

# FCOCA Tour of Worcester April 26<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> 2018

## Tour summary

All five nights will be spent in The Fownes Hotel, City Walls Road, Worcester WR1 2AP

A mix of visits have been arranged including guided tours of a historic 17<sup>th</sup> century Cotswold Manor House and Gardens , Worcester Cathedral and Tewksbury Abbey as well as travelling by luxury coach through scenic countryside with photo shoot stops. Walking is on flat even ground and ample free time has been built in each day to prevent over exhaustion with own lunch arrangements to cater for different appetites!

Brian Ferris and Gordon Hughes, both experienced planners of such tours, feel they have thought of everything that would appeal to former choristers and their partners. We hope that enough male singers will want to sing our Federation Compline after Choral Evensong in Worcester Cathedral ?

Initially we are asking interested people to complete the associated booking form, enclose a cheque (or make electronic payment) payable to the FCOCA Tour Account for £50 per head non refundable deposit and forward to our Treasurer Michael Lake **no later than Monday November 30<sup>th</sup> . The final balance will become due no later than Monday March 19<sup>th</sup> 2018.**

Please note that our skilfully budgeted total cost of £400/head for those sharing a hotel room (£500 for single occupancy) includes Bed and Breakfast for two nights; Dinner, Bed and Breakfast for the remaining three nights, all visit entry fees and gratuities/donations where appropriate, **based on a maximum party size of 34 so please apply ASAP.** In the event that insufficient numbers come forward and we are forced to cancel arrangements we will of course refund all deposit monies paid.

## Tour itinerary

### Day 1 Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup> 2018 (Dinner, Bed and Breakfast)

4pm Arrive Fownes Hotel, Worcester for checking in rooms  
7.30pm Pre booked evening meal in Hotel followed by welcome meeting and distribution of tour booklet.

### Day 2 Friday April 27<sup>th</sup> 2018 (Bed and Breakfast)

9.30am Leave Hotel for Cotswold Tour by Coach  
Drive via Pershore, Crothorne , Evesham to arrive Chipping Campden at 11am.  
Free time and own lunch arrangements until departure from the Butter Market at 2 pm.  
Leave for walk/photo shoot in Stanton village then to neighbouring Stanway House.  
Guided tour of Stanway Manor House, Gardens and Fountain before Tea and Cakes.  
Leave around 4.45pm to arrive back at Hotel at 6.30pm Make own evening meal arrangements either in the Hotel or elsewhere within a short walking distance in the City Centre.

### **Day 3 Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> 2018 (Bed and Breakfast)**

9.30am Leave Hotel for St Michael's Church and School (former choir school ), Tenbury at 10.30am, followed by a coffee break before arriving in Ludlow at 12.45pm. Own lunch arrangements and free time to see The Castle, Feathers Hotel, Black and White timbered houses etc before departing around 5pm to arrive back in the Hotel at 6.15pm. Own evening meal arrangements either in the Hotel or close by.

### **Day 4 Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2018 (Dinner, Bed and Breakfast)**

10 am Walk (5 mins) for 10.30am Choral Eucharist at Worcester Cathedral (sung by the Cathedral Choir), followed by coffee in the refectory.

12 Noon Free time in City Centre and own lunch arrangements before returning to the Cathedral for a guided tour at 2pm. Leave at 3 pm from the cloisters exit to board coach to visit Elgar's birthplace, museum and cafe (now run by the National Trust so would NT members REMEMBER TO BRING THEIR CARDS but Non members will be paid for so don't fret!).

6 pm Arrive back at the Cathedral for Choral Evensong , hopefully followed by Compline sung by our male party members before walking back to the Hotel for pre booked Evening Meal around 8 pm.

### **Day 5 Monday April 30<sup>th</sup> 2018 (Dinner, Bed and Breakfast)**

9.30 am Leave Hotel for Gloucester Coach Park (adjacent to Cathedral, City Centre and Old Docks area, arriving around 10.45 am. Free time and own lunch arrangements then return to Coach Park at 2.30 pm. Depart for Tewkesbury arriving at 3 pm for Abbey tour, followed by Tea in refectory or nearby cafes or Old Bell Inn at 4pm.

5.30 pm Return to Abbey for Choral Evensong sung by Dean Close choir, Cheltenham before arriving back at the Hotel around 7 pm for pre booked Evening Meal at 8 pm.

### **Day 6 Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup> 2018**

9.30 am Pay for private expenditure such as bar bill and additional evening meals taken in the Hotel then check out of the Hotel.

Depart for home or join optional guided walking visit (5 mins) to St Swithin's Church (fine 18<sup>th</sup> century building with original organ, three deck pulpit etc and ancient bells), one that Gilbert Scott did not modernise! Then a riverside walk and optional lunch before later departure around 2 pm after collecting luggage from the Hotel. Please note that cars can remain in the free Hotel Car Park throughout the tour.

## **Useful contact details**

Gordon Hughes – H: 01284 735933, M: 07749158123, Email [gordonhughes@btconnect.com](mailto:gordonhughes@btconnect.com)

Brian Ferris - H: 01905 354224, M: 07377 945440, E mail [brianferris@totalise.co.uk](mailto:brianferris@totalise.co.uk)

The Fownes Hotel - 01905 613151 (Manager: Mr Mohamed Khalil)

Email [reservations@fowneshotel.co.uk](mailto:reservations@fowneshotel.co.uk) and Website [www.fowneshotelworcester](http://www.fowneshotelworcester)

Michael Lake (Tour treasurer) M: 07985 069622 Email [treasurer@fcoca.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@fcoca.org.uk)

Postal address: 4 Hewitt Street, Hoole, Chester CH2 3JD

FCOCA Tour bank account details - Account No: 01163381 Sort Code: 30-90-72 Ref: Own name.