

## A decorative banner with the text "THE RIDGING WORLD" in a stylized, outlined font. The word "THE" is smaller and positioned above "RIDGING". A ship's steering wheel is integrated into the letter "G" of "RIDGING". Below the text, there is a large bell and two interlocking knot-like designs. The background of the banner features silhouettes of various architectural structures, including a castle on the left, a church spire, a dome, and a minaret on the right, all set against a backdrop of wavy lines representing water or a horizon.

No. 308. Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, 1917.

Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission as a newspaper.

**Price 1d.**

# CILLETT & JOHNSTON

**CROYDON, Surrey.**

## BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



**St. Peter's Collegiate Church,  
Wolverhampton.**

**Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.**

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,  
MESSRS. GILLET and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1915  
Warbleman.

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best pens in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,  
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

## "PEACE" RINGING.

It seems, perhaps, early days to talk of arrangements for "peace" ringing, for the end of the struggle does not seem within sight, although everyone is hoping that it is not far distant. On the other hand, there is no reason why schemes should not be formulated so that when the day, to which all of us are looking forward with intense desire, arrives, ringers may be prepared, as they will be expected, to take an effective part in the celebration. That the ringing should be properly organised is essential. As the war goes on, the bands at every tower get more and more depleted, and the new proposals for general national service will dislocate still further the ringing organisations. Already there are few towers where the full complement of ringers is left, and, unless steps are taken to draw up a scheme for the purpose, it is very certain that, when the happy day does arrive, there may be plenty of bell "jangling," but comparatively little good bell ringing.

It is interesting to note that in this matter the Worcestershire Association is taking time by the forelock. A scheme has been put forward by the Hon. Secretary and generally approved, by which arrangements should be made to collect the ringers remaining at the various belfries, form them into bands and let them go from tower to tower in their own neighbourhood, covering as many as they reasonably can in a day. This appears to be a workable plan, and in its general features might be followed by other associations. The first step seems to be to ascertain how many ringers are available at each tower, and what other belfries they could conveniently reach. Then, when this has been done, there would be little difficulty in grouping them together and bringing the various units in touch with one another so that they may settle their own details.

Worked on lines such as this, there would be provision for proper ringing at most of the towers in the country which are affiliated to the different organisations, and it might also be extended, if tactfully handled, even to unaffiliated towers, with, not unlikely, good results. At any rate, there seems no reason why the various associations cannot take the matter up as the Worcestershire Association has already done. It would be a matter well within the scope of district meetings, and probably would be found to be easier of accomplishment through districts than through the central executives of the various organisations. But that is a matter of detail which ringers will have no difficulty in settling. Even if it may seem a little premature to formulate schemes of this kind, there is no possible harm in discussing them, while, if the organisation is made ready, it will keep quite well till the day comes for it to be put into operation.

## MODERN WORK.

# CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR  
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,  
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,

Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs. C. CARR, LTD.  
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your contract,—we may be able to assist you.

**SMETHWICK,  
BIRMINGHAM**

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SINGLY,  
OR IN PEALS.**

**CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.**

PEALS AUGMENTED,  
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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IN BEST SEASONED OAK,  
STEEL OR IRON.

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Satisfaction Guaranteed

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**ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON  
BRACKETS.**

MALLEABLE IRON BRACKETS.

BEST BELL ROPES.

REPAIRS AND REHANGING  
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect  
and report on Bells and Towers.

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Makers to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Alban's, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester and Worcester Cathedrals etc. etc.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, February 3, 1917, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANCES;**

GILBERT GUEST ... .. Treble	*HARRY JEAVONS ... .. 6
SAMUEL BAKER ... .. 2	JOHN GOODMAN, Junr. ... 7
WILLIAM MILLS ... .. 3	HARRY GOODMAN ... .. 8
HERBERT SHEPPARD ... .. 4	BENJAMIN GOUGH ... .. 9
JOHN GOODMAN, Senr. ... 5	WILLIAM MEER ... .. Tenor

Composed by the late WILLIAM MICKLEWIGHT, and

Conducted by JOHN GOODMAN, Junr.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. S. Spittle, the honoured and respected Master of the Dudley band and the Dudley and District Guild.

\* First peal of Caters and first attempt. W. Mills and H. Jeavons belong to Sedgley; B. Gough and S. Baker to Coseley; the others to the Dudley band.

## EIGHT BELL PEAL.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 27, 1917, in Three Hours and Thirty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANCES;**

Tenor 23 cwt., in D flat.

*CHARLES H. POULSON ... Treble	WILLIAM FAYERS ... .. 5
ARTHUR SYMONDS ... .. 2	THOMAS W. GARRARD ... 6
HARRY SMITH ... .. 3	LOUIS LEERS ... .. 7
STEDMAN H. SYMONDS ... 4	THOMAS PRYKE ... .. Tenor

Composed by T. HORGWOOD, and

Conducted by S. H. SYMONDS.

