

Da Enzlyscan Gesidas

The English Companions



Franks Casket in the British Museum

Photographed by Phyllis Wicks

2026

Calendar

Geymboc



Memorable Days



Monkwearmouth Church Photographed by Jenny Ashby

January 6th Coronation of Harold Godwinson

Harold Godwinson was the son of Earl Godwin of Wessex, one of the most powerful men in England. On January 5th 1066 AD Edward the Confessor, King of England died. The witan chose Harold, Edward's brother-in-law, to be the next king. Harold was crowned king on January 6th in London, possibly at the newly built Westminster Abbey. Duke William of Normandy and King Harald Hardrada of Norway also claimed the English throne. Harold defeated Harald Hardrada at Stamford Bridge but was defeated and killed by William at the Battle of Hastings on October 14th 1066 AD. Harold was England's last Anglo-Saxon king.

January 12th Feast Day of St. Benedict Biscop (St. Baducing)

Benedict Biscop was born in 628 AD, with the name Biscop Baducing, into a noble Northumbrian family. In 652 AD he went to Rome, travelling part of the way with the young Wilfrid. He went to Rome a second time about 664 AD and became a monk at Lérins and took the name Benedict. Then he went to Rome again in 667 AD. While there the Pope appointed Theodore as Archbishop of Canterbury and sent Benedict back to Britain with Theodore. Benedict took up the abbacy of St. Peter and St. Paul while waiting for Hadrian to come and take over. Then Benedict returned to Rome to pick up some books before going back to Northumbria to establish a monastery at Monkwearmouth on lands granted by King Ecgfrīþ around 673 AD. After building the monastery Benedict went back to Rome with Ceolfriþ to collect more books and artwork. They also returned with John, the precentor of St. Peter's in Rome, who came to teach the monks the rules of liturgical chant. The Abbey was a great success and expanded into Jarrow. Bede was Benedict's most famous pupil. Baducing died in 690 AD.

January 19th Feast Day of St. Wulfstan

St. Wulfstan was born in 1008 AD and was consecrated as Bishop of Worcester on September 8th 1062 AD. He was a social reformer for the poor and opponent of the slave trade. He was the only English born bishop to retain his diocese after 1075 AD. With Lanfranc he ended the slave trade in Bristol. Wulfstan died on January 20th 1095 AD.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdaeg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Þunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
			New Year's Day 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	



St. Mary’s in Castro church at Dover Castle

Photographed by David Jones

February 24th King Eadbald of Kent

On February 24th 616 AD King Æðelberht of Kent died and was succeeded by his son, Eadbald. At first Eadbald retained his pagan beliefs but then converted to Christianity. It is thought that Eadbald had St. Mary’s in Castro built next to the Roman lighthouse. Eadbald was not as powerful as his father but he was powerful enough not to be dominated by Edwin of Northumbria. Eadbald died on January 20th 640 AD.

Memorable Days

February 6th Death of King Hlothere of Kent

In 673 or 674 AD King Ecgbert of Kent died and was succeeded by his brother Hlothere, with Eadric, Ecgbert’s son, subking of West Kent. At first all went well but later Eadric resented his subordinate role and, in alliance with Sussex and Mercia, attacked Hlothere. On February 6th 685 AD Hlothere was killed while battling the Sussex army.

February 10th St. Trumwine

St. Trumwine was Bishop of the Picts until they drove him out. Then he was a monk at Whitby. Trumwine died in about 704 AD

