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Dublin Core

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St Aidan in Ireland and Wales | Sant Aidan yng Nghymru ac Iwerddon

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St Aidan

Ferns

Churches

Creator

Martin Crampin

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Curatescape Story Item Type Metadata

Title (Welsh)

Sant Aidan yng Nghymru ac Iwerddon

Lede

There are many traditions of saints crossing the sea between Ireland and Wales. One Irish saint who had close associations with Wales was Aidan of Ferns, also known as Madog.

Lede (Welsh)

Ceir llawer o draddodiadau ynglŷn â seintiau yn croesi'r môr rhwng Iwerddon a Chymru. Un sant Gwyddelig oedd â chysylltiadau agos â Chymru oedd Aidan o Ferns, sydd hefyd yn cael ei adnabod fel Madog.

Story

One of the disciples of St David in the Latin Life of St David is named *sanctus Aidanus*. According to text, written late in the eleventh century by Rhygyfarch ap Sulien at his scriptorium in Llanbadarn Fawr, Aidan left David's monastery and travelled to Ireland where he established a monastery at Ferns.

Several miracles relating to St Aidan are mentioned in the text, and these are elaborated in another Latin text of a similar date that was known to the Welsh writer Rhygyfarch. The Latin Life of St Aidan is titled *Vita S. Aidiui siue Maidoc*, implying the two names were used for the saint, and Rhygyfarch also says that Aidan was named *Maidoc* since his infancy. The names are linked through the basic name *Aedd*, which was modified with different prefixes and suffixes in Irish and Welsh to produce Maedóc, Maodhog or Moeog, as well as Aidan.

Stories in the Latin Lives relate further connections between the two saints, and additional traditions can be found in seventeenth-century Lives of St Aidan written in Irish. These stories include some miraculous journeys across the sea. Aidan walks across the sea when boatmen refuse to take him, and on another occasion an unnamed 'wild animal' brings Aidan back to Ferns from the Welsh coast. A bell given to Aidan by David in Wales is miraculously restored to Aidan after he forgets to bring it back to Ireland with him.

The site of Aidan's monastery is probably marked by the remains of an Augustinian Priory in Ferns and the small Church of Ireland cathedral, dedicated to St Edan. Ruins of the medieval building stand to the east of the present cathedral, which mostly dates to the early nineteenth century.

The large Catholic church in Ferns has an extensive set of modern stained glass made by Lua Breen in 1976. In addition to abstract works expressive of a journey of faith, a window shows St Aidan in a boat bidding farewell to St David, and a companion window either shows Aidan being greeted by a local king or Diarmait Mac Murchada, a twelfth-century king of Leinster, granting land for the Augustinian Priory. As patron of the Catholic diocese of Ferns (whose cathedral at Enniscorthy is also dedicated to Aidan), images of Aidan are often found in churches across the south-eastern corner of Ireland.

Aidan seems to have been more commonly known as Madog in Wales, and churches in Pembrokeshire have been associated with him. Images of Madog in modern stained glass can be seen in churches at Haroldston West, Talbenny and Roch, all of which are located around St Bride's Bay to the south of St Davids. A window made in 1985 by the Welsh stained glass firm Celtic Studios shows him with St David at Roch. Madog is shown with bees, as in the four-volume work on British saints by Sabine Baring-Gould and John Fisher, published between 1907 and 1913, the authors state that he should be depicted with a hive of bees. However, nothing in either the medieval Latin or seventeenth-century Irish texts associates Aidan with bees, and in the Life of St David it is Modomnóc who is associated with beekeeping. Modomnóc also travels to Ireland and the bees follow him. After crossing the sea with him several times he, and the bees, settle permanently in Ireland.

Story (Welsh)

Enw un o ddisgyblion Dewi Sant yn hanes bywyd Dewi yn Lladin yw sanctus Aidanus. Yn ôl y testun, a ysgrifennwyd yn hwyr yn yr unfed ganrif ar ddeg gan Rhygyfarch ap Sulien yn ei sgriptoriwm yn Llanbadarn Fawr, gadawodd Aidan fynachlog Dewi a theithio i Iwerddon lle sefydlodd fynachlog yn Ferns.

Sonnir am sawl gwyrth sy'n gysylltiedig â Sant Aidan yn y testun, ac ymhelaethir ar y rhain mewn testun Lladin arall o ddyddiad tebyg oedd yn hysbys i'r llenor o Gymro, Rhygyfarch. Enw Buchedd Sant Aidan yn Lladin yw Vita S. Aidiui siue Maidoc, sy'n awgrymu bod y ddau enw yn cael eu defnyddio ar gyfer y sant, ac mae Rhygyfarch hefyd yn dweud mai Maidoc oedd enw Aidan ers ei fabandod. Mae'r enwau wedi'u cysylltu drwy'r enw sylfaenol Aedd, a addaswyd gyda gwahanol ragddodiaid ac ôl-ddodiaid yn y Gymraeg a'r Wyddeleg i roi Maedóc, Maodhog neu Moeog, yn ogystal ag Aidan.

