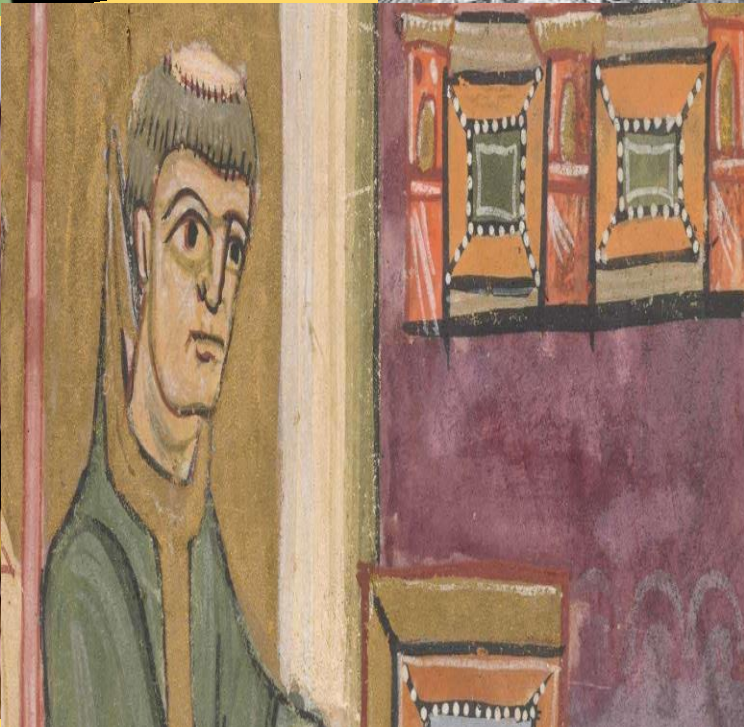


What event has
had the greatest
impact on
Canterbury?

Look at the following images. What do you think is happening? Who will this lesson on Canterbury be about?



St. Augustine of Canterbury

The apostle of England



St Augustine Born ? died 604?)

The founder of the Christian church in England and the first archbishop of Canterbury was a monk named Augustine. Known as the Apostle of the English, he was responsible for the conversion of millions of people to Christianity.



Of his early life nothing is known. He was a monk in the Benedictine monastery of St. Andrew in Rome when Pope Gregory I, chose him to lead a missionary group of 40 monks going to England. They arrived in the spring of 597 and were well received by King Ethelbert I, whose wife was already a Christian.

Ethelbert was soon baptized, which encouraged many of his subjects to be converted. Reportedly thousands were baptized on Christmas Day 597. Augustine sent a report of his remarkable progress to the pope, and Gregory responded by dispatching more missionaries to help with the work.

