

Hild, or Saint Hilda as she later became known as was a great-niece of King Edwin of Northumbria, was baptized at the age of 13 and became a nun at the age of 20. Later she was the Abbess of Hartlepool and eventually she founded the great double monastery at Whitby, where she was sought out for her wise counsel by ordinary folk and rulers alike.

### Hild's Prayer

"Take me often from the tumult of things into Thy presence.  
There show me what I am, and what Thou hast purposed me to be.  
Then hide me from Thy tears.

O King and Saviour, what is Thy gift to me?  
And do I use it to Thy pleasing?  
Dear Lord, You alone know what my soul truly desires,  
and You alone can satisfy those desires.

I have prepared a place for you, says the Lord,  
a place that is for you, and only you, to fill.  
Approach My table, asking first that you might serve.  
Look even for the lowest tasks.  
Then, the work of service done,  
look for your own place at table.

But do not seek the most important seat  
which may be reserved for someone else.  
In the place of My appointing will be your joy.

Lord, show me the right seat;  
find me the fitting task; give me the willing heart.  
May I be equal to Your hope of me.  
If I am weak, I ask that You send only what I can bear.  
If I am strong, may I shrink from no testing  
that shall yield increase of strength or win security for my spirit.

I trust in Thee, O Lord. I say, 'Thou art my God.  
My times are in Thy hand, my times are in Thy hand."