

SAINTS OF ENGLAND'S  
GOLDEN AGE



Compiled by  
Vladimir Moss

CENTER FOR TRADITIONALIST  
ORTHODOX STUDIES

# SAINTS OF ENGLAND'S GOLDEN AGE

A Collection of the Lives of Holy Men  
and Women Who Flourished in  
Orthodox Christian Britain

*Including an English Orthodox Calendar  
and a Service to All Saints of Britain*

Compiled by  
Vladimir Moss, B.A. (Oxon.), Ph.D. (Surrey)



Etna, California 96027

1997

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	I
An English Orthodox Calendar	4
Angles and Angels	27
1. Saint Nectan of Hartland	29
2. Saint Rumon of Tavistock	37
3. Saint Urith of Chittlehampton	43
4. Saints Sidwell and Juthwara	47
5. Saint Brannoc of Braunton	50
6. Holy Archbishops of Canterbury	53
7. Saints Edwin and Enfleda	68
8. Saint Eanswythe of Folkestone	77
9. Saint Oswald of Northumbria	80
10. Saints Paulinus and Ithamar	88
11. Saint Birinus of Dorchester-on-Thames	91
12. Saint Oswin of Deira	93
13. Saint Felix of Dunwich	97
14. Saint Fursey of Burgh Castle and Péronne	98
15. Saint Rumwold of Buckingham	100
16. Saints Ethelred and Ethelbricht	103
17. Saint Ethelwin of Athelney	105
18. Saints Cedd and Diuma	106
19. Saints Chad, Wulfade, and Rufine	108
20. Saints Kyneburga, Kyneswitha, and Tibba	129
21. Saint Hilda of Whitby	131
22. Saints Botolph and Adolph	133
23. Saints Ebba I and Ebba II	135
24. Saints Boisil and Eata	138
25. Saint Theodore of Canterbury	141
26. Saint Adrian of Canterbury	145
27. Saints Earconwald and Ethelburga	147
28. Saint Hybald of Hibaldstow	155
29. Saint Ethilwald of Farne	156

30. Saint Iwi of Lindisfarne and Brittany	158
31. Saints Etheldreda, Sexburga, Ermenhilda, and Huna	159
32. Saint Osyth of Chich	165
33. Saint Werburga of Hanbury	167
34. Saint Hedda of Winchester	171
35. Saint Aldhelm of Sherborne	172
36. Saints Mildburga, Mildred, and Mildgytha	180
37. Saints Egwin and Credan	192
38. Saint Pega of Peakirk	200
39. Saint John of Beverley	202
40. Saints Cuthburga and Coenburga	208
41. Saint Bede of Wearmouth-Jarrow	209
42. Holy Bishops of Lindisfarne	213
43. Saint Frideswide of Oxford	215
44. Saint Withburga of East Dereham	218
45. Saint Wendreda of March	219
46. Saint Cuthman of Steyning	220
47. Saint Ceolwulf of Northumbria and Lindisfarne	222
48. Saints Acca and Alcmund	223
49. Saint Congar of Congresbury	227
50. Saint Decuman of Watchet	229
A Service to All Saints of Britain	231
A Deathbed Prophecy of Saint Edward the Confessor	251
Index of Names	253

## INTRODUCTION

The year 1997 marks a very important anniversary for English-speaking Orthodox Christians. Fourteen hundred years ago, on the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord, King Ethelbert of Kent and over ten thousand of his subjects were Baptized in the River Swale by Archbishop Augustine of Canterbury, the disciple of Pope Gregory I of Rome—commonly known in the West as “the Great” and in the East as “the Dialogist.” Saint Gregory, overjoyed at the news of the Baptism of Saint Ethelbert, wrote to Saint Augustine: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among men; because a grain of wheat, falling into the earth, has died, that it might not reign in Heaven alone; even He by Whose death we live, by Whose weakness we are made strong, by Whose suffering we are rescued from suffering, through Whose love we seek in Britain for brethren whom we knew not, by Whose gift we find those whom without knowing them we sought.”

