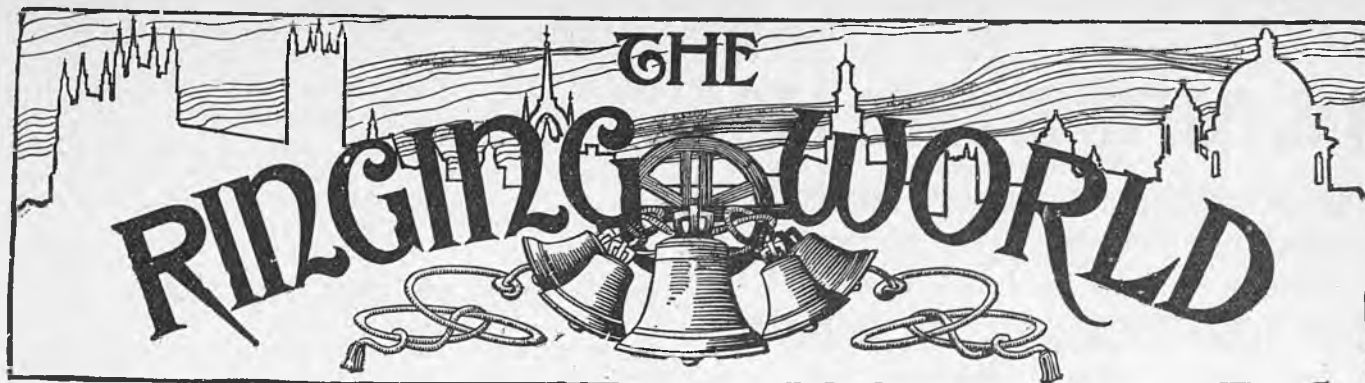




No. 1,443. Vol. XXXIII.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18th, 1938.

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

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NEW METHODS AND PROGRESS.

Throughout this year there has been no lack of new methods rung, and the possibility is that, at the present rate of progress, a new record in this direction will be produced. It is due in very large measure to the activities of the Hertfordshire Surprise company, whose efforts in scoring peals in new Surprise methods have been phenomenal in recent months. They are, of course, not the only band to put new names into the peal columns of 'The Ringing World,' but at the moment they seem to have taken the lead from the Framlingham company, who were, just previously, the predominating experts in this direction.

To some people, content with ringing the well-worn methods, this constant breaking of new ground may make little appeal; indeed, some look upon it with an unfavourable eye, because they imagine that only by constant practice at one thing can a method be properly rung. In this, however, they make a profound mistake. Bands who, like the Hertfordshire men, ring a peal in a new Surprise method on an average, say, once a month, are masters of the art, and there is no method, old or new, which they could not ring well, for, unless they rang well, they would fail. They are helping to raise the standard of striking just as much as those old-fashioned ringers who are content all their lives to stick to just one or two methods. But, more than this, they are showing the world the vast possibilities that are to be found in our art, and while no one is compelled to follow them, and few could follow them in the pace they have set, these achievements are an inducement to all ringers to get away from the stagnation that marks all too many bands.

It is not entirely in the Surprise field that this applies, either. There is plenty of opportunity in the plain methods. There is an idea abroad that it is only the Surprise ringers who have any scope. Nothing could be wider of the mark. There may be a more extensive range in Surprise methods—for an obvious reason—but plain methods are to be had in large numbers, and there are many of them worthy of wide practice; indeed, some of them, if studied, will be found to require as much ringing as many in the Surprise class. 'Surprise' is really an overrated word. In these days it refers only to a 'class' of methods; many of them no more difficult to ring than plain methods like Double Norwich, and far less musical. Surprise ringing is not necessarily the only indication of progress. There are many good plain methods that ought to be in more general use, and yet there are not in the plain Major methods, five that are rung as frequently as London, Cambridge, Superlative, Bristol and

(Continued on page 742.)

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Yorkshire among the Surprise methods. Why is it? Is it that those who get beyond the Plain Bob and Treble Bob stage think only in terms of the popular Surprise methods, or is it that ringers do not know of the possibilities and the interest they could find in the plain methods?

TWELVE BELL PEALS.

WALSALL, STAFFS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Wednesday, November 9, 1938, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 26½ cwt.

HOWARD HOWELL Treble	*P. GEORGE GOLDER 7
CHRISTOPHER WALLATER ... 2	ARTHUR T. DUTTON 8
ALFRED ADAMS 3	WALTER R. HUGHES 9
BARNABAS G. KEY 4	GILBERT HARDING 10
THOMAS J. ELTON 5	GEORGE W. HUGHES 11
HARRY T. HIGGINS 6	WILLIAM A. WALKER ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by HOWARD HOWELL.

* First peal on twelve bells at first attempt. Rung as a compliment to Alderman Pat Collins and Mrs. Collins on their appointment as Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall.

SHEFFIELD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

(SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, November 12, 1938, in Three Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 40 cwt. 10 lb.

JOHN HOLMAN Treble	FRANCIS WARD 7
JOHN J. L. GILBERT 2	HAROLD NAYLOR 8
HAYDN THORPE 3	MAURICE E. WILSON 9
ALBERT H. WARD 4	T. COLIN RYDER 10
JOHN THORPE 5	*ERNEST THORPE 11
SIDNEY F. PALMER 6	C. ALLEN HEWITT ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by JOHN THORPE.

* First peal of Cinques 'inside.'

TEN BELL PEALS.

PONTEFRAC, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

JOHN H. LENTON Treble	*EDWARD BRADLEY 6
ARTHUR WALKER 2	CHARLES BROWN 7
HERBERT WALKER 3	THOMAS HOLDER 8
HARRY C. WALTERS 4	HORACE S. MORLEY 9
HARRY NEWTON 5	ALBERT T. STRANGWARD ... Tenor

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by JOHN H. LENTON.

* First peal on ten bells and first attempt. Rung as a birthday compliment to Arthur Walker.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 12, 1938, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF ISLEWORTH BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... Treble	CHARLES T. COLES 6
J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE ... 2	WILFRID G. WILSON 7
GEORGE M. KILBY 3	ALBERT W. COLES 8
GEORGE R. PYE 4	JAMES BENNETT 9
JOHN S. GOLDSMITH 5	JAMES C. E. SIMPSON ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

The first peal in the method.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HONITON CLYST, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Friday, November 4, 1938, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
At the Church of St. Michael,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLLIS'S IRREGULAR FIVE-PART, No. 1. Tenor 19 cwt. in E.	
*CECIL BREALY Treble	EDGAR GLASS 5
CHARLES R. LILLEY 2	ARTHUR MITCHELL 6
JOHN SALWAY 3	RICHARD WILMINGTON 7
JOSEPH BREALY 4	JOHN MORGAN Tenor

Composed by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

* First peal of Triples.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Thomas,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb.

JOSEPH WHITTAKER Treble	JOHN WORTH 5
C. KENNETH LEWIS 2	JAMES FERNLEY 6
REV. FRANK BONNER 3	WILLIAM FERNLEY 7
WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT 4	JAMES A. MILNER Tenor

Composed by G. R. PYE.

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. G. Sellars, vergers at St. Thomas', and for the thirteenth anniversary of the opening of the eight bells.

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,
At the Church of St. Barnabas,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S TRANSPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

ALLAN SHORT Treble	MORRIS J. MORRIS 5
GEORGE F. SWANN 2	FREDERICK W. RISHWORTH 6
JOSEPH W. PEMBERTON 3	RICHARD C. INGRAM 7
*RONALD SHEPHERD 4	WILLIAM DAVIES Tenor

Composed by GEORGE F. SWANN.

* First peal of Stedman.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Michael,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt.

SAMUEL WARNE Treble	RONALD SUCKLING 5
LEWIS W. WIFFEN 2	REGINALD MARTIN 6
BASIL REDGWELL 3	HILDA G. SNOWDEN 7
CLAUDE SNOWDEN 4	ALBERT WIFFEN Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by ALBERT WIFFEN.

A birthday compliment to Mr. C. H. Howard.

PINCHBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. 9 lb.

GEORGE LADD Treble	*GEORGE SEWELL 5
NEVIL HOLLINGWORTH 2	HAROLD BARSLEY 6
JOHN CURRY 3	CYRIL R. BURRELL 7
ARTHUR J. FARR 4	JOHN G. AMES Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by JOHN G. AMES.

* First peal in the method.

FEERING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. in F.

*JOSEPH PAPWORTH Treble	FREDERICK RIDGEWELL 5
JOHN C. NEWMAN 2	JOSEPH ELLIOTT 6
ERNEST BRIGHT 3	WALTER ARNOLD 7
CHARLES W. BURTON 4	FREDERICK FLUDDER Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES.

Conducted by W. ARNOLD.

* First peal of Major. A welcome to the new Vicar (the Rev. C. W. Gibbond), and a birthday compliment to Mr. C. H. Howard, of Braintree.

WEST BROMWICH, STAFFS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.	Tenor 17 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb.
*WILLIAM PARTRIDGE Treble	DAVID HINGLEY 5
WILLIAM D. PEART 2	ARTHUR HINGLEY 6
HERBERT HOWELL 3	ALBERT MILLS 7
MAURICE G. TURNER 4	*FREDERICK HORSFIELD Tenor

Conducted by MAURICE G. TURNER.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung for the patronal festival of All Saints, and also as a compliment to the conductor on his 21st birthday and to Herbert Howell on his birthday.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF VERULAM SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

HENRY HODGETTS Treble	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 5
FRANCIS KIRK 2	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 6
MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT 3	EDWIN JENNINGS 7
STEPHEN H. HOARE 4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS.

Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

The first peal in the method.

KING'S NORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 6, 1938, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

WALTER P. WHITEHEAD Treble	WILLIAM A. WOOD 5
ALFRED BALLARD 2	CHARLES MARSHALL 6
CECIL E. CARR 3	FRANK K. MEASURES 7
W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON 4	ARTHUR DEBENHAM Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD. First peal of Major on the bells. Rung as a welcome to the Rector (the Rev. W. R. Davis), who was inducted the previous week.

