

## **Stourbridge 12 Bell Eliminator 24.03.2012 – Local Information**

### **Getting there**

For map and directions. GPS co-ordinates DY8 1AQ will take you straight to it.

**Parking is FREE** – thanks to the courtesy of one of our local companies by the name of **Argus Fire** [Fire Engineering Contractors] who make sprinkler systems – so if you need a sprinkler system – you know who to contact. All parking spaces are within earshot/sight of the church although some spaces are the other side of the ring road, but still in view of the church [250yds. away as the crow flies!]

### **Catering**

Food and drinks will be served in the Church Hall directly next to the church. Tea, coffee, fruit juice and squash will be served all day. It is anticipated that we shall be providing as follows:

10.00a.m.-11.25a.m.	Bacon Rolls, Hot buttered toast/marmalade.
12.00a.m.-3.30p.m.	Jacket potatoes with any of the following: Beans; cheese; coleslaw; Tuna/mayo./sweet corn; assorted curries; hotdogs and beef burgers.
4.00p.m.-5.30p.m.	Sandwiches, trifles, cakes and biscuits.

### **The Draw**

This will take place at 11.30 in the church and the ringing will commence at 12.00 mid-day.

Results will also be announced in the church..

**The Church** [For the history of the church and a conducted ‘tour’ plus details of the bells, Google: [St Thomas’s Church Stourbridge](#) ]

St Thomas’s Church is a Grade 1 listed building built in the centre of Stourbridge in 1736 – last year being its 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The original huge stained glass window which was above the altar at the east end of the church is now installed at the opposite end of the church in the west wall in the bell tower and 3 new stained glass windows were installed above the altar when the front of the church was altered in 1890.

We hope you take a moment to look up at the ceiling above the choir stalls where you will see “*The Holy Ghost Plaque*” which it is thought may well have been designed by James Gibbs who designed St Peter’s and also St Martin’s in the Fields in London due to the similarities in the vaulted ceilings and the Plaque.

During the past 5 years £500,000 has been raised for restoration work which is currently ongoing.

Opposite the Church Hall is the building that was once St Thomas’s Vicarage [now occupied by a local solicitor].

### **Local area/facilities**

Directly opposite the church is the **Rye Market shopping centre** for anyone who hasn’t had time to do their weekend shopping!!

**Leisure Centre** - 1 minute walk away; 2 pools: 1 swimming, 1 play.

**Mary Stevens Park** – 10 minute walk away; ideal for children – it has a play area with swings, slides, climbing frames etc. There is also a large pool with hundreds of assorted ducks, geese and visiting seagulls – so you will need plenty of bread!!

**Ruskin Glass Centre** – not sure what’s on there at the moment – will find out. [5 minute drive away]

### **Pubs**

Would recommend **The Talbot Hotel** [circ. 1630’s] – 150 yds. walk away from the church gate – quite a large ‘pub’, originally a coaching house as used/mentioned in the details of the history of St Thomas’s Church in 1866. Unfortunately they do not seem to cater for children – no play area.

**The Bell Pub** – 75 yds. away from the church gate – a much smaller pub but again they do not cater for children.

**The Duke William** [*Real Ale Pub – good selection*], Coventry Street, DY8 1EP. 300 yds.

**The Chequers Inn** [*Wetherspoons*], top end of High Street [children welcome].

### **INFORMATION/DIRECTIONS:**

Please ask anyone wearing a ‘St Thomas’ badge [or an apron!]