

## The Life of Edward the Confessor.

Edward was born in 1002, the son of King Aethelred and Emma of Normandy. This was a time England was always under threat from the Danish, Normans and threats at home. Edward became King in 1042 after years of turmoil.

One of Edwards firsts acts as King was to take all his mothers lands and money from her, leaving her reliant on him. This was the first of many bold moves. Edward also proved himself as a strong military leader. Edward was also a very religious man and had no ambition to be King but to be a priest and dedicated much time to God. 'As King Edward's reign had been long, peaceful, pious, and against the odds, successful.'



In January 1045 Edward married Edith, daughter of Godwin the Earl of Wessex. He married her as Edith's family wanted the English throne a clever move from a clever man! Godwin still wanted to seize the English throne.

Edward and Edith never had children and this left a problem as to who would become king after his death. William, Duke of Normandy had helped Edward when he had been captured in France, freeing him as long as Edward promised William the throne of England on his death. This was not the only promise or 'confession' Edward made. Edward's brother in law Harold Godwinson had been a strong rival, supporter and military leader throughout his reign.

December 1065 and Edward was an old man, he lay on his bed, knowing he would die with no son to be King and so he passed his crown onto the most powerful man in England, his brother-in-law Harold Godwinson.