**16 November**

**Margaret of Scotland**

**Queen of Scotland,**

**Philanthropist,**

**Reformer of the Church 1093**

God, the ruler of all, who called your

servant Margaret to an earthly throne

and gave her zeal for your Church and

love for your people, that she might

advance your heavenly kingdom:

mercifully grant that we who

commemorate her example may

be fruitful in good works and attain

to the glorious crown of your saints;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**16 November**

**Margaret of Scotland**

**Queen of Scotland, Philanthropist,**

**Reformer of the Church.**

Born in the year 1046, Margaret was the daughter of the Anglo-Saxon royal house of England but educated in Hungary, where her family lived in exile during the reign of Danish kings in England. After the Norman invasion in 1066, when her royal person was still a threat to the new monarchy, she was welcomed in the royal court of Malcolm III of Scotland and soon afterwards married him in 1069. Theirs was a happy and fruitful union and Margaret proved to be both a civilizing and a holy presence. She instituted many church reforms and founded many monasteries, churches and pilgrim hostels. She was a woman of prayer as well as good works who seemed to influence for good all with whom she came into contact. She died on this day in the year 1093.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**17 November**

**Hugh**

**Bishop of Lincoln 1200**

O God, who endowed your servant

Hugh with a wise and cheerful boldness

and taught him to commend to earthly

rulers the discipline of a holy life:

give us grace like him to be bold in

the service of the gospel, putting our confidence in Christ alone, 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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**17 November**

**Hugh**

**Bishop of Lincoln**

Hugh was born at Avalon in Burgundy in 1140 and at first made his profession with the Augustinian canons but, when he was twenty-fine, he became a monk at the Carthusian Grande Chartreuse. In about 1175, he was invited by the English King, Henry II, to become Prior of his Charterhouse foundation at Witham in Somerset, badly in need of reform even though it had been only recently founded. In 1186, Hugh was persuaded to accept the See of Lincoln, then the largest diocese in the land. He brought huge energy to the diocese and, together with discerning appointments to key posts, he revived the Lincoln schools, repaired and enlarged the Cathedral, visited the See extensively, drew together the clergy to meet in synod and generally brought an efficiency and stability to the Church which was to be much emulated. Hugh also showed great compassion for the poor and the oppressed, ensuring that sufferers of leprosy were cared for and that Jews were not persecuted. He both supported his monarch and also held out against any royal measures he felt to be extreme, yet managing not to make an enemy of the King. He died in London on this day in the year 1200.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**18 November**

**Elizabeth**

**Princess of Thuringia,**

**Philanthropist 1231**

Lord God, who taught Elizabeth

of Hungary to recognise and

reverence Christ in the poor of

this world: by her example,

strengthen us to love and serve

the afflicted and the needy and

so to honour your Son, the servant

King, 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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**18 November**

**Elizabeth of Hungary, Princess of Thuringia, Philanthropist.**

Elizabeth was born in 1207, the daughter of a king of Hungary, and was given in marriage to Louis IV, Landgrave of Thuringia, with whom she had three children. Theirs was a happy marriage but her husband of four years died of the plague. Elizabeth was driven from the court and she settled in Marburg, where her confessor was Conrad of Marburg, whose domineering and almost sadistic ways exemplified one who had himself been a successful inquisitor of heretics. She suffered mental and physical abuse from him, in the name of religious austerity, but bore it all humbly. Elizabeth became a member of the Franciscan Third Order, which reflected her life of caring for the poor, even cooking and cleaning for them. Due to the severe regime under which she lived, her weakened body gave way under the pressure and she died on this day, just twenty-four years old, in the year 1231.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**19 November**

**Hilda,**

**Abbess of Whitby, 680**

Eternal God, who made the Abbess Hilda

to shine like a jewel in our land and through her holiness and leadership blessed your Church with new life and unity: help us,

like her, to yearn for the gospel of Christ

and to reconcile those who are divided; through him 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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**19 November**

**Hilda**

**Abbess of Whitby**

Hilda was born in the year 614 of the royal house of Northumbria and was baptised in York at the age of twelve by Paulinus. Encouraged by Aidan of Lindisfarne, she became a Religious at the age of thirty-three. She established monasteries first at Hartlepool and two years later at Whitby. This house became a great centre of learning and was the meeting-place for the important Synod of Whitby in the year 664 at which it was decided to adopt the Roman tradition in preference to Celtic customs. Although herself a Celt in religious formation, Hilda played a crucial rôle in reconciling others of that tradition to the decision of the Synod. She is also remembered as a great educator, exemplified in her nurturing of Caedmon’s gift of vernacular song. She died on 17 November in the year 680.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**20 November**

**Edmund**

**King of the East Angles,**

**Martyr 870**

Eternal God, whose servant Edmund

kept faith to the end, both with you

and with his people, and glorified you

by his death: grant us such steadfastness

of faith that, with the noble army of

martyrs, we may come to enjoy the

fullness of the resurrection life: through

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**20 November**

**Edmund,**

**King of the East Angles, Martyr**

Born in about the year 840, Edmund was nominated as King while still a boy. He became King of Norfolk in 855 and of Suffolk the following year. As King, he won the hearts of his subjects by his care of the poor and his steady suppression of wrong-doing. When attacked by the Danes, he refused to give over his kingdom or to renounce his faith in Christ. He was tied to a tree, shot with arrows and finally beheaded on this day in the year 870. His shrine at the town which became known as Bury St Edmunds was an important centre of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*