

The Spire

AUG/SEP 2009

In the black

The Christian approach to
managing your finances

Old Father Thames

Janet Nunn takes a walk on the wild side

The Spire

St James's Church
Registered Charity No 1129286

This Spire is produced nine times a year on behalf of the PCC of St James's Church.

We make no charge for this magazine but we hope that you will contribute towards the production costs, enabling us to expand our important outreach across the parish.

If you are a regular reader please consider making an annual donation. Cheques should be made payable to 'The PCC of St James' and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the Parish Office.

Thank you.

GET IN TOUCH

STORIES, FEATURES

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NEXT ISSUE/COPY DEADLINE

The October issue, including Harvest Sunday, will be published on Sunday 27 September. All copy must be with us by **Monday 7 September**.

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WELCOME

August/September 2009



This issue marks the middle of the summer holidays, so I hope you have been able to spend some time away enjoying the countryside and the summer weather.

The centre spread this time is about my journey along the Thames Path which I hope you will find interesting. It is a very good walk, full of interest.

Whilst on a walking holiday in Somerset back in June, on the South West Coast Path near Lynton, quite by chance, I met Wendy and Brian Baker, also on a walking holiday. It was quite a surprise – all of us enjoying magnificent scenery and the mountain goats clinging on for dear life. By then it was glorious sunshine, but in the morning we had got drenched in a local storm. The joys of an English summer day.

This issue was prepared during a heatwave, so we hope the promised good summer will continue for us all.

Best wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn

Editor

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For the latest news: www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

Services for August and September

Sundays

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion

AUGUST

2 August - 8th Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 16.2-4, 9-15
Ephesians 4.1-16
John 6.24-35

9 August - 9th Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 19.4-8
Ephesians 4.25 - 5.2
John 6.35, 41-51

16 August - 10th Sunday after Trinity

Proverbs 9.1-6
Ephesians 5.15-20
John 6.51-58

23 August - 11th Sunday after Trinity

Joshua 24.1-2a, 14-18
Ephesians 6.10-20
John 6.56-69

30 August - 12th Sunday after Trinity

Deuteronomy 4.1-2.6-9
James 1.17-27
Mark 7.1-8, 14, 15, 21-23

SEPTEMBER

6 September - 13th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 35.4-7a
James 2.1-10, 14-17
Mark 7.24-37

13 September - 14th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 50.4-9a
James 3.1-12
Mark 8.27-38

20 September - 15th Sunday after Trinity

Wisdom of Solomon 1.16 - 2.1, 12-22
James 3.13 - 4.3, 7-8a
Mark 9.30-37

27 September - 16th Sunday after Trinity

Numbers 11.4-6, 10-16, 24-29
James 5.13-20
Mark 9.38-50

1st Sunday in month

2 August / 6 September
9.30am All-age Communion

Mondays-Fridays (not Tuesdays)

9.15am Morning Prayer

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion

1st Wednesday in month

5 August / 2 September
7am Commuter Communion

1st Thursday in month

6 August / 3 September
2pm Holy Communion

OUR CLERGY



VICAR

Revd Peter Vannozi
Peter was born in Hanwell in 1962, but owes his surname to his Italian great-grandfather who came from Florence to the UK in the late 19th century.

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CURATE

Revd Debbie Oades
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✉ debbieoades@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk

BAPTISM AND WEDDING ENQUIRIES

These should be made in person in church on a Saturday morning from 10-10.30am.

PARISH OFFICE



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Kirstie Hird
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- Church Flowers Coryn Robinson 020 8979 6786
- Deanery Synod Lesley Mortimer 020 8941 2345
- Eco-Group Catherine Gash 020 8783 0563
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- Mission Partner Link
- Gwynneth Lloyd 020 8943 0709
- Mozambique/Angola Link
- Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434
- PCC Secretary Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325
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- Gwynneth Lloyd 020 8943 0709
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- Bryan Basdell 020 8979 2040
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- Sidespersons Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046
- Social Committee Liz Wilmot 020 8977 9434
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- Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528
- Treasurer Don Barrett 020 8979 3331
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- Weekly Notices/Pew Sheet
- Kirstie Hird 020 8941 6003

CONTACTS

- We only have room for selected contacts this month. The full list is available online and will return in the October issue of *The Spire*.

