ORIEL WINDOW
On the west side of the Great Hall, the Oriel window probably dates from 1394 – 1414 and was rebuilt in 1826. Some of the glass was placed there from the north window when it was moved in 1736. In the mid 19th century statue of Lady Godiva, and either side are two early stone statues from the demolished Coventry Cross.

TREASURY
This room is approached through the Old Council Chamber. It has a fine tiled floor which may have come from the Great Hall when the original floor was replaced. The room contains the Museum’s unique collection of medieval coins and medals. The Treasury is in Caesar’s Tower which was badly damaged in the Second World War and later restored.

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS ROOM
It is believed Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned at the Guildhall when she was brought to the city in 1569 from Tutbury. There is a story that Elizabeth I ordering the citizens of Coventry to keep Mary secure. The original is still in the City’s Archives.

ARMOURY
This is approached up a narrow stone staircase. Halfway up the staircase is the Ante Room with its sloping floor and a narrow, but interesting display. The Armoury itself housed the city’s armour, surviving pieces of which are displayed on the Minstrels’ Gallery. The City’s archives contain information about the 1901 exhibition of the Great Hall which included items found on Tutbury Castle.

COVENTRY’S BEST KEPT MEDIEVAL SECRET
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ENTRANCE
The entrance to St Mary's Hall is on Bayley Lane which runs on the south side of the ruins of the 'old' Coventry Cathedral, along the approximate line of the bayley to Coventry's Roman Wall. Visitors enter the small 'Cloister' and climb the staircase, with its carved handrails, to the impressive Great Hall.

GREAT HALL
This dates from the late 14th and early 15th centuries. The timber roof is adorned by a series of angel musicians and figures of actual or legendary rulers of England from the Roman Emperor Constantine and King Arthur through to Henry V and Henry VI.

TAPESTRY
On the north wall is an outstanding 15th century Flemish tapestry, thought to depict King Henry VI and Queen Margaret. This is a complete example, and apart from local repairs, has remained in its original position since its commission in 1481. The tapestry is an example of both the quality of craftsmanship and condition, but also because, more than 500 years later, it remains in exactly the location for which it was made.

PRINCE'S CHAMBER
The name the 'Prince's Chamber' derives from the association of Coventry with the Black Prince, the son of Edward III who inherited the manor of Cheylesmore, which included Coventry, from his grandmother Queen Isabella in 1358. Camera Principis (the Prince's Chamber) is on the city's traditional coat of arms.

Coventry was an important medieval city and one of the larger in England in the 14th and 15th centuries. Its prosperity was founded on cloth production. This could trace its origins back to the wool trade that grew up around Coventry Priory, endowed by Lady Godiva and Earl Leofric in the 11th century.

The Hall was first built in the early 1340s for the merchant Guild of St Mary. This Guild later merged with others to form the powerful Trinity Guild which counted Dick Whittington, Lord Mayor of London amongst its members.

The 1340s was an important period in Coventry's history. The decade saw the foundation of the Whitefriars Monastery that still partly survives on the edge of the city centre and the building of St Peter's Church. In 1349 the Chamber of Comptroller granted the citizens the right to have a Mayor and within three years in 1352 the citizens of the city were granted the right to have a Mayor and, since that time, St Mary's Hall has been at the centre of the city's government.