

*And why not visit...*



Tuxford Windmill



Rufford Abbey Country Park



Mr Straw's House



Creswell Crags



## *Tour Guides*

There are a number of operators, including those based in the Pilgrim Roots region, who will be delighted to facilitate tours of the area.

Please contact Bassetlaw Museum for details.

Visit [www.bassetlawchristianheritage.com](http://www.bassetlawchristianheritage.com) for details of wider faith events, heritage conferences and guest speakers and [www.discovergainsborough.com/pilgrim-roots](http://www.discovergainsborough.com/pilgrim-roots) carries information on group tours and special events across the Lincolnshire part of the Pilgrim Roots region.

## *Planning your Visit*

A great place to start is at the Pilgrims Gallery at Bassetlaw Museum, Retford, where our friendly staff will be delighted to advise you on places to stay, eat and visit. There is plenty of local hospitality, but Retford is conveniently located at the crossing of the East Coast mainline (90 minutes from London and 40 minutes from York) and Sheffield-Lincoln line (around 35 minutes from both). A Pilgrim Roots tour can easily be incorporated into a wider tour of Britain.

### **For more information**

visit our website: [www.pilgrimroots.org](http://www.pilgrimroots.org)

call: 01777 713749

email: [bassetlaw.museum@bassetlaw.gov.uk](mailto:bassetlaw.museum@bassetlaw.gov.uk)

or search  [BassetlawMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/BassetlawMuseum)  [@BassetlawMuseum](https://twitter.com/BassetlawMuseum)

 [YouTube Bassetlaw Museum and Pilgrims Gallery](https://www.youtube.com/BassetlawMuseumandPilgrimsGallery)

We'd love you to share your trail journey with us! Please take selfies or snaps at the trail sites and post them with us. You could also 'like' our pages to see other people making their pilgrimage along the trail.



For many the story of the Mayflower is synonymous with Plymouth – on both sides of the Atlantic.

However, several of the most well known of the Mayflower Pilgrims came from near here – in and around Retford, in the heart of Bassetlaw, North Nottinghamshire.

The Pilgrims Trail follows the stories of this group of religious dissenters through places associated with the Separatists' story - Retford, Babworth, Scrooby (home to the Brewster family), Austerfield (Bradford's birthplace), Gainsborough and Sturton-le-Steeple. Other sites of interest are also highlighted.



# *the* PILGRIMS TRAIL



A trail around the Pilgrim Roots area  
of North Nottinghamshire,  
Lincolnshire & South Yorkshire

[www.pilgrimroots.org](http://www.pilgrimroots.org)





## Mayflower 400

The **International Mayflower Compact** was created to bring together core UK member destinations across England, alongside the United States of America, the Native American community and the Netherlands.

The international Mayflower compact partners were united in their passion to commemorate the anniversary and to celebrate shared values of freedom, democracy, humanity and the future. These locations have created a world class cultural programme which unites communities, inspires creativity and promotes understanding.

The UK member destinations within the Mayflower 400 programme are:

- Austerfield, Doncaster
- Boston, Lincolnshire
- Chorley, Lancashire
- Dartmouth, Devon
- Dorking, Surrey
- Gainsborough, Lincolnshire
- Harwich, Essex
- Immingham, Lincolnshire
- Plymouth, Devon
- Scrooby, Babworth & Retford, Nottinghamshire
- Southwark, London
- Southampton, Hampshire
- Worcestershire

All have their own unique story to tell about the part their location played in the Mayflower journey. There are over 30 million US descendants of the passengers and crew who sailed on the Mayflower. And the Mayflower 400 project aimed to reach out to these descendants and other ancestral tourists to invite them to visit England.

## Places of interest in and around the Pilgrim Roots area

While on the Pilgrims Trail, you will pass interesting sites and beautiful countryside. Why not extend your stay with a picnic in Clumber Park, shopping in Retford or Bawtry, or lunch at one of the many tearooms in the area. Other local attractions of historic interest are Rufford Abbey Country Park, Creswell Crags, Hodsock Priory and Mr Straw's House in Worksop – to name a few! Please check admission prices and opening times before visiting.



Clumber Park



Chesterfield Canal



Austerfield Church



Scrooby Manor



Idle Valley Nature Reserve

While visiting the Pilgrims Gallery, take a tour of the rest of Bassetlaw Museum: set in the beautiful Georgian Amcott House, the museum boasts a rural heritage centre, archaeology room and costume displays as well as temporary exhibitions. You could also enjoy a stroll through the beautiful garden and see the commemorative Pilgrim 400 apple tree.



