



Produced by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas

# MARSTON UPDATE

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – edition no: 277**

*The post box inside Oxford's Covered Market, with its festive topper in place, is now amongst the definitive signs locally that the Christmas season is fully upon us once again, and this year's demure offering has been proudly on display for over a fortnight now.*



Despite the straitened economic times, there appears to be no diminution of exterior

festive decoration around Marston this Christmas, most notably, as is usual, by a house on Oxford Road which has added several new figures and strands of lighting.

*Quarter Peals were rung for Advent Sunday services at **Iffley, Old Marston and St Giles, Oxford**, on Sunday 3rd December:*

## **St Mary's, Iffley. 1260 Doubles (3m):**

Mary Carroll, Susan King, Keith Godfrey, Martin King, Stephen Davies (c), Jonathan Jones

## **St Nicholas, Old Marston. 1260 Doubles (9m/v):**

Roy Peach, Janice Beale, Jonathan Beale, Maarit Kivilo (c), Hugh Deam (c), Judith Kirby

## **St Giles, Oxford. 1280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major:**

Katie Lane, Alison Felton, Craig Robertson, Lindsay Powell, John Pusey, Simon Edwards, Peter Spain, Peter Felton (c)



On the Saturday afternoon of 9<sup>th</sup>

December, four members of our Old Marston band made up the inside numbers for what was a specifically arranged quarter peal, being the first attempt for Kidlington ringer Marinu Leccia who only took up ringing just over a year ago in November 2022.

This was also Phil Sampson's first quarter peal since 2012, and our Old Marston contingent were pleased to be in a position so that we could make this quarter peal happen before Marinu, who is probably the only Corsican bellringer in the Guild, sadly leaves for Cambridge in the new year.



## **St Mary's, Kidlington, 1260 Doubles (12m/v):**

Marinu Leccia, Ailsa Reid (c), Andrea Rowley (c), Maarit Kivilo (c), Hugh Deam (c), Philip Sampson



On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, the current youngest ringer in the City Branch, Marc Jones, rang the treble to his first Triples quarter peal at his home tower of **St Giles, Oxford**. Marc is just 12 years old, and is destined to become a great ringer... He is the brother of Sara Jones, who is currently at University in Exeter, and who is also becoming an excellent ringer. Their dad, Geraint is already a ringer at St Giles.

**St Giles, Oxford. 1260 Grandsire Triples:**

Marc Jones, Dana Josephson, Caroline Flockton, Paul Lucas, Stephen Everett, Stuart Flockton, John Pusey (c), Katie Lane



On the Monday morning of 11<sup>th</sup> December, we were able to call upon the use of the **Old Marston** bells in order to enable our good friends from **Witney**, Dan and Ruth, to complete another quarter peal together with Ruth, this time adding Grandsire Doubles to her methods. Having originally planned to ring at **Shabbington (6)**, with



its' lovely riverside pub location nearby to wind down, it was apposite that instead we were able to decamp to Old Marston's famous pub beside the River Cherwell – '**The Victoria Arms**', with Ruth and Dan kindly treating us to coffees and mince pies all round!

**St Nicholas, Old Marston. 1260 Doubles (11m/v):**

Judith Kirby, Andrea Rowley (c), Ruth Leatherdale, Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c), Hugh Deam (c), Dan Neal

*Hopefully, all your towers will be able to hold some significant ringing over the Christmas period, whether it be peals, quarter peals or general service ringing. In the next 'Update' we will try to feature as much as possible of what you have been doing across the holidays.*

*Just send me any details on the mail address below, for any inclusions you may wish to publicise.*

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**Upcoming Events in 2024**

*Even as we approach the nadir of daylight hours, then the nascent planning for outings and quarter peals at some new, or long time since visited locations, is already under way.*

*Watch out for plenty more details in the Updates early in the New Year!*

***A very Happy Christmas to all our readers!***