

The Pilgrim Heartland Trail



Self Guided Tour

WILLIAM BRADFORD
BAPTISED 1589
AT AUSTERFIELD

THE MAYFLOWER



Welcome

Welcome to the Pilgrim Heartland Trail, a self guided tour of the towns and villages in North Nottinghamshire and Doncaster that this areas five leading Mayflower passengers once called home, as well as those of their fellow Scrooby and Leiden Separatists.

Our network is also part of the wider National Mayflower Trail and links into the Pilgrim Roots Trail that extends from Nottinghamshire, through South Yorkshire and into Lincolnshire.

Within the main Pilgrim Heartland Trail, depending upon your own particular interest in the Pilgrims, there are four suggested routes.

The general interest Pilgrim route takes in Babworth, Scrooby, Austerfield and Sturton-le-Steeple and will take the best part of a day to complete.

For Mayflower descendants retracing their individual genealogical roots we suggest the Brewster family history tour of Scrooby and Hatfield; and for Bradfords, Austerfield, Tickhill and Arksey. For descendants of Susanna White-Winslow, must-see places are Scrooby, Carlton-in-Lindrick, Tickhill and Braithwell. These ‘family’ routes each take around half a day to complete.

Descendants of Separatists John Robinson and Edward Southworth might like to visit Sturton-le-Steeple and Clarbrough respectively.

Whatever your interest, the Historic Pilgrim Heartland Trail is waiting for you to explore!

The rural villages in the Pilgrim Heartland celebrate a rich history and wealth of traditions

Guide Map



Retford (DN22 6LD)

Retford is an historic market town that was granted its first charter (the right to hold a fair) by Henry III in 1246. In 1275 Edward I extended this to include a Saturday market; that market continues today. The town features fine Georgian buildings around a spacious square. Visit **Bassetlaw Museum** on Grove Street to discover more about Retford's heritage. Just a short walk away, opposite the cannon, is **The Hub Visitor Centre**, which houses a Pilgrim Room, and the beautiful **St Swithun's Church**. Both are well worth a visit.

Babworth (DN22 8EP)

The entrance to **All Saints Church** is opposite the junction of the A620 and B6420. The church itself lies in a delightful glade with space for car parking.

The origins of religious separatism in this area are closely connected with the church at Babworth, as it was here that powerful preacher, Richard Clifton, was Rector from 1586 until 1605.

Due to his unorthodox views, Clifton was eventually accused before the Archbishop's Chancery Court at York of being non-conformist and deprived of his living at Babworth. He is then thought to have been taken in at Scrooby Manor where for a time he was spiritual leader to the secret Scrooby Separatist congregation.

An original section of the Great North Road, which was diverted in the 1700's, may still be seen as a quiet track leading northwards from the church. Take a moment to think about the determination of followers like the Brewsters, Jacksons and William Bradford who once walked along this road through all manner of weather to hear Clifton preach.

Bassetlaw Museum, Retford



The Hub, Retford



William Bradford
Nicholas Pettinger
Robert Lylly
Richard Clifton
George Turvin
Thomas Bishop

All Saints Church, Babworth

Scrooby (DN10 6AG)

When driving from Retford towards Scrooby, you will soon pick up the original course of the Great North Road, near **Ye Olde Belle at Barnby Moor**, a famous old posting house in times gone by and now a very comfortable hotel. A little further on, look out for **Torworth Grange**, a great place to stop for a coffee or lunch en-route.

Just entering Scrooby, the original course of the Great North Road (now known as Low Road) forks off to wend its way through the oldest part of the village.

Continuing along the present Great North Road, **The Pilgrim Fathers Inn** has a large car park and the proprietor is happy for you to park there; he would be even happier to welcome you in for a meal and a pint! Just opposite the pub in Church Lane is **St Wilfrid's Church** (known 400 years ago as St James's) where Leading Mayflower Pilgrim, William Brewster, was almost certainly baptised, as was fellow Mayflower passenger, Susanna White-Winslow.

