

MARSTON UPDATE

February 16th, 2021

Hugh Deam
Compiled by
Donna Bennett
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OK POP
PICKERS!



Feedback from last week's Update

Thank you so much for the Update, I am pleased to hear our snowdrops and aconites are welcoming folk to St James, Cowley churchyard. It is a shame this year we couldn't invite you all into the church for tea and cake. A number were moved from the Rectory garden into the churchyard so more people could enjoy them. Sunday morning was lovely walking to church, looking at the snowdrops, with the sound of a bell being tolled by Jamie, before I start manning the computer for our live streaming, face to face and Zoom service. Has anyone spotted the snowdrops in the form of a cross? It is not so clear this year. It will need some new plants !!

Mary Bayliss - St James Cowley

Back in the Day Friday 12th February 1993 - Marston bells heard nationally.

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Jonathan Beale 2 Roy Jones 3 Alec Gammon
4 Steve Davies 5 Hugh Deam 6 Len Porter

A quarter peal at Marston, nothing particularly unusual in that, but this one played to our largest ever audience as we were ringing live on BBC Radio 1 as part of the Gary Davies Show broadcasting from around Oxford for two and a quarter hours. Hugh had received a call from the BBC the previous Friday evening stating that the Marston bellringers invitation was one of the submissions that they wanted to take up. We were allocated the opening section of the show as they billed it that we were welcoming Radio 1 to Oxford. This was also likely to be the time when listening figures for the programme would be at their highest, so the estimate is that we were heard by around 3 million people. Perhaps fortunately some of the band weren't fully aware as to the exact proportions of what Hugh had asked them to participate in. During the 1990s we were just finding our feet with quarter peals (1 doubles QP a month) so this was a big ask, with most of the band here on lunch breaks and so there would be no second chances. Hugh would also like to thank again John Beale for being on hand to help us that special afternoon.

Below is a slightly truncated version of the article published in *The Ringing World* at the time.

12.35pm - Producer, DJ, soundman and Comms arrive for quick reconnoitre as we ring up the bells.

12.40 - Communications to Broadcasting House finalised on the gallery. Local press and local onlookers gather outside as the last of our ringers makes his way through to the chamber having had to park further away than expected.

12.45 - Gary Davies begins the show from just outside the church. He has a quick chat with our blind handbell ringer Joan Oldfield and then he makes his way back up to the ringing chamber, we oblige his request to try ringing a bell.

12.50 - During music break, right old scrum of local paparazzi taking publicity shots of DJ holding bell rope.

12.55 - Hugh subjected to interview on ringing. Len Porter gives DJ tuition on ringing the backstroke. Barbra Redshaw presents DJ with personalised Branch sweatshirt. By this time scores of villagers had gathered outside the church.

1.00 - Our band begin ringing for a radio show that had an estimated weekly audience of over 10million.

1.05 - Radio crew make their way out of church, Gary Davies posits on air that this might be the busiest Marston has even been as they dash off to broadcast next from a hairdresser's in Kidlington.

