St George and the Dragon

St George is the patron Saint of England, and other places around the world. In the Christian religion a patron saint is someone who is considered close to God and chosen as a special protector. Some saints were healers, messengers or people who did good deeds.

It is believed that he was actually from Turkey and never even set foot in England. But why did he become a saint? And why is he so famous all over the world?

St George was a Christian knight he travelled far and wide having many adventures. One day he came across a city called Silene. Near the city was a large lake where a fierce and scary dragon lived.

When the dragon was hungry, it would leave the lake and breathe on the people of the city with its poisonous fiery breath. The people wanted the dragon to leave, but when they saw it they were too afraid and ran away.

To protect the people (and stop them from being eaten) the king decided that every day they would take two of their sheep to the lake for the dragon to eat. This worked for a little while, but once again, the dragon returned to the city and started eating the people there.

Desperate to keep the dragon away, the king decided they would now have to feed the dragon one sheep and one person every day. The name of the person to be fed to the dragon would be pulled out of a hat. This would mean the choice would be fair. It did not matter who you were, man or woman, rich or poor; you would still have the same chance of your name being called.

One day the name of the king's daughter was pulled out of the hat. The king was very upset and asked the people to let the princess go free, but the people refused as she had been chosen in a fair way. The king had no choice and a week later the princess left the city with a sheep and travelled to the lake where the dragon lived.

As she and the sheep sat on a rock, waiting for the dragon to arrive, George rode by on his horse. Seeing the princess crying he stopped to ask what was wrong.

"Go away before you die too!" cried the princess "I am to be fed to the dragon."

At that moment the hungry dragon appeared from the lake and tried to eat the princess. But George was quick and using his shield and spear he pinned the dragon to the ground.

The princess took the belt from her dress to make a collar and lead for the dragon, when she put around its neck it became quiet and couldn't breathe fire.

St George, the princess (and the sheep) took the dragon back to the city.

When they arrived, the people wanted George to kill the dragon. He said he would if they all became Christians too. The people were so impressed by George's bravery that they agreed. They became Christians, George chopped off the dragons head with his sword and the people of Silene lived in peace once more.