

ALL SAINTS NEWS

23rd April 2023
Easter Three

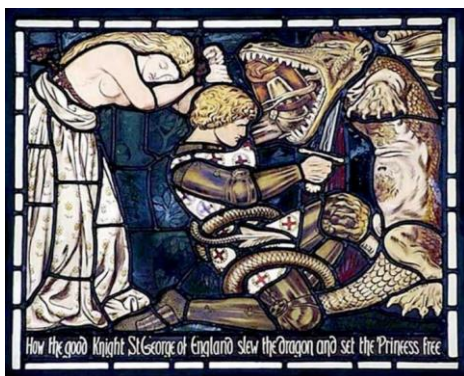
Why is St George our patron saint?

Ian James Forrester Mortimer, FSA, FRHistS (born 22 September 1967) is a British historian and writer of historical fiction. He is well known for his book 'The Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England'.

You might think that St George is an odd choice for the patron saint of England. As we all know, he was not English. He died in Palestine, his name means 'farmer' in Greek, and he may or may not have been a soldier. Add the fact that his most famous exploit is a myth – killing a dragon to save a king's daughter from being devoured – and he starts to look about as suitable a candidate for the patron saint of England as Jerry Mouse (of Tom and Jerry), another determined campaigner against devouring beasts whose exploits are both fictitious and foreign in origin.

But how many countries across Europe *are* represented by an indigenous saint? Scotland's St Andrew was a New Testament figure, as was Spain's St James. St Nicholas (Russia and Greece) came from Turkey. Ireland's St Patrick came from mainland Britain. France's St Denis was an Italian missionary. Germany's St Boniface, came from England. The Portuguese, Venetians, Maltese, Georgians and Lithuanians all have St George (the most cosmopolitan of all patron saints). In fact, St David (Wales) is very rare in being a saint who actually came from the region of which he now is patron.

Clearly, it does not matter where a saint came from. It is what he stands for – the message of his life – which is important. In all the cases above, St George stands out as unique in one respect. His message has absolutely nothing to do with converting people to Christianity. St George stands for the courage to face adversity in order to defend the innocent. The triumph of good over evil, through courage.



The choice of St George as England's patron saint was predominantly that of one man, King Edward III, who reigned from 1327 to 1377. To most people, Edward III is hardly any less enigmatic than St George himself. No survey to find the 'Man of the Millennium' or the 'Greatest Briton' has ever mentioned him. For the last two hundred years he has been portrayed in popular history books as a rapacious, adulterous war-monger. Yet it is fair to say that he did more than any other individual to create the English nation as we know it today.

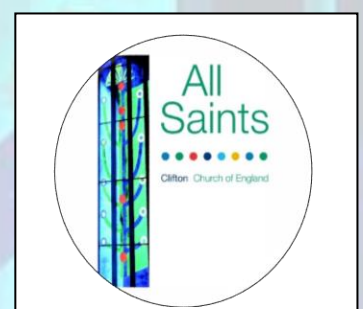
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When Edward III ascended the throne, at the age of fourteen, England was in a terrible state, its economy damaged through years of floods, famine and civil war, and its government in the hands of a dictator, Roger Mortimer. Then in 1330, at not quite eighteen, Edward III ousted Mortimer and set about creating a new style of kingship. In 1333 he reversed the ignominy of the English defeat of Bannockburn (1314) when he marched into Scotland, parading the banners of St Cuthbert and St George, and won a decisive victory at Halidon Hill.

What was remarkable about Edward III was his determined approach to major social and strategic issues. We can see this in his co-operation with parliament and the introduction of much social legislation in his reign (including recognition of English as 'the tongue of the nation'). But his development of England's military potential was of even greater importance. His increasingly regular use of St George in his war-cries, banners and religion was just one part of an integrated strategy which made England the most powerful nation in Europe by 1350. He purposefully encouraged the development of cannon and the use of rapid-shooting longbows so that he could fight wars in a totally new way: by shooting enemy troops from a distance rather than bludgeoning them in hand-to-hand combat. In 1346 he marched across northern France and, at Crécy, purposefully encountered a much larger French force in a full-scale battle and destroyed it. After that, the English army was widely considered to be invincible. The English themselves were enjoying one of the longest periods of domestic peace they had ever known; they were more prosperous than they had been for decades, and the flag of St George was flying above Windsor Castle.

In later centuries, Edward III's kingship came to be seen as the epitome of how a medieval king should rule, and St George – the king's patron saint – came to symbolise both his great kingship and the national pride that went with it. After the battle of Agincourt, the saint's day (23 April) was made a major feast day – a national holiday – and it remained so until the mid-sixteenth century. That is why, throughout the Wars of the Roses, St George acted as a unifying figure, a patron saint to both Lancastrians and Yorkists. Similarly, this association with great kingship and national pride meant that St George was one of the few saints who continued to have relevance in England after the Reformation. Only in the last two centuries – when the English nation has been somewhat submerged in the larger entities of the United Kingdom and the British Empire – has St George lost this connection, with his flag now being more significant than the saint himself, as the most potent icon of English identity.

