

Érreppa Geol January 2023 Æfterra Ġēol



The Vale of York Hoard
Photographed by Phyllis Wicks

Memorable Days

January 6th Vale of York Hoard The Vale of York (Harrogate) Hoard was buried in 927 AD and discovered by David and Andrew Whelan on January 6th 2007 AD. It contains 617 silver coins, which were tightly packed into a Frankish silver cup. As well as coins, it contains complete ornaments, ingots (bars) and chopped-up fragments known as hack-silver (67 objects in total as well as the 617 coins). It shows the diversity of cultural contacts in the medieval world, with objects coming from as far apart as Afghanistan in the East and Ireland in the West, as well as Russia, Scandinavia and continental Europe.

January 8th Battle of Æscesdun (Ashdown)

On January 8th 871 AD King Æbelred and his brother Ælfred (the Great) fought the combined Viking army at Ashdown. It was a huge battle with the English finally taking the victory.

January 9th Feast day of Beorhtwald

Beorhtwald was Abbot of Glastonbury and then Abbot 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 Wihtred of Kent to produce the Laws of Wihtred in about 695 AD. As well as Wealdhere's letter, Beorhtwald was the recipient of the first surviving "letter close" in Western Europe.

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New Year's Day (Substitute Day)							
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Solmonad

February 2023 Solmonab

Memorable Days

Febuary 2nd **Candlemas**

This feast, or its predecessor, dates back to Anglo-Saxon times. Alfric of Eynsham wrote a sermon for Candlemas.

February 11th Feast day of Cædmon

Cædmon put many Bible stories to English song. He was best known for "Cædmon's Hymn". Cædmon died in 680 AD.

February 17th Feast day of St. Finan

Finan of Lindisfarne was trained as a monk in Iona and succeeded Aidan as the second Bishop of Lindisfarne in 651 AD where he a built 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.

Finan died on February 17th 661 AD at Lindisfarne.

February 24th King Æðelberht (Ethelbert) of Kent

Æðelberht, born in 550 AD, was the son of King Eormenric of Kent. He married Bertha, the Christian daughter of the Frankish King Charibert I. Æðelberht became king in 589 AD. He allowed St. Augustine to set up the English Church, centred in Canterbury and shortly after he was the first Anglo-Saxon king to become a Christian. He was also the first Anglo-Saxon king to write down laws and the first king to write laws in a Germanic language. Æðelberht was the third Bretwalda, senior Anglo-Saxon king. He died on February 24th 616 AD.



Statue of King Æðelberht of Kent Photographed by David Hinch

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Monday Mōnandæġ	Tuesday Tīwesdæġ	Wednesday Wōdenesdæġ	Thursday Đunresdæġ	Friday Frīġedæġ	Saturday Sæternesdæġ	Sunday Sunnandæġ
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hpermonad

2023 March

Hreþmönað

Memorable Days March 2nd St. Chad

Chad was a disciple of Aidan. Later he was the abbot of several monasteries, including Lastingham, which was founded by his brother Cedd. He was also Bishop of York, Mercia and Lindsey. Chad established the See of Lichfield and a monastery at Barrow. With Cedd he introduced Christianity to the Mercian kingdom. He refused special privileges and travelled by foot.

He died in Lichfield on March 2nd 672 AD.



Emma was the daughter of Richard I, Count of Rouen. In 1002 AD King Æbelred (Unræd) of England married Emma to secure Norman support against the Vikings. In 1013 AD King Sweyn Forkbeard of Denmark conquered England and Emma and her family were exiled in Normandy. However, they returned in 1014 AD when Forkbeard died. Then Forkbeard's son, Cnut, invaded in 1015 AD and Æbelred died in 1016 AD, leaving Cnut as king. Emma married Cnut in 1017 AD. When Cnut died in 1035 AD Harold Harefoot, Cnut's son but Emma's stepson, seized the kingdom and exiled Emma. However, he died in 1040 AD and was succeeded by Harthacnut, son of Cnut and Emma, and Emma was restored to high position. Then Harthacnut died in 1042 AD and was succeeded by his brother Edward the Confessor. Edward did not like his mother and confiscated her lands and treasure. Emma died on March 6th 1052 D.