WILTON, TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. George,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb.

WILLIAM T. CLARK Treble	SIDNEY A. WYATT 5
RONALD W. HAYWARD 2	ARTHUR W. HAYWARD 6
ALFRED J. WYATT 3	*WILLIAM G. GIGG 7
*ARTHUR H. REED 4	*WILLIAM H. LLOYD Tenor

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW.

Conducted by W. H. LLOYD.

* First peal in the method. Rung on the eve of Armistice Day, 'Lest we forget.'

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GAWSWORTH, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
(MACCLESFIELD BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, November 9, 1938, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

WILLIAM GAYES Treble	JACK TIPPER 5
*ARNOLD WORTH 2	THOMAS B. KNIGHT 6
HARRY FARRAR 3	JOHN WORTH 7
†GERALD FARRAR... .. 4	†EDWARD SEED Tenor

Composed by W. MATTHEWS (No. 2). Conducted by JOHN WORTH.
* First peal of Triples. † First peal. † First peal on eight bells.
Arranged and rung for the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. C. Longden, of Macclesfield, grandparents of ringers of the 3rd and 4th, also as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the treble.

BUSHEY, HERTS

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF DEBEN SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

HENRY HODGETTS Treble	WALTER AYRE 5
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 2	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT 6
STEPHEN H. HOARE 3	EDWIN JENNINGS 7
FRANCIS KIRK 4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE Tenor

Composed and Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

First peal in the method on the bells, by all the band and by the association.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, November 10, 1938, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 9 lb.

*FRANK DOBNEY Treble	CHARLES C. RAWDING 5
JOHN W. CARTER 2	†ALBERT F. SARGENT 6
RUPERT RICHARDSON 3	NORMAN T. KING 7
MRS. R. RICHARDSON 4	ERNEST T. KING Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by ERNEST T. KING.

* First peal and first attempt. † First peal on tower bells. First peal as conductor and first attempt.

HANDSWORTH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Friday, November 11, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. in F sharp.

MISS L. NOEL CAWTHORNE Treble	LESLIE HAYWOOD 5
MISS LUCY KELLY 2	FRED WATKINSON 6
*RONALD BIRCH 3	FREDERICK CARDWELL 7
MRS. E. DORICE KELLY 4	JOHN J. L. GILBERT Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 115). Conducted by J. J. L. GILBERT

* First peal in the method. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to those who fell in the Great War.

ASSTEAD, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 12, 1938, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF NEW CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

ARTHUR C. OTWAY, Ex-Corporal, Wiltshire Regiment Treble	
GEORGE COOK, Ex-Private, London Regiment 2	
FREDERICK G. WOODISS, Ex-Sergeant, Grenadier Guards 3	
GEORGE MARRINER, Ex-Sergeant, East Surrey Regiment 4	
ALFRED H. WINCH, Ex-Private, Labour Corps 5	
ALBERT E. CHEESEMAN, Ex-Bombardier, R.F.A. 6	
WILLIAM T. BEESON, Ex-Gunner, R.G.A. 7	
ALBERT HARMAN, M.S.M., Ex-S/Sergeant, R.G.A. Tenor	

Composed by G. H. CROSS. Conducted by A. HARMAN.

Specially arranged to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Armistice.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, November 12, 1938, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb. in E flat.

REV. R. F. R. ROUTH, Royal Army Chaplains' Dept. Treble	
GEORGE MARTIN, R.E. 2	
WILLIAM WELLING, 346th Siege Battery, R.G.A. 3	
THOMAS J. FOWLER, R.A.O.C. 4	
JESSE HARRISON, 29th Middlesex 5	
WILFRED EDWARDS, R.A.F. 6	
LEONARD STILWELL, 81st Battery, R.F.A. 7	
HARRY WINGROVE, 5th Oxford and Bucks L.I. Tenor	

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by H. WINGROVE.

Rung with the bells half-muffled to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Armistice.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

(DEVIZES BRANCH.)

On Saturday, November 12, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 12 cwt.

*REGINALD H. NEWTON Treble	ERNEST PARKER 5
PERCIVAL HARDING 2	SAMUEL J. HECTOR 6
GILBERT H. HARDING 3	WILLIAM R. BAXTER 7
†ALFRED J. BOYCE 4	*SIDNEY PRESCOTT Tenor

Conducted by GILBERT H. HARDING.

* First peal of Triples. † First peal 'inside.' Rung on the anniversary of the dedication of the bells.

TILEHURST, BERKS.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 12, 1938, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF TILEHURST SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

GILBERT E. DEBENHAM Treble	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 5
HENRY HODGETTS 2	FRANCIS KIRK 6
EDWIN JENNINGS 3	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 7
STEPHEN H. HOARE 4	MAURICE F. R. HIBBERT Tenor

Composed and Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

The first peal in the method.

SUNDERLAND.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 12, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

BISHOPWEARMOUTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 12 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb. in F sharp.

GEORGE A. PICKERING Treble	WILLIAM J. DAVIDSON 5
JOHN ANDERSON 2	HAROLD B. DITCHBURN 6
JOSEPH W. PARKER 3	CHARLES E. LAWSON 7
REV. JOHN P. PELLOE 4	ROBERT L. PATTERSON Tenor

Conducted by W. J. DAVIDSON.

This peal is to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the first peal of Stedman in the county of Durham, which was rung at this church on Saturday, November 12th, 1898.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 12, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF ST. CLEMENT'S BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

GEORGE H. LIMMER Treble	GORDON W. LIMMER 5
JOHN E. TAYLOR 2	GEORGE W. DEBENHAM 6
CYRIL A. BURGESS 3	GEORGE GILBERT 7
PETER A. BLAMEY 4	TONY PRICE Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by G. W. DEBENHAM.

First peal in the method on the bells and by all the band except by the ringers of 6th and 7th. First peal in the method as conductor.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

EYTHORNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 1, 1938, in 1 two Hours and Thirty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being six extents each of St. Simon's, Plain Bob and Reverse Canterbury Pleasure (12 different callings), and six 240's each of Morris' and Pitman's arrangement of Grandsire (12 different callings).

Tenor 10 cwt.

MRS. W. M. CHIVERS 1	LAURENCE BODMAN 3
MISS JOYCE BEAN 2	WILLIS BROOKS 4

E. THOMAS ELLENDER... .. 10

Conducted by LAURENCE BODMAN.

First peal in four methods for all, on the bells and by an entirely local band at this church.

WOOTTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in 1 two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being forty-two 120's.

Tenor 9 cwt. 6 lb.

FRANK E. BUGGINS 1	JAMES BUGGINS 4
HORACE W. MORRIS 2	FREDERICK APPLETON 5
ALBERT H. HOARE 3	THOMAS PORTLOCK 10

Conducted by F. APPLETON.

First peal and first attempt by all except the conductor.

BRAY, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in 3 three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Oxford Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

TONY PRICE 1	HARRY WINGROVE 4
WILLIAM WELLING 2	WILLIAM HENLEY 5
HERBERT H. ALEXANDER 3	REV. C. ELLIOT WIGG 10

Conducted by TONY PRICE.

First peal in seven methods on the bells.

BARTON-ON-HUMBER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in 2 two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, St. Clement's, Double Oxford, Plain Bob and Oxford Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lb.

*MISS ALISON M. GODDARD Treble	*JAMES CHAPMAN... .. 4
GEORGE HALL 2	MARTIN WALKER 5
ARTHUR HOODLESS 3	WALTER GODDARD 10

Conducted by WALTER GODDARD.

* First peal in seven methods. First peal in seven methods as conductor. Rung with the bells half-muffled to the respected memory of the late Mrs. J. Atkinson, of Barrow-on-Humber, and Mr. J. W. Hobson, of Hull.

GLINTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in 1 three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BENEDICT.

A PEAL OF SPLICED SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, viz.: (1) London and Wells; (2) Norfolk and Primrose; (3) York and Durham; (4) Cambridge, Norfolk, Ipswich, Primrose, Hull and Bourne; (5) Beverley and Surfleet; (6) Wearmouth and Lightfoot; (7) Cambridge and Ipswich.

Tenor 16 cwt.

*G. ARTHUR DAY... .. 1	†WILLIAM OLDMAN 4
CHARLES W. WOODS 2	FREDERICK W. FRENCH 5
HORACE M. DAY 3	THOMAS L. BAINBRIDGE 10

Conducted by HORACE M. DAY.

* First peal and first attempt. † First peal in 14 Surprise methods 'inside.'

WHITNEY-ON-WYE, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in 2 two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London Doubles, Plain Bob, Canterbury Pleasure and Reverse Canterbury, and nine spliced 240's of Grandsire.

Tenor 9 cwt.

*LEONARD HART 1	†WILLIAM J. PREECE 3
DAVID H. BENNETT 2	JAMES P. HYETT 4
LESLIE EVANS 3	 10

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

* First peal. † First peal in five methods.

GOODNESTONE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in 2 two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, two 720's of Kent Treble Bob and three 720's of Plain Bob.

*HARRY STRINGER 1	PERCY W. SMITH... .. 4
JACK WALTER 2	SIDNEY WALTER 5
FREDERICK FAIRBEARD 3	STANLEY WHITE 10

Conducted by STANLEY WHITE.

* First peal. First peal on the bells.

BELCHAMP ST. PAUL'S, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in 2 two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being an extent each of College Single, Double Oxford, Double Court, St. Clement's, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Treble Bob.

Tenor 12 cwt.

FRANK CLAYDON 1	ALBERT L. DIXEY 4
VICTOR MORLEY 2	ALEC M. GENEY 5
HARRY CARTER 3	RALPH BIRD 10

Conducted by R. BIRD.

A birthday compliment to Mr. C. H. Howard, of Braintree.

THORNER, YORKSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH, GAINSBOROUGH DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, November 5, 1938, in 2 two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents each called differently.

