

Reading Abbey

Chorus

*Henry the First built Reading Abbey,
Henry the First made the monks a big church.
The market town became not too shabby,
A religious spot for travellers in the lurch.*

Verse 1

The site was picked on ground up high,
Between the rivers Kennet and Thames.
They used the lead to keep the place dry,
The Flint came from local friends.
Limestone from France and Oxfordshire,
But not by road on boat it came.
Ceramic tiles with patterns inspired
The Abbey for Reading's fame!

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Verse 2

The monks worshipped a lot by day
And studied the bible too.
For medical care they did more than pray,
Royal hosts, yes it's true!
Pilgrim's came from blessed word
To test one of their famous claims.
The Abbey had, or so they claimed,
The hand of dear St. James!

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Verse 3 (slower)

Closed by Henry the eighth's royal word
In November Fifteen Thirty-Nine.
He killed two monks, hung drawn quartered
Treason was their crime.
The civil war for the Abbey was bad
In Sixteen Forty-Three.
By the next year the King was glad,
He smashed it up you see!

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