

Annual District Meeting, 1944.

St. Albans was, as usual, the venue for the 1944 Annual District Meeting which took place on Dec 16th -

The Cathedral bells were available from 3 o'clock to P.M. and were rung to Grandair Triples, Stedman Triples, Catus + Buznes, and Double Hornish. A service was held at 4.30 P.M. at St Peters, conducted by the Vicar.

Tea, followed by the business meeting took place in the Institute, Halfield Road

Mr. W. Ayre was elected Chairman, and after a few opening remarks about people who don't send in their names for tea and others who don't attend services at meetings, the secretary read the minutes of the last Annual Meeting, which were confirmed.

Arising out of the minutes, Mr. Ayre stated that the matter of non-tower-bell ringers becoming full ringing members had been brought up at the last Committee Meeting & it was

the unanimous feeling that these people should be admitted as Ringing Members.

Under the next item on the Agenda, the secretary proposed, on behalf of Mr A. Lawrence that the following be transferred from Probationary to Ringing Members: -

R. Lockrane, A F Bull, S, Huckle,
S. A. Blake (all of Hatfield)

This was seconded by Mr. D. Price & carried.

Mr. R. Bird then proposed the ratification of the election of S. Godfrey & J. North, both of Northaw prior to ringing a peal in that tower. This was seconded by Mr Burgess and carried.

After some discussion it was agreed that the next Annual Meeting should be held over until January. It was felt that the attendance would be better than just before Christmas, and also it would allow the Secretary to report on the whole year instead of only part. St. Albans was again agreed as the meeting place.

The Secretary's report was next read and adopted. It included a call to all members to pursue plans for recruiting as in spite of the number of young people started, there would still be a shortage in some towers, even when members returned from the forces.

A suggestion put forward by the Secretary that a Ringing Master should be elected to look after ringing arrangements at meetings, to relieve the Secretary, was unanimously agreed.

The election of District Officers followed.

Mrs Ferguson proposed, & Mr Sayer seconded, that Mr R. W. Davill be re-elected Secretary, - carried.

Mrs Ferguson proposed, & Mr Day seconded that Mr H. J. Hazel be re-elected Deputy Secretary - carried.

Mr Davill proposed & Mr Dale seconded that Mr A Day be elected to the new office of Ringing Master. This was carried before Mr Day had any opportunity to object!

The re-election of Messrs A Day, A. Lawrence, H. J. Hazel and Mrs Ferguson as the district committee was proposed by Mr Dale seconded by Mr B. Johnson.

Mr. Ayre then proposed that Mr A. Hawkins,
secretary of the Cathedral Band, be ~~added, to stand~~ ^{also elected if he agreed.}
This was seconded by Mr. Sayer, and the election
of these 5 people was confirmed.

It was agreed that Mr Day & Mr Lawrence should
continue to serve on the General Committee.

Messages of Good Wishes were read from
Captain Gilbert Debenham, the Treasurer, now serving in
India, and from Gunner H. V. Frost, serving with
the Middle East Forces.

To conclude the business meeting, Mr Ayre
proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Rev
A. M. Ferguson for ~~his~~ the use of St Peter's bells,
and for the service, also to the Dean for
permission to ring at the Cathedral and to Mr
Goodenough for his welcome there. And last
but not least he thanked Mrs Davill and the
young people of St Peter's who had prepared
the very fine tea. Mr Burgess seconded these
and the meeting expressed their pleasure at the
arrangements. Mr Davill stated that any surplus
made on the tea would be handed to the Bazaar.

Fund. Ringing was resumed at St. Peter's soon
after 6.30 P.M. under the new ringing master,
who succeeded in catering for all tastes.
Methods rung included Grandeire Triples & Caters,
Stedam Triples & Caters, Cambridge Major & Bob
Major. Altogether about 40 ringers attended all or
part of the days proceedings.

K. B. Davis
19/1/46