



Saint George: We are now looking at the windows on the southeast wall of our beautiful church. Donated in memory of George Diggles by Libby, his wife, and their family, our window depicts the well-known patron saint of England, but did you know that he is also the patron of Portugal, Germany, Aragon, Genoa, and Venice? In the East Saint George is venerated as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, a collection of saints honored as a group since their intercessory prayers were thought to help cure diseases. In spite of George's popularity, we know little about him, though we know he died circa 303 in Lydda, Palestine. He was said to have been a Roman soldier, and our George definitely wears the garb for such a role; he also carries a spear in his right hand and a shield in his left. Our window contains no dragon, which is appropriate, since the story of George's slaying of a dragon is a legend dating from the twelfth century. In the Middle Ages Saint George was the patron saint of knights and soldiers. The St. George's Cross, a flag with a red cross on a white background, still flies in England as a symbol of national pride. Saint George's feast day falls on April 23.