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THE SPEED OF A PEAL

SURELY it is as absurd to suggest that a fast peal is a good one as to suggest that a slow peal is a bad one—or vice versa. The perfect peal, which has never yet been rung, will be the one in which every blow throughout is struck clear, no dodges missed and a smooth rhythm maintained from beginning to end.

I do deprecate, however, the increasing frequency with which we read the footnote, 'The quickest peal on the bells,' as if there were some particular virtue in ringing a peal in record time, rather like running a mile in under four minutes. Surely the time-honoured custom of recording the time taken to ring a peal was in the first case very incidental—what mattered was that the peal had been rung.

It is somewhat unusual for the same speed of ringing to be maintained throughout a peal, and if you start slowly and speed up during the peal it depends at what point the faster ringing develops as to the time ultimately taken. The sort of thing I have noticed in say a three-part peal is that the first two parts have taken say one hour each and the last part has taken 57 minutes, with a resulting time of 2-57. The peal could equally well have speeded up in the second part with a resulting time of 2-54.

I am prepared to accept that an experienced band, used to ringing together, is capable of ringing a reasonably fast peal and making a good job of it, but very fast ringing must be completely free of trips and all the band must be of the same mind. There is, however, reason in all things, and I frequently heave a huge sigh of relief when reading peal reports in 'The Ringing World' that I was not in the peal. Although the bands concerned may have enjoyed the ringing and for all I know it may have been of an acceptable standard (I only know I would not have liked it). For instance, I have read recently of peals in two towers I know well—Cambridge Royal at St. Peter's, Brighton, in 3 hours and 7 minutes (what would dear old Keith Hart have said?), and Cambridge Major at Ely in 3 hours. I once rang Royal at Brighton in 3 hours and 14 minutes, and thought it too fast (peals taking 3-27 or so were much better), and there is so much hum at Ely that I would loathe anything under 3-10 (and another ten minutes beyond that would do no harm).

I well remember two peals at Barnet, Hertfordshire, to which I rang the 24 cwt. tenor. One was London in 2-58 and the other 'spliced' in 3-12. The slower peal, was infinitely better than the other one because you could hear the bells properly and they did not seem to be falling over one another all the time. On the other hand, I am not enamoured of aggressively slow ringing of the kind that was apparently attempted during a peal ringing week a few years ago, when peals of Major on 24/25 cwt. rings of bells were taking as long as 3-45 or even in one case, if I remember, 3-50. Of this, however, it must be said that the reputation of the ringers concerned is far too high for one to criticise lightly, and here again they may have liked it and no doubt were happy with the result—I only know it would not have appealed to me.

For my part, I have never yet come across a higher standard than some of the peals I was privileged to ring in North Essex immediately before the war. Their best ringers certainly wanted some beating. Missed dodges and bad blows had to be very much the exception or they were very soon visited with the wrath of my old friend Lewis W.

Wiffen who was, and happily still is, one of the finest ringers who ever stepped into a belfry. Their policy was to start a peal very slowly and gradually work up the pace, and if you have ringers who can strike their bells and a fairly heavy ring of bells this, as a way of spending a very pleasant Saturday afternoon, can be thoroughly recommended.

In short, let us abandon our current obsessions about speed, whether fast or slow, and strive to emulate the great exponents of the past in the matter of clear and accurate striking and complete freedom from trips and bad blows. There was a time when a trip meant the end of the attempt, and it would be much better for many of us if this were so still. There is nothing so salutary as losing a peal two or three courses from home—it makes you more careful next time! P. A. C.

KNOWLE'S 555 YEARS OF RINGING

SPECIAL services were held in the Collegiate Church of Knowle, Warwickshire, on February 24th, for it was on that very date in 1402—555 years ago—that the church was consecrated.

Although the history of Knowle Church can be traced back as far as 1217, the present church was erected at the cost of a Knowle man, Walter Cooke, between the years 1396 and 1402. Records of bells at Knowle go back to 1396. Originally there were two, 'one large bell and one small.' Cooke, who died in 1423, left 6d. to two ringers tolling the bells at his funeral. By 1672, when the Chapelwardens' Accounts begin, there were three bells. After frequent overhauls, the bells were all melted down and three new ones cast by Matthew Bagly in 1687. Whether these bells were cast at Chacombe, in Northants, or at Evesham, in Worcestershire, is not certain, for Bagly moved from Chacombe in that year and went to Evesham. According to the Chapelwardens' Accounts, which give every detail of the casting of the bells down to the writing of the contract, the bells were only brought from Warwick, ten miles away.

However, the Bagly bells lasted until 1897, Queen Victoria's Jubilee year, when to honour that occasion it was decided to increase the number of bells to six. At first it was intended that the old bells should ring side by side with the new ones, but this did not work out. The difference in tone was so noticeable that the old ones had to be recast rather than spoil the new 'six.' The ring was opened on Saturday, August 7th, 1897—and our old friend Albert Walker was there! The first change ringing in Knowle was 720 changes of Bob Minor conducted by Mr. T. Miller. This was followed by 720 Kent Treble Bob conducted by Mr. W. Short. Other touches followed, and after a hearty meal given to the ringers, they rang a course of Grandsire Caters on handbells, conducted by W. Short.

The war years 1914-1918 passed, and in 1901 two new bells were given to bring the ring up to the full octave. The treble was given in memory of the Knowle men who fell in the World War I. The bells are a light ring, the tenor weighing only 10 cwt. 7 lb.

Now, Knowle has passed another milestone in her history. What the next decade or so will bring cannot be said, of course. What is certain is that the ancient traditions and customs accumulated over five and a half centuries of ringing will be discharged, as always, in His service.

ANTHONY A. UPTON.

TWELVE BELL PEALS

LINCOLN.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1957, in 3 Hours and 45 Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
A PEAL OF 5280 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS

Tenor 24 cwt.

JACK BRAY Treble	WALTER TOMLINSON 7
*GWEN I. RUSBY 2	*FRANK G. BLOOMFIELD 8
†GEOFFREY R. PARKER 3	†GEORGE H. RANGLES 9
*NORAH M. BIBBY 4	†GEOFFREY PAUL 10
JOHN WALDEN 5	RAYMOND F. SMITH 11
GEORGE E. FEIRN 6	JOHN FREEMAN Tenor

Conducted by JOHN FREEMAN.

* First peal of Maximus. † First peal of Cambridge Maximus. J. Bray has now *circled the tower.

LEICESTER.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Feb. 25, 1957, in 3 Hours and 30 Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF 5280 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAXIMUS

Tenor 25 cwt.

E. CHARLES TURNER .. Treble	JOHN A. ACRES 7
*RICHARD F. PRIME 2	JOHN A. SMITH 8
ERNEST MORRIS 3	WILLIAM A. LACEY 9
DOREEN D. DUTTON 4	JOHN E. COOK 10
S. ANTHONY JESSON 5	PETER J. STANFORTH 11
HERRICK B. BOWLEY .. 6	WILLIAM J. ROOT Tenor

Conducted by HERRICK B. BOWLEY.

* Composed by C. J. SEDGLEY. † First peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus. A compliment to Mr. and Mrs. John Moore on the birth of a son.

TEN BELL PEALS

WALSALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1957, in 3 Hours and 20 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW.

A PEAL OF 5040 BOB ROYAL

Tenor 26 cwt. 18 lb. in D.

ARTHUR T. DUTTON .. Treble	KENNETH W. KNOWLES .. 6
SAMELA R. P. THOMAS .. 2	STELLA HUGHES 7
P. GEORGE GOLDER 3	HOWARD HOWELL 8
CHRISTOPHER WALLATER .. 4	GEORGE W. HUGHES 9
ERNEST STITCH 5	BARNABAS G. KEY Tenor

Conducted by STELLA HUGHES.

Rung to mark the 76th birthday of Mr. W. R. Hughes.

APPLETON, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., March 2, 1957, in 3 Hours and 2 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE.

A PEAL OF 5039 GRANDSIRE CATERS

Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb. in E.

BRIAN R. WHITE Treble	FREDERICK W. SHARPE .. 6
FREDERICK A. H. WILKINS .. 2	HENRY C. WHITE 7
PHILIP WALKER 3	FREDERICK C. WHITE 8
FRANK A. BARRATT 4	FRANCIS A. WHITE 9
CHARLES COLES 5	EDWIN DREWITT Tenor

Conducted by FRANCIS A. WHITE.

First peal as conductor. Rung for the 139th anniversary of the dedication of the bells.

GRANTHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., March 2, 1957, in 3 Hours and 23 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WULFRAM.

A PEAL OF 5057 GRANDSIRE CATERS

Tenor 32 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb. in C sharp.

PAMELA CLARKE Treble	J. DAVID CLARKE 6
GILES C. GALLEY 2	H. REGINALD WOODS 7
FREDK. W. PINCHBECK .. 3	JOHN R. KETTERINGHAM .. 8
BRIAN BUSWELL 4	DENIS A. FRITH 9
BRIAN HUNT 5	JAMES H. MUSSON Tenor

Conducted by BRIAN BUSWELL.

First peal of Grandsire Caters by all except the conductor.

LUTON, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 2, 1957, in 3 Hours and 19 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5040 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE ROYAL

Tenor 25 cwt. 19 lb.

ROBIN G. LEALE Treble	ALFRED E. RUSHTON 6
FRANK E. DARBY 2	THOMAS W. SHEPPARD 7
BRIAN BLADON 3	MICHAEL P. MORETON 8
ALAN F. THIRST 4	JOHN H. CRAMPION 9
THOMAS J. SOUTHAM 5	WILFRED WILLIAMS Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS. First peal in the method on the bells.

EIGHT BELL PEALS

LEICESTER.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 16, 1957, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-DE-CASTRO.

A PEAL OF 5056 LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 16 cwt.

*RICHARD F. PRIME .. Treble	ERNEST W. RAWSON 5
†VERNON GREEN 2	REDVERS F. ELKINGTON .. 6
MICHAEL D. STANFORTH .. 3	PETER J. STANFORTH 7
WILLIAM A. LACEY 4	PHILIP A. CORBY Tenor

Composed by REV. H. LAW JAMES.

Conducted by REDVERS F. ELKINGTON.

* First peal of Lincolnsire. † First in the method 'inside.' Rung following the marriage of Mr. Francis C. Levell, a local ringer, to Miss Joyce Bent.

CONGRESBURY, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1957, in 3 Hours and 27 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW.

A PEAL OF 5056 BOB MAJOR

Tenor 35 cwt. in C.

ERIC NAYLOR Treble	GEORGE PRESCOTT 5
*E. (BRANDY) FISHER .. 2	*VICTOR G. ROBERTS .. 6
ANTHONY J. SANGER 3	*GWILYM G. SALMON .. 7
†MICHAEL ROSE 4	DAVID HOARE Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by GWILYM G. SALMON. * First peal of Bob Major. † First peal on eight bells. First peal on eight bells as conductor.

NORTHWRAM, HALIFAX, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1957, in 3 Hours and 11 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW.

A PEAL OF 5024 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 16 cwt.

*NEVILLE PARKIN .. Treble	†JOHN F. BRYANT 5
†M. VIVIEN COPPING .. 2	J. HENRY FIELDEN 6
†SHEILA M. TAYLOR .. 3	†E. MARTIN FIELDEN .. 7
GEOFFREY F. BRYANT .. 4	VERNON BOTTOMLEY .. Tenor

Composed by H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by VERNON BOTTOMLEY. * First peal. † First in the method. First of London as conductor. Rung by members of the All Souls', Haley Hill, company upon the birth of the son of Colin Sweeney, a fellow member.

SOBERTON, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1957, in 3 Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF 5024 BOB MAJOR

Tenor 13 1/2 cwt.

RENEE STURGESS .. Treble	ALAN H. STURGESS 5
BLANCHE M. HUNT 2	RUSSELL H. PARKER 6
*JOHN A. G. BALL 3	FREDERICK W. BURNETT .. 7
E. WINIFRED KEYS 4	†JOHN H. HUNT Tenor

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by JOHN H. HUNT. * First peal 'inside' on eight bells. † 200th peal and 100th tower-belf peal as conductor.



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WRITTLE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1957, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Parker's Twelve-part.	Tenor 18½ cwt.
*†MARY DOWSETT Treble	*HOWARD W. EGGLESTONE .. 5
*EDWARD W. ROAST 2	DENNIS A. S. SYMONDS .. 6
*ERNEST E. S. JOHNSON.. 3	JOE E. G. ROAST 7
*PATRICK W. SALTMARSH.. 4	*IVAN J. M. SAUNDERS .. Tenor

Conducted by JOE E. G. ROAST.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples. † 50th peal. First peal in the method as conductor.

ALDERMASTON, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Feb. 24, 1957, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5184 PUDSEY SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 10 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb. in G.

STEPHEN IVIN Treble	*DONALD H. NIBLETT.. .. 5
*J. MICHAEL LAKIN 2	*GEOFFREY K. DODD.. .. 6
REGINALD W. REX 3	PHILIP MEHEW 7
*DAPHNE R. CASTELL.. .. 4	DEREK P. JONES Tenor

Composed by STEPHEN IVIN. Conducted by I. MICHAEL LAKIN.
* First peal of Pudsey. First peal of Pudsey on the bells.

EARDISLAND, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Feb. 25, 1957, in 2 Hours and 46 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5008 DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. 2 qr. 26 lb.

