



# TALES OF TEA



## MENU

### WELCOME TO TALES OF TEA AT ST MARY'S GUILDHALL

St Mary's Guildhall is one of the finest surviving medieval guildhalls in the country, with its rich history of partying, power and propaganda. St Mary's Guildhall has acted as the centre of power in England during the War of the Roses, housed the crown jewels, been the prison of Mary Queen of Scots and hosted famous literary figures, such as George Eliot.

Running beneath the great hall where the famous Coventry Tapestry still hangs today is the Undercroft, where Tales of Tea is now located. The Undercroft would have historically been used to store a range of items over the centuries from food, to building materials and even barrels of gunpowder during the English Civil War. With direct access to the kitchen, the Undercroft was ideal to store food in preparation for feasts.

Today visitors can enjoy breakfast, brunch, lunch and afternoon tea in this atmospheric venue. If you have any special dietary requirements, please do not hesitate to ask a member of our team who will be more than happy to help. A full selection of bar drinks and a wine list to complement your afternoon tea is available.

### CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Please note the menu is subject to change at our discretion.

#### DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

**VE** Vegan

#### ALLERGENS

Please note that our dishes may contain one or more of the following allergens:

<b>B</b> Barley	<b>M</b> Milk	<b>S</b> Soya
<b>C</b> Celery	<b>MO</b> Molluscs & Crustaceans	<b>SP</b> Spelt
<b>E</b> Egg	<b>MU</b> Mustard	<b>SU</b> Sulphur
<b>F</b> Fish	<b>O</b> Oats	<b>SD</b> Sulphur Dioxide
<b>G</b> Gluten	<b>R</b> Rye	<b>TN</b> Tree Nuts
<b>H</b> Hazelnuts	<b>SE</b> Sesame	<b>W</b> Wheat

If in doubt, please ask a member of staff.





# TALES OF TEA



## SOMETHING FOR BREAKFAST...



SERVED UNTIL 11.30AM

Join us for breakfast at Tales of Tea, the following options are freshly baked daily and are available for you to enjoy.

Toasted Teacakes

**W/G/S/E**

£4.75

Pain Au Raisin

**W/G/M/E/S**

Pain Au Chocolat

**W/G/M/may contain TN/SE/S**

Croissant with Butter & Jam

**W/G/M/E/may contain TN/S/MU/M**

£4.75 each

Toasted Fruit Loaf

**W/G/S**

£ 3.75

Smoked Bacon Roll

**W/G/may contain TN/M/S/SE**

£5.95

or with Egg

**W/G/E/may contain TN/M/S/SE**

£7



Medieval Coventry was a bustling town which was made rich by its important role in the wool trade. It was particularly known for its Coventry Blue Wool, a well-recognised high-quality material dyed in the wool using woad. It is still remembered throughout the city from the nickname of Coventry City Football Club, the Sky Blues to the Blue Ribbon Roundabout.





# TALES OF TEA



## SOMETHING FOR BRUNCH...



### BRUNCH SERVED ALL DAY

Treat yourself to a tasty selection of classic British fare,  
freshly prepared to order by our chef using the best produce.

#### POTATO ROSTI **VE**

Crushed Avocado, Chipotle Relish & Tofu

**S/M/may contain TN**

£7.50

#### EGGS BENEDICT

Toasted English Muffin, Poached Hens Eggs, Smoked Ham,  
Classic Hollandaise, Freshly Milled Black Pepper

**W/G/B/S/E/M/SD/may contain C/S**

£8.50

#### BUN 'N' ROLL CROQUE MONSIEUR

'Aubreys' Maple Cured Pork Ribeye, Bechamel,  
Dijon Mustard, Gruyere Cheese

**W/G/E/M/MU/SD**

£10.50

#### TOASTED WHOLEMEAL SEEDED BAGEL

Severn & Wye Flaked Hot Smoked Salmon,  
Soft Poached Duck Egg & Baby Watercress

**W/G/E/M/MU/SD**

£10.50

#### 'AUBREY'S' SLOW COOKED DRY CURED BACON 'SIRLOIN'

Portobello Mushroom & Roasted Plum Tomato,  
Rosti Potato & Fried Egg

**E**

£13.95





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## SOMETHING FOR LUNCH...