William Brewster was brought up in the village of Scrooby and as a child lived at Scrooby Manor where his father served as Bailiff and Receiver to the Archbishop of York, and also for the Crown as a master of Her Majesty's Post – a position that Pilgrim Brewster would inherit on the death of his father.

When Separatist preacher, Richard Clifton, was deprived of his living at Babworth, Scrooby Manor became the meeting place for those who desired to worship according to the dictates of their own conscience. Brewster, who had long been attracted by Separatism, along with fellow Separatist Richard Jackson, was fined for non-attendance at Scrooby's parish church. Shortly before the Scrooby congregation's flight to Holland, arrest warrants for 'Brownists' William Brewster and Richard Jackson were issued but these birds had already flown.



St Wilfrid's Church, Scrooby

Scrooby Manor House, Scrooby



Near to the north gate leading into the churchyard, is the village **pinfold**, now planted up as a very pleasant communal garden and is a quiet spot to sit for a moment to consider the Separatist's plight. Beside the pinfold is the timber-framed **Old Rectory**, now a private home, and a building that our Scrooby Pilgrims would have known well.

A short walk north from the church along Low Road is Manor Lane leading to the entrance to **Scrooby Manor House**, former home of Mayflower passengers William and Mary Brewster, and Susanna White-Winslow, the daughter of Richard Jackson. At the time of their escape to Holland, Jackson was Bailiff and Receiver and held a lease to the existing Scrooby Manor House.

Susanna White-Winslow was a prominent figure in the Pilgrim story. She was one of three women in the third trimester of pregnancy who boarded the Mayflower ship. Susanna subsequently gave birth to the first Pilgrim child, a son named Peregrine, to be born after arrival in New England. After her first husband, Pilgrim William White, died soon after arriving in America, Susanna's second marriage to Pilgrim Edward Winslow in 1621, was the first English marriage conducted in Plymouth Colony. During the periods when Winslow served as Governor of Plymouth, Susanna would have been considered the most important woman in the colony, and she was also the mother of a future Plymouth Governor, Josiah Winslow.

Today, Scrooby Manor is a privately owned family residence, however, there is a public viewing point approximately 100 metres along Station Road where the house can be seen from across the fields.

Walking north along Low Road from Manor Road, tiny Mill Lane, another remnant of the original Great North Road, breaks off to meander past the old water mill, known locally as **Monk's Mill**, which was once a part of the Scrooby Manor estate. Mill Lane soon joins the modern Great North Road at a junction opposite Gibbett Hill Lane and just a few minutes walk back towards the Pilgrim Fathers Pub.



Scrooby Village

Clarborough

(DN22 9NQ)

Clarborough near Retford was the birthplace of Separatist preacher Robert Southworth, and his cousins, Leiden church members Edward and Thomas Southworth, were baptised in the **Parish Church of St John the Baptist**.

Although Edward Southworth was expected to join the Plymouth Colony, he died, probably in London, shortly after the sailing of the Mayflower. His widow, Alice Carpenter-Southworth, later married the widowed Governor William Bradford in Plymouth in 1623. Alice and Edward's two sons, Constant and Thomas Southworth, would also later settle in Plymouth Colony where they both led successful lives.



Church of St John the Baptist, Clarborough

Bawtry (DN10 7JW)

Bawtry is almost certainly the birthplace of Leiden Separatist and leading Plymouth Colony citizen, George Morton, brother-in-law to Governor William Bradford. At the time of our Pilgrims, Bawtry was a thriving inland port. Today it is a bustling cosmopolitan town renowned for its restaurants and boutique shops.

Beside the entrance to **Bawtry Hall**, in Tickhill Road stands **Bawtry Masonic Lodge** containing the remnants of the ancient Hospital Chapel of St Mary Magdalene, where many members of the Catholic Morton family were buried. Pilgrim William Brewster's brother, James, was once Master of the Hospital Chapel which remained in use until being partly demolished and incorporated into the existing 1839 building. Situated at Bawtry's heart is the 4 star former posting house, **The Crown Hotel**, a wonderful place to stay to explore the Pilgrim Heartland Trail.



