

# Monumental Brass Society

## Rothwell, Northamptonshire

Saturday, 28th March 2020

Rothwell, has been described by Pevsner as 'one of the most attractive towns in Northamptonshire'. The church of Holy Trinity (with a length of 53 metres) claims the distinction of being the longest in the county. The building is Norman in origin. Unfortunately the tower spire was struck by lightning in 1660 and fell onto the body of the building demolishing a substantial portion of the nave arcades. Further misfortune occurred in 1750 when an earthquake struck. Notwithstanding, the church is extremely fine with a medieval chancel house or ossuary below the south aisle. A rare opportunity will be afforded to visit this highly distinctive and unusual feature. The small early-13th century room was accidentally discovered when an 18th century gravedigger fell into the chamber to discover the skeletons of at least 2,500 people!

The chief interest is the collection of three brasses spanning a period from 1361 to 1591. The most important commemorates William de Rothewelle who was Archdeacon of Essex. His magnificent brass (a product of the London A workshop) represents the earliest example of a priest in processional vestments. The highly unusual effigy exhibits strong foreign (possibly French) influence. The brasses depicting Edward Saunders, 1514, and Owen Ragsdale, 1591, are no less interesting and will also receive attention.

### Programme

- 11.00a.m. ***Short walk focusing on Thomas Tresham's Market House and the Jesus Hospital***  
by Ann Rowlett, a local historian
- 2.00p.m. ***Welcome***  
by Rev. Canon John Westwood, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Rothwell
- 2.10p.m. ***Opening remarks***  
by Martin Stuchfield, President of the Monumental Brass Society
- 2.15p.m. ***William de Rothwell, priest and quartermaster***  
by Jane Houghton
- 2.45p.m. ***Owen Ragsdale and the Jesus Hospital***  
by Ann Rowlett, a local historian
- 3.15p.m. Tea and viewing of the brasses, monuments and medieval chancel house
- 3.45p.m. ***Edward Saunders, his brass and family***  
by Doreen Agutter
- 4.15p.m. ***Closing remarks***  
by Martin Stuchfield, President of the Monumental Brass Society

**The Church will be open prior to the meeting and all are welcome.**  
The meeting which is free with no booking required.

*The church of Holy Trinity is situated in Squires Hill, Rothwell. The postcode for satellite navigation is NN14 6BQ. The nearest station is Kettering (served from London: St. Pancras) which is 9 miles distant representing an approximate journey of 10 minutes by taxi.*

Overleaf: Detail from the monumental brass to William de Rothewelle, archdeacon of Essex, 1361

