

St David's Day

St. David's day is the feast day of the patron saint of Wales. Dewi, or David, was born son of a chieftain in Menevia (now St David's) in Cardiganshire between AD 500 and 520. He came from an aristocratic family in West Wales. His mother was a saint, Saint Non. Legend has it that he was educated by St Paulinus and that he founded twelve monasteries, including that of Glastonbury. He spread Christianity through the southern and central part of the Principality as well as in the nearby areas of south and western England. His monastery at Menevia was famous for its strictness and austerity. It is said that it was David who advised the Welsh soldiers to wear leeks in their hats as identification in battle. He was elected Primate of Wales in AD 560 at the Council of Brefi in Cardiganshire. He died sometime between 580 and 589 at Menevia, and was canonised by Pope Calixtus II in 1120.

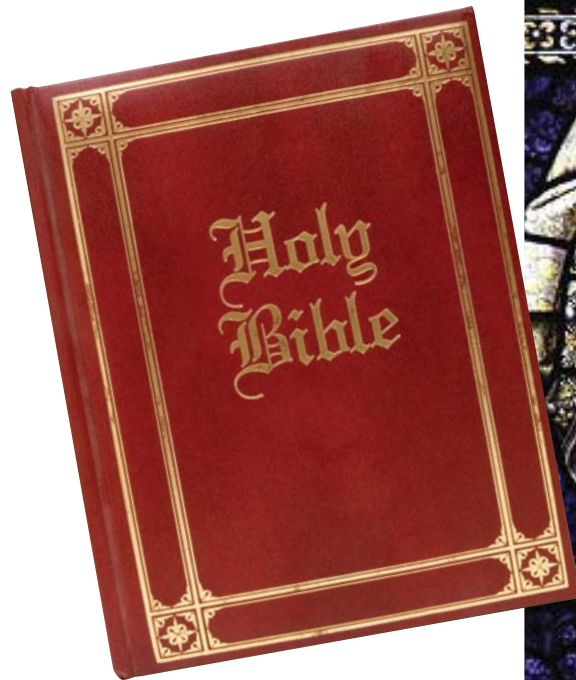


- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
Which part of the story did you like the best?
Was there any part you did not like?
Are you scared of Dragons?
What colour is the Welsh dragon?
- ③ Talk about creating a meal of vegetables.
What are the children's favourite vegetables?
- ④ You can find St. David's Day colouring in sheets and craft activity templates in the St. David's Day section on iChild.

The Story of St David, Patron Saint of Wales



David was a good and kind man who had been taught all about Jesus by a man called Paulinus, who had come to Wales from York.



Paulinus built a monastery and lived there studying the Bible and praying to God.



The monastery later became the cathedral of St David. This is St David's cathedral in Wales.



St David led a simple life eating bread and vegetables and drinking water.



The most famous story about Saint David tells how he was preaching to a huge crowd and the ground is said to have risen up, so that he was standing on a hill and everyone had a better chance of hearing him.



St David has the leek as his special symbol. This is because during a battle it was difficult to see which soldier was the enemy and which soldier was fighting for Wales. So, St David came up with the idea to make sure all the Welsh soldiers knew which side they were fighting with. All wore a Leek in their helmet and so they were successful and won the battle.



The daffodil is the second emblem of Wales and is worn on St David's day. In contrast, the daffodil is a much younger emblem, gaining popularity in the 19th century. Women, especially, were fond of this bright, cheerful flower as an emblem of Wales.



At the beginning of the 20th century it became even more closely associated with the Principality when Welshman and British Prime Minister David Lloyd George wore it on St David's Day and at ceremonies to mark the investiture of the then Prince of Wales.