WILLIAM E. THOMPSETT .. Treble	LESLIE EVANS 5
ARTHUR W. DAVIS 2	REGINALD T. JONES 6
FREDERICK R. HARRIS .. 3	AUSTIN T. WINGATE 7
PHILIP MORGAN 4	WILFRID F. MORETON .. Tenor

Arranged and Conducted by WILFRID F. MORETON.

The treble ringer has now 'circled the tower.'
Rung on the Feast of St. Matthias as a welcome to the new Vicar,
the Rev. Canon H. F. Harmer, and his wife.

PAKEFIELD, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Mon., Feb. 25, 1957, in 2 Hours and 51 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ST. MARGARET.

A PEAL OF 5088 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 8 cwt. 3 qr. 4 lb. in G.

HORACE W. EASEY Treble	*EDWIN T. CHAPMAN.. .. 5
*JOHN W. G. KINDRED .. 2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT 6
A. WILLIAM BIRD 3	DOUGLAS MITCHELL.. .. 7
MICHAEL SOLLEY 4	PETER KINDRED Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by PETER KINDRED.

* 25th peal together. First peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major by all except the ringer of the sixth, and on the bells. The ringer of the second has now 'circled the tower.'

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. K. W. Riddle, wife of the Rector.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Feb. 26, 1957, in 3 Hours and 13 Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5056 BOB MAJOR

Tenor 25½ cwt.

MAURICE J. THURMOTT .. Treble	*FRED WASPE 5
MAY SCHOFIELD 2	FRANK RAYMENT 6
*MARJORIE EVANS 3	HAROLD B. SCHOFIELD .. 7
ERNEST H. SIMPSON .. 4	VERNON BOTTOMLEY .. Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by VERNON BOTTOMLEY.

* First peal of Bob Major.
A birthday compliment to Clarence Simpson, son of the fourth ringer,
and a farewell peal to Fred Waspe who is leaving the district.

BOWDON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Feb. 27, 1957, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5152 BELGRAVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lb. in F sharp.

*DAVID VINCENT Treble	ALAN J. BROWN 5
*BRIAN HARRIS 2	*LESLIE BOUMPHREY.. .. 6
EDWARD JENKINS 3	*WILFRED L. ROBINSON .. 7
*ROBIN G. TURNER 4	*FREDERICK WM. GROCOTT Tenor

Composed by A. CRAVEN. Conducted by FREDERICK WM. GROCOTT.

* First peal in the method. First peal of Belgrave Surprise on the bells.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Feb. 27, 1957, in 2 Hours and 23 Minutes,
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Johnson's variation.	Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in C.
*ROGER K. STRETTON .. Treble	ERNEST MORRIS 5
BRIAN G. WARWICK.. .. 2	JOHN A. ACRES 6
†JOAN K. BROWN 3	ERNEST J. JELLEY 7
BRIAN S. CHAPMAN .. 4	JOHN M. JELLEY Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by JOHN M. JELLEY

* First peal of Surprise. † First peal of Major in the method.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Feb. 28, 1957, in 2 Hours and 58 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF 5184 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 12 cwt. 28 lb.

*RICHARD HALL Treble	RONALD CHAFER 5
C. AUBREY HARRISON .. 2	ARTHUR CROWDER 6
ARTHUR TOMLINSON .. 3	HARRY HALL 7
MICHAEL CROWDER .. 4	JACK BRAY Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by JACK BRAY.

* First peal on eight bells.

LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thurs., Feb. 28, 1957, in 2 Hours and 54 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET.

A PEAL OF 5088 OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 13½ cwt.

A. WILLIAM BIRD Treble	*SYDNEY J. MERRY 5
EDWIN T. CHAPMAN 2	H. WILLIAM BARRETT .. 6
JOSEPH SAUNDERS 3	ALBERT E. COLEMAN .. 7
JOHN W. G. KINDRED .. 4	PETER KINDRED.. .. Tenor

Composed by F. NOLAN GOLDEN. Conducted by PETER KINDRED.

* 25th peal (his first peal was also in this method).

WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thurs., Feb. 28, 1957, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF 5024 EXETER SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb. in A.

C. EDWARD LANKESTER .. Treble	DENNIS KNOX 5
MRS. T. J. LOCK 2	LEONARD H. BOWLER.. .. 6
THOMAS J. LOCK 3	ALFRED J. HOUSE 7
ALICK CUTLER 4	JOHN R. MAYNE Tenor

Adapted from a composition by HAROLD G. CASHMORE.

Conducted by JOHN R. MAYNE.

First peal in the method. The ringer of the fourth has now rung
peals in 100 different Surprise Major methods.
Rung in memory of C. Henry Harding.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., March 1, 1957, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF 5056 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 15 cwt.

RALPH BIRD Treble	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY .. 5
ARTHUR G. MASON 2	GEORGE J. BUTCHER 6
JOHN L. MORRIS.. .. 3	FREDERICK J. CULLUM .. 7
BRIAN BLADON 4	PHILIP MEHEW Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by FREDERICK J. CULLUM.

Rung on St. David's Day.

BACUP, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 2, 1957, in 2 Hours and 49 Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF 5024 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor 10 cwt.

MRS. PHILIP J. H. HUDSON Treble	GEOFFREY S. MILLS 5
HAROLD PARKINSON .. 2	PHILIP J. H. HUDSON .. 6
FRED PRITCHARD 3	HAROLD HAMER 7
*ALLAN SMITH, SEN. .. 4	IVAN KAY Tenor

* First peal in the method.

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by IVAN KAY.

Rung in memory of Walter W. Wolstencroft, 50 years captain and
towerkeeper at St. Peter's Church, Ashton-under-Lyne.

CHATHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 2, 1957, in 3 Hours and 5 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Parker's Twelve-part.

Tenor 25 cwt.

DEREK NORRIS Treble	BENJAMIN F. BAKER 5
CHARLES E. J. NORRIS .. . 2	PERCY J. SPICE 6
THOMAS BEAUMONT 3	WILLIAM A. J. KNIGHT .. . 7
FRANCIS J. CHEAL 4	RONALD E. NORRIS Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM A. J. KNIGHT.

Rung for Charles E. J. Norris's 47th anniversary of his first peal, also ringing the same to his first.

PERSHORE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., March 2, 1957, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes,

AT THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS,

A PEAL OF 5056 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 26 cwt. in D.

ARTHUR D. COOKE Treble	GEORGE E. FEARN 5
LESLIE W. G. MORRIS .. . 2	RALPH G. EDWARDS 6
ERIC T. LEE 3	FREDERICK E. COLLINS .. . 7
FRANK E. HAYNES 4	A PATRICK CANNON Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by LESLIE W. G. MORRIS. This is the second peal of Surprise to be rung on these bells, cast by Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, in 1729; the previous one being also Cambridge Surprise Major on October 12th, 1946, conducted by Mr. Sidney T. Holt.

PORTSMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., March 2, 1957, in 3 Hours and 21 Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS-OF-CANTERBURY,

A PEAL OF 5088 BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor 25½ cwt. in E flat.

C. ERNEST SMITH Treble	FREDERICK W. BURNETT .. . 5
WILLIAM ROGERS 2	JOHN H. HUNT 6
E. WINIFRED KEYS 3	WILLIAM T. BEESON 7
ALFRED T. GREENWOOD .. . 4	FREDERICK A. MUNDAY .. . Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY (C.C.C. No. 4).

Conducted by WILLIAM ROGERS.

First peal in the method as conductor.

FIVE AND SIX BELL PEALS

STOKE-BY-CLARE, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 2, 1957, in 2 Hours and 55 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being one extent each of Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 13 cwt. in F sharp.

REGINALD RIPPINGALE .. Treble	ALLEN W. CANSDALE .. . 4
EVELYN R. M. CANSDALE .. 2	*SAMUEL J. TWITCHETT .. . 5
ROSEMARY J. SEABROOK .. 3	*THOMAS BIRD Tenor

Conducted by SAMUEL J. TWITCHETT.

* 25th peal together. The first peal on the bells for the Suffolk Guild.

WEST BUCKLAND, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Feb. 6, 1957, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

Being ten callings.

Tenor 17 cwt.

IVOR HUGHES Treble	CHARLES H. WEBBER 4
DAVID T. NORTH 2	GORDON WALFORD 5
GEOFFREY J. GAMMON .. . 3	CHARLES E. BAKER Tenor

Conducted by GORDON WALFORD.

First peal on the bells since their restoration.

Rung in honour of the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. P. Moore.

CLEWER, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Fri., Feb. 15, 1957, in 3 Hours and 4 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Comprising six extents each of Reverse Canterbury, St. Nicholas', Winchendon Place, Plain Bob, St. Simon's, St. Martin's and Grandsire.

Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 25 lb. in F.

GORDON C. HERD Treble	WILLIAM BUTLER 4
MONICA M. BLAGROVE .. . 2	FRANK T. BLAGROVE 5
ARTHUR J. BIRD 3	JAMES BROOKS Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM BUTLER.

Rung half-muffled in memoriam Walter W. Wolstencroft.

WINSHILL, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 16, 1957, in 3 Hours and 20 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being five extents of Kent Treble Bob and two extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 18½ cwt.

*VALERIE W. SMITH Treble	*JOHN O'NEILL 4
WILLIAM J. LEACH 2	BARNABAS G. KEY 5
GEORGE L. ROOBOTTOM .. . 3	ALAN G. FOSTER Tenor

Conducted by ALAN G. FOSTER.

* First peal of Minor.

Rung to celebrate the engagement of Mr. A. G. Foster, of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, to Miss V. W. Smith, of St. Mark's, Winshill.

LYNEHAM, WILTSHIRE.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Feb. 20, 1957, in 2 Hours and 52 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF 5040 BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 14 cwt.

JOHN G. WEBB Treble	JAMES C. TAYLOR 4
RAYMOND G. SMITH 2	MICHAEL B. KEMP 5
*DAVID T. DARBY 3	ANTHONY R. PEAKE Tenor

Conducted by ANTHONY R. PEAKE.

* First peal of Minor.

Rung by an R.A.F. band from R.A.F., Yatesbury, and R.A.F., Compton Bassett.

COLTISHALL, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1957, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being an extent each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Double Court, Oxford T.B., Kent T.B. and Plain.

Tenor 11½ cwt. in G.

*WILLIAM H. HOLDOM .. Treble	*ARTHUR S. BROTHERS .. . 4
JOHN R. SMITH 2	*WILLIAM R. CATCHPOLE .. . 5
GEORGE SAYER 3	NOLAN GOLDEN Tenor

Conducted by JOHN R. SMITH.

* First peal in seven methods. 25th peal as conductor.

A wedding compliment to Beryl A. Saunders and Terence M. Cole-Wilkin, married this day at New Buckenham.

DISLEY, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1957, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

In five methods, being two extents of Stedman (two callings), ten extents of Grandsire (ten callings), ten extents of St. Simon's Bob (four callings), 12 extents of St. Martin's Bob (four callings) and eight extents of Plain Bob (four callings).

Tenor 8½ cwt.

*WILLIAM H. DOWSE .. Treble	*BERNARD GROVES 3
*ROBERT SMITH 2	*ALAN MCFALL 4
	†BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE .. Tenor

Conducted by BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE.

* First peal of Doubles. † First peal of Doubles in five methods.

FAIRFIELD, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1957, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF 5040 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents. Tenor 12 cwt. 10 lb. in F sharp.

*ALAN MCFALL Treble	*ROBERT SMITH 4
*BERNARD GROVES 2	BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE .. . 5
†FRANK OSBALDISTON .. . 3	ALEX RICHARDSON Tenor

Conducted by BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE.

* First peal of Kent Treble Bob Minor. † First peal 'inside.' First peal in the method as conductor.

HARLAXTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1957, in 2 Hours and 35 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND PETER,

A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Being six extents each of Grandsire, Bob, St. Simon's, St. Martin's, St. Nicholas', Winchendon Place and Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob.

Tenor 12 cwt.

*VALERIE J. SHARP Treble	†BRIAN HUNT 4
†JOHN E. COOK, JUN. .. . 2	DENIS A. FRITH 5
†W. RUSSELL READ 3	MICHAEL SIMPSON Tenor

Conducted by W. RUSSELL READ.

* First peal. † First peal in seven Doubles methods. First peal as conductor.

**STAMFORD HILL, MIDDLESEX.
MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSN. & LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1957, in 2 Hours and 29 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANN,
A PEAL OF 5040 DOUBLES

Consisting of 42 extents in 23 methods, each having its own plain course, being an extent each of Canterbury, Reverse St. Vedast, Reverse St. Remigius, St. Julian, St. Faith's S.C., Reverse Winchendon, Reverse Huntspill, Reverse New, Reverse St. Nicholas', Union, Grandsire and Stedman; two each of New, St. Vedast, Huntspill, Winchendon, St. Remigius, St. Nicholas', Reverse Canterbury, and four each of St. Simon's, St. Osmund, St. Martin's and Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt. in A.

JANET K. SECKER Treble	BRIAN BLADON 4
MARTIN CUBITT 2	MICHAEL J. ROWE 5
FRANCES A. SECKER 3	ERNEST J. ROWE Tenor

Conducted by BRIAN BLADON.

† Greatest number of methods to a peal by all.

Rung by a resident Sunday service band.

STOWING, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Feb. 23, 1957, in 2 Hours and 45 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 BOB MINOR

Being seven different extents, Tenor 6 cwt.

