

S MICHAEL'S, CORNHILL, LONDON

A major scheme of restoration of the church of S Michael's, Cornhill, has just been completed. At a cost of £100,000, the roof was renewed, the organ rebuilt, dry rot eliminated, a new floor laid and the church redecorated. What is of particular interest to ringers is the work done on the tower. This was also re-roofed, the tower strengthened by the insertion of girders, and the ringing-room carpeted and redecorated. As a result of the strengthening of the tower, the bells seem to go much more easily. For these improvements being carried out, ringers are indebted in no small measure to one of the churchwardens, (Dr Philip Chalk), and the architect, (Alan J Frost), who are of course both well-known ringers.

A service of thanksgiving was held on 14 October. The bells were rung before the service, having been silent for some months while the repairs to the tower were carried out, and many of the usual Sunday morning band attended the service, together with the officers of the College Youths. The address was preached by the Bishop of London, (Rt Rev and Rt Hon Gerald Ellison). This was particularly appropriate, as his father had at one time been rector of S Michael's. Afterwards the congregation were entertained to a magnificent buffet supper in the splendid main hall of the Draper's Hall. During this, courses of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung on handbells and on 16 October a band, consisting mainly of the regular Sunday ringers, rang a peal of Stedman Cinques on S Michael's bells. WTC



Wedding

CRAWFORD ALLEN—ANGELA GRANT

Two very popular ringers in the Bedford area, Angela Grant and Crawford Allen were married at S Peter's, Pavenham on 18 September.

The couple were married by the Rev David Payne. The bridesmaid was Shirley Kirby, (friend of the bride), and Chris Cole, (friend of the bridegroom) was the best man. A reception was held at the Laws Hotel, Turvey, after which the couple left for a honeymoon in the Gower Peninsula.

Following the ceremony the five bells at Pavenham were rung by a band of local ringers. During the morning a peal of Minor was rung at Biddenham for the wedding, and in the afternoon a quarter was rung at Goldington. All wish Crawford and Angela every happiness together.

MS

from Pawlett, and members expressed gratitude to Mrs. Beck for organising the branch outing. The next meeting will be the A.G.M. in January at Stogursey.

Ringing continued at Holford under the direction of Mr. G. Brown (ringing master) until 8.15. G. S. H.

The Bell and the Law (cont from p942).

ceeded, except with the consent of the local authority, and there is a right of appeal to the Secretary of State against a refusal of such consent. Under section 66 of the Act a local authority may, by serving a "noise reduction order" in respect of premises subject to a noise abatement order, require the level of noise emanating from specified premises to be reduced. There is a right of appeal to the local magistrates against such a notice.

The Secretary of State is empowered by section 68 to make regulations for the reduction of noise caused by machinery, whether or not within a noise abatement zone. (Could this include church bells or even secular rings in general?). By section 69 of the Act default powers in the case of failure to carry out works so as to comply with a noise abatement notice, noise reduction notice, or an order of the court are given to a local authority. There are now also much increased penalties which may be imposed by Magistrates Courts for noise offences.

The 1974 Act and the Future

The application of the new Act as it could relate to noise nuisance caused by church and secular bells would appear to be far-reaching, and it remains to be seen how the new provisions will work in practice. No doubt its enforcement will depend to a large extent on the resources available to local authorities to implement its provisions. One can but hope that its application to church bells will be reasonable and within the bounds of good sense. One thing is however certain, and that is that the new Act has considerably strengthened the law on noise nuisance. Now either a local authority or a single occupier of land can take action for its abatement. The subject of sound control in towers must become increasingly important as time goes on, and the days when the indiscriminate ringing of church bells was accepted without question may now be over, in urban areas at least. Parochial Church Councils and ringers must accept that a noisy ring of bells can be a very real source of annoyance, particularly in such areas. The public, notably the non-church-going section and the environmentalists are now far more aware of their legal rights and may see the 1974 Act as the means to swift and easy redress of their grievances. The church which does nothing to meet reasonable and genuine complaints about the ringing of its bells must be in the weaker position if the matter comes before the courts. Ringers ought to be keeping a close watch on this topic, and if necessary getting something done about it before matters escalate into a situation of confrontation, with all the attendant adverse publicity which that brings for the church. Ignorantia juris non excusat.

Bath and Wells D.A.

A HEAVY FOUR

The Bridgwater Branch held its autumn quarterly meeting at Holford. In addition to Holford, the interesting ring at East Quantoxhead was available for an hour, which gave ringers a chance to try their hand at Minimus on a heavy four, and ringing the tenor was hard work! By contrast, the five at Holford are easy and light.

At 4.15 the service was conducted by the Rev. G. Hayward and was followed by tea and meeting.

The chairman (Mr. C. Herniman) welcomed visitors from the Dunster Branch and thanked those who had assisted, including Mrs. English (organist) and Mrs. Brimson (tower captain) who organised tea.

One new member was elected, Mr. Smith

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"It should make a euphonious harmony for the glory of God and the permitted delectation of the mind; and like all music its 'finis' and final cause should never be anything else but the glory of God and the recreation of the mind. When this is not heeded, there really is no music, but a hellish howl and clatter!"
J S Bach—to his pupils concerning continuo playing.