Access: This church is open on the 4th Saturday of each month from 10am-1pm. At Eagle at Ivy Cottage (proximate to the church) 01909 591837 History: http: southwellchurches nottingham.ac.uk/blyth

century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: S81 8GW Number of bells: 6 other times a key can be obtained from Mrs M

– significant wall paintings

Access: The church keyholders' contact details are available on the church noticeboard and at www. friendsofhawtonchurch.org **History:** http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/hawton

Oldest part of building: Early Norman, 11th Hickling, St Luke – earliest monument

Access: The keyholders' contact details are *– finest Easter Sepulchre* available on the church noticeboard. Oldest part of building: Early English, late History: http://southwellchurches. 13th century nottingham.ac.uk/averham English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG24 3RN Number of bells: 4 Blyth, St Mary & St Martin

Oldest part of building: Saxon, perhaps pre-10th century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG23 5RB Number of bells: 6

*– oldest standing church* 

Averham, St Michael & All Angels

Access: Contact details can be found at www. achurchnearyou.com/girton-st-cecilia History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/girton

Hawton, All Saints

2 Blyth Carlton in Lindrick 3 Littleborough (14 Retford Worksop West 24 Fledborough (8) Markham Tuxford Egmanton 6 Laxton 12 Girton Oldest part of building: 14th century but Sutton



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work to expand into both education and tourism.



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### Carlton-in-Lindrick, St John the

Evangelist – *second oldest church* Oldest part of building: Anglo-Saxon, probably early 11th century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: S81 9EG Number of bells: 3 Access: This church is generally open to visitors all year round during school term time; Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm. **History:** http://southwellchurches nottingham.ac.uk/carlton-in-lindrick

#### Caythorpe, St Aidan – last 'tin tabernacle'

Oldest part of building: 1901 English Heritage listing: not listed Location: NG14 7EB Number of bells: 1 Access: Contact details can be found at www. achurchnearyou.com/caythorpe-st-aidanmission-church

History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/caythorpe

#### East Leake, St Mary – *oldest clock* **Oldest part of building:** Norman, perhaps c.1100

English Heritage listing: Grade I Number of bells: 7 Location: LE12 6LE Access: This church is generally open every day from 9:30am - dusk. Contact details can be found at www.east-leake.co.uk/2906 History: - coming soon to the CHP website

#### Egmanton, Our Lady of Egmanton - significant decoration

Oldest part of building: 12th century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG22 0HN Number of bells: 3 Access: This church is generally open to visitors every Thursday, 2pm - 4pm April -September. Keyholders' contact details are on the church noticeboard for arranging access at other times.

History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/egmanton

#### Farndon, St Peter – oldest (easily visible) doorway

Oldest part of building: Saxon-Norman, 11th century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG24 3SG Number of bells: 4

Access: [H to check] History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/farndon

#### Fledborough, St Gregory – oldest stained glass

Oldest part of building: 12th century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG22 0UU Number of bells: 2 Access: The church is usually open daily as it is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust

History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/fledborough

Girton, St Cecilia – oldest gravemarker in Nottinghamshire Oldest part of building: 13th century English Heritage listing: Grade II Location: NG23 7JA Number of bells: 1

English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: LE14 3AQ Number of bells: 7 Access: Contact details can be found at www. achurchnearyou.com/hickling-st-luke/ **History:** - coming soon to the CHP website

with late 13th century south door

#### Laxton, St Michael the Archangel - rare pre-Reformation liturgical

feature Oldest part of building: 12th century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG22 0NX Number of bells: 6 Access: This church is generally open every

day. History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/laxton

#### Lenton, Holy Trinity - finest Norman font

Oldest part of building: 1842 English Heritage listing: Grade II\* Location: NG7 2FF Number of bells: 8 Access: Contact details can be found at www. lentonparish.org.uk/ContactUs.aspx History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/lenton-holy-trinity

## Littleborough, St Nicholas

– oldest bell Oldest part of building: Norman (with some Roman brick and tile fragments) English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: DN22 0HD Number of bells: 2 Access: The church is usually open daily as it is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust

History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/littleborough

# Maplebeck, St Radegund

#### – oldest altar

Oldest part of building: Perhaps 12th century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG22 0BS Number of bells: 5 Access: Contact details can be found at www. achurchnearyou.com/maplebeck-st-radegund History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/maplebeck

### Newark, St Mary Magdalene

*– tallest church & oldest brass* Oldest part of building: Around 1180 English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG24 1JS Number of bells: 10 Access: This church is generally open every dav.

