

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, Westminster Abbey

TITLES

King of England

St Edward the Confessor

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

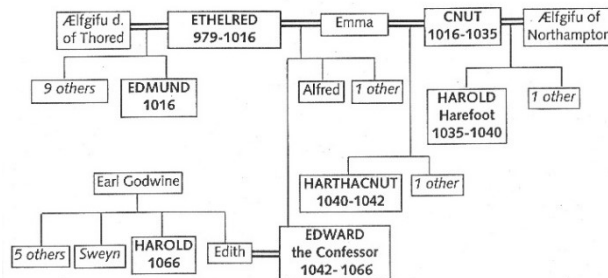
FAMILY

Father: King Ethelred the Unready

Mother: Emma of Normandy

Wife: Edith

Children: None



COAT OF ARMS



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 IIIA

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. During his lifetime, people believed he could cure the sick simply by touching them. Upon his death, his burial place became a place of pilgrimage where people prayed for the miracle of healing.
- The only King of England to have been made a saint.
- Edward 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 of England.

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