

Ða Enzlyrcan Geryðas

The English Companions



2022

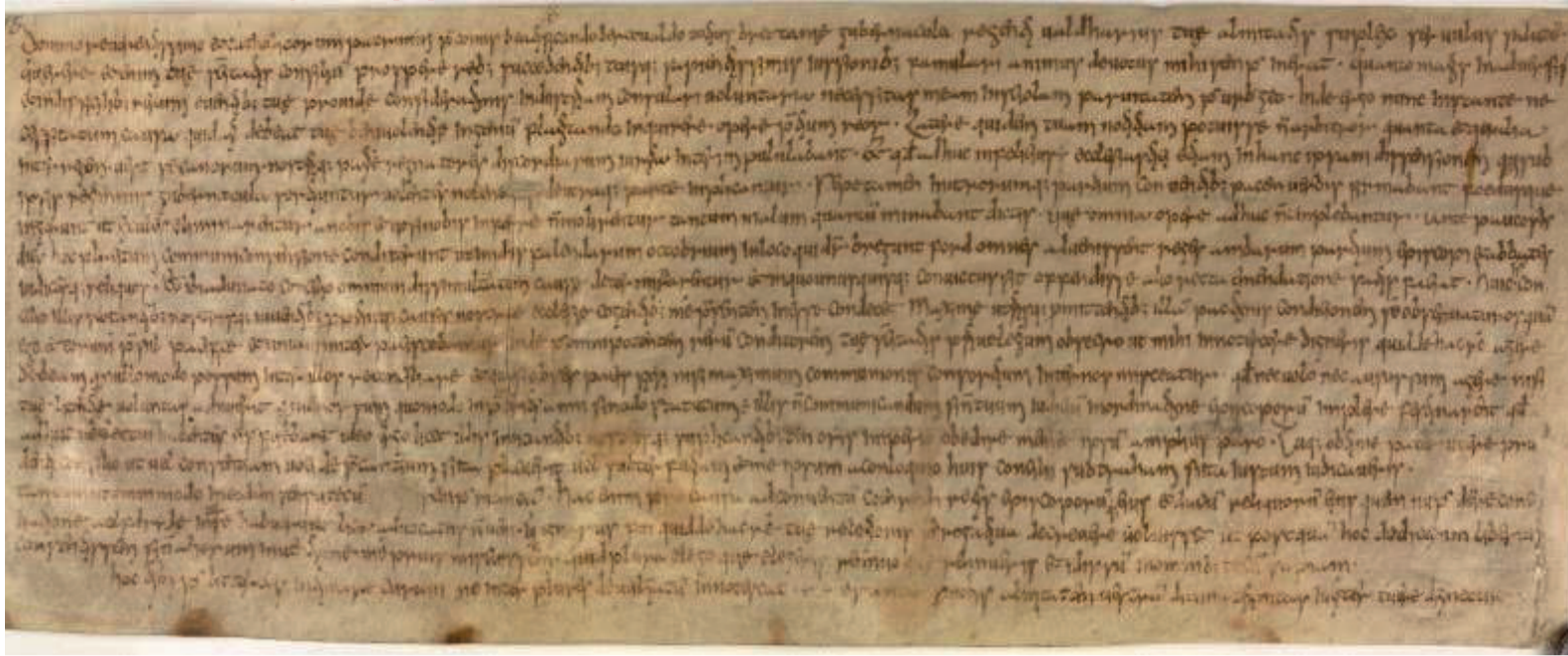


The Ruthwell Cross
photographed by Jenny Ashby

Calendar

Geyumboc





This letter from Bishop Wealdhere of London to Archbishop Beorhtwald of Canterbury is the oldest surviving original letter written on parchment from the Christian West. This was in 704 or 705 AD.

Manuscript Cotton MS Augustus II 18 flr © The British Library

Memorable Days

January 6th King Cnut

The coronation of King Cnut was on January 6th 1017. Edward the Confessor was buried in Westminster Abbey on January 6th 1066 and the coronation of Harold Godwinson was on the same day.

January 9th Feast day of Beorhtwald

Beorhtwald was Abbott of Glastonbury and then Abbott of Reculver. In May 679AD King Hlothere of Kent granted him and Reculver monastery lands in the earliest existing single sheet Anglo-Saxon charter. Then July 1st 692 AD he was elected Archbishop of Canterbury, succeeding Theodore. He worked with King Wihtried of Kent to produce the Laws of Wihtried in about 695 AD. As well as Wealdhere's letter, Beorhtwald was the recipient of the first surviving "letter close" in Western Europe.

