

## St George

Did you know that there are over 250 churches across the Church of England – including the Diocese in Europe – that, like our church, are dedicated to St George? St George has been honoured by Christians down the centuries following his death in around AD 304, although he was only named as England's patron saint over a thousand years later around 1347.

While there are few reliable historical details of George's life, what is known is that he was a Christian who served in the Roman army in Lydda, Palestine – although he may well have been born in Cappadocia (in what is now Turkey). We also know that he was among many people martyred (killed for his Christian faith) during the brutal suppression of Christianity during the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

### **A Prayer for St George's Day**

Almighty God,  
overcoming evil with the power of love alone:  
give us the faith of George  
who spent his life  
to resist an empire's hollow heart;  
who renounced his arms  
to stand with the persecuted;  
who inspires our hope  
that another world is possible;  
through Jesus Christ, Disturber of Thrones.  
Amen



*From 'Prayers for an Inclusive Church' - Steven Shakespeare*

**Patronal Festival**

**26th April 2026**

**GATHERING HYMN:** 'For All The Saints' (161) Verses 1-4

### **COLLECT:**

God of hosts,  
who so kindled the flame of love  
in the heart of your servant George  
that he bore witness to the risen Lord  
by his life and by his death:  
give us the same faith and power of love  
that we who rejoice in his triumphs  
may come to share with him  
the fullness of the resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### **FIRST READING**

**Revelation 12: 7-12**

War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,  
'Now have come the salvation and the power  
and the kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Messiah,  
for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down,  
who accuses them day and night before our God.  
But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony,



for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.

Rejoice then, you heavens

and those who dwell in them!

But woe to the earth and the sea,

for the devil has come down to you  
with great wrath,

because he knows that his time is short!

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **SECOND READING**

**2 Timothy 2: 3-13**

Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**GRADUAL HYMN—** 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' (238)

**We sing verse 3 after the Gospel Reading**

## **GOSPEL**

**John 15: 18-21**

'If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, "Servants are not greater than their master." If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

### **OFFERTORY HYMN:**

'There is a Redeemer' (644)

### **COMMUNION HYMNS:**

'The Lord is my Shepherd' - (636)

'There's a Spirit in the Air' (647)

'Rejoice in God's Saints' (562)

### **POST COMMUNION**

God our redeemer,  
whose Church was strengthened  
by the blood of your martyr George:  
so bind us, in life and death, to Christ's sacrifice  
that our lives, broken and offered with his,  
may carry his death and proclaim his resurrection in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**FINAL HYMN:** 'I Will Sing the Wondrous Story' (330)