History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/newark-st-mary

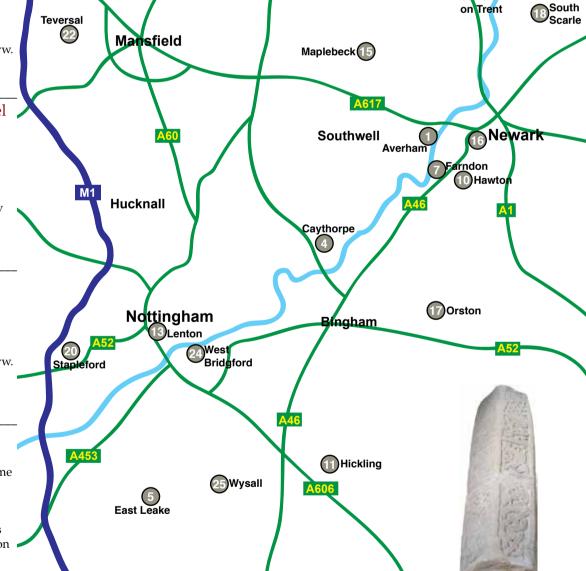
#### Orston, St Mary – *oldest intact roof*

Oldest part of building: 13th century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG13 9NT Number of bells: 6 Access: This church is generally open to visitors on Saturdays and Sundays all year round.

History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/orston

#### South Scarle, St Helena

*– oldest pews* Oldest part of building: Norman English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG23 7JH Number of bells: 5



Access: Contact details can be found at www. a church neary ou.com/south-scarle-st-helenaHistory: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/south-scarle

#### Southwell Minster – *largest church*

Oldest part of building: 1108 (but with a Saxon-Norman tympanum) English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG25 0HW Number of bells: 13 Access: The Minster is open every day from 8am – 7pm.

History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/southwell-minster

#### Stapleford, St Helen – *oldest cross*

Oldest part of building: 13th century English Heritage listing: church – Grade II\*; cross – Grade I

Location: NG9 8FN Number of bells: 6 Access: Contact details can be found at www. staplefordparish.org.uk/ContactUs.aspx History: http://southwellchurches nottingham.ac.uk/stapleford-st-helen

#### Sutton on Trent, All Saints - rare rood screen and loft

Oldest part of building: 13th century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG23 6PD Number of bells: 8 Access: Contact details can be found at www. achurchnearyou.com/sutton-on-trent-allsaints

History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/sutton-on-trent

#### Teversal, St Katherine *– oldest door and oldest gallery*

Oldest part of building: 12th century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG17 3LH Number of bells: 5 Access: Contact details can be found at www. achurchnearyou.com/teversal-st-katherine History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/teversal

#### West Bridgford, St Giles – oldest screen

**Oldest part of building:** 13th century English Heritage listing: Grade II Location: NG2 6AY Number of bells: 9 Access: Contact details can be found at www. stgilesparish.com

**History:** – coming soon to the CHP website

#### West Markham, All Saints *– oldest font*

Oldest part of building: Early Norman, probably 11th century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG22 0GT Number of bells: 1 Access: Contact details can be found at www. achurchnearyou.com/markham-clinton-westmarkham-all-saints History: http://southwellchurches.

