



LYDD CHURCH TOWER RESTORATION APPEAL

There is an urgent appeal for £10,000 for repairs to the tower and pinnacles of All Saints' Parish Church, Lydd, Kent, widely known as "The Cathedral of Romney Marsh". This recent photograph shows the scaffolding erected to enable a close inspection of the stonework of the tower and pinnacles, and subsequent carrying out as far as funds permit of urgent necessary repairs. This tower was raised to its present commanding height of 132 feet during the period Cardinal Wolsey was Rector of Lydd, between 1503 and 1514.

The restoration of the nave, chancel and aisles of the church, which is the longest and one of the tallest parish churches in Kent, was completed in 1958. Those restoration works were made necessary by the destruction of the chancel and the damage to the roofs by enemy action during

the last war. Whilst these works were in progress, the opportunity was taken to repair the ravages of time, weather, death-watch beetle and dry rot, and to improve the collection and disposal of rainwater from the vast roofs. The nave, chancel and aisles are now in good condition and should remain so for many decades.

TIME HAS COME

The time has now come to restore the tower (Cardinal Wolsey's Tower), which has not had any major repairs for 100 years. Examination of the tower revealed that the top six feet of the S.E. pinnacle was badly split and would need renewal; the base of the S.W. pinnacle (the largest and the most imposing of the four) is in dire need of attention; the pointing and stonework has deteriorated in many places and the buttresses, especially their cappings, need attention; in addition repairs are urgently needed to the roof, the lightning conductor, the parapet walls and the window head and jambs.

In view of the urgency for carrying out these works, the P.C.C. had no alternative but to authorise the commencement of the work, even though funds to meet the cost are not at present available. In addition, of course, delay in carrying out the very necessary repairs could only lead to further deterioration and even higher costs.

It is impossible to assess the over-all cost accurately in advance of the work being carried out, but present information suggests that the cost will amount to some £10,000.

Lydd Parish Church is part of the country's heritage and it is hoped that the appeal will receive generous support from far and wide. The P.C.C. has recently received a message of support from His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Donald Coggan. All donations will be most gratefully received and may be sent to Canon J. J. Wilmshurst, The Rector, Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent.

C. J. C.

WOT?—NO T.V.!

Someone has been snooping! Like the Chads of the last war, we have to look over our shoulder and peep over walls, for it seems we are being spied upon.

A very important-looking document, No. 43270525240223107446112 has been received and with it an official reply - paid envelope. It demands to know why no properly authorised T.V. licence has been taken out, and giving four reasons why we may have no licence.

We are asked please to obtain a licence before an enquiry officer visits the area . . . etc., etc., etc.

Alas, we have no time to read the daily paper, but we have a portable radio. But to watch T.V.! We certainly have not seen one lying around for our visitors to view. But it's an idea

BELLS OF ST. GEORGE, BRISTOL

The church of St. George, Bristol East, is soon to be demolished and the bells will be transferred to Warmley, Avon. After an early scare that demolition was under way it was agreed to ring a peal on Sept. 10th. A consultation with the Archdeacon of Bristol revealed that this would in fact be the last peal on the bells and authorisation was given for the work on removing the bells to commence on Thursday, Sept.

11th. The peal went off with little trouble (except the photographer from the local paper coming into the tower after half-an-hour's ringing) and on the following morning work started on the removal.

The band associate the peal with Colonel Francis Seymour-Williams, who died the previous week and who was a great help to the Warmley ringers during the long period of fund-raising to put this project in hand.

A. W. G.

REUNION CELEBRATION

A quarter peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Frensham, Surrey, on Sept. 6th: Anne Beadle 1, Jill Hill 2, Chris Hill 3, Clifford Beadle 4, Edward Futcher (cond.) 5, Rex Corke 6, Roy Collins 7, Derek Yates 8. The quarter was arranged for a visit to Frensham from Lymington by the ringer of the 6th and his family and as a wedding anniversary compliment to the tower captain (C. J. Beadle) and his wife, who is secretary.

Rex Corke rang at Aldershot for many years before moving to Alton; and later to Lymington. He learnt to ring in the Farnham district with Mr. and Mrs. Beadle and Mr. Collins, all of whom rang for the wedding in 1958.

EDDIE RAPLEY BEREAVED

His many friends will sympathise with Eddie Rapley of Horsham (Sussex C.A.) who has suffered a bereavement in the death of his mother. She was well known in and around the Horsham area, and at the funeral at Shipley on September 4 ringers attended from Crawley, Horley, Horsham, Petworth and West Grinstead. They rang the bells, half-muffled, before and after the service, and a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters was rung at Horsham on September 7.

At the Christchurch Cathedral A.G.M. the officers elected for 1975-76 were: Master, A. P. Whitehead; Deputy Master, M. M. Clayton; Secretary and Treasurer, P. J. Perry; Steeple-keeper, R. G. T. Bennett. Intending visitors are invited to contact the Secretary at 2 Everard Street, Christchurch, 2, N.Z.

[Photo: E. W. Colley.

Messrs. F. E. Collins (left) and D. T. Matkin (right), two of the recently-elected Honorary Members of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, with the Master, Mr. R. R. Savory.