RAYMOND J. CARLTON .. Treble	PHYLLIS E. LOWES .. . 4
JOHN R. COOPER 2	LESLIE C. SMITH 5
G. KEITH FINN 3	CRAWFORD T. HILLIS .. Tenor

Conducted by RAYMOND J. CARLTON.

BATHFORD, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Feb. 26, 1957, in 2 Hours and 42 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SWITHIN,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being four extents of Plain Bob and three extents of Kent Treble Bob (rung alternately). Tenor 10 cwt. 7 lb.

JOHN PHIPPEN Treble	DAVID HOARE 4
*TERRENCE T. JONES .. . 2	GEORGE J. HAWKINS .. . 5
*ROBIN S. M. STUBBS .. . 3	ERIC NAYLOR Tenor

Conducted by ERIC NAYLOR.

* First peal of Minor.

ULCEBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Feb. 27, 1957, in 2 Hours and 36 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being seven extents: (1) Single Oxford, (2) Double Oxford, (3) St. Clement's, (4) Plain Bob, (5) Kent T.B., (6) Oxford T.B., (7) Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt. 8 lb. in G sharp.

MARTIN WALKER Treble	MICHAEL W. CROWDER .. 4
GWEN I. RUSBY 2	W. ARTHUR CROWDER .. 5
STEPHEN BROMFIELD .. . 3	FRANK G. BLOOMFIELD .. Tenor

Conducted by FRANK G. BLOOMFIELD.

WILLINGTON, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Feb. 27, 1957, in 2 Hours and 38 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,
A PEAL OF 5040 MINOR

Being two extents each of Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob, and three extents of Bob Minor. Tenor 9½ cwt.

ANNE AMOR Treble	AVRIL THACKRAY 4
JENNIFER DAVIS 2	JOHN B. LONG 5
BRYAN PATTISON 3	ROBERT L. PIRON Tenor

Conducted by BRYAN PATTISON.

A coming-of-age compliment to the conductor.

GAMSTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., March 2, 1957, in 3 Hours and 41 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF 7200 TREBLE BOB MINOR

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Killamarsh, Norbury, College Exercise, Duke of Norfolk, Kingston, London Scholars' Pleasure, Sunday, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb.

KATHERINE BURCHNALL .. Treble	HAROLD DENMAN 4
GRACE BURCHNALL 2	DOUGLAS H. ROOKE .. . 5
GEORGE CHALLANS 3	HERBERT T. ROOKE Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT T. ROOKE.

This is the longest peal by all the band, on the bells, and for the Guild.

HANDBELL PEALS

COUNTESTHORPE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Mon., Feb. 18, 1957, in 2 Hours and 41 Minutes,

AT BEECH FARM,
A PEAL OF 5040 BOB ROYAL

Tenor size 18 in G.

BRIAN G. WARWICK .. . 1-2	JOHN A. ACRES .. . 5-6
ERNEST MORRIS .. . 3-4	*JOHN M. JELLEY .. . 7-8
†BRIAN S. CHAPMAN .. . 9-10	

Composed by WALTER AYRE. Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.

* First peal of Royal away from 9-10. † First peal on ten handbells and first of Royal in the method

LEICESTER.

THE LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wed., Feb. 20, 1957, in 2 Hours and 16 Minutes,

AT 12, DOROTHY AVENUE, GLEN HILLS!
A PEAL OF 5120 BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 18 in G.

BRIAN G. WARWICK .. . 1-2	JOHN A. ACRES .. . 5-6
JOHN M. JELLEY .. . 3-4	BRIAN S. CHAPMAN .. . 7-8

Composed by F. NOLAN GOLDEN. Conducted by BRIAN G. WARWICK.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD.

On Fri., Feb. 22, 1957, in 2 Hours and 1 Minute,

IN SELWYN COLLEGE,
A PEAL OF 5040 BOB MINOR

Seven different extents. Tenor size 13 in E.

*A R. HEPPENSTALL (Scl.) 1-2	*H. NEILL (St. Cath.'s) .. 3-4
J. D. PAINTER (Caius) .. . 5-6	

Conducted by J. D. PAINTER.

* First peal 'in hand.'

NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Fri., Feb. 22, 1957, in 2 Hours and 27 Minutes,

AT 39, ST. MARY'S AVENUE,
A PEAL OF 5056 SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR

Tenor size 15 in C.

*STANLEY E. DARMON .. . 1-2	†JEAN A. DARMON .. . 5-6
*JOHN R. MAYNE .. . 3-4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 7-8

Arranged and Conducted by CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal in the method on handbells. † First peal in the method.

RADLEY, BERKSHIRE.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sun., Feb. 24, 1957, in 2 Hours and 13 Minutes,

AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE,
A PEAL OF 5088 KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 14 in D.

MARIE R. CROSS .. . 1-2	DONALD H. NIBLETT .. . 5-6
WILLIAM H. JACKSON .. 3-4	ROBIN A. HODGSON .. . 7-8

Composed by J. COX. Conducted by WILLIAM H. JACKSON.

WALLINGTON, SURREY.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Sun., Feb. 24, 1957, in 2 Hours and 10 Minutes,

AT 22, ELGIN ROAD,
A PEAL OF 5056 BOB MAJOR

Tenor size 11 in G.

RUTH M. K. HOW .. . 1-2	KATHLEEN WRIGHT .. . 5-6
R. JAMES COOK .. . 3-4	PETER C. WRIGHT .. . 7-8

Arranged and Conducted by PETER C. WRIGHT.

SHERBURN-IN-ELMET, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tues., Feb. 26, 1957, in 1 Hour and 50 Minutes,

IN THE RINGING CHAMBER OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF 5040 BOB MINOR

Being seven extents.

D. MARGARET HAWLEY .. 1-2	EDWARD M. BRADLEY .. 3-4
ALAN SHEPPARD .. . 5-6	

Conducted by ALAN SHEPPARD.

CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wed., Feb. 27, 1957, in 1 Hour and 48 Minutes,

AT 19, ROYAL PARADE,
A PEAL OF 5040 BOB MINOR

Tenor size 11 in G.

Seven different extents.

SHIRLEY M. PARSONS .. . 1-2	DAVID J. MARSHALL .. . 3-4
CYRIL A. WRATTEN .. . 5-6	

Conducted by CYRIL A. WRATTEN.

First peal of Minor 'in hand' as conductor.

QUARTER PEALS

BARROW-UPON-SOAR, LEICS.—On Feb. 7th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: D. R. Lewin 1, B. S. Payne (cond.) 2, Miss H. C. Smith (first 'inside') 3, D. M. Sawyer 4, J. C. S. Scott 5, M. White 6. Rung on Founders' Day by the Humphrey Perkins School Campanological Society in honour of the 240th anniversary of the foundation of the school.

BEXLEY, KENT.—On Feb. 16th, 1,296 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Miss S. Nicholson 1, Miss M. R. Andrews 2, Miss B. A. Thompson 3, J. L. Morris 4, P. P. Brown 5, R. Bird (cond.) 6. Rung, after meeting short for a peal, to celebrate the engagement of Mr. Dennis Beresford to Miss D. Mary Ward, of Bexley.

BIRCH-IN-RUSHOLME, MANCHESTER.—On Jan. 13th, 1,344 Cambridge Surprise Major: A. M. Cooper 1, Joan Cordwell 2, G. D. Fearnchough 3, B. A. Tomlinson 4, T. Taylor (cond.) 5, P. Watson 6, A. Ward 7, D. Taylor 8. First quarter in the method for all the band. Rung before Evensong.

CLERKENWELL, N.—On Feb. 17th, at St. James' Church, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Mrs. C. Wats 1, H. Belcher 2, Miss M. A. Prockson 3, B. Lunn 4, W. D. Prockson 5, James Phillips 6, John Phillips (cond.) 7, C. Wats 8.

COWLEY, OXON.—On Feb. 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss S. Mawer (first quarter) 1, W. Holloway (cond.) 2, Miss W. Holloway 3, Mrs. L. Busby 4, D. Norris 5, A. Bennett 6.

DORKING, SURREY.—On Feb. 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. M. C. Edmondson (first quarter) 1, E. G. L. Coward 2, Miss E. Clear 3, Miss M. Brown 4, B. Read 5, A. Harman 6, A. P. Cannon (cond.) 7, G. Coldman 8. A birthday compliment to Miss M. Brown.

EPSOM, SURREY.—At Christ Church, on Feb. 27th, 1,272 Bob Minor: I. Waterman 1, D. J. F. Oakshott 2, W. Robinson 3, E. J. Lindley (cond.) 4, W. Parrott 5, N. D. J. Webb 6. First of Minor for 1, 2 and 6.

FROME, SOMERSET.—On Feb. 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples (A. P. Wakeley's): Miss C. Smalley 1, P. J. H. Wycherley 2, Miss E. D. Overend 3, W. Mills 4, R. H. Abbott (first of Triples as cond.) 5, W. J. Phippen 6, D. Flower 7, H. Vennell 8. Rung before the Baden-Powell Centenary service.

GLOUCESTER.—At the Cathedral, on Feb. 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Blower 1, T. Newman 2, G. Green 3, G. L. Hewitt 4, J. Whiting 5, P. Clarkson 6, L. Barry (cond.) 7, H. Newman 8. Rung as a farewell to P. Clarkson, leaving to do his National Service. Also on Mar. 3rd, at St. Mary-de-Crypt, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Blower 1, G. L. Hewitt 2, G. Goulding 3, T. Newman 4, J. Whiting 5, T. Whiting 6, L. Barry (cond.) 7, H. Newman 8. Rung for the christening of Janet Helen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Matthews.

HALESOWEN, WORCS.—On Mar. 3rd, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. Shilcock 1, B. E. Woodhall 2, A. E. Greenhall 3, Miss W. Pretty 4, Miss M. Tromans 5, T. Greenhall 6, L. Clissett (cond.) 7, A. H. Harris 8. For evening service, and a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. R. Harris, parents of A. H. Harris, on the occasion of the celebration of their diamond wedding anniversary.

HANSLOPE, BUCKS.—On Feb. 16th, 1,260 Bob Triples: Miss J. M. Packwood 1, Miss J. A. Downing 2, Miss D. M. Miller 3, I. J. Dickin 4, R. A. Eldridge 5, R. Baker 6, G. F. Roome (cond.) 7, A. C. Cozens 8. First in the method for all the band. A 21st birthday compliment to Miss J. M. Packwood.

HEMINGBROUGH, YORKS.—On Feb. 26th, 1,260 Bob Minor: D. Hatfield 1, W. Stoker 2, E. D. Tunc 3, W. H. Terry 4, G. F. Terry 5, T. W. Tunc (cond.) 6. Rung half-muffled in memoriam Mr. W. A. Hudson, a local ringer for many years.

IXWORTH, SUFFOLK.—On Feb. 17th, 1,320 Minor (720 St. Clement's, 600 Bob): H. Iwings (first in two Minor methods) 1, H. King 2, L. S. Sharpe 3, K. G. Brown 4, E. Bishop 5, L. N. Melton (cond.) 6. For Matins, also as a birthday compliment to the treble ringer. The tenor ringer has now 'circled the tower' to quarter peals.

KING'S LANGLEY, HERTS.—On Feb. 3rd, 1,260 Bob Doubles: Miss R. I. Metcalfe (first quarter) 1, Miss G. E. Graney 2, R. J. Picton 3, R. V. Wallis 4, B. M. Barker (cond.) 5, R. J. Scapehorn 6.

LANCASTER.—At St. Peter's Cathedral, on Feb. 24th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. Woods 1, R. Warden 2, R. Rainford 3, H. Rainford (cond.) 4, S. Jeffrey 5, E. Hornby 6. Rung to celebrate the laying of the foundation of a daughter church of St. Bernardette.

LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.—On Feb. 17th, 1,280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: W. Newberry 1, Patricia Sme 2, A. H. Winch (cond.) 3, G. Marriner 4, A. S. Harris (first in method) 5, B. Hawkins 6, A. H. Smith 7, H. V. Young 8. For Evensong.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDS.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Bob Royal: M. G. Hooton 1, Angela Grainger 2, E. Conquest 3, Anne Spavins 4, P. Newing (comp. and cond.) 5, H. B. Witney 6, V. Conquest 7, A. E. Butcher 8, R. Woodruff 9, K. G. Spavins 10. First of Royal for 2, 4 and 8. Rung in memory of Alfred Vickers (Linslade) and C. Henry Harding (Blunham).

LELANT, CORNWALL.—On Mar. 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Marion L. Lidgely 1, Marion Steele (first 'inside') 2, Ann Clifton 3, R. Richards 4, H. Miles (cond.) 5, M. Peters (first quarter) 6. For Evensong. R. Richards was on embarkation leave.

LINTON, KENT.—On Mar. 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples (from the Original): H. Smith (first quarter) 1, G. Cantrell 2, W. Manser 3, F. Leason 4, W. Grice 5, R. Rich 6, L. Head (cond.) 7, P. Town 8. Birthday compliment for H. Smith and Ann Thomsett, one of the local ringers.

LIVERPOOL.—At the Church of Our Lady and St. Nicholas, on Feb. 17th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: T. Lee 1, J. H. Fielden 2, J. Nelson 3, J. E. Spice (cond.) 4, E. F. Bennett 5, F. S. Almond 6, J. N. Brown 7, L. L. Gray 8.

