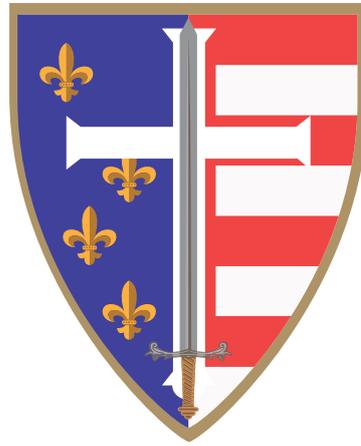


The Order of St. George  
Grand Priory of the United Kingdom

# Members' Guide



## WELCOME TO THE ORDER

Welcome to our Order. We hope you find your membership enjoyable and fulfilling.

In this guide you will find details about the Order of St. George, membership, our goals, and how you can help our work. This guide and its supporting documents can be downloaded from [www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/members](http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/members).

By joining the Order of St. George, you are joining an international fraternity of men and women who seek to live honorably while making a difference to the vulnerable communities our charitable work supports. All members are strongly encouraged to contribute to our activities, to the best of their ability.

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## KEEP IN TOUCH

Please register for the following on-line services:



**ASCALON** – our e-newsletter, primarily used for forthcoming news. Non-members are also welcome to subscribe. Please use this link to register: [www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/ascalon](http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/ascalon) (When you sign up for ASCALON you may find that your email is already on the mailing list. Do not be concerned if this is the case; it simply means that you have previously agreed to receive mailings and we have signed you up using the email address you have provided us.)

Our **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/58484686090/>

Our **Twitter** feed: <https://twitter.com/OStGUK>

*It is important that you follow us on the web, as the Order only sends a limited number of postal communications.*

If you have an Android phone scan the QR code below to download our App to get easy access to the website.



## YOUR AGREEMENT WITH THE ORDER – CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

Please note that as a condition of membership and continuing membership, entitlements, post-nominals, honours, decorations and medals of the Order are strictly forbidden to be worn or used publicly or privately, and neither may members write or publish anything about the Order, for professional or personal gain, advancement, commercial gain or media use without the express permission of the Grand Prior or Grand Chancellor in advance.

If you are in any doubt about when or where to use entitlements or wear the regalia of the Order then please get in touch in the first instance with the Director of Membership at [membership@orderofstgeorge.co.uk](mailto:membership@orderofstgeorge.co.uk).

Please see the section below for further information on complying with our medals and honours protocols.

### Data protection

Please note that by becoming a member of the Order, you agree to the Order holding and processing membership data. Our privacy policy is available on-line at [www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/data.html](http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/data.html)



## ABOUT THE ORDER OF ST. GEORGE

The full name of the Order is the “International Knightly Order Valiant of St George”, generally abbreviated to ‘the Order of St. George’.

The Order of St George is an international association of men and women who aim to live by the timeless values of chivalry with a particular emphasis on supporting charitable causes. There are some details about chivalry and its values on our website.

The International Knightly Order Valiant of St George takes its name and inspiration from the very first chivalric order, the Order of St. George founded by King Károly Róbert of Hungary in 1326.

The Order is entirely dependent on the generosity of members and supporters, whether in time, skills, or money. We currently receive no public grants and employ no full-time employees.

Membership of the Order of St George is offered by invitation to individuals of good character who have shown their concern for, and contribution to, the world around them. The Order is a Christian association, but entirely independent of any particular denomination. Members of other faiths, and none, are eligible for membership as Officers of the Order. Details of how to nominate someone for membership are included in this guide.

## OUR CHARITY STATUS, AFFILIATIONS, AND PARTNERSHIPS

The International Knightly Order Valiant of St George is a registered charity in England (Charity no. 1137397.) We are also a non-profit organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code in the United States. The United Kingdom Grand Priory and the Grand Prior of the Americas form one unified organization. We have good fraternal relationships with branches of the Order in Hungary and elsewhere; however, these are independent organizations.

The International Knightly Order Valiant of St. George has been an organization with Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic & Social Council since 2015. Special consultative status allows the Order to designate official representatives to the UN Headquarters in New York and the UN offices in Geneva and Vienna. Our representatives participate in UN conferences and events, and can sit as observers in meetings of ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, and other UN intergovernmental decision making bodies.

