

# Glasgow's Coat of Arms

This is Glasgow's coat of arms. The coat of arms tells the story of Saint Kentigern (also known as Saint Mungo).

Can you see the **bird**, the **fish**, the **bell** and the **tree** on the coat of arms?

If you look closely, you might be able to see that the fish at the bottom of the tree has something in its mouth.

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There is a short poem that goes with the coat of arms:

**There's the tree that never grew,  
There's the bird that never flew,  
There's the fish that never swam,  
There's the bell that never rang.**

This is a lamppost in Glasgow. Can you see the bell, the bird, the fish and the tree?

Before we learn about the meaning behind this short poem, write down some ideas for what the story behind each line might be.

I can find, select and sort information from a variety of sources and use this for different purposes. **LIT 2-14a**

## The tree that never grew...

When St Mungo was a young boy, he was left in charge of a fire in the monastery. When he was sleeping, some of the other boys in the monastery put the fire out. It is thought that the boys were jealous of some special attention that St Mungo was getting, and that they were trying to get him in trouble. When St Mungo woke up and realised what had happened, he snapped some branches off of a hazel tree. He prayed over these branches, causing them to burst into flames.

## The bird that never flew...

The bird in this story is said to have been a robin. Another Saint, St Serf, had tamed the robin and kept it as his pet. Even though the bird died by accident, St Mungo was blamed for killing it. St Mungo held the bird in his hands and prayed, restoring it back to life.

## The fish that never swam...

Once, a king gave his queen a ring as a present. However, the queen then gave the ring to a knight. The knight went on to lose the ring... or so he thought. There are some different versions of this part of the story, but it is believed that the king was angry at his wife for giving the ring away, so he snuck into the knight's bedroom, took the ring back, and threw it into the River Clyde. The king then told the queen that if she did not give him the ring back, he would have her killed. The queen told the knight what was happening, and the knight went to St Mungo for help. St Mungo sent a monk to go fishing in the River Clyde. St Mungo cut open the stomach of the first fish that the monk caught, found the ring inside, and returned it to the queen.

## The bell that never rang...

Some stories say that St Mungo got the bell from Rome, and that the Pope had given him it. There is no evidence to say that this really happened though. The first Lord Provost of Glasgow was a man called John Stewart. When he died, he left an endowment to have the bell rung throughout the streets to remind people to pray for his soul. Nobody knows what happened to the original bell that belonged to St Mungo. There is a replacement bell in the People's Palace, which is in Glasgow Green.

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