

St Augustine (of Canterbury)

Augustine was sent by Pope Gregory the Great, much against his own inclinations, as a missionary bishop to the land of the Angles (England). Accompanied by 40 followers, he eventually arrived in Kent in 597. He established a church in Canterbury under the protection of King Ethelbert of Kent, who along with many of his people converted to Christianity.

Augustine was made Archbishop of the English and he later founded the bishoprics of London (believed by many historians to have been the intended archiepiscopal see, or the official seat of the archbishop) and Rochester. He was never accepted as archbishop by Christian communities in the south-west or Wales. He died at Canterbury c.605.



- 1 Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- 2 Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
What makes you frightened?
What made Augustine pleased he had come to England?
Have you ever been to a Baptism?

The Story of St Augustine



Pope Gregory sent Augustine to England because the people there had forgotten the stories about Jesus. Augustine did not want to go to England as he had heard some frightening stories about the people there.



When he arrived with his group of Monks he found friends, as the Queen Bertha was a Christian. Augustine was able to teach her husband King Ethelbert about Jesus and later the King was baptised.



The Christian faith began to spread throughout England and Canterbury became an important centre for Christianity and it still is today.

This is Canterbury Cathedral today.