The Order of St. George is affiliated to the Royal Society of St George, England’s premier patriotic organization, promoting and celebrating the English way of life. If you are involved with the Royal Society, please contact them and see if there are areas in which you can co-operate locally. We have very warm ties with Royal Society branches in various part of the UK.

Many members of the Order of St. George, both in the UK and the United States, are Kentucky Colonels and so use the honorific ‘Colonel’ in their title. However, for the avoidance of misunderstanding, it should be pointed out this use of the title ‘Colonel’ should never be taken to imply that the holder has the military rank of Colonel in the US, UK, or other armed forces.

It should be noted that there are a number of other organizations around the world that use the title ‘Order of St. George’ or a variant thereof. The International Knightly Order Valiant of St George is not necessarily associated with these groups.



## WHAT WE DO

St. George is the patron saint of soldiers and is also revered by many communities, both Christian and Muslim, throughout the Middle East and Africa.

True to this heritage, the Order concentrates on supporting charitable and humanitarian work in support of servicemen and women, and with communities in Africa and the Middle East.

The main causes supported by the UK Grand Priory currently include:

### *Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment*

The 3rd Bt Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment is the Order's affiliated regiment, and we support financially the work of the Regimental Welfare Fund.

Known as the Tigers, the Regiment has a long, distinguished history, having been involved in virtually every theatre of war since the Battle of Tangier in 1662.

### *The Royal Hospital Chelsea*

The Order has been a long time supporter of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, home of the famous 'Chelsea Pensioners', and was extremely proud to take the important further step of becoming a Platinum Friend of the Hospital.

We provide volunteer services and have a Commandery based at the Hospital.

### *The Copts of Egypt*

The Copts of Egypt and the Middle East form one of the most ancient Christian communities in the world.

The Order of St. George works closely with the Coptic Orthodox Church Centre in the UK to provide funds for their vital work in Egypt, with an emphasis on providing medical supplies.

We are honoured that HE Bishop Angealos GCStG, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of the Diocese of London, is a Patron of the Order.

### *Samara's Aid Appeal*

To help enhance our humanitarian work amongst the victims of conflict in the Middle East, the Order works in partnership with Samara's Aid Appeal, a charity that provides humanitarian relief, mainly in the form of clothes, sanitary and toiletry products, and medical support to vulnerable refugee communities displaced by conflict in Syria, Iraq, and Jordan.

### *St. George's Baghdad*

The Order of St. George is proud to support St. George's Baghdad - the only Anglican Church in Iraq - and in particular to support the Church's Medical Centre.

There is a full list of the causes the Order supports, both in the UK and overseas, on our website, and our work is reported in our e-magazine, Called to Order.



## MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Order is open to men and women over the age of 21. In the UK Grand Priory there are four grades of membership, Officer, Knight/Dame, Knight/Dame Commander and Grand Cross. Each grade has its own regalia and oblation (membership fee). There are also cadet grades (Squire) for members under 21, and an honorary grade of Companion. Please see the section later in this guide for information about inviting new members to join the Order.

### The ranks in the Order

	Officer	Knight/Dame	Knight Commander	Grand Cross
Regalia	Neck jewel	Mantle	Breast star	Sash
Ribbon colour	Black	Blue	Red	Purple
Investiture	Not formally required. "welcome" ceremony at investiture for those Officers present	Yes - 'clothing' ceremony at which they receive mantle etc	Promotion ceremony at investiture	Promotion ceremony at investiture
Oblation (£)	£40	£60	£80	£100

Officer grade is our standard 'entry level' membership. Officers are not required to be formally invested into the Order, although they are encouraged to attend our Investiture services where they can be formally welcomed into the Order.

Knights/Dames are formally invested into the Order at an investiture ceremony, held at a consecrated building. Prior to investiture a Knight/Dame candidate is styled Knight Expectant or Dame Expectant.

Promotion to Knight/Dame, and to the higher ranks of the Order, is not automatic but will be awarded in recognition of a member's contribution to the work of the Order and/or to other good works.

Continued membership in the Order is dependent on maintaining payment of annual oblations by Standing Order or PayPal. Members in financial or other hardship who cannot maintain payments are invited to contact our us to discuss alternative arrangements.

## THE SYMBOLS OF THE ORDER

The neck decoration (jewel) of the Order of St George is a cross flory bearing an oval panel depicting the mounted figure of St George slaying the dragon, which is suspended from the Holy Crown of St Stephen of Hungary (distinguished by its shape and the tilted cross which surmounts it).

