

St. Ermenhilda. Abbess of Ely

St. Ermenhilda was the daughter of Erconbert, King of Kent and St. Sexburga. She married Wulfhere, King of Mercia; they had two children, Werburga and Kenred, who eventually succeeded his father but resigned the kingdom to become a religious in Rome. Ermenhilda assisted her husband in teaching the kingdom Christianity. Upon the death of her husband in 675, she joined her mother who was building the great abbey at Minster in the Isle of Sheppey. Eventually, Sexburga withdrew to Ely, leaving Ermenhilda to succeed her in the two foundations in Kent. After fulfilling her duties for many years, she felt the need to obey rather than rule and she too retired to Ely, eventually becoming abbess there. She died in about AD 700.

Source: A Calendar of British Saints, Orthodox Synaxarion