

THE FASCINATING HISTORY THEY DIDN'T TELL US AT SCHOOL

Part 2: From Christ to 1000 AD

Compiled by Francis Nigel Lee

DATE EVENTS, PERSONS, PEOPLES AND PARTICULARS

- 2AD. Wise men (Irish Bible says they were 'Druids') visit the infant Jesus from faraway lands.
- 15..... Christ, the living Law, grows to maturity (Hebrews 10:7-16, cf Luke 2:40-52 etc).
- 33..... Judah: death and resurrection and Great Commission of Christ (Matt 28:19, Acts 1:8).
- 34f.... Christians flee Judah as "strangers" (Acts 8:1, cf James 1:1 & 1 Peter 1:1) - some becoming 'Culdees' in Britain?
- 35f.... Britain: first reached by Hebrew-Christian missionaries? (cf Isa 49:1-12 & Acts 11:19).
- 36..... Ireland: alleged to have been visited and somewhat evangelised by the apostle James.
- 37f.... Britain: recorded to have heard Gospel from Joseph of Arimathea especially in Avalon or Ynys Witrin (Glastonbury).
- 39f.... Britain: first members of Royal Family converted? (Bran, Pomponia-Gladys, Claudia, cf 2 Tim 4:21?).
- 40f.... Britain: Druids (thus Suetonius), perhaps long influenced by pre-Christian British synagogues, now hear of Jesus.
- 43..... Roman Emperor, Caesar Claudius, invades southeast Britain (cf Acts 11:28 & 18:2).
- 44f.... Apostle Simon Zelotes (twice), and Paul & Peter (once), all reputed to have evangelised in Britain.
- 50..... British Druids patriotically resist pagan Roman invasion - and see Christianity as an anti-Roman ally?
- 52..... Caradoc's British royal family, some already Christians, exiled by Romans to Rome till 59 AD (Tacitus).
- 53..... The Gospel, having reached Galatia (Gal 1:1), possibly preached by Celts from Galatia in Celtic Britain (Lightfoot).
- 54..... Britain: King Arvirag succeeded by his son, Meric, who sets up a monument in West-mor-land (named after Meric).
- 54f.... Italy: Gospel first(?) reaches Rome, the centre of world paganism (Rom 1:7; 15:23f; 16:3f; Acts 2:10?).
- 55..... Italy: conversion of rest of British royal hostages (Caradoc etc) - thus *Welsh Triads*
- 59..... Caradoc's Christian British royal family returns to Britain with Romans 16:10's Aristobulus, alias Arwysti (*Welsh Triads*).
- 60..... Some "Scyt-hians" (= Scot-s before migrating to Britain?) already christianised - Col 3:10, cf 1 Cor 14:21.
- 61..... Paulinus Suetonius in Britain - his pagan Romans destroy Druid *cor* in Mon, alias the Welsh island of Anglesey (Tacitus).