\* First peal on tower bells. Lance-Corpl. T. Pryke was home on leave. Rung with the bells deeply muffled as a last tribute of respect to the beloved Rector, the late Rev. W. B. L. Hopkins. The band wish to express their deepest sympathy to Mrs. E. Hopkins in her sad bereavement.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

RETTFORD.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 31, 1917, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT BRACKEN VILLA,

**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;**

Two 720's of Single Court, two of Oxford Bob and three of Plain Bob.

REV. H. DOBSON ... .. 1—2	JOHN SEAGER, Junr. ... 3—4
JOHN HURST ... .. 5—6	

Conducted by J. SEGAR, Junr.

Witness: DAVID BLAGG.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, February 3rd, 1917, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD, SHOREDITCH,

**A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANCES;**

Tenor, size 16 in B flat.

WILLIAM T. POWELL ... 1—2	FRANK SMITH ... .. 5—6
JOHN D. MATTHEWS ... 3—4	BENJAMIN THORP ... .. 7—8
WILLIAM J. NUDDS ... .. 9—10	

Composed by E. FRANCIS, and

Conducted by JOHN D. MATTHEWS.

Umpire: MR. J. HUNT.

Arranged for Mr. Thorp, this being his first peal of Royal in hand.

ASHTED.—On December 7th, for Confirmation service, conducted by the Bishop of Guildford, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: J. Wyatt 1, J. Hoyle 2, A. Winch 3, W. H. Corbett 4, W. Marks 5, W. Cook 6, A. Dean (conductor) 7, A. P. Dixon 8. After service, the last 742 from Holt's Original: A. Winch 1, J. Wyatt 2, W. H. Corbett (conductor) 3, W. Cook 4, W. Marks 5, J. Hoyle 6, A. Dean 7, A. P. Dixon 8.

## SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS

The Cumberlands once again met for their annual meeting at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, on Saturday week. Some good touches of Stedman Caters and Cinques, and Treble Twelve, were rung up to 5.30, when the members assembled in the ancient Vestry Hall and partook of a splendid tea, kindly provided by the Vicar, who favoured the society by his presence. The inner-man having been satisfied, the Hon. Secretary presented the Society's balance sheet showing a favourable balance to be carried forward.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Master, Mr. J. D. Matthews; hon. secretary, Mr. H. J. Bradley; hon. treasurer, Mr. B. Fokett; senior steward, Mr. James Hunt; junior steward, Mr. Frank Smith; whilst Mr. James Hunt was elected to take the place of the late Mr. Henry Dains, as the society's fourth representative on the Central Council.

Waltham Abbey was chosen as the meeting place for the spring quarterly meeting.

The election of the following new members was ratified: Messrs. Ben Thorp (Ashton-under-Lyne), W. R. Hensher (Canada), G. Twitchen, E. F. Coles and W. Phipps (High Wycombe), and Arthur Harwin (Euston).

The Master, in proposing a very hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar, said it gave the society great pleasure to meet once again at the church, where they had for so many years met for their annual meeting, and it was really a pleasure to work for a Vicar who took an interest in ringing, and could so successfully combat the complaints from "touchy" portions of the public.

### RINGING APPRECIATED BY PUBLIC.

The Vicar, in responding, said he was extremely grateful to the society for the work they were doing, and he looked upon them as real allies to St. Martin's. The ringing, which took place every Sunday morning, was greatly appreciated by the surrounding inhabitants, and no complaints had been received until that very morning, when a gentleman had complained that he could not sleep after 10 o'clock on Sunday mornings owing to the bells. He (the Vicar) had elicited the fact that the complainant went to bed at 10 o'clock on Saturday nights, so he felt that it was quite time for him to be up by 10 o'clock in the morning. The Vicar, proceeding, said the bells were undoubtedly a factor in conjunction with abolition of appropriated seats in the important congregations that were now found at St. Martin's. An old lady living close by had told him that one of the only joys left to her was to wait for the bells to ring, and listen to their music. Two of her sons had made the great sacrifice for the old country; and when the bells now started she would open the window and gladly let the sound of them fill the room. The soldiers, too, lying wounded in Charing Cross Hospital looked forward with pleasure to hearing the bells on Sunday mornings, saying that nothing reminded them so much of dear "old Blighty." In conclusion, he hoped the society would do him the honour of meeting there and partaking of tea with him for many years to come, and he hoped that during the year the society would have the pleasure of ringing in a lasting and abiding peace (applause).

A sad part of the proceedings was the moving of a vote of condolence to the widow of the late Mr. Alfred Grimes; and Mr. J. E. Sykes said he would very much like to propose it, as he rang his first peal of Stedman with Mr. Grimes, and he felt the sad loss very much.—Mr. James Hunt, in seconding, said that he could hardly realise that Mr. Grimes had gone. Mr. Grimes was a well known figure at Shoreditch, where he took a keen interest in the local band, and was always to be found there on practice nights.—The Master, in putting the motion to the meeting, said no words of his could convey his true feelings. The members then stood in silence for a few seconds to signify their approval of the motion.

