

MARRIAGE MINING IN NOTTINGHAM

..... or how to save paying £11 for a copy of a marriage certificate

The topic of finding Anglican marriages in church registers after 1st July 1837, when civil registration began in England and Wales, has been well covered in my articles relating to "marriage mining" in the West Midlands and South Yorkshire. Summarising, General Register Office clerks received copies of register pages from churches and local registrars and filed them every quarter of the year in a set order. Within every Registration District (RD), the Anglican registers came first, followed by Register Office, Quaker and Jewish, and, after 1st April 1899, authorised Non-Conformist churches. Anglican churches were arranged alphabetically by parish name, each normally starting on an odd-numbered GRO page. Where there was more than one parish within a town, they were filed alphabetically by church dedication, although in some cases an old parish church took preference over newer ones.

This article comments on applying marriage mining techniques to Nottingham and Basford Registration Districts. Nottingham RD covers a relatively small urban area. There are three old parish churches in the town, St. Mary, St Nicholas and St. Peter. Others, outside the town, are Lenton Holy Trinity or Abbey, Radford St Peter and Sneinton St Stephen. As Nottingham expanded in the 1840s, more and more churches were built, so that by 1911 there were 21 Anglican churches filed by GRO clerks under "Nottingham", an alphabetical order of dedications being followed (clerical errors excepted).

From the beginning of civil registration until 30th June 1880, there was a Radford RD which included Hyson Green St Paul, Lenton Holy Trinity, Radford St Peter, Radford Christ Church and Sneinton St Stephen. Radford St Peter is an example of the old parish church taking precedence in the church order over Christ Church. After that date Radford RD ceased to exist and its churches were transferred into Nottingham RD.

St Stephen's church in Nottingham has a confusing history. It was consecrated in 1869 and was originally located at Bunker's Hill, but was demolished in 1896 by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company to make way for Nottingham Victoria railway station. The £10,000 sale proceeds for the church and land went towards the building of a new St. Stephen's Church in Hyson Green. That left an oddity: Hyson Green St Paul continued to be filed under "H", but the new St. Stephen remained under "N" in the Nottingham town churches sequence. Sneinton St Stephen continued to be filed under "S".

In 1877 a new church came into being in Radford RD, St. Augustine. The parish was re-designated "New Basford", causing it to be filed after Basford St Leodegarius, as "Basford, New".

A further upheaval occurred on 1st April 1899 when some churches were transferred from Basford RD into Nottingham RD. Confusingly, these included Basford parish church (St Leodegarius) and New Basford (St Augustine).

Basford is a huge sprawling RD, encircling Nottingham, extending a long way north west to Codnor, Heanor and Ilkeston in Derbyshire, north to Kirkby-in-Ashfield, north east to Burton Joyce and Woodborough, south east to West Bridgford, south to Bunny and Gotham, south west to Beeston and Barton-in-Fabis and west to Wollaton and Trowell. It has a very large number of parishes, many small; a marriage would not necessarily have taken place in a small, rural parish in any particular quarter of the year or even in the whole year. Derbyshire parishes are indicated by the abbreviation DBY.

Apart from the transfers shown in Table 1, the church order is mostly straightforward. West Bridgford is quirkily filed under Bridgford, West, even though East Bridgeford is in Bingham RD. Eventually that policy was reversed and places given their more natural name and filed accordingly.

Although FindmyPast has transcribed marriages from many of the churches in these RDs, it does not cover all of them and then not beyond about 1900. Also, one can never wholly rely on a transcript being accurate. There is therefore still a need for marriage mining.

In Table 1 which follows, the "From" column is blank if the church carried out marriages before 1st July 1837, but for later churches the year in which the first marriage is believed to have taken place has been indicated. The whole table should be regarded as a draft, as it has not been possible to check all the marriages in every year at every church. However, for the year 1900 my colleague Peter Loach has produced a detailed table, showing page ranges for Nottingham and Basford RDs (Table 2 below). I am grateful to him for permission to use these data. There is an oddity in the pages for Ilkeston St Mary in the third (September) quarter of 1900, where the page range does not begin at the odd-numbered page 277, but 276a, which is probably an additional page inserted to accommodate a late entry, yet page 276 is apparently blank; to save space the "a" designation has been omitted in Table 2.

