

## Ethelflaeda, Abbess of Romsey

### Welcome to the Sixth Ethelflaeda Festival.

Founded as a Benedictine Convent over 1000 years ago, Romsey Abbey is dedicated to St Ethelflaeda, who was one of the early abbesses.

Placed in the convent in the 990s, Ethelflaeda's legends, which have been passed down through the centuries, point to her devotion and good works including reciting the psalms at night whilst standing in the River Test.

Romsey Abbey is built on the foundation of holy women, who through words, music and actions, sought to express the glory of God and serve their local community.

This festival aims to bring to the fore the place and legacy of women both in the history of the church and Christianity, but also in the arts.

We hope everything which inspired Ethelflaeda all those years ago will continue to inspire us today!

We look forward to seeing you over the weekend!

Revd Canon Tim Sledge, *Vicar of Romsey*

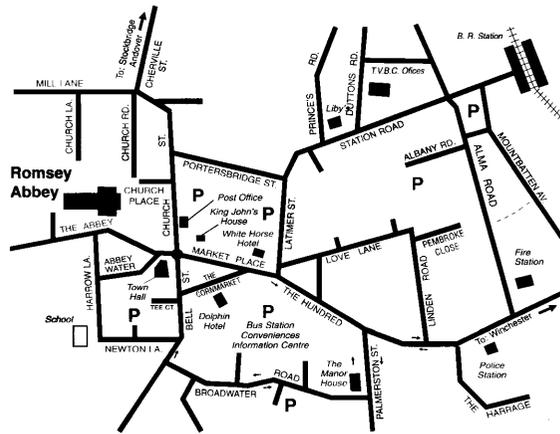


### How to book

Entrance to services and to the lecture is free, and there is no need to book.

For the concert, tickets are available from Romsey Tourist Information Centre, 01794 512987 or on the door.

### Romsey Area Map



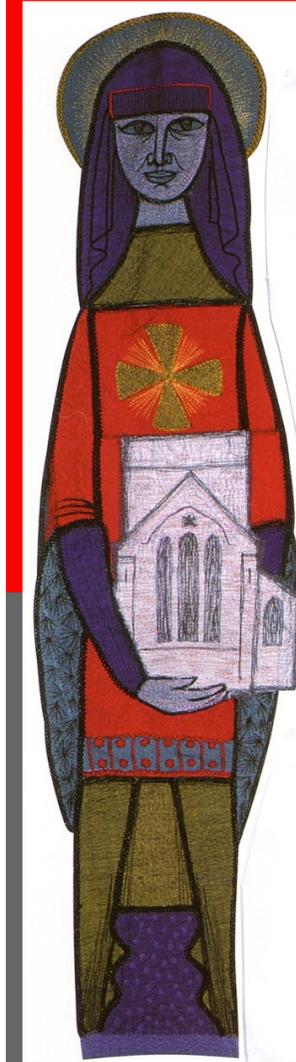
There are car parks in Lortemore Place (off Latimer Street) with pedestrian access to Church Street and the Abbey. Newton Lane car park (which has 70 places) has pedestrian access to the Abbey via Abbey Water.

### 6th Ethelflaeda Festival

For more details, please contact the Romsey Tourist Information Centre on 01794 512987 or Romsey Parish Office on 01794 513125.  
Email: [parishoffice@romseyabbey.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@romseyabbey.org.uk)

## ROMSEY ABBEY

The Parish Church of St Mary and St Ethelflaeda



## 6th Ethelflaeda Festival

22nd-26th October 2014

[www.romseyabbey.org.uk](http://www.romseyabbey.org.uk)

Supported by the Friends of Romsey Abbey

# Festival Dates

Weds  
22nd

9.00pm-9.30pm  
**COMPLINE BY  
CANDLELIGHT—  
Sung by the Girls Choir**

The Festival starts with a quiet, simple and reflective service, echoing the pattern of prayer of the nuns here in the Abbey. The service will include the short anthem *Dark*, by June Boyce-Tillman

Thurs  
23rd

7.30pm  
**A LETTER  
FROM PAUL  
A one-woman  
show by Jane  
Bower exploring  
the Letter to the Romans as  
Phoebe**



*"...an intensely dramatic interpretation. The whole evening was a delight...For me – and surely for all the audience – Phoebe had come out of the shadows, and light had shone too on Paul and on the profound meaning and importance of his letter."*

Jane Bower is a professional actress, teacher and writer, and a member and elder of Emmanuel United Reformed Church, Cambridge. She has devised and performed one-woman shows about remarkable women for over thirty years. In 2006 she was commissioned by the actress Maureen Lipman to write a play which they performed together in 2010. *Tickets on the door £5. Unreserved seating.*

Fri  
24th

**Morning  
"COME AND SING"**

A workshop for children from all Romsey Schools to come together to learn new songs and music and to share together. *Admission Free, retiring collection.*

Sat  
25th

10-12.30pm  
**QUIET MORNING  
"Living the Rule of St Benedict"**

An opportunity to reflect on the Rule which shaped Ethelflaeda and all the nuns in the Abbey community, as an aid to our own spiritual development. The morning will end with a short Eucharist at 12.30pm



7.30pm  
**The 6th ETHELFLAEDA  
LECTURE  
KATE ADIE OBE  
CHRISTIAN WOMEN IN  
WORLD WAR 1**

To commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of war, we are delighted to welcome the world-renowned journalist and author Kate Adie.

Kate Adie tells the story of the First World War years through the eyes of women, and particularly the impact and importance of Christian Women, and unearths in the telling, fascinating and eye-watering detail of just how hard was the up-hill struggle for admission into the world of men. No longer was it possible to keep them at home, separated and segregated, without rights. They had proved what they could do.

*Admission free—retiring collection for the Abbey*

Sun  
26th

**10am FESTIVAL EUCHARIST  
Preacher: Revd Sally Dakin**

The service will feature music by the Victorian composer Ethel Smyth, music from the young Francesca Perry, and the second performance of a



setting of Psalm 121 by Robert Fielding, with solo female voice echoing Ethelflaeda.

Sally Dakin is the wife of the Bishop of Winchester and comes with a vast experience in the field of spirituality and prayer. She was Spirituality Advisor in Oxford Diocese before moving to this diocese.

3pm-4.30pm  
**LADIES IN THE LIFE OF THE ABBEY**

An illustrated and light-hearted tour of the Abbey given by Brian Lamb, looking at the influence and significance of some of the women through the ages. *Admission Free—retiring collection*

**6.30pm CHORAL EVENSONG &  
PROCESSION**

**Preacher: Revd Professor June  
Boyce-Tillman MBE**

Music to be sung by our combined choirs the great Bruckner motet: *Os Justi (The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom)* The service will also include the "Legends of Ethelflaeda".



June is no stranger to Romsey and has an international reputation in music education and as a composer. She has recently published *In tune with heaven or not: Women in Christian liturgical music*

Wine and juice will be served after the service