



Are you fascinated by church history?
 Could you help us bring church heritage to life?
**The Southwell & Nottingham Diocese
 Church History Project would like to
 hear from you!**

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHURCHES
**MEDIEVAL STAINED GLASS
 TRAIL**

Churches are a valuable part of our heritage, being both significant guides to British architecture and important focal points within our communities.

The Church History Project was set up in 1998 by the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham in conjunction with the University of Nottingham to provide an accurate historical and archaeological record for each church and church site within the Diocese. The recent award of a Heritage Lottery Grant has enabled this work to expand into both education and tourism.

The Church History Project is looking for volunteers to help research the 314+ churches in the Diocese as part of the project.

To get involved, or for more information about this exciting and innovative project please contact:

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heritage learning welcome

Full training and support will be given.
<http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk>



The University of
Nottingham



**Discover Nottinghamshire's oldest stained
 glass windows and the beautiful churches
 that house them.**

Come with us on a journey to explore Nottinghamshire's oldest stained glass windows and marvel at these amazing works of art that have outlasted their makers by centuries.



heritage learning welcome

Since Anglo-Saxon times craftsmen have been using coloured glass to paint pictures and transform atmospheres; harnessing light to illustrate biblical stories and saints' lives as a means of teaching the illiterate and as aids for meditation.

This trail can be used as a possible day trip which involves about 37 miles driving (just over an hour in the car). The whole trail would take about 4½ hours, including half an hour in each church. For more information and other possible trails see our website:

www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk

Halam, St Michael

Squat-towered village church with a 14th century panel including Adam and Eve.

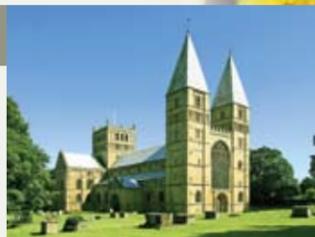
Open: open daily
Parking: on-street
Wheelchair access: partial
Postcode: NG22 8AL
Website: <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/halam/hintro.php>



Southwell Minster

This Cathedral church has many fragments of medieval glass that were salvaged after the fire in 1711.

Open: open daily
Parking: pay and display car park on Church Street
Wheelchair access: yes
Toilets: yes
Postcode: NG25 0HD
Website: www.southwellminster.org



Averham, St Michael & All Angels

Includes pieces discovered in the cellar of nearby Kelham Hall and brought here in 1885.

Open: List of local keyholders, with telephone numbers, on noticeboard in the gate.
Access and parking: Parking at the end of Church Lane, access to the church via a woody path.
Postcode: NG23 5RB
Website: <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/averham/hintro.php>



Newark, St Mary Magdalene

Large collection of 14th and 15th century glass in the Holy Spirit Chapel.

Open: open daily
Parking: local pay and display parking in Newark
Wheelchair access: yes
Postcode: NG24 1JS
Website: <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/newark-st-mary/hintro.php>
<http://www.stmarysnewark.org/>



Holme, St Giles

Houses some of the best surviving examples of medieval glass in Nottinghamshire, from 13th to 17th century.

Open: Keyholder lives at the bungalow opposite
Parking: on-street
Wheelchair access: partial
Postcode: NG23 7RY
Website: <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/holme/hintro.php>



Fledborough, St Gregory

Maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust

Open: open daily
Parking: on-street
Wheelchair access: partial
Postcode: NG22 0UU
Website: <http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/findachurch/st-gregory-fledborough/?region=Nottinghamshire>



East Markham, St John the Baptist

One of the grandest village churches in Nottinghamshire, due to the wealth of the Markham family.

Open: open every day of the year
Parking: on-street
Wheelchair access: partial
Postcode: NG22 0SA



1 Halam, St Michael

In the north of the chancel hangs a panel of 14th century glass.

