

Monday 13 February 2017

For immediate use

Babworth 'Pilgrims' Church Snowdrops Weekend - even better in the rain!

Known as "the Church in the Woodland", All Saints' Parish Church in Babworth provided the ideal setting for a delightful display of snowdrops (pictured) even though the weather was challenging, to say the least!

On the weekend of Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th February, a steady stream of visitors exceeded last year's visitor numbers, and braved the rain to come and walk the Snowdrops Trail and call in to the church to enjoy the homemade refreshments on sale.

A popular part of the weekend's activities was the successful 'Separatists and Mayflower Pilgrims' exhibition. The exhibition included a description of the role of Rev Richard Clifton who was a prominent Separatist and Rector of Babworth from 1586 to 1605. On Saturday 11th, a talk by tour guide, Maggy Watkins, focused on Clifton's connections with Bradford and Brewster. These men were prominent Mayflower Pilgrims, and the story of the Scrooby congregation's struggle to escape arrest and leave for Holland fascinated an attentive and appreciative audience.

There were also many architectural wonders to see, including stained glass windows by Kempe, Eginton, and Wailes. Furniture by "Mousey" Thompson proved an exceptional attraction, with many visitors of all ages enjoying the challenge of 'counting the mice'.

Bassetlaw Christian Heritage will be returning to All Saints' Babworth during Open Churches Weekend on 8th and 9th July 2017 with another chance to see the exhibition and a further talk with another perspective on the Mayflower Pilgrims story. The church is also open with refreshments on Saturday afternoons from May through to September

Note to Editors

Originally a Norman church, All Saints' is best known for its role in the Separatist Movement of the 17th century which resulted in the Mayflower Pilgrims' historic journey to America. Richard Clifton, Rector of All Saints' then, was the preacher that William Bradford, from Austerfield, and William Brewster, from Scrooby, travelled for miles along the Pilgrim Way to hear preach. Clifton was a central character in the Separatist Movement: although not travelling to America himself, he inspired Bradford and Brewster, who ultimately became the Governor and Senior Elder of Plymouth Colony respectively.

For further information, contact Rick Brand rickbrand@hotmail.com (01427 891 376).

Photographs:

- All Saints' Parish Church, Babworth, with snowdrops
- Interior of All Saints' showing visitors this weekend
- Maggy Watkins giving her talk on Saturday 11th February