

RHYGYFARCH (RICEMARCHUS; 1056/7 - 1099).

Name: Rhygyfarch
Date of birth: 1056/7
Date of death: 1099
Child: Sulien
Parent: Sulien
Gender: Male
Area of activity: Religion; Scholarship and Languages; Poetry
Author: William Hopkin Davies

He was the eldest of the four sons of the learned [Sulien](#), his father being a native of Llanbadarn-fawr and twice bishop of S. Davids. Apart from the fact of his belonging to a clerical family of good birth, little if anything is known about his life. His only teacher, it is said, was his father. Very probably he was a priest at S. Davids (not bishop, as *Annales Cambriae*, MS. C, states). Among his extant works are a Life of [S. David](#), some Latin verses in a psalter at Trinity College, Dublin, and a 'Lament' (ascribed to him in B.M. Cotton MS. Faustina C. i). This latter is a short Latin poem bewailing the increasing oppression of the Welsh by the Normans. His chief work, the Latin Life of S. David, was probably written about A.D. 1090, to advocate the claims of S. Davids to be the metropolitan church of Wales, independent of Canterbury. The author drew his material for the sixty-eight chapters of the Life proper 'from very old manuscripts' (*Vita*, chapter 66), found chiefly at S. Davids itself. Its style is turgid, its contents a hazardous mixture of the miraculous and the historical. He died in his forty-third year, leaving a son SULIEN (died 1146), who was brought up by the clergy of Llanbadarn Fawr, and gained fame as a teacher there.

Author

Professor William Hopkin Davies

Sources

Wade-Evans, *Life of St. David* (London 1923), 1923

J. E. Lloyd, *A History of Wales from the Earliest Times to the Edwardian Conquest* (London 1911), ii, 459-61

J. Williams (ed.), *Annales Cambriae* (1860)

Brut y Tywysogion

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Rhygyfarch](#)

Additional Links

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