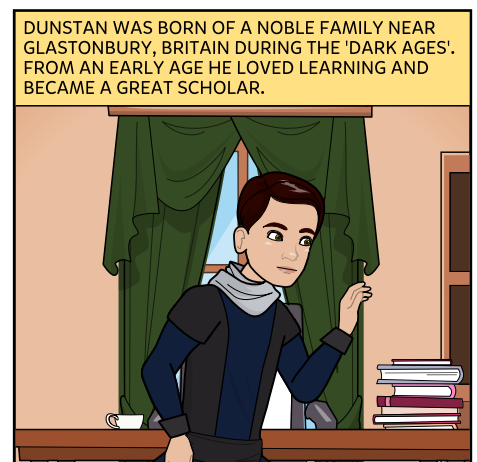
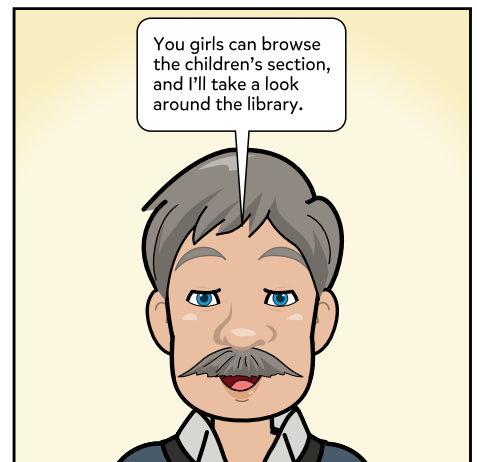
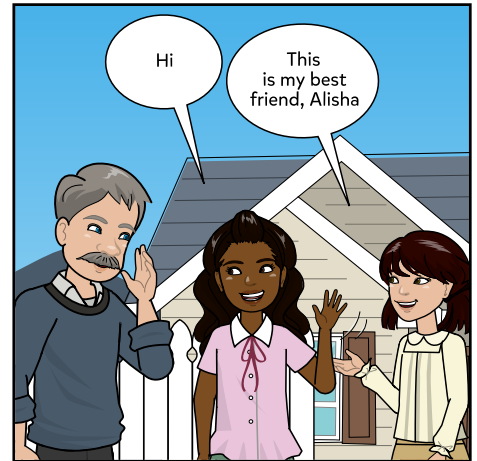
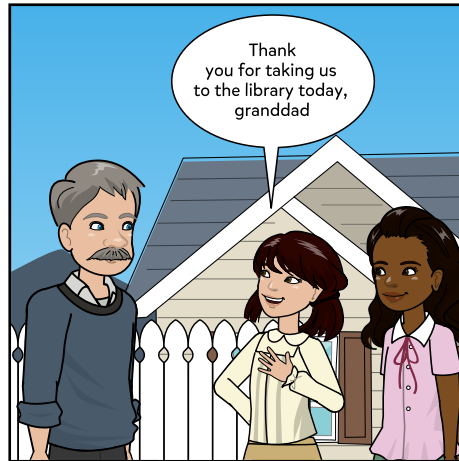
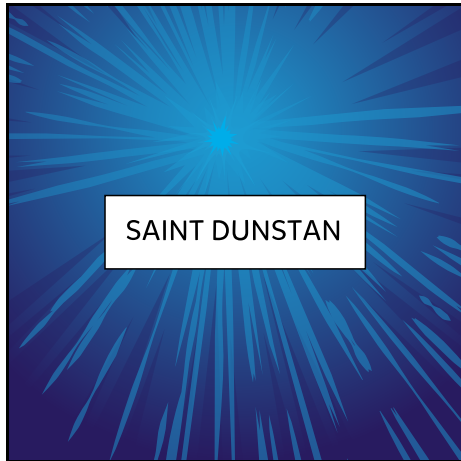


# Saint Dunstan

By Paula de Rushe - Quintal



AS A YOUNG MAN, HE JOINED THE ROYAL COURT OF KING ATHELSTAN.



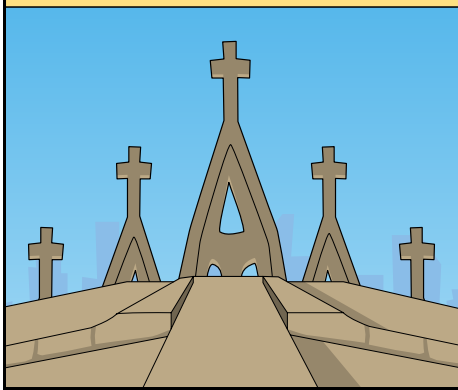
WHEN HE WAS IN HIS EARLY 30s, DUNSTAN GOT A TERRIBLE SKIN DISEASE. THIS MADE HIM THINK ABOUT THE VALUE OF LIFE. IT ALSO BROUGHT HIM CLOSER TO GOD.



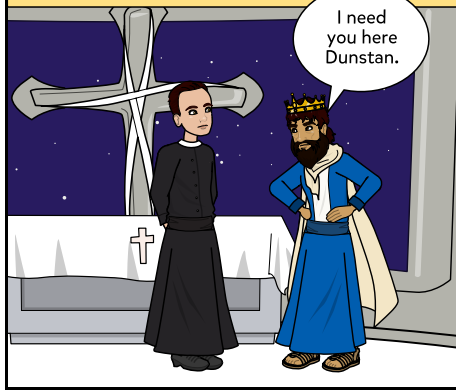
DUNSTAN TOOK HOLY ORDERS AND LIVED A SIMPLE LIFE OF MANUAL LABOUR AND DEVOTION TO GOD.



