

Saint David

Who was Saint David?

He was born on the south-west coast of Wales, near where the city of St David's is today. He was the son of Saint Non and Sandde (also known as Sant). He died on the 1st of March, 589 AD.

What did he do?

His teacher was St Paulin. He performed several miracles in his life including restoring Paulin's sight by placing two hands on his eyes.

- He spread Christianity.
- He was the Archbishop of Wales.
- He travelled throughout Wales and Britain and even went to Jerusalem.

During a battle against the Saxons, he told his soldiers to wear a leek on their helmets to distinguish themselves from the enemy. This is why the leek is one of the emblems of Wales.



Monastic Life

St. David was a monk and he opened 12 monasteries. The largest monastery was in Mynwy, West Wales. He spent most of his life devoted to God and gave up most worldly possessions. This is called monasticism. When following the monastic rules, monks had to:

- pull the plough themselves without the help of animals;
- drink only water and eat only bread with salt and herbs;
- spend their evenings in prayer, reading or writing;
- participate in crafts and trades; beekeeping was very important;
- keep themselves fed as well as looking after the poor.

One of his best miracles

His best known miracles took place when he was preaching in the middle of a large crowd in the village of Llanddewi Brefi. The spot of ground where he stood is said to have risen. This allowed everyone to have a better chance of hearing and seeing him.

A white dove, which became his emblem was seen sitting on his shoulder.

Saint David's Day

Saint David died on the 1st of March, 589. In 1120, the Pope announced that David was a Saint. Soon after he was named the Patron Saint of Wales.

The 1st of March is an important festival in Wales and is also celebrated across the world.

Many people make the special pilgrimage to see Saint David's cathedral every year.

What can we learn from Saint David?

He believed in working hard and living a simple life. His favourite saying was, "We should concentrate on doing the little things in God's presence with conscientiousness and devotion."

If we concentrate on doing the little things in life, we can change our world for the better.



Questions

1. Who was Saint David's father? Circle the correct answer.

Sandde

Saint Paulin

2. Where was he born?

3. Tick the correct boxes.

	True	False
Saint David's teacher was Paulin.		
He restored Paulin's eyesight by placing his hands over his feet.		

4. What did the soldiers wear on their helmets?

5. Find at least 2 nouns in the passage below and underline in red.

Monks had to:

- Pull the plough themselves without the help of animals.
- Drink only water and eat only bread with salt and herbs.
- Spend their evenings in prayer, reading or writing.

6. Finish the sentence.

Saint David died on the _____.

7. In the St David's Day passage, it describes the events that took place after his death.

Write one event that took place after his death.

8. Discuss with your talking partner what sort of 'little things' could you do to help create the school a better place. Write a sentence about what you could change in your school.