The Crown Hotel, Bawtry

St Helena's Church, Austerfield



Austerfield

(DN10 6QU)

Leading Mayflower Pilgrim Governor William Bradford was born here in the spring of 1590 and baptised in the almost one-thousand-year-old **St Helena's Church**. The original font can still be seen today. The serenity of this tiny ancient church is quite captivating and evocative.

Bradford, who was a sickly child and orphaned at an early age, would have attended St Helena's where his uncle and later guardian, Robert Bradford, served as a churchwarden. As a teenager, and well-versed in the scriptures, William Bradford became a follower of preacher Richard Clifton and joined the secretive Scrooby Congregation.

St Helena's church has a stunning stained glass window commemorating William Bradford, the Mayflower, the early Plymouth Colony and the signing of the Mayflower Compact. Two of Bradford's most famous quotes; 'we knew that we were Pilgrims' and 'one small candle', from his seminal book, 'Of Plimouth Plantation' can be seen.

Just a minutes walk northwards from the church is **Butten Meadow** and its Delft-tiled plaque commemorating the voyage of the Mayflower and Mayflower passenger, William Butten. It was once thought this servant was born within the parish but that is unlikely. Nonetheless, the plaque is a charming memorial to this teenager who died just before land was sighted and has no known grave.

A few hundred yards further along, and opposite the **Austerfield Field Study Centre** (a 70 acre environmental education centre and community hub), is **Austerfield Manor House**, reputedly where William Bradford grew up. Although the Manor house is a private residence, it can easily be viewed from the road.



Butten Meadow, Austerfield

Sturton le Steeple (DN22 9HQ)

Sturton-le-Steeple is the birthplace of John Robinson, the spiritual leader of the Separatist congregation in Leiden. Robinson's early education may have taken place in the vestry of the **Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul** before possibly attending the newly established grammar school at Gainsborough. He entered Cambridge University in 1596.

While at Cambridge, Robinson embraced the Puritan movement. After leaving university, he was ordained into the Anglican Church in 1603, married and settled in Norwich in Norfolk. In the wake of the crackdown on radical Puritan ministers, Robinson lost his living at Norwich and spent many months afterwards considering whether to join the radical Separatist path. On returning to Nottinghamshire, Robinson later became an active member of the Scrooby Separatists and in 1608 he fled with them to Holland.

After much discord with the various English religious groups based in Amsterdam, the Scrooby congregation decided to move to Leiden. Richard Clifton remained in Amsterdam while John Robinson took over as the congregation's spiritual leader in Leiden. John Robinson died in Leiden in 1625.

Mayflower passenger Katherine (White) Leggett-Carver, sister of John Robinson's wife, Bridget White, was also born in this village. She was married to Mayflower Pilgrim, John Carver, who was elected the first Governor of Plymouth Colony. After John's death in the spring of 1621, Katherine is said to have died of a broken heart.

Opposite the church, **The Reindeer Inn** is a great pub to enjoy a refreshing break for lunch or dinner and a pint!

Church of St Peter and St Paul, Sturton-le-Steeple



Sturton-le-Steeple Village

St George's Minster, Doncaster



Doncaster (DN1 1BN)

Doncaster is an historical market town at the southern edge of Yorkshire and one of the oldest Roman towns in the county, (settled in the AD 40's) and with part of one of its original walls in the grounds of the magnificent

St George's Minster.

The Normans also left their mark on the borough with castles at Conisbrough and Tickhill built of local limestone that was also used to build the mansions of some of the town's past wealthy citizens, notably the Victorian **Brodsworth Hall** and Georgian **Cusworth Hall**, both of which are open to the public.

Doncaster town itself boasts one of the largest and oldest markets in England, and the old grammar school, where it is believed William Brewster attended, once stood close to the modern day **Corn Exchange** building. Brewster's mother, Mary, once resided in the town with her first husband, John Simpkinson, and William's half-siblings were baptised at the Minster.

The town also has a wealth of Georgian and Regency architecture having one of only three surviving civic **Mansion Houses** dating from 1749.