Tenor 13 cwt.

*W. MARTIN SMITH 1	MRS. ERIC GRAY 4
MISS PHYLLIS BAKER 2	CHARLES H. BAKER 5
JOSEPH DIXON 3	GEO. LESLIE A. LUNN 10

Conducted by G. L. A. LUNN.

* First peal away from the 'cover' bell. Rung as an 87th birthday compliment to Mr. J. Dixon's mother.

TEMPSFORD, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 8, 1938, in 2 two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

C. HENRY HARDING 1	REGINALD J. HOUGHTON 4
*WILLIAM CHAMBERLAIN 2	†BRIAN F. SIMS 5
HUGH HARDING 3	C. EDWARD JEFFRIES 10

Conducted by C. E. JEFFRIES.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal 'inside.' The first peal of Kent by all. Rung as a 76th birthday compliment to Mr. Ladds, verger and parish clerk at this church.

BELL SILENCERS.**THE 'DAVIS SILENCER'**

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DILWYN, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, November 7, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 2,640 of Grandsire, 1,200 of Plain Bob, 240 of Stedman and 960 of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure. Tenor 12 cwt.

*A. BRIAN ELLSMORE Treble	AUSTIN T. WINGATE 4
LESLIE EVANS 2	ERNEST F. SALMONS 5
WILLIAM J. PREECE 3	*THOMAS R. ECKLEY Tenor

Conducted by E. F. SALMONS.

* First peal in four methods. First peal in four methods on the bells and first peal in four methods of Doubles as conductor. Rung in honour of the wedding of Miss Margaret Eckley (youngest daughter of the tenorman) and Mr. David Barrar, of Eardisland, which took place at this church previous to the peal.

OADBY, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 10, 1938, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two different extents each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob and one of Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 14 cwt.

JOHN E. CLARK Treble	W. ARTHUR RIDDINGTON 4
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD 2	CHARLES MARSHALL 5
LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD 3	WILLIAM BOTTRILL Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

First four-method peal by all the band and on the bells. Rung for Armistice Day.

BROUGHTON, LINGS.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Thursday, November 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

One extent each of London, Beverley and Cambridge Surprise, Double Court, College, Double Oxford and St. Clement's. Tenor 11½ cwt.

PHILIP BARNES Treble	JACK BRAY 4
FRANK LORD 2	ERNEST BRITAIN 5
HAROLD JUDD 3	GEORGE E. FEIRN Tenor

Conducted by G. E. FEIRN.

First seven-method peal on the bells.

HANDBELL PEALS.

KELHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, November 6, 1938, in One Hour and Thirty-Five Minutes,

At the House of the Sacred Mission,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven 720's called differently.

THOMAS BARLOW BROWN ... 1-2	*PHILIP JOHN BOULSOVER ... 3-4
ALBERT FRANCIS SARGENT ... 5-6	

Conducted by ALBERT FRANCIS SARGENT.

* First peal of Minor. First peal of Minor as conductor.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, November 9, 1938, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At Glyn Garth,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON 1-2	ALBERT F. SARGENT 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON 3-4	CYRIL R. BURRELL 7-8

Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, November 11, 1938, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

At Glyn Garth,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in A.

MRS. R. RICHARDSON 1-2	ALBERT F. SARGENT 5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON 3-4	CYRIL R. BURRELL 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON.

(Other peal reports are unavoidably held over).

PEAL NOTES.

MORE NEW METHODS.

At Isleworth, on Saturday, another method was added to the peals of Royal. We have refrained from calling it a 'new' method, although it had never previously been rung, because its existence has long been known. The only surprising thing about it is that such an excellent method has not been in general practice.

Verulam Surprise has now been added to the methods rung for the first time by the Hertfordshire band, whose activities in this direction seem unending. The peal was rung at Bushey on Nov. 5th. Unfortunately, they have had to wipe one off the slate; the composition which was used for Newbury Surprise last July having been found false for that method.

Verulam is a name which comes from an old Roman source. St. Albans stands on the site of the old Roman city of that name.

Mr. Maurice Hibbert, of Bushey, is the first to ring 200 tower-bell peals for the Hertford County Association. He reached this total on November 10th, when the first peal of Deben Surprise was rung for the association, as well as by all the band.

Two days later they added yet another to their many new Surprise methods, when, without previous practice, they scored a peal of Tilehurst Surprise Major at Tilehurst, Berks. It was rung as a compliment to Mr. H. Goodger, who has been a ringer at Tilehurst for 53 years.

As a compliment to Mr. Ladds, vergor and parish clerk of St. Peter's, Tempsford, Beds, on his 76th birthday, the lads of the belfry rang a peal of Kent Treble Bob Minor on Nov. 8th. We say the 'lads' because we are informed that they are all single young men. It was the first peal of Kent by all of them.

The ringers of a wedding peal of Doubles at Dilwyn, Herefordshire, had a narrow escape on November 7th. As the bells were being lowered in peal at the finish, the 2nd rope broke!

The peal had been rung after the marriage of Miss Margaret Eckley and Mr. David Barrar, of Eardisland, the bride's father ringing the tenor. The ringers were afterwards entertained by the bride's parents. Messrs. A. T. Wingate and E. F. Salmon rang their 25th peal together.

Arranged to celebrate the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. C. Longden, of Macclesfield, a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Gawsorth, Cheshire, on November 9th, by Sunday service ringers from Christ Church, Macclesfield. Two grandsons of Mr. and Mrs. Longden, Messrs. Harry and Gerald Farrer, took part in the peal, which was also a birthday compliment to William Gayes.

FORTY YEARS ON.

A peal of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Bishopwearmouth, on Saturday, on the 40th anniversary of the first peal of Stedman in the county of Durham, which was rung at this church on Saturday, November 12th, 1898, by R. G. Chichester 1, Thomas Hudson 2, William T. Robson 3, William Storey 4, Robert C. Hudson 5, Robert Richards 6, Frederick J. Harrison (conductor) 7, Robert L. Patterson 8.

Of this band only Mr. Patterson took part in the commemorative performance, and before the peal the Rev. J. P. Pelloe led the company in prayers to the memory of ringers of the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th, in the peal of 40 years ago, who have since passed on.

Mr. Maurice G. Turner celebrated his twenty-first birthday by calling Holt's Original at All Saints', West Bromwich, on November 5th. It was his first peal as conductor, and the way in which he called the peal left no doubt as to his ability. Those who know the Original will best appreciate the merit of this performance.

A peal of Grandsire Doubles at Wootton, Oxfordshire, on November 5th, which is also recorded this week, is another meritorious performance. It was rung by the Sunday service ringers at this church and was the first peal and first attempt by all the band except the conductor.

Three peals of Bob Major were rung in three days at Surfleet last week, two on handbells, with one on tower bells sandwiched between. Mr. A. F. Sargent, of Kelham Theological College, Notts, was on a visit to Lincolnshire, and he rang his first peal on tower bells. The first of the handbell peals was Mr. Rupert Richardson's 450th peal for the Lincoln Diocesan Guild.

The anniversary of the dedication of the bells at Christ Church, Bradford-on-Avon, was celebrated by a peal of Grandsire Triples on Saturday.

An Armistice commemoration peal of Superlative was rung at Wilton, Taunton, on November 10th. This was a thoughtful action on the part of the ringers, who felt that prolonged ringing on Armistice night might be a source of disturbance to nearby residents, who desired to listen to the broadcast of the Festival of Remembrance.

The conductor (Mr. W. H. Lloyd) and Messrs. A. H. Reed and W. G. Gigg rang their first peal of Superlative, and Mr. Gigg rang his sixtieth peal. The conductor took part in a peal of Superlative at Loughborough Bell Foundry as long ago as 1924, but the composition afterwards turned out to be false.

The first peal on the bells at Goodnestone, near Canterbury, was rung on Nov. 5th. It was in three Minor methods, and Mr. Harry Stringer rang his first peal. Afterwards Mr. and Mrs. Stringer extended their hospitality to the ringers, who much appreciate the kindness thus shown to them.

Mr. James P. Hyett, of Hay, Herefordshire, rang his 250th peal on Nov. 5th, when at the five-bell tower of Whitney-on-Wye he called a peal in five Doubles methods.

FORMER ESSEX MASTER HONOURED.

(Continued from previous page.)

Mr. C. H. Howard, of Braintree, who was Master of the Essex Association for 25 years up to 1934, reached his 70th birthday on Saturday week. In his honour 22 members of the association went peal ringing and three peals were rung, Superlative Surprise at St. Michael's, Braintree, where he rang for so many years and was at one time churchwarden, Kent Treble Bob Major at Feering, and seven Minor methods at Belchamp St. Paul's.

The six-bell peal was Mr. Ralph Bird's fortieth peal of Minor. The peal at Feering was, in addition to the birthday compliment, a welcome to the new Vicar, the Rev. C. W. Gibleon.

A band of ex-Service men rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major at Ashted, Surrey, on Saturday, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Armistice. With one exception, the same band rang a peal ten years ago. We hope they will be able to repeat the performance in ten years' time.

An ex-Service men's Armistice peal was also rung at Beaconsfield, Bucks, on Saturday, by four East Berks and four South Bucks members of the Oxford Guild. The bells were half-muffled in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice.

The Leicester 'Thursday' band scored yet another peal when at Oadby on November 10th a four-method peal of Minor was tapped off. The party again included Mr. John Clarke, who, for his age, is doing himself well in the peal world this year. The peal at Oadby was his tenth this year—not bad for 'nearly three score years—and a little bit more.' The Thursday band has been very successful since it was formed in April, having rung 16 peals out of 22 attempts, including four Sunday peals which were attempted on that day instead of on a Thursday.

A peal of Bob Minor was rung at Thorner, Yorkshire, on November 5th, by members of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, as a birthday compliment to the mother of Mr. Joseph Dixon, who has reached the grand old age of 87 years. She lives in the village of Thorner, and it was here that Mr. Joe Dixon, who is now at Gainsborough, learned to handle a bell 25 years ago.

