

The Dark Ages

- 408** The Roman field army withdraws
- 410** Irish raids into Wales
- 425** Vortigern becomes High King
- 429** Angles, Saxons and Jutes rid southern England of the Scots and Picts
- c.434** St Patrick captured and taken to Ireland
- 436** The last Roman military forces leaves Britain
- 444** Attila becomes King of the Huns
- 455** The Vandals sack Rome
- c.456** St Patrick's mission to Ireland begins
- 493** Death of St Patrick
- 496** The Battle of Mount Badon
- c.500-544** King Stuf & King Wihtgar rule Wessex
- 563** St Columba brings Christianity to Scotland
- c.585-597** King Ceolric rules Wessex
- c.590** King Aethelric rules Northumbria
- 597** St Augustine is sent by Rome to convert Britain to Christianity, he founds the monastery at Canterbury
- c.600-616** King Saeberct rules East Anglia
- 603** The Scots defeated by the Northumbrians at Degsastan (possibly Liddesdale in the Scottish Borders)
- 613** Northumbrians defeat southern Britons at Chester, a second battle at Bangor results in 1000 monks being massacred by the Northumbrians
- 616** King Aethelberht rules Kent
- 617-633** King Eadwln rules Northumbria
- c.624** A ruler is buried at Sutton Hoo in a boat, it will be the greatest 'find' of this period.
- 627** King Eadwine becomes a Christian
- 638** King Oswald of Northumbria captures Edinburgh
- 626-655** King Wibba rules Mercia
- 635** Lindisfarne Priory is established
- 640** Coldingham Priory is founded
- 642** Oswald, a Christian killed by pagan King of Mercia at Maserfelth (Mackerfield between Wigan and Warrington)
- 653** Monastery at Bradwell on Sea founded
- 655** The pagan Mercians are defeated by Northumbrians at Winwaed (probably Whinmoor, near Leeds)
- c.660** King Aedilwalch rules Sussex
- 664** The British Isles are ravaged by a plague
- 664** The Synod of Whitby adopts Roman Christianity of Celtic
- 672** The Council of Hertford brings order out of chaos in establishing the English church
- 679** After the Battle of Trent Mercians take Lindsey from the Northumbrians
- 682** The Saxons of Sussex converted to Christianity by St Wilfred
- 687** The Isle of Wight converts to Christianity, the last area of Anglo-Saxon England to do so.
- 688-726** King Ine rules Wessex
- 693** King Ine establishes the West Saxon law codes
- c.700** The Lindisfarne Gospels are produced; they are the best of all Anglo-Saxon manuscripts. The Anglo-Saxon epic poem Beowulf was composed around this time; the obly manuscript that preserved this oral tradition was written around 1000 AD.
- 716-757** King Aethalbald rules Mercia and dominates England south of the Humber
- 719** St Wilfred sent by the Pope as a missionary to Germany
- c.720** Stone church built at Glastonbury
- 725** De Temporum Ratione by the Venerable Bede, a Northumbrian monk, establishes the AD system of dating
- 726** King Ine abdicates and goes on pilgrimage to Rome where he dies
- 731** Bede's Ecclesiastical History is finished at Jarrow
- 737-758** King Eadberht rules Northumbria
- 757-796** King Offa rules Mercia He accedes to the titles following the murder of Aethalbald by his bodyguard. He was the first King to issues coins on a significant scale
- 771-814** Charlemagne is Emperor of the Franks
- 774-779 & 789-796** King Aethelred I rules Northumbria
- c.780** King Ecgberht rules Kent
- 784** The building of the 130 mile long Offa's dyke that marks the border of his Kingdom in England and Wales
- 796-821** King Coenwulf rules Mercia
- 800** Charlemagne crowned Holy Roman Emperor