

**Leek or Daffodil?
Which will you wear on St. David's Day, 1st March**



On 1st March people in Wales and in other parts of the world will be wearing a Leek or a Daffodil with pride! This is because they will be celebrating St. David's Day in honour of Dewi Sant (or St. David as he is known in the English language), the patron saint of Wales.

Who is Dewi Sant?

He is said to be of royal lineage. His father, Prince Sandde, was the son of Ceredig, King of Ceredigion. Legend has it that his mother, Non, was King Arthur's niece. Dewi was born near the present city of Saint David's (Tyddewi in Welsh) on the South-West Wales coast. He was educated in a monastery in Cardiganshire, following which he travelled far on his missionary journeys throughout Wales, where he established several churches. He also travelled to the south and west of England where it is said he founded religious centres such as Glastonbury and Croyland. He even went to Jerusalem where he was made archbishop.

He eventually settled at Glyn Rhosyn (where the cathedral city of St David's stands today) and established a monastery. Many miracles are attributed to him, the most incredible of which was performed when he was preaching at the Synod in Llanddewibrefi where it would be decided who would be the next Archbishop. A great crowd gathered and to ensure that everyone could see and hear him he caused the ground to rise underneath him. Unsurprisingly, it was decided shortly afterwards that Dewi would be the Archbishop.

It is claimed that Dewi was over 100 years of age when he died on March 1st in the year 589. On the day he died, his monastery was filled with angels as Christ 'received his soul'. His body was buried in the grounds of the monastery where the cathedral of St. David now stands.

St David's Day dates back to 1120 when Dewi was officially recognised as a saint by Pope Callactus the Second, and March 1st was included in the Church calendar. It ceased to be religious festival in the 16th century, but has been a national festival since the 18th century. Today, Dydd Gwyl Dewi (St. David's Day) is celebrated by schools and cultural societies throughout Wales, and indeed the world on 1st March. It usually involves singing, dancing, eating and drinking – with or without national costume! It is also the custom to wear either a leek or daffodil – two of Wales' national emblems.

What will you be wearing on March 1st?

On Wales' National day this year show your Welsh spirit, proudly wear that daffodil or leek!