

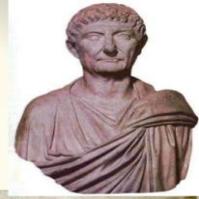
St George's Day

Today in our worship we thought about the story of St George

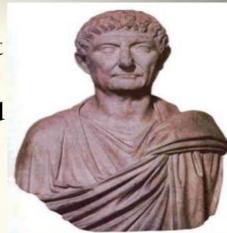
George was born in a country that is now called Turkey nearly two thousand years ago. His parents were Christians and his father was a soldier. When George was old enough he joined the Roman army.



George was a very good soldier and he was put in charge of many other soldiers. He was sent to a place called Nicomedia as a special guard to the Emperor Diocletian.



Diocletian was not a kind emperor. He did not like Christians (people who prayed to Jesus) and made an order that they were all to be killed.



George was ordered to kill Christians but he would not do it. He told the emperor that he was wrong to order him to and that he was a Christian too.



The Emperor was very angry and ordered George to be killed. He died on 23rd April. Many people heard how brave George was, they became Christians too. For hundreds of years people in different countries all over the world heard about George.

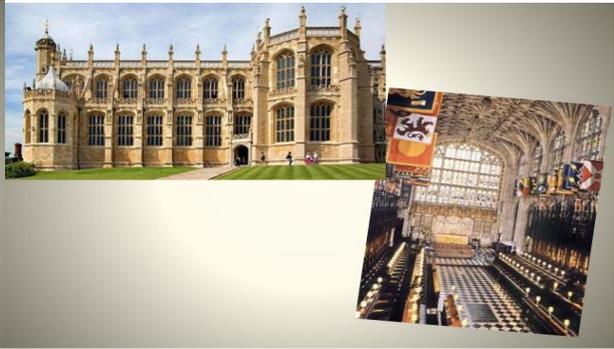


After he died, George was called Saint George to show how special he was.

All over the world churches are named after him.



Over a thousand years ago The King of England, Edward the third ordered that Saint George should be the special Saint for England. He had a church built near his castle. The Queen still uses it today.



Do you know where this is?
Can you find out?
Send your answer to your class teacher!

But there are also other stories about St George that have caught out imagination
They are exciting and involve a mythical creature.....

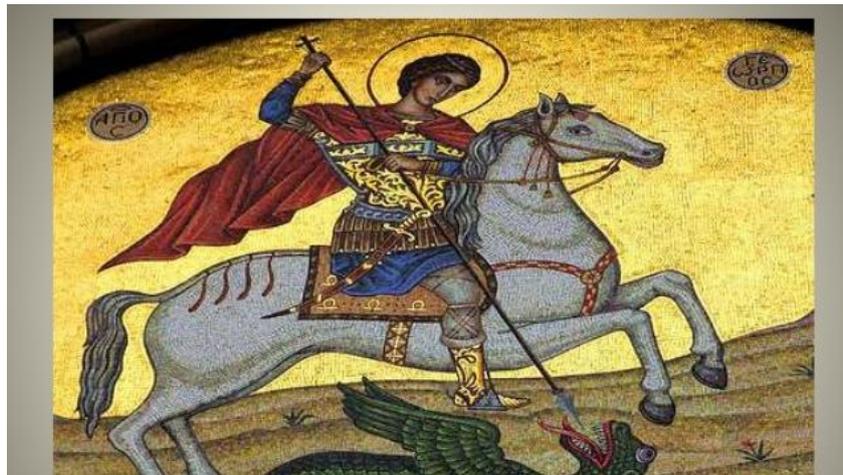
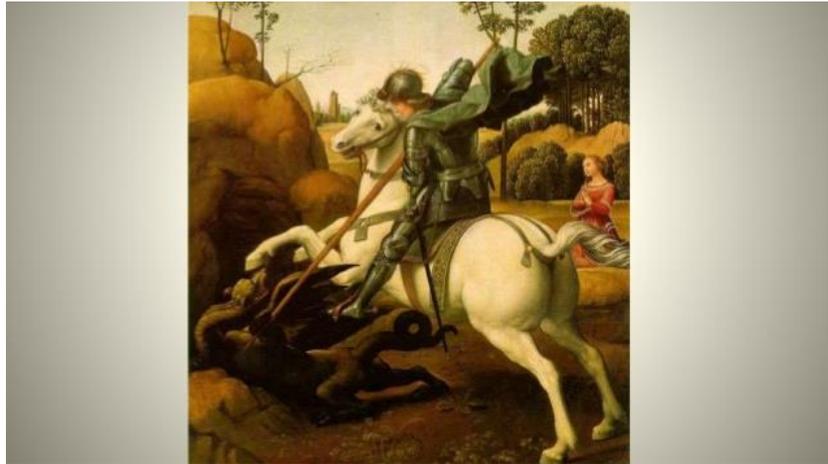
DRAGONS!

Stories began to be told about Saint George. These stories were not true but some people believed them. Do you know what the stories were about? The stories told of something that George did.



The story goes that St George rode into Silene (modern day Libya) to free the city from a dragon who had a taste for humans, but it's a story which comes after the real George by several centuries.

Artists painted pictures to tell the story of how George killed a dragon.



Was this part of the story true? The stories became very popular in the Middle Ages from the 9th century onwards. Were these real or are they representing the battle between good and evil?

St George is truly an international saint and England is not the only country or region to claim him as its patron. England shares St George with Venice, Genoa, Portugal, Ethiopia and Catalonia among others as their patron saint and many of these places have their own celebrations and ceremonies in his honour.



In 1940 King George VI created a new award for acts of the greatest heroism or courage in extreme danger, The George Cross, named after the king, bears the image of St George vanquishing the dragon. The image of St George is also on many war memorials built to honour those killed in World War one.

So let's think about the qualities St George showed:

St George was courageous.

St George stood up for his belief in Jesus

St George persevered,

St George brought hope to people.

How can we today be more like St George?

How are you being courageous?

How are you persevering?

How are you bringing hope to those around you?

Dear God

We thank you for the life of St George and for the stories that he has inspired.

Help us too to be courageous, show perseverance and radiant hope when times are tough,

AMEN