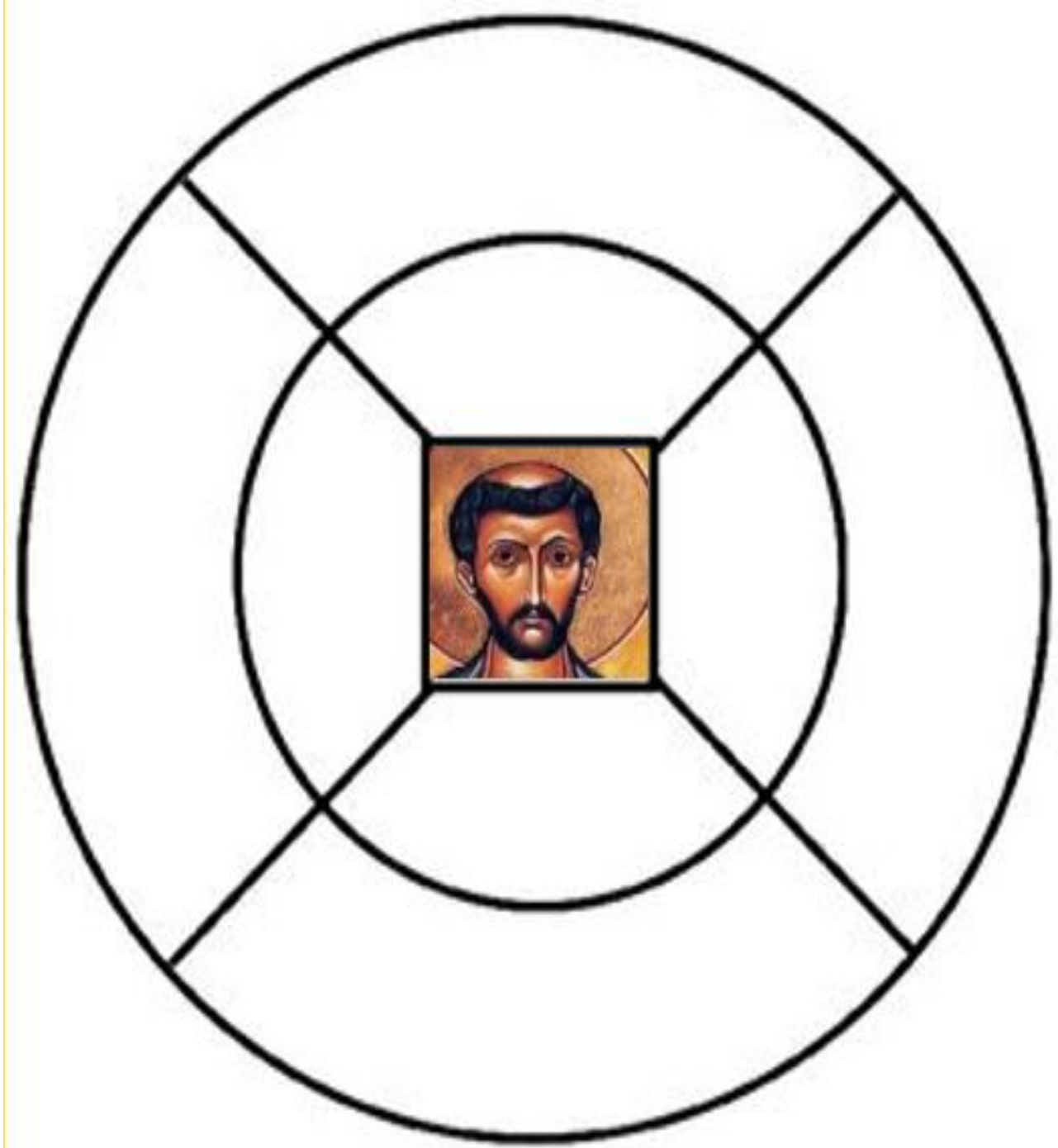
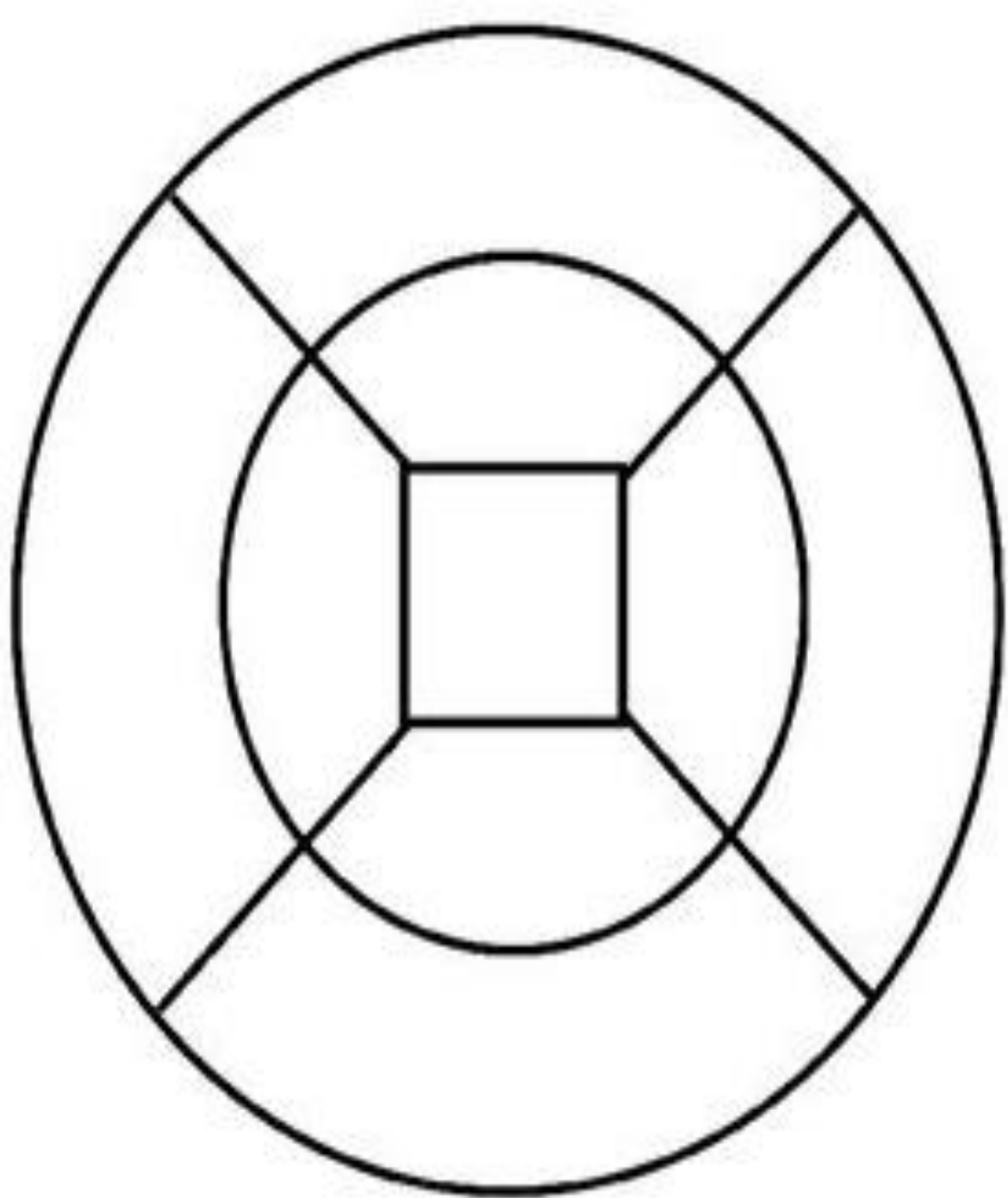
Augustine was consecrated bishop of the English church in 597 and made his headquarters at Canterbury in a church provided by the king. He founded Christ Church as his cathedral and started the monastery.



