Saint Oswald

Oswald was a Saxon King of Northumbria during the 7th Century. He was born around 604. His father was killed in battle when Oswald was about 12 years old. Oswald and his brothers fled to the monastery on Iona, an Island off the Scottish coast.
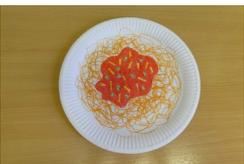
When he was older Oswald led a small army against Cadwallon, a king from Wales who had killed the King of Northumbria. On the night before the battle Oswald set up a wooden cross and asked his army to join him in praying to God. The following day Oswald was victorious beating Cadwallon in battle. Oswald became King of Northumbria.

Oswald wanted all his people to know about Christianity. He sent a message to the monks of Iona asking them to send someone who would be able to teach the Northumbrians about Christianity. The monks sent Aiden. Oswald gave him the island of Lindisfarne where Aiden founded a monastery and from where he was able to travel out to preach and teach. Because Aiden did not speak English well when he arrived Oswald would act as his interpreter so the people could understand.

One story about Oswald tells how he was sharing an Easter feast with Aiden when a crowd of poor people came asking for help. Oswald gave them the food he was eating and then had the sliver plate, that the food was on, broken up and given to the people as well.

Activity - jigsaw plate

You will need: paper plate or circle of card, colouring pencils or felt tips and scissors.

1. Draw your favourite meal on the paper plate or card circle.

2. Cut the paper plate or card circle into a number of large pieces.

3. Put the pieces back together again.