Votes of condolence were also passed to the relatives of the late Rev. J. Holme Pilkington and Mr. Chas. Lee, both members of the society (the latter being at one time an employe of the Spitalfields foundry, and having been killed in action).

The question of a memorial to the late Mr. Dains was then discussed, and it was resolved to leave the matter to the hon. secretary, who would get the feeling of the family upon the matter.

At the next quarterly meeting an important resolution on financial matters will be discussed, and members are, therefore, requested to turn up in good numbers.

A few touches on handbells brought an excellent meeting to a close. Members are particularly requested to forward to the secretary the names of any members who are serving with His Majesty's Forces, together with the rank, regiment, or ship, they are serving in, so that he may commence compiling the roll of honour.

**IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.**—At St. Margaret's Church, on Saturday, December 9th, by special request of Trumpet-Major Farley, of the North Somerset Yeomanry, of Wells, Somerset, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 40 mins.: R. H. Hayward (Marlesford) 1, W. Motts 2, E. Pemberton 3, W. G. Whitehead 4, J. Motts (conductor) 5, W. Burgess 6, Trumpet-Major Farley 7, W. L. Catchpole 8. Mr. W. G. Whitehead hails from Bushey and kindly took part in the ringing owing to Mr. Hawkins English, of Oddenham, being prevented from attending owing to unfavourable weather.

## DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM BANISTER.

### THE "FATHER" OF CHANGE RINGING.

The death occurred on Wednesday of last week (January 31st), of Mr. William Banister, who may be said to have been the "father" of change ringing.

Born at Woolwich on Feb. 29th, 1824, he would have been 93 years of age had he lived another month, and his death severs the last link with a famous generation of ringers. He was born in a family of ringers, for his father and five brothers were all enthusiasts in the art, and the seven of them rang in peals together. At the tower of St. Mary's Church, Woolwich, they maintained a splendid band between the years 1843 and 1851, their peal of London Surprise being only the second ever rung in that method. This was composed and conducted by the deceased gentleman. In the '40's Mr. Banister joined the College Youths, and was indefatigable in following the art, frequently walking to London and back for practice or peal ringing. In 1858 Mr. Banister became a member of the then St. James's Society (now the London County Association).

In 1865 he was removed to Devonport, where he remained in Government service until 1879, when he retired on a pension. In Devonshire, in conjunction with Colonel Trelawny and Colonel Troyte, he did invaluable work for ringing, and was one of the founders of the Devonshire Guild. He collaborated with Colonel Troyte in publishing a treatise on change ringing, and in other ways he did much to extend the art.

On his retirement from the Dockyard Mr. Banister took up public work, and for 30 years represented the Dockyard district on the Devonport Council, being for the last 16 years an alderman. He was for six years on the School Board, for twelve years a Commissioner of the Poor, and afterwards sat, as a member of the Board of Guardians. He was also Justice of the Peace. About twelve years ago he went to live at Pembroke, and afterwards in London, passing the closing years of his life in the tender and devoted care of his daughter, Mrs. Anderson, at Fulham.

Next week we hope to give a fuller sketch of Mr. Banister's life, together with a portrait.

Muffled ringing, as a last tribute of respect to the veteran, will take place at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, to-morrow (Saturday), at 2 p.m.

### HERTS ASSOCIATION AT WATFORD.

A meeting of the Western District of the Herts Association was held at Watford Parish Church, members attending from Osley, St. Albans, Aldenham, Stanmore, Watford, and Bushey. Stedman and Grand sire Triples, Double Norwich and Superlative Surprise Major were rung during the afternoon, the Vicar of Watford taking a rope in the Stedman. Over 20 members sat down to tea, at which the Rev. C. F. Ayerst (Vicar of Watford) presided, supported by the Rev. G. M. Hall (Rector of Bushey), and Mr. G. W. Cartmel (hon. secretary of the Association).

At the business meeting Bushey was selected for the next meeting, to be held on March 3rd.—A hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar of Watford for the use of the bells was proposed by Mr. G. W. Cartmel, who said how pleased he was that Watford was now affiliated with the Hertfordshire Association.—The Vicar said he was very pleased to welcome the members of the Association, and to have his bells rung as well as they were rung that afternoon.—In responding to a vote of thanks for his presence among the ringers, the Rev. G. M. Hall said he was very pleased to come for where he found ringers there was always good fellowship. The Association would be welcome at Bushey at any time.

### THE LATE MR. A. W. GRIMES.

Mrs. Alfred W. Grimes begs to return her most grateful thanks to all ringers who so kindly subscribed to the funds opened on behalf of herself and six children during her lamented husband's long illness.

The sum raised by members and friends of the Ancient Society of College Youths amounted to £25 14s. The Middlesex Association and London Diocesan Guild also raised the sum of £25 12s. 6d.

