

Welcome to St Mary's, the ancient parish church of Nottingham.

Prayers have been said on this site, at the heart of the Anglo-Saxon borough, for well over a thousand years. We hope that you enjoy your visit.

The present building, the third known to stand here, was constructed in stages from 1386 to 1475 and reflects the prosperity of Nottingham during that period. The magnificent architecture, huge windows and monuments all bear witness to the funds donated by the guilds, merchants and people of Nottingham.

The Reformation of the sixteenth century and the Civil Wars of the seventeenth stripped the church of much of its original splendour, but, having survived desecrations and the threat of demolition as well as storms, riots and incendiary bombs, St Mary's has been fully restored. Its present day beauty owes much to the skills and sensitivity of the architects, artists and craftsmen of the last 200 years and it remains a much loved focus of religious and community life, symbolising the continuity and stature of a great city.

We welcome donations towards the cost of keeping the church open. An illustrated guidebook and other leaflets are available along with activities for children. Please ask the vergers or steward on duty.



St Mary the Virgin

High Pavement,
Nottingham
Tel: Sold in St Mary's Church

www.nottinghamchurches.org

A fully-illustrated souvenir guidebook is available in the church.

For a comprehensive description, visit 'find out about church history' at www.nottsoopenchurches.org.uk

Designed by Jamieson Eley

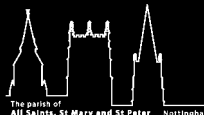
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Published by Jarrold Publishing, part of Hudson's Media Ltd.
35 Thorpe Road, Peterborough PE3 6AG
Telephone 01733 296910
www.jarrold-publishing.co.uk

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THE CHURCH OF
St Mary the Virgin
THE LACE MARKET, NOTTINGHAM

A QUICK TOUR

Floor Plan

1 Nave - The nave was constructed in stages between c.1386 and c.1475; west end rebuilt in the 1840s. Note the delightful angels at roof level. The stone floor (designed by Tess Jaray) was installed in 2012.

2 South Aisle - Thomas Smith, of Smith's Bank (the first such institution outside London), has a wall memorial here.

3 West Window - This spectacular window commemorates Thomas Adams (d. 1876), lace manufacturer and philanthropist. The beautiful glass by Hardman includes scenes from the life of Jesus. Blank panels reflect the elaborate stone porch outside.

4 Lion and Unicorn - These magnificent heraldic beasts date from 1710 and bear the arms of Queen Anne and of Nottingham.

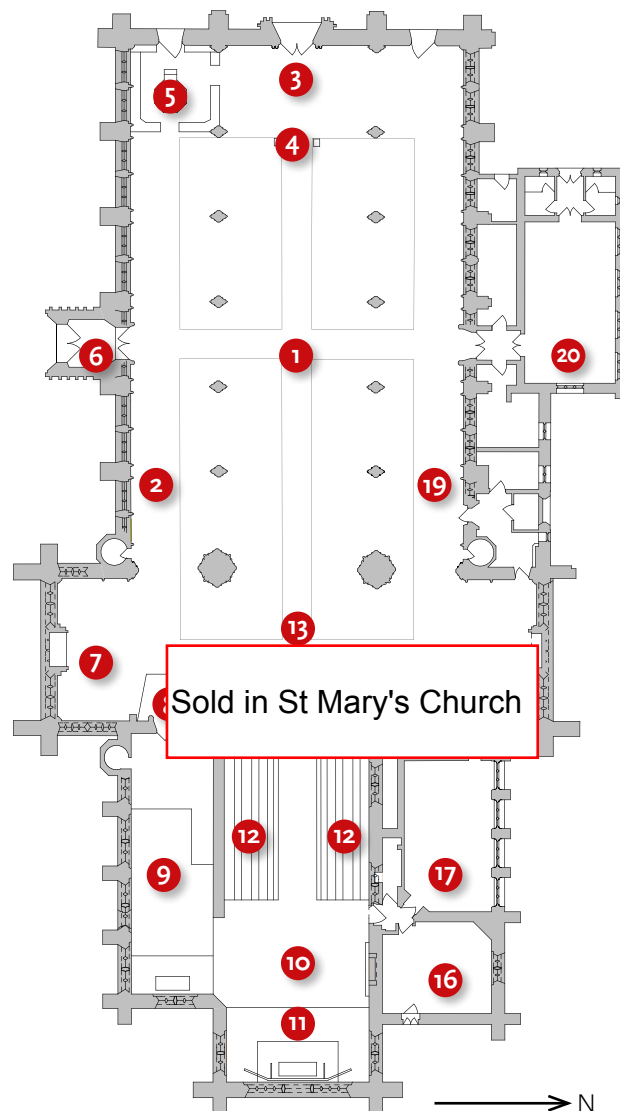
5 Font - The fifteenth century stone basin is inscribed in Greek with the words 'Wash thy sins, not only thy face.' The cover and wood panelling date from the 1950s.

6 South Porch - The porch was built in the early 1400s. Note the internal stone roof, panelling, mouldings and unusual pointed arch. The sumptuous bronze doors of 1905 feature scenes from the life of Jesus.

7 South Transept - The huge window contains vigorous stained glass of 1867 illustrating the parables of Jesus. The canopied tomb is that of John Samon (d.1416), mayor of Nottingham and benefactor of St Mary's.

8 Organ - The pipe organ, built by Marcussen and Søn in 1973, is noted for the beauty of its tone.

9 Chapel of the Holy Spirit - The chapel, designed by Temple Moore, was built 1912 - 15. The east window has a portrait of a bride in a Nottingham lace gown. A fifteenth century alabaster panel is displayed in the south wall, with fragments of medieval stained glass nearby.



10 Chancel - The chancel was built c. 1470. Memorials commemorate the Sherwood Foresters, the Normandy Veterans' Association and the South Notts Hussars.

11 Altar and Sanctuary - The glass of the east window is a memorial to Prince Albert. The reredos of 1885 is by Bodley & Garner, with later additions.

12 Choir Stalls - The stalls and throne were designed by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1871; the singing desks and lights were added later. Some of the former medieval seating may be seen in Sneinton Church.

13 Crossing and Tower - The tower is 126 feet [38 metres] high and houses a ring of 12 bells. The internal piers were rebuilt in the 1840s and successfully stabilised the structure; evidence of earlier movement is visible in nearby columns and tracery. The fan vaulted ceiling dates from 1812. The screen of 1885 is by Bodley and Garner.

14 Lectern - The brass eagle lectern with lion feet was made in 1867. Above it, a painting from the Italian renaissance depicts Mary holding the infant Jesus.

15 Pulpit - The oak pulpit was designed by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1871.

16 Vestry* - The Vestry has early eighteenth century fittings and ceiling, a reminder of past changes to the internal appearance of the church.

17 Chapter House* - This rectangular oak-panelled room was designed by Bodley and Garner in 1887 - 1888.

18 North Transept - Below the vast north window a tomb canopy of 1473 commemorates John Thurland and encloses remnants of three earlier memorials. A crucifix, sculpted by Peter Ball in 1993, hangs above the seventeenth century Communion Table. A baroque monument on the west wall recalls a child prodigy, Henry Plumtre.

19 North Aisle - A late eighteenth century vestry clock hangs near an ancient door leading to the former chantry chapel. The north wall is lined with memorials, including one to Thomas Berdmore, dentist to King George III.

20 Choir Vestry* - The vestry, built in 1940, is used as a rehearsal room.

*Not normally open to visitors.