- 62.....Pagan Romans rule southeastern Britain after defeating the British Queen Vuddig, alias Boadicea (Tacitus).
- 62f....Britain: many Druid priests become Christians (cf Acts 6:7), turning their *cors* into church seminaries.
- 63.....Ireland: priorly reached by the apostle James, visited by the British Christian Caradoc (ancient traditions).
- 64.....Rome: pagan Romans kill apostle Paul - after he had visited Britain? (Acts 13:47, cf Col 1:6 etc).
- 64f....Rome oppressed by Caesar Nero and his immediate successors, AD 64 to 70, cf Rev ch 17 etc (Tacitus).
- 66f....Pagan Rome annexes the conquered area of southeast Britain (Josephus' Wars 6:6:2).
- 70.....Jerusalem demolished by Roman General Titus and his pagan armies - Matt ch 24, cf Rev ch 11 (and secular sources).
- 77.....Pagan Romans conquer the Britons in Wales (except in Pembrokeshire and in Caernarvonshire).
- 78.....Roman power consolidated throughout south Britain, except Devon & Cornwall, Agricola (Tacitus).
- 83.....North Britain: Romans beat off the freedom-loving Caledonian Kellogg or Gwallog, alias Galgacus Gald (Tacitus).
- 85.....The Caledonian Gald defeats the Roman Agricola's successor, Cneus Trebellius (Hector Boece).
- 93.....Britain: Cornwall, western Wales, parts of Cumbria and all Caledonia stay free from pagan Rome.
- 93f....Josephus (*Antiquities* 12:4:10 & 13:5:8) assumes an earlier kinship between Hebrews and Greeks (cf too at 60f BC).
- 94f....Rome: Clement (1 Cor ch 5, cf Phil 4:3) implies Paul was in Britain before 64 AD.
- 96.....British Christian missionary Beat(us), founder of the Swiss church, martyred at Untersieben.
- 98.....Roman Tacitus: Briton Pomponia (or Gladys), while in Britain, was apparently christianised even before about 49 AD.
- 98f....Tacitus writes on Britons and Anglo-Saxons and their laws (see his *Annals*, his *Agricola*, and his *Germania*).
- 100f....The Roman Suetonius writes about the 37-41 AD Britons, their culture and their religion.
- 102f....The Roman Pliny in his *Natural History* mentions Britain and her educated Druids.
- 110.....Irish Christian missionary Mansuet(us) baptised in Britain and later martyred in Illyria (Yugoslavia).
- 114.....Cumbrian Westmorland: birth of Meric's son, Coill (= King Cole?).
- 119.....South Britain forcibly incorporated into pagan Roman Empire (but, by treaty, non-statist British Common Law remaining!).
- 123f....Pagan Roman Emperor Hadrian builds Wall from Solway to Tyne (ineffectively) segregating Free Britain from south Britain.
- 125.....Saxons (= westbound Sakka?) from Eurasia, now in Denmark-Germany in western Europe.
- 127.....British Christian missionary Marcel(lus) works in Belgium and Germany
- 139.....Pagan Emperor Antonius sends Lollius Urbicus to Britain to subdue the tribes which broke through Hadrian's Wall.
- 140.....Rev Timotheus, son of British Christian Claudia (2 Tim 4:21), baptises British King Coill's son Prince Llew (Lucius).
- 156.....British King Llew (Lucius) proclaims Christianity the national religion of Britain (thus Bede).

- 160f.... British Christian missionaries strengthen the churches of Gaul in France.
- 170..... British Christian missionary Cadwal founds the church of Tarento in Italy.
- 175..... Irish Prince Cormac converted to Christianity.
- 179..... British Christian King Lleu (Lucius) established first church in Lundain (st Peter's Cornhill, London).
- 180..... Pagan Roman Emperor Commodus has trouble with the Britons.
- 182..... The Wall breached by Scots, and Marcellus Ulpian sent from Rome to restore Roman rule over southern Britons.
- 190..... Tertullian (*Against the Jews* 8 & *Apology* 37): Extra-Roman "regions of Britain... have received the religion of Christ."
- 203..... Caledonian King Donald converted to Christianity (Hector Boece); "Scots began to embrace the Christian Faith" (Fordun).
- 215..... Already three chief centres of British Christianity: London, York & Caerleon.
- 220f.... Heretic Sabellius: "first nation that ... called itself Christian ... was Britain" (note well!).
- 230..... Egypt's Origen (*Hom VI in Luke*): "the goodness of the Saviour is ... among the Britons."
- 230f.... Sporadic spread of Christianity in Scotland during the reigns of Ethod II, Athirco, Natholoc and Findoc.
- 235..... Hippolytus: Paul's Romans 16:10 associate, Aristobulus, visited Britain (around 58 AD).
- 250..... East European Goths push Saxons deeper into western Europe.
- 286..... Alban, the first British king to be martyred in Britain (during the persecution there at the hands of pagan Romans).
- 287..... British Admiral Carawn (Carausius) anointed as King over Britain and northwestern Europe.
- 288f.... Aaron and Julius of Caerleon, British Christians, martyred for their faith (by the pagan Romans).
- 290f.... Nine bishops and more than 10,000 communicants killed in Britain during the pagan Caesar Diocletian's persecutions.
- 295..... Roman Christian Pancras killed in Britain during Roman Diocletian's last, 290-303 AD, persecutions against Christianity
- 296..... Cestynn Chlorus, husband of Christian Princess Helena and father of Constantine, restores order in Britain.
- 300..... Dorotheus: "Aristobulus ... made bishop in Britain," where he (and Simon Zelotes) are said to be buried.
- 301f.... Iro-Scottish King Crathlint's appointment of circuit judges and his making of peace with the Picts.
- 310..... British Prince Constantine, son of Cestynnyn and Princess Helena, becomes Caesar of the Roman Empire. (thus Schaff).
- 313..... Constantine becomes a Christian and (as the first Christian Caesar of the Roman Empire) ends the persecutions.
- 314..... Christian Constantine convenes Trinitarian Church Council at Arles in Gaul (attended by 3 British out of 33 bishops).
- 320..... Eusebius (*Demonstratio Evangelica*): "Peter" and "the apostles" went "to the Isles called the Britannic."
- 321..... British Emperor Constantine makes Christianity the preferred religion throughout the Roman Empire.
- 325..... Council of Nicaea: Athanasius, teacher of Hilary condemns Arius
- 330f.... Constant battles in Westmorland between the Scots and the retreating Romans.
- 337..... Constantine dies, and is allegedly buried in Britain near Caernarvonin, Wales