March 24th St Hildelib

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



The Chad statue in Lichfield

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Photographed by David Jones

Wednesday Friday Monday Tuesday Thursday Saturday Sunday Wōdenesdæġ Đunresdæġ Sunnandæġ Tīwesdæġ Frīġedæġ Mōnandæġ Sæternesdæġ 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 6 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 22 21 23 20 24 26 25

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Eagreymonad April 2023 Eastermonad



The Lilla Cross

Photographed by Phyllis Wicks

Memorable Days

April 3rd Edward the Confessor

Edward the Confessor was the son of Æbelred (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 11th Feast day of St. Guðlac

Guðlac was born in 673 AD in Mercia. From the military he became a monk at Repton and then a solitary in Crowland. After his death his body was found to be incorrupt. Archbishop Ceolnob was healed at his shrine in 851 AD. Guðlac died in 714 AD in Crowland.

April 12th King Edwin of Northumbria

Edwin was born in 586 AD, the son of King Ælle of Deira. He went into exile when King Æbelric of Bernicia seized power in Deira. When King Rædwald of East Anglia defeated and killed Æbelric's son, Æbelfrib, Edwin was installed as king of Northumbria. Edwin brought stability to Northumbria and became a Bretwalda. However, in 626 AD he was a target of an assassination attempt but was saved when his thegn Lilla threw himself into the path of the poisoned knife. According to legend King Edwin placed a cross on Lilla's grave in Fylingdales Moor but the cross was replaced by the present one in the 10th or 11th century. On April 12th 627 AD, in York, Edwin and his court were baptised by Bishop Paulinus at York. On October 12th 633 AD Edwin died at the Battle of Hatfield Chase against King Penda of Mercia.

April 30th St. Eorconwald

Eorconwald was born in 630 AD in Lindsey. He founded Abbeys at Chertsey and Barking. He finally became Bishop of London. He is reputed to have converted King Sebba. He helped to reconcile Theodore and Wilfrid and advised King Ine of Wessex on laws. Eorconwald died in 693 AD in Barking Abbey.

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Drimilcemonad May 2023 Drimilcemonad



Bede's Memorial Cross in Sunderland Photographed by David Jones

Memorable Days

May 1st Feast day of Queen Bertha of Kent

Bertha was a Frankish princess, born about 564 AD, who married King Æpelberht before he became king. She was crucial to the establishment of Christianity in Kent. She died soon after 604 AD. Some people consider Bertha a saint with feast day on May 1st.

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 Feast day of St. Dunstan

Dunstan was born about 909 AD and studied under the Monks of Glastonbury and later joined the court of King Æþelstan. He was liked by the king but had enemies at the court and left to join the Church. Dunstan became Abbot of Glastonbury Abbey, Bishop of Worcester, Bishop of London and then Archbishop of Canterbury. He then became influential at court again. He restored monastic life to England and organised the coronation of Edgar. He died on May 19th 988 AD.

May 26th Bede

Bede was a monk at Wearmouth and Jarrow monasteries. He collected documents and corresponded widely. He translated and wrote books, particularly the "Ecclesiastical History of the English People". He was considered one of the best scholars and teachers in Europe at that time. He promoted the Anno Domini approach to dating. He died on May 26th 735 AD in Jarrow.

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Spring Bank Holiday						
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Æμμα Liða June 2023 Ærra Līða

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Will of Athelstan Atheling, © British Library

Æþelstan Æþeling was the eldest son of Æþelred Unræd. He died on June 24th 1014 AD when he was the heir to the English throne. You might want to look at a modern English translation of the will as it is very insightful.

Memorable Days

June 9th Feast day of St. Columba (Comcilla)

St. Columba founded the monastery at Iona. He was an advisor to the Gaelic kings and educated their sons. The monastery at Iona set up other monasteries elsewhere, including Lindisfarne. St. Columba died on June 9th 597 AD.

June 17th Feast day of St. Botwulf (Botolph) of Thorney

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

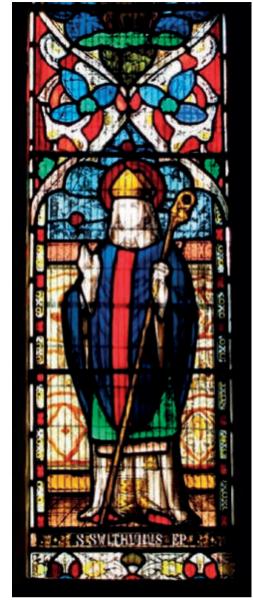
June 23rd Feast Day of St. Æþelðrið (Audrey)

Æþelðrið survived two forced royal marriages. Then she founded the double monastery at Ely. Although from a privileged background she lived a simple life. Seventeen years after her death on June 23rd at Ely her body was found to be incorrupt.

