Video transcript

How was Christianity introduced to Britain?

Here are three super saints, Augustine, Columba and Aidan, who have more than just their itchy outfits in common.

These lads turned the pagans in Britain, who believed in many gods, into Christians who believed in just one.

Let's start with Columba, a fearless saint.

In 563, he sailed to Iona, and set up a monastery, and from here many people in Scotland converted to Christianity.

But if we look at the rest of Britain... things aren't looking too great for the Christians. This lot are **still** pagan!

Next up was Augustine in 597. He was sent to England by the pope. He converted a king, built Canterbury cathedral, and was very pleased with himself.

Unfortunately, he mainly just converted the king's best mates to Christianity.

Most ordinary Anglo-Saxons thought he was a bit weird with his haircut and his itchy dress and they carried on believing in their old gods.

So much for Augustine.

Aidan to the rescue! He was determined to go out and convert the Anglo-Saxons. He set up a monastery on Lindisfarne in 634 and from there he did something amazing, something unheard of, something brilliant - he spoke to ordinary people.

Video transcript

How was Christianity introduced to Britain?

This is what actually convinced the Anglo-Saxons to stop being pagan and give Christianity a try. And there you have it...

...how these three saints and these three places helped Britain make the shift from many gods, to just one.

You can keep your rubbish robes to yourselves though lads!