

Margaret, Queen of Scotland, 1093;

Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200

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By the Reverend Stephen Gerth

Micah 6:6–8; Psalm 146:4–9; Matthew 13:44–52

Margaret of Wessex, England, was born an English princess and became queen of Scotland with her marriage to Malcolm III. She bore eight children.¹ In the year 1040, her husband’s father, King Duncan, was killed in battle by Macbeth—yes, Shakespeare’s Macbeth. He would rule a part of Scotland until 1057 when he died battling troops loyal to Malcolm.² I can’t help but think of Shakespeare’s plays and the movie *Braveheart*.

For that time and place, Margaret was an unusually well-educated person. She is credited in the biographical sketch in *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* as helping to suppress the use of the local language for Mass, which people could understand, and requiring Mass be celebrated in a Latin,³ “a tongue not understood of the people.”⁴ One notes that a century and a half

¹ *Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006* (LFF) (New York: Church Publishing Incorporated, 2006), 454.

² <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Malcolm-III-Canmore>, (accessed 16 November 2020).

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979), 872.

earlier, brothers Cyril the Monk and Methodius the Bishop were sent to evangelize the southern Slavic people. They preached and celebrated the liturgy with the support of two popes. After their deaths, the Latinists won.⁵ Their work survives in the Russian and Serbian churches.⁶

Margaret and her husband were known for their charitable work, founding schools, hospitals, and orphanages. They rebuilt the monastery of Iona and built Dunfermline Abbey for Benedictine monks. A parish of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland built a new church within the ruin opened in 1821. She died on November 16, 1093.⁷

Hugh, who would become bishop of Lincoln, England, was born about the year 1140 in Burgundy. He was attracted to a new religious order, the Carthusians, who could be described as Benedictines who took vows of silence. Their community was founded by Bruno and six companions in the high Alpine Valley of Chartreuse in France in the year 1084. The monks still make their famous, and not

⁵ *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, (ODCC) 2ed. (New York: Oxford University Press 1978), s.v. “Cyril, St. (826–69), and Methodius, St. (c. 815–85),” 370.

⁶ <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saints-Cyril-and-Methodius>, (accessed 16 November 2020).

⁷ LFF, 454.

inexpensive, liqueur. Like Bruno, Hugh's life was not lived out in the isolation and silence of his community. Henry II of England convinced him to found a Carthusian monastery in England. In 1086, he accepted the king's offer to be bishop of Lincoln on the condition that the cathedral chapter freely elect him. He died on November 16, in the year 1200. During his lifetime, the *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* says that he was "revered for his holiness and devotion . . . [and] love towards lepers."⁸ He was canonized in the year 1220. The dictionary entry concludes with these words, "His tomb at Lincoln became second only to that of St. Thomas of Canterbury as a place of popular devotion until it was spoiled by Henry VIII."⁹

The article on Hugh in Wikipedia states that Bishop Hugh protected Jews in Lincoln from persecution attempted by a new king in 1189, Richard I. In 1255, it would be in Lincoln that a Jewish man was accused of ritually murdering an eight-year-old Christian boy, also Hugh, known as "Little Hugh." It's worth noting that I could find no reference in the Oxford Dictionary to the popularity of devotion to "Little Hugh" and the persecution of the Jewish community in Lincoln. That

⁸ ODCC, s.v. "Hugh, St.," 674.

⁹ Ibid.

said, there is some information about the past and present on the diocese of Lincoln's website.¹⁰ The persecution of the Jewish community in Lincoln was led by the-then bishop's brother. In 1290, King Edward I expelled all Jews from England.¹¹ Oliver Cromwell would welcome their gradual return beginning in 1657.¹²

One more thing. There is a beautiful account of the region, the monastic community, and the regional food and drink by a Roy Andries de Groot, a writer who discovered there an inn run by two women in the same valley in the late 1950s—much closer to the world of the first monks than the world of today. The book is *The Auberge of the Flowering Hearth*.¹³ By the time the 1973 edition of his book came out, the world he first knew in that valley was gone.

✠ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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¹⁰ <https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/news/a-jewish-delegation-remembers-little-hugh>, (accessed 20 November 2020).

¹¹ <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Edward-I-king-of-England>, (accessed 16 November 2020).

¹² <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Oliver-Cromwell/Mediation-and-the-second-Civil-War>, (accessed 16 November 2020).

¹³ Roy Andries de Groot, *The Auberge of the Flowering Hearth* (Hopewell, NJ: Ecco Press) 1973.