On November 1st a peal in four Doubles methods was rung on the five bells at Eythorne, Kent. It was the first in four methods on the bells and by all the band, who were local ringers and included two ladies. It was rung for the 27th wedding anniversary of the Rector (the Rev. J. W. Horsley) and Mrs. Horsley, and as a birthday compliment to Mr. E. T. Ellender, who rang the tenor.

The peal of Stedman Triples at Erdington, on November 5th, was arranged as a birthday compliment to Mr. Norman S. Power, eldest son of the Vicar, who kindly entertained the ringers to tea in the Vicarage after the peal.

(Continued in next column.)

THE J. J. PARKER MEMORIAL.**THANKSGIVING AT FARNHAM ROYAL.**

A suitable conclusion to a week of memories was provided when members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild met on Saturday at St. Mary's Church, Farnham Royal, to ring on the bells recently restored in memory of Joseph J. Parker, author of the famous twelve-part peal of Grandsire Triples and many other compositions. We venture to say that Mr. Parker would have been pleased with 'his bells' and the improvement in tone.

Parishioners and ringers joined together in the service, conducted by the Rev. R. A. Crawley-Boevey (curate and ringer), which had 'Thanksgiving' for its theme. The lesson, 'Let us now praise famous men,' was read by one of the ringers.

Tea was enjoyed at the Jolly Butchers, the party including the Master (the Rev. Canon G. F. Coleridge), the general secretary (Mr. R. T. Hibbert), Mr. A. D. Barker (hon. treasurer), Mr. John Evans, Mr. A. Parker (son of the late Mr. Parker) and Miss F. Parker (daughter).

Votes of thanks were passed for the use of the bells and to the unknown donor of the tea. Then, a few words from the Master and Tom Hibbert, and the bells were set going again until 8 p.m.

The bell fund is almost complete, and anyone wishing to contribute should lose no time in sending their donation.

(Continued from previous column.)

Four Honiton Clist (Devon) men took part in a peal of Grandsire Triples on their own bells on November 4th. Great credit is due to them for the progress they have made. It was much regretted that another of the local band, Mr. E. Retter, could not take part, owing to his not feeling fit.

The secretary of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, who will always be a Ladd, however old he may be, began his ringing career on November 5th, 1885, fifty-three years ago. Last Saturday week a complimentary peal was rung at Pinchbeck, where he has so long served the church in many capacities, including those of ringer and churchwarden.

He told us recently that the 60 steps up to the ringing chamber seem about 20 more than was once the case. We only hope that, in their Stygian darkness, he will never fall down their precipitous length.

A band met one short at Glinton, Northamptonshire, on Nov. 5th, when a peal in 14 spliced Surprise methods was to have been attempted, under Mr. Horace Day's conductorship. It looked hopeless, but, nothing daunted, Mr. C. W. Woods set off on a nine-mile cycle ride, found the conductor's son in his garden, persuaded him to 'come along,' and the result was he rang his first peal at the first attempt and a really good one at that. Few ringers can have so unexpectedly rung their first peal.

John Taylor & Co.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Hearty congratulations will go out to-morrow to Mr. and Mrs. James Parker, of 45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, upon their golden wedding. They were married at Storrington, Sussex, on November 19th, 1888.

Mr. Parker was leader of the band at Crawley, Sussex, in the early days of Surprise ringing there, and called the record peal of 9,312 Superlative, rung on December 26th, 1894.

On migrating to London, he became Master of the Royal Cumberland Youths, and he still represents them on the Central Council, as he has done, with one interval, since 1897. His daughter is Mrs. E. K. Fletcher, hon. secretary of the Ladies' Guild.

Next Sunday week (November 27th), Mr. James George, 'of England,' whose home is at 44, Cuckoo Road, Nechells, Birmingham, will reach the age of 85 years. Unfortunately, his indisposition, which still painfully persists at times, will prevent him taking any part in ringing for the occasion. He wishes sincerely to thank all those who have called upon him, or written to him, or made inquiries during his illness.

Combined with their good wishes for his birthday, his many friends will hope for Mr. George's speedy return to health and the belfry.

The death of the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, for 38 years hon. secretary of the Kent County Association, is a reminder of the fact that in the 58 years of its existence, the association has had only four general secretaries: The Rev. R. Knatchbull-Hugessen, 1880-1889; the Rev. E. W. Carpenter, 1889-1891; the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, 1891-1929; Mr. F. M. Mitchell, 1929 to the present time.

The clerical peal of Stedman Caters, in which the late Mr. Helmore took part, at Warwick in 1910, was rung by the Revs. H. S. T. Richardson, E. V. Cox, J. F. Hastings, C. W. O. Jenkyn, C. C. Cox, H. A. Cockey, H. L. James, G. F. Coleridge, C. D. P. Davies and F. J. O. Helmore.

The report of the committee of the Lancashire Association states that there are now 1,466 members, of whom 92 were elected in the preceding year. Of the 1,042 resident ringing members, however, only 679 paid their subscriptions. Sixty members are two years in arrears, and 69, who had exceeded this period allowed by the rules, were struck off the roll.

On Thursday week, a mixed band, including visitors from Leicester and Leeds, started for a peal at St. Mary's, Nottingham. After 2½ hours' excellent ringing there was a loud 'thud' and the 8th bell went silent. Examination revealed that the clapper had snapped across 'like a carrot.' The observations of the Leeds visitor, who faced the prospect of arriving home about 2 a.m. with no peal, are unprintable.

At a meeting of the Grimsby District of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild at Scunthorpe, Archdeacon Parry, president of the Northern Branch, was welcomed back after his long illness. A grant of £10 was made to the Burton-on-Stather Bell Fund.

It has been found necessary to postpone the joint meeting of the London County Association and Royal Cumberland Youths, at Hampstead and other North London towers, to December 3rd.

The Sherwood Youths are to have a mid-week meeting next Thursday at St. Peter's, Nottingham.

BELLS BEFORE BROADCAST SERVICES.

B.B.C. TO LOOK INTO QUESTION.

After the broadcast from St. Mary's, Portsea, on October 30th, Mr. E. Barnett, of Crayford, wrote to the B.B.C. protesting against the time taken out of the five minutes allotted to the bells by a description of the church. He added:—

'Surely, if it is necessary to describe the church, you could allot two or three minutes to this beforehand (especially as there is usually an interval of some minutes) and not deprive many people in England of the opportunity of hearing the whole of the ringing, instead of the last few changes, to say nothing of English people abroad to whom the sound of church bells means so much.'

The Director of Religion replied from Broadcasting House: 'The question which you raise will be looked into carefully; but you may have noticed that we deliberately keep notices about the churches from which we broadcast as short as possible; nor is more than half of them noticed in this way. This leaves time for two or three minutes of the bells; and we feel that those who take an interest in church buildings should be considered as well as those who are expert in bellringing.'

EYNESBURY BELLS REHUNG.

On the evening of Remembrance Day, the bells of St. Mary's Church, Eynesbury, St. Neots, Hunts, rang out again to the tune of Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor after a silence of about three months. The bell frame had become unstable and the gudgeons and bearings were badly worn. The bells also required quarter-turning.

Mr. Alfred Bowell, of Ipswich, was commissioned to do the work, and he and his workmen, Messrs. H. Wellham and V. Waters, are to be congratulated on the result, as after the touches rung on Friday the ringers considered the bells had never gone so well within memory. In addition to strengthening the timber frame with bolts, etc., quarter-turning the bells, and providing new gudgeons and bearings (the 5th and tenor being placed on self-aligning bearings), careful attention has been paid to clappering, with the result that the tone of the bells is much better.

There will probably be a meeting of the Ely Association at Eynesbury in due course.

LEADING CONDUCTORS—45.**ERNEST STITCH.**

Master of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association for this year and Southern District secretary of the Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Guild since 1926, Mr. Ernest Stitch, of Port Talbot, Glam., is one of the most active workers in the cause of ringing in those dioceses. He was born at Biddisham, Somerset, on August 4th, 1884, but began his ringing career at St. Mary's, Aberavon, Glam., in 1914. He has been a Sunday service ringer there ever since and has been captain of the tower for the past twelve years.

Mr. Stitch comes of ringing stock. His grandfather was a ringer in Somerset about 80 years ago, and his father and four brothers all learnt to ring, although none of his brothers ring now.

He rang his first peal (Grandsire Triples) at the first attempt at Aberavon on July 5th, 1919, while his first peal as conductor was one of Grandsire Doubles rung at Baglan, Glam., on February 18th, 1926. In November of the same year he called his first peal of Grandsire Triples. He conducted Holt's Original from the 7th at the first attempt at Aberavon in 1931, and has since conducted it 18 times in 15 towers.

He has rung peals in the four standard methods up to ten bells, except Treble Bob Royal and Stedman Doubles, and among the interesting performances in which he has shared have been the only peal at his own tower by a local band, the first peal of London Bob Triples ever rung and peals of St. Clement's Triples, Little Bob Major, Forward Major and Erin Caters when they were rung for the first time in Wales.

His 248 peals, of which he has conducted 56, have been rung in 46 towers in nine counties and for six associations, while he has rung to peals all the bells in one six, one ten and five eight-bell towers.

**MR. ERNEST STITCH.****SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. J. W. HOBSON.****A POPULAR HULL RINGER.**

The sudden death of John William Hobson, of Hull, on October 21st, at the age of 49 years, came as a great shock to ringing circles on both sides of the River Humber. For a considerable number of years he had been attached to Holy Trinity Church, Hull, where he was a regular member of the company. A very competent and keen exponent of the art, his passing will be a great loss to the neighbouring towers. Of a very genial disposition and very popular wherever he went, he was usually present at the ringing meetings.

On the Saturday previous to his death he was present at the meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association held at Sutton-Hull and appeared to be in his usual good health and spirits, while he also rang at Hull the next day.

