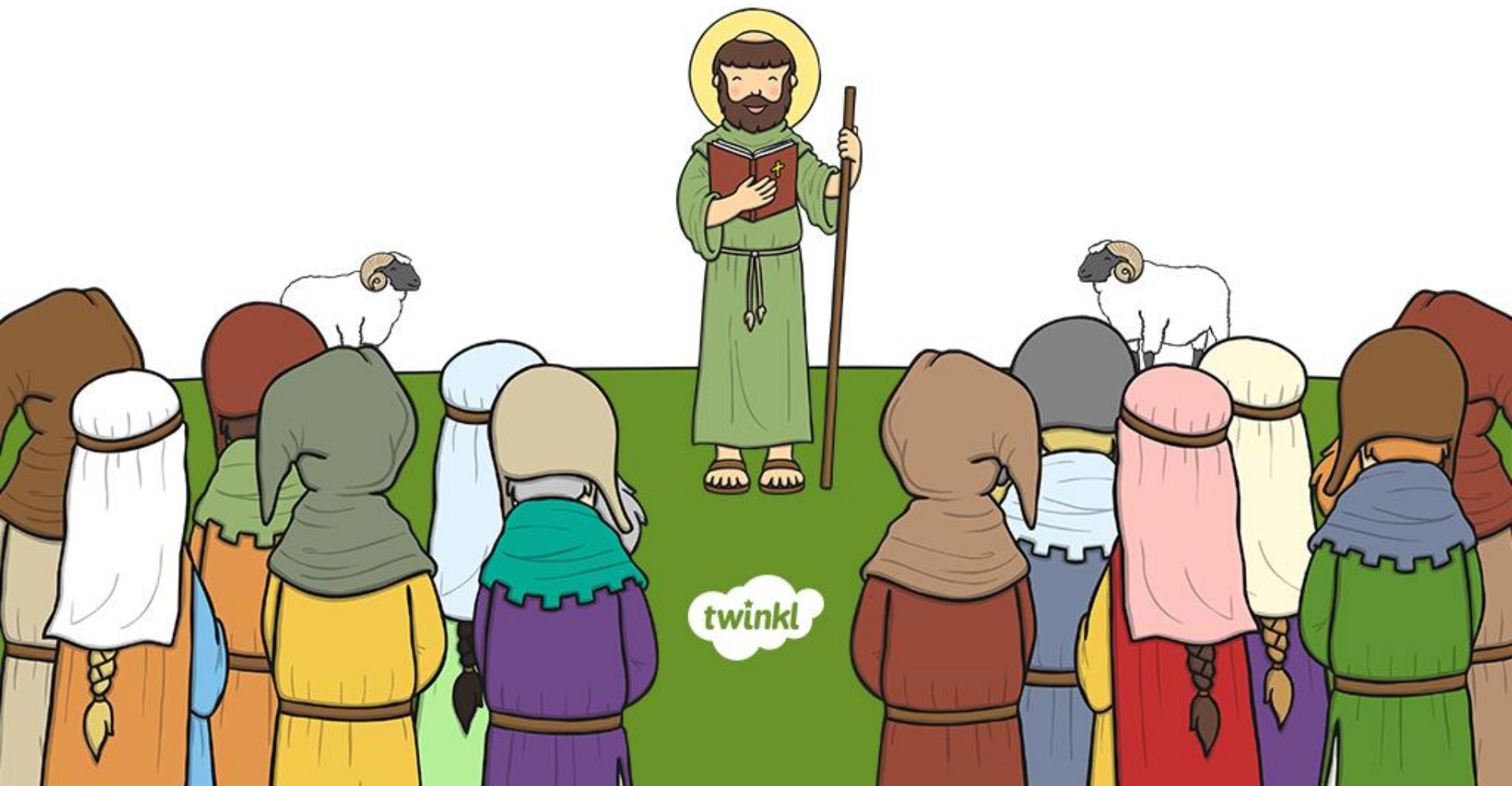


St David's Day

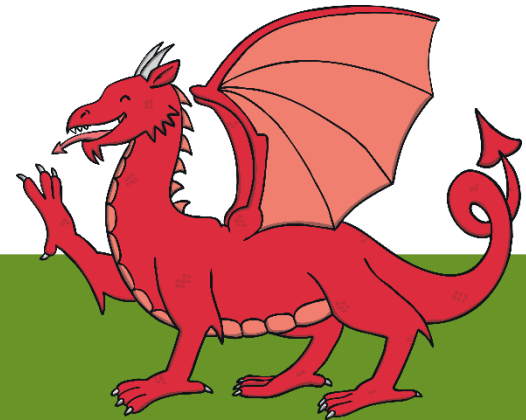


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When is St David's Day?

- St David's day is on 1st March.

Saint David is the patron saint of Wales.



Who Was Saint David?

Saint David was a Celtic monk, abbot and bishop who died in AD 589.

His mother was Saint Non and his father was Saint, King of Ceredigion.

He spread the word of Christianity throughout Wales.

It is believed that he went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where he was made an archbishop.

Saint David was famous for the miracles he performed. One day, he caused the ground to rise beneath him so everyone could see and hear him.



Leeks and Daffodils

St David's Day is commemorated by the wearing of daffodils or leeks.

Why Leeks?

One version is that Saint David advised the Britons, on the eve of a battle with the Saxons, to wear leeks in their caps so that they could easily distinguish friend from foe. This apparently helped to secure a great victory.



Why Daffodils?

Leeks and daffodils have similar names in Welsh - Cenhinen (leek) and Cenhinen Pedr (daffodil). Some people believe that this is why daffodils are also national emblems of Wales.



Welsh National Dress

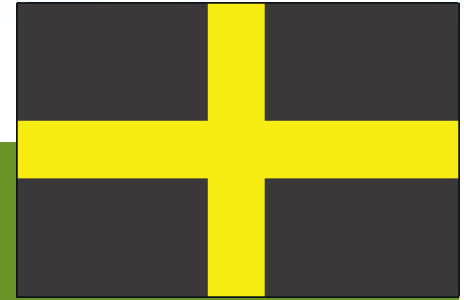


On St David's Day, some children wear the national dress of Wales.

This consists of a tall black hat, white frilled cap and a long dress.

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Flags



The flag of Saint David is flown on St David's Day.

The Welsh regiment of the British army wear the cross of Saint David on their uniform on St David's Day.

The Welsh flag is also flown on this day.



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St David's Day Parade

The biggest event is the St David's Day parade which makes its way right across Cardiff city centre.

There are colourful street dancers and school children and youth groups dressed in Welsh traditional costume and Welsh traditional music.

As part of the St David's Day Parade, celebrities have been known to give performances.

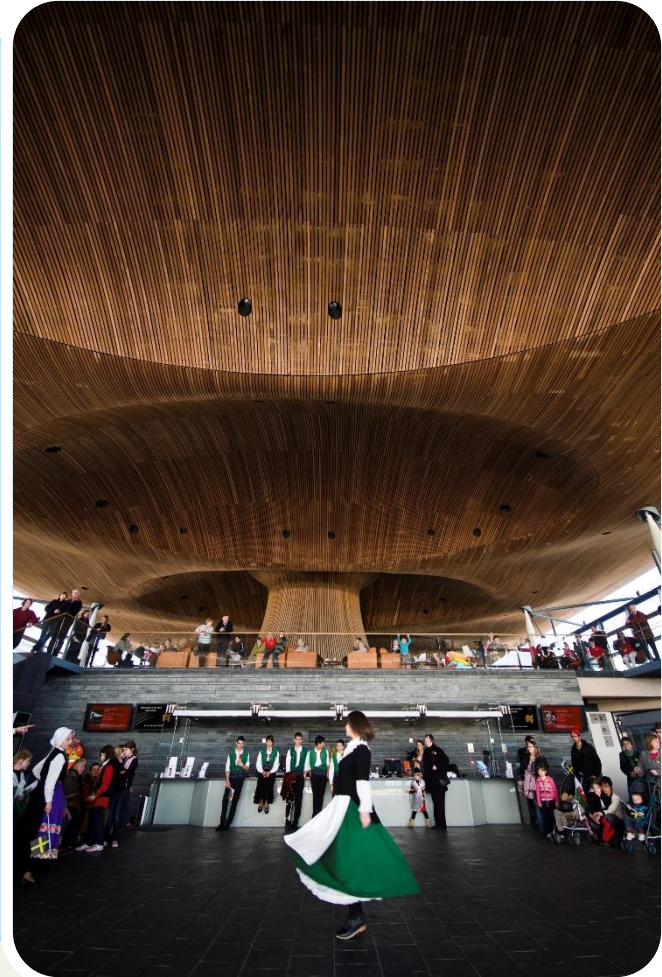


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St David's Day Parades

Many villages and towns in Wales arrange St David's parade on 1st March.

Some parades are very colourful with flags being waved as well as sculptures of the red dragon being carried.

Children sing Welsh songs, such as the Welsh National Anthem and Calon Lan.



Other Celebrations



Concerts are held in pubs, clubs and other venues.

Some Welsh school children perform in concerts and sing in choirs.

Cawl (a soup made from leeks), as well as Welsh cakes and bara brith, are often eaten on St David's Day.

Traditional dancing is another way to celebrate.



The Welsh National Anthem

The Welsh National Anthem is sung on St David's Day

Mae hen wlad fy nhadau yn annwyl i mi,
Gwlad beirdd a chantorion, enwogion o fri;
Ei gwrol ryfelwyr, gwladgarwyr tra môd,
Tros ryddid gollasant eu gwaed.

Cytgan:

Gwlad, Gwlad, pleidiol wyf i'm gwlad,
Tra môr yn fur i'r bur hoff bau,
O bydded i'r heniaith barhau.

Hen Gymru fynyddig, paradwys y bardd,
Pob dyffryn, pob clogwyn, i'm golwg sydd hardd;
Trwy deimlad gwladgarol, mor swynol yw si
Ei nentydd, afonydd, i mi.