January 15th Feast day of St Ceolwulf (695 AD- 765 AD)

Ceolwulf was King of Northumbria from 729 to 737AD during turbulent times. However, he did manage to patron Bede and endow Lindisfarne before abdicating and retiring to Lindisfarne as a monk.

Calendar grid for January 2022 with days of the week in Old English and dates in English. Includes New Year's Day on Saturday the 1st.

Memorable Days



Front
Lindisfarne Stone photographed by Phyllis Wicks
Reverse



February 11th Feast day of St. Cædmon (died 680 AD)

Cædmon put many Bible stories to English song. He was best known for “Cædmon’s Hymn”.

February 12th Feast day of St. Æþelwold (died 740 AD)

Æþelwold was a disciple of St. Cūþbert, a monk and then bishop of Melrose. He contributed to the production of the Lindisfarne Gospels and organised the binding and had it decorated by Billfrið.

February 15th Oswy (612 AD – 670 AD)

Oswy was King of Northumbria and established several monasteries including Whitby Abbey. He presided over the Synod of Whitby. He died on February 15th 670 AD after enlarging his kingdom.

February 17th Finan (died on February 17th 661 AD)

Finan of Lindisfarne was trained as a monk in Iona and succeeded Aidan as the second Bishop of Lindisfarne in 651 AD where he built a church of oak, covered in reeds. He baptised Penda’s son, King Peada of Mercia in 653 AD and sent Cedd and other priests to baptise the Mercians. He also baptised King Sigeberht of the East Saxons.

February 24th Æðelberht (560 AD – 616 AD)

Æðelberht became King of Kent about 589 AD and he was the first Anglo-Saxon king to become a Christian. He allowed St. Augustine to set up the English Church, centred in Canterbury. He was the first Anglo-Saxon king to write down laws and the first king to write laws in a Germanic language. He died on February 24th 616 AD.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Þunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Memorable Days



Obverse

An Edward the Martyr Penny with EDƆEARD REX ANGLO on the obverse and ƆVLFGAR M-O (moneyer) STMF (Stamford) on the reverse. This was sent in by David Mosley from the Airdale Collection.



Reverse

March 2nd St. Chad (died on March 2nd 672 AD)

Chad was the abbot of several monasteries and also Bishop of York, Mercia and Lindsey. He established the See of Lichfield and a monastery at Barrow. He refused special privileges and travelled by foot.

March 6th Feast day of St. Billfriþ (8th century)

Billfriþ was a hermit who decorated the cover of the Lindisfarne Gospels with gold, silver and gems

March 18th King Eadweard the Martyr, assassinated in 978 AD

Eadweard the Martyr was born in 962 AD. His parents were King Edgar the Peaceful and Æþelflæd. Edward was Edgar's eldest son but not his acknowledged heir, which was Æþelred (the unræd). When Edgar died in 975 AD Eadweard was only 15 and Æþelred was younger. This led to a leadership dispute, with Eadweard winning. Eadweard was murdered at Corfe castle in 978 AD. It is suggested that Eadweard's step mother was responsible for his death so that her son, Æþelred, could be king which is what happened.

March 20th St. Cupbert (634 - 687 AD)

Cupbert was the Bishop of Lindisfarne. He promoted social justice. He died on March 20th 687 AD.

March 24th St Hildeliþ

St. Hildeliþ was a long serving Abbess of Barking in the early 8th century. She communicated with Bede, Aldhelm and Boniface.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Þunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Memorable Days



The Gilling Sword, a 9th century two-edged sword discovered in a stream near Richmond, Yorkshire, by a 9-year-old boy in April, 1976.

Photographed by Jenny Ashby

April 3rd Edward the Confessor

Edward the Confessor was the son of Ælþelred (Unræd) and Emma of Normandy. He was crowned King of England on April 3rd 1043 AD in Winchester Cathedral after the rule of the Danes. He built Westminster Abbey, the first Norman Romanesque church in England. He died on January 5th 1066 AD.

April 5th Feast Day of St. Æþelburh

Æþelburh was the daughter of King Æþelberht and Queen Bertha of Kent. She married King Edwin of Northumbria as his second wife and took her bishop Paulinus with her to convert the Northumbrians. After Edwin was killed in battle, she founded one of the first nunneries in England at Lyminge where she died around 647 AD.

April 14th Æþelred (Unræd) was crowned king on April 14th 979 AD

He was not an able king and King Sweyn of Denmark overthrew him in 1013 AD. After Sweyn's death he made a return but died on April 23rd 1016 AD.

April 15th Earl Godwin (died on April 15th 1053 AD)

Earl Godwin started life as a minor thegn but worked his way up to become one of the most powerful men in England by supporting different factions in turbulent times. He was the father of Harold Godwinson.