As these funds may not have become generally known outside London, any further subscriptions from friends and admirers of the late Mr. A. W. Grimes will be thankfully received and acknowledged by Mr. W. T. Cockerill (hon. secretary of the College Youths), 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W., and Mr. W. Pye (Master of the Middlesex Association), 8, Sanson Road, Lansdown Road, Leytonstone.

**STONY STRATFORD, BUCKS.**—On Sunday, December 3rd, at St. Giles' Church, 720 Bob Minor: P. Dewick 1, C. A. Valentine (conductor) 2, E. Yates 3, W. W. Bonham 4, T. C. Tompkins 5, J. A. Giles 6. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to the late Rev. J. H. Light, Vicar of Marlow, and formerly for seven years the much-respected and beloved Vicar of the above parish.

**ERITH.**—At Christ Church, on Sunday, Dec. 10th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grand sire Triples (1260 changes), in 41 mins., by the following: J. Cullum 1, F. J. Cullum, junr. (first with a bob bell) 2, W. J. Aldridge 3, W. Watchorn 4, F. C. Newman 5, W. Evans 6, F. J. Cullum, senr. (conductor) 7, G. Cullum 8. The first quarter-peal rung on the bells.

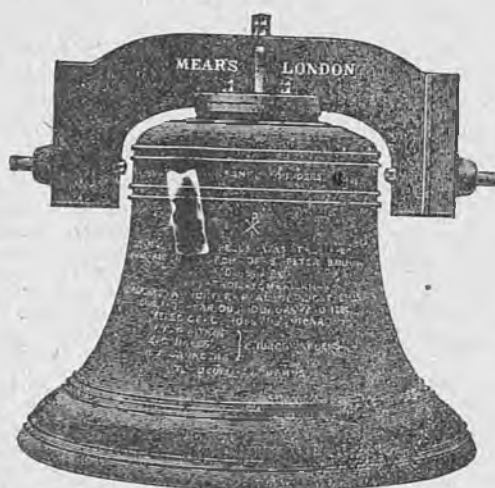


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## ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

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Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

*At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.*

## DEATH OF MR. S. SPITTLE.

### PASSING OF AN INTERESTING PERSONALITY.

By the passing of Mr. Samuel Spittle, of Dudley, whose death we recorded last week, the Exercise has lost one of those veterans who have advanced and adorned the art of ringing, and whose departure leaves a gap which only time will bridge. In Worcestershire and the neighbouring counties there was no ringer more honoured and esteemed, and in the Dudley district no figure was better known or more respected. His 80 years had seemed to sit lightly on his shoulders, and Mr. Spittle's death came as something of a shock to his many friends.

Mr. Spittle's career was really a remarkable one, and few men can claim to equal his record of holding a public office for 71 years without a break, for that is what he did as beadle and verger of St. Thomas's Parish Church, Dudley. When he was only nine years old Mr. Spittle, who was then a chorister, was selected to be junior beadle, and when he came to man's estate he was appointed permanently. Altogether he kept this office for 71 years. It was remarkable that, as far as can be ascertained, Mr. Spittle was not absent from his duties more than six Sundays, and during that time he was on a trip to America and back. The picturesque uniform of his office greatly appealed to him. It consisted, when he was a boy, of a coat of green and gold, velvet knickers, white silk stockings, and low shoes. In later years the white silk stockings gave place to gaiters and afterwards to trousers. At his own special request he was buried in this uniform.

### LOCKED PEWS.

Mr. Spittle often used to recall the time when the interior of the Parish Church was filled with the old-fashioned and high-backed pews. He remembered that those who subscribed to the building of the Parish Church were given certain pews, and although many of the subscribers did not hold rigidly to them there were those who looked upon them as their absolute property. Many of the pew holders kept pews locked throughout the week, came to church on Sunday with the key dangling in their hand, and it was one of young Spittle's duties to run forward, obtain the key, open the door, and see the worshippers comfortably seated, finally closing the door and turning the haap, so as to ensure that no molestation took place during the service. Mr. Spittle, when still a boy, was in the choir of Mr. Henry Blunden. It was from this choir that a small glee party was formed, of which Mr. Spittle was a member, and this glee party became quite famous in that part of the Black Country. Vocally Mr. Spittle had a powerful and pleasing voice, and less than two years ago he sang at a social gathering in most acceptable style.

Mr. Spittle was a native of Dudley, and was born at the top of the Inhedge. His father, who died when his son was only ten, was a bell ringer, and his son followed in his father's footsteps and himself became a bell ringer of much prominence. Indeed he seemed to have inherited the art of campanology, and almost as soon as he could pull a bell rope young Samuel was found at work. As a matter of fact he was only 14 years of age when he rang his first peal—a peal rung with the bells muffled on the occasion of the great Duke of Wellington's funeral. It was the first peal rung on the bells by any Dudley ringers. It was conducted by the late Mr. William Micklewright, senr.

