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PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

GILLETT AND JOHNSTON CROYDON

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MEARS AND STAINBANK

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LONDON, E.1

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JOHN TAYLOR & Co. LOUGHBOROUGH

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.

NINETEEN HUNDRED & FORTY-FOUR.

Twelve months ago we expressed a sober confidence that before the year was out formal war would have ended on this side of the world. We were not alone in our opinion. It was shared by responsible journals and men of knowledge and experience. But it has not been justified. The German people have shown themselves capable of endurance and of strength beyond all expectation, and the grip of those men on the throat of the country, who know they have nothing to hope for, and so cannot do other than struggle to the bitterest end, has not, and probably will not, be relaxed. There are still months of warfare before us.

To that extent nineteen hundred and forty-four has been a disappointing year, but when it is looked at closer there is every reason for thankfulness and satisfaction with what has been done. The brilliant success of the landing in Normandy and the great battle which followed really decided the issue of the war. It almost makes one shudder to think what would have happened if the invasion had failed, but it is necessary to do so in order to appreciate what actually has been achieved. The consummation is not yet, but it will come.

The delayed end of the war leaves the Exercise in much the same state of incompleteness and expectancy as it has been in during all these last five years. Until ringers are back again in their own home belfries, under something like normal peace conditions, it is not possible to make plans for the future, or to begin to put the art of change ringing on its old footing. But as in the wider sphere of national life, so in the affairs of the belfry, the year that is passing, though it has not seen the fulfilment of many hopes, has been one of steady if unsensational progress and success. We can perhaps best judge of our good fortune by comparing the Exercise, as it actually is to-day, with what some time ago we should have expected it to be after five years of war and two years without any ringing. Everywhere bands have been depleted and weakened, but everywhere, too, a faithful and enthusiastic remnant has carried on manfully, an exceptionally large number of recruits have been gained, and Sunday service ringing has been well maintained. Practically all the associations have shaken off the lethargy that fell on them in varying degree when the war began, and meetings are frequent and reasonably well attended. As in other spheres, there would have been greater activity among ringers if it had not

(Continued on page 534.)

been for the black-out and the difficulties of travelling.

Peal ringing is one of the best gauges by which the vitality of the Exercise can be judged. The full tale of records is not yet to hand, and we must defer comment on the matter until a later time, but it can be said generally that our peal columns abundantly show that not only are those men waiting to resume their old activities, who look on peal ringing as one of the greatest of a ringer's privileges, but also that the more recent newcomers are keen to join their company. The very large proportion of peals of Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor is not any sign of the lowering of the standard of peals (as in some circumstances it might be) but a hopeful augury for the future.

Early in the year it was hoped that a meeting of the Central Council would be possible at Whitsuntide, and arrangements were made to hold it in the historic Jerusalem Chamber at Westminster Abbey; but when the time came, the final preparations for the invasion of the Continent were being made, and like so many meetings of other bodies, the Council's meeting had to be abandoned. It was unfortunate for many reasons; but, in the circumstances, it was right and inevitable. The meetings of the Council are of very great value in the life of the Exercise, quite apart from any business that may be transacted, and the sooner the next can be held the better. Whether it will be possible to do so in the coming year cannot at present be said. The decision rests with the responsible officers of the Council and the Standing Committee, and it must not be overlooked that next Whitsuntide is more likely than not to be the real climax of the great conflict now going on in Europe. Much may happen before then, but it is well not to be too optimistic.

Taking it as a whole and as a war year, nineteen hundred and forty-four has not been too bad, but all will be glad to see the end of it. We look forward to its successor with bright hopes and undiminished confidence. No doubt there will be many disappointments, but brave hearts and buoyant spirits can surmount them all.

DEATH OF MR. J. W. MOORHOUSE.

The death is announced of Mr. J. W. Moorhouse, of Wakefield, who passed away on December 6th, after a long illness, at the age of 70. He was taught ringing by his father, Mr. T. L. Moorhouse, formerly a well-known member of the Wakefield Cathedral band. Mr. Moorhouse had rung many peals on tower bells and handbells in a variety of methods. Ninety-six of them were for the Yorkshire Association, and of them he conducted 41, including the first peal of Double Norwich on handbells by the association. He was interested in Grandsire composition and produced several peals of Triples and Caters.

The funeral service at Armley Cemetery was conducted by Canon Marshall, and afterwards a course of Bob Major was rung on handbells by Miss L. K. Bowling and Messrs. P. J. Johnson, W. Barton and J. Ambler. A large number of ringers were present.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT HORSHAM ST. FAITH.

A meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held at Horsham St. Faith on Saturday, December 9th. Ringers were present from Wroxham, Norwich, Norton Subcourse, Acle, Ranworth, Wymondham, Great Yarmouth, New Buckenham, Hethersett, Horsham St. Faith, Buxton and Northrepps, 18 in all.

After ringing and the tea, given by the Vicar of St. Faith's, the meeting discussed whether to have a report for the war years, and decided to consider this further at the next meeting, to be at St. John de Sepulchre, Norwich, on Saturday, January 13th. It was decided as from January 1st to return to the normal pre-war custom of having at least four meetings each year in each of the branches of the association, instead of having most of the meetings general meetings, as has been done for the last four years.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

PLYMOUTH, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 35 cwt. in C sharp.

ALLEN S. WEATHERLEY ... Treble	H. FREDERICK MYERS ... 5
SIDNEY O'SHAUGHNESSY ... 2	GMR. R. EDWARD COLES ... 6
G. HARRY MYERS ... 3	THOMAS G. MYERS ... 7
ALFRED MITCHELMORE ... 4	A. WILLIAM MYERS ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS G. MYERS.

WORCESTER.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 20, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

Tenor 20 cwt.

ERNEST WILSON ... Treble	ALLEN MORGAN ... 5
FRED N. FLUCK ... 2	REGINALD WOODYATT ... 6
*HORACE J. BENTLEY ... 3	DENIS R. MORRIS ... 7
GEORGE E. LARGE ... 4	GEORGE AMBLER ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

* First peal 'inside' and on eight bells.

BADSEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 23, 1944, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE PART (7th observation)

Tenor 15 cwt.

*BOB GEDEN ... Treble	JOHN HALL ... 5
ARTHUR J. TAYLOR ... 2	ARCHIE REED ... 6
WILLIAM D. SPARROW ... 3	FREDERICK KINCHIN ... 7
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... 4	*EDGAR MITCHELL ... Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

* First peal.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

BRETTFORTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 7, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings.

Tenor 9 cwt.

THOMAS HANDS ... Treble	*WILFRED NEWMAN ... 4
*CECIL TOMPKINS ... 2	RAYMOND JEFFS ... 5
*CLINTON GOULD ... 3	JOHN HALL ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN HALL.

* First peal.

REPTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 16, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WYSTAN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings.

Tenor 19 cwt.

*MAURICE COOK ... Treble	JOSEPH HULSE ... 3
WALTER G. SOAR ... 2	*SYDNEY JONES ... 4
CFMN. A. J. HART, R.E.M.E. ...	... Tenor

Conducted by A. J. HART.

* First peal.

THURLASTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 16, 1944, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

*ERIC WOOD ... Treble	CYRIL ISON ... 4
MISS MADGE GROOCCOCK ... 2	WILLIAM A. WOOD ... 5
FRANK TROTMAN ... 3	THOMAS COOPER ... Tenor

Conducted by FRANK TROTMAN.

* First peal.

WILLIAM CHATTEL.

BY JOHN DAY.

(Continued from page 528.)

It was about March, 1842, when I first met Chattel at St. Philip's by appointment. I had never seen him previously and it came about in the following way. In the previous year things did not go so smoothly as they might in Charlotte Street, and so he took a bake-house in Pope Street, where my parents lived. Many families at that time made their own bread, and on my sister taking the family batch to Chattel's to be baked, he was at once struck by the name and began to ask questions, so finding out the relationship that existed between Thomas Day, whom he knew, and ourselves. My sister told me of this and I at once determined to see him, causing her to make the appointment.



ST. MARTIN'S, BIRMINGHAM.

It was on a Sunday at 8.15 and I was there in good time. After making myself known to him we went up among the bells, where he had something to do. He was very pleasant in manner and began to chat about my uncle, of whom he was, and always remained, a great admirer. When we ascended to the belfry his young men were there, and after booking the attendances he ordered them to their places to raise the bells in this way, 'Now, lads! Let us get them up, there's no time to lose.' In my mind's eye I have them before me now. They stood thus: William Hayward, Edward Eagles, Thomas Srawley, Joseph Spencer, John Billingsley, William Chattel, Thomas Bingham and Edward Haywood. After the bells were up, the men, after a short rest, stood in the same order and rang three courses of Stedman Triples with the bobs on 5-6-7. This was repeated several times and was the first change ringing I ever witnessed with any idea of what I was looking at.

