

WELCOME

'Monarch must remain defender of THE faith'

The Archbishop of Canterbury has insisted that Prince Charles should not become defender of all faiths rather than just Christianity when he becomes King.

Dr Rowan Williams also said his coronation should be a Christian instead of a multi-faith service.

The Prince of Wales has expressed a wish to become 'Defender of Faith' rather than 'Defender of the Faith', but Dr Williams rejected any change.

He also said the coronation would be a service of Holy Communion during which the monarch would be anointed.

'The acts of worship that we perform have their integrity. I don't want to see amateurish messing around compromising what's going on.'

Dr Williams said the Church of England would take a more high profile stand on moral issues than it had done in the past few years.

He said Britain was a 'broken society' and urgent action was needed by the government and the Church to restore a sense of moral integrity.

Dr Williams called for the abortion law to be tightened. 'People are not happy about abortion as a back stop to contraception. It's not like having a tooth out.'

And he welcomed the Prime Minister's reversal of Tony Blair's plan for super-casinos and plans to review the 24 hour drinking laws.

Dr Williams also discussed the war in Iraq. He said it had made it easier for extremists to recruit. 'It has shored up this huge victim identity among Muslims, the sense that all over the world there are places that they are being attacked. An unscrupulous or fanatical preacher can very easily present this as a single picture.'

At home, he said middle class parents were damaging children by forcing them to take on extra-curricular activities and putting them under pressure to achieve. 'Children live crowded lives, we're not making their lives easy by pressurising them, whether it's the claustrophobia of gang culture or the claustrophobia of intense achievement in middle class areas.'

PULPIT HUMOUR



...just humour him - he's hoping it'll help him reach the young people in his diocese...

NOTES TO NOTE



For art's sake

Most of the photographs and artwork in *The Spire* and on the website are provided by Prill Hinckley in digital format.

Contact her if you would like to use any of them for parish or community use. She can send you copies of a higher quality than the ones on the website.

Your copy of *The Spire*

Did you know that our magazine is also available on a cassette tape or could be enlarged on request?

If you would like it sent by email, send your details to:

p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

It is also available on our website. You may also collect a printed copy from the church. Perhaps you no longer need a copy delivered? If so, let us know.



Lost a copy of *The Spire*? Want to read an article again? Whole magazines from January 2006 are online now, as are some of the archived magazines (this section will gradually be increased). Just go to: **Spire Magazine > Magazine Archives.**

All copy for the next issue of *The Spire* must be with us by: **12 October.** Send to the Parish Office (details in the left-hand column).

LEADER

Planting green ideas for the future



PETER VANNOZZI

'God saw all that he had made, and indeed, it was very good'
Genesis 1.31

'If no action is taken to reduce emissions, the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere could reach double its pre-industrial level as early as 2035, virtually committing us to a global average temperature rise of over 2°C. In the longer term, there would be more than a 50% chance that the temperature rise would exceed 5°C. This rise would be very dangerous indeed; it is equivalent to the change in average temperatures from the last ice age to today.'
The Stern Review, 2006

Every day we read reports in the papers or hear items on the news about the environment. It varies from local authority to local authority, but recycling points are commonly seen now on street corners, in car parks, by school playgrounds, and so on. The science of global warming is becoming increasingly accepted. Dire warnings are being issued about the future of the planet.

In 2004 the film *The Day after Tomorrow* depicted graphically the consequences of continuing as we are now. Though the science of the film was criticised as being inaccurate, a Hollywood blockbuster crossed over the divide of entertainment into making points about the planet and how we use or abuse it.

Yes here we go, another piece about the environment. Everyone's talking about it, but does that mean we somehow cease to hear the message? If we do hear the message, will we actually do anything? Or is this someone else's problem, and not mine? Is it not rich for the prosperous west to tell developing countries that they are really rather naughty to want to share in the wealth that comes from industrialisation? Questions

are thrown up the moment we enter this particular arena.

