

# MARSTON UPDATE

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – edition no: 258**

For the first time in around 7-8 years, the bells at **St Lawrence, North Hinksey (6)**, were able to be rung for their Easter Day morning service, thanks to a combination comprising four tower ringers, a former tower member now living in Cornwall, who was back in Oxford for Easter, and four of us from Old Marston. We were able to ring touches of Grandsire, Plain Bob and St Simon's. If all goes to plan, next month we should be able to combine our forces to ring for the Coronation Tea Party on the Monday afternoon of the weekend of celebrations.



After an interregnum of around 4 years, we were able to return to

**Kirtlington (8)** for what had become a yearly Easter Monday ringing get together up until the arrival of Covid, with six Marston ringers amongst the attendees. As previously, the Kirtlington band generously played host and we had our best ever attendance, with ringers from four different Branches looking to get back into the swing of things after Holy Week on what was for many an opportune session ahead of the Hereford and Radley Teaching courses this week. With that in mind there was plenty of Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles, along with Plain Bob Triples and Plain Hunt Triples. We also had time to fit in some Plain Bob Major, Stedman Triples and Cambridge Minor.



Also during the week, three Marston ringers travelled out to **Bletchington (6)** on Wednesday morning to be amongst the eight helpers for the Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles practice session. The five learners had several goes on inside bells as well as trebling and tenoring. As ever there was plenty of cake, biscuits, tea and coffee laid on for the helpers during the interval. On what was her debut as a helper, Lydia called a touch of Little Bob Minor to close out proceedings.



For those readers who have rung at Marston and on our outings at some point over the last forty years, you will undoubtedly know our long time tower captain, Anthony Hughes. In common with many long serving ringers throughout our community, the elongated deferral of ringing the bells saw Anthony opt to step away with a clean break rather than a winding down. Given the stop-start nature of restrictions up until relatively recently there hadn't been the opportunity to adequately show our appreciation for his stewardship. Last month, in the wake of our first tower AGM since 2020, we were finally able to meet to organise an apposite token of appreciation, which was a gift voucher from Yarnton Garden Centre. Below is a subsequent message from Anthony:



*"Please would you pass on my thanks for the support of my fellow ringers over so many years. It was a privilege to be so involved with campanology at St Nicholas church. The gardening gift is particularly appreciated as Lucy and I have lost quite a number of specimen plants over the last year due to such extreme temperatures in the garden of Cross Farm. All the best with your ringing, especially in a Coronation year."* **Anthony Hughes**

## Upcoming Event

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Afternoon Outing starting at 2.00pm to **St James, Little Milton (6) 11cwt**