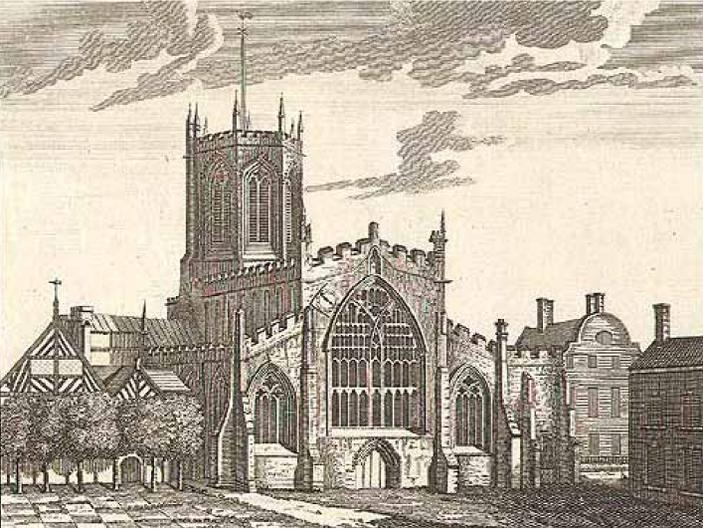




St Mary's Nantwich



St Mary's is a truly magnificent building inside and out.

This church with its distinctive octagonal tower is a landmark visible on all routes into Nantwich. It was built of warm red sandstone in the 14th century and its uplifting architecture makes a wonderful statement about the Christian Church in this community. Many people think that this is one of the finest medieval churches in England. Make a point of looking out for the many, often amusing, gargoyles you can see around the roof lines, which in the Middle Ages were thought to ward off evil spirits.



Here are some reasons why you should go and take a look inside...

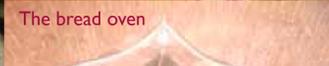
There are twenty canopied choir stalls with some fascinating carvings especially on the unusual seats called misericords. Misericord means 'act of mercy' and you'll realise why when you know that monks had to spend long hours in the services, so the shelf was especially designed for you to sit, while you appeared to be standing!

The stone ceiling above the chancel is a fine example of lierne vaulting with 'ribs' and 'bosses'. See if you can find the stories of the Nativity, the Passion and the Resurrection. Also to be seen is the 'Green Man' a pagan fertility god who appears in this church no less than 11 times in glass, wood, stone and tapestry!

There's a bread oven in the North Transept in which the monks would have baked the communion bread. In those days it would have had a door and a shelf with a chimney inside the buttress.



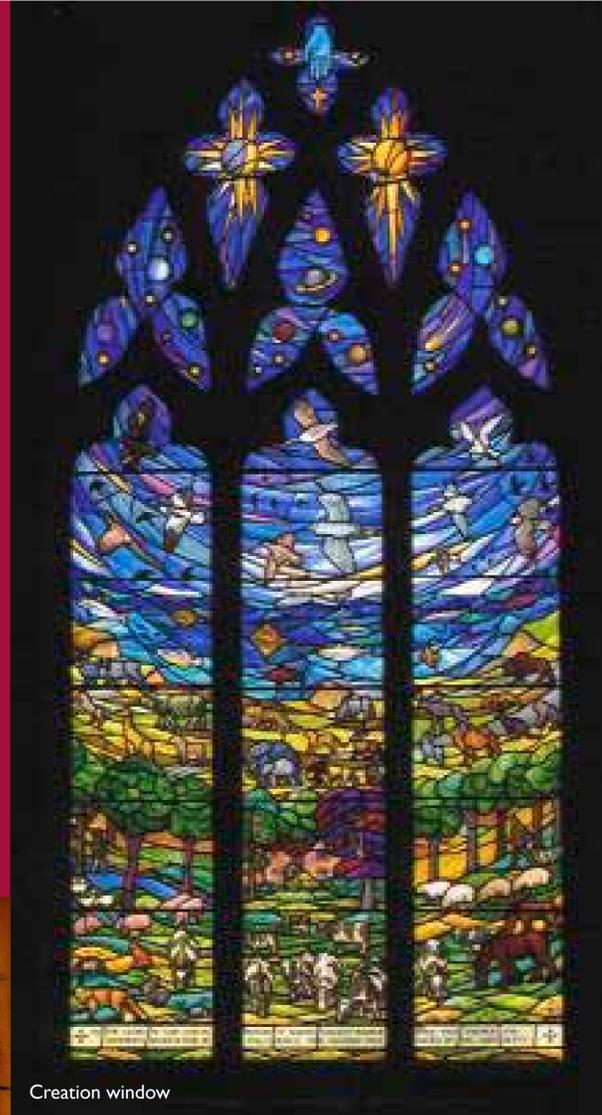
Jubilee curtain



The bread oven



Carved choir stall



Creation window

You can also see a superb collection of kneelers, the Jubilee Curtain (1977) and the delightful Creation Window which shows Cheshire farm life alongside the Creation story.

Look out for Halley's comet in the right trefoil - the window was made in 1985 when the comet appeared.

St Mary's has a Prayer Trail which pilgrims are invited to take around 8 points around the interior

For more information about St Mary's please visit www.stmarysnantwich.org.uk/



The Two Saints Way is divided into 16 stages from Chester to Lichfield.

Stage 5:
Nantwich to Wyburnbury.



The Two Saints Way

The Two Saints Way is a 90 mile recreated pilgrimage route between the cathedral cities Chester and Lichfield.

In the Middle Ages, pilgrims would no doubt have paused at this church or at the older St Mary's nearby in Acton. Those pilgrims often included musicians. If you look around the choir stalls, you will find some fine carvings of them playing cittern, fiddle, symphony/hurdy-gurdy, organ and there are two with bagpipes which was the most popular pilgrimage instrument.

The Two Saints Way is divided into 16 stages. St Mary's marks the end of stage 4 and the start of stage 5.



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