In due course the bells were lowered, the sermon bell rung, and then came the chiming for service. I stayed and saw it all through, and during my walk home, which lay in Chattel's direction, he had so impressed me with the wonders of the art, and had made himself so agreeable, that I enlisted under his banner, he promising to give

me instruction, and I, in return, to assist him in chiming for the services, and these promises were faithfully kept. For several years I was seldom absent from the belfry at chiming time, while he, on his part, taught me pretty nearly all he knew himself, and I do not think we should ever have disagreed had he not given way to intemperance and been influenced by the idle chatter of mischief-making busybodies. So it happened that on the following Sunday morning he gave me my first lesson in raising a bell—the 8th—and he also figured me out a course of Stedman Triples, setting me fairly on my way.

I soon began to get an insight into the matter, for I was rather determined and never tired of watching the practice. By-and-by the bobs were made on 1-3-4 and so on, and when the band could ring a 504 in this way, they remained there so long that Mr. Johnson, who was often walking about and listening, used to say that the baker had rung that touch until he knew every nick in the board, and used to speak of it as the 'old hundredth.'

A VISIT FROM LATES.

But things were working quietly and surely for a change; for one fine Sunday morning in the month of May, during chiming time, a spare gentlemanly man came into the belfry, who was looking ill and was closely muffled and buttoned up. Chattel, after expressing his surprise at seeing him, had a long friendly chat with him, during which it transpired that our visitor had been very ill, suffering from inflammation of the lungs. He was then getting better and promised to come again, and after he was gone Chattel told me that he was Mr. Lates, speaking very highly of his ability as a composer. After that, Lates came up pretty frequently, and one of the young ones, generally Haywood or Eagles, stood out so that he might have a pull. Lates usually conducted, and so the band began to make rapid progress.

Very well do I remember one Sunday afternoon when there was ringing for charity sermons, seeing Messrs. Jarvis and J. Deer come into the belfry and the young ones (as they were then always spoken of) ringing their first touch of Stedman Caters. Thus it went on, until in February, 1843, Chattel, with five of his pupils, and the assistance of H. Johnson and J. James, sen., rang their first peal of Stedman Triples, Chattel conducting admirably.

Even at this early period his overbearing manner had begun to cause friction with some of the band. Billingsley had taken offence and was out of the peal of Triples; while again on the 14th of May following, Chattel had arranged for and rung a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Philip's, he himself conducting, and with only one young ringer in it—W. Haywood. In June another peal was rung at Aston, conducted by Johnson, in which all save Billingsley took part. This was memorable as being the first true peal of Stedman composed and conducted by Johnson.

It will be seen that Chattel's old associates had begun to gather round him again. He with his young ringers were invited to St. Martin's, where J. James, sen., was acting as towerkeeper for the widow of the late T. Hall—indeed, for some little time previous to Hall's death.

They were unable to do much owing to the bad state the bells were in, but from the time they began to go there, Chattel gradually lost his influence over them. The kindly urbanity of Hopkins, and the genial sociability of Johnson, were in very great contrast to Chattel's rough brusqueness.

CHATTEL AND JOHNSON.

The ringers at that time had a meeting house in Milk Street bearing the sign of 'The Ring of Bells,' and here meetings used to be held on Sunday evenings, chiefly for handbell practice and tune ringing. Johnson and Chattel were nearly always at these meetings, which frequently ended somewhat unpleasantly. There was a fascination about the former's manner which drew the younger men to him, and no doubt caused jealousy in the latter to his great disadvantage. They had now become rivals as conductors, and on one occasion I knew them decide which should call a particular peal by the toss of a coin. Chattel won and was much elated thereat, since a Mr. Richard Turner of London, was to be in the attempt at Aston, but the peal was lost through a change-course. As might have been expected, he was much annoyed, and after brooding on it over his beer at the tavern, he suddenly turned to Johnson and said, 'Harry! If you had not been there, I'd have made a peal of it!'

In 1844, Hopkins, with the assistance of some friends, raised sufficient money—about £40—to have St. Martin's bells put in something like ringing order, and I well remember hearing the first touch of Cinques rung on them after such repairs, on a Sunday afternoon.

A sort of union between the old and young ringers was now arranged, by which we used to meet on alternate Sundays at St. Martin's, but matters between Chattel and Johnson did not go smoothly for long, as there was always someone ready to cause friction, one man in particular—William Andrews—being a good ringer, but a sad mischief maker.

