

Westminster Abbey

Learning



St Edward the Confessor factsheet

BORN: c. 1003, Islip in Oxfordshire

REIGNED: 8th June 1042 – 5th January 1066

DIED: 4/5th January, 1066, Westminster Palace

TITLES

King of England

St Edward the Confessor

(The name 'Confessor' is because of his religious devotion)

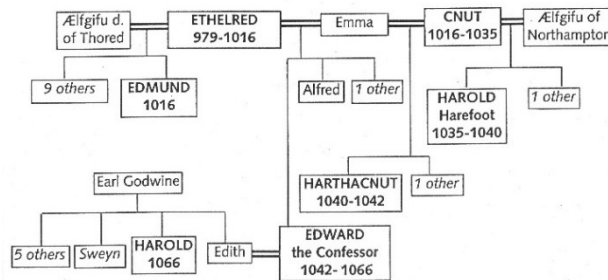
FAMILY

Father: King Ethelred the Unready

Mother: Emma of Normandy

Wife: Edith

Children: None



SHIELD



KEY EVENTS TIMELINE

1003 – Edward is born to King Ethelred and Queen Emma

1013 – Sweyn Forkbeard from Denmark seizes the throne and Edward goes to live in Normandy

1041 – Edward invited back to England by Witan and king

1042 – Edward becomes king after the death of his half-brother Harthacnut

1043 – Edward is crowned at Winchester Cathedral

1045 – Edward marries Edith, daughter of the powerful Earl Godwin

1050 – Construction of Westminster Abbey begins

1065 – On the 28th December Westminster Abbey is consecrated

1066 – Edward dies on the 5th January and is buried in the Abbey

1161 – Edward is 'canonised' (made a saint)

1269 – Edward's body is translated into a beautiful new Shrine in the presence of King Henry III.

ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR & WESTMINSTER ABBEY

He organised the construction of Westminster Abbey in 1050 on the site of an earlier monastery. It was built in the Norman or Romanesque style of architecture and dedicated to St Peter. St Edward the Confessor was buried in Westminster Abbey in 1066. In 1269 his body was moved to a newly built Shrine which can still be seen in the Abbey today.

FAMOUS FOR:

- Building Westminster Abbey
- Leaving no heir, leading to the succession crisis of 1066 and the Battle of Hastings.
- His piety and holiness. People believed he could cure the sick by touching them. His burial place became a site of pilgrimage where people prayed for the miracle of healing.
- The only King of England to have been made a saint.
- Was the Patron Saint of England until 1348

FUN FACTS:

- He loved to hunt and went hunting every day after church.
- He is the patron saint of difficult marriages.
- He was the 8th son of King Ethelred, so never expected to become King.

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