

Fred and The Book of Kells

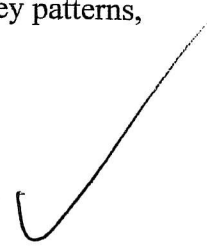
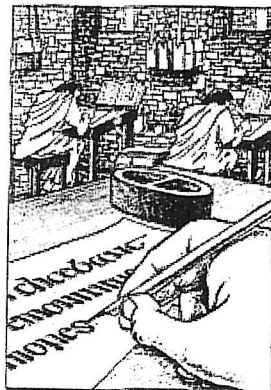
About 1200 years ago lived a man called Fred. Fred lived in Iona, which is off the west coast of Scotland. Fred was always praying to God and had always dreamed of living in a monastery. He felt he had a special connection with God and felt very close to him. One day there was a knock on the door. A man wearing a long robe, sandals and rosary beads was standing at Fred's door. Fred asked the man if he was a Monk, and he nodded in agreement. The Monk invited Fred to go with him to become a Monk, and Fred was delighted, as this is what he had dreamed of. Fred packed his bags and they left together for the Monastery. Fred was excited, scared and nervous. When they arrived at the gates of the Monastery, his mouth opened wide; he was here, he couldn't believe it.



As part of daily life in the monastery Fred and the other monks did a lot of fishing, building, farming, they even kept bees and they wrote books. The monks and Fred did everything themselves. As the years went by, Fred loved living in the monastery.



He liked to write books, and was called a “Scribe”, because of this. One day Fred rounded up some of the Monks and told them that God had asked him to write a special book. He said God wanted him to write about the Psalms and the four Gospels. The Monks listened with interest and agreed to help him. In order for Fred and the other monks to write these books they had to get some materials, like calfskin or vellum. The calfskin or vellum had to be cleaned, dipped in water, scraped and dried before they could start writing. They wrote with a pen made out of a reed or a quill, or even a goose feather. Fred and his friends started writing about the –Psalms and the Gospels. Their drawings were of Celtic decoration, Greek key patterns, Roman vegetal patterns and Germanic animal ornamentation.



They called the book, "The Book of Kells". They used beautiful colours like reds, blues, greens, golden yellows and purples. The cover was covered in jewels and throughout the book there were handsome designs with circles, spirals and lovely patterns. At the time the book was being written, Norman tribes were fighting over land, and the Monastery was invaded and destroyed. Fred and some of the other monks escaped to Kells, Co. Meath, in Ireland. The book took about thirty years to complete and when it was completed they celebrated by praying and thanking God for keeping them and the book safe during the tough times.

There were four authors to the Gospel. They were Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each author is represented by a symbol. Matthew is represented by the man or angel which symbolises Christ's birth. Mark is represented by the lion which symbolises Christ's resurrection. Luke is represented by the calf which symbolises Christ's sacrifice and John is represented by the eagle which symbolises Christ's ascension into heaven. Fred lived to finish his book and he was very proud of it, and he felt that he had done the work God has asked of him. He died a few years later.

In 1661 the "Book of Kells" was moved to the Library in Trinity College, Dublin, by Bishop Henry Jones of Meath. Expert care is taken of the book to make sure it stays in its original condition.



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Aoiife,
great story.
You should be
a writer, with
you imagination
you worked hard
and learned a lot
9/7/20