

Meeting at St. Albans. July 24<sup>th</sup> 1943.

The first district meeting to be held after the lifting of the ban on Church Bell ringing which had been in force for nearly 3 years, took place in St. Albans on July 24<sup>th</sup> 1943.

Proceedings commenced with ringing at St. Stephens for a wedding - a ~~happy~~ pleasant surprise, we hope, for the happy couple. Various 6 bell methods ranging from Lyonsaire Doubles to London Surprise Minor were successfully rung suit all tastes, and the very pleasant toned ~~but~~ peal were kept going until 5 P.M. when they were lowered in peal.

The company next adjourned to the St Peter's Institute where tea was prepared. It was very gratifying to see 29 people sit down to this, the largest number for a long while. There were visitors from London, Harrow, Sudbury, Suffolk, Willesden & Hemel Hempstead as well as 18 district members.

After tea the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed under the chairmanship of Mr W. Ayre who announced that the present meeting was one week later

than that proposed at the last meeting in order to avoid clashing with a neighbouring district. In future it was hoped to arrange Western district meetings on the second Saturday in the month and St. Albans district's on the third. The Hatfield district had kept to the fourth for some while.

The next item on the Agenda was the election of new members. Mr. G. Blake, Mr R. Dobson. & Mr S. Jones were submitted for election & these were proposed by Mrs Fergusson & seconded by Mrs Davill. Three further names, Mr T. J. Southon, Mr W. J. Southon & Mr W. R. Sinclair, all of St Peter's St Albans were proposed by Mr Davill & seconded by Mr A. Lawrence for transfer from Probationary to Ringing Members. All these elections were confirmed as were the following five as Probationary members of St. Peter's.:-

Miss R. Sergeant, Miss P. Curry, Miss R. J. Nichols, Mr. R. Smith, Master P. Hammond. These were proposed by Mrs Davill & seconded by Mrs Fergusson.

A further matter concerning elections was announced by the secretary & received by the meeting with great satisfaction. It was that the Cathedral

band wished to re-join the association. On the proposition of the secretary seconded by Mr A. W. Coles the re-election of 15 members of this company was put to the meeting and carried. They are as follows:- Messrs W. J. Arnold, F. Beeson, J. G. Blow, J. Dryden, H. E. C. Goodenough, B. Hansell, A. Halton, H. J. Hazell, A. Hawkins, K. Jones, A. Kendall, A. H. Tzaoe, F. L. Whiteman, R. Ewer, + Miss B. Gopson.

After some discussion it was decided to hold the next meeting at North Myms on August 14<sup>th</sup> thus allowing time for more meetings before the shorter days. The secretary asked members to consider before the next meeting how best local effort could be mobilised to ensure ringing in all towers in the district - there being several towers with none at the moment.

Mention was next made of the position of people who were keen on bells & capable of doing method ringing on handbells but who for some reason or other were unable to become tower bell ringers. If the rules are taken literally it would appear that they cannot become members. It was the

feeling of the meeting however that the normal qualification of method ringing should apply to them.

To conclude the meeting a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicars of St Stephen & St Peters for the use of their bells and to Mrs Fergusson for ~~arranging~~ <sup>providing</sup> the tea. As there was no charge for the latter, a collection was made for the Benevolent Fund and resulted in the useful total of £1/9/3.

Ringing then took place at St Peters until 8 P.M. & included the following:- Rounds, Groundswire Triples & Catens, Stedman Triples Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and Cambridge Royal.

D. Lillingham  
17/8/43