Saint Mary’s was created in 1790 from the Manchester Infirmary when Charles White (founder of the Manchester Royal Infirmary in 1752) founded a new charity to provide midwives and doctors for poor mothers in childbirth, ‘The Manchester Charity for Lying-In Women’. Saint Mary’s Hospital quickly became a recognised hospital and was home to Lloyd Roberts who became the country’s best known Gynaecologist at that time.

The Lying-In Charity for delivering poor women at their home and the Lying-In Hospital when built came into existence as a consequence of rancour between opposing fractions among the trustees and medical staff of the Manchester Infirmary.

In 1790, when the Manchester Lying-In Hospital was founded, power looms were already in use by the cotton industry.

Initially the charity was housed on Salford Bridge, until 1795, when a large building, originally intended to be a hotel, was purchased. The building was the Bath Inn on Stanley Street, Salford and was near to the New Bailey Prison and River Irwell.

The premises at Stanley Street became unsatisfactory and it was decided that Number 2 South Parade was purchased. The building adjoined the Eye Hospital and was close to Saint Mary’s Church.

In early 1900s, it became a single hospital charity and adopted the name of Saint Mary’s Hospital. They opened two new buildings, the Whitworth Street/Oxford Street site in 1904 serving Obstetrics and the Owens Estate near Whitworth Park in 1910 which covered Gynaecology and Paediatrics.

The High Street Hospital was ready for occupation at the beginning of 1910,
but no money was available and the hospital remained empty for 15 months.

By the mid 1930s, they were planning a bigger, new maternity hospital built behind their Gynaecology Block.

By 1935, Saint Mary’s had taken over all of the Manchester Infirmary’s Gynaecological Patients and had agreed to use the Infirmary’s laboratories. In 1948, the NHS was founded which brought them both under the same organisation.

The annual report of 1947 records the treatment of 11,750 in-patients and 14,017 out-patients. The following year the NHS was born.

A new Saint Mary’s Hospital was considered essential in 1938, but it wasn’t until 30 years later it came to fruition. In 1970 it received its first in-patients as a culmination of a 10 year detailed plan and the climax of a building programme which began in 1966. The total cost of the new building was just over £3 million including equipment costs of £370,000.

In 1982, the first NHS IVF Unit in the country was opened at Saint Mary’s.

Today our leading edge services are tailored both to meet the needs of the local population and patients with complex medical conditions referred from other areas in the Greater Manchester conurbation, the North West and beyond.

More than 1,000 staff, including doctors, nurses, midwives, scientists, clinical and non clinical support staff work in Saint Mary’s and provide the highest standards of care in Maternity Services; Gynaecology; Clinical Genetics; Newborn Intensive Care and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

Saint Mary’s Hospital aims to maintain and strengthen its reputation as a Regional Centre of Excellence, committed to providing the highest quality care to patients and their families from the North West and beyond. The development of Saint Mary’s as a regional specialist centre continues.
Pictured: Her Majesty The Queen and HRH Duke of Edinburgh arriving at Saint Mary’s Hospital for the official opening on 23rd March 2012; Her Majesty The Queen during the official opening of Saint Mary’s Hospital building in 1971; Saint Mary’s on Oxford Road (some services are based here); Saint Mary’s Hospital from 2009.

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