt.  
\*SUB-LT. D. H. WATSON Treble C. W. COOPER ... 5  
N. LEECH ... .. 2 B. LAWTON ... 6  
MISS F. WRIGHT ... 3 J. W. SMITH ... 7  
J. LLOYD ... .. 4 J. S. WALTON ... Tenor

Conducted by N. LEECH.

\* First peal.

## TEN BELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,  
AT MAGDALEN COLLEGE,

### A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

FREDK. A. H. WILKINS...Treble	JOHN E. SPICE ... .. 6
VICTOR J. F. BENNETT ... 2	NEIL ALLNATT ... .. 7
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 3	W. BERTRAM KYNASTON... 8
MISS VALHALLA HILL ... 4	J. HOWARD R. FREEBORN 9
REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG ... 5	WALTER F. JUDGE ... Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYE. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,  
AT THE BELL TOWER,

### A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor 31½ cwt.

JAMES HEMMING ... .. Treble	ARTHUR H. REED ... .. 6
JOHN THOMAS ... .. 2	WALTER C. ROSE ... .. 7
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... 3	CHARLES W. MARTIN ... 8
MRS. J. THOMAS ... .. 4	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING ... 9
RALPH HARRIS ... .. 5	JOSEPH E. NEWMAN ... Tenor

Composed by J. E. GROVES. Conducted by J. D. JOHNSON.

SOLIHULL, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALPHEGE,

### A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb.

ALBERT WALKER ... .. Treble	*JOHN PINFOLD ... .. 6
*MISS MARIE R. CROSS... 2	*REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE 7
FRANK W. PERRENS ... 3	GEORGE E. FEARN ... 8
J. FRANK SMALLWOOD ... 4	FRANK E. PERVIN ... 9
HENRY H. FEARN ... 5	FRANK E. HAYNES ... Tenor

Composed by WILLIAM PYE. Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

\* First peal of Surprise Royal.

## SIX BELL PEALS.

AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

### A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents. Tenor 5½ cwt.

*ROBERT CRITCHLEY ... Treble	†RONALD KENRICK ... 4
JOHN LUNHAM ... .. 2	ARTHUR MAWDESLEY ... 5
JAMES TAYLOR ... .. 3	JOSEPH RIDYARD ... Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD.

\* First peal in the method. † First peal.

WHICKHAM.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Sat., Sept. 9, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

### A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

*ERNEST CAIRNS ... .. Treble	*STANLEY PROUD ... .. 4
JACK LISHMAN ... .. 2	KIT LAMB ... .. 5
*STEPHEN THOMPSON, JUN. 3	STEPHEN THOMPSON ... Tenor

Conducted by STEPHEN THOMPSON.

\* First peal in three methods.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

EDMONTON, MIDDLESEX

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Sept. 6, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,  
IN THE BELFRY OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

### A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

DENNIS H. LANGDON ... 1-2	ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LEESE ... 3-4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 7-8

PHILIP J. COWARD ... .. 9-10

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.

**SEVEN BELL METHODS.**

(Continued from page 376.)

College Triples (original version).	Twickenham Triples.
1234567	1234567
2143576	2143576
2415367	2415367
4251376	4251637
4523167	2456173
5432617	4265713
5346271	4627531
3564721	6472351
3657412	6743215
6375142	7634125
6731524	6731452
7613542	7613542
7165324	7165324
1756342	1756342
<hr/>	
1573624	1573624
5137642	5137642
5316724	5316724
3561742	3561274

We now come to a class of seven-bell methods which are worth a little examination, although they are generally considered to be irregular and are passed by in the Central Council's 'Collection of Triples Methods' with a bare mention. These are the methods with a plain hunting treble and six working bells, which are composed throughout the plain course of triple changes only. As we have already seen, their peculiarity is that the plain course consists of three leads only, and therefore two full courses are necessary if any one bell is to do the complete work of the method in the sense that each working bell does the complete work of the method in the plain course of Bob Major or Superlative Surprise. This feature has condemned the whole class in the eyes of the men who were acknowledged as authorities, for it has for very many years been a generally recognised rule that 'there shall be as many plain leads in the plain course as there are working bells,' and that 'each lead, together with the hunting and place-making which connect it with the next lead, shall contain the whole working of the method.' These quotations are from the 'Report on Legitimate Methods,' adopted by the Central Council forty years ago and printed in 'Rules and Decisions,' 1904. Although some of the clauses of that report were hotly challenged, these were unanimously accepted.

