

## Five writers and our patron saint.



a) **St. Paul** who wrote most of the epistles in the New Testament called the word of God the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17) and in Hebrews 4:12 the word of God is graphically described as sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating to the heart of our thoughts and attitudes. **Crossed swords** became the medieval symbol for St. Paul.



b) **St. Matthew's Gospel** is represented by a **winged man**. In St. John's vision of heaven (Revelation 4:7) four, winged creatures – a lion, an ox, a man and an eagle – constantly give glory to God. In Christian art these have been assigned to the four Gospels. The usual (though not exclusive) order is as in these windows. St. Matthew's Gospel begins with Jesus' genealogy and often emphasises his humanness. So the winged man was assigned here.



c) **St. Mark's Gospel** begins (Mark 1:1-8) with John the Baptist crying out a message which is so important that it has been likened to the roar of a **lion**.



d) **St. Luke's Gospel** draws attention to Jesus' sacrificial death, so is given the **ox**, a beast used in the Jewish Temple's sacrifice ceremonies. This window is one of the hardest to "see" because although the ox is looking towards our left, the outline of the chin and neck have worn away and the eye is missing from midway between the two small golden horns which are in front of the circular halo behind its head.



e) **St. John's Gospel** begins with the most exalted, 'high flying' statement about God and his revelation to us in Jesus, so the powerfully flying **eagle** is its symbol. Of all living things the lion has been regarded as the noblest, the ox the strongest, the eagle the fastest and man the wisest, encouraging us to offer the very best we are capable of in every aspect of our lives, inspired by the Biblical message of God's great love for each one of us.



f) **St. George** is our patron saint and also of England and of the worldwide Anglican part of the Christian Church. His cross is shown here.