

### JOHN TIMMINS

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There has been a church on this site in all three millennia. The tower, built in 1480 and the huge Victorian church structure make a clear statement about the wealth of the area until the Holte estate was divided up and sold off in 1817. Until 200 years ago, Aston was a more important place than Birmingham. The history of the church cannot be separated from the history of Aston and local people.

Within the church you can see evidence of many major events in English history; the wars of the Roses, the Reformation, and the First and Second World Wars to name a few. However, two events of significant interest are recorded:

1. Domesday Book: In 1086 there was a church with a full-time priest. The area was valued at 100 shillings... the nearby village of Birmingham had a value of 20 shillings.
2. English Civil War: Six soldiers were buried in the churchyard, killed in the siege of Aston Hall, their graves unmarked. Damage caused by a Parliamentary cannon ball is still visible at nearby Aston Hall.

When the A38 (M) Expressway was built it split Aston into two, but the spire is still visible over the A38 (M) and the mature trees, leading the traveller into the Heart of Aston.

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