

A History of The English Church and People
by the Venerable Bede

Leaving Home

- ❖ 7 yrs old taken by his parents to monastery @ Wearmouth (northeast of Britian)
- ❖ left in care of the abbot Benedict Biscop
- ❖ 9 yrs old moved to a new monastery @ Jarrow
- ❖ spent rest of life 2 Jarrow

A Devout Child

- ❖ naturally devout & studious child
- ❖ read widely in monastery libraries
- ❖ studied Latin & little Greek
- ❖ participated fully in religious life of monastery
- ❖ exposed to art & learning of Europe through paintings, books, religious objects brought from Rome by Abbot Benedict
- ❖ 19 yrs old became deacon of the church → 6 yrs earlier than normal
- ❖ 30 yrs old ordained as a priest

A Gifted Scholar

- ❖ brilliant scholar & gifted writer and teacher
- ❖ wrote about 40 books → spelling, grammar, science, history & religion
- ❖ popularized dating of events from the birth of Christ = B.C & A.D. → system still used today
- ❖ invented the foot note

Lasting Reputation

- ❖ reputation as scholar & devout monk spread throughout Europe
- ❖ influenced by the outlook of his time
- ❖ carefulness & integrity still respected today

Historical Background → Christian Challenge

- ❖ *A History of the English Church and People*
 - ⇒ major source of info about life in Britain from 1st successful Roman invasion about A.D. 46 to A.D. 731
 - ⇒ Bede careful & thorough historian for his time
 - ⇒ sought out original documents & reliable witness accounts to base writing
 - ⇒ filled w/stories of the spread of Christianity among English between A.D. 597-731
 - ⇒ Christianity introduced during Roman occupation & flourished
- ❖ late 6th century Christianity abandoned in many areas
 - ⇒ Anglo-Saxons pagans & brought religion w/them when invaded Britain around A.D. 450
- ❖ Roman missionaries arrived in A.D. 597
 - ⇒ persuaded Anglo-Saxons reject pagan beliefs
 - Accept challenge of Christian faith