Although opportunities for peals were not very frequent for him, he had rung peals in most towers in the district. He was a very reliable ringer and generally to be found excelling himself at the heavy end. His last peal was at his own tower last August, when he rang the 9th to Stedman Caters.

On Monday, October 24th, some of his ringing friends met at Holy Trinity Church and rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters with the bells half-muffled.

He was a popular figure in North Lincolnshire and was a non-resident member of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild. To pay a tribute to his memory, six members of the Lincoln Guild rang a peal of Minor in seven methods, with the bells half-muffled, at St. Peter's Church, Barton-on-Humber.

A FALSE PEAL.**To the Editor.**

Dear Sir.—I regret to say that the peal of Newbury Surprise Major rung at St. James', Bushey, on July 14th, 1938, was false.

The composition, one of Treble Bob by Arthur Knights, is true as such, but is false to Newbury.

I offer my sincere apologies to those who rang in the peal.

H. G. CASHMORE.

Watford

LADIES' GUILD.**SUCCESSFUL INAUGURATION OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT.**

The inaugural meeting of the new Eastern District of the Ladies' Guild was held at Stowmarket, Suffolk, on Saturday, November 12th. This was a most fitting date, as it coincided with the birthday of Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, hon. secretary and treasurer of the Guild.

In all, 24 ladies attended, including Miss E. Steel, the president of the Guild, Mrs. G. W. Fletcher, Mrs. Massey (Surrey), Mrs. Housden, Mrs. Humphrey and Miss P. Humphrey (London), and ladies from Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. The gentlemen also availed themselves of the cordial invitation which had been extended to them and turned up in force.

The meeting began with ringing on the bells of the Parish Church. These are a good peal of eight, with a tenor of 24 cwt., but eight ladies rang a good course of Bob Major prior to the service, which was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Tucker-Harvey. In his address he gave the ladies a warm welcome to Stowmarket. Afterwards he was a guest at tea in the Church Hall, where 41 sat down to the meal, which was very kindly served by some of the lady churchworkers.

After tea, Miss Steel proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for allowing the use of the bells and for his kind words of welcome.

The Vicar, in reply, said he was very pleased to see the ladies at Stowmarket, and hoped that in time they would have some lady ringers of their own. He also made special mention of Mr. W. J. Nevard, of Great Bentley, who was present and who has rung in every county in England and in over 800 towers.

Finally Mr. C. J. Sedgley, in his capacity as Ringing Master, welcomed the Ladies' Guild on behalf of the Suffolk Guild.

Mrs. Fletcher then told the men that they were going to turn them out while they held their business meeting, as the ladies seemed to be shy when the men were present.

Before the business meeting commenced, Miss Steel read a telegram of good wishes from the Northampton District of the Guild. The election of new members then took place to enable them to vote in the subsequent proceedings. These included 12 ringing members and two honorary members. The following officials were elected: Vice-president, Miss Hilda G. Snowden (Halstead); hon. secretary, Miss Sylvia R. E. Bowyer (Ipswich); committee, the Misses Helen W. Bill (Norwich), Lilian D. Le Beau (Bocking), Dorothy F. Woolston (Ipswich) and Vera Wooderham (Stoke Ash); Central Committee representatives, in addition to the vice-president and secretary, Miss H. W. Bill and Miss L. D. Le Beau.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Diss, Norfolk, in January or February of next year, the date to be settled by the secretary.

As there was no further business, the meeting was declared closed and the ladies adjourned to the belfry for more ringing. In the meantime, some of the gentlemen had already adjourned elsewhere to do some 'shopping,' and although Stowmarket is a small town, they found their needs were well catered for.

A highly successful meeting was brought to a close at about 8 p.m. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Grandsire, Stedman and Bob Triples, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major, Cambridge, Superlative and London Surprise Major.

ARMISTICE COMMEMORATION.**RINGING FOR 'REMEMBRANCE DAY.'**

Much ringing was, as usual, done in churches throughout the country in connection with the observation of the twentieth anniversary of the Armistice. We record elsewhere the peals rung—two of them by bands of ex-Service men.

Touches, with half-muffled bells, were rung on Armistice Day and on the preceding and following Sundays in connection with the services of remembrance.

At St. Giles', Desborough, on Armistice Night, a half-muffled quarter-peal of Bob Major was rung, the first by a local band at this church and by all the ringers: Leonard Brown 1, Raymond Law 2, Raymond Idle 3, Fred Kilborn 4, Dennis Yeomans 5, Arthur Idle 6, Alfred Tailby 7, L. W. Kilborn (conductor) 8. Great credit is due to the ringers of the treble, 2, 3 and 5, whose ages are 16, 14, 13 and 14 years respectively.

Touches of 336 Grandsire Triples and 630 Oxford Bob Triples were rung on Armistice night at Bishop's Stortford, Herts, those taking part being Miss D. Wacey, E. Ansell, R. Wood, T. Ward, W. T. Prior, H. Bird, W. Wilkinson, H. M. White and F. Bird (conductor).

A quarter-peal of Bob Major was rung for the Remembrance Day service at St. James', Milnrow, Lancs, on November 6th: A. Withnell 1, A. Buersil 2, D. Hollos 3, S. H. Dearden 4, S. L. Parry 5, G. Staff (conductor) 6, H. Homer 7, J. H. C. Massey 8.

On Saturday, November 12th, at Leicester, with bells half-muffled, an attempt for a memorial Armistice peal was lost after three hours' excellent ringing owing to the indisposition of one of the ringers. The following ten ex-Service men took part: R. Narborough (Cams) treble, F. Bradley (R.E.) 2, E. Morris (R.A.S.C.) 3, J. L. Willers (Leicesters) 4, W. Nichols (Leicesters) 5, W. A. Wood (M.T., R.A.S.C.) 6, F. A. Salter (M.G.C.) 7, W. H. Clarke (Tank Corps) 8, W. Bottrill (Mounted Military Police) 9, C. Harrison (R.A.) 10. Composed by ex-Corpl. Edgar Shepherd, M.M. Conducted by ex-Staff-Sergt. Ernest Morris.

DEATH OF REV. F. J. O. HELMORE. HIS LONG SERVICE TO KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

Hon. Secretary for 38 Years.

We much regret to record the death of Minor-Canon F. J. O. Helmore, at Canterbury, on Tuesday of last week. He was nearly 87 years of age, but up to about a year ago had continued to lead a fairly active life, and when the Central Council met at Whitsun, 1937, he it was who, on behalf of the Church, welcomed the members to Canterbury. Advancing age had, of course, considerably curtailed his ringing activities, and his last peal was rung ten years ago. Nevertheless, he continued to take the liveliest interest in ringing affairs and particularly in the Kent County Association, of which he was hon. secretary for the long period of 38 years.

Born in London on December 2nd, 1851, Frederick John Ottley Helmore was educated at St. Paul's School, where he gained one of the Mercers Company's exhibitions in 1870 and went up to Oriel College, Oxford, taking his B.A. in 1874 and M.A. in 1877. He was ordained, at Hereford, deacon 1875, priest 1876, being at the time an assistant Vicar choral in the Cathedral. After serving at Stratford-on-Avon (1877-1878) as curate and precentor of Holy Trinity (where Shakespeare lies buried), he was appointed a Minor Canon of Canterbury Cathedral in 1878 and precentor of the Cathedral in 1883. Later, from 1912 to 1927, he held, in conjunction with these offices, the living of Stodmarsh. Advancing age compelled him to resign the office of Minor Canon last year.

For 60 years he had resided in Canterbury, most of the time in the Precincts, and it can almost be said that he knew, as well as loved, every stone of this old Cathedral. He had taken part in the enthronement of four Archbishops—Benson, Temple, Davidson and Lang—and in the installation of six Deans. Payne Smith, Farrar, Wace, Bell, Sheppard and Hewlett Johnson, while he had shared in all the other memorable services held during his long residence.



THE LATE REV. F. J. O. HELMORE.

EARLY RINGING CAREER.

The almost accidental circumstances under which the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore became a ringer are interesting. In the year 1882 a company of amateurs applied to Dean Payne Smith for permission to learn to ring on the Cathedral bells. This the Dean declined to grant unless they could induce one of the Cathedral clergy to superintend their practices, and he recommended them to apply to the junior minor canon. It was not until it had been clearly pointed out that their chance of pulling the Cathedral bells depended entirely upon his consent to join them that Mr. Helmore was prevailed upon to touch a bell rope. For months these amateurs attended a weekly practice, but made very little progress, and by the spring of 1884 Mr. Helmore was so heartily sick of scrambling through a plain course of Grandsire Doubles that he was preparing to give up all idea of becoming a change ringer. Fortunately, however, the then conductor of the Cathedral ringers (Mr. G. Stancombe) interested himself in some of the party, and by inducing them to practise with some of the Cathedral men, soon had them ringing Grandsire Triples.

Mr. Helmore was elected president of the Cathedral company in 1885, and occupied the position to the last. In July, 1891, he succeeded the Rev. E. W. Carpenter as general hon. secretary of the Kent County Association, and discharged the duties of the office with the utmost efficiency and success until, in 1929, after 38 years' service, advancing age compelled him to relinquish the work. In 1907 the members presented him with a handsome roll-top desk, with a silver bell in the centre internal panel, in recognition of his labours for 25 years in the interests of the association.

On the occasion of the jubilee of the association, a year after his retirement, a further presentation was made to Mr. Helmore. It was a memorable occasion, at which 350 members of the association were present and the Archbishop of Canterbury presided. Mr. Helmore received at the hands of the Archbishop a cheque, a case of pipes and an illuminated address, recording the members' warm appreciation of his services as honorary secretary for 38 years and

the high standard of efficiency attained by the association due to his loving care and devotion.

The address was not only signed by the officers of the association, but was unique in that it also bore the signatures of two Archbishops, Lord Davidson and Archbishop Lang.

