

*Exploring Our World*

# Journeys

An Aled and Siân Book



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Tania ap Siôn and Leslie J Francis  
Illustrated by Phillip Vernon



**Bear Lands Publishing**

## About Aled and Siân

Aled and Siân love doing exciting things and exploring the world around them. In the *Exploring Our World* series Aled and Siân share some of their experiences with their Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim friends. Aled and Siân also enjoy listening to their friends' stories, and learn about how these relate to their own. This helps the friends get to know one another better.

The series takes seriously the social significance of religion and is based on extensive research into how children learn about themselves, others and the world in which they live.

To support this storybook series, there is a large range of free downloadable resources for children and teachers available at [hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources](http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources) and [st-marys-centre.org.uk](http://st-marys-centre.org.uk)

The storybooks and activities are devised for 3- to 5-year-olds and 5- to 7-year-olds, but the downloadable resources make the series relevant for younger and older children too.

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## Titles in the *Exploring Our World* series are:

*3- to -5-year-olds*  
Celebrations  
Myself and Others  
Times and Seasons

*5- to -7-year-olds*  
Journeys  
Special People  
Signs and Symbols





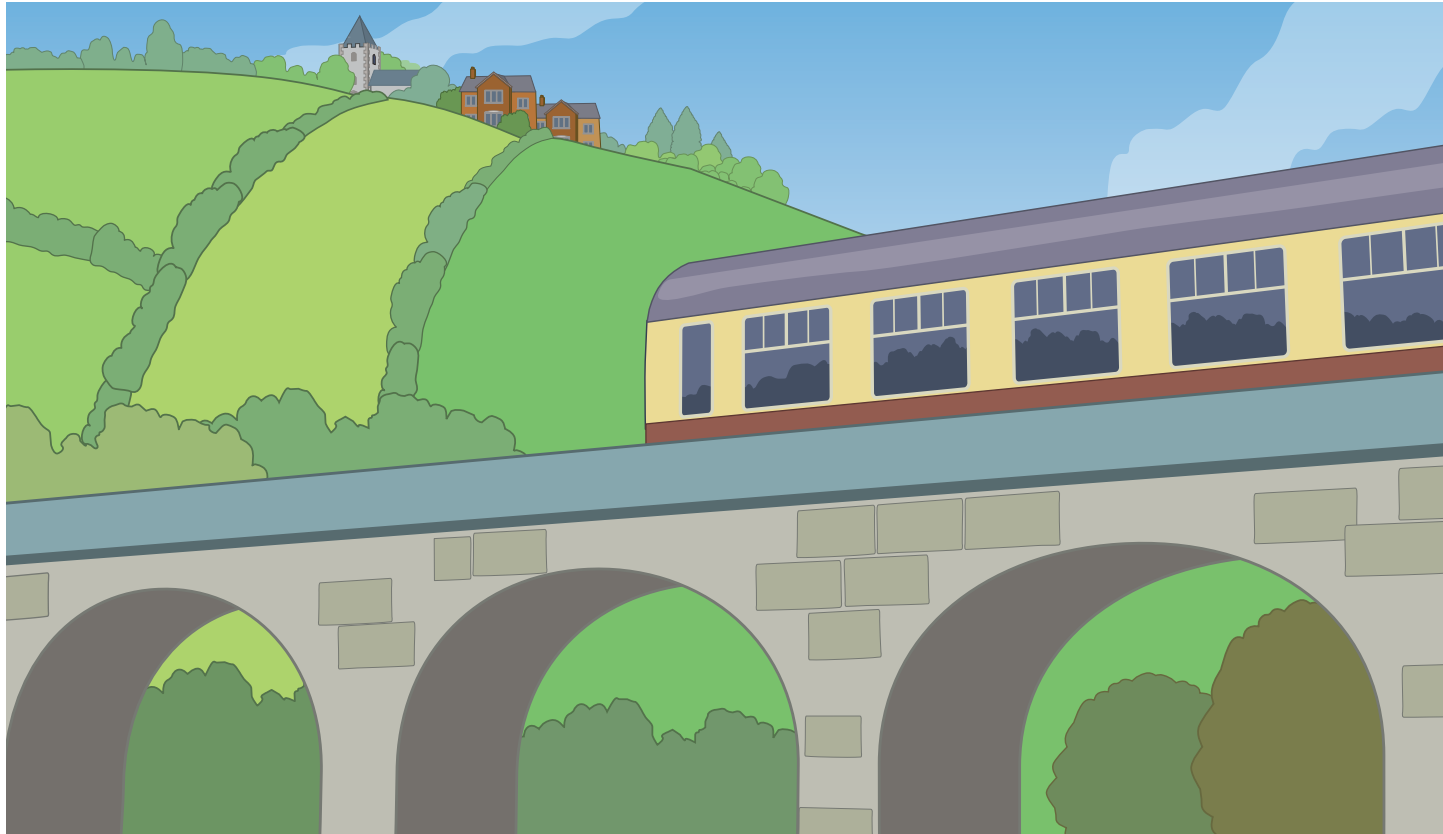
Aled and Siân are telling their friends all about their special day out to Llangollen in North Wales.



