

# PILGRIM FATHERS

This drive visits a number of places linked to the origins of the separatist 'Pilgrim Fathers' - the early settlers of the Plymouth Colony in present-day Massachusetts, USA.

In 1620 one hundred separatists boarded the 'Mayflower' bound for the New World. They were concerned about losing their cultural identity and believed that the New World was their only chance for a fresh start.

William Bradford and William Brewster, both passengers aboard The Mayflower, came from this area. William Brewster was born in Scrooby, and his manor house was used as a meeting place between 1606-7.

William Bradford was born in Austerfield in 1589, and christened in the village church. Bradford rose to become one of the principal figures in 17<sup>th</sup> century New England, becoming Governor in 1621.

William Bradford's diaries give us details of the lives of the separatists.

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

# MARKET TOWNS

This area is renowned for its market towns and villages. They are well worth a visit.

## Tickhill

Tickhill is a lovely market town, centred around a Buttercross erected in 1777. The remains of a Norman Castle (on private land) overlook a picturesque mill dam. Why not walk around the village and visit the many designer boutiques and popular restaurants and pubs?

## Blyth

Blyth was an important stopping place for travellers on the old road from London to York. There are several coaching inns still standing today.

## Bawtry

Bawtry was an ancient port. Now it is a busy market town with many restaurants and quality shops. It was a former staging post on the Great North Road.



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Yorkshire south



LOTTERY FUNDED

European Regional Development Fund

For more information about these or other heritage faith sites to visit in South Yorkshire, please ring HERITAGE INSPIRED on 0845 6529634 or visit [www.heritageinspired.org.uk](http://www.heritageinspired.org.uk)

For tourist information ring Doncaster Tourist Information Centre on 01302 734309 or visit [www.visitdoncaster.co.uk](http://www.visitdoncaster.co.uk) or email [tourist.information@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:tourist.information@doncaster.gov.uk)

For information about visiting the Yorkshire South area visit [www.yorkshiresouth.com](http://www.yorkshiresouth.com)

# TRAVEL INFORMATION

- Please drive carefully. If you would like to stop to admire the wonderful scenery please pull right off the road. Please respect the need for local people to park and attend church services. Parking near all the churches is limited.
- For more information, Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 279 covers this area!
- If you would like to visit the places on the drive by public transport please ring Traveline on 01709 515151 or visit [www.travelsouthyorkshire.com](http://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com) to check routes and times.

# TICKHILL ST MARY

St Mary's has been described as one of the finest medieval churches in Yorkshire. Its splendid tower, with crown of open arcading, spans the centuries - the base dates from 1200, the top is 15<sup>th</sup> century. Built of magnesian limestone the stately interior includes three 13<sup>th</sup> century arches all with nail head ornament. The nave has beautiful arcades remodelled in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Arches and pillars were altered, decorated capitals added and a splendid clerestory inserted.

There are two chapels, chiefly 14<sup>th</sup> century, each with an old screen. Other woodwork includes the pulpit and a chest with iron bands. Some coloured glass dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, but most is late Victorian.



# PILGRIMS SCENIC DRIVE

Discover rural churches in the Pilgrim Fathers area of Doncaster!

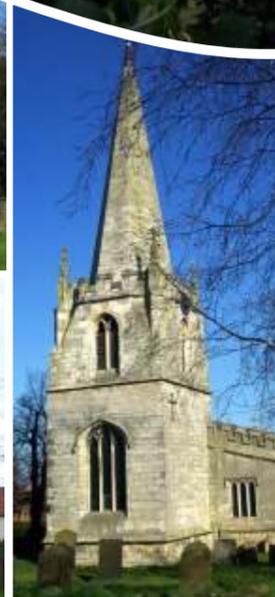
25 mile CIRCULAR ROUTE

by

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South Yorkshire's Faith Tourism Initiative



Heritage LOTTERY FUNDED

# BLYTH ST MARY & ST MARTIN

St Mary & St Martin is also known as Blyth Priory. It was originally built in 1088, making it the oldest church on this route. The present nave and north aisle remain from this original building.

The south porch was added in 1180 and about 1230 the original wooden ceiling was replaced by stone vaulting. In 1287 a new south aisle was built. Towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century the west tower was started. It is crowned with an elaborate open parapet with pinnacles.

The western door is very beautiful. It features an ogee canopy, set into a panelled recess. Among the many monuments in the church, there are the remains of a tomb with an effigy of a knight.

The church is particularly known for its huge Doom Painting, a painting of the Last Judgement, on the wall above the chancel arch. There is also a very fine painted screen featuring figures of Saints.



# SCROOBY ST WILFRID

Scrooby was once the seat of the Archbishops of York, and in the old archiepiscopal mansion the leaders of the separatist 'Pilgrim Fathers' used to meet - including leading founder William Brewster.

