



Produced by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas

# MARSTON UPDATE

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 – edition no: 268**

The latest **Bicester Branch** midweek practice was held at **Bletchingtondon (6)** on the Wednesday morning of

26<sup>th</sup> July where four ringers from Old Marston went over to assist as helpers. As ever there was plenty of sustenance on hand throughout the session, along with a strong turnout of students and helpers, with Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman the methods on the menu.

Our gratitude to Steve Vickars for allowing us the opportunity to slip in a course of All Saints at the end in preparation for the Sunday quarter peal at Old Marston.



The **Bletchingtondon** bells were sounding out again three days later as it was slotted in at short notice as a replacement for **Wotton Underwood** for a quarter peal of Plain and Little Bob Minor at the start of our Quarter Peal Day for our ringing friends from Hampshire, Graham and Harry Cane (and Hector!)

**29<sup>th</sup> July**

**Bletchingtondon, St Giles – 1280 Plain & Little Bob Minor**

Hugh Deam, Graham Cane, Harry Cane, Colin Taylor, Paul Lucas, Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c)



Next, we headed out to the lovely Buckinghamshire village of **Nether Winchendon (5)** for our first quarter peal there since 2007. The Grade 1 Listed church and neighbouring manor house – formerly a priory – have notably featured in a plethora of films and television dramas such as '*Bridget Jones' Diary*' and '*Midsomer Murders*'.



All those who hadn't rung here before were mightily impressed by the church and its surrounds, plus the ultimately rewarding challenge of ringing the beefy set of five bells, three of which date back to the 17th century. Looking at *Doves Online*, it would appear this was only the eighth ever quarter peal on the bells.

**Nether Winchendon, St Nicholas – 1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles**

Colin Taylor, Graham Cane, Hugh Deam (c), Paul Lucas, Harry Cane

(The Nether Winchendon band photo below)





Finally, it was back to **Old Marston**, which was also standing in at the eleventh hour to replace **Wheatley** on the tour, with Mary Carroll from **Iffley** joining us for only her second quarter peal outside of her home tower.



### **Old Marston, St Nicholas – 1260 Doubles (7m)**

Mary Carroll, Paul Lucas, Harry Cane, Colin Taylor, Hugh Deam (c), Graham Cane

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July saw quarter peals rung at **St Giles (8)** and **Old Marston (6)**.

### **St Giles - 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major**

Peter Spain, Matthew Hall, Elizabeth Mullett, Lindsay Powell, Craig Robertson (c),  
Alison Merryweather-Clarke, Sara Jones, John Pusey

(\* 1000th QP on tower bells for Alison Merryweather-Clarke)

### **Old Marston, St Nicholas - 1260 Doubles (24m/v) (Rung for Healing Service)**

Susan King, Jane Hedges, Ailsa Reid (c), Andrea Rowley, Hugh Deam (c), Judith Kirby

(\* Most method variations in a QP for Andrea Rowley)

## **Upcoming Events**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August - 10.30am – 12noon. Oxford City Branch Practice at Cowley St James (6)**  
***(A Practice open to ringers of all abilities, so please come along!)***

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Afternoon Outing to Warwickshire and Oxfordshire towers**  
**Tysoe (St Mary) (6) (12cwt). Wroxton (All Saints) (5) (8cwt). Swalcliffe (SS Peter & Paul) (6) (13cwt)**



***The full line up of the towers for our Autumn Outing is now nearly complete, with ringing commencing at Middle Tysoe at 2.00pm, followed by Wroxton at 3.30pm, and if all goes to plan we should be finishing at 5.00pm at Swalcliffe. Details of parking to be supplied nearer the time.***