Recurring to the repair of the bells: the work was entrusted to C. Oliver, jun., on his own account, and from the first there were complaints that the eleventh did not go at all well, and although the other bells were ringable, the job was looked upon as a comparative failure. However, Oliver got his money, and the disappointment was borne as such things generally are.

(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.,
 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

The Editor,
 'The Ringing World,'
 c/o The Woodbridge Press; Ltd.,
 Guildford, Surrey.

Owing to increased paper supply we are now able to accept orders for the delivery of 'The Ringing World' by post. They should be sent to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk, accompanied by remittance. The charge is 4s. 3d. per quarter.

Arrangements have also been made for larger supplies through the trade, and newsagents in any part of the country will be able to obtain copies through their wholesale firms.

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

TO POSTAL SUBSCRIBERS.

All subscriptions are payable in advance, and for 1945 become due on Jan. 1st, 1945. Remittances must be forwarded to

C. W. Fletcher,
 The White House,
 Caister-on-Sea,
 Norfolk.

TO SECRETARIES OF ASSOCIATIONS.

All Notices and small advertisements must be prepaid. Remittances must be sent with advertisement to the Editor.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES E. DAVIS.

We regret to announce that Mr. James E. Davis died suddenly early on Christmas morning.

RIVALRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—You state that 'the keen rivalry certainly did produce an excellency of ringing.' The cost of this in Cornwall is deplorable. In the north and central area there is a preponderance of ringing for certificates, and the competing bands do not regard the bells as sacred instruments. There is very little ringing done unless for a competition, and Sunday ringing is almost non-existent. When, however, a competition is to take place the bands can find time to practise for four or five nights each week.

In the south-west area there are a few towers which practise change ringing, and I am glad to say that while the older bands have all they can do to keep up the standard of their ringing, they do that, and also find the time to coach the few new hands that are interested in change ringing. It is to be hoped that the feeling and spirit of the south-west area will permeate the central and northern areas.

E. V. WILLIAMS.

Redruth, Cornwall.

STEDMAN CATERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was greatly pleased to see the touches of Stedman Caters in your issue of December 1st. The dinky coming home is most suitable for handbell peals, instead of a sometimes awkward turning course. Could you prevail on the composer to get a peal or two with this homing? The fifth and sixth in 1-2, in my opinion, produces the best music.

G. E. SYMONDS.

57, Mornington Avenue, Ipswich.

THE BELLS OF ST. MARY-AT-HILL.

A FIFTEENTH CENTURY RING.

The church of St. Mary-at-Hill is known even by name to few ringers. It possesses only three bells and they are of no particular interest. It has taken no part in the history of change ringing in the past. But it once was an important City church, and, as some of its early records still exist, we can learn a lot about the bells at the time when parishes all over the country were increasing their rings to five, and the foundations of our modern ringing were being laid.

The building stands between St. Mary's Hill and Love Lane, two of the narrow streets that run from Eastchepe to Lower Thames Street in the City of London. This is a district which suffered severely in the air raids of 1940, and the neighbouring church of St. Dunstan-in-the-East is a ruin; its fine ring of eight bells is destroyed. But St. Mary's still stands.

Not much is known of the early medieval church, but about 1490 it was rebuilt, among those who subscribed being Robert Rowell, one of the Sheriffs who gave liberally towards the new steeple, and Sir John Plomer, who, with John Suckling, paid for one of the arches. There had been three bells and a sanctus bell in the old tower, and after it was rebuilt, the ring was increased to five, at first by a bell given by John Duckling, and then by another given by Plomer.

Duckling was a fishmonger and a prominent parishioner, for Billingsgate had already long been the centre of the fish trade. His name was inscribed on the bell, and evidently he took a personal interest in the ringing, for in 1492 the churchwardens paid him twenty-one pence for 17 lbs. of rope which he had procured for the bells. He died in 1499, and the parish received 6s. 8d. for half a day's knell on the great bell for him.

Plomer was created a Knight of the Bath on May 26th, 1465, and evidently was a prominent citizen and an important person.

