

# St Mary's Church

Old Amersham



National 12-bell  
Striking Contest

Welcome to  
the Amersham  
12 Bell Eliminator

Saturday 19 March 2016

A warm welcome to the historic Chiltern market town of Old Amersham.

Competing today are Amersham, Birmingham, Cambridge, Exeter, Oxford, Southwark, Towcester and ULSCR. The top three teams will qualify for the final at Aston on Saturday 25 June.

**SPECIAL OFFERS TODAY**

£10 for a sandwich and a drink, and £3 for a guided walk  
around the Old Town - see details over

<b>TIMETABLE</b>	<p><b>From 10.00</b> Bacon rolls, tea/coffee served in the Church Rooms*</p> <p><b>11.00 - 11.30</b> Welcome and draw in the Church</p> <p><b>11.30 - 15.30</b> The ringing</p> <p><b>From 14.00</b> Tea and cakes available in the Church Rooms*</p> <p><b>16.30 approx</b> Results in the Church</p>
<b>TOUCH</b>	The first six leads of Cambridge Surprise Maximus (brought round with Plain Hunt)
<b>JUDGES</b>	<p><b>Tom Griffiths and Andrew Keech</b></p> <p>The judges are in the top vestry, at the north-east corner of the Church. If you are listening outside by the river please be mindful that the judges may hear you if you talk too loudly.</p>
<b>TOILETS</b>	The only toilet in the Church is reserved for the judges. There are toilets in the Church Rooms* and in the public car park on The Broadway, and pubs/Tesco/cafes are handy too of course.
<b>LUNCH/ BEER</b>	<p>Amersham is blessed with many hostelrys, restaurants and coffee shops within a few minutes walk, although they are rather pricey. We have negotiated a special deal with our favourite pubs, <b>The Kings Arms</b> and <b>The Crown</b> which are just a few minutes from the Church. A <b>£10 special lunch voucher</b> purchased from the stewards will entitle you to a gourmet sandwich and a pint of beer or a soft drink. They are expecting us and extra beer is ordered! £10 may seem a lot but, as mentioned, food and drink is pricey here.</p> <p>There are plenty of alternatives if this offer does not appeal. We recommend the pubs listed here primarily as they have more space, are very happy to welcome ringers and are more likely to sustain a thirst for real ale! They all have beer gardens too. These pubs - all close to the Church - are The Crown (£4.20-£4.50 per pint), Kings Arms (£3.95 per pint), Saracens Head (£3.90-£4.15 per pint) and The Eagle (£3.60 per pint).</p>
<b>QUERIES</b>	Stewards are here to help. Useful links: <a href="http://amershamringing.org.uk">amershamringing.org.uk</a> , <a href="http://stmaryschurchamersham.com">stmaryschurchamersham.com</a> and <a href="http://www.12bell.org.uk">www.12bell.org.uk</a> .

\* The Church Rooms are opposite the west door of the Church, on Church Street. Stewards will show you the way.

**Rector - Rev. Tim Harper**

**Chief Judge - David G Hull**  
**Chairman - David Pipe**  
**Secretary - Michael O'Hagan**

	Start time	Team	Comments	Peal speed	Score	Result
A	11.30					
B	12.00					
C	12.30					
D	13.00					
E	13.30					
F	14.00					
G	14.30					
H	15.00					

## THE TOWN

Old Amersham is a historic town and was described in 1540 as “*a right pretty market town of one street built in timber*”. Not much has changed! It successfully blends the beauty of the old with the practicality of the new and its enchanting shops stock everything from antiques to contemporary fashion. It has been described as a unique jewel in the crown of Buckinghamshire. The Church and the Market Hall both date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. There are many old coaching inns in the town - it was an important staging point for coaches from London to the Midlands.

To learn more, we have arranged for a guide from Amersham Museum to take you on a special 60 minute walk around the town. **Two guided walks are scheduled** - 12 noon and 2.30pm - for £3 per person (free if 16 or under). The stewards can direct you to the Museum Rep to buy a ticket or get further details.



<p><b>THE BELLS</b> (19-0-6 in E)</p>	<p>Bells have been in St Mary's right through from Tudor times. By 1637 five bells were hung, together with a Sanctus bell. A sixth bell was added in about 1725.</p> <p>In 1983 the 19cwt ring of six was recast and augmented to eight, with a tenor of 17cwt. Within a few months the tenor was replaced with the existing heavier bell. Ten years later the frame was extended by Taylors and four new trebles added to create a ring of 12 all hanging on one tier, and in 1996 a sharp second was added.</p>
<p><b>SNIPPETS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The average peal speed on the 12 is 3h9 for both Cinques and Maximus, ranging from 2h59 to 3h26. 40 peals of Cinques and 121 peals of Maximus have been rung on them since they were installed in 1993.</li> <li>• The play <i>The Martyrs of Amersham</i> is in the Church this evening (now sold out), which explains the unusual layout of staging and chairs.</li> <li>• A famous scene from the film <i>Four Weddings and a Funeral</i> was filmed nearby - see if you can spot where.</li> <li>• Ruth Ellis, the last lady to be hanged in the UK, is buried in St Mary's Cemetery.</li> </ul>

**Have a good day!**