

Appendix G

Peals at Lincoln Cathedral

The first peal rung at the Cathedral took place on 14th June 1886 and consisted of Kent Treble Bob Major. The time taken for this peal was three hours and 24 minutes and was conducted by Francis E. Dawe. It was credited to the Midland Counties Association and amongst those taking part were Revd W. W. C. Baker, Rev W. C. Pearson, Edmund D. Taylor and John W. Taylor Junior.

This peal was, of course, rung on the 'old' eight. Three others were rung on these bells, 14 June 1890 Stedman Triples, 15 February 1896 Kent Treble Bob Major and the last, which took place on 14th September 1906 was of Stedman Triples, conducted by Rev F. E. Robinson. The band included Rev H. Law James and Rupert Richardson.

The first peal on the 'new' eight took place on 18th September 1913 and was conducted by Cook Wells. The method was Grandsire Triples and I am almost certain that the entire band were members of the Cathedral Company. Four more peals were rung before the augmentation to 12. These were Cambridge Surprise Major on 9 May 1914, Stedman Triples on 24 January 1920, Double Norwich Court Bob Major on 9 December 1922 and Double Norwich Court Bob Major on 5 September 1923.

The first peal on the 12 bells was rung on 28th December 1929. The method was Cambridge Surprise Maximus and was composed and conducted by Rev H. Law James. There were several attempts before the peal was rung successfully. It is said that in one attempt Law James called 'stand' and apologised, as he'd not learned the remainder of the composition because he thought they wouldn't get that far! Another story is that they were near the end and Law James stood the bells because two ringers did not dodge cleanly. It seems very unlikely that a conductor and composer of Law James stature would not have learned a straightforward composition of Maximus. Perhaps the truth is that he considered the peal wasn't quite good enough for such an important occasion and he blamed himself rather than embarrass any of the band. Details of the peal as published in the *Ringing World* dated 3 January 1930 are as follows :

LINCOLN
LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD
On Saturday December 28, 1929 in Four Hours and Nine Minutes
IN ST HUGH'S TOWER, AT THE CATHEDRAL
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES
Tenor 24 cwt

H. Leslie Pask	1	Harold Marcon	7
Revd H. Law James	2	Harry Morgan	8
Charles McGuinness	3	John W. Wood	9
Rupert Richardson	4	Harold Walker	10
Sidney Proctor	5	John Walden	11
Frederick W. Stokes	6	John A. Freeman	12

Composed and Conducted by the Revd H. Law James

First peal on the twelve bells. First peal of Cambridge Maximus by all the band.
First peal of Maximus by all but the conductor. 200th peal as conductor.
All resident members of the Guild

There was a short report of the peal in *Belfry Gossip* which stated that:

'The first peal on the twelve bells at Lincoln Cathedral was rung on Saturday, and was a noteworthy performance. Under the conductorship of the Master of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, a Lincolnshire band rang their first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus. In the one or two previous attempts that had been made, success eluded them after it had appeared within their grasp'.

It was the first of Maximus in the method by all of the band. Since that date all the well-known ringers of the time have rung peals at the Cathedral. In 1986 I compiled a record of the peals at the Cathedral with the assistance of the late Fred Pinchbeck and Canon Felstead. This makes fascinating reading.

Three false peals have been rung at the Cathedral : Stedman Cinques on 5 September 1936, Cambridge Surprise Maximus on 30 June 1949 and Stedman Cinques on 31 October 1964.

As at 28 September 2013 the total number of true peals rung at the Cathedral is 404.