**BIBLE SUNDAY**

We thank you, Lord, for the collected works

of your word. Grant us patience to read,

time to digest and wisdom to understand.

Amen.

**26 October**

**Alfred the Great**

**King of the West Saxons,**

**Scholar 899**

God, our maker and redeemer, we pray you

of your great mercy and by the power of your

holy cross to guide us by your will and to

shield us from our foes: that, after the example

of you servant Alfred, we may inwardly love

you above all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 Church of England

**26 October**

**Alfred the Great**

**King of the West Saxons, Scholar**

Born in the year 849, Alfred was the King of the West Saxons who effectively brought to an end the constant threat of Danish domination in the British Isles. He came to the throne at the age of twenty-two, and after establishing peace set about bringing stability to both Church and State. He gave half of his income to founding religious houses which themselves acted as Christian centres for education, care of the sick and poor and respite for travellers. He was a daily attender at Mass and himself translated many works into the vernacular. He evolved a legal code based on common sense and Christian mercy. His whole life was marked by the compassion of Christ. He died on this day in the year 899.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**28 October**

**Simon and Jude**

**Apostles**

When all is made new, and the Christ is

on his throne of glory, you will sit on the

twelve thrones to judge the tribes of Israel.

You did not choose me but I chose you and

I appointed you to go out and bear fruit,

fruit that shall last.

Almighty God, who built your Church upon

the foundations of the apostles and prophets,

with Jesus Christ himself as the chief

cornerstone: so join us together in unity of

spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made

a holy temple acceptable to you; through

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**28 October**

**Simon and Jude, Apostles**

Simon and Jude were named among the twelve apostles in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Simon is called, ‘the Zealot’, probably because he belonged to a nationalist resistance movement opposing the Roman occupation forces. There is no indication in the gospels whether Simon moved from the Zealot party to be a follower of Christ, or on the other hand, if he became a supporter of that group after the resurrection, seeing it as a response to God’s call to proclaim the Kingdom.

Luke describes Jude as the son of James, while the Letter of Jude has him as a brother of James, neither of which negates the other. It seems he is the same person as Thaddæus, which may have been a last name. Owing to the similarity of his name to that of Judas Iscariot, Jude was rarely invoked in prayer and it is likely that because of this, interceding through him was seen as a final resort when all else failed. He became known, therefore, as the Patron Saint of Lost Causes.

The two apostles are joined together on 28 October because a church which had recently acquired their relics was dedicated to their memory in Rome on this day in the seventh century.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**29 October**

**James Hannington**

**Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa,**

**Martyr in Uganda 1885**

Most merciful God, who strengthened your

Church by the steadfast courage of your martyr James Hannington: grant that we also,

thankfully remembering his victory of faith,

may overcome what is evil and glorify your holy name; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity

of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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 Church of England

**29 October**

**James Hannington**

**Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa,**

**Martyr in Uganda 1885**

James Hannington was born in 1847 of a Congregationalist family but he became an Anglican before going up to Oxford. He was ordained and, after serving a curacy for five years, went with the Church Missionary Society to Uganda. He was consecrated Bishop for that part of Africa in 1884 and a year later began a safari inland from Mombasa, together with other European and indigenous Christians. The ruler of the Buganda, Mwanga, who despised Christians because they refused to condone his moral turpitude, seized the whole party, tortured them for several days and then had them butchered to death on this day in 1885.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*