

St George's Day – Stories of Identity & Inclusion All Saints Kingston, Sunday 19th April 2026



We were delighted by the warm and positive response to our St George's Day gathering, where around 50 people from churches across the Kingston Episcopal Area came together to reflect on national identity with honesty, openness and a commitment to inclusion. It was especially meaningful to display the "Everybody Welcome" flag and the "Cloak of Hope", created by the local charity RBKares and their Refugee sewing Group, who stitched their stories and hopes into the fabric.

The afternoon featured powerful reflections from Jordan Allen (St Peter's Norbiton) and Lorraine Thomas (Immanuel Streatham), whose talks sparked rich conversations among attendees.

Jordan explored the symbolism of the St George's flag, noting how its colours represent "purity, peace" and "war, blood-shed, royalty," yet acknowledging how its history can feel unsettling for someone of African heritage. He recalled seeing it "plastered all over weaponry" and linked to groups who feel "angry, misheard and underrepresented." Jordan also shared his deep connection to England through school, music, football, and faith, grounding his identity in the belief that "love worketh no ill to his neighbour."

Lorraine reflected on the tension between perception and reality. Though the flag was meant to symbolise "courage, sacrifice and Christian identity," she explained how it has been "hijacked" and often communicates exclusion or fear. She shared stories of Black Britons feeling unwelcome in neighbourhoods where the flag appears and challenged us to reclaim its meaning through how we live: "The question is not what the flag stands for, but what we stand for when we stand under it."

We are grateful to everyone who spoke, listened, and contributed to such a thoughtful and uplifting afternoon, including the Mayor of Kingston, the Leader of the Council and the Bishop of Kingston. Details of the talks can be found at www.allsaintskingston.co.uk

Left to right:

Jordan Allen,
St Peter's Norbiton

Mayor of Kingston,
Cllr Noel Hadjimichael

Bishop of Kingston,
Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough

Sara Azeez, Member of the
Refugee Sewing Group

Ece Temiz Malkoc, Member of
the Refugee Sewing Group

Nidhal Sultan, Member of the
Refugee Sewing Group

Rev Joe Moffatt,
Vicar of All Saints Kingston

Lorraine Thomas,
Immanuel Streatham

