



Produced by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas

MARSTON UPDATE

Sunday 3rd December 2023 – edition no: 276

There were two quarter peals rung at **Old Marston** on Sunday 19th November, the first one prior to the morning service, and then later in the day for the annual Marston Scouts service.

St Nicholas, Old Marston. 1260 Doubles (25m/v):

Andrea Rowley, Jane Hedges, Kathy Xu, Maarit Kivilo (c), Hugh Deam (c), Judith Kirby

St Nicholas, Old Marston. 1260 Doubles (19m/v):

Jane Hedges, Lydia Poole (c), Colin Taylor, Maarit Kivilo (c), Hugh Deam (c), Judith Kirby

There was also a quarter peal rung at **Bletchington** which included ringers, Colin and Paul from **Headington**.

St Giles, Bletchington. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles:

Colin Taylor, Ruth Leatherdale, Paul Lucas, Gordon Smith, Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c), Michael Probert



The final 'Daytime Doubles' practice at **Bletchington** for this year, took place on Wednesday 22nd

November, and had several members of the ODG committee in attendance, including the Guild Master, to see this successful format for themselves. We were pleased to be able to field four Marston ringers as helpers for this session.



On Saturday 25th November, the Oxford City Branch Practice held at **St Peter's Wolvercote**, combined with the



ringers officially unveiling their state of the art video downlink and belfry cameras, which allow all six bells to be viewed on a screen or laptop downstairs while they are being rung.

There was a large turnout for this event, with an equal spread of ringers and church members mingling together, with Jonathan and Christopher Beale on hand to explain the breadth of the technology that is being utilised. Also, there was tea and cakes aplenty, supplied by the local band to cater for the entire afternoon, which enabled them to raise £120 for their funds. Our new Marston ringer, Carolina (left) got the opportunity to ring rounds on the bells, her first experience of bells other than Marston, having only started in October.



Also on the same Saturday that evening, we had 14 youngsters from the local Youth Group come along to have a taster session of bellringing at St Nicholas, with everyone getting an equal share of tower and hand bell ringing during the two hours. Several of those having a go showed exceptional promise, managing to rapidly coordinate so as to manage both strokes.

*The following day quarter peals were rung at **Old Marston and St Giles, Oxford.***

Sunday 26th November. St Nicholas, Old Marston. 1260 Doubles 22m/v:

Judith Kirby, Jane Hedges, Kathy Xu, Maarit Kivilo (c), Hugh Deam (c), Michael Haynes

Sunday 26th November. St Giles, Oxford. 1296 Stedman Triples:

Stephen Everett, Caroline Flockton, Lindsay Powell, Stuart Flockton, Alison Merryweather-Clarke, Craig Robertson (c), John Pusey, Austin Dunn

On Saturday 2nd December, which was a day of many a Christmas Market in our area, our occasional

hand bell band travelled over to **Ramsden**, a few miles north of Witney, to answer their plea for a band to ring some Christmas Carols on hand bells during their seasonal fete.



The wintry conditions seemingly did nothing to deter people from turning out to what was a far bigger event than might have been imagined, with over 60 stalls in two venues, our berth being inside a giant marquee. Even though we had only one short practice the previous Sunday, and having to follow a large choir who had been entertaining the throng for an hour, our ringing still went down well and we have been asked to perform again next year.

We were particularly indebted to Alison Merryweather Clarke for supplementing our band, and thus making it possible for us to fulfil this engagement.

An Upcoming Christmas Event

Please note: On Friday 22nd December our Old Marston practice will be from 6.45pm to 7.45pm, and anyone who comes along that evening is invited to the Open House at the vicarage straight afterwards.