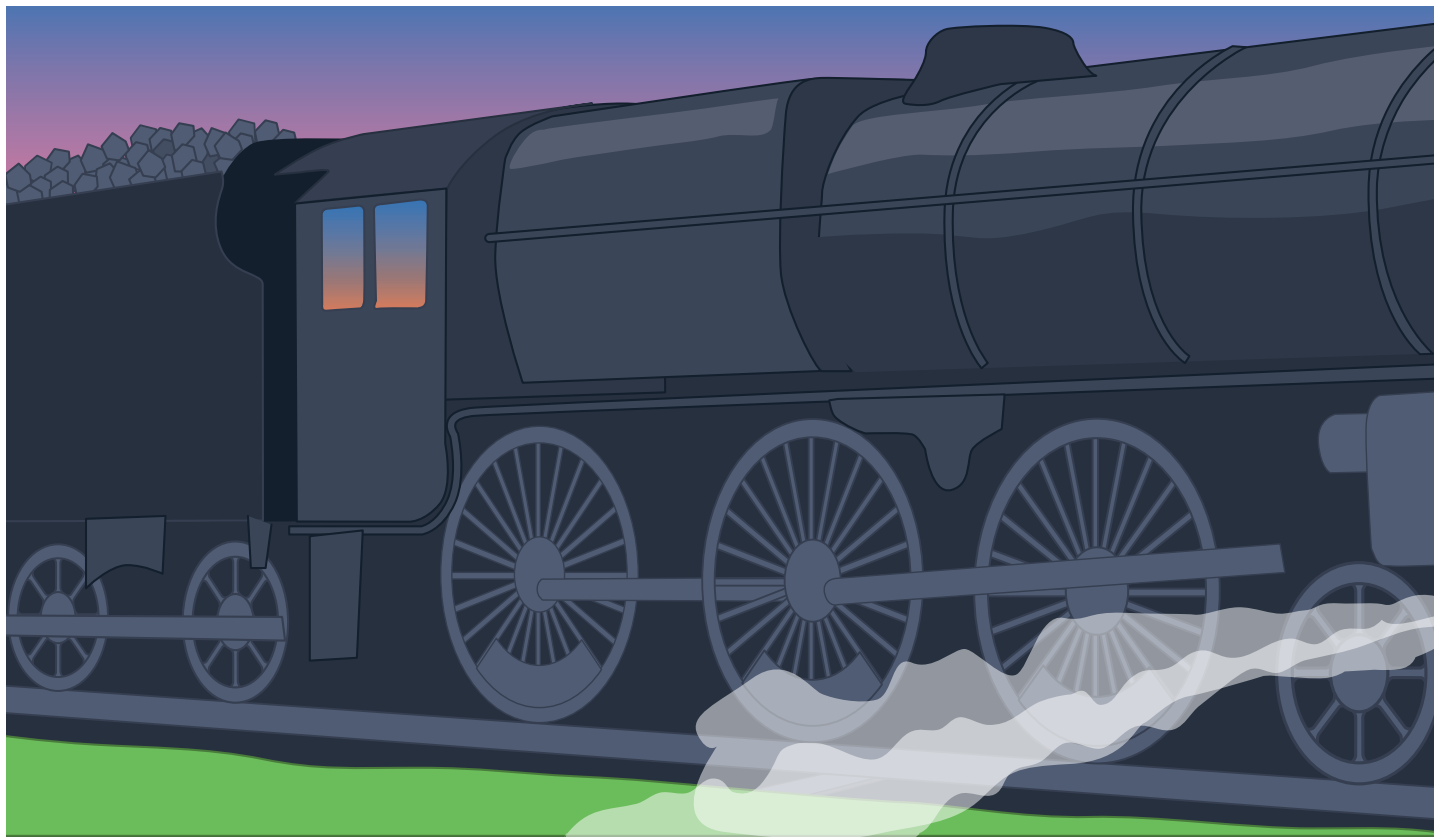
They saw the old railway station and breathed in the smell of steam and smoke.



