

# BELL RINGING FOR THE CONFESSOR

TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE AND WORKS OF KING EDWARD (IN THE 950TH YEAR SINCE HIS DEATH), A THREE HOUR PEAL OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY SURPRISE MAJOR IS BEING RUNG HERE AT NANTWICH ON SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER, AT 10AM.



EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, THE SON OF KING ETHELRED “THE UNREADY”, WAS BORN AROUND THE YEAR 1004. DURING HIS LIFE HE SPENT TIME IN EXILE IN NORMANDY HAVING BEEN DRIVEN FROM ENGLAND BY THE DANES. IN THANKS TO GOD FOR HIS LATER SAFE RETURN TO ENGLAND, HE FOUNDED THE ABBEY OF WESTMINSTER, REPLACING AN EARLIER SAXON CHURCH WHICH WAS USED AS A MONASTERY FOR A BENEDICTINE ORDER ESTABLISHED THERE IN THE TENTH CENTURY. EDWARD’S ABBEY WAS CONSECRATED ON 28 DECEMBER 1065, SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEATH ON 5 JANUARY 1066. EDWARD WAS BURIED IN HIS NEW ABBEY; HIS FUNERAL PROCESSION IS DEPICTED ON THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY (FROM WHICH THE IMAGE ABOVE IS ALSO TAKEN).

EDWARD WAS CANONIZED SAINT AND CONFESSOR BY POPE ALEXANDER III IN 1161. THE TERM CONFESSOR APPLIES TO THOSE WHO SUFFERED FOR THEIR FAITH AND DEMONSTRATED THEIR SANCTITY IN THE FACE OF WORLDLY TEMPTATIONS, BUT WHO WERE NOT MARTYRS. ST EDWARD'S DAY IS 13 OCTOBER.

STEFAN ZIENTEK  
TOWER CAPTAIN