Doncaster is renowned for its horse racing, staging the world's oldest classic 'The St Leger Stakes' since 1776 and the 'Doncaster Cup' since 1766. Horsepower in many forms is synonymous with Doncaster being where the steam engines 'Flying Scotsman' and 'Mallard' were designed and built. Also England's first air race took place at the Doncaster Racecourse in 1909.

Today Doncaster is a vibrant growing borough that proudly celebrates its past historical connections, no more so than that of William Bradford, one of the most important Mayflower Pilgrims.



Mansion House, Doncaster

Hatfield (DN7 6HN)

Hatfield near Doncaster was the birthplace of Mary Smythe-Simpkinson-Brewster, mother of leading Mayflower Pilgrim, William Brewster. Mary's wealthy family were mainly merchants and her brother John, was an influential Alderman of Hull. Mary was almost certainly baptised in the beautiful **Parish Church of St Lawrence** and her parents are known to have been buried within the building. Mary's first husband, John Simpkinson, was an Alderman and twice Mayor of Doncaster. He also helped to establish the grammar school in Doncaster.

Braithwell (S66 7AS)

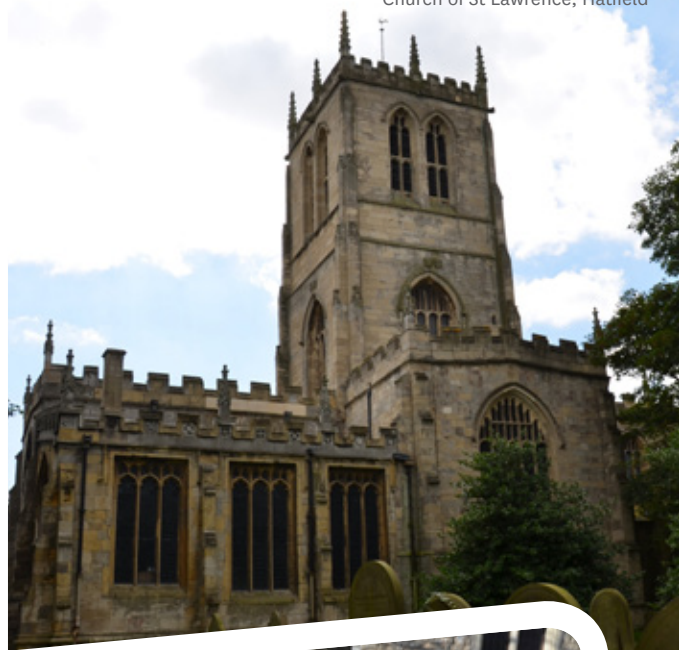
Although Susanna White-Winslow was born and raised in Scrooby, her father's Jackson family came from Braithwell. As a young man of twenty two her father, Richard Jackson, is recorded as school teacher there and his father, James, served as Constable.

Inside the delightful **Parish Church of St James**, are examples of church furniture by Robert 'The Mouse Man' Thompson with his trademark carved mouse.

The remains of the ancient stone **village cross**, erected in 1191, bears an inscription in Norman French which translates as 'Jesus, son of Mary, think upon the brother of our king, I beseech you' is reputed to be connected with the ransom demanded for the release of the captive King Richard I in Germany, to which we believe the villagers contributed.

Just opposite, the award winning **Garden Room Café** is a great place to break for an unpretentious home cooked lunch or just tea and scrummy cake!

Church of St Lawrence, Hatfield



Village Stone, Braithwell

Tickhill Buttercross, Tickhill



Tickhill (DN11 9LY)

Tickhill has all the charm of a quintessential English town of a bygone age and is blessed with a variety of independent shops and plenty of places to eat.

Tickhill has two distinct Pilgrim connections; firstly with the family of Mayflower Pilgrim Susanna (Jackson) White-Winslow and, secondly, to William Bradford.

Robert Bradford 'of Wellingley' in Tickhill, the great grandfather of leading Mayflower Pilgrim William Bradford, once lived within the parish and was buried on 14 December 1553 in the churchyard of the stunning **St Mary's Parish Church**. Pilgrim William Bradford's grandfather was probably born in Tickhill before settling in Austerfield.

