



Pastor's Page

“To see or not to see, that was the question?”

It was a beautiful day and the sun had truly “got his hat on” as I went to pick up the minibus from a neighbouring church. The reason for this arrangement was that we were heading off for the day to Stratford-upon-Avon. I was looking forward to the trip to Shakespeare’s Land as I like history and I like driving minibuses! (Its good practice for when I become a ‘Ring and Ride’ driver!)

The journey went very well and soon we were in the historic town. Following the flow of traffic we approached the bridge in the centre of town then crossed over the famous Avon River. In the distance we could see the wonderful Swan Theatre located on the banks of the river. Unfortunately large JCBs and scaffolding surrounded the area which rather spoilt the view. No matter we carried on driving around and as I observed all the Tudor buildings I was really getting into Elizabethan appreciation mode whilst looking for a good car park located in a spot that would enable us to access the places we wanted to get to. (I was very aware that some of our party would not be able to walk far) After one abortive attempt I managed to find a small ‘Pay and Display’ Car Park and snuck in.

I really had no idea where we were in relation to the famous ‘sights’ but I just hoped and prayed that we weren’t too far away from Shakespeare’s house and birthplace. Keeping our eyes open for places to eat too I was greatly relieved to find one of those “you are here” maps adorning a picturesque little square (the only problem was it didn’t have a “you are here” arrow on it!) However, with the help of another “sightseer” I worked out where we were..... Stratford-upon-Avon! Much to my relief I realised that we were only a couple of streets away from the great bard’s house! It couldn’t have worked out better “this is perfect” I thought to myself. So with great enthusiasm I announced to my little party “we’re just a few hundred yards away from Shakespeare’s birthplace and even though we all want something to eat I wonder if we ought to go there now just so that we don’t miss the opportunity?” I hadn’t prepared myself for what happened next! For a moment no-one spoke, then somebody said, “we’re not really interested in going there!” Someone else said, “We want to have some lunch” “I’ve been before anyway” said another, and one by one they all said they didn’t want to go. They were happy for me to go and then meet me later but they we’re interested. So like Billy-No-Mates I trundled off on my own for a little historical interlude! I took some pictures, bought the t-shirt and did all the proper tourist activities. I revelled in the historicity of the place and wondered at the impact that this Warwickshire poet had had on English literature (I bought an ice cream too!!) I thoroughly enjoyed myself and when I met up with the others a bit later on they all seemed to be having a good time too.

By late afternoon we were wending our weary way home and as I got back into minibus driver role I also reflected on the day. As I did so I couldn’t help but feel that my party had missed out on the most important aspect of the whole trip – what a shame- I thought, but then again, I might just be making “Much ado about nothing!”

(Pray that as a church we don’t miss the most important thing that God has for us)

24th May 2009