

Saint Augustine

Not much is known about Saint Augustine's life before he was sent by Pope Gregory the Great to England. We do know he was a monk in Rome and therefore he must have been well educated and used to living in a civilised city. Rome was considered to be one of the greatest cities in the world at this time and would have been a safe and comfortable place to live with decent plumbing and a warm climate. This might explain why Augustine was apparently less than keen about his mission to England. The Venerable Bede, an English Historian, who wrote over one hundred years after Saint Augustine's mission, records that Augustine and the other monks were not happy being sent to England.



“ They set off obediently, but were soon seized with terror and wanted to return home instead of going to this barbarous, fierce and unbelieving nation where they did not even know the language.

The monks tried to return home but Pope Gregory wrote them a stern letter to encourage them to keep going.

“ Do not let the toil of the journey or the tongues of men discourage you.

Pope Gregory reminded them that they would be rewarded in Heaven for their bravery.

Saint Augustine



Imagine you are Augustine or one of his fellow monks. Discuss all the reasons why you have to go to England and all the reasons why you don't want to go to England.

Create a travel diary, either presenting it as a Vlog or in written form, showing how Augustine is feeling as he leaves Rome and makes his way to Kent. Remember the journey will take at least three months. It will involve walking over the Alps and crossing the English Channel.

What other difficulties might Augustine experience?

Reasons to go to England

Reasons not to go to England

Travel Diary
