

**1 March 2026 – online St David’s Day**

==ORDER OF SERVICE==

**GMT20260216-244335, start at .36 to 4.16/ PPT 1 on split screen (or lower right corner)**

Call to worship (from CPB4, p 233ff)

Intro

[The Lord's My Shepherd \(Psalm 23\) Stuart Townend \(LYRICS\) - YouTube](#)

**GMT20260216-244335, 4.26 to 8.12**

Story: David as a child healing his teacher’s eyesight,

Story: David’s father’s dream – beehive **PPT 2 at 8.08**

fish **PPT 3 at 8.54**

stag **PPT 4 at 9.15**

Prayer

[As the Deer Pants for the Water \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

**GMT20260216-244335, 10.25 to 18.48**

Story: planting faith communities;

Four rules: Pray, watch, work, abstain from strong drink

Prayer: “Do the little things you have heard and seen me do”.

[Paul Vasile leading What We Need Is Here – start at .29 to end \(some ads pop up at end!\)](#)

**GMT20260216-244335, 19.01 to 28.22**

Psalm 121

Story: David as bishop at St David’s **PPT 5 at 20.49**

Leeks – **PPT 6 at 21.46**

Daffodils – **PPT 7 at 22.13**

1 Thessalonians 2:5-12

Intercessions

[Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer \(Tune: Cwm Rhondda - 13vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

**GMT20260216-244335, 28.31 to 34.20**

Story: Beekeeping at Pembrokeshire – p 243 – **PPT 8 at 29.00**

Prayer

Story: Synod 244-5 – **PPT 9 at 33.30**

**GMT20260217-150204, .05 to 1.03 – PPT 10**

**GMT20260216-244335, 34.22 to 39.58**

Confession

Story: Final words: Be happy and keep your faith .. always be on one mind.

Commitment prayer

[When We are Living, We are in the Lord \(Singing the Faith 485 / StF 485\)](#)

Call to worship (from CPB4, p 233ff)

We come into the presence of David's God and ours...  
Great God, who called your servant David  
To be an apostle and parent in God to the people of Wales,  
Fire us with his faith, clothe us in his joy,  
And bring forth fresh fruit in our lives and lands.

[The Lord's My Shepherd \(Psalm 23\) Stuart Townend \(LYRICS\) - YouTube](#)

Story:

David as a child, sent to the elderly Abba Paul  
to learn about saving knowledge and conquering evil powers...  
As his teacher's eyesight began to fail,  
Each of the students was asked to lay hands on him and pray for a cure.  
None were successful until shy David's touch was used by God to heal.

Later, David's father was advised to send David to Whithorn,  
Where St Ninian had founded a great faith community.  
About the same time, David's father had a dream in which he was hunting  
And came upon a stag, a fish, and a beehive.  
In his dream, he understood he was to send the hive and the fish  
and some the stag meat to the monastery.

The honeycomb symbolised wisdom:

As the honey lies embed in the wax,  
So his son would perceived spiritual meaning embedded in the words of the Bible.

The fish symbolised lifestyle:

As fish live in water, so his son would reject addictive food and drink,  
Instead living in God and eating only basics such as bread and water.

The stag represented power over Satan, often depicted as a serpent.

After the stag has fed itself on the snakes it has killed,  
It longs for living water to reinvigorate itself.

May we draw wisdom from your Word as honey is drawn from the comb,  
May we live in your as fish live in water.  
May we conquer the demons and draw life from eternal springs.

[As the Deer Pants for the Water \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

Story:

David trained for several years at Whithorn,  
Training that involved nights spent in prayer vigils,  
lessons in prayer and liturgy,  
And pilgrimage and missionary journeys –  
adhering to the Celtic missionary strategy  
Of finding out where God was at work  
and joining in with all one's energy and resources.

He then went on to plant faith communities among pagan invaders from the east:

in Somerset and Lincolnshire in Derbyshire and Herefordshire,  
in Monmouthshire and Radnorshire.  
In all those places, he established communities built on four rules:  
Pray, watch, work, abstain from strong drink.

In Philippians 4:8-9, St Paul had said:

“whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,  
whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,  
if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.  
Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received  
and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

In David’s instruction to his communities, he was insistent on attention to the ‘little things’:  
“Do the little things you have heard and seen me do”.

In the little things I do, be present, Lord.  
In the little things I speak, be present, Lord,  
In the little moments I fill, be present, Lord.  
In my working and in my going, be present, Lord.

Teach us, our God and King,  
To care by noticing the little things,  
To love by cherishing the little things,  
To serve by serving in little things,  
To pray by offering the little things.  
These we offer to you now.

All we need is here...

### **Psalm 121**

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
- <sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
- <sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and for evermore.

Story:

David became well-loved by many and eventually was chosen to be a bishop.  
He founded a great monastic centre at what is now St David’s in Wales.  
It was a harsh environment, rocky and close to the sea and its gales,  
So little grew on its own above ground.  
David prayed about this new place where he had been sent

And continued his long-established principles of honest labour and simplicity.  
They established beekeeping as an essential source of medicinal honey,  
And David recognised that leeks, which grew underground, could thrive,  
So leeks became a staple part of the monks' diet.

Indeed, the leek has become the symbol of Wales itself!  
The other national symbol of Wales is the Daffodil,  
Which also grows from an underground bulb –  
And the name, of course, comes from 'David's Lily', i.e. 'Daffodil'!