LUNCH SERVED 12 NOON - 2.30PM

### STEAK & ALE PIE

Seasonal Vegetable Panache & Creamed Mashed Potatoes

**W/G/B/E/M/C/SD**

£12.95

### CHEF'S SOUP OF THE DAY

**C/SU/M**

Warm Bread Rolls

**W/G/E/M/SE**

£5.95

### CATCH OF THE DAY

Beer Battered Cod Fillet, House Chips, Mushy Peas,  
Scorched Lemon, Chunky Tartare Sauce

**W/G/B/F/E/SD**

£13.95

### STROZZAPRETI PASTA

Plant Based Creamy Wild Mushroom & Herb Sauce

**W/G/may contain E/MO**

£13.95

### PLANT BASED CHICKPEA, SWEET POTATO & SPINACH CURRY **VE**

Basmati Rice & Coriander

**MU**

£12.95

### SOURDOUGH BAGUETTE

Pastrami, Kraut Relish, Emmental Cheese, Dijon Mustard & Watercress

**W/G/R/may contain TN/M/B/O/SE/SP**

£8.50

Merchant and Craft Guilds were formed to protect and stabilise trade for the benefit of members and customers by ensuring a fair price and consistent standards. The wealth of the city was reflected in the Guild that built St Mary's Guildhall. Following the collapse of the wool trade in the 16th and 17th centuries, silk became the primary textile industry in Coventry - specifically silk ribbons for fashion.





# TALES OF TEA

## CLASSIC CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD

Romaine Lettuce, Crunchy Croutons & Parmesan Shavings

**W/G/F/E/M/may contain R/B/O/MU/SE**

£11.50

## TALES OF TEA BEEF BURGER

Red Onion Marmalade, Jumbo Gherkin,  
Emmental Cheese & Rocket, House Chips

**W/G/SO/E/M/SU/may contain SE**

£14.50

## FREE RANGE 'BUTLERS BANGERS'

Creamed Potatoes & Shallot Green Beans, Smoked Onion Gravy

**W/G/M/SO/SD**

£14.50



## DESSERTS

Selection Of Cakes From The Cake Counter

Please See Server For Allergen Information As Cake Selection Varies

£5.95

## CHOCOLATE BROWNIE

Crème Chantilly & Caramel Sauce

**W/G/SO/E/M/may contain R/B/O**

£6.95

## LEMON CHEESECAKE

Raspberry Coulis

**W/G/E/M/may contain R/B/O**

£7.95

## APPLE CRUMBLE TART

Bourbon Vanilla Seed Custard

**W/G/SO/E/M/may contain TN/SE**

£7.95





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## CHILDREN'S MEALS...



### LUNCH

MINI CHEESE & TOMATO PIZZA

House Chips

**W/G/M**

£6.95

MINI FISH & CHIPS

Mushy Peas

**W/G/F/E/SD/may contain M/MO**

£6.95

GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST

Chips & Salad

**MU/SD**

£6.95



### AFTERNOON TEA

FINGER SANDWICHES

Plain Ham on White Bread & Cheddar Cheese on White Bread

**W/G/M/may contain R/B/O**

SWEET SELECTION

Soft Fruit Jelly

Mini Chocolate Brownie Bite

**W/G/S/E/M/may contain R/B/O**

Carrot Cake Slice

**W/G/M/E/S/may contain R/B/O/TN**

WARM SCONE

**W/G/M/E/may contain TN**

Clotted Cream

**M**

Strawberry Jam

£8.95 per person

Please note Afternoon Tea is required to be pre-booked  
a minimum of 48 hours in advance.





# TALES OF TEA



## AFTERNOON TREATS...



The great British tradition of afternoon tea was introduced by Anna Maria Russell, the seventh Duchess of Bedford as a way to stave off hunger pangs in the long gap between lunch and dinner.

To celebrate the revival of this quintessential British custom, we have hand-chosen some mouth-watering treats and sandwiches for a truly decadent afternoon tea.

If you have any special dietary requirements, please do not hesitate to ask a member of our team who will be more than happy to help.

A full selection of bar drinks and a wine list to complement your afternoon tea is available.