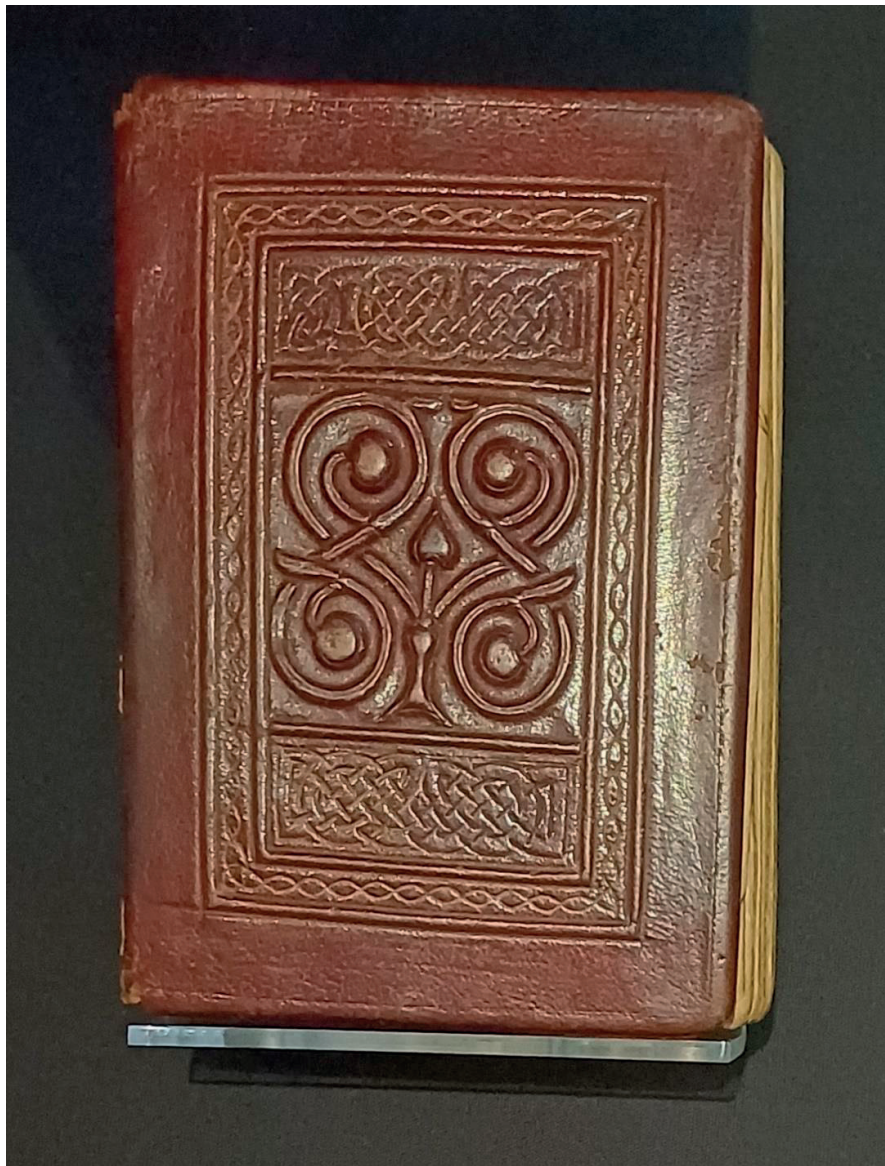
February 12th Feast Day of Æpelwold

Æpelwold was a disciple of St. Cupbert, and originally a monk at Melrose and later the abbot there. Then in 721 AD he was appointed Bishop of Lindisfarne until he died in 740 AD. Æpelwold bound the Lindisfarne Gospels and had them decorated by Billfriþ with gems and silver.

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 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.

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	



St Cuthbert’s Gospel British Library MS 8900 Photographed by Phyllis Wicks

Memorable Days

March 6th Death of Queen Emma
Emma was the daughter of Richard I, Count of Rouen. In 1002 AD King Ælred (Unræd) married Emma to secure Norman support against the Vikings but that did not happen. In 1013 King Swein Forkbeard conquered England and Emma went into exile. She returned after his death in 1014 AD and married Cnut in 1017 AD. When Cnut died in 1035 AD Emma had mixed fortunes as her stepson and then sons became king. She died on March 6th 1052 AD.

March 20th Feast Day of St. Cuthbert
Cuthbert was born about 634 AD and joined the Abbey at Melrose until he was sent with other monks to establish a monastery at Ripon. Later Archbishop Theodore appointed him as Bishop of Lindisfarne. He promoted social justice. He died on March 20th 687 AD on Inner Farne Island, but his body was brought back to Lindisfarne for burial.

March 20th Feast Day of St. Herbert
Herbert was a priest but became a hermit at the request of Cuthbert. He lived on Herbert’s Island in Derwentwater and died on March 20th 687 AD.

March 24th St Hildelip
St. Hildelip was a long serving second 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

April 5th Feast Day of St. Æpelburh (Ethelburga)

Æpelburh was the daughter of King Æpelberht 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, in Kent, where she died around 647 AD.

April 14th King Æpelred (Unræd)

Æpelred was born in 966 AD, the son of King Edgar and Ælfþryþ. He became king in March 978 AD, on the death of his brother Edward the Martyr, and was crowned king on April 14th 979 AD. At first England flourished but he was not able to deal effectively with the Danish attacks. Then in 1013 AD King Sweyn of Denmark invaded England and quickly overthrew Æpelred. Then Sweyn died in the following year. Æpelred made a return promising to do better but he was usually outfought by Cnut, Sweyn's son. Æpelred died on April 23rd 1016 AD.