At St. James' this month, and in this edition of *The Spire* we are considering the environment and a Christian approach to issues concerning it. In September, some members of the congregation attended a day conference organised by the Bishop of Kensington called *For Creed and Creation* and there is a very clear connection between 'creed' and 'creation.'

Christian belief sees God as Creator. The opening two chapters of the Book of Genesis seek to convey this belief in story form. God delights over his creation - it is very good.

'If the world is indeed seen as God's creation, not to act is utterly unjustified.'

The place of human beings is seen as the crown of creation, but their duty is to be stewards of creation. Concern for the environment is not some trendy add-on, but rather an inevitable consequence of seeing the world as God's own. How will this be considered at St. James'?

The Parochial Church Council has supported a small group of people in looking at our 'carbon footprint' and we will be looking to act accordingly. The Harvest Festival service on Sunday 7 October at 9.30 am will have a clear environmental theme. There is little point in singing 'We plough the field and scatter' if in the future there are no fields and no seed!

The service paper will have 'green tips' on the front and back inside covers for the congregation to take away and put into practice. Effectively, they will be recycling

the service papers. I hope that this does not just raise awareness, but also shows how each person can take practical, simple steps to make a difference to God's creation.

Yes, these are tiny measures compared to the impact of an entire nation and its industry, but this does not excuse us from doing what we are able to do. If the world is indeed seen as God's creation, not to act when we can is utterly unjustified.

As part of the Harvest Festival we will be singing this hymn which goes to 'St. Denio,' the tune to the well-known hymn 'Immortal, invisible, God only wise.'

It expresses a belief in God as Creator, and how people who believe this might respond:

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.
Creation reminds us, O God, of your love.
By grace we are learning, as year leads to year,
We're called to be stewards, your caretakers here.

Your rainforests nurture the world that we share.
Your wetlands give animals shelter and care.
Your coral reefs cradle the life of the sea.
You've shown us, in love, what your good world can be.

Too often, O God, we abuse your good earth.
We fail to remember its beauty and worth.
We take from creation much more than we need,
We threaten your world through indifference and greed.

May we be good stewards of all that you give,
Protecting creation wherever we live.
May we be a church that renews and restores
And lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.

© Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2001



The monthly column of news and events from Hampton Hill and beyond

We send our best wishes and every success to all our young people who are **starting new schools** or moving on to **college or university**.

A service of remembrance for **Margaret Bramall** was held in church on 22 August. Her career was perhaps most notable for her outstanding work for single mothers.

We extend our **condolences** to **Sally Jerman**, wife of Bill Jerman, Headteacher of Hampton Hill Junior School, on the loss of her daughter Vicki, and to Bill on the loss of his stepdaughter.

Our **Harvest Festival** service will be on Sunday 7 October at 9.30 am. And at 3.30 pm our Young Musicians will be giving their next recital, followed by tea in the hall.

Very belated **congratulations** to **Alex** and Anya Clarke on the arrival of their first grandchild, Daisy, a daughter for Mikko and Kate.

Do you have any news to share?
Contributions, care of Parish Office.

Registers

For August:

Baptisms

- 5 Matilda Ellen Walsh, Teddington; Barnaby Thomas Welford, Teddington.
- 12 Madelaine Grace Mitchell, Hampton Hill
- 19 Oliver Samuel Wilkins, Hampton Hill; Emily Arwen Smith, Kingston Upon Thames
- 26 William Max Rawstone, Hampton Hill.

Weddings

- 4 Blessing - Martin Murphy and Nadine Isaac.
- 10 David Vaney and Susan Cooper.

Funerals

- 13 David Rogers, 72, Hampton Hill.
- 22 Margaret Bramall, 90, Isleworth.
- 23 Brian Albert John Lovitt, 72, Hanworth.
- 30 Victoria Elizabeth Attwood, 22, Hersham, Surrey.

ECO-GROUP

The future is GREEN!