In 1855 a rupture occurred between the old and the young ringers, and Dr. Brown "sided" with the "younger end," to the extent of allowing them the use of the church bells on one night per week to practise change ringing. The young band of bell ringers were triumphant, and in 1856 they purchased a peal of 56 handbells, and Mr. Spittle was appointed captain. When the present Vicar of Dudley was married Mr. Spittle composed a special "touch" for the occasion, and on every 23rd of May since, until the war began, that peal was rung, and the ringers afterwards had supper at the Vicarage.

### FOUNDING OF DUDLEY GUILD.

The Worcestershire and District Change Ringing Association was formed in April, 1882, and two years later Mr. Spittle was appointed Master, an office he held for 20 years, during which period the art of change ringing was much improved in the county.

It was felt about that time that some kind of organisation was needed to federate the various ringers in the Dudley district, and in 1899 the St. Thomas's Guild of Change Ringers, with the Rev. A. Gray Maitland, LL.D., as President, and Mr. Spittle, who had been largely instrumental in starting the Guild, as Ringing Master, was formed. This Guild embraces all the bell towers within a radius of five miles of St. Thomas's Church, and it has done much to foster interest in the art of ringing, and to redress any grievances that might arise from time to time.

Unfortunately Mr. Spittle does not seem to have kept any record of his ringing, but he took part in a great many peals his last being Grandsire Caters at Dudley, on December 18th, 1915, in honour of his 79th birthday. The last peal that he conducted was on December 15th, 1911, this also being a birthday peal. Mr. Spittle was the oldest of the "veteran's" band who, in 1914, scored a peal with a company, all of whom were over 60 years of age.

Mr. Spittle was never so happy as when among the children.

He always took a great interest in Sunday School work, and for 30 years was a Superintendent of the Mission Sunday School connected with St. Thomas's, and for 15 years treasurer of the Sunday School Fund. He only resigned these positions when it was decided to close the school.

In 1882 Mr. Spittle arranged a children's concert in connection with the St. Thomas' Band of Hope, and himself wrote several of the dances in the operetta. He was voluntary conductor of these concerts for 24 years.

For 37 years, until Jan. last year, Mr. Spittle was school attendance officer for Dudley and district. It was no uncommon sight to see him walking along the street with a merry troupe of boys and girls at his heels. He did not inspire in them the fear which often attaches to the office of attendance officer. When he retired, the Dudley Education Committee lost a most faithful servant.

Mr. Spittle was also a Freemason, and was initiated in 1883 as Tyler of the Harmonic Lodge. He had been Provincial Grand Tyler for the Province of Worcestershire; Provincial Grand Tyler of the Mark Lodge for the Province of Worcestershire; Provincial Grand Janitor for the Royal Arch Lodge, and Provincial Grand Warden for the Ark Mariners' Lodge.

One of Mr. Spittle's most interesting experiences was a trip to America, which he made in 1910, at the age of 74 years. He visited Quebec and Toronto (where he met his son, who had travelled 3,000 miles from Astoria, Oregon, to meet him), Niagara Falls, Buffalo, and New York.

#### VICAR'S TRIBUTE.

On Sunday week, at St. Thomas's Church, the Vicar (the Rev. A. Gray Maitland) made a special reference to the late Mr. Spittle, and in the place of the Anthem the Dead March in "Saul" was played. The Vicar said:—

"Samuel Spittle passed away peacefully last Friday morning. In



THE LATE MR. S. SPITTLE.

December last he reached the great age of four-score years. When nine years old he was selected from the choristers and appointed door-keeper and junior beadle of the Parish Church of Dudley, and for 71 years he filled the sacred office of beadle and chief beadle with unbroken continuity and unfailing courtesy and fidelity. The quaint uniform worn by beadles of the Parish Church, of which he was proud, was never dishonoured or disgraced by him, and his desire that he should be clothed in that uniform for his burial will be carried out. Such a record of service—three-score years and ten—a beadle or verger of one Parish Church, I imagine, is unique and outstanding, unsurpassed or unequalled in the present or past history of the Christian Church. We remember to-day other aspects of Samuel Spittle's life and work. As school attendance officer he rendered great service to the cause of our elementary education. For many years he was a devoted Superintendent of a large Sunday School. He was a great leader of the Band of Hope; he was a keen and honourable officer in Freemasonry. As a bell ringer he was a great expert. For 20 years he was Master of the Worcestershire Association of Bell Ringers, and he was the leading founder of the Dudley and District Guild of Change Ringers, of which he was Master for 18 years. It is interesting and instructive to remember that he successfully rang his first peal of bells on his 14th birthday.

"At your Vicar's request the family have consented to the burial of our greatly esteemed and beloved friend and devoted Churchman in a selected spot in the churchyard within the sound of the bells and in the sight of the belfry he loved so well. May he rest in peace."

#### THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place at the St. Thomas's Church, on Tuesday afternoon of last week. The choir were present, and the officiating clergy were the Rev. S. J. Marriott, R.D. (Vicar of Netherton), who read the lesson, Rev. A. Gray Maitland, LL.D., who officiated at the graveside, with the Rev. W. J. Down (Vicar of St. Luke's), who also took the prayers, and Rev. C. M. Stuart-King (St. Thomas's).

