

ALDHELM - [Saint]

7th/8thc English cleric

*639-†709 Doultling/Somerset (GB:)

A was a pupil at [Malmesbury](#) and came under the influence of a monk named Maildulf who had moved there from Ireland c636. A visited Rome c689 and moved to Canterbury c690, seemingly to study music. He became a scholar, writing in an Irish form of Latin, with oblique references to organs.

Referring to the gilding of organ cases in his region, A wrote:

“Hearing the enormous organs with a thousand blasts, the ear is soothed by the windy bellows, while the other parts shine in their golden casework.”

In poor health, he then returned to Malmesbury, which had meanwhile become a monastery. In c675 he seems to have become its first Abbott, and in 705 he became the first Bishop of Sherborne.