The Archbishop, in making the presentation, said he could only hope Mr. Helmore would remember for the rest of his days the entire sincerity of the thanks to him which he knew was in all their hearts. It was a remarkable thing for one man as secretary to have guided their work for all those 38 years. He became their secretary the very year in which he (the Archbishop) was ordained in the Church of God, and all that time Mr. Helmore had given himself to their service. They could have had no one more fitted to be their secretary, for he had been for fifty years connected with the Mother Church, not only of Kent but of the whole of English Christendom, and no one could be a more fitting link between the art of music and the art of bellringing and worship than their secretary for these 38 years. Mr. Helmore knew what his (the speaker's) gratitude was to him for the work he had done in the Cathedral, and, that day, for all the work he had done for the association. He knew that he would feel in that company of grateful and affectionate friends that he had received an ample reward for all the labour he had given to this cause, but he (the Archbishop) was permitted in their name to give him some more visible and tangible expression of their gratitude, and he felt it to be a very great honour to be allowed to do so.

ASSOCIATION'S GROWTH UNDER MR. HELMORE.

It is not too much to say that the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore was responsible more than any other man for the building up of the Kent Association to its present high level among the ringing organisations of this country, and giving it a financial standing beyond that of any other similar society.

The remarkable growth of the association during Mr. Helmore's term of office may be judged from the fact that when he took over the duties in 1901 the association had a membership of about 400 and a balance in hand of £90. When he retired the resident membership was nearly one thousand, non-resident members had increased from 13 to nearly 250, and the funds had risen to £620; in addition to which a belfry repairs fund, started in 1904, had paid out £143 and had a balance of £101; and the Benevolent Fund, set up in 1912, had paid out £85 and had a balance in hand of £131.

Mr. Helmore represented the Kent County Association on the Central Council from 1894 to 1929, and he was a member of the College Youths, the Oxford, Salisbury and Winchester Diocesan Guilds, the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, the Devon Guild, the Surrey Association and the London County Association.

Mr. Helmore rang his first peal at Faversham on November 10th, 1884, and scored his first peal of Stedman Triples with the College Youths (at Bishopsgate, conducted by James Pettit) in 1887. His first peals of Stedman Caters, Double Norwich and Superlative were rung with the Oxford Diocesan Guild, in conjunction with the Rev. F. E. Robinson and James Washbrook. The majority of Mr. Helmore's peals, which numbered 205, were rung for the Kent County Association, his last being the 'Frederick' peal of Stedman Triples rung at Rainham on September 8th, 1928. A 'name' peal had long been one of his desires, and it gave him the greatest pleasure, especially to know that the band were all men of Kent, or Kentish men. Mr. Helmore's 200th peal was a peal of Stedman Caters at Canterbury Cathedral in 1923, which he conducted and which is suitably recorded in the belfry. Another notable peal in which he took part was a clerical peal of Stedman Caters at Warwick on October 11th, 1910, and in the following year he was one of a band of parsons who attempted a peal of Stedman Cinques at High Wycombe, which unfortunately failed.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral of the late Rev. F. J. O. Helmore took place at Canterbury on Saturday, and among the large number who attended were Messrs. F. M. Mitchell (hon. general secretary), W. J. Jeffries (trustee), B. Luck, A. G. Hill, P. Page and G. H. Spice (district secretaries), W. Haigh, W. Spice, T. E. Sone and F. Brett, representing the other officers, and about 20 members of the Kent County Association.

The first part of the service was held in the Lady Chapel, and, as wished by Mr. Helmore, was simple in character, there being no music. Resting on the coffin, which bore the inscription, 'Frederick John Ottley Helmore, Priest, born 2nd December, 1851, died 8th November, 1938,' was a beautiful cross of flowers, 'In affectionate remembrance, from the Kent County Association of Change Ringers.'

The opening prayers were read by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Maidstone (Canon Sopwith), the lesson was read by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Canterbury, and the concluding prayers by the Rev. Canon G. C. E. Rvley (a life-long friend of Canon Helmore).

The interment took place at the cemetery, and, in a drizzle of rain, the committal prayers were read by Canon Potter. Thus passed from sight one who had endeared himself in the hearts of all Kent ringers.

The photograph, given above, is by W. Fisk-Moore, Canterbury, and was taken at the desk presented to the late Rev. F. J. O. Helmore by the Kent County Association.

BALDOCK, HERTS.—A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples for harvest thanksgiving service on Oct. 9th: E. Ward (first quarter-peal) 1. E. Buck 2, W. Pooley 3, C. Kinch 4, A. Rose 5, R. Newman 6, P. Tompkins (conductor) 7, W. Collins 8.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS' DINNER.

(Continued from page 735)

PROBLEM CLERGY CAN HELP TO SOLVE.

Mr. J. Waugh, in submitting the toast of 'The Visitors,' welcomed on behalf of the society the clerical guests. It was a fact, he said, that the support of the clergy was an accepted, and indeed, a welcome, feature of that gathering. That support had the two-fold effect of being at once a reminder of the religious significance of the society's work and an encouraging sign of the Church authorities' interest in the society's welfare. Nowadays it was acknowledged on all hands that the interest and active support of the clergy were absolutely essential to the well-being of the ringing Exercise, even though it was also recognised that bellringing, as a branch of church work, should derive a sufficiency of inherent driving power from that fact alone. Actually it did do so; but only to a limited extent. The difficulty was that ringing was a highly technical art which was organised and practised on a purely voluntary basis, so that it was easy enough to set a standard of excellency, but extremely difficult to attain it. One would always find plenty of people who were both able and willing to make some sort of bell noises, but the training of them into a band of really competent ringers was a matter requiring much time and patience. There was only one royal road to success in that direction; only one way in which ultimate efficiency could be secured, and that was by the plentiful use of that peculiar mixture of personality and enthusiasm which men called 'leadership,' and that leadership must be exerted to the full in each one of the numerous local centres which go to make up the ringing world as they knew it to-day, for it is there that the true strength of the movement lay. Unfortunately, however, it was just in these local centres, where any form of leadership was frequently found to be utterly lacking, with the consequent result of stagnation. It was this stagnation, this weakness at the roots, or, rather, the avoidance of it, which was the chief of the many problems which confronted the organisers of the Exercise to-day. The associations, of course, could do a little about it; they could recognise the danger and they could point it out, but beyond that they could do nothing. It was only when the clergy came to the rescue with their right of saying who should or who should not be in charge of their belfries that any real progress could be made and the bogey of stagnation forced into the background at last. That was only one case where the co-operation of the clergy affected the life blood of the movement, and, of course, there were many others, for their work had the same ultimate object (applause).

The Rev. A. Lombardini, in replying to the toast, expressed his warm appreciation of the help which was given at St. Lawrence Jewry by Mr. A. A. Hughes in connection with the bells. Mr. Hughes, he said, took the greatest interest in the ringers, and Mrs. Hughes was also always ready to come and delight them with her handbells. Mr. Hughes was a kind of fairy 'godfather' to their young ringers, who were getting along splendidly and endeavouring to carry on the traditions of the older generation in the belfry. The Ancient Society ought to be tremendously proud and happy to think of the influence they held in London. He liked to see the friendship which existed among them all and which was demonstrated by that gathering. The way they greeted their old friend Canon Coleridge must have given him great joy. He congratulated Mr. Jack Waugh on his speech. He felt Mr. Waugh had almost missed his vocation. He ought to have been a parson (laughter and applause). Mr. Lombardini went on to say that they had had a little difficulty with the bells at St. Lawrence Jewry, owing to the noise, of which the inhabitants complained, but Mr. Hughes had helped them by louvring up the openings, and the people now loved to hear the bells on Sunday evenings. Some even said that they could not hear the bells, but he had told them that, while they might not be able to do so, the angels could. The part the ringers played in the belfries was one not only of delight to the people who lived around their steeples, but it was a work for God, and the angels heard their efforts and appreciated them (applause).

A toast to 'Absent Friends' was drunk on the call of the Master, who asked the company to remember specially Mr. C. S. Burden, who had just come out of hospital, after a serious illness, and Mr. Bert Langdon, whose wife had that morning undergone a serious operation.

COLLEGE YOUTHS AND LADIES.

Mr. E. P. Duffield proposed 'Kindred Associations.' There was a time, he said, not so many years ago, when, under the leadership and inspiration of that great ringer, no longer with them, William Pye, to whose greatness he would never weary of paying testimony, he would and did go to any part of the country. During those trips he made many friends and had received many favours at the hands of the officers of local associations—he believed some thirty or more of them had extended to him their non-resident life membership. It, therefore, gave him tremendous pleasure, for the second year in succession, to propose the toast of kindred societies. The officers of kindred societies got, as they got in the College Youths, an occasional brickbat thrown at them on various subjects. Their old society received one or two favourite missiles, but something, he did not know whether it was 300 years' existence, gave them a fairly tough skin (laughter). One of the favourite missiles hurled at the society was that it did not choose to reopen its membership to the fair sex. He would like to ask those who made the complaint whether they would, for the sake of consistency, advocate the Ladies' Guild opening its membership to Youths, Youths of school age or even up to nonagenarianism? It would be just as reasonable as to ask the College Youths to open their membership to ladies. Then there were those

who would like to see the society brush aside the old rule preventing dual membership. Had they ever known a visitor who attended a College Youths' meeting or practice who was not received with every cordiality, whether or not a member of the Royal Cumberlands, or for that matter of the Ladies' Guild? (hear, hear). Their old society had never, as far as he knew, made any pretence at being a territorial society. They lived in the midst of territorial societies, and very live ones, and they were happy to welcome them that night in large numbers (applause). Their society had its job to do and it was a pretty considerable job—it provided the ringing at certain of the London churches. More than that, it provided also about 70 practices in the course of the year. That alone, he thought, justified the existence of the society, and they owed a tremendous debt to the officers for the work which they did in keeping those practices going. Reference had been made to the amazing progress of the Stepney ringers. These men would tell them that they owed a great deal to being able to get to the ten and twelve bell practices of the society, where experienced ringers gave them every opportunity of becoming proficient in striking on all numbers of bells. The society did something else which other societies could not very well do. It was situated at that great metropolis and did what it could to make itself a social centre of ringing, and its work on the social side, which was fostered in addition to practical ringing, was appreciated.

