

# Monks, Murder and Mayhem

The story of the  
Lindisfarne Gospels



by the children of  
Chester le Street  
Church of England Junior School

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Working with children and family members for ten sessions, this book was produced using plasticine models, painting backdrops, ICT, research, photography, storytelling, story writing, planning.....and working together.

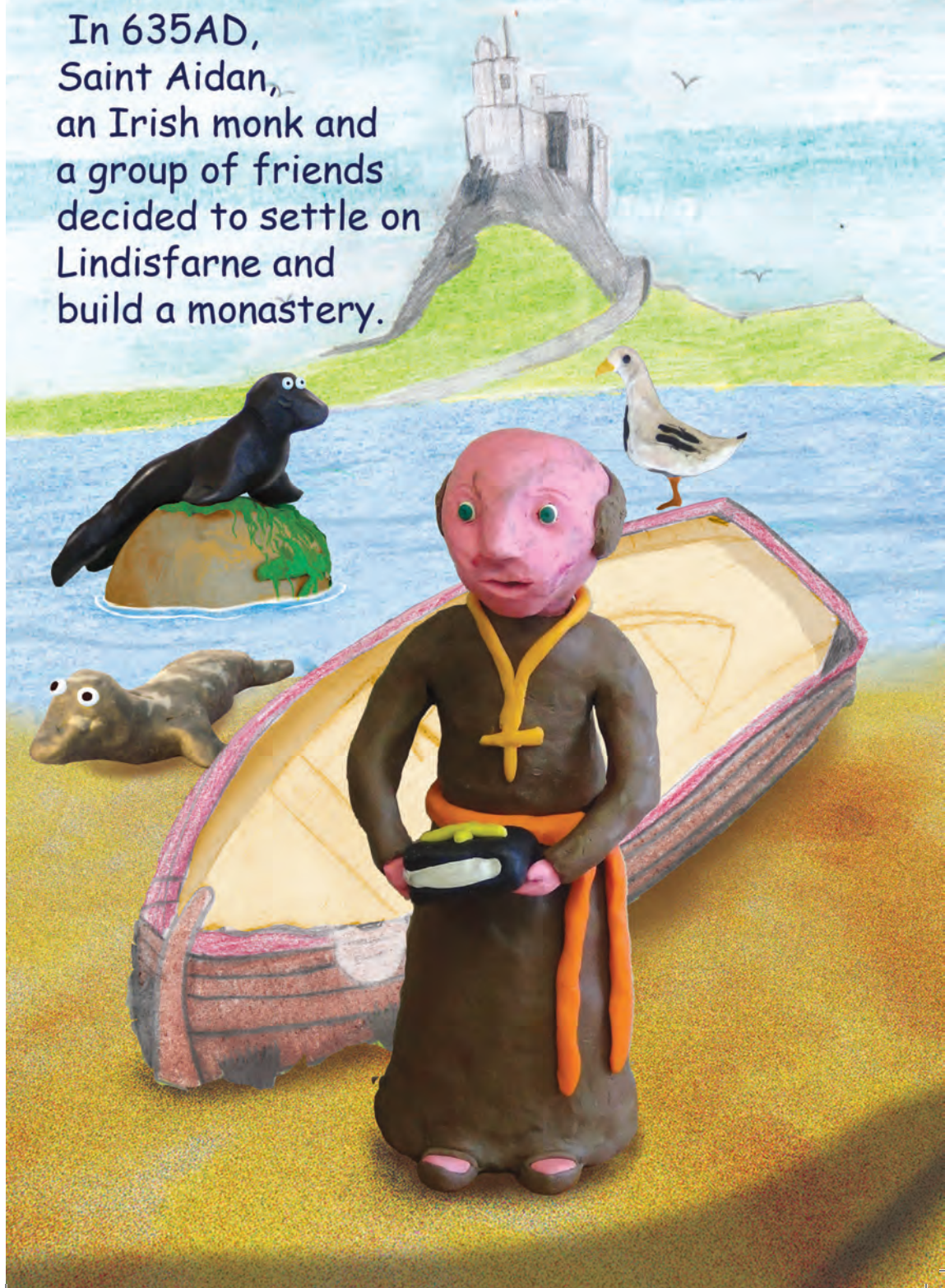
With Special Thanks to the staff of  
Chester le St Church of England Junior School

**Project funded by Apex Learning Ltd.**

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In 635AD,  
Saint Aidan,  
an Irish monk and  
a group of friends  
decided to settle on  
Lindisfarne and  
build a monastery.