The five bells were not very tunable, and in 1508 the parish employed a man named William Smith to tune them. Smith was one of the Aldgate founders, but except that he cast a bell for St. Margaret's, Westminster, nothing is known of him. His name does not occur in any of the county histories of bells and none of his bells survives. He made a bad job of the tuning and seriously damaged the bells; and the parish paid a Master Green 1s. 8d. for counsel 'how to take action for the cutting of our three bells.' As a result a plaint was entered and Smith was arrested. The parish accounts contain several items of payments of fees and expenses in connection with this suit — tenpence for entering the plaint and for the arrest of Smith, fourteen pence for the attorney, sixpence for 'making our plea,' 1s. 8d. to Master Stevens the counsel, four shillings to the serjeant for two summonses, and fourpence as fees when the action was tried. The parish was also charged sixpence 'for my dyner & Thomas Mindens,' and fourpence was paid to the judge, as a fee it is to be hoped and not as a bribe.

Although 'the matter was pleaded to an issue,' the result is not stated; but evidently Smith was ordered to recast at least one of the bells under certain conditions, and a scrivener was employed to draw up the indentures of an agreement between him and the parish

under the direction of two arbitrators, Mr. Robins and Mr. Jentyll. The arrangement was satisfactory to both sides, and the churchwardens paid for wine to celebrate the occasion.

The two bells were taken down from the steeple and conveyed to Aldgate at the charges of the parish. It was necessary to purchase a hundredweight of new rope to 'strike' (i.e. lower) them, and for two pence spent on drink, some of the Billingsgate porters lent a hand. The cost of the carriage to Aldgate was two shillings, and a penny a piece was given to six porters who lifted them on to the sledge. A man named Reeves was paid sixpence for his trouble in going from Ludgate to Aldgate to hear the fourth bell which Smith was to recast, and to judge whether it was in tune or not; and a deputation from the parish, consisting of Mr. Russell, John Althorpe, John Cundell and the clerks of St. Anthony's, with Mr. Jentyll the arbitrator, also went there for the same purpose. Afterwards, they called at the house of one Skrace and regaled themselves with pears and wine, at a charge to the parish of eightpence.

Smith recast the fourth and added 1 cwt. 26 lbs. of new metal to it, for which he was paid 43s. 8d. He also received 13s. 4d. for putting an inscription on the bell.

The order for recasting the tenor was given to William Culverden, and with him was associated Thomas Bullisdon, either as partner or assistant. Culverden was probably the leading founder of the day, and several of his bells are still to be found in different parts of the country. Five of Bullisdon's bells are at St. Bartholomew-the-Great, Smithfield. The cost of 2 cwt. 14 lbs. new metal was 59s. 6d. and the other charges for recasting, etc., amounted to 29s. 4d.

For the new frame a contract was made with a carpenter at the Salutation. The 'obligation making' cost fourpence, and sevenpence was spent on wine, for on such an occasion the churchwardens were not content with the more homely beer. The carpenter received forty shillings as 'God's penny in hand,' and, when the work was completed, a further five shillings in full settlement of his charges. Money paid in advance to seal a contract was called God's penny in hand, because originally it was a token amount, which, according to canon law, should have been given to some pious object.

Various amounts were paid to different tradesmen for new fittings and repairs to the old. An interesting item is sixpence for twelve wedges for the gudgeons of the bells, which tells us how the bells were hung. The gudgeon was a round piece of iron driven into the end of the stock and tightened up by wedges. Such an arrangement would be very liable to work loose and to be affected by changes of weather. Unless the bell hanger was an expert craftsman, it would be very difficult to get a true alignment of the gudgeons, and we can easily believe that ringing was a job for strong, lusty men. This was the method used to hang even

the heaviest bells until, in comparatively recent times, the modern style of hanging was adopted.

From time to time the scale of charges for knells was revised. In 1498 it was ordered that the fee for the use of the tenor should be 6s. 8d., half of which went to the churchwardens and half to the clerk. This was for a full knell of half a day. For an hour's ringing of the fourth the fee was one shilling to the clerk, but if it were rung for half a day he took three shillings and fourpence. When the 'lytyll bell' (presumably the third) was used, the clerk's fees were eightpence for a man and fourpence for a child. In all these latter cases, the churchwardens' fees are not mentioned, so evidently they remained unaltered by the order. For the poor people of the parish Sir John Plomer's bell (the treble) might be used, and then the charge was only a penny; but this was a concession to those who really could not afford to pay more, and of that Plomer was to be judge, and, after his death, the seniors of the parish.