To do the farming, instead of using animals to pull the ploughs,  
The brothers placed the yoke on their own shoulders,  
Dug the ground with their own strength,  
Carried hoes and saws for cutting,  
And provided for the whole community with their own efforts.  
The monks' clothing was basic, their food simple.  
They had all things in common; no one should even say, "this is my book."

David was known to bring out the best in others,  
Encouraging those who were shy,  
Supporting those whose work was successful –  
even when they could seem a threat to his own work,  
Intervening when danger threatened.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians 2:5-12 seems an apt description of life at the monastery  
And of David as a Bishop:

<sup>5</sup>As you know and as God is our witness,  
we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed;  
<sup>6</sup>nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others,  
<sup>7</sup>though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.  
*But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children.*  
<sup>8</sup>*So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you  
not only the gospel of God but also our own selves,  
because you have become very dear to us.*  
9 You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters;  
we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you  
while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.  
<sup>10</sup>You are witnesses, and God also,  
how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was towards you believers.  
<sup>11</sup>*As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children,*  
<sup>12</sup>*urging and encouraging you and pleading that you should lead a life worthy of God,  
who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.*

#### Intercessions

Let us rest from our own work and that of the world.  
Lord our God, we would be true in all the work we do.  
All that is done, we do it unto you.  
We would be true in watch of day or night;  
Be vigilant and watch with only you in sight.

We would be true in all the words we pray;  
Be heartfelt, caring, in all the words we say.

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Story:

There is another story about a monk named Modomnoc,  
Who came to study with David at Pembrokeshire.  
As we've said, beekeeping was an important part of the monastery at St David's,  
And so Modomnoc became skilled at beekeeping.  
When it was time for him to return to Ireland,  
David blessed him and sent him on his way in a boat.  
But the entire swarm of bees followed Modomnoc and settled on his boat!

With great effort, Modomnoc managed to coerce the bees back to their hive,  
And a day or two later, again set out for the boat with him.  
Again, he patiently guided them back to the hive.

Then he went to David and suggested that he wait till the bees were tired  
And sleepy, so he could slip away quietly.  
The brothers all gathered around him to pray for him and his new ministry.  
As they prayed, David realised that God intended  
for the bees to be part of the blessing to the work in Ireland.  
This is reported to be the prayer he used:

*May the land to which you are journeying abound with your offspring.  
May you forever leave our land and your offspring never decrease there,  
But may they never fail to increase in the land to which you go.  
May the places to which you shall journey abound with spiritual fruit.*

Indeed, it was reported several centuries later that had been sent to Ireland  
Where no previous bees had been known, flourished  
While the bees that stayed in Wales dwindled to nothing!

Finally, we have a story from a time when David was called to speak  
To a large open-aired synod which had gone 'pear-shaped'.  
Indeed, the church leaders had lost their authority, and no one was listening to them.  
The crowd was huge, but no one was paying any attention,  
And the church leaders were afraid that the people would return home  
And announce that the Church was completely disorganised.  
Old Paul, under whom David had studied, urged them to bring David to the synod,  
As he was well loved and reportedly 'spoke with angels'.  
David was summoned and eventually agreed to go to the Synod.  
As he approached the gathering, he heard the wailing of mourners,  
And came upon a bereaved mother and her dead son.  
The synod organisers were urging him to go quickly to the stage to speak,  
But David insisted first on comforting the woman  
And praying over the son – who soon revived!  
David then handed the Gospel Book to the son to carry in front of him  
To the front of the Synod.

As David was a little man, the crowd had piled up a large amount of clothing  
For him to stand on.  
As he climbed atop the pile, people began to murmur that the pile was growing!  
And then he spoke, and the crowd stopped their murmuring to listen.  
And through his gentle words, he reminded them of prayer and devotion,  
Of simplicity and their importance of hard work and service.  
He spoke with a gentle authority, to which the crowd responded with love  
And commitment.

And so we pray for ourselves and the situations we find ourselves in:  
*Give to us the authority that belongs to us.*  
*May it grow through prayer and service.*  
*As waters spring from the earth, signs of your generous given,*  
*May we draw deeply from you, the Wellspring of life.*

#### Confession

Lord, David worked with unflagging zeal,  
Forgive us for our flickering flame.  
Lord, David witnessed with unfaltering faith,  
Forgive us for our faltering steps.  
Lord, David served with unstinting generosity,  
Forgive us for our fickle friendship.

Loving Father who has redeemed us  
And who shines serenely as sun and sea,  
Forgive our past and present sins,  
Remedy in heaven our faults  
that today we may welcome Christ with joy.

The stories continue to tell us that David's work continued for many years,  
And the monastery and work inspired by it continued to grow.

David's final words to his brothers are reported to be:

*"Be happy and keep your faith .. always be on one mind."*

When he died, all Wales mourned his passing:

*'kings mourned him as a judge, the older people as a brother, the younger as a father.'*

The church in Wales continued in strength for centuries to follow,

And so, we too, continue to honour David's life and teaching:

*We will lie down in the wisdom of the teachers.*  
*We will lie down in the nurture of the mothers.*  
*We will lie down in the simplicity of the hermits.*  
*We will lie down in the generosity of the givers.*  
*We will lie down in the warmth of the welcomers.*  
*We will lie down in the upbuilding of the fathers.*

[When We are Living, We are in the Lord \(Singing the Faith 485 / StF 485\)](#)

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