They talked with the station master who told them all about the station and about the steam engine.



They got into one of the old carriages and clattered along the track over the viaduct.



Aled and Siân are so excited about their special day out. Now they want to hear their friends' stories as well.

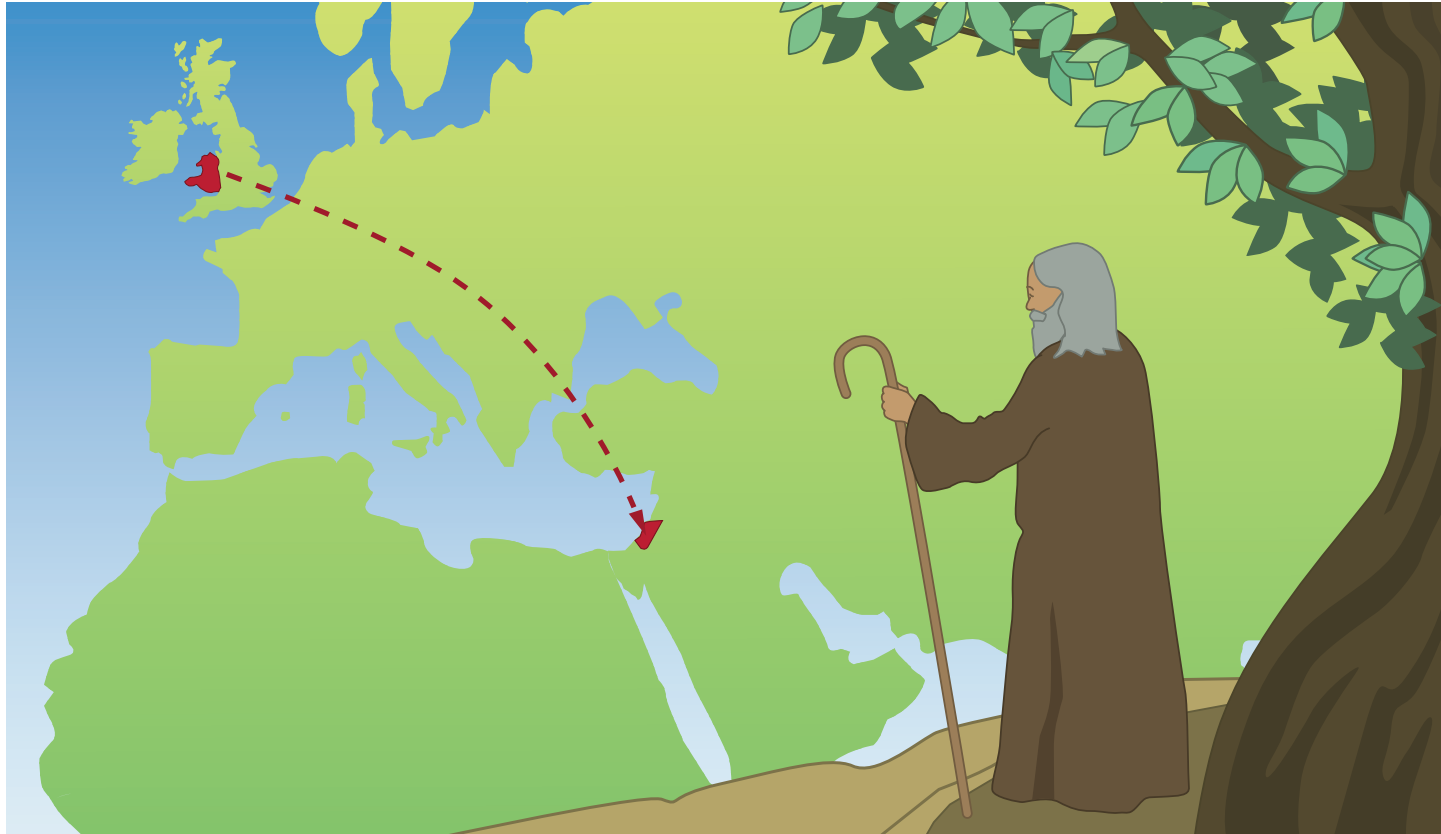




Peter and Mary tell Aled and Siân about their special day out one Sunday in