

FRIENDS OF READING ABBEY

AUTUMN LECTURE

Saturday 29 October 2022 2.30 pm

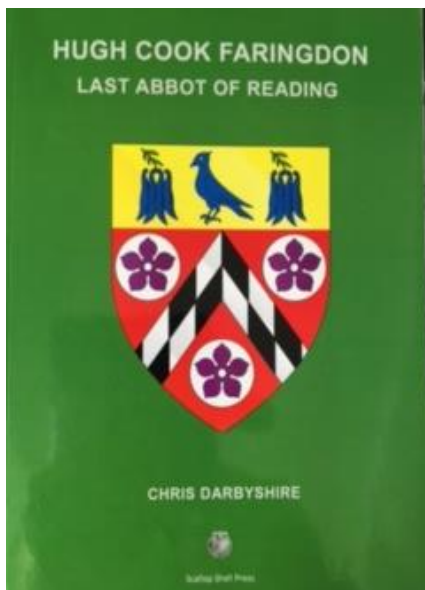
Abbey Baptist Church

Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BE

Trial & Execution of Hugh Cook Faringdon

Chris Darbyshire

The talk will consider the background to the conflict between Henry VIII and the Church, the course of the dissolution of the monasteries and the fall of Reading Abbey. The arrest of Faringdon, and the charges laid against him and his two co-accused will be discussed, and the conduct of the trial reconstructed. The verdict and sentence of the court will be analysed, as will the course of the executions. Finally, time will be set aside to try to answer the question “Why did he have to die?”



CHRIS DARBYSHIRE first moved to Reading in 1956. He attended Presentation College, and after a period at University, he returned to live and work here in 1979. He practised as a solicitor in Reading, and subsequently sat as a Judge in the town. He has developed a keen interest in local history, and has published his biography of Hugh Faringdon, and a detailed study of the medieval church in Stratfield Mortimer. His consideration of the trial and execution of Hugh Faringdon is informed by his knowledge of the law as it was (and to an extent still is) applied to cases in practice. In his study of the charges against Faringdon and his two co-accused, and the conduct and outcome of the trial, he has tried to bring a forensic approach to what happened in Reading nearly 500 years ago.

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.