nottingham.ac.uk/west-markham

#### Wysall, Holy Trinity – *earliest pulpit* Oldest part of building: 12th century English Heritage listing: Grade I Location: NG12 5QS Number of bells: 3 Access: Contact details can be found at www. achurchnearyou.com/wysall-holy-trinity History: http://southwellchurches. nottingham.ac.uk/wysall

Our thanks to Geoff Buxton, Dr Chris Brooke, Sally Smith and Paul Stringfellow for their contributions to this leaflet

# • Averham, St Michael & All Angels

#### This church is likely to be the oldest church



still holding regular worship in Nottinghamshire. The foundations were laid in the Saxon period, with evidence of this in the lower tower and hidden inside on the upper floors. The tower may well have originally been a two-storey west porch, later heightened to form a bell tower; the style suggests it is pre-10th century.

The main body of the current building

is Norman, with 14th and 15th century alterations. Other features of interest include the 15th century stained glass in the east and north windows of the chancel (some of our county's earliest), and on the side walls of the nave at the west end are a series of text paintings just visible. Hidden below the limewash above the 14th century chancel arch are medieval paintings, unfortunately now visible only by using remote sensing imagery.

The nave roof, which dates from 1858, is supported on a number of remarkable medieval carved brackets – look for the one in the south-west corner which depicts a 'Green Man'.



Two further churches worth a mention

when we talk of the oldest church in the county are East Bridgford St Peter and Carlton-in-Lindrick St John. They have existing Anglo-Saxon fabric above ground. At East Bridgford nothing above-ground is recognizably pre-Conquest; it's all hidden by plaster and later work and is not very extensive. In addition we have material evidence from Southwell Minster and documentary implications of Anglo-Saxon origins for a number of others.

# <sup>2</sup> Blyth, St Mary & St Martin

Blyth has the largest Last Judgement, or 'Doom'

painting in the north of England. It dates mainly from the



15th century but has 2-tier Passion cycle beneath, probably dating from the 14th century. Starting from the top, look for 'Christ in Judgement' with the Apostles in a line below, then, further down, humanity rising from coffins on the Last Day with the 'saved' being

received in Heaven on the left whilst to the right to 'damned' are sent into Hell, complete with devils.

In addition, there is rare Norman

painting in the south aisle – red scrolling on a capital with ashlar outlines on the pier which is likely to be of the 12th century.

Blyth also has one of the earliest

font covers in the county (along with Bingham St Mary & All Saints and East Markham St John – all three are early to mid 17th century), and the north aisle is an unusual example of well-preserved late 11th century architecture.



### Carlton-in-Lindrick, St John the Evangelist

The Parish church of St John the Evangelist is one of the oldest and most interesting churches in the county. Of particular interest at the church is the tower with its late Anglo-Saxon stonework and simple belfry openings at half way up, the chancel

from the 12th century enlargement (though the chancel arch is 15th century), the Norman font, and the small alabaster

crucifixion. Confusingly, the Norman doorway from the south entrance was repositioned in the west wall of the Saxon tower when the



## In Fledborough, St Gregory

The church of St Gregory at Fledborough is now maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust. The church contains a significant amount of medieval stained glass. Most

of the glass is 14th century and therefore contemporary with the majority of the church building. The few pieces that are not of this period are internationally important as they probably date from the 12th century. Only three other places in England

have stained glass figures dating from the 12th century: Canterbury Cathedral, York Minster and the tiny little church of Dalbury in Derbyshire, to which the Fledbourough pieces' paintwork, especially the facial features, bear resemblance.

You can find out more about Medieval Glass in both Fledborough and across Nottinghamshire in our trail leaflet and accompanying webpage on the subject, available via www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk/tourism-medglass

### Girton, St Cecilia

St Cecilia's is a small church, mainly perpendicular in style but with some Early English elements, though it was heavily restored by Ewan Christian in 1879.

In the porch is a Saxon grave-marker, one of the earliest

ecclesiastical items in Nottinghamshire. It is a pre-Conquest cross fragment, surrounded by interlace decoration, representing about one quarter of a grave-cover from its midsection. It dates from the late 10th or early 11th century and may indicate a burial ground of this period nearby.

