



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

The Houses of Parliament The Big Draw

Westminster Hall

October 19th & 26th, November 2nd 2013



Join artist Rachel Gadsden in creating artworks inspired by the four mosaics in Central Lobby.



Family Arts
Festival

THE
BIG
DRAW



The Speaker's Art Fund

Central Lobby

The idea to have mosaics of the four patron saints in the Royal Fine Arts Commission in 1847. Each Patron Saint re

Saint George for England

Designed by Sir Edward Poynter (1836–1919)

In this mosaic St George is standing over the dragon he defeated. The legend of St George slaying a dragon and rescuing an innocent maiden from death is from the medieval period when a dragon often represented the devil.

On the left of the mosaic stands Fortitude. She is holding the banner of St George. She is also carrying a club and lion's skin to represent triumph over brute force.

On the right stands Purity; she is carrying St George's helmet and her emblem of white lilies.

Behind them stand two oak trees, the national tree for England, and below the figures are two shields that display the royal coat of arms for England (on the left) and St George's Cross (on the right).

Little is known about the real St George. Born in Turkey in the third century, he served under the Roman Emperor Diocletian until he was tortured and executed for refusing to take part in the persecution of Christians.



Mosaic tesserae, 1870 WOA 4257

Saint David for Wales

Designed by Sir Edward Poynter (1836–1919)

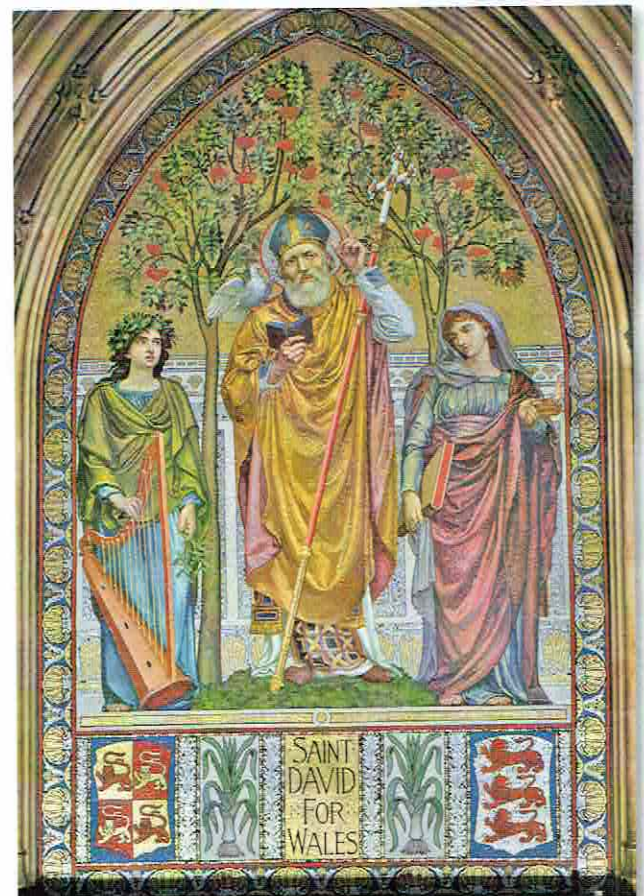
In this mosaic St David is wearing bishop's robes and mitre, holding a staff and standing on a hill preaching. On his shoulder sits a dove, his traditional emblem.

St David was one of the early saints who helped to spread Christianity among the pagan Celtic tribes of Western Britain. A great preacher, the message by which St David is most well known is for his last sermon in which he told his monks to "do the little things, the small things you've seen me doing".

In the mosaic a figure symbolizing Light stands on the right, holding a lamp. Harmony is standing on the left with a harp, a traditional Welsh instrument.

Behind the figures stand two rowan trees and below are two shields containing symbols of princes who ruled Wales before the English conquest in the thirteenth century.

Between the coats of arms are two leeks, the national plant emblem of Wales.



Mosaic tesserae, 1898 WOA 4255

Saint Mosaics

four archways of Central Lobby originally came from the presents one of the four nations of the United Kingdom.



Mosaic tesserae, 1923 WOA 4256

Saint Andrew for Scotland

Designed by Professor Robert Anning Bell (1863–1933)

In this mosaic St Andrew, a fisherman, stands carrying a staff and net. Behind him is the X-shaped cross or 'saltire' on which he was crucified.

St Andrew was one of the Twelve Apostles and brother of St Peter; as such Scotland is one of the few countries to have one of Jesus' disciples as their patron saint.

On the right is St Margaret, Queen of Scotland, carrying a Bible and the Black Rood of Scotland, a relic of the True Cross. Below her feet is a crown.

On the left stands St Mungo, the founder and patron saint of Glasgow. At his feet is the image of a salmon to symbolize one of his miracles. St Mungo is said to have helped Queen Languoreth find a missing ring in the River Clyde by ordering one of his monks to fish in the river and bring back the first fish caught. This was done and St Mungo extracted the ring from its mouth.

