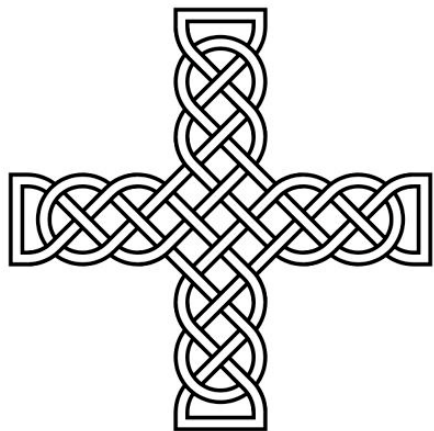
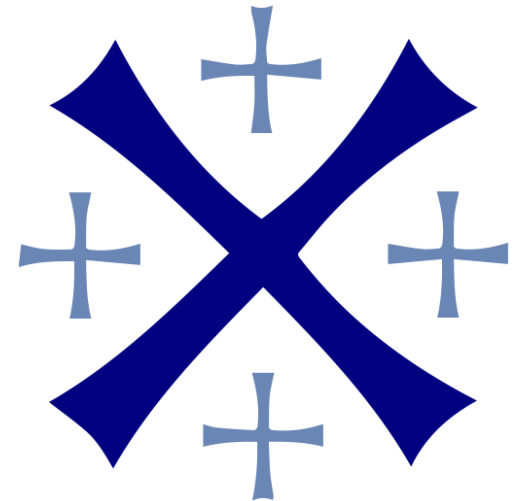


# Was this the real St. George?

Compared with other countries in the world, perhaps England doesn't really make much of its patron saint! St. George's Day falls on the [23rd of April](#) but it is rarely marked by any special events and it does not even earn us a Bank Holiday. Scouts and Guides however have adopted St. George's Day as a time to renew their commitment to their promises and laws and so there are parade services in many churches.





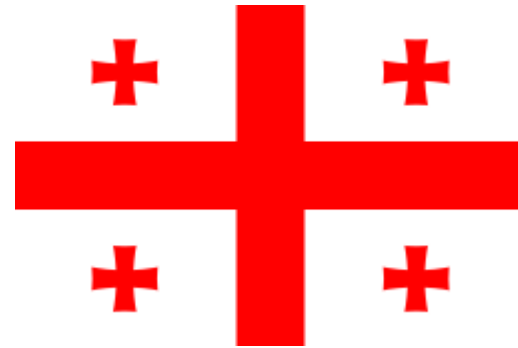
Different  
crosses  
but all  
carrying  
the same  
message!

Christian belief that Jesus came to suffer  
and to die as part of God's plan for him and  
for the world.

# Symbols of the Cross

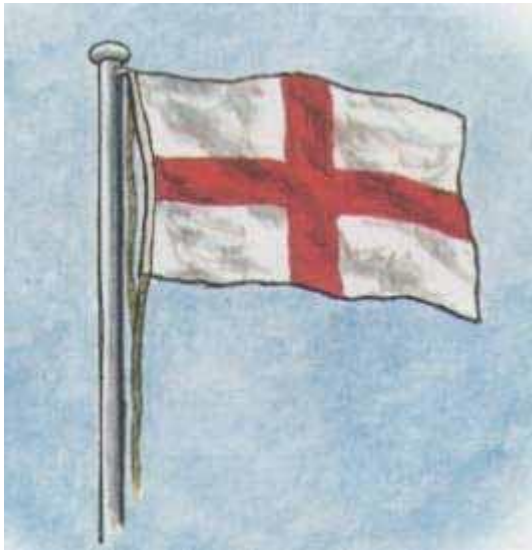
St. George is a person who is respected by people of many traditions and even other faiths. Christians, Jews and Muslims all respect St George.

In fact, he is the patron saint of many countries including Portugal, Lithuania, and of course Georgia! In addition his flag is not only used by the English but by a number of other towns and cities around the world. Like his Lord, St George would have approved of being such a peacemaker





# CHANGING OUR PERSPECTIVES ON THE SYMBOL OF THE CROSS.



**Acts 9:32-35**

**Themes:**

Christian Value – **Honesty**

SEAL – **Courage**

George being a Roman Soldier would have worn a white tunic. He may have drawn on a red cross (for the colour of blood) to show his support of Jesus.



# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom  
the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever.

Amen



# “When a Knight won his spurs”

1. When a knight won his spurs in the stories of old,  
He was gentle and brave; he was gallant and bold,  
With a shield on his arm and a lance in his hand,  
For God and for valour he rode through the land.



2. No charger have I, and no sword by my side,  
Yet still to adventure and battle I ride,  
Though back into storyland giants have fled,  
And the knights are no more and the dragons are dead.

3. Let faith be my shield and let joy be my steed,  
‘Gainst the dragons of anger, the ogres of greed;  
And let me set free, with the sword of my youth,  
From the castle of darkness, the power of truth.



Maltese Cross

George was thought to have been born in what is now known as Turkey. He lived his young life as a Roman Soldier in Palestine where he was charged to keep the Christians in order. Soon he decided that the way in which the Christians were being treated was unfair and unjust and he bravely decided to stand up against their persecution.

George is believed to have lived near a small town Lydda, which is now called Lod, in Israel. In Roman times Lydda was very different from today. The Romans soldiers were very worried about the Christians and they felt vulnerable from attack. It was their aim to pick on' (repress and persecute) the Christians whenever they could.

George was a kind man and when he saw how the Romans treated the Christians he felt angry. He soon began to believe that this wasn't the way to treat human beings. What he did next put his life in danger.

# St. George and His Cross



St. George's Church in a small town called Lod, in Israel, is the alleged resting place for his body.

# **Acts 9:32-35**

## **Aeneas and Dorcas**

As Peter travelled about the country, he went to visit the Lord's people who lived in Lydda. <sup>33</sup> There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. <sup>34</sup> "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. <sup>35</sup> All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.



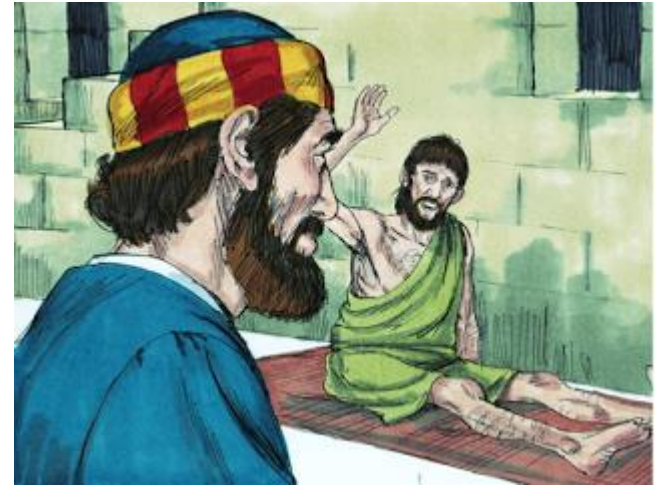
In the bible it is known that it was at Lydda that Peter perform a miracle. Upon seeing a man who had been ill for eight years Peter told him to rise up and walk.

It is possible that George had seen this miracle or certainly heard about it and this story would have soon spread around?

George would have been very impressed by the faith of those who died believing in Jesus that he became a Christian himself, even though he knew that this would mean certain death

As a follower of Jesus, this is the sort of power of which St. George would have approved and for which he would want to be remembered as a saint

## Is this the true story of St. George?



*Peter was the spokesman for the disciples during the life of Jesus. He often spoke up honestly when others were afraid. After the death of Jesus, Peter was desperate to carry on his good work. He soon became known as **Peter the Healer** and those sick or in terrible need welcomed his presence.*

Once George became a Christian he entered a new life which finally resulted in his death. In Lydda his life was celebrated and it was here that he was finally laid to rest.

Soon George's name was known far and wide as someone who stood up against the misuse of power

In fact St. George is very highly regarded by many in this part of the world including Muslims.

