

IN SEARCH OF ALFRED THE GREAT



Stained glass window, 20th century, commemorating the anniversary of St. Bartholomew school in the church of St. Bartholomew, Hyde. Photograph by Joe Low

“In the year 899, the magnanimous Alfred passed from the world. King of the Saxons, unshakeable pillar of the western people, a man replete with justice, vigorous in warfare, learned in speech, above all instructed in divine learning. For he had translated unknown numbers of books from rhetorical Latin speech into his own language – so variously and richly, that his book of Boethius would arouse tearful emotions not only in those familiar with it but even in those hearing it for the first time. For the king died on the seventh day before the Feast of All Saints...

HIS BODY LIES AT PEACE IN WINCHESTER

Now reader say, ‘O, Christ Our Redeemer, save his soul.’

(From the tenth century account of Ealdorman Aethelweard)