# MAYFLOWER 400 CELEBRATION

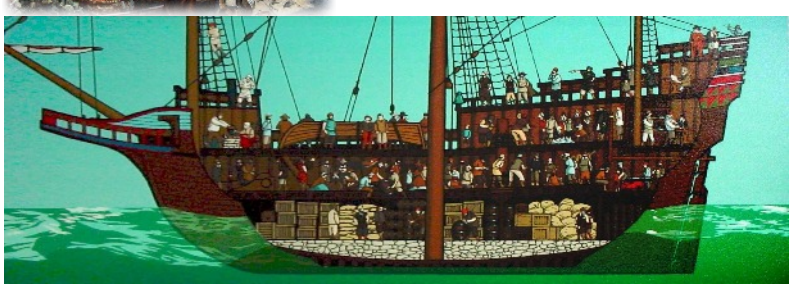
Four hundred years ago a sailing ship called the Mayflower carried the Pilgrim Fathers from England to Cape Cod in North America and is reputed to be the start of the United States of America as a nation.
As Edward Winslow, a senior member of the Pilgrims and three times Governor of the province, was educated at Worcester cathedral King's School and baptised in St Peter's Church. Droitwich Spa, we are celebrating this event by building a —



## Mayflower Ghost Ship



***As seen south, on the hill, opposite this message board on the other side of the canal.***



This is a one quarter scale model of the original Mayflower which was thought to be a square rigged Caravel capable of carrying 180 tonnes of cargo (180 casks of 224 gallons of water each). It was 100 feet long and 25 feet wide. It squeezed in 103 passengers (of which only half were pilgrims) and 30 crew for its voyage to New England.
It had three decks - a main deck for working the ship, a gun deck for the passengers, and a cargo hold. The gun deck was extremely cramped being only 5 feet high with a floor area less than a single bed space for each passenger !

MODEL GHOST SHIP: The skeleton 'bones' of the hull is made from welded stainless steel square tubing. The masts are made from plastic tubing and the sail yards made of bamboo..
It is a kind of 'GHOST' ship to honour the original Mayflower and its Master, Captain Christopher Jones. They supported the immigrants throughout: with two months delay in England caused by merchant bankers and the Dutch authorities, including scuppering of the companion ship, the Speedwell. Plus two months travelling in extremely bad weather to Cape Cod where it stayed another three months helping the Pilgrims explore the barren land and provide shelter during the winter. A seven months commitment.

THE MAYFLOWER VOYAGE TIMELINE..




- **1st August 1620**- After making an agreement with the Virginia Company to travel to the New World to create a new colony, the Leiden Separatists set sail from Holland to England in a smaller ship, the Speedwell, to meet up with and join the Mayflower .
- **August 1620** -Pilgrims who remained in England, boarded the Mayflower in Southwark, London, along with Captain Christopher Jones and his crew.
- **August 1620** - The Mayflower arrives in Southampton, later joined by the Speedwell.
- **15th August 1620** - The Mayflower and Speedwell depart Southampton, planning to sail to Virginia.
- **23rd August 1620** - The two ships diverted to Dartmouth after the Speedwell began to take on water.
- **August 1620** - Off again, but the Speedwell continues to take on water so both ships turn back to Plymouth.
- **16th September 1620** -The Speedwell is deemed unfit for travel so over-loaded with up to 30 crew and 103 passengers, running short of supplies, and late in the season, the Mayflower finally left Plymouth. This is the date set as the official anniversary date for the Mayflower 400 celebrations.
- **19th November 1620** - The Pilgrims sight the tip of Cape Cod.
- **21st November 1620** - The famous Mayflower Compact is signed upon arrival in Provincetown Harbour; 150 mile north of their designated destination; Jamestown, Virginia.
- **26th December 1620** - After 66 days at sea including exploring to find a suitable settlement they finally arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts .
- **5th April 1621** - the Mayflower with her empty hull ballasted with Plymouth Harbour stones of no value to their merchant sponsors, left for home. Like the pilgrims the crew had been decimated by disease and hunger. They were back in Rotherhithe, her home port, within a month – half the time it took them to reach America. The Mayflowers next trip was to collect salt from France (why didn't Winslow tell Jones about Droitwich salt!).
- **October 1621** - The new colonists celebrate their first successful harvest with a feast with the local natives and their turkeys- now celebrated in the USA at Thanksgiving Day.

DID GOD APPROVE OF THE PILGRIMS ACTIONS ?

Five events gave them support: - The first was that a particular vile sailor set out to frighten the sea sick children and passengers by repeating that they would all die before the reaching their destination; within two weeks this sailor suddenly became ill and was the first to die! Next one of the younger passengers broke the rule of staying below decks during a storm. He climbed onto the top deck and was washed off the deck by a huge wave. He had hold of a fixed rope which tangled around his arm such that he was dragged under water behind the ship. The crew managed to pull him back on board and saved his life to live another 30 years in the Colony. One storm was strong enough to crack one of the main beams in the centre of the ship. The Captain wanted to turn back but was persuaded by the pilgrims who had building skills and had brought with them a screw jack, which they used to use to support the beam and continue the voyage. On reaching Cape Cod they were forced to stay in that area due to the winter weather and a dangerous coast line, instead of Virginia, which they had royal patents for, the pilgrims knew that to survive all the immigrants religious and adventurers would have to work in harmony together. Hence signing of the Compact which laid down rules of democratic government which became a guide for the American Constitution. Finally, A baby was born during the voyage, christened Oceanus Hopkins

EDWARD WINSLOW was only 25 years old on the voyage and due to his exceptional communication and diplomatic skills became the youngest leader of the pilgrims. He had a wife, Elizabeth, with him, who died in March 1621, a brother Gilbert , a servant, a youth and an eight year old orphan girl, Elinor Moore.



Winslow saved the life of the local native leader, King Massasoit. This helped the pilgrims to have a treaty with the natives for peaceful trade and mutual protection from warring tribes. He also negotiated agreements with the English government and merchant bankers; spending a large portion of his time in England. Cromwell took advantage of Edward's talents and sent him in 1654 as commissioner of a partially successful English naval mission against the Spanish in the West Indies. He died on May 7, 1655 of yellow fever near Jamaica at the age of 60.
TO FIND MORE ABOUT WINSLOW: VISIT:- The statue in the town shopping centre; St Peter's Church; Portrait in the Town Council Chamber; and the banner in the Community Hall.

LOCAL NATIVES - One year before the arrival of the Pilgrims, 80% of the Indians living on the west coast of America died from a fever brought by European sailors. The few hundred that survived had moved away from the coast of Cape Cod and initially welcomed the settlers for protection and trade. In 1621 the local natives took part in the 'Thanks Giving' meal that celebrated the Pilgrim's first good harvest.
PLYMOUTH ROCK - There is no evidence that the venerated rock received the first steps of the Pilgrims on their new land.

**THIS QUARTER SCALE GHOST SHIP WAS CONSTRUCTED BY COMTHERM LTD & SUPPORTED BY THE DROITWICH WATERWAYS ( PAMELA MAY) TRUST LTD**

**PRESENTED BY DAVID MORRISON TEL:01905 772771 AND ALAN DAVEY TEL:01905 773289**