LYDD, KENT.—On Feb. 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Rosemary Marshall (first of Triples) 1, Anne Boulden (first of Triples 'inside') 2, Maisie Vantom (cond.) 3, H. S. Humphrey 4, Olive Boulden 5, S. J. Boulden 6, R. Swift 7, A. L. Terry 8.

MILES PLATTING, MANCHESTER.—On Jan. 30th, 1,320 Grandsire Doubles: Shirley Harris 1, Gillian Bridgford (first quarter) 2, P. Watson 3, T. Taylor (cond.) 4, D. Taylor 5, Carole Eustace 6.

OLDHAM, LANCs.—At St. Mary's Church, on Feb. 10th, 1,260 Doubles (840 Grandsire, 420 Bob): T. B. Hartley 1, W. T. Light 2, D. Sanderson (cond.) 3, J. T. Walsley 4, D. Seville 5, J. Mayrick 6. For Evensong on the day of the christening of Malcolm A. Hibbert, son of the vergier and Mrs. G. Hibbert.

OXFORD.—On Feb. 17th, at St. Ebbe's Church, 1,280 Bristol Surprise Major: R. N. Pittman 1, C. J. B. Taylor 2, F. A. Barrett 3, W. H. Jackson (first in method as cond.) 4, D. H. Niblett 5, P. R. Sanders 6, D. J. Roaf 7, R. A. Hodgson 8. First in method by all except conductor.

QUENIBOROUGH, LEICS.—On Mar. 4th, 1,260 Doubles (240 Reverse Canterbury, 480 Bob and 540 Grandsire): F. Carter 1, Miss J. Kirkman 2, C. Lowe 3, D. Lowe 4, E. F. Payne (cond.) 5. Rung half-muffled in memoriam the Rev. J. H. Stanton, a former Vicar.

RAYLEIGH, ESSEX.—On Feb. 24th, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: Miss B. Crossman 1, P. Coward 2, R. Tomlin 3, F. May 4, E. Blower 5, G. Sandwell 6, A. House (cond.) 7, W. Ward 8. First in method for 3, 4 and 5. A birthday compliment to ringer of 5th. For Evensong.

RETTENDON, ESSEX.—On Feb. 24th, 1,260 Bob Minor: Miss B. Crossman 1, G. Sandwell 2, R. Tomlin 3, F. May 4, P. Coward 5, A. House (cond.) 6. For Evensong.

ROADE, NORTHANTS.—On Feb. 10th, 1,260 Bob Doubles: Miss S. Tompkins 1, J. E. King 2, Miss P. A. Neesham (first 'inside') 3, H. E. Curtis 4, A. G. Osborne (cond.) 5. For Evensong.

ROTHERHAM, YORKS.—On Feb. 17th, 1,264 Bob Major: Mrs. N. Chaddock 1, Miss S. Chaddock 2, H. Cooke (first 'inside') 3, Miss E. A. Wardill 4, G. S. Lee 5, F. Fisher 6, J. N. D. Chaddock 7, N. Chaddock (cond.) 8. For Evensong.

SANDY, BEDS.—On Feb. 25th, 1,260 Bob Minor: P. Endersby 1, B. Backhouse 2, J. Kitchener 3, C. Blain 4, Joan Ashton (cond.) 5, H. Gurney 6. Rung half-muffled in memoriam C. Henry Harding.

SHEDFIELD, HANTS.—On Feb. 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. E. Hoodless 1, F. W. Burnett 2, J. Ball 3, D. S. M. Jones 4, G. Miles 5, K. Jordan 6, A. H. Sturgess (cond.) 7, J. Hunt 8.

SHEFFIELD.—At the Cathedral Church of SS. Peter and Paul, on Feb. 10th, 1,260 Little Bob Royal: R. Wildgoose 1, F. Ward 2, Mrs. E. Mattly 3, R. S. Long 4, B. Holland 5, B. Balderson 6, R. Birch 7, J. Scager 8, G. K. Chaddock 9, H. O. Chaddock (cond.) 10. For Evensong.

SHREWSBURY, SALOP.—At St. Chad's Church, on Feb. 23rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss S. J. Boddow 1, C. W. Lee 2, E. F. Willcox 3, F. A. H. Cattell 4, J. E. Wilson 5, F. G. Boddow 6, F. H. Bennett (cond.) 7, F. R. Mason 8. Rung half-muffled in memoriam William Brooks, a member of this band for many years, also W. W. Wolstencroft.

SLOUGH, BUCKS.—On Feb. 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss J. Hussey 1, Miss S. Wickenden 2, Miss J. Adamson 3, F. R. Scott 4, B. T. Lister 5, E. E. Gosling 6, W. Birmingham (cond.) 7, E. L. A. Hudson 8. Rung half-muffled for Mr. Walter W. Wolstencroft, a ringer at this church up to his death, interred this day at Stoke Poges.

STAMFORD HILL, N.—At St. Ann's Church, on Feb. 17th, 1,320 Doubles (one extent Reverse St. Vedast, Reverse St. Remigius, Union Bob, St. Julien, St. Faith's Slow Course, Reverse New, Reverse Huntspill, Reverse St. Nicholas, Reverse Winchendon Place, Canterbury Pleasure Bob, St. Simon's): Janet Secker 1, M. Cubitt 2, Frances Secker 3, B. Bladon (cond.) 4, M. Rowe 5, L. Green 6.

STEPNEY, E.—At the Parish Church, on Feb. 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: H. W. Knauss 1, L. J. Fox (cond.) 2, P. J. Shute (first 'inside') 3, H. G. Weedon 4, G. J. Boomsma 5, S. Smith 6. For Evensong.

TIVERTON, DEVON.—On Feb. 16th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Mrs. E. S. Powell 1, L. May 2, Mrs. B. M. W. Dobbie (first quarter) 3, Miss J. Taylor 4, J. Taylor 5, J. Upton 6, C. Tarr (cond.) 7, H. Taylor 8.

UPPER CLAPTON, E.—At the Church of St. Matthew, on Mar. 3rd, 16,20 Stedman Triples: Miss J. M. Highley 1, Mrs. D. Neal 2, J. A. Hales 3, Miss N. Hales 4, R. K. C. Wilkings 5, J. Hales 6, D. Neal (cond.) 7, D. W. Gray 8. A birthday compliment to the ringer of the fifth.

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX.—On Mar. 3rd, at the Church of St. Mary: 1,344 Bob Major: B. Downes (first of Major) 1, F. C. Maynard 2, H. Rumens 3, M. C. Austin 4, D. Hewitt 5, A. J. N. Boyack 6, M. J. Hayes (first 'inside') 7, R. J. Chapman (cond.) 8. For Evensong.

WEDNESBURY, STAFFS.—On Feb. 17th, at St. Bartholomew's Church, 1,271 Grandsire Caters: W. Cooper 1, H. Moreton 2, A. Hubble 3, G. Darlington 4, A. Hingley (cond.) 5, E. Marlow 6, K. W. Knowles 7, D. K. Knowles 8, D. Tranter 9, J. Hingley 10. For Evensong.

WEST TARRING, SUSSEX.—On Feb. 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. E. Weaver (first quarter) 1, D. A. Smith 2, J. W. Parslow 3, Miss J. M. Clements 4, H. C. Weaver (cond.) 5, Miss D. K. Saunders 6.

WHISTON, YORKS.—On Feb. 27th, 1,260 Bob Minor (7th covering): Miss Margaret M. Cutts (first quarter) 1, G. Cutts 2, S. Wright 3, J. Nutbrown 4, B. Heppenstall (Wath) 5, T. E. Cutts (first as cond.) 6, M. O'Gram (first quarter) 7. A 21st birthday compliment to Miss Margaret M. Cutts.

WILTON, SOMERSET.—On Feb. 25th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: R. W. Hayward 1, D. F. Sheldon 2, A. H. Reed 3, H. E. Causley 4, W. H. Tarr 5, W. G. Gigg 6, S. C. Coles (cond.) 7, J. Grant 8. Rung half-muffled in memoriam A. W. Hayward, for many years captain of this tower, interred earlier this day at Staplegrave.

WOODDITTON, CAMBS.—At Sunny View, on Feb. 26th, 1,260 Bob Major (on handbells): A. R. Mann 1-2, A. E. Austin (cond.) 3-4, J. R. Heath 5-6, T. F. Varney 7-8.

YEOVIL, SOMERSET.—On Feb. 27th, 1,259 Grandsire Caters: R. Moore 1, R. J. Fox 2, G. Gaylard 3, T. E. Marks 4, J. Looker 5, T. Look 6, A. C. Jeanes 7, H. J. Gaylard 8, T. J. Setter (cond.) 9, D. Corrie 10. Half-muffled, and followed by 78 whole pulls and stand, in memoriam Fred Smith, upwards of 30 years ringer at this church, interred same day.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION

Eastern Division

The annual meeting of the Eastern Division was held at its usual venue, St. Mary's, Eastbourne, on February 23rd, when 50 members attended. The Master, Mr. S. E. Armstrong, was present and took the chair at the business meeting.

The secretary in his annual report stated that attendance at meetings during the past year had slightly increased with an average of 30, and he thought that the standard of ringing had been maintained. By the beginning of 1957 26 new members and four life members had joined the Association, and he extended a special welcome to the Ewhurst band, who had recently become affiliated and were making good progress with help from Mr. W. Button, of Northiam tower.

The bells of the Division were generally in good order; improvements were in progress at Mayfield, including the recasting of the tenor, while repairs to the tenor clapper at St. Saviour's, Eastbourne, had been approved by the P.C.C.

The report was adopted, and after electing several new members the meeting proceeded to elect its officers as follows: Secretary, Mr. H. G. F. Reynolds; Ringing Master, Mr. L. W. Giles; auditor, Mr. T. A. Hunnisett; committee, Mr. C. Verdon and Mrs. B. Percy; Central Council delegate, Mr. F. H. Dalloway.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks for the use of the bells, and soon afterwards the handy eight were again in use in a variety of methods.

H. R.

FITZHEAD, SOMERSET—On Feb. 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Miss F. Hartley 1, Miss J. Taylor 2, Mrs. B. M. W. Dobbie 3, C. Tarr 4, F. Branchflower (cond.) 5, H. Taylor 6.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The U.B.S.C.R. held its annual rag week outing on Wednesday, February 27th, and for a change was favoured with a fine day. The 17 members of the party, most of whom travelled on bicycles, set off independently and met at Chew Stoke (6) at 2 o'clock for the start of the day's ringing. A variety of methods was rung to cater for everyone's requirements.

During the course of the afternoon Nempnett Thrubwell (6), Compton Martin (6), Hinton Blewett (5) and Litton (6), where a belated tea was taken, were visited.

The day's ringing was brought to a close at Blagdon (8), where the Rector very kindly pointed out the interesting features of the church and showed us a priceless set of vestments. Meanwhile, some members, followed in due course by the remainder of the party, had retired to the local for further 'refreshment.' The tour ended in the very early hours of the morning after a long and tiring ride (or walk?) back to Bristol.

However, the outing was thoroughly enjoyed and voted a great success. P. F. S.

LEEDS & DISTRICT SOCIETY

An unexpected fall of snow somewhat reduced the attendance at the Society's meeting on February 23rd at Birstall. However, by tea time 20 members had assembled and were able to enjoy the very good meal which had been provided by the local company.

At a short business meeting afterwards one new member was elected, and the Vicar, churchwardens and local company thanked for all they had done to make the meeting such a pleasant one.

The next meeting will be held at Hunslet on March 30th.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD

West Dorset Branch

The quarterly meeting of the West Dorset Branch was held at Bradpole on February 23rd. Members present from Beaminster, Evershot, Loders, Lyme Regis, Netherbury and Whitechurch Canonicorum were joined in the evening by visitors from Yeovil and Stalbridge.

The bells were rung to Grandsire Doubles and Triples, and Kent T.B. and Cambridge Surprise Major, prior to the service touch of Stedman Triples. The Guild service was conducted by the Rev. J. T. Davies (Vicar), the lesson read by Canon C. C. Cox, and the Rev. O. L. Willmott gave a most fitting address. The collection amounted to 14/-. Tea was served in the school by the Vicar's wife and several helpers.

At the business meeting Canon Cox said that February 20th was the 40th anniversary of the death of the Rev. Mr. Langford, a former vicar of Bradpole, who had done so much to further the art of change-ringing in West Dorset.

The date of the April meeting was fixed for the 27th at Symondsburry. It was agreed that a coach should run from Lyme Regis to Salisbury on May 18th for the Guild festival. Two new members were elected from Broadwindsor—Mr. L. Studley and Master E. Case.

In conclusion, the chairman thanked Rev. J. T. Davies, Rev. O. L. Willmott for his address, Miss Sutton for playing the harmonium, and Mrs. Davies and her lady helpers for their very adequate spread. E. G. P.

ROTHERHAM, YORKS.—On Feb. 24th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Miss M. Mills 1, Miss S. Chaddock 2, Miss E. Wardill 3, Mrs. N. Chaddock 4, J. Chaddock 5, F. Fisher 6, N. Chaddock (cond.) 7, G. Lee 8. First of Stedman by all except 7 and 8. For Evening song.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH

The LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

'THE RINGING WORLD'

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Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

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FRANK I. HAIRS.
JOSEPH T. DYKE.
R. S. ANDERSON.

