

## Holidays with a religious connection - West Sussex (Days 1 and 2)



The Shrine of St Richard of Chichester at Chichester Cathedral, one of the many highlights of the trip.

In April 2016, Magda and I visited **West Sussex** on holiday. It's an area of England that neither of us had visited before, yet it proved to be extremely rich in history, as well as having numerous churches of special interest.

### **DAY 1 - Journey and Arrival**

We left Sedgley at 9.15am and headed south on the motorway. Making use of our annual **National Trust** membership, we broke our journey at a Trust property, **Hinton Ampner** near Alresford in Hampshire, where we had a lunch break.



**Our holiday chalet for the week, at Earnley, West Sussex.**

We arrived at our chalet in **Earnley, south of Chichester**, at around 3.00pm. It was well presented and comfy, having been recently upgraded, refurbished and clad in wood, which improves the external appearance greatly - other nearby chalets are rendered in stone. We had a walk along the shingle beach and pedestrian walkway.

## **DAY 2– Petworth**

After breakfast we headed up the A285 to **Petworth House** (National Trust) and Park. The house is built and furnished on a very grand scale, with frescos clearly inspired by and seeking to rival those in the Vatican! Every room was a delight, filled with art. In the days before art galleries, artists would visit the grand homes of the aristocracy to view great artworks. **JMW Turner** was a frequent visitor.



**Ceiling fresco at Petworth.**





**Portrait Gallery at Petworth.**





**'The Card Players' by Jan Massys, who flourished approx 1540-75, part of the National Trust's extensive art collection on display at Petworth.**





**Petworth House, taken from the lake. There is an unusual 'dog statue' on the shoreline of the lake.**



**Another view of the lake and gardens with Petworth House in the background. The walk around the lake is around 1.5 miles. The landscaped grounds were created by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in the 1750s and early 1760s.**





**Temple in the grounds of Petworth House, with a field of daffodils in the foreground.**

We had a good look round the house, then lunch. Afterwards we went for a walk round the lake, approx. 1.5 miles. It was a bright but dry spring day, but with a cold April wind.

On our way back we stopped at **The Church in the Field – St Mary the Virgin in Upwaltham**. It's an early Norman church, just over 900 years old, set back from the road and isolated, as the name suggests – in a field!





The 12<sup>th</sup> century 'Church in the Field' – St Mary the Virgin, at Upwaltham.



The nave and chancel at St Mary the Virgin, Upwaltham.



Our first day proper concluded with a visit to **Boxgrove Priory**, built on the site of a Saxon parish church. In 1536, when the monasteries were dissolved by Henry VIII, the priory was re-adopted by the parishioners to serve as their parish church.



**An exterior shot of Boxgrove Priory.**



**The Maze at Boxgrove Priory.**





**A delightful vaulted ceiling at Boxgrove Priory.**

**The Priory**, in the village of Boxgrove, was founded in about 1066 by Robert de Haye, who in 1105 bestowed the church of St. Mary of Boxgrove upon the Benedictine Abbey of Lessay.

**Martin and Magda Jones**

**April 2016**

## Sources of information for the article:

Hinton Ampner: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hinton-ampner>

West Sussex: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West\\_Sussex](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Sussex)

Earnley, south of Chichester: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earnley>

Petworth House (National Trust):

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house-and-park>

Jan Massys (painter): [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan\\_Matsys](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Matsys)

Upwaltham: <http://www.westsussex.info/upwaltham.shtml>

Boxgrove Priory:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boxgrove\\_Priory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boxgrove_Priory)