Mr. T. W. North presided at the organ, and played "I know that my Redeemer liveth," "O rest in the Lord," and Chopin's Funeral March. The hymns were "Peace, perfect peace," and "Nearer, my God, to Thee."

In the church, besides a large number of children from the Sunday School, there were representatives of various public bodies and a large number of deceased's fellow townsmen, who had come to pay a last tribute of respect. Mr. John Goodman, senr., represented the Dudley Parish Church ringers, and, with Mr. Harry Mason (vice-president), the Dudley and District Guild, and Mr. John Bradney represented the Society for the Archdeaconry of Salop. Wreaths were sent by the Dudley and District Guild; his fellow ringers at St. Thomas's, and St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham.

Our photograph of Mr. Spittle is produced through the courtesy of the "Dudley Herald."

In another column will be found the record of a half-muffled peal of Grandsire Caters, rung at Dudley Parish Church. Peal attempts, with bells half-muffled, were also made at Coseley and Tipton on Saturday last. At Coseley, on Sunday, with the bells half-muffled, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in 44 mins., for evening service, by: W. Jeavons 1, L. Barnett 2, W. Grinsell 3, Ben Gough 4, J. Roberts 5, S. Baker 6, W. Fisher (conductor) 7, A. E. Law 8.

On Tuesday week, at Evesham, a half-muffled peal of Grandsire Caters was attempted, but owing to a shift course, the bells were brought round after ringing 3,563 changes, in 2 hrs. 32 mins.: J. D. Johnson (conductor) 1, H. Middleton 2, G. Popnell 3, W. Short 4, F. J. Johnson 5, H. J. Phipps 6, F. Jordan 7, C. Camm 8, J. Hemming 9, F. Jinks 10. The bells were also half-muffled, at the special request of the Vicar, Dr. Walker, D.D., in memory of King Charles the Martyr.

It is proposed to erect a memorial tablet in Dudley Parish Church recording Mr. Spittle's work and the muffled peal rung to his memory last Saturday.

#### LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A successful meeting of the Bolton Branch was held at the Saviour's Church on Saturday week when the fine peal of eight bells were kept going from 5.30 to 6 o'clock, in Grandsire, Plain Bob, Sledman, Kent Treble Bob, and Double Norwich Major. There were ringers present from Newchurch, near Warrington, Walkden, Deane, and Bolton, with Mr. H. Chapman and Mr. J. Lowe, from Pendleton.

The business meeting was presided over by the Rev. H. J. Elsee (President of the Association), and Leigh was chosen as the next meeting place.

It was unanimously decided that, in order to curtail expenses, the usual March committee meeting and the half-yearly meeting be cancelled this year.

The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, and to the local ringers for having everything in readiness.

#### ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY.

A quarterly meeting was held at Rushall on Saturday week, which, under existing conditions, was fairly well attended. Here there is a handy ring of six (tenor 7½ cwt.), which were made good use of up to the time of the service. The Rev. A. T. S. Talbot, Vicar, conducted the latter, and gave an interesting address, taking for his text: "Their sound has gone out." During the discourse, he pointed out the wonders of nature: everything seeming to have a voice of God—not the least being the sound of the bells.

An acceptable tea was served in the Schoolroom at "The Butts," to which full justice was done.—A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for his address and the use of the bells, to the organist and choir boys for their services, and to the ladies for their assistance at the tea tables.—In acknowledging the vote, the Vicar gave the members a hearty welcome, with the hope that they would come again ere long.

Handbells were brought into use, upon which were rung a course of Stedman Triples, an attempt at a touch of Grandsire Triples which unfortunately came to an untimely end, and the well worn, yet ever-fresh tune, Blue Bells of Scotland—to the delight of the listeners.

Subject to permission being granted, the next meeting will be held at Wednesbury on April 21st.

LUTON, BEDS.—On Sunday, January 14th, for morning service, 504 Stedman Triples: J. Rookwood 1, C. Rollings 2, B. Wilson 3, T. Kendall 4, L. A. Goodenough 5, Pte F. Hunt (Middlesex Regiment) 6, A. King (conductor) 7, H. Shaw 8. Rung as a welcome to Pte F. Hunt, who was home on furlough.—On January 21st, for morning service, 504 Grandsire Triples: A. E. Smith 1, C. Rollings 2, B. Wilson 3, A. King (conductor) 4, L. A. Goodenough 5, T. Kendall 6, J. Rookwood 7, H. Shaw 8.

