

MAYFLOWER SERVICE

At the ancient Devonshire harbour of Brixham, they're building another Mayflower - a replica of the one which carried the Pilgrim Fathers to America. Holidaymakers attend a shipyard service alongside the half-completed vessel - with girls in Pilgrim's costumes acting as ushers. The service is non-denominational, commemorating the original Pilgrims' quest for religious liberty and tolerance. The old Pilgrim Fathers' house has been copied too, and it's inspected by retiring L.C.C. Chairman Norman Pritchard and his wife.

What a new ship will look like can be seen from a model of the original in the Mayflower Museum, which also contains examples of the tools the old craftsmen used to build the pilgrim ship.

When Mayflower II is completed, she will be sailed by an all-British crew to the United States, as a gesture of Anglo-American friendship. She'll be a sturdy craft, for as one of her company has remarked: "We've got so used to seeing these hideous galleons on Christmas cards, that we forget the old shipwrights knew what they were doing when they built a sailing ship 300 years ago". And when the new Mayflower puts to sea, her crew can be confident that today's shipwrights have lost none of their forefathers' skill.