

FRIENDS OF READING ABBEY

AUTUMN LECTURE

Saturday 31 October 2026 2.30 pm

Abbey Baptist Church, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BE

Ruins and Remains:

Afterlives of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in Early Modern England

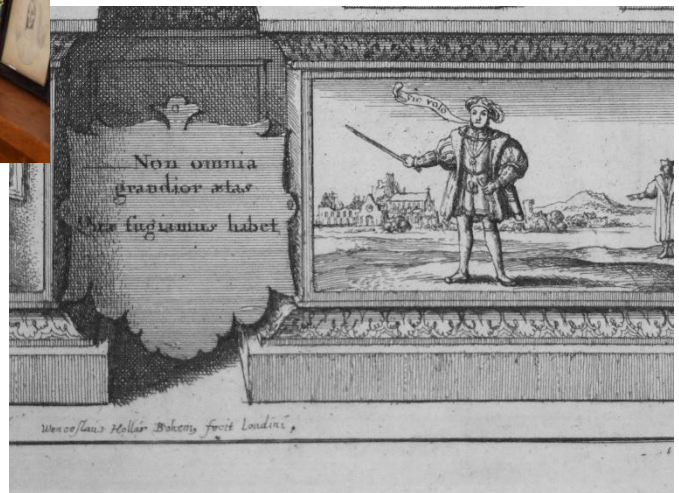
Dr Harriet Lyon

Christ's College, Cambridge



Harriet Lyon is the JH Plumb College Lecturer and Fellow in British History at Christ's College, University of Cambridge. Her book, [*Memory and the Dissolution of the Monasteries in Early Modern England*](#), is out now with Cambridge University Press.

The dissolution of the monasteries has often been treated as the coda to a history of monastic glory and decline. This talk instead takes the dissolution as a starting point for a different kind of history, uncovering various ways in which this episode profoundly transformed religion, culture, and society in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.



Abbey Baptist Church is behind Reading Central Library, in the Abbey Precinct. It will be open from 2.00pm. Free entry, with a voluntary retiring collection.