

“Magical Mystery Tour” in June.

No one, other than the secretary, knew where we were to be driven.

The first leg of our journey included M606, M62 (including a comfort break), M1, before we were exploring highways and byways which eventually delivered us to an estate village called Ossington.. Here we were warmly welcomed at the Georgian church (built 1782-1785) which replaced the original 12th century chapel. We were fascinated by the presence of two west end organs, one a Victorian positive organ bought from a London Church in 1913 – a Casson, similar to that in St Wilfrid’s, Gilstead – the other, with its pipework higher than the Casson, on the tower wall, is by Robson & Son of Charing Cross (Organ Builder to William IV) in 1836: its wind supply is connected to the electric blower of the Casson, but the barrel is rotated by hand. I think we all found something of real interest – I found the pew prayer books to be ASB but was assured that the services were either BCP or Common Worship.

Further exploratory meanderings brought us to the Waggon at Halam where we fed well and talked a lot! After making full use of the facilities, we ventured on a short walk to the home of David Butterworth, musician and organist (City Organist of the Albert Hall, Nottingham) Fabulous new--build - you could have all our house space in the Music Room and still have room for his concert grand and the substantial gleaming pipe organ! Those of us with computer access can click on the hyperlink to see David in action:

<https://www.facebook.com/228735667216/posts/10156836518287217/>

Then on to Southwell, where Anthony Gray (son of Vicar of St Margaret’s, Ilkley) is Organ Scholar (soon taking over as Director of Music at St Wilfrid’s, Harrogate.) He took us into the Song Room, where I saw my Grandson Nick’s name as Head Chorister 2001, and then to the two organs. I think everyone who wanted to, managed to play one or other of the organs – and we found the Café/Bookshop an asset in itself – why has not Bradford Cathedral such a facility when there is no longer a Religious Bookshop in the city? Evensong was superb [*Stanford in A and Bairstow’s “Let all Mortal Flesh”*. *The tunes for the two hymns were printed in the Order of Service!*] - 8 trebles + 7 men - even the sermon from Revd Mark Tanner. All the clergy were happy to chat after the Service.

Ron Fletcher.