

# The lectern

The eagle lectern is the desk on which the Bible rests. The word lectern comes from the Latin word *lectus*, meaning to read, because the lectern is actually a reading stand. It is normally used by members of the congregation to read the scripture lessons, to lead the congregation in prayer, and to make announcements.

It is made of brass, stands 1830 mm high 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 lectern stands on four bird-like feet with an inscription 'To the glory of God and in memory of Emily E Ward 1882'. The first two St James's vicars married members of the Ward family.