A rule like this was not laid down, and was not unanimously agreed to, without good cause, but that is no reason why we should not enquire whether it must still be observed.

In the early days of the Exercise this class of method was freely exploited, and the two we have given as examples both date from the first half of the eighteenth century. College Triples as given above differs very considerably from the College Triples given in the Central Council's 'Collection of Triples Methods,' and from the College Minor given in the six-bell book, but it is really the correct seven-bell expression of the idea which was in the minds of the old ringers when they talked of College as a method.

The idea was that the two bells left behind by the treble should dodge together until it returned and parted

them, and that the other bells should make places to enable them to dodge. Thus came College Single Minor and College Single Major, which had a certain amount of popularity from the earliest times down to recent years. The word 'Single' was added to the title only because there was another version, little rung, in which there was dodging in front as well as behind.

But College Single Minor and Major have irregular lead-ends, and so when the first edition of the Minor book was issued the name College was transferred to the variation with the dodging in front instead of behind. It was not a wise thing to do, but the change has been made and cannot now well be altered.

The original College Triples, then, is a method in which each bell plain hunts, except that it makes Fifths place, unless the treble is above it, when it goes to 6-7 and does a four-pull dodge before returning to the front. In the plain course the second, fifth and sixth do the dodging in 6-7 down after turning the treble from behind and lying a whole pull; and the fourth, third and seventh do the dodging in 6-7 up before lying a whole pull and being turned by the treble.

Original College Triples has the correct lead-ends, and the lead is perfectly symmetrical. It is formally true that in the 3-lead plain course all the working bells do not do the same work, but it is also true that what three of them do forwards the other three do backwards, and all six carry out the same general idea of work. The place making and dodging are all at handstroke, and the method is a very simple one. A peal of it was rung so far back as the year 1728, and it is not easy to see why a band should be debarred from ringing one now, if they desire something fresh and out of the usual which will prove no great tax on their abilities.

But will such a method give us a true five thousand and forty? Yes, certainly it will, but there are some points which need careful watching. If we could make our bob when the treble is leading full, the problem would be a simple one; but we cannot make it there because there is no place we can move. We must make the bob in the interior of the lead. The original bob was made by moving the Fifths place (in the change when the treble is leading at handstroke) to Sevenths; and that is probably the best way to do it. But it must be remembered that the symmetry of the lead is upset, and therefore every course must be included in its entirety; it must not come partly in a direct form and partly in the reverse form for, though the lead-ends might be true, there might be repetition in the interior of the lead. The singles must be made by two bells lying still when the treble is leading full.

If, however, one precaution is taken, most of the difficulties in composition disappear. It will be noticed that in the plain course each bell never falls twice into the same relative position with the treble. Therefore, if the observation bell (say the seventh) is fixed and unaffected by the calls, any repetition between handstroke rows and backstroke rows is an impossibility, whether the courses are in-course or out-of-course. The observation bell will, of course, in a sense only do half the work of the method, but the same thing is true in the Bob-and-Single peals of Grandsire Triples and for the same reason; for the Bob-and-Single peals of Grandsire Triples are really peals in a method which belongs to this group and of which the real plain course is the usually called B. Block.

(To be continued.)

**'THE RINGING WORLD.'**

The official Journal of the Central Council of  
Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.

The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,  
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All communications for this journal should be addressed  
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The Editor,

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will send their payments to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The  
White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to  
'The Ringing World.'

As the menace from flying bombs is now practically at an end, the  
College Youths have decided to resume the ringing after their fort-  
nightly meetings.

We have received a defective report of a peal of Stedman Triples  
rung by the Lancashire Association on September 4th. No place is  
mentioned and no dedication of the church. Correspondents should  
write out their peal reports strictly in the form always used in 'The  
Ringing World.'

**THE MONTH'S PEALS**

During the month of August, 57 peals were rung, 43 of them on  
tower bells and 14 on handbells.