The oldest pre-Conquest sculpture so far discovered in Nottinghamshire is at South Leverton All Saints, inside the nave, where there are two cross fragments from the early 9th century, though they are hard to make out.

(Thanks to Professor David Stocker for providing this information.)

### Hawton, All Saints

The superb chancel here was built by the second Sir Robert de Compton (d.1330). It contains the finest Easter

Sepulchre in the county, dating from c.1325, and forms a group with the north doorway, founder's tomb, and sedilia (seats). The Easter Sepulchre shows the Resurrection with Roman soldiers, Christ

Ascension – only Christ's feet are seen. Opposite is the fine triple sedilia with much excellent carving, including a pelican and two boys picking grapes.

All Saints' also has a rare remnant of part of the rood loft parapet, and a squint (a squint, or hagioscope, was used by the priest at the side aisle altar to see the priest at the high altar, so that they could synchronise the Mass).

# U Hickling, St Luke

Hickling boasts the earliest monument, a coped coffin-lid with mid-10th century interlace, a cross, and two beasts' heads. It formerly lay in the churchyard but has now been brought inside. (Selston St Helen has the next earliest monument; an incised effigy of a priest in the chancel floor dated to c.1100).



### <sup>16</sup> Newark, St Mary Magdalene

St Mary's has many striking features. The one we want to mention here is the Alan Fleming brass, which is the oldest

brass in the county dating from 1363 (though close behind is the brass to Margaret Buslinthorp at Bothamsall Our Lady & St Peter, which dates from 1369).

The Alan Fleming brass is one of the four largest 'Flemish' brasses in England and was made in 16 small panels.

Newark also has the largest spire in our Diocese, making it the tallest church.

### **Orston**, St Mary

Orston has probably the earliest intact roof in the



county, the westernmost two bays of the north aisle being 14th century in style, with very simple braces, unlike later roofs. The nave at Orston also boasts a splendid 15th century roof, one of only a small handful to remain intact in the county.

### <sup>1</sup>South Scarle, St Helena

This church boasts the earliest pews that we know of. There are 11 remaining with lozenge-shaped finials, undated but clearly medieval.



### Southwell Minster

There are many remarkable aspects of The Cathedral and Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, it being the largest church in our Diocese. St Mary's Nottingham is also sizeable, as is St Mary's Newark and Worksop Priory.

# Stapleford, St Helen / Saxon Cross

Though we have lots of pre-Conquest carving, this is probably the best example.

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 Stapleford was reported to have a church and a priest. In addition to the Domesday record we also have the Saxon cross. This dates from about AD 920 and would probably have been erected in the churchyard.

The old cross has been re-located both in and out of the churchyard over the years but at present it stands within the

churchyard overlooking Church Street. Generally regarded as one of the most important objects in the county, its origin and history have been the subject of much speculation over the years. Standing 2.5 m high, the decoration is mostly of interlace



design but on the south side is a carving consisting of a full figure, facing forward, wearing a knee-length garment and carrying what appears to be a spear diagonally across the body. The figure is winged and has a halo. It may be concluded that the Stapleford cross shaft could be identified with a large group of crosses which were synonymous with the Mercian Vikings, i.e. that group which settled in the area after 870, and would date it to *c*. AD 920AD, and it is likely that the church was already there when the cross was erected. Of the Saxon church nothing now remains. In the 13th century the present church (St Helen's) was built on a terrace just above the flood plain and over the years it has been added to and altered until we get the building that we have today.

### Sutton-on-Trent, All Saints



rising, and the three Marys. Above is the

aisle was restored in 1831.

Other items of note include the 'Devil Stone' outside the main doorway of the tower which dates from the mid-12th century; it appears to be the base of a stone cross and local legend has it that when the church was being built, all

the stones but this were moved away by the devil! Once inside the church, look up at the bosses which were carved into the beams in the early 15th century. The stone carved font dates from the 12th century. There is a relic altar which originally stood in the Beckett Chapel, which reputedly still contains a relic of St Thomas of Canterbury, murdered in 1170. See if you can find the 'sun stone' thought to be a pre-Christian worship stone (but probably medieval in date).