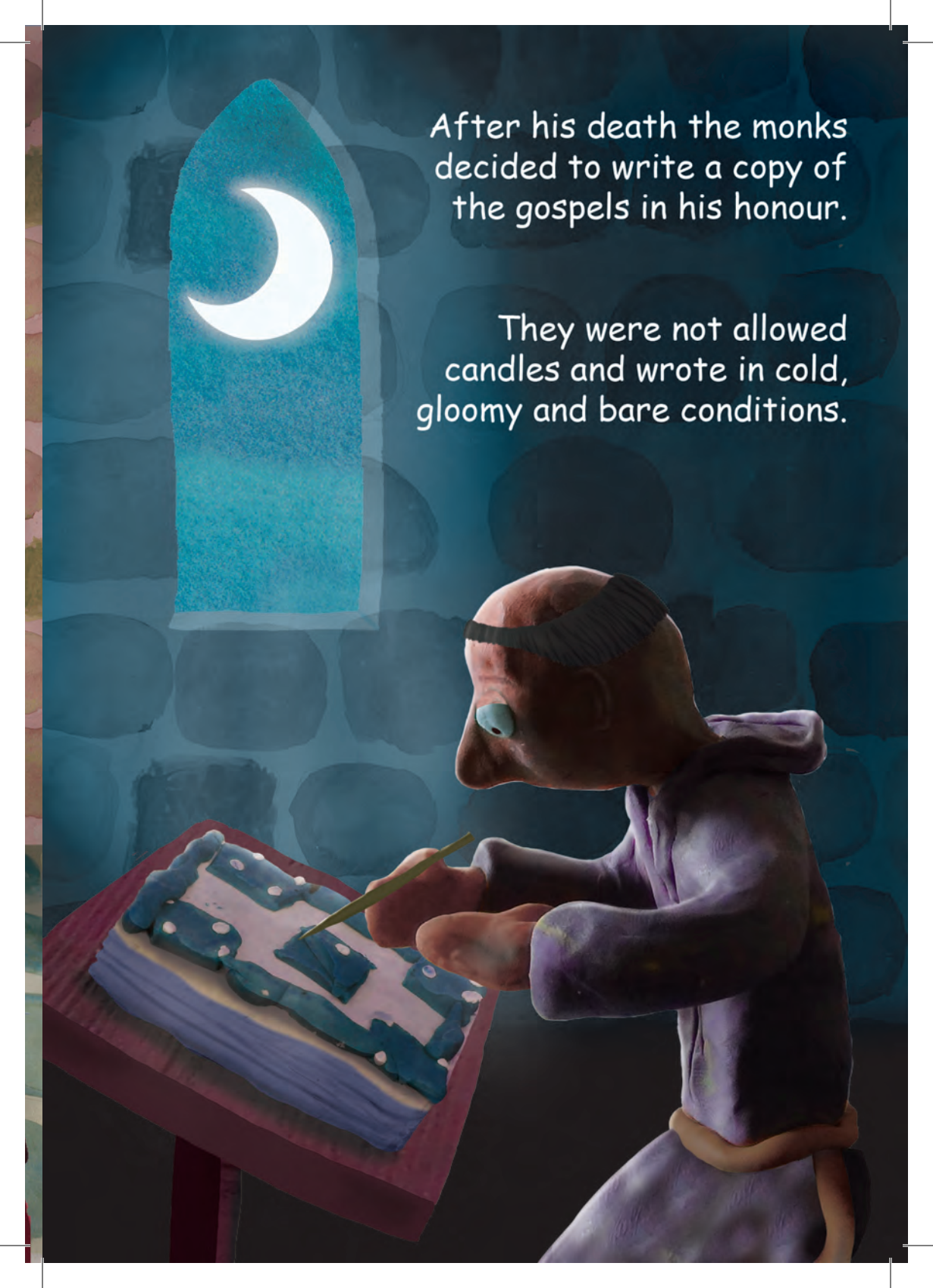




Born a poor shepherd,  
St Cuthbert became  
Bishop of Lindisfarne  
where he died  
in 687AD.

Cuthbert begged  
his monks to live  
in peace with  
everyone.