EDITOR: T. W. WHITE.

Who was the Ladies' Guild member who dropped a clanger at the Godalming meeting of the Southern District by ingeniously enquiring of the Guild president if her husband was a ringer?

BELFRY GOSSIP

Mr. Philip Mehew rang his 100th peal on January 13th at Keysoe. It was Mr. B. Bladon's 150th.

In honour of the wedding of Miss Juliette Garner-Hayward to Mr. Michael J. Brown, the bride's father, Mr. J. L. Garner-Hayward, conducted a peal of Bob Major at St. Michael's, Stoke-in-Coventry, on March 9th.

Addington, Surrey, bells were dedicated on February 24th by the Bishop of Croydon. A quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung on them the same day, conducted by Mr. R. Bird.

Ringling in a quarter peal at Frome in honour of the centenary of the birth of Lord Baden-Powell were three members of the movement—a member of the Trefoil Guild, a Guider and an ex-Scout; also Mr. W. Mills, who rang for the relief of Mafeking.

Mr. D. J. Pitstow, who has been secretary of St. Andrew's, Rugby, for the past ten years, is leaving for Newcastle-under-Lyme. Following a farewell quarter of Stedman Triples which he conducted, he was presented by the Ringing Master (Mr. W. J. Vann) with a fountain pen as an appreciation of his services to the band.

Mr. Albert H. Kemp, Master and peal secretary to the Hawkhurst and District Guild, informs us that the peal of Doubles in three methods rung on April 10th, 1948, was rung at St. Giles', Bodiam, Sussex, and not at St. Nicholas', Sandhurst, Kent, as the Rev. K. W. H. Felstead states. We have forwarded to Mr. Felstead the list of peals rung at Bodiam and Sandhurst as supplied to us by Mr. Kemp.

In our report of the Henry Johnson dinner we were misinformed that the Coventry Guild were holding their annual dinner. The function was a rally of all bellringers of the diocese. Mr. Garner-Hayward writes: The date was given by the Bishop of the diocese, who wished to meet all his church bellringers, so unfortunately I could not do anything about it. I was very sorry that the dates clashed as I look forward to the Henry Johnson dinner as I am sure do many members of our Guild. Sorry, George.

While a difficult signature to read might be admirable as a safeguard for cheques, it is a 'holy terror' for editors. Will those who indulge in such signatures kindly print their names in block capitals?

The band who rang the long peal of 7,200 Treble Bob Minor at Gamston, Notts, were afterwards congratulated by the Rev. S. M. I. Salt and Mrs. Salt on the striking. It was a very good peal with a few slight trips, reports the conductor.

The peal rung at Wormingford on March 8th was arranged for St. David's Day, but owing to a death in the village the Vicar kindly asked the band to postpone it to the following Friday. Just prior to the start news was received of the passing of Mr. Horace J. Mansfield, a valued member of the Essex Association. It was therefore decided to attempt to ring a first-class peal as a tribute to this grand English gentleman.

Veterans with Crayford connections and younger ringers in the Tiverton-Wiveliscombe area will unite in wishing Mr. Ernest H. Oxenham, Bampton, Devon, a speedy return to good health. He entered the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital last week for a major operation. Up to a month ago he never missed a service or a practice. He has been a constant supporter of 'R.W.' since publication No. 1.

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RINGERS' RALLY AT WARWICK

COVENTRY GUILD'S GREAT GATHERING

THE Coventry Diocesan Guild held on March 1st 2nd at St. Mary's Church, Warwick, what is believed to be the first time ever in its 50 years' history a rally of all church bellringers in the diocese. The invitation was extended to all members of the Guild and also to non-members, the object of the rally being to enable the new Bishop of Coventry, Dr. Cuthbert Bardsley, to meet them.

Ringling commenced at 1 p.m. with the St. Mary's band raising the bells, who opened the afternoon's ringling with a touch of Grandsire Caters. From then until 4 p.m. the ringling was taken over at ten-minute intervals by nominated bands, and varied from rounds on six, call-changes and Grandsire Doubles on six, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Bob Major on eight, Grandsire and Stedman Caters with Bob Royal on ten. All bands rang the same number of bells as their home tower, all sixes using the front six.

The standard of striking was commendably high by all the bands taking part, and has certainly provided food for thought on other meetings. The timetable worked out perfectly, with the one exception that Stoke-in-Coventry were unable to take up the time given to them, which caused other bands to be called upon to ring ten minutes before the time allotted to them. All were able to fit into the new timetable and the programme went through without another hitch. When the Stoke band did arrive they were at once fitted in.

One hundred and sixteen ringers participated in this part of the programme. A special band was selected from as many towers as possible to ring a service touch from 4 to 4.15 p.m. This was indeed ringling near to perfect, and who would expect it to be otherwise with such an audience of listeners?

RINGING CHAMBERS A DISGRACE

The service in St. Mary's Church, which was attended by about 250 ringers and friends, was conducted by the Rev. Joseph McCulloch and was fully choral. The Guild service was used and the address was given by the Lord Bishop, who is the Guild patron. In his address he referred to some ringling chambers as a disgrace to their church, and reminded ringers they could do much for themselves in this respect. He said how much he appreciated the work they were doing in keeping the very English art of bellringing alive, and hoped they would ensure its continuance by training young people to follow on, and keep the bells of our churches ringling for future generations.

Tea was afterwards served in St. Mary's Church Hall to a gathering packed so tightly that it was almost impossible to eat without poking your elbow in someone else's cup of tea. Fortunately, it was served buffet style, and this enabled the Bishop to move round the room and have a chat with many of them.

Dr. Bardsley eventually went on the platform with the hon. secretary and addressed the gathering. He said how delighted he was at being given such a wonderful opportunity to meet so many of them, and hoped that such a gathering would be held at least once in every two or three years as he felt that much good would come from it. He said how pleased he was to see so many young boys and girls present, and also referred to the octogenarians, many of whom he had met during tea.

The hon. secretary (Mr. J. L. Garner-Hayward) thanked the Bishop for his inspiring address and assured him of the support of the Guild in his diocese, and he thanked also the Rector and churchwardens of St. Mary's Church for co-operating so readily with the suggestion that the meeting be held at Warwick, and for the use of the Church Hall.

After tea the ringers returned to the tower, where under the Ringling Master, Mr. R. J. Edden, many were catered for, from rounds to Cambridge Royal. The bells were lowered at about 9 p.m. to close what had certainly been a memorable occasion for many ringers.

Visitors were present from as far afield as Nottingham and as near as Coleshill. Had St. Mary's ringling chamber ever been packed with so many ringers before, I wonder? The following towers were represented: Alderminster, Allesley, Alveston, Berkswell, Burton Dassett, Bilton, Bidford-on-Avon, Bulkington, Dunchurch, Farnborough, Chilvers Coton, Cubbington, Harbury, Honiley, Kenilworth, Keresley, Fenny Compton, Ladbroke, Leamington Spa, Leek Wootton, Lillington, Newbold-on-Avon, Preston-on-Stour, Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon, Stoke-in-Coventry, Warwick, Wellesbourne, Whitnash, Wolvey, Southam, and several unattached ringers.

J. L. G. H.

Gratefully Acknowledged

The Editorial Committee acknowledge with gratitude the following donations towards meeting the cost of producing 'The Ringling World':—

- Personal.—M. A. T. £1, Anonymous 5s.
- Peals.—Thornbury 4s., Stamford Hill 2s., Lyneham 3s., Congresbury 4s., Ulceby 3s., Chatham 4s., Headingley 5s., Woburn 4s., Queniborough 3s., Corscombe 3s.
- Quarter Peals.—Hemingbrough 2s., Woodditton 2s., Lancaster 2s. 6d., Cowley 3s., Frome 4s., Leighton Buzzard 5s., West Tarring 1s. 6d., Walthamstow 4s., Upper Clapton 2s., Gloucester 4s., Linton, Kent, 4s., Lelant 1s. 6d., Epsom 2s. 6d., Wilton 2s., Whiston 2s., Halesowen 2s.

International Scouts' Jamboree

We have already received inquiries regarding ringling possibilities for Scouts attending the World Jamboree at Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, from August 3rd to 17th.

The St. Martin's Guild, as is their custom, are prepared to assist in every way possible. Sutton Park is near a number of rings of good bells.

Will those attending kindly let Mr. George E. Fearn, hon. secretary of St. Martin's Guild, 92, Etwell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28, know of their requirements.

- Suggestions are:—
- (a) Boy Scouts' peal attempts (state methods required).
 - (b) A tour of neighbouring towers.
 - (c) Practice nights in neighbourhood.
 - (d) Sunday service ringling.

REDEDICATION

BRANTON BROUGHTON, LINCS

This well-known ring of six bells has recently been rehung on ball-bearings by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, and a good deal of other necessary work has been done at a total cost of over £300. The work was dedicated by the Archdeacon of Lincoln on February 22nd.

After the service ringers from Newark and from Lincoln Cathedral joined the local team, and ringling went on for an hour-and-a-half. The visitors expressed themselves delighted with the improvement in the handling of the bells. This is one of the heaviest rings of six in the country, the tenor being 23½ cwt.

At the dedication Evensong was sung by the Rector with the choir in attendance, Mr. O. Lintern, F.R.C.O., being at the organ. The ringers were Messrs. E. Brown (tower Master), C. Pitchford, T. Rogers, J. Marshall, C. Jackson, F. Derry and D. Briggs. C. S. T.



DOWN SOMERSET WAY.—A happy picture of the 70 ringers and their wives who accepted the invitation of Wellington Parish Church for a social evening on February 9th. An hour's ringling preceded the event for the benefit of the young ringers who wished to score the tower.

During the refreshment interval the Vicar (the Rev. J. W. Lloyd) welcomed everyone present and hoped the social would become an annual

event. He was pleased to say that two of the three rings of bells in his charge were being rung regularly, and that he had received an estimate for reconditioning the bells at Nynhead, although the work was not contemplated in the near future. Mr. A. H. Reed, secretary of the Taunton Deanery Branch, responded on behalf of the visitors. Mr. F. W. Slocombe was an efficient M.C.

FOUR-BELL TOWERS CREATE GREAT INTEREST

MR. DOVE REQUIRES INFORMATION

Dear Sir,—Replying to Messrs. W. J. Paice and Peter Bond, following the suggestion by Mr. D. P. Jones that four-bell towers might be included in a future edition of the 'Guide,' I have started to collect the information, but I think it may prove no small task.

Mr. Jones seems to imply that rings of four are not numerous, which is not my impression. In Yorkshire, for example, they are more numerous than rings of five. Admittedly the percentage of five in this part of the country is exceptionally small and the same preponderance of fours over fives may not obtain in other parts of the country.

Rings of four are seldom hung nowadays and their number is declining steadily—some 16 were increased to five or six bells since the first edition of the 'Guide,' in 1950, and one has already joined the list of six-bell towers since the second edition, a few months ago.

Doubtless the cost will be an important factor in deciding whether or not these towers can be included, and the cost in turn will depend upon the number of such towers.

In the meantime I shall be pleased to receive any information concerning four-bell towers where the bells are ringable, but I make no promise that the list may be complete or that, in these days of steadily rising costs, it will appear at all.

Leeds.

R. H. DOVE.

VOLUNTEER SYSTEM SUGGESTED

Dear Sir,—The recent correspondence on the subject of four-bell towers is a healthy sign that bellringing interest is being awakened in churches beyond the limits of the ringable 5,000. I believe that anything which serves to draw attention to the vast scope for expansion of the ringing service to the Church is a good thing, and it seems that such a supplement to the 'Guide,' as suggested, might help in this. In my own Rural Deanery there are only four ringable rings in 18 churches.

I do not know what method Mr. Dove used in compiling his original work, but it seems that if a volunteer could be found from each Deanery to investigate and report, complete and accurate information could be readily obtained, not only of ringable four-bell towers but others as well, if desired. Their representative on the Ruri-decanal Council would give a list of churches in the Deanery, and the figures for the diocesan quota would indicate what chances there might be for restorations or augmentations from the financial point of view. Daughter churches are not shown in these lists, but the parish magazines would reveal them.

If Mr. Dove is interested in pressing forward any idea of this kind I should be pleased to volunteer to supply information for the Rural Deanery of Battle and Bexhill.—Yours faithfully,

C. E. VERDON.

Bexhill.

A SOMERSET LIST

Dear Sir,—Regarding the query about rings of four bells, here is a list of the rings of four bells in Somerset within the Diocese of Bath and Wells:—

Rodney Stoke, barely ringable; Biddisham; Milton; Ansford; Pen-Selwood; Berkley, near Frome; Farleigh Hungerford, rehung in recent years; Combe Hay, unringable; West Chinnock; Claverton, near Bath; Bawdrip; West Harptree; Walton St. Mary; East Quantoxhead; Fiddington; Dodington; Otterhampton; Kilton; Aisholt; Donyatt; Ile Brewers; White-lackington; Ilton; Bicknoller; Elworthy; Withycombe; Brompton Ralph; Raddington; Clatworthy; Beercombe; Orchard Portman; Thurbere; Otterford; Bathealton; and Kittisford. (What beautiful names some of these are!)

Some of these rings are in a derelict and even dangerous state; none is affiliated to the Diocesan Association. However, Pitcombe, with its ring of three bells, now has no less than eight ringers who are members!—Yours, etc.,

R. O. FRY.

Bath, Som.

