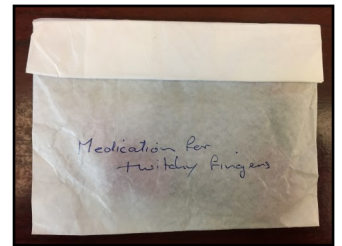


Blog #88 - More Letters & UK2

Tuesday, 18 February 2020

When I finally arrived home in the middle of October from my extended unexpected time in the UK, I was still not quite myself as my right arm was still weaker than usual and I didn't have much stamina. Of course I wasn't allowed to drive for some weeks and so had to continue to rely on Melissa & Keith to do a lot of tasks.

Whilst in the UK I managed to stitch both sides of the letter 'D' of the alphabet series that I had begun on the flight over and began stitching the letter 'T'. Of course, due to my extended stay in the UK, I wasn't prepared with threads and so had to phone Keith to ask him to gather up the colours I needed for Melissa to bring with her. Pictured is the package from him that she delivered. Do you like the message he wrote? Medication for twitchy fingers. I did smile.



As at today's date I have completed both sides of the letter 'T' and the letter 'I' and one side of the letter 'V'. Also completely finished the letter 'D' as an ornamental and almost finished the letter 'T'. Just have to attach the twisted cord edge, twisted cord hanger and add the pearls.



D = Diligence / Diana : T = Trustworthy / Theresa : I = Integrity / Isabella : V = Virtue / Virginia

Once again though, these designs have yet to be photographed, have their instructions written and then printed and packaged.

However, if you would like to stitch one of these letters, please contact me and I will send the chart and instructions as soon as they are available.

You may recall that I taught a Fisherton de la Mere piece at 'Celebration of Needlework' retreat at Nashua, NH, USA in May 2017 and again at 'Needlework Galleria' in September 2018. Originally this design was only available by taking a class but it is now available for purchase.

Once stitched, this piece will be a daily reminder for you to give thanks for your many blessings.



Materials as per the original model -

Fabric: Belfast Linen - 32 count : Natural / Raw

Threads: Silken Pearl - 9713 : Desert Moss by *The Thread Gatherer*

DMC Perle Coton - #12 : 642

DMC Stranded Cotton - 640

Design Title: Thankfulness

Design Code: BARB 1018

Price: \$22.50

And now, UK2 - to continue on with my UK trip

The first day I was quite frustrated with all the people about and having to wait for a clear moment to take a photograph and so decided I'd get up early each day and so by 6.30am—7am was off each day to explore the city and marvel at all the sights and "feel" the history.

And here and on the next page are a few of the sights



Firstly, the signpost to 'The Shambles' (I loved the hanging baskets full of flowers throughout the city), secondly looking down the street and thirdly further down the street where the lean of the houses looks as though they are close to touching one another!

'The Shambles' is sometimes used as a general term for the maze of twisting, narrow lanes.



It is these narrow, twisting lanes which to me made York so charming. It has been said that the lane called the Shambles is the best preserved medieval street in the world. Evidently it was mentioned in the Domesday Book of William the Conqueror in 1086 and today many of the buildings on the street date back to the late fourteenth and fifteenth century (around 1350 - 1475).

You most probably cannot see it, but in one of the pics on the previous page, one of the shop signpost reads, "The Shop That Must Not Be Named".



As for these two buildings ...

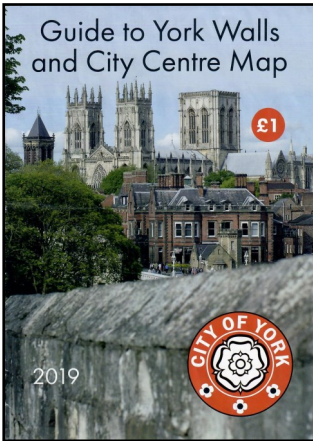
The one on the left was definitely a shop for the mother of the bride. The hats and outfits in the window were exquisite!

And the shop/building on the right was the ideal one for me. I could envision it being a wonderful needlework shop!

It wasn't far from Chloe's café.



Back to the hotel for breakfast and then off to board the on/off bus tour of the city. Loved it - seeing and hearing all the history of this awesome city. The tour ended near one of the tower entrances to the old fortified wall that still surrounds most of the city. This and all tower entrances / main gates to the city are known as "Bars". To walk the wall, access is up a flight of steps.



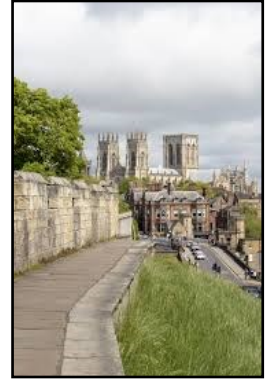
Climbed these steps - Botham Bar (pictured to the right)

and began walking this part of the wall enjoying looking at the beautiful backyard gardens of some of the York homes (pictured below)





*Whilst climbing up the very steep narrow steps
and walking along the narrow stone pathway
I couldn't help but think of all the men who,
over the centuries,
had stood and fought for their lives
and the safety of the castle and the city
on these extremely narrow walkways.*



It must have been terrifying at times!

Here are some pics (taken on other days) of other tower steps and one of the tower doors from the wall to the steps.



At the Monk Bar tower there was an exhibition and video about Richard III's struggle for the throne and power during his short reign and his subsequent demise. Fascinating learning all the stories of the 'War of the Roses'. Especially as I have read Philippa Gregory's books - The Red Queen & The White Queen - and whilst in York was reading, 'The Kingmaker'.

From this gate walked back into the city centre to do some window shopping and then toured the Treasurer's House. This house stands on the site of the mansion of the medieval Treasurers of York Minster which stood there until 1547 when the office of Treasurer was abolished. Over the centuries the current building was chopped and changed by various owners, including the last owner - Frank Green - after he purchased the house in 1897. After changing the house he continually bought, changed and rearranged antique furniture and added to the decoration and fittings and opened the house to the public.

On his retirement in 1930 he gave Treasurer's House with its contents to the National Trust. It was thus the first house to be acquired by the Trust complete with its contents.

*So many beautiful pieces of needlework are in this house.
But more on that subject in another blog.*



The gardens at this home were absolutely beautiful too.

From the Treasurer's House wandered around the outside of spectacular York Minster before returning to the hotel for dinner and an early night.

More next blog

Bye for now.

