

# THE RINGING WORLD

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL  
OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

*The ecclesiastical parish of Christ Church, Erith, in Kent, was formed on October 20, 1874, with the Rev. Robert Wood as the first vicar, the present vicar being the Rev. G. S. Tyers. The Church, which cost approximately £8,000, is built in the 13th century style, in brick and stone and is cruciform in shape and nobly proportioned. The hammer beam roof rests upon beautifully carved stone corbels and every detail in the construction and equipment is as near perfection as possible, while its rich decorations and general design have caused experts in ecclesiastical architecture to describe it as one of the most beautiful of late Victorian churches in Kent.*

In the church is a beautiful set of 12 murals shared equally between the two aisles. Eight are scenes depicting events in the history of the English Church from AD 303 to AD 870.

All the windows are of stained glass though they were not all installed at the time of the consecration. The stained glass windows were gradually installed to replace plain glass over a period from 1874 to 1909. The five windows in the sanctuary each depict five scenes in the life of Christ. Other windows are memorials to past church dignitaries, some depicting parables such as "The Sower" and "The Prodigal Son". The fine west windows represent the "Te Deum".

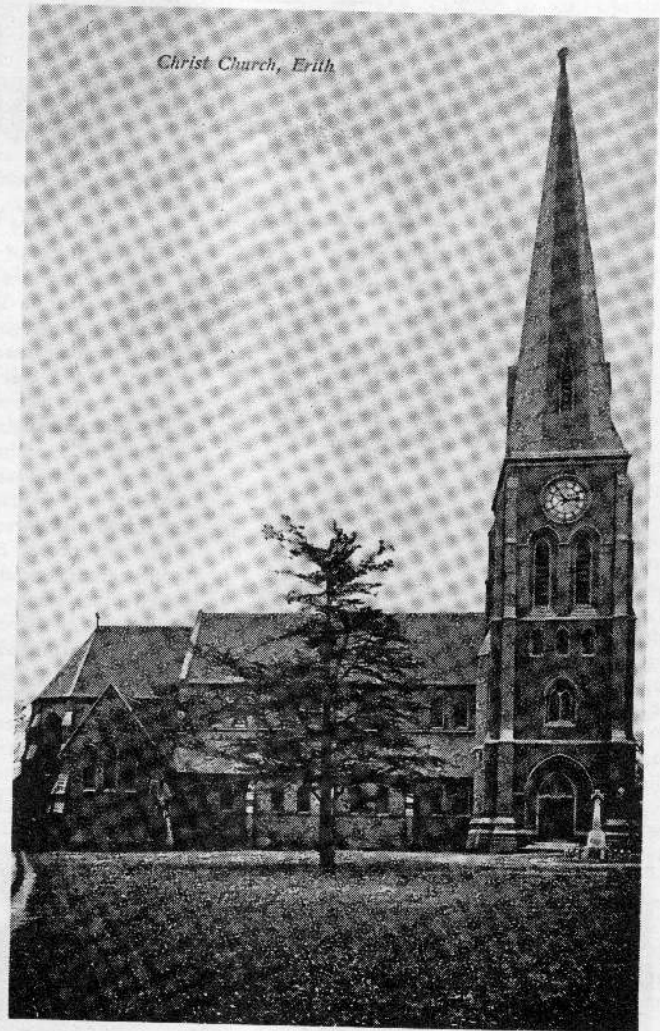
### The tower and spire

In the original plans of the church the tower and spire were not erected until 1915. Canon Boulden offered to defray the cost of completing the church by the erection of the tower and spire with a ring of bells and building operations commenced in the spring of 1914, the architects being Messrs. St. Aubyn and Wadling, who had been responsible for the design of the main building.

The cost of the tower, spire and bells was £5,776 4s, a personal gift of Canon A. W. Boulden. The clock cost £250, which was met by public subscription.

The total height of the tower is 71ft. 9ins. and the spire 88ft. 3ins. making a total of 160ft. above floor level. The main entrance, facing north, has a tympanum in which is a sculptured representation of Christ, The Good Shepherd. Over 36,000 slates on edge in six-inch squares, constitute the tower floor.

## Christ Church Erith Kent



### The bells

The bells were cast by Warner's of London, and the ring is unusual in that each bell has a different type of headstock. The reason given for this is that the bells were one of the last rings to be cast by Warner's before going out of business, and they had to use the available headstocks. They are also unusual in that they swing in the same direction.

The weight of the tenor is 17cwt. 23lbs. and the octave is in the key of E-flat.

The first peal, immediately after the dedication ceremony on June 5, 1915, was by the Kent County Association and was Double Norwich CB Major in 3hrs. 8mins.

The present members of the band are:— Mr. A. J. Hill (tower captain), Mrs. M. Hill, Misses D. & K. Hill, Mr. & Mrs. A. Patten, Mr. C. Brett-Smith, Mr. J. Bowsher, Miss J. Bowsher, Miss E. Smith, Mrs. A. Saunders, Mr. & Mrs. C. Jeal, Miss H. Jeal, Mr. G. Huckstepp, Mr. J. Hunt.

(See also p. 299)



In conjunction with this week's cover illustration this photo is of some of the Erith, Kent, ringers on an outing. There are several visitors in the picture and a number of the Erith band were not present, whilst Jill Bowsher took the photograph.

Derby DA

**Ringing Contest**

Some 40 members and friends were present when the Chesterfield District held its annual ringing contest on March 11, the venue of Blackwell being a new one in the competition's 16-year history. Although it was obviously hoped that a different venue would stimulate fresh interest, moving the competition into March for the first time ever seemed to have the reverse effect as the entry of five teams actually represented only four out of the District's 23 towers.

Nevertheless the adjudicator, Mr. J. J. L. Gilbert (Sheffield), although not exactly overworked, said he had enjoyed judging the contest. Results: 1st Old Whittington (Norwich) 219 points; 2nd Chesterfield "A" 176; 3rd Bolsover (Cambridge) 174; 4th Chesterfield "B" (Call-changes) 134; and 5th Killamarsh (Grandsire) 124.

Following the presentation of the Newman Cup to the Old Whittington team, who, together with Chesterfield "A", go forward to the county final in May, the meeting concluded with thanks to all. M.P.P.

**Farewell to Harold Walker**

On March 6, a number of York ringers, past and present, together with representatives of the Dean and Chapter, gathered at St. William's College to pay their respects to the retiring president. The Society's and the Minster gifts were presented by Dr. Jasper (Dean) and after brief speeches the occasion was recorded by the local Press.

Harold first rang on Armistice Day 1918 and became a member of the Yorkshire Association in 1919. He had been a member of the Minster Society since 1935 and its president since 1950, a proud record, and it is only the 100 steps up to the ringing chamber that have "floored" him now.

We hope to see Harold on Sundays from time to time and wish him a peaceful retirement. It is our intention to elect him the Society's first honorary vice-president, when the rules have been suitably amended.

The new president is Bert Sutton who was for many years ringing master at St. Mary's, Scarborough, and has been a member of the Yorkshire Association since 1944.



The Dean (Dr. Jasper) making the presentation.



This photograph from the Beaconsfield Observer is of some of the ringers of St. Mary's Parish Church, where the bells have recently been overhauled (two recast and the others retuned). The ringers saved more than £5,000 by doing some of the work in the tower. The fund officially closed at £6,000.

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