THE LEADER COLUMN.....

MAKE TIME IN OUR LIVES TO STOP AND STARE... DISCARD THE THROWAWAY SOCIETY

No rest for the wicked?



Funny isn't it, how inspiration can come at unexpected times and places. I had been mulling over what to write for this issue for a couple of weeks, but nothing really came to the fore, suffering I think from a bit of 'end of term' meltdown.

Then I found myself sitting on the river bank at a local rowing regatta with families enjoying the weather and talking enthusiastically about their forthcoming holidays. It was fascinating to listen to who was going where, when and sometimes why.

There were those with young families going to Florida for all that Disney has to offer. Some were going to an all-inclusive beach resort in Portugal, while others were headed to Rome or in a caravan to Wales.

What struck me was the amount of activity being talked about by all of them. Many spoke of how tired they were, yet their holidays consisted of an endless list of activities: what they were going to do, what they had planned, what clothes they had bought and who they would meet. Just listening to them made me feel quite exhausted!

Why is it that even in a 24 hour-a-day world, even when we admit to being tired, we still feel the need to fill our precious time off with activity? I suppose we feel the need to cram in as much as we can in the limited time we have on holiday so that we have 'made the most' of the time. Some would say that a change is as good as a rest, but isn't that the point? We have lost sight of the value of rest.

I suppose our activity is part of what God created in us. After all, when God created humankind on the sixth day, He did say: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' (Gen 1: 28)

Clearly we have taken this to heart, but remember too that God 'rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done...in creation'. (Gen 2: 2-3)

As I looked across the river, where a large willow tree stood in full leaf, with its tendrils blowing gently in the wind, what flooded into my mind was Psalm 1:

Happy are those (whose)... delight is in the law of the



Debbie Oades

Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. (New Revised Standard Version)

Some of the words in the psalm seem very harsh to our ears today, but the meanings behind them remain relevant.

What the psalmist is doing here is to make

us review how we spend our time. Where is all this activity we expend taking us to, and where is it taking us from?

Do we plant annuals and prefer to spend our time in brief acquaintances; shopping for the latest fashion accessory; laughing at the latest thing deemed not to be cool; reading the latest house style book, that next year will have disappeared or be out of fashion and have blown away like chaff?

Or do we plant a tree and put down roots and nurture friendships old and new with a view to long-term commitment? Do we yield fruits by investing in long-term projects that last and make a difference? Do we take a break from activity and follow God's creative way? Do we take time to rest and be nourished by our surroundings, those around us, and God's word? Do we allow ourselves to be refreshed by the streams of waters, and take time to be in God's loving presence? If we find ourselves answering yes more to annuals than to trees then it is time we tried to rebalance our lives.

Let us clear away some of the chaff and make space for the tree to put down roots, to be nourished and supported by the ground around it; to provide shelter for others; and provide food for the hungry.

May we make space in our holidays this year for creative rest, and whatever we are doing have time to stop and be — and find a place and time to be quenched by streams of living waters.

IN THOUGHT AND PRAYER



In 633 AD King Oswald, in his attempt to convert the people of Northumbria to Christianity, turned to the Celtic Church of Iona for a missionary for his people.

As a young nobleman Oswald had been educated at Iona. In response to his request a monk of the name Corman was sent, only to return describing the Northumbrian people as 'obstinate, barbarous people'.

As Corman delivered his report to the Abbot, the monk Aidan was present and on hearing the report replied: 'Brother, it seems to me that you were too severe on your ignorant hearers. You should have followed the practice of the Apostles, and begun by giving them the milk of simpler teaching, and gradually nourished them with the word of God until they were capable of greater perfection and able to follow the loftier precepts of Christ'. (Bede's *A history of the English Church and People*)

Aidan's wisdom was recognised and he was consecrated Bishop in 635 AD and he left Iona for Northumbria with 12 companions. Aidan founded a monastery on Holy Island or as it also known Lindisfarne, just off the Northumbrian coast overlooking Oswald's castle at Bamburgh.