late November to a cathedral, a centre of Christian pilgrimage.



There they met the bishop who showed them the shrine of St David, the Patron Saint of Wales.



There they heard the story about how the holy saint brought the Christian faith to West Wales.



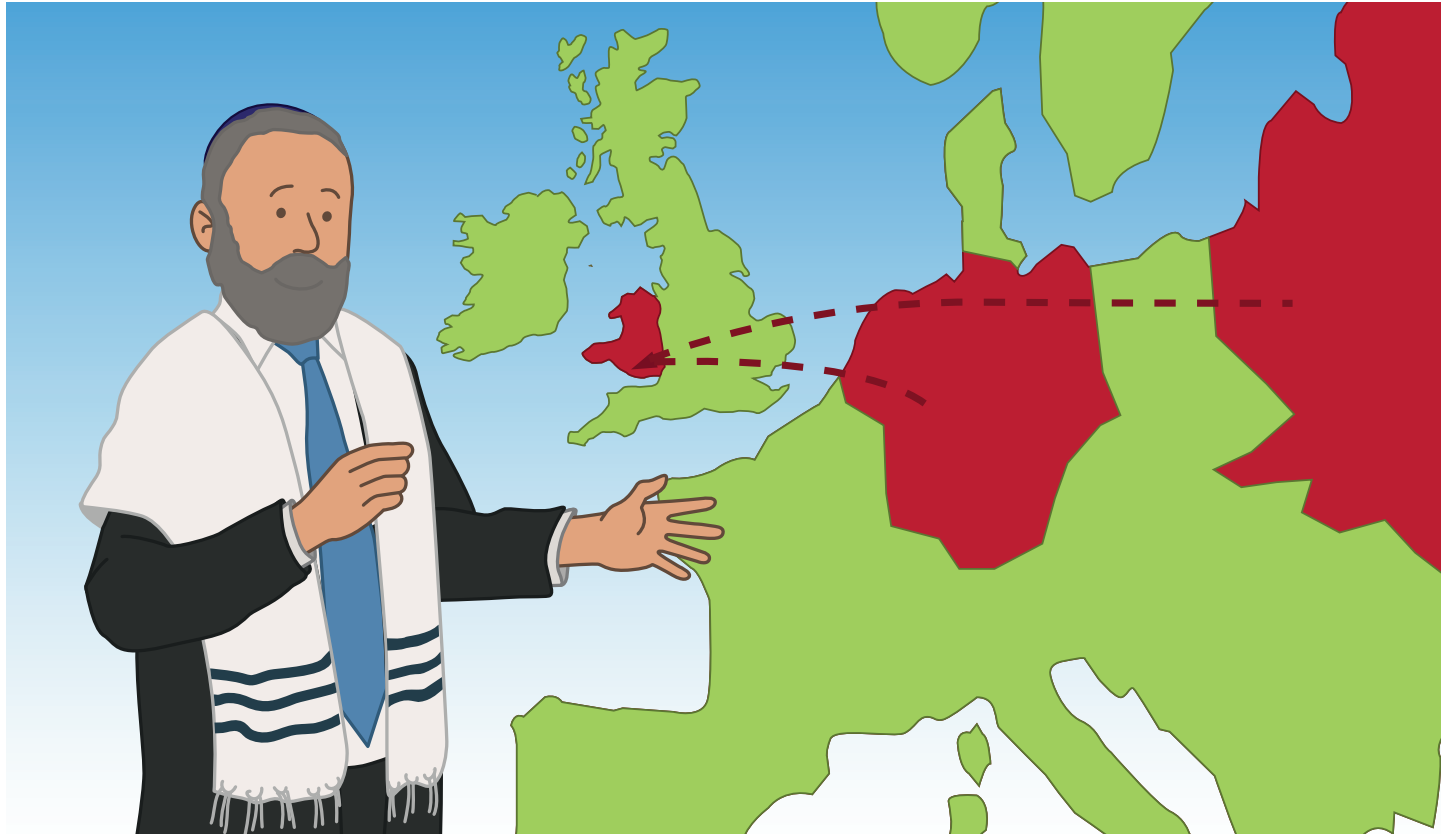
Then as dusk fell, the ancient cathedral was flooded with candlelight and the choir led the Advent carols on Advent Sunday.



