

## CONTENTS



### ● Meet John Charles Ryle 5

#### 1 A banker's son 7

#### 2 What does the future hold? 23



#### 3 Isolation in the New Forest 37

#### 4 'My little parish of 300 parishioners' 53

#### 5 An ever expanding ministry 67

#### 6 The prince of tract writers 81



#### 7 Popular preacher 95

#### 8 The first Bishop of Liverpool 109

#### ● Timeline 122

#### ● Forty-four consecrated churches 123



#### ● Books by J C Ryle 124

#### ● Further reading & acknowledgements 125



#### ● Ryle family tree **inside front cover**

#### ● Ryle's England **inside back cover**

© Day One Publications 2012 First printed 2012

A CIP record is held at The British Library

ISBN 978-1-84625-327-0

Published by Day One Publications Ryelands Road, Leominster, HR6 8NZ

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All Bible references quoted in this book are taken from the Authorised Version (the King James Version) of 1611 which would have been the translation used by J C Ryle. The author wants the reader to hear the voice of Ryle and so the many quotations are taken from his own writings. In the interests of brevity they are not referenced, but the author can give any sources that are required if requested from the publishers

Design: studiohope limited, www.studiohope.co.uk Printed by Polskabook, UK

**Dedication:** Dedicated to those whose Christian lives have been enriched by reading the works of Bishop J C Ryle



## Meet John Charles Ryle

A century and more after his death, the writings of one of the most prominent evangelical bishops of the 19th century are still read by Christians of all denominations. His devotional commentaries *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels*, the practical books like *Knots Untied* or *Holiness*, and his historical biographies like *Five English Reformers* and *Christian Leaders of the 18th Century* are valued resources for those who want to deepen their faith. Ryle was not a dry, stuffy theologian who cannot be understood, but someone who wrote with great clarity and practical application—and who made difficult theological ideas easy to grasp. Ryle was always *biblical* (he took scripture seriously), *evangelical* (he wanted people to become committed Christians), *protestant* (he fully endorsed the theological issues of the 16th century Reformation), and he was a *Puritan* (he loved and honoured the 17th century Puritans). Ryle was also an *Anglican* who believed in the

value of the established Church in the life of the nation. Over the past 150 years ‘Bishop Ryle’, or ‘J C Ryle’ as he is better known, has helped thousands of people to come to faith in Christ and to mature as Christian believers. Ryle was a Church of England clergyman who lived for thirty-six years in rural Suffolk. During that time he wrote some 200 popular tracts, published books, preached in numerous churches, and spoke at national conferences and public meetings. As the first Bishop of Liverpool he was responsible for creating new diocesan structures, the opening of numerous churches and mission rooms, and the ordination and appointment of additional clergy. In this Travel Guide we take you in the steps of J C Ryle and throw some fresh light into his life, belief and personal convictions.

**Facing page:** John Charles Ryle the first Bishop of Liverpool, a photograph taken in 1888