Canterbury became the primary seat of authority for the church in England, a position it has maintained to the present time. Augustine consecrated 12 more bishops and sent them to other areas of England to carry on the work of preaching and converting.



During the next 90 years most of England was converted by his followers. Augustine died in about 604, a few years after he was made archbishop. His feast day is celebrated on May 26 in England.





Born ? died 26th May 604 AD (609)

St. A _____ is sometimes called the
Apostle of E _____. He is also known as
St. A _____ the less to distinguish
him from St. Augustine of Hippo.

Pope G _____ chose St. Augustine, the
prior of St. Andrew's B _____
m _____ to lead his group of monks
to England.
(This is the same G _____, who when he
saw the Anglo-Saxon slaves called them
angels and wanted to come to England
himself but the Pope of the time, his
predecessor, would not allow him to come.)

St. Augustine and his _____ monks, when they arrived in France, heard lots of
frightening stories about the inhabitants of England. He went back to Rome with a
letter asking G _____ if they could return. His reply encouraged them to continue.

In the spring of 597 AD St. Augustine and his forty monks landed in Kent.
St. Augustine preached to King E _____, and his Christian wife Bertha at
Thanet. The King impressed with his preaching invited the missionaries to
C _____, England's capital at that time.

They were given the old church of St. Martin, in C _____, probably built by
the Roman Christians three hundred years earlier. King E _____ became a
Christian and so did many thousands of his subjects.

St. Augustine became A _____ of the English Church. In 602 AD he founded
a m _____ and re-consecrated a church, of Roman times, as Christ Church -
this is now C _____ C _____ - the centre of the Church of England.

He died in 604 A.D., just seven years after he had landed but in that short time he laid
the foundations for the Church of England. He was buried in the monastery of St.
Peter and St. Paul's (now St. Augustine) outside C _____ where he laid the
foundation stone in 597A.D.

Missing words

Archbishop Augustine(2) Benedictine Canterbury(4) Cathedral England
Ethelbert(2) Gregory(4) forty monastery

St. Augustine Word search

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q | E | R | T | Y | A | U | O | P | A |
| C | A | N | T | E | R | B | U | R | Y |
| S | M | F | D | N | C | C | F | G | N |
| H | E | O | J | G | H | H | K | L | I |
| Z | L | R | N | L | B | R | X | G | T |
| C | T | T | H | A | I | I | V | R | R |
| B | S | Y | T | N | S | S | N | E | A |
| R | O | M | I | D | H | T | Q | G | M |
| O | P | E | A | R | O | I | E | O | T |
| I | A | T | F | Y | P | A | U | R | S |
| R | S | K | N | O | M | N | O | Y | Y |
| P | T | R | E | B | L | E | H | T | E |

apostle archbishop Canterbury Christian England (King) Ethelbert
faith forty Gregory monastery monks prior St. Martin

What effect do you think St Augustine had on Canterbury ? Do you think what he did was important? Do you think he changed Canterbury?

***I think St Augustine had a
impact on Canterbury***

St. Augustine of Canterbury, 26th May

Born ?

died 26th May 604 AD (609)

St. Augustine is sometimes called the Apostle of England. He is also known as St. Augustine the less to distinguish him from St. Augustine of Hippo.

Pope Gregory chose St. Augustine, the prior of St. Andrew's Benedictine monastery, Rome, to lead his group of monks to England. (This is the same Gregory, who when he saw the Anglo-Saxon slaves called them *angels*, wanted to come to England himself but the Pope of the time, his predecessor, would not allow him to come.)

St. Augustine and his forty monks, when they arrived in France, heard lots of frightening stories about the inhabitants of England. He went back to Rome with a letter asking St Gregory if they could return. Gregory's replies encouraged them to continue.

The Venerable Bede (673AD- 735 AD), in his book *Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation* wrote about the visit of St. Augustine to England.

In the spring of 597 AD St. Augustine and his forty monks landed on the Isle of Thanet, in Kent. St. Augustine preached to King Ethelbert, and his Christian wife Bertha at Thanet. The King impressed with his preaching invited the missionaries to Canterbury, England's capital at that time.

They were given the old church of St. Martin, in Canterbury, built by the Christians of Roman times. King Ethelbert became a Christian and so did many thousands of his subjects.

St. Augustine became Archbishop of the English Church. In 602 AD he founded a monastery and re-consecrated a nameless, disused church of Roman times as Christ Church - this is now Canterbury Cathedral - the centre of the Church of England.

Three hundred years before St. Augustine arrived the Romans had brought Christianity to Britain. The disagreements between the established British Church and the new Italian missionaries might have been avoided if he had recognised their contribution to the evangelising of Britain. He tried to bring the two together but to his disappointment failed. They had different customs and continued to celebrate Easter at a different time.

He died in 604 A.D., just seven years after he had landed but in that short time he laid the foundations for the Church of England. He was buried in the monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul's (now St. Augustine) outside Canterbury where he laid the foundation stone in 597A.D.

His epitaph reads, *Here lies the Lord Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, who being formerly sent hither by the blessed Gregory, and by God's assistance, brought King Ethelbert and his nation from the worship of idols to the faith of Christ.*