

London...

Monday morning we both woke up at 2:30am wide awake. Must have been the time change. However, we went back to sleep and when the wake-up call came at 6:00 I was ready to get up. Pat slept in until 6:30. We taxied to Paddington station to catch the 7:45 train to Exeter. Things were going swimmingly until the train ran into technical problems which delayed us TWO HOURS!!! TWO HOURS!!! EEEEEK! We finally, and I do mean finally made it to Exeter and the rental car was not there yet. Within 15 minutes Avis had it there. Colin, the Avis man, was quite nice and had Pat sign the documents. Pat was definite on taking all insurance since he was quite unsure about how he would fare driving a car with the wheel on the opposite side of the car and driving on the opposite side of the road. After he figured out where reverse was, we got on our way. All in all, he did great. However, he did hit the left curb at least 30 times along the way. It was quite an experience and much of the drive the road was like driving through a maze with oncoming traffic at high rates of speed. He was brave to say the least. This adventure turned into a LONG adventure. The road to Bodmin (A30) wasn't really well marked and we kept turning off accidentally. We probably add an extra hour due to it. Pat stopped at least at 7 or 8 places to ask directions within just a few minutes. He was so frustrated. They kept telling us to go around the small "roundabout" then the large "roundabout" then right at the tower with the clock. My oh my it truly wasn't that easy. We were actually heading down the correct road when Pat got frustrated and saw a hospital and thought they could verify directions so he pulled off. It was an insane asylum. We would spend another 30 minutes driving around before we would figure out that that was the right road in the first place!!! Finally we found St. Mabyn. The road there was wide enough for one of our American Cars. It was barely wide enough for the little car we rented. I took a picture of it. It is a quaint little village with a history to it. When we arrived, children were just arriving home from school. I wanted to see the lavender cottage where the man who creates their website resides but he wasn't home and the home is presumably no longer lavender. I think I saw his computer in the window. We went to the pub and chatted with a few locals but were feeling quite rushed at this part of the day due to our unfortunate time constraints at this point. We visited the church and made a donation and snapped a few shots. However, it was too late for food since our day had been so delayed and we were afraid with our limited time that we would miss the train back if we didn't leave... so we did. We missed the 5:35 by 5 minutes... It's no wonder because we got lost on our way into Exeter. However, we made it back! Hurray!!! I was actually looking forward to eating on the train since this was the only food we had today which I forgot to mention. Earlier in the day, Pat and I had split a baguette. (thank goodness) However, since they had so many technical difficulties they had let their chef off (GO FIGURE) and there was no food. We slept on the train instead. Once again, we ate at the hotel. You have to laugh. It was a nice day. Time for a bath.