

Early Medieval Britain and Ireland: Temporal and Geographical Orientation

40s AD/CE	Britain becomes a Roman colony. (Does not include Scotland or Ireland.)
313	Edict of Milan: Toleration for Christianity in the Roman Empire.
380	Christianity made official religion of the Roman Empire.
410	Rome sacked by Goths. Rome withdraws legions from Britain.
5th century	Christianity arrives in Ireland via Britain (Patrick and others).
5th-6th centuries	Germanic tribes (Angles, Saxons, Jutes) invade and settle in Britain, establishing kingdoms (Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Sussex, Wessex, Kent) which together make up England.
563	St. Columba, an Irish monk, founds a monastery on Iona off the west coast of Scotland. (NB: "Scotti" are the Irish in Ireland and also the inhabitants of SW Scotland.)
597	Pope Gregory I sends missionaries (St. Augustine et al.) to convert the Anglo-Saxons. Missions to the various kingdoms continue through the 7th century.
635	St. Aidan of Iona goes as a missionary to Northumbria and founds Lindisfarne, off the east coast of England near what is now the Scottish border.
674-685	Twin monasteries of Wearmouth and Jarrow founded on the Roman model. These are about 60 miles south of Lindisfarne and today are just outside Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The Venerable Bede (672-735) spent his life from boyhood at Wearmouth-Jarrow.
ca. 698-716	St. Cuthbert Gospel, Codex Amiatinus written at Wearmouth-Jarrow; Lindisfarne Gospels written at Lindisfarne.
8th century	"The Northumbrian Golden Age," centered around Lindisfarne, Wearmouth-Jarrow, and the school of York.
782	Alcuin, teacher at York, moves to Charlemagne's court, bringing Northumbrian learning to the Carolingians.
783	Lindisfarne sacked by Vikings.
ca. 800	Book of Kells written at Iona.
871-899	Reign of Alfred the Great of Wessex, who unifies those parts of England not under Viking rule and establishes a program of translation and instruction in English literacy.
970s-1010s	Last revival of learning in Pre-Conquest England. Scholarship in Latin and Old English. Almost all our surviving MSS of Old English poetry are from this period.
1066	Norman Conquest