



The Parish and Ward Church of  
St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate  
in the City of London  
EC2M 3TL



# Choral Mass

of the Feast of **S George** [23 April]

**Wednesday 22 April 2026 at 1.10 pm**

*The Revd David Armstrong, Rector*

*Iestyn Evans, Director of Music*

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www.botolph.org.uk

*St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate - a place of calm, sanctuary and God's love in the City*



*During the singing of the Offertory Hymn a collection will be taken up for Christ's work in this place. If you are a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid envelope. If you prefer to make a contactless donation please use one of the devices at the front or back of church or the QR code on the back of this service sheet.*

**Offertory Hymn:** Leader now on earth no longer (tune: NEH 185)

Leader now on earth no longer,  
Soldier of th'eternal king,  
Victor in the fight for heaven,  
We thy loving praises sing.  
Great Saint George, our patron, help us,  
In the conflict be thou nigh;  
Help us in that daily battle,  
Where each one must win or die.

Praise him who in deadly battle  
Never shrank from foeman's sword,  
Proof against all earthly weapon,  
Gave his life for Christ the Lord.  
Who, when earthly war was over,  
Fought, but not for earth's renown;  
Fought, and won a nobler glory,  
Won the martyr's purple crown.

Onward, till, our striving over,  
On life's battlefield we fall,  
Resting then, but ever ready,  
Waiting for the angel's call.  
Great Saint George, our patron, help us,  
In the conflict be thou nigh;  
Help us in that daily battle,  
Where each one must win or die.

***Sanctus, Benedictus, and Agnus Dei:***

*see the Mass book for translation of the Latin texts*

## **Anthem during Communion:**

Give us the wings of faith to rise  
Within the veil, and see  
The saints above, how great their joys,  
How bright their glories be.

We ask them whence their victory came;  
They, with united breath,  
Ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,  
Their triumph to his death.

They marked the footsteps that he trod,  
His zeal inspired their breast,  
And, following their incarnate God,  
They reached the promised rest.

*Isaac Watts 1674-1748*

*Ernest Bullock 1890-1979*

## **Closing Hymn:** NEH 162 (verses 3-4)

To George our Saint thou gavest grace  
Without one fear all foes to face,  
And to confess by faithful death  
That Word of Life which was his breath.  
O help us, Helper of Saint George,  
To fear no bonds that man can forge.

Arm us like him, who in thy trust  
Beat down the dragon to the dust;  
So that we too may tread down sin  
And with thy Saints a crown may win.  
Help us, O God, that we may be  
A land acceptable to thee.

**Organ music:** Postlude in C

*Henry Thomas Smart (1813-79)*

*All are warmly invited to join us for refreshments following the service.*

## Who was St George?



Very little is known about the real St George. He is thought to have been born into a noble Christian family in the late third century in Cappadocia, an area which is now in Turkey. He followed his father's profession of soldier and became part of the retinue of the Emperor Diocletian. The emperor

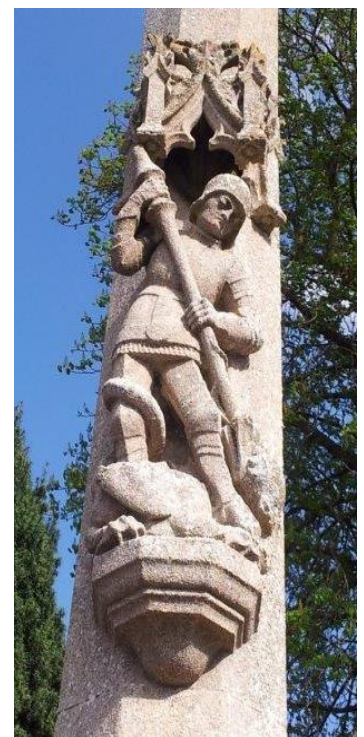
ordered the systematic persecution of Christians and George refused to take part. In 303, he was himself tortured and executed in Palestine, becoming an early Christian martyr.

The legend of George slaying a dragon and rescuing an innocent maiden from death (*depicted above by Paolo Uccello*) is mediaeval. St George's Day is celebrated in England on 23 April, reputed to be the day of George's martyrdom in 303.

King Edward III made him the Patron Saint of England when he formed the Order of the Garter in St George's name in 1350, and the cult of the Saint was further advanced by King Henry V at the battle of Agincourt.

Shakespeare (whose birth is traditionally held to be St George's Day 1564 - he died on that day in 1616) made sure that nobody would forget St George, and has King Henry V finishing his pre-battle speech with the famous phrase, 'Cry God for Harry, England and St. George!' King Henry himself, who was both warlike and devout, was thought by his followers to possess many of the saint's characteristics.

