

PRESS RELEASE

27th November 2018

Immediate use

“Music at the Priory” – thrilling performances - Pilgrims Festival 2018

Worksop Priory is fast becoming the ‘place to play’ as the number of music events in the Pilgrims Festival grows.... and plans for next year are already being discussed, including a parade and additional music events!

On Monday 19th November, medieval harpist Leah Stuttard returned to the Priory to perform her programme “Sacred Fragments”. This was made up from 13th and 14th century sacred music from England played on a sweet and angelic harp with readings interspersed from the medieval mystic Julian of Norwich, a poem from a commonplace book on the shortness of life, and comedy from one of the Towneley plays. The guiding idea behind this programme was the fact that so much English music from the Middle Ages is preserved only in very random and fragile ways – in fragments. This was performed in the atmospheric cloister chamber, which provided the ideal setting.

On Friday 23rd November, The Doncaster Waites played music from the streets at the time of the Separatists. They are an early music group based in the town of Doncaster and take their name from the bands of musicians who were employed by local corporations as town musicians, “The Waites”. The music they play is generally centred around the first half of the 17th century, the time when the first detailed accounts of the original Doncaster Waites appear in the archives. Their costume was based on these accounts and the men accurately represent how the original Waites would have looked at that time. Whether you love 17th century music or not, the Doncaster Waites give a great entertaining performance and the sound quality in the Priory was outstanding.

Each event was prefaced with a short talk by tour guide Maggy Watkins on the Priory and its connections with the Separatists through its vicar, Richard Bernard and his daughter Mary, who with her husband, Roger Williams went on to found Rhode Island State. On Friday 23rd Maggy was joined by Priory tour guide David Caseldine, and David announced his next two free tours at 2pm on 16th January and 20th February 2019 (<http://worksoppriory.co.uk/guided-tours>).

Information is also available at www.bassetlawchristianheritage.com.

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.

Website at: www.bassetlawchristianheritage.com.

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

Photographs by Rick Brand are provided

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