



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHURCHES MINING HERITAGE TRAIL



Discover some of Nottinghamshire's churches which played a pivotal role in the lives of 19th & 20th century coal mining communities and now help bring the spirit of the industry to life with their own heritage.



heritage learning welcome

West Nottinghamshire once boasted a long line of coal mines which, during the 19th and early 20th centuries, transformed the villages and countryside of north-west Nottingham, Sherwood Forest, and the Dukeries, into one of the greatest coalfields in Britain.

Amidst this major expansion of industry arose new settlements and the growth of once tiny villages to support the miners and their families.

This development brought the need for new churches to cater for their spiritual needs and witnessed the foundation of a large number of such buildings. Join us on a journey to explore the best examples of these lovely 'coalfields' churches which remain in use today.

Coal was probably being mined around Cossall and Selston in the 1270s, and it is certainly recorded as being mined in the 14th century. Beauvale Priory had interests in coal mining at Newthorpe, Selston, and Kimberley. The demand for coal continued, though in the early days the mines were all shallow and have left little trace. However, after the invention of the steam engine to enable the pumping of water, deeper shafts were sunk, and by the mid-19th century the Nottinghamshire coalfield was being opened-up on a grand scale. Collieries were generally sunk in rural areas or close to the outskirts of a village. The estates of gentry also sank shafts, and they paid for housing

and infrastructure for people coming to work the mines which, although lacking in many respects, often included a splendid new place of worship.

Today, seventeen major examples of churches founded specifically to cater for the expanding mining communities remain in use for worship, built generally in the 100 years between 1840 and 1940. Others have long-since disappeared, such as Bilsthorpe St Luke, which was in use only between 1932-39. This guide does not cover existing, medieval churches which remained in use to support mining families, of which there are many examples.



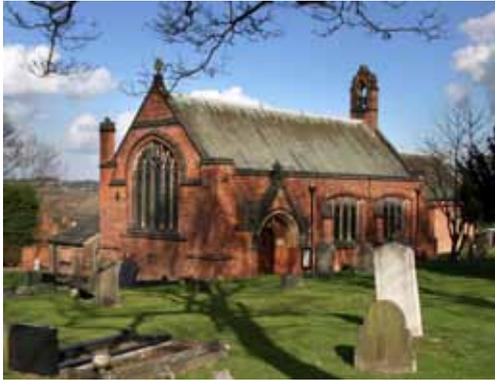
This trail may be used to plan a day trip to follow the pattern of mining settlement worship or simply to make a visit to one or two churches that retain the spirit of a marvellous industrial age.

For more information and other possible trails see our website:

www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk

1 Awsworth, St Peter

NG16 2QU



The charming little brick church of St Peter's is the oldest of the mining heritage churches. Originally built around 1746 and paid for by Richard Smedley, a local coalmine owner to serve the hamlet of Awsworth. The original foundation stone is now inside the chancel. This church was a plain, low, oblong brick chapel with a tiled roof and a small wooden cupola with one bell. By the end of the 19th century Awsworth had grown to a village and by 1902-3 the nave had to be enlarged. There was a planned N.W. tower, but this was never built but in 1957 a new chancel was constructed. There are some lovely carvings on the choir stalls and pulpit by a local carpenter dating from 1902. The church retains its simple neo-Gothic appeal with Perpendicular style stone windows set into Nottinghamshire red brick.

History: <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/awsworth>

Access: Contact details are given at www.trowellchurch.com/contactus.php



2 Cinderhill, Christ Church

NG8 6AD

Christ Church Cinderhill, on the outskirts of Nottingham, was constructed in 1855-6 by the architect T.C. Hine to serve the miners of Thomas North's colliery at nearby Babington. It is built of local Bulwell stone. The original interior design included elaborate Minton tiles and painted texts, but is now covered by later paint. There is a wonderfully elaborate font of Caen stone, given by John Thomas Woodhouse, the mining engineer of Cinderhill Colliery showing Biblical scenes and the kneeling figure of Mr. Woodhouse himself. Four panels depicting the Evangelists, taken from the Edwardian reredos, are presented in the side chapel.