Some of the characters portrayed here include:

- St Christopher, spearing a fish with a two-pronged staff whilst carrying the infant Christ on his shoulder.
- St Blaise, a pig at his foot, in reference to a miracle in which it is said he persuaded a wolf to release a pig it had stolen from a poor woman.
- Adam, naked except for a loincloth



2 Southwell Minster

Many fragments are sparsely arranged in the six windows in the Chapter House, while the south of the chancel houses a large collection of fragments mixed together haphazardly. Some of the characters portrayed here include:



In the Chapter House:

- Third window (clockwise around), has a group of six heads, though damaged, this is probably Jesus and some of the apostles
- In the fifth window there are four fish swimming, probably from an original window depicting St Christopher (see Halam) - a popular subject, said to bring good luck.
- The sixth window has a Bishop's head in a mitre, holding a gold chalice.

3 Averham

St Michael & All Angels

In the north window of the chancel the upper part of the glazing is native to Averham and mostly 14th century; the lower part contains glass from Kelham Hall, and is mostly fifteenth and sixteenth century.



Some of the characters portrayed here include:

- A small head of the Christ child, with wavy yellow hair.
- A head of a young, clean-shaven male with curling hair, perhaps St John the Evangelist.
- A king (or noble), bearded and kneeling, with hands in the attitude of prayer or adoration.

4 Newark

St Mary Magdalene

The east window of the Holy Spirit chapel was assembled in 1846 from a pieces around the church. In 1957 the window was restored and re-arranged by Miss Joan Howson of the Department of Medieval Art of Oxford University.



Some of the characters portrayed here include:

- Biblical scenes, for example in the two central lights: Creation, Adam and Eve, visit of the Magi to Christ, The Last Supper, Christ in the garden of Gethsemane, the empty tomb, and Christ with Mary Magdalene in the garden after the resurrection.
- The outer lights include: The Trinity (far left and far right); Tucked away in the tracery at the top of the 2nd light is the symbol ("rebus") of John Barton, (see Holme); Also in the tracery, the seven deadly sins are depicted (L-R): Gluttony, Lust, Sloth, Wrath, Avarice, Pride.

5 Holme, St Giles

The story of the glass at Holme is tightly bound to the story of John Barton, wool merchant and former mayor of the Staple of Calais (d.1491). John Barton had the chancel rebuilt and added a south chapel onto it to house his tomb. He seems to have invested only in the parts of the church that he could see from his house opposite.

Some of the characters portrayed here include:

In the east window:

- The three main figures would seem to have been assembled from two archbishops or popes, a bishop/ abbot and perhaps a sainted deacon. We can tell this by the style of the garments.
- John Barton's daughters. The original windows would have depicted John Barton and his whole family.
- Diamonds (these are known as "quarries") with the John Barton's merchant's mark, his initials and his symbols - a 'bar' and a 'tun' (a beer barrel) - can be seen many times.



7 East Markham St John the Baptist

The medieval glass is now collected together in the upper traceries of the south aisle. Most of the remains of heraldic glass refer to Justice Sir John Markham, with some fragments found inside his tomb chest.

Some of the characters portrayed here include:

- St Sitha (also known as Zita, of Lucca), patron saint of maid-servants. In some traditions St Sitha is appealed to help find lost keys hence the keys shown in her left hand.
- The head and upper torso of the Virgin Mary from a depiction of the Coronation of the Virgin. She has a halo and holds her hands in the attitude of prayer.
- The wings of a feathered angel in yellow stain, set against a foliage background.



6 Fledborough, St Gregory

The glass at Fledborough is almost all 14th century. A few 12th century pieces are internationally important, as only three other places in England have figurative stained glass dating from the 12th century: Canterbury Cathedral, York Minster and the tiny little church of Dalbury in Derbyshire.

Some of the characters portrayed here include:

In Chancel - weathered heads of the 12th and 14th century.

North aisle figures (part-original, part-restored).

- St John the Baptist, holding a box with the Lamb and cross upon it.
- St Andrew, holding a cross and a scroll.
- Virgin Mary and Christ Child. Christ has a white and yellow halo, Mary a crown.



For more information on all of these churches see our accompanying website with details of other churches of interest not listed here:

www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk/medglass
or contact Heather Sirrel
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Edited by Heather Sirrel with thanks to Rev Dr Allan Barton, Dr Chris Brooke, Tom Errington and Anita Maunsell for sharing their expertise.