

Brunel Museum 24th January 2019.

Our day in Rotherhithe began with a visit to St. Mary the virgin, we were welcomed by the Rector the Reverend Canon Mark Nicholls who gave us a talk on the history and features of the church. The present parish church, replacing a 12th century building, was completed in 1716. Designed by John James, an associate of Sir Christopher Wren, its links with the 'Mayflower' and the Pilgrim Fathers are particularly treasured.

We then made our way across the road to the oldest pub on the Thames for lunch. The Mayflower is a traditional and typically English pub the outside decked jetty and candlelit restaurant have stunning river views where you can spot the original 1620 mooring point of the Pilgrim Father's Mayflower ship.

After a lovely lunch we entered the Brunel Museum for our guided tour.

The tunnel connects Rotherhithe and Wapping it was the first tunnel to be successfully constructed under a navigable river. Built between 1825 and 1843 it used the newly invented tunnelling shield to remove the earth whilst protecting the workers. The tunnel was originally designed for horse-drawn carriages, but was never used for that purpose due to lack of funds. It was used only by pedestrians. It became a major tourist attraction, attracting about two million people a year, each paying a penny to pass through.

We left the museum and made our way home via Rotherhithe station. From the platform we could look back down the track to see the Brunel tunnel emerging from under the Thames, it has been part of the London Overground network since 2010.



St.Mary the Virgin



Church Interior



The Mayflower



Brunel Museum



HTW Group with guide



Trains using the Brunel tunnel