That, in a nutshell, is why this obscure figure from the ancient world is our patron saint. It is also why he has lasted so long. The king who adopted him might be almost forgotten today, but for centuries St George represented the idea of courageous leadership and, with it, the unifying popular will to be governed well and protected. That is, at the very least, understandable, perhaps even admirable. And maybe it will prove the basis for St George's undying status as England's patron saint. After all, it is arguable that a saint who represents courage and the triumph of good over evil has more relevance in our modern, multi-cultural world than many a Christian missionary.

Ian Mortimer

Fr Charles and Family

Fr Charles and family are away this Sunday at the Baptism of grandson Alexander.



● ● Friends Together

A Dementia accessible café – for all.
Support, guidance, information and
friendship. Tea, coffee and cake included.

When? 1st Thursday of every month

Time? 10.00am-12.00pm

Where? The Randall Room, All Saints Church

Join us for...

- Reminiscence activities
- Support, guidance, and information
- Tea, coffee, cake
- Fun, laughter – and friendship!



Café Dates 2022-2023

2022

- Thursday 6th October 2022
- Thursday 3rd November 2022
- Thursday 1st December 2022
- A special festive Christmas Café with carols!

2023

- Thursday 5th January 2023
- Thursday 2nd February 2023

- Thursday 2nd March 2023
- Thursday 6th April 2023
- Thursday 4th May 2023
- Thursday 1st June 2023
- Thursday 6th July 2023
- Thursday 3rd August 2023
- Thursday 7th September 2023
- Thursday 5th October 2023
- Thursday 2nd November 2023
- Thursday 7th December 2023

For further information, please call All Saints Parish Office on 0117 974 1355 or see the website for latest updates.

www.allsaintsclifton.org

All Saints

Clifton, Church of England

Our next Café is on:

THURSDAY 4th May 2023

At 10am-12pm



This month, we'll be celebrating the Coronation of HM King Charles III with royal-themed activities, memorabilia and music to sing along to, provided by pianist Jan Bartlett.



All Saints Church, Pembroke Rd BS8 3ED
SUNDAY APRIL 23rd 2023 8.00pm

Primavera

Frühling

Lenze

SPRING

Printemps

Reverdie

Medieval and Renaissance
songs, madrigals and motets
about the greenest of all seasons

Monteverdi, Hildegard, Marenzio, Mouton
Weelkes, Byrd & Morley

Nova

Directed by Bruce Saunders

Programmes £10 at the door Students £5
Accompanied U16s free

SPRING.

Nova, directed by Bruce Saunders, invite you to a musical celebration of the greenest of all seasons.

Medieval and Renaissance songs, madrigals and motets.

Sunday April 23rd 8.00pm. £10 at the door. Students £5. Accompanied U18s free.



All Saints
Clifton Church of England



Thursday evenings at...



Join us at the All Saints table in the Alma Tavern for a drink and a chat



Every Thursday at 8pm onwards

All Saints Parish Office
0117 974 1355; www.allsaintsclifton.org

The Alma Tavern & Theatre
18-20 Alma Vale Road, Clifton, BS8 2HY
0117 973 5171
www.almatavernandtheatre.co.uk



Visit to Bristol Jamia Mosque, Totterdown

Saturday 29th April 12:00pm – 2:00pm

We have an excellent invitation on Saturday 29th April 2023 at 12.00pm from our brothers and sisters at The Bristol Jamia Mosque, Totterdown, to come and learn a little more about Islam, have a tour of the mosque and to join in prayer. The visit will end at 2.00pm with refreshments

There are places for about 20 on the trip and there will be a dress code including clothing to cover your arms and a head covering for women. There are separate entrances for men and women and shoes are left at the door to respect the Mosque.

Bristol Early Music Festival Workshop for Singers

Saturday 13th May 10:00am – 5:00pm



Bristol Early Music Festival



This year, the Festival consists of one large-scale event: **The 2023 Festival Workshop for Singers**, led by Robert Hollingworth, performing Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Mass for Four Choirs and Instruments*

For more information and to purchase tickets, see the leaflet in church, or visit the Festival website: www.bristolearlymusicfestival.uk

Memories and Memorabilia

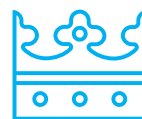
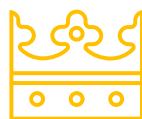


A Coronation Exhibition 6th - 8th May

What do you remember about the coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth, our late Queen, in June 1953? If you are too young to remember, perhaps you have some older relatives who do! We'd like to have any photographs, news clippings, tea cups, plates, spoons, or any other items. Do you have any memories of that happy day? It would be wonderful if you could lend the items and share your memories for a free exhibition to be held in the Sacristy here at All Saints during the long Coronation Weekend.

