

## **PRESS RELEASE**

13<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Immediate use

### **Pilgrims Festival 2018 - Retford's lantern parade lights the way!**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

This year's Pilgrims Festival Parade in Retford will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November. This will be the fourth 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.

Retford will see its lantern parade assembling at 5.15pm 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 starting at 6.15pm, including performances by the Retford Elizabethan Academy drama group, Katie Green's Imagination Museum and the Songbirds choir, followed by the ever popular '400' photograph in the churchyard, and light refreshments afterwards. Everyone is very welcome.

Bassetlaw Christian Heritage is organising this year's activities in Retford, working as part of the Pilgrim Roots consortium, supported by the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham, the Rotary Club of Retford, Retford Civic Society, Retford Lions, and District Councillor Carolyn Troop.

Other events in the Pilgrims Festival include an Art Exhibition at Babworth Church on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November – featuring works inspired by the Pilgrims story. There will be art and embroidery demonstrations, and, on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am, a talk by local author and historian, Adrian Gray – entry is free, refreshments will be available for a small charge, and all are welcome.

#### **Pilgrims Festival Music Events**

At Worksop Priory, there will be two music events, each starting at 7.00pm, with a talk about the Priory and including a mince pie and mulled wine (each event is £10pp on entry). On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November, medieval harpist Leah Stuttard will perform "Sacred Fragments", from the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, and on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, Doncaster Waites will play music from the streets at the time of the Mayflower Pilgrims.

There are also parade events at Bawtry on 18th, at Gainsborough on 21st, and at Scrooby on 22nd November.

To find out more about the story, The Hub in Churchgate, Retford, has a Pilgrims Museum that contains an overview of the Mayflower Pilgrims and their roots in Bassetlaw, North Nottinghamshire (adults £2.50, up to 3 accompanied children free).

### **Notes to editors**

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

BCH focuses on the people and their stories, based on faith heritage, in the region centred on Retford, with a radius of around 30 miles, 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).

BCH is grateful to the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham, the Rotary Club of Retford, Retford Civic Society, Retford Lions and District Councillor Carolyn Troop for their support.

Photographs of previous years' events are provided/available

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