TABLE 1					
Basford RD church order adopted by GRO clerks	From	Notes (Trfd = Transferred)	Nottingham RD church order adopted by GRO clerks	From	Notes (Trfd = transferred)
Aldercar St John (Derbys; filed after Heanor in 1900)	1872		Basford St Leodegarius		Tfd from Basford RD 1 Apr 1899
Annesley All Saints			Basford, New St Augustine	1877	Tfd from Radford RD 1 Jul 1880
Arnold St Mary			Bulwell St Mary		Tfd from Basford RD 1 Apr 1899
Awsorth St Peter	1894		Carrington St John	1841	Tfd from Basford RD 1 Apr 1899
Basford St Leodegarius		Trfd to Nottingham RD 1 Apr 1899	Cinderhill Christ Church (misfiled before Bulwell in 1900)	1896	
Barton-in-Fabis St George			Hyson Green St Paul	1844	Tfd from Radford RD 1 Jul 1880
Beeston St John			Lenton Holy Trinity		Tfd from Radford RD 1 Jul 1880
Bestwood Park Emmanuel	1873		Nottingham All Saints	1865	
Bilborough St John			Nottingham Emmanuel (misfiled after Nottingham St Catherine in 1900)	1886	
Bridgford, West St Giles			Nottingham Holy Trinity (misfiled as "Trinity", after Nottingham St Thomas, in 1900)	1847	
Brinsley St James	1861		Nottingham St Andrew	1871	
Bulwell St Mary		Trfd to Nottingham RD 1 Apr 1899	Nottingham St Ann	1865	
Bunny St Mary			Nottingham St Catherine	1896	
Burton Joyce St Helen			Nottingham St George	1892	
Calverton St Wilfrid			Nottingham St James (Standard Hill)	1858	Tfd from Basford RD 1 Jul 1880
Carlton St Paul	1883		Nottingham St John	1845	
Carrington St John	1847	Trfd to Nottingham RD 1 Apr 1899	Nottingham St Jude (Mapperley)	1881	
Clifton St Mary			Nottingham St Luke	1864	
Codnor St James DBY	1844		Nottingham St Mark	1860	
Colwick St John			Nottingham, St Mary		
Cossall St Catherine			Nottingham St Matthew	1857	
Cotmanhay Christ Church DBY	1848		Nottingham St Nicholas		
Daybrook St Paul	1896		Nottingham St Paul	1839	
Eastwood St Mary			Nottingham St Peter		
Gedling All Hallows			Nottingham St Philip (Sneinton)	1880	
Gotham St Lawrence			Nottingham St Saviour	1855	
Greasley St Mary			Nottingham St Stephen	1869	Demolished in 1896 and a new St Stephen built at Hyson Green; 1st marriage there was on 18 June 1898
Heanor St Lawrence DBY			Nottingham St Thomas	1875	
Hucknall Torkard St Mary			North Wilford St Faith	1906	
Hucknall Torkard St John			Radford St Peter		Tfd from Radford RD 1 Jul 1880
Ilkeston St Mary DBY			Radford All Souls	1894	
Ilkeston Holy Trinity DBY	1888		Radford Christ Church (New Radford Parsh Church)	1845	Tfd from Radford RD 1 Jul 1880
Kimberley Holy Trinity	1848		Sneinton St Stephen		Tfd from Radford RD 1 Jul 1880
Kirkby-in-Ashfield St Wilfrid			Sneinton St Alban	1888	
Lambley Holy Trinity			Sneinton St Matthias	1869	
Linby St Michael			Registrar		
Netherfield St George			Quaker & Jewish		
Nuthall St Patrick			Non-Conformist authorised person	1899	
Papplewick St James					
Ruddington St Peter					
Selston St Helen					
Standard Hill St James (Nottingham)	1858	Trfd to Nottingham RD 1 Jul 1880			
Strelley All Saints					
Thrumpton All Saints					
Trowell St Helen					

TABLE 1					
Basford RD church order adopted by GRO clerks	From	Notes (Trfd = Transferred)	Nottingham RD church order adopted by GRO clerks	From	Notes (Trfd = transferred)
Underwood St Michael & All Angels (misfiled before Trowell in 1900)	1897				
Westwood St Mary (in Jacksdale)	1903				
Wilford (South) St Wilfrid					
Wollaton St Leonard					
Woodborough St Swithun					
Registrar					
Quaker & Jewish					
Non-Conformist authorised person	1899				

