

Press Release

Immediate use

23rd November 2021

Thanksgiving/Illuminate 2021 Art Exhibition

At Babworth Church: 27th & 28th November 2021

Open to the public on 27th (between 10am and 4pm) and 28th (between 12noon and 4pm) November 2021, Babworth Art Exhibition is back in Babworth Church again this year.

On Saturday 27th November, the exhibition will be opened at 10am by Isabelle Richards, Heritage Engagement Officer at the Pilgrim Gallery in Bassetlaw Museum, with a description of the food associated with Thanksgiving. At 12noon, local tour guide, Maggy Watkins will give a talk on the Mayflower Pilgrims entitled *Saints and Strangers*. On Sunday 28th November, at 3pm, local historian and author, Adrian Gray will give a talk on *The Afterlife of the Mayflower Pilgrims*.

There will be outstanding paintings, exhibited here for the first time, on the theme of Thanksgiving, alongside a range of superb Mayflower and Separatist-themed artworks.

This popular exhibition has been established for five years with only a pandemic-enforced break in 2020. It will be wonderful for art to be back in Babworth again.

Refreshments will be available in church and there is ample parking. Take the lane to the north off Babworth Road at the Sutton Lane/Mansfield Road junction.

Background

On 25th November 2021, the 400th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving meal will be commemorated.

This was a meal which was shared between the newly arrived settlers to North America – the Mayflower Pilgrims - and the local population (the Mashpee Wampanoag) who had formed an alliance with them. However, Thanksgiving has been marked, since 1970, among many Native Americans as a National Day of Mourning.

Millions of Americans mark Thanksgiving as a celebration of family and an opportunity to give thanks for what they have. People travel across the country to enjoy a meal together, usually featuring turkey, but the original meal would probably have consisted of venison, shellfish and cereals.

Note to Editors

The Babworth Art Exhibition has been a collaboration between BCH, All Saints' Church Babworth, and Bassetlaw District Council for over five years commemorating the story of the Separatists and Mayflower Pilgrims. The theme of Thanksgiving which became popular in North America developed from these stories. Today its relevance is perhaps broader and can be seen as an opportunity to give thanks more widely.

Photographs of previously included artworks are attached