

## Annual District Meeting 1943.

The Annual District Meeting for 1943 took place at St Peters, St. Albans on ~~the~~ Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 1943.

Lower bell ringing commenced at 3.15 P.M. & was followed at 4.30 by a service conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. M. Fergusson, who in his homely address likened ringing to life as a whole, & gave the ringers something to think about.

Tea had been arranged in the Church Institute by Mrs Fergusson with the able assistance of Mrs Devill, Mrs Norman & several of the younger members of the St Peters company.

The Vicar was elected Chairman for the business meeting & after a few light hearted comments coupled with a welcome to St Peters he called on the secretary for the minutes of the last Annual Meeting. These were read & confirmed.

It was proposed by Mr Hoyell & seconded by Mrs Fergusson that the next meeting should be held at Hatfield on Jan 15<sup>th</sup>; this was agreed.

The Secretary's report for the year followed & was

adopted. It showed an encouraging state of ringing in the district, bearing in mind the acute shortage of ringers due to the number in the forces.

The election of District Officers followed. Mrs Ferguson proposed that Mr Davill be re-elected Secretary & this was seconded by Mr Jones & carried.

It was agreed on the proposition of Mr Jones, seconded by Mr Dale that the ~~the~~ District committee be re-elected en bloc, ~~to~~ i.e Messrs A. Day, A. Lawrence, H. J. Hazell & Mrs. Ferguson. It was also agreed that Messrs A. Day & A. Lawrence should continue to serve on the General Committee.

A request was then made by the Secretary that a deputy should be elected for himself in case for any reason he was unable to attend to any particular meeting or was forced to leave the district at short notice. Mr. Hazell was proposed & elected to this function.

A suggestion was then made by Mr Davill that the required ringing times of all towers in the district should be published by one insertion in the Ringing World. This evoked some discussion

as to the best way of letting strangers know of local ringing arrangements & the suggestion <sup>was made</sup> that each church should put up - with the co-operation of the incumbent - a notice in the church porch. There was general agreement with any scheme of this sort & after <sup>a</sup> the proposition in favour was moved by Mr. A. Coles & seconded by Mrs. Davill. This was carried by the meeting, & there was also general approval to the suggestion made by Mr. W. Ayre that this information should also be published in the Annual Report.

A Further Proposition made by the Secretary resulted in an appreciable amount of discussion. It was, that business meetings should normally be held only once a quarter thus leaving the intermediate months solely as practice meetings. On being put to the vote, the motion was approved.

Upon the question of the election of those only capable of ~~hand~~ <sup>hand</sup>-bell ringing as Ringing Members of the association - a matter which had been discussed at the July 1943 district meeting, Mr. W. Ayre agreed to raise the matter at the next committee

meeting, but he was sure that it should, and would, be allowed.

The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for his welcome & to the ladies who had prepared, in the face of great difficulties, the excellent tea. This was proposed by Mr A. Cole & carried.

A collection to defray the cost of hiring the hall was then made, & the balance of this, - 10/- handed over for the ~~St. Andrew's~~ Benevolent Fund.

Before returning to the tower, touches were rung on the new peal of handbells brought by Mr C. W. Taylor of Watford.

Tower-bell ringing was resumed until 8 P.M. & during the day the following methods were rung:-  
Grandsire Triples & Cutters, Stedman Cutters, Plain Bob Major & Royal, Kent Royal, Double Norwich & Cambridge Major, as well as rounds.

Ringers were present from Hemel Hempstead, Laverstock Green, Luton, N. Myms, Bristol, Hatfield, Welford, St Albans Cathedral, Harpenden, & the local tower, a total of 30.

Wayne. Chairmen  
10/12/44