Holy Island became a centre of learning and prayer, and the foundation of Christianity in the North East of England, and continues to attract thousands of pilgrims even today.



Toys, paints, books... it's all child's play!

St James's Ark, our new group for carers and toddlers, launches on Monday 14 September and will run in church every Monday during school term time from 10.30am-12.30pm.

It is open to mums, dads, grandparents, carers and the under-fives. Come and share in conversation, refreshments, play time, story time, crafts and worship. The cost will be £2 per



session, per family - regardless of how many of you there are. A big thank you to everyone who donated toys and money to help get this new venture underway. For further information please contact the Parish Office, or Revd Debbie on 01784 260498.

Let there be music...

Can you sing or play an instrument? If so, why not come and sing in our church choir and/or play in our church orchestra. We are looking for new members to start in September and would welcome any voice and any orchestral instrument. The only requirement is that you can read music. For more details, contact Martin Hinckley 020 8979 0528.



Call a friend...

Back to Church Sunday is five years old this year - and the number of churches involved keeps on growing. Last year the event attracted an astonishing 36,000

people. Although only a minority continued to attend services, a few churches have reported significant growth. This year St James's will be joining the expected 16,000 UK churches taking part.

So, how does it work? Very simple: the emphasis is on individual Christians giving a personal invitation to people they know. All the evidence suggests that this is the most effective way of getting people back into church. Many non-church people simply got out of the habit of going to church long ago; others have occasionally wondered what church is all about, but been hesitant to attend one on their own. Your invitation will give both of them a chance to try church for themselves.

We would like as many of you as possible to invite a friend to church for Harvest Festival on Sunday 4 October. That day's All-age Communion will be at 11am, followed by a Bring-and-Share lunch. Wine and beer will be served by monetary donation. Full details about the lunch will be announced nearer the time.

Shopping: Double-up journeys and do your shopping on the way home from work, school or somewhere else you have to go. Maybe you could share lifts with friends, or try to do all your errands together.



REGISTERS FOR JUNE

Baptisms

21 Thomas Philip Rees, Teddington

28 Jack Edward Small, Hampton Hill

28 Phoebe Louise St Leger, Sunbury

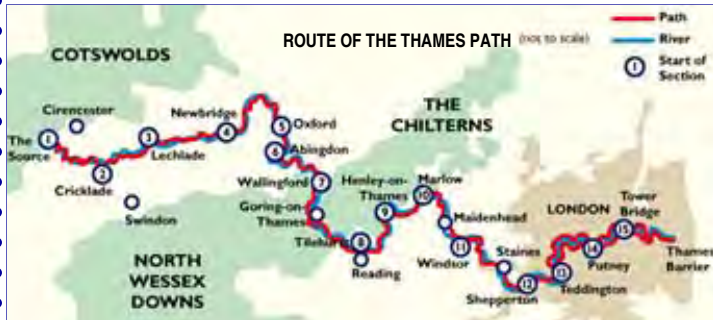
Wedding

13 Sophie Keates and James Curthoys

Funeral

22 Eric Clarence Davies, 83, Hampton Hill

COVER STORY THE THAMES PATH



Walking on water

My parents never had a car and I grew up walking everywhere and becoming increasingly interested in the countryside around me. This developed into a life-long love of walking and natural history – a passion I shared with my husband David. I had never been interested in long-distance path walking, but instead enjoyed just admiring the views and wildlife and having time to stop and take photos.

About ten years ago several friends suggested we should try to walk the Thames Path. We started at Greenwich and managed to walk as far as Reading before circumstances overtook us. In 2007 some other friends suggested I join them. Over the next two years we walked from Windsor to the source, and from Putney to The Barrier. We reached The Barrier at the end of September 2008 on a glorious day. It is actually much more impressive than finishing at the source, but not as atmospheric.

There are various books published giving details of the Thames Path and it depends which way you want to walk as to which is the best book. We used two books: David Sharp from Richmond Ramblers has written the official National Trail Guide for the Thames Path, and Leigh Hatts has written an excellent book (published by Cicerone) which includes places to stay and stop for tea.

