



Produced by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas

MARSTON UPDATE

Wednesday 31st January – edition no: 281

Sunday 21st January saw Surprise quarter peals rung at both St Giles and Marston.

Sunday 21st January. St Giles, Oxford – 1280 Superlative Surprise Major:

Caroline Flockton, Alison Felton, Peter Spain, Simon Edwards, Craig Robertson (c), Stuart Flockton, John Pusey, Peter Felton

St Nicholas, Old Marston – 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor:

Michael Haynes, Alison Felton, Michael Probert, Peter Felton, Hugh Deam, Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c)



Thank you to Andrew Honey from Iffley for contributing a photo of the headstone he spotted in the churchyard of **St Mary the Virgin, Hartpury** in Gloucestershire last

week, and also for transcribing the wording which details a local ringer who was crushed to death by a bell in 1692. We rang on the bells at **Hartpury** during an outing of ours back in March 2009, where the bee shelter in the churchyard takes pride of place, but the equally unique headstone went unnoticed by us at the time, so we are indebted to Andrew for being eagle-eyed and good enough to bring it to our attention:

"In Memory of John Hale of this Parish Blacksmith Who Deceased Septemb. ye 9th. 1692.

Aged 25 Yrs 4 Months.

*Loe heres' (Interr'd) the Muses Passive Friend;
Their Noblest Science (Ringing) was his End
His Actions Just, A Martyr of that skill,
Crusht by a Bell twas Heavens Sacred Will.
Melodious Bells delighting him on Earth,
Exchang'd Terrestrial for Celestiall Mirth:
This fatal Stroke (in haste) did stop his Breath,
Lamented was his Unexpected Death."*



Whilst on the subject of remembering an outing from the past, we are pleased to announce the first outing of 2024, to take place on Saturday 24th February. Although the final tower is still to be ratified, we are confirmed to be starting at 10.00am at **Weston Turville** (which we have only visited for a quarter peal before), with the middle tower confirmed as being **St Marys, Wendover** with the lunch venue a short walk from the church. The last time we visited Wendover



was way back in 2004, when this was a six, rather than an eight-bell tower. If you would like to come along to all or part of this then you can contact Hugh anytime. hugh.deam@btinternet.com or call: 01865-247574

Further quarter peals were rung at St Giles and Old Marston last Sunday.

Sunday 28th January. St Giles, Oxford – 1344 Spliced Plain & Little Bob Major:

Marc Jones, Lindsay Powell, Peter Felton, Caroline Flockton, Stuart Flockton, Craig Robertson (c), Alison Merryweather-Clarke, John Pusey

St Nicholas, Old Marston. 1260 Doubles (18m/v):

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

Upcoming Events

Saturday 3rd February:

2.00pm – 4.00pm. The **Oxford City Branch AGM** is being held at **St Giles, Horspath** with ringing beforehand, and afterwards if anyone wishes to stay on when the meeting is over.

During the afternoon Hugh will once again be running a raffle, with all proceeds going towards Branch funds.

Sunday 4th February:

3.00pm - 4.30pm. Focussed Practice at **St Nicholas, Old Marston** – Plain Bob Minor, St Clements, St Simon's.

Places are filled for students on this session, but if anyone would like to join a similar session later in the year then they can contact Hugh and nominate what methods they are most focussed on.

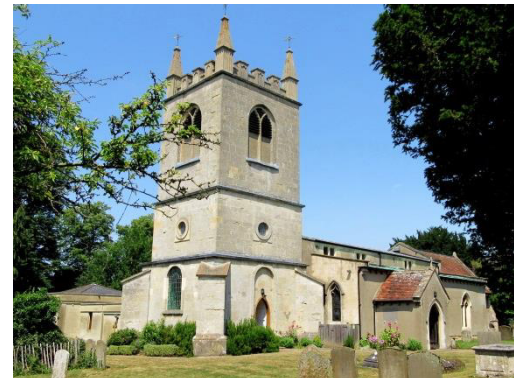
Tuesday 13th February:

The Old Marston ringers have arranged a quarter peal outing in the morning to **Chalgrove (6)** and **Brightwell Baldwin (6)**.

There is also a general ringing session arranged at **Benson (8)** in the afternoon, which is open to all.

1.15pm. Lunch is at the **Waterfront Cafe, Benson**

2.30pm. St Helens, Benson (8) (14cwt)



Saturday 24th February:

An outing to Buckinghamshire towers:

10.00am. Weston Turville, SMV (6) (14cwt) (ground floor ring) HP22 5SH

11.30am. Wendover, St Mary (8) (14cwt). HP22 6NL

12.30pm. Lunch, Wendover, Lady Grey Tea Room. HP22 6DX

2.30pm. Ellesborough, SS Peter & Paul (6) 8cwt (T.B.C.)