Susanna White-Winslow's father, Richard Jackson, was once the School Master of Tickhill Grammar School and her uncle, Edward Pettinger, was Deputy Bailiff of the Manor of Tickhill which centred on **Tickhill Castle**.

Dating from 1470, one of the oldest surviving buildings in Tickhill is **St Leonard's Hospital**, just north of the landmark **Buttercross**.

No visit to Tickhill is complete without a quiet stroll along Lindrick Road (which starts beside **The Mill pub**) towards the old water mill and to take in the view towards St Mary's across the duck-filled **Mill Dam**, the perfect place to stop for a picnic.



Tickhill Mill Pond

Arksey (DN5 0SD)

The ancient **Parish Church of All Saints** is a magnificent treasure rightly described as one of the finest medieval churches in Yorkshire.

Mayflower Pilgrim William Bradford's family roots lay in Arksey, with the Bradford name (and its variant spellings) quite prolific in the Arksey parish registers. Within the lifetime of the Pilgrims, there was recorded a memorial to a female Bradford. The inscription read:

'Here lies Alice BRADFORD, wife of John BRADFORD, former bailiff of Bentley: she died 26 Sep AD 1527 : God be merciful to her soul!'

This lady was almost certainly a relative of Bradford's great, great grandfather, Robert Bradford 'of Wellingley' whose family came from the Arksey and Bentley area. However, today no Bradford family memorials of any great age survive within the church.

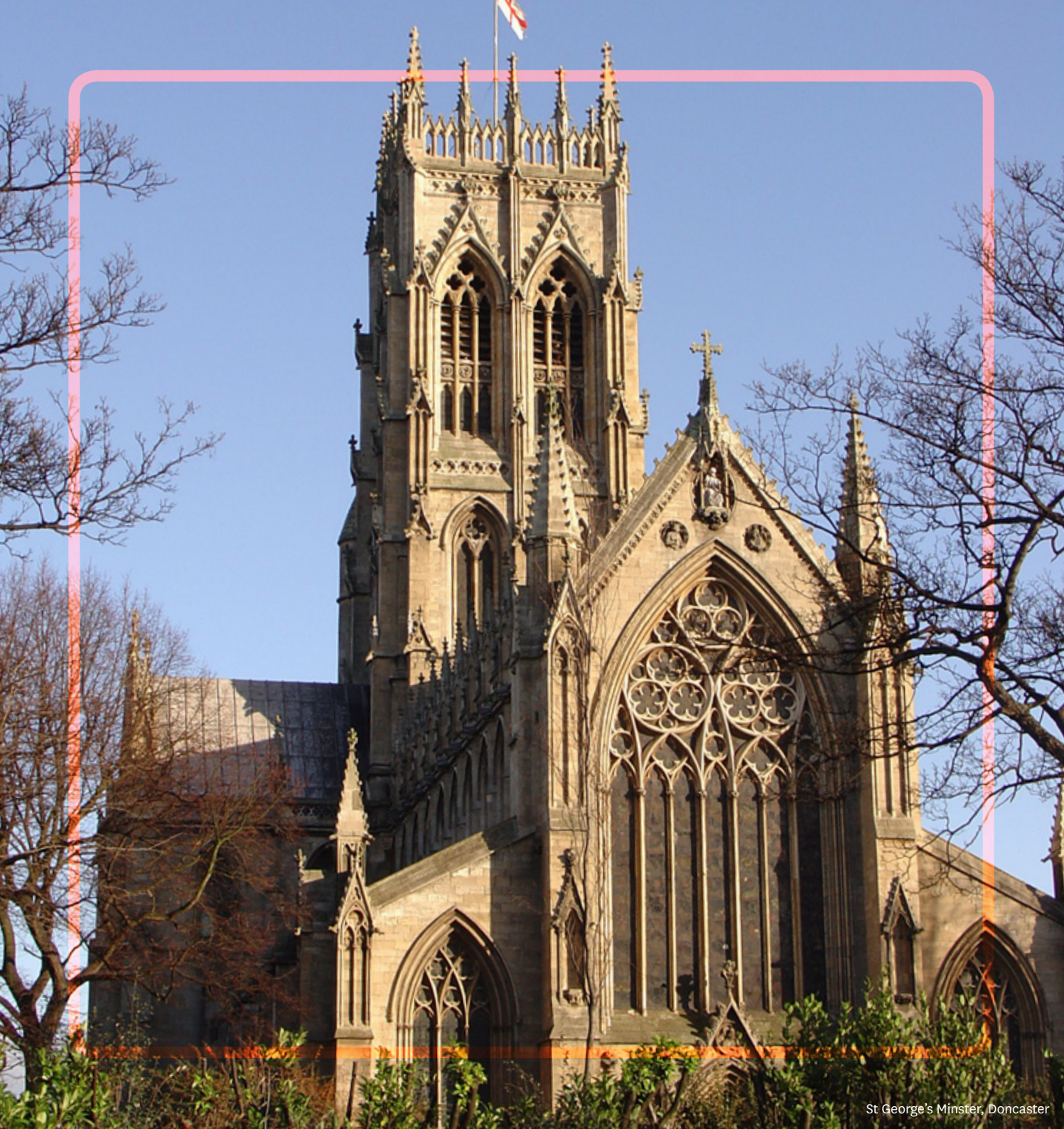
Just opposite the church are **The Almshouses** built in 1660 by Sir George Cooke. The dwellings were intended to serve as a 'hospital' (a charitable home) for twelve of the poorest and oldest people in the parish. A Latin inscription above the entrance refers to the bequest of Bryan Cooke. Today these have been converted into six homes for the elderly.

