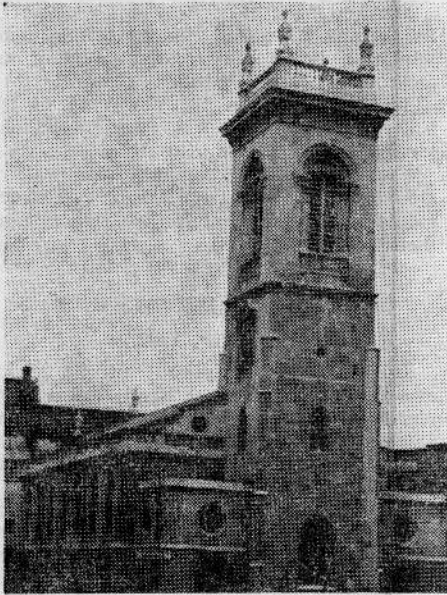


THE CENTRAL COUNCIL is, this year, meeting in London (May 26-30), and each week we shall publish an article on the different churches and places where ringing and events will be taking place during that week-end. We acknowledge the assistance of Dr. D. E. Sibson and Mr. W. T. Cook, who are supplying the necessary pictures and information.



ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN

Although this is one of the many City of London churches designed by Sir Christopher Wren, it was not in fact touched by the Great Fire of 1666, but it had got into such a dilapidated condition that it had to be rebuilt. However, the tower, which dates from 1447, was allowed to remain, but it was cased with Portland stone in 1704, and raised to a height of 110 feet.

According to a manuscript written by a man named Bentley, who was at one time churchwarden, a ring of bells, apparently four in number, was placed in the tower in 1457, one of which was recast in 1506, "whereunto many well-disposed parishioners and other people gave much money." These bells were all recast by Thomas Lawrence of Houndsditch in 1529, being named Spes, Katherina, Maria and Andrew (the tenor), which weighed 18 cwt. 13 lbs. On one occasion "Thomas Neale and William Preston, Churchwardens, made account of 3s. and 4d. paid by them of a penalty or fine unto the King's servants for not ringing the bells when the King's Majesty came by." And in 1557 "the obit of the Pope was solemnly kept with great ringing of bells."

One of this ring of four was recast in 1566, another in the following year. In 1587 the whole ring was again recast by Robert Mot, and two trebles were added, making a ring of six with a tenor of 28 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb. Robert Mot also supplied a saunce bell, which remained in the tower until its destruction in 1941. In 1731 the ring of six was recast by Richard Phelps, and it was apparently at this time that the ring was augmented to eight, with a tenor of 28 cwt. in D flat. Mears and Stainbank recast the fifth and tenor in 1921. This was generally reckoned to be a very fine ring of bells.

The first record of any ringing on the eight bells dates from 1734. On May 9 of that year William Laughton and the "Rambling Ringers" went to St. Andrew's and

rang one of the three peals achieved by that society, a 5040 of Bob Major, with John Trenell on the tenor. From what Laughton says, it appears that a peal had already been rung there, but with two men on the tenor. There is, however, no record of this earlier peal. On December 27, 1738, a "Friendly Society" (i.e. a band made up for the occasion of members of different societies) rang 6160 Bob Major, with John Box on the tenor.

For some reason, very few peals seem to have been rung on these bells before 1921, when they were rehung by Mears and Stainbank. The only other peals of which I have any record are one in 1828, conducted by Thomas Tolladay, and one in 1847, conducted by George Stockham (both these were Grandsire Triples); one of Superlative in 1900 and one of London in 1906, both conducted by William Pye; and a peal of Stedman in 1919, conducted by F. E. Dawe. After 1921, and up to 1939, the tower was quite a popular one for peals. There was also a regular Sunday service band, led first by Joseph Rayner, who was a ringer there for 45 years, and later by Joseph Hawkins. Before the war this was one of the few churches in central London where the bells were rung regularly for Sunday services.

During an air-raid in 1941 St. Andrew's was gutted by fire, nothing but the walls being left. The magnificent carved woodwork of the interior was a particular loss. The bells were left hanging in the tower but were cracked and useless.

After the war the bells were again recast by Whitechapel Foundry. It was felt that, though the old bells had been a noble ring, they were probably rather too heavy for the tower, so the present eight which replaced them in 1965 are lighter, with a tenor of only 18 cwt. A few peals have been rung on these new bells, but owing to complaints from the new offices of The Daily Mirror immediately opposite ringing has had to be restricted. As this is a guild church, there are no Sunday services.

THE RINGING WORLD

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QUARTER PEALS—continued

Trumpington, Cambs.—March 13, 1440 P.B. Doubles: Elizabeth Balls (first quarter) 1, Kitty Willers 2, M. R. Kitson (cond.) 3, P. S. Seaman 4, R. W. Balls 5, A. J. Pitman 6. For Mothering Sunday.

Uppingham, Rutland.—April 9, 1260 Single Oxford and P.B. Minor: Julie D. Panton 1, T. L. Mallett 2, Jennifer D. Panton 3, L. Atton 4, J. A. Ellis 5, C. J. Groome (cond.) 6. For evening service.

