

# The eventization of movable religious heritage objects: The Lindisfarne Gospels – A case study

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# Lindisfarne Gospels: History



- ▶ Earliest fully illuminated English book
- ▶ 'Dark Ages' art work
- ▶ Holy Island – Lindisfarne
- ▶ Produced 715-720AD by Eadfrith (illustrations and calligraphy) and Ethelwald (front cover) 518 pages
- ▶ In honour of St Cuthbert
- ▶ 1000 mile journey

[http://bigbible.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/lindisfarne\\_cat33-copy.jpg](http://bigbible.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/lindisfarne_cat33-copy.jpg)



# 2003 – British Library

- ▶ Role of curator:
  - ▶ Custodian
  - ▶ Interpreter
  - ▶ 'Ensuring appropriate levels of access to ensure they continue to exist for future generations'
- ▶ Influence of technological change
  - ▶ Facsimile copies
- ▶ 'Same level of access... as scholars working in the British Library's reading rooms'



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/0/21588667>



# Lindisfarne Gospels Durham: one amazing book, one incredible journey



<http://www.lindisfarnegospels.com/lindisfarne-gospels-durham-one-amazing-book-one-incredible-journey>

- 3 months 2013 – Durham
- 'To **engage** people with the story of the Gospels'
- 'To celebrate the rich **heritage** of culture, learning and artistry'
- 'To emulate the spirit of **creativity**'
- 'The exhibition had to be much more than a **book in a case**'
- Celebration
- Events
- Schools Outreach programme
- 95,000 exhibition tickets sold

# Impacts



- ▶ Durham University
  - ▶ World class exhibition facilities for artefacts
  - ▶ Exhibition planning expertise
  - ▶ Blueprint for outreach programmes for heritage, museums, libraries
  - ▶ Events management experience
  - ▶ Social Media
  - ▶ Gospels 'embedded' in National Curriculum of NE England region



# Eventization of movable religious heritage objects?



Stancliffe, David. Art and Christianity. Autumn, 2013, Issue 75, p6. Gale: Cengage Learning

- ▶ Events – role in society
- ▶ Links to other themes extends topic: science, print, paper
- ▶ Widening participation and engagement with religious heritage objects
- ▶ Target specific ages and interest groups
- ▶ Curation – what next?
- ▶ Need – Develop – Future Use
- ▶ Skills – Facilities – Processes