**Sir Herbert Edward Ryle**

Ryle was born in Onslow Square (South Kensington, London) on 25TH May 1856. He was the second son of John Charles Ryle (1816–1900), the first Bishop of Liverpool, and Jessie Elizabeth Walker. He was educated at Eton College in 1868 and in 1875 he went to King’s College in Cambridge where he studied theology.

In 1881 he started his career as a teacher in Cambridge, in 1882 he became a deacon and a priest in 1883. In the same year he married Hewish Adams.

From September 1886 to March 1888 Ryle was [Principal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principal_%28university%29) of St David's College. During these years he published books connected with his academic studies like “The Early Narratives of Genesis” or “The Canon of the Old Testament “. After his election as President of [Queens' College, Cambridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queens%27_College,_Cambridge) in 1896 Ryle found little time for writing.

Ryle was created Honorary Chaplain to [Queen Victoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_of_the_United_Kingdom) in March 1896, and in December 1898 a Chaplain-in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

In 1900 Ryle was appointed [Bishop of Exeter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishop_of_Exeter), being [consecrated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consecrated) at [Westminster Abbey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westminster_Abbey) in 1901. He became [Bishop of Winchester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishop_of_Winchester) in 1903. In 1909 he was sent to [Sweden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweden) by the [Archbishop of Canterbury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archbishop_of_Canterbury) to improve relations between the English and Swedish churches.

Herbert Edward Ryle was created [Dean of Westminster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dean_of_Westminster) in 1910. Under his leadership, the Abbey services was increased and he allocated to the Abbey a sum of £170,000 raised for the its maintenance.

During the postwar period he was known to be the designer of the idea of the Unknown Warrior’s grave, but today we know that the idea was first conceived by Chaplain David Railton in 1916. He received a letter from David Railton where the reverend had written his interesting idea and Dean Ryle strongly approved it. Then, Ryle convinced also the British Prime Minister and he tried to persuade the King George V. When the king approved and the ceremony have been carried out, he composed the inscription on the grave of the Unknown Warrior.

He died on 20 August 1925 in Deanery. His tomb is situated close the Unknown Warrior’s one in Westminster Abbey.