April 19th Feast Day of St. Alphege (Ælfheah)

Ælfheah was born around 953 AD. He started as a monk at Deerhurst and then Bath where he rose to abbot. Ælfheah was elected bishop of Winchester in 984 AD and became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1006 AD. 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 23rd Death of King Æpelred of Wessex

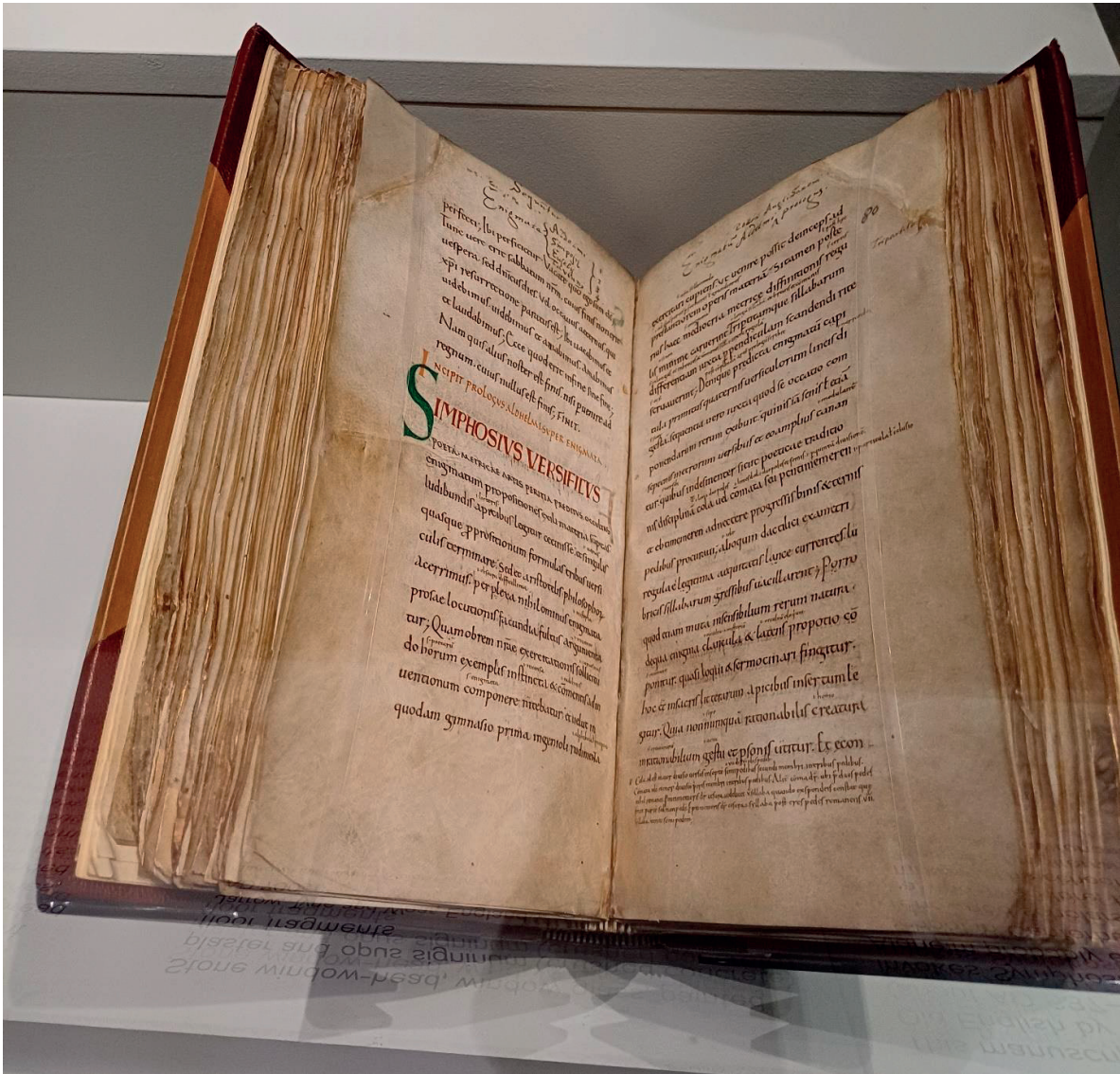
Æpelred was the fourth son of King Æpelwulf of Wessex. In 865 AD he succeeded his older brothers Æpelbald and Æpelberht to become King of Wessex and Kent. Unfortunately, this is the time that the Danes invaded and the other Anglo-Saxon kingdoms quickly fell. Æpelred with his younger brother, Ælfred, had some successes against the Danes but usually lost the battles. Then Æpelred died on April 23rd 871 AD and Ælfred became king.

