



THIS IS YOUR LIFE – EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

Edward the Confessor had a very dramatic life. Let's see what happened to him.

ON THE RUN!

- 1 1013 **Athelstan** and **Emma** and their sons **Edward** and **Alfred** are chased out of England by the king **Swein Forkbeard**.

They flee to the Norman court to Emma's brother, the **Duke of Normandy** (father of William the Conqueror).

ABANDONED!

- 2 1016 Athelstan dies. Emma abandons her boys in Normandy and goes back to England to marry the new king **Canute**.

MURDER!

- 3 1035 King Canute dies. Edward's brother Alfred goes to England to talk about who will be king. He is blinded and killed by Canute's son **Haarald Harefoot**.
- 4 1040 Haarald Harefoot dies. Edward goes to England to live with his mother, who had deserted him, **Harthacanute** (his half brother) and **Earl Godwin**, who is very powerful and organised the death of Alfred.
- 5 Harthacanute dies. **Earl Godwin** helps **Edward** to become king of England and marries Edward off to his own daughter.
- 6 **Earl Godwin** and his son **Harold Godwinson** and the other English earls struggle with the **Normans** for control of Edward.
- 7 EDWARD HAS NO CHILDREN – so who will succeed him? Edward does not make it clear.

WHO WILL BE KING?

- 8 Christmas 1066. **Edward** dies at the **Godwins**. They say Edward proclaimed **Harold Godwinson** to be the next king of England.

ACTIVITY

- 1 Tell the story of Edward's life *either* as a cartoon strip or as a series of newspaper headlines. Add a few sentences after each headline.
- 2 Edward the Confessor is said to be called *the Confessor* because he was very religious. Do you think this was a help or not when he was king?