



Mary Potter 1847-1913

Nun, nurse

Mary was born and raised in London. She felt called by God to set up a nursing order in 1877 to care for the sick – the Little Company of Mary also known as the 'blue nuns' because of their distinctive blue veils, in a dilapidated silk factory in Lenton Street in Hyson Green. Their work included teaching basic hygiene and childcare to local women, visiting people in prison and the workhouse, nursing the sick, praying for the dying, assisting the poor and providing aid to anyone who called at the convent.

During the latter half of the nineteenth century her order opened centres around the world. In 1988 Pope John Paul II declared Mary Potter venerable – the first step to being made a saint. Her bones are interred in St Barnabas Cathedral. She was voted for by BBC Radio Nottingham listeners, and has a tram named after her.