



## Teachers' notes for Lesson 6

Lesson 6 is a PowerPoint presentation, including a story video, which aims to encourage pupils to develop an understanding of how Christianity came to the Kingdom of Northumbria 1,400 years ago. It directly builds on learning in Lesson 5.

The PowerPoint presentation will guide you, and your pupils, through the lesson (there is also a Keynote version for Mac).

### You will need to provide:

- An interactive whiteboard, or a computer to show the PowerPoint

### The resource:

#### 1. The PowerPoint

The PowerPoint poses the question “How did Christianity come to the kingdom?”.

It introduces pupils to Anglo-Saxon life at the royal court through the following 15 slides:

- Slide 2: an introduction to the lesson.
- Slide 3: a story video (5:48 mins). Storyteller Elizabeth Baker tells the story of how St Aidan came to the Kingdom of Northumbria.
- Slide 4: introducing “What did we learn from the story”, which will take place over slides 5 - 8.
- Slide 5: a map of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria. Click **once** for the arrow to show where Aidan travelled from (Iona) and to (Bamburgh).

### Suggested discussion points:

You might discuss with pupils how Aidan travelled and how long it might take for him to reach the royal court. Look on a modern map to identify mountains, terrain, etc.

Find Ireland on the map, which is where Aidan originally came from, and consider the journeys the monks from Ireland made when they travelled to establish a monastery on Iona. They would have sailed in fairly simple wooden boats.

Think about the importance Aidan and the monks of Iona placed on spreading Christianity - why they made such long and perilous journeys.

- Slide 6: recap on Aidan building a church at Bamburgh.



- Slide 7: recap on Aidan establishing a monastery on Lindisfarne.

Suggested discussion points:

Have pupils been to Lindisfarne? Did they drive across the causeway? The road is very new in terms of the history of the island (it was built c1950s). Originally people walked across the sand.

Show pictures of Lindisfarne: the island and the Pilgrims' Causeway (nb. remember this is different to the motor causeway and is marked with a series of wooden poles). The Pilgrims' Causeway is the original walking route across to the island.

Think about how long, and difficult, the journey across the sand would be. The following website may provide useful images and information:

<https://www.northumberlandcoastalb.org/pilgrims-way/>

You can also find videos of the causeway on YouTube.

Encourage pupils to consider why the island provided some solitary sanctuary for the monks (tide cutting it off from the mainland twice a day) and the importance of space to pray.

- Slides 8: recap on Oswald acting as a translator for Aidan when he first came to the royal court.

Suggested discussion points:

Can pupils imagine a king or queen being a translator for someone today?

What does it tell us about Oswald's character?

What does it tell us about Oswald's desire for his people to become Christian?

- Slide 9: more information about the lives of St Oswald and St Aidan, particularly a story about Oswald giving food and a silver plate to the poor one Easter. The image on this slide is a still from an automaton of the story in St Aidan's Church. You could show pupils the video of the automaton on the Bamburgh Bones website.
- Slide 10: Aidan spreading Christianity across the kingdom and establishing more monasteries. You could find out more about St Hild (see extension activities for more information on the northern saints).
- Slides 11, 12 and 13: the life of St Aidan and his importance as a northern saint. You might want to consider what can be learned from the life of St Aidan - particularly his care for others and his desire to lead a simple lives. Look at ways Christians continue to help people today (eg. Christian Aid, CAFOD, etc)
- Slide 14: an image of St Aidan's Church today, which stands on the site of the original church. Click **once** for arrow pointing to the beam reputed to be the one Aidan leant



against when he died (it is now part of the roof of the church).

- Slide 15: back to the Bowl Hole skeletons. Can pupils remember which skeleton was from the Hebrides? (Oferbraedan)

If this man did travel with Aidan, who might he have been? He wasn't a monk, so could he have been a lay brother? Lay brothers worked at monasteries but were not monks. Perhaps he was sent to accompany Aidan to ensure safe passage from Iona to Bamburgh?

### **Suggested follow on activities:**

- Pupils might write the story of the Hebridean man using the illustrations of the seven skeletons (see extension activities).
- Find out more about Aidan's life.
- Use the map of Northumbria to identify other sites linked to the northern saints and research some of them.
- Find out more about the life, and work, of the monk and historian St Bede. Without him we would not know all that we do about St Aidan and St Oswald.
- Extend learning to find out about St Cuthbert, who had a vision of Aidan dying which led him to become a monk. He went on to take charge of the monastery on Lindisfarne and also lived as a hermit on Inner Farne.