### DRAPERS' SWEET AFTERNOON TEA

Roasted Chicken & Tarragon Mayonnaise on White Bread

**W/G/M/E/may contain R/B/O**

Egg Mayonnaise & Cress on Wholemeal Bread

**W/G/M/E/may contain R/B/O**

Mature Croxton Manor & Red Onion Marmalade on White Bread

**W/G/M/SD/may contain R/B/O**

### SWEET SELECTION

Potted Mandarin & Biscoff Crumb Cheesecake

**W/G/M/may contain SO**

Carrot Cake Slice

**W/G/M/E/SO/may contain R/B/O/TN**

Chocolate Praline Brownie Mille Feuille

**W/G/M/E/SO/TN/H**

Mini Eccles Cake

**W/G/M/SD/may contain TN/SE**

### WARM SCONE

**W/G/M/E/may contain TN**

Clotted Cream & Strawberry Jam

**M**

£24.50 per person

A Draper would sell cloths or sewing materials. They would often have small family run shops which could be part of a larger Guild or Company. Over time this trade developed into a haberdasher or tailor role, and even now drapers make up an important part of the fashion industry - a very different role to their medieval counterparts.





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## WEAVER'S SAVOURY AFTERNOON TEA

Mini Mutton & Merguez Sausage Shepherd's Pie

**SD/C/M**

Beef & Onion Bon Bon with Oxford Sauce

**W/G/E/SD/C**

Spinach & Flaked Smoked Haddock Tartlet with Madras Mayonnaise

**W/G/F/SO/E/M**

Malt Kiln Farm Pork Pie

**W/G/E/M**

## SWEET SELECTION

Potted Mandarin & Biscoff Crumb Cheesecake

**W/G/M/may contain SO**

Chocolate Praline Brownie Mille Feuille

**W/G/M/E/SO/TN/H**

## FRESHLY BAKED CHEESE SCONE

**W/G/M/E/MU**

Salted Estate Dairy Cultured Butter

**M**

Country Garden Chutney

**MU**

£29.50 per person



## CREAM TEA

Warm Freshly Baked Scones, Strawberry Jam,  
Whipped Cornish Clotted Cream

**W/G/M/E/may contain TN**

Your choice of Loose Leaf Tea.

£12.95 per person

## SELECTION OF CAKES

Please see counter - £5.95 per slice

A Weaver is a crafts person, who would weave cloth, often on a loom. These could be a family run small workshop, such as Weaver's House in Spon End, or a more structured and regulated trading body overseen by Guilds like the Guild of the Holy Trinity.







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## MERCERS' SPARKLING AFTERNOON TEA

£30 per person

Drapers' Sweet Afternoon Tea presented on a tiered stand served with a glass of Prosecco

## CHAMPAGNE AFTERNOON TEA

£34 per person

Drapers' Sweet Afternoon Tea presented on a tiered stand served with a glass of House Champagne

Please note Afternoon Tea is required to be pre-booked a minimum of 48 hours in advance.



## CHAMPAGNE



### MARTEL

#### PRESTIGE BRUT. CHAMPAGNE

Glass - £10.25. Bottle - £55

A wonderfully fresh aftertaste, lemon liqueur, fresh pears. A fine density to the nose, rigorous, banana flesh, lovely supporting freshness, a wonderful acidity. An invigorating lovely mouth.

### MARTEL

#### ROSE BRUT. CHAMPAGNE

Glass - £10.75. Bottle - £57.50

An elegant salmon-pink colour. The nose is very fruity, with scents of cherries and strawberries. The aromas are balanced by a floral freshness. The mouth is structured with complex attack, followed by a very fruity finish accompanied by vanilla notes.

### Il Paco Prosecco, Italy

Glass - £6.00. Bottle - £30

Mercers were merchants - buying and selling general goods, however this soon began to mean textile goods specifically like silks, linens and fustian. Businesses ranged from small family run organisations to larger international merchants, trading with Europe, Africa and Asia.





# TALES OF TEA



## LOOSE LEAF TEAS



### BLACK TEA LEMON & GINGER

Combining large leaf black China tea with lemon and ginger we've created a delicious, harmonious blend. Great for winter days when you're feeling a bit under the weather. Black tea for that boost and lemon and ginger to soothe you.

### ENGLISH BREAKFAST

A classical blend of Ceylon and Assam tea, infused to perfection. Full bodied with a coppery coloured brightness.

