

## CHURCH ROAD, YARDLEY (AREA 2)

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We start off Church Road just before it's most northerly point with a small roundabout in a residential area. Quite a mixed group of houses as we move up towards a crossroads with the Meadway. However it's no longer a crossroads anymore due to it previously being used as a rat run for those wanting to avoid the Junction with Stechford police station.

A little way past the junction is Yardley Old Village, proudly showing the sign that it's a conservation area and you are guided to drive carefully - although at this point with the dead end signs you'd be mistaken that this is the end of Church Road, but alas no it's just blocked near the church as its an old narrow road.

As you enter Yardley Old Village there's a small church community hall, which is actually the home of Yardley Photographic Society, and a small car service centre which is quite unremarkable although for me It's something I notice as my Dad used to work there.

Eventually Church Road does indeed lead to a church. St Edburgha's Church is a medieval building which seems to have been extended over the centuries. The building comprises a 13th century chancel, 14th century nave and a late 15th century north aisle, tower and spire. A vestry was added in 1890 when the chancel east wall was rebuilt, and in the 20th century a boiler house was built.

Moving up from the Church the road turns into a residential area once more, the odd little shop or vet and then eventually turns into the Yew Tree Lane. As you approach, more shops appear in the form of 1960's concrete buildings on the left and smaller shops on the right. Over the years the shops have changed. The Woolworths is now a Wetherspoons, the travel agents now a letting agents.

The Yew Tree pub used to stand proud on the roundabout, quite a rough place - but so long as you support the correct football club it seemed to be OK. I assume at some point in the long since past history there was a Yew Tree present.

The Yew Tree Pub sadly this burnt down in possibly suspicious circumstances. Sadly its replacement is a building lacking any charm and an even less charming name: The Clumsy Swan.

A little further up from the Yew Tree Lane, you come across Yardley Primary School: this is where Church Road actually varies from its original design. It used to be a straight road up at this point towards the Swan and then Tesco's came along and built a new supermarket so now we have a large curve around the car park that takes us up to the roundabout at this what is known as Swan Island.

The Swan was another area named after a Pub - in this case the Swan Pub, known for having the largest bar in Europe. Sadly it was replaced by offices which have now subsequently been refitted as flats. At the end of the journey we have the building that was known as the Swan Office Building. This has been re-branded as Equipoint and since it failed as offices it's been refitted as flats.

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