



HIBERN ⊕ N ⊕ NORSE ⊕ WIRRAL

religion on wirral

Towards the end of the Roman occupation of Britain, the spread of Christianity reached the Wirral and the earliest churches were built by christian monks from North Wales.

The early churches on the Wirral were all linked to the Celtic Welsh tradition rather than the Irish Church being established further north in Britain.

The first churches being built at Landican, Overchurch, Woodchurch and at Bromborough. The dedication of the parish church at Wallasey to a 4th-century bishop, Hilary of Poitiers also shows early influence.

By the 8th Century the Wirral was part of the Kingdom of Mercia and recorded as 'the Hundred of Wirral'.

After the arrival of the Vikings in 902, the local Christian Churches increased in numbers and position on the highground surrounding the Norse enclave.

The influence of the different religions can be seen in the Hogback at St Bridget's, West Kirby (usually Anglo Saxon but this one also shows viking style influence in the roof tile design). Also the stones at St Mary & St Helen found in 1874 rebuilding. Four carved sandstone fragments were uncovered in the foundations. A fifth had been used as a lintel of a window in the ringing chamber of the bell tower. Dr Rodger White of Birmingham University confirmed that they were the remains of 5 Viking grave markers dating back to 930AD. These stones are now displayed inside the church.