Today, it is often forgotten what a significant Christian inheritance England has from before the Norman Conquest. Recent excavations in the nave of Canterbury Cathedral have revealed the remains of a tenth-century Cathedral which have astonished archaeologists by their grandeur. This book represents a further excavation into the inheritance of Christian England, being a collection of the lives of the Saints of England’s Golden Age (from a spiritual point of view): the sixth to early eighth centuries.

Some of the Saints in this collection, such as Augustine and Oswald, are relatively well-known to us from the Venerable Bede’s *History of the English Church and People*. Others are less well-known and appear here in a modern English translation for the first time. Not included are those Saints, such as Cuthbert, Wilfrid, Benedict Biscop, Sigfrid, and Ceolfrid, whose complete lives are readily available in good modern translations; those Saints whose main contribution was on the foreign mission field; and the Saints of Cornwall, which during the period covered by this book

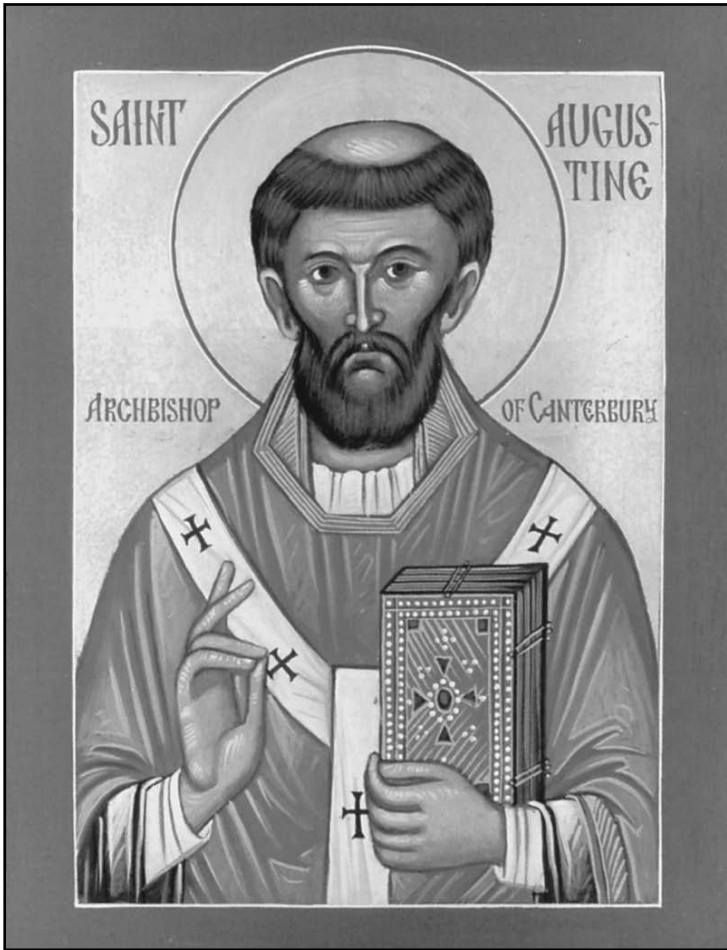
did not enter into any of the English kingdoms. However, the Celtic Saints of Devon who figured on English calendars are included, together with the Saints of Irish, French, and Italian stock who made an impact on the life of the English Church and were venerated in England before the Norman Conquest of 1066.

It is hoped that a closer acquaintance with these Saints will encourage English Christians to return to the sources of the Christian Faith in these islands, to that “sacred deposit” which the Holy Apostles entrusted to our fathers and which, sadly, has been so tarnished and defiled of late. For, as Saint Paul exhorts us, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the Faith; prove your own selves” (II Corinthians 13:5). May the prayers of the Saints of Early England help us to fulfill this commandment, to the glory of God and of His One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church!

*Vladimir Moss*

*16 June 1997 (Old Style)*

*Sunday of All Saints of Britain*



SAINT AUGUSTINE, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,  
APOSTLE TO THE ENGLISH (†604)

*Consecrated by Saint Virgilius of Arles and commissioned by Saint Gregory of Rome, Saint Augustine led a band of forty monks to preach the Holy Gospel to the English. Having Baptized Saint Ethelbert of Kent, he went on to build a Cathedral at Canterbury, the See of his Archbishopric, and to found the Monastery of Saints Peter and Paul.*