LIVE MORE SIMPLY SO THAT OTHERS MAY SIMPLY LIVE

At the season of Harvest we thank God for the good things in our world, but it is also a time to consider the impact mankind has on the environment and what we are going to do about it. With this in mind, St James' Church has formed an Eco-group (we couldn't think of a better title!) to encourage and co-ordinate environmental awareness in our parish life, both as a congregation and as individuals in our homes.



Everyone can do something - be part of the solution, not the problem

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Catherine has a small (but growing) number of books and publications about environmental concerns which she is happy to share on a loan basis. The full list is on the website and on the church notice board, but includes the *Ethical Consumer* magazine - 2006 issues onwards.

SEND US YOUR IDEAS AND COMMENTS



Catherine Gash



Janet Nunn



Ann Peterken

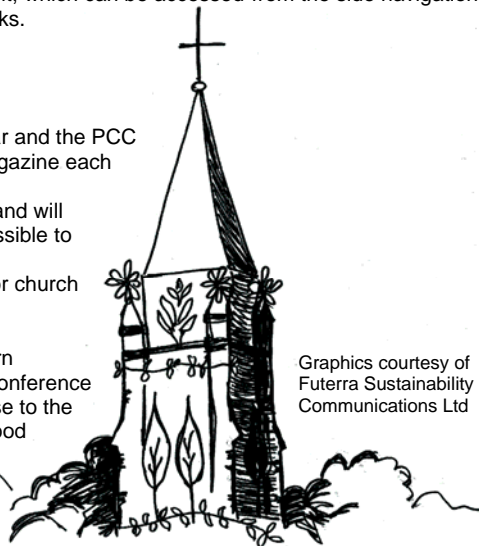


David Taylor

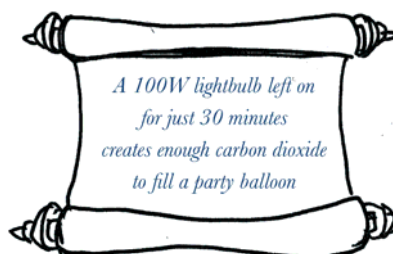
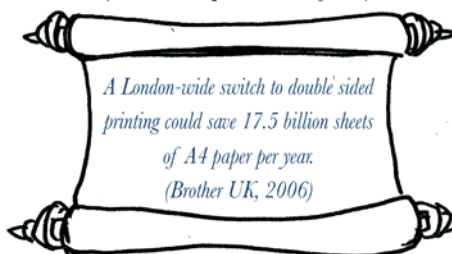
We'd love to hear from you. Have you any ideas? Please share them with us. Let us know what you have been doing on the eco-front and how successful it was. We have our own section in the contacts column on page two. There is also a new page on the **website** called Eco Church - Shrinking The Footprint, which can be accessed from the side navigation panel under Quick Links.

THE STORY SO FAR...

- The eco-group has the support of our vicar and the PCC
 - Green Tips are being published in the magazine each month
 - Dick Wilde is monitoring our electric bills and will gradually change as many light bulbs as possible to energy-saving ones
 - 'Switch Off!' notices are being prepared for church and hall light switches
 - Paper and cardboard is being recycled
 - A water-saving device is in the toilet cistern
 - Four of us went to the Kensington Area Conference on climate change and the church's response to the challenges facing the environment - much food for thought.
- We hope to give you a fuller report soon.



Graphics courtesy of Futerra Sustainability Communications Ltd



YOURS FAITHFULLY

Janet Nunn

Janet's secretarial and business skills and her dedicated hard work have been invaluable to the church over many years. She has been the Parish Secretary and is now PCC Secretary; she is also a communion server. Amongst many other things the churchyard record is largely her work.

When and why did you come to St James'?

I came to St James in 1976 when Rupert Brunt was Vicar, moving to Hampton Hill when I married David.

How did you become a Christian?

I was brought up in the Free Church tradition. My father was secretary of the Ickenham URC Church for many years and was also a lay preacher and my mother was heavily involved in the Women's Fellowship. We also lived opposite The Manse.