We managed to use public transport and one car until we arrived at Oxford, but from then on it was necessary to stay away for a few days as transport links are poor. We stayed in guest houses at Bablock Hythe, Lechlade and Ashton Keynes (near the source) and it was necessary to have two cars, one at the start and one at the finish, to complete each walk.

My lasting memory of the walk is not only the achievement (no certificate available, just a celebratory lunch at the best pub we found on the river at Cholsey) but the rich diversity of wildlife, the peaceful and varied scenery and the friendliness of river folk.

We walked in all extremes of weather. Whilst staying on a farm at Ashton Keynes in April 2008 we woke up to a blanket of snow. By mid-day it had melted and we continued in lovely sunshine with

lambs in the fields and then just as we had taken our photos at the source stone we were in a snowstorm again. In the summer of 2007 we had to postpone our walks as the banks were flooded and even when we did resume we had to paddle along one stretch near Abingdon or face another two miles round walk.

Once you get out into the country you see a wide range of wild flowers and at Cricklade we came across a wonderful field full of fritillaries. This is one of the finest uncultivated ancient meadows in Britain. The flowers are protected and in April it is a wonderful sight to see purple and white fritillaries.

We walked from London to the source, so the river was getting narrower as we progressed. The first lock on the Thames is at Richmond, but the gates still allow the water to flow with the tide up to Teddington Lock. As far as Lechlade – the last lock on the Thames – we saw a wide variety of craft: sailing boats, canoes, narrow boats, cabin cruisers and the steamers. The river is home to various boating festivals – the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race, the Devizes to Westminster canoe race, and the grand Henley Regatta. A lot of the boats are hired. Privately-owned craft range from small rowing boats to huge 'gin palaces'.

The familiar statue of Father Thames, reclining with symbols of commerce around him, is at Lechlade Lock. It was made for the Great Exhibition of 1851 and stood at the source until 1974, when it was removed because of vandalism. All that remains at the source is a stone plinth in a field and only rarely do you see water.

Whilst walking the Thames Path you get a great sense of the history of the river. Starting at Greenwich we passed all the old docks, now converted to luxury housing apartments, the Tower of London and the Palace of Westminster. Nearer home, the river runs between Kew Gardens and Syon House. Then comes Richmond with its magnificent views of the Star and Garter Home. Hampton Court Palace features prominently. Windsor Castle also dominates the view as you approach from Datchet.

Further up-river you have excellent views of Cliveden, now a hotel. The



The Thames Path follows the greatest river in England for over 200 miles from its source in the Cotswolds almost to the sea. Passing through unspoilt villages, historic towns, and the heart of London, Janet Nunn walked it all.



Boulter's Lock



Lechlade



Boveney



Cookham

grounds are run by the National Trust, but originally Cliveden was home to the Astor family. Near Lechlade is Kelmscott Manor, home of William Morris from 1871 until his death in 1896. He described the house as 'heaven on earth' and walked the river collecting grasses and flowers for dyes and patterns for his textiles.

Churches feature prominently on the walk. Starting from London, we had lovely views of St Paul's Cathedral. Two others come to mind. Firstly, All Saints at Marlow with its great spire. In 1835 the present church replaced a 12th Century one that had been undermined by flooding. In the porch is a memorial to Sir Miles Hobart who started the House of Commons custom of slamming the door in Black Rod's face.

St Lawrence Church, Lechlade, has a magnificent spire and is a perfect perpendicular building and dates from 1476. It is one of the 'wool' churches and the includes a Chapel of St Blaise, patron of woolcombers, which has combs painted on the reredos and recalls the wool sent to London by river.

One church that made a lasting impression was the tiny chapel of St Mary Magdalene by the river near Boveney Lock at Windsor. The church has a Norman window and may have been a chapel to Boveney Court. Since 1983 it has been in the care of the Friends of Friendless Churches and has recently received some conservation work on the 15th century weatherboarding and timber-framed tower.