### CHAI SPICE

Chai spice, a classic blend of spicy notes conjuring up the steamy, aromatic delights of an Indian street market. Black assam tea leaves create the base for this global favourite. Within this you will find subtle hints of pepper, orange, cinnamon, cardamon and cloves, beautifully blended to complete this signature black chai.

### CHOCOLATE

A guilt free indulgence! Our chocolate tea comprises of traditional black tea luxuriously blended with a hint of chocolate, perfect with or without milk, and sugar if desired. Perfect for a treat, especially at Easter!

### EARL GREY

One of the most popular teas, our Earl Grey black tea is an elegant blend of the finest, rich black tea leaves scented with a delicate citrus bergamot twist. Usually enjoyed in the afternoons, this quintessentially British tea is named after 1830s English Prime Minister, Charles Grey and was exclusively drunk by the upper classes. Earl Grey tea has become a traditional staple of British tea drinking.

### MOROCCAN MINT

Our Moroccan Mint is an absolute favourite, much loved for the unique flavour of dried Moroccan Mint leaves mixed with green tea.

Excellent as a digestif after a meal or a refreshing pick me up.

This tea has surprisingly cooling properties - perfect for hot, sunny days.

### RED BERRY & ROSE PETALS

Our Red Berries and Rose Petals unique fruit blend of hibiscus, rosehip, apple pieces and orange peel rounded off with delicate edge of rose petals. This is a delightful, aromatic afternoon drink.

Perfect as a warm tea or makes for a great iced tea too.

### RUM ARABICA

Part of our Cocktail Tea Collection, our Rum Arabica tea is a traditional Rooibos tea combined with cocoa cores, coffee beans, cinnamon, blackcurrants with rum flavour. Why not try making your own mocktail with our infusion teabags.

A popular choice with those looking to try something a little different.





# TALES OF TEA



## GRAND CRU COFFEES



### GRAND CRU COFFEES

By Café Du Monde  
A cafetière for one person

#### EL SALVADOR

A Rainforest Alliance coffee voted one of the top 10 certified coffees in the world. A rich superb single origin, thick treacle sweetness and complex fruitiness.

#### KENYAN

Kenyan AA is the highest grade of Kenyan coffee. Purists praise it for its bright acidity and intense fruity flavour with a short, sharp earthy finish.

#### SUMATRA

Fairtrade certified and organic. This is a classic Indonesian "Bold" - earthy and full bodied with spicy, smoky notes and an unusual liquorice twist.

#### ETHIOPIAN

Coffee was first discovered in Ethiopia. This Yirgacheffe is a connoisseur's delight. Light, sweet blackcurrant flavour with sharp gooseberry tones and a clear finish.

#### SWISS WATER DECAFFEINATED

Caffeine is removed by washing the beans from Costa Rica, Guatemala and Sumatra in pure spring water. A gentle flavour with low acidity and a crisp, subtle finish.



Flat White £3.95

Mocha £3.95

Latte £3.95

Cappuccino £3.95

Pot of Breakfast Tea £3.95





# TALES OF TEA

## THE UNDERCROFT – THE RETURN OF THE GUILD

Four hundred years after the Guild of the Holy Trinity was dissolved, the Guildhall once again became a meeting place for a guild.

In 1946 the City of Coventry Freemen's Guild was formed. The Great Hall once again hosts Guild dinners, banquets and ceremonies. Meetings were also held in the small Undercroft chamber, until it became part of the restaurant Tales of Tea.

The Freemen's Guild continues the medieval tradition of looking after the affairs of the city's freemen as well as promoting the city of Coventry and apprenticeships. In medieval Coventry only a freeman had full privileges of the city, which included the admission to trade guilds and the right to trade free of tolls.

An apprentice could only become a freeman, and be granted 'Freedom' of the city, by serving a five years' apprenticeship within the boundary of Coventry.

Even though a modern apprenticeship may not take five years, the person must continue to work in the same trade to make up the qualifying period.

Coventry Freedom cannot be inherited or purchased, as is the case in other cities. These qualifications are unique to Coventry's freemen. The 'Freedom' ceremony is held occasionally at St Mary's Guildhall. Conducted by the Lord Mayor, the candidates swear allegiance to the city and are then given the freedom of the city.