- 347.....Athanasius says British bishops supported him versus Arianism at Council of Sardica upholding the Trinity.
- 350.....Ninian (alias Ringan), later missionary to Scotland, born in Cumbria of Christian parents.
- 353.....Non-Roman Trinitarian Hilary teaches Martin of Tours (later mentor of Ninian) in the Celtic Church.
- 360.....Several British bishops attend Council of Ariminum summoned by Constantius.
- 362.....Hilary says: "Bishops of... Britain" remained free "from... the detestable heresy" of Arianism.
- 366.....Athanasius, in his letter to Emperor Jovian, says Britons were loyal to Christianity.
- 369.....Ruill, alias St Rule (Regulus), arrives in Scotland with relics of the apostle St Andrew.
- 370.....Biblical Briton Padraig's uncle Martin of Tours establishes Celtic churches in Kentish Canterbury.
- 375.....Celtic church's Martin of Tours teaches Ninian of Cumbria.
- 378.....Jerome: "Britain... resound(s) with the death and resurrection of Christ."
- 380.....Christian Emperor Theodosius I makes Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire.
- 385.....Welsh theologian Morgan (before later becoming the heretic Pelagius) claims Paul himself had started Morgan's abbey.
- 390.....Cumbria: Padraig born (his father being a deacon and his grandfather being a presbyter).
- 395.....Arnobius (about Christ): "His Word is concealed neither... in the East nor from the Britons."
- 396.....Death of Martin of Tours, mentor of Ninian of Cumbria.
- 397.....British missionary Ninian takes Gospel to northern Strathclyde, alias southwest Caledonia, in Free Britain.
- 398.....Roman withdrawal from southern Britain in order to protect Rome itself against pagan attacks from the north.
- 400f....Cornwall and Wales pour Christian missionaries throughout Britain and even into Europe.
- 402.....Chrysotom: "British Isles have received... the Word" and "everywhere" discuss it.
- 408.....Augustine of Hippo: "How many churches are there not, erected in the British Isles?"!
- 410.....Christian Britons colonise and christianise Brittany (Armorica) in later France.
- 420.....Heretic Pelagius, now living in Rome, abandons orthodox British church which had repudiated him.
- 421.....British missionary Pallad(ius) evangelises in Ireland, before later apostasising into Romanism.
- 422.....Irish Christians Sodal(ius) and Celest(ius) oppose Pelagianism, before Celest apostasises into it.
- 425f....Iro-Scots in western Scotland and Picts in northern Scotland co-operate in joint enterprises.
- 432.....Padraig the Briton converts many Irishmen to Christianity, including the King and many Druids.
- 435.....Europe's bishop Theodoret: "Paul brought salvation to the Isles;" "preached" there; and "persuaded... the Britons."
- 438.....Europe's Emperor Theodosius II publishes his Christian-Roman Law Code for his Roman Empire.
- 439.....Celtic Christian Garman leads hymn-singing Britons in their 'Hallelujah' victory against pagan invaders.