Close by the **Old School Tearooms** is the perfect place to drop in for a nice cuppa!

Church of All Saints, Arksey



The Almshouses, Arksey



St George's Minster, Doncaster

Tour Guides

Pilgrims and Prophets

Christian heritage tours to faith based places within a 30 mile radius of Retford.

e: mail@pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk

t: 07470 366 689

w: www.pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk

Mayflower Pilgrim Tours

Sue Allan is a well known historical novelist and historian who delights in guiding modern day 'pilgrims' around the trail. Exclusive access to Scrooby Manor.

e: admin@mayflowermaid.com

t: 01673 878 398

w: www.mayflowermaid.com

Brackenbury's Britain

Specialises in cultural and walking tours.

e: richard@brackenburysbritain.co.uk

t: 0330 660 0389

w: www.brackenburysbritain.co.uk

Some useful links that may help plan your visit:

- www.pilgrimroots.org
- www.pilgrimfathersorigins.org
- www.mayflower400UK.org
- www.bassetlaw.gov.uk
- www.visitdoncaster.com

Other Places of Interest

The Old Rectory, Epworth

The home of John and Charles Wesley, who went on to develop the Methodist movement is just 20 minutes from the Pilgrim Heartland Trail.

1 Rectory Street, Epworth

North Lincolnshire

DN9 1HX

t: 01427 872 268

w: www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk

Gainsborough Old Hall

The hall is over 500 years old and is one of the best preserved timber framed manor houses in the UK. Scrooby Manor is thought to have been very similar in style.

Parnell Street

Gainsborough

DN21 2NB

t: 01522 782 040

w: www.gainsborougholdhall.com

Welbeck Estate

One of the great traditional landed estates, nestled within Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire. Visit Welbeck Farm Shop, The Harley Gallery, The Portland Collection and The School of Artisan Food.

Welbeck

Worksop

Nottinghamshire

S80 3LL

t: 01909 500 211

w: www.welbeck.co.uk

Where to Find us

Doncaster Tourist Information Centre:

1 Priory Place, Doncaster, DN1 1BN

e: tourist.information@doncaster.gov.uk

t: 01302 734 309

w: www.visitdoncaster.com

The Hub Retford Visitor Information Centre:

11 Churchgate, Retford, DN22 6PB

t: 01777 860 414

w: www.retfordhub.org

Bassetlaw District Council:

Queens Buildings, Potter Street, Worksop, S80 2AH

t: 01909 535 500

w: www.bassetlaw.gov.uk



Doncaster
Council



Bassetlaw
DISTRICT COUNCIL
— North Nottinghamshire —

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