Our coat of arms is based on that of King Károly Róbert of Hungary. He combined the red stripes of the coat of arms of the previous royal house (the Arpads) with the Angevins' fleur-de-lis. Our coat of arms includes a white cross and a Knight's sword.

The Holy Crown of St. Stephen is the national symbol of Hungary – the President, ministers of state and officers of the armed forces all take their oath of allegiance to it. In the sixteenth century, when he was Grand Master, Pope Paul III added the image of the crown to the insignia of the Order of St. George.

### The Order of Merit and Medal of the Order

At the discretion of the Grand Prior members in the Order and other worthy people can be awarded the Order of Merit.

The Order of Merit: Medal of Merit – Post-nominal MMStG. Awarded to members of the Order and worthy people. Round full-sized medal depicting St George.



The Order of Merit: Knight/Dame of Merit – Post-nominal KMStG/DMStG. Awarded to members of the Order. Full-sized cross with an oval centre depicting St George, additional clasp.

For continued meritorious service a bar to each medal can be awarded.

Squires of the Order and young people from youth organizations can also be awarded with the Medal of the Order.

The Medal of the Order – No post-nominal. Awarded to Squires and young people. Round full-sized medal depicting St George – red ribbon with a thin white line in from each edge.

A round miniature medal for members and squires may be purchased and worn. A miniature is also available for the Order of Merit grades.

## **PROTOCOLS FOR WEARING THE ORDER'S REGALIA**

The jewel which members are invested or presented with is called the Order's Neck Jewel. It is normally worn at official events of the Order such as investitures and dinners.

Prior to investiture, a Knight/Dame Expectant and above may elect to wear an Officer Neck Jewel. This is replaced with the Knight/Dame Neck Jewel on investiture.

On advancement from Knight/Dame and from Knight/Dame Commander to the higher levels of Knighthood the lower grade Neck Jewel is returned to the Order. The higher Neck Jewel may then be worn but not any associated breast star of sash. These will be awarded at the formal ceremony held for the investiture of Knights and Dames.

Those of Knight/Dame grade and above are known as Chevalier/Dame. These are honorary titles and must not be confused with UK and UK Territories titles of Sir and Dame bestowed by the Sovereign or Government.

We do not normally wear regalia for trips, visits and informal events. The Order's lapel pins, cuff links and tie may, however, be purchased and worn freely by all.

Members may wear their honours, decorations and medals of the Order at events of other Orders and societies, provided they have sought permission of the other Order in advance and it has been given. This is a standard courtesy as is informing the Grand Prior of the Order of St George through the Office of the Director of Membership at [membership@orderofstgeorge.co.uk](mailto:membership@orderofstgeorge.co.uk). (When we know you are attending such events it helps with our public image and publicity and an article could be included on our website and ASCALON)

The Neck Jewel should not be worn when attending Crown or State orders (in the UK or abroad) or organized events unless permission has been given in advance from the event protocol officer. Without exception, that authority must then be forwarded to Grand Prior or Grand Chancellor who will approve or reject its wearing in advance of the event. Events organized at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and our affiliated regiment The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR) have been cleared on this basis.

Please see [www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/downloads/regalia\\_and\\_honours\\_protocols.pdf](http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/downloads/regalia_and_honours_protocols.pdf) for full details of the regulations for the use of the Order's regalia, as well as guidance on the UK protocols for wearing honours, decorations and medals for different events.