Mae straeon yn y bucheddau Lladin yn ymwneud â rhagor o gysylltiadau rhwng y ddau sant, a cheir rhagor o draddodiadau ym Mucheddau Sant Aidan o'r ail ganrif ar bymtheg a ysgrifennwyd mewn Gwyddeleg. Mae'r straeon hyn yn cynnwys siwrneiau gwyrthiol ar draws y môr. Mae Aidan yn cerdded ar draws y môr pan fo cychod yn gwrthod ei gario, ac ar achlysur arall mae 'anifail gwyllt' di-enw yn dod ag Aidan yn ôl i Ferns o arfordir Cymru. Mae cloch a roddwyd i Aidan gan Ddewi yng Nghymru yn cael ei hadfer yn wyrthiol i Aidan ar ôl iddo anghofio dod â hi yn ôl i Iwerddon gydag ef.

Mae'n debyg bod safle mynachlog Aidan yn cael ei nodi gan weddillion Priordy Awstinaidd yn Ferns ac eglwys gadeiriol fach sy'n perthyn i Eglwys Iwerddon, sydd wedi'i chysegru i Sant Edan. Mae adfeilion yr adeilad canoloesol yn gorwedd i'r dwyrain o'r eglwys gadeiriol bresennol, sy'n dyddio'n bennaf i ddechrau'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg.

Mae gan yr eglwys Gatholig fawr yn Ferns set helaeth o ffenestri gwydr lliw modern wedi'u gwneud gan Lua Breen ym 1976. Yn ogystal â gweithiau haniaethol sy'n mynegi siwrnai ffydd, mae un ffenestr yn dangos Sant Aidan mewn cwch yn ffarwelio â Dewi Sant, ac mae chwaer ffenestr yn dangos naill ai Aidan yn cael ei gyfarch gan frenin lleol neu Diarmait Mac Murchada, brenin Leinster o'r ddeuddegfed ganrif, yn rhoi tir ar gyfer y Priordy Awstinaidd. Fel nawddsant i esgobaeth Gatholig Ferns (y mae ei chadeirlan yn Enniscorthy hefyd wedi'i chysegru i Aidan), ceir delweddau o Aidan yn aml mewn eglwysi ar draws cornel dde-ddwyrain Iwerddon.

Mae'n ymddangos bod Aidan yn fwy adnabyddus fel Madog yng Nghymru, ac mae eglwysi yn Sir Benfro wedi bod yn gysylltiedig ag ef. Gellir gweld delweddau o Madog mewn gwydr lliw modern mewn eglwysi yn Haroldston West, Talbenni a'r Garn, bob un wedi'u lleoli o amgylch Bae Sain Ffrêd i'r de o Dyddewi. Mae ffenestr a wnaed ym 1985 gan y cwmni

gwydr lliw Cymreig Celtic Studios yn ei ddangos gyda Dewi Sant yn y Garn. Dangosir Madog gyda gwenyn, gan fod y gwaith pedair cyfrol ar seintiau Prydain gan Sabine Baring-Gould a John Fisher, a gyhoeddwyd rhwng 1907 a 1913, yn datgan y dylid ei bortreadu â chwch o wenyn. Er hynny, does dim byd yn y testunau Lladin canoloesol neu'r Wyddeleg o'r ail ganrif ar bymtheg yn cysylltu Aidan â gwenyn, ac ym Muchedd Dewi Modomnóc sy'n gysylltiedig â chadw gwenyn. Mae Modomnóc hefyd yn teithio i Iwerddon ac mae'r gwenyn yn ei ddilyn. Ar ôl croesi'r môr gydag ef sawl gwaith mae ef, a'r gwenyn, yn ymgartrefu'n barhaol yn Iwerddon.

Related Resources

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Richard Sharpe and John Reuben Davies (ed. and tr.), 'Rhygyfarch's *Life of St David*', in J.W. Evans and J.M. Wooding (eds.), *St David of Wales: Cult, Church and Nation* (Woodbridge: Boydell, 2007), 107–55

Saint Edan's Cathedral (Ferns), National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/15612001Buildings/saint-edans-cathedral-ferns-ferns-upper-ferns-county-wexford>, archived at <https://perma.cc/FZD2-KYX3>

Ferns Augustinian Abbey, Monastic Ireland, <http://monastic.ie/history/ferns-augustinian-abbey/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/3SJ6-8DAM>

Ferns Church – Stained Glass Windows, Parish of Ferns, <http://fernsparish.ie/ferns-stained-glass-windows/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/462A-BHDS>

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