



These are pictures of Lindisfarne Priory off the Northumberland Coast and St Peter Ad Muram at Bradwell on Sea, Essex. A journey in Christ and simple faith.

Why is it worth sharing with you all today? Because they mark the beginning and end of a journey that began around 620 AD when a young man called Cedd was born on the island and became a monk under Aidan who was the bishop at the time. In time he rose to prominence and was sent out as a missionary to the East Saxons which is when he founded the church at Ithancester or Bradwell on Sea as we know it in 654AD.

As we go about our daily lives now, concerned for those we love and care for, especially in this moment where the Covid19 virus is wreaking havoc around the globe as an additional and unlooked-for trial we have to endure, we should consider the normal lives of those in Cedd's time when there was no guarantee of food or security for most people. There were still bands of marauding Danes and Vikings from Europe who could appear and destroy villages and lives for no reason other than they could. And plagues were all too common an occurrence. Still in such times, which we would find it impossible to conceive what folk would have to endure, they accepted the message of Christ that Cedd brought to them and the strength of that faith enabled them to deal with the hardships and privations of the age.

Let us renew a simple faith for these times to take us through this present time of trial.

May joy and peace surround you, contentment latch your door. And happiness be with you now and bless you evermore. May your troubles be less and your blessing be more. And, nothing but happiness, come through your door.

In this time of difficulty, when we want to embrace the emerging spring season coming and to walk with wonder in the world God created and seek peace and fulfilment with our families, and friends, the dire presence of the invisible pandemic seems to be a challenge without end.

Like those simple folk in the time when St Cedd brought Christianity to the East Saxons, we should try to find peace and comfort in our faith knowing that Christ is with us and God's Love will see us to a new day when we can all continue on with our lives .

To assist in finding that place of peace with our Lord, think upon the words of that lovely hymn, Be Still for the Presence of the Lord, and know that that he will aid and protect us as we request in the days to come.

Be still for the presence of the Lord, The Holy One is here
Come bow before Him now, With reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found, We stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy One is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord, Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire, With splendor He is crowned
How awesome is the sight, Our radiant King of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

Be still for the power of the Lord, Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal, To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

Take heart from St Paul's prayer for us all in his letter to the Romans Chapter 19 verse 13

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

And may the Lord bless us and keep us, may the Lord let his countenance shine upon us, and may He hold us safe in the Palm of his hands until we meet again.