Having attended Sunday School from an early age I became a Sunday School teacher in my teens and continued for many years teaching three-five-year-olds. I became a Church Member (similar to Confirmation) and eventually became an Elder. When I moved to Hampton Hill I was made very welcome at St James' and was so grateful to be accepted into the family of the church and able to worship and take communion regularly with David, who had been at St James' since 1963. As St James' was not in the high Anglican tradition I soon adapted to the different forms of worship and have been here ever since.

What do you value most about St James'?

David had a very strong faith and believed very much in 'time and talents' as well as supporting the church financially. This we did together, mostly in the churchyard before the borough council took over the maintenance, including helping record all the details on the gravestones. After retiring from my job as Lecturer in charge of Secretarial Subjects at the FE College in Watford in 1988, I also devoted my secretarial skills to working for the church. St James' has given me a church which values both time and talents and in return has given me a lot of friends, a lot of support in difficult times, and I have found a spiritual 'home'.

IT'S GOD'S PLANET!



Green tips for a better world

NO to plastic bags!

In Britain, we use eight billion plastic bags each year: more than 300 for every household. To help reduce this, when you're out shopping, take your own cloth or string bag with you, or use 'bags for life'. Make sure you reuse any plastic bags that you do accumulate, or recycle them at the supermarket.

Keep the good stuff out of landfills

If you want to give something away or find something for free, look at www.freecycle.org to find out what's available near you. Freecycle is a web-based recycling service. Everything posted must be free and items range from plant pots to pianos. (My daughter acquired an excellent camera and some CD shelves from Freecycle - for nothing!)

Visit the website www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org

Seen and unseen

■ Behind the Scenes part one - Preparing the Church for Worship

Before we say a word to visitors, we have told them what our church means to us by the way we care for it. And the way we care for the place of worship says a great deal about the importance to us of the One we worship. Some people are able and willing to serve God in highly visible roles - as clergy, readers, servers, singers - but many of us look for a less public role. It may be an extension of an existing interest such as gardening or flower-arranging. It may simply be willingness to meet a need - there is nothing exciting about the annual gutter clean or the weekly cleaning but those who volunteer for these jobs are making a real contribution to the dignity and pleasure of our worship.

The **Properties Committee of the PCC** is responsible for maintaining and improving the church building, its contents and its surroundings. It normally uses the skills of its members for its work but for major or specialist work it advises the PCC on the use of a commercial firm.

■ Anyone interested in helping the committee with its work should see Bryan Basdell, the Chairman of the Committee (020 8979 2040).

Gardening

The churchyard is the responsibility of the Richmond Council, but their care is pretty basic. Individuals look after family graves and the churchyard is regularly swept but there is scope for more help - from picking up litter as you walk through to taking on the care of a particular flowerbed or area of the churchyard.

■ There is no one currently coordinating the work in the churchyard; if this role appeals to you, speak to Bryan Basdell (020 8979 2040).

Cleaning

The church is cleaned every week, usually on Friday or Saturday, usually by two people working together. All the cleaners have been doing the job for many years. All the equipment you need is kept in the vestry porch though there is nothing to stop you bringing your own. The weekly clean involves sweeping the wood and tiled floors and hoovering (well, dysoning!) the carpet; running a duster over the pews and choir stalls, and tidying the kneelers and chairs.

■ The contact is Margaret Taylor (020 8979 3961).

Once a year, in preparation for Easter, the church is given a major internal clean, the floors are sealed and those hard to reach places are brushed and polished. The annual gutter and drain clear-out usually happens in the autumn. Both events are advertised in the pew sheet and helpers are welcome. Bryan Basdell plans the work, and it is helpful to him if you see him well before the work starts, so that he can assign jobs and everyone knows what they are to do and what to bring for the clearing.



Brass polishing (candlesticks, cross, wall plaques) This used to be done by two pairs of polishers, each pair working alternate fortnights, so all the brass got polished every two weeks. The duty for each team member was therefore quite light. The group is now a team of only two, and another pair of polishers joining it would be very welcome. The work is easy and satisfying, taking about an hour for two people to complete.

