

## A Trip to The Carpet of Flowers Arundel Cathedral and Belinda's tearoom.

It was one of those days when rain was threatening all morning but, undeterred, we met outside the Cathedral ready for the first tour. Our guide met us inside and we had our first glimpse of the Carpet of Flowers which was under construction. We sat in the North Transept and were told a brief history of the Cathedral. This great church owes its existence to the generosity and foresight of Henry, fifteenth Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal, who commissioned the building soon after his coming of age in December 1868.

We listened to the story of Saint Philip Howard as we stood in front of his shrine.

For over 140 years, Arundel cathedral has celebrated the festival of Corpus Christi with a festival of flowers, which features a magnificent carpet of flowers in the central aisle of the Cathedral and a procession of the blessed Sacrament from the Cathedral to the courtyard of Arundel Castle, where Benediction is given.

After looking at all the floral displays we walked from the Cathedral to Belinda's Tearoom. Martin Alderton was our town guide and pointed out various historical buildings on our route. We enjoyed a delicious scone and afternoon tea in the tea rooms as the heavens opened outside. Unfortunately, the second group arrived at the tea rooms like drowned rats.

Despite the weather, it was a lovely afternoon, thank you, Gaida. On the way back up to my car we popped our heads back into the Cathedral and saw the finished carpet.