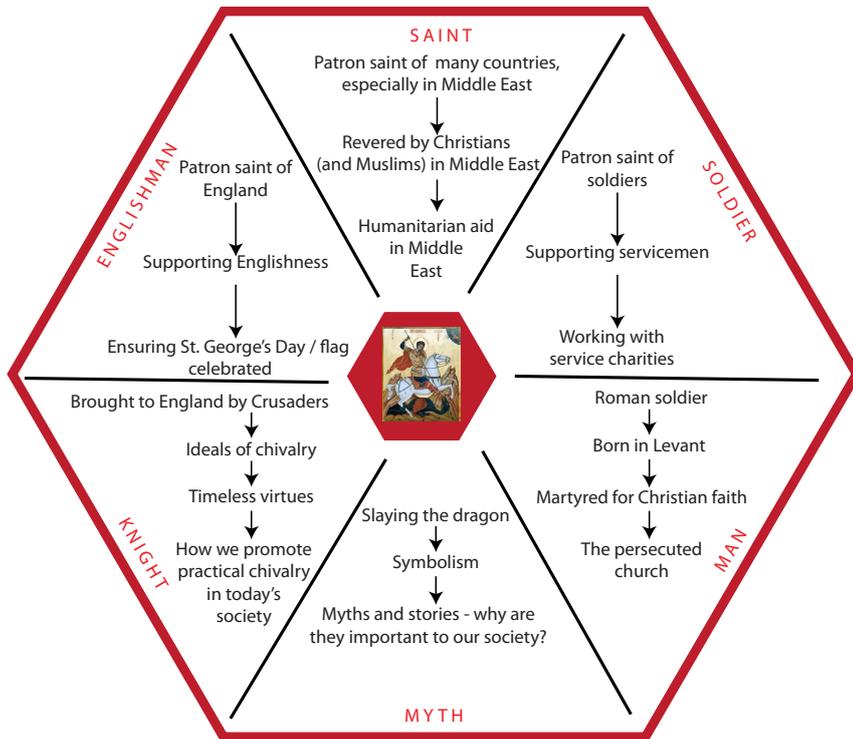
## HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED

The leadership of the International Knightly Order Valiant of St George in the UK is provided by the Grand Council of the UK Grand Priory. The current UK Grand Prior, Chevalier Stuart Notholt, was elected in March 2020. The Grand Magistracy provides overall leadership and direction internationally to the UK Grand Priory, the Grand Priory of the Americas, other Commanderries overseas that are affiliated with us, and also leads on diplomatic relations with other branches of Orders of St. George worldwide with which we have a relationship. The Grand Magistracy is chaired by the Magister Officiorum; currently this is Chevalier Stuart Notholt.

The Grand Magistracy formally reports to the Grand Patron, Dame Iris Karászy-Kulin, who is the honorary head of the Order.

## FACETS OF ST. GEORGE

In co-operation with the Royal Society of St. George and other organizations we are developing an educational programme, called 'Facets of St. George' which uses different aspects of St. George - man, saint, and myth – as a tool for exploring history, chivalry, and the value of legend and storytelling, and putting these in a modern context. (See diagram below.) Please contact us if you would like to be involved in this work.



## THE SEPTCENTENARY COUNCIL

2026 will mark the 700th Anniversary of the founding of the original Order of St. George.

Our 700th anniversary provides a unique opportunity for the various Orders of St. George worldwide to come together in friendship and co-operation as we celebrate this unique milestone as one family.

To facilitate this, the Magisterium Officium has established the Septcentenary Council with the aim of having representation from all the active Orders of St. George. Please contact us if you would be interested in supporting this work.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The most important thing members of the Order can do is support our activities, by attending events and our Investitures, and of course by contributing to our charity works. If you can help by supporting the administrative/management work of the Order we should also like to hear from you. Every member of the Order has their part to play.

A vital task is growing our Order by recruiting new members. Please see the 'Nominating new members' section below for details.

### *Commanderies and local activities*

We currently have several local Commanderies (branches) located throughout the United Kingdom. We also operate a number of informal local groups, called Encampments.

As our regional structure is currently limited, we see this as an important area for expansion, so we would be particularly keen to hear from members able to organize a presence locally. Working with other local organizations joint activities may be one way to proceed. Alternatively, please consider a small-scale event, activity or fundraising events to get the ball rolling.

Commandery development is lead by our Director of Innovation, Nick Hitchcliff, who can be contacted at [innovation@orderofstgeorge.co.uk](mailto:innovation@orderofstgeorge.co.uk)

The Order organizes a range of social and other activities for members and supporters. Please see ASCALON, our website, and our twitter/facebook feeds for details.

You can help by organizing local events; contact us for any assistance we might be able to offer.

### *Shopping on-line*

If you shop on-line, please support us by registering at AmazonSmile and Easyfundraising as these sites will make a donation to the Order every time you use them. (The relevant links are on our website). You can also buy Order branded goods from our website.

### *Last and not least...*

Please consider making a donation to the work of the Order. If you are a UK taxpayer, please GiftAid your donation so it is worth even more to the Order.



## NOMINATING NEW MEMBERS

An important role for members is to grow our organization by nominating worthy individuals for membership. Nomination for membership in the Order recognizes and celebrates achievements in the community, whether large or small. Membership is an honour that will only be awarded to people who deserve it; they should be people who have changed things for the better, especially by solid, practical achievement, or whose work has brought distinction to British life and enhanced the UK's reputation in their area of activity.

