**8 November**

**The Saints and Martyrs of England**

God, who the glorious company of the redeemed

adore, assembled from all times and places of your dominion: we praise you for the saints of our own

land and for the many lamps their holiness has lit;

and we pray that we also may be numbered at last

with those who have done your will and declared

your righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Church of England

**8 November**

**The Saints and Martyrs of England**

The date when Christianity first came to the British Isles is not known, but there were British Bishops at the Council of Arles in the year 314, indicating a Church with order and worship. Since those days, Christians from these lands have shared the message of the good news at home and around the world. As the world-wide fellowship of the Anglican Communion has developed, incorporating peoples of many nations and cultures, individual Christian men and women have shone as beacons, heroically bearing witness to their Lord, some through a simple life of holiness, others by giving their lives for the sake of Christ.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**10 November**

**Leo the Great,**

**Bishop of Rome,**

**Teacher of the Faith 461**

God our Father, who made your servant,

Leo strong in the defence of the faith:

fill your Church with the spirit of truth

that, guided by humility and governed

by love, she may prevail against the

powers of evil; through Jesus Christ

our Lord. Amen.

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**10 November**

**Leo the Great,**

**Bishop of Rome,**

**Teacher of the Faith**

Leo the Great became Pope in the year 440 and twice proved his bravery in saving the citizens of Rome from the invading barbarians. He was an eloquent and wise preacher, using simple gospel texts to proclaim the Christian faith. His administrative skills were unrivalled and he used the resources of the Church for the good of the people. Rather than further confuse Christians by entering into the controversy over the person of Christ, Leo spoke simply of the humility of Christ who was divine and human in his compassion, uniting biblical images in prayer rather than dividing in debate. Leo died on this day in the year 461.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**11 November**

**Martin of Tours**

**Bishop**   **c.397**

God all powerful, who called Martin from

the armies of this world to be a faithful

soldier of Christ: give us grace to follow

him in his love and compassion for the

needy, and enable your Church to claim

for all people their inheritance as children

of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**11 November**

**Martin, Bishop of Tours**

Born in about the year 316 in Pannonia (in modern-day Hungary), Martin was a soldier in the Roman army and a Christian. He found the two rôles conflicted and, under the influence of Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers he founded a monastery in Hilary’s diocese in the year 360, the first such foundation in Gaul. The religious house was a centre for missionary work in the local countryside, setting a new example where, previously, all Christian activity had been centred in cities and undertaken from the cathedral there. In 372, Martin was elected Bishop of Tours by popular acclaim and he continued his monastic lifestyle as a Bishop, remaining in that ministry until his death on this day in the year 397.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**13 November**

**Charles Simeon**

**Priest, Evangelical Divine**

**1836**

Eternal God, who raised up Charles

Simeon to preach the good news of

Jesus Christ and inspire your people

in service and mission: grant that we

with all your Church may worship the

Saviour, turn in sorrow from our sins

and walk in the way of holiness;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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**13 November**

**Charles Simeon**

**Priest, Evangelical Divine**

Born in Reading in 1759, Charles Simeon was educated at Cambridge University and spent the rest of his life in that city. He became a fellow of King’s College in 1782 and was ordained priest the following year, when he became vicar of Holy Trinity Church nearby. He had evangelical leanings as a boy but it was whilst preparing for Holy Communion on his entrance to College that he became aware of the redeeming love of God, an experience he regarded as a turning point in his life. Many of the parishioners of Holy Trinity Church did not welcome him, since he had been appointed through his own family links, but his patent care and love for them all overcame their antipathy and his preaching greatly increased the congregation. Charles had carved on the inside of the pulpit in Holy Trinity Church, where only the preacher could see, the words from John 12. 21, where some Greeks came to Philip, saying, ‘Sir, we would see Jesus.’ These words were a constant reminder to him that people came not to gaze on a great preacher or to admire his eloquence, but to seek Jesus. Charles became a leading Evangelical influence in the Church and was one of the founders of the Church Missionary Society. He also set up the Simeon Trust which made appointments to parishes of fellow Evangelicals. He remained vicar of Holy Trinity until his death on this day in the year 1836.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*