

**Surrey Association****SMALLER ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at the Northern District quarterly meeting held at Egham was lower than usual. Nevertheless there was an hour's ringing before the service and almost two hours in the evening.

The service was of a modern style shortened evensong, which was a pleasing variation on the familiar theme.

The master congratulated David Parsons on his election as master of the Guildford Guild. The meeting discussed a varied programme of activities for the summer, viz.: evening practice at Barnes, a lecture on belfry maintenance and steeple keeping in St. John Baptist's, Croydon, in July and later (on July 17) a call-change striking competition at Wimbledon. The striking competition will this year be held in the Southern District at Redhill on July 24 and the joint meeting will take place at Leatherhead on the late Summer Bank Holiday.

Members were reminded that the association dinner is on September 4 at Grants of Croydon. The visit to Egham was extremely enjoyable and successful.

R. J. C.

**Bath and Wells Association****EVENING MEETING**

Despite many counter-attractions there was a reasonably good attendance at the July evening meeting held recently of the Ilchester Branch, when they visited the lovely parish church of St. Andrew, High Ham, which houses one of the heaviest rings of five (tenor approximately 20 cwt.).

A good selection of methods was rung, under the direction of Mr. Gordon Rendell (ringing master), and all are grateful to the rector (Rev. E. J. Payne) and the tower master (Mr. S. Spearing) for a most enjoyable evening.

M. M. L.

**ST. MARY'S, NEWINGTON-NEXT-SITTINGBOURNE, KENT**

The band of the church featured on the cover (March 7th, 1969), were then working to have the bells rehung, and this was completed last year. Since then three new members have been trained and are making progress. This band is very much a family affair with two brothers, a brother and sister, a daughter, three sets of cousins, husband and wife, niece, nephew and two sets of brothers-in-law amongst its members.

From l. to r. (back row): Laurence Mitchell, Frank J. Dadson, Mrs. Rosalind Jackson, Andrew Lane, Susan Linkins, Anita Williams, Ruth Smith and Leslie Gilbert.

Front row: Laurence Wraight (vice-captain), E. Alfred Gilbert (captain), Rev. Peter W. Poole (non-ringer) and Mrs. Hazel V. Mitchell (secretary and treasurer).

Practice night, Tuesday, and visitors are most welcome; but a telephone call to Sittingbourne 71871 will enable visitors to confirm that a practice is scheduled; occasionally a service prevents this.

**Shropshire Association****A FULL PROGRAMME**

On July 10, 60 members attended the association annual meeting in Shrewsbury.

Ringing was at St. Mary's and St. Chad's and the service was held in St. Chad's Church, taken by the Rev. C. Spafford. The Bishop of Shrewsbury (president) preached. Tea was provided at St. Chad's Parish Hall and this was followed by the business meeting, when the Bishop presided and welcomed visiting ringers from Birmingham, Stafford and Codsall. Mr. E. F. Willcox (retiring ringing master) reported that 1970 had been a very successful year. Quarterly meetings, monthly evening practices and the joint meetings with the Church Stretton and Bridgnorth Branches of the Hereford Guild and the Crewe Branch of the Chester Guild had all been well attended. Twenty-nine peals had been rung and amongst innovations had been two handbell practices, "The Quarter Peal Sunday" and a striking competition.

The following officers were elected: Ringing master, Mr. R. E. Morris; deputy ringing master, Mr. R. C. Stephens, secretary, Mr. P. J. Evans; treasurer, Mr. K. Brice; C.C. representative, Mrs. R. C. Stephens.

Meetings were arranged for Malins Lee, 1972—Hodnet, Ellesmere or Market Drayton, with the 1972 A.G.M. at Shrewsbury in July.

Evening practices will be held on the last Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m., starting in September, and joint meetings with Bridgnorth Branch (November), Church Stretton Branch (December) and Crewe Branch (June, 1972).

The committee were asked to organise a one-day ringing course, an association supper, handbell practices and striking competition.

Ah! for a man to arise in me  
That the man I am may cease to be.—  
Tennyson.

**AID FOR CANCER RESEARCH**

An event which attracted hundreds of visitors was a flower festival, held at Buckfast Abbey on July 20, 21 and 22, and the event was well worth a visit each day.

On the second afternoon the bells were rung by ringers drawn from the Mid-Devon area, whilst on the last day they came from the Plymouth area. In charge was Mr. A. L. Bennett and amongst the visitors were Miss Y. C. Porter, Mrs. F. W. Housden, Mr. and Mrs. Will Myers and Malcolm, Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Wheeler and Rosemary, Messrs. D. J. Roberts, H. F. Myers, D. R. Bould, C. Yorke, J. P. Fidler, J. V. Parnell and Revs. P. Angold and P. Dowling, and visitors included those from Painswick (Glos) and Romford (Essex). All had the privilege of hearing the splendid Abbey organ and an enjoyable afternoon helping a worthy cause.

**St. David's Guild.****TOUR WITH A DIFFERENCE**

The annual ringing masters' outing on June 26 was an "outing with a difference." Instead of the usual three-quarters of an hour visit to a particular tower, it was decided to visit four towers and attempt two quarter peals at each. One quarter was to be dedicated to the former Lord Bishop of David's (Dr. J. Richards Richards) on his retirement and the other to the new Lord Bishop (Rt. Rev. Eric M. Roberts)

Ringers from many towers in union with the guild took part and 16 ringers were successful in their attempts. Seven quarters were started, the eight had to be cancelled and six were successful. Clifford Griffiths was attempting his first quarter, which was unfortunately lost, and Mr. C. Cox (captain at Llandovery) rang in his first quarter on his own bells.

An enjoyable day was spent by ringers from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Burry Port, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Llandovery, Llandovery, Pembroke and Tenby.

A. F. W.