Above the group is the monogram of Christ and the alpha and omega.

Below the figures are three symbols of Scotland: (from left to right) St Andrew's Cross, the thistle and the Royal Coat of Arms for Scotland.

Saint Patrick for Ireland

Designed by Professor Robert Anning Bell (1863–1933)

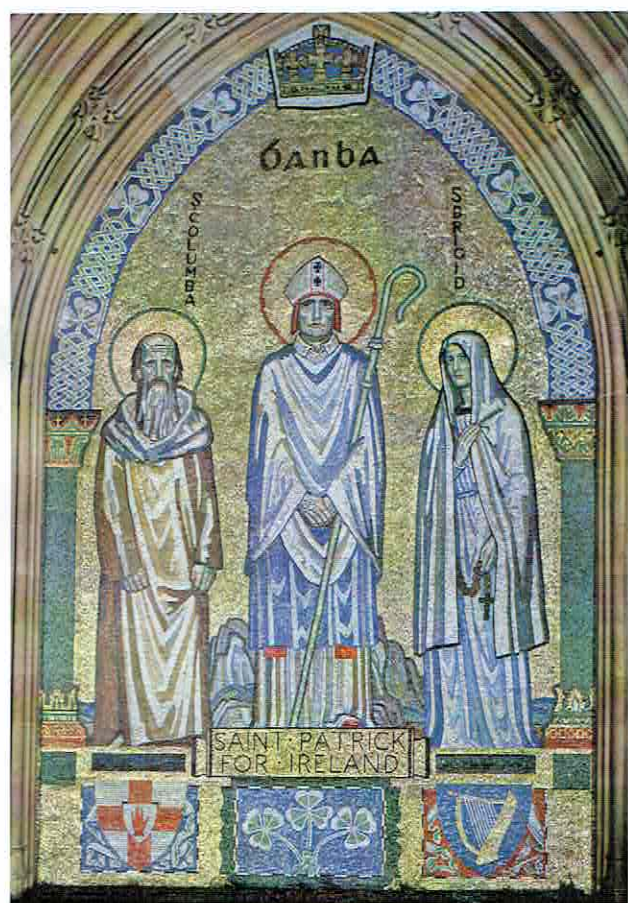
St Patrick stands in bishop's robes and mitre holding a crozier. Behind him is the Rock of Cashel, which is reputed to be the site of conversion of the King of Munster by St Patrick in the fifth century. St Patrick was credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland and following his death the mythology surrounding his life has become a prominent part of Irish culture.

To the right is St Brigid who was one of St Patrick's disciples. On the left is St Columba, a sixth-century Irish missionary monk.

Above the figures is the word 'Banba', an ancient name for Ireland. Below them are three Irish symbols: (from left to right) the coat of arms of Ulster, the shamrock and the coat of arms of Ireland.

The St Patrick mosaic was designed following the division of Ireland into the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland in 1922.

To reflect the division of the island in the mosaic, St Columba and the coat of arms of Ulster represented the North, while St Brigid and the coat of arms of Ireland represented the South.



Mosaic tesserae, 1924 WOA 4254

The Houses of Parliament and The Big Draw

Sponsored by the Speaker's Art Fund, this workshop is part of The Big Draw project at the Houses of Parliament. Led by artist Rachel Gadsden, members of the public are invited to join Rachel in Westminster Hall to create artworks inspired by the four mosaics in Central Lobby on **October 19th & 26th, November 2nd 2013**.

Individual artworks created as part of this workshop will be photocopied (participants can take their original home), and through painting and collage, Rachel will create interpretations of four contemporary saints incorporating the work produced by the public.

The final artwork will be available to view online at www.parliament.uk/about/art-in-parliament/news/big-draw/ from 20th December 2013.

Winner of the 2013 National Diversity Award for Positive Role Model for Disability, **Rachel Gadsden** graduated with a BA Degree in Fine Art from Wimbledon School of Art in 1998. In 1999 she studied for a diploma in Anatomy and Art at University College London Medical School and received an Arts and Humanities Research Board Award in 2000 to study for an MA in Fine Art at the City and Guilds of London Art School.

The Parliamentary Art Collection

includes over 8,000 works of art, most of which are on display. It includes paintings, sculptures, wall paintings, textiles and other artworks which illustrate the history and work of Parliament over the centuries.

The Speaker's Art Fund is a charitable trust first established in 1929. It supports the acquisition of artworks for the Parliamentary Collection specifically to increase public knowledge and understanding of Parliament.



Learn more about the Parliamentary Art Collection and the Speaker's Art Fund at www.parliament.uk/art

You can learn more about the work of Parliament at www.parliament.uk

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Front right image:
Saint George for England (detail)
oil on tessellated blocks by Edward Poynter
19th century WOA 1986

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The Speaker's Art Fund