History: <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/cinderhill>

Access: Contact details are given at www.achurchnearyou.com/cinderhill-christ-church



3 Bestwood, Emmanuel

NG5 9QP



Built by the 10th Duke of St Albans in 1869 to serve the estate workers and the expanding industrial community with its developing Coal and Iron Company, Emmanuel church is a neat, neo-Gothic building in the Early English style. Its simple exterior belies the treasures that lie within, as in 1907, the apse was modified and beautiful stone arcading with marble columns installed. The panels within the arcading are richly painted with decorations of stencilled flowers and religious symbols. At the east end of the Church are five stained glass memorial windows by William Morris & Co. The wall between each window is adorned with painted and gilded lilies and pomegranates. The west end of the church is dominated by the memorial to Sybil the first wife of the 10th Duke of St Albans with memorial windows, a marble plaque, and a raised bust of Sybil.

History: <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/bestwood-emmanuel>

Access: Access to either Bestwood church can be arranged by phoning The Revd Elizabeth Snowden on 0115 920 8879.

Emmanuel has an Open Church Day on the fourth Wednesday of each month when it is open to visitors between 10am and 4pm.

4 Bestwood, St Mark

NG6 8UU



In 1887 the Bestwood Coal and Iron Company, founded some fifteen years earlier, opened St Mark's church to serve the growing population of workers employed by them. The light and airy interior is dramatically enhanced by the five interior bays of the roof with its arched timber trusses. The church was originally heated by open fireplaces, two in the nave and two in the transepts, which are built of glazed brick. In the north aisle is the Millennium window depicting, amongst other local

heritage items, the former colliery engine house, headstocks, and miners' houses. The east window of the chancel depicts the four Evangelists and was erected to the memory of John Lancaster who was MP for Wigan 1868-1874, and who set up the Bestwood Coal and Iron Company. Three members of the Lancaster family can be found on the war memorial. Many of the fittings within St Mark's were presented by people from the Bestwood Coal and Iron Company.

History: <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/bestwood-st-mark>

Access: Telephone the Revd Elizabeth Snowden on 0115 920 8879.



5 Hucknall, St John the Evangelist

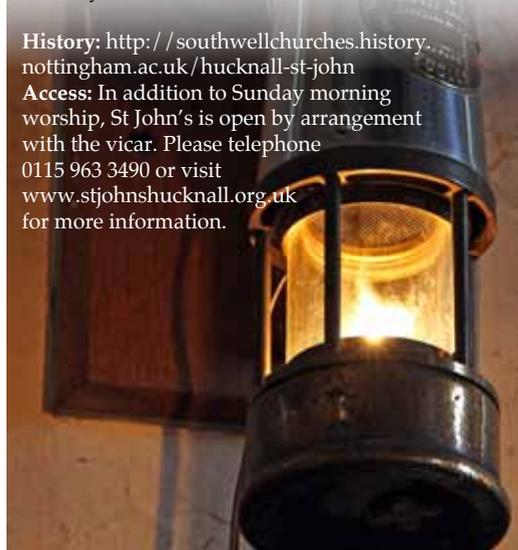
NG15 7QN



The church was built in 1876-7, in the Early English style, by the architects Bakewell and Bromley on an acre of land given by the Fifth Duke of Portland to serve the needs of the rapidly growing number of miners and their families in the Butler's Hill and Broomhill areas of Hucknall. The chancel, sanctuary, and organ chamber were added in 1895. There are several memorials related to mining, including the war memorials, the miner's lamp on the west wall, and the east window depicting the crucifixion. Above the chancel step is a cross inlaid with a miner's cross brought back from Flanders – a poignant reminder of the sacrifice given by miners in the Great War. Windows at the west end are in memory of local miners killed in World War II.

