

Coach Trip to Oxford

Our intrepid ladies have started up the coach trips again, slowly but surely, and the latest one was to Oxford on the 18th of June. This trip had an added bonus as Paul and Helen Harding joined us and led a quiz about Oxford on the way down as a means of getting people to think about our destination and have a bit of fun on the way there. As so often happens the closer we got to the day the worse the weather forecast got and so people turned up to church with an array of clothing to cope with whatever the weather decided to throw at us during the day. In the end we were quite lucky and, despite being grey and overcast for most of the day, we only had one sharp downpour.

On the way down as mentioned above Paul handed round a set of 20 questions for people to think about and then shortly before arriving, he went through the answers with us, which enabled him to explain some of the history of Oxford in his usual informative but humorous style. It certainly gave some people some ideas of what to go and see while they were in Oxford and made a change as all we could see was the back of his head as he was sat at the front with the coach microphone.

On arrival people disappeared in their small groups to go wherever they had planned. Sandra and I had arranged to do a walking tour of Oxford University with Catherine and Gordon Templeton. This was a 2 hour walk round the centre of Oxford led by a 2nd year student, who was very good. He was full of stories about the colleges, inter-college rivalries and the buildings around the centre of Oxford, including those that have been used in films and TV, such as the Harry Potter series and Morse. A proper young version of Paul Harding.

After the tour we had lunch and then a walk round the shops and market. Many of the students were leaving Oxford that weekend and many had gathered for their final goodbyes, either for ever or until the next term and lots were walking around pulling suitcases along. Everyone arrived back on time for the coach's departure, with their stories of museums and other places that they had visited during the day.

It was a great day out and our thanks go to, Catherine, Sandra and Tracey for organising the trip, watch out for notices about the next ones, Weston in July and one in November.

The photos below show various aspects of our walking tour, including the Divinity School, Bridge of Sighs, student bicycles, the Bodleian Library and the Radcliffe Camera.



