

Visit to St. Paul's Cathedral – Monday 20th February 2023



Photo: Andrew Thomson.



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On a pleasant spring day we greatly enjoyed our visit to St. Paul's cathedral. It is a spectacular, elegant building, which although great in size, has an intimate feel. The continuity of daily prayer and air of reverence transcend the busy traffic of visitors.

Our urbane guide, with his friendly concern for his charges on all steps and stairs, entertained us with anecdotes and historical details, impressing us with his enthusiasm and knowledge. Everyone felt enriched by the visit.

Judith Armitage

Visit to Cezanne at Tate Modern on same day



Still Life with Fruit Dish, 1879 – 80 (copyright Tate Modern)

It was a luxury to travel by coach as far as St. Paul's, with only a short walk across the wobbly bridge to reach the Tate's vast complex of spaces and make our way up to the floor where an excellent exhibition represented the artist's development over a life-time. The first rooms were assembled to show the artist's friends and early influences. The rooms beyond presented groups of paintings: still lifes, bathers, Provençal landscapes, and new to some of us, water colours, a medium to which he turned later.

Looking at the same household objects painted in different combinations or studying similar landscapes together, engaged the eye and mind more intensely. His radical departure from conventional perspective makes seas rise up vertically and jugs look misshapen, but what a legacy of rich colour and a new interpretation of form. Cezanne said 'With my apples I will take Paris by storm'. In the exhibition a fellow viewer said 'I think he paints the very essence of apple', so the artist's work continues to have the power to challenge and impress in London to this day. The value of an exhibition lies in the arrangement of objects. The Tate's homage to Cezanne was clear, coherent and educational. **Claire Sarkies**