History: <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/hucknall-st-john>

Access: In addition to Sunday morning worship, St John's is open by arrangement with the vicar. Please telephone 0115 963 3490 or visit www.sfjohnshucknall.org.uk for more information.



6 Newstead, St Mary

NG15 0BE



The church, of simple brick construction with a single span roof, was built in 1928, with an extension to the chancel in 1932. This new church was needed as Newstead Colliery developed and the village increased in size. The church is built of brick furnished by the colliery suppliers. There is a note in the minutes of the Building Committee to indicate that the supply of bricks was held up 'for want of coal', caused by the strike in 1926! Inside the three beautiful west windows were designed and made by members of the congregation in 2000 as a Millennium project whilst the east window, depicting Celtic rings in green with pink decoration, was designed and fitted at the opening of the church in 1928.

History: <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/newstead>

Access: This church is usually open on Wednesdays 9.30 – 11.00 and Sundays 6.00 – 8.00 pm. Arrangements can also be made by phoning the Vicar on 01623 759666.



7 Annesley, All Saints

NG15 0AY

The current church (which replaced a medieval building one mile to the south-west), in neo-Gothic Early English style with a lovely half-timbered south porch, was built following the sinking and development of Annesley Colliery in the 1860s. It was consecrated in 1874, but had to be substantially rebuilt following a fire in 1907. There are several items from Annesley and Colwick old churches to be seen such as a Norman font, a 13th century effigy of a lady, an alabaster effigy of a knight, several Musters family memorials, a fascinating late 16th century brass showing William Breton on a hunting expedition accompanied by his hound, an Achievement of Arms dated 1686 (below), and early 19th Century panels painted by Sofia Musters.

History: <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/annesley>

Access: This church is usually open on Saturdays 10.00 – 12.00, Sundays 10.00 – 12.00 and Wednesdays 1.00 – 3.00. Arrangements can also be made by phoning the Vicar on 01623 759666.

8 Brinsley, St James the Great

NG16 5AR



In 1837 a small chapel of ease was built at Brinsley, on land given by the Duke of Newcastle who also provided the Mansfield stone from which it is built. With the expansion of the coal-mining activities in Brinsley this church was found to be too small, and in 1878 it was enlarged by the addition of a chancel and an organ chamber. The windows were renewed and new seating was provided. Inside there is a fine medieval-style reredos dating from 1894, and a wrought-iron screen between the nave and chancel, dating from 1919, that commemorates those who died in the Great War.

History: <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/brinsley>

Access: Contact details are given at www.achurchnearyou.com/brinsley-st-james-the-great. Alternatively you can try churchwarden Peter Fletcher on 01773 715819.

9 Underwood, St Michael & All Angels

NG16 5FS



The church of St Michael and All Angels was built in 1889-90 by the architect J A Chatwin of Birmingham for Earl Cowper of Beauvale to cater for the expanding coal mining community.

It is an impressive building of grey stone with Bath Stone dressings in the Decorated style comprising a chancel, nave of four bays, aisles, south porch and a massive N.E. tower. Inside, monuments include a late 19th century marble and slate tablet and crested alabaster tablet to the founder, Earl Cowper, dated 1890. In 1891 an oak-shingled spire was added, and the clock, which was installed in 1920, serves as a memorial to the Fallen of the Great War. At the entrance to the churchyard is a magnificent lych-gate of 1890, also paid for by Earl Cowper. In the churchyard sits a wheel from the headstock of Pye Hill Number 1 colliery which was dedicated by the Bishop of Sherwood on 28th September 1985.

History: <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/underwood>

Access: The church is open on Thursday mornings between 10am and 12pm (tea and coffee available). Arrangements to view the church at other times can be made by calling 01773 765203 either the verger or a churchwarden will be pleased to welcome you.



