

NEW BOOK

Reading Abbey – a pilgrim church

by John Mullaney MA

SPECIAL PRE-PUBLICATION PRICE £24.00

The book begins by examining architectural aspects of Reading Abbey, with detailed diagrams of its layout. Dr. Kevin Hayward, one of the country's leading petrologists, examined the stonework and mortar found in the abbey ruins and has contributed to several of the chapters.

I do not shy away from discussing some of the more controversial aspects of the Abbey, including the burial place of Henry I, the height of its central tower, or looking at some unexplored areas, such as whether its chapter house may have been the burial place of abbots and other dignitaries, possibly in an undiscovered vault. The seals of Reading Abbey are looked at afresh, with new images provided by various archives.

The book then moves to looking at the Abbey as a centre of prayer. I discuss pilgrimage and the role of Reading Abbey both before and after its dissolution.

Reading Abbey – a pilgrim church is richly illustrated: there is hardly a page without a picture or a diagram. At over 250 pages, in A4 landscape format, this is a substantial work which brings together several strands of the story of Reading Abbey.

I am grateful for comments and advice from Professor Anne Curry and John Painter, among others.

The 'Friends of Reading Abbey' have kindly agreed to support and promote the book, which is dedicated to, and is in aid of, the 'Friends'. Once costs have been covered, all the proceeds from sales of this print run will go to the "Friends of Reading Abbey".

John Mullaney

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Thank you,

John Mullaney