

FRIENDS OF READING ABBEY

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN CLUNIAN SITES LECTURE

Saturday 28 September 2024 2.30 pm

St James RC Church, Abbot's Walk, Reading RG1 3HW

Reading Abbey in the Context of Cluny

Caroline Johnson

When Henry I decided in 1121 to build an abbey in Reading, he turned to the Abbey of Cluny to run the spiritual life of the monastery. This talk will look at the history of Cluny, from the background to its founding to its spectacular rise to power, what made it so successful that it was the monastic order of choice for Henry, and where Reading Abbey sat in the Cluny family.



The talk will be given by Caroline Johnson, a second-year, part-time, PhD candidate with the Graduate Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Reading. Caroline's Masters

dissertation focused on how Cluniac death rituals influenced patrons of the Cluniac monastic houses in Norfolk and she is now researching the women in the cartularies of the English Cluniac houses.



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St James RC church is next to Reading Gaol, in the Abbey Precinct. It will be open from 2.00pm. Free entry, with a voluntary retiring collection.