

Saint David's to Hold Evensong Service in Honor of Saint David's Day

Cranbury, NJ, Feb. 20 -- Saint David's Episcopal Church in Cranbury will hold a "Choral Evensong" (evening prayer) service on Sunday, March 4th at 3:00 p.m. in celebration of Saint David's Day. In honor of Saint David being the patron saint of Wales, the service will be followed by a tea featuring traditional Welsh fare. All members of Saint David's, as well as the community, are invited to attend.

According to The Reverend Karin Mitchell, Rector of Saint David's, the clergy and congregation alike are looking forward to this unique event. "We're especially pleased to celebrate the traditions of our Welsh heritage, in honor of both the namesake of our church, and some of our own founding members who are such a vital part of our congregation."

Evensong is an Anglican tradition that dates back to the 1500's. The service is sung by the clergy and choir as a choral liturgy. The special service is part of Saint David's ongoing celebration of its 50th anniversary. Founded in 1968, the parish was formed by a grass roots movement by a number of residents in the Cranbury, Hightstown, East Windsor area. Since some of the residents were of Welsh heritage, they proposed the church be named Saint David's, and that was approved by the other members as well as the Episcopal Diocese. Originally, services for Saint David's were held at the Peddie Chapel, until 1982, when the building in Cranbury was completed and Saint David's permanent home was established.

Officially, Saint David's Day is March 1st, said to be the anniversary of his death in 589 A.D. Saint David, or Dewi Sant as he is known in Wales, is recognized for establishing multiple religious centers across Wales and England. He eventually settled in south west Wales, now the site of Saint David's Cathedral.

To mark the day Welsh people around the world wear one or both of their national emblems – a daffodil or a leek. As part of the celebration in Cranbury, daffodils will be distributed following the Evensong service.

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