

ANALYSIS OF QUARTER PEALS RUNG DURING 2023

This report considers 58 QPs posted on BellBoard at <http://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/>, rung in tower or hand in 2023, in the Witney and Woodstock branch of the ODG (Table 1).

- Forty-five QPs were rung in 16 different towers, and 13 in hand at four different locations, three of them new venues.
- The most prolific QP venue was Witney, with 8 QPs (six doubles and two triples), including the first rung by a band composed entirely of Witney ringers for many years.
- Twelve of the thirteen handbell QPs during 2023 were rung in North Leigh, including what is quite possibly the first ten-bell QP ever in the Witney and Woodstock branch, Plain Bob Royal rung in the Wilcote Chapel in North Leigh church, also a first on 10 bells in hand for Lorna Curtis.
- Four QPs (1 in tower, 3 in hand) were rung for The Ladies Guild, with the remainder being rung by the ODG.
- Most ringers were local to the Witney and Woodstock branch, with only 2 Triples QPs being rung exclusively by members of other branches. Six QPs included members of other branches ringing alongside local ringers.
- Twenty-two QPs referred to a first in the footnote, representing a new achievement and showing that firsts aren't restricted to Firsts Fortnight! Apologies to any omitted from the following lists:
 - **1st QP:** Joanna Attridge (Combe); Louise Brown (North Leigh); Amy Thomas, Dan Neal, Debra Scrimshaw, Rachel Mackenzie (Witney).
 - **1st QP inside:** Heather Horner (South Leigh), Ruth Leatherdale (Witney).
- Adele Hambidge's first QP away from cover was rung in celebration of the life of Peter Curtis, former ODG ringer, father of Brian and father-in-law of Lorna.
- Lorna Curtis's 1st QP as conductor in hand was rung in the churchyard at Stanton Harcourt in celebration of the life of Nigel Eagle, who rang in Stanton Harcourt for over 50 years, nearly 40 of them as Tower Captain.
- QPs were rung on 50 different days in 2023. Remembrance Sunday was the most popular date to ring a QP, when three were rung.
- Lorna Curtis celebrated her 60th birthday with a QP of Winchendon at Combe, and Mike Probert celebrated his 70th birthday with two QPs, one of 7 m/p/v Doubles at Church Hanborough, and another of Plain and Little Bob Minor on his home turf at Freeland. This happily coincided with his 600th QP with Alison M-C.
- Richard White joined Witney ringers for a QP of Doubles (3m) to celebrate Dave Rose's 80th birthday and 50 years of dedicated service as Tower Captain of St Mary the Virgin, Bampton.
- Other occasions marked in the footnotes included best wishes to Pete Butler (Eynsham) for a speedy recovery, thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Revd Dr John Reader, Rector of St Mary's, Wootton, the first anniversary of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, the Coronation of HM King Charles III, and a celebration of the 800th anniversary of St James' Church, Stonesfield. This QP was rung by a band entirely composed of past and present tower captains on Stonesfield, including Mick and Sally Austin who also celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary and the 50th anniversary of Sally's first ringing lesson, in the same tower. One QP celebrated the Coronation of HM King Charles III. Four were rung for service.
- Doubles was the dominant stage rung to a QP, representing 64% of tower bell QPs. Major similarly dominated the handbell QPs (only even bell methods were rung in hand). The most commonly rung method was Grandsire Doubles (15 QPs), followed by mixed Doubles (between 2 and 11m, 10 QPs, in tower), Plain Bob Minor (7 QPs, 3 in tower, 4 in hand), Grandsire Triples (4 QPs, in tower), Plain Bob Major (4 QPs, in hand), Plain Bob Doubles (3 QPs, in tower) and St Clement's College Bob Minor (2 QPs, in hand).

Table 1 Distribution of 58 QPs rung in the Witney and Woodstock Branch during 2023. T, Tower, H, Hand.

Tower	Bells (T,H)	No. in 2023	Doubles	Minor	Triples	Major	Royal
Witney (St Mary the Virgin)	T	8	6		2		
North Leigh (St Mary)	T	5	5				
Church Hanborough (St Peter and St Paul)	T	4	4				
Combe (St Laurence)	T	4	4				
Stonesfield (St James the Great)	T	4	3	1			
Freeland (St Mary the Virgin)	T	3	1	2			
South Leigh (St James the Great)	T	3	2		1		
Woodstock (St Mary Magdalene)	T	3	1			2	
Cassington (St Peter)	T	2		2			
Ducklington (St Bartholomew)	T	2	1	1			
Eynsham (St Leonard)	T	2		2			
Aston (St James)	T	1	1				
Bampton (St Mary)	T	1			1		
Black Bourton (St Mary the Virgin)	T	1		1			
Broadwell (St Peter and St Paul)	T	1			1		
Wootton (St Mary)	T	1	1				
North Leigh (St Mary (Perrott Aisle/Wilcote Chapel))	H	6				5	1
North Leigh (Cyclops Gardens)	H	4		3		1	
North Leigh (Cuckamus Green)	H	2		1		1	
Stanton Harcourt (St Michael (Churchyard))	H	1		1			
Totals		58	29	14	5	9	1