The church is mostly early 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, but has its origins in an earlier 12<sup>th</sup> century church on this site. The tower is distinctive, with four chamfered corners to form an octagonal base for the spire. The roof, pews, pulpit and east window are all Victorian. There are two 16<sup>th</sup> century chancel seats which, along with Brewsters' Pew, are carved with vines.

Next to the church is the timber framed 'Brewsters' Cottage', originally built around 1590 and where the separatists met from around 1605.



# BAWTRY ST NICHOLAS

St Nicholas's church was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century as a chapel of Blyth. The tower was largely rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps with limestone from Roche Abbey, but its belfry windows are medieval. There is a blocked Norman doorway and 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century arcades in the nave. The east window dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and has a wonderful carved moulding on the outside - said to be one of only two of its kind in the country. There is a 15<sup>th</sup> century chapel, and the red and gold altar is in memory of all men who have died for peace. It features figures of St George and St Michael and of soldiers by the cross.

# AUSTERFIELD ST HELENA

The present church was built in 1080 by John de Busli as a Chapel of Ease for the people of Austerfield. They previously travelled to Blyth Priory. The church has undergone extensions and renovations. There is a tympanum above the south door, showing a dragon. It has been related to the Synod of Austerfield of 702 which settled the manner in which Easter should be calculated.

Inside, the pillars are Norman and one features a Sheela Na Gig within its carved capital. This is a quasi-erotic stone carving of a female figure sometimes found in Norman churches. This carving had been blocked into a wall in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and was only rediscovered in 1898 during restoration work.

Austerfield is perhaps best known for its link with the separatist Pilgrim Fathers. William Bradford, who went on to become Governor of Plymouth, Massachusetts was baptised in this church. It is his diaries that have given us an insight into the separatists' lives.



## key

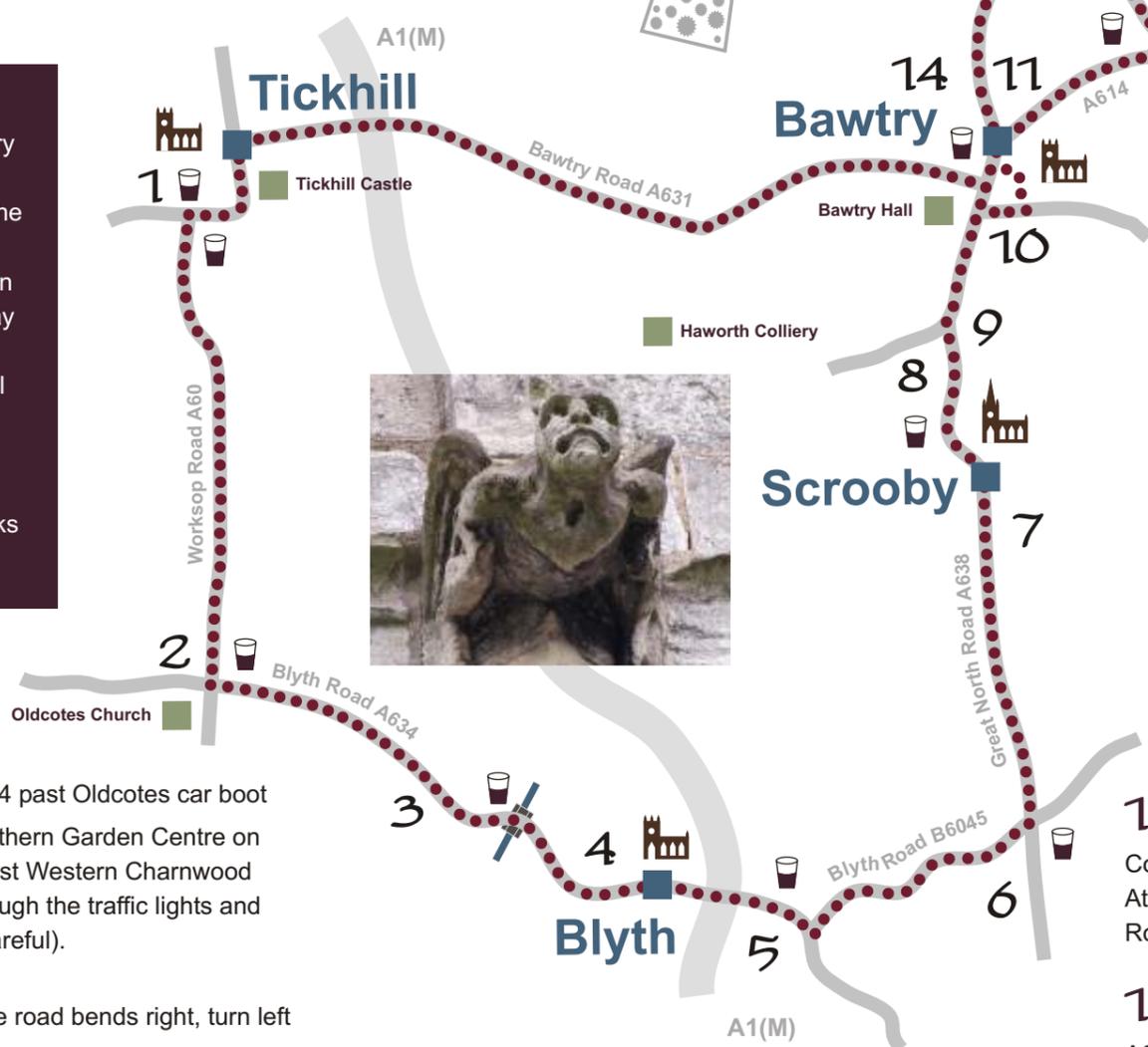
- ..... drive route
- roads
- ☺ refreshments
- ⛛ campsites

