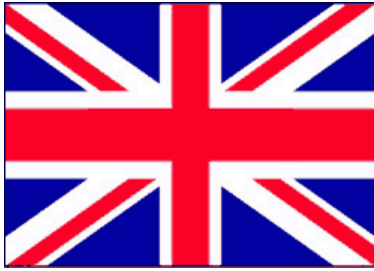
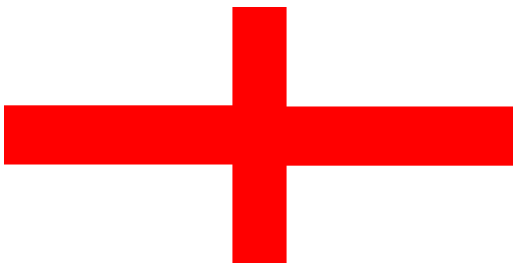


Flags & Saints



The United Kingdom has its own National Flag. It is made up of three different flags, the old Irish Flag, the English Flag and the Scottish Flag.

The Welsh Flag is not a cross and could not be used in the Union Flag.



England

Flag: The cross of St. George. Red cross on a white background.

Patron Saint: St. George

Saints Day: April 23rd

St. George was actually a soldier in the Roman Army around the fourth century who converted to Christianity. St. George is famous for 'killing' the Dragon in Silene, Libya. He was eventually beheaded by the Roman emperor Diocletian in Palestine on the 23rd of April.

English Crusaders adopted St. George as their patron saint after hearing stories of his life while they were in the 'Holy Lands.'

St. George is also the Patron Saint of Scouting.

Scotland

Flag: The cross of St. Andrew. White diagonal cross on blue background.

Patron Saint: St. Andrew

Saints Day: November 30th



St. Andrew was one of the 12 Apostles (a follower of Jesus) and died in 70 AD. After Jesus was crucified Andrew travelled preaching Christianity. He was eventually caught by the Romans and crucified on a X-shaped cross that is now known as a St. Andrews cross.

For almost 300 years the saints bones were kept in Paris until one night a monk had a vision. An angel appeared telling him to take the bones to an unknown destination. The monk was eventually shipwrecked at Fife, in Scotland. The Scots made him their patron saint, even though St. Andrew had never visited Scotland, and did not even know it existed!

Wales



Flag: Red Dragon on a Green and White background.

Patron Saint: St. David

Saints Day: March 1st

St. David was a bishop who was born in south Wales around the year 600. Legend tells that, whenever he preached, a snow-white dove sat on his shoulder. On one such occasion the crowd that had come to listen to him was so enormous that his voice could not be heard. Miraculously, the ground on which he stood rose ever higher, till eventually he was standing on top of a hill, where everyone could see and hear him!

Ireland

Flag: (Various) Green, White, Orange vertical Stripes. Old Irish Flag was a red diagonal cross on a white background.

Patron Saint: St. Patrick

Saints Day: March 17th



St. Patrick lived around 385-461. He was born in South Wales and carried to Ireland by pirates and sold. He became a bishop.

He is famous for the story where he banished all the snakes from Ireland. According to one tradition, Patrick ascended the holy mountain ringing a handbell.

On reaching the summit, he threw the bell over the precipice and, as it fell, hundreds of serpents cascaded into the depths with it! Time and again angels retrieved the bell, and Patrick repeated the wondrous act till no snake was left!

Today the old Ireland is now split between the Country of Ireland, and Northern Ireland which is a part of the United Kingdom. The flag of Northern Ireland is shown on the right.