- 440.....Anglo-Saxon political "Representative Government by Elders" in Germany (ever since at least 98 AD - Tacitus).
- 445.....Briton Vortigern imports Saxons to help defend southern Britain against the pagan Picts.
- 448f....Garman (and his disciple Illtud) preach in Britain to pagan Saxons.
- 450.....British missionaries Keby and Peiran and Fastid(ius) evangelise and resist pagan Saxons.
- 451f....Council of Chalcedon in the east, and sack of Rome in the west (by the Vandals).
- 455.....Briton Maelgwyn of Llandaff says Joseph of Arimathea died in Somerset's Avalon or Ynys Witrin (Glastonbury).
- 460.....Briton Illtud in Wales teaches his famous British disciples Dewi, Gildas, Samson of Dol, and Pol of Leon.
- 475.....Dewi (St David), Maelgwyn's nephew, builds Glastonbury cathedral over the original church of Joseph of Arimathea.
- 480f....Emrys Erryll (Ambrose Aurelianus), Constantine's grandson, resists Anglo-Saxons and rules the British Cotswolds.
- 500f....Bridget's Iro-Scots take Christianity to Dalraida, alias western Scotland.
- 514.....Cumbrian Kentigern (alias Mungo), a disciple of Servan, becomes British Christian missionary in Caledonia.
- 516.....Christian Arthur Pendragon, nephew of St David, is last British King who defeats pagan Saxons.
- 525.....All Ireland now christianised: by Padraig's successors Finian and Comgall.
- 528.....Christian Emperor Justinian I further christianises Roman Law (producing the *Codex Justinianus*).
- 540.....Emrys II (Ambrose Telesina), British presbyter, condemns the "Romish wolves" threatening the Britons' church.
- 545.....Christian Britons strong in West Country, from Devon through Wales to Cumber-land, alias Cumbria.
- 546f....Picts christianised by Columba and Mungo (Kentigern).
- 550f....Emergence of Saxons' legal systems (of Ono and Mercia) in "Angle-land."
- 560f....Irishman Brendan's voyages across the Atlantic to America, leaving traces of Christianity among Algonquin Indians.
- 563f....Irish Christian Calumcille (Columba) takes Gospel to Iona in Hebrides ("Hebrew-ides"?).
- 569f....Scottish King Aidan trained by Columba to be a Christian ruler.
- 570f....Columba visits Brude, King of the Picts, and converts him to Christianity.
- 575.....Ulster: Council of Drumceat attended by Irish King Aedh MacAinmore, Aidan King of Dalraida, and Columba of Iona.
- 575f....Rise of Papacy in Italy, till Roman bishop Gregory posthumously proclaimed the first "Pope," alias 'Universal Father.'
- 577.....Battle of Deorham: Saxons defeat Britons, separating Cambrian west Welsh from the south Welsh (in Devon & Cornwall).
- 580.....Wales: Moderator Dionoth presides over thousands of anti-Romish Celtic Christians headquartered at Bangor.
- 588.....From Europe, anti-British missionary, Columbanus visits his fellow-Irishman Columba in Iona.
- 595.....Ireland: Christians attacked by marauding pagan Vikings from Scandinavia.
- 596.....First "Pope" sends Romish Au(gu)stin from Italy to Romanise pagan Anglo-Jutes in Kent.

- 598f.... Synod of Celtic British church tells Austin it repudiates the bishop of Rome and his new "Papacy."
- 600.... Jerusalem: Venatius says Paul evangelised "the Britons" and *Ultima Thule* (thus founding the British church).
- 601f.... British Church Council at Synod of Chester condemns "haughty... Romans."
- 606f.... Scots-Irish church opposes Roman Catholicism in Britain.
- 607.... At Austin's Oak, British churches tell Austin: "We know of none that... you term Pope!"
- 610f.... Wales: Moderator Dionoth and Prince Cadvan tell Austin they repudiate Rome and her Papacy.
- 613.... Chester: pagan Saxon Northumbrians defeat Britons, separating north Welsh (Cumbrians) from west Welsh (Cambrians).
- 615f.... First Christian laws of Kent's Jutish King Ethelbert and his Gallic Queen Bertha.
- 616.... Oswald, Saxon King of Northumbria, embraces Christianity from British missionary Aidan of Iona.
- 618.... "Not Austin but Aidan is the true apostle of England" (J B Lightfoot).
- 620.... Celtic British churchman Aidan was full of the "Scriptures" and of "Psalms" - said the 700f AD Bede.
- 620f.... Pictavia in northeastern Scotland begins to embrace Romanism.
- 622f.... Dramatic rise of Mohammed and spread of Islam - in judgment against a corrupt Mediterranean church.
- 625.... Austin's Romish successor Laurentius complains that anti-Romish "Scotch bishops are worse even than the British!"
- 635.... Oswald becomes King of Bernicia in Northumberland, and Aidan goes to Lindisfarne.
- 640.... Islam unwittingly promoted - by Romanism's suppression of vernacular Bible, and by her adoption of images.
- 650.... British churches appeal to Scripture alone, and to "extra-Roman Canon 11 of the AD 381 Council of Constantinople.
- 660.... England: current church planters among Anglo-Saxons are not Romanists but Briton-trained Christians.
- 661.... Anti-Romish Celtic missionary Finan dies after baptising kings of east Saxons and Mercians.
- 664.... British Synod of Whitby co-ordinates Celtic and Saxon churches (but, alas, on non-Celtic and Romanising basis).
- 665.... Plague (possibly typhus or smallpox) - God's curse upon the religious compromise at Whitby? - carries off many people.
- 666.... Britons unscathed; England Romanised only in Kent; but western Europe kisses the Pope's toe (cf Rev 13:11-18).
- 667.... Briton Chad, bishop of Northumbria, appoints bishop of the Saxons in Mercia.
- 670.... Romanisers start pushing anti-Papal Britons back, yet never eclipse their 'proto-Protestant' church.
- 675.... British King Cadwallader protects all Christians fleeing from those Saxons who were still pagans (*Welsh Triads*).
- 675f.... Even in slowly Romanising English church, papal claims are resisted (unlike rest of western Europe).
- 680.... British missionaries Willibrord, Boniface and Ansar win many Germans, western Europeans and Scandinavians for Christ.
- 688.... Wessex King Ina (Ivor): Glastonbury "is the city... and origin of Christ's religion in Britain" from 60f onward.
- 690.... No kingdoms in British Isles still prevailingly heathen; even Angle-land is now Christian (Churchill).

