



Produced by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas

MARSTON UPDATE

Saturday 19th August 2023 – edition no: 269

Despite it being the height of the holidaying season early August has seen plenty of quarter peals scored around the City Branch.

Sunday 6th August. St Nicholas. Old Marston (6) – 1260 Doubles (28m/v):

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

We added some new method variations this week, with an incorporation of Grandsire, All Saints, Antelope and Pinks, with Plain Bob and Reverse Canterbury plain leads, plus an incremental increase of Old singles as well as Golden and Silver bobs. Well done to Kathy Xu for once again upping her method variation tally within a quarter peal.

St Giles, Oxford (8). 1260 Grandsire Doubles:

Jane Bishop, Austin Dunn, Matthew Hall, Sara Jones, Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c), Geraint Jones

First quarter peal congratulations to Jane Bishop. Alison's 1000th tower bell quarter peal without simulated sound.



The following Sunday morning on 13th August, our trip over to **St Lawrence, North Hinksey (6)** to join their ringers coincided with what was their nearest service to the feast day of St Lawrence (*also spelled as **St Laurence***), which was on Thursday 10th August.

We were able to put together a band to ring several different methods, Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire and St Martin's, and we were thanked by the vicar for our performance on this significant day.

St Lawrence was one of the most venerated Roman martyrs, and is the patron saint of deacons, as well as chefs and firefighters.

Also on Sunday, successful quarter peals were rung at **St Giles**, and **Iffley**, both including ringers from Old Marston:

St Giles, Oxford (8) – 1260 Plain Bob Doubles:

Benjamin Poole, Andrew Spicer, Sara Jones, Matthew Hall, Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c), John Pusey

Iffley (SMV) (6) – 1260 Plain Bob Doubles:

Mary Carroll, Susan King, Hugh Deam (c), Elizabeth Mullett, Brian Todd, Jonathan Jones



On the Tuesday morning on 15th August, we journeyed over to **Eynsham (6)** for a quarter peal, this being the first time we have rung on their bells since early Spring 2020. Thank you to our good friend at the tower, Peter Butler for getting us booked in at relatively short notice and for opening and locking up the tower. We were very pleased to welcome Tracey from **Shipton under Wychwood (8)** to join our band for the first time, plus this was Lydia's first quarter peal outside of St Nicholas, Old Marston. Afterwards we took a short walk to the Cherry Tree Café, where we all treated ourselves to one of the ten or so flavours of scoopable ice cream on offer!

Eynsham (St Leonard) (6) – 1260 Doubles 11m/v:

Tracey Cooper, Lydia Poole (c), Jane Hedges, Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c), Hugh Deam (c), Michael Probert



We are looking forward to ringer Charlotte Furneaux coming back down to visit us for a week from Yorkshire in Oxford next month, and we are intending to arrange a midweek quarter peal for her at a tower somewhere in the county.



She has kindly furnished us with some representative photos of a new arts event in aid of local hospitals, that is taking place near her home in Leeds this summer.

The '**Leeds Bear Trail**' consists of over 80 sculptures of bears and cubs situated across the streets and parks of the city, all of which will finally be displayed together in one location for a 'farewell weekend' in late September.

Upcoming Events

The next Oxford City Branch Practices are:-

Saturday 2nd September at Headington. (8). The **Half Yearly Meeting** will be from 2.30 -3.00pm, then the Branch Practice from 3.00pm - 4.30pm. (For people for all abilities)

Saturday 14th October at **Iffley (6)** 10.30-12.00noon

Saturday 14th 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.