**24 May**

**John and Charles Wesley**

Evangelists, Hymn writers,

1791 and 1788

God of mercy, who inspired John and

Charles Wesley with zeal for your gospel:

grant to all people boldness to proclaim

your word and a heart ever to rejoice in

singing your praises; through Jesus Christ

our Lord.

Amen.

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**24 May**

**John and Charles Wesley**

**Evangelists, Hymn writers**

Born in Epworth rectory in Lincolnshire, John Wesley was the son of an Anglican clergyman and Puritan mother. He entered Holy Orders and, following a religious experience on this day in 1738, began an itinerant ministry which recognised no parish boundaries. This resulted, after his death, in the development of a worldwide Methodist Church. His spirituality involved an Arminian affirmation of grace, frequent communication and a disciplined corporate search for holiness. His open-air preaching, concern for education and for the poor, liturgical revision, organisation of local societies and training of preachers provided a firm basis for Christian growth and mission in England.

Charles shared with his brother John, the building-up of early Methodist societies, as they travelled the country. His special concern was that early Methodists should remain loyal to Anglicanism. He married and settled in Bristol, later in London, concentrating his work on the local Christian communities. His thousands of hymns established a resource of lyrical piety which has enabled generations of Christians to re-discover the refining power of God’s love. They celebrate God’s work of grace from birth to death, the great events of God’s work of salvation and the rich themes of Eucharistic worship, anticipating the taking up of humanity into the divine life.

John Wesley died on 2 March 1791 and Charles on 29 March 1788

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**25 May**

**The Venerable Bede**

Monk at Jarrow,

Scholar and Historian 735

God our maker, whose Son Jesus Christ

gave to your servant Bede, grace to drink in

with joy the word that leads us to know you

and to love you: in your goodness grant that

we also may come at length to you, the source

of all wisdom, and stand before your face;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**25 May**

**The Venerable Bede**

Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian

Bede was born in Northumbria around the year 670. When he was seven years old, his family gave him to the monastery of St Peter and St Paul at Wearmouth. He then moved to Jarrow, where he lived as a monk for the rest of his life. Although it seems he never travelled further than York, his monastery – first under Abbot Benedict Biscop and then Abbot Ceolfrith – was a centre of learning, and Bede studied extensively. He used all the resources available to write the most complete history of Christian England up to the year 729, as well as commentaries on books of the Bible. He was renowned for his monastic fidelity and his love of teaching, and was fondly remembered by his pupils, including his biographer. He died peacefully on the eve of Ascension Day in the year 735.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**Ascension Day**

Grant, we pray, almighty God that as we

believe your only-begotten Son our Lord

Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens,

so we in heart and mind may also ascend and

with him continually dwell; 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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