

# Answers



This statue in Saint Bede's represents Saint John the Apostle. He is believed to be the one who wrote the Fourth Gospel, the Book of Revelation and some Epistles.

In art he is often shown as a young man without a beard.

There is a strange work called the 'Acts of John'. Some parts of it date to the Second Century and it seems to be the work of someone who had some unorthodox beliefs. Nevertheless some of its stories passed into popular culture.

It describes a pagan priest, Aristodemus, challenging John to drink a cup of poison to prove his faith. The priest makes some condemned criminals drink first – just to prove the poison is deadly. John blesses the cup, drinks, and is unharmed. The priest finally comes to believe when John causes the two criminals to come back to life. It's all a bit fanciful.

The story has led to many images of John holding a chalice – sometimes shown with a serpent coming out of it to show it was poisoned.