Nathan and Rachel tell Aled and Siân about their special day out one Saturday to a synagogue in South Wales, a centre of Jewish worship.



There they met the rabbi who took them to see the Torah scrolls, on which are written teachings given by God to the prophet Moses.



There they heard the story about how the first Jewish families coming to work in Swansea and Cardiff brought the Jewish faith to South Wales.



Then as the Shabbat service began, a Torah scroll was carried to the reading desk and the rabbi read aloud for all to hear.





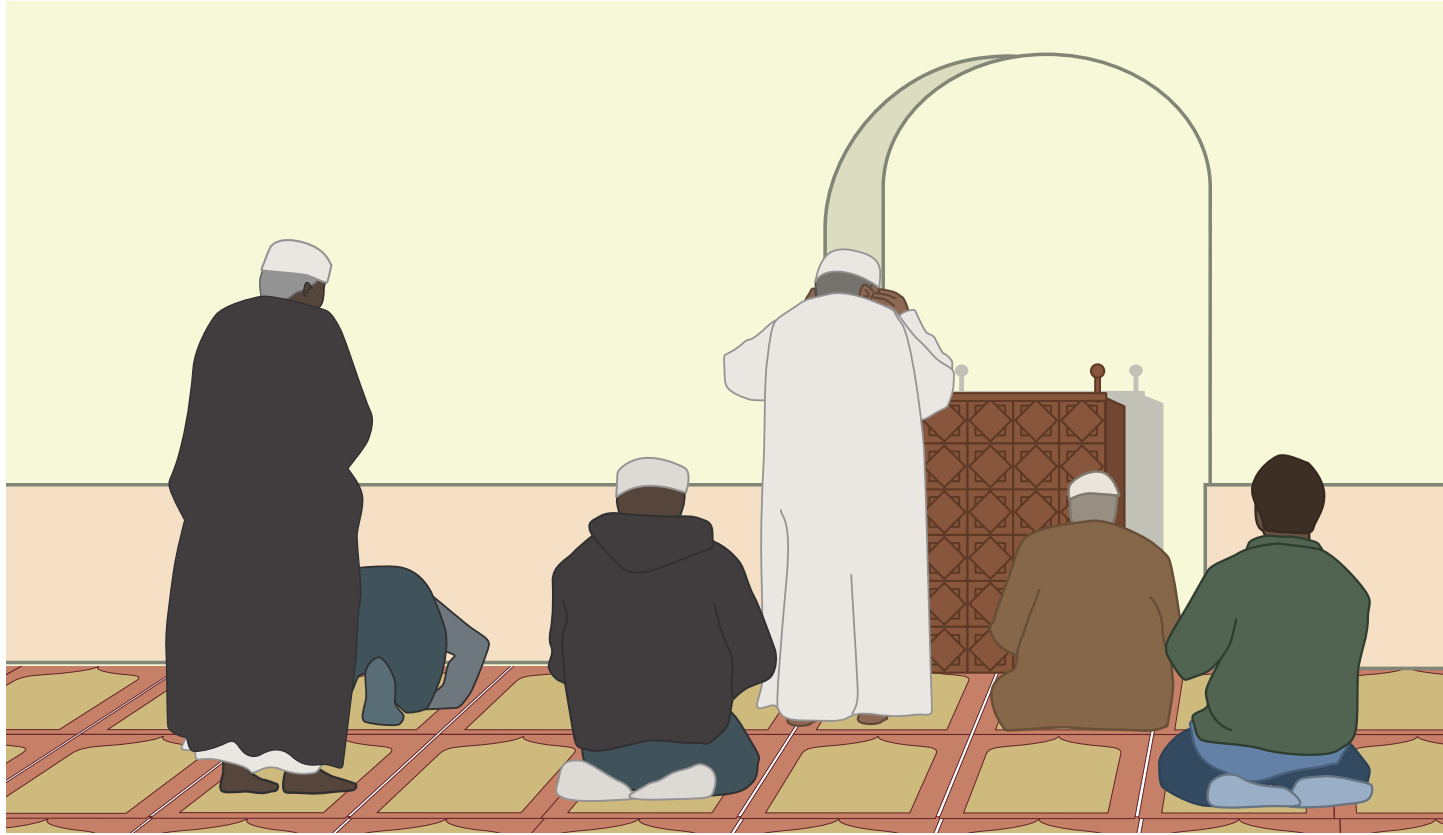
Ahmed and Salma tell Aled and Siân about their special day out one Friday to a mosque in South Wales, a place of Muslim learning and worship.



There they met the imam who took them to see the prayer hall, where Muslims gather together to pray.