April 30th Feast Day of 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 of the East Saxons. He helped to reconcile Theodore and Wilfrid and advised King Ine of Wessex on laws. Eorconwald died in 693 AD in Barking Abbey.

St. Alphege's window at Alfriston
Photographed by Jenny Ashby

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Þunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
				Good Friday		
		1	2	3	4	5
Easter Monday						
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			



Aldhelm’s Ænigmata Photographed by Phyllis Wicks

Memorable Days

May 19th Death of St. Ealhwine (Alcuin)
Ealhwine was born in Northumbria in 735 AD. He was a clergyman, poet, scholar and teacher in York. He then joined Charlemagne’s court where he was a teacher and leader in the Carolingian Renaissance. Ealhwine died on May 19th 804 AD in Tours.

May 25th Feast Day of St Aldhelm (Ealdhelm)
Aldhelm was born in Wessex in 639 AD of the royal family. He became a monk at Malmesbury Abbey and also studied under Hadrian, eventually becoming the abbot in 675 AD. The abbey was popular under him and expanded into Frome and Bradford-on-Avon. He introduced the Benedictine rule there. In 705 AD Aldhelm became the first Bishop of Sherborne but, under popular request, continued as abbot at Malmesbury. He wrote some poetry in Old English but was much more prolific in Latin. Ænigmata was a book of riddles in Latin. Aldhelm died on May 25th 709 AD at Frome.

May 26th Feast Day of St. Augustine
In 595 AD Augustine was sent by Pope Gregory the Great to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity. In 597 AD he landed in Kent, where Queen Bertha was a practising Christian. King Æpelberht, Bertha’s husband, allowed them to set up a church based in Canterbury and Augustine became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. He died on May 26th 604 AD.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Ðunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
				1	2	3
Early May Bank Holiday				8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Spring Bank Holiday				29	30	31



St. Martin's Cross, Iona

Photographed by Jenny Ashby

Memorable Days

June 4th Feast Day of St. Eadfrið
St. Eadfrið was born about 677 AD. He became a monk, abbot and then Bishop of Lindisfarne. He transcribed and illuminated the Lindisfarne Gospels. He was a supporter of the Cult of St. Cūþbert and commissioned biographies of the saint about 700 AD. Eadfrið died in 721 or 722 AD

June 5th Feast Day of St. Boniface
Boniface was born as Winfrið in Wessex about 675 AD. He did some missionary work in Germany and then went to Rome. There Pope Gregory II renamed him as Boniface and appointed him as missionary for Germania. He became Archbishop of Mainz. He was known as the apostle of the Germans. He died on June 5th 754 AD in Dokkum, Frisia.

June 8th Death of King Harðacnut
Harðacnut was born in 1018 AD. His father was King Cnut and his mother was Emma of Normandy. When his father died, he succeeded as King of Denmark in 1035 AD, but was embroiled in a war with Magnus I of Norway. Meanwhile his half-brother, Harold Harefoot took over England. Then Harold died and Harðacnut became King of England in 1040 AD. Harðacnut was harsh and unpopular, raising taxation. He died on June 8th 1042 AD in Lambeth.

June 9th Feast Day of St. Columba (Colmcille)
St. Columba was born about 521 AD. He 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 and was buried in Iona. The St. Martin's cross was made in granite around 800 AD, dedicated to St. Martin of Tours.

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
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



Memorable Days

July 29th Death of King Offa of Mercia
After a period of civil war in Mercia, King Offa took the kingdom in 757 AD. He then extended the kingdom and had become king of most of England when he died on July 29th 796 AD. He built his famous dyke on the border with Wales. He issued international currency and corresponded with Charlemagne. His wife, Cyneþryþ, was the only Anglo-Saxon queen to issue her own coinage.

Offa’s Dyke near Evenjobb, Powys
Photographed by Jenny Ashby

July 13th Death of St. Mildþriþ (Mildrid)
Mildþriþ was born the daughter of St. Ermenburga (Domne Eafe) in about 680 AD. She succeeded her mother as Abbess at Minster-in-Thanel and was more popular than St. Augustine. St. Mildþriþ died on July 13th about 734 AD.

