

St Robert of Knaresborough and the Making of a Saint

in the 800th anniversary year of the death of St Robert



Examining the shared heritage of the saints and what it means to be a truly whole human being: arranged by the Ripon Support Group of the Anglican Centre in Rome



16th June 2018 10am – 3.00pm

**St John the Baptist Church, Knaresborough
and at St Robert's Cave**

“The Life and Times of St Robert”

with Peter Lacey: a Methodist Local Preacher in Knaresborough with a keen interest in St Robert, author of “Tales of the Celebrity Hermit”

“A Great Cloud of Witnesses: Theologies of Sanctity; Theologies of Healing”

with Dr Ruth Beckett: a writer, teacher, historian and theologian. A tutor at the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of York, she is also a trained complementary therapist.

Contribution to the cost of the day £15 – Free to students

PROGRAMME

- 10:00 Arrivals and Coffee/Tea at St John the Baptist Parish Hall (“The Hub”).
- 10:30 Introduction to the work of the Anglican Centre Rome
- 10:45 Peter Lacey
- 12:15 Lunch - Bring your own picnic to be enjoyed with the spectacular view from the Hub: tea/coffee provided
- 13:15 Ruth Beckett
- 14:45 Tea/coffee and biscuits
- 15:00 Visit St Robert's Cave, with prayers

St John the Baptist Church and Church Hall, Vicarage Lane, off High Street, Knaresborough, HG5 9AF
are 100 yards from Knaresborough station which has a half-hourly service from Leeds and York.

St Robert's Cave, Abbey Road, HG5 8HX, has very difficult access for those with limited mobility.
Transport to and from the Cave can be provided for those using public transport.

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TO BOOK

Kindly return by end of June 7 to Canon Simon Hoare
by post (with cheque), Skell Villa, 20 Wellington Street, Ripon. HG41PH Tel 01765692187
or email (if using online banking) sghoare@talktalk.net

Please reserve _____ places for the day in Knaresborough

Names _____

Postal Address of person making booking _____

Email _____ telephone _____

Cheque for £15 each payable to Ripon Cathedral (Reference ACR on back), OR
Online banking –A/c name Ripon Cathedral General Fund Sort Code 40-38-23 A/c No. 20292109 Ref ACR

More about....

Knaresborough

Knaresborough is full of surprises, a warren of medieval streets and stone staircases that weave their way up and down the hill. The town centre is perched on the cliffs above the River Nidd and the imposing railway viaduct across the Nidd Gorge offers an amazing view to visitors.

St John the Baptist Church has plenty of signs of its Norman origins. The church was re-consecrated in 1343, the town having been burnt by the Scots in 1318. Its dedication was to St Mary, until being changed in the Reformation period. The largely perpendicular building was extensively restored in the 1880s.

Not to be missed by visitors are the new nave altar and the stunning high altar frontal.

The church is situated between the High Street and the River Nidd, accessed by Vicarage Lane, a narrow left hand turn off the High Street after Station Road, going downhill.

The castle was first built by a Norman baron in c. 1100 on a cliff above the River Nidd. In the 1170s Hugh de Moreville and his followers took refuge there after assassinating Thomas Becket.

In 1205 King John took control of the Castle. It was here in 1210 that the Maundy Money was instituted.

The tiny medieval **Chapel of Our Lady of the Crag** lies a stone's throw from the Nidd, in Abbey Road about half a mile from the centre of Knaresborough. It was carved from the cliff face by John the Mason in 1408, permission being granted by King Henry IV. The Chapel was probably built as a wayside shrine for pilgrims walking between the town and the Priory. Today the Chapel continues to be a place of pilgrimage and worship. It is a 'Marian' shrine looked after by a volunteer group under the auspices of St Mary's Roman Catholic Parish, on behalf of the owners, Ampleforth Abbey, which also owns St Robert's Cave.

St Robert

St Robert of Knaresborough was born Robert Flower in York in 1160. After a novitiate at Newminster Cistercian abbey in Northumbria he opted for life of solitude, ultimately in a cave by the Nidd at Knaresborough. With a reputation as a wise and holy man who cared for the poor, bailing men out of prison, he was someone who recognised Christ in the hungry and thirsty, naked and imprisoned. He was visited by King John in 1216.

He died in on September 24th 1218, and was buried in the crags by the river. It was said that a medicinal oil flowed from his tomb and pilgrims came from near and far to be healed by this.

The Priory house of Robert was established by an order of the Trinitarian Friars in 1257.

The Anglican Centre in Rome

The Anglican Centre in Rome is the permanent Anglican Communion presence in Rome. It is the living reality of the Anglican Communion's commitment to the full visible unity of the Church, working collaboratively with all Christians for justice and peace in the world. It is also the base of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Personal Representative to the Holy See, who is also the Director of the Centre. He liaises between Pope Francis and Archbishop Welby and works with Anglican Communion and Vatican bodies on joint projects for education, ecumenism, and shared mission. The current Director is the Most Revd Bernard Ntahoturi, formerly Primate Archbishop of Burundi.

The Ripon Support Group is one of several in Church of England dioceses aiming to publicise, commend and further the work and objectives of the Centre.