

The history of St Michael de Rupe

The church of St Michael de Rupe (of the Rock), Brent Tor, stands 1,100 feet above sea level on the remnants of a volcano. Below the tor are the remaining earthworks of an Iron Age hill fort. The first church built on Brent Tor in around 1130 was commissioned by Robert Giffard, a wealthy landowner.

Legend tells that Robert had been caught up in a storm at sea and had vowed to St Michael that he would build a church in his honour if his life was spared. Another rather more dramatic legend is that while the church was being built, the devil would come each night to destroy the building work and hurl stones from the top of the hill onto the unfortunate parishioners below. This antisocial behaviour continued until Michael himself intervened and after a great battle, the devil was defeated and the church was named after St Michael as the victor. In fact, many churches built in high places across Britain and Europe are dedicated to Michael as chief of angels.

On 15 June 1231, Henry III granted to the abbot of Tavistock the right to hold a three-day Michaelmas fair at the church of Brent Tor. However, the event became too rowdy and was disbanded following the Reformation, when it moved to Tavistock as a forerunner of the town's present-day Goosey Fair.

At the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539, the patronage of Brent Tor and most of Tavistock Abbey were given to John, Lord Russell, who in 1550 was created Earl of Bedford. The patronage of the church was finally passed to the bishop of Exeter in 1912.

The Treasurer,

Friends of

St Michael de Rupe,

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St Michael's Brent Tor

Photos by Colin Sargent



The Friends of St Michael de Rupe

St Michael de Rupe, Brent Tor, is hallowed by eight hundred years of Christian worship. If, as we hope, you have been touched by its tranquillity and a sense of the sacred, and would like to continue to share in it from however far away, we invite you to join The Friends of Saint Michael de Rupe.



The Friends' aim is to preserve and beautify the church for generations to come and by becoming a Friend, you will be contributing to that ideal.

Please help with a donation, gift aided if you are a taxpayer.

Although St Michael de Rupe is a remarkable historical landmark, it still remains a place of Christian worship. Come and join us for evening services each Sunday from Easter to the end of September.

Become a Friend

I/We wish to join The Friends of Saint Michael de Rupe.

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

EMAIL

I enclose cash/cheque for the sum of:

£

I/we wish our donation to be treated as gift aid.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Please make cheques payable to

Brentor PCC St Michael's.

Completed forms should be sent to the Treasurer at the address overleaf or dropped into the donations box on the Tor.

You can also pay via the donations link:

<https://www.charitychoice.co.uk/donation.asp?ref=159297>

The name and address of your bank

Please pay

LLOYDS TSB TAVISTOCK BRANCH
BEDFORD SQUARE
TAVISTOCK

DEVON PL19 0AG

for the account of

St Michael's Brentor PCC

ACCOUNT NUMBER 00038630

SORT CODE 30-98-46

THE SUM OF £

ON _____ AND THEREAFTER ANNUALLY ON
THE SAME DAY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

NAME OF ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NUMBER

SORT CODE

SIGNED

DATE

This instruction cancels any previous order
in favour of The Friends of St Michael's.