## NOTICES.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—The annual meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, February 10th. Bells available 2.30 p.m.; short service 4 p.m.; tea at the Cherry Tree at 6 p.m., members 6d.; followed by business meeting. Outstanding subscriptions for 1916 should be sent to the Hon. Sec., *pro tem.*, W. H. Oram, 25, Crown Street, Harrow.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. John's (Deansgate) on Saturday, February 10th. Bells available from 3 o'clock to dusk. Meeting to follow.—W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Secretary.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Henbury on February 10th. Bells at 3 p.m. till 5. Tea and meeting to follow. Will those intending to be present notify by February 6th? — Chas. J. Walton, 14, Jamaica Street, Bristol.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION** (late St. James' Society, Established 1824).—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, February 10th, at St. Saviour's Cathedral, Southwark. Ringing from 2.30 to 5 p.m.; also at St. George's, Borough, from 6 to 7.15 p.m. Business meeting at the Southwark Tavern, Southwark Street, S.E., at 7.30 p.m. Ringers and friends welcome. — T. Walker, Honorary Secretary.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Southern Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Bretforton on Saturday, February 10th. Service in church at 5 p.m. The bells (6) will be available till service time.—James Hemming, Branch Sec., 29, Church Bank, Great Hampton, Evesham.

**CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.**—Thrapston District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Raunds on Saturday, February 10th. Bells (8) available 2.30. Service 4.45, tea 5.15 p.m.—F. Stubbs, District Secretary, Bridge Street, Raunds.

**WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Winchester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Romsey on Saturday, February 17th, 1917. The Abbey bells will be available from 2.30 to 5.30. Tea in Temperance Hall, 5.45. Members intending to be present will please notify by February 13th, to Jas. W. Elkins, Hon. Sec., 20, Culver Road, Winchester.

**CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.**—Wellingborough District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Wollaston on Saturday, February 17th. Bells ready 3 o'clock. Service at 5 o'clock. Tea at the Fountain, 5.30 p.m.—W. Perkins, District Secretary, 6, Addington Road, Irthlingboro.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at Rishton on Saturday, February 17th, 1917. Ringing to commence at 2.30 till dusk, meeting following.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch, will be held at Great Marlow, Bucks, on Saturday, February 17th, 1917. Ringing at 2.30 p.m. Ringers' service at the Parish Church at 5 o'clock. Business meeting at St. Peter's Schools at 5.45.—W. H. Fussell, Hon. Sec., Farnburn Avenue, near Slough.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS.**—South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held, by kind permission of the Vicar (the Rev. J. H. Champion McGill), at Isleworth, on Saturday, February 17th. Ringing from 3 o'clock. Tea, by kind invitation of Mrs. McGill, in the Hartlands Road Mission Hall at 5. Ringing afterwards until 9. The honorary secretary earnestly appeals for all outstanding 1916 subscriptions to be sent to him before the date of the meeting. — H. C. Chandler, Honorary Secretary, Church Road, Heston Hounslow.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Rochdale Parish Church on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing from 2 o'clock till dusk, meeting to follow.—T. K. Driver, Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on February 22nd for handbell practice, and on the 13th and 27th for general business. The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members, who seldom attend the meetings, to vote on matters of finance, should be paid before the 28th inst. — William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM** (Established 1755).—The Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at Ye Olde Royal Hotel, Temple Row, Birmingham, on Saturday, February 24th next, at six o'clock. The chair will be taken by Canon J. W. Willink, M.A., Rector of Birmingham. Tickets free to fully qualified members whose subscriptions are paid up to date, to other members and friends 2s. 6d. each. The bells of St. Martin's (12) will be available from 3.30 to 5 o'clock. — A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

**PEAL BOOKS.**—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

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63254				
63542		x		
56342				
36245				
26543				
64235		x		
34265	S			
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52634				
42635			S	

The last 10 courses to be repeated 3 times.

This peal contains the least possible number of calls, viz., 49, of which the minimum number of singles are employed.

First rung on handbells on November 25th, 1916, conducted by the composer.



**MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.**

**IPSWICH.**—On Sunday, Dec. 3rd, for morning service, at St. Mary-le-Tower Church, a touch of Stedman Cinques: W. J. Catchpole 1, E. Pemberton 2, R. H. Hayward 3, H. O. Gillingham 4, W. Motts 5, H. English 6, J. Rose 7, F. Tillett 8, J. Motts (conductor) 9, W. Burgess 10, W. P. Garratt 11, Sergt. Farley 12. Also a touch of Stedman Caters, with Sergt. Farley ringing the 9th.

**ERITH, KENT.**—At Christ Church, on December 10th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 41 mins.: J. Cullum 1, F. J. Cullum, jun. (1st quarter of Triples with a bob bell) 2, W. J. Aldridge 3, W. Watchorn 4, F. C. Newman 5, W. Evans 6, F. J. Cullum, sen. (cond.) 7, G. Cullum 8. The first quarter-peal on the bells. Ringers of 3, 4 and 6 hail from Woolwich, and the 6 from West Ham, the rest are local men.

**BARNES.**—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday afternoon, December 10th, 720 Bob Minor, containing 42 Singles: C. Collis 1, M. Jacobs 2, H. Cook 3, H. Barrett 4, C. Hunt 5, F. Skevington (conductor) 6.

