

Tyndale

WILLIAM TYNDALE was born between 1490 and 1495, probably in Gloucestershire. At both Oxford and

Cambridge universities, he studied the 'new learning' being propagated by such luminaries as Colet and Erasmus, and wishing to translate the Bible into English, he realized that he would have to leave England to do so.

Large numbers of a New Testament he had printed were bought by the Bishop of London, Cuthbert Tunstall - not so that they might be distributed, but burned! However, the funds Tyndale received were enough to

finance a second edition. By 1530 Tyndale was in working in the 'English house' in Antwerp, engaged on a translation of the Old Testament.



His safety was secured by the local English merchants. An ardent Roman Catholic, Henry Phillips, pretending to be interested in the reformed religion, befriended Tyndale, who treated him with kindness, even lending him money. Phillips repaid that trust with betrayal. Tyndale was imprisoned, to the great displeasure of the

merchants whose respect he had won. In vain they tried to secure his release; Tyndale was strangled at the stake on 6 October 1536.

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