The tower bells consisted of: Grandsire Triples 2, Caters 1; Plain Bob  
Minor 2, Major 5; Oxford Bob Triples 1; Kent Treble Bob Major 2,  
Royal 1; Stedman Triples 4, Caters 2; Double Norwich  
Court Bob Major 3; Cambridge Surprise Major 2, Royal 2; Superlative  
3; London 1; Three Minor Methods 4, Four Minor Methods 1;  
Doubles 5.

The handbell peals consisted of: Grandsire Doubles 1, Triples 1,  
Caters 1; Plain Bob Major 2, Royal 1; Maximus 2, Fourteen-in 1;  
Kent Treble Bob Royal 1; Stedman Cinques 3.

The number of peals in January was 50, in February 34, in March  
37, in April 48, in May 41, in June 34, and in July 47, making a total  
for the year (so far) of 348.

In January, April and July there were five Saturdays; in the other  
months four.

**DEATH OF MR. MAURICE SWINFELD.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Maurice Swinfeld, of  
Burton-on-Trent, who was so well known as a conductor of peals of  
Stedman Triples. He passed away on September 7th at the age of  
46 years.

**MUFFLED RINGING.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I often wonder if we are right in ringing the church  
bells half-muffled in tribute to the memory of a fellow ringer, for by  
doing so we make public a sorrow which is felt by a comparatively  
small circle of friends. Furthermore, we believe as professing  
Christians that death is not the end and that our friends have passed  
on to a fuller life—it is the parting we mourn. One doesn't ring half-  
muffled in farewell to an emigrant; on the contrary we ring a joyous  
salute to wish him good luck.

I believe if we were to ask our departed friends before they died  
their wishes in the matter they would choose 'open' ringing.

The public are more sensitive than ever before to the reason for  
ringing our bells. They accept customary practices and Sunday ring-  
ing without question. Any other ringing should be advertised before-  
hand, especially in the large towns.

I think our half-muffled tributes should be reserved for occasions of  
public mourning or sorrow or at such times as the end of the year,  
when the significance of such a procedure is well known.

116. Alma Road, Bournemouth.

ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

**THE LATE MR. JOHN AUSTIN.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very sorry to see that Mr. John Austin had passed  
away. A year or two ago the old man handed over to me a number  
of letters he received many years ago from prominent ringers, among  
them being Mr. Hattersley and Mr. Lindoff. He also gave to me  
Giles Mansfield's written account of the long peal of Grandsire Caters  
at Painswick in 1817. This account has, I believe, never been  
published.

Early this year I wrote to Mr. Austin for some particulars of the  
first peal of Double Norwich Caters. Your readers may be interested  
in a part of the letter he sent in reply, for it sheds light, not only on  
the great activity of the St. Michael's Juniors in the 90's, but also on  
the character and skill of John Austin:—

'When I came to Gloucester in 1890 the St. Michael's Juniors were  
just practising Double Norwich. I, of course, joined them, and we  
rang the first peal on Christmas morning, 1890, then another on  
Boxing Day at Stroud. After that peals came quite easily, peals at  
Bath and, I think, the first peal in Bristol, Cardiff, Dursley and  
several more places.

'At that time the brothers James were crazy for ringing. They  
were after me every night to go somewhere. On one occasion H.L.  
suggested going for Double Norwich Caters, so E.B. arranged the bobs  
in thirds place and composed a peal, gave it to me to fix up a prac-  
tice. Only having eight at the Cross we had to go to Stroud or Pains-  
wick to get the practice.

'On one occasion J. W. Taylor, who was visiting the district, said  
he would like to ring a peal of Double Norwich Caters, so I fixed  
up Stroud. We rang up to the last course, and 89, which should have  
made a single and turned into the handstroke 798, made a bob and  
came out 789 as a bob. I called "Stand" at once. It was very dis-  
appointing. One member of the band said he would never ring an-  
other peal, but that is only one of the setbacks we get in ringing.

'After that we started Superlative. I conducted the first peal at  
Quedgeley in April, 1893, my 100th peal. Afterwards we turned our  
attention to Cambridge Surprise and rang several peals. Then H.L.  
suddenly had a brainwave. We must go for Cambridge Royal, and  
no ten bells to practise on, only by going away. However, it had to  
be done. In 1898 we went to Stroud for the peal and lost it, not far  
from home. Goes over to Cheltenham the next night and rang it.  
Then we had to go in for Maximus, so I wrote out a full course and  
we set it going at Cirencester, but did not get a peal, ringing well  
into two courses once.'