July 14th Death of Archbishop Deusdedit
Deusdedit died on July 14th 664 AD. In 655 AD he became the first native-born Anglo-Saxon Archbishop of Canterbury.

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.

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdæg	Wednesday Wōdenesdæg	Thursday Ðunresdæg	Friday Frīgedæg	Saturday Sæternesdæg	Sunday Sunnandæg
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27	28	29	30	31		



Obverse

King Eadgar Penny

On the obverse is written EADGAREX. The Rs in Eadgar and Rex are fused.
On the reverse is written FEORÐRIC, the moneyer, on two lines.
The Ð is written as D with a triangle to the top right.



Reverse

This was sent in by David Mosley from the Airedale Collection

Memorable Days

August 5th Death of St. Oswald

Oswald was born in 604 AD. He was a Northumbrian prince who was banished by his pagan uncle. Later he returned and took back Northumbria. Oswald invited Bishop Aidan to convert Northumbria. Oswald was generous to the poor. He finally died on August 5th 642 AD fighting against Penda of Mercia at the Battle of Maserfield where he prayed for victory.

August 7th Birth of 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. 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.

August 10th The Battle of Maldon

About August 10th 991 AD the Vikings sailed to Maldon and landed on Northey Island. Ealdorman Byrhtnoþ of East Anglia raised a fyrd to confront the Vikings, but was defeated and killed on the day. A heroic poem was written about the battle.

August 12th Death of Jænberht

Jænberht was a monk at St. Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury where he rose to become bishop. He was consecrated as the Archbishop of Canterbury at the court of Offa on February 2nd 765 AD. However, he later opposed Offa's control of the Church and of Kent. Jænberht died on August 12th 792 AD.

Monday
Mōnandæg

Tuesday
Tīwesdæg

Wednesday
Wōdenesdæg

Thursday
Þunresdæg

Friday
Frīgedæg

Saturday
Sæternesdæg

Sunday
Sunnandæg

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Summer
Bank Holiday

31

Memorable Days

September 3rd Feast Day of St. Gregory

Gregory was born in Rome about 540 AD into a family with influence in the state and church. He then turned his family home into a monastery and became a monk before being appointed as a deacon. He became Pope Gregory I (the Great) on September 3rd 590 AD. In 595 AD he sent St. Augustine to Britain to convert the Anglo-Saxons. Gregory died on March 12th 604 AD.

September 16th Feast Day of St. Eadgyð

Eadgyð, the daughter of King Edgar of England was born in Kent about 962 AD. She was brought up in a monastery and lived a simple life with her mother, Wulfþrip, in Wilton. She refused to become a queen or abbess. She helped the poor, tended wild animals and meditated on Christ's passion. She died on September 16th 984 AD.

September 19th Feast Day of St. Theodore

Theodore was born in Tarsus in 602 AD. He came to England to be Archbishop of Canterbury in 668 AD. He helped after a plague and then unified the English Church, which had been divided by the Roman and Celtic traditions. He reorganised the church and set up a school for clergy in Canterbury. He died on September 19th 690 AD.