■ If you would like to join the group speak to Griselda Barrett (020 8979 3331).



Care of Altar Linen and Choir Robes

Gill Gostling takes care of the altar linen while Anne Rowett acts as choir wardrobe-mistress. Some of the vestments used in our services belong to the church and some to the clergy; so far we haven't needed to replace or repair anything.



Flower arranging

We all benefit from the sometimes spectacular wedding displays but for most of the year it falls to a small team of flower-arrangers to provide the displays at the entrance and at the front of the church.

There is a budget to buy the flowers but it obviously helps if people provide flowers from their own gardens.

■ If you can give flowers and/or would like to arrange them in church, contact Coryn Robinson (020 8979 6786).



What is it in Christianity that particularly inspires you?

The impact it gives to your life both in forms of worship and the way you conduct your life.

What difference does being a Christian make to your life?

It makes a very big difference. It has always been a part of my life and I can't imagine life without it.

It helps you find a way to cope with the bad times and the good times and put life in perspective.

What is the most useful lesson you have learned in life?

Life is a partnership - learning to share and to be tolerant to others' ways, ideals and change.



YOUNG SPIRE



Harvest Festival at St James'

Harvest Festivals are a way of saying thank you to God for the harvest and they have been taking place all over the world for hundreds of years.

In England, we have given thanks for harvests since pagan times by singing, praying and decorating our churches with flowers and food.

The Christian tradition of giving at harvest time goes right back to Biblical times. As harvest services are not part of the traditional church year they may take place any time in the autumn.

St James' Church is always beautifully decorated with flowers, and sometimes a loaf in the shape of a wheat sheaf.

Usually people bring gifts of tinned and dried goods and also harvest produce. These are later given to people in need, either locally, or perhaps in other countries. We do this because Harvest Festival reminds us of all the good things God gives us and this makes us want to share with others who are not so fortunate.

At St James', Harvest Festival is generally celebrated on the first Sunday in October with an All Age Communion. St James' Players accompany the hymns and play other music during the service.

The uniformed groups (Guides, Brownies, Scout Group) join the service and participate by carrying their flags in a colourful parade through the church and, with the Sunday School, often act as sidespersons, read lessons, say prayers, sing, act a play or assist with Parish Breakfast.



WELCOME TO GLOBAL GANG

Christian Aid is an organisation of people who want to change the world. They want to make it a fair place for all people, of all faiths, to live in together. Global Gang, being part of Christian Aid, is full of stories about children who are doing their bit to make the world a better place.

Global Gangers go green!

We can look after the earth by recycling—It's a cool way to make a difference. How green are YOU?

Have a go at a cool quiz on the Christian Aid Global Gang website - <http://www.globalgang.org.uk/games/greenquiz.html>

Take action to protect the environment

JAYS AT LARGE

Farewell news ...

It's farewell to St James' and Jays from Susie France and her Mum, Alison, just over ten years to the day since Susie was baptised here. Alison also married Nick Smallwood in 2002. With so many happy memories of St James's they are now off to the Hampshire countryside of Alton. They are excited about the future, but will treasure their memories, and St James' will always have a very special place in their hearts. They send good wishes to everyone at St James'.

THE JAYS

Turning the world Green

During the first half of the Autumn term the Jays are looking at environmental issues. To kick this off, there was a visit to the cinema to see *Evan Almighty*.

Evan is an American congressman who is made aware of an unscrupulous builder who constructed a dam using shoddy materials.

Strange things start to happen to Evan: he is followed by all kinds of animals; he grows a beard that won't go away, no matter how many times he shaves; the number 614 starts appearing everywhere he goes.

He soon learns that 6:14 is the verse in Genesis in which God instructs Noah to build the ark. He is visited by God who asks him to make an Ark as there will be a flood on 22 September at midday. The flood comes because the poorly built dam bursts.



