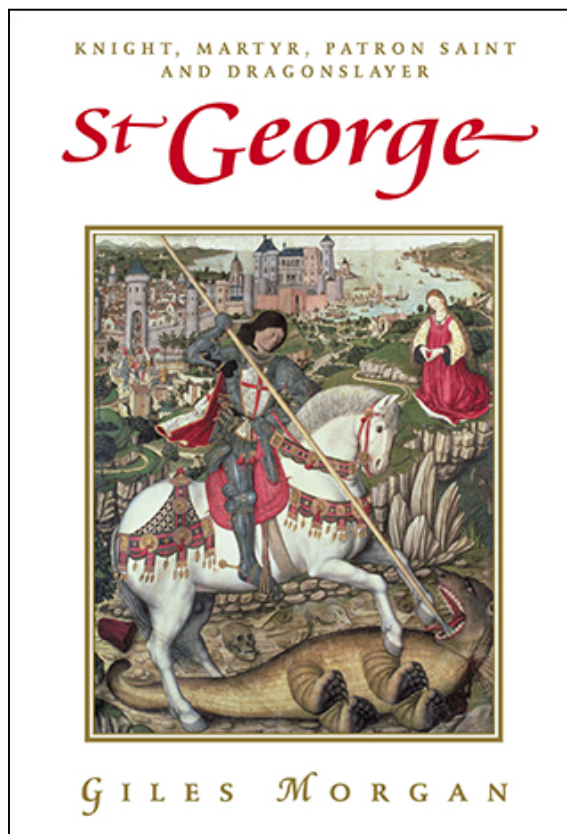




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Pub. Date:	23 March 2017	Price:	£6.99
ISBN:	978-1-84344-965-2	Binding:	Paperback
Format:	B (198 x 129mm)	Extent:	144
Weight:	105g	Rpt. Code:	IP
Publishing Rights:	UK & Commonwealth only, excl. Canada: Exclusive. RoW.: Open Market		
Sales Rights:	UK & Commonwealth only, excl. Canada: Exclusive. RoW.: Open Market		
Market:	Biography, Culture History, History, Mythology, Religion		
BISAC Code:	REL110000: Religion : Christianity : Saints & Sainthood REL015000: Religion : Christianity : History HIS015000: History : Europe : Great Britain BIO006000: Biography & Autobiography : Historical TRV009070: Travel : Europe : Great Britain		
THEMA Code:	DNBH: Biography: historical, political & military NH: History QRM: Christianity 1DDU-GB-E: England		
Country of Manufacture:	UK		

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ST GEORGE

by GILES MORGAN

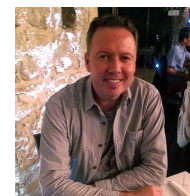
THE BOOK

St. George is a figure that bridges many worlds. At the heart of the myths and legends surrounding this English icon lies the story of an Early Christian Martyr persecuted by the Roman Empire around the third century AD. But England is only one country to have adopted this legendary soldier saint as their patron. Other countries including Germany, Armenia, Hungary, Portugal and Malta have all claimed him as their own. The cult of St. George is astonishingly widespread with churches being dedicated to him in Ethiopia, Egypt, Greece and France.

His heroic struggle and victory against the dragon can be interpreted as representing the bravery of an individual Christian or as the eternal battle between good and evil. But closer examination of the cult of St. George yields unexpected results. There are clear parallels between his legendary battle and that of earlier pre-Christian heroes such as Perseus and Beowulf. St. George is also identified with the Islamic hero Al Khidr who is said to have discovered the fountain of youth. He has been associated with the coming of spring and has functioned as fertility symbol and been closely linked to the Green Man of Pre-Christian Myth. St. George has also acted as a symbol of chastity and served as a healing saint. His flag has been appropriated by the far right but in recent times come to identify a multi-cultural England. David Beckham arguably embodies many of the contradictory aspects of St. George as sex symbol, multi-racial icon and national hero.

GILES MORGAN (Location: Northampton, UK)

Giles Morgan is the author of the Pocket Essentials on *The Holy Grail*, *Byzantium*, *Freemasonry*, *Saints* and *Saint George*. He currently lives in Harrow.



MARKETING & SALES POINTS

The success of *The Holy Grail Pocket Essential* indicates the market available for works dealing with historical/mythological nexus points.

Very little contemporary material available dealing with the history and mythology of St. George

St. George occupies a similar position between history and legend as King Arthur and interest in early Christianity is likely to increase with the release of the *Da Vinci Code* film.

There are increasing calls to officially celebrate St. George's day, with the popularity and use of the flag of St. George at sporting events as a symbol of 'Englishness' on the increase, suggesting a larger potential readership.

PRAISE FOR GILES MORGAN

'fascinating...Well written and meandering delightfully, Morgan held my attention more than I had anticipated' - Bob Rickard, *Fortean Times*



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