

WORTH ABBEY



News

What a wonderful experience!

So said one of the visitors to the Worth Abbey Parish Open Day on 4th September. The event proved to be a really outstanding success with many arriving before the actual opening time of 2 pm. By the end of the day well in excess of a thousand people had entered the refurbished Abbey Church and, despite the earlier rain, the majority of these then continued on conducted tours around the grounds of the estate.

During the afternoon visitors filled the church to hear a performance of sacred music by the renowned Worth School Choir as well as a stunning recital by D'Arcy Trinkwon, the international concert organist and resident organist at Worth. His repertoire included Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D and Cochereau's Scherzo Symphonique.

The Abbot and many of the monks from the Benedictine community at Worth were present during the afternoon and visitors clearly enjoyed spending time talking with them. Children were kept busy with guided arts and crafts as well as two sessions of storytelling. In the church Narthex the work of many of the organisations at Worth was on display, including Justice and Peace, Traidcraft and the Open Cloister Retreat Centre. Parishioners were on hand to talk with visitors, answer their questions and explain their activities.

A Question & Answer session with a panel of monks and parishioners took place during the afternoon and the day's events concluded with over 150 visitors joining the monks for Vespers at 6.30 pm.

Asked about his reaction to the day, Father James, the Parish Priest at Worth said, "I am absolutely thrilled that so many people, some from quite long distances, came to see what Worth is all about". He added, "it was a wonderful day for all of us and it gave such pleasure to see so many clearly enjoying the experience, and I hope that they will come again, so that we can welcome them back".