If you think your nominee demonstrates these accomplishments, please consider proposing them for membership of the Order. A sample nomination form is included in this pack, or can be downloaded. We accept nominations worldwide. If your nominee is resident in the Americas, we will liaise with our Americas Grand Priory in assessing the nomination. Nominations from the UK and the rest of the world are generally handled by the UK Grand Priory.

Chevalier Keith Homewood, Director of Membership, has overall responsibility for petitions and recruitment. He can be contacted at [membership@orderofstgeorge.co.uk](mailto:membership@orderofstgeorge.co.uk). Please send him your completed nominations form. If possible we prefer to receive nominations electronically. The forms are available at [www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/join\\_us.html](http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/join_us.html).

Nominating more than one person is entirely acceptable, as is nominating family members.

Full membership is open to people over 21. Admission as a Squire is possible for young men and women under 21. Please contact the Director of Membership for details if you have a suitable young person in mind as a Squire.

If your nomination is approved, the Order will write to your nominee advising them of their nomination and invited them to join. New members normally join at Officer grade. It is usually beneficial if you talk to your nominee first and tell them about the Order, so that they know what to expect and agree to being nominated. You can use our calling card and/or our mini brochure (for download/order on-line from [www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/rollfold.html](http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/rollfold.html)) to help brief your nominee. We will aim to keep you informed about the progress of your nomination(s).



## DIRECTORY

1326 Foundation document	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/foundation.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/foundation.html</a>
About chivalry and the early Order	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/ourheritage.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/ourheritage.html</a>
Americas Grand Priory	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorgenorthamerica.org">www.orderofstgeorgenorthamerica.org</a>
ASCALON	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/ascalon">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/ascalon</a>
Called to Order	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/called_to_order.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/called_to_order.html</a>
Calling card/brochure order/download	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/rollfold.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/rollfold.html</a>
Causes we support	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/good_causes.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/good_causes.html</a>
Charitable statutes	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/charity.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/charity.html</a>
Copts of Egypt	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/copts.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/copts.html</a>
Donations	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/donation.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/donation.html</a>
Facebook page	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/58484686090/">www.facebook.com/groups/58484686090/</a>
How you can help page	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/how_help.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/how_help.html</a>
Membership, Director of Keith Homewood	<a href="mailto:membership@orderofstgeorge.co.uk">membership@orderofstgeorge.co.uk</a>
Nomination form for download	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/forms.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/forms.html</a>
Officers of the Order	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/officers.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/officers.html</a>
Partnerships	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/partners.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/partners.html</a>
Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/pwrr.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/pwrr.html</a>
Privacy policy	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/data.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/data.html</a>
Recommended reading	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/knights_book.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/knights_book.html</a>
Regalia and symbols	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/symbols.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/symbols.html</a>
Resources pack	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/members.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/members.html</a>
Royal Hospital Chelsea	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/chelsea.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/chelsea.html</a>
Samara's Aid Appeal	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/samara_appeal.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/samara_appeal.html</a>
Septentenary Council	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/700">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/700</a>
Shopping	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/shopping.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/shopping.html</a>
St.George's Baghdad	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/baghdad.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/baghdad.html</a>
Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/OStGUK">twitter.com/OStGUK</a>
UK Grand Priory	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/uk_grand_priory.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/uk_grand_priory.html</a>
UN NGO status	<a href="http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/un_ngo.html">www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/un_ngo.html</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.george.st">www.george.st</a> or <a href="http://orderofstgeorge.co.uk">orderofstgeorge.co.uk</a>



## THE ORDER OF ST. GEORGE

The Magisterium Officium and UK Grand Prior, Stuart Notholt, can be contacted at [grandprior@orderofstgeorge.co.uk](mailto:grandprior@orderofstgeorge.co.uk).

For general membership enquiries, please contact the Membership Director, Chevalier Keith Homewood, at [membership@orderofstgeorge.co.uk](mailto:membership@orderofstgeorge.co.uk)

**The Order's postal address is:**

BM The Order of St. George, London WC1N 3XX

**The Order's main website is** [www.george.st](http://www.george.st) or [www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk](http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk)

All the links in this pack can be accessed at:  
[www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/members](http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/members)  
or by scanning the QR code.

