Beginning about AD 600, tribal peoples of the Scandinavian Peninsula began to consolidate politically and look outward to the sea. By AD 1000, the ‘Vikings’ built a network of trade routes and settlements that stretched from Europe to North America. The reality of Viking Age culture was much more complex than the stereotype of brutish marauders. Equally adept at intricate metalworking, navigating the open seas, and violent combat, they were farmers, craftsmen, sailors, raiders, traders and Saints!