Texts And Monuments: A Study Of Ten Anglo-Saxon Churches Of The Pre-Viking Period

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Anglo-Saxon Studies 4 Dying and Death in Later Anglo-Saxon England

Pre-Conquest attitudes towards the dying and the dead have major implications for every aspect of culture, society and religion of the Anglo-Saxon period; but the death-bed and funerary practices of this period have been comparatively and unjustly neglected by historical scholarship. Her study also takes in grave monuments, showing in particular how the Anglo-Scandinavian sculpture of the ninth to the eleventh centuries may indicate not only the status, but also the religious and cultural alignment of those who commissioned and made them. The Anglo-Saxon period in Britain spans approximately the six centuries from 410–1066 AD. The period used to be known as the Dark Ages, mainly because written sources for the early years of Saxon invasion are scarce. Climate change had an influence on the movement of the Anglo-Saxon invaders to Britain: in the centuries after 400 AD Europe's average temperature was 1°C warmer than we have today, and in Britain grapes could be grown as far north as Tyneside. Warmer summers meant better crops and a rise in population in the countries of northern Europe. Anglo-Saxon mercenaries had for many years fought in the Roman army in Britain, so they were not total strangers to the island.