We will need your items by Sunday 30 April, so that we have time to arrange the exhibition. Don't worry, care will be taken to keep everything safe and secure. You can email your recollections now so that they can be put into a larger format for display. Thank you.

Please contact: Georgina Harford – georginaharford@hotmail.com
Caroline Davenport – c2davbristol@hotmail.com



The Coronation Cream Tea Monday 8th of May 3-5pm



Scone makers of All Saints, we need your talents to produce scones for the Coronation Cream Tea.

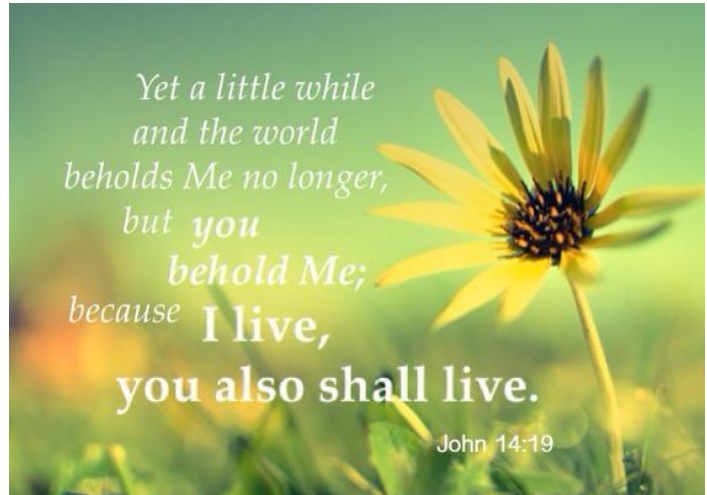
Scones, plain or with sultanas please, on the day or to freeze in preparation for this special event free to the community.

Prayers Requests

'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.'

(John 14: 19).

Please let Fr Charles know of anyone who would like to be remembered within the weekly prayer list or anyone who you would like to be remembered in prayer.



Those who we remember in our Prayers.

Sunday Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Sarah Bradley Sue Hilliar Steve Cooper Ruth Marson Ryan Lindsey Joanne Cooper Hugh Barron

Monday

Tuesday. Diana Verity

Wednesday , Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Samantha Tucker, Hugh Farry Shamin Azad

Thursday

Friday Charlotte Hopkins, Andy & Gina Ford, Elisabeth Morgan, Caroline Semon

Saturday

The Departed

Malcolm Davis Jeanne Callow Mileno Graca Rory Young
Ros Hawkins Ron Gale Valerie Donkin

Years' Minds - this week we remember

Helen Roberts Bunny Vile Mary Oakley Barbara Biggs Pat Fenley Margaret Williams

ALL SAINTS **PRAYERS**

Mon 24	George, Martyr, Patron of England 304 A soldier of Palestinian/Greek origins and member of the Praetorian Guard. Sentenced to death for his Christian faith. Venerated by Christians and Muslims (commonly known as El Khudder and possibly buried in the mosque of Nabi Jurjis). Became an heroic figure in England during and after the Crusades and established by Edward III with the 'Most Noble Order of the Garter'
Tue 25	Mark The Evangelist Mark's identity not clear. But, putting authorship aside, the power of the first Gospel and the symbol of the Lion – roaring out the Good News. Pray that we at All Saints may 'Roar out the Gospel'
Wed 26	Mass 10.00am Give thanks for the work of Earth Scientists (Charles Richter) in enabling us to understand our planet and its rhythms. Especially we pray for all those living in or caught up in earthquakes (and the after effects).
Thurs 27	Christina Rossetti 1894 Anglo catholic poet . 'A Better Resurrection' <i>I have no wit, no words, no tears; My heart within me like a stone Is numb'd too much for hopes or fears; Look right, look left, I dwell alone; I lift mine eyes, but dimm'd with grief No everlasting hills I see; My life is in the falling leaf: O Jesus, quicken me.</i>
Fri 28	Mass 10.00am Peter Chanel 1841 Marist Missionary and Martyr. Working in Oceania (Islands of the Tropical Pacific Ocean). Pray for the Society of Mary (Marist priests) and all missionary organisations
Sat 29	Catherine of Siena 1380 Fourteenth century mystic and political activist who spoke boldly. It was said she would 'speak truth to power'. Pray for all who speak boldly – risking their own lives and safety for what is right
Sunday 30	Easter Four Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30am

If you would like to give regularly to the Church, please set up a standing order to the church account, details below

Parochial Church Council of All Saints

Account No. 65256747

sort code 08 92 99

Gift Aid forms are available from the office

office@allsaintsclifton.org

