

Visit to Worcester Cathedral with the Local History Group 2.

Having planned this trip in 2021, it was a relief to finally get there in summer 2022!

On a glorious warm day, our group of 8 met on the rear terrace of the Cathedral grounds, overlooking the River Severn and taking in the very traditional view of swans gathering on the water and being somewhat disturbed by rowers from the local club.

As we entered the Cathedral, we were greeted by our guide for the day, Howard Robinson, who explained how the tour was arranged and which parts of the building we could visit.

The first stop was outside at the Stonemasonry. Worcester, is one of only 9 Cathedrals in the country to have its own dedicated Stonemasonry Workshop. We were shown some of the intricate large pieces being chiselled and shaped by members of the highly skilled team – who agreed, there was enough work to last a very long time!

This Cathedral has been described as possibly the most interesting of all England's Cathedrals, especially architecturally. The first Cathedral was founded in 680 and a later one built in 983. The present building began in 1084.

During Anglo-Saxon times Worcester was one of the most important monastic cathedrals in the country. It was a great centre of learning, where the Benedictine monks studied a variety of subjects, such as theology, medicine, law, history, mathematics, physics and astronomy. Some of the medieval textbooks still survive in the Cathedral Library today.

Howard, led us to various parts of the building, including the inside courtyard, crypt, high altar and finally the tomb of King John, which is in a place of honour in front of the high altar (see group photo).

Overall, we thoroughly enjoyed the visit and gave our thanks to Howard who used his subtle humour to good effect! We finished the day in the crypt café, enjoying some home made cakes and drinks.

For the full comprehensive story of The Cathedral, please see the web site, Worcester Cathedral.

MC September 2022.