

Despite storm Ciara and Dennis doing their worst (other storms will be available shortly!), keen gardeners will be seeing the first signs of spring, and even daffodils are out in some places. March seems to be a month of daffodils, both on Sunday 1st and Sunday 22nd.

I'm writing this as the Six Nations Rugby Championship is only a few weeks old. I'm not going to reveal my allegiances, but one nation I know I don't have in my ancestry is Welsh.

March 1st is St David's day, the Patron Saint of Wales. Of all the home nations, he's the only Patron Saint who was actually born in the place he's come to be associated with. Who was he, and why the daffodil?

David was a Welsh bishop in the 6th century, popular with the people as a preacher. One of the sayings of his that's come down the centuries is 'Do the little things in life' – as we focus this Lent on environmental things, his words are worth considering. During Lent what about doing some small loving and kind thing to help others and our environment. These little things add up and can make a big difference. Why not try following the hashtag #livelent to find out more?

As for the daffodil? Opinions differ, and it may be that something got lost in translation regarding the 'official' Welsh symbol, the leek. Once when the Welsh were fighting the Saxons, St David advised them to wear the leek, growing nearby to distinguish themselves from the Saxon army. The battle was won by the Welsh and as the saying goes, the rest is history.

Daffodils will also feature on Mothering Sunday when you're invited to come along to all age services at 9.30am in St Mary's Downe and 11am in Cudham Church. During both services small posies of flowers will be given out, and these may include daffs. There will also be an opportunity during the service to bring forward a paper daffodil in memory of loved ones who are no longer with us, especially those who have been a mother to us.

Back to St David – his last words were 'Be joyful, and keep your faith'. What a great thing to ponder as we continue through Lent, and celebrate with joyful daffodils on St David's day and on Mothering Sunday too.

John