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Épreppa Lida

July 2023 Æfterra Līða



The St. Swithun Window Photographed by David Jones

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Memorable Days

July 5th The Staffordshire Hoard

The Staffordshire Hoard was discovered in a field on 5th July 2009 by a metal detectorist called Terry Herbert. The Hoard is the largest collection of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver metalwork ever found, anywhere in the world. It consists of around 4,000 items which combine to a total of over 5kg of gold, nearly 1½ kg of silver and around 3,500 cloisonné garnets. It was probably buried around 650-675 AD, and lay close to the Roman Road of Watling Street which was still an important route at the time. In November 2012 a further 81 pieces of gold and silver items were discovered in the same field.

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 in Wessex, particularly in the former pagan territories conquered by Cædwalla. After his death the bishopric was split into two. Hædde died about 705 AD, possibly on July 7th.

July 15th Feast Day of St. Swithun

St. Swithun was born in 800 AD. As Bishop of Winchester he was known for his charity and the building of churches. He founded a monastic community on the site of the present day Winchester Cathedral. His relics are associated with prolonged periods of rain. St. Swithun died on July 2nd 862 AD in Winchester but his remains were moved from outside north wall of the Old Minster to inside on July 15th 971 AD.

July 17th King Edward the Elder

On July 17th 924 AD King Edward the Elder died. He was the son of Ælfred the Great and with his sister, Æbelflæd (lady of the Mercians), he set up a series of fortified towns (burhs) across England to defend against the Vikings and then recapture the lands that the Vikings had taken.

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Memorable Days

August 7th King Edgar the Peaceable

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. Previous kings were styled as Kings of the English. 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. Archbishop Dunstan devised the coronation ceremony of Edgar and it has passed down to form the basis of the coronation of our present Queen. He died on July 8th 975 AD.

August 8th Feast Day of St. Lide

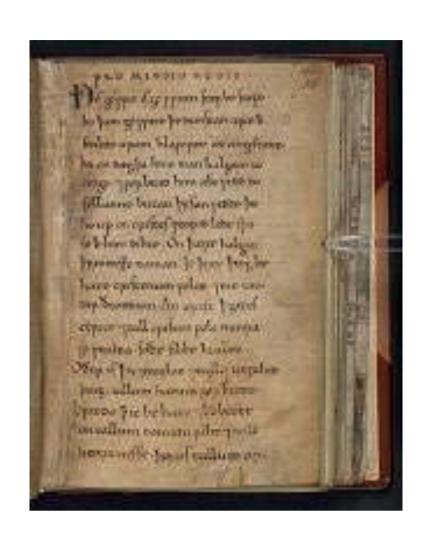
Lide was a Cornish hermit in the Scilly Isles. He made St. Helens a centre of Christianity. It is said that King Olaf of Norway visited the Scilly Isles and he and his ship's company converted to Christianity. King Olaf later received bishops and priests from King Æbelred to evangelize Norway.

