



**COME ALONG TO
THE FRIENDS OF READING ABBEY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday 27 October 2018 at 2.30pm
St James's RC Church, Forbury Road, RG1 3HW**

The meeting takes place in St James's Church

The AGM will be followed by an illustrated talk on

MAGIC, MEDICINE AND MIRACLES IN THE MEDIEVAL ABBEY

by *Professor Anne Lawrence-Mathers* FRHS, FSA, SFHEA
Professor of Medieval History, University of Reading

Life in a great medieval abbey, such as Reading, involved frequent encounters with the supernatural. The miracles performed by the Hand of St James mention not only stones with healing powers, but also a terrifying encounter with a walking corpse. Works on medicine frequently refer to plants with the power to repel terrifying creatures and even demons, while bestiaries explain how birds and animals can be used to predict coming events. This lecture will explore the special relationship between monks and the supernatural, using examples from Reading and other English abbeys.

Anne Lawrence-Mathers is the Head of the History Department at the University of Reading, and has published on subjects including: monastic manuscripts from northern England; the figure of Merlin in medieval chronicles; and the role of magic in medieval society. Most recently she has been researching on medieval weather forecasters.

ALL WELCOME - ENTRY IS FREE

St James's Church is a short walk from Reading Station and most central bus stops. Car park at Queens Road. Doors open at 2pm.

