

# Monumental Brass Society

in association with the Vicar and Churchwardens  
of St. Mary's, Church, Willesden and the  
Willesden Historical Society

## Willesden, Middlesex

Saturday, 26th October 2019

The church of St. Mary, although able to trace its origins back to 938 when it was reputedly founded by King Athelstan, was heavily restored in 1852. Access to the building is gained via a 14th century medieval door replete with blank tracery. The fine Norman font fashioned from Purbeck marble is a rare survival.

The church contains a wealth of monuments mainly from the 17th century. Perhaps the most enchanting represents Richard Payne, 1606, and wife Margerie, 1595, as small figures kneeling below a double arch.

The chief interest is the collection of six mainstream brasses spanning a period from 1492 to 1609 including an elaborate composition commemorating Edmund Roberts of Neasden, 1585, in armour, and his two wives. The modern brasses include a plate erected in 1898 in memory of William Ewart Gladstone who served as Prime Minister on four occasions between 1868 and 1894. Gladstone was a regular communicant at the church from 1882 until 1894.

### Programme

- 2.00p.m. **Welcome**  
by Father Chris Phillips, Vicar of St. Mary's, Willesden
- 2.10p.m. **Opening remarks**  
by Martin Stuchfield, President of the Monumental Brass Society
- 2.15p.m. **A History of St. Mary's Church and the parish of Willesden**  
by Margaret Pratt and Cliff Wadsworth of the Willesden Historical Society
- 2.45p.m. **The Monumental Brasses of St. Mary's**  
by Philip Whittemore
- 3.15p.m. Tea and viewing of the brasses and monuments
- 3.45p.m. **Edmund Roberts of Willesden and his Book of Hours**  
by Nicholas Rogers, Vice-President of the Monumental Brass Society
- 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 is located at the junction of Church Road, High Road and Neasden Lane. The postcode for satellite navigation is London NW10 2TS. The nearest station is Neasden on the Jubilee underground line. The church is a walking distance of 0.4 miles (9 minutes) due south from the station along Neasden Lane.*

Overleaf: Detail from the monumental brass to William Lichefeld, vicar, 1517 (M.S.III)