Artists also have been prominent in painting views of the Thames. There is Turner's famous view from Richmond Hill. Stanley Spencer painted many views of Cookham and also the The Last Supper, displayed in Cookham Parish Church. There is a Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham containing some of his paintings.

We must not forget Three men in a Boat by Jerome K Jerome. St Mary's Church, Hampton features in the book as well as the Barley Mow Inn at Clifton Hampden: 'the quaintest and most old-world inn up the river'. It is well worth a visit.

One of the lasting memories of our walk from a historical point of view must be the bridges. The first bridge you encounter when walking from The Barrier is Tower Bridge, followed by the Millennium Bridge. Richmond Toll Bridge (pedestrian only) is fascinating to watch operating two hours before and after high tide.

Whispering Bridge at Maidenhead was completed by Brunel in 1839 and carries the Paddington to West Country trains. These are the largest and flattest brick arches ever built. Nearby is the well-known suspension bridge at Marlow.

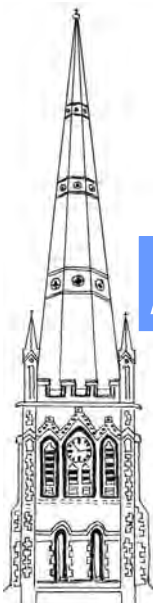
The oldest bridge on the Thames is Radcot Bridge to the west of Oxford. There has been a bridge there since 958. The Earl of Oxford had leapt over a gap here on his horse when fleeing from battle in 1387, and the present medieval bridge probably dates from 1393.

Some of the bridges have lovely names – Tadpole Bridge, Halfpenny Bridge and Tenfoot Bridge – and there are still two toll road bridges across the Thames. The first is at Whitchurch, near Pangbourne, and the other at Eynsham, outside Oxford. Most of the bridges carry traffic across the river, but there are several challenging ones just for walkers, including many over rushing weirs!

The length of the Thames Path varies according to the reference you use – anything from 180 miles to 220 miles. We usually quote the higher figure: we certainly walked that distance as it is not always possible to start and finish by the river bank.

I am so pleased I have completed the walk, not only as an achievement but because it has awakened me to all the rich history, wildlife and tranquillity which is on our doorstep. It was so good to get away from the noise of traffic and aircraft and enjoy the countryside. When you are walking you have precious little time or energy to visit churches, stately homes or villages, but I hope now to continue exploring the places we fleetingly passed on the walk.

I would thoroughly recommend the walk as a whole or in sections. Walking by the river is very therapeutic. I can also recommend the café at Benson Marina near Wallingford which we visited on numerous occasions. Which reminds me: we still have to sample a meal at the Beetle and Wedge Inn at Cholsey as a reward for completing the walk.



AROUND THE SPIRE

NEWS FROM HAMPTON HILL AND BEYOND

Our windows make illuminating lesson for schools



We were very interested to receive a letter from Jean Western's niece, Claire Robinson. She was giving an RE lesson in her school in Welwyn Garden City, illustrated by a video, and was surprised to find that the stained glass windows featured were from St. James's, where her aunt has worshipped for so many years. So our windows are being shown in schools throughout the country!

■ Craig and Gail McLean, who were married in Australia and received a blessing at St. James's last July, are celebrating the birth of their daughter Charlotte on 15 June, a sister for Lachlan and another grandchild for Linda and Alastair Cargill.

■ Double celebrations for Rodney and Janet Taylor: firstly on the birth of their first grandchild, David Arthur, born on 9 March, a son for Alice and Richard Hewitt. David was born a week after they opened their new veterinary practice! And on 4 September, their son Romilly is to marry Monique Bender in Cleveland, Ohio. They will live in the US, but plan a thanksgiving service here in June 2010.



■ We were delighted to have the Calder family of Hamish, Johanna, Alice, Ursula and Peter, back in church with us again, visiting from Canada to where they moved last July.

■ Hampton Methodist Church hosted an excellent evening for Churches Together Around Hampton. Their courtyard was the setting for a barbecue and the chance to meet friends from other local churches. Then, a packed church was entertained, informed and inspired by Mark Topping's An Evening with John Wesley, bringing his sermons and writings to life in a remarkable and moving way.