10 Westwood, St Mary

NG16 5QG



St Mary's Westwood was consecrated in 1899 and owes its existence to the growth of the industrial community in the area, including Pye Hill colliery, opened in 1875. A large sum towards its construction was provided by

Messrs James Oakes and Co., ironfounders. Colliers and ironworkers together also provided £70. The simple brick exterior, with large transepts, is offset by a delightful half-timber framed porch. Inside, the open timber roof makes an attractive feature, and there is

much stained glass ranging from the Ascension in the east window, of 1915, to 1970s depictions of the nativity and the parable of the sower.

History: <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/westwood>

Access: This church is usually open Saturday mornings, about 10am to 12 noon. For access at other times, please contact John McDonough, churchwarden and verger: 01773 605984 or jrmcd39@gmail.com



11 Huthwaite, All Saints

NG17 2QT

The construction of All Saints church was commenced in 1902 and completed the following year. It was created a separate parish in 1905. Comprising nave, chancel and north aisle, it also has an unfinished bell tower, all in Arts and Crafts style by the architect G. Ford Whitcombe of London. The building is faced with Mansfield stone but is largely constructed by stone hewn from New Hucknall colliery, dug out by coal miners. The pit manager, Simeon Watson, provided a pulpit, lectern, and choir stalls made out of carved oak. There is some fine stained glass. On the north wall is a striking bronze plaque of a miner hewing coal by Wendy Stevenson to commemorate the past workers of New Hucknall colliery.

Access: In addition to Sunday morning worship, All Saints is open by arrangement with The Revd. Charlie Maiden on 01623 555053.

12 Stanton Hill, All Saints

NG17 3HW



The village of Stanton Hill lies within the parish of Skegby. Built as a chapel-of-ease in 1899-1900. All Saints was designed to serve the flourishing mining and ironworking community and was a permanent replacement for worship which had previously taken place in a number of schoolrooms. The church, although having a conventional cruciform plan and built in the Early English style, is unusual in that its orientation is north-south. The Baptistry window, depicting Christ blessing the children, was given by the Sunday School scholars. There is a colourful tapestry depicting the village, its colliery, and miners at work.

History: <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/stanton-hill>

Access: For details of when church is open or to arrange a visit please contact the church office on 01623 558800.



13 Rainworth, St Simon and St Jude

NG21 0EB

In 1890 a small, wooden church was built here. However, following the sinking of the mineshafts for Rufford Colliery in 1911, the population expanded, and in 1938 work on the present, brick church commenced, completed the following year. The architect was Cecil Howitt, a local man from Nottingham, well known for his creation of the Council House, who designed St Simon and St Jude's in Art Deco style, making much use of exposed brick internally. The nave and chancel lie under one roof with a bell-turret and chapel on the south side. In 1973 an upper room was added at the west end. The entrance to the church now serves as the welcoming area.

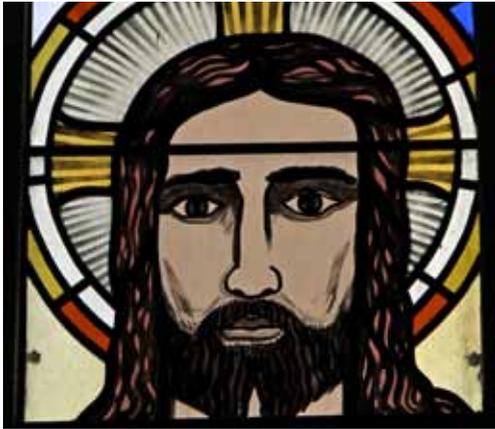
History: <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/rainworth>

Access: St Simon & St Jude's church, is open Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays 10am - 12noon. A coffee shop runs in the church between these times.



14 Forest Town, St Alban

NG19 0EP



A mission church was established here in 1905 to serve the needs of the mining community following the sinking of Crown Farm (Mansfield) Colliery in 1904; it sufficed until the present church was opened in 1911, largely funded by the Duke of Portland and the Bolsover Colliery Company. The architect was Louis Ambler. In 1937 a north aisle was added in which hangs a sanctuary lamp in memory of former miners. In 1968 there was a disastrous fire which caused much damage and many of the sanctuary fittings post-date this event. There are two lovely stained glass windows: in the south wall by Kempe and Co. of 1932, and the east window which is by Michael Stokes, a Nottinghamshire artist, of 1995.