August 12th Jænberht

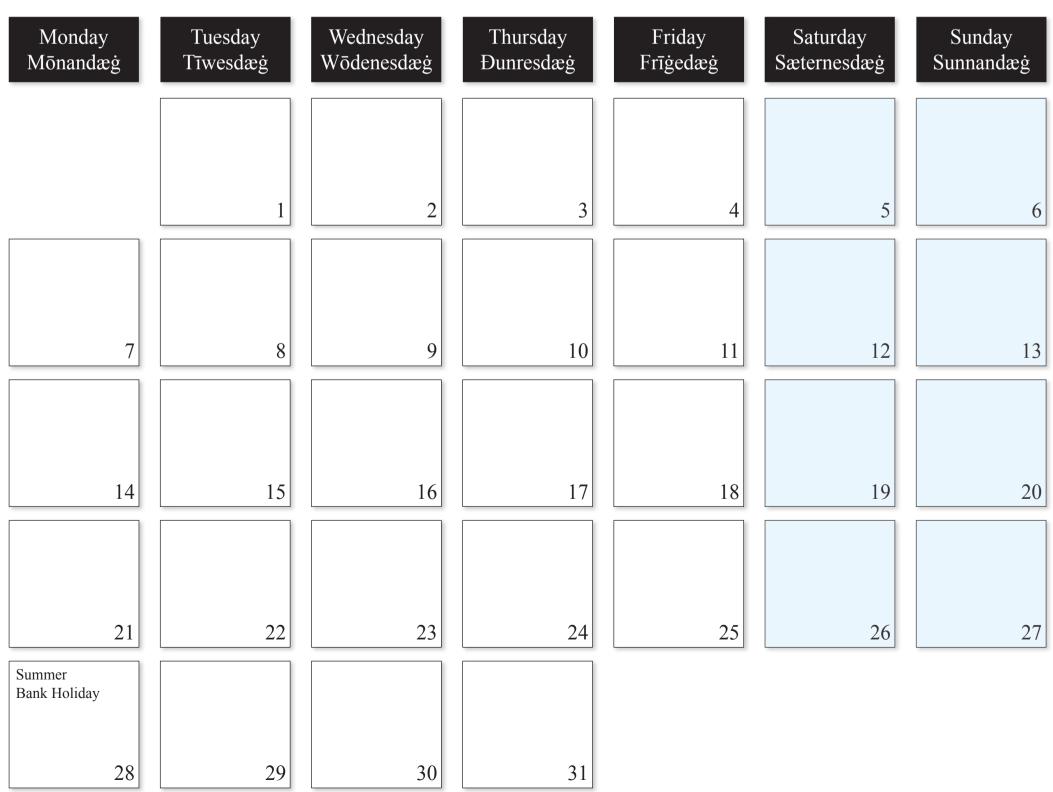
Jænberht was the Archbishop of Canterbury from 765 AD. He opposed Offa's control of the Church and of Kent. Jænberht died on August 12th 792 AD.

August 16th King Eadred

Eadred was born in 923 AD. On August 16th 946 AD he was crowned king at Kingston upon Thames. He was the son of Edward the Elder and succeeded his brother, Eadmund. Northumbria had been rebellious but when they accepted the Viking, Eric Bloodaxe, as king Eadred finally conquered Northumbria. However, Eadred had become sick and he died on November 23rd 955 AD.



Coronation Oath, British Library, Cotton MS Cleopatra B XIII



halizmonad

September 2023 Hāliġmōnað



A dragon issue Sceatta of King Ælfwald I of Northumbria This was sent in by David Mosley from the Airedale Collection



Memorable Days

September 12th Feast day of St. Eanswib

Eanswip was the granddaughter of King Æðelberht of Kent. Her father, King Eadbald, founded an abbey in Folkestone, about 630 AD, where she became one of the first women in England to head a religious community. Her remains were identified in 2020.

September 23rd Death of King Ælfwald I of Northumbria

Ælfwald succeeded to the throne of Northumbria after the depositon of Æbelred Moll in 779 AD. Many people considered Ælfwald to be a pious and just king although Alcuin had his doubts. However, Ælfwald did not establish firm control. Ælfwald was assassinated by a thane, Sicga, on September 23rd 789 AD.

September 25th Battle of Stamford Bridge

On September 20th 1066 AD the invading Norwegian army of King Hardrada of Norway with Earl Tostig defeated the Northern Earls, Edwin and Morcar at Fulford. Then on September 25th 1066 AD King Harold caught the invading Norwegian army by surprise at Stamford Bridge and roundly defeated it.

September 28th Feast day of St. Leofgyb (Lioba)

Leofgyb, a relative of Boniface, was born in 710 AD in Wessex where she entered the double monastery at Wimborne. She joined Boniface in Germany and became Abbess at Tauberbishofsheim. She founded nunneries and was a leading evangelist. She consulted ecclesiastical leaders and was a friend of Hildegard, the wife of Charlemagne. She died on September 28th 782 AD at Schornsheim.

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Pinceppilled

October 2023

Winterfylleð

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. Wilfrid died in 709 or 710 AD.

October 14th 1066 AD Battle of Hastings

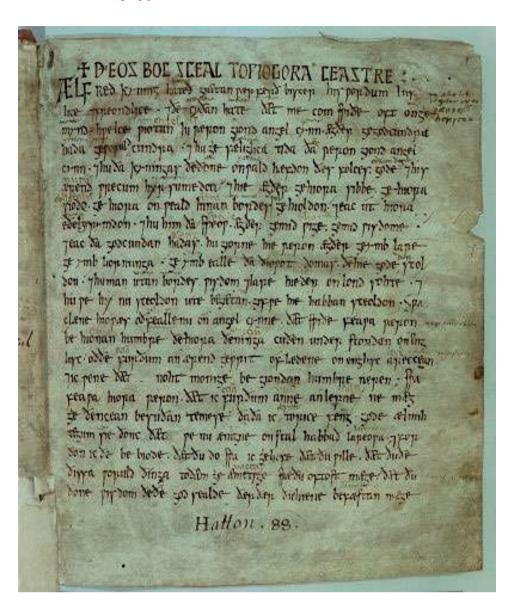
William of Normandy defeated Harold on October 14th 1066 AD at the battle of Hastings which ended the Anglo-Saxon era and started the Norman era.