The 49ers embrace 60

Those of you who were reading The Spire ten years ago may remember that a number of the congregation celebrated their 50th birthday that year. Time has passed, and this group, plus a few of our newer members also born in 1949, asked us all to join them for drinks, snacks and cake after the service on 28 June to celebrate their 60th birthdays. Pictured, from left, are: Jennifer Clay, Ros Daly, Gill Gostling, Liz Butler, Coryn Robinson, Lesley Mortimer, Richard Melville, Janet Taylor and Penny Sewell. Don Barrett and Catherine Gash were missing from the picture.





Symbols in and around the Church

- A symbol is something that makes us think about something else. It is said that early Christians did not think it reverent to write the names of God or Jesus in full, so they made different symbols for them. There are various symbols in the carvings, embroideries and stained glass of the church. *Draw arrows from the pictures to the correct titles and descriptions*

Yew Trees

XP

INRI

Candle

Dove

Cockle Shell

IHS or IHC

Alpha & Omega

Water

Clover

Cross

Bread and Wine



These are on the beaches in northern Spain where Saint James's relics were brought to lie in Compostela. They were adopted as symbols of Saint James from Medieval times onwards.

These first two letters of the Greek word for Christ (XPICTOC) are Symbols of God the Son, Jesus Christ.

These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet and signify the beginning and the end. They remind us that God is the beginning and the end of all things.

Christians believe that the One God is made up of three Persons or aspects, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is called the Trinity or the Triune (three-in-one) God. The symbols of the Trinity always have three parts.

This is the most important Christian symbol and reminds us that Jesus died for us.

These first three letters of the Greek for Jesus (IHCOYC) are Symbols of God the Son, Jesus Christ.

This was seen at the baptism of Jesus. It is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

This is lit during services. It signifies that Christ is the "Light of the world".

These initial letters of Latin for 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews' (IESUS NAZARENUS REX IUDAEORUM) are Symbols of God the Son, Jesus Christ.

In communion, these have an important meaning. Christians break up some bread to remember that the body of Jesus was 'broken' on the cross. Christians drink red wine to remember that Jesus bled when he died for us.

These are 'evergreens' - the leaves do not die in winter. They remind us that we can live for ever in heaven.

This is used in baptism. It shows that becoming a Christian makes us 'clean' - forgiven by God.

If you need help, go to the appropriate pages on the Young St. James's section of the website.



Revelations

A New Citizenship

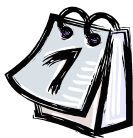
Professor Michael Sandel, who gave the BBC's Reith Lectures this year, chose the general title *A New Citizenship* for the series. The first of his four lectures, *Markets and Morality*, set one of the main themes: the danger of valuing policies by price alone, relying solely on 'Cost-Benefit Analysis'. In brief, this uses money, or money equivalence, as the measure of value in decision-making. Sandel believed that many democratic politicians, working honestly to achieve the common good, had often failed disastrously because of this narrow vision. The lectures considered some of our present financial, political, ecological and ethical problems. Sandel argued that there should be a wider vision in making decisions, in trade, in politics and science, giving many examples. For instance, should we try to put a money value on the quality of life, or life itself, when medical treatment is considered? Sandel saw three guiding principles in decision making: humility, responsibility and solidarity, this last being an aspect of our humanity. Politics, economics, science, ethics and religious belief all have a proper contribution to make in governance. We neglect this principle at our peril.

The New Terminators

A preliminary report on military robotics written by the Ethics and Emerging Technologies Group at California Polytechnic State University says that thousands of robots are being used today in Iraq and Afghanistan for dull, dirty and dangerous jobs. One pictures these machines clearing mines and checking for booby traps. But as well as these passive defensive operations, there are the aggressive machines. The Predator drone aircraft goes on reconnaissance missions, guided by a pilot many miles away. It is a semi-autonomous robot, armed, but needing human authority to fire missiles. Similarly unmanned land vehicles with camera eyes can be used to aim machine-guns and throw grenades in ground combat. Again, they are remotely controlled by humans. Fully autonomous robots, making their own decision to fire guns and launch bombs, are technically feasible, but as yet no country admits to using them. Some arguments say that fully autonomous robots offer the possibilities of more humane warfare, machines programmed to attack only armed men or machines, and of course never to commit atrocities. Such optimism believes that ultimately wars might be fought entirely by proxy by slave machines. It savours a little of Hiram Maxim, who is reputed to have said that his invention, the maxim gun, was such a terrible weapon that it would end war.

