

TOUR OF SOME CHURCHES AND COLLEGES IN CAMBRIDGE, looking at the ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT

The Art Appreciation group recently enjoyed a fascinating guided tour exploring the Arts and Crafts movement in some of Cambridge's beautiful churches and colleges but our day began with coffee at Fitzbillies restaurant along with their famous Chelsea buns, to where we also returned for lunch.

Our tour began at Little St Mary's Church, where we looked at examples of the Victorian Gothic revival and the influence of craftsmen such as Charles Eamer Kempe. We were reminded that the Arts and Crafts movement was not just about architecture, but about bringing together skilled craftsmen, artists and designers to create beautiful and useful work.



We then visited Queens' College, where we saw some particularly fine examples. The Old Hall was decorated in the 1870s to a design by the architect George Frederick Bodley, with the work carried out by the Cambridge artist-craftsman Frederick Leach. William Morris and Ford Madox Brown were also involved in the decoration of the hall. The intricate patterns and rich colours showed how much care was given to even the smallest details. We also walked across the Mathematical Bridge with lovely views of

the punts on the River Cam.

At St Botolph's Church, we saw more of Bodley's work, including his decorative treatment of the chancel. Frederick Leach also worked with Bodley on the church, including its roof and organ loft.



Our final visit was to Peterhouse, where we continued to see the influence of the Arts and Crafts tradition, including stained glass and carefully crafted details. The stained glass was particularly interesting, as we were able to look at the surviving cartoons used in its design. These full-scale preparatory drawings showed how carefully the compositions were planned before the glass was made. It was fascinating to see how closely the glassmakers followed them in execution.

The tour gave us a wonderful insight into the work of people such as Bodley, Morris, Leach, Madox Brown and Kempe, and showed us how closely architects, artists and craftsmen worked together.

The tour by Yvonne Pinchen, a green badge guide, was very enjoyable and informative, and it certainly made us look at Cambridge's historic buildings with a much more appreciative eye.

Report and images by Hazel Denslow

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Punting on the river Cam