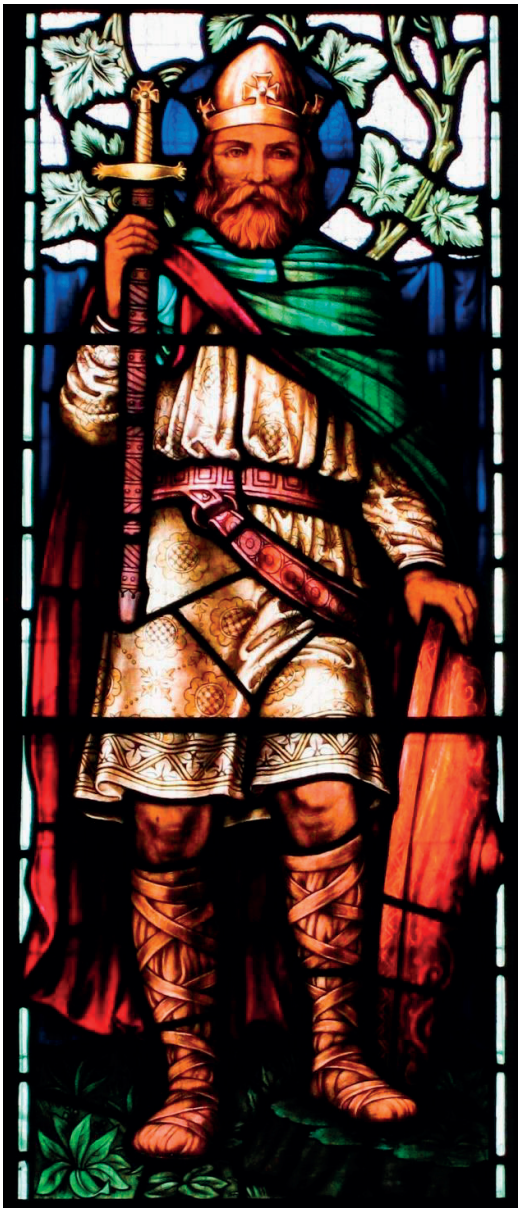
September 28th Landing of Norman Fleet

On September 28th 1066 William of Normandy landed his invasion fleet at Pevensey while Harold Godwinson was up north. He built a fort there and ravaged the land, see the image. Then he moved to Hastings, built a fort and ravaged there.



Bayeux Tapestry Scene 47, Hic Domus Incenditur.
Image on web site of Ulrich Harsh,
public domain

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				



Alfred window@Stoke St. Gregory
Photographed by David Jones

Memorable Days

October 12th Battle of Hatfield (Hæðfeld)
King Edwin had consolidated the kingdom of Northumbria. Then King Cadwallon of Gwynedd and King Penda of Mercia at the battle of Hatfield on October 12th 633 AD defeated the Northumbrians and killed King Edwin. However, in the following year the Northumbrians came back under King Oswald and defeated and killed Cadwallon at the Battle of Heavenfield.

October 18th 1016 AD Battle of Assandun
Earlier King Æpelred (Unræd) and King Sweyn had battled for the kingship of England. When they both died their sons, Cnut and Edmund Ironside continued the struggle. This culminated with a victory for Cnut at Assandun. However, Cnut was still worried about Edmund so they agreed to divide the kingdom between them. This did not last long as Edmund died shortly afterwards.

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

October 26th Death of King Ælfred
Ælfred was born in 848 AD. He became the King of Wessex when his brother Æpelred 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 and was buried in Winchester.

October 27th Death of King Æpelstan
On October 27th 939 AD King Æpelstan died at Gloucester. He was the son of Edward the Elder. He was probably 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 reorganised trade and the currency.

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

November 10th Feast Day of Justus
Justus was sent to Britain in 601 AD by Pope Gregory to support Augustine’s mission. He became the first Bishop of Rochester in 604 AD. When the kings Æpelberht of Kent and Sæberht of Essex died in 616 AD their sons headed a pagan resurgence and Justus left for Frankia. However, Archbishop Laurence of Canterbury converted King Eadbald of Kent and called back Justus. Justus succeeded Laurence as the 4th Archbishop of Canterbury in 624 AD and consecrated St. Paulinus. Justus died on November 10th about 630 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.

November 30th Death of King Edmund Ironside
King Edmund Ironside was the son of King Æpelred (Unræd). He tried to steady the English defence against Cnut and they divided the kingdom. However soon after he died on November 30th 1016 AD.



St. Hild of Whitby at Durham Cathedral
Photographed by Jenny Ashby

Monday Mōnandæg	Tuesday Tīwesdaeg	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

December 3rd Feast Day of St. Birinus

St. Birinus was sent by the Pope Honorius I to convert Northumbria. On his way he found that the West Saxons needed converting so he set his mind to that. Birinus did that and became the first Bishop of Dorchester where he died on December 3rd 649 or 650 AD

December 13th Feast Day of St. Edburga

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

December 14th Feast Day of St. Higeald

St. Higeald was Abbot of Bardney Abbey in Lindsey. He was a friend of St. Chad and followed his example to become a hermit.

December 18th Death of St. Winebald

St Winebald, a West Saxon noble, went to Germany as a missionary and set up an important centre of learning for priests at Heidenheim. He died on December 18th 761 AD.

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 Æpelwulf and his troop who convincingly defeated them on December 31st 870 AD.

Geapa In Cynelicre Dauides Cearfre

Geapa in cynelicre Dauides ceafre

Niðerlic scipen ftoð,

Ʀær lezðe modor hƦa Lȳtlinz

In binne fop hƦs bedde:

MaƦia Ʀæs feo modor milde,

Ierus CƦist hieƦe lȳtle Cild.

The first verse of Once in Royal David's City
translated into Old English by David Hinch

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	Christmas Day 25	Boxing Day 26	27
Bank Holiday 28	29	30	31			