I last saw the old gentleman at the Henry Johnson luncheon in  
Birmingham in the spring of this year, when he entertained me with  
some lively recollections of his palmy days of ringing. I trust that  
the extract I have given will serve to recall the days when the skill  
of John Austin was the talk of the 90's, and the integrity of John  
Austin was quoted as an example for all conductors.

E. C. SHEPHERD.

Solihull.

**FIVE-BELL RINGING.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The letter which appeared in this week's issue under  
the above heading seemed to me to uphold the spirit we definitely do  
not want.

To my mind, the tower at which the ringers turned up casually, till  
at 10.40 the bells were pulled up and rung for service, gave a better  
performance, as far as the listening public were concerned, than the  
one where the bells were pulled up singly, and ringing on four, five  
and eight bells was indulged in, all in the short space of an hour  
or under, usually associated with service ringing.

In any case, neither state of affairs is to be commended. We most  
certainly go to ring the bells for service, and, that being so, what's  
wrong with us giving a good measure of our service? If a band  
decides to ring at a certain time, surely it's up to them to do it.  
It's a poor sort of service if they don't. I'm afraid that were I in  
charge of the ringing in a tower where we had to regularly wait for  
the rest, we should ring those impressive Doubles till service time in  
the hope that the desirability of turning up at the proper time would  
impress itself upon them. Finally, if a tower boasts a band capable  
of ringing Major, they should be able to raise and fall the bells in  
peal every time they meet for service ringing. Surely this is the first  
essential of good service ringing.

H. J. SANGER.

Everecreech.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The Winchester Guild rang the first peal of Double  
Norwich on the bells at SS. Peter and Paul, Fareham, Hants, on  
September 15th, 1894; on September 16th, and 17th, the first peals of  
Double Norwich and Stedman Triples at St. Edward's, Netley Abbey;  
on September 17th, the first peal at St. Michael's, Southampton; on  
September 18th, the first of Superlative in Hampshire at Soberton,  
and the first peal of Double Norwich on the bells the same day; and  
on September 19th, the first peal of Superlative on the bells of Holy  
Trinity, Privett.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Eastleigh.

## HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 373.)

The views of Ellacombe and the early reformers on Sunday ringing seem very strange to us to-day. Even when we try to look at the matter through their eyes and from their standpoint we feel that they were quite mistaken. If we grant that the ringers' conduct was not everything to be desired, that they were slack in their attendance at church, and regular in their visits to the alehouse, yet it would not seem that the best way to cure their faults was to forbid them to come to the church at all, if it were only for the ringing. We know now that the general introduction of Sunday service ringing in place of the old chiming has been one of the principal causes of the improvement which has taken place during the last half-century in the relations between ringers and the clergy and in almost everything connected with bells and ringing. It might have seemed obvious that one of the best ways to begin the reformation of the conduct and status of the ringers was to make them and their art more closely connected with the services of the church. Why then did Ellacombe and the others take the contrary view? Not, I believe, for the reasons they gave, though they may themselves have thought it was. What really influenced them, more or less unconsciously, was the strong traditions which had come down through the ages concerning the nature and uses of ringing and chiming.

Ellacombe, as we have seen, believed that before the Reformation bells were employed solely in the service of the Church and of religion, that the only uses were tolling and chiming, and that ringing in its origin and spirit was a later and secular thing which might be tolerated on week-days but was quite wrong on Sundays. Such an opinion will seem incomprehensible to the present generation, but those who (like myself) spent their early childhood in a puritan atmosphere remember quite well that such Sabbatarian views were taken for granted not only by the clergy but by the staid and sober laity as well.

Chiming *was* the traditional way of calling people to church, and ringing *was* secular. Ellacombe was right there, but he was wrong when he said that before the Reformation the only uses of bells were religious. The truth is that throughout the ages the religious and secular uses of bells had been going on side by side, but during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries the influence and action of that party in the Church with which Ellacombe was least in sympathy had caused the virtual suppression of ringing as a religious use and had left it almost entirely for secular and social purposes.