October

October is the tenth month of the year in the Gregorian Calendar and one of seven Gregorian months with the length of 31 days

October's flower is the calendula or cosmos and its birthstone is the opal or tourmaline. In Latin, *octo* means "eight". October was the eighth month in the Roman calendar.

Black History Month

October

After years of active campaigning to recognise black people's historical contribution to Britain's heritage, and to help assist with the development of black teenagers' cultural identity, Black History Month finally became a reality a decade ago. Since then, October has been devoted to learning about Black British history with an array of special events, plays, concerts and educative schemes.



Events and activities are run throughout the country by a range of organisations. It provides a wonderful occasion to celebrate the diversity of our society and the contributions Black and Asian men and women have made to the development of British society, technology, economy and culture - their endeavours and achievements.

St Edward's Day

13 October

Edward the Confessor was a man of prayer, like a monk but with a crown. Throughout his life he was a gentle, loyal and devoted king. A confessor is a saint who suffers for his faith and Edward suffered by resisting the temptations of the world. He lived off the income of his own lands and helped the poor.

Edward the Confessor was born in Islip, near Oxford, probably in 1005. He was the son of King Ethelred the Unready and his Norman queen, Emma. His family spent several years in exile in Normandy after the Danish invasion of 1013. Ethelred was briefly reinstated as king but after his death in 1016, the Danes again seized the crown. Canute ruled England until his death in 1035 and that is when Edward tried to capture the crown himself, but failed.



Later, Edward vowed that he would make a pilgrimage to St Peter's in Rome if he managed to return safely to his kingdom. In 1042, his dream came true when he succeeded Canute's son and became king. However, Edward found it impossible to leave his subjects to make the pilgrimage to Rome. The Pope released him from his vow on the condition he founded a monastery and dedicated it to St Peter. So Edward built a new cathedral in Norman style to replace the Saxon church at Westminster. The cathedral became known as Westminster Abbey.

Evan still doesn't know how he can save the world. God explains that no one person can do this, but if we all do one Act of Random Kindness at a time the world will be a better place.

The story of Noah is not a story of 'wrath and anger'. It is a 'love story' about people believing in each other, having faith in each other, and standing together side by side.

God does not give us what we pray for as a gift. He gives us opportunities. We need to be able to recognise these situations in life as opportunities for us to find or realise what we are praying for.

For example if we pray to be closer as a family, God does not give us those lovely 'feelings inside for each other' as a gift. He gives us opportunities to become closer as a family. These may seem like challenges when they happen, but the outcome would be what we prayed for.

To explore this we will be making a collage of an Ark with endangered species going into it, made with recycled materials.

The collage will be displayed in church ready for Harvest when the theme will be 'A Green Church'. The children will also be looking at

THE JAYS AT WORK



CHARITIES & LINKS COMMITTEE

Sharing food with those in need



Harvest Festival gifts

We are collecting essential items for two organisations that support homeless and vulnerable adults – SPEAR in Richmond and the Upper Room in Hammersmith.

Please read the list below and bring your gift to church on **Sunday 7 October** or by 21 October.

- Tinned Foods: meat products (stews, pies, sausages), fish products, soups (please NO baked beans and NO tinned tomatoes)
- Dry Goods: biscuits, chocolate, coffee, tea, cereals, pasta
- Soft drinks: cordials, juices
- Toiletries: toothbrushes, toothpaste, disposable razors, stick deodorants, body lotions, soap, shampoo

(SPEAR also need sleeping bags, blankets, duvets and mobile phone handsets in working order with a battery. Contact Ann Peterken on 8891 5862 during the coming months.)

London's Lent Appeal feedback

The Diocese of London's Lent Appeal www.london.anglican.org/NewsShow_8475 raised more than £100,000, which will be split between five agency projects working with trafficked people and forced labourers in some of the poorest parts of the world. The agencies are Christian Aid, CMS, Mothers' Union, SAMS and Tearfund. St James' contributed about £2250 (including Gift Aid tax reclaim) for which we say many thanks.