# the pilgrims scenic DRIVE ROUTE ...

**1 TICKHILL ST MARY.** From the church head out towards Maltby on the A631. Across from Traveller's Rest pub, turn left onto the A60 towards Oldcotes/Worksop. See Harworth Pit to the left. Pass the sign welcoming you to Nottinghamshire.

**2** In Oldcotes turn left at the mini roundabout (with the King William VI pub) along the A634. Notice Oldcotes Church to your right at the roundabout, then the 1840 Wesleyan Chapel on your right once you have turned left.

Located in the village of Bircotes, Harworth Colliery dates back to 1919 when the shafts were sunk by the Barber Walker Mining Company. Coal production began during 1924. Today the colliery employs 500 people and produces coal for the power stations on the Trent. It has two vertical shafts of 900 and 1000m and currently works two longwall faces.



**3** Continue on the A634 past Oldcotes car boot site on the left. Pass Northern Garden Centre on the right, and then the Best Western Charnwood Hotel on the left. Go through the traffic lights and over the old bridge (be careful).

**4** Enter BLYTH. As the road bends right, turn left and park to visit BLYTH ST MARY & ST MARTIN.

**5** After visiting the church, return to the main road. At the junction turn right then left, still on the A634. Pass under the bridge bearing the A1 and take the first left onto B6045, Blyth Road, to Ranskill.

**6** In Ranskill turn left at the crossroads (with the Blue Bell pub). Now follow the A638, the Great North Road (Ermine Street), to Scrooby.

**7** Pass through Scrooby Top, notice the big house on your left. Enter SCROOBY. Turn RIGHT down Low Road and park to visit SCROOBY ST WILFRID.

**8** After visiting the church turn left up Church Lane. At the top turn right back onto the main A638 road. Pass the Pilgrim Fathers pub on left. Continue along the road past Bawtry Garden Centre on the left.

**9** The road bends sharp to left then follow round to the immediate right, following signs to Bawtry. Pass the sign welcoming you to Doncaster. Enter BAWTRY, passing Bawtry Hall on the left. Go straight on through traffic lights. Turn second right down Wharf Street (just before the Granby Hotel). Turn right at the bottom onto Church Street, park to visit BAWTRY ST NICHOLAS.

**10** After visiting the church continue along Church Street, at the end turn right. Turn right at the traffic lights onto the main road.

**11** Turn right onto the A614 to Austerfield (Bawtry Methodist Church on left). Follow road into AUSTERFIELD past the Mayflower pub on right. The church is about 50m further on the right in a churchyard behind two large trees. Park to visit AUSTERFIELD ST HELENA.



Misson St John the Baptist dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Inside there are carved heads and other interesting architectural features. To visit Misson, take the right turn off the A614 before entering Austerfield.

Bawtry Hall is a gracious Grade II listed manor house, built in 1778. Set in seven acres of landscaped gardens with a lake and woodland walks. The hall was HQ 1 Group Bomber Command in during WWII and the Cold War. There is a memorial to the pilots and crew who did not return.

**12** Continue along the main road leaving Austerfield. Pass the Caravan Park on the right.

**13** At the roundabout take the first exit onto High Common Lane. Pass Robin Hood Airport on the right. At the junction turn left back onto the A638 Great North Road. Re-enter BAWTRY.

**14** In Bawtry, turn right at the Crown hotel onto the A631 Bawtry Road. Continue straight on, notice Harworth pit to the left and Maltby pit in front. Pass the garden centre. The road goes under the A1(M) and enters TICKHILL. Pass the Buttercross and turn left back towards the church.



The Great North Road has its origins in pre-Roman Britain. The road stretches nearly 400 miles, between London and Edinburgh and traverses both the smallest and largest counties in England.

The Romans originally built Ermine Street, from London to York, as a military road and even after centuries of neglect Harold used it to march to York and back in 1066. The Scots used the route to invade England, Warwick the Kingmaker died on it and many Wars of the Roses battles were fought on and near it.

There have been many Great North Roads and there is no definitive route. Even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century not all maps agree on the route, especially in Yorkshire.