History: <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/forest-town>

Access: The church is open on Tuesdays from 2.15pm for an hour and on a Thursdays from 9am for about 3 hours. This is a drop in time with free refreshments.



15 Clipstone, All Saints

NG21 9DF

The Bolsover Colliery Company gave the site and £3,000 for building this miners' church, which was dedicated in 1928. It was designed by Louis Ambler, who built a number of other Nottinghamshire churches, and his original drawings show a tower and spire though these were never built. The interior space is a delightful play on neo-Romanesque, using brick arches and stone columns. A large piece of coal, along with several mining tools, has been brought from Clipstone Colliery to remember the church's association with coal-mining; it lies in the north aisle on a railway carriage which brought it to the church on a specially constructed, temporary railway. The former chancel is now a miners' chapel and has a lovely set of kneelers depicting mining scenes old and new.

History: <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/clipstone>

Access: The church is open during service times on Sundays and Tuesdays, alternatively you can contact either of the churchwardens: David Marriott on 01623 624686 or Eric Jenkins on 01623 624153.

16 New Ollerton, St Paulinus

NG22 9SZ



New Ollerton village was created in the mid-1920s to serve the new Ollerton pit. In 1931 the church of St Paulinus was built by Naylor, Sale, and Woore for the Butterley Company colliery, to serve the miners and their families. It is placed, picturesquely, in the centre of a roundabout in the heart of the 'model village'. In style the church is neo-Romanesque but the materials used, brick, ashlar, and concrete, with a tiled roof, give the building a very Italianate feel. The doors have remarkable scrolled iron and bronze furniture, and inside is a beautiful king post roof with double tie beams and a coved wall plate with a carved interlace pattern.

The miners' window, above the main entrance in the west wall, consists of three stained glass windows in commemoration of the links with the mining community, provided by the efforts of the congregation.

There is also a most interesting cruciform brick font with a mosaic top and a cover with carved figures.

Access: St Paulinus' church is only opened for services. However, the grounds of the church are generally open during daylight hours.



17 Shireoaks, St Luke the Evangelist

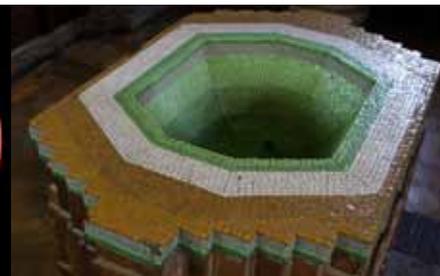
S81 8LP

Built in 1861-3, the church was a present to the village by the fifth Duke of Newcastle-Under-Lyme who was the owner of the colliery.

He commissioned the architect Thomas Hind to build a church for his colliers who 'badly want it'. The foundation stone was laid by the Prince of Wales in 1861. The tower originally had a spire but this became unsafe and was removed in 1973. The interior is richly decorated with wonderfully painted ceilings, an ornate reredos and marble frieze, and elaborate sedilia in 'high gothic' style. The chancel windows all bear dedications from people who were the Duke's friends including the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) and William Gladstone then Chancellor of the Exchequer, later Prime Minister. The wrought-iron chancel screen was possibly made at the colliery, a gift from the village.

History: <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/shireoaks>

Access: Please contact either of the churchwardens: Irene Bayliss on 01909 484046 or John Harris on 07802 952691.



For more information on all of these churches - and more - please see our website www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk

You can also email us at openchurcheschp@southwell.anglican.org
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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!**

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 300+ churches in the Diocese as part of the project.

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

Heather Sirrel, Church History Project
Dunham House, 8 Westgate, Southwell, Notts, NG25 0JL
07736 286 056
Heather.Sirrel@southwell.anglican.org

Full training and support will be given.
www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk



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