



# Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

Produced fortnightly by Paul and Hugh, with a few contributions from other ringers

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016

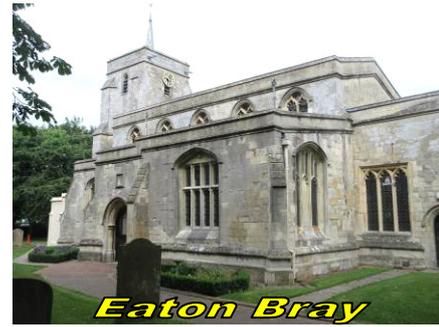


## A Morning Outing to Eaton Bray (6) and Edlesbrough (6) – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July

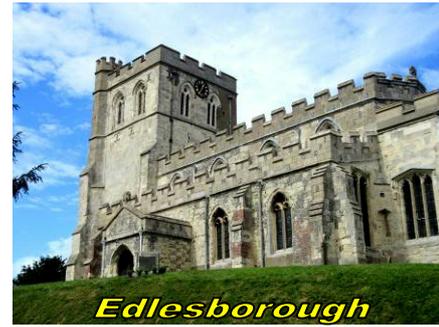
Eaton Bray (Bedfordshire) and Edlesbrough (Buckinghamshire) actually reside in different counties but may well be the most coalesced

example of an anomaly that the well-travelled bell-ringer can stumble across in that they belong to the same ecclesiastical parish whilst being in separate ringing guilds. Different counties or no both churches afford spectacular views across weald and downs, especially when the sun shines, and we were lucky enough to visit on such an occasion. Eaton Bray derives its manorial affix from Sir Reginald Bray who was reputedly gifted land here after fighting alongside Henry Tudor at the Battle of Bosworth Field and finding Richard III's crown on the battlefield and then placing it on the head of the new king. During the Victorian era a rather less salubrious landowner dominated the area, Arthur Macnamara being dubbed the 'mad squire' due to his fondness for evicting tenants on a whim, horse-whipping commoners, mowing them down with his horse and carriage, and presenting himself as the epitome of the heavy-drinking brutish squire. The 13th century church at Edlesbrough stands atop the largest barrow in the area and can be clearly seen, surrounded by a host of trees, across the valley from the church at Eaton Bray. The Churches Conservation Trust oversees the upkeep of the Grade 1 Listed church in Edlesbrough and we were only the third band to ring on the bells this year. The bells bear inscriptions recording the fire here in 1828 which gutted the tower and required new bells to be cast. At both towers we were warmly greeted by the respective tower captains and they both kindly agreed to augment our band.

Hugh Deam



Eaton Bray



Edlesbrough

## Tony Crabtree's Mini-Ring at St Giles

The Stallpits Mini-ring (built and transported to Oxford by Tony Crabtree from Shrivenham) was put up for several hours next to the Woodstock Road, in St Giles' churchyard, on Thursday 28 July. The St Giles' ringers hoped particularly to attract interest from children at the beginning of the school holidays, but advance publicity aimed at them didn't seem to have had any effect. However, about twenty adult passers-by were 'compelled to come in' and have a go. The tower-bell ringers present had an enjoyable time improving their skills on miniature bells, and a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles was scored by some of them, taking 30 minutes (tenor weight 5lb 14oz).

John Pusey



## A Morning Outing to Shipston on Stour – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

The 15th century parish church, dedicated to St Edmund, stands close to the heart of this elegant market town which is known for its many arty-

crafty shops, including a saddler, plus Mrs Brown's Tea Room where some of us were able to stay on to enjoy lunch. For the second successive year we joined the local band to ring well struck call-changes, St Clements and Cambridge. On a blistering hot day we returned refreshed and charmed by the bells and this unspoilt town.

Judy Kirby



## Farewell to the Vicar of Old Marston

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June, the Rev. Tony Price visited the Marston bell-ringers' practice night at St Nicholas church for the last time as incumbent of the parishes of Marston and Elsfield. A presentation from the ringers was made to him on his retirement after 25 years Ministry here. Although not a ringer himself, his steadfast support for the Marston tower, its bells and activities of the ringers, culminating with the rehanging of the peal last year was very much appreciated by members of our parish and Church Council in addition to the ringers.

Antony Hughes

## Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](http://hugh.deam.btinternet.com) or mobile: 07899-871079

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	Branch Practice with the Witney & Woodstock ringers at South Leigh (8).	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	Roy Jones Ringing Morning. Twyford (6) 10.00am, and Marsh Gibbon (5) 11.00am.	
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	Practice at Freeland (6)	4.00pm-5.30pm
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	A Morning Ringing and Brewery Tour to Kintbury (8) and Hampstead Marshall	(full details to follow)
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Practice at Stanton Harcourt (6) with the Witney & Woodstock ringers	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Half Day Outing to West Hanney (6), Marcham (6) and Hinton Waldrist (6)	
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Triples and Major Practice at Milton (8)	10.30am-12noon

For more details go to the Oxford City Branch website: [www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk](http://www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk)

Any information or photographs for inclusion in *Hugh's News* please email me: [paulclucas at hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk)