

Coach Trip to Trentham Gardens

55 people joined the coach at St John's for the trip to Trentham Gardens and Shopping Village, which is near Stoke-on-Trent. This was probably the most we have had on one of these trips and the vast majority were not from the church, thereby helping to achieve our outreach mission. Despite being the last Saturday of the Summer Holidays, we had a clear run up to Trentham and by 11am everyone had their tickets for the gardens and disappeared heading for refreshments.



The grounds and woods are over 300 acres and were updated by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, which included adding the mile-long lake. The main house is in ruins now, but the grounds are well cared for. There are beautiful Italian gardens between the ruined house and the lake.



Around the gardens there are multiple forms of transport for the visitors. There is a horse carriage providing sedate rides around the Italian Garden, a boat on the lake allowing

people to travel from one end of the lake to the other and finally a very narrow-gauge train running along one of the longer sides of the lake.



Around lunchtime the weather closed in and the heavens opened to provide a sudden downpour for a short time but apart from that it was quite a pleasant day, a few took shelter under the trees. Maybe it was a bit breezy in the morning but the weather definitely improved during the afternoon with some warm sunny spells.

One of the key things for children are the Trentham Fairies and around the gardens are several wonderful fairy sculptures created by a local artist, Robin Wright, out of galvanised steel wire.





Within the Estate is Monkey World, but there was not time for people to see this area, it was a mile walk from the entrance to the gardens. If you were travelling by car then there is a car park near the entrance to Monkey World, but you would need a longer stay than we had to see everything.

In addition to the gardens there is a large Garden Centre and around 65 shops plus some places to eat. So once people had finished walking round the gardens, they migrated towards the shops for some retail therapy and lunch. A number of large bags were spotted when we gathered for our return trip to Worcester. We were lucky again on the way back and we returned in about 90 minutes. All in all, a very enjoyable day.