St George is also the patron of Aragon, Catalonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, and Russia; cities, including Beirut, Ferrara, Freiburg, Genoa, Ljubljana and Moscow; the Scouting movement, and a range of professions, organisations and disease sufferers. Also, as we continue to remember those who died for their country in the World Wars, we note that St George appears on many memorials to those and other wars in the UK and beyond. *This one is in the village of Clifford Chambers near Stratford-upon-Avon.*



## FORTHCOMING SERVICES & NOTICES

### Church opening and service times

The church is open for public worship and private prayer every Monday to Friday from 7.30 am to 5.30 pm. Our normal service pattern is:

Tuesdays - Said Mass at 12.10 pm (*This is now the only Mass on Tuesday*)

Wednesdays - Choral Mass with sermon at 1.10 pm

Thursdays – Said Mass at 12.10 pm

Choral services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel (accessible from the church website [www.botolph.org.uk](http://www.botolph.org.uk)).

**This evening** at 6.00 pm –

### **XLP 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Service of Thanksgiving**

We welcome our friends from the youth charity XLP (The Excel Project) which has its offices in All Hallows on the Wall, the Guild Church in our parish, as they celebrate the charity's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Tomorrow, Thursday 23 April:** Mass at 12.10 pm

Before Mass we welcome the **Ewell Morris Men**, who will mark S George's Day by dancing in the Churchyard at 12 noon.

**This Saturday, 25 April** from 10.00 am:

### **Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland - London Regional Day**

Talks and workshops in the Hall followed by hymn-singing in the church. The day will include hymns written by St Botolph's former Rector, Bishop Richard Mant, in this his 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. More details overleaf.

**Next Tuesday, 28 April:** Mass at 12.10 pm

**Next Wednesday, 29 April: Choral Mass** at 1.10 pm  
*Piccolominimesse Mozart; Surrexit pastor bonus Regnart*  
*Basse de trompette Couperin*

**Next Thursday, 30 April:** Mass at 12.10 pm

### **ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION 2026**

One of the many great strengths of the Church of England is its system of governance, from parish level to General Synod. At parish level, the Electoral Roll ensures that members of a church can shape the local mission and ministry by electing the officers necessary to do that hard work. **We encourage regular worshippers at St Botolph's to apply:** even if you are already on the Roll at your Sunday or 'home' church, you can be on the Roll here too. Please collect and complete a form after the service and return it either in paper form to the church office, or by email to Mhairi at [church@botolph.org.uk](mailto:church@botolph.org.uk).



# The Hymn Society

of Great Britain and Ireland

## London Regional Day

### ‘HIDDEN TREASURES’

Saturday 25th April 2026 10am–4pm

Church Hall, St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate EC2M 3TL  
near Liverpool Street Station

‘And Can It Be’ — words, music and meaning  
in an iconic Methodist hymn

‘Golden Fruits’ — Rediscovering the riches of  
Ann Mounsey Bartholomew’s hymn tunes

‘Now Shall My Inward Joys Arise’  
Sacred Harp and the Shape Note tradition

plus hymn singing in St Botolph’s Church

*With Professor Martin Clarke, Dr Ewan King and singers from  
London Sacred Harp, Dr Gillian Warson, Rev Dr Janet Wootton*

£15 (Non-members welcome £18)

Teas and coffees provided, bring your own lunch

For more information and to book, go to

[www.hymnsocietygbi.org.uk](http://www.hymnsocietygbi.org.uk)

or email [events@hymnsocietygbi.org.uk](mailto:events@hymnsocietygbi.org.uk)



## CAN YOU HELP US FINANCIALLY?

**Our regular income** continues to be depressed owing to the knock-on effects of Covid, with a reduction in our normal income streams including Hall and Court hire, service collections and alms donations as fewer people are working in and visiting the City of London. If you are in a position to give St Botolph's any financial support at this time perhaps you might consider giving by standing order or direct debit, or a one-off donation? You will find more information about ways of supporting us on the website at [botolph.org.uk/support-us/](http://botolph.org.uk/support-us/), and the Administrator can help with queries [church@botolph.org.uk](mailto:church@botolph.org.uk).

- **Cash donations** (outside service times) may be placed in the alms boxes, or handed to a member of staff at any time. If you are a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid envelope so we can claim back a further 25% from HMRC.
- **Card/contactless donations** can be made at any time via the device on the table at the back of church, **or this QR code**, and can be Gift Aided.
- **Credit card donations** can be made via the link on our website, and can be Gift Aided.

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You can also support St Botolph's through your **online shopping**. The church is registered as a beneficiary charity at Give as you Live and Easy Fundraising – these are simple automatic ways for you to support us (at no extra cost to you, or to us) when shopping online. Give as you Live and Easy Fundraising cover over 4000 shops and other websites, and are both easy to use. More information from:



Give as you Live®

[www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com)



[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

### And a final way of helping us...

## THE GOOD COFFEE KIOSK



**Support Local Good Causes** — enjoy drinks and pastries from The Good Coffee Kiosk at the Bishopsgate entrance, with all profits going to help the homeless.

*Why not purchase a second cup that we can give to a person in need on your behalf?*

**Opening times Monday to Thursday 7.30am to 3.30pm.**