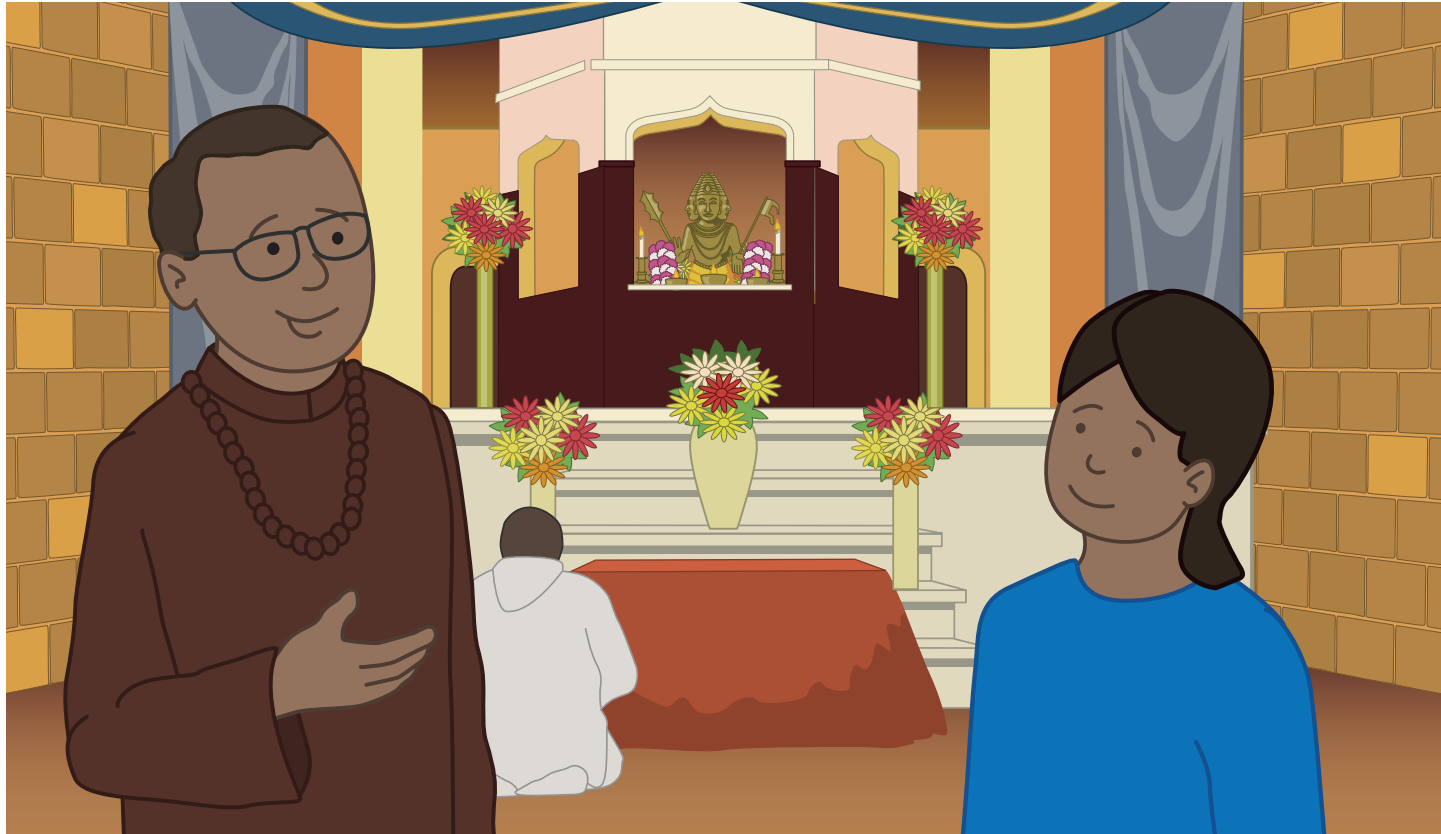
There they heard the story about how the sailors travelling between Cardiff and far-away Yemen brought the Muslim faith to South Wales.



Then around noon, a voice called out and the imam led the people in prayer.



Rajeev and Meena tell Aled and Siân about their special day out to a temple in West Wales, a Hindu centre of pilgrimage.



There they met a monk who took them to see the Temple of Lord Murugan, a God worshipped by many Hindus in far-away Sri Lanka.



There they heard the story about how Guru Sri Subramaniam brought the Hindu faith to West Wales.

