

# MARSTON UPDATE

## January 18th, 2021

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Understandably for the Update we generally concentrate on the ringing related happenings at the church's in Marston, but the parish also includes Elsfield and its 13th century church dedicated to St Thomas of Canterbury. Undoubtedly the most noted resident of the village was the Scottish diplomat and historian John Buchan, 1st Lord Tweedsmuir, but most widely remembered as being the author of The 39 Steps and other novels featuring the Richard Hannay character. He was lord of the manor in Elsfield and is buried in the churchyard here. In normal times services are held on the fourth Sunday of the month, morning in the winter months and evening in the summer months. The two bells of the church are what might be described as a Tingtang and for many years Anthony Hughes has rung them for services, occasionally assisted by Judy. (4 photos above and )



Around this time last year many of you who receive the update will have been at Marston for our Ringing Up and Down afternoon which was bursting at the seams with participants. We live in hope that the planned follow up sessions can take place later this year. For our Back in the Day this week we recall one of our earlier such practices

### BACK IN THE DAY

#### Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016

#### Ringing Up and Down morning at St Nicholas

Elaine Chaston from Wolvercote tower who was one of the attendees that day was good enough to write a piece about the practice for the Oxford City Branch Hugh's News edition at the time.

*"The sun shone through the window in the newly refurbished Marston tower. We were there for ringing up and down practice interspersed with some Plain Hunt and more advanced methods for the experienced ringers. Finally getting my brain to separate my right side from my left, I made progress with the able help of Paul, Hugh and Colin. Many thanks to the tutors and helpers. A lovely morning in a lovely tower."*