Pilgrims Gallery



Hodsock Priory



Kings Park, Retford



# The PILGRIMS TRAIL



## Retford

The Pilgrims Trail takes you on a tour of historic sites associated with the origins of the Mayflower Pilgrims. After visiting the Pilgrims Gallery at Retford - half a day allows time to complete the Trail at an unhurried pace and a full day provides time to take a closer look along the way, at the peaceful villages connected to the Pilgrims story.



Littleborough Church

The historic market town of Retford is the start of the Pilgrim Trail. Alighting at Retford Railway Station, just 90 minutes from London Kings Cross, you are met with a sign welcoming you to the town now known as 'The Gateway to the Birthplace of the Mayflower Pilgrims'. Interpretation panels and a Town Heritage Trail tell people about the town's history and association with the Separatists.

The Pilgrims Gallery at Bassetlaw Museum depicts much more about the life of William Brewster. A short stroll across to St Swithun's Church, admiring Retford's beautiful murals on the way, there are interpretation boards to see.



## All Saints Church, Babworth

Surely one of the most picturesque churches, it is easy to imagine the journey that Bradford and Brewster made along the former Great North Road to hear Richard Clifton preach. The leafy hamlet of Babworth is virtually unchanged since the 17th century. Children will love searching for 'Mouseie Thompson's' original mice carvings in the pulpit and pews and visitors will appreciate the Pilgrim related art that has been produced by residents from nearby Ranby Prison.



There are two interpretation boards in Scrooby, located next to St Wilfrid's Church and another outside the Village Hall. Both buildings are well worth visiting to learn more about William Brewster and his fellow Mayflower passenger, Susanna White Winslow. Look out for the Pilgrim 400 apple tree opposite the Village Hall, grown especially to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower journey, Scrooby was the first village to be chosen for these trees to be planted. They are also to be found in the other Mayflower 400 partner destinations. The international signs outside the village pub are a great photo opportunity.



Monks Mill, Scrooby



## Austerfield



Just over the border from Nottinghamshire into South Yorkshire lies the lovely village of Austerfield, home of William Bradford and most Northern stop on the Pilgrim Roots region tour. Bradford was baptised at St Helena's Church, which dates from the 11th century, and is now the site of the Austerfield trail board. The church is at the centre of the village; close by, the Mayflower Bar, Eatery and Boutique honours the journey of the Pilgrims by providing hospitality to modern visitors.



## Sturton le Steeple

Birthplace of John Robinson, one of the key Pilgrims, Sturton-le-Steeple is an unspoilt rural village. The trail board can be found outside St Peter & St Paul's Church, the 14th century tower of which would have been a familiar landmark to local Mayflower Pilgrims. The Reindeer public house at the heart of the village makes a refreshing stop on the tour.

