

**PRESS RELEASE**

18<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Immediate use

**Pilgrims Festival 2019 - Retford's Illuminate parade**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019**

This year's Pilgrims Festival Illuminate Parade in Retford will be on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019, starting at 5.30pm. This will be the fifth year that Retford commemorates the Mayflower Pilgrim Families' journey to the New World, as part of the countdown to 2020, the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their arrival in America. This year's events mark the opening of the commemorative year.

This year's Pilgrims Festival Illuminate events have been successfully started off in Gainsborough and Bawtry, with increasing numbers taking part and turning out to watch. Let's make Retford's event even more successful!

Retford will see its lantern parade assembling at 5.00pm outside Wilko's on Carolgate and walking to St Swithun's Parish Church, starting at 5.30pm. Local uniformed groups, schools and voluntary organisations have been making lanterns and will be taking part in the parade to support this local community event.

The parade will arrive at St Swithun's Parish Church at around 6pm where there will be an all-age event at St Swithun's Parish Church led by Revd Mark Cantrill, including performances by Rhubarb Theatre and the Songbirds choir, followed by the ever popular '400' photograph in the churchyard, and a fantastic light projection show on the side of the church. Refreshments will be available afterwards inside the church. Everyone is very welcome – please wear appropriate warm clothing - it is November.

Rhubarb Theatre delivers creative, original and theatrical experiences which stimulate children's imaginations. Set up in 2000, they have grown to a full time professional touring company and registered charity, specialising in education and entertainment performance for children and families

Other events in the Pilgrims Festival include an Arts Weekend at Babworth Church on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November – featuring works inspired by the Mayflower Pilgrims story. The Pilgrim Embroiderers will be working and there will be :

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>

- 11.00am: A talk on buttons by local crafter, Diane Hemsley
- 12.00noon: A talk on Worksoop Priory by Priory tour guide, David Caseldine
- 2.00pm: *Three Piece Suite* play baroque music

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>

- 3.00pm: A talk by local author and historian, Adrian Gray on themes from his new book arriving in 2020

All are welcome, entry is free, refreshments will be available for a small charge.



There will be a Thanksgiving Dinner, with entertainment, at Spencer's on the Square, in Retford, at 7pm on Thursday 28th November (Thanksgiving Day). If you are looking for an excuse for a good night out or a location for a work Christmas 'Do', contact 01777 800230, or call in to book (£30 each).

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November, Worksop joins the "Illuminate club" with its first Pilgrims Festival Illuminate event starting at 5.00pm for 5.30pm start at The Crossing on Newcastle Avenue with Rhubarb Theatre and the Songbirds followed by the 400 photograph and a fantastic light projection on the outside of Worksop Priory.

Bassetlaw Christian Heritage (BCH) is delighted to have received funding from Arts Council England, with support from the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham, and District Councillors Carolyn Troop, Helen Richards and Joan Sanger via their community grants.

Visitor numbers to the area are already increasing, and are forecast to increase further, as 2020 grows closer. The story of the Mayflower Pilgrim families and their roots in the area in and around Bassetlaw, North Nottinghamshire, is becoming better known.

To find out more about the story, please see [www.bassetlawchristianheritage.com](http://www.bassetlawchristianheritage.com), the Pilgrims Gallery in Bassetlaw Museum, Retford, the Pilgrims Museum at The Hub in Churchgate, Retford, and the Pilgrims Room at the United Reformed Church in Gainsborough.

### **Notes to editors**

#### **Bassetlaw Christian Heritage (BCH)**

BCH is all about the people and their stories, based on faith heritage, in the region with a radius of around 30 miles around Retford, including Bassetlaw, North Nottinghamshire, and parts of Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire.

BCH works collaboratively with groups and individuals, and if anyone would like to help in any way, please contact them at [contact@bassetlawchristianheritage.com](mailto:contact@bassetlawchristianheritage.com).

Website at: [www.bassetlawchristianheritage.com](http://www.bassetlawchristianheritage.com).

Photographs of previous years' events are provided/available

BCH is grateful to Arts Council England, the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham, Bassetlaw District Councillors, St Swithun's Parish Church, Worksop Priory, the United Reformed Church, the Methodist Church, Scouts, Guides and schools in Bassetlaw for their continuing support.

For further information please contact Rick Brand at [rickbrand@hotmail.com](mailto:rickbrand@hotmail.com) or 01427 891376.

**Mayflower 400 Editors Notes:**

1. Mayflower 400 is the four hundred year commemoration of the voyage of this historic ship, passengers and crew, to America in 1620.
2. Over 30 million people are able to trace their ancestry to the people on the ship. Mayflower 400 year is a four-nation commemoration, Netherlands, UK, USA and the Wampanoag nation that invites Mayflower descendants, local communities and visitors to explore, learn and be involved with the commemoration.
3. Prior to the Mayflower's departure from Plymouth, England, Mayflower history was written in many towns and cities - each of them detailed in the Mayflower trail. The trail includes Austerfield, Scrooby & Babworth, Gainsborough, Boston, Immingham, Worcestershire, Chorley, Dorking, Leiden in the Netherlands, Harwich, Rotherhithe, City of London, Southampton, Dartmouth, Plymouth England and Provincetown and Plymouth, USA. All of these locations play a part in the story of the Mayflower and the people involved.
4. Starting with the Illuminate Festivals in November 2019, a year of Mayflower 400 activities will include community events, major exhibitions, performances and plays with the majority being free for people to attend and enjoy- culminating with Illuminate in November 2020.
5. A major public four-nation commemoration event will be staged in Plymouth on September 16, 2020 marking the official departure date of the ship as part of Mayflower Week.
6. Go to [www.mayflower400uk.org](http://www.mayflower400uk.org) for the latest information on events and stories around this landmark year for England.

For further information about Mayflower 400 please contact -:

Mark Howell, Director Communications & Marketing, T +441752305694,  
[mark.howell@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:mark.howell@plymouth.gov.uk)