

Produced by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas

MARSTON UPDATE

Wednesday 4th January 2023 – edition no: 250



Christmas ringing at Marston was somewhat curtailed by our vicar coming down with Covid, and hence two of

the scheduled services were cancelled. Nonetheless we still managed to ring on six different occasions between Christmas Eve and 2nd January, plus hold a practice on 23rd December. A video of our handbell ringing at the Christmas Fair in early December has been doing the rounds on the church Facebook page and we were asked if we could ring the handbells as the congregation arrived for the Christmas Eve Carol Service as well as ringing the tower bells, which meant getting twelve people to be involved. Thanks to timings returning to how they used to be in years gone by, Marston and Wolvercote were able to lend each other a hand and so service ringing was fully staffed at both towers.



On the Bank Holiday Tuesday, we welcomed Sara and Kathy from **St Giles** as they joined us to ring a quarter peal. Congratulations to Sara for her most method/variations in a quarter peal so far.

Tuesday 27th December – 1260 Doubles (20m/v):

Kathy Xu, Jane Hedges, Sara Jones (c), Maarit Kivilo (c),
Hugh Deam (c), Judith Kirby



On the Friday afternoon we had a wedding to ring for in the late

afternoon. The transport for the main participants in the wedding was made up of three immaculate vintage cars suited to the occasion, plus a London double-decker bus. As we had eight of us sharing ringing duties for the wedding we took the opportunity to continue ringing after the wedding party had left and Kathy was able to avail herself of the chance to ring a touch of Plain Bob Minor on an inside bell, plus we also used this occasion as our impromptu Christmas celebration, with mince pies on hand and some crackers to be pulled!



On Saturday night, New Year's Eve, Jane, Judy and Hugh, were delighted to accept an offer to join the **Iffley** band with their ringing in of 2023, and then join in to the toast the New Year!

After two successive years of restrictive, constricted, stripped-back

and at best, utilitarian Christmas periods, the widespread return of a warm glow of festive decoration and depiction was impossible to miss, even amidst the prevailing economic headwinds. For instance, the popularity of knitted post-box toppers continues as evidenced by the festive example that was to be found in Oxford's Covered Market, and the nativity scene outside **St Nicholas the Wonderworker Church** in Ferry Road, New Marston has been a radiance during the night-time hours.



Please note: There's a Branch Practice this Saturday 7th January at Cuddesdon (6). This was originally booked for Horspath, but because of technical problems, had to be moved. All welcome to come along!