

Ringing commenced at 3.00pm, & a variety of methods was rung until 4.30, when the Rector of St Stephens, Revd. Anthony Hart-Synnot, conducted a brief service. Members then adjourned to the Cavalier Hall for a buffet tea prepared by ladies of the local band.

The Secretary welcomed the Rector to the meeting & installed him as chairman for the business meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Edmondson, Holland & Mayne, Miss J. Fellows, Mrs J Dadds & Mrs M.A. Coburn.

The minutes of the last meeting were read & signed as being a correct record. Arising, the D.R.M. regretted that local circumstances had caused the cancellation of the proposed surprise practice at St. Michael's.

Election of new members.

1) Transfer from probationers to full R.M., Miss J. Pearson, proposed G. Penney, seconded A. Carter. Carried.

2) The following NRLM elections were ratified, Miss Patricia Laycock, Wembley, Middx and Mrs Dianne ~~Halford~~ Halfield of Farcham, Hants.

Canon Harper Memorial Fund. The Secretary asked all those who wished to contribute please to do so at the end of the meeting. Several pounds have already been collected.

Nominations for 1970 Officers. Following a proposal made at the 1969 ADM the Secretary said he would

receive nominations now. A number of names of persons not seeking reelection was read out, following which several nominations were made; viz

Hon. Dis. Sec. - F.W. Ellis

D. R. M. - A.W. R. Wilby

Committee - A. Wilby, Joyce Clarke, E. Edmondson, G. Dods, A. Carter, R. Hardy, F. Ellis, and ^{As J. Daniels} K. Walpole & Mrs Talbot-Penscombe.

R.W.R - Helen Dods

Real Book Writer - K.J. Davill.

Ringing Course 1970. The Secretary said that unless he received considerably more names of those interested than the 2 already received it looked as if this would have to be cancelled.

Date & Place of Next Meeting.

- 1) A. D. M. at St. Peters, St Albans on January 17th 1970. Abbey bells available 7.00 - 9.00
- 2) next district meeting Sandridge, February 21st.

A. O. B

A vote of thanks was given by K.J. Davill to all who had helped in organizing the Dinner

Mr. Davill also raised the question of the use of continuing with surprise practices in view of present lack of support. After discussion it was proposed this item be placed on the agenda of the ADM by A. Carter, seconded G. Dods. Carried.

Mr. F.W. Ellis stated that a gift had been made to pay for the work on Wheathampstead tower and hoped the new Trebles could soon be ordered.

The D.R.M. initiated a discussion on whether we should offer the local incumbent at a meeting the

choice of a service as usual, or prayers in the belfry.
It appeared that substantially everyone present was in
favour of retaining the service.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr.
Penney to the ^{Reverend} Rector for the use of the bells & for the
service, to the local band for the tea, and to the
organist. There being no further business the meeting
was closed.

Kinging continued until 8.00 pm, & was
well supported. From rounds up to splendid surprise
~~was~~ ^{was} rung.

R. J. Meredith

CHAIRMAN 21/2/70.