

Tayside Organists' Society

Organ Crawl to North Fife

Saturday 15th September 2018

Review by Ian McLagan

A small and enthusiastic band of organists visited various churches and organs in North Fife on 15th September 2018. First stop was the small but beautiful church of St Mary's in Newport. This was organised by David J Smith and after a welcome snack of various snacks and soft drinks, and a potted history of the church and pipe organ, some of our members tried out this lovely organ as well as David who regularly plays over there.

Next stop was St John's Church, Cupar, the resident organist being our Treasurer. This was a three manual Westmorland Digital, now in its tenth year of service. Again, a brief history was given and then members were let loose on it!! At the entry of the driveway into St John's, is the Cupar Baptist church building; the pipe organ here was similar to the original one in St Andrew's church, Dundee and once again, David's knowledge came to the fore. Once again, members played it with each one who played illustrating different combinations of sounds.

Then into the fresh air once again; a short stroll to Cupar Old, another pipe organ to enthral us. Mrs Martin, the session clerk, welcomed us and after a short talk about this pipe organ, members once again demonstrated the many varying "sounds" coming from this organ. A short walk up to St Columba's Roman Catholic church followed; members were impressed by the layout of the building, both inside and out, but, unfortunately, we could not find the organ!!

Our final Organ stop (excuse the pun) was St James the Great Scottish Episcopal church; again, a short history of it was given by Alister Jones and then the clamour to have a try on the instrument; even our President had a shottie!!! So ended a tour of the organs in the Cupar churches; now the rest of TOS can see how the country folk's worship is accompanied!!

To round off a very pleasant afternoon, (since we were not invited to the official opening of the V and A) we adjourned to the Dairsie Inn for an evening meal which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Thanks to Sally Carus for making the final arrangements.