- 700f.... England: even Romish historian Bede admits Britain was christianised in 156f AD under British King Llew.
- 700f.... "Britons" received Christianity in 156 AD, and "are... enemies to the Roman... Mass" (thus Romish Anglo-Saxon Bede).
- 705..... West-Saxon Romish Synod of Aldhelm says Britons are "outside of the Catholic Church" of Rome.
- 720..... Founding of St Andrews University in Scotland.
- 720f.... Christian Saxon King of Mercia erects "Offa's Dyke" as a defence boundary.
- 793..... Pagan Norsemen invade Northumbria and slaughter Christians on Lindisfarne.
- 794..... Iona and many other Christian islands in Scotland and Ireland plundered by pagan Vikings.
- 800..... English Christian Alcuin trains the Frankish Charlemagne who enacts Romish-Christian laws.
- 803..... Ninian's Christian Whithorn in Scotland attacked by pagan Vikings.
- 814..... Charlemagne unites western Europe - excluding Britain! - as the "Holy Roman Empire" under Romish rule.
- 825..... Iceland evangelised, not by Romanists, but by British proto-Protestant missionaries from Ireland.
- 826..... British church historian Nenni(us) active in southeast Wales.
- 830f.... America: Irish missionaries from Iceland reputed to have reached Canada and New England.
- 850..... Wales: 510f BC Laws of Moelmud still preserved, and now translated for Christian Anglo-Saxon King Alfred of Wessex.
- 860..... Scandinavians invade Celtic Christian Iceland (and themselves encounter non-Roman Irish Christianity).
- 880..... Christian Saxon "Good King Alfred" codifies Mosaic and Moelmud's Laws as "Common Law" in his 'Dooms'.
- 890..... Alfred wins pagan Dane Guthrum for Christianity and signs international Christian peace treaty with him.
- 900f.... Anglo-British Christian-Saxon Laws of King Ethelred (= Anglo-British Common Law).
- 925..... Christian King Athelstan consolidates Anglo-Saxons, and makes Treaty with five British kings.
- 930f.... British Christian Laws of Welsh King Hywel Dda the Good (allied to Athelstan), updates Laws of Moelmud.
- 950f.... Romish Ecclesiastical Canon Law received in Europe, but resisted in Anglo-Britain.
- 960f.... Saxon King Edgar: Glastonbury is "the first church in the kingdom" and was "built by the disciples" known to Jesus.
- 965f.... English King Edgar resists papal Legate Dunstan's claims - that the Pope should control Britain!
- 970..... Iceland: the whole nation votes in favour of accepting Christianity as the national religion.
- 985..... Greenland discovered and settled by Christian Icelanders.
- 1000..... Markland and Vinland (= North America) visited (and settled?) by Christian Icelanders.

(To be concluded)

God, the great Creator of all things, doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, according to his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will ...

[Westminster Confession 5:1]