George is one the most popular boys' names. It seems that it was Richard the Lionheart from England who decided to adopt George as our English saint in the time of the crusades, probably because he too was impressed by the military might of this hero

# England adopts a new Symbol



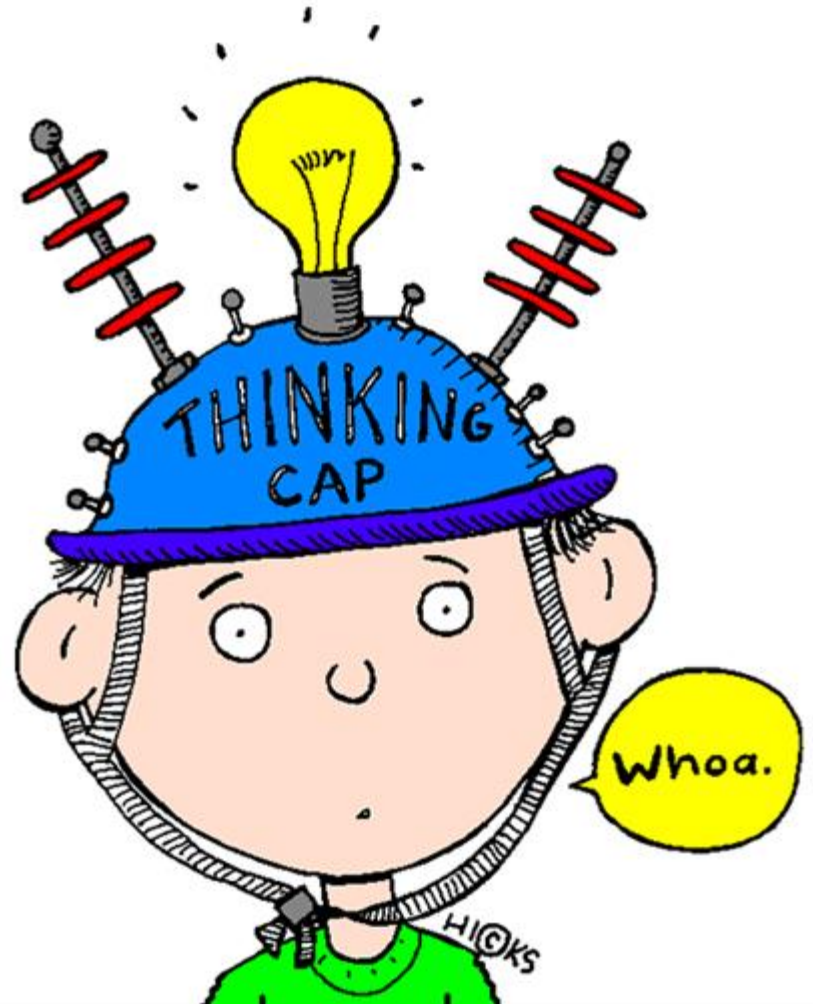
*King Richard was a devout Christian he was determined to lead his knights to capture Jerusalem.*

# Lets think about what we have heard!

Many people and countries around the world look up to St. George as he was determined to live his life by the core values he saw as key and honorable.

Ultimately, like Jesus he made the final sacrifice and lost his life standing up for honestly and righteousness.

It was his courageous acts that made other around him during his life and later in modern times who are determined that our lives should be led as a good role models following his lead.



# Lets get ready to Pray

Dear Lord,

In the week where we celebrate St. Georges Day please let us always remember the bravery of St. George in standing up for what was right in a land where peaceful people were persecuted.

Let us work hard to be just like him using Honesty and Courage as core values to live our lives by.

Amen





# The Grace

May the grace of the  
Lore Jesus Christ, and  
the love of God, and the  
fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit, be with you  
evermore.

Amen.



## REFLECTION: ...

Think about a time when you have seen wrong doing and decided not to get involved. Even worse you were reluctant not tell the truth. If you could repeat the action what would you change?

From today onwards work hard to follow the lead of St. George showing honesty and courage in all you do.



*In both the stories of Peter and George they showed great honesty and bravery when many others would have hid and refused to stand up for what is right.*