A clay-like figure of a monk with a shaved head and a purple robe is shown in profile, writing on a large, thick book. The book is decorated with blue icing and white dots. The monk is holding a green quill pen. The scene is set in a dark room with a large, arched window in the background. The window is illuminated from within, showing a bright white crescent moon against a blue background. The overall atmosphere is dim and somber.

After his death the monks  
decided to write a copy of  
the gospels in his honour.

They were not allowed  
candles and wrote in cold,  
gloomy and bare conditions.



Vikings were fierce, strong pirates of the sea with the fastest dragon ships known to man! They searched for treasure from lands far from home.

Oh, did we forget to mention they hated monks?





When the Vikings attacked Lindisfarne the monks were killed or carried off in chains to be sold as slaves for the rich.





A group of monks escaped, grabbed Saint Cuthbert's coffin, the gospels and some treasure and ran for their lives.





For hundreds of years they wandered  
looking for somewhere safe to bury  
Saint Cuthbert.

The monks thought Ireland might  
be a good place to hide.





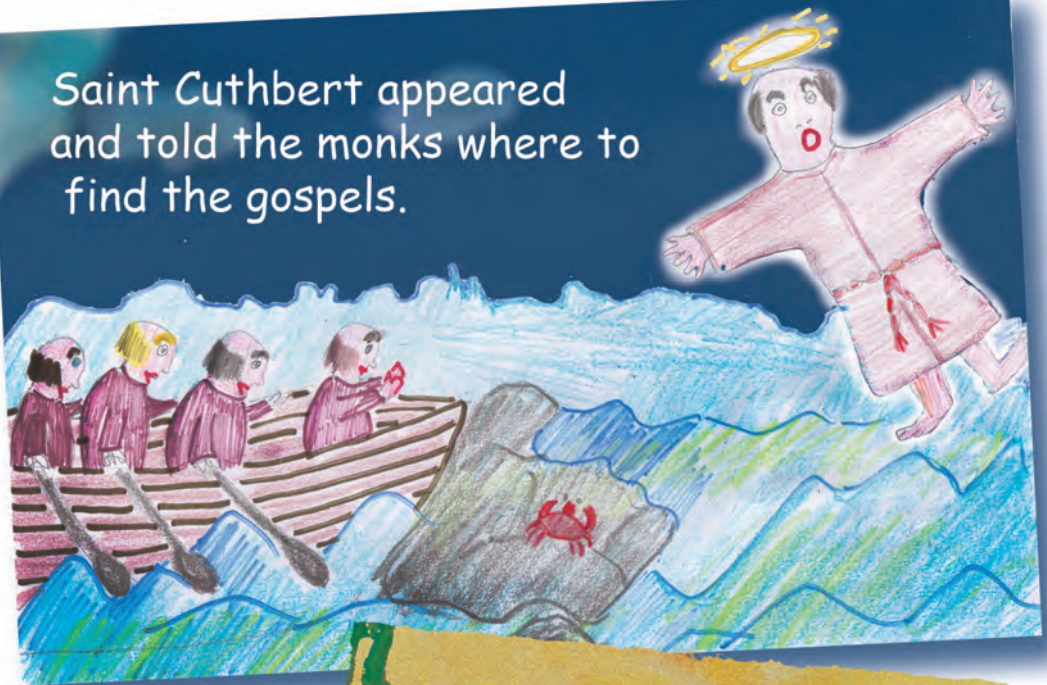
While they were escaping  
to Ireland an angry  
storm came and they  
were shipwrecked.

Were the gospels lost  
for ever?





Saint Cuthbert appeared  
and told the monks where to  
find the gospels.



The book was  
not damaged  
except for some  
salt water stains.



They went on with their journey around the North East, and then in Chester Le Street the coffin strangely refused to move.



Saint Cuthbert appeared again and said, "I want to go to Dunholme."



The monks didn't know where Dunholme was so they asked a passing girl.

