

ST. ALFEGE, GREENWICH

WHEN the Silver Jubilee of the Reconsecration of the Church of St. Alfege, Greenwich, took place on April 19, the following interesting information was given.

ST. ALFEGE

The Danish invasion of England in the 8th to 11th centuries was not only a scourge to the land but also a challenge to the Christian Church to convert its invaders. The conversion was slow, for the Danes were largely mere raiders. But at last it seemed as if the labours and martyrdom of St. Alfege, the Archbishop of Canterbury, marked the triumph of the Cross; for having maltreated him for seven months and killed him in 1012 the Danes remorsefully gave back his body at Greenwich whence it was carried to London and there reverentially buried. The translation to Canterbury 11 years later was carried out with all solemnity by the Danish King Cnut himself and his people. The victory was won.

ABOUT THE RESTORATION

In 1953 the church, magnificently restored under the direction of Professor Sir Albert Richardson, P.P.R.A., was reconsecrated by the Bishop of Southwark. The War Damage Commission undertook the structural work, and spared no expense to ensure an accurate restoration of this masterpiece of 18th century architecture and craftsmanship. Fortunately some of the original work was salvaged, and has been reinstated, and where necessary superbly matched with new work. The design on the pillars flanking the apse is the original work of Sir James Thornhill and the rest of these fine murals were repainted by Mr. Glynn Jones. The original pulpit and some of the capitals were the work of Grinling Gibbons. Only one or two of these capitals remain and the present pulpit is entirely new. The wrought-iron work is all original and has all been restored and reinstated. The designs are copied from Tijou and executed by one of the most famous smiths of the 18th century.

All the stained glass was destroyed and the new windows were designed by Mr. Francis Spear. The east window represents the Risen Christ reigning in glory, with the Angels of the Passion bearing the instruments of the Passion as trophies; above are the Dove and the Hand of the Father, from Whom the glory is shed upon the Son. Beneath are the kneeling figures of St. Alfege and Cardinal Morton offering the homage of the church on earth. The windows in the side aisles represent historical persons and occasions associated with the church.



Mr. Fred Adams, who was presented with a framed certificate at the meeting, and seen here with ringing friends when he was taken on a surprise tour to the church at Sutton-on-the-Hill, Derby, and where he learned to ring 70 years ago. Front (l. to r.): Mrs. M. Plater, Mrs. M. Phipps, F. Adams, Mrs. P. Ashley, Mr. S. Scattergood. Middle: L. Gascoigne, F. Parkin, A. Smithson. Back: G. C. Briggs, G. J. Newman, E. J. Sterland, P. A. Rose (hidden).

Derby DA**32nd AGM**

Over 100 members and friends were present when the Association held its 32nd AGM at Derby on April 1, ringing taking place during the afternoon at Duffield (10). Prior to tea in the newly-built Church Hall, evensong in St. Peter's, Derby, was conducted by the Association's general secretary (Rev. F. Ross) with Mr. A. Hall (Old Whittington) deputising for the local organist.

The Association president, Rev. R. A. Beddoes (Provost of Derby), formally presented Mr. Fred Adams (Staveley) with a frame certificate marking 70 years as a ringer. Silence was observed remembering Susan Willson (née Davis), Baslow, and Clifford Bradshaw (Darley Dale) who had died.

The secretary stated that 1977 had been a memorable year with the Queen's Silver Jubilee, the Diocesan Golden Jubilee and the first visit to Derby since 1901 of the Central Council. The Council's visit was the highlight, for at times almost every Association member was involved in some activity connected with the week of ringing. It was pleasing to record an increase in Association membership for the third year in succession: 392 comparing with 382 last year and 360 in 1975.

The general treasurer (Mr. J. C. Woolley) was pleased to report an increased income of over £140. Unfortunately the 40 per cent increase in the cost of the annual report (to £227) and a new supply of badges

(£83) had more than offset this increase. Without the unexpected surplus from the Central Council account, funds would have been insufficient to pay for the report books.

The support given by over 80 Church Councils enabled the Bell Repair Fund to be in a healthy state, reported Mr. B. Tomlinson (secretary/treasurer of the Fund), and despite £375 having been paid out in 1977 in grants and loans the reserves had risen by £113 to £730. The Association's consultants had given help and advice to Duffield, Alvaston, Stanton-in-the-Peak, Hope, Baslow and Castleton, with two former unringable towers, Elton and Winster, being "back in action".

RECORD NUMBERS

The peal secretary (Mr. R. J. Turner) recorded an increased number of peals (122) compared with last year's total of 103 (itself a record). Of the 192 ringers taking part 116 were resident members (a 45 per cent increase) with seven firsts as conductor and 20 members scoring their first peal. Leading peal ringer was David Hird for the second year in succession with over 50 peals, whilst the leading conductor was Paul Flavell (23).

Quarter peal secretary (Mrs. M. Phipps) reported an even more spectacular increase with over 360 quarters compared with 146 in 1976: 47 ringers scored their first quarter (an increase of 24) and two, David Kingman and Howard Percy, both rang over 100. Darley Dale (49) was the leading tower.

Elected to serve for 1978/79 were: president, Rev. R. A. Beddoes; vice-presidents, Mr. F. A. Adams, Mr. H. Taylor; secretary, Rev. F. Ross; treasurer, Mr. J. C. Woolley; peal secretary, Mr. D. Hird; trustees, Mr. H. Taylor, J. Stennitt; bell repair fund secretary, Mr. B. Tomlinson; quarter peal secretary, Mr. A. Queen; report secretary, Mrs. R. Smith; and press officer, Mr. M. Phipps. Central Council representatives are Messrs. T. Ball, G. Halls and D. Hird.

It was agreed to increase peal fees to 30p (15p juniors), and subscriptions to £1.30 (adults), £1 (juniors) and 50p (senior citizens). A suggestion to elect CC representatives six months earlier than at present was approved, but a motion to hold the Association dinner at Ilkeston every year from 1980 onwards was defeated.

Following the election of Diane Halls, Andrew Crofts, Lorraine Crofts and David Claypole as resident members, the meeting concluded on a pleasant note with a proposal to elect Harold Taylor (Derby Cathedral) an honorary life member for his services to ringing, which was carried unanimously. — M.P.P.



Some South Normanton and Tibshelf ringers at evening prayer. Back row (l. to r.): Robert Mewes, Clive Brown, Mrs. Marjorie Brown, Kenneth Hemm (tower captain). Front (l. to r.): Miss Elizabeth Hill, Miss Sarah Millington, Miss Sarah Hill, Wilfred Riley.