

## Boxing Day

December 26 was traditionally known as St. Stephen's Day, after the first Christian martyr. It is now more commonly known as **Boxing Day**. This expression came about because money was collected in alms-boxes placed in churches during the festive season. This money was then distributed to the poor and needy after Christmas.

It is thought the Boxing Day was first observed in the Middle Ages. It found renewed popularity in the 19th Century when the lords and ladies of England presented gifts in boxes to their servants on December, 26 in appreciation of the work they had done over the Christmas celebrations.

If December 26 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, Boxing Day takes place on the Monday.