Support for Richmond's Christian Aid group

St James' has sent £75 for their sponsored walk in Richmond Park on Saturday 6 October. Perhaps next year, some of us could join them.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

In full voice amongst the fruit and vegetables

The Hampton Hill Parish Magazine.



Prill Hinckley dusts off another page from the parish magazine - this time from October 1885.

This year for the first time, an early celebration was added to the other services and a fair number were present at the 7 a.m. service.

The chief feature of the decorations was the effect of the bright colour of ripe fruit and tinted autumnal foliage, which, intermingled with the corn presented as pleasing an effect as even the abundant flowers of spring or summer.

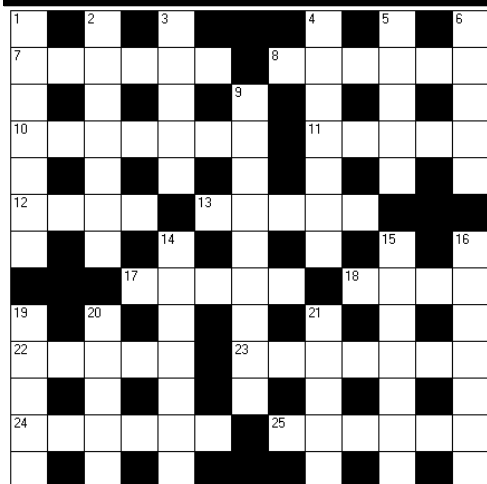
Fruit and vegetables, huge loaves, and

honeycomb were among the gifts which were sent for the decoration of the Church and they are acknowledged now with many thanks.

Deep thought sermon

Clear and distinct tones, and simple intelligible language brought home to the understanding of the youngest, or most unlettered, amongst the congregation, the most excellent and deep thought sermon of Archdeacon Pott.

As in former years, a contingent from Sunbury helped to swell the ranks of our Choir, which mustered in full strength.



Crossword No 2007010

Across

- 7 Building used for divine worship (6)
- 8 and 9 down Poem by Milton about a character in the Book of Judges (6,9)
- 10 What the fishermen in Luke ch. 5 were doing to their nets (7)
- 11 eg Simon in Mark ch. 14 (5)
- 12 Jacob's hairy brother (4)
- 13 Strike one's teeth together in rage (5)
- 17 Blaze out, like the light from heaven in Acts ch. 9 (5)
- 18 Flat bell sounded by a hammer (4)
- 22 Job's path was at one time drenched with this, according to Job ch. 29 (5)
- 23 Priest and son of Buzi who has an OT book named after him (7)

Down

- 24 Lay waste (6)
- 25 He has become so _____ to his people (1 Sam 27.12)(6)
- 1 Looked gloomy and threatening (7)
- 2 Day of the week on which the last day of Shrovetide falls (7)
- 3 A pilgrim's pouch (5)
- 4 Description of the men leading filthy lives in 2 Peter ch. 2 (7)
- 5 Saint _____, Welsh cathedral village (5)
- 6 Broken trap in Psalm 124 (5)
- 9 See 8 across
- 14 Eagle's covering of feathers described as full in Ezekiel ch. 17 (7)

- 15 Type of lizard mentioned in Leviticus ch. 11 (7)
- 16 Perpetually young (7)
- 19 ..you will bear the _____ of the nations (Mic 6.16) (5)
- 20 Make cloth on a loom (5)
- 21 City in West Yorkshire having no Church of England cathedral (5)

Answers to September Crossword (200709): Across 6 Ascension Day 8 Malachi 9 Idols 10 Gath 12 Sneez 14 Pilot 15 Desire 16 Bend 19 Ophir 21 Chasten 22 Easter Sunday. Down 1 Acolytes 2 Knock 3 Civil 4 Ancient 5 Halo 6 Armageddon 7 Ascendency 11 Die 12 Sob 13 Eventide 14 Pro rata 17 Scorn 18 Tagus 20 Heal.