J M W Turner

Turner, who lived from 1775 to 1851, is one of our most highly-rated artists. Not a modest man, he believed he could rival some of the great masters, including Titian, Rubens, Canaletto and Van der Velde. The present Turner exhibition in Tate Britain perhaps does not do him justice, since many of his pictures are at present on loan to foreign galleries. A special exhibition in Tate Britain starting on 29 September plans to bring together works of some masters and Turner's response – far from being copies, they attempt to demonstrate his competence on the same theme. We can be the judges.



Parish Pilgrimage Tour

Wednesday 2 September, from 6pm, Westminster Abbey
Those attending will make their own way there and meet at the Great West Door of the Abbey at 6pm at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior. The tour begins at 6.15pm and will conclude at 7.15pm with Compline in St Faith's Chapel. There is no charge, but if you would like to join us please add your name to the list on the board in church or telephone Liz Wilmot on 020 8977 9434.

St James's Theatre Club

Thursday, 3 September, 7.45pm, Annie, Richmond Theatre
Su Pollard stars in a heart-warming, rags-to-riches story, with lots of toe-tapping songs. Tickets are £15 (normal price £25). To join us, please put your name on the church notice board or telephone Ria Beaumont on 020 8943 4336. As usual, transport can be arranged.

London Walk

Saturday 5 September, 10.30am, St Anselm's Parish Church, Hayes
This year's London loop walk by Christians begins with a service, followed by tea, coffee and biscuits. The theme is God's Creation, where the walk will focus particularly on the expansion of Heathrow airport. The event is free. For more information contact Father Danny Elizabeth, telephone 020 8573 0958.

Initiatives of Change

Greencoat Forum, Tuesday 15 September, 7.15pm, One Planet Living, 24 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1RD.
Sue Riddlestone and Pooran Desai OBE founded BioRegional to tackle climate change and sustainability by creating homes, lifestyles, services and manufacturing systems that enable us to live within our fair share of the Earth's resources. Can we all adopt this quickly enough to save the planet? Light refreshments from 6.30pm. The talk is free, with a collection taken towards expenses. To book places, please telephone 020 7798 6000.

Colour Me Beautiful

Friday 25 September, 7.30pm, St James's Church Hall
An evening of information, inspiration and fun with Gayna Cooper, who is an image consultant. Tickets £8 each, or £15 for two, to include a glass of wine. A minimum of 30 people is required and any profit will go to church funds. Tickets are available from Kirstie Hird in the Parish Office, telephone 020 8941 6003 or by email office@stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk; or from Liz Wilmot in church on Sundays, or telephone 020 8977 9434 or email elizabethwilmot@talktalk.net

Harvest Festival

Sunday 4 October, 11am, St James's Church
The All-Age Communion will be held at 11am followed by a bring-and-share lunch, served in the hall. Wine and beer will be available by donation. For further details about the lunch, keep checking our website. They will also be announced in church and printed on the pew sheets nearer the time.

We will collect essential items for two organisations that support homeless and vulnerable adults: the **Upper Room** in Hammersmith and **SPEAR** in Richmond.

Please bring your gift to the Harvest Festival service, or before mid-October, making sure they are well within the 'best by' date.

A **flyer** of suggested items will be in church in September. Tinned foods: meat products (stews, pies, sausages), fish products, soups, vegetables, beans. Dry goods: biscuits, chocolate, coffee, tea, cereals, pasta. Soft drinks: cordials, juice. Toiletries: toothbrushes and paste, disposable razors. Stick deodorants, body lotions, soap and shampoo.