April 19th Feast day of St. Ælfheah (953 – 1012 AD)

Ælfheah became Archbishop of Canterbury but he always lived a humble monk's life. He was taken prisoner by the Vikings in 1011AD who murdered him on April 19th 1012 AD in Greenwich when he would not allow ransom to be paid.

April 25th St Martin's Hoard

The St. Martin's Hoard was found in Canterbury in 1844 AD. It was the only find of gold jewellery from about 600 AD in a churchyard. It included the Liudhard Medalet – the earliest surviving Anglo-Saxon coin.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Þunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	Good Friday 15	16	17
Easter Monday 18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Ḍrimilcemonað May 2022 Ḍrimilcemōnað



One of the Pictish Stones in Aberlemno probably commemorating the battle of Nechtanesmere-Dun Nechtain. The other side shows a battle scene.

Photographed by Carol Robinson

Memorable Days

May 8th Sutton Hoo

On May 8th 1939 Basil Brown began his excavation of mound 1 at Sutton Hoo where there were the main finds. He had been digging mound 3 in 1938.

May 11th King Edgar

King Edgar the Peaceable was the son of King Edmund and succeeded his elder brother, Edwig, on October 1st 959 AD. He was crowned as the first king of the English in Bath on May 11th 973 AD in a ceremony that formed the basis of our present-day coronations. His reign was of consolidation and stability.

May 15th Cuerdale Hoard

This hoard was discovered in Cuerdale, near Preston, on May 15th 1840 AD. It consisted of over 8600 items; silver coins and English & Carolingian jewellery. Most of the coins were from Viking kingdoms in England plus some from Wessex and foreign countries. It is the greatest Viking silver treasure trove, outside of Russia, and weighed about 40 kg.

May 19th St. Ealhwine (735 – 804 AD)

Ealhwine (Alcuin) was a clergyman, poet, scholar and teacher in York. He then joined Charlemagne's court where he was a leader in the Carolingian Renaissance. He died on May 19th 804 AD.

May 19th St. Dunstan (909 – 988 AD)

Dunstan was Abbot of Glastonbury Abbey, Bishop of Worcester, Bishop of London and then Archbishop of Canterbury. He restored monastic life to England and organised the coronation of Edgar.

May 20th Battle of Nechtanesmere - Dun Nechtain

King Ecgfrith of Northumbria invaded the Pictish lands and on May 20th 685 AD was defeated by the Pictish King Bridei Mac Bili. Both Ecgfrith and Bridei were descendants of King Æthelfrith of Northumbria.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Ḍunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
						1
Early May Bank Holiday 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Memorable Days



Stain glass window of Æpelflæd at St Editha's Church, Tamworth

Photographed by Phyllis Wicks

June 4th St. Eadfrið (677 - 721 AD)

St. Eadfrið was a monk, abbot and then Bishop of Lindisfarne. He transcribed and illuminated the Lindisfarne Gospels.

June 5th St. Boniface died on June 5th 754 AD (672 - 754 AD)

Boniface was born as Winfrið in Wessex. He was a leading Anglo-Saxon missionary in Germany. He became Archbishop of Mainz. He was known as the apostle of the Germans.

June 8th

On June 8th 793 AD the monastery at Lindisfarne was plundered by the Vikings. This was the start of the Viking raids in England.

June 12th Æpelflæd (died on June 12th 918 AD)

Æpelflæd was King Ælfred's daughter who united Wessex and Mercia by marrying Æpelred of Mercia. After Æpelred's death in 911 AD she led Mercia as The Lady of the Mercians, built defences and battled back the Vikings until she died on June 12th 918 AD. Also, on June 19th 916 AD, Æpelflæd attacked Llanngorse in response to the murder of Abbot Edgeberht there 3 days earlier.

June 14th

Basil Brown uncovered the burial chamber in mound 1 at Sutton Hoo on June 14th 1939 AD. He had started excavating at Sutton Hoo in 1938 AD.

June 17th Feast day of St. Botwulf of Thorney

In the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, for 653 AD, it stated that Botwulf (Botolph) started to build a monastery at Icanhoh in Suffolk. He is the patron saint of travellers and trade. He died in 680 AD.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Þunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
			Spring Bank Holiday	Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday		
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



The medieval chapel constructed over St. Helier's Bed, the hollow in the rock where St. Helier was supposed to have lived.

Image in the public domain.

