



Produced by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas

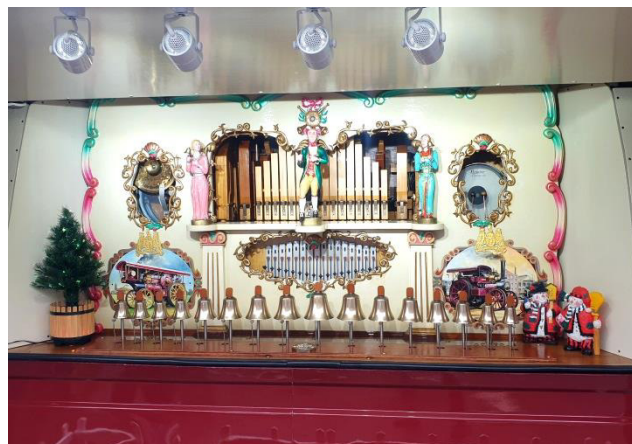
MARSTON UPDATE

Wednesday 27th December 2023 – edition no: 278

We are looking forward to our good friend Charlotte Furneaux coming down to Oxford again in early January,



and we are planning to fit in some more quarter peal ringing for her whilst she is down here. She has kindly sent us some photographic glimpses of how the lead up to Christmas was exhibited this year up in Yorkshire.



Pictured are Halifax Christmas Market and a portable musical organ at Wetherby Christmas Market.

On Saturday 16th December, we were able to mark the annual switch-on of the lights decorating the tree afore St Nicholas church with a quarter peal, where we fitted in a few seasonally named method variations, such as: *St Wenceslas* and *St Stephen* and village names in the **Witney and Woodstock Branch**, *North Leigh*, *Freeland* and *Eynsham*, in recognition of Alison Merryweather-Clarke being in the band.



Saturday 16th December 1260 Doubles (14m/v):

Judith Kirby, Steve Davies, Jane Hedges, Alison Merryweather-Clarke, Hugh Deam (c), Michael Haynes

The following day our ringing prior to morning prayer marked the first service ringing for our newest recruit Carolina, just two months after her first lesson, and we also rang for our *Service of Nine Lessons and Carols* later in the day.

Also on the Sunday, the **Headington** ringers rang a quarter peal prior to their Carol Service, this being a first in method for Tertia Softley.

Sunday 17th December. St Andrew's Headington 1440 Plain Bob Minor:

Clare Fairbairn, Tertia Softley, Paul Lucas, Colin Taylor, Stephen Everett, Malcolm Fairbairn (c)



On Monday 18th December, the ringers from **St James Cowley**, held their Christmas party after a good practice with plenty of visitors and, as a result even Stedman Doubles was on the agenda.

Whilst we savoured the nibbles and drinks it was memorable to have the numerous trees of the *Cowley Christmas Tree Festival* as a backdrop.



At **Old Marston**, our last Friday practice of 2023, on 22nd December, started earlier than usual so that we could accept the hospitality of our Vicar vis-a-vis the invitation to the "Open House" at the Vicarage.

Even with a shortened practice we still managed to fit in half a dozen different methods, including *Buxton Bob Minor* which we haven't rung for

some time. This was followed by over an hour of extensive refreshment and convivial conversation across several rooms in the vicarage.



Most towers in Oxford were able to ring for services on Christmas Eve, with Steve and Colin from **Headington**

and Hugh from **Old Marston**

complementing afternoon service ringing at **Kidlington** and **Wolvercote**.

Video of the ringing at Wolvercote is available to view on:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_RCNLRjnX7Q

If you then type in: 'Wolvercote Ringing', you can click on a video labelled: *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star 2023*.

Straight after **Wolvercote** came **Old Marston**, where we had sufficient numbers to ring methods on the tower bells, and Christmas Carols on the handbells downstairs prior to the always popular "Carols For All" service.



Quarter peals were also rung at Old Marston and St Giles, Oxford on Christmas Eve morning.

St Nicholas, Old Marston. 1260 Doubles (15m/v):

Judith Kirby, Ailsa Reid (c), Andrea Rowley (c), Maarit Kivilo (c), Hugh Deam (c), Benjamin Poole (With several new method variations for Andrea)

St Giles, Oxford. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles:

Alison Felton, Alison Merryweather-Clarke, Marc Jones, Sara Jones (c), Peter Felton, Stephen Everett (This was Marc's 1st quarter peal on an inside bell)

For the first time since 2018, we were in a position to ring a quarter peal on Christmas Day prior to morning service at **Old Marston** – one of only a dozen or so rung across the country on the day. Thank you to Alison for volunteering to be in our band and sharing the conducting duties. Alison and Hugh then nipped down to **St Giles** and helped ensure all eight bells were rung before their morning service.

St Nicholas, Old Marston. 1260 Doubles (16m/v):

Roy Peach, Maarit Kivilo (c), Andrea Rowley (c), Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c), Hugh Deam (c), Judith Kirby



Some Seasonal Messages!

"A very happy Christmas and New Year to all my ringing friends" - David Parks

"Thanks for continuing to send out the newsletters. I enjoy reading about all the ringing in and around Oxford.

Wishing all Old Marston ringers and friends a very merry Christmas" - Jane Wilcock

"Thank you all so much for letting me ring with you on Christmas Day, I really enjoyed ticking off my antepenultimate day of the year for QPs! Happy Christmas!" - Alison Merryweather-Clarke