# Caythorpe, St Aidan

This church is the **last 'tin tabernacle'** still in use



in Nottinghamshire, and dates from 1901. Tin tabernacles, as these iron-clad buildings were called, were easy to erect and cheap to put up. They were usually regarded as temporary buildings to be replaced when funding was available for something more permanent. The simple

interior has wooden panelling throughout and a wooden ceiling and although the original chairs have been replaced, the little wooden font with a stone bowl, and a single pine brought from Mapperley still remain.

## • East Leake, St Mary

The fabric of the church dates from the 12th century, and also has work from the 14th to the 17th centuries. Inside are

the workings of an early 17th century turret clock which used to be located in the upper levels of the tower. It comprises a wooden frame with two compartments which were originally capstan winding with lantern pinions; it was later converted to an anchor escapement. It is an unusually early turret clock and pre-dates famous local clockmaker Richard Roe's earliest clock , which was once at Shelford St Peter & St Paul and dated from 1680.

# • Egmanton, Our Lady of Egmanton

The church mainly dates from the 12th, 14th and 15th centuries.

In 1896-8 the Duke of Newcastle employed Ninian Comper to restore the church. He converted it into a casket of

colourful woodwork. The screen, with its rood and rood canopy, is a gem of Gothic Revival, displaying fine panels of saints in red and gold, and emulates what Comper perceived might have been here in the medieval period. However his extravagance does not end with the screen but extends to the wonderful organ-case and pulpit, which also revive medieval



ideas of decoration. The church is an unusual example of a shrine church (to Our Lady of Egmanton, a vision of the Blessèd Virgin seen in the 12th century) and pilgrims' crosses can be seen carved into the stonework.

### **7** Farndon, St Peter

The church here is mainly a mixture of 12th, late 13th and 14th century building, heavily repaired in 1558. However portions of an earlier, Saxon-Norman, church, in the form of a doorway and herringbone masonry, are incorporated in



the north wall of the nave. The doorway, which may be seen easily from the outside, has a very uneven round head with jambs of 'long-andshort' style that clearly mark it out as being of Anglo-Saxon character, probably from around the time of the Norman Conquest in the mid-11th century.

### Laxton, St Michael the Archangel

Laxton church is an impressive building and is much visited by tourists who come to see the surviving open-field medieval farming system in the village, and the substantial motte and bailey castle earthworks lying just to the north The church includes a very rare relic of the pre-Reformation custom of veiling the altar during Holy Week. It is a pulley,

on which ran a cord carrying a curtain which was erected before the first Sunday in Lent and drawn aside whenever the Gospel was being read, until the Thursday before Easter, when it was lowered during the reading of the Gospel at the words 'the veil of the Temple was rent in twain'; this feature is commonly called a 'lenten veil'.

## Usenton, Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity has one of the most interesting

Norman fonts in England, a cuboid block of limestone dating from mid-12th century. This may not be the earliest font in Nottinghamshire but it is the most interesting since it is one of only five rectangular 'narrative' fonts in the country. The sides



are carved with scenes of Jesus' Baptism, Crucifixion (with the soul of the penitent thief emerging from his mouth and soaring upwards, that of the impenitent thief being consumed by a dragon), and Resurrection, with the three Marys at the Sepulchre. Also depicted is the Dome of St Sophia in Istanbul. The style has no parallel in England.

