



Somerset Bridge Primary School
Aspire - Brave - Care - Collaborate

The Well of St Decuman

Located at St Decuman's Church in Watchet.



The well was originally a sacred site for Pagans in the time of St Decuman but has now been claimed by Christians as a place for worship and quiet reflection.

Religion & Worldviews Year 5: Spring 1

How did St Decuman change local belief and culture?

The Legend of St Decuman

Decuman started his life as a monk by being born into a noble family, he was serious and quite quiet. He spent many days in prayer and entered the monastery of Rhoscrowther.

He learnt the skills of sailing a square rigged curragh along the Welsh coast. He sailed to Watchet on a 'bundle of twigs he found growing in a thicket by the sea.'

When St Decuman came to England he lived in solitude much like a hermit. His 'Ministry of Presence' irritated a local man who did not like St Decuman's virtue and had a raging and furious mind.

He cut off St Decuman's head, picked up it, walked to the well and placed his head back on his person.

Decuman suffered 'Red Martyrdom' and his heavenly birthday is celebrated on the Sunday near to the 30th August in Watchet.

Key Vocabulary

Celtic	Connected with the people and culture of Scotland, Wales and Ireland.	✓
Sumorsaetae	People living or dependent on Somerton.	
Druids	A priest, magician or soothsayer in the ancient Celtic religion.	
Pagans	A person holding religious beliefs other than those of the main or recognised religions.	
Polytheism	The belief in many Gods.	
Dark Ages	Early Middle Ages after the fall of the Roman Empire.	

Decuman's influence in West Somerset can be seen as stepping stones.

