



The Order of St. George

Grand Priory of the United Kingdom

BM The Order of St. George,

London WC1N 3XX

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.

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.

Keep in touch

Please register for **ASCALON** – our e-newsletter, which is primarily used for forthcoming news. Non-members are also welcome to subscribe. Please use this link to register:

www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/publications

Please note that when you sign up for editions of 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 as you have previously agreed to receive mailings and we have signed you up using the email you have provided us.

It is important that you follow us through ASCALON or on the web, as the Order does not routinely send postal communications.

We also publish an interactive e-newsletter *Called to Order* three times a year. You can access copies of *Called to Order* at at <https://orderofstgeorge.co.uk/publications/>

Our main **website** is at www.george.st or www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk.

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

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

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 for professional or personal gain, advancement, commercial gain or media use without the express permission of the Grand Prior or Grand Chancellor in advance.

Members may not write or publish anything about the Order of St George and their membership publicly or privately for professional or personal gain, advancement, commercial gain or media use without the express permission of the Grand Prior or Grand Chancellor in advance.

The Order's lapel pins, cuff links and tie may be purchased and worn freely by all.

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.

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 in line with the UK Data Protection Act. Our privacy policy is available at <https://orderofstgeorge.co.uk/data-and-privacy/>

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 at <https://orderofstgeorge.co.uk/about-chivalry/>.

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, but are independent of them.

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 is a member of **CoNGO**, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations.

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.

The Order of St George is also affiliated to a number local organizations throughout the world. Details of these organisations can be obtained from the Grand Scrivener scrivener@orderofstgeorge.co.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.

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/Demoiselle) for members under 21. Please ask Membership for details if you have a suitable young person in mind as a Squire or a person for a Companionship.

There are more details on grades and regalia in the section below.

Squire/Demoiselle are welcomed into the Order at a formal ceremony. They can be advanced to Knight/Dame in their 21st year through nomination by a current Knight or Dame. Advancement to Knight/Dame is in recognition of their commitment to the Order, significant charitable work they have been engaged in within their local or wider community or through significant work they have been engaged in through another organisation to which they might belong. For example, scouting, church youth club, combined cadet force, St Johns Ambulance etc. A Squire/Demoiselle can also enter as an Officer; if this is more appropriate to their needs and other commitments.

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. Knights and Dames Expectant are, however, full members of the Order with equal rights and responsibilities to those who have been invested.

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. Please note there is a one-off passage fee, currently set at £240, for promotion within the Order.

Continued membership in the Order is dependent on maintaining payment of **annual oblations**. 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 the Hungarian coat of arms 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. Today, the insignia of The Order Valiant of Saint George incorporates the Crown of St. Stephen, surmounting a cross centred with a depiction of St. George slaying a dragon.

The Medal of Merit and Knight of Merit of the Order

At the discretion of the Grand Prior, members in the Order, and other worthy people, can be awarded our **Medal of Merit** or **Knight of Merit** medal(s).

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

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

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. A round **miniature medal** for members and squires may be purchased and worn where appropriate.

We do not normally wear regalia for trips, visits and informal events.

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. When wearing the Order's regalia, members are not allowed to wear the regalia or decorations of other Orders to which they might belong, unless approved by the Court of St James, the Grand Prior or Grand Chancellor of the Order of St George. Likewise, the Order's regalia cannot be worn when wearing other Order's regalia, unless approved in advance by the Grand Prior or Grand Chancellor of the Order of St George.

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.

Full details on when and how to wear our regalia are available at http://www.orderofstgeorge.co.uk/downloads/regalia_and_honours_protocols.pdf

Please note that this guidance is primarily for use in the UK and its overseas territories. The rules relevant to the United States and other countries may differ.

How we are organized

The leadership of the UK Grand Priory of the Order is vested in **the Grand Council** which meets regular to conduct the business of the Order. The current UK Grand Prior, Chevalier Stuart Notholt, was elected in March 2020.

Internationally, the **Grand Magistry** provides overall leadership and direction to the UK Grand Priory, the Grand Priory of the Americas, other Commanderies 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 Magistry is chaired by the *Magisterium Officium*; currently this is Chevalier Stuart Notholt.

Worldwide, the UK Grand Priory has oversight of our membership and affiliations in the United Kingdom, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania. The Americas Grand Priory has oversight over North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

We are honoured that **HE Archbishop Angealos GCStG**, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of the Diocese of London and The Rt Hon. Col the Baroness Cox GCStG FRCS FRCM are Patrons of the Order.

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.

Our Hospitaller work

Internationally, the Order's Hospitaller work is at the heart of our support to vulnerable communities worldwide. The Hospitaller team is able to obtain medical supplies from donors and has been successfully distributing these suitable recipients around the world, including deliveries to northern Iraq, Nigeria, the Philippines, Serbia, Armenia, and Ukraine. We have supplied in excess of £3 million worth of medical and other aid in recent years.

If you can help with our Hospitaller work in any way, please contact us at hospitaller@orderofstgeorge.co.uk

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 term 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. Today they face an uncertain future.

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.

Kilimanjaro Information Technology Centre

Many young girls in Tanzania are affected by various forms of Gender Based Violence just because they were born female. This can lead to girls dropping out of school for a variety of reasons.

The Order of St. George Educational Scholarship Fund aims to help eliminate educational poverty in Tanzania by providing young women a way to escape from Gender Based Violence, complete their education and become productive citizens of Tanzania.

Our Scholarship scheme has an excellent track record of seeing young women complete their education and enter the workforce.

For more information, including how to sponsor a girl, please visit:
<https://orderofstgeorge.co.uk/kilimanjaro/>

There are some more details of the causes the Order supports, both in the UK and overseas, on our website at <https://orderofstgeorge.co.uk/good-causes/>

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.

Facets of St. George



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 worldwide. 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.

There are some details of how you can help at <https://orderofstgeorge.co.uk/how-you-can-help/>

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

Commanderies and local activities

We currently have several **local Commanderies** (branches) located throughout the United Kingdom and elsewhere. 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.

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 **Easyfundraising** as this site makes a donation to the Order every time you use them.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/orderofstgeorge/?u=2K1CT1>

...for details.

Making a donation

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.

The Governors' Club

The **Governors' Club** is our premier patrons' club. Members agree to donate £240 annually (or £20 monthly) to the Order.

Members are recognized with a distinct Breast Star, special certificate and recognition in print (newsletter and events).

There are details of how you can join the Governors' Club at <https://orderofstgeorge.co.uk/governors-club/>

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.

If you think your nominee demonstrates these accomplishments, please consider proposing them for membership of the Order. 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. Please send him your completed nominations form. If possible we prefer to receive nominations **electronically**. The forms are available at <https://orderofstgeorge.co.uk/joining-the-order/>

Nominating more than one person is entirely acceptable, as is nominating family members. Self-nominations (called petitions) are also considered.

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 at <https://orderofstgeorge.co.uk/publications/#spread-the-word>) to help brief your nominee. We will aim to keep you informed about the progress of your nomination(s).