



Robin Hood

This famous outlaw reputedly lived around 1200, during the reign of King John.

According to a medieval ballad, as Robin knelt to confess his sins before the rood screen in St Mary's he

was recognised by a monk he had recently robbed. The Sheriff and his men were summoned. After a violent scuffle Robin was overpowered and imprisoned, then rescued by Little John for a daring escape over the town walls.

St Mary's has been completely rebuilt since Robin's day, but the Sanctus bell dated 1203 still sounds in the tower.



Director of Music John Keys with concert soloist Noriko Ogawa.

St Mary the Virgin

High Pavement,

Nottingham

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.nottsopenchurches.org.uk

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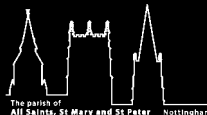
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LOTTERY FUNDED

THE CHURCH OF

St Mary the Virgin

THE LACE MARKET, NOTTINGHAM



SOME NOTABLE PEOPLE



John Samon

In the late Middle Ages, several generations of the Samon family of wool merchants dominated Nottingham politics. John Samon (d.1416) was Mayor four times between 1383 and 1407 and was a major benefactor in the

reconstruction of St Mary's. The magnificent canopy of his tomb still stands over his effigy in the south transept.

In his lifetime, John would have seen the great walls of the new nave rising around an existing church. Construction proceeded west from the transept and continued until 1475, after which the old church was completely demolished.



Dame Agnes Mellers

In 1513, Dame Agnes Mellers (d.1514) - widow of Richard Mellers, bell-founder and twice Mayor of Nottingham – founded a Free School for the ‘education, teaching and instruction of boys in good manners and literature’.

The first lessons were taught in the north transept of St Mary’s. The school has become Nottingham High School which, with over 1,000 pupils, celebrates its Founder’s Day in St Mary’s annually in June.

In 1513 the crossing and transepts were full of fine tombs and chapels, separated from the nave by a now-vanished screen.



George Africanus

George Africanus (1763–1834) was Nottingham’s first black entrepreneur. Brought to England aged 3 and destined to become a slave, his owners instead provided him with education and an apprenticeship.

George gained his freedom when slavery became illegal in 1772. When he moved to Nottingham in 1784 George joined a rapidly-growing population that included around 2000 black people. In 1788 he married Esther Shaw at St Peter’s Church and they jointly established a successful employment agency for servants. Highly regarded as citizens, St Mary’s was packed for George’s funeral. He and Esther were buried in the churchyard.

Sold in St Mary's Church



Bishop Neville Talbot

During the Great War, Neville Talbot (1879–1943) and Tubby Clayton established a rest centre and chapel for soldiers at Poperinge in Belgium. This was named Talbot House, ‘TH’ or ‘Toc (army code for T) H’ after Talbot’s brother who had been

killed in action near Ypres. Toc H flourished after the War, providing fellowship and accommodation worldwide.

Talbot was Bishop of Pretoria 1920–1932 and vicar of St Mary’s 1933–1943. As residents moved out of the city his hoped-for growth in congregations failed to materialise. In 1941 he witnessed near-disaster when incendiary bombs set fire to the south transept.



Thomas Smith

Thomas Smith (1631–1699) founded Smith’s Bank in 1658. This was the first bank to be established outside London, and it retained the family name until incorporated into the National Provincial in 1918.

Thomas lies buried in St Mary’s

and the great ‘parable’ window in the South Transept was dedicated in his memory by his descendants in 1870. His son, also Thomas (1682–1727), developed the bank and his fine memorial (illustrated) is in the south aisle.

In Smith’s time St Mary’s stood proudly above its surroundings, unchallenged by other buildings. Contemporary pictures show fine mansions to the north and gardens to the east.



Thomas Adams

Born in Worksop, Thomas Adams (1807–1873) was apprenticed to a Newark draper at the age of 14. In 1830 he set up a lacemaking partnership and in 1855 was able to build a palatial warehouse in Stoney Street which included

a library, school, rest room, canteen and a chapel for daily worship. He was wholly committed to the well-being of his employees and gave generously to many educational and religious projects.

During his lifetime Adams saw St Mary’s transformed by successive restorations. The beautiful glass of the great west window is his permanent memorial.



Tess Jaray

The work of internationally renowned artist Tess Jaray RA (b.1937) is characterised by the enigmatic interaction of forms and colours. Her artworks can be found in many public collections, including the Tate and the

British Museum, and her paving designs can be seen in Centenary Square, Birmingham and the forecourt of Victoria Station in London.

In 2012 she designed a dramatic stone floor for the nave of St Mary’s, opening up many possibilities for new uses.