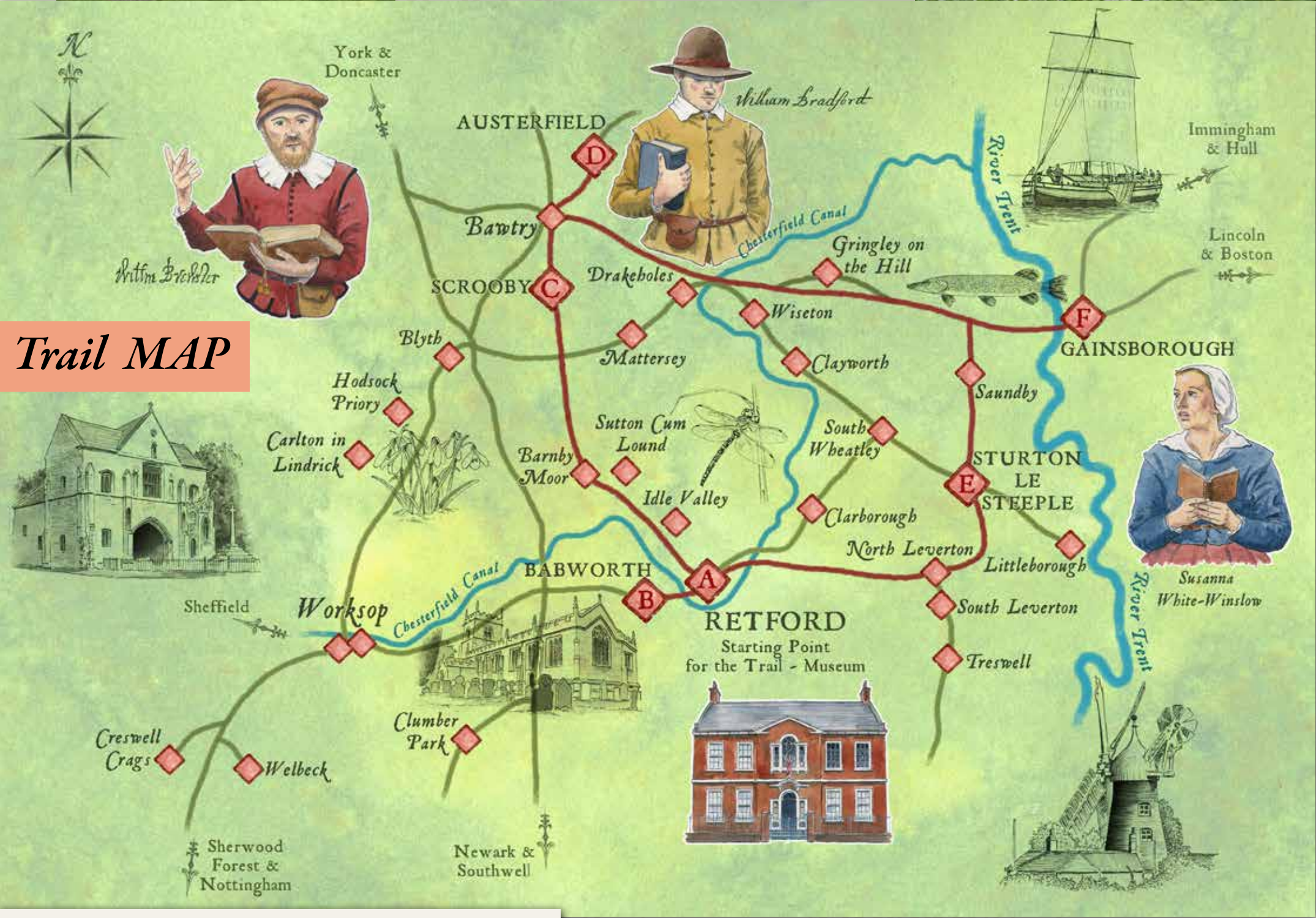
Travel on a little further from Sturton and you will find the hidden gem of beautifully remote Littleborough Church.



## Gainsborough

To the East, just beyond the river Trent, is the town of Gainsborough. One trail board is situated outside the historic Gainsborough Old Hall - a building which the Mayflower Pilgrims from this region would have known well. The other is located near the United Reform Church, dedicated to the memory of John Robinson, and a short walk through the graveyard connects these two historic properties. The Church also houses a new Mayflower Room which tells the Pilgrims' story.

## Trail MAP



## The ROUTE

- A** Retford - Bassetlaw Museum and St Swithun's Church
- B** Babworth - All Saints' Church
- C** Scrooby - St Wilfrid's Church and the Village Hall
- D** Austerfield - St Helena's Church
- E** Sturton le Steeple - St Peter & St Paul's Church
- F** Gainsborough - The Old Hall and United Reformed Church

## Listen IN

Visit - [www.pilgrimroots.org](http://www.pilgrimroots.org) where films, audio-trails and the latest podcasts are available to download

## The Mayflower Trail 'App'

The Mayflower Trail **App** is a self-guided tour which complements the Pilgrims Trail leaflet and encourages visits to the other Pilgrim related destinations in UK and the Netherlands.

Mayflower Self-Guided Tours is an innovative and highly detailed app that turns your mobile device into a personal GPS tour guide of the UK towns, cities and villages connected to the Mayflower.

The **app** was launched in the build-up to the Mayflower 400 anniversary year to help visitors get the best possible experience from visiting the sites that tell the stories of the Pilgrims' origins. Enjoy free guided walking and driving tours of places including Plymouth, from where the Pilgrims set sail for America on the Mayflower.

You can download the **app** on your mobile device by searching for 'Mayflower 400' in the App and Play stores.

## 'App' highlights

- Learn the stories behind the places the Pilgrims were from and where and why they travelled
- Discover iconic places on the Mayflower trail - including the Mayflower Steps in Plymouth and the famous Mayflower Pub on the cobbled streets of London
- Find out about the Mayflower's history as you explore the journey of the ship and her passengers
- Follow the early story of the Separatists including Brewster, Bradford and Clifton in their home towns and villages
- Detailed maps of the walking tours and driving routes through the Mayflower destinations
- Alerts when you approach historical point of interests, landmarks, museums, and attractions using built-in GPS
- Pictures of landmarks and attractions on the walking routes
- Offline guides to all the Mayflower walking tours
- No need to follow a prescribed route