



ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL SOUTHWARK



St George and Dead Soldier

A new painting
by Scott Norwood
Witts

St George's Cathedral
Southwark Saturday
19th April – Saturday
3rd May 2008

*Official unveiling
11.00am April 23rd (St
George's Day)*

St George and Dead Soldier was stimulated by the deployment of British forces overseas and the historical misrepresentation of St George. The patron saint of soldiers and England is shown battle weary identifying another fatality of war - exploding the contrived mythical identity developed during the Crusades to reveal a man in mourning. As a high ranking soldier of the Roman Empire his conversion to the Christianity was extremely dangerous, yet inspired him to put down his weapons and personally confront the Emperor Diocletian over his persecution of Christians.

Scott Norwood Witts has previously exhibited at The American Church in London and the Carmelite Friary in Kent. He has produced altarpieces for Dover Castle and the Royal Garrison Church at British Army HQ, Aldershot.

This painting struck me as unusual and leaves unanswered questions in the onlooker. We see the strength of character and we also glimpse the human fragility not always associated with the victorious Saint George. The work has a modern feel and brings together many themes associated with St George. I am delighted that we have this opportunity to display the painting at St George's Cathedral, Southwark

*Canon James Cronin
Dean, St George's Cathedral*