Wakefield, Yorks.—April 10, 1260 Minor (Rev. and Plain): Stella M. Brown 1-2, R. Brown (cond.) 3-4, M. C. Perrins 5-6. Birthday compliment to Stella M. Brown.

Walpole St. Peter, Norfolk.—April 15, 1440 Minor (Cambridge and Plain): W. Hammond 1, W. Cousins 2, R. Newson 3, J. Fox 4, C. Cousins 5, N. Harding (cond.) 6. Diamond wedding compliment to Mr. and Mrs. F. Elmer.

Wareham, Dorset.—April 15, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Penny M. Dew (first quarter) 1, Jennifer L. Tanner 2, Judith A. Robertson 3, G. C. Coffin 4, M. W. C. Lawson (cond.) 5, R. G. W. Robertson 6.

Warnham, Sussex.—March 19, 1260 Pl. Bob Triples: R. Penman (first on eight) 1, Sally Watts 2, M. Francis (first inside) 3, B. Pink 4, G. Francis 5, I. Davey 6, D. Smith (cond.) 7, T. Latham 8.

Warsop, Notts.—March 30, 1264 P.B. Major: Wendy Riley 1, Sandra Ettles 2, H. T. Rooke 3, R. A. Spencer 4, R. G. Fanthorpe 5, W. Riley 6, F. Flint 7, R. Hancock (cond.) 8. For Eucharist on Maundy Thursday. Also April 8, 1260 P.B. Triples: R. Hind 1, Sandra Ettles 2, H. T. Rooke 3, G. Challans 4, F. Flint 5, R. Hancock (cond.) 6, R. Fanthorpe 7, M. Bennett 8. Wedding compliment to Rev. R. Kirton and Miss B. Alcock.

Warwick (St. Nicholas).—April 6, 1260 Grand-sire Triples: Jane M. Randall 1, Gail Cater 2, Doris M. Randall 3, D. R. Randall 4, R. Cater 5, C. P. Quartley 6, R. H. Randall 7, P. C. Randall (cond.) 8.

Weaverham, Cheshire.—1260 Minor (Kent T.B. and P.B.): Jean M. Guy 1, Alison L. Knight 2, D. A. Carter 3, Pamela Hough 4, P. Wilkinson 5, P. G. Walters (cond.) 6. Also Feb. 20, 1260 Minor (3 methods): Jean M. Guy 1, Alison L. Knight 2, Pamela Hough 3, D. A. Carter 4, P. Wilkinson (cond.) 5, P. G. Walters 6. For Girl Guides' service. Also March 12, 1260 Pl. Bob Minor: Jean M. Guy 1, Alison L. Knight 2, Pamela Hough 3, D. A. Carter 4, P. Wilkinson (cond.) 5, P. G. Walters 6. For Mothering Sunday.

West Hendred, Berks.—April 5, 1260 Grand-sire Doubles: I. P. Stoter 1, A. H. Webb 2, P. G. Davies 3, A. E. Fullbrook 4, J. C. Baldwin (cond.) 5, W. Corderoy 6. A compliment to A. E. Fullbrook on completing 50 years' ringing. The band associate W. Boshier and J. Shepherd (Hendreds) with this quarter.

West Wickham, Kent.—April 9, 1320 Oxford T.B. Minor: A. V. Harragin (first T.B.) 1, D. Dearnley 2, W. A. Hollamby 3, G. John 4, W. A. Hughes 5, A. S. Richards (cond.) 6. First in method 2 and 4. Silver wedding compliment to Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Corby, of Chiddingstone Hoath.

Willesborough, Kent.—April 13, 1260 Grand-sire Doubles: C. T. Hillis 1, M. Harrison 2, P. Richardson 3, P. Staples 4, M. S. Lancefield (cond.) 5, C. Sharp 6. Half-muffled following the funeral of W. P. Garner, many years member of local band.

Wootton Bassett, Wilts.—April 3, 1260 Stedman Triples: D. Hacker 1, P. Hacker 2, D. Powney 3, A. Friskney 4, E. Brooks 5, J. Twiney 6, D. Bailey (first Stedman as cond.) 7, J. Sankey 8. First in method 1, 2 and 6.

Worle, Som.—March 26, 1260 Doubles (11 methods): S. Lewis 1, Rachel Sweet (first in 11 methods) 2, S. Stott 3, H. Hooper 4, G. Prescott 5, W. Kingsbury 6. For morning service.

Wroxham, Norfolk.—April 4, 1296 S. Minor (4 methods): Miss C. V. Mills 1, S. J. Crawley 2, Miss R. Urban 3, G. H. Austin 4, S. D. Chandler 5, R. E. Sheppard (cond.) 6.

Wymondham, Leics.—April 9, 1260 Pl. Bob Minor: J. T. P. Thorpe 1, J. N. Sharpe 2, K. Anne Cooke 3, C. E. Cooper 4, R. C. Tyler 5, R. H. Cook (cond.) 6. Half-muffled prior to memorial service for Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hill.