FROM BERKSHIRE

Dear Sir,—I have followed with interest the correspondence regarding rings of four bells and I am all in favour of Mr. Derek Jones' suggestion that a list should be compiled.

Here at Stanford Dingley, in Berkshire, we have a very ancient ring of four, the third bell dating back to the 15th century. I have the complete data available on request.

When the incumbent, the Rev. A. L. B. Hay (a very keen ringer and a Guild member), was inducted here, in March of last year, an appeal for ringers resulted in the formation of a band of 11 enthusiastic members. History was made on January 19th last, when the tower became affiliated to the Oxford Guild and all 11 members joined the Newbury Branch.

With four new ropes, a weekly practice night and ringing for two services each Sunday, no doubt Stanford Dingley has one of the most progressive rings of four bells in the country.—Yours faithfully,

A. W. HOLLOWAY.

Bradfield, Berks.

A NORTH SUFFOLK TOWER

Dear Sir,—All Saints' Church, Stuston, in North Suffolk, on the River Waveney, opposite to Diss, has four bells, which were rehung in 1874. The steeple is round at the base and octagonal above.

The late Mr. Frederick Day told me that the bells had only half-wheels before rehung and were chimed frame-high. After this they must have been very much neglected, for a few years ago, on clearing out the steeple, men wore gas-masks, and cartloads of rubbish, etc., were taken away, which had been deposited by birds.—Yours truly,

G. E. SYMONDS.

Ipswich.

A COMPREHENSIVE LIST

Dear Sir,—I see in 'The Ringing World' for March 1st there are two letters about four-bell towers in reply to the original letter on the subject by Mr. Derek Jones.

This has prompted me to write, for I feel that some readers might be interested in knowing of a few more 'ringable' four-bell towers. The following is a list that I have so far gathered together during the past few months, and although I have visited very few of these, I understand that the bells are 'ringable.'

North Aston, Oxf., 7½ cwt.; Biddisham, Som, about 8 cwt.; Clearwell, Glos, 12 cwt.; Danehill, Sx, 7 cwt. 3 qr. 5 lb.; Dodington, Som, about 7 cwt.; Evington, Leics, 16½ cwt.; Great Toller, Dorset, 8½ cwt. in G; Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hants; Kingsworthy, Hants, 9 cwt.; Long Burton, Dorset, 9½ cwt.; Newtown, Hants, about 7 cwt.; Northleigh, East Devon; East Quantoxhead, Som, 17 cwt. 8 lb.; Shapwick, Dorset, 8½ cwt. in A flat; Shellingford, Berks, 6 cwt.; Southleigh, East Devon; Towersey, Oxon, 7½ cwt.; Yarwell, Northants, 5 cwt. 4 lb.; Yatton Keynell, Wilts, 9½ cwt.

The following churches also have four bells, but whether they are 'ringable' I do not know:—

Aisholt, Som, 7½ cwt.; Ansford, Som, 5 cwt.; Ashburnham, Sx.; Bathealton, Som, 10 cwt.; Beddingham, Sx, 11 cwt.; Bedwyn Parva, Wilts; Beercombe, Som, 10½ cwt.; Bicknoller, Som; Breamore, Hants; Bristol, The Cathedral; Brompton Ralph, Som; Burton Agnes, E.R. Yorks; Bury, Sx, 10½ cwt.; Cambridge, St. Botolph's Church; Charwelton, Northants; Clatworthy, Som; Combe Hay, Som; Devizes, Wilts, St. James'; Donyatt, Som, St. Mary's, 13½ cwt. in G; Droxford, Hants; Elworthy, Som; Farleigh Hungerford, Som; Fiddington, Som; Fotheringhay, Northants; Ham, Wilts; West Harptree, Som, 13 cwt., unringable; Hound, Hants; Helidon, Northants; Idmiston, Wilts; Ile Brewers, Som, 11 cwt.; Ilton, Som; Kilton, Som; Moreton, Cheshire; Newton-Toney, Wilts; Nynehead, Som, 14½ cwt.; Northover, Som, 13 cwt.; Orchard Portman, Som, 5 cwt.; Orkney (Scotland), St. Magnus' Cathedral; Otterford, Som; Otterhampton, Som; Orton, Waterville, Hants, 6½ cwt., unringable; Oving, Sx; Ovington, Hants; Peasmarsh, Sx; Pamber, Hants; Raddington, Som, 9½ cwt.; Rodney Stoke, Som; St. Catherine, Som, 13 cwt.; Thurlbeer, Som; Ufford, Northants, 11 cwt., unringable; Wartling, Sx, 8 cwt.; Westwood, Wilts; Weyhill, Hants; White Lackington, Som, 11 cwt. in G; Withycombe, Som; Wansford, Northants, 3 cwt., unringable.

I hope that these lists might be of some use to those who are interested in four-bell towers, and I heartily agree with those who have already written, that a supplement to Mr. Dove's excellent book would be very much appreciated.—Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL V. WHITE.

Southampton.

STAMFORD HILL, N.—At St. Ann's Church, on Feb. 23rd, 1,296 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Miss J. Secker 1, Miss P. Rowe (first of Surprise, aged 12) 2, Miss F. Secker 3, B. Bladon (cond.) 4, M. J. Rowe 5, E. J. Rowe 6.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHAPERONE FOR EARLY LADY RINGER

Dear Sir,—Your front page article about the early days of lady ringers made me recall the first decade of this century, when I had the privilege and pleasure of ringing regularly for several years with Miss Eva N. Belcher, whose home was in Fleet, Hampshire.

She used to ring with our band, at Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, on Fridays for practice and on Sundays for services. Always the aged, retired village schoolmaster (who was also a ringer) met her and brought her to the ringing chamber, stayed during the ringing and escorted her off the premises at its conclusion. How many lady ringers in 1957 have a chaperone of this kind?

In 1910 Miss Belcher rang a peal of Stedman Triples which I conducted, and in 1912 she rang in the first ladies' peal at Cubitt Town.—Yours sincerely,

HARRY MILES.

Carbis Bay.

UNRINGABLE BELLS IN SUFFOLK

Dear Sir,—Mr. E. J. Rowe, in last week's issue of 'The Ringing World' states that there are 43 rings in Suffolk which are out of order. I have not Mr. Rowe's address, but I could give him a list of towers which total between 60 and 70 with bells either derelict, UR or alleged UR.

The above total is more than likely to become greater. Those who have visited the county for tours, etc., know of churches standing in the middle of fields, or having only half a dozen houses around them. When the bells and other parts of the church require attention there seems little hope of much being done in these isolated localities.

Mr. Rush once mentioned Gislingham as likely to become a ruin; the conditions in the church and tower there are really deplorable; hundreds of pounds would be needed for tower and bells only. This is only one instance. These bells and Bildeston, incidentally two of the heaviest sixes in the county, are both derelict.—Yours, etc.,

U. W. WILDNEY.

Kirby-le-Soken, Essex.

LONG PEALS OF DOUBLES

Dear Sir,—Can any reader supply particulars of any peal of Doubles which exceeds the one of 10,080 rung at Whaplode, Lincs, on February 27th, 1775, in 7 hours and 26 minutes.—Yours sincerely,

ALEC GAMMON.

Marston, Oxford.

BAN WOMEN

Dear Sir,—If female ringers are now to be recruited from the ranks of street pick-ups perhaps, after all, we should have been right, years ago, to persist in our efforts to ban women from our belfries.—Yours, etc.,

CHARLES MELFORD.

(One of the dirty little old men.)

Oxford.

'POPPY'S PAPER'

Dear Sir,—' . . . one of those lady ringers . . . ' It would seem to be time the Ladies' Guild adopted a different name, for distinction purposes.

When, incidentally, may we expect to see the announcement of 'The Ringing World's' change of name? I suggest 'Poppy's Paper.'—Yours, etc.,

W. OLIVER.

Guildford.

THE MAN FROM PHILADELPHIA

Dear Sir,—Now that I am back again in Philadelphia I am writing (rather belatedly) to thank 'The Ringing World' for all the articles and flattering comment published in your unique paper. When I landed on May 7th, 1956, in green and lovely Old England (and what a thrill that was after nearly 50 years!) I had no idea that I was in for such a grand time. I fully intended to take up where I left off in 1909. At first I was rather discouraged, as it was a little difficult to get the 'feel' of a bell after such a long rest; there also seemed to be a terrific number of ropes (more ropes than bells), but brother Bob gave me a little tuition with a lashed bell, and it all came back to me with a rush. Everybody was extremely kind and it was fine meeting old friends and new of Kettering, Rothwell, Barton Seagrave, Burton Latimer and many other places. I particularly remember the ringers at Barton, who always greeted us warmly and gave me every encouragement, as did all the ringers everywhere. My two weeks at Bournemouth I remember with pleasure, ringing at St. Peter's and St. John's several times, and at Christchurch Abbey, a great ring of 12.

My visit to Devon particularly stands out, thanks to Mr. Ernest Rowe, of Sidmouth, although he must have added considerably to my grey hairs, tearing around in his little 1935 Austin. I was always apprehensive of what was waiting for us around the corner of those narrow, steep and winding Devon roads. If I didn't press holes in his floorboards, pressing on imaginary brakes, it was no fault of mine, but I needn't have worried, as he was a very efficient driver, and we came through all right.

We sure did 'go places'—two, three and four towers every night and also on Sunday, including the noble bells of Exeter Cathedral. I also rang my first peal after 48 years at Brampton Speke (Bob Minor). Thanks, Mr. Rowe, and all who co-operated, for such a wonderful time! Thanks, also, to the Northampton ringers, with whom my brother Bob and I rang a peal of Bob Major at St. Edmund's Church, Northampton, on September 27th.

I owe many thanks to Patrick E. Chapman for his two articles in 'The Ringing World,' which helped me on my way. I spent my last Friday night at Thorpe-le-Soken, where the ringers made me so welcome and insisted that I rang every bell in the tower. Thanks, Thorpe. Thanks again everybody for such a marvellous six months, especially the Kettering ringers and brother Bob.—Sincerely yours,

M. A. TURNER.

(The man from Philadelphia.)

P.S.—While in England I received an invitation from Kent School, Conn., U.S.A., and recently I availed myself of the opportunity of visiting that fine school for boys, one of the very few places in the U.S.A. where bell-ringing is practised. There is a very good ring of ten bells (tenor 27 cwt.), also a band of fine young men to ring them. They have made a good start in the art but need lots of practice and some advice. I hope I was able to help them to some extent. I enjoyed the wrestling and basketball matches, to say nothing of the movies and the food, but above all, of course, the bellringing. Thanks to Mr. William E. Howard, faculty adviser to the Ringers' Guild, Mr. Chris Whitman and to all the boys who did so much to make my visit such an enjoyable one. I hope to visit them again in the not too far distant future. They would like to get a set of handbells. Are there any to be had quickly?—M. A. T.

RE PEALS AT HOAR CROSS

Dear Sir,—My letter on this subject was intended as a warning against this 'Quickest peal on the bells' footnote. I have rung several peals in which this claim could legitimately have been made, but have refrained from doing so because even on light bells it seems pointless and rather foolish, inviting the comment 'So what?' and, on a ring of bells of great weight and beauty like those at Hoar Cross it shows remarkable lack of good taste.

This lack of good taste is further illustrated in Mr. B. G. Warwick's letter, in which he makes personal criticisms of my ringing, of which he has little first-hand knowledge, nor is he in a position to make presumptions upon the quality of our peal at Hoar Cross in 1955, in which I can assure him that the allegations he makes are not borne out by facts. I am given to understand that the majority of extents in the peal he conducted there recently took 30 minutes, which is, after all, what I tried to demonstrate from personal experience.

I am not afraid of hard work on bells but am of the opinion that this should be devoted to the achievement of polish and not to the foolish and undignified beating of other people's times.—Yours faithfully,

Derby.

D. P. JONES.

FACTS WRONG

Dear Sir,—I hope that anyone reading Mr. B. G. Warwick's letter re the peal at Hoar Cross will take it with the proverbial 'pinch of salt.'

When I rang the tenor to a peal I took 32 minutes for the first 720 and 30 minutes for each succeeding one, and I had to work.

I think that Mr. Warwick has his facts wrong when he states that to ring a slow peal the bell is ringing the tenor man. It is utter and absolute nonsense and if Mr. Warwick knew anything about applied mathematics he would realise this! The moment of inertia of a 28 cwt. tenor is considerable; it is not a bell that can be thrown about to the whim of its ringer, unless that person be a superman. By ringing such a tenor high (slowly) it enables the tenor man to cut under in his dodges with a reasonable certainty of having full control of the bell at the succeeding stroke. (Mr. Warwick can apply the simple equation of force times distance here, if he likes.)

Thus if a heavy tenor is being rung at speed it means that the front end will have to work like mad to keep out of his way. For unless the tenor ringer be another incarnate Samson, he can only but pause where he should dodge, and the rest of the bells would have to work round him.

May I close this letter by hoping that Mr. Warwick's definition of a well-struck peal does not differ from that of the rest of the Exercise?—Yours sincerely,
JOHN E. COOK.
Branston, near Lincoln.

