

ST MICHAEL'S & THE ABBEY, ST. ALBANS.

Ringing commenced at St. Michael's at 3.00 pm under the leadership of the District Ringing Master, & continued until 4.30. A broken stay was responsible for some delay, but this was luckily a special stay & repaired in a matter of minutes. Methods from rounds to Surprise Major were rung, but the special method, Walford, refused to come round.

A short service was <sup>then</sup> held, conducted by the Vicar of St. Michael's, the Rev. <sup>the lessons being read by two district members</sup> Harper, <sup>this</sup> following ~~which~~ members adjourned for a very welcome tea in the Abbey Institute. This was prepared & served by ladies of the Abbey band.

The President, Mr. E. Nawnham, took the chair for the business meeting which followed.

Apology for Absence was received from Mr. R.W. Clouston of Radlett.

The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were signed as a correct record. No matters arose for discussion, saving the question of <sup>the</sup> Presidential office, which formed a later part of the agenda.

Election of Acting District Secretary. Mr. R. Hardy was proposed by the retiring Secretary, & seconded by Mr G. Ridgeway. No other nomination was received, and upon being put to the meeting, the proposition was carried. The Acting Secretary

then took over from the retiring Secretary, & said that he hoped he could fulfil the confidence placed in him by the meeting.

### Election of New Members

Full Ringing Member - Helen Dodds, St. Albans  
proposed by Mr. G. Dodds  
seconded by Mr. G. Penney.

Probationary Members - Ann Ponsford & Valere Paice both of St. Peter's, St. Albans.  
proposed by Mr. R. W. Davitt  
seconded by Mr. J. Ewer.

The meeting showed itself to be in favour of these elections.

### Presidential Office.

The Acting Secretary outlined the three suggestions that had been put forward for further thought at the Radlett meeting. Mr. G. Debenham added a fourth suggestion which he said had been proposed, but rejected at a meeting some years ago. This was to the effect that a Chairman be elected for a 3-yearly term, this person to be one who was well used to running large meetings; the then Dean of St. Albans having been the suggestion at the time of the original proposition.

A considerable discussion followed, <sup>in</sup> which members showed a <sup>considerably</sup> varying outlook on the matter. Mr. Walpole said that he was wholly in favour of an annually elected business chairman to relieve the President of the task of chairing the A.G.M. This raised the following questions:-



- (1) Is a split into two positions a good thing?  
(2) Is a change in general to be for the best?
- Mrs Coburn pointed out that we must be sure of this before making any change.

Mr. Brown said he was against any change; In any worthwhile Association the members look to the President as being their leader, & as such he should be capable of ~~holding~~ <sup>occupying</sup> the position both in the capacity of chairman & as a position of honour. He further added that the conduct at a meeting is in the hands of the members. Mr. Dodds noted that the Secretary should be in <sup>such</sup> a position that he can guide an uncertain chairman through points of business procedure.

Mr C.A. Lewis, speaking as a visitor, said that a solution could be to have "freemen" of the Association, this being a position of honour. This raised the question as to whether our Constitution is at fault; a proposition by Mr. Wilby that the District Committee look into this did not find a seconder.

As the discussion showed no tendency to reach a solution, & a show of hands showed the meeting to be in favour of change by <sup>only</sup> 12 votes to 6 (out of a total of 31 district members present), Mr Penney proposed that the next item on the agenda be taken, & was seconded by Mr. G. Dodds. This was carried by a majority vote.

#### Forth coming Events

The Acting Secretary gave details of a Surprise Practice to be held at North Myms on Monday

July 31<sup>st</sup> at 7.30 pm, & of a special practice at South Mimms on 10<sup>th</sup> of August. This latter date was stressed, as being different to that previously advertised. The District Ringing Master spoke of punctuality at the Surprise Practices, & urged members to make as much effort to be on time as they could; the St. Michael's practice had been far more successful because of punctuality, in comparison with that at St. Peter's.

### Place + Date of Next Meeting

(at Wheatthampstead) The Acting Secretary said this had been arranged for August 19<sup>th</sup>; ringing from 3.30 owing to a wedding, with a service at 4.45. Some doubt was expressed by a Wheatthampstead member that the bells would be available for this date, <sup>owing to a peal later in the month.</sup> & the Acting Secretary said he would confirm arrangements with the Rector.

It was proposed by Mr. Ewer & seconded by Mr. R. Brown that Sandridge be approached as an alternative should Wheatthampstead be unavailable. Failing this, members would have to rely on word of mouth, & look carefully for the notice in the R.W. Regret was expressed that such a course of action should be necessary.

### A. O. B.

- (1) The Acting Secretary said that a barbecue would be held in the Grounds of St. Michael's Vicarage, at 8.00 pm entrance fee 2s/6d, all profits to go to the C.C. visit fund. Also;
- (2) Ringing in the evening would take place at the Abbey from 7.00 - 8.30 pm. Also;
- (3) The Acting Secretary read a letter he had



received from the Abbey Society, enclosing £10— as a contribution to the C.C. Visit. This was received with gratitude. Another £1-2-6 was also received towards this fund, from two anonymous sources of £1— & 2s/6d respectively.

(4) Mr. Wilby requested details of the date of the Harpenden meeting, but was assured by Mrs. Coburn that this was well in hand.

(5) A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Hardy to all those who had been in any way connected with the meeting; the Revd Harper for the use of St. Michael's bells & for taking the service, the 3 ladies of the Abbey band for preparing & serving the tea, & the Dean of St. Albans, the Revd. Kennaby for the use of the Abbey bells. Mr. Walpole added a vote of thanks to Mr. Hardy for playing the organ.

There being no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed.

Evening ringing at the Abbey kept all 12 bells going, & despite the difficult rope circle some good ringing was obtained, including a '1/2-course of Cambridge Maximus.

## BARBECUE

The Barbecue held later in the evening was not the success that had been hoped, owing to rain. An attempt was made to conclude the ~~evening~~<sup>evening</sup> in church hall, but the party did not stay together for long. A profit of £4-12-6d was made on the event, towards the C.C. visit fund.

[ Total raised for C.C. visit at this meeting  
£15-15s-0d ]

19<sup>th</sup> August: 67

Wm. Debenham

CHAIRMAN.

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