The fees covered other services than the actual knolling of the bell. When Cundall (who was one of the party that went to Aldgate in 1510) buried his mayde (young daughter) he paid one and fourpence for the knell and the 'pytt' (grave) and when Mr. Russell (another of the same party) died, the parish paid to the man who rang the knell, eightpence. A solemn dirige and requiem was sung for him and at it all the five bells were rung at a cost of one shilling and fourpence. On this occasion it was necessary to spend one penny on repairs to the bell wheels.

As was the case with several other London churches, there were endowments for obits at St. Mary's. One was for William Cambridge, grocer, and Mayor in 1420; and for this two clerks and the ringers received two shillings. Another was for John Cawston, who died in 1353, and in connection with this the parish was involved in a lawsuit. The two judges who presided at this case—my Lord Chief Justice, and my Lord Briant—each received a fee of 13s. 4d., which makes the fee of fourpence, paid to the judge in the other action, seem very small.

Payments for ringing on state occasions and for the visits of great persons are few compared with those in the accounts of some other parishes, for royalty never found many reasons for going to Billingsgate, but in 1493 the parish apparently was fined for not ringing in honour of the king. In 1562 Henry the Seventh, with his queen, made a state visit to St. Paul's from Baynards Castle, which stood on the Thames not far from Blackfriars, and which he had lately rebuilt and fitted up as a royal residence. On that occasion all the bells of the City were rung, St. Mary's among them; and so they were six years later when Henry the Eighth went to Westminster to be crowned.

In 1524 there is an entry of eightpence paid to the ringers 'for ringing the bells at the triumph for the tak-

(Continued on next page.)

CHURCH & TURRET CLOCKS - NEW INSTALLATIONS, REPAIRS MAINTENANCE

by **SMITH of DERBY**

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JOHN SMITH & SONS, Midland Clock Works, Derby, Ltd., QUEEN STREET, DERBY

ST. MARY-AT-HILL.

(Continued from previous page.)

ing of the French king, and by commandment of the mayor.' This throws a strong sidelight on contemporary national and European politics. The two powerful monarchs on the Continent at the time were Francis the First of France and Charles the Fifth, Emperor of Germany and King of Spain. Between them there was bitter rivalry and frequent war; and Cardinal Wolsey, who was directing the policy of England, was trying to advance the interests of his own country by playing one off against the other. He had decided to support France, at least temporarily, when the news came that Francis, who had invaded Italy, had been utterly defeated and taken prisoner at the battle of Pavia. It was a bad blow for English diplomacy, but the City of London did not think so. The merchants' interests were largely bound up with the trade with the Low Countries (part of Charles' vast dominions) and then and long afterwards they favoured friendship and alliance with Spain. So when the news came they looked on it as a triumph, and it was 'by commandment of the mayor' that the bells rang.

In 1536, when King Henry and his queen, Jane Seymour, passed through London, it was by order of the bishop that the bells were rung.

The other payments to the ringers were for more parochial objects, on Lady Day the patronal festival, for obits, and for curfew; and we are interested to learn that 'John Tiles Wyff' received a shilling for bringing drink to the church for the clerks and ringers on several occasions at the time of the great festivals.

After 1559 our detailed information about St. Mary's and its bells comes to an end. The church was burnt in the Great Fire of 1666, and its five bells destroyed, and though Sir Christopher Wren restored the building, it has not since had a ringing peal.

DEATH OF MR. J. R. MACKMAN.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. J. R. Mackman, who died suddenly on Saturday evening last after an operation. The funeral is at Woking Crematorium to-day.

MISCELLANEOUS PE" FORMANCES.

DAYBROOK, NOTTS.—On Sunday, December 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: B. Cawthorne (first quarter-peal) 1, Mrs. R. A. Ward 2, T. Groombridge, jun. 3, P. E. Ball 4, F. A. Salter 5, H. Paling (conductor) 6, J. A. Barratt 7, W. Perkins 8.

ASHBRITTLE, SOMERSET.—On Sunday, December 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. H. Manning 1, R. Alderman (first quarter-peal inside) 2, S. N. Bristow 3, W. Stevens 4, F. Alderman (conductor) 5, H. J. Enticott 6.

STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, December 10th, 952 Grandsire Triples: T. Sparrow 1, A. R. Woodward 2, J. Steed 3, F. Sterry 4, S. Sparrow 5, S. Arbon 6, O. Barnard (conductor) 7, H. Copeland 8.

GREAT FINBOROUGH, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday, December 10th, 720 Bob Minor: S. Sparrow 1, Miss D. Sawyer (first 720) 2, J. Steed 3, L. Foster 4, S. Arbon 5, O. Barnard (conductor) 6.

