

Annual District Meeting. Jan 19th 1946

As had been decided at the last Annual Meeting that covering the work of 1945 and the election of Officers etc for 1946 was held in January of the New Year instead of in December of the old.

As usual, it was held in St Albans, and opened with ringing at St Peters which commenced at about 3 P.M. and continued until the service at 4.45 P.M. This was conducted by The Rev K.C. Davis, vicar of St Francis, Rusley Lane, Small, who is himself a ringer. He avoided reference to Balls in his address, the subject of which was the Christian and what his life shall mean. Mrs P.H. Thomas kindly played the organ.

Tea followed at 5.30 P.M. at The Secular Cafe in Waddington Rd where it had been arranged at short notice due to some confusion over the booking of the St Peters Institute, where it had been hoped that it would have been possible to arrange it, as previously, by the St Peters ringers.

The chair for the business meeting was taken

by the Rev. Davis, who expressed his pleasure at being invited to be present. The secretary then read the minutes of the last Annual Meeting which were confirmed.

The following names were put up for elections:-
Mr H. P. Buxton (Winton) - Life Non Resident Member.
Mr Ronald Pearson (Harpenden), Mr Edward Sprague
N.C.
(Cathedral), Mrs Northborough & Miss B. McKie (Northaw)
- Ordinary, Ringing, & Musical.
Mr W. J. Dove (Northampton) - confirmation of heliport election
(Life)
at St Peter's prior to final attempt. These were
proposed en bloc by Mr H. Godenough & seconded
by ~~Mr C. F. Sayer~~ Mr H. V. Frost.

For the next meetings it was agreed that we should return to St Albans on the 3rd Saturday in January 1947 for the next Annual, whilst the Wheatthorpestead & Hatfield were approved for the next 2 monthly meetings (3rd Saturday in Feb & March respectively).

The Secretary's report for 1945 followed, and this was adopted without comment on the proposition of Mr H. Godenough & seconded by Mr C. F. Sayer.

The statement of accounts showed a satisfactory balance, subscriptions bringing in £9-0-6, whilst

district expenses took £ 2 - 12 - 0. Receipts for the Benevolent Fund were £ 2 - 16 - 6, whilst a collection at one meeting for the Voluntary Bell Fund raised 10s 0d. The adoption of these accounts was proposed by Mr Goodenough & seconded by Mr Day.

The following elections were carried without comment - other than that the Secretary said he would wish to be relieved of his duties next year.

Mr Goodenough proposed & Mr Frost seconded that Mr Davill be re-elected Secretary.

Mrs Davill proposed & Mr Day seconded that Mr Frost be elected Deputy Secretary.

Mr Goodenough proposed & Miss Cooper seconded that Mr Day be re-elected Ringing Master.

Mr Sayer proposed & Mr Goodenough seconded that the following be elected to the District Committee:-

Mr R. Davill;

Mr H. V. Frost;

Mr A. Day;

Mr A. Lawrence;

Mr A. W. Coles (subject to his being agreeable.)

Of these, Messrs Dorrill, Day & Lawrence are to serve on the General Committee.

Under the heading of "Any other business", Mr Dorrill brought up a question that he had first raised at the General Committee meeting held in Feb 1945 & referred to at the Annual General meeting at Easter. It was of a proposal to modify the areas at present covered by the various districts to provide a more even distribution of towers, which at present varied from 9 (Western + Watford) to 33 in the Northern. He reported having spent a long while poring over a map, & as a result had 2 proposals to put forward for consideration. One showed comparatively few changes on the present arrangement, whilst the other was much more drastic, involving the forming of a Southern district to include Watford, St Albans & Hatfield. The suggestion which had apparently already been discussed in the past, of forming a Diocesan Association with the Bedford Association was also raised.

Mr. Ayre enlarged on the latter subject & thought

that in spite of ~~past~~ ^{the} unsuccessful efforts made in the past, it would be a good thing to try again in view of our very real attachment to the Church.

^{The Rev.} Mr. Davis, who is on the Diocesan Advisory Board in his area, also advocated a Diocesan Association as it would probably receive greater ~~any~~ recognition by the authorities.

After further discussion, Mr. Frost proposed & Mr. Goodenough seconded, that the District was in favour of retaining its present boundaries but that it welcomed the idea of a Diocesan Association. This was unanimously carried, & the secretary agreed to report these decisions to the General Committee.

Business concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Mr A. Day to the Rev A. M. Ferguson for the use of St Peter's bells, the Dean & Mr Goodenough for the Cathedral bells, to the Rev Davis for conducting the service, and to Mrs Thomas for playing the organ.

The party then adjourned to the Cathedral

for further ringing. Methods put "on the air" during the day included Groundswell Bates, Stedman Bates + Cousins, Bob Royal + Maximus, Cambridge Royal + Major, London Major.

Between 35 + 40 attended part or all of the days proceedings, and they came from a very large number of different places, including, in the District, The Cathedral + St Peter, St Albans, Harpenden, Hatfield + North Myams. Visitors were present from Ewell, Wembley Park, Hampstead, Abbots Langley, Leighton Green, Tunstall (Kent) Tunney, Maulden, Bronkham Silsoe + Luton (Herts) + Fordington (Dorset) and from Leicester.

A. Lawrence 18/1/47

16/3/46