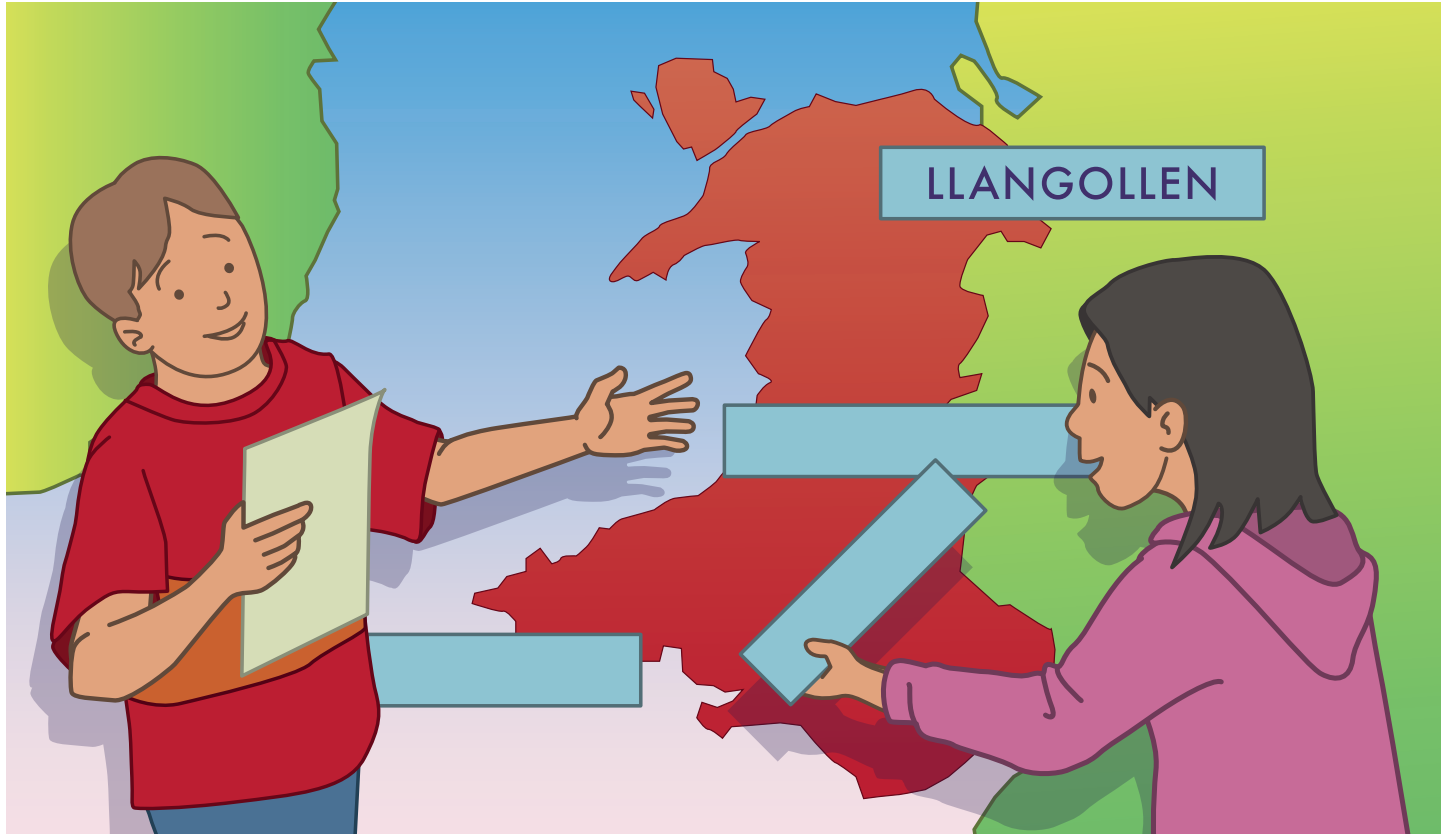


Then as night fell, a bell rang out, the smell of incense filled the air, and the monks offered food, water and fire to Lord Murugan.





Aled and Siân enjoyed listening to their friends Peter and Mary, Nathan and Rachel, Ahmed and Salma, Rajeev and Meena.



They imagined journeys to the cathedral, the synagogue, the mosque and the temple.



Aled and Siân heard how the religions of the world influence the lives of their friends in Wales.

Aled and Siân are exploring special journeys and they visit an old railway station. When they return, Aled and Siân tell their friends all about their day out and they listen to their friends' stories too. As the stories unfold, Aled and Siân begin to see how the religions of the world affect their friends' lives.