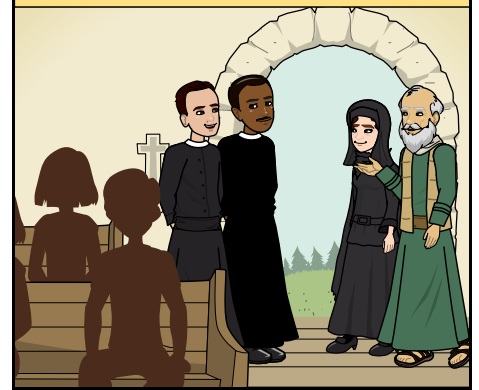
HE SHOWED GREAT SKILL IN METALWORKING AND USED TO CRAFT BELLS AND VESSELS FOR THE CHURCH.



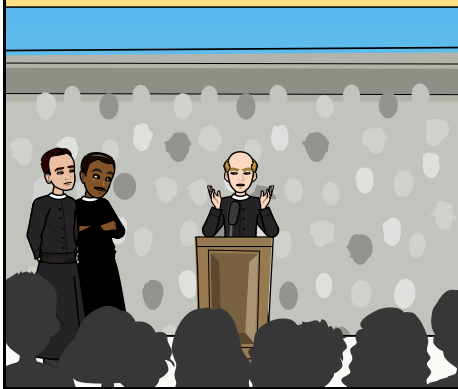
BUT HIS LIFE DID NOT STAY SIMPLE FOR LONG. SOON DUNSTAN WAS CALLED BACK TO THE ROYAL COURT TO SERVE AS A PRIEST.



DUNSTAN USED HIS INFLUENCE TO REBUILD CHURCHES AND CREATE MONASTRIES THROUGHOUT BRITAIN.



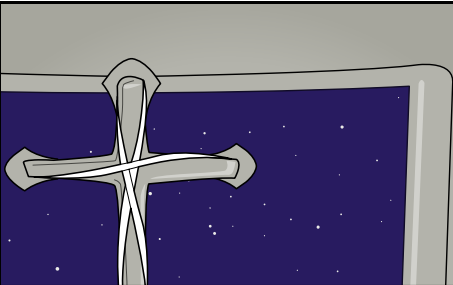
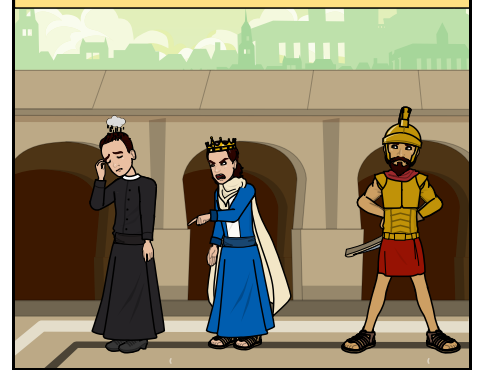
DUNSTAN'S MISSION WAS ALSO TO EDUCATE THE CLERGY. HE HELPED GASTONBURY BECOME A LEADING CENTRE OF LEARNING.



AS ROYAL ADVISOR, DUNSTAN DID NOT HESITATE TO SPEAK UP AGAINST WRONGDOING. THIS GOT HIM INTO TROUBLE WITH YOUNG KING EADWIG.

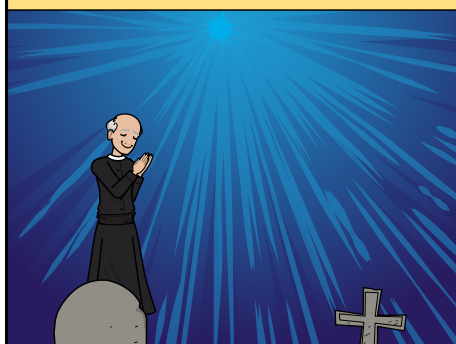


KING EADWIG TOOK AWAY ALL DUNSTAN'S PROPERTY AND SENT HIM INTO EXILE. DUNSTAN WENT TO LIVE AT A MONASTERY IN GHENT (NOW CALLED BELGIUM).



SOON AFTER, ANOTHER KING (EDGAR) HELPED DUNSTAN RETURN TO BRITAIN. DUNSTAN CONTINUED HIS WORK REFORMING AND EXPANDING THE CHURCH. HE LATER BECAME THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY. AFTER KING EDGAR DIED, HIS SON RULED FOR A WHILE BUT WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED. THIS UPSET DUNSTAN SO MUCH THAT HE RETIRED FROM COURT LIFE.

DUNSTAN SPENT HIS LATER YEARS LIVING THE LIFE OF A MONK. HE WAS VERY POPULAR WITH THE PEOPLE. HE DIED IN 988 AND WAS DECLARED A SAINT NOT LONGER AFTER. HIS FEAST DAY IS CELEBRATED ON MAY 19.



HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS SHORT STORY IN OUR "LIVES OF THE SAINTS" COMICS SERIES FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART. THANK YOU FOR READING!  
St. Dunstan's Catholic Church,  
Toronto, ON Canada. Jan 2021