

# St George's Day: Practical Ways to Mark the Day

Simple ideas for worship, parish life and  
community engagement

April 2026

# St George's Day: Practical Ways to Mark the Day

## Celebrating England with Christian courage, welcome and hope

St George's Day offers churches in England a valuable opportunity to celebrate our national story faithfully and inclusively, giving thanks for our heritage while reflecting the Christian values of courage, welcome and dignity.

This companion guide offers simple, practical ways churches might choose to mark St George's Day. Churches are not expected to do all of this. One small, intentional step is enough.

## 1. In Worship

### Prayers and Intercessions

- Give thanks for England: its people, landscapes, communities and churches
- Pray for unity, peace and justice within our nation
- Pray for those who feel unwelcome, displaced, or uncertain of belonging; locally and globally, including refugees and those seeking asylum.
- Pray for courage to resist fear, division and prejudice

**Tip:** Frame prayers positively around welcome, dignity and shared humanity.

### Bible Readings

Churches may wish to include one of the following:

- Leviticus 19:33–34 – Loving the stranger
- Matthew 25:35 – “I was a stranger and you welcomed me”
- Luke 10:25–37 – The Good Samaritan
- Revelation 7:9 – A vision of God's diverse kingdom

### Sermon or Reflection Themes

- St George as a model of Christian courage and integrity
- The difference between exclusionary nationalism and Christian patriotism
- England at its best: justice, fairness, hospitality and community
- How churches can be places of welcome and belonging

## 2. Visible Signs of Welcome

Churches could:

- Display the St George's Cross alongside symbols of welcome
- Use inclusive language in notices and spoken welcomes
- Ensure newcomers are greeted warmly and intentionally
- Make clear that *all* are welcome, regardless of background
- Ensure your church environment reflects courage, welcome and dignity in both word and practice.

Small gestures often communicate values more clearly than words.

## 3. Learning and Conversation

### Parish or Small Group Discussion

Use St George's Day as a moment to ask:

- What does it mean to love our nation as Christians?
- How do we hold pride in England alongside welcome for newcomers?
- Where might fear or misinformation shape our thinking?

This can be informal and exploratory rather than instructional. Be honest about where fear, assumption or discomfort may be shaping our responses.

### Sharing Stories

Where appropriate and with consent:

- Stories of people's journeys, experiences of belonging, or connection to place.
- Reflect on England's long history of global connections
- Recognise and celebrate the contributions of people within your local community

## 4. Practical Acts of Solidarity

Churches might choose one simple action, such as:

- Supporting a local refugee or asylum seeker charity

- Collecting items requested by local organisations
- Offering church space for community use or ESOL classes
- Signposting support services on noticeboards or websites

Action, even on a small scale, reflects Christian commitment.

## **5. Marking the Day Beyond Sunday**

St George's Day can also be marked through:

- A short reflection or prayer shared online
- A parish newsletter article
- A school or youth group activity
- A community coffee morning with a focus on welcome

Not every marking needs to be part of formal worship.

## **Resources for Churches**

### **Racial Justice & Inclusion**

- Church of England Racial Justice Unit – national guidance, reports, and diocesan resources
- USPG – theological resources on justice, diversity, and global church perspectives
- Churches Together in Britain and Ireland – resources on unity, race, and inclusion across denominations

### **Community Engagement**

- Near Neighbours – funding and tools for local interfaith and community projects
- The Cinnamon Network – helps churches start and grow community projects
- Church Urban Fund – research, training, and resources for engaging local communities

### **Social Justice & Poverty**

- Christian Aid – resources on poverty, justice, and global inequality
- Trussell Trust – insight into food poverty and local partnership opportunities

- Jubilee+ – practical tools for churches tackling poverty
- Church Action on Poverty – campaigns and church-based resources on poverty and inequality

### **Migration & Refugee Support**

- City of Sanctuary UK – helps communities become more welcoming and inclusive
- Refugee Council – national support and information on refugee issues
- British Red Cross Refugee Support – practical support and partnership opportunities
- Reset Communities and Refugees – supports community sponsorship schemes
- Migrant Help – advice and support services for people seeking asylum

### **6. A Short Prayer for the Day**

God of all nations,  
 we give thanks for England, its people, history and communities.  
 Shape us to be a Church of courage and compassion,  
 welcoming the stranger and standing for justice.  
 May our love for this nation reflect your love for all people.  
 Amen.

St George's Day invites the Church in England to model a faithful, confident and generous vision of national life, one rooted in Christian love rather than fear.

By celebrating England and committing ourselves anew to welcome and justice, we honour both our faith and our nation.

**This guide can be used alongside 'Inclusion, Courage and Christian Witness'**