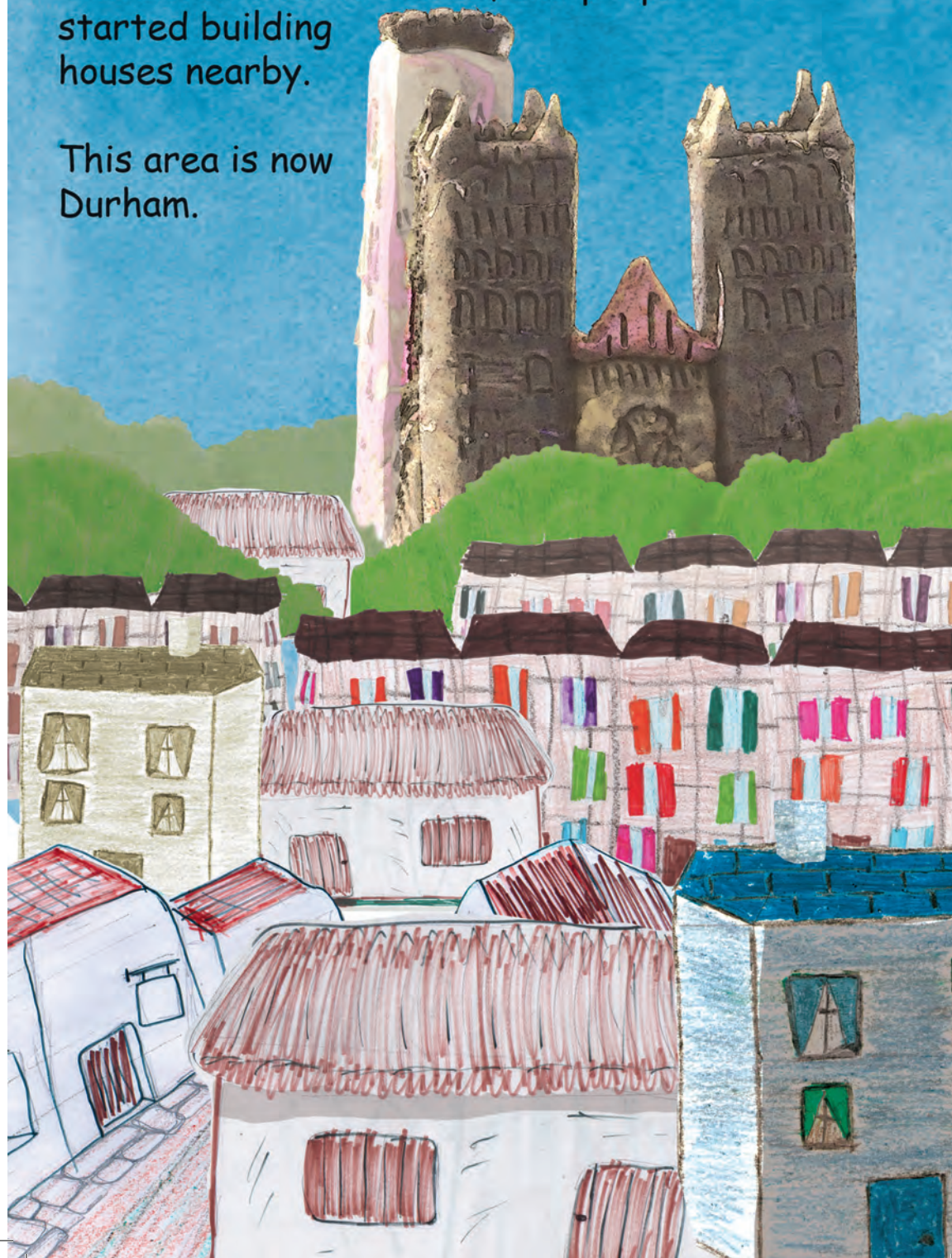
She said,  
"I'm going there, follow me."





The monks built a church, and people started building houses nearby.

This area is now Durham.





## GLOSSARY

**Saint(St)** a holy person

**Lindisfarne** an island off the Northumberland coast, near Bamburgh

**Monastery** a house where monks live

**Gospels** books about Christ's life and teaching

**Lindisfarne Gospels** a book of Gospels written by the monks on Lindisfarne

**Vikings** were thieves who came from Scandinavia

**Slave** person who belongs to someone else and works very hard for them

**Ireland** an island close to the British Isles

**Shipwrecked** when a ship has crashed at sea

**Dunholme** was a village on a hill

**Durham** is a city with a castle and a cathedral where St. Cuthbert's bones are kept

**The Lindisfarne Gospels** are kept in the British Library in London and are coming to Durham from the 1<sup>st</sup> July to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, They can be seen, together with other St. Cuthbert treasures in the Palace Green Library.



Lindisfarne....a peaceful monastery.  
The Vikings attack!  
The gospels are in danger.

Will the monks escape?