Memorable Days

July 7th Feast Day of St. Hædde

Hædde was consecrated as Bishop of the West Saxons in 676 AD. He persuaded the injured West Saxon king, Cædwalla, to abdicate and go on a pilgrimage to Rome. He helped the new king, Ine, to draw up his law code. Hædde moved the seat of his bishopric from Dorchester-on-Thames to Winchester. Under him there was a proliferation of ministers Wessex, particularly in the former pagan territories conquered by Cædwalla. After his death the bishopric was split into two. Hæddi died about 705 AD, possibly on July 7th.

July 8th Death of King Edgar the Peaceable in 975 AD

King Edgar was born about August 7th 943 AD. He was the younger son of King Edmund and Ælfgifu. On the death of his elder brother, Eadwig in 959 AD, Edgar became the king of all England. Edgar was not peaceable but he ruled with a strong hand so that the kingdom was peaceful. He stationed 1200 ships in the north, 1200 ships in the east and 1200 ships in the west so that there were no Viking incursions during his short reign. He died on July 8th 975 AD.

July 16th Feast Day Of St. Helier

In the 6th century Helier was a monk in mainland France near Jersey under Abbot Marcoul. The fishermen of Jersey asked Marcoul to send them a missionary and Helier was chosen and he preached to the people there. The people of Jersey suffered from sea raiders. Helier lived on a rocky outpost where he could see approaching sails and warn the villagers. One day the raiders killed Helier. St. Helier is the patron saint of Jersey and the capital of Jersey is named after him.

July 28th

The Sutton Hoo helmet was unearthed on July 28th 1939 AD.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Þunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



The Britons had a fortification at Bamburgh in Bernicia before the Anglo-Saxons came. It came under Anglo-Saxon control in 590 AD. In about 600 AD King Ælfrið of Bernicia passed it on to his wife Bebbe, from whom the early name Bebbanburh was derived. Bamburgh was the capital of Bernicia.

The present Bamburgh castle. Photographed by Phyllis Wicks.

Memorable Days

August 5th St. Oswald

St. Oswald was a Northumbrian prince who was banished by his pagan uncle. Later he returned and took back Northumbria. He finally died on August 5th 642 AD in battle while praying for his soldiers.

August 8th Feast Day of St. Lide

Lide was a Cornish hermit in the Scilly Isles. He made St. Helens a centre of Christianity. It is said that King Olaf of Norway visited the Scilly Isles and he and his ship's company converted to Christianity. King Olaf later received bishops and priests from King Ælred to evangelize Norway.

August 31st St. Aidan (died August 31st 651 AD)

Aidan was an Irish monk. King Oswald of Northumbria asked Iona to send missionaries to Northumbria. Aidan came and founded the Lindisfarne Priory and became the first bishop of Lindisfarne. At first Aidan did not speak English and Oswald had to translate for him. Then, later, Aidan wandered through Northumbria talking to the people. He founded churches and monasteries throughout Northumbria. He gave alms to the poor and to slaves, to buy their freedom. The present priory was built after the Anglo-Saxon period.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Ʀunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Summer Bank Holiday 29	30	31				



Replica of the Staffordshire Cross at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

The photograph was taken by Jenny Ashby

Memorable Days

September 15th Cyneburh (died on September 15th 680AD)

Cyneburh was the eldest daughter of King Penda of Mercia. She was a Christian, as were her sisters. She married Alhfrīþ of Deira, co-regent of Northumbria, who founded an Abbey at Castor and where Cyneburh was its first Abbess. She was a founding signatory of Burh Abbey which became Peterborough Abbey and then Peterborough Cathedral.

September 16th Feast day of St. Eadgyð (963 – 986 AD)

Eadgyð was the daughter of King Edgar of England. She refused to become a queen or abbess. She lived a simple life with her mother in Wilton. She helped the poor, tended wild animals and meditated on Christ’s passion. She died on September 16th 986 AD.

September 20th The Battle of Fulford 1066

In 1066 AD a large Viking army invaded under the leadership of King Harald Hadrada of Norway and Tostig. A much smaller force under Earls Edwin and Morcar fought them but were defeated at the Battle of Fulford on September 20th 1066 AD. Later the English were to take their revenge at Stamford Bridge on September 25th.

September 24th The Staffordshire Hoard

The Staffordshire Hoard was first displayed at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery on September 24th 2009 AD. The huge hoard of gold and silver was first discovered by Terry Herbert, a metal detectorist, on July 5th 2009 AD. The Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery with the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery raised over £3 million to buy the whole collection. There were a few further finds in the following years.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Þunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Malmesbury Abbey

King Aþelstan was buried in Malmesbury Abbey after he died

The photograph was taken by Jenny Ashby

October 27th King Aþelstan
 On October 27th 939 AD King Aþelstan died at Gloucester. He was the son of Edward the Elder. He was the first king to wear a crown at his coronation. He styled himself as “King of the whole of Britain” on his coins. He issued 7 law codes and packed his court with foreign scholars. He collected relics and books which he then gave out. He oversaw the translation of the Bible into English. He reorganised trade and the currency.