A WISE CHOICE.

In coupling the name of Mr. G. H. Cross, Master of the Royal Cumberland Youths, with the toast, Mr. Duffield said it was a particular pleasure to him when Mr. Cross was elected to that office during his (Mr. Duffield's) mastership of the College Youths, for Mr. Cross was one of his oldest ringing acquaintances; they rang their first peal together nearly 25 years ago and they were natives of the same city. He regretted the absence of their old friend, Mr. Sidney Palmer, who was also to have responded to the toast, but he was very glad to welcome Mr. Albert Walker after his illness. They rejoiced to know he was again restored to health (applause).

Mr. Cross, who first responded, congratulated the society upon its 301st anniversary, and said he was pleased to see the dinner so well attended and to see so many of the old members present. Such gatherings did much for the welfare of ringing and he hoped they might long continue.

Mr. Albert Walker, who also replied, joined in the regret felt at the absence of Mr. Palmer, who was one of the most regular provincial attendants at that dinner. He congratulated the society upon having found in Mr. Peck such an excellent successor to Mr. Cockerill, for during the latter years of Mr. Cockerill's life there had, he knew, been a feeling of anxiety as to how the office of secretary could be worthily filled. In choosing Mr. Peck, the society had chosen well (applause). Mr. Walker said he first met the College Youths in 1896 and could speak from personal experience of the kindly treatment provincial ringers always received. Referring to a recent suggestion that a national association of ringers should be formed, Mr. Walker said he hoped the county and diocesan associations would continue to exist. If they had a national association he supposed they would have only one dinner a year—and that would never do (laughter and applause). Each association had its traditions and its work to do, and he was certain the best way of carrying on the art of ringing was through associations such as they had to-day. Without these associations ringing would lose its individuality.

Mr. G. Cecil proposed 'The Press.' He remarked that they were all pleased to see so much regarding the Exercise appearing in the daily papers from time to time, and it was gratifying to feel they had the support of the Press which the Exercise rightly deserved, but it was a pity that inaccurate reports sometimes appeared, which led to misunderstandings and reflected upon their activities. It was important, therefore, that ringers should take care that any information they gave should be absolutely accurate. Mr. Cecil went on to refer to the important place which 'The Ringing World' occupied in the Exercise. Without it, he said, they would be at a great loss. Its articles dealt with many of their problems, and, while they did not all necessarily agree with what was said, they knew they were written in good faith (applause).

The toast was acknowledged by Mr. J. S. Goldsmith.

During the evening an excellent course of Stedman Cinques was rung on handbells by Messrs. W. Williams, F. Pervin, A. Walker, F. J. Smallwood, J. Thomas and E. P. Duffield. Mrs. A. A. Hughes played handbell solos with all her customary art and charm, and was presented by the Master with a bouquet of pink roses and carnations, which she gracefully acknowledged.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Which of the following statements am I to accept as truth?

Mr. F. E. Dawe, in 'The Ringing World,' page 718, 1938:—

'... and Sir Edmund, as chairman, caused the order to be given to Messrs. J. W. Taylor and Sons, of Loughborough, for the present ring of twelve with a three-ton tenor in D flat!' 'Clocks, Watches and Bells,' Sir Edmund Beckett, Bart., 1874, page 340:—

'There is a project for a large peal of 10 or 12 bells for St. Paul's Cathedral, and I have recommended a B tenor of three tons for that.'

H. WALKER.

Monkseaton, Northumberland.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**TONBRIDGE DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP.**

The annual meeting of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association was held at Tonbridge on October 29th, when over 70 members attended. The bells were put to good use during the afternoon and evening, under the direction of the Master, Mr. E. J. Ladd.

Service was held in the Parish Church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. Frank Child), assisted by his curates (the Revs. P. Gillingham and W. H. Parsons). The collection, in aid of the Church Restoration Fund, realised 25s. The Vicar presided at tea, at Carlton Cafe.

At the business meeting which followed, Mr. E. H. Lewis was in the chair, and those present included Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., Major F. A. Yorke (Durham), Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Housden, Mr. T. Saunders, Mr. E. Everest and Mr. E. J. Ladd.

In presenting his annual report, the secretary (Mr. A. E. Richardson) said that the thing uppermost in his mind was the great success of the quarterly meetings. The total attendance at the meetings had been 294. With regard to membership, in spite of 24 new members during the year, the figure was the lowest since 1920.

'I should like to stress the need for a great effort by ringers and clergy in the district to prevent a further decrease in the coming year,' said the secretary. This year, he stated, they had lost three friends in the departure from the district of the Rev. E. L. M. Allen, from Edenbridge, and the Rev. Langston from Sevenoaks, while the Rev. F. L. Schreiber, late Vicar of Shipbourne, had also retired from the active list owing to ill-health.

Mr. Richardson thanked the local secretaries who had helped him in various ways, and the clergy who had kindly allowed the use of the bells and who had conducted the ringers' services; also Mr. E. H. Lewis for his great help as chairman during the year, Mr. G. Edwards for his work at the Hever meeting, Major the Hon. J. J. Astor, Mr. Chapman, of Edenbridge, and Mr. E. J. Ladd for his work as Ringing Master. The report, together with the balance sheet, was adopted.

The Ringing Master's report, an innovation, it having been the first year the district has had a ringing master, was presented by Mr. E. J. Ladd, who said that at the meeting at Goudhurst, 15 touches in eight methods were brought round, and rounds for beginners; at Hever, 20 touches in various methods had been rung, and at Brasted standard methods up to London Surprise were brought round. Mr. Ladd pointed out that although, on the whole, the striking had not been too bad at the meetings, the need for putting the striking first could not be too strongly emphasised.

Two new honorary members were elected, the Rev. F. W. Argyle, Rector of Sevenoaks, and Mr. B. C. Flemons, a churchwarden.

Mr. A. E. Richardson was unanimously re-elected secretary, and, in acknowledging his election, said it gave him great pleasure to carry on the office, but he would like to see several things 'boosted' up a little more, including reports from tower secretaries, in regard to their activities at home, whether the towers were holding regular practices and maintaining a fair amount of service ringing.

Mr. T. Saunders and Mr. E. Everest were elected to the committee. Mr. E. J. Ladd was unanimously re-elected Ringing Master.

It was decided that the towers for next year's meetings should be Speldhurst (February), East Peckham (May), and Penshurst (July).

A vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. Frank Child for the use of the bells and conducting the service.

In replying to the vote of thanks accorded to him, Mr. E. H. Lewis said he would always have the welfare of the association at heart, and particularly the Tonbridge District members.

Other votes of thanks were passed, and the meeting closed with change ringing on the handbells.

**A NEW TYPE OF 'SILENCER.'
TRIAL ON A HEAVY SIX.**

The peal at Bray, Berkshire, on November 5th, provided a good test for a new type of silencer, the invention of Mr. Sharpe, of Launton, Oxon. Peal ringing on this fine ring of bells, the heaviest six in the county (the tenor is 25 cwt.), has always been very much curtailed owing to the excessive noise in the vicinity of the tower. On this occasion, however, several visitors, including Mr. George Gilbert, of Burnham, were present in the churchyard during the ringing, and were able to testify to the fact that the sound was so much diminished that no objection could possibly have been made. Inside the tower the bells could be heard clearly, and striking could be judged as readily as under normal conditions.

This type of silencer marks a complete departure from all previously designed types, and requires no special fitting to individual bells. It will fit any weight of bell within wide limits, and is so simply adjusted that after the first application it can be put on and taken off literally with two turns of the hand. A further advantage is the fact that the silencer can be adjusted to give any desired strength of tone.

After the peal at Bray the silencers were carefully inspected and showed no sign of frictional wearing, so they are likely to prove very economical in use.

We much regret that, owing to pressure on our space, many reports are unavoidably held over.

NOTICES.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Sacred Trinity Church, Salford, on Saturday, November 19th. Tower open for ringing at 6 o'clock. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend. Reports now ready.—Joseph H. Ridyard, Branch Sec., 35, The Crescent, Worsley.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Farnham District) & **LADIES' GUILD** (Southern Branch).—Combined meeting at Yorktown, Camberley, on Saturday, November 19th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business meetings 5.15 in the Parish Hall.—H. F. Mills, Hon. Sec., Ladies' Guild; C. W. Denyer, 120, Ash Road, Aldershot.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—The annual meeting of the above branch will be held at Newbury on Saturday, November 19th. Bells (10) available at 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., at 6d. each. All ringers will be made welcome.—H. W. Curtis, Hon. Sec., Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, Berks.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Merthyr Tydfil on Saturday, Nov. 19th. Bells (8) available from 3 o'clock. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., Cartref, 94, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The next meeting will be held at Lea, on Saturday, Nov. 19th. Bells (6, tenor 12½ cwt.) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—E. J. P. Davies, Hon. Dis. Sec., Blyton Vicarage, Gainsborough.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Allesley, near Coventry, on Saturday, Nov. 19th. Bells (6) available during afternoon and evening. Tea at the Rainbow Inn at 5 o'clock, 1s. per head. Visitors cordially invited.—D. E. Beamish, 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next ringing meeting will be held at Stoke Golding on Saturday, Nov. 19th. Cards for tea, please, to Mr. H. Hill, Wykin Lane, Stoke Golding, near Nuneaton. Bells will be ready at 3.30 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

TAWSTOCK, N. DEVON.—Service for the reopening of the bells at three o'clock to-morrow, Saturday, 19th inst., a ring of six restored and augmented to eight by John Taylor and Co.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The district annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Saturday, Nov. 19th. St. Peter's bells (10) open from 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m., to be followed by tea at the Blacksmiths Arms 5.30 p.m. Election of officers and secretary's report, etc. All district ringers are asked to attend. Please notify me.—Harold V. Frost, Dis. Sec., 4, Kimberley Road, St. Albans.