A bell essentially is not a musical instrument, like a violin, or a flute, or an organ. It is a voice. One of the things which first distinguished man from the lower animals was that he learned to use tools. A tool was simply some mechanical means of extending and reinforcing the powers of the man's body. Instead of fighting with tooth and nail, he learned how to use clubs and spears. Instead of having to dig with his hands, he learned to use primitive spades. So, too, when he wanted to attract attention by making a noise he learned how to extend the range of his own voice by two inventions. One (the earliest) was the trumpet made from the horn of some beast slain in the chase. The other (which appeared as soon as metals were discovered) was the hollow vessel whence was evolved the bell. These two, the trumpet and

the bell, are man's supreme instruments for making sound, and they have had a longer and a wider appeal than any others.

A bell is a voice, and not only a voice but the voice of man, and man's voice has two main functions—to convey messages and to express emotion and feeling. That is what the bells were made and cast for, and that is why they had and still have such a wide appeal to men.

The bells hung in the churches in early times were used to convey many kinds of definite messages, both ecclesiastical and secular—the times and the nature of the services, the times of the beginning and ending of the day's labour, the announcement of the death of some person, the calling of the people together for a purpose connected with the communal life, the outbreak of fire, and occasionally the alarm when the enemy was at the gate. For all these purposes the bells were knolled or chimed, and to distinguish one kind of message from another there were various ways of doing it. The different services were marked by different chiming, and so arose those definite uses which lasted down to quite recent times.

But the bell was also a voice which had to show feeling and emotion, and that (any more than a similar use of the human voice) needed no exact expression. So all the bells were sounded together and swung as high as they could be to get the loudest and fullest tone out of them. That was the ultimate origin of ringing, and the proximate origin was when the young men who were employed to do it found it good sport to see, first how high they could swing the bells, and then how nearly they could do it in perfect time and orderly rounds.

The emotion expressed by this ringing was both secular and religious. There was exultation when the news came of some victory, greetings to some great man, homage to the king or the bishop, joy at a marriage, and there was also the sound of triumph when the solemn procession typifying the Church militant passed down the aisle and the bells took the part which is now performed by the singing choir. They were also the voice of the Church flinging defiance at the powers of evil; for when demons 'hear the trumpets of the Church militant, that is the bells, they are afraid, as any tyrant is afraid when he hears in his land the trumpets of a powerful king.' Unfortunately this thought, noble in itself, was almost bound to lead to superstition, and the time came when bells were popularly supposed to have some magical powers of their own, with the result that ringing for religious purposes had in the interests of truth to be greatly curtailed and practically abolished. Ringing for other purposes went on as before, but it was almost entirely secular. When needed reforms are made, the reformers almost always go too far, and the suppression of 'superstitious' ringing led, in fact, to the suppression of nearly all ringing for distinctively Church purposes. The real problem which faced the nineteenth century belfry reformers was (if they had known it) how to win back ringing to the service of the Church. That problem has been solved by the territorial associations.

(To be continued.)

### 'GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF MINOR.'

To the Editor.

Sir,—Correction to 'Number Pairs Bobbed.' Delete 23 45 56 25 (redundant with 23 45 42 62). Delete 63 25 34 56 23 (redundant with the partner in 5b with 63 34 25 56 64). The correct total is 40 in all.

I must apologise for allowing this redundancy to appear. The errors were shown by a more rigorous method of checking the truth of the figures.

BRIAN D. PRICE.

**HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.***To the Editor*

Sir,—With reference to the articles that you have been publishing about the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, several of my friends were well acquainted with him personally, and it was my own privilege (confessedly after an interval of 40 years) to succeed him as Rector of Clyst St. George. On these accounts I feel it specially incumbent on me to point out that your anonymous contributor is seriously at fault in the conclusions he draws.

To do this it seems to me sufficient to challenge the stress laid on the assumption that Ellacombe (and men like him) had no practical interest in change ringing, culminating in the statement in the issue of September 8th that 'he certainly mistrusted it and disliked it.'

In point of actual fact Mr. Ellacombe was himself a change ringer. He founded, or at the least was the most active agent in founding, the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, the first territorial association to be established, the preliminary meetings inaugurating the Guild being held in the Exeter office of Mr. Fulford, solicitor, a personal friend of Mr. Ellacombe living in the nearby parish of Woodbury. On two occasions he obtained at his own expense, once from London and once from Bristol, bands of the most expert ringers of the day to go down to Clyst St. George to ring there on special occasions.