TABLE 2									
Basford RD church order, 1900	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Nottingham RD church order, 1900	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec
Annesley All Saints			189	225-228	Basford St Leodegarius	283-286	451-461	379-385	453-460
Arnold St Mary	157-161	223-230	191-193	229-232	Basford, New St Augustine	287-289	463-466	387-391	461-467
Awsorth St Peter	163	231-232	195	233	Cinderhill Ch. Ch.	291	467-468	393-395	469-472
Barton-in-Fabis St George		233	197	235	Bulwell St Mary	293-301	469-479	397-403	473-483
Beeston St John	165-167	235-241	199-204	237-245	Carrington St John	303-305	481-485	405-407	485-487
Bestwood Park Emmanuel	169	243	205	247	Hyson Green St Paul	307-311	487-496	409-421	489-500
Bilborough St John				249	Lenton Holy Trinity	313-316	497-505	423-433	501-510
Bridgford, West St Giles	171	245-246	207-213	251-252	Nottingham All Saints	317-320	507-511	435-439	511-517
Brinsley St James	173	247-248	215	253-254	Nottingham St Andrew	321-327	513-521	441-450	519-526
Bunny St Mary		249		255	Nottingham St Ann	329-338	523-537	451-466	527-537
Burton Joyce St Helen	175		217	257-258	Nottingham St Catherine	339	539-542	467-470	539-542
Calverton St Wilfrid		251-252		259	Nottingham Emmanuel	341-342	543-549	471-473	543-548
Carlton St Paul	177-178	253-255	219-223	261-264	Nottingham St George	343-346	551-557	475-478	549-555
Clifton St Mary	179				Nottingham St James	347-348	559	479-482	557-558
Codnor St James DBY	181-182	257-261	224-229	265-270	Nottingham St John	349-350	562	483	559-561
Colwick St John	183		231		Nottingham St Jude	351-352	563-564	485-487	563-564
Cossall St Catherine	185	263	233-237	271	Nottingham St Luke	353-355	565-569	489-492	565-568
Cotmanhay Ch. Ch. DBY	187-188	265-271	239-240	273-275	Nottingham St Mark	357	571-572	493-499	569-571
Daybrook St Paul	189	273-277	241-244	277-279	Nottingham St Mary	359-360	573-587	501-508	573-578
Eastwood St Mary	191-192	279-282	245-248	281-283	Nottingham St Matthew	361	589-590	509-511	579-580
Gedling All Hallows		283-284	249-250	285	Nottingham St Nicholas	363-364	591-594	513-514	581-583
Gotham St Lawrence	193	285	251	287	Nottingham St Paul	365	595-598	515-517	585-588
Greasley St Mary	195	287	253-254	289-292	Nottingham St Peter	367-368	599-604	519-520	589-591
Heanor St Lawrence DBY	197-201	289-294	255-261	293-298	Nottingham St Philip	369-370	605	521	593-594
Aldercar St John DBY	205-207	295-301	263-266	299-303	Nottingham St Saviour	371-375	607-621	523-532	595-611
Hucknall Torkard St Mary	209-212	303-310	267-275	305-313	Nottingham St Stephen	377-380	623-631	533-536	613-614
Hucknall Torkard St John	213-214	311		315	Nottingham St Thomas	381	633-634	537	615-618
Ilkeston St Mary DBY	215-216	313-321	276-279	317-324	Nottingham Holy Trinity	383-385	635-638	539-541	619-622
Ilkeston Holy Trinity DBY	217-219	323-325	281-284	325-327	Radford St Peter	387-391	639-651	543-554	623-635
Kimberley Holy Trinity	221-223	327-330	285-290	329-336	Radford All Souls	393-395	653-662	555-559	637-645
Kirkby-in-Ashfield St Wilfrid	225-228	331-242	291-295	337-346	Radford, New Ch. Ch.	397-400	663-664	561-566	647-652
Lambley Holy Trinity		343	297	347	Sneinton St Stephen	401-402	665-673	567-573	653-658
Linby St Michael	229	345-347	299	349	Sneinton St Alban	403-404	675-678	575-576	659-663
Netherfield St George	231	349-350	301-304	351-353	Sneinton St Matthias	405-409	679-685	577-579	665-673
Nuthall St Patrick	233	351-352		355	Registrar	411-471	687-751	581-637	675-745
Papplewick St James		353	305		Unknown	473-477	753-762	639-658	747-751
Ruddington St Peter	235	355-356	307-309	357-359	Unknown		763-771		753-773
Selston St Helen	237-239	357-362	311-315	361-370	Unknown	479-488	773-782	659-675	775-790
Strelley All Saints					Unknown	489	783		
Thrumpton All Saints					Unknown		785		
Trowell St Helen				373	Wesleyan, New Basford	491	801	677	
Underwood St Michael		363-366	317-319	371	Unknown			679-681	
Westwood St Mary (Jacksdale)					United Methodist, Alfred St., Nottingham	493			791
Wilford (South) St Wilfrid	241-242	367-373	321-326	375-378	Hockley Primitive, Nottingham		787	683	
Wollaton St Leonard			327-329		United Methodist, Gregory Blvd, Nottingham	495		685	
Woodborough St Swithun		375		379	Unknown		789		
Registrar	243-250	377-398	331-340	381-402	Unknown		791		
Registrar	251-268	399-432	341-367	403-435	Unknown	497	793	687	793
United Methodist, Netherfield				437	United Methodist, Shakespeare St., Nottingham		795		795
Unknown	269	433			General Baptist, Arkwright St., Nottingham	499	797		797
Unknown	271	435		439	Unknown	501	799	689	
United Methodist, Heanor DBY	273	437			Wesleyan, Broad St., Nottingham	503	803-804	691-692	799-801
Methodist, Bath St. Ilkeston DBY	275	439-440		441	Congregational, Park Hill, Derby Rd., Nottingham	505	805	693	803
Wesleyan, Heanor DBY	277		369	443	Congregational, Addison St., Nottingham	507	807	695	
Unknown		441			Unknown		809	697	805
Old Baptist, Ilkeston DBY		443-444		445	Unknown		811	699-700	807
Unknown	279		371-372		Unknown			701	
Trinity Methodist New Conn., Hucknall Torkard		445-447	373-376	447	Unknown			703	
Unknown	281		377	449					
Wesleyan, Ruddington		449		451					