BEWDLEY RINGERS' DINNER

With the Rector (the Rev. R. A. Jones) in the chair, St. Ann's Voluntary Bellringers' Association, Bewdley, held their second annual dinner on February 15th, when about 20 members and friends sat down to an excellent meal. Guests were Ald. W. E. James (who deputised for the Mayor and Mayoress), Mr. Bernard Ashford (hon. secretary of the Northern Branch, Worcestershire and Districts Association), Messrs. A. Glazzard, Hicks and Boxley.

In proposing the toast of 'The St. Ann's Association,' Mr. Ashford congratulated the members on their excellent progress and also upon the reconditioning of the bells and fittings. The Rector, in reply, said he was very pleased to hear the bells ringing again for church services. The visitors were toasted on the call of the Master (Mr. R. Sayers), who spoke in appreciation of the help so readily given by Mr. Ashford and friends. A fine performance on handbells was given by Mr. Ashford and his party.

A PEAL IN EVERY RINGING TOWER IN LEICESTERSHIRE

MR. ERNEST MORRIS TELLS HIS EXPERIENCES

(Continued from page 154)

I mentioned the Ratby ringers who went around with me in their District—well, before they would join the M.C.A. they wanted to ring a peal; so with my friend, the late T. Henry Hardy, we rang the first there as a non-Association peal. Following this we went regularly to weekly practices and gradually worked up to seven methods, ringing peals here and there meanwhile. These included 7,200 at Desford and 10,080 at Ratby, which is still the longest Minor peal in the Midlands. The Vicar gave a tablet for this and said: 'If I put it in the belfry only ringers can see it!—but in the church porch everyone can see it!' So there it is, and has been for over 40 years! The present churchwarden is Harold Spencer, one of the ringers, as was his late father and brother John W. Spencer. Of the latter we read in 'The Great Adventure,' p. 42:—

... before migrating to Australia in August, 1912, he was a ringer at Groby, where he rang a few peals of Minor. Two days before he left England he rang a farewell peal of seven methods, which was conducted by Ernest Morris.'

Mr. Spencer rang in peals of Bob Royal and the first peal of Cinques ever rung outside the British Isles, during the English ringers' tour at Melbourne Cathedral.

Leicestershire has three 5-bell towers which are central (two now increased to six bells), and each entirely different in style and architecture, viz.: Long Clawson, Somerby and Thurnby.

At Long Clawson the five bells are difficult to ring owing to the long draught of rope. Ringing is done from the ground floor in the centre of the church between chancel, nave and transepts, open on all sides, and without guides to the roof 40ft. above. Only one full peal of 5,040 Doubles has yet been rung here (November, 1927), which I had the pleasure of conducting, and to make more safe ringing I asked the local Framland Society to make the band. In it were two William Smiths, one on treble, the other on the tenor—the treble one being on holiday from Australia (Sydney) and a native of this village. Before starting for this peal I reluctantly climbed the thin iron ladder, let down from the roof to the floor, nowhere near a wall, to take off inscriptions of the bells. The ascent was bad enough, but the descent! What an ordeal—happily performed without mishap.

SOMERBY'S NOVEL TOWER

At Somerby is a tower and spire placed between nave and chancel without transepts. Its style is peculiar, as the tower base is narrower than either the chancel or nave, and so forms a sort of corridor between the two. The ringers are on ground floor and thus stand between the congregation and the choir. Several peals of Doubles were rung here, and one of Grandsire I conducted is worthy of notice as we took each bell as the plain hunt, starting with 5th then 4th, and so on to the treble, and each 120 started and ended with rounds. Only one or two other peals have been rung in this way, which is most interesting and very tricky, especially when changing hunt bells at end of one and beginning of another 120. I would recommend this system to those tower bands who have difficulty in getting beyond the Grandsire stage. In 1949 Somerby bells were augmented to six.

Thurnby central tower ringing chamber is reached via a spiral stairway in the transept, from whence a short walk over the leads takes one into the tower. I called the first peal here in 1921, and the bells being in the next storey above were very loud. Since that time (1926) the bells were rehung on ball-bearings and in 1952 increased to six. The noise has abated.

AWKWARD CIRCLES

Blaby bells were made five by Warner's in 1887, but only one peal of Doubles rung on

them in 1920, the bells going most difficult, and today are unringable. Here the 'circle' is awkward, having 5123 close together and 4 a distance away. The old five of Bowden Magna were also unusual by having the treble in the middle, and the other four in each corner of the tower. In 1926 they were rehung, and the first peal scored on July 17th of that year. As a result of the Editor putting a footnote to some correspondence, I was invited again, and called another peal here in 1953. In 1954 a treble was added, making six.

Houghton-on-the-Hill (5) were augmented from four by the gift of a treble by Squire Fortrey, of Norton-by-Galby (already mentioned), in 1771. When I visited the place in 1922 they were in a shocking condition, and an attempt to ring a peal had to be abandoned owing to the rough 'go.' The treble hangs high above the others, and a brick chimney goes up through the bottom frame. My Billesdon friends did the same here as at Galby, patching up wheels, tightening frame, etc., and in 1930 the first and only peal here was accomplished. A footnote adds: 'The tenor man (Norman Geary) is to be congratulated on his ringing so well such a bad-going, false-struck bell.' This bell-rope comes down a few inches from the back panel of the organ, making ringing even more uncomfortable. At the present time the bells are unringable.

EXHAUSTED AND BLISTERED

The first peal at Humberstone (6, tenor 20 cwt.) was a memorial one to King Edward VII in 1910. When I asked permission, the Vicar said I could go providing I took my own muffs. This I did by taking the top six from St. Margaret's. We found the bells in a shocking state, bearings devoid of any lubrication whatever. We found some oil but it was too thin, so I sent H. Hardy for some lard from the village while I put muffs on. We eventually started the peal, and I shall ever remember this tenor! When well on in the peal I told the band I did not think I could 'stick it' but would go to the end of that 720. It seemed a bit better then and so we went through to the bitter end. I dropped on a form nearby thoroughly exhausted and with handfuls of blisters. Considering the state of affairs the peal was well struck, as attested by the late Mr. Pettitt, a Northants ringer, who, unknown to us, heard the last half and congratulated us afterwards.

When finished, and before I had donned my coat, the Vicar called from below, and one of the locals who had come up said: 'Now you are for it—he's a tartar!' I descended this awful ladder, straight down the wall some 40 feet, and the Vicar, a tall, athletic University 'blue,' said: 'Well, what have you done?' I explained about the peal and the great task it had been, showed him my blistered hands, and he remarked: 'I expect you are thirsty now. Do you drink beer?' I replied that I did not but the older ones did. Putting his hand in his pocket he gave me 3/-. saying: 'Spend it how you like!' Needless to say, we repaired to the 'Windmill' nearby to spend our reward (and a bit more) on the refreshment we needed so badly.

I said I would never go there again, but I did, and called a peal of Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles spliced in 720's by Mr. Albert J. Pitman. Now the organ has been moved from the east to the west of the church, blocking up the tower arch and occupying half the belfry. One still climbs that awful ladder, but some distance up you go through a chimney-like partition through the organ fixtures. In 1947 the bells were put on ball-bearings, but with this organ arrangement the 'circle' of ropes is awkward and ringing uncomfortable. I have since called a Minor peal here.

Although 'warned off' this place—Market Bosworth—if anyone had ambitions for a peal on the ancient and hefty-going ring of five, a band was found willing to try after asking for volunteers, who must be 'heroes' who would not mind some pain. Although the more ambitious wanted to try 'umpteen' methods, after a preliminary half six-score as a 'feeler,' it was decided to stick to Grandsire. In spite of the weight and slow turning of the bells, a good peal was rung, as was testified by the locals afterwards. A nice lot of medals—in the form of blisters—was on show at the conclusion, and the conductor (me) had one, not on view, about six inches long near the place where medals are usually worn. In 1950 these old five bells were taken down and augmented to eight by addition of three lighter bells, all rehung in a new iron and steel frame, on ball-bearings, and now form a grand octave.

'THE IMPOSSIBLES'

Skeffington (5) and Shawell (5) are both impossible owing to the dilapidated state of the frames and fittings. Many years ago we did try at Shawell, near Lutterworth, to get a peal but conditions proved too much against it. Finding the bells in such awful conditions we cleared up what we could, oiled bearings, spliced up ropes, etc. We noticed there were two stays missing, so when we pulled the bells up the ringers of these two were prepared to hold them on the balance, which they did when 'Stand' was called. Imagine our amazement when two of the other ropes went sailing up out of sight, the ringers having the sense to let go. Falling the other three we investigated and found these two had stays but no slides! Unravelling the ropes we tried again, and after several abortive attempts did manage a 120! but under these conditions decided a full peal was impossible. However, we had a good time, the Rector entertained us to tea and a tour of his extensive gardens and grounds.

Another 'impossible' is at Stapleford, where the church—like that of Staunton Harold—is in private grounds. The seating in the church is like a Guild chapel, the pews facing the centre aisle and not east. In the tower is a huge chime barrel that has never been used for over a century, rusted up and covered in dust and dirt. The six bells likewise, and they hang dead, so cannot be rung, and the chime hammers, wires and fittings are in a deplorable state.

After waiting 20 years from my first attempt for a peal at Croxton Kerrial (6), when the tenor rope cast wheel, I went again in 1947. I was duly 'warned off' as the 'go' of the bells was shocking, but a first-class band who promised to 'stick to it' made the attempt. The second casts wheel frequently and plays tricks! but Ernest Bartram handled it perfectly. The third and fourth ringers are divided by a clock case which is provided with glass panels to they can see each other—and didn't they make faces through it! The tenor is 94 cwt. and goes ten times its weight. It was rung by Joseph A. Fenton to his first (and only) peal of Minor! But the fifth! Its wheel was all askew and not only tended to throw the rope off but groaned every time it went round, making fearful noises and I was scared it might collapse any minute. I stood as near the wall as possible in case it did! However, despite these difficulties, we got a good and well-struck peal.

During a peal I called at Misterton, an amusing incident occurred in which an elderly local lady church cleaner took part. During the first 720 the belfry door was opened, to the surprise of the band, to admit the aforesaid lady, who at once commenced her duties in the belfry, weaving her way between ringers, collecting buckets, brushes, soap and various other items, and then entered the church by the only other door in the dividing screen to the much louder

(Continued next page)

OBITUARY

MR. C. HENRY HARDING

The Church of St. James, Blunham, Beds. was full on February 28th for the funeral service of Mr. C. Henry Harding.

Among the 50 or so ringers present were representatives from the Ely Diocesan Guild, the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, the Hertford County Association, and from nearly every tower in the county where change-ringing is practised. Floral tributes numbered 62.

During the evening half-muffled quarter peals were rung at Blunham and Tempsford.

Unfortunately the peal attempts failed—Grandsire Triples at Maulden on February 28th after 2½ hours, and Treble Bob Minor at Blunham on March 2nd after 2½ hours.

APPRECIATIONS

It came as a great shock to me, as to all his ringing friends, to hear of the sudden death at an early age of Henry Harding, of Blunham. Only three weeks previously, although happily I was unaware of it at the time, I conducted what proved to be his last peal, the first ever rung on the heavy five at Leighton Bromswold, which he very much enjoyed. In that peal he rang as we shall always remember him, placing a difficult light bell exactly in the right position for hour after hour. I shall never forget his immaculate performance on the treble at St. Neots a little while previously.

After the Leighton peal, he showed me another admirable side of his character, by driving many miles out of his way to put me on a 'bus route home. It was that same generosity which contributed very largely to the provision of a fine rehung six at his own tower, Blunham.

Yes, Henry is going to be sadly missed in Bedfordshire and his passing is a loss to the Exercise of one of its best. D. P. J.

The news of the sudden passing of Henry Harding was received with a tremendous shock by ringers in the Kettering area. Henry was a familiar figure at meetings and also at the Kettering tower, where he will be sadly missed. A competent ringer and good striker, he was always willing to impart his knowledge to learners. The Bedfordshire Association has lost a valued member at a comparatively early age.

He was laid to rest at Blunham on February 28th, and the large number of ringers and friends who gathered to pay their last respects was an outstanding symbol of the high esteem in which he was held. Besides the ringers of the Bedfordshire Association representatives of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild and the Ely Diocesan Association were present. Sympathy is extended to members of Henry's family and also to his fiancée, Miss Mary Arkinstall, in their sad bereavement.

May God rest his soul. B. P. M.

MR. SIDNEY JAMES JESSOP

Boston Parish Church has lost a faithful servant and ringer by the passing of Sidney James Jessop on February 7th. He was taken ill while at work and died in a few minutes. His death came as a great shock to all who knew him.

His record for Sunday service ringing was wonderful; except for holidays, he was present twice every Sunday at the famous Stump, where he had been a ringer for about 36 years. He rang 22 peals and his favourite method was Grandsire. W. E. C.

MR. GEORGE F. WOODHOUSE

We regret to announce the death on March 9th of Mr. George F. Woodhouse, of Highfield, Scarborough, Yorks, aged 82 years. He was a member of the Cambridge University Guild at the time of Mr. E. H. Lewis. The ringing machine he constructed has been admired by hundreds of ringers.

MR. HORACE J. MANSFIELD

It is with very deep regret that the ringing friends of Mr. H. J. Mansfield received the news of his sudden passing on March 4th at the age of 72 years. A life-long member of the Essex Association, he was respected by all for his outstanding qualities, not only as a ringer but in many other walks of life. He was elected a member of the Central Council in 1945 and had held office continuously until his death.