**LINSLADE, BUCKS.**—On December 10th, for morning service, at St. Barnabas' Church, two six-scores of Grandsire Doubles, with 7—8 covering: R. Horton 1, A. Vickers, junr., 2, Pte J. Child 3, F. Vickers 4, A. Vickers 5, W. Duck 6, Sapper S. Watson 7, H. Hunt 8. Pte J. Child was home on leave from the Western front, for the first time after a year and eight months' service there.

**YORK.**—On Sunday, December 10th, for morning service, at the Minster, three courses of Grandsire Cinques (462 changes): T. Haigh 1, A. C. Fearnley 2, T. F. Earnshaw 3, H. Ineson 4, W. Fountain 5, G. Horner 6, E. Rickitt 7, J. Thompson 8, Pte E. Morris (D.L.I., attached A.S.C.), first touch of Cinques as conductor, 9, T. Hodgson 10, A. Haigh 11, W. Hair and P. Firth 12.

**ACTON.**—At St. Mary's Church, on Dec. 17th, for third Sunday afternoon ringing, a quarter-peal Stedman Triples: C. Hunt 1, A. W. Davies 2, J. W. Fruin 3, Robt. Holloway 4, Staff-Sergt. Verralls 5, W. Lawrence 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, C. Edwards 8.—On Dec. 24th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: R. H. Boddington 1, Reg.-Quartermaster-Sergt. J. R. Mackman 2, J. W. Fruin 3, C. Edwards 4, Robt. Holloway 5, W. Lawrence 6, Pte J. A. Trollope (conductor) 7, J. J. Gray 8.—On Christmas morning, 504 Grandsire Triples: A. E. Smith 1, Robt. Holloway (conductor) 2, W. Phillips 3, R. H. Boddington 4, J. W. Fruin 5, C. Edwards 6, Pte Meadows 7, J. J. Gray 8.

**BROMLEY, KENT.**—On Sunday, Dec. 17th, at SS. Peter and Paul's Church, for a confirmation service by the Bishop of Rochester, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: G. Huxley 1, P. J. Spice 2, W. Smith 3, I. Emery 4, F. Terry 5, A. Bygrave 6, G. Durling (conductor) 7, S. Miles (first quarter-peal) 8. Messrs. Smith and Terry kindly came from Beckenham to make up the band.

**CHELMSFORD, ESSEX.**—At the Cathedral, on Sunday, Dec. 24th, for the children's service, 504 Grandsire Triples: J. Poulton 1, W. Newman 2, A. E. Asfield 3, H. Allen 4, P. Timson 5, R. Richell 6, H. F. Cooper (conductor) 7, A. Head 8.

**PORTISHEAD, SOMERSET.**—At St. Peter's Church, on Sunday, Dec. 17th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: Miss M. Jukes 1, Miss D. Sage 2, Miss A. Stokes 3, H. Shire (Clevedon) 4, J. Nisbet 5, Miss E. M. Hole (conductor) 6, W. Gillingham 7, P. Orchard (first quarter-peal) 8. Arranged for Mr. H. Shire, who was leaving the neighbourhood.

**BRAINTREE, ESSEX.**—On December 24th, for Matins, at the Parish Church, 672 Bob Major: F. T. Fuller 1, F. Rudkin 2, H. E. Hammond 3, F. Webb 4, W. H. Dyson 5, G. Lindridge 6, H. Coote 7, C. H. Howard (conductor) 8.

**WEST EALING.**—On Christmas Eve, for the children's service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 40 mins.: E. Harris (St. Mary's) 1, Miss E. Jones 2, R. H. Boddington 3, C. Edwards 4, R. Holloway 5, Pte J. A. Trollope (Yorks Regt.) 6, Sergt. J. R. Mackman (conductor) 7, W. Lawrence 8. Looking hardy and well, our "khaki" friends were home for Christmas leave.

**BARNES.**—On Dec. 24th, at St. Mary's Church, in 44 mins., a quarter-peal of Bob Major: M. Jacobs 1, H. Barrett 2, R. Mackrill 3, H. Cook 4, J. Lee 5, Staff-Sergt. Verralls 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, C. Hunt 8. Rung as a compliment to R. Mackrill on the birth of a son and heir.—On Dec. 25th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: M. Jacobs 1, H. Barrett 2, R. Mackrill 3, H. Cook 4, C. Hunt 5, Staff-Sergt. Verralls 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, G. Hunt 8.

**SHIPLEY, YORKS.**—At the Parish Church, on Dec. 24th, for morning service, 840 Grandsire Triples: J. Joyce 1, G. A. Nettleton 2, E. Simpson 3, W. Joyce 4, E. Murgatroyd 5, T. B. Kendall (conductor) 6, J. Ross 7, H. Utley 8.—On Christmas morning, 1088 Kent Treble Bob Major: H. Utley (longest length in the method) 1, T. B. Kendall (conductor) 2, J. Ross 3, W. Joyce 4, E. Murgatroyd 5, J. Joyce 6, E. Simpson 7, G. A. Nettleton 8. Rung as a farewell to E. Murgatroyd, who has joined the forces.

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