

Holiday with a religious connection - West Sussex Days 3 and 4: Chichester Cathedral and Arundel Castle.



On the first wet day we visited Chichester Cathedral.

Day 3: Chichester – cathedral and city centre

On Monday 11th April, the third day of our visit to West Sussex, the day was wet, so we chose an indoor venue - **Chichester Cathedral**. Founded as a cathedral in 1075, the building was completed in 1108. Much of the Norman stonework, arcading and the timber-roofed nave were destroyed by fire in 1187 and were rebuilt and extended in Early English style in the 13th century.



The amazing organ pipes at Chichester Cathedral.



'Speaking in Tongues' by Paul Benney, in the Cathedral's North Transept. Benney has depicted the apostles as people who are known to him - friends and contemporaries.



An exhibition of church plate in the Treasury at Chichester Cathedral. In 1976 the vault of the Early English style Chapel of the Four Virgins was converted into the Treasury in order to display the Cathedral and diocesan church plate.



The Marc Chagall window at Chichester Cathedral. The window is inspired by Psalm 150, which urges its readers to 'let everything that hath breath praise the Lord'. The window encompasses aspects of the Anglican and Chagall's own Jewish faith. The window was unveiled by the Duchess of Kent in 1978.



The beautiful font at Chichester Cathedral by John Skelton (1923-1999)



16th century paintings by Lambert Barnard showing representations of the Bishops of Chichester.



The modern day shrine of St Richard of Gloucester contains an altar that was designed by Robert Potter, a tapestry designed by Ursula Benker-Schirmer and an icon designed by Sergei Fyodorov that shows St Richard in episcopal vestments.



St Richard of Chichester – a statue outside Chichester Cathedral; and his famous prayer on the sculpture pedestal.

On leaving the cathedral we viewed the imposing statue of St Richard. His famous prayer, which we used in both Lent Groups in spring 2016, is inscribed on the pedestal of his statue - without the words 'Day by Day'.

The wording is as follows:

*Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly.*

It was great to discover the place where **Richard** was **Bishop** in the 12th century, and where he wrote his famous prayer which is known to many through the lyrics of the song '**Day by Day**' in the '**Godspell**' musical from the 1970s. The words 'Day by Day' were added to create a hymn in 'Songs of Praise Enlarged Edition' in 1931 - and adapted in a famous song in the 1971 Godspell production in London that starred **David Essex**, **Jeremy Irons** and **Julie Covington**.



The Chichester Market Cross is in the late Gothic style. Built in the fifteenth century, it was a centre where poor people could sell their produce without paying a toll.

We stopped off on the way back to Earnley to have a look at **Chichester Marina**, then on to the church of **St Peter and St Paul at West Wittering**. The Saxons established the first church in this corner of the south coast after the year 700. It was a small wooden construction which they replaced 200 years later by another built of wood or stone. This building was destroyed by Viking raiders from the Isle of Wight in around 1000 AD but was rebuilt in stone by the villagers during the reign of King Canute. The Normans knocked it down and replaced it in around 1150.



The Church of St Peter and St Paul, West Wittering.

St Richard was **Bishop of Chichester 1245-1253**. He had a country retreat in West Wittering - he built the Chapel of St Richard and Our Lady within the church and he would have celebrated the Eucharist there. During his tenure as bishop, he worked hard to eliminate corruption and promote dignity in worship. After he died some of his remains were sent to West Wittering and placed in a small stone coffin behind the altar of the chapel. It became a site of pilgrimage and pilgrim crosses are etched into the walls. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation.



Pilgrim Crosses carved into the wall – the church was a place of pilgrimage to the chapel of St Richard where some of his remains were kept, behind the altar.



The altar at West Wittering, with an altar frontal depicting the ministry of St Richard, feeding the poor at Cakham – and pilgrims attending his shrine after his death.

Our final stop on Day 3 was the church on the doorstep of the holiday park where we were staying – **Earnley Parish Church**. The earliest part of the church was built in the 13th century but there is no record of a dedication or patron saint. The first record of a vicar is Lawrence de Harpele in 1365.

In April 1943 the roof collapsed when a **German bomb** fell nearby but the small worshipping community continued to hold services outside in the road.



'Enter into his gate with thanksgiving' – the inscription over the main door at Earnley.



The font, nave and chancel at Earnley church.



The draped altar frontal at Earnley, bearing a Phoenix - symbolic of the resurrection to life from the dust and destruction caused by the German bomb in 1943.



Martin outside Earnley church.

DAY 4 - Arundel Castle

One of the jewels in the crown of West Sussex is **Arundel Castle**, a restored and remodeled medieval castle - it was established by Roger de Montgomery on Christmas Day, 1067. However the main part of the castle was rebuilt in the 19th century.

Tuesday turned out to be dry and sunny, perfect for a visit. We bought the **Gold Plus tickets**, giving access to all parts of the castle and gardens. ***Alas photography was only permissible outside, and in the Chapel and Keep.***



On the way to Arundel Castle, on a fine, sunny day.



The magnificent Fitzalan Chapel at Arundel Castle. This church building is one of very few in the country that are divided into two worship areas, one Catholic and one Anglican.



Henry Granville Fitzalan-Howard 14th Duke of Norfolk and his wife Augusta Mary Minna Catherine Lyons, in the Fitzalan Chapel mausoleum, Arundel. Henry was Whig MP for Arundel 1837-51.



The 'Collector Earl's Garden' at Arundel Castle. The formal garden at Arundel was built as a memorial to Thomas Howard, 14th Earl of Arundel (1585-1646), known as 'The Collector'. Lord Arundel was the first of the great English art collectors.



'Oberon's Palace' is a fantastic spectacle designed by Inigo Jones for Prince Henry's Masque on New Year's Day 1611, flanked by two green oak obelisks. It contains a shell-lined interior with a stalagmite fountain and gilded coronet 'dancing' on top of a fountain jet.



Magnificent views of the South Downs from the top of the Keep at Arundel Castle, which was built around 1190.



St Martin's Chapel, in the Keep at Arundel.

I took great interest in the **Chapel of St Martin** which part of the Keep at Arundel. I was unaware of the legend of St Martin or the fact that he is a Patron Saint of France. An embroidery within the chapel shows him using his military sword to cut his cloak in two, to give half to a beggar clad only in rags in the depth of winter. Conscripted as a soldier into the Roman army, he found the duty incompatible with the Christian faith he had adopted and became an early conscientious objector. He later became **Bishop of Tours** whose shrine in France became a famous stopping-point for pilgrims on the road to **Santiago de Compostela** in Spain.



St Martin depicted offering his cloak to a beggar.

Alas as stated above, we were unable to take photos inside the castle itself.

At the end of our visit Magda walked up to **Our Lady and St Philip Howard**. It's a Roman Catholic cathedral dedicated in 1873 as the Catholic parish church of Arundel, and became a cathedral at the foundation of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in 1965. It now serves as the seat of the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton.

There is a close connection between the cathedral and castle - the cathedral's location, construction, design, and dedication owe much to the **Howard family**, who, as Dukes of Norfolk and Earls of Arundel are the most prominent English Catholic family, and rank first (below the royal family) in the Peerage of England. Since 1102 the seat of the Howards' ancestors has been Arundel Castle.

Martin and Magda Jones
April 2016

Sources of information:

Chichester Cathedral: <http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk>

The Collector Earl's Garden at Arundel: <http://www.arundelcastle.org/the-gardens/the-collector-earls-garden.html>

Wikipedia - Arundel RC Cathedral: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arundel_Cathedral

The Howard family: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard_family