October 19th Feast Day of St. Friðeswiþe (Frideswide) Friðeswiþe was born in 650 AD and died on October 19th 727 AD. She was a princess and abbess. She founded a double monastery that paved the way for the University of Oxford.

October 26th King Ælfred

Ælfred was born in 848 AD. He became the King of Wessex when his brother Æbelred died in 871 AD. As King of Wessex, Ælfred pushed back the Vikings. He put together systematic military defences. He gathered scholars and developed education, culture, Christianity and an English identity. Probably his most famous translation was of Pope Gregory's Cura Pastoralis from the Latin.

King Ælfred died on October 26th 899 AD in Winchester.



An Old English Translation of Gregory the Great's Cura Pastoralis, Bodleian Library MS Hatton 20

Monday Mōnandæġ	Tuesday Tīwesdæġ	Wednesday Wōdenesdæġ	Thursday Đunresdæġ	Friday Frīġedæġ	Saturday Sæternesdæġ	Sunday Sunnandæġ
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Blormonad November 2023 Blötmönad



Memorable Days

November 15th Death of Penda

King Penda had seized power in Mercia in the 620s when it was a subkingdom of Northumbria and declared it independent which he achieved with West Saxon help. He then defeated his neighbours in turn when each one was weak, making Mercia one of the most powerful kingdoms in England. Then he was finally killed, in the battle of Winwæd, on November 15th 655 AD by the Northumbrians.

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.

November 19th Feast Day of Domne Eafe (Æbbe)

Æbbe was the granddaughter of King Eadbald of Kent. She married King Centwine of Wessex but returned to Kent when he died. The legend says that when her cousin, Ecgberht, was King of Kent he had several of her relatives murdered, including her brothers, Æbelberht and Æbelred. As wergild King Ecgberht offered Æbbe as much land as her pet hind could run around in a single lap which gained Æbbe a large amount of land in Thanet. She founded the Minster in Thanet on this land and the legend is celebrated on the signpost.

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Ánna Geol

December 2023

Ērra Ġēol

Memorable Days

In Dæm Æblæcan Midpintpa

In hæm æblæcan midpintpa, topptiz pind cpide.

Eopde (tod heapd (pa iren, pætep (pa stan;

Snap hætde dpopen, snap on snape, snap on snape,
In hæm æblæcan midpintpa, toplonze.

Upe God, heoren ne mæz hine healdan, ne ret eophe: Pa odrleoh heoren and eophe ha he cymh to picrianne. In hæm æblæcan midpintpa raldræde zenuzde Se Dpyhten God Ælmihtiz, Ierus Cpirt.

The first two verses of In the Bleak Midwinter translated into Old English by David Hinch

December 3rd Death of St. Birinus

St. Birinus was sent by the Pope Honorius I to convert Wessex which he did and became the first Bishop of Dorchester where he died on December 3rd 649 or 650 AD

December 5th Death of Ealhswip

Both of Ealhswip's parents were Mercian nobles. In 868 AD she married Ælfred, when his brother Æþelred was the king of Wessex, to ally Mercia and Wessex against the Danes. Ealhswip founded the convent of St. Mary's Abbey in Winchester. She died on December 5th 902 AD.

December 14th Death of King Aldfrib

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 Northumbrium monasteries were very productive, producing the Lindisfarne gospels and the Codex Amiatinus.

Aldfrib died on December 14th 705 AD.

December 30th Feast Day of St. Egwin

St. Egwin was a Benedictine monk and then went on to be the 3rd Bishop of Worcester. He founded the Abbey of Evesham. He was a protector of orphans and attacked corrupt morals. He died on December 30th 717 AD and was buried in Evesham Abbey.

December 31st Battle of Englefield

By 870 AD the Vikings had captured most of England except for Wessex. Two of the Viking Earls and their men strayed out of Reading which they had recently taken. There they met Ealdorman Æþelwulf and his troop who convincingly defeated them on December 31st 870 AD.

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Christmas Day	Boxing Day	27	20	20	20	2.1
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