BOLDMERE, SUTTON COLDFIELD.—On Monday, December 11th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Norman Raybone 1, *Terry Hampton 2, G. W. Critchley 3, N. G. Smith 4, W. G. Anker (conductor) 5, *W. F. Leach 6. *First quarter-peal. †First quarter with a bob bell.

EDENHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.—On Friday, December 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: *D. Stainsley 1, *Betty Stainsley 2, A. Holmes (conductor) 3, *Marie Gann 4, *R. Stainsley 5. *First quarter-peal.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Friday, December 15th, at St. Edmund's Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: *Miss Edna Travill 1, *Geoffrey Gayton 2, Bertie O. Soden 3, Joseph W. L. Linnitt 4, *William Cillis 5, *Ronald C. Noon 6, *George Cafe (conductor) 7, Philip Jones 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

BUSHEY, HERTS.—On December 16th, at 50, Rodolph Road, on handbells, 1,280 Cambridge Surprise Major: E. Jennings 1-2, E. C. S. Turner 3-4, H. G. Cashmore (conductor) 5-6, C. W. Roberts (first quarter of Surprise on handbells) 7-8.

CURIOUS TOWERS AND BELFRIES.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 529.)

The beautiful tower and spire of Oundle Church, Northants, contains a good ring of eight bells with a tenor 26 cwt. 1 qr. 9 lbs. Of the old bells, dating variously from 1688 to 1801, the first three and the tenor were recast in 1869 by Mears and Stainbank. In 1934 all were thoroughly overhauled, the old frame renovated, and the bells entirely rehung thereon with all new fittings by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. The peculiarity of this ringing chamber is that, on entering, one finds oneself on a landing with a large clock-case occupying about half the wall space. One must descend into the ringing chamber proper and there finds six ropes, the other two being on the aforesaid 'landing,' one on either side of the clock-case. These are the 2nd and 3rd. It is most difficult for the treble ringer, who not only finds his rope falls uncomfortably close to the wall, but has the 2nd man high above and behind him, with the 3rd also on high the other side of the clock.

Clock-cases are the cause of obstruction in many ringing chambers, and one such is at Christ Church, Ottershaw, Surrey, where there is a ring of six, tenor 16 cwt., by J. Taylor and Co., 1885. These were rehung by Gillett and Johnston, 1932. In the ringing room the clock, when fixed, caused the sight for ringing to be barred, and the treble and tenor men could not see each other. To overcome this difficulty, two spy holes were made and glass inserted so that these two ringers, by looking through part of the clock works, can now see each other. A very similar arrangement is at Croxton Kerrial, Leicestershire, where the 3rd and 4th ringers are divided by a clock-case in which glass sides have been inserted. Here are six bells, tenor 9½ cwt.

At Brampton, Cumberland, the Church of St. Martin has a ring of six bells, which came from the old church. The latter stands on an eminence overlooking the valley of Irthing, and now has a turret with one bell by Mears. The present church, erected 1877-8, occupies the site of an earlier building. The tower—a west one—was completed in 1906, and the lower portion forms a porch and baptistery. The rope circle here is very awkward and arranged in such a way that some of the ringers cannot avoid having one or more behind them. The tenor rope comes down right in the centre of the ringing room, and the others range around more or less in order of 15432.

Another awkward circle is at Buckland-Dinham, Somerset. There are six bells, tenor 11 cwt. Here a large clock case has been built between the 2nd and 4th ropes, with the result that the 3rd rope has to be drawn to the middle of the room, and in no case can the ringer of this bell see more than three of the others with comfort. The 1st, 3rd and tenor are by J. Warner and Son, 1859; the 2nd is dated 1638; 4th, 1683; and the 5th is a mediæval casting by William Founder, bearing an invocation to Sancta Toma (Thomas). There is a clock bell by Warners, 1856.

(To be continued.)

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT WHITWORTH.

A joint meeting of the Rochdale and Rossendale Branches of the Lancashire Association was held at Whitworth on December 16th and was attended by 30 members from surrounding districts. Methods rung ranged from Bob Minor to Stedman Triples and Treble Bob Major.

