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MARSTON UPDATE

Monday 5th December 2022 – edition no: 247

On Sunday 20th November, in another little signposting of a steady return to the busy routine of events to ring for that previously flecked the calendar, we were able to ring a quarter peal prior to the annual Scouts evening service, this being the first time it could be held since 2019.

1260 Doubles (17m/v):

Jane Hedges, Maarit Kivilo (c), Colin Taylor (c), Steve Davies, Hugh Deam (c), Judy Kirby

The following Saturday, 26th November, Colin and Hugh travelled down to **Nettlebed (St Bartholomew)** to ring a quarter peal. We last rang on this excellent set of six bells on an outing back in 2012.

1260 Grandsire, Plain Bob Doubles:

Colin Taylor, Mick Francis, Hugh Deam (c), Mike Sprocken, Robert Tregillus, John Hearn

The following morning, Quarter Peals for Advent Sunday, 27th November, were rung at **Marston** and **St Giles**.

(Marston): 1260 Doubles (35m/v):

Kathy Xu, Ailsa Reid (c), Jane Hedges, Maarit Kivilo (c), Hugh Deam (c), Judy Kirby

(*This was the most method variations we have rung in a quarter peal since 8th March 2020, which was our last quarter peal before lockdown.)

(St Giles): 1260 Grandsire Doubles:

Andrew Spicer, Craig Robertson, Sara Jones (c), Lindsay Powell, Alison Merryweather-Clarke, Finian Bassford

Following the success of the Christmas Fair outside Marston vicarage last year, which slipped in just before the rapid tapering down of festive plans, we were pleased to be invited to ring the handbells once more at this year's event on Saturday, 3rd December, plus we were allocated a more sheltered spot near the vicarage front door.



The Fair was very well attended and, despite only having had one brief practice a fortnight ago, we filled our 30minute slot with pretty much every favourite one might expect in a Carol Concert, and didn't have to resort to repeating anything in order to fill the time. We were pleased to be able to invite our Parish Council chairman, Duncan, to join our band once again, and to have on board our new ringer Mary, who slotted in seamlessly to the band. Even though the hand bells have taken something of a back seat since we have been back up and running with the tower bells, our repertoire has noticeably grown since we rang for the outdoor Christmas Day service back in 2020.

The Fair raised over £1,000 for the 'Divya Shanthi' Trust which works with, and supports, economically poor and socially excluded families.