WORCESTER AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Stoulton on Saturday, Nov. 19th. The tower has recently been rebuilt, five old bells recast and one added by Mears and Stainbank. Bells available 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and after meeting. Service at 5 p.m., followed by tea (6d.) and meeting.—J. E. Newman, Hinton, Evesham. Phone Evesham 6061.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—A meeting will be held at Clifton on Saturday, Nov. 19th. Bells (6) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All ringers will be welcome. A good company is requested. Please come.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells (St. Peter's) on Saturday, Nov. 19th (please note date). Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea by kind invitation. All are welcome. Those requiring tea should notify Mr. E. J. Ladd, 4, William Street, Tunbridge Wells. — B. Saunders, 18, New Road, Ridgewood, Uckfield, Sussex.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Crewkerne Deanery Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Seavington, St. Mary, on Saturday, Nov. 19th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting.—D. G. Taylor, Ilminster.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Central Branch.—A meeting will be held at March, Cambs, on Saturday, November 19th. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Ringers' service if arranged. Tea at 5 p.m., followed by the meeting.—F. Warrington, Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—Combined practice will take place from 7.30 to 9 p.m. at the following towers: All Saints', Hertford (10 bells), November 21st; Cheshunt (8), December 6th; Broxborne (8), December 14th. Please attend and help us with the young ones. Ringing for all. All are welcome. Please note the dates and come.—A. Lawrence, Dis. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for Nov.: *St. Mary-le-Bow, 22nd; St. Magnus', Thames Street, 24th; St. Giles', Cripplegate, 29th, all 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards. The sum of 1/8, which enables members who have not attended 20 times during the past year to vote on matters of finance, is now due.—A. B. Peck, Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—A practice meeting will be held at St. Giles, Cripplegate, on Wednesday, Nov. 23rd, from 7.30 to 9 p.m. All welcomed.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's Church, Nottingham, on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24th, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. All ringers welcome.—I. B. Thompson, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—City Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at All Saints', High Street, on Saturday, November 26th. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Ringing 3.30, All Saints', and at other churches in the evening as announced. Ringers wishing to attend and requiring tea, please notify by November 22nd to E. J. B. Morton, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, 11, Water Eaton Road, Oxford.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Nelson on Saturday, Nov. 26th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Members and non-members cordially invited. Reports to hand. Subscriptions due. — F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—North-Western District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Wimbledon, on Saturday, Nov. 26th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service 5 o'clock. Tea in the Welcome Hall at 5.45 p.m., followed by business meeting. The bells of Merton Parish Church will be available for ringing in the evening. Numbers for tea to be sent to Mr. W. Arthur Taylor, 25, Beverley Avenue, Wimbledon, S.W.20, not later than Wednesday, Nov. 23rd. Nominations for district officers may be made at this meeting.—F. G. Woodiss, Hon. Dis. Sec., 28, Strathearn Road, Sutton.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—The district annual meeting will be held at Wanstead on Saturday, Nov. 26th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Will all those intending to be present kindly advise me not later than Wednesday, Nov. 23rd? — E. J. Butler, Dis. Sec., 313, Mawney's Road, Romford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The next meeting will be held at Twickenham on Saturday, Nov. 26th. Church of St. Mary (8 bells, tenor 18½ cwt.). Ringing 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting at St. Mary's Hall 5 p.m. Ringing after. Names for tea to the undersigned not later than the 24th.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, West Ealing, W.13.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A meeting will be held at Old Woking on Saturday, Nov. 26th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Will all those requiring tea please notify Mr. D. Munday, 92, High St., Old Woking.—W. F. J. Cope, Hon. Dis. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—The annual general meeting of this district will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, Nov. 26th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., tea and meeting after. As this is the Silver Jubilee of the rehanging and augmentation of the Cathedral bells, it is hoped there will be a good attendance, and in order to assist in the catering arrangements it will be appreciated if those who require tea will let me know by Wednesday, Nov. 23rd.—A. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Upper Arbour Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Cuckfield on Saturday, November 26th. Bells at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 and tea to follow. Names for tea Wednesday prior to meeting, please. All welcome. Note my new address.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

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LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Gosberton on Saturday, November 26th. Bells available from 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m. Business meeting afterwards. Will those intending to be present kindly let me know by November 22nd?—Geo. Ladd, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck, Spalding.

HAWKHURST AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A meeting will be held at Battle on Saturday, November 26th. Bells available 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Come and make this meeting a Superlative success.—J. G. Powell, Hon. Sec., 1, Woodbury Road, Hawkhurst, Kent.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Idle on Saturday, November 26th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Teas can be obtained near the church. Business meeting 7.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at All Souls', Bolton, on Saturday, November 26th. Bells available 3 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Hyde on Saturday, November 26th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. For tea please advise Mr. T. Wilde, 23, York Road, Gee Cross, Hyde.—C. K. Lewis, Hon. Sec.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Daventry Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Dodford (6 bells) on Saturday, November 26th. Usual arrangements.—W. C. Moore, Braunston Road, Daventry, Northants.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Braintree on Nov. 26th. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Booking bells (8) will be available in the evening. Will all those intending to be present please notify H. G. Felton, 42, Panfield Lane, Braintree, not later than Wednesday, Nov. 23rd?—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 3, Belle Vue, Heddingham Road, Halstead.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next monthly practice has been arranged at Monks Risborough (6 bells), on Saturday, November 26th, at 4 p.m. Tea, at 1s. per head, for those who notify me not later than November 21st.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—A meeting will be held at Tilney All Saints' on Saturday, November 26th. Bells (6) at 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at 5. All ringers welcome.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—South Norfolk Branch.—Our last meeting this year will be at Attleborough on Saturday, November 26th. Bells from 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. at the Angel Hotel. Meeting follows. Cards from those requiring tea by 23rd, please.—A. G. Harrison, 90, Denmark Street, Diss.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Thorne on Saturday, November 26. Bells (8) ready at 3 p.m. The Vicar has kindly offered to arrange for tea, so will all who intend being present please let me know by Wednesday, 23rd?—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec., 1, Grosvenor Crescent, Arksey, near Doncaster.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Archdeaconry of Ely Branch.—A meeting will be held at Little Shelford on Saturday, November 26th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea in Village Hall 5 p.m. Stapleford bells from 7 to 9 p.m. May I assure all who have supported our meetings so well that a hearty welcome awaits them at this, the last meeting of the year?—C. W. Cook, Dis. Sec., Newton, Cambridge.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (Northern District) **AND ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.**—The joint meeting arranged for November 26th, at Hampstead, Highgate and Gospel Oak is unavoidably postponed to December 3rd. Further particulars later. Names for tea, please, by December 1st to one of the following: James G. A. Prior, 81, Denbigh Street, Westminster, S.W.1.; Norman Summerhayes, 28, Bean Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.

OVER PARISH CHURCH, CHESHIRE.—Ring of 8 bells rehung in new framework by John Taylor and Co. Re-opening service Sunday, Nov. 27th, at 10.30 a.m. Preacher, the Venble. R. H. V. Burne, Archdeacon of Chester.

SOBERTON, HANTS.—Thanksgiving Service for the restoration of the bells will be held on Sunday, November 27th, at 11 o'clock; preacher, the Bishop of Portsmouth. All ringers welcome. Bells available from 10 a.m. and after the service. A ring of eight tuned and rehung by John Taylor and Co.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Cheltenham, on Saturday, Dec. 3rd. Bells (12) available from 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.30, free to all those who notify me by Dec. 1st. All ringers welcome.—Walter Yeend, Branch Hon. Sec., Mill-field, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hythe on Saturday, December 3rd. Bells ready at 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15 p.m.—P. Page, Hon. Dis. Sec., 110, Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—A meeting will be held at Woodbridge on Saturday, December 3rd. Bells (8) available 3 p.m., also Hasketon (6). Tea at Howe's Cafe, 9d. each, 5 p.m. Committee meeting to follow.—H. G. Herbert, Hon. Sec., 61, Acton Lane, Sudbury.

SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern District.—The annual meeting will be held at Cadoxton, near Neath, on Saturday, December 3rd. Bells (6) available 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., with tea and business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. Numbers for tea by November 29th certain.—E. Stitch, Hon. Dis. Sec., 21, Cambrian Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, December 3rd. Bells available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—Exeter Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Sidwell's, Exeter, on Saturday, December 3rd. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 o'clock in the Institute. Will bands and visitors attending kindly notify me not later than November 28th?—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

LADIES' GUILD.—London District.—A meeting will be held at Kingston-on-Thames on Saturday, December 3rd. Bells (10) available 2.30 to 4.30. Tea and meeting in Oak Cafe at 4.45. Service 6 o'clock. Ringing after service till 9 o'clock. Postcards for tea to Mr. F. E. Hawthorne, 39, Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, not later than Wednesday, November 30th. Subscriptions for year ending June, 1939, now due.—I. R. Housden, 20, Fairwood Court, Fairlop Road, E.11. Phone, Ley 3850.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—A by-meeting will be held at St. Laurence's (Ramsgate) on Saturday, December 3rd. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5, at 1s. per head. Please assist by sending your names to Mr. L. A. Porritt, 18, Picton Road, Ramsgate, so as to arrive not later than Thursday, December 1st.—B. J. Luck, Hon. Dis. Sec., 20, Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Southgate, on Saturday, December 3rd. Bells from 3 o'clock. Service at 5. Tea at 1s. in the Walker Hall, The Green, at 5.30. Please advise me by November 30th. All ringers welcomed. Bus route 29 from Victoria, or Tube to Southgate.—C. T. Coles, for Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4. Phone, Larkwood 1959.



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