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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Meeting, Saturday, Dec. 30th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1.—A. B. Peck.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Annual meeting on Saturday, Dec. 30th. Bells (10) St. Stephen's, 2.45 p.m. Tea and meeting in St. Peter's Parish Rooms 4.45 p.m.—W. S. Emery, Hon. Sec., 34, Waverley Road, Bristol, 6.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Annual district meeting at St. Giles', Lincoln, Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (8) 2.30 to 8.30. Service 4.30. Bring food and tea. Hot water provided in Parish Hall.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.—Winchester District.—Annual district meeting at Winchester Jan. 6th. Ringing at the Cathedral (12) and St. Maurice (6) 2 to 3.45 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Meeting and tea 3.45 p.m. at Dumpers' Restaurant. Service in the Cathedral 5.15 p.m. Names for tea Jan. 3rd.—W. G. Goodchild, Hon. Dis. Sec., 139, Stanmore Lane, Winchester.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bedford District.—Meeting at Bromham, Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea. Names for tea to L. H. Bowler, Hon. Sec., Maisonette, Bromham, Beds.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Accrington, Saturday, Jan. 6th, 2.30 p.m. Tea at 4.30 p.m. in the Co-Op, Oak Street. Reasonable charge. Meeting in the tower 5.30 p.m. Names for tea to secretary by Jan. 3rd.—Charles W. Blakey, Branch Sec., 133, Ormerod Street, Accrington.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Gloucester Branch.—Annual meeting at Barnwood on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Names by Jan. 2nd to W. H. Harris, Branch Secretary, 4, G.W.R. Terrace, Lydney Dock, Lydney, Gloucester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Sacred Heart, Blackpool, Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. only.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—Annual meeting at Rothwell, Saturday, Jan. 6th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea to follow. Names to H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at St. Marie's, Norfolk Row, Sheffield, on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (8) 2.30. Tea at cafes nearby.—G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, near Sheffield.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.—Annual meeting, Saturday, Jan. 6th, at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham. Ringing at St. Martin's, 4.30 to 6 p.m. Business meeting at 6.15.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—Meeting at Upholland, Saturday, Jan. 6th, 2.30 p.m. Own tea arrangements.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Meeting at St. Mark's, Glodwick, Jan. 6th. Meat tea at 2s. 6d. per head. Names by Wednesday, Jan. 3rd.—I. Kay, Hon. Sec.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, Jan. 6th. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Own tea arrangements (cafes and British Restaurant near).—Andrew Thompson.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD and SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Joint meeting at Rotherfield, Jan. 13th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Names to Mr. W. Rogers, 1, Vine Cottages, Rotherfield.—C. A. Bassett, J. Downing, Hon. Secs.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. John de Sepulchre, Norwich, Saturday, Jan. 13th, 2 p.m. Tea and business 5. Names to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Aylesbeare Branch.—Meeting at Withycombe Raleigh, Jan. 13th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Jan. 7th to Brian Pidgeon, Hon. Sec., East Budleigh.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—Meeting at Leeds, Saturday, Jan. 20th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Cup of tea and bun in Parish Hall 5, followed by business. Bus leaves Maidstone for Leeds 1.45, or a No. 10 bus to Hollingbourne Corner every 20 minutes. Names to C. H. Sone, Linton, Maidstone.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Mr. Norman S. Bagworth's address is now 5a, Clandon Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.20.

TUNSTALL, KENT.—On Sunday, December 10th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: W. Dobbie 1, Miss B. Spice 2, W. Spice, jun. 3, G. Kenward 4, G. H. Spice 5, S. B. Dobbie 6, W. Spice, sen. (conductor) 7, T. Boorman 8. Half-muffled for the late Rector, the Rev. Midwinter, and W. Barden, his sexton.

CHESTERTON.—On Sunday, December 10th, 720 Bob Minor: W. Raynor (first 720) 1, Mrs. V. Lathbury 2, R. Lathbury 3, T. R. Dennis 4, E. Hibbins (conductor) 5, H. Martin 6.

IPSWICH.—On Saturday, December 16th, at St. Mary-le-Tower, 528 Cambridge Surprise Maximus: C. J. Sedgley 1, Mrs. Marriott 2, Mrs. S. R. Pipe 3, H. E. Smith 4, H. R. Roper 5, W. P. Garrett 6, W. J. G. Brown 7, G. A. Fleming 8, G. E. Symonds 9, J. F. Tillet 10, F. J. Tillet 11, C. W. Pipe 12.

HASLEMERE, SURREY.—On Sunday, December 17th, 720 Bob Minor: F. Avery (first 720) 1, Mrs. F. Bowden 2, Miss V. V. H. Hill 3, B. D. Elliott 4, F. Bowden (conductor) 5, F. A. H. Wilkins 6.

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