# ULittleborough, St Nicholas

St Nicholas, Littleborough, is now maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust. This tiny Norman church lies down a quiet country lane, close to the Trent. The Romans built a military station here by the stone causeway across the river, both now long gone. Pottery shards regularly surface in the churchyard recalling the empire that brought its civilization to this land almost two thousand years ago. The simple two-cell stone building probably belongs to the second half of the 11th century. The Norman doorway and massive chancel arch are particularly interesting, the latter incorporating two smaller, possibly Saxon, pillars. Within the walls are reused pieces of Roman brick and tile. Typical Roman herringbone design can also be seen clearly in the

masonry. The church boasts the earliest bell in the diocese, and is the only example of its type known to bear an inscription. Dating from *c*.1180, the treble bell is inscribed '+ SCA.MARIA', and has a distinctive lip which tilts slightly upwards and outwards. The main

shape of the bell, long and thin, is typical of the form that evolved in the mid-11th century. The tenor bell is also medieval and probably dates from *c*.1350.

# Maplebeck, St Radegund

St Radegund's contains remains of the earliest altar in our Diocese: The medieval feet are preserved, built into



the north wall of the nave. (Also of note is Newark St Mary's High Altar, which is also medieval, perhaps 14th century.) At the time of the Reformation medieval altars were largely destroyed and their

stone used elsewhere; these are therefore quite rare survivals. Also at Maplebeck are two medieval grave-slabs, one inside the church, near the altar feet, the second is over the exterior of the east window in the north aisle where it has been reused as a lintel. The old ladder in the tower appears medieval too, and is another rare survival.

This church has a rare surviving intact rood screen

and open loft, of splendidly carved oak, and complete with stairs. The design appears to be of the 1520-30s and sits between the south aisle and south chancel chapel. This is one of very few examples in the East Midlands, although a splendid earlier example, but missing it's loft, is to be found at



Strelley All Saints, which dates from the late 14th century. In the medieval period rood screens were used to divide off the chancel where the mysteries of the Mass took place, and the lofts were used at certain times of the year for particular ceremonies. Most churches lost their rood screens and lofts following the Reformation in the 16th century when churches were 'opened-up' and such barriers removed.

# Teversal, St Katherine

The south door to this church is probably the earliest in Nottinghamshire, dated to the late 12th century by its ironwork. (Some of the re-used ironwork at Halam St Michael the Archangel, now on the west door, may also be late 12th century, and the ironwork and door at West Markham All Saints also appear to be Norman of a similar date.) The door at Teversal sits within a superb Norman doorway and has 'C' hinges and straps, the top strap ending in four scrolls

Teversal also has the earliest gallery: late 17th century and some of the earliest box-pews, along with Winkburn St John of Jerusalem, both late 17th century.

### <sup>23</sup> West Bridgford, St Giles

St Giles' has the earliest wooden screen, dating from the late 14th century. The lower portion was converted into a chancel screen at the Reformation and remained until 1898. Some curious bits of carving are to be seen: small heads in the pinnacles of the jambs to the central opening, and enrichments in the cavetto (concave moulding), consisting mainly of masks and foliage, while the one at the north end depicts a fox with a goose slung across its back.

# West Markham, All Saints

The fabric of West Markham church may be Anglo-Saxon as there is rubble counterpitching (herringbone) and there

may be some Pre-Conquest work. There is an excellent **early** 

Norman font, perhaps the earliest in the county. It has been dated at no later than the last quarter of the 11th century. There are primitive carvings of saints, including the Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus, and St Ann holding a book, set within panels of crude, semicircular arcading. The figures are strikingly similar to the carving found on the



gateway at Tickhill which almost certainly dates from c.1080.

# <sup>25</sup> Wysall, Holy Trinity

#### Wysall has the earliest pre-Reformation pulpit to



survive intact in Nottinghamshire. It is made of panelled oak from around 1400. It was nearly lost in the restoration of 1873 when it was discarded - only its use as a clerk's desk saved it! In 1909 it was happily recognized for what it is and was restored. Some traces of painted figures were seen on the panels in 1909 but sadly they have not survived. (Also of note are **Balderton St** 

Giles' pulpit which has 15th century panelling, and Strelley All Saints' pulpit which has tracery similar to the medieval rood screen, but the base and canopy are Jacobean).