On Friday, March 8th, many of his friends assembled at All Saints', Maldon, to pay their last respect to this great veteran, who had endeared himself to all. Before the cortege arrived at the church, members of the Essex Association rang a short touch of Grandsire with the bells open, as was his wish. There was present a congregation of some 500 people—all his friends. The Rector (Rev. Mr. Irons) paid tribute to those great qualities which made him such a natural leader of men.

Then in the overcast afternoon we saw his mortal remains laid to rest in the cemetery on the hillside. Four members of the Association took up the bells he had rung on so many occasions, and we bade goodbye with the sound of Grandsire in our ears.

'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'
A. H. E.

MR. W. E. G. HEWSON

It is with much regret we have to announce the death of Mr. William Everard Gardiner Hewson, of Castle Hewson, Askeaton, County Limerick, aged 82. From his boyhood Mr. Hewson evinced a keen interest in bells—their casting, hanging and ringing. He learned to ring in Cheshire when he was a very young man, and later visited many English towers.

He was a familiar figure in the leading bell foundries, watching the process of bells in the making. But his greatest and most practical interest lay in the bells of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. In the year 1907 he presented a new fourth bell, replacing one which was defective. About the year 1930, when it was deemed unsafe to continue the ringing of the Cathedral bells, owing to their dilapidated condition, he threw all his energy into effecting a thorough and complete renovation of the bells, which constituted a 'patchwork' ring.

He commenced by having the tenor recast—it was originally one of Purdue's bells, cast and set up in the year 1673—and subsequently had five of the remaining bells recast, viz., the treble, 2nd, 5th, 6th and 7th, and all rehung in the most modern method. It was due to his untiring energy and 'drive,' coupled with his very generous financial help, that this work was carried out. All the recasting and rehanging was most efficiently carried out by Messrs. John Taylor and Co. When the work was completed, about 1938, the ring was—and still is—one of the most satisfying in Ireland.

Mr. Hewson became a ringing member of the Irish Association in 1906, and he was elected to life membership in 1951. As a great personal friend of the late Gabriel Lindoff he rang at many of the Irish towers with him.

As his remains were borne into the Cathedral on the evening of February 12th, the Cathedral ringers rang a half-muffled touch as a token of respect to his memory. J. A. H.

MR. JOHN SMITH

Mr. John Smith, who died on January 20th, aged 79 years, was a ringer at St. John's, Shildon, in his youth and later at St. Andrew's, Bishop Auckland, for over 40 years, although in later years his health would not allow him to carry on with ringing. He was a regular worshipper at St. Andrew's.

Sympathy is felt for his only son, Mr. F. Smith, a former ringer at Bishop Auckland, but who had to give up ringing owing to a physical disability.

MR. G. P. SCHLUETER

On January 11th Mr. George Peter Schlueter passed to his rest, aged 66.

For many years he was a regular ringer at St. Mary's, Great Dunmow, Essex, and had taken part in a number of peals for the Essex Association. He was also a member of the Police Guild, and retired from the Metropolitan Police in 1930 with the rank of sergeant. George had suffered a number of illnesses.

He will be greatly missed by his fellow ringers at St. Mary's, where he was always ready to give a helping hand.

THE LADIES' GUILD

What the Ladies' Guild (Southern District) lacked in numbers it made up for in good spirits at its meeting at Godalming on March 2nd.

The bells were raised at 3 p.m. prompt by two of the ladies of the local band. Sustained and encouraged by the helpful presence of a couple of men, these two slim young things, looking almost too fragile to tackle several hundredweights of metal, competently rang up all the bells, finishing only slightly breathless. After all, it was to be a ladies' meeting!

The direction of the initial ringing was undertaken, at the invitation of the District secretary, by Mr. G. L. Grover, secretary of the Guildford Guild. The fortunate arrival of Mrs. Lock, the Guild's president, enabled Mr. Grover to retire in his usual graceful manner, apparently less embarrassed than he might well have been by the reference of one Guild member to the absence of a skirt. It is not always the bells overhead that are responsible for the clangour!

After a short service 25 members and friends took tea in a nearby café. The Southern District's funds met the cost. The visitors included Mr. A. C. Hazelden, Mr. S. Russell (Ash) and the Rev. K. C. Davies.

The business meeting was presided over by Mrs. Lock, who remarked that her ability to be present was partly due to the fact that she had a very co-operative husband. After order had been restored the meeting proceeded to business. District fund accounts were passed, existing officers were re-elected and the Misses Eunice Hiley and Monica Collins were elected committee members. Five new members were elected.

Tentative arrangements were made for the next meeting to be held on June 1st, if possible at Epsom. Votes of thanks were duly passed to the Rector of Godalming, the organist, the local ringers, and Miss B. Meyers, who was responsible for the tea arrangements. Mrs. Lock also was accorded a vote of thanks for taking the chair, the meeting being particularly appreciative of the fact that in order to be present she had had to turn down another very attractive engagement.

BARKING, SUFFOLK.—On Feb. 24th, 1,260 Bob Minor: E. A. Cracknell 1, A. E. J. Lester 2, H. Mitson 3, J. J. Prentice 4, G. R. Goodship 5, R. E. Lester (cond.) 6. For Evensong.

HOLBROOK, SUFFOLK.—On Feb. 23rd, 1,440 Minor (720 Kent, 720 Plain): Mrs. P. W. Mills 1, Miss M. Mills 2, P. R. J. Lester 3, P. W. Mills 4, Miss A. Lester 5, R. E. Lester (cond.) 6. Rung after peal attempt was miscalled.

(Continued from page 172)

melody of buckets, pans, etc. When later on she had finished her duties we had a repeat (in reverse order) and finally she left by the west door with a bang!

NOTE.—These are but a few of the 'incidents' that have marked my career—I could tell of many more but space will not allow. But what of the ringers? I could 'tell a tale' about some of them—but dare I? If you think they would be interesting write and tell the Editor, and should he think fit, I will do this. E. M.

NOTICES

New Scale of Charges

Meetings: 3/6 (minimum) for 30 words, afterwards 1½d. a word. Each additional insertion half charge.

Other Notices: 4/- (minimum) for 36 words, afterwards 1½d. a word.

Displayed: 6/6 per single column inch.

Latest Date: Monday first post.

BIRTH

PARSONS.—On March 8th, 1957, at the War Memorial Hospital, Carshalton, to Gillian (nee Brittain) and Raymond Parsons, of 4, Brookside, Carshalton, Surrey, a son, Christopher David. 9882

ENGAGEMENT

CHILCOTT—WELLER.—The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Chilcott, of Southall, Middlesex, and Kathleen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Weller, of Wallington, Surrey. 9912

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

HOMELY ACCOMMODATION—1 mile from sea; bed, breakfast and evening meal. Special terms for ringers. Children welcome.—Mrs. H. Stacey, Phillips House, Church Street, Stratton, near Bude, Cornwall. 9902

LLANDUDNO, North Wales. Close to sea, buses, tennis, golf and bowls. Highly recommended—moderate terms.—Mrs. L. S. Griffiths, Maesteg, Clarence Road, Llandudno, Caerns. Tel. 7271. 9905

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WANTED.—Eight or more handbells for band of young learners. Please send details, price, condition, etc., to A. Whiting, 52, Barroon, Castle Donington, near Derby. 9850

PUBLICATIONS

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MISCELLANEOUS

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.—Frome Branch.—Owing to the visit to Yeovil of the Ancient Society of College Youths on May 4th, the proposed meeting at Nunney is put forward to April 27th.—E. Chivers, Chilcompton. 9894

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS.—Cancellation.—The monthly practices on March 16th and April 20th are cancelled. Next meeting, May 18th, 5.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—J. D. Kape, Sec. 9886

CHANGE of annual dinner date.—Will all who are interested in the annual dinner of the Coventry Diocesan Guild (and owners of the Ringers' Diary) please note that to allow our new Bishop to be present the date is changed to October 12th next. This is the Guild's 50th anniversary dinner. 9833

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—The dedication of the newly rehung and recast ring of eight by Messrs. John Taylor and Co. at Halstead by the Lord Bishop of Colchester at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 6th, Tea afterwards. All ringers welcome.—Hilda G. Snowden. 9904

INDEX FOR 1956.—Copies of this index for those who desire to bind their copies of 'The Ringing World' will be forwarded on the receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

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MEETINGS

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—J. W. Parker commemoration meeting, Saturday, March 16th, at St. Ignatius', Sunderland. Bells 2.30 p.m. Committee 3.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. 9906

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cambridge District.—Meeting at Duxford, Saturday, March 16th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—H. L. Martin, Dis. Sec. 9860

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Hunts District.—Meeting at Warboys (6) on Saturday, March 16th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m.—H. S. Peacock, Dis. Sec. 9843

ELY ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—Meeting, Downham Market, Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.—J. Fox, Walpole Marsh. 9849

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Meeting at Stebbing (6), Saturday, March 16th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. 9827

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—N.E. District.—Meeting at Hythe, Colchester, Saturday, March 16th. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea 5 p.m. 9805

HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting, St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, Saturday, March 16th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. 9844

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting, Sandridge (6 bells), Saturday, March 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.—S. Huckle, Dis. Sec. 9870

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—Meeting at St. Nicolas', Chiswick, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells from 4.30 to 6 p.m.; also St. Mary-the-Virgin, Barnes, 6.30 p.m. onwards. Own tea arrangements.—F. Finch. 9853

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Rutland Branch.—General meeting at Oakham, Saturday, March 16th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Meeting and tea 5 p.m.—J. Hoy. 9836

SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newark District.—Meeting, Bingham, Saturday, March 16th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m.—W. L. Exton, 60, Albert Street, Newark. 9858

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting, St. John-the-Baptist, Croydon, Saturday, March 16th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meeting, Silverdale Hall, 5.15 p.m. 9793

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—Practice meeting, Ditchling (8), Saturday, March 16th, 3 p.m. Tea available.—Geo. North, 11, Richmond Terrace, Brighton. 9878

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Luton District.—Meeting, Barton-le-Clay, Saturday, March 23rd (note date). Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names must be sent to Rev. A. Cleaver, The Rectory, Barton-le-Clev. Beds.—K. G. Spavins, Dis. Sec. 9903

CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at Skelton (8) on Saturday, March 23rd. Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m.—P. W. B. Semmens, Hon. Sec. 9909

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at St. Peter's, Bentley, on Saturday, March 23rd. Bells (5) available from 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by Thursday, 21st, to Mr. Ron Sanderson, 109, Woodhouse Road, Wheatley, Doncaster.—G. A. Watson, Dis. Sec. 9895

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Annual general meeting, Dudley, Saturday, March 23rd. Bells (10) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. Names for tea to R. A. Peakman, 47, High Street, Kingswinford. 9898

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Leckhampton (8), Saturday, March 23rd, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Business following. Names by March 19th.—Mary Bliss, Beech Pike, Cheltenham. 9888

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Chertsey District.—Chertsey (8), Saturday, March 23rd. Bells 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. in Church Hall. Names for tea by Wednesday to H. Hancock, Southwood Avenue, Ottershaw. 9877

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Farnham District.—District meeting at Yorktown (8) on Saturday, March 23rd, from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea by previous Wednesday to Mr. F. Farr, 1, Bristow Road, Camberley.—C. J. Beadle, Hon. Dis. Sec. 9888

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Offley, Saturday, March 23rd, 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. at the Cock Inn. Special method Chiltern T.B.—E. Buck, Dis. Sec. 9901

LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Hinckley District.—Earl Shilton, Saturday, March 23rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in Church Schools 5 p.m. Names, please, by March 20th, to Mr. G. Newton, 26, Avenue South, Earl Shilton, Leicester.—M. Vernon, Dis. Sec. 9881

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Monthly practice at Clewer, Saturday, March 23rd, 3.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., for those who notify me by 20th.—W. Butler, 17, Forest Road, Windsor. 9855

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deansy Branch.—A combined practice will be held at Finchamstead on Saturday, March 23rd at 6 p.m.—B. C. Castle. 9893

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oundle Branch.—Meeting, Warmington (6), Saturday, March 23rd. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Please notify Tuesday previous for tea.—Mrs. Clarke, 7, Bassett Place, Oundle. 9911

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wimborne Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Canford on Saturday, March 23rd. Ringing from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea for those who notify by March 20th Mr. I. Davis, Restormel, 13, Sandbanks Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset. Hampreston in the evening. 9899

SELBY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Monthly meeting, Eastington, Saturday, March 23rd. Bells (6) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea (moderate charge) 5 p.m. Names to Mr. G. Ingram, Fastrington, on or before March 21st.—L. M. Woodhead, Hon. Sec. 9897

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Meeting at Penkridge, Saturday, March 23rd. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. Names for tea not later than Wednesday, March 20th, to Mr. E. A. Malin, Lynwood Wolverhampton Road, Penkridge, near Stafford. 9862

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Debenham District.—Meeting, Saturday, March 23rd. Helmingham (8), 2.30 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m. Framsden (8) 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Names for tea by Tuesday, March 18th, to L. G. Brett, 9, St. John's Row, Framsden.—W. I. Button, Dis. Sec. 9891

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—Practice meeting, Saturday, March 23rd, at Wald-on. Bells 3 p.m. Method for practice: Double Norwich T.B. Major. Names early, please, to H. Reynolds, Sec., 10, Eastern Avenue, Polegate. 9875

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