And as a final refutation of your contributor's theories, he started at Clyst one of the earliest parochial bands of change ringers in Devon with such success that the band continued to flourish without a break right down to the present day, or more accurately until Clyst St. George Church was blitzed in 1940.

E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage.

[What Ellacombe wrote in his prime and published in his books is a safer guide to his opinions than memories of him when he was close on ninety years old. That his opinions changed and developed as he grew older is true of him as it is of any other man who uses his brains, and, as we pointed out, he did know enough about change ringing to ring Grandsire Doubles. What we wrote, however, is substantially correct.—The Editor.]

**TECHNICAL TERMS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—To anyone who is puzzled by the terms up and down in hunting I would say, 'Hold your bell up' when you want to get to lead, and 'Cut her down' when you want to get out behind and see what happens!

I suspect that we owe these terms to those who were teaching young ringers.

E. BANKES JAMES.

Surreet.

**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.****MEETING AT BALCOMBE.**

A meeting of the East Grinstead and District Guild was held at Balcombe on August 19th, when 23 ringers from London, Croydon, Hartfield, East Grinstead, Tonbridge, Kingston and Balcombe rang methods ranging from Grandsire to London Surprise. After tea a short business meeting was held, when some new members were elected and further meetings at Tonbridge and Godstone were arranged. The proceedings ended with a good touch of Stedman Triples on the handbells.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.****MEETING AT DOWNTON.**

A meeting of the Salisbury Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Downton on August 26th, was attended by members from Britford, Amesbury, South Newton, Wishford, Wilton, Downton, Swallowcliffe, Fisherton St. Paul and the city churches of St. Martin and St. Thomas. Visitors came from Breamore, Ringwood and Cirencester.

Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. G. Birch, who gave an address, and tea followed at the New Inn with business meeting, Mr. E. G. Caple being in the chair. New members were admitted from St. Paul's, Salisbury, and Amesbury, and the Vicar of Downton was elected an honorary member. It was announced that the next branch meeting would be the special gathering at St. Martin's on September 30th, and it was decided to hold a practice meeting at South Newton on a date to be arranged with the local ringers.

**MEETING AT TROWBRIDGE.**

A meeting of the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held at Trowbridge on September 9th, was attended by members from Trowbridge, Melksham, Westbury, Warminster, Bishop's Canning, Keevil, North Bradley, Chirton, Devizes (St. John's and St. Mary's) and St. James' (Southbroom), and visitors from Bath, Bathaston, Swinden, Wootton Bassett and Norwich.

Service was conducted by the Rev. P. Owen, and Mr. A. T. Weeks was at the organ. Forty-six sat down to tea in the Parish Hall, and Mr. E. F. White presided at the business meeting which followed.

**WINSCOMBE, SOMERSET.**—On Sunday, August 27th, 720 Bob Minor: G. Lilley (first 720) 1, W. Claydon 2, Major J. H. B. Hesse 3, G. Olliver 4, E. F. Hancock 5, D. G. Clift (conductor) 6.

**NOTICES.**

**THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION** of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

All lines exceeding six in any one insertion are charged at the rate of 4d. per line.

The charge for notices other than of meetings is 2s. 6d. for each insertion.

**NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—General meeting, Acton, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. — C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—General meeting, Tadcaster, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2 p.m. Committee 3 p.m. in Boys' Sunday School. Service 4 p.m. Tea and business in Boys' Sunday School 5 p.m.—L. W. G. Morris, Hon. Gen. Sec., 65, Lilycroft Road, Heaton, Bradford.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—North-East Division.—Meeting at Mistley, Saturday, September 16th, 2 p.m. Bring food and a pinch of tea.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., Park Farm Cottages, Shimpling, Bury St. Edmunds.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch.—Half-yearly meeting at Washingborough, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Business meeting later. Bring tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Branch.—Annual meeting at Clent, 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16th. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and business after.—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Meeting at Holbeach, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by business. Own arrangements for tea.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Reading Branch.—Practice meeting at Henley, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 6.45 to 9 p.m.—E. G. Foster, 401, London Road, Reading.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—Meeting at Asfordby and Kirby Bellars, Sept. 16th, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—H. W. Perkins.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Meeting at St. Mary's, Portsmouth, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.—R. J. Stone, 16, Penhale Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—Meeting at St. James', Moss-side, Leyland, Saturday, Sept. 16th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Bring food.—Fred Rigby, Hon. Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—Meeting at Clent, jointly with Worcestershire Association, Saturday, September 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea and meeting afterwards.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 3 p.m. Service ringing at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, Sunday, Sept. 17th, 9.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Western Division.—Meeting at Heptonstall, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2 p.m. Tea 2s. 9d. Apply W. Southwell, 16, Longfield, Heptonstall, before Sept. 18th.—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Uttoxeter, Saturday, Sept. 23rd (not the 16th as arranged). Names to Mr. E. Roberts, 46, Ashbourne Road, Uttoxeter, Staffs, before Sept. 19th.—Andrew Thompson.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—Meeting at Handsworth, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Names for tea to Mrs. J. E. Turley, 365, Main Road, Sheffield 9, by 21st.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

**DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—Meeting St. Ignatius' Parish Church (8 bells), Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—Frank Ainsley, 30, Aysgarth Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Braywood (5 bells), Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify me by Sept. 18th.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District.—Meeting at Harpenden, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea at Swallow Cafe 5 p.m. Names for tea to R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Daventry Branch.—Meeting at Willoughby (6 bells), Saturday, Sept. 23rd. Notify for tea.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—Meeting at Bridgnorth (St. Mary's and St. Leonard's), Sept. 23rd, 1 p.m. Tea can be arranged if names are received before September 20th.—F. Colclough, 20, West Castle Street, Bridgnorth.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Luton District.—Meeting at Aspley Guise, Saturday, Sept. 23rd. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Woburn bells after tea. Names by Sept. 20th to D. E. Lidbetter, 13, Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Wtsbech Branch.—Meeting at Marham, Saturday, Sept. 23rd. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Bring food.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Derby District.—Meeting at Duffield, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring food and sugar.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec., 83, Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

**BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.**—Axbridge Deanery.—Meeting at Wedmore, Saturday, Sept. 23rd. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m., in Church Schoolrooms.—E. J. Avery, Hon. Local Sec., Sandford, Bristol.

**SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.**—Meeting at Tettenhall, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Cups of tea in Parish Hall 5.30. Bring food. Frequent buses from G.P.O., Wolverhampton.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting at Manchester, Saturday, September 30th, 2 p.m. Service 3.30. Meeting 4.15. Tea 6. Particulars by circular.—W. H. Shuker, 36, Colwyn Avenue, Fallowfield, Manchester 14, and T. Wilson, 118, Langham Road, Blackburn, Hon. Secs.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern Division.—Meeting Shoreham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.45 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting 5.30 p.m. Names for tea by Wednesday, Sept. 27th, to Mrs. E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Coalbrookdale (10 bells), Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4. Cups of tea and cakes provided. Bring sandwiches. Buses from Wellington.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Special branch meeting and presentation to Mr. F. W. Romaine, St. Martin's, Salisbury, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) 4.30 p.m., followed by presentation. Names for tea before Monday, Sept. 25th. Subscription list closed on Sept. 25th.—E. G. Caple, Branch Chairman, Wilton, Salisbury.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Hetherset on Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea at King's Head 5.30. Names for tea to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.**—Meeting at Great Barr, Birmingham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., business meeting to follow. Names before Sept. 27th to J. R. Terry, 49, Peak House Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, 22.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION** and the **OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD** (East Berks and South Bucks Branch).—Joint meeting at St. John's, Hillingdon, Saturday, October 7th. Details later.—J. E. L. Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Secs.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher is now The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of the Rev. K. C. Davis is now St. Francis' Vicarage, 35, Oakland Way, Ewell Court, Surrey.

#### KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

##### MEETING AT STURRY.

The annual meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association was held at Sturry on September 2nd, and some 42 members and friends were present, representing ten towers in the district. Service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. S. Risdon-Brown, who gave an address.

Tea at the Rose Inn was followed by the business meeting, the chair being taken by the Ringing Master. The report and balance sheet were adopted and showed an increase in membership and activity during the year. Meetings were arranged for October at St. Stephen's, Canterbury, for January at Whitstable, for March at Faversham, and for July at Margate.

The retiring officers were all re-elected: Representatives, H. R. French and J. W. Unwin; Ringing Master, S. P. Masters; secretary, B. J. Luck.

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