

**The Huguenots by Rosemary Hayes**  
**2.30pm Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
**Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, CM1 2XB.**  
**Visitors and prospective members warmly welcomed – £5.**

**Resume of talk:-** In 1685, the French King, Louis XIV, **revoked The Edict of Nantes** which had protected French Protestants (Huguenots) for nearly 90 years, allowing them to work and worship freely. Louis, however, was determined to stamp out this 'false religion' and make France a wholly Catholic country. Huguenot pastors were expelled from the country but the King wanted to retain the skills of the hardworking lay people so they were forbidden to leave under threat of imprisonment or death. Many bent under pressure and converted to Catholicism but others escaped, often facing unimaginable hardship, and some 50,000 came to England in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. They hugely enriched their adopted country as professionals and skilled artisans and integrated so seamlessly that it is easy to forget why they sought refuge here. In her talk, Rosemary Hayes will explore the many – and sometimes surprising – ways in which the Huguenots have contributed to the life of this country.