

St. Dwynwen's Day

Saint Dwynwen is Wales' patron saint of lovers. She is believed to have been born in the 5th century. Dwynwen was a princess who is thought to have lived close to what is now known as the Brecon Beacons. Dwynwen is sometimes known as Dwyn and her day is celebrated in Wales on the 25th January. It's very similar to how people celebrate Saint Valentine's Day.

Dwynwen was the prettiest of King Brychan Brycheiniog's daughters. Dwynwen had fallen in love with a local man named Maelon; however, her father had arranged for her to marry an important prince. Maelon found out the news and said that he never wanted to see her again.

Dwynwen was completely heartbroken. She ran away to live alone in the forest. She prayed to God to help her. Suddenly, an angel appeared and offered her two drinks. One drink erased her memory of Maelon and turned him into a block of ice!

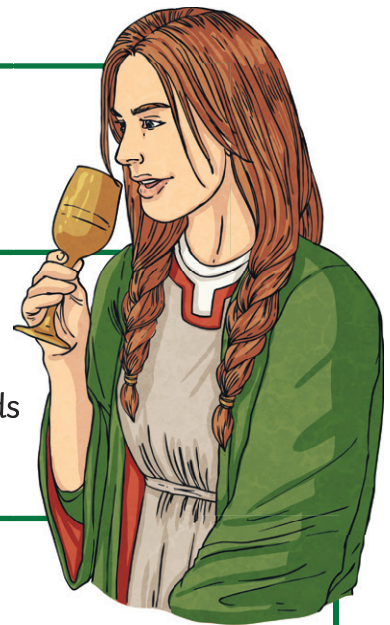
The other granted Dwynwen three wishes. She wished for Maelon to be thawed from the ice, she wished for happiness and love for all the people in Wales, and she wished to never fall in love or marry as she didn't want to feel this pain again. Dwynwen felt she could help others by becoming a nun. She set up a convent on Llanddwyn Island on Anglesey.

Did You Know...?

Cariad means love in Welsh.

St. Dwynwen's day is a very romantic day! Some people celebrate by exchanging cards, flowers and gifts.

St. Dwynwen's Day cards are sold in many places and cards generally say 'Dydd Santes Dwywen Hapus' or 'cariad'.



Did You Know...?

The name Llanddwyn means 'The church of Saint Dwynwen'.

Pilgrims made pilgrimages to her holy well and visitors would leave gifts at her shrine. These gifts helped build a 16th century chapel on the original site. The ruins can still be seen today.

Questions

1. What was Saint Dwynwen patron saint of? Tick one. ☐ Wales ☐ Lovers ☐ Healing
2. Find and copy one word that means **love** in Welsh.

3. Fill in the missing word.

St. Dwynwen's Day is celebrated on the 25th _____

4. Number the events 1 to 5 to show the order in which they happen in the text.

Maelon finds out Dwynwen is arranged to marry someone else.	
Dwynwen falls in love with Maelon.	
Dwynwen becomes a nun.	
Maelon turns into a block of ice.	
Dwynwen sets up a convent.	

5. Join the boxes to show how Dwynwen felt at different points in the story.

One has been done for you.

Dwynwen felt happy when
Dwynwen felt she could help others
Dwynwen felt sad when

by becoming a nun.
she was spending time with Maelon.
Maelon said he did not want to speak to her.

6. What three things did Dwynwen wish for? Tick one.
- ☐ Dwynwen wished for peace, love and chocolate.
- ☐ Dwynwen wished for Maelon to run away, for happiness and for her never to fall in love or marry.
- ☐ Dwynwen wished for Maelon to be thawed, for happiness and for her never to fall in love or marry.
7. Fill in the missing words.

Llanddwyn means "The _____ of Saint _____".

8. How do people in Wales celebrate St. Dwynwen's Day?

Answers

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2. Find and copy one word that means **love** in Welsh.

cariad

3. Fill in the missing word.

St. Dwynwen's Day is celebrated on the 25th **January**.

4. Number the events 1 to 5 to show the order in which they happen in the text.

Maelon finds out Dwynwen is arranged to marry someone else.	2
Dwynwen falls in love with Maelon.	1
Dwynwen becomes a nun.	4
Maelon turns into a block of ice.	3
Dwynwen sets up a convent.	5

5. Join the boxes to show how Dwynwen felt at different points in the story.

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7. Fill in the missing words.

Llanddwyn means "The **Church** of Saint **Dwynwen**".

8. How do people in Wales celebrate St. Dwynwen's Day?

People in Wales celebrate by exchanging cars, flowers and gifts.