

March

Have some fun learning about the saints of the British Isles!

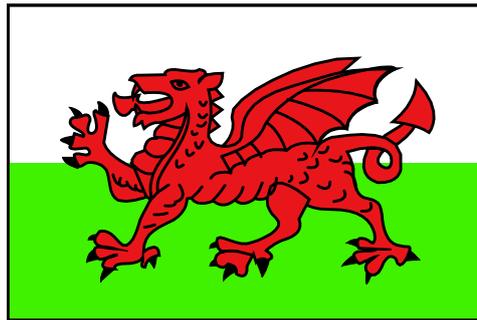
Saint David

The feast day of Saint David, patron saint of Wales is celebrated on 1st March but little is known about his life other than he had a long and difficult struggle against paganism.

Legend tells that the people of Wales followed pagan gods, led in their belief by pagan priests or wizards. They did not really want to listen to Christian priests and learn about God. Once, when the Christian priests could not be heard at a huge gathering David was asked to speak. His voice sounded as clearly as a trumpet and a white dove, often the sign of God, landed on his shoulder. The crowd were enthralled and then amazed as the ground heaved up into a mountain so that he stood high above the crowd.

David founded a monastery at St. David's and the monks led a simple life - they wore the coarsest of garments, ate simple food and did hard manual work as well as praying, reading and learning the scriptures.

The Welsh flag depicts a large red dragon on a green and white background and the symbol is a daffodil.



Make a dove to remember what happened when David preached to the people.

White Doves

Equipment: dove template, white card, scissors, white paper, art materials, glue, white tissue paper, googly eyes(optional)

- Cut out simple dove shapes from white card or allow the Beavers to trace round a template and cut it out themselves.
- The Beavers can tear the tissue paper into small pieces then scrunch and glue them onto the bird shape for feathers.
- The wings can be made from white paper by drawing round outstretched hands and cutting round the outline. Attach wings to the dove body.
- Add a coloured beak and eyes - self-adhesive googly ones add an extra touch!



Saint Patrick

The feast day of Saint Patrick, patron saint of Ireland is celebrated on 17th March and there are many well-known stories about Patrick's life - how he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland; lived a lonely life of prayer as a shepherd on Slemish; used the shamrock to teach the pagan people about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, 3 in 1 and banished all the snakes from Ireland!

The flag of Saint Patrick, a red saltire cross on a white background makes up part of the Union Flag and the symbol of Ireland is the shamrock.

Play some Saint Patrick themed games to remember how the snakes were banished.

Musical Islands

Equipment: sheets of newspapers, CD player & Irish music

- *Choose one Beaver Scout to be 'Saint Patrick', the remainder of the Colony are 'snakes', 'Patrick' leads the 'snakes' in a line around the meeting place while some traditional Irish music is played*
- *A Leader spreads out the sheets of newspaper, one less sheet than 'snakes' - these represent islands*
- *When the music stops the 'snakes' find an island to sit on. The 'snake' without an island becomes 'Saint Patrick' and the game continues.*

Saint Patrick's Chant

Equipment: toy snake or picture of snake

- *Beaver Scouts sit in a circle on the floor, choose one Beaver Scout to be 'Saint Patrick' who sits in the middle with closed eyes*
- *The Colony chants a rhyme - 'Patrick, Patrick where's the snake? Is it on the ceiling or maybe the floor? Or has it crawled out of the door? Patrick, it is close to you but can you guess behind who?' while passing round the toy snake or picture of a snake. At the end of the rhyme the person holding the snake puts it behind their back and everyone else makes sure that their hands are also behind their back. 'Saint Patrick' opens their eyes and tries to guess who is holding the snake!*
- *Swap around so everyone has a turn at being 'Saint Patrick'!*

Saint Patrick Says..... Equipment: none

- *The Colony are all 'snakes' and stand in a straight line opposite a Leader, who is 'Saint Patrick'*
- *When the Leader says, 'Saint Patrick says: snakes do this...' and does an action everyone must copy it*
- *If the Leader says, 'Do this...' and does an action no-one should copy it. Any Beaver who did the action sits on the floor where they were standing*
- *Make this a fast moving action game so that no-one is sitting down for too long!*

Saint George

The feast day of Saint George, patron saint of England is celebrated on 23rd April. Saint George is also the patron saint of Scouting chosen for his courage and loyalty. There are many stories of how George fought the dragon and rescued the fair princess - a tale of good overcoming evil. George's strong Christian faith gave him guidance, courage and strength of character and he lived by a loyal code of conduct trying to be kind and courteous to everyone and help those in need.

George wore armour to protect him, a shield, breastplate and helmet but he also felt protected by the 'armour' the love of God gave him. The Colony could make their own pieces of armour and pretend to fight the dragon!

The Beavers might like to think about a code of conduct for the Colony to help them be kind to each other and their Leadership team!

The flag of Saint George is a red cross on a white background and is part of the Union Flag. The symbol of England is a red rose.

Saint Andrew

The feast day of Saint Andrew, patron saint of Scotland is 30th November. Andrew was one of the fishermen from the Sea of Galilee called by Jesus to follow him. Andrew played an important role throughout the ministry of Jesus - at the feeding of the 5,000 it was Andrew who told Jesus about the boy who had brought loaves and fishes. Like Jesus, Andrew was crucified but he was tied to a saltire or X shaped cross which meant that his death was prolonged. His remains were eventually brought to Scotland and their final resting place became known as St. Andrew's.

There are many children's books about the story from the Bible of the feeding of the 5,000. Use this as an opportunity to talk about sharing.

The manner of his death is remembered on the Scottish flag, a blue saltire cross on a white background. The symbol of Scotland is the thistle.

LOTTO GAME

Beavers will enjoy playing this Saints Lotto game. Make lotto boards using a selection of pictures, such as flags, symbols, saints' names and dates. The number of squares will depend on the capabilities of your Beavers. Make a master set of pictures to call out and use card circles, counters or buttons to cover the pictures. You may prefer to laminate the lotto boards and use dry wipe pens to cross off the pictures.