Confirmation Service

Sunday 22 November, 6pm, St James's Church
There will be a confirmation service here at St James's in November with Bishop Paul. Anyone aged 11 or over who would like to find out more about being confirmed should speak to Peter or Debbie.

Vicar's View



'Rodney, I've been meaning to have a word with you about your carbon footprint!'



'It's not quite as bad as it looks — they're only withholding payment until we publish our expenses'

A penny for your thoughts



Many of us have recently had our savings reduced by the mismanagement of the banks. Many more of us, I would imagine, had read with incredulity about our parliamentarians milking their expense claims and misusing public finances.

At the same time came a reminder about a couple who had amazing experiences of provision both for accommodation and furniture. They had lived in a rented, furnished flat. A long search for property ended when an affordable house came on the market and the following day they had an offer of furniture! They believed if they sought and followed their Creator's plan, their needs would be met. What a contrast to the other stories we heard.

The same week I read in the Psalms: *Commit your fortunes to the Lord, and He will sustain you!* There is much talk about the need for integrity. The Collins dictionary explains it as: *Adherence to moral principles; honesty.* How simple, but difficult to live out. As more stories appeared in the press about some members of parliament, it became easy to point the finger. Then I remembered a ditty from my youth: *When I point my finger at my neighbour, there are three more pointing back at me!*

One cannot be simplistic about such great issues. Yet what can we learn, and where can we change on matters that affect us all? It is paramount to have integrity in handling our own resources, and to be aware of the pulls in our nature that take us off course.

My calling to work for a Christian charity (The Oxford Group/MRA, currently known as Initiatives of Change), and not always have a regular paid job, meant I missed out on a few luxuries. Occasionally the temptation has been to purchase something not really needed, but justifying it by thinking I could have had a better standard of living had I chosen another path.

However, my experience has been that I may not have received all I wanted over the years, but I have certainly been blessed with all I needed! And there have been wonderful bonuses (not always financial) thrown in.

I have learned much about the concept of *Where God guides, He provides*. There have been unexpected miracles of provision.

Celebrating 125 years of trading, Marks & Spencer recently recreated their penny bazaar. (Originally they had a stall in a northern market town where items sold for one penny.) For three days, many of their shops had some goods available for a penny. Ever keen for a bargain, I approached my local store only to find that they had sold out, even though I was surprised at the speed with which I moved! My unplanned excursion made me late for a meeting.

Our use of money is obviously governed by all the demands of every day living. All of us know about that. And yet there may be an extra dimension through prayer. That can play a part not only where we ask for God's wisdom and direction about the use of what we have, but also in opening up new channels of finance for our church, our projects, our favourite charities. An unexpected thought, if obeyed, could result in more money being available.

As Christians we have a concept of stewardship, an old-fashioned word. The dictionary states a steward is *a person who administers the property, house, finances, etc. of another*. Does this entail the stewarding of God's provision? Wherever such provision comes from – inheritance, salary/wages, benefits, generous gifts from trusts, friends and family – how we handle it and its use is an integral part of our lives.

It takes courage to live for others as well as ourselves in a consumer society when there are so many choices, and a good standard of living in our western societies is often taken for granted but not always readily available for all. So much depends on how we decide to live, stewarding God's riches, and remembering a world in need.

The story of how the early church lived is relevant to all this. Read Acts 2, v45 – 47. And later Barnabas, the encourager, sold his field (or estate) and gave the proceeds to the disciples for their - and His - work!

The lectern is the desk on which the Bible rests. It is made of brass and is in the shape of an eagle with out-stretched wings. The eagle is standing on a ball, which represents the world, while the Bible on the eagle's back symbolises the Gospel being carried on wings to the corners of the earth.

The word lectern comes from the Latin word, *lectus*, meaning to read, because the lectern is a reading stand. It is normally used by lay people to read the scripture lessons, to lead the congregation in prayer, and to make announcements.



The lectern is supported by four bird-like feet and just above these is an inscription 'To the glory of God and in memory of Emily E. Ward 1882'. Our first two vicars married members of the Ward family.