Memorable Days

October 12th Feast Day of St. Wilfrid

Saint Wilfrid was born in Northumbria in 634 AD and became a monk at Lindisfarne. He then went to Canterbury and on to Europe. He returned to Northumbria in 660 AD and was appointed abbot of the newly formed monastery at Ripon. He was the main advocate for the Roman tradition at the Synod of Whitby. Wilfrid was appointed Bishop of Northumbria but was controversial and he had a rival, Ceadda. When Theodore became Archbishop of Canterbury he ruled in favour of Wilfrid but they fell out when Theodore split the see of Northumbria in two during his reforms. Wifrid died in 709 or 710 AD.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Þunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Trewiddle Hoard items, ©Trustees of the British Museum [CC BY-SA 4.0]

Memorable Days

November 8th Trewiddle Hoard

On November 8th 1774 AD Cornish miners found this hoard at Trewiddle. The image shows part of this 9th century hoard. There were also 114 Anglo-Saxon coins mainly from Mercia and Wessex. It is now housed at the British Museum.

November 12th King Cnut

Cnut was born in Denmark as the son of Sweyn Forkbeard. After the death of Sweyn in 1014 AD he fought Æpelred and then Edmund, finally dividing England with Edmund, but Edmund died soon after leaving Cnut as sole king. Cnut died on November 12th 1035 AD.

November 17th Feast Day of St. Hild

Hild was born in 614 AD of Deiran nobility. In 627 AD she was baptised along with King Edwin. She went into exile when Edwin, her kinsman, was killed in battle when the Mercians invaded in 633 AD and overran Northumbria. Hild went with queen Æpelburh to Kent, joined religious orders and then planned to go to Francia. However, Bishop Aidan called her back to be a nun in Northumbria and then the second Abbess of Hartlepool Abbey. Then in 657 AD she became the founding Abbess of the successful Whitby Abbey (Streoneshalh) where all property and goods were held in common. Such was her reputation that kings and princes sought her advice. She trained five future bishops, including Wilfrid, and Cædmon was her protégé. The Synod of Whitby took place in her time at her monastery. She died on November 17th 680 AD.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Þunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Memorable Days

Heorciab! Ða Ærendfærte Englas Singab,

Heorciab! Ða ærendfærte englas singab,

“Pulðor to hæm niscendan cýnnz!”

Friþ on earþe and milts mild,

God and zyltendas zerevende

Blide, eall ze þeoda, riðab,

Ðeodaþ hæc oretlof roðores;

Beodaþ mid hæm engellc perode,

“Crist racnaþin Bethleme”

Heorciab! Ða ærendfærte englas singab,

“Pulðor to hæm niscendan cýnnz!”

The first verse of Hark the Herald Angels Sing translated into Old English by David Hinch

December 5th Ealhswiþ (died on December 5th 902 AD)

Both of Ealhswiþ’s parents were Mercian nobles. In 868 AD she married Ælfred when his brother, Æpelred, was the king of Wessex, to ally Mercia and Wessex against the Danes. Ealhswiþ founded the convent of St. Mary’s Abbey in Winchester.

December 13th St. Edburga (died on December 13th 759 AD)

Edburga was the daughter of King Centwine of Wessex. She was a student of Mildred and corresponded with Boniface and Lullus. About 733 AD she succeeded Mildred as the Abbess of the Minster in Thanet where she built the new church of St. Peter and St. Paul.

December 14th King Aldfriþ (died on December 14th 705 AD)

Aldfriþ became king of Northumbria when Ecgfriþ was killed in battle in 685 AD. He had a peaceful reign where he helped to heal the rift between the Irish and Roman Churches. In his reign the Northumbrian monasteries were very productive, producing the Lindisfarne gospels and the Codex Amiatinus.

December 25th Christmas Day

Edmund was declared King of East Anglia in 855 AD. Sweyn Forkbeard declared King of England in 1013 AD. William the Conqueror crowned King of England in 1066 AD.

December 28th Westminster Abbey

King Edward the Confessor rebuilt St. Peter’s Abbey to provide himself with a royal burial church. It was consecrated on December 28th 1065 